

YOUR 2011 TRAVEL HOT LIST

WHERE TO GO, WHEN TO TRAVEL AND WHAT TO DO ONCE YOU'RE THERE... *RED'S* HOLIDAY EDIT JUST MADE BOOKING TIME OFF A WHOLE LOT EASIER

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CHILE

Starting with the earthquake in February and ending with the ordeal of the 33 miners, Chile had a turbulent 2010. But the capital, Santiago, is back on its feet. It's also a more appealing prospect than before, thanks to the opening of the 15-room Aubrey in boho Bellavista. Move on to the Atacama Desert, one of the highest, driest and most bewitching places on the planet, where you can ride in the Valley of the Moon, watch columns of steam in the Tatio geyser field and gaze at flamingos at the Tara salt flat.

WHEN TO GO: October to April.

DETAILS: Tim Best Travel (020 7591 0300, timesttravel.com) offers six nights in Chile all-inclusive, from £2,400 per person, based on two sharing, with two nights at The Aubrey and four at the Tierra Atacama Hotel in San Pedro de Atacama. Extensions to the winelands of Patagonia can also be arranged.



2 CARMARTHENSHIRE, WALES

Overlooked, until now, as a drive-through county between the Gower peninsula and Pembrokeshire, beautiful Carmarthenshire is putting itself on the map. And the Dylan Thomas connection isn't the only thing going for it. Yes, the poet is thought to have written parts of *Under Milk Wood* in a shed near the Dylan Thomas Boathouse and the ruins of 13th-century Laugharne Castle, but we suspect the Toast sale shop in the gorgeous town of Llandeilo may be just as interesting.

Other treats in the county include an aromatherapy massage at Hurst House On The Marsh (hurst-house.co.uk), a converted dairy farm with modern rustic interiors and a tasting menu; a ride through woods and streams from the Marros Riding Centre (marros-farm.co.uk); and a toasted sandwich at Barnacles Beach Café overlooking the surfers at Pendine Sands (the starting point of a new 5.5-mile coastal path to Amroth). Stay at Great House in Laugharne, an atmospheric Georgian house with wood-panelled walls, sash windows, roll-top baths and high-backed velvet armchairs. The country-chic kitchen and dark-wood dining room are perfect for a house party.

WHEN TO GO: During The Laugharne Weekend literary festival in April (thelaugharneweekend.com).

DETAILS: Three nights at Great House from £855 for six (01865 764 087, sheepskinlife.com/great-house). From London, take the train to Carmarthen via Swansea (firstgreatwestern.co.uk and arrivatrainswales.co.uk), then hire a car (enterprise.co.uk). See also discovercarmarthenshire.com.

THIS PAGE: Luxury eco-resort Tierra Atacama Hotel sits in the middle of Chile's Atacama Desert
 RIGHT: The romantic ruins of Laugharne Castle, south Carmarthenshire





