

TAKEOFF

Your weekly travel digest edited by **Belinda Jackson**.

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SHOWCASE

After sailing the Flores Sea, doing yoga and spotting komodo dragons, it's good to just relax and float on by.
P 6



THE GREAT DOGS

6 | MARCH 1, 2020 | THE SUN-HERALD

SHOWCASE



ARCHIPELAGO ADVENTURES

Sail away with a mix of rest, rejuvenation and a bit of bite, writes **Belinda Jackson**.

Into yoga and relaxation but also up for an encounter with a Komodo dragon?

This adventure ticks all the hot trend boxes: small-boat cruising, wellness focus and exploring the Indonesian archipelago.

Indonesia's traditional long-range fishing yacht, the phinisi, gets a beauty overhaul by long-time Bali wellness expert and entrepreneur Janine Hall, who has run wellness retreats from The Palm Tree House in Canggu for more than a decade.

Hall takes her wellness weeks east with a series of new, six-night Escape Haven Voyages sailing through the Flores Sea. "This journey unites rest and rejuvenation with action and exhilaration," she says.

The week starts with two nights at Hall's The Palm Tree House in Canggu to begin

the process of unwinding with spa treatments and plenty of pool time, before flying to Labuan Bajo, where guests board the 34-metre phinisi for five days' sailing through the Komodo archipelago.

Blend beach yoga and dawn meditation with kayaking or hiking the spines of the archipelago's islands, pausing to picnic on pink-sand beaches.

Blend beach yoga and dawn meditation with kayaking or hiking.

Highlights include seeing Komodo dragons on Rincar Island, snorkelling, swimming and unlimited diving with the dive master amongst dolphins, rays and corals, or visit to the resident masseuse or a deckside daybed.

The five ensuite cabins accommodate up to 10 guests, cared for by staff also including the ship's host and chef.

There are six departures, four of which are for women only.

The first voyage takes place May 15, with monthly departures until September. Twin share costs from \$US3500 a person, with triple share and deluxe singles available. Includes two nights at The Palm Tree House in Canggu and return airfares from Denpasar to Komodo airport, on Labuan Bajo, Flores. See escapehaven.com

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THE KNOWLEDGE



**OZGU
ALNITEMIZ**

A repository of treasure and trinkets, the 570-year-old Grand Bazaar is Istanbul's greatest calling card. Resident Ozgu Alnitemiz is the Celestyal Cruises country manager (Turkey). This year, Celestyal's new Eclectic Aegean route adds Istanbul and the Grand Bazaar to its Greek Islands itinerary. See celestyalcruises.com

HOW TO NOT GET LOST IN THE GRAND BAZAAR

STEP ONE

This historic building, Kapali Carsi in Turkish, has more than 4000 shops under 15 domes, and has eight main doors. When you enter the Nuruosmaniye Gate, beside the Nuruosmaniye mosque, the first shop on the left is No.1, the first shop on the right is No.2, so the shops on the left are odd numbers and shops on the right are even numbers. You can track these numbers to avoid getting lost.

STEP TWO

Open between 8.30am and 7pm, the bazaar is busy at all hours of the day, but less so in the early hours, when the tour groups are visiting the historical sites. They usually visit the bazaar later in the day, after 3pm. The bazaar is closed on Sundays, which makes Saturdays the busiest day of the week.

STEP THREE

You can find peace in the bazaar's hans, which are courtyards traditionally dedicated to one craft; I recommend 'Kucuk Valide Han' and 'Buyuk Valide Han', built in 1651. Zincinli Han, with its marble fountain, is regarded as the most authentic han in the Grand Bazaar.

STEP FOUR

Gramofon Baba (Gramophone Dad) is a store that absolutely must be kept alive: Mr Mehmet is the last gramophone repairman in Istanbul and his shop is the most admirable place in Grand Bazaar (Lutfullah Sokak, No.16, G). Sagtan is where Mr Hayrullah made jewellery for movies such as *Troya*, *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *Suleyman the Magnificent*. It's an oasis for the enthusiast (No.25/3 in the Astarci Han). Handmade Turkish carpets are the most memorable gifts from Turkey, but be very careful as generally there are no price tags and not so serious shops may give random prices after looking at your shoes or watch.

STEP FIVE

Be sure to take a coffee break. Sark Kahvesi (literally, 'Orient Coffeehouse') is the most authentic cafe in the bazaar, and serves Turkish coffee, of course (Nuruosmaniye No. 75-77). You should also taste Sahin Usta's doner (beside the Kiliclar entrance), the meatballs in famous Sultanahmet Koftecisi (Divan Yolu St, No.12), and for kebabs, I suggest Sura Kebap (Divan Yolu St, No.45). 1

BRING IT BACK

In the realm of the reindeer

High up in Finnish Lapland, jeweller Annika Anttila is inspired by her dramatic surrounds of ice, the Aurora Borealis, traditional designs and reindeer to create her handmade silver jewellery brand, Anique. "I think reindeer hair is the most beautiful hair that exists," she says. "The coat is coarse on one side, and soft on the other." She repurposes that soft grey or white fur into fulsome earrings for a reminder of her far northern homeland. In Helsinki, you'll find a selection of her work at Lapland Hotels Bulevardi, or shop online for a breath of very fresh air from her hometown of Kittil, north of the Arctic Circle. Earrings from 30 Euros. See laplandhotels.com, anique.fi



WHAT FLAG IS THAT?

This is almost a trick question – there are two flags that take this appearance, with the bars in this order, but the ratios differ slightly – one flag, the one pictured here of the country closer to Australia, is longer. Its shade of red also differs slightly. The Polish flag is also like these, although its bars are white over red.

THE ANSWER IS ON [PAGE 29](#)

BOOK IT

SOUTH-WESTERN WA



Readers and Writers Festival

Voyager Estate winery hosts the state's biggest literary event and this year's headliners include Geraldine Doogue AO and songstress Clare Bowditch, discussing her recent memoir. Tickets go on sale March 3. May 15-17. See mrrwfestival.com



Open Studios

The studios of Margaret River's wealth of artists open to visitors, showing everything from prints, to blown glass, ceramics, illustrations, sculptures and paintings – some for sale, all to be admired. More than 100 established and emerging artists are taking part. Bookings not required, free. April 25-May 10. See mrropenstudios.com.au



Truffle Kerfuffle

Manjimup's truffle season kicks off with this annual weekend celebrating the black truffle. Join the hounds on a truffle hunt, meet the growers, and eat their finds in the Southern Forests, 90 minutes from Margaret River. June 21-23. See trufflekerfuffle.com.au



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