



TREELINE URBAN SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

THE SCOOP: DOUBLES FROM ABOUT £115

As planes descend into Siem Reap, passengers can't help but notice the trees. Clumps of skinny coconut palms sprout from rice paddies. Fruit varieties – papaya, pomelo, mango, jackfruit and tamarind – are strewn across the earth-covered yards of old-school timber houses. Frangipanis fill pagoda grounds. Tuk-tuks to Angkor Wat trundle through towering forest, where temples are strangled by the tangled roots of banyan, fig and cotton. Back in town, everything from rosewood to rain trunks shade the banks of the Siem Reap River, which meanders through the French-colonial centre. Guests at Treeline look out upon their leafy canopy from sun loungers beside the second-floor infinity pool. At sunset, they gather at the adjacent Canopy Bar, G&T mixed with local Seekers Mekong Dry Gin and kaffir lime in hand. The green theme continues within the white stone walls of designer and owner Hok Kang's eco-friendly hotel, where his love of nature resonates through every corner. Cambodian art installations – made with stones, seeds and palm leaves – are on show in the lobby and hang from walls and ceilings in the Hok Noodle Bar and Grill. They also adorn the bedrooms, which are decked out in handcrafted modernist furniture, textiles from zero-waste brand Tonlé and ceramics by local artisans. Next up, Kang plans to start an art foundation and protect the riverside with clean-up campaigns and a tree-planting programme. And the bedside reading in each room? A copy of *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben, of course. It's this celebration of nature that distinguishes this boutique hotel from the rest in the temple town. **BOOK IT** +855 63 961 234; treelinehotels.com

BLUE APPLE BEACH HOUSE TIERRA BOMBA, COLOMBIA

THE SCOOP: DOUBLES FROM ABOUT £120

Most visitors to the cobbled alleyways, brightly coloured buildings and bougainvillea-draped balconies of Cartagena closet themselves inside the Old Town and don't get a sense of its surrounding jungle landscape and outlying archipelago. Some head to the ocean when the town gets sticky, though locals zip off in a speedboat to Blue Apple, an eco-minded, low-waste, Colombian-expat fusion project on the island of Tierra Bomba. At first, Cartageneros were taken aback by its position on this scrappy piece of land. But things caught on as they fell for its rustic style, wave-lashed setting and hammocks strung up above the squeaky white sand. Not to mention the rotation of artists, yogis, musicians, writers and photographers in residence to pep things up. Food and drink come in the form of Ottolenghi-style salads with a Colombian twist and Provençal rosé by the gallon. After a day spent swimming and sunbathing, instead of bouncing back to Cartagena over the choppy water, those in the know book one of the 10 barefoot rooms. Some are stand-alone, palm-roofed cabanas, and others are in the main house. The newest ones were only finished last year: Coco, Piña and Corozo have breezy terraces with outdoor showers and plunge pools, and furniture from Tucurinca, a local brand that uses traditional weaving techniques. But the best is Manzana, with its 180-degree sea views and an enormous stone bathtub to splash in. This off-grid island has the funk of Formentera, a dash of Bahia's glamour and a hefty dose of Caribbean soul. **BOOK IT** +57 316 750 69 79 (WhatsApp only due to the island's lack of signal); blueapplebeach.com

PHOTOGRAPHS: JOSUE COPETE; NATALY LEE

