

HaNG TeN

WANT A HOLIDAY WITH SERIOUS SURF CLOUT?



COLLAGE by
GUS & STELLA

LOOK NO FURTHER THAN THESE SUPER-STYLISH BOLTHOLES
BY SOME OF THE WORLD'S BEST BREAKS

comporta, PORTUGAL

Just an hour south of Lisbon, Comporta is one of seven little villages in a beautiful area of cork and pine trees, impossibly green rice paddies and 12km of empty white beach. With quiet streets and a few whitewashed houses, the sleepy town sits at the base of the Tróia Peninsula, a finger of land stretching north between the Atlantic Ocean and the Sado River estuary on Portugal's west coast. Come summer, this quiet rice-farming region transforms into a chic coastal hideaway, as fashionable Lisbonites join a wealthy boho set. Madonna, Christian Louboutin and Emanuel Ungaro's muse Bethy Lagardère have all come for the low-key vibe.

How anywhere with beaches this good has managed to ward off the tourist crowds is a miracle, although strict planning laws mean the big developers have been kept away. Our pick for accommodation is Sublime Comporta, a 17-hectare slice of stylish,

rustic heaven. The drive from Lisbon is a 130km trip across the magnificent Vasco da Gama Bridge, through the forests, until you spot Sublime Comporta's unassuming entrance: just a wooden door with a handwritten sign. Inside, you'll find 23 rooms and suites (filled with white and natural wood) spread across the main building and guest house, plus 22 two-to-five-bedroom cabanas, the design of which was inspired by the area's traditional farmer and fisherman houses.

Chef Tiago Santos heads up the hotel's restaurants: Tasca Da Comporta, Sem Porta and Food Circle. The latter is a 12-seater circular space in the garden, where food is cooked over a central fire. Menus are mostly organic and locally sourced, and for a special treat, you can request a romantic picnic on a deserted beach.

Drive a few kilometres north and you'll find Carrasqueira, a "port" on stilts, which fashion folk will recognise from Christian Louboutin's SS13 campaign. The network of wooden walkways stretching over the water is

used by the fishermen to cross the Sado estuary's low-tide mud, and sunsets here are an Instagram must.

A 20-minute drive south will bring you to the beautiful Praia do Carvalhal, where the strong waves are perfect for surfing the Atlantic. Surf In Comporta runs 90-minute lessons for all ages (surfincomporta.com). Afterwards, take respite at the beach bar and restaurant O Dinis for freshly caught seafood grilled only with salt, and chilled Super Bock lager.

While Comporta has been compared to all the usual hippie-chic destinations – Ibiza and Formentera in Spain, Búzios in Brazil, early Punta del Este in Uruguay and even '60s-era St Tropez on the French Riviera – none of those really nails it. But is it the coolest beach retreat in Europe? We think so. sublimecomporta.pt

With their own private pools, the two-bedroom Cabana Villas are truly Sublime



A focus on sustainability means the hotel's buildings complement the landscape



"THE HOTEL HAS AN IMPRESSIVE LIBRARY OF BOARDS and WILL EVEN DROP YOU LUNCH IF you're OUT MAKING THE MOST of THE SURF"

