

# TRADEWINDS

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These vacation options were brought to our attention by our members as well as our sources and friends in the travel business. *Hideaways* has not inspected them, but we've heard great things and believe they might be of interest. Call *Hideaways* Travel Services at 877-843-4433 to arrange your stay at any of these getaways.

## Kiaroa Eco-Luxury Resort [MARAU PENINSULA, BRAZIL]

It's only fitting that Kiaroa Eco-Luxury Resort, on the southern coast of Bahia state, would meld unobtrusively with the encroaching jungle on Brazil's Bay of Camamu. Camamu is Brazil's third-largest and vastly unexplored bay, a graceful sweep of deserted beaches, coconut palms, mangroves, and clear swimming lagoons formed by natural offshore reefs. In the midst of this environmentally protected area, Kiaroa bows respectfully to its surrounding beauty by leaving a gentle footprint on the land.

Uncluttered, pared-down, and sleek, the resort makes perfect use of what nature so generously gave it to work with. Polynesian-style, thatched-roof bungalows—just 14 in all, and some with private dip pools—sit low among the swaying treetops and have Indonesian-style furnishings. Another 14 tropical guest rooms sit snugly among fragrant gardens; these have verandas or balconies with lazy-in-the-afternoon hammocks. Everywhere are subtle reminders of sustainable tourism: solar energy for water heating, timber from certified reforestation areas, furniture produced by local artisans.

Families and corporate incentive groups will find this atmosphere most appealing. Guests can hike to jungle waterfalls with their bilingual guides, pedal out on bicycle trails to natural swimming pools, or hang close to home for a game of tennis. And for dinner? Nothing but the freshest local seafood, meats, and poultry artfully served on the outdoor dining terrace.

Rates start at \$532 and include half-board.

## Bamurru Plains ["TOP END," AUSTRALIA]

As the seasons change in northernmost Australia—the continent's vast "Top End" region—so do the life cycles of its plants and wildlife. The December-to-March monsoons, with their spine-tingling thunderstorms, bring a rebirth of waterlilies to the floodplains along with hosts of magpie geese, egrets, herons, and prehistoric estuarine crocodiles. As the waterways and floodplains dry out, other animals become more apparent: raptors, northern brushtail possums, and the black flying fox.

This fascinating circle of life is what draws guests to the simple but sophisticated beauty of Bamurru Plains, a wild bush lodge perched on the edge of Kakadu National Park—Australia's largest, and a stunning World Heritage Site. This land has been occupied for more than 50,000 years by the Aborigines; just a handful of guests at a time are privileged to share its wonders at Bamurru Plains. The lodge has nine safari bungalows with en suite baths, each spacious and cool, open to the breezes, and with no electronic intrusions. Every suite is raised on a timber platform with covered deck space for sitting out the heat of the day. At dusk, the bush camp comes alive with candlelight, camaraderie, and the sounds of barking owls, cicadas, frogs, and the occasional dingo passing nearby.

Bamurru Plains is low on frills, focusing instead on key creature comforts like soft bath towels, high-pressure showers, and the most comfortable beds imaginable. No attitude here—just down-to-earth, attentive service and unpretentious luxury. Meals are fresh and wholesome, providing much-needed energy for safari activities led by expert guides: airboat tours over the wetlands, wildlife viewing by four-wheel drive, birding, and fishing for Australian barramundi. Bamurru is giving African safaris a run for their money, offering bush life at its finest.

Rates start at \$1,600/night, dbl., and include meals, beverages, and scheduled activities.

## Private Yachting

### [THE TURQUOISE COAST OF TURKEY]

The "Blue Paradise" of Turkey is a fabled shoreline of aquamarine waters, untouched bays, rocky coves, and coastal villages spread between Bodrum and Antalya—true sailing nirvana. And with that shoreline comes the tradition of "blue cruising," a lazy, meandering way of exploring the coastal sights, stopping at fishing villages along the way to interact with locals and buy fresh seafood and produce.

This lovely mode of travel began in the 1920s when Turkish writer Cevat Sakir was exiled to Bodrum. Sakir befriended local fishermen and accompanied them on their wooden fishing boats, called *gulets*. He loved these care-free days of sailing and began inviting his friends to join him; often they sailed with nothing more than watermelons and wine on board, knowing they would be catching the freshest of seafood along the way.

Today, a *gulet* is still the most romantic way to cruise the Turkish coast. The 21<sup>st</sup>-century version is a wooden, handcrafted motor sailing yacht very similar to those that originally plied these waters—except that passenger luxuries have replaced the smell of dead fish. The boats typically carry anywhere from 8 to 20 guests in four to ten basic but comfortable cabins with full en suite baths.

Each charter yacht is fully crewed and often loaded with water toys like fishing and snorkeling equipment. Barefoot, swimsuit days easily morph into let-your-hair-down nights filled with food, drink, and local color. Of course, other options exist for "blue cruising"—including classic schooners and deluxe motor yachts—but the *gulet* transports its guests back to a simpler, more romantic time.

Rates vary greatly by boat and cruise length.

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