

Abercrombie & Kent
SOUTHEAST ASIA



INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
SOUTHEAST ASIA

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Unlock centuries of history, art, culture and nature with our selection of Insider Access and inspirational cultural moments by Abercrombie & Kent Southeast Asia.

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THAILAND



A&K MOMENTS THAILAND

“I love taking time to explore the backstreets of Talad Noi. The old neighborhood beside the Chao Phraya River has an interesting mix of trendy cafés, boutique shops, street art and heritage houses.”
- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Regional Managing Director

“I highly recommend exploring Bangkok’s riverside where you can take a boat to discover communities on the canal and admire the beautiful Wat Arun, one of my favorite Thai temples, especially at sunset.”
- Cholthicha Martnok, Destination Specialist

“Snorkeling in the shallow reefs near the Surin Islands is an incredible experience. Located off the west coast of Thailand, the beautiful coral gardens are home to sea turtles and black tip reef sharks and you can learn about the island’s Moken community, a seafaring tribe that settled on the island.”
- Nia Donovan, Head of Regional Sales

“Chiang Mai is the gateway to northern Thailand and I love exploring the lush landscapes, small traditional communities and, of course, spending time with the nation’s largest residents: the Asian elephant.”
- Xavier Robles, Director of Sales

“I have visited many beautiful islands in our Land of Smiles, but one of my all-time favorites is Koh Yao Noi, which offers a wonderful, laidback vibe where local fishing villages and rubber plantations are surrounded by tropical mangroves and sandy shores.”
- Suphanat Suntornarawong, Destination Specialist

Sundowners, Bangkok Style

Savor the true essence of a Bangkok sundowner, A&K style! Experience the river at night where you can sip Champagne on a boat or head to a trendy riverside eatery with views of the Temple of Dawn at night – simply stunning!



Gardens and Communities of Old Bangkok

Explore hidden gardens, shrines and residential communities in an old part of Bangkok where you discover a mosque and a Confucian temple as well as old merchant's houses, eclectic street art and rice barns.



Morning with Monks: A Bangkok Blessing

Each morning, Thai monks chant ancient Pali scriptures, filling the air with an almost hypnotic sound. Experience an exclusive A&K morning at a small Buddhist temple just beyond Bangkok's Grand Palace walls for an insight into this daily practice and a personal, spiritual blessing from a senior monk.

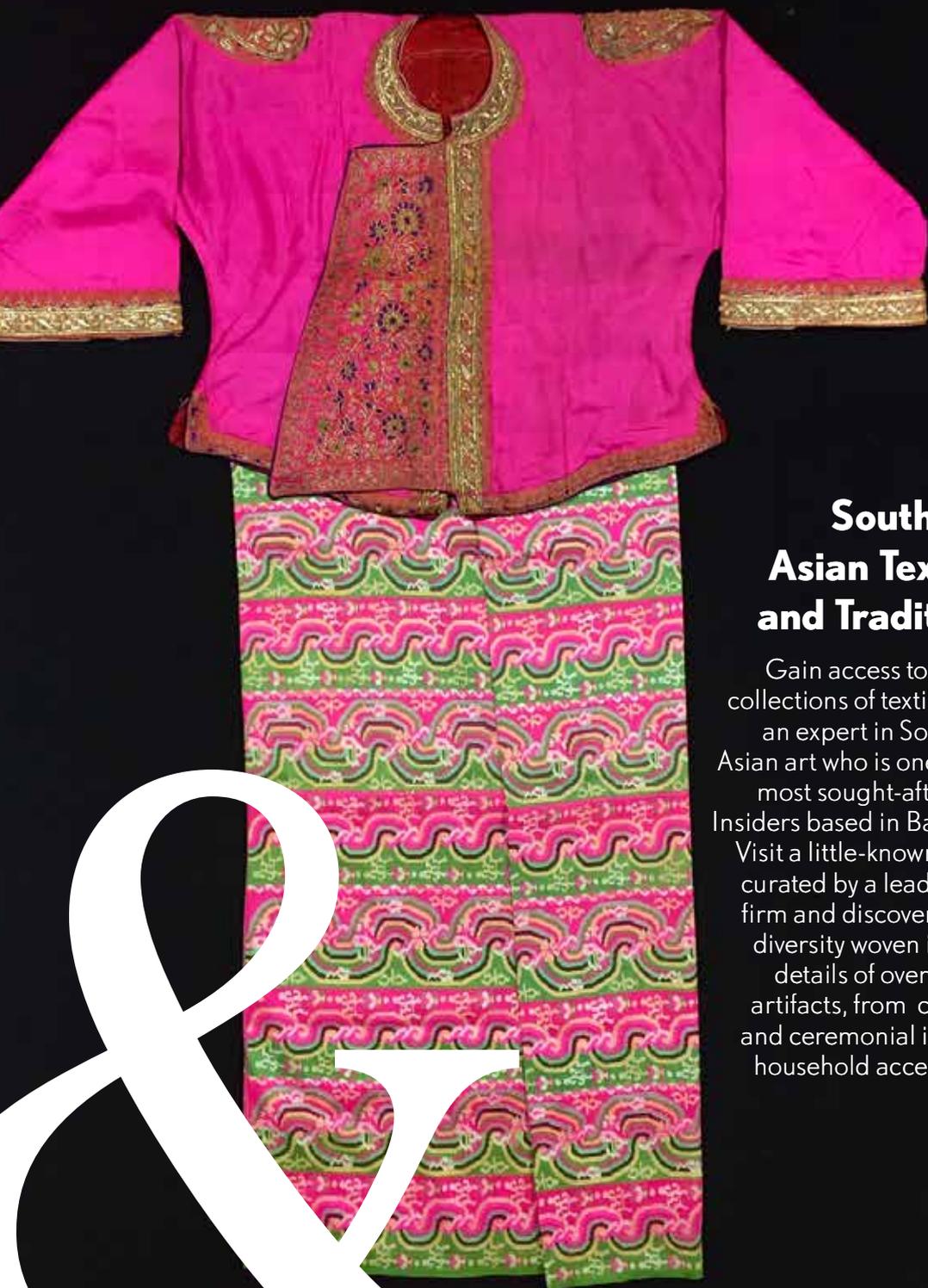
Muay Thai Champion Challenge

Get your heart pumping with a fun and energetic workout at a rooftop training venue in downtown Bangkok. Learn to punch and kick like a champion Muay Thai (Thai boxing) fighter with help from a specialized personal fitness trainer. Then soothe your body and soul with a Pure Blend Oil Body Massage and a well-earned smoothie.

Thai History and Heritage by Helicopter

Fly by private helicopter to discover the secrets of Ayutthaya, Thailand's former capital city, with an Abercrombie & Kent Insider and archaeologist. Just a short flight from Bangkok, the city captures the imagination with ruins of palaces and temples as well as a Buddha head wrapped within the trunk of a tree.





Southeast Asian Textiles and Traditions

Gain access to private collections of textiles with an expert in Southeast Asian art who is one of our most sought-after A&K Insiders based in Bangkok. Visit a little-known venue curated by a leading law firm and discover ethnic diversity woven into the details of over 2,000 artifacts, from clothing and ceremonial items to household accessories.



Bargains and Bites: Markets of Bangkok

Go market-hopping in downtown Bangkok where you can sample fresh fruits at a morning market, peruse a wholesale market filled with Thai fabrics and other goods and discover exotic spices in Little India before admiring sweet-scented marigold, jasmine and other Thai blossoms at the flower market.



Creative Bangkok

Discover Bangkok's "Creative District" which brings new life to an old neighborhood on the Chao Phraya River. Meet local designers and artisans, discover funky street art and explore cultural heritage with a City Insider and community entrepreneur. Browse designer bric a brac at a converted warehouse, then head across the river for lunch at a former jam factory.

Sak Yant: The Sacred Tattoo

This is your chance to experience a sacred "Sak Yant" ritual and be inked by a master who has blessed the likes of Angelina Jolie and other international celebrities. This age-old tattoo tradition is believed to bring good luck to the wearer and was used to protect Thai warriors on ancient battlefields.



Bangkok After Dark

Enjoy a progressive dining evening in a trendy old part of town, traveling by electric tuk tuk through the city's backstreets. Sip a cocktail at a 200-year-old warehouse beside the Chao Phraya River, taste Bangkok's best satay skewers and savor traditional Thai fare at an old Chinese shophouse before ending at the rooftop of a floral studio which transforms into a rustic urban bar at night.



Regal Heritage

Experience high society in Bangkok with a Siam Society scholar who provides the keys to hidden corners of the city including a riverside villa owned by a Thai Princess. Learn about the history of the home which was built for a prince in 1908 and view the noble family's private collection of Southeast Asian art.



Tribal Culture

Experience ancient hill tribe healing rituals with a village Shaman in a remote ethnic community in northern Thailand and discover curing elements at the community's herbal garden. Complete the experience with lunch at a tea plantation, learn all about tea culture in the scenic countryside.



Chiang Mai's Blissful Morning Blessings

Experience the perfect morning with A&K in Chiang Mai, away from the tourist crowd. Be blessed by a monk and enjoy a picnic breakfast beside a quiet temple overlooking the city. Engage in spiritual traditions and morning rituals during this private journey to lesser-visited temples, a hidden waterfall and the famous Wat Phra That Doi Suthep temple at the top of a mountain.

Northern Thai Foodie Favorites

Spend a day with A&K's Culinary Insider, a connoisseur of northern Thai cuisine who once featured in Anthony Bourdain's "Parts Unknown" television series. Taste your way through Chiang Mai, visiting favorite foodie spots, from a fresh food market and an artisanal coffee roaster to a noodle maker, local eateries and a night market.



Cooking at a Thai Garden Farm

Become your own Thai chef and make four classic dishes at a Thai chef's garden home. Cook with papaya, jackfruit, tamarind and other fresh herbs and spices picked from the chef's organic farm, then enjoy your self-made meal in the garden pavilion.



The Hills are Alive

Visit the Mae Rim district of north-western Chiang Mai where sustainable agriculture meets traditional lifestyle. Meet local farmers growing fresh tomatoes, strawberries and artichokes and learn about the Royal Projects, an initiative by the Thai royal family to improve the livelihoods of hill tribe communities.



Tribal Textiles

Make your own traditional Ikat fabric using a typical Southeast Asian tie-and-dye technique. With guidance from our A&K Insider and textiles expert, learn how to extract natural reds, blues and greens from garden plants and craft your own design piece using age-old practices.





Diving into Thailand's Underwater World

Watch the catfish, giant pufferfish weave in and out of underwater gardens as sea turtles, rays and whale sharks glide across the water nearby. The Gulf of Thailand enjoys sunshine and good weather throughout most of the year, from January to September. Take a private speedboat or Catamaran to the Japanese Gardens, just off the coast of Koh Tao, to dive or snorkel in the shallow waters teeming with coral, parrotfish, bannerfish, banded sea snakes and more!

