

weird and wonderful places to stay



Keemala

Phuket, Thailand

WHAT Every rainforest-enclosed villa at this luxurious, wellness-focussed Thai retreat has its own pool. That, in itself, isn't groundbreaking, but consider the designs, with the infinity dippers seemingly suspended in midair, and it becomes clear Keemala is a game changer. The 38 suites come in four different styles, including Bird's Nest (pictured) and Tree Pool villas. The whole resort

overlooks the Andaman Sea and is close to both Kamala and Patong beaches. There's a holistic spa and plenty of activities on offer, as well as four dining destinations and a terrace on which to sip sunset cocktails.

WHY A luxurious life high in the trees.

HOW Clay Pool Cottages start at about AU\$750 a night, including breakfast.

keemala.com



Tufi Resort

Oro Province, Papua New Guinea

WHAT This is one of the most isolated regions of PNG, 250 kilometres north of Port Moresby and accessible only by light plane. That hasn't stopped the folks at Tufi Resort from creating an amazing experience. There are 28 rooms, including 10 deluxe bungalows with traditional design touches and balconies overlooking the ocean. The main reason people arrive is the sublime diving, but there's also the chance to go kayaking or hiking in the landscape some refer to as Scandinavia in the tropics. Meals of fresh seafood are served in the lodge, there's a pool for cooling off and the chance to visit a village by canoe to experience the vibrant local culture.

WHY Get away from everything but Mother Nature at her best.

HOW Standard double rooms from about AU\$365 a night, including all meals.

tufidive.com



The Redbury Hollywood

Los Angeles, USA

WHAT Embrace luxe bohemian and make California dreamin' that bit more real at the Redbury Hollywood. Each of its 57 suites has the same sort of vibe as one of the Marrakech hideaways Mick and Bianca Jagger might have holed up in during the 70s, and is kitted out with vintage turntables, four-poster beds and a collection of Capitol Record vinyls, as well as more practical additions like a kitchen and laundry. Photographer Matthew Rolston decked out Cleo, the onsite Middle Eastern restaurant, and there's also the second-floor bar called the Lounge, with a private courtyard overlooking Hollywood. You're on the corner of Hollywood and Vine, so LA's entertainment district, including the Walk of Fame, is right on your doorstep.

WHY Live out your 70s rock-star fantasy.

HOW Rooms start at about AU\$320 a night.

theredbury.com



XVA Art Hotel

Dubai, UAE

WHAT If you live and breathe art you will do both happily at the XVA Hotel in Dubai, an understated boutique property in a city usually associated with excess. This triple threat – it's a hotel, vegetarian cafe and one of the best contemporary art galleries in the city – is located in the Al Fahidi historical neighbourhood, with its Persian architecture and snaking alleyways. The 13 guest rooms, arranged around shady courtyards where guests relax sipping mint lemonade, were once part of a home that was painstakingly restored over a four-year period by owner Mona Hauser. Each has a theme based on a local tradition – henna or *dishdashas* (traditional robes), for example – and features artwork by XVA artists.

WHY Discover another side of Dubai.

HOW Double rooms from about AU\$140 a night, including breakfast.

xvahotel.com