

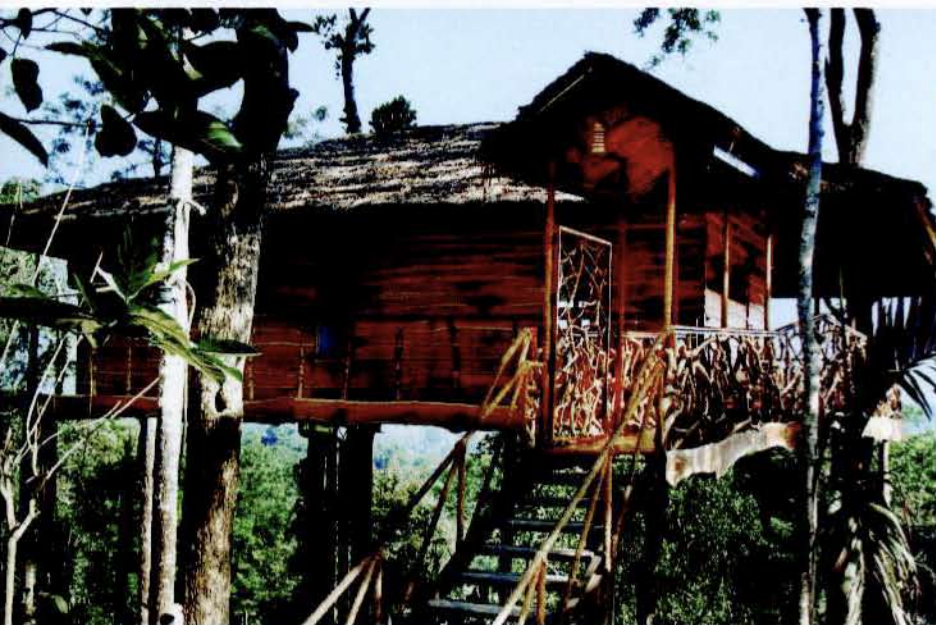
# TRAVELER

Starring  
the 101 best  
hotels in  
the world

# Travel Guide 2010



In association with  
Africa Travel

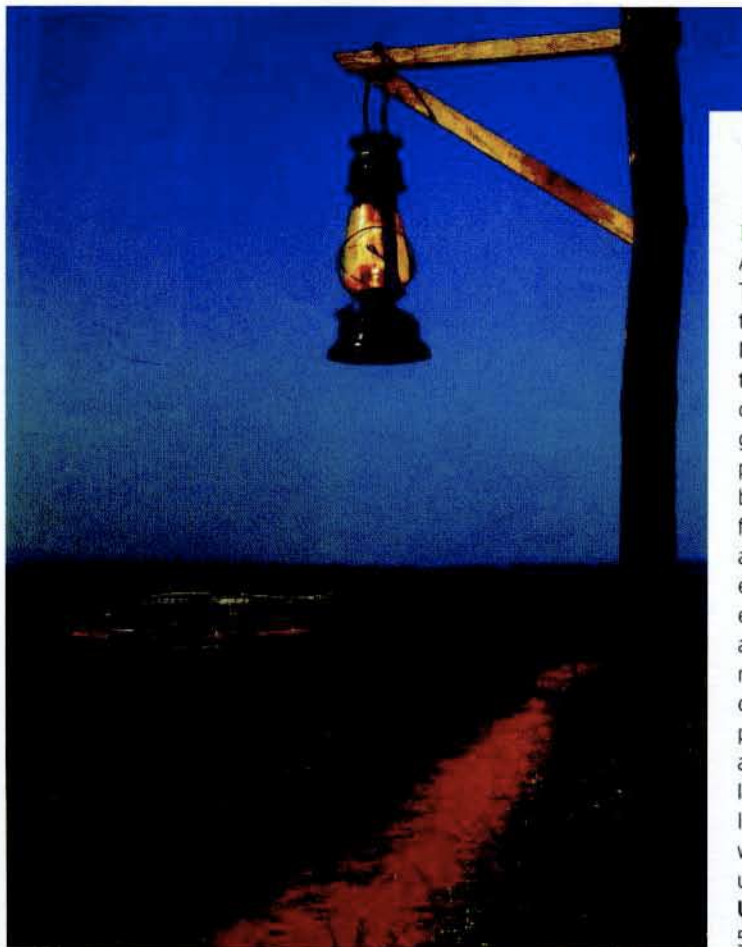


## Tranquil

Kerala, India

Treehouses are big this year – it turns out all us languorous leopards are longing to sleep high up in arboreal eyries. Certainly one of the loveliest is here in Kerala's yummiest homestay, 35 feet skyward in a 400-acre coffee plantation. This is a tree-top estate, with bamboo walls and a gulmohar tree (with shower attached) growing through the bathroom. The hosts – professional planters Victor and Ranjini Dey and four generations of their family – live here too. Jesuit-educated Victor is a great Thirties BBC-style raconteur and there's a real house-party atmosphere. Forget the main building – the treetop is the only way to go. Walk up a zillion steps to see the 2500bc cave paintings or loll around the pool. Either way, fall asleep at night to the sound of cicadas, flame trees licking at your feet. **Website** [tranquilresort.com](http://tranquilresort.com). **UK reservations** Scott Dunn (tel: 020 8682 5000). **Rates** Double, from £275, full board.

'The absolute best short escape ever for anyone into fitness and nature is the Tour des Muverans massif in the south-west of Switzerland. Spectacularly beautiful, so physically



## Kabini

Karnataka, India

A new and special place to go wild in style. The lovely empty views here lead out across tangerine sun-bathed waters to the Nagarhole and Bandipur National Parks – thumpingly full of the world's largest numbers of Asiatic elephants. Venkatesh, the resident guide, leads boat and Jeep safaris ('I take precautions, not rifles,' he says) to spot Babar, bison, crocs and the occasional tiger. 'A gift from God!' he exclaims gleefully, on finding a leopard. Afterwards there is Kabini's pet elephant to wash or ride along the water's edge, a reading room on stilts, and an ayurvedic spa with a traditional wooden massage table (and a certain amount of chanting). The rooms are comfortable tribal: palm-thatched, with termite-mud walls and all with teak four-posters and bottle-gourd lampshades. The food is scrummy local Indian curries, with masala dosa for breakfast while oxen wander past to the river to lap up the dawn. **Website** [orangecounty.in](http://orangecounty.in).

**UK reservations** Scott Dunn (tel: 020 8682 5000). **Rates** Double, from £235, full board.



'Fernando de Noronha is an amazing island off the coast of Brazil, where you can surf and swim staying in a bungalow at Pousada Zé Maria, run by a crazy man who gives the most amazing massages