

DESTINATIONS

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM | PROJECTS



ETHICAL INITIATIVES

From coaching football to helping with conservation, **Laura French** looks at projects clients can get involved with



1 PAINT HOUSES IN GUATEMALA

In Santa Catarina Palopó, a community set on Lake Atitlan, Journey Latin America clients can take part in the Pintando Project. It involves painting houses using traditional, Mayan-inspired textile designs, with the aim of reviving local heritage while helping to transform one of Guatemala's poorest areas. Guests can opt for a two-hour visit or a two-day stay, where they'll spend time painting a family home, then travel by boat to a town to meet the indigenous Maya Tzutujil people, learning how artisans work.

Book it: A 14-day trip combining the project with Antigua and Tikal starts at £2,987, including flights, transfers, B&B accommodation and excursions. journeylatinamerica.co.uk

2 MONITOR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE IN SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has plenty of conservation projects, but for one of the most immersive, suggest Gondwana Eco Camp, where guests can get involved with everything from monitoring leopard cameras to helping translocate wildlife. Meanwhile over in KwaZulu Natal, guests at andBeyond Phinda Mountain Lodge can go out in a 4x4 to locate and notch rhinos, so they can be monitored.

Book it: Premier Holidays offer a three-night add-on at Gondwana Eco Camp from £649 per person full-board, including activities and game drives. trade.premierholidays.co.uk



3 COOK WITH KIDS IN THAILAND

Boutique resort The Sarojin Khao Lak prides itself on community involvement, and among its standout initiatives is Street Food Cook for Kids. Guests cook a meal with local children and the hotel chef at the Camillian Centre – a not-for-profit organisation providing day-care facilities for children with special needs – with the aim of breaking down language and cultural barriers in a memorable and hands-on way.

Book it: The initiative costs £160 per person. Rates start at £315 per night. sarojin.com

4 SWAP SKILLS IN MAURITIUS

Sustainability runs through every vein at Mauritian resort Salt of Palmar, which opened last year, from food supplied by its own farm to locally sourced furnishings. But its standout feature is the Skill Swap programme, which offers guests the chance to exchange skills with local people – from coaching a football team to creating crockery with local potters, leading photography workshops to teaching English.

Book it: Travel 2 offers seven nights' B&B in a Guest View Room from £1,199, including Emirates flights from Heathrow, valid for travel between June 1 and July 24, 2020. travel2.com



5 EXPLORE UNDERWATER CONSERVATION IN THE MALDIVES

Over in the Maldives, you'll find plenty of marine conservation projects, but for something a little different, suggest Six Senses Laamu. The resort offers a Junior Marine Biology programme where six to 16-year-olds can join the Maldives Underwater Initiative team, helping to collect data and conducting surveys, while learning more about this extraordinary world.

Book it: Carrier offers a week's B&B from £12,960 for a family of four including speedboat transfers and flights on February 15, 2020. carrier.co.uk



PICTURE: PHILIP KOSCHEL; SARAH GILBERT