DESSERT DAZE

These dazzling deserts are more than just sun, sand and cacti

AN AUSTRALIAN APPETITE
Oysters, beaches and wildlife in southern New South Wales

THE POLYNESIA OF YESTERDAY
Two hours from Tahiti but a world away

SKIING IN GEORGIA (THE COUNTRY)
A UNESCO site takes on a new sport

PLUS:
Coasteering in Wales
Taiwan’s green islands

SUMMER 2018
The bar for experiential soft adventure and cultural immersion is being constantly lifted higher. Leading the charge for better and more memorable experiences are luxury hotels. These three properties give us a taste of what happens when a company is committed to offering its guests anything but the same ‘ol, same ‘ol. **Oh, Man: Cliff’s-Edge Via Ferrata in Oman**

Do you associate a via ferrata — which means “iron route” in Italian — with alpine vistas or snowcapped peaks? The climbing route can be installed in other high-altitude landscapes, too: Take the new Jabal Activity Wall at Oman’s Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar Resort, which features a challenging via ferrata along a craggy cliff wall. At the climb’s deepest point, participants can look down 3,280 feet down into a vast canyon.

Ending with a jolt of adrenaline, the one-hour climb wraps up with two ziplines. Customizable by skill level, the Jabal Activity Wall experience is guided by two certified instructors and is capped at four guests at a time. It promises to be a high point of any travel itinerary. [www.anantara.com](http://www.anantara.com)

**Horse Whisperer: Equus Experience in Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Call it woof woof, call it wellness, but one thing about the Equus Experience at Four Seasons Resort Rancho Encantado Santa Fe is for sure: It’s bound to be the most unique hour clients have ever spent with a horse. Equus bills itself as an innovative self-mastery and leadership program that revolves around tapping into a horse’s intuition to promote deeper sources of a participant’s own knowledge. Using horsemanship principles — and under the guidance of facilitators — clients will learn how to stay present, develop trust, set boundaries and so much more. Riding is not part of the experience — but cowboy boots are optional. [www.fourseasons.com](http://www.fourseasons.com)

**What a Boar: Indigenous-Style Hunting in Fiji**

Guests at Nanuku Auberge Resort, located on the main Fijian island of Viti Levu, are welcome to do little more than relax by the beach. But those who prefer to work for their pampering in unique and challenging ways should consider the property’s Indigenous Hunting Experience. Participants — who must have a good level of fitness, high endurance and an open mind — will travel with a Nanuku butler, local guides and a few dogs to a nearby jungle, where they’ll see how Fijians have hunted wild boars for hundreds of years. Instead of modern weapons, guides use bush knives and bamboo spears. The all-day experience is anything but boring. [www.nanuku. aubergeresorts.com](http://www.nanuku.aubergeresorts.com) — Mindy Poder