



ECO-SPA RESORTS

Take a deep breath of fresh air and relax into gentle hands in these environment friendly spa resorts

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BANYAN TREE VABBINFARU, MALDIVES

BEST FOR... A stressless getaway, to explore some fabulous marine life and memorable romance under the stars

WHY? Within a sustainable environment, in the midst of the bluest waters, soak in magic of the pristine air and let your senses enjoy a wonderful spa experience.

WHERE? Situated on North Malé Atoll, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru is only 20 minutes from the Malé airport via speed boat. Encircled by white powdery beach, the 48 elegant villas are nestled on a coral atoll in the Indian Ocean.

STAYING IN Catch the salty tang of sea breeze as you wake up in the morning, sun bathe on your terrace or sun deck, swim in between the wondrous sea creatures that dwell forty feet below, marvel at the beautiful Maldives sunset and magnificent splash of stars in the night. The villas have been constructed on the footprint of the island's previous property to preserve trees and prevent beach erosion. The on-site marine lab assists in coral regeneration and the conservation of green sea turtles. Guests can help too by documenting sea species that are on the verge of extinction. If it's just the luxury you are after then

you could head to the spa and lie under a thatched-roof cabana while a masseuse uses herb-filled pouches to rub your body with warm sesame oil. Dine at the three restaurants, each having a unique ambience. Dance the night away, chill out at the bar or just have a relaxed evening at the beach front Ilaafathi or Sangu restaurants.



STYLE STEAL? Each villa is designed to optimise the luxury of breathtaking views. Sliding circular external walls of the room enclose you within a shell shaped structure. Wake up and draw your curtains to be part of the vast seascape.

OUT AND ABOUT PADI dive centre has water sport facilities including sea plane excursions, deep sea fishing, night fishing, canoeing, and water skiing just to name a few. Head out for excursions of Malé sightseeing or just charter a private yacht and explore the deep blue.

MORE INFO From Rs 37,740 approx for a villa, per night (banyantree.com). Ask your local travel agent for flights to Malé in Maldives. For prices and bookings visit (airticketsindia.com), (travelocity.co.in) or (yatra.com).



HACIENDA CHICHEN, MEXICO

BEST FOR... Mayan culture, eco friendly practices, soulful environment

WHY? With historic Mayan inspired rooms in an enchanting place that has a deep sense of cultural insight, environmental awareness, mystical ceremonies, cuisine, and holistic herbal healings.

WHERE? Located in Chichen Itza, Yucatan, Mexico, a few steps away from the visited Mayan temples and ruins. Hacienda Chichen and Yaxkin Spa are a comfortable 90 minute drive from Merida or Cancun Airport.

STAYING IN Hacienda Chichen was built by the Spanish Conquistadors using Maya Temple stones during the 16th century. Support the eco-cultural activities and explore with the guided tours of the jungled natural environs. Take time to participate in sacred ceremonies, celebrated by Maya J-men or Mayan wiseman or reserve a pampering at the Yaxkin Spa to relax and renew your inner harmony, then feast on a gourmet meal. For a romantic night, reserve a dinner table in the lush gardens under the stars. Taste the organic fruits and vegetables, grown

in-house and picked ripe daily in a fusion including authentic Maya Cuisine and Mexican traditional dishes.

STYLE STEAL? Re-built with a lot of recycled and reclaimed building materials.

OUT AND ABOUT Visit the ecological wonders of Yucatan's flora,

fauna and geology. Enjoy the sounds of hundred of tropical birds while bird-watching with a local guide. Explore the natural beauty of the private Maya Jungle Reserve and the Bird Refuge which is home to over 150 known species of birds.

MORE INFO From Rs 5,828 approx for a double room (haciendachichen.com). Ask your local travel agent for flights to Mexico. For prices and bookings visit (yatra.com), (airticketsindia.com) or (travelocity.co.in) for the best route.



ECO HOTEL SPA LA GRÉE DES LANDES, MOULINEAUX, FRANCE

BEST FOR... A flowery country-side, soothing ambience and peaceful long walks

WHY? A perfect encounter with nature and an opportunity to lose yourself in a classy, simple and earthy ambience. For every guest a tree will be planted.

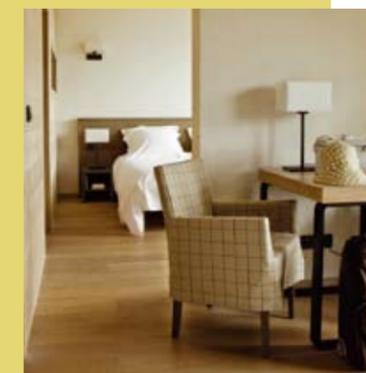
WHERE? In Morbihan, lying on the southern coast of Brittany of France, between the towns of Rennes and Venes.

STAYING IN? Be welcomed by soft morning light followed by breakfast and stroll through the 25 acres of meadows and forest.

The bathrooms are designed like log cabins and allow you to bathe in natural light. From naturally heated hot water to the southwest facing cabins for maximum

natural light, all the practices are designed to cause the least impact on Mother Nature. At lunch enjoy the meals cooked with freshly picked vegetables from the garden. Most importantly enjoy mesmerising magic of the botanical beauty treatments at the spa which uses beauty products developed locally. Dip into a hammam bath, sip teas from across the world at the herbal tea lounge. The spa boasts of a wide ranging variety of oils and creams used to infuse a sense of well being of mind and body.

STYLE STEAL? The walls are covered with mineral paint in each room. The colour palette is soothing and soft in earthy shades. The straight and clean lines of the furniture add to the peaceful element.



OUT AND ABOUT Put on your walking shoes to go out and collect some mushrooms. During summer the People and Nature photo festival shows off the works of famous photographers on the streets of the village. Visit the nearby museum, devoted to plant life which is a reserve for thousands of rare protected species.

MORE INFO From Rs 6,365 for a double room. Fly to Paris and hop on to the TGV train to Redon for 3 hours and a 25 minute drive out to la Gacilly. For prices visit (airticketsindia.com), (yatra.com) or (travelocity.co.in).

