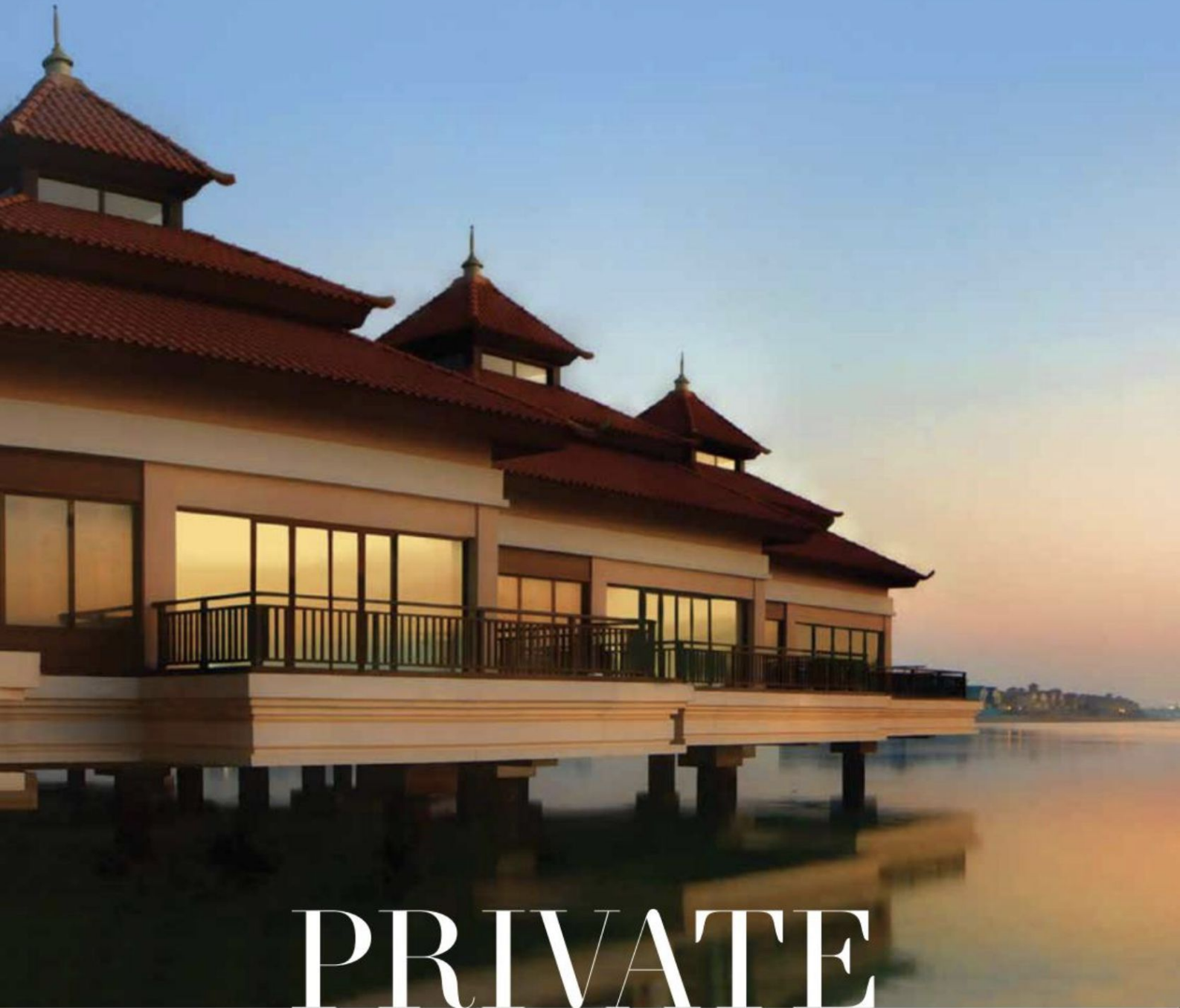


MODEEH



PLAY IT YOUR WAY

Trends to last a lifetime, couture reimagined, the artists turning crisis into creativity and Ikram Abdi Omar in epic outerwear



PRIVATE VIEWS

Seeking total seclusion and an escape from the city? Opt for complete privacy in an overwater villa or gaze out across the UAE's still desert from the cool water of a palatially-sized private pool. For something further afield, check in to Zanzibar's Matemwe Retreat where it's nothing but you and the jungle. These charming destinations are the ideal getaways for a socially-distant September...

ANANTARA THE PALM, DUBAI

Where better to seek total solace than in the UAE's only overwater villas? Think complete seclusion in a 106 square-meter space with all the luxuries one would expect: a generously-sized bedroom with marshmallow soft bed, a bathtub impressive enough to moonlight as a miniature spa replete with ocean views, glass-plated floor gazing directly down to the gently lapping sea, and a private terrace with almost unspoiled views of the Arabian Gulf.

Anantara The Palm Resort is just a 10-minute drive from Dubai's mainland. Journey along the Palm Jumeirah's trunk towards the breakwater at which point the concrete jungle quickly dissipates into the cool ocean winds and spray of the Palm Crescent. Set against the backdrop of wide open sea, the entrance to the Anantara welcomes guests with its Asian-inspired architecture: the rich lobby boasts a high ceiling with ornate columns, East Asian fragrances and kimono-clad staff ready to meet your every need. Journeying to your overwater villa is unique to the region as a tuk-tuk travels through palm tree- and bougainvillea-lined pathways around the crystal blue lagoons, which flow throughout the entire resort.

One wakes to breakfast delivery overlooking the morning ocean, followed by an idyllic walk to one of Anantara's three pools. After a calm morning of relaxing by the pool, the Beach House is a perfect casual lunchtime dining spot for simple courses from seafood salads and pastas to a glass of something long and cool.

Both the exterior and interior aesthetics of the entire property are inspired by Asia's lush forest-lands: calming neutral tones intermittent with deep mahogany wood are accented by gloriously thick and fragrant flora. An afternoon spent simply meandering around the property's pathways is enough to do away with any tension. Zen seekers will also be delighted by the sumptuous spa offering facials, herbal massages and blissful treatments aplenty. Come the evening, Anantara's signature restaurant Mekon is a total assault on the senses in the most wonderful of ways. Rickshaw tables set the scene while interiors bursting with colour cover the walls. Food is indulgent, but why not. What to pack... Linen two-pieces, silk and slightly oversized dresses and pared back gold jewellery pieces will capture the zen vibe to perfection. Opt for either slip-ons or go barefoot and leave the heels at home.

Anantara.com/en/palm-dubai

The Anantara boasts the UAE's only overwater villas, replete with glorious sunset views. Below: the palatially-sized bathtub and the resort's luscious lagoons

