

Rule of tree

From flying saucers to super-luxe wellness nests, staying in the world's canopies has never been more thrilling. **Richard Mellor** picks his top ten treehouse stays

Keemala Thailand

NO relation to RZA, Method Man et al, the We-ha Clan were a Phuket people who elevated their homes skywards in order to foster creativity. Inspired by these funky forebears, eco-hotel Keemala has erected seven Tree Pool Houses amid its tropical greenery. What with their two floors, large pools and suspended cocoon chairs, these modern interpretations seem as likely to trigger indolence as innovation. Maybe one begets the other. *Eight nights' B&B in a Tree Pool House costs from £1,995 per person including flights and private transfers, turquoiseholidays.co.uk*

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2. Treehotel Sweden
IS it a bird? A plane? Nope, it's a UFO – and just one of the themed treehouses within this pine-forested estate in northern Sweden. Alternatives to this flying saucer include the ghostly Mirror Cube, all reflective glass and aluminium, and The Cabin, a capsule accessed via its own bridge. For the lovebirds is The Bird's Nest, which looks exactly as it sounds.

One night B&B for two people from around £390, treehotel.se

3. Canopy Tree House
Peru

FANCY a treehouse deep in the jungle? Then make for Inkaterra's Reserva Amazonica, where a cute thatched hut stands 22m up in the foliage. Your neighbours will include howler monkeys and jaguars, while the dawn chorus is guaranteed to be exotically incredible. A private dinner is thrown in after an exclusive night-time circuit of the reserve's rope-bridge canopy walkway.

Two nights' full board (one in the treehouse) from £539 per person, inkaterra.com

4. Cabane Mont Blanc
France

PLUMLY positioned in front of France's highest peak, this new luxury cabin has its own sauna and hot tub. More cosiness awaits inside, too, with a wood-burning stove and the double bed set into a lamp-lit, curtain-covered corner – a nook for nookie. Chocolates, champagnes and candlelit dinners can be

Leaf it all behind up among the branches

summoned to raise the romance levels even higher.

One night from around £270, cabanes-entreterreetciel.fr

5. Blackberry Wood England

THIS near-the-coast East Sussex estate specialises



in bonkers accommodation, and now the Routemaster bus, search-and-rescue helicopter and gypsy wagon have a new friend. Just one month old, Blackberry's treehouse has gone for the fairy-tale look, courtesy of gnarled wood, a witches-hat turret and



Height of luxury: Limbering up at the Maldives Amilla Fushi resort before slumbering in the treehouses

crooked windows. The more prosaic elements are a kitchen, veranda, stove and two bedrooms.

One night from £245, blackberrywood.com

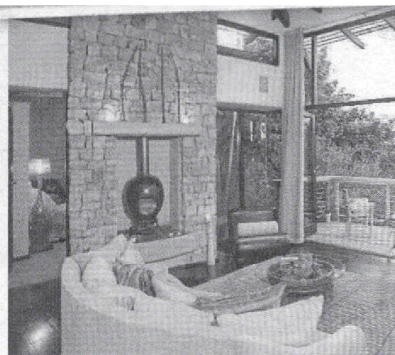
6. Tsala Treetop Lodge South Africa

BE careful splashing about in the private infinity pools of Tsala's 16 villas and suites: there's a 6m drop to the Tsitsikamma Forest floor. Located on the popular Garden Route on the country's southern tip, these extravagant treehouses are linked by wooden walkways

and undulating decks. Each also has floor-to-ceiling glass walls and a freestanding bathtub big enough for two.

A nine-night itinerary including Tsala Treetop Lodge costs from £1,263 per person, bestofsouthafricatravel.com





a new direct flight from British

Airways, Costa Rica is full of wildlife-rich reserves. Visitors to one of the most secret, Maquenque National Refuge, can now show solidarity with the local sloths by doing diddy-squat high up in almond trees. That's thanks to four terraced treehouses, open since February and accompanied by home-made rocking chairs.

12-night itineraries featuring Maquenque cost from £3,435 with flights, transfers and most meals, reefandrainforest.co.uk

10. Waldseilgarten Höllschlucht portaledges Germany

THESE canvas pods are less treehouse and more tree-tent. Suspended from beech branches during the summer months in deepest Bavaria, they're accessible only via rope – explaining why anyone staying in one first receives rope-climbing training. As for the shower, that will be your nearby waterfall. Local activities include hiking and archery.

One night half board costs £190 per person,

7. Cabanas do Barranco Spain

WHAT'S better than a treehouse? A treehouse with its own zip-line, of course. Situated in off-the-radar Galicia, northwestern Spain, this estate contains eight cabins designed to blend in with their woodland surroundings. All are 6m up, have balconies and include a hot tub. Book Cabana do Engano for a pulley thrill-ride.

Three nights cost around £280, cabanasdobarranco.com


8. Wellness Tree Houses by Bodyism Maldives

AS well as its Luke Mangan restaurant and blissful beaches, the swanky Amilla Fushi resort boasts a partnership with London gym brand Bodyism. And the happy couple have now produced a litter. Their five Wellness Tree Houses are private one-bedroom spa 'nests' with their own treatment suites. Occupants design a programme of massages and classes, leaving ample time to slumber in their private pools.

Seven nights full board in a Wellness Treehouse from £7,929 per person, including flights, transfers and all treatments and activities. healingholidays.co.uk

9. Maquenque Eco Lodge Costa Rica

SERVED by



Mind the edge: The
pools at each Tsala
treehouse are 6m up

Out of this world:
The Swedish UFO pod

waldseilgarten-hoellschlucht.de



Enchanted: The fairy-tale treehouse in Blackberry Wood



Peak: Cabane Mont Blanc

