

Gangtey Goenpa Lodge

WANGDUE, BHUTAN

Only the most intrepid backpackers used to make it to this hidden valley, a three-hour drive by (windy, potholed) road from Punakha, passing wild marijuana and cascading forests. Then they grew up, stopped trying to smoke their roadside pickings and wanted a proper place to bed down. And along came brand-new Gangtey Goenpa Lodge. It's a mystical sort of place – actual clouds sometimes float through the lobby – but there's also underfloor heating and wi-fi and 12 stonking suites, all with wood-burning stoves, freestanding baths and views over a valley that stretches further than your binoculars. Amble to the nearby 17th-century monastery or – a first for Bhutan – take off in a hot-air balloon. Then snuggle up with a mulled Bumthang cider and play Bhutanese board games into the wee hours. A grown-up refuge for adult adventurers. **WEBSITE** easternsafaris.com
BOOK IT Cox & Kings (coxandkings.co.uk; 0845 154 8941) offers two nights, full board, from £3,995, as part of a 12-night trip, including flights and transfers.