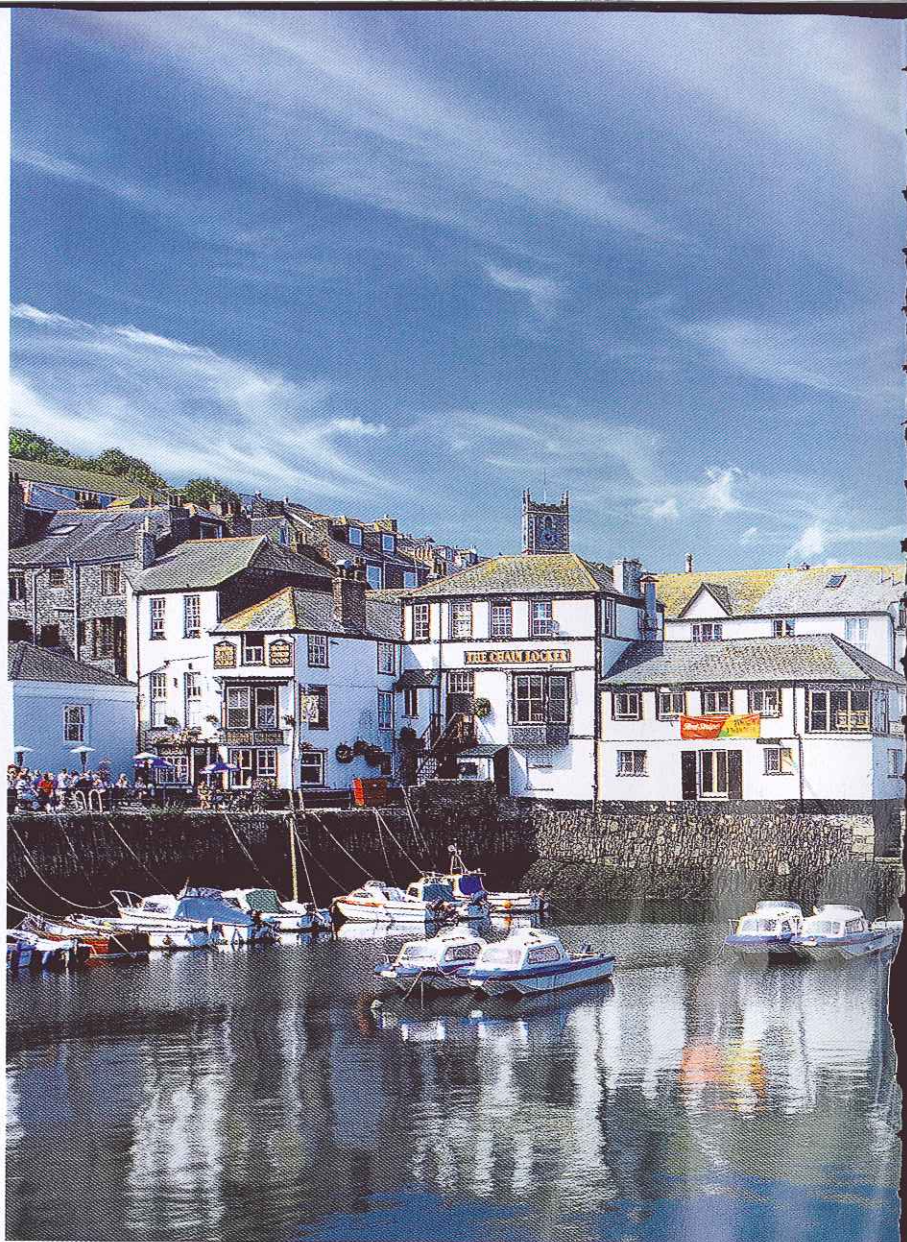
Le Moulin de la Tuilerie, Gif-sur-Yvette

3 PARIS & THE ILE DE FRANCE

Six months before its release, there is already a buzz surrounding Madonna's new film *WE*. Forced into exile, Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson based themselves in Paris, where they spent the 1950s and 1960s. At weekends, they decamped to Gif-sur-Yvette, a village 23km south-west of the city, and 18th-century mill house Le Moulin de la Tuilerie. The mill buildings can now be rented and, while the couple's Paris home in the Bois de Boulogne is not open to the public, you can stay in style at Le Meurice, where they lived from 1937 to 1938.

WHEN TO GO: Any time.

DETAILS: Three nights at Le Moulin from £1,403 (sleeps 12), La Maison des Amis from £741 (sleeps four) and La Célibataire from £381 (sleeps two); (01628 825 925, landmarktrust.org.uk). Doubles at Le Meurice from around £568 (00 33 1 44 58 10 10, lemeurice.com).



4 ILHA DE MOÇAMBIQUE, MOZAMBIQUE

Barefoot luxury resorts such as Vamizi (Quirimbas archipelago) and Azura (Bazaruto archipelago) have already put Mozambique's 2,500km coastline on the map as a wild alternative to the Maldives, Mauritius and the Seychelles. Until recently, however, the only accommodation on or near the Ilha de Moçambique – a 2.5km-long island near Nampula that served as the Portuguese colonisers' HQ for four centuries – was of the guesthouse variety. So the opening of two luxury properties is great news.

Coral Lodge 15.41 (corallodge1541.com) has 10 en-suite villas in the dunes, an infinity swimming pool and a restaurant serving fresh fish under the stars. Twelve-chalet Nuarro (nuarro.com), down the coast on Memba Bay, is solar- and wind-powered, with a trainee chefs' programme, a school and clinic built with guests' donations. Both offer powder-fine sand, sunset dhow sailing and first-class diving.

WHEN TO GO: August to October, when humpback whales arrive on the coast with their calves.

DETAILS: Seven nights' full-board at Coral Lodge, including flights, transfers and a complimentary scuba dive, from £3,499 per person, based on two sharing. Seven nights' full-board at Nuarro, including flights, transfers and a complimentary massage, from £2,399 per person, based on two sharing. Both with To Escape To (020 7060 6747, toescapeto.com). Kenya Airways is due to introduce flights from Nairobi to Nampula in January, which should bring prices down.



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odge, Ilha
ambique