

WHEN SERIAL TRAVELLERS

We asked some seasoned travel writers and bloggers where you

Verushka Ramasami (www.spicegoddess.co.za)

India The state of Kerala, God's Own Country, is a land of diversity, beauty and colour, from lush tea plantations to floating houseboats. Trekking in the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is unforgettable. With influences from the Portuguese and Arabs this state is full of history and spices. Any kind of traveller will find something in Kerala. It's the perfect introduction to India.



Anje Rautenbach (www.goingsomewhereslowly.com)

Nepal This is a favourite among adventure travellers. It offers easy hikes, like the Ghorepani Poon Hill trek, and intense routes like those to Everest Base Camp. Most activities are easy on the pocket, it's safe for solo travel and rich in cultural experiences and gastronomic variety. Visit in March and April to see the Rhododendron flowers bloom and for Holi, the annual colour festival.

Zaid Mahomed (www.travpacker.com)

China Visit mainland China, not just for R&R, but for inspiration and new ideas. It's a destination where resourceful, hardworking and innovative people are building the world's next superpower and helping themselves out of poverty. Visit the electronics markets or factories of Shenzhen and Shanghai. You'll leave with optimism and hope for the remarkable potential of humanity.



Carla Lewis-Balden (www.reismier.com)

Papua, Indonesia I'm for travelling to unknown places, where fewer tourists go. I've never experienced snorkelling like this before. It's remote and pristine, but be prepared to travel for at least 24 hours by plane and boat. It's more expensive and harder to reach, but you'll visit rewarding destinations off the beaten track.

Meruschka Govender (www.mzansigirl.com)

Vilankulo, Mozambique A recent trip to Vilankulo reminded me how lovely it is. It's a tropical paradise just off the coast of the Bazaruto Archipelago. I saw turtles and tropical fish while snorkelling, bought capulana cloths and sipped G&Ts at a beach bar. I saw hundreds of dolphins and whales on my first deep-sea fishing trip.



HIT THE ROAD

should go in 2017 and why. Here's what they said.



Katchie Nzama (www.travelwithkatchie.com)

Kalahari Desert, Northern Cape Visit Augrabies Falls, also known as 'the place of great noise'. Do a game drive through the arid, but beautiful landscapes of the Augrabies National Park. Drive on the R360 outside Upington, along the Red Dune Route to discover small towns Kakamas and Askham. At the latter, go sandboarding and visit the Meerkat Sanctuary.

Katarina Mancama (www.myslowjourney.com)

Reunion Island Reunion has dramatic mountains and one of the world's most active volcanoes. Go paragliding, scuba diving or hiking. Trek for days along old volcano craters and visit villages only accessible by foot or helicopter. It's remote and wild, yet you can still have a hot shower and a Creole meal at the village guest houses. *Read more about Reunion Island on page 24.*



Gillian McLaren (www.gillianmclaren.blogspot.co.za)

Thailand Go to affordable Thailand for a massage on the beach in the sultry heat. Thai people are hospitable so you'll be spoiled and treated kindly. There's something for everyone, from raucous nightlife to Buddhist retreats in a forest monastery. The scuba diving is wondrous, the food delectable and nothing beats fresh coconut water.

Vaughan McShane (www.thetravelmanuel.com)

Israel This Middle-Eastern country is saturated in historical and spiritual significance. It's overflowing with colour, creativity and delicious food. From the stone-coloured squares in Jerusalem to the more secular Tel Aviv, it's a vibrant and inclusive country. Each corner turned presents something perception-shattering. Apart from the technology and start-up culture, Israel has a beautiful and diverse population.



Eugene Yiga (www.eugeneyiga.com)

Ethiopia This East African country won the World's Best Tourism Destination Award in 2015 and has nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. There are lush hiking trails and the opportunity to climb active volcanoes. The "land of origins" is home to the world's rarest dog, Africa's only indigenous goat and over a dozen bird species you won't find elsewhere.