Travel

ARTFUL LODGER

We’re discovering our wild side in Rwanda, finding fresh charm in Chiang Mai and hanging out at a new Shoreditch hub

Thai break

ANANTARA CHIANG MAI RESORT

Since setting up home in a sleek Kerry Hill-designed building on the banks of Thailand’s Mae Ping River four years ago, the Anantara Chiang Mai Resort has amassed a legion of fans, not least for its tranquil location that’s just a 20-minute stroll from the bustling markets, temples and ancient Lanna ruins of Chiang Mai’s old city. Now, the unveiling of 27 one-, two- and three-bedroomed serviced suites has pumped up the property’s appeal even further. Located just across the road from the existing resort, and accessible via a wooden footbridge, the small apartments, each complete with a fully equipped kitchen, have interiors courtesy of Bangkok’s Goodlux design studio. Smooth timber surfaces combine with custom-made furnishings, while details such as standout red tiling and slatted wooden wall panels in the lobby – reference features from the main hotel building. The real lure, however, is the rooftop pool, where views of the city are best experienced with a cocktail at sunset. Lauren Ho

235 Charoen Prathet Road, tel: 66 53 235 333, chiangmai.anantara.com. Rates: from THB 8,129 (€234)

Go ape

BISATE LODGE, RWANDA

Rwanda may be justly famed for its wild natural beauty, but its choice of luxury accommodation has been a little sparse. Until that is, the arrival of Bisate Lodge. The setting certainly does not want for drama. Located in the natural amphitheatre of an eroded crater next to the country’s Volcanoes National Park – made famous by the American zoologist Dian Fossey – the property is the launch pad for excursions to gorilla sanctuaries, lava caves and rainforest-fringed lakes. In designing the six-domed villas, Johannesburg-based architect Nicholas Plewsman took inspiration from the hive-like King’s Palace museum at Nyanza, while designers Caline Williams-Wynn and Teta Isibo dressed the interiors in woven-straw wall panels, geometric patterns and bright Rwandan textiles. The local flavour continues in the kitchen, which cooks up standards such as liboké (chicken steamed in banana leaves) and spicy fried sambaza fish.

Daven Wu

Volcanoes National Park, wilderness-safaris.com/camps/bisate-lodge. Rates: from $1,100

Big draw

THE CURTAIN, LONDON

Combining 120 rooms, a members’ club, a 24-hour gym, two restaurants, eight bars and a rooftop pool, The Curtain is more a lifestyle hub than a straightforward hotel. With a NY-LON theme, the property has artwork by British rock ’n’ roll photographer Mick Rock lining the walls of Big Apple imports such as Marcus Samuelsson’s soul food mecca Red Rooster, and a live performance space inspired by historic music club and punk forum CBGB. Dallas-based interior design firm Duncan Miller Ullmann offers a polished riff on the location’s rough edges. Rich green Chesterfield sofas are pushed back against exposed brick walls and black-framed factory windows for a modern industrial aesthetic with a Brooklyn accent. With a wellness area, yoga and Boom Cycle classes on offer, and a soon-to-launch members’ workspace, The Curtain’s arrival consolidates Shoreditch’s status as east London’s creative heartland. Ella Marshall

45 Curtain Road, EC2A, tel: 44 20 3146 4545, thecurtain.com. Rates: from £240