MEET A FEW OF OUR A&K INSIDERS

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- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Regional Managing Director



Antiques

Specializing in Southeast Asian art, antiques and textiles, our Antiques Insider is an independent scholar who regularly contributes to the Siam Society and Thai Textiles Society. Having grown up in a remote village of northern Thailand, near the Myanmar border, the academic has a unique interest in Shan and Burmese textiles and offers informed perspectives on folk crafts, society and culture.



Traditional Crafts

Showcasing traditional weavers and craft-makers in northern Thailand, our Traditional Crafts Insider is a writer, photographer and filmmaker with a passion for handmade crafts and traditional hill tribe treasures. Having traveled to all corners of the country to collect rare pieces, this arts and crafts enthusiast is based in Chiang Mai and opens the doors to some of the city's local designer studios and boutique ateliers.



Community Conservation

A former media executive from Australia, our Community Insider has contributed to social and humanitarian projects in Asia for almost 20 years. Based in Bangkok, Thailand where he has lived Most recently, he co-founded the Creative District, a non-profit organization that brings new life to old communities through arts and community conservation programs.

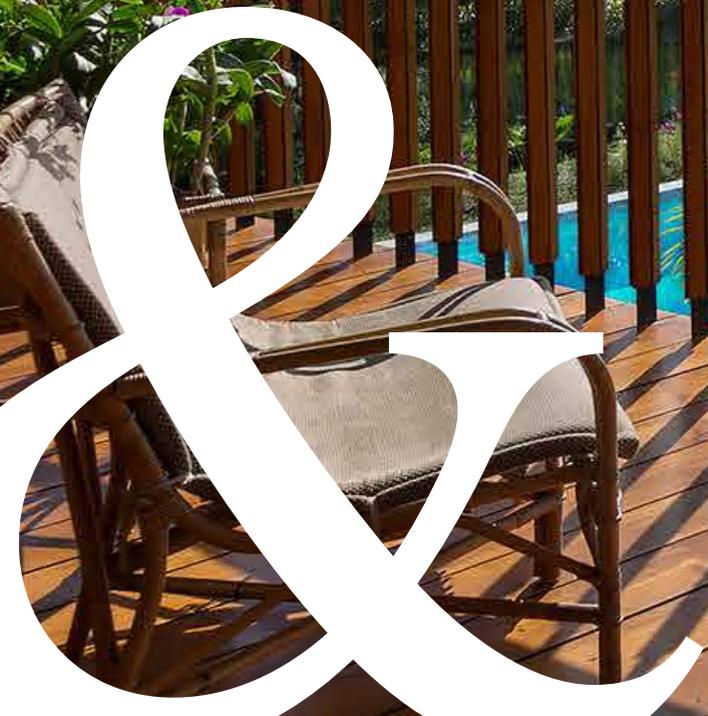


Cuisine

A celebrated chef and entrepreneur, our Culinary Insider is the founder of the Pok Pok restaurants in New York, Los Angeles and Portland. Originally from the U.S., the James Beard award-winning chef has been tasting, creating and studying Thai food culture since his first visit to Thailand in 1987. Specializing in northern Thai cuisine, the culinary expert led Anthony Bourdain on a Thai culinary adventure during the “Parts Unknown” television series and now calls Chiang Mai his permanent home.

Exclusive Stays

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Pa Sak Tong Estate, Chiang Rai

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VIETNAM





A&K MOMENTS VIETNAM

“From thousands of years of history to vibrant cosmopolitan cities, there is so much to discover in Vietnam. Every region from north, central and south has its own special cuisine and even their own variety of pho (noodle soup). My favorite is the southern style which tends to be a little sweeter.”

- Robert Rankin, Country Manager

“I love getting on a bike and cycling through the villages of the Mekong Delta where beautiful sunsets come with fresh air and spectacular scenery filled with rice paddies, orchards and mangroves.”

- Hieu An Le, Operations Manager

“Wandering around the Old Quarter of Hanoi is one of my favorite things to do. The city, with its hundred-year old houses and bustling streets, is known for its great culinary traditions such as bun cha noodles with grilled pork, pho noodle broth, steamed rice rolls and of course, the unique Hanoian egg coffee drink.”

- Nguyen Thi Hoang Tran, Hanoi Branch Manager

“When traveling to Vietnam, one thing you must try is *banh mi*, a Vietnamese baguette. Crispy on the outside, soft on the inside, the rolls are packed with flavor and are filled with various combinations of meat, vegetables, butter, chili sauce and more!”

- Nhi Tran, MICE & Groups Supervisor

“Whenever I have a chance, I love to hop on my scooter and ride through the countryside of Hue, stopping to enjoy the sunset and a glass of beer at one of my favorite scenic spots overlooking the Perfume River.”

- Tuan Ngoc Doan, Da Nang Branch Manager

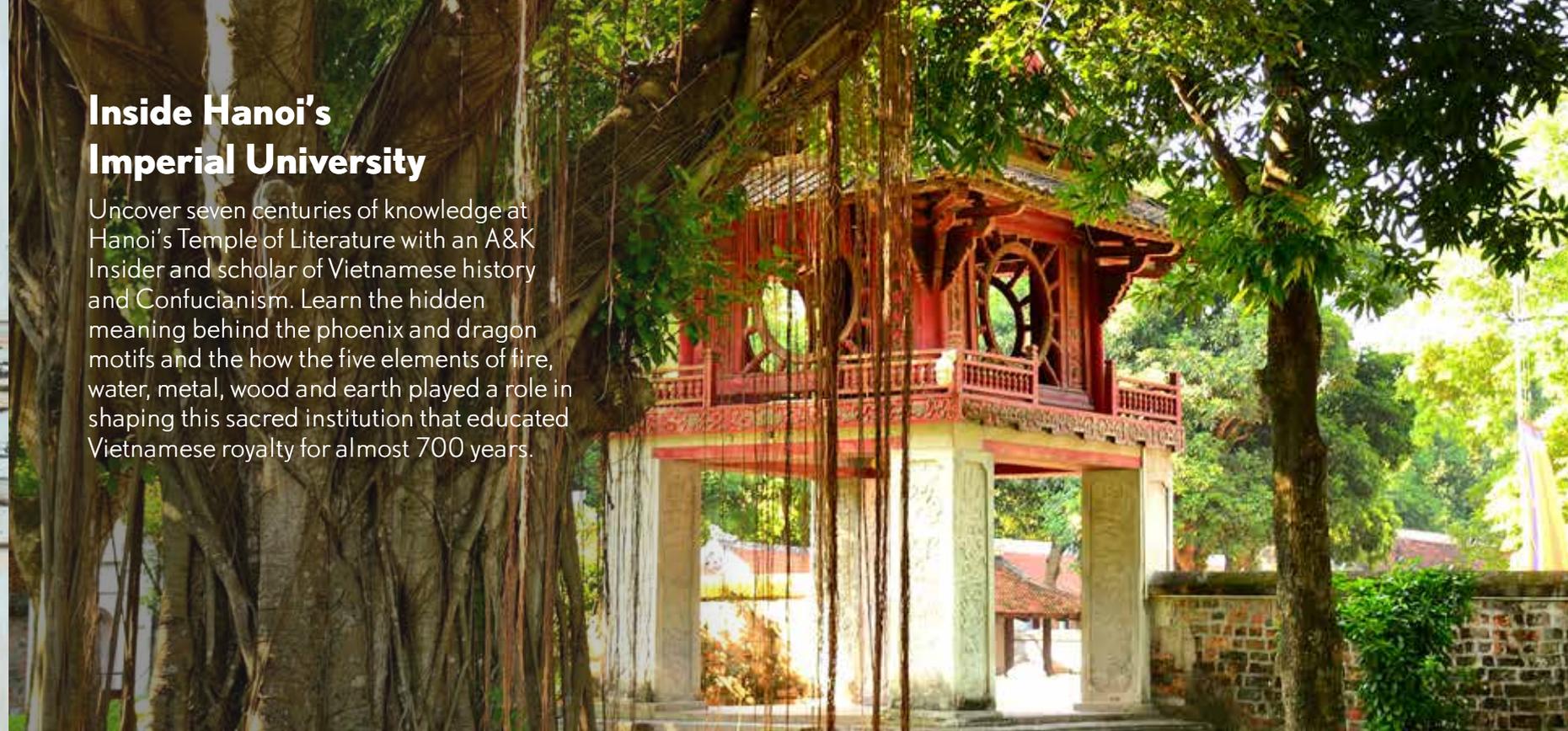
Vietnam Style: Chic and Cheerful

Explore Vietnam's trendy boutiques, designer craft stores and social enterprises that are putting Vietnamese artisans in the spotlight. The streets of Hanoi and Hoi An are brimming with innovative locally-made products, from tailor-made fashion to handmade wood and leather crafts, fine silks spun in Vietnam's central highlands and fair-trade tea from village plantations.



Inside Hanoi's Imperial University

Uncover seven centuries of knowledge at Hanoi's Temple of Literature with an A&K Insider and scholar of Vietnamese history and Confucianism. Learn the hidden meaning behind the phoenix and dragon motifs and the how the five elements of fire, water, metal, wood and earth played a role in shaping this sacred institution that educated Vietnamese royalty for almost 700 years.



Taste of Hanoi

Savor Hanoi specialties like *banh cuon* (steamed rice paper rolls), *bun cha* (rice vermicelli with grilled pork broth) and more on this insider journey to discover the city's best street eats and authentic restaurants that only locals know about.

