

JULY 2018

THE ADVENTURE ISSUE

TRAVEL+ LEISURE

HAWAII
BY SEA

P. 96

CANADA'S
UNTOUCHED
WILDERNESS

P. 74

THE ISLAND OF
ORANGUTANS

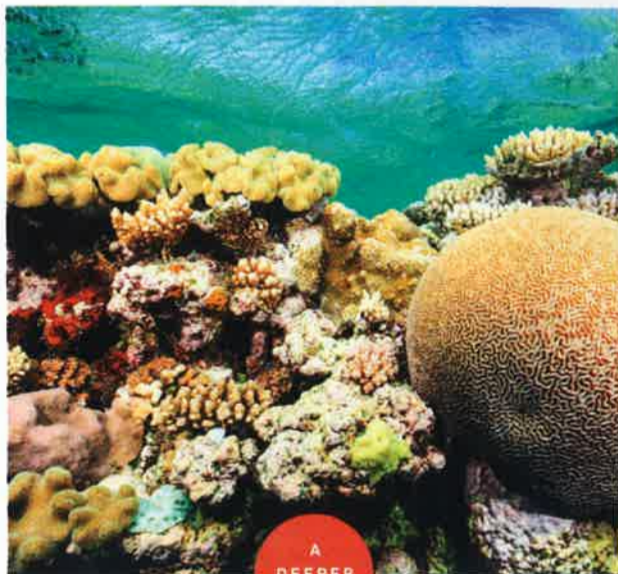
P. 62

Snorkeling near
Mala Wharf, in Maui.

GOING WILD
IN PERU

P. 20

TRAVELANDLEISURE.COM



The Hidden Value of Big-Ticket Trips

Today's low-impact, small-scale, conservation-focused vacations can cost an awful lot—but you're paying for much more than a bucket-list adventure. *By Devorah Lev-Tov*

For many people, a safari is the trip of a lifetime. The experience certainly doesn't come cheap, but travelers should understand that the price often stems from more than luxurious accommodations, all-inclusive dining, and wildlife drives. Many

operators use a portion of the fee to fund essential animal and nature conservation projects. "Contributing to the preservation of these natural wonders helps guarantee that they will be sustained," says Bruce A. Stein, chief scientist of

The Australian government estimates tourism of the Great Barrier Reef generates almost \$4 million annually.

the National Wildlife Federation. "And paying for a quality tour experience, which engages with and benefits local communities, helps to ensure that these places will continue to be available for other travelers to experience."

Africa-based operators have led the way in developing forward-thinking initiatives. Luxury safari group **andBeyond** (andbeyond.com), which runs 29 lodges on the continent, partners with Africa Foundation to work with the leaders of villages around its properties. The company also supports land and marine life by relocating rhinos and other endangered species to habitats with a low risk of poaching and, most recently, secured three island properties where it can support monitoring and research efforts. "Working with community leaders helps us give wildlife systems a fighting chance while providing the communities with immediate direct benefits," says andBeyond's founder Joss Kent. Meanwhile, **Time & Tide** (timeandtideafrica.com), a safari and conservation outfitter in Madagascar and Zambia, has launched a lemur translocation project, while the **Bushcamp Company** (bushcampcompany.com) in Zambia is paying for scouts to conduct anti-poaching patrols.

Many hotels and tour companies offering wildlife-focused experiences elsewhere in the world are also giving back to their regions. The Mexican eco-resort **Mayakoba** (mayakoba.com) employs a team of on-site biologists to monitor its impact on the bird and wildlife species in the area. In the Bahamas, **Baha Mar** (bahamar.com) introduced B.E.A.C.H. Sanctuary, comprising a just-opened aviary, with marine and flamingo habitats debuting soon. Peru's **Delfin Amazon Cruises** (delfinamazoncruises.com) takes guests to visit a local manatee rehabilitation center. In Australia, **Lizard Island Resort** (lizardisland.com.au) maintains an internationally recognized research station that studies the Great Barrier Reef.

No matter where you want to go for your next trip, you have a growing number of resources at your disposal to help you make more conscientious choices at every stage of your journey. **The Center for Responsible Travel** (responsibletravel.org) provides a detailed checklist of guidelines to follow before, during, and after a trip. Another easy way to make a lasting impact: donate funds to offset the carbon dioxide you're responsible for releasing during transit. Environmental nonprofit **Carbon Fund** (carbonfund.org) offers a tool that does the math for you based on your methods of transportation.

BURNING QUESTION

Is your sunscreen hurting the environment?

The short answer: most likely. The majority of mainstream sunscreens contain oxybenzone, a chemical filter that protects your skin from the sun's harmful UV rays, but can also

negatively affect the ocean's coral reefs. Researchers have found that when corals are exposed to the chemical, they encounter an increased rate of bleaching, DNA damage, and, in some cases, death. Even if you aren't swimming near a reef, your sunscreen can still endanger coral. As a matter of fact, you don't even need to set foot in the water to cause harm. Oxybenzone can both stick to the sand and wash off in the shower, which means the chemical could end up in the sea. In response,

many hotels, tour operators, and destinations have begun advocating the use of reef-safe products. Aqua-Aston Hospitality, which operates more than 40 hotels and resorts throughout Hawaii, has installed reef-safe sunscreen dispensers at several of its properties. Additionally, the state's legislators passed a bill banning the sale of sunscreens that use oxybenzone and another common chemical, octinoxate. If signed into law by the governor, the ban will take effect in January 2021.

To ensure your sunscreen is eco-friendly, look for the Protect Land + Sea Certification seal, which confirms the product was tested and found to be free of problematic substances. You can also check the label for common ingredients like oxybenzone, octinoxate, octocrylene, and parabens—all of which harm the environment. For a rundown of chemicals to avoid, visit haereticus-lab.org/protect-land-sea-certification, and find a list of reef-safe options on tandl.me/reef-safe-sunscreens. — *John Scarpinato*