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FEBRUARY 2018 | £3.80 | FABRICMAGAZINE.CO.UK

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PEARL'S PARTY
Our exclusive interview reveals why life post Doctor Who is one long Birthday Party for Pearl Mackie

UP IN THE ROOF
How to make the most of the space under your eaves

FEELING BOLD
Interior designer Niloufar's home is vibrant and eclectic

PLUS: THE BEST LONDON PROPERTIES | ADVICE AND INSIGHT FROM OUR AGENTS | DATES FOR THE DIARY | WHERE TO EAT | WHAT TO BUY | BRILLIANTLY BOHEMIAN AND PERFECTLY SITUATED: THERE'S NO PLACE QUITE LIKE BELSIZE PARK

This website is for sale on Flippa now! [View the live auction](#)

TRAVEL

Travel news

The best romantic escapes



Whether you decide to fly across the world, or slip away from everyday life for a delicious few hours alone together, do it in style, with our pick of the best escapes for lovers

Batty Langley's, London

Proving that you don't always have to travel to the ends of the earth for that ultra special experience is this little Shoreditch secret. Escape the stresses of everyday life with a naughty night away right here in London (mobile phones most definitely left at home). Enjoy

a room service dinner in front of the roaring open fire and a drink (or two) from the honesty bar, before sinking into the deepest of baths and lathering up with delicious complimentary REN toiletries. Then, slip into the oh-so romantic 17th century carved oak bed. And in the morning, enjoy breakfast in bed before checking out - a cup of Angelucci coffee and the freshest of beignets from Brick Lane Beigel Bake. Simply divine. *Rates from £250 per room, 12 Folgate Street, E1 #02 7377 4390; battylangleys.com*

Velaa Private Island, Maldives

Possibly the most romantic villa in the whole of the Maldives is located at Velaa Private Island. Reachable only by boat, the Ocean Pool House stands suspended above the aquamarine lagoon, with uninterrupted views of the Noonu Atoll. With only one bedroom, there's space for just you and your love, but you can, of course, expect the undivided attentions of your own private chef and butler. When you're not soaking up rays on the sundeck, you might take a dip in your own pool, enjoy a relaxing jacuzzi, work out in the gym or choose an indulgent spa treatment to be enjoyed in the villa's own treatment rooms. And with the resort's no drone policy, you are assured complete privacy. *PO Box 2071, Noonu Atoll, Republic of Maldives (+960 6565 000; velaaprivateisland.com)*



China isn't all big cities and traffic jams; enjoy an exotic break with these tips from Edward Yuan, general manager of The Sanya EDITION. "Located on Hainan Island, just off the coast of Southern China, The Sanya EDITION is inspired by the sea, and water - a source of vitality and serenity - defines the hotel's lush grounds.

Continuing the watery theme, you can enjoy a taste of the sea directly from the fishermen's skill at nearby Houhai fish village. "Yupai" is the local name given to the lively floating village of restaurants and bars here. It's a great place to enjoy the daily catch, and everything is full of local flavour.

Fancy a spot of surfing? Houhai, in Haitang Bay is also China's secret surf spot. As well as being a base for some of the country's top surfers, there are also lessons on offer here for beginners hoping to ride the waves.

If secluded beaches are your thing, head to Yalong Bay's yacht club, where you can hire a private catamaran, complete with your own captain who will take you to the quietest beaches and the best snorkelling spots.

Looking for something slightly higher octane? A trip to the Wuzhishan Mountains offers an opportunity to explore a real tropical rainforest, and the river rafting excursions here come highly recommended.

Round off your day of watery wonder with a private dinner on the floating table in The Sanya EDITION's private ocean. Up to six guests can enjoy a special meal ordered from any of the hotel's three restaurants." **No. 100 North Haitang Road, Sanya, China 572015 (+86 0)898 8835 9999; editionhotels.com**

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Hollistic Silk limited edition eye mask in Eleonora, £39 (hollisticsilk.com)



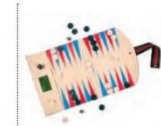
Assop London Travel Essentials, £50 (assop.com)



Skullcandy Hesh 3 wireless headphones, £99.99 (skullcandy.co.uk)



S'well Traveller Bottle Calacatta Gold, £35 (amara.com)



Personalised backgammon set, £45 (nstarothornton.com)