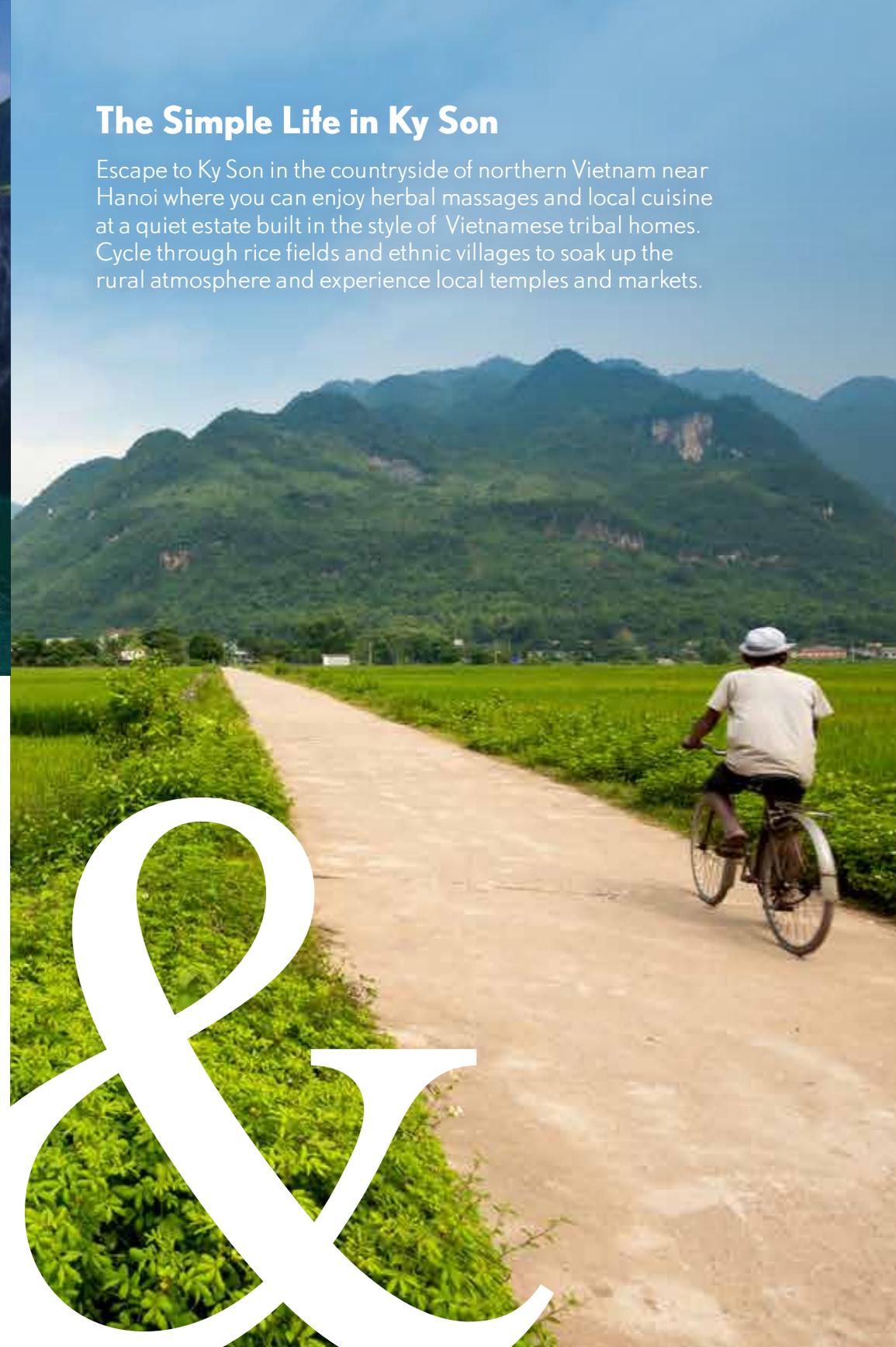
Wings Over Ha Long Bay

Fly by seaplane over Ha Long Bay. The one-hour flight is the fastest way to arrive at the picturesque bay and offers fabulous aerial views along the way. Experience the thrill of landing on water as the seaplane makes its approach towards the marina.



The Simple Life in Ky Son

Escape to Ky Son in the countryside of northern Vietnam near Hanoi where you can enjoy herbal massages and local cuisine at a quiet estate built in the style of Vietnamese tribal homes. Cycle through rice fields and ethnic villages to soak up the rural atmosphere and experience local temples and markets.



Safe Water for Schools in Vietnam

Take part in Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy's effort to provide clean, safe water to children in rural Vietnam. In collaboration with LifeStraw, the project provides community filters to schools in Mai Chau, a rural district where potable water is a scarcity.

Learn more about how this initiative has impacted children in Vietnam and get involved at akphilanthropy.org.



Immersive Highland Culture and Trekking Trails

Trek across Vietnam's northern highlands where lush mountains and terraced rice fields are dotted with remote ethnic communities. Home to over 20 minority groups, this region is one of the most culturally diverse and naturally stunning areas of Vietnam. Meet villagers of Tay, Hmong and Xa Pho hill tribes and admire their distinctive costumes and architecture, then retreat to a comfortable, yet rustic lodge overlooking picture-postcard landscapes.



Hue Home and Heritage

Immerse in Hue's traditional lifestyle, culture and cuisine at an historic garden estate with four antique-filled houses set around leafy gardens and a half-moon lotus pond. Spend time with the charismatic owner, learning about the story of the house and its place in Hue history and society.



Private Motorbike Adventures

Experience Vietnam as locals do – on the back of a motorbike! Get to the heart of the action in the narrow backstreets of Ho Chi Minh City, the scenic countryside of Hoi An or Hue or the dynamic neighborhoods of Hanoi. Weave in and out of markets, pass by working rice farms and zip through lush forests on one of our exhilarating motorbike or scooter adventures.





Morning with a Vietnamese Chef

Discover Vietnamese culinary secrets with a celebrated local chef whose passion for food took him around the world, from Texas to Mexico, Europe and New Zealand. Back in his hometown, the chef offers a private cooking demonstration followed by a freshly prepared Vietnamese lunch at his home and cooking studio in Hoi An.



Exciting Off-Road Jeep Journeys

Explore Vietnam's farmland and forests in a retro style military Jeep. This is your chance to go off the beaten track for a real-life adventure to see authentic villages, cricket farms and a rubber tree plantation near the Cu Chi Tunnels just a short drive from Ho Chi Minh City.

Hue's Ancient Martial Arts

Learn the ancient art of Vo Kinh Van An, Hue's 200-year-old martial arts technique which was developed by mandarins in the Nguyen dynasty.



Carving a Life in Ho Chi Minh City

Tucked away in an old part of town, artisans chip away at large stone slabs, slowly shaping the image of Buddha. These images are often used to decorate shrines and temples across the country. Watch the craftsmen perform their sacred work while exploring life and heritage in Ho Chi Minh City's Cholon neighborhood.



Fruits of the Delta

Savor juicy grapefruit, mangoes and coconuts in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam's "Land of Plenty". A few hours' drive or a boat ride from Ho Chi Minh City, this agricultural region is filled with sleepy canal-side villages, rice fields and fruit farms. Explore by bike and join one of the farming and fishing families for a home-made lunch featuring fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden.

Secrets of War

Get an inside look at Ho Chi Minh City's hidden wartime history, from a trapdoor leading to an underground weapons bunker, an apartment building that once housed the CIA headquarters and a secret command center located above a pho noodle restaurant.



Paradise Island: Con Dao

Home to some of Vietnam's finest beaches, Con Dao island is a secluded paradise just a short flight south of Ho Chi Minh City. With a sea turtle sanctuary and spectacular diving opportunities, the island is ideal for a relaxed getaway or a back-to-nature experience.



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- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Regional Managing Director



Post-War Recovery

Our Post-War Recovery Insider is a U.S. veteran who served as an intelligence analyst during the Vietnam War. After the war, he returned to Vietnam and established Project RENEW to help families who continue to struggle with the aftermath of the war and received a Friendship Medal from the Vietnamese government.



Confucianism

A scholar of Vietnamese history and education, our Confucianism Insider is a researcher and cultural expert who offers specialist knowledge of the Temple of Literature. Focusing on studies of historical documents and Vietnamese Confucian education, she contributes to the restoration and repair of national cultural heritage.



Art History

A self-taught painter, performance artist and practitioner of yoga and meditation, our Art History Insider offers a unique, personal and informed perspective on the influence of culture and society on Vietnamese art through time. Combining her knowledge of Buddhist principles with her artistic expression, she presents an infectious passion for her nation's history at the National Fine Arts Museum in Hanoi.



Gastronomy

A charismatic restaurateur and culinary connoisseur, our Gastronomic Insider is a celebrated Vietnamese chef who delivers some of the best dining experiences in Hoi An, on Vietnam's central coast. Having cooked his way around the world, from Texas to Mexico, Europe and New Zealand, the chef shares his immense passion for food and offers a unique and personal insight into the nation's rich and diverse culinary culture.

Exclusive Stays

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Amanoi, Ninh Thuan, Central Vietnam

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SOUTHEAST ASIA

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CAMBODIA



A&K MOMENTS CAMBODIA



“Cambodia, for me, is a Kingdom of Wonder, full of endless discoveries. I love taking a boat out to watch the birds and explore floating homes on Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia.”
- **Chutima Lai U Dom, Destination Specialist**

“Phnom Penh is a modern city with a small town charm. There are temples and palaces to explore during the day, but the city is at its best when the sun goes down. I like to kick things off with cocktails at a rooftop bar followed by a Cambodian barbecue dinner and more cocktails at a little local speakeasy in Bassac Lane.”
- **Nia Donovan, Head of Regional Sales**

“Walking around the ruins and temples of Angkor is always inspiring. The great Bayon temple is one of my favorites. Its massive stone faces look out from every angle and I feel as though there is always someone watching; it’s beautiful and mysterious at the same time.”
- **Siriporn Petchtaem, Destination Specialist**

“I love going off road and biking around Angkor Thom, especially near the Gate of the Dead. On your bike, you can see a lot more and you can stop and explore some of the lesser visited sites. When I want to cool down, I like to grab a smoothie or fruit juice at a cozy little café in Siem Reap.”
- **Karun Jongkiet, Operations Manager**

Cambodia's Ethical Artisans

Connect with trend-setting ateliers, designers and craftsmen in Siem Reap with an A&K Insider and art curator as your guide. Meet artisans at the forefront of their craft, such as a lacquerware maker and a couture fashion designer who has collaborated with Yves Saint Laurent and Christian Lacroix.



Sunrise with Monks

Experience morning prayers at a hilltop temple that has stood over the landscape for over a thousand years. Hear the monks' purification chant fill the air and receive a blessing from the abbot as the dawn begins to spill over the horizon.



The Gift of Clean Water

Get involved with Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy's Clean Water project which has impacted the lives of over 22,500 villagers in rural Siem Reap. Your donation helps a local family gain access to clean water and you have a chance to meet them during your time in Cambodia.

Find out more about this life-changing project at akphilanthropy.org.



