

“The best luxury camps rival brick and mortar hotels offering splendid landscapes and pampering. Here are some of the best camps... With centuries of experience, these camps in India are some of the best in the world.”

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FEATURE

GETTING THERE It is an hour's seaplane ride from Vancouver.
o www.wildtreat.com

MONGOLIA THREE CAMEL LODGE

Located in the rugged Gobi Desert and nestled under the Gobi-Altai Mountains on the border of the Gobi Gurbansaikhan National Park, this remote tented camp has 45 felt yurts (traditional nomadic tents) and a majestic main lodge crafted by local artisans without using a single nail.

The yurts exude a rustic charm, with wood-burning stoves and hand-painted wooden beds. The lodge, which opened in 2002, is eco-friendly, using only renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

You can hike through the desert, which brims with wildlife like argali (wild sheep), ibex (wild goat) and wolves, go on a camel trek or dig for dinosaur fossils at the legendary Flaming Cliffs with palaeontologists from the Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

PRICE Tents are from US\$80 per person per day including meals.

GETTING THERE From the Gobi Airport, the lodge is a 30-minute drive by Land Rover.

o www.threecamellodge.com



FROM TOP: The Serai, Jaisalmer makes the most of India's tent experience, which dates back to the Mughal Empire; the rustic charm of Mongolia's Three Camel Lodge.

INDONESIA AMANWANA

Opened in 1993, this is a spectacular wilderness hideaway on Moyo Island, a nature reserve east of Bali. Set in a secluded cove surrounded by tropical rainforest, the resort looks out over the bay, a protected marine park, and beyond to the Flores Sea. You arrive by seaplane or by boat and are guaranteed complete privacy and luxury.

The 20 tents are the pinnacle of understated luxury, decorated with natural materials and contemporary flair. Hardwood floors, soaring canvas ceilings, king-size beds

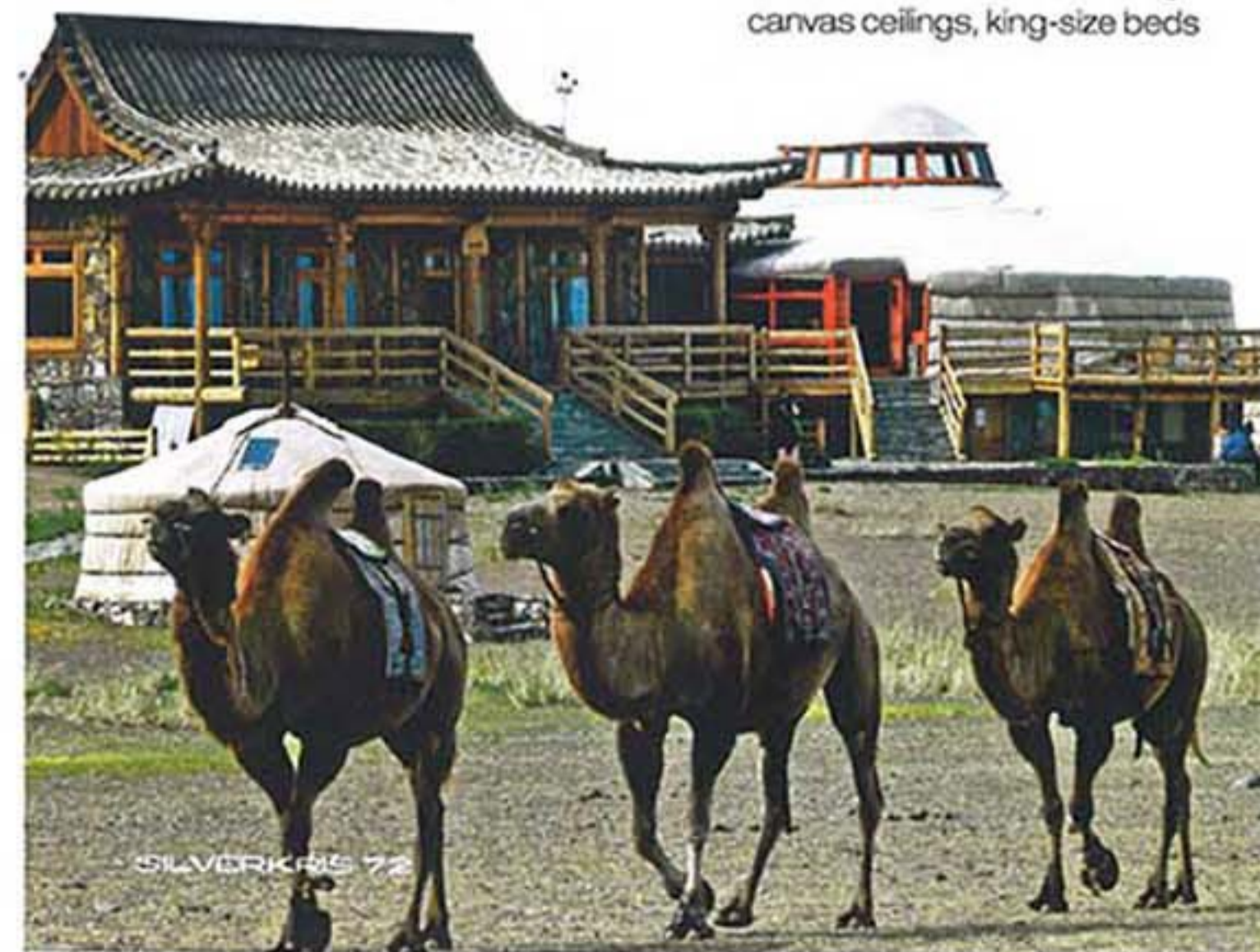
draped with muslin canopies, and artworks set the tone.

You can trek directly from your tent into the jungle, which is home to abundant bird and animal life including deer, macaque monkeys, sea eagles and osprey. Marine activities include diving and snorkelling in some of the most pristine reefs in Indonesia. If you want a break from activities, head to the Jungle Cove Spa for treatments under shady tamarind trees. Then have dinner on the beach by the light of a campfire.

PRICE Tents are from US\$700 per night plus US\$100 board per person per day; this includes meals, non-alcoholic beverages, laundry, short treks and non-motorised water sports.

GETTING THERE Fly from Bali to Moyo Island in a turboprop jet engine seaplane for US\$425 per person each way. Alternatively, fly with Trans Nusa Airlines from Bali to Sumbawa and be transferred by boat to Amanwana. Transfer time is three hours; cost US\$200 per person each way. You can also charter a Cessna Caravan plane (US\$3,500 one way) or a helicopter (US\$6,000 one way).

o www.amanresorts.com



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