malibu, USA

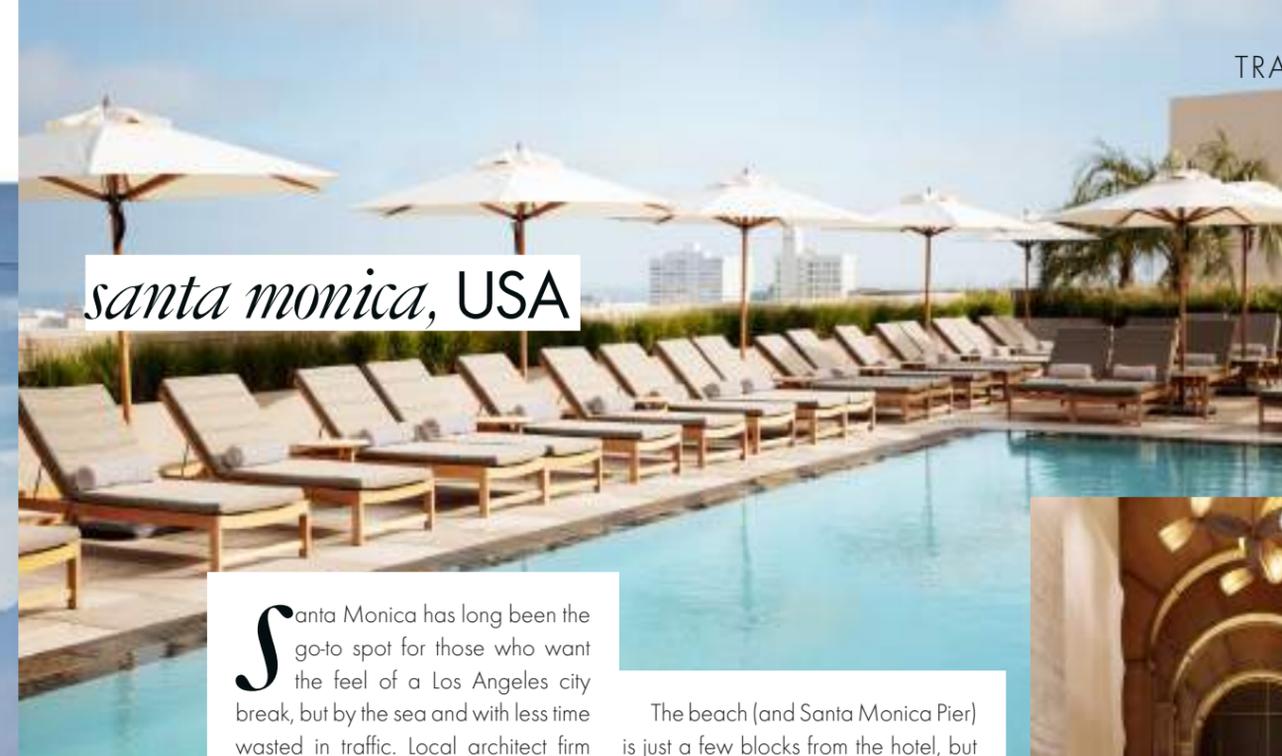
As you sink into a linen couch in one of the common areas of Malibu's beloved Surfrider, it's easy to forget that you're in a 20-room hotel and not a beach house you've been lucky enough to call yours for the weekend. Australian Emma Crowther Goodwin and her husband, Malibu-born architect Matthew Goodwin, along with their business partner and friend Alessandro Zampedri purchased the iconic building a few years back, and pulled off a genius conversion that now sees the hotel regularly fully booked.

Because the trio retained the size and charm of the original '50s motel, Surfrider feels lo-fi and cosy. You're likely to make fast friends with the staff and fellow guests and discover some excellent surf tips. The location here is paramount: the Surfrider sits on the Pacific Coast Highway (aka Highway One, iconic Californian road trip fodder), directly opposite the Malibu Pier and the hotel's namesake beach.

An ideal point break means there's always a wave to be found, and as such, the area caters to both learners and seasoned pros. The hotel has an impressive library of boards by local shaper Wax Surf Co on hand to borrow, and will even drop you lunch if you're out making the most of the surf. There are also Mini Coopers available to take for a spin for those wanting to venture further afield.

Inside, the hotel feels fresh, light and without pretence. There's an unmistakable dedication to a neutral palette of muted wood, off-white and stone grey, with four-poster wooden cubed beds in the rooms and rugs underfoot. Spring for the Surfrider Suite and you'll find a sunset-facing hammock strung up on the terrace. The guest-only rooftop is the real calling card here. With a fire pit, unbeatable view and a ready supply of cocktails, it's sure to make for one of the best sundowners you'll have in your life. thesurfridermalibu.com

The laid-back hotel pays tribute to Californian surf culture



santa monica, USA

Santa Monica has long been the go-to spot for those who want the feel of a Los Angeles city break, but by the sea and with less time wasted in traffic. Local architect firm Howard Laks and interior design extraordinaire Kelly Wearstler took that ethos and turned it up to 11, transforming the '20s-era Santa Monica Professional Building into the super-stylish Santa Monica Proper Hotel. Across the building's two wings and 271 guest rooms, Wearstler has expertly woven her signature aesthetic and penchant for mismatched, one-off pieces with the Spanish-revival and Moorish elements of the original building. With interiors this considered, it feels almost counterintuitive to tear yourself away from the Proper's halls (or rooftop, where you'll find a pool with panoramic views and a bar to hang by) to explore the neighbourhood.

The beach (and Santa Monica Pier) is just a few blocks from the hotel, but the best surf spot is a short drive away at Breakwater in Venice. It might not be a world-class wave, but it's a good option while in the city. Proper will even loan you a surfboard or paddleboard. Or you can call on the hotel's surf instructor, who will take you half an hour up the coast to Zuma Beach and Point Dume to brush up on your skills or take on a more challenging wave.