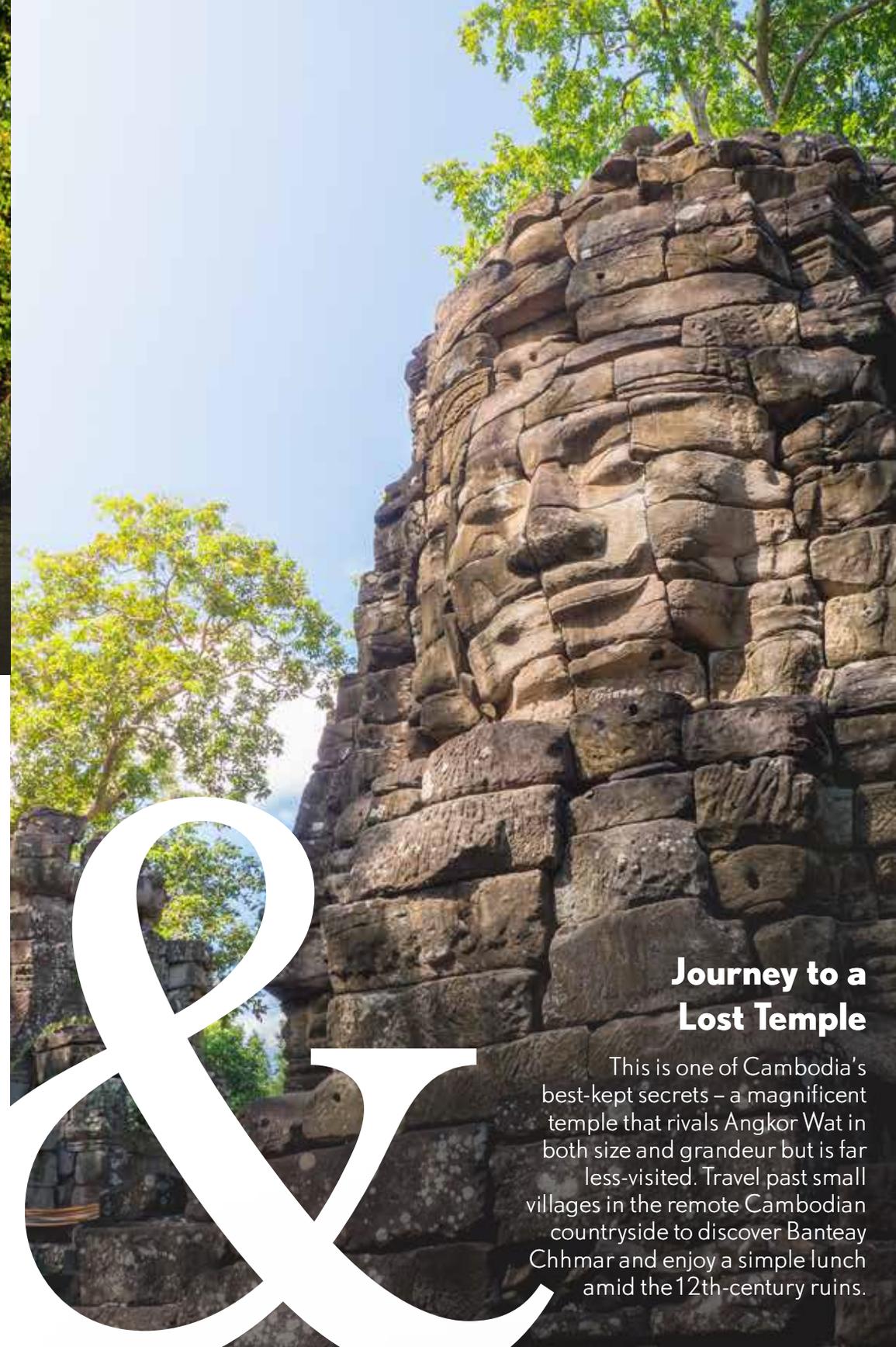
Cambodia's Living Lake

Kayak through mangroves and watch water birds forage for food in the vast expanse of Tonle Sap Lake. A short drive from Siem Reap, the lake is the life blood of the country and many farmers and fishermen rely on its ebb and flow to earn their livelihoods. The best time to visit is between July and February when the water level is high.



Khmer Tastes of Siem Reap

Get ready for a dine around town experience, traveling to some of Siem Reap's best restaurants in your own private tuk tuk. The evening includes cocktails at one of Siem Reap's funkiest bars, appetizers at a Khmer house and garden, mains at an authentic home-style eatery and dessert at a contemporary Cambodian venue.



Journey to a Lost Temple

This is one of Cambodia's best-kept secrets – a magnificent temple that rivals Angkor Wat in both size and grandeur but is far less-visited. Travel past small villages in the remote Cambodian countryside to discover Banteay Chhmar and enjoy a simple lunch amid the 12th-century ruins.

Cycle the Cambodian Countryside

Hop on a bike to explore rice fields and plantations in the rural Cambodian countryside. This is a great opportunity to go beyond the Angkorian temples and explore scenic fields and farmland off the beaten path.



Khmer Spice of Life

Lush landscapes, rows of pepper farms and succulent sea crabs, Kep is the rustic Cambodian coastal escape of your dreams. Just a few hours' drive from Sihanoukville, this seaside town offers a simple life experience with the added excitement of the region's specialty dish - fresh-caught crab seasoned with locally-grown Kampot pepper.

Sunset by Gondola

Take time to slow down and enjoy a sunset gondola ride on the moat of Angkor Thom. Built in a style that dates back to Jayavarman VII, the traditional Khmer gondola takes you on a one-hour ride along the outer wall of the old, 12th-century city.





Phnom Penh Perspectives

Discover Phnom Penh's multi-faceted story, from its regal, artistic and spiritual heritage to the tragedies that occurred under the Khmer Rouge. Explore centuries of Khmer art, visit the Grand Palace and historical temples and witness the site of the nation's greatest tragedy.

Evening with an Anthropologist in Phnom Penh

Discuss modern Khmer history over an evening meal with a French anthropologist in Phnom Penh. This is a great opportunity to gain a more in-depth understanding of Cambodian communities and learn more from the cultural specialist about this developing Southeast Asian nation, its history and its people.



Cooking with a Khmer Chef

Learn the art of Khmer cuisine with a Cambodian chef. Discover how to create authentic local flavors at one of Siem Reap's best restaurants and use time-honored methods to prepare typical Cambodian dishes such as fish amok, pomelo salad or fried vegetables.





Glamping in the Cambodian Wild

Venture into the wild jungles of Cambodia for a luxury tented camp experience just two hours' drive from Sihanoukville or one hour by helicopter from Phnom Penh. Bensley Collection - Shinta Mani Wild offers a remote back to nature escape that comes with personal butler service, unlimited spa treatments and immersive jungle activities, including patrolling with wildlife rangers, fishing in a nearby estuary and feasting on a gourmet barbecue in the forest.

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Culture

Based in Cambodia since the 1990s, our Cultural Insider specializes in oral traditions, mythology and social structures in modern Cambodia. Originally from France, the anthropologist offers a unique insight into the nation's people and traditions and completed a PhD on the spiritual and social dimensions of the Khmer communities living in the immediate vicinity of the ancient temples of Cambodia.



Contemporary Arts

Dedicated to promoting art and artists in Cambodia, our Contemporary Arts Insider is the founder of Anicca Foundation, an organization that highlights the Khmer spirit through all forms of artistic expression, from performance to visual and applied arts. By providing resources and exhibition spaces, the creative director makes an important contribution to the global art scene and facilitates the voices of young, up-and-coming Cambodian artists.



Khmer Crafts, Fashion & Design

Filling an artistic gap no one knew was there, our Khmer Arts, Fashion and Design Insider has been connecting travelers with artisans in Cambodia for over ten years. An avid collector herself, the dynamic curator works with a network of talented artisans in Siem Reap and is always involved in the latest arts, design and fashion trends.



Cuisine

An entrepreneur and specialist in Khmer cuisine, our Culinary Insider is a Chinese-Cambodian chef who trained in high-end hotel kitchens in Phnom Penh before rising to the rank of Executive Chef and developing his own restaurant concept. The chef spent six months traveling around the country, collecting traditional recipes which he showcases on his well-crafted menu using fresh, farm-sourced ingredients.

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Song Saa Private Island, Koh Rong Archipelago

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INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
LAOS





A&K MOMENTS LAOS

“The heritage night market is one of my favorite places in Luang Prabang. It’s a great place to pick up some special finds such as handmade textiles and crafts by ethnic villagers, locally-grown coffee and tea and other uniquely Lao products.”

- **Suphanat Suntorntarawong, Destination Specialist**

“Cycling is a great way to experience the beautiful Lao countryside. Riding through old roads, crossing rivers and exploring villages within the mountains is truly inspiring.”

- **Jaratsri Puntawee, Destination Specialist**

“I love to go off the beaten track and explore the waterfalls and nature trails of southern Laos. It’s a great place to unwind and simply take in the view of 4,000 islands in the Mekong River.”

- **Nia Donovan, Head of Regional Sales**

“Kuang Si Waterfall is my favorite place in Laos. The stunning blue water, gorgeous scenery and tropical forest setting is a vision that I will never forget.”

- **Cholthicha Martnok, Destination Specialist**

“Luang Prabang is a great place to slow down and reconnect with the simple life. I recommend waking up early to experience the daily tak bat almsgiving ritual with monks and exploring some of the town’s beautifully-decorated temples.”

- **Chutima Lai U Dom, Destination Specialist**



A Crop to Bowl Experience

Get back to basics with this authentic "crop to bowl" experience at an organic Lao family farm. Discover the farmer's prized crops and learn how to harvest rice to make sticky Lao noodles, or kaopun, which you can enjoy with the family's aromatic broth.



A Mid-Life Crisis Turns to Cheese

What happens when a corporate executive from Australia and a pastry chef from the United States bond over a love of cheese? They develop Laos' first buffalo dairy farm! Enjoy a private meet and greet with the social entrepreneurs and taste their one-of-a-kind mozzarella, ricotta and feta cheese, plus ice creams and yogurt, all made from sustainably sourced Lao buffalo milk.



A Traditional Lao Blessing

Experience a private baci ceremony, an age-old Lao tradition said to bring good luck and happiness to the community. Join the villagers in a moment of prayer as the elder makes an offering to the spirits. The villagers complete the ritual by tying cotton strings around your wrists as a symbol of their blessings and well wishes.

Time Out with Locals

Lao people love their pétanque! Passed down from the French, the garden sport is similar to lawn bowls and is a popular pastime among families and friends. Join Luang Prabang locals for a friendly game to show off your skills or pick up a new trick or two.



The Secret Life of Monks

This is a rare opportunity to see snapshots of a monk's life, from sacred pilgrimages to social activities, meditation and portraits captured over 120 years. Gain exclusive access to back rooms containing 35,000 original prints and meet the founder or director of the project for personal anecdotes about the images and how they were painstakingly catalogued and preserved.





Sunset on the Mekong

There is no better way to enjoy the sunset than with a glass of Champagne or local beer while drifting down the Mekong on a traditional river boat. Watch the sky change from bright orange to reddish-pink and deep purple as the sun goes down, marking the end of another day in Luang Prabang.



Flavors of Luang Prabang

For a great local night out, dine at one of our favorite restaurants set in a bamboo garden by the Mekong. Feast on an assortment of melt-in-your-mouth meats and leafy greens grilled to perfection on a charcoal stove in the center of the table. *Sin dad* is a Lao-style barbecue and a local foodie tradition which is simply not to be missed.

From the Village, For the Village

Learn all about Lao weaving traditions with an A&K Insider and textiles specialist who works with artisans in remote villages of Laos. Discover ethnic crafts and find out how each piece of fabric reveals where it was made through the pattern, material and design.



Picnic at the Plain of Jars

Fly by private helicopter for a private Champagne picnic in the Plain of Jars. Recently added to UNESCO's World Heritage List, the megalithic stones date back several hundred years and are an archaeological mystery that captures the imagination.



