

Carried away

The vows have been taken.
The confetti has been thrown.
Now it's the honeymoon.
This way to paradise...

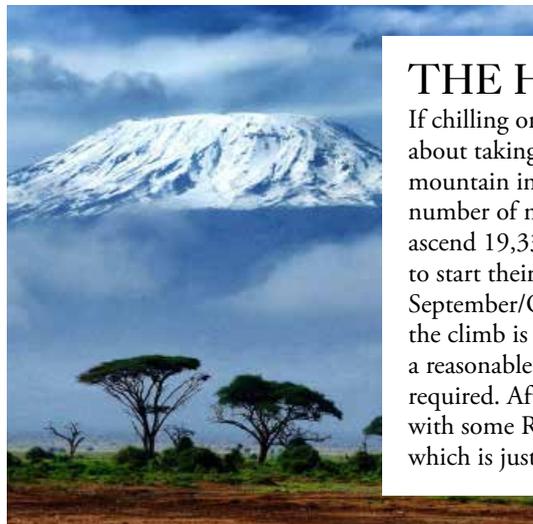


The California dream

What could be better than a road trip up the California coast? En route from LA to wine country, visit Spanish-inspired Santa Barbara, then enjoy a stay at the Post Ranch Inn, high atop the cliffs of Big Sur. Continue your adventure in San Francisco, where you can make your own artisanal chocolates at Ghirardelli. Further north, at Meadowood resort and spa in Napa Valley, learn the basics of winemaking, then blend your own prototype; both experiences can be arranged by Abercrombie & Kent.

THE HIDEAWAY

For some, New Zealand is remote enough, but Seascape, on the South Island, is the ultimate hideaway. The property is almost absorbed by the hillside it's built into, and a glass wall offers panoramic views of the Pacific. Enjoy an alfresco bath in front of a roaring fire, the silence broken only by the sound of waves and the *baa* of the odd sheep. The interior is a luxurious take on Middle Earth. And though there's a chef on hand, many guests choose to have the villa stocked with food and drinks so they can lock themselves away for the duration of their stay. Do not disturb.

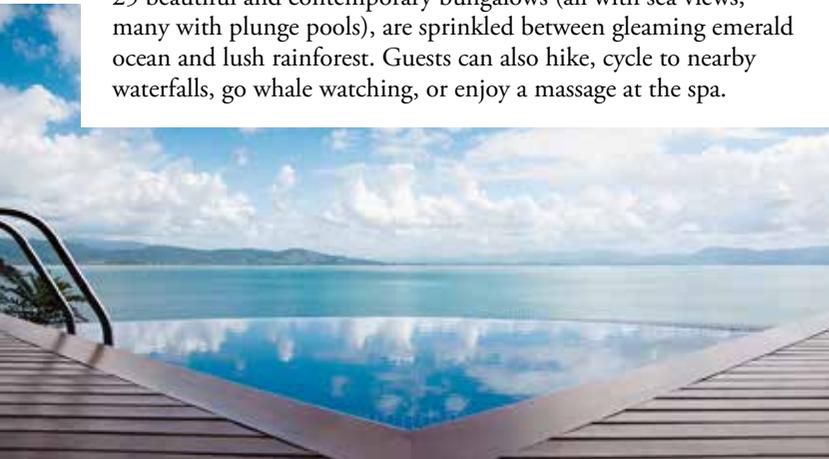


THE HIGH LIFE

If chilling on a beach isn't your scene, how about taking on the highest freestanding mountain in the world? An increasing number of newlyweds are choosing to ascend 19,336-foot Mount Kilimanjaro to start their lives together. Best done in September/October or January/February, the climb is non-technical, although a reasonable level of physical fitness is required. Afterwards, reward yourselves with some R&R on the coast in Zanzibar, which is just a 1.5-hour flight away.

The adventure

South America is a continent of contrasts that packs an adventurous punch. In just a few weeks, it's possible to kick back on the beaches of Brazil, ride horses in Patagonia, tango in Buenos Aires, and star-gaze in Chile's Atacama Desert. Start with a relaxing break in Ponta dos Ganchos, a small, adults-only resort situated on a private peninsula on Brazil's south coast. The 25 beautiful and contemporary bungalows (all with sea views, many with plunge pools), are sprinkled between gleaming emerald ocean and lush rainforest. Guests can also hike, cycle to nearby waterfalls, go whale watching, or enjoy a massage at the spa.



THE INDULGENCE

With crystal-clear waters, golden sands and underwater scenery, the Maldives has always been a playground for honeymooners. And Cheval Blanc Randheli – a five-island complex that's only accessible by seaplane – is among the nation's most romantic destinations. Water villas are perched on stilts over the lagoon, their rustic thatched roofs complementing the contemporary interiors. Infinity pools look out over the ocean and coral reef; and private "majordomes" (butlers) and "alchemists" (concierges) are on call 24 hours a day.

For more information, please visit Abercrombie & Kent at Harrods, Lower Ground Floor; abercrombiekent.co.uk