LA is a good place to double down on wholesome intentions, and Proper's dining options are no exception. Lobby eatery Palma offers a healthy breakfast, while Onda, a collab between Jessica Koslow (of LA's buzzy Sqirl) and Gabriela Cámara (of Contramar in Mexico City and San Francisco's Cala), has a seafood focus. Then there's the in-house spa, Surya, run by Martha Soffer – the Ayurvedic expert, chef and herbalist whose know-how Gwyneth Paltrow regularly calls upon. The four-handed Abhyanga oil massage is a highlight (Gwyneth would approve). properhotel.com



The light-filled hotel has been designed to make the most of Santa Monica's ocean breezes



uluwatu, INDONESIA

The surf in Bali is hard to beat — but this view of the Indian Ocean comes close

It's been a long time since Bali was an undiscovered gem, so much so that it's not a stretch to assume you'll bump into a school friend over a cold-pressed juice while you're there. But its saturation-point popularity has also resulted in some seriously cool openings in recent years. There's The Slow, a hotel and restaurant in Canggu by former Ksubi designers and founders Gareth Moody, George Gorrow and Gorrow's wife, Cisco Tschurtschenthaler, and Potato Head's hot new beach club/hotel/"creative centre", which opens this month.

Uluwatu, on the southern tip of the island, is now home to luxe resort outposts from Six Senses, Bulgari and Anantara, but it first gained a rep in surfing circles after a group of pioneering surfers and filmmakers put it on the metaphorical map in the '70s. And there's a simple reason Uluwatu is still top of the list for

international surf buffs: the waves here are some of the best in the world.

If you've got a gang together, make a beeline for Uluwatu Surf Villas resort. There are currently 14 villas, with three more opening in April 2020. Three key architects had a hand in the mid-century modern feel of these villas: Tim Russo (the founder of the property), Alexis Dornier and Abbie Labrum. Each villa is dominated by reclaimed teak-wood panelling from nearby Java, with custom furniture made in Jepara and works by Californian surfer and artist Andy Davis on the walls.

The resort's clifftop location gives you a bird's-eye view over the swell, and once you're ready to head out, you can swing by the property's superbly stocked board room, then make your way down a private staircase to the beach. For the non-surfers, there's a dedicated yoga program, with morning and afternoon classes for around \$12 each. Bliss.

uluwatusurfvillas.com

SLOW RIDER
AN AVID SURFER, THE SLOW'S CISCO TSCHURTSCHENTHALER SHARES HER GO-TO SPOTS IN AND AROUND THE BALINESE VILLAGE OF CANGGU

OLD MAN'S
"This is a super-fun beginner wave in the heart of Canggu. It gets crowded, but the motto is 'wave sharing'. When I go out, I always bump into some friends, so it's quite social. Old Man's is great for longboards, too."

MEDEWI
"This is my all-time favourite wave. It's a special spot two hours up the west coast from Canggu, after Balian Beach. The wave is about two kilometres long and is so fun and fast. I caught my best wave ever there. The village is still a bit sleepy and reminds me of old Bali days."

JASRI
"About one-and-a-half hours from the airport, in the east of Candidasa, you'll find this wave. It doesn't always break, but when it does it's amazing! This place is still a little hidden, but the area's surrounds are magical — think endless rice fields, jungle, cows and beautiful black volcanic rocks."

bruny island, AUSTRALIA

Not only is Tasmania home to Shipstern Bluff, one of the country's heaviest waves, but it's also a magnet for those who are seeking a more under-the-radar surf spot. A short trip from Hobart by ferry, Bruny Island is a charming location with the bonus of some pretty consistent waves, especially off its east and south coasts. Located about halfway down the island in the seaside township of Alonnah, overlooking Sheepwash Bay, is The Shack, a rustic off-the-grid cabin for two built from reclaimed timber, with access to private coastline. Between surf jaunts, head for a bushwalk, forage in the herb garden and veggie patch or cosy up by the fire. There's also a tub for any surf-related aches.

airbnb.com/rooms/6484951

The rustic retreat offers cosy interiors and stunning water views

HOME FRONT
THREE OF THE BEST PLACES AROUND THE COUNTRY TO CATCH A WAVE

SNAPPER ROCKS, QLD
Arguably Australia's most famous surf break, Coolangatta's Snapper Rocks is about a 45-minute drive south of the Gold Coast. While you're there, head over the border to Flagstaff Beach, the northernmost beach in NSW.

BELLS BEACH, VIC
Just outside Torquay, Bells was the second stop on 2019's World Surf League Championship Tour, so it's not for beginners — the waves pack a bit more of a punch because of the Southern Ocean swell.

NOOSA, QLD
There are a bunch of world-renowned point breaks to be surfed here. Christmas through to April is the best time to visit, when the waves feed on cyclone swells (which is not as terrifying as it sounds).