Laos' Natural Oasis

Hike through mist-covered hills, soak in curative natural hot springs and discover healthy farm-to-table eating on the edge of the peaceful Song River. Just over three hours' drive from Luang Prabang, it is easy to see why travelers are rediscovering the wonders of Vang Vieng in central Laos. Surrounded by rice paddies, small villages and blue lagoons, the sleepy haven is perfect for active outdoor adventures, eco-friendly getaways or simply enjoying nature's great gifts.



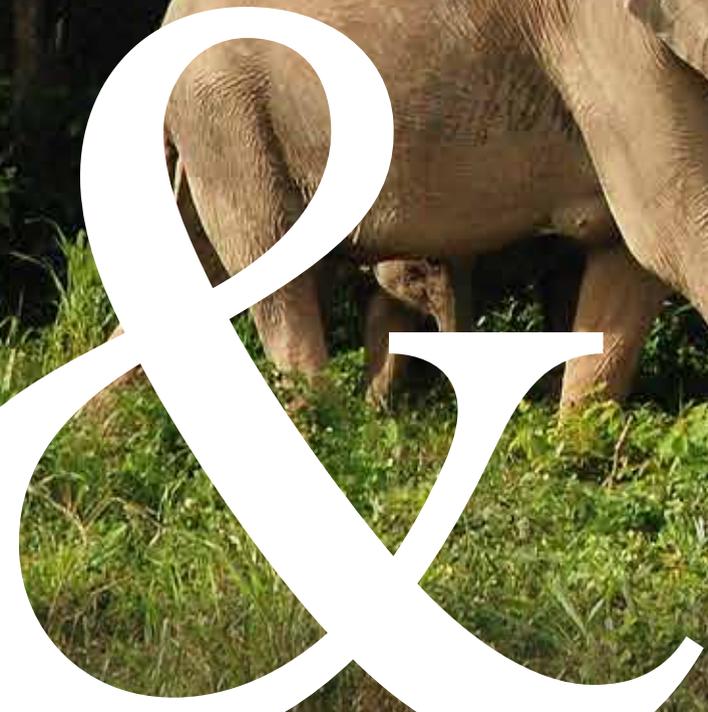
Reflection at a Waterfall

Reconnect with your inner self with a private guided meditation and healthy breakfast in the forest. Overlooking the famous Kuang Si Waterfall, this is the perfect place to find your spiritual inspiration with the sound of cascading water in the background and guidance from an experienced instructor.



An Elephant Sanctuary

Venture into the remote regions of northern Laos where friendly Lao elephants roam freely in a natural forest. Committed to conservation, education and elephant welfare, this ethical facility is a safe haven for rescued elephants who spend their days foraging in the forest, splashing in the river or munching on fresh fruits. Walk side by side with them and observe the gentle giants in their natural habitat.



Cruise the Upper Mekong

Cruise the scenic Mekong River on a private boat, traveling from the border of Thailand to Luang Prabang, the heartland of the old Lao kingdom. Stay overnight at a rustic ethnic lodge by the river, experience traditional culture and explore small craft-making villages and a sacred cave along the way.



Shaping the Future of Laos

Be part of the change. Visit the team at Khaiphaen restaurant in Luang Prabang to learn about their social enterprise and make traditional rice treats as offerings for monks in the morning almsgiving tradition. Supported by Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy, Khaiphaen provides jobs skills and brighter futures to disadvantaged Lao youths.

Find out how you can contribute to this life-changing project at akphilanthropy.org.





Wonders of an Inland Archipelago

In a place that captures the imagination, the mighty Mekong diverges around the crags of 4,000 islands, creating a dramatic and diverse natural eco-system near the southern tip of Laos. Endangered Irrawaddy dolphins like to splash here in the freshwater pools while the roar of Southeast Asia's largest waterfall can be heard nearby. Remote and rewarding, this rustic destination offers idyllic boat trips and bike rides as well as jungle treks to scenic waterfalls and coffee plantations. Dolphins can be seen year-round, but are best spotted between January and May.

MEET A FEW OF OUR A&K INSIDERS

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- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Regional Managing Director



Textiles & Crafts

Social entrepreneur for over a decade, our Textiles and Crafts Insider is passionate about authentic handmade Lao products. Having spent much of her time exploring the most remote areas of the country, the textiles specialist offers a unique perspective on rural Laos and works with ethnic communities to transform their traditional crafts into contemporary lifestyle products.



Agriculture

Life-long friends from the United States and Australia, our Agriculture Insiders have become self-taught farmers, fully immersing themselves and their families in their chosen lifestyle. Driven by a love of cheese, the pair developed a social enterprise to help Lao farmers earn an additional income from buffalo milk which they use to make artisanal cheese, yogurt and ice cream.



Royal Lao Art

Appointed as Luang Prabang’s Artist in Residence, our Royal Art Insider is helping to preserve centuries of royal Lao culture and tradition through his intricate stencil work and fine gold embroidery. Having inherited the royal arts traditions from his mother and grandmother, the artist’s unique work can be seen decorating the walls of Laos’ sacred temples.



Lao Ethnic Culture

A scholar of sustainable tourism and cultural heritage management, our Lao Ethnic Culture Insider has spent almost 20 years in Laos helping to preserve and celebrate the nation’s ethnic diversity. A former advisor to the Lao government, she has traveled to remote parts of the country to uncover its rich tribal traditions and co-founded the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center in Luang Prabang where she leads private viewings for A&K guests.



Exclusive Stays

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Rosewood Luang Prabang

Abercrombie & Kent
SOUTHEAST ASIA

INSIDER ACCESS & INSPIRATIONS
MYANMAR



A&K MOMENTS MYANMAR



“There is no better way to experience Inle Lake than to see it from the sky! The skies there are less crowded than in Bagan and the baskets are smaller, so you can really get to know the pilot. The best part is landing on a floating platform in the middle of the lake - a thrilling and wonderful experience.”

- **Severine Fallet, Country Manager**

“Yangon has a charming blend of colonial heritage and contemporary art and culture, but what I love most is the food! From traditional teahouses to modern European bistros, there is something for everyone. One of my favorite spots is Burma Bistro, where the tea leaf salad and village style braised beef are delicious!”

- **Nang Sandar, Reservations Manager**

“My family and I try to go to the beach at least once a year. Ngapali is our favorite - crystal waters, white sands, fresh air and, most importantly, they have an array of fresh seafood like lobsters, squid and crabs - simply delicious!”

- **Swe Mon Oo, Destination Specialist**

“For an authentic experience of Myanmar, head to the river. Cruising between Mandalay and Bagan, you can see fishermen working in the river and visit small villages along the way. It’s great to just slow down and enjoy the scenery.”

- **Myo Thant, Operations Manager**

“The first time I visited the Golden Rock pagoda in southern Myanmar, I was a little apprehensive about the six-hour long trek. But after walking through the amazing forest mountains and seeing that spectacular view from the mountaintop, I can say it was absolutely worth it! I have done the trek twice now and can’t wait to do it again!”

- **Yadanar Kyi Soe, Destination Specialist**

Lighting Up Shwedagon

Join the locals in the lighting of thousands of oil lamps at Shwedagon Pagoda, a gold-gilded stupa covered in precious gemstones. Dating back to a time before electricity, this authentic, spiritual experience takes place every evening and is one of Yangon's most quintessential moments.



Art of Yangon

Experience Yangon with an A&K Insider and local art curator who opens up a world of hidden galleries and artist's studios around the city. Giving you access to hidden spaces and historic buildings, the art expert reveals an often overlooked layer of the city that informs a more dynamic perspective on the nation's history, culture and art.

Between the Lines

Discover what the future holds in a private session with a Burmese astrologer. A widely common practice in Myanmar, fortune-telling is an integral part of the Myanmar culture. Astrologers are often consulted on auspicious occasions, like weddings and birthdays. Now you can understand the ancient wisdom that is written in the palm of your hand and find out more about your own life during this insightful and intimate experience.



Champions of Myanmar

Get ready for a high-energy experience with professional fighters at a Myanmar boxing club. Lethwei, Myanmar's traditional martial arts technique, can be traced back to the Pyu Empire of the 2nd century. Learn the combat skills of ancient warriors while practicing bare-knuckle boxing with the club's champions.



Perfect Day in Ngapali

Fly by helicopter to the Ngapali coast and cruise to a secluded beach in the Bay of Bengal. Just a 30-minute flight from Yangon, this hidden paradise is perfect for a private seafood lunch followed by swimming, sunbathing or an island hike. Top off your perfect day with a glass of Champagne on your converted rice barge.



Lights, Camera, Action!

Add a touch of Myanmar flair to your vacation album with a fun and fabulous photo shoot in Burmese traditional dress. Select your perfect look from a range of intricate costumes while hair and make-up stylists help to add a little glam.



A Bird's Eye View of Bagan

View the "Golden Land" of Bagan and its thousand pagodas from the sky. Lift off in a hot air balloon for a magical early morning experience above the ancient landscape where the true beauty and wonder of Myanmar is revealed.



Biking Bagan's Villages

Go off road to discover rural Bagan where villagers weave traditional fabrics and craft bricks by hand. Cycle around Min Nan Thu village and stop by a farmer's house to see how the family makes peanut oil and be inspired by their simple way of life.

Layers of Design

The art of lacquer-making is a skill that has been passed down over centuries in Bagan. Understand more about this age-old craft at our favorite local studio and discover why each vase or bowl takes up to seven months to complete. Learn how to apply different layers of design and lacquer as the artisans help you to create your own work of art.



Cruise in Style

Cruise the Ayeyarwady River on Sanctuary Ananda, a custom designed ship that travels between Bagan's ancient temples and Mandalay's sacred monasteries. Pass by villages backed by scenic fields and tamarind trees and explore centuries-old monuments built for kings.



Dinner on a Sandbank

Dine in the middle of the Ayeyarwady River where gourmet delights are served al fresco on a torch-lit sandbank. Enjoy the calming river breeze along with a traditional dance and music performance.



Coming of Age in Myanmar

Be part of a colorful village celebration as a young boy is initiated into monastic life. This is a rare opportunity to take part in the ritual ceremony usually reserved for close friends and family. Embrace the festive atmosphere and enjoy the lively parade while taking part in this coming-of-age tradition known as *shinbyu*.





Sacred Crafts of Mandalay

Visit communities where Myanmar's centuries-old ritual arts thrive. Watch goldbeaters pound nuggets of gold into delicate thin sheets of gold leaf paper – a sacred item of worship. See where bronze religious statues are made and marvel at the bustling wholesale jade market – the largest of its kind in the world.



Puppets on a String

U Pan Aye, the oldest living Master Puppeteer in Myanmar, brings to life tales of gods and mystical creatures in his intimate marionette theater. Watch the show and meet the master who is keeping alive the honored yoke the tradition which entertained Myanmar's kings and nobility for over four hundred years.

