

## THE DIVING DESTINATION

### Miavana, Madagascar

Madagascar is world-famous for its astonishing wildlife, with 90 per cent of its plant and wildlife species found nowhere else on the planet, and reefs not just untouched but unexplored. Now the team who created both the award-winning lodge on North Island, Seychelles, and Chinzombo, Zambia's flagship camp, are about to open another über-luxury lodge on Nosy Ankaio, the largest of five islands off the north-eastern coast of Madagascar. **Miavana** is the vision of architect-designers Silvio Rech and Lesley Carstens, who have created a sumptuous environment using local natural materials wherever possible: stone from the mainland for mosaic walls, and palm branches for curved walls and ceiling panels. Wooden sculptures by local craftsmen decorate the interiors and all villas have uninterrupted beach and ocean views that extend to the mainland mountains. The lodge will be a centre for "blue safaris" with turtle-, whale- and dolphin-watching, scuba diving, fly- and deep-sea-fishing, plus lemur-trekking and a world-class spa. Nosy Ankaio is part of a protected marine area, and the owners support efforts to reduce net-fishing and monitor wildlife movements, including the four species of turtle that nest here.

Doubles from £3,220; [timeandtideafrica.com/miavana](http://timeandtideafrica.com/miavana)



## THE MOROCCAN HOT SPOT

### Tamuda Bay

Marrakech has long been the place for European holidaymakers to head for winter sun. But this year, a new Moroccan destination has emerged: Tamuda Bay on the Mediterranean coast. Just 25 miles east of Tangier, between Fnideq and M'diq, this sheltered strip of beaches, resorts and fishing villages is attracting a growing number of luxury hotel brands. Last May saw the opening of the five-star **Sofitel Tamuda Bay Beach and Spa** hotel, which has 104 rooms and suites with a colour-charged design. In September, **Banyan Tree Tamouda Bay** (below) opened 92 villas, among the largest in the country, each with private pool and garden, and 2017-18 will see two high-class properties from **GHM hotels** and an oasis-inspired **Ritz-Carlton Reserve**. The area isn't attractive only to beach lovers; cultural attractions nearby include Tétouan, with its World Heritage-listed medina, and the photogenic "Blue City" of Chefchaouen, whose houses are painted a vivid indigo. *Sofitel Tamuda Bay Beach and Spa, doubles from £105; [sofitel.com](http://sofitel.com). Banyan Tree Tamouda Bay, doubles from £350; [banyantree.com](http://banyantree.com)*



## THE LUXE ISLAND LODGES

### New Zealand

New Zealand is renowned for smart, super-comfortable lodges in remote areas, but **Helena Bay** (above), which opened near Whangarei last month, is the first to be right on a beach. A 45-minute helicopter ride north of Auckland, this purpose-built, colonial-themed residence sits on 800 acres of scenic coastline that includes pine forests and a wagyu-beef farm. Five years in the making, the site was discovered while its owner was sailing the world by superyacht; the two-mile shoreline has four private beaches, and top-class diving is available at the nearby Poor Knights Islands marine reserve. Taking no more than 10 guests, it's ideal for mixing exhilarating outdoor activities – hiking, biking, fishing – with some romantic downtime, enjoying the Russian banya-style spa and the southern Italian cuisine at the two Michelin-starred Ristorante Don Alfonso 1890. For those who like their own space, the recently launched Residence Collection of premium villas from Queenstown-based **Touch of Spice** will also appeal. Each has been designed by award-winning architects and interior designers; Kauri Cove, beside a privately owned beach on Moturua Island in the Bay of Islands, for instance, is designed by Pete Bossley, the architect behind the landmark Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa in Wellington, and can be accessed only by boat or helicopter. *Helena Bay, doubles from £1,020 half board; [helenabay.com](http://helenabay.com). Touch of Spice, residences from £3,000 to £20,000; [touchofspice.co.nz](http://touchofspice.co.nz)*