

101 HOTELS BEACH



GOLDENEYE

ORACABESSA BAY, JAMAICA

Chris Blackwell knows how to have a good time. The music-industry bigwig who brought the world Bob Marley opened this beachside bolthole in the Eighties, and introduced a whole new kind of hotel to Jamaica. Once the home of Ian Fleming, the original villa, on a bluff overlooking the sparkly sea, is still available for rent. Or there are beach villas on the sand - perfect for lounging with a rum cocktail. Or newer, smaller beach huts, or cottages on the lagoon. But the point of this place isn't where you sleep, it's the vibe - so relaxed, so put-your-feet-up-and-order-anotherrum that it's almost horizontal. Celebrities love it (Kate Moss, Johnny Depp, Grace Jones), and you'll probably see Blackwell pottering about in frayed shorts. He doesn't care what you get up to - just enjoy the beach, the bar, the smart restaurant, the dinky spa. And order some more rum. Original Travel (originaltravel.co.uk; 020 3582 4990) offers seven nights from £3,360, including breakfast, flights and transfers. AND ANOTHER THING Visit Blackwell's Pantrepant Farm - go for veranda lunches and a mooch about his tropical, organic gardens.

GILI LANKANFUSHI

NORTH MALE ATOLL, MALDIVES

Gili long ago nailed that whole barefootluxury vibe. Quite literally - your shoes will be whipped away as soon as you arrive. And once you sink your toes into the baby-powder sand, you realise that's just fine. Guests pedal lazily on bamboo-frame bicycles (the resort is big on sustainability, with a rocket composter for food waste and toiletries in refillable earthenware containers) and sleep in sprawling, Robinson Crusoe-esqe overwater villas. Hammocks swing over the turquoise lagoon and you can spot giant manta rays, baby reef sharks and rainbow-coloured parrotfish from your private deck. There's an outdoor jungle cinema, diving galore and an overwater spa, but if you'd rather stay put, your designated Mr Friday will pop over with a bowl of reef-fish curry and a bunch of board games. And your shoes? No sign of them until you leave. Kuoni (kuoni.co.uk; 01306 747008) offers seven nights, from £4,205, including breakfast, flights and transfers.

AND ANOTHER THING Go wine tasting in the cellar, at a table made from the trunk of a giant tree that floated over from Sri Lanka in the 2004 tsunami.