Giving Back: The Island in the River

Meet the villagers of Sin Kyun, a small community on the Ayeyarwady River that specializes in peanut farming and hat making. Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy has helped this community build much-needed facilities including a teachers' living quarters and a middle school.

Find out more about this life-changing project at akphilanthropy.org.





Picnic at Ava

Travel back in time to the quaint town of Ava (or Inwa) for an al fresco lunch surrounded by bucolic farmland and the scattered remains of Myanmar's old world. Once known as Yadana Pura, this sleepy town was once the capital of an ancient kingdom and is ideal for a leisurely horse cart ride to see quiet temples, a teak monastery and an old watch tower.

Evening Prayers at a Monastery

Experience evening prayers with monks-in-training at a monastery. Witness the young novices perform their hypnotic chant and join them for a sacred blessing.



The Chinlone Challenge

Enjoy behind-the-scenes access to a local Chinlone team's practice session. Entertaining Myanmar people for over 1,500 years, this unique traditional sport is a kind of dance that incorporates elements of soccer. Learn the team's championship moves as a Burmese orchestra maintains the beat in the background.



Inle Lake From Above

Ninety minutes of pure wonder and excitement, a balloon flight over Inle Lake is a unique and captivating experience. Be inspired by endless views of floating gardens and experience an exciting landing in the middle of the lake complete with a Champagne breakfast after the flight.



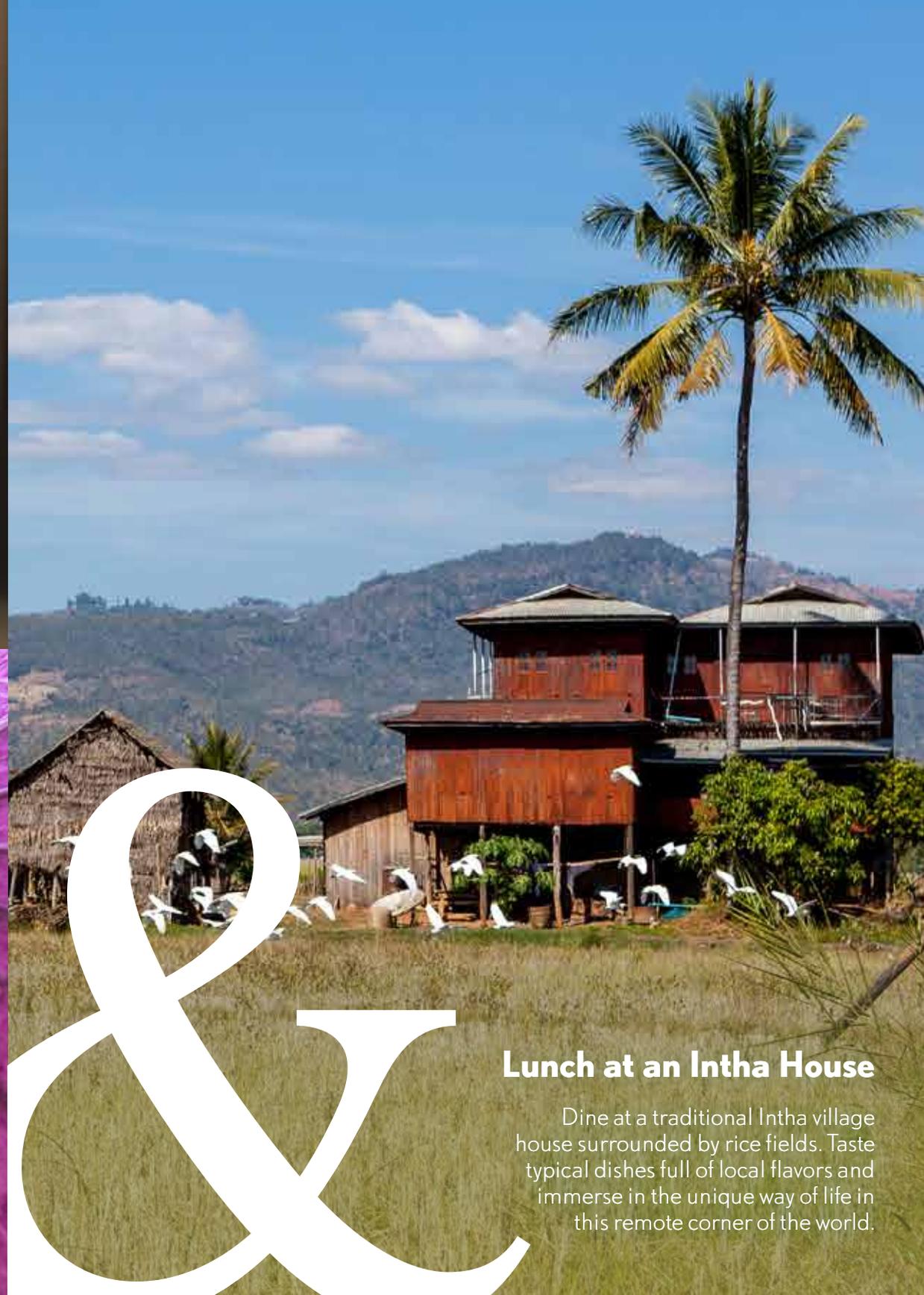
Recipes of a Shan Chef

Pick up pro cooking tips from a Shan chef. Starting at a village market, discover locally-grown spices, peanuts and vegetables. Then enjoy a sip of Shan tea before rolling up your sleeves in the kitchen, learning some of the chef's favorite recipes.



Bringing Back Burmese Cats

Cuddle with Burmese cats at an Inle Lake heritage center and sanctuary that saved these fascinating felines from extinction in their home country. Known for their intelligence and good nature, these noble creatures were once prized possessions of Myanmar royals and often enjoy a game of hide-and-seek with visitors.



Shan Paper Workshop

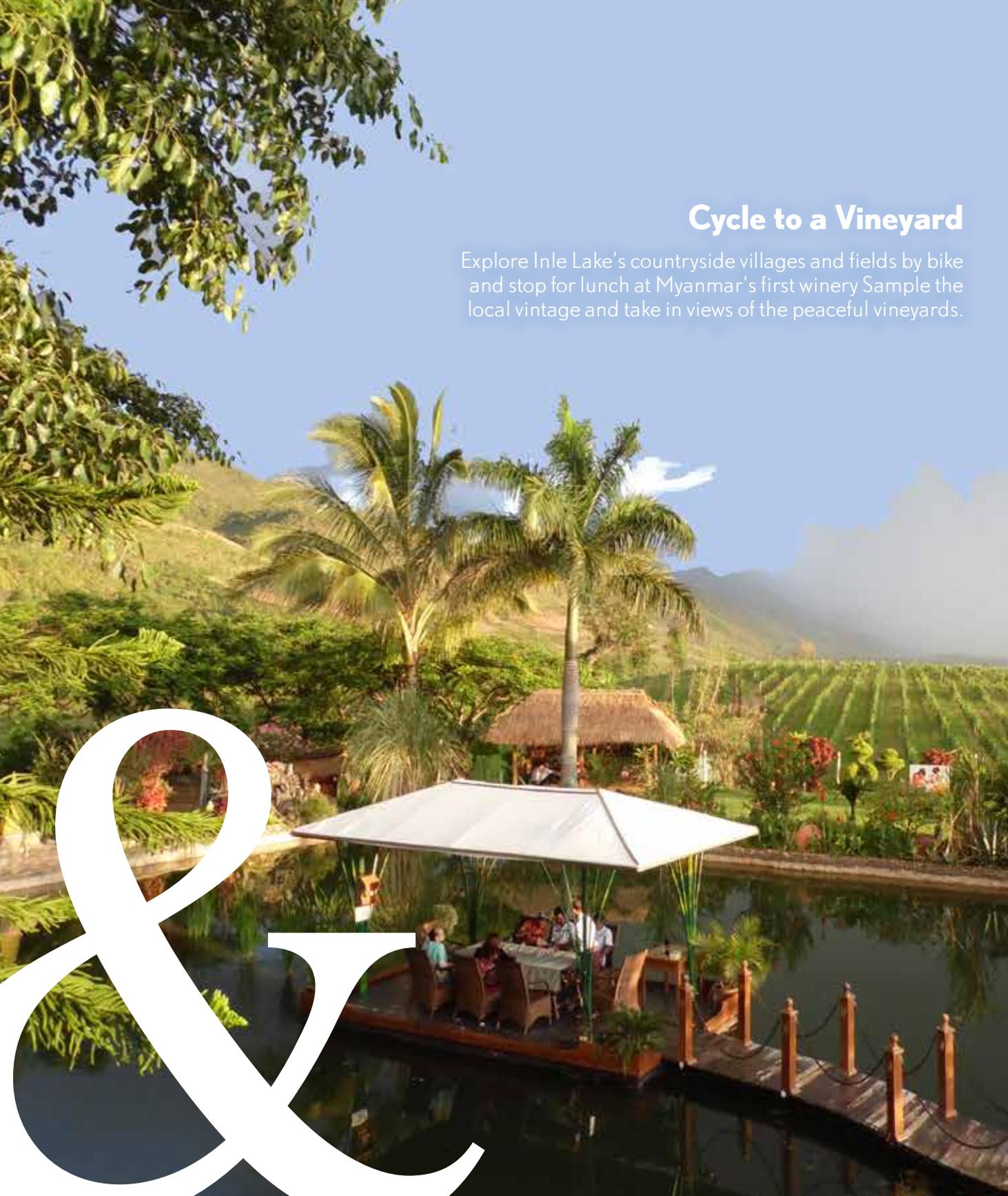
Make your own traditional Shan paper at a small, family-run workshop. Get hands-on, learning how to use the bark of mulberry trees to create colorful paper which can then be made into umbrellas, parasols, fans, lamp shades and other household decorations.



