

Sunday

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# ESCAPE

Scene  
INSIDE

TREND REPORT

## THE 2019 HOT LIST

What will your holidays look like next year?

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of Australia and Asia voyage, taking in Singapore, Penang and Phuket.

### IF YOU LOVE CRUISES ...

Vietnam continues to be a top cruising destination for 2019, with two new vessels setting out on their maiden voyage. In dreamy Halong Bay, Paradise Cruises is launching the overnight *President* cruise ([presidentcruiseshalong.com](http://presidentcruiseshalong.com)), a modern "floating luxury hotel" with 46 apartment-like cabins, a swimming pool, spa, sundeck and lift for the ease of senior passengers and those with a disability. A new highway connecting Hanoi with Halong Bay has halved the travel time to just two hours, making the UNESCO-listed site more accessible than it ever was.

In the south, Evergreen Tours ([evergreentours.com.au](http://evergreentours.com.au)) is launching the *Emerald Harmony* in August.

Experts at Helloworld Travel ([helloworld.com.au](http://helloworld.com.au)) suggest the often overlooked, wild Upper Mekong as an alternative. German-based Lernidee Trains & Cruises offer an 11-day voyage through the Golden Triangle from Chiang Rai in Thailand to Vientiane in Laos, and Pandaw operates from Laos to Jinghong in the southwest of China on its river ships.

### IF YOU LOVE ADVENTURE ...

With its volcanic landscape, rugged islands and underwater splendour, Indonesia is one of Southeast Asia's most promising adventure destinations. Infinity Lifestyle Adventures ([infinitymountainbiking.com](http://infinitymountainbiking.com)), based in Bali and Yogyakarta, has launched three-day mountain biking tours in Java for a range of

levels. Its softer tour traverses back roads and countryside and includes a sunrise visit to the 8th-century temples of Borobodur and a jeep ride up to Mt Merapi, believed to be Indonesia's most active volcano. If your belly is adventurous, the company has launched street food tours in Java, visiting local warungs and stays at hand-picked boutique and heritage hotels including Yogyakarta's ultra-luxe Amamjiwo.

Komodo National Park, with its komodo dragons, pink beach and jellyfish lake, is part of the focus of a new Wendy Wu Indonesia tour ([wendywutours.com.au](http://wendywutours.com.au)), which includes snorkelling, swimming, then off to Java to explore the hidden sights of Yogyakarta and dine in a Javanese house with a local family.

### IF YOU LOVE WELLNESS ...

With wellness now the fastest growing niche in the travel industry, hotels are looking to meet the increased demand for healthier holidays. Luxe Phuket resort Kata Rocks ([katarocks.com](http://katarocks.com)) is the latest to join the movement, launching a series of three-day wellness packages for guests who are looking to reset and recharge. The packages include accommodation in a Sky Pool Villa, spa and massage treatments, daily steam and sauna sessions, consultations, yoga, and juices and tonics.

New-wave wellness cruises are also set to boom, with luxury French hotel brand REVIVO ([revivoresorts.com](http://revivoresorts.com)) due to launch REVIVO Wellness Cruise around Indonesia's Komodo National Park, Raja Ampat and Papua New Guinea next year.