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2. Manta rays Maldives

The Maldives' central atolls come alive with manta rays in summer, when the gentle giants flock to feast on the area's nutrient-rich waters. They're often joined by the ocean's biggest fish (and fellow plankton-feeder), the whale shark.
SEE IT: August and September
STAY: On board the swanky Carpe Vita safari yacht. Seven-day trips from £2,495 include flights from the UK, diveworldwide.com.

Returns from London to Malé from £451, srilankan.com/uk

3. Asian elephants Sri Lanka

'The gathering' is the accumulation of hundreds of Asian elephants that have trudged across Sri Lanka to bathe, breed and feed in Minneriya National Park. The migration occurs in the dry season when the waters of the park's reservoir recede to host the largest congregation of elephants on earth.
SEE IT: Until late October
STAY: Ulagalla, from £150 per night, ugaescapes.com/ulagalla

Returns from London to Bandaranaike from £400, virgin-atlantic.com

4. Black-necked cranes Bhutan

The Phobjikha Valley is the winter home to swarms of the graceful



Get your sea legs: Stay on the S/V Noorderlicht and go on a Whale Safari

Killer instinct: Explore the sealife in Norway's dramatic waters



The really wild show

black-necked crane, which roost and feed on a glut of dwarf bamboo before returning to their breeding grounds in the Tibetan Plateau. The endangered birds are so revered in Buddhist tradition that there's even a whole festival dedicated to their arrival.

SEE IT: October to February
STAY: Dewachen Hotel, from £37 per night, dewachenhotel.com

Returns from London to Delhi from £293, britishairways.com, and from Delhi to Paro from £380, drukair.com



So re elephant: See lots of Asian elephants in Sri Lanka

the fish from overhead, and perhaps even the magnificent Aurora Borealis flickering in the skies above the coastline's bays.

SEE IT: September to March
STAY: On the S/V Noorderlicht, as part of Gane & Marshall's seven-night North Norway Whale Safari cruise, £1,295, ganeandmarshall.com.

Returns from London to Bodo from £190, norwegian.com/uk

6. Great monarch butterflies California

The endangered butterfly, with its orange wings and black markings, is one of the most distinctive insect species. But you don't need extensive safari plans to see them on the move as they overwinter in California. They can easily be seen in their thousands hanging in heavy clusters from eucalyptus

trees on the coastlines of Santa Cruz and San Diego.

SEE IT: From October to February
STAY: The Santa Cruz Dream Inn, from £300 per night, jdvhoteles.com
Returns from London to LAX from £400, wowair.co.uk

7. Porcupine caribou Alaska

From August, herds of caribou - some 170,000-strong - migrate south across the Barren Lands for the aggressive rutting period. The animals journey more than 2,400km a year between their winter range and calving grounds at the Beaufort Sea, making theirs the longest migration route of any land mammal on earth.

SEE IT: August and September
STAY: Kavik River camp, from £266 per night, kavikrivercamp.com

Returns from London to Fairbanks from £694, unitedairlines.com

8. Red crabs Australia

As the wet season arrives, Christmas Island's red crabs begin their migration from forest to coast in order to breed. Roads are carpeted with red as females head to the sea to release their eggs, precisely at the turn of the high tide during the last lunar quarter. Spooky.

SEE IT: October to December
STAY: The Sunset hotel, from £125 per night, thesunset.cx

Returns from London to Perth from £532, emirates.com/uk



Get out of a rut: Spot caribou during the rutting period in Alaska

9. Salmon British Columbia

From summer's end to early winter, a massive pulse of life enters North America's west coast: the return of the salmon to spawn.

Wolves and whales converge to feast on the millions of fat, silvery fish that leave the open Pacific and crowd rivers and creeks, returning to their birthplace to mate and die.

SEE IT: August until October
STAY: Nimmo Bay Resort, from £965 per night, nimmobay.com

Returns from London to Vancouver from £340, westjet.com



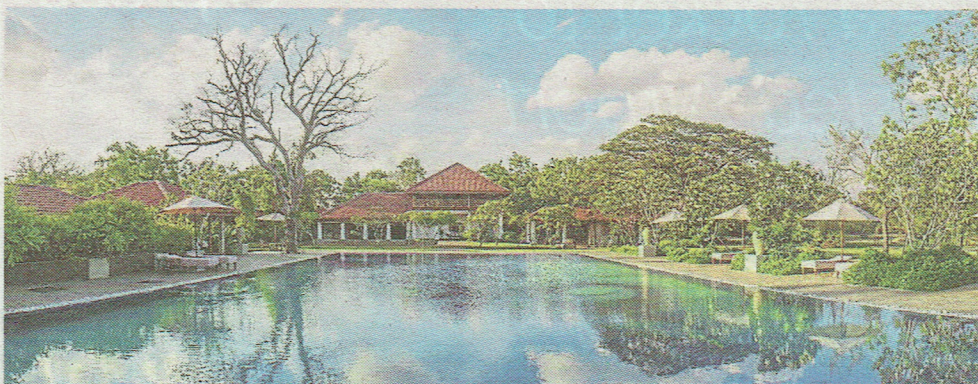
Winged beauty: See Monarch butterflies in California

1. Flamingos Corfu

Each year, thousands of flamingos decorate the wetlands of Alikes Lefkimmis in Corfu. Seeking food during their migration from Europe to Africa, they arrive and perch in the shallow waters of the lagoon.

SEE IT: September to December
STAY: Marbella Corfu, from £200 per night, marbella.gr

Returns from London to Corfu from £120, ryanair.com



Luxe out: Ulagalla in Sri Lanka has a 150-year-old mansion surrounded by breathtaking landscape