Lunch at an Intha House

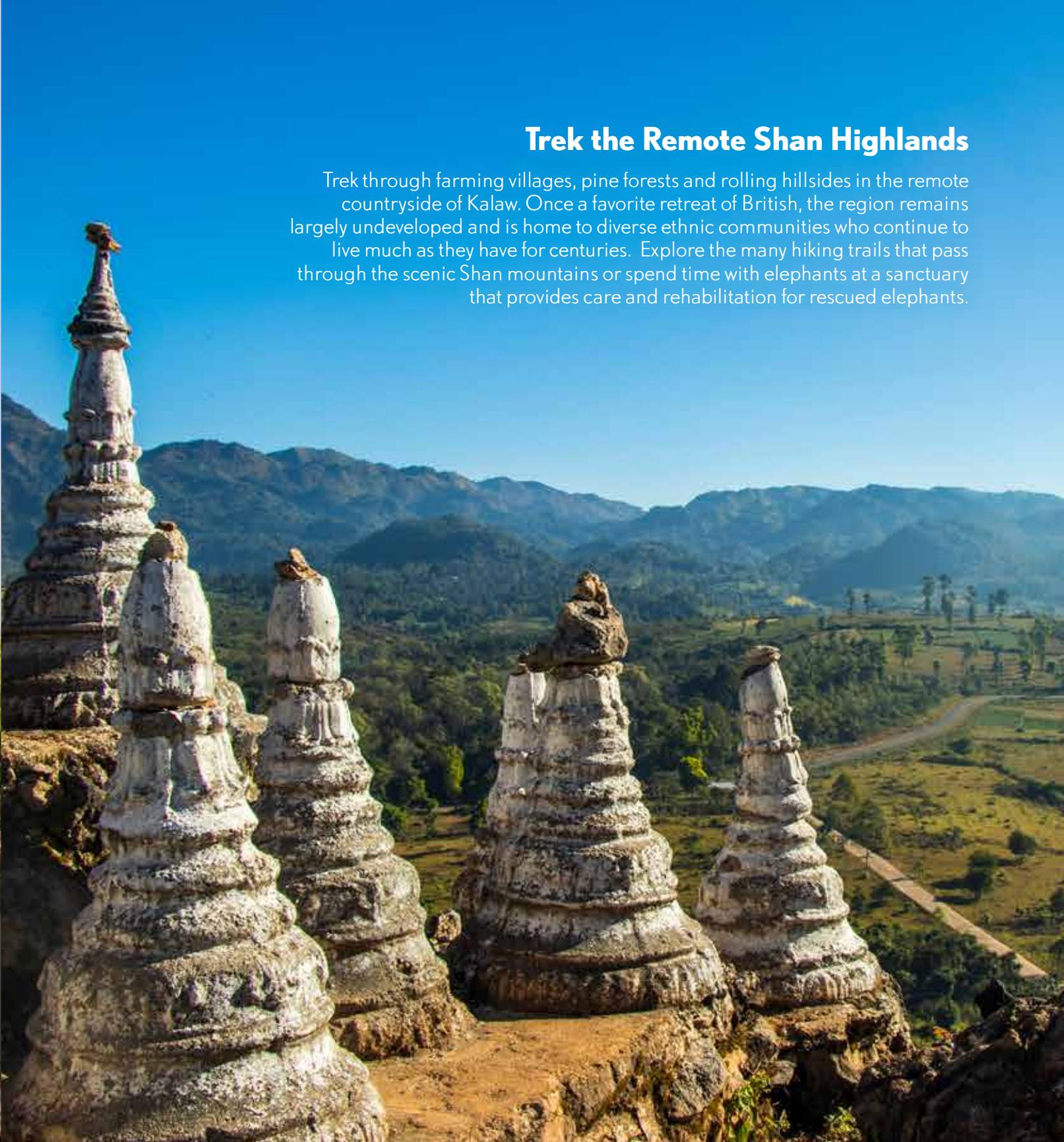
Dine at a traditional Intha village house surrounded by rice fields. Taste typical dishes full of local flavors and immerse in the unique way of life in this remote corner of the world.





Cycle to a Vineyard

Explore Inle Lake's countryside villages and fields by bike and stop for lunch at Myanmar's first winery. Sample the local vintage and take in views of the peaceful vineyards.



Trek the Remote Shan Highlands

Trek through farming villages, pine forests and rolling hillsides in the remote countryside of Kalaw. Once a favorite retreat of British, the region remains largely undeveloped and is home to diverse ethnic communities who continue to live much as they have for centuries. Explore the many hiking trails that pass through the scenic Shan mountains or spend time with elephants at a sanctuary that provides care and rehabilitation for rescued elephants.

Myanmar's Lost Paradise

Imagine a world of over 800 islands with crystal clear lagoons and tropical vegetation that have remained uninhabited and barely touched for thousands of years. The Myeik Archipelago is one of the last undiscovered corners of the world and is perfect for a private yacht voyage stopping at white sand beaches and remote sea villages. Stay at a premium ecolodge on a private island surrounded by white sands, and turquoise waters.



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Photography

Helping you capture your best Myanmar moments, our Photography Insider is a contributor to National Geographic and is consistently ranking among Myanmar's best photographers. The professional shutterbug has a passion for landscapes and a flair for great travel shots.



Burmese Cuisine

Meet the dynamic duo behind the much-loved Rangoon Tea House, a new-meets-old dining experience that has become somewhat of an institution in Yangon. Transforming the way the world understands Myanmar and its food, our Culinary Insiders are a foodie couple who were named on Forbes' inaugural list of 30 Under 30's in Asia and are cultivating a modern-day cultural legacy.



Society & History

The former personal assistant of Myanmar's State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi, our Society and History Insider started out as a painter in her early years. Compelled to support the nation's independence movement, she was later imprisoned for her political affiliations. Now, the inspiring and charismatic woman writes books about Burmese culture and cuisine and has many stories to tell about her former lives.



Contemporary Art

A researcher, curator and gallery director based in Yangon, our Art Insider is the founder of Myanmar/art which serves as an exhibition space, commercial gallery and library dedicated to contemporary art in Myanmar. With her years of involvement in the Myanmar creative scene, she has a unique connection with the city's art studios and emerging artists.



Exclusive Stays

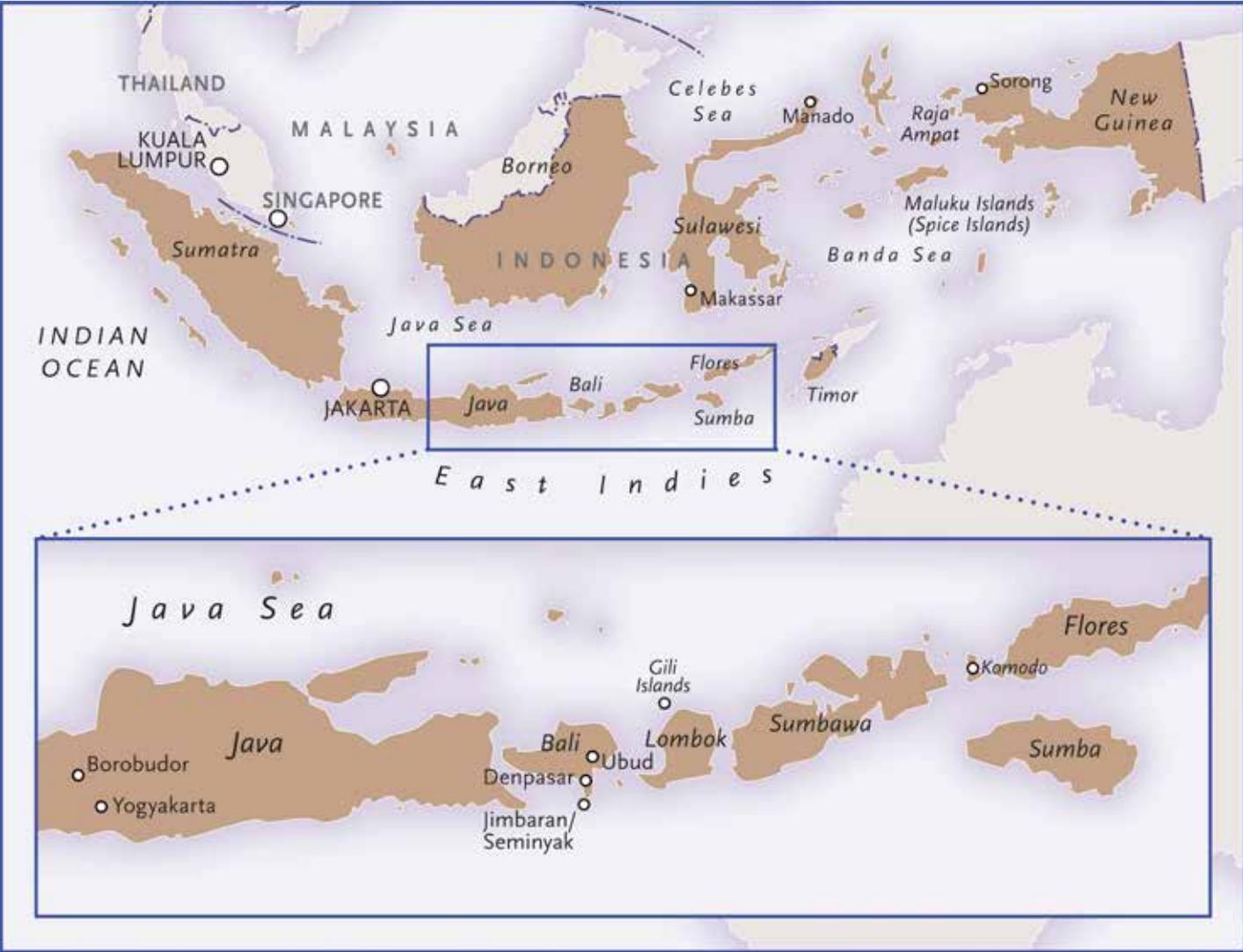
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Wa Ale, Myeik Archipelago

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A&K MOMENTS INDONESIA



"I love Bali's gorgeous beaches and mystical temples. The island is also a great place for outdoor adventures such as climbing to the edge of Mount Batur, an active volcano with an amazing crater lake."

- Xavier Robles, Director of Sales

"As a diving enthusiast, the Komodo archipelago is one of my favorite places. With the amazing visibility, thrilling drift dives and spectacular marine life, you can spend your days swimming with manta rays or trekking the islands in search of Komodo dragons."

- Jean-Baptiste Richard, Regional Managing Director

"Walking through the dreamy green rice fields of Bali, I am always amazed at the beauty and serenity of this place. Every aspect of life here, from art and architecture to agriculture and cuisine, is intertwined in a sense of spirituality which is incredibly uplifting and inspiring."

