

THE HOT LIST

INTO THE BLUE

Have your own Blue Planet II adventure with these oceanic insights from *Sarah Marshall*

REEF ENCOUNTER ORCAS

He's done it again. Sir David Attenborough has ramped up our wanderlust for wild places with woozy scenes beneath the waves on *Blue Planet II*. Become a citizen of the Great Barrier Reef as part of an initiative to keep one of the ocean's greatest jewels gleaming. citizensgbr.org



Natural born killers? Yes - although humans are off the menu. Brave Norway's bone-shuddering waters with *Blue Planet II* cameraman Patrick Dykstra. An eight-day trip from Jan 15 costs £4,295 - flights extra. naturalworldsafaris.com



Why settle for one blue whale when you can have 40 off the coast of Trincomalee - Sri Lanka's low-key alternative to Marissa? Jungle Beach eco resort organises day trips for £105. ugaescapes.com

INTO THE BLUE

MARINE MEGAFAUNA

Big fish in an even bigger pond, whale sharks cluster in St Helena's super-clear waters. Snorkel off the remote island now accessible by plane. Eight-day safaris (Jan and Feb) from £1,980 - flights extra. naturalworldsafaris.com



Most of the world's oxygen is generated underwater, through leafy lungs such as kelp. Paddle through swathes of the stuff on a kayak trip in California's Channel Islands National Park. £113, sbadventureco.com



AND BREATHE

SEXY FISH



A kaleidoscope of fish can be overwhelming underwater. Scale back with a week on a Scubaspa cruise through the Maldives, combining dives with divine facials and massages. From £1,769 - plus flights. scubaspa.com

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The critter count is high at Walindi Plantation Resort, Papua New Guinea. One of the last places Jacques Cousteau dived, it's got half the world's hard coral species. Visit as part of a 14-day trip from £7,185. reefandrainforest.co.uk

Keep activities wild and sleeps refined at the Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, opening early next year on Havelock Island. The first luxe resort in India's premier dive spot, it's bound to make a splash. taj.tajhotels.com

ANDAMANS



MAKE

Conservation always starts close to home. Join a six-day Azores trip with Dive Worldwide to study sperm whales, tally bottlenose dolphins and tag loggerhead turtles. Departs May to Sept, from £1,495. diveworldwide.com





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Chartering submersibles comes with a serious depth charge. Settle for close encounters of the digital kind at National Geographic's new Ocean Odyssey in New York. Square up to battling Humboldt squid for £30. natgeoencounter.com

VIRTUALLY DEEP



SEYCHELLES



Bird-eating fish and other improbable sights could be possible when BA resumes direct flights next March to the Seychelles. Dive in with clear views – and environmental conscience – at Six Senses's new resort Zil Pasyon. Seven nights from £5,390 in May. abercrombiekent.co.uk



OCEANS II

Costa Rica has 11 times more marine area than land. Imagine how many species lurk down there? Surface spectacles include a humpback migration along Ballena National Park, around a sandbar shaped like a whale tail. visitcostarica.com

Cute and cuddly? No. But polar bears on sea ice can make you blubber. WildPhoto's eight-night expedition to Svalbard is in high demand so book now for March 18 2019. From £5,538 – flights extra. wildphoto.com

WINTER VOYAGE



MARITIME LAW

Brexit? Governments should spend time debating bills such as the Marae Moana. The Cook Islands passed its Ocean Sanctuary law in July for a protected marine zone seven times bigger than the UK. cookislands.travel

