

Travel + Add to myFT

50 holidays to take in 2026

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express; Paintrock Canyon Ranch; the Sonnenhof in Lech and Hotel Corazón in Mallorca

From cattle-wrangling in Wyoming to opera in Milan, FT travel writers offer 12 months of trip ideas

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116

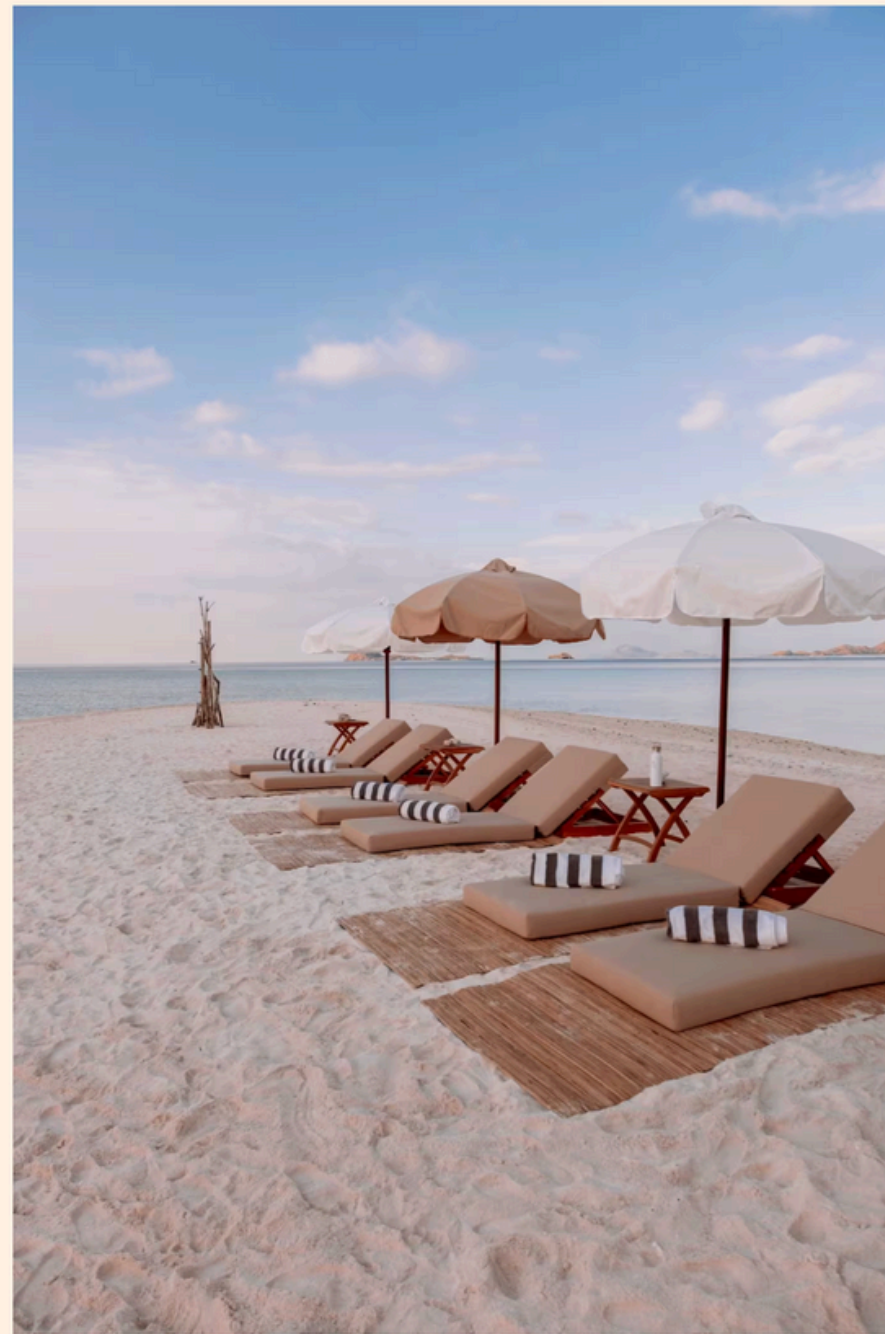


October

The Spice Islands by phinisi



Set sail on the Aliikai...



...and relax on Maluku's beaches

There are more than a thousand islands in the Maluku archipelago, stretching between Timor and West Papua, once known as the Spice Islands because of the nutmeg, cloves and mace that were exclusively found here. Most of the islands are forested and mountainous (rising to over 3,000 metres), several are volcanoes, many are ringed with powdery white beaches and turquoise waters and dotted with traditional fishing villages. Below the surface, the area is known for exceptional snorkelling and diving on vast coral reefs, with the chance to spot whale sharks, manta rays and migrating schools of hammerhead sharks. *Experience Travel offers a week's cruise through the region on the Aliikai, a phinisi yacht with seven air-conditioned bedrooms, from £6,650 per person, including flights from London to Ambon and a night in a hotel before and after the voyage; [experiencetravelgroup.com](https://www.experiencetravelgroup.com)*