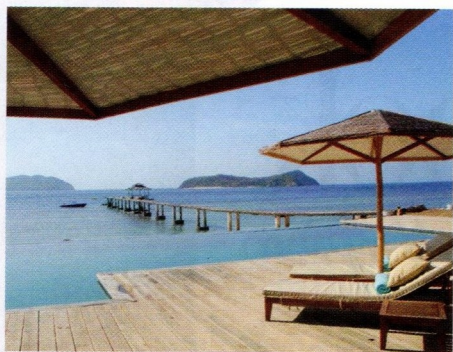


REST OF THE BEST: Beachside jungle retreats

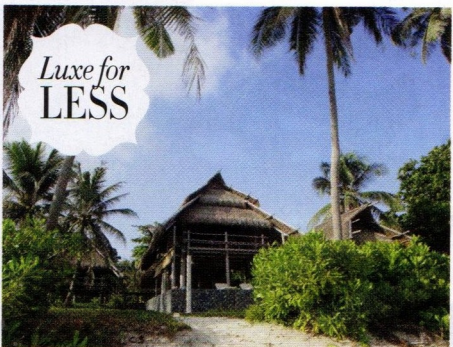


Best for PERFECT SECLUSION

Ariara Island, Philippines

Four hours from Hong Kong, this tropical private island is for groups that want true peace and quiet. Up to 18 can share the four private cottages that spill onto endless white beach. The area is virtually untouched, with an abundance of coral in clear, shallow waters. In the evening, the terrace is visited by birds and lizards, as the sun goes down.

From about £255 a person a night full board (www.ariara.com).



Luxe for LESS

Best for BEACH-SHACK BLISS

Nikoi Island, Indonesia

This tiny island, two hours from Singapore, is utterly peaceful, with simple but charming beach huts. There's no air-con, but the tropical languidness is tempered by refreshing sea breezes, and the food is delicious. Children are occupied by snorkelling, fishing and watching out for komodo dragons, monkeys and sea turtles.

From £161 a night in a beach house (sleeps two), with I-escape (0117 942 8476; www.i-escape.com).

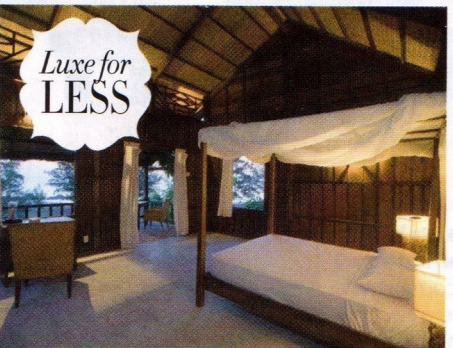


Best for a HEAVENLY SPA

The Sarojin, Thailand

Isolated on a coral cape beside ancient rainforest, the Sarojin is a universe apart from its hectic neighbour, Phuket. All rooms, each with a pool or Jacuzzi and private beach access, offer the ultimate in getting away from it all. A massage at the Pathways spa feels like the effects of two months' yoga.

Seven nights, from £1,548 a person B&B, including flights and transfers, with Kuoni (01306 747008; www.kuoni.co.uk).



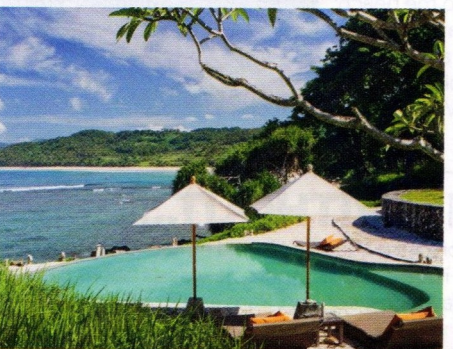
Luxe for LESS

Best DESERT-ISLAND VIBE

Mango Bay Resort, Vietnam

This idyllic escape is the creation of an Australian surfer and his English designer girlfriend, Anna Craven. The resort is unpretentious and laid-back, built along a lovely sandy bay – you feel utterly secluded, even though the island is easily accessible from Ho Chi Minh City. The elegant huts are a step away from the beach.

From about £50 a room a night B&B, including transfers (+84 120 365 7967; www.mangobayphuquoc.com).



Best for NATURAL CHARM

Nihiwatu, Indonesia

An hour's flight out of Bali by chartered plane, this remote speck in the deep blue is an island where local tribes continue their traditional lifestyle. Visitors can enjoy incredible surfing, fishing and riding across 400 acres. Intimate and authentic, it's the kind of secret nirvana you only share with friends.

From about £485 a room a night; minimum seven-night stay between April and October (+62 361 757149; www.nihiwatu.com).