



2011

# Readers' Travel Awards

Your choice of the world's best **Countries** ★ **Islands** ★ **Cities**  
★ **Hotels** ★ **Villa Rentals** ★ **Tour Operators** ★ **Airlines** ★ **Airports** ★ **Train**  
★ **Cruise Lines** ★ **Agas** ★ **Websites** Plus: The Top 100 overall winners.

Which is your favourite country in the world? Who is the most reliable tour operator? Which airline offers the best routes? Earlier this year we asked you these questions and many more. From your answers we have produced this, our 14th annual **Readers' Travel Awards**, your choice of the best travel world has to offer. Our Top 100 (see page 46) pays tribute to the highest scorers, irrespective of category. And this year, top marks goes to... **Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa**.

Blue heaven: your favourite hotel for holidays is the Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa, which also floated to the top of your best-of-the-best list.



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Indian Ocean dream: the spa boat at Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa, this year's number one in the world



## Accommodation

### OVERSEAS LEISURE HOTELS

**Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa** not only won the award for best hotel in the **Middle East, Africa & the Indian Ocean**, but scored so highly that it made the number one spot in our 'best of the best' Top 100. You raved about absolutely everything, but singled out its *family-friendliness* (92.60) and the quality of its *food/restaurants* (97.28). Elsewhere, you reckon **North Island** in Seychelles deserved a royal ace for *environmental friendliness* (97.56), and **Singita Grumeti Reserves** in Tanzania cannot be bettered for its spectacular *location* bordering the Serengeti (97.14).

As for **Australasia and the South Pacific**, the **InterContinental Bora Bora Resort** in French Polynesia

achieved sufficiently high scores across the board to propel it into first place, helped by a stunning 90 for its *location* on Bora Bora's famous blue lagoon. Elsewhere, **Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa** in Australia's Blue Mountains was selected for *value for money* (94.29), and **Freycinet Lodge** in Tasmania for its *environmental friendliness* (96).

In **Asia & the Indian Subcontinent**, you were impressed with **Taj Falaknuma Palace** in Hyderabad, notably for its *standard/comfort of accommodation* (93.44) and *service/staff* (94.13). You felt **The Oberoi Amarvilas** in Agra has the most impressive *ambience/decor* (96.51) and the **Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai** in Thailand the highest *standard/comfort of accommodation* (95).

Seven of your top 20 favourite hotels in **The Americas & the Caribbean** are in the Caribbean, with **Sandy Lane** on Barbados rising to the very top thanks to consistently high scores, particularly for *leisure facilities* (95.38). **Carlisle Bay** on Antigua was chosen for *family-friendliness* (90.18), California's **Post Ranch Inn** for its cliff-top *location* (92.12) and **Cotton House** on Mustique for its *ambience/decor* (94.38).

In **Europe, Asia Minor & the Russian Federation**, you thought this year's winner, **Romanos** in Greece, ticked all the boxes for *family-friendliness* (92.19) and *environmental friendliness* (94.57), but the **Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Bosphorus** holds the title for best *leisure facilities* (92.36).

### Middle East, Africa & the Indian Ocean

- 1 **Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Kuda Huraa** 93.96
- 2 **North Island, Seychelles** 92.68
- 3 **Singita Grumeti Reserves, Tanzania** 92.13
- 4 **Vamizi Island, Mozambique** 90.33
- 5 **Soneva Fushi by Six Senses, Maldives** 89.24
- 6 **Jack's Camp, Botswana** 88.20
- 7 **Le Quartier Français, Franschhoek, South Africa** 86.32
- 8 **Kasbah Tamadot, Morocco** 85.88
- 9 **One&Only Reethi Rah, Maldives** 85.23
- 10 **Singita Sabi Sand, South Africa** 84.25
- 11 **The Oberoi, Mauritius** 83.05
- 12 **Mena House Oberoi, Cairo** 81.64
- 13 **Lewa Safari Camp, Kenya** 80.98
- 14 **Frégate Island Private, Seychelles** 80.08
- 15 **Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, Tanzania** 79.17
- 16 **Londolzi Private Game Reserve, South Africa** 78.76
- 17 **Mnemba Island Lodge, Tanzania** 77.57
- 18 **Ellerman House, Cape Town, South Africa** 74.52
- 19 **The Chedi Muscat, Oman** 73.48
- 20 **Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa, Dubai** 72.18

### Australasia & the South Pacific

- 1 **InterContinental Bora Bora Resort & Thalasso Spa, French Polynesia** 91.45
- 2 **Wolgan Valley Resort & Spa, Blue Mountains, New South Wales, Australia** 90.59
- 3 **Freycinet Lodge, Tasmania, Australia** 89.53
- 4 **Park Hyatt Sydney** 88.45
- 5 **Qualia, Hamilton Island, Australia** 87.10
- 6 **Longitude 131°, Uluru, Australia** 86.15
- 7 **Blanket Bay, Glenorchy, New Zealand** 85.02
- 8 **Kauri Cliffs, Matauri Bay, New Zealand** 84.10
- 9 **Saffire Freycinet, Tasmania, Australia** 82.54
- 10 **Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island, Australia** 81.00
- 11 **Hayman, Great Barrier Reef, Australia** 80.25

**What are all these numbers?** They are an index of satisfaction, scored out of a maximum of 100. In our Readers' Travel Awards 2011 questionnaire (April 2011 issue and at [www.cntraveller.com](http://www.cntraveller.com)), you were asked to choose the best that the travel world has to offer – from hotels and spas to airlines and airports. You were then asked to rate your choices according to various criteria, such as service, culture and value for money. From your responses, we calculated the average mark on each criterion, and used this to provide the overall satisfaction percentage figure that you see on these pages and in The World's Top 100 on page 46