

# ARTFUL LODGER

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



35: Recycled glass bottles used to create the chandelier in the wine cellar

65: Artisans commissioned to weave baskets for the lodge

10: Habituated gorilla groups that can be tracked and observed in the nearby Volcanoes National Park

## 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 Plewman 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](http://wilderness-safaris.com/camps/bisate-lodge). Rates: from \$1,100

## Thai break

**ANANTARA CHIANG MAI RESORT**

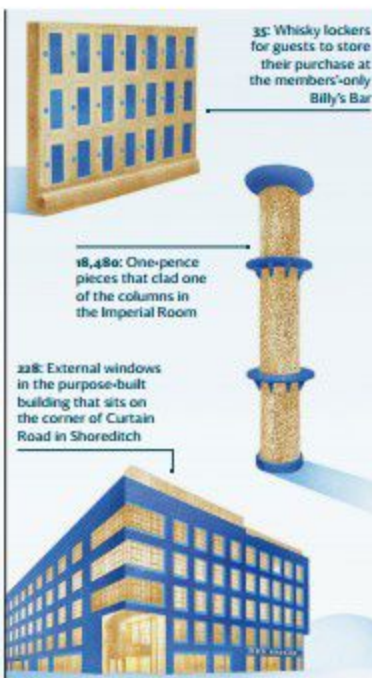
Since setting up home in a sleek Kerry Hill-designed building on the banks of Thailand's Mae Ping River four years ago, the Anantara Chiang Mai Resort has amassed a legion of fans, not least for its tranquil location that's just a 20-minute stroll from the bustling markets, temples and ancient Lanna ruins of Chiang Mai's old city. Now, the unveiling of 27 one-, two- and three-bedroom serviced suites has bumped 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** 123 Charoen Prathet Road, tel: 66.53 253 333, [chiang-mai.anantara.com](http://chiang-mai.anantara.com). Rates: from THB 8,129 (\$234)



22: The weight in kilograms of the pendant bedside lamps featured in the property's three-bedroom suites

55: The height in metres of the slatted timber wall panels in the lobby, which mirror the bamboo-clad exterior of the resort's main building

100: The length in metres of the rope used to create the back support for each lobby chair



35: Whisky lockers for guests to store their purchase at the members-only Billy's Bar

18,480: One-pence pieces that clad one of the columns in the Imperial Room

228: External windows in the purpose-built building that sits on the corner of Curtain Road in Shoreditch

## 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](http://thecurtain.com). Rates: from £240