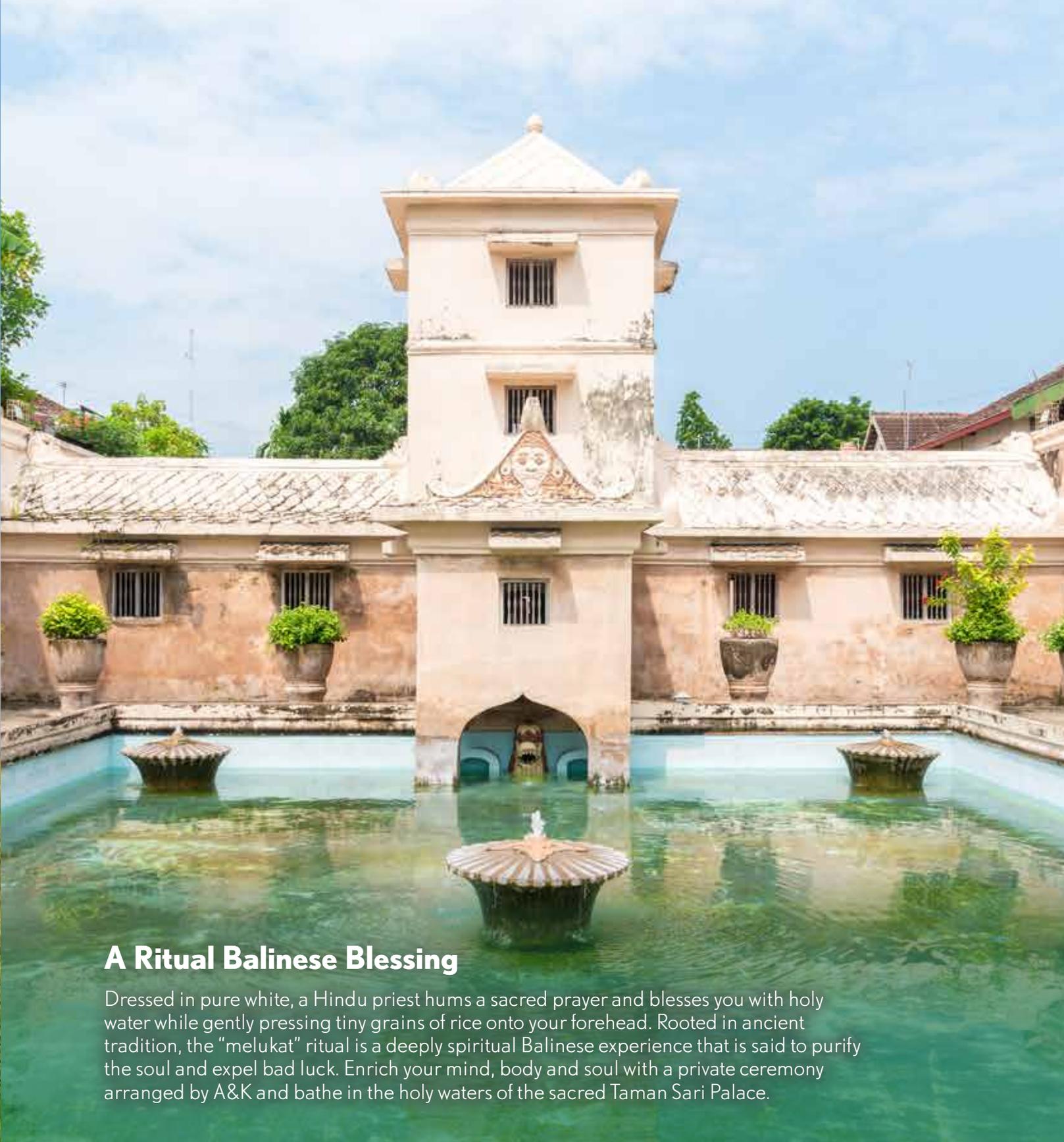
- Nia Donovan, Head of Regional Sales

"Canggu village is a great place for surfing. I spent time here learning how to catch the waves and also enjoyed exploring the trendy town area."

- Suphanat Suntorntarawong, Destination Specialist

Living on the Edge in Bali

Sip aromatic coffee and savor the sweet oranges that grow on the edge of a volcano. At the foot of Mount Batur, the rich, fertile lands here have inspired generations of artists, musicians and poets. This is one of our favorite places for a bike ride where you can try the Balinese cakes made by a local family and enjoy sweeping views of rice fields and tropical rainforest valleys.



A Ritual Balinese Blessing

Dressed in pure white, a Hindu priest hums a sacred prayer and blesses you with holy water while gently pressing tiny grains of rice onto your forehead. Rooted in ancient tradition, the "melukat" ritual is a deeply spiritual Balinese experience that is said to purify the soul and expel bad luck. Enrich your mind, body and soul with a private ceremony arranged by A&K and bathe in the holy waters of the sacred Taman Sari Palace.

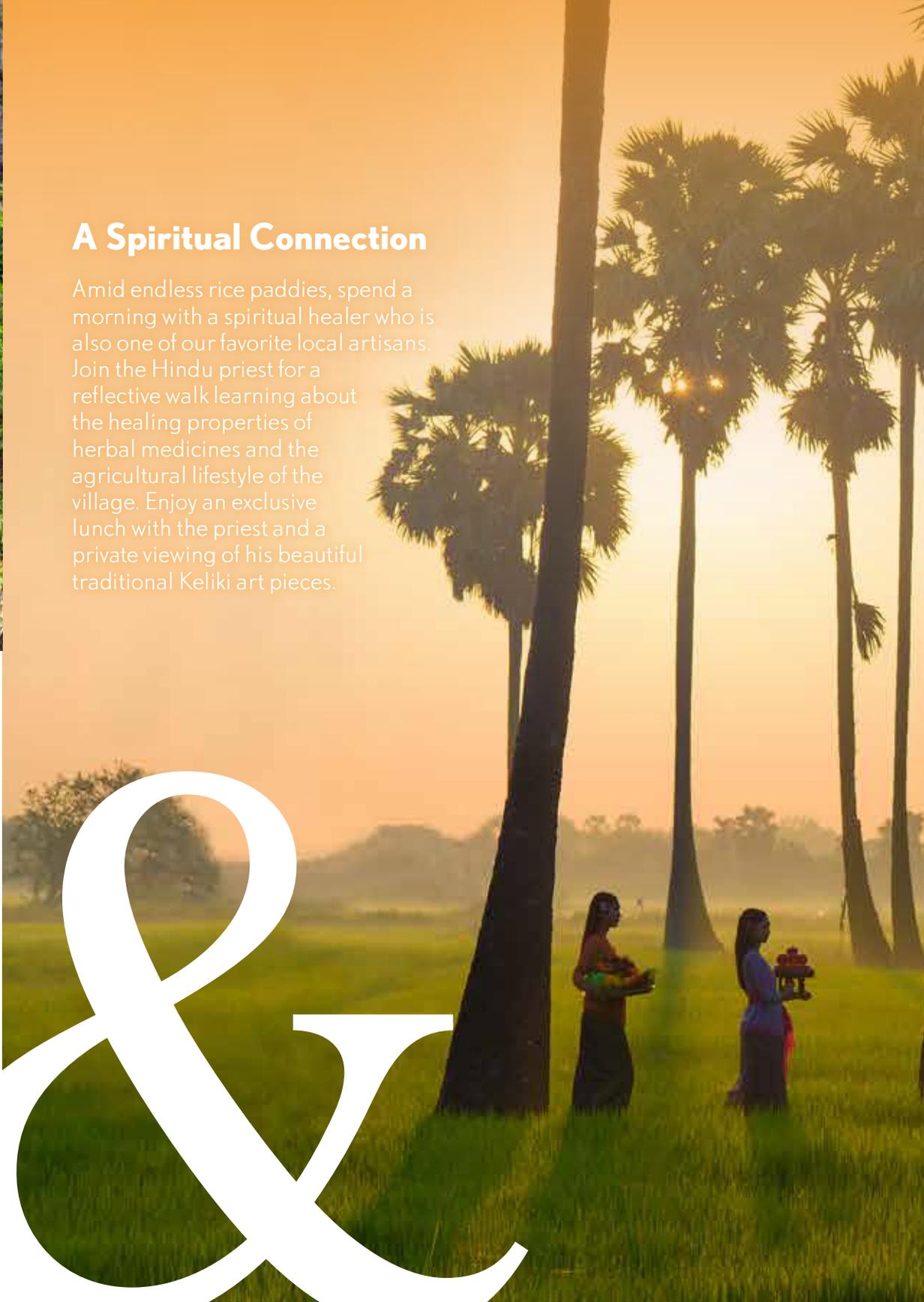
Indonesia's Walking Dead

Venture into Indonesia's Toraja highlands in south Sulawesi to discover a village lost in time. Learn about the elaborate and unusual burial rituals here where life-like wooden statues of the dead keep watch over hanging graves carved into the cliff face.



A Spiritual Connection

Amid endless rice paddies, spend a morning with a spiritual healer who is also one of our favorite local artisans. Join the Hindu priest for a reflective walk learning about the healing properties of herbal medicines and the agricultural lifestyle of the village. Enjoy an exclusive lunch with the priest and a private viewing of his beautiful traditional Keliki art pieces.



Best of Balinese Cuisine

Learn how to make your own *sambal* (a blend of fresh spices including chili, ginger, turmeric and lemongrass) and plate up traditional dishes such as coconut-spiced chicken and *tempeh kecap* (fried soybean in a sweet soy sauce) during a hands-on experience in a Balinese kitchen.





Surf's Up!

Ride some of the world's most coveted waves, including the Occy's Left, which forms exciting ripple walls and heaving barrels just off the coast of Nihi Sumba. Novices and first-time surfers can enjoy calmer waters at the island's Coconut Cove with qualified instructors on hand to help you improve your surf game.



The Rhythm of Bali

Feel the beat of traditional gamelan music playing in the background while you learn the steps of a Balinese dance. With help from some of the island's most well-known performers, this intimate experience offers an insight into the richness of Balinese culture where history, art and religion converge. This ritual dance is often performed at special ceremonies; women perform a welcome dance and men perform a warrior dance.



The Spirit of Adventure

Set sail into an Indonesian paradise, following the trail of an ancient spice route where most of the world's nutmeg, pepper and cloves are produced. Enjoy some of the world's best diving and snorkeling in the coral triangle and admire the colorful Birds of Paradise flying overhead on a private chartered cruise around Raja Ampat or the Maluku islands (Spice Islands), a place of incredible marine bio-diversity.

Lombok Beach Stay

Go remote and enjoy a relaxing beach stay on beautiful Lombok island. Quieter and less developed than nearby Bali, the island is easily accessible by flight from Bali or Singapore and is ideal for honeymooners and active escapes. Spend the days snorkeling or diving in the nearby Gili Islands or enjoy inland adventures to discover the island's waterfalls, volcanoes and crater lakes.



Finding Nemo in Indonesia

Sea turtles, whale sharks, ribbon eels and mola molas are just some of the many incredible species you will find in the vast oceans of Indonesia.

For experienced divers or beginners, private PADI-certified diving courses can be arranged in some of the world's most captivating waters.



Back to Nature in Borneo

Meet the natives of Indonesian Borneo who live in the lush forest canopy, swinging from tree to tree and feast on wild figs, durians and leaves. The orangutans of Borneo are fascinating creatures, highly intelligent and simply adorable! Explore the jungles on your own privately chartered river boat or stay at one of our preferred ecolodges with a visit to the world's most renowned Orangutan Research Center. Trek with a ranger to observe the primates while learning about their daily habits and playful nature. You may also catch sight of other native wildlife along the way.

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Nihi Sumba, Sumba Island



A&K's Premium Private Yachts

A&K offers a selection of yacht journeys in Indonesia, including private charters. From small, cozy cruisers to premium superyachts and traditional phinisi schooners, our private journeys explore remote parts of Indonesia and are perfect for families. Cocktails and gourmet meals are served by your dedicated on-board crew while you hike jungle-covered islands, kayak in open seas, swim with manta rays and dive magnificent coral reefs.

Prana by Atzaro

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