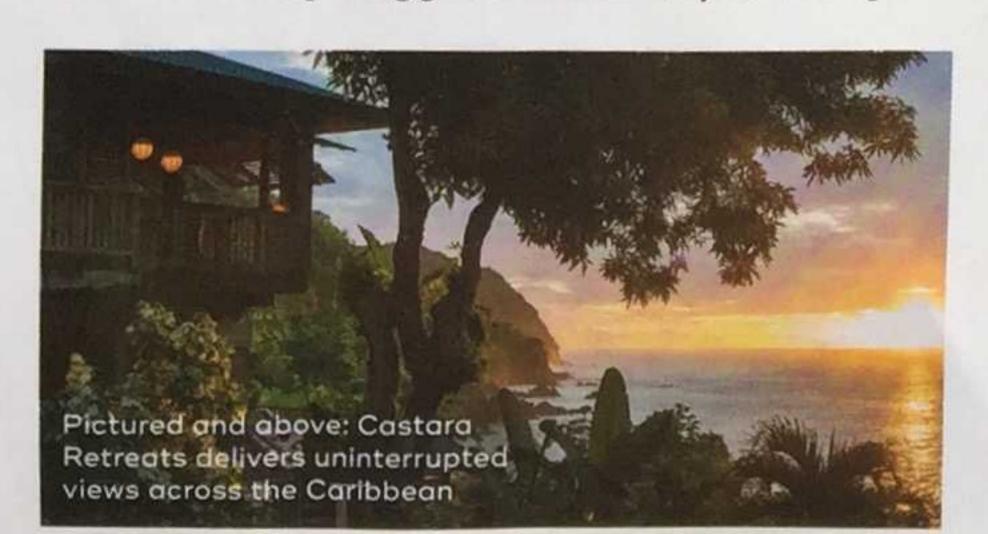


Glamping, flashpacking, digital retreating – travel trends come and go but the latest tourism buzzword is here to stay – sustainability. Proving it is possible to enjoy the world responsibly, an increasing number of hotels have committed to giving something back via local community initiatives and eco programmes designed to help counter the negative impact of air travel and mass tourism. With the UN declaring 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, we've rounded up some of the world's most environmentally conscious resorts putting greener travel firmly on the map.



Tobago in a tiny fishing village, Castara Retreats consists of 15 treehouse-style lodges with views across the Caribbean. The family-run resort on Trinidad's little-sister island is a bastion of community-led tourism. The eco hotel's 'one-family' approach empowers locals who have a stake in the business, working as waiting staff, drivers, chefs and fitness instructors. Guests can pick coconuts from trees outside their windows, watch chickens and agouti (an endangered species of guinea pig, protected by the resort's on-site wildlife sanctuary) roam freely and soak up authentic Caribbean culture from locals who spearhead everything from kundalini yoga on the beach to bread-making in the kitchen. The trickle-down effect of tourism goes straight back to local business, so swing by Chenos for a breakfast of patty buns and eggs, or learn to dive with a local marine biologist. You'll be rewarded with views of some of the most unspoilt reefs in the world thanks to Castara Retreats' coral regeneration programme, which trains young locals to monitor them. They recently discovered fields of elkhorn, an endangered coral species that had declined by 98 per cent is now under protection. Paradise, it seems, is far from lost. Rooms at Castara Retreats, Tobago, cost from £95 per night, based on two people sharing. To book, visit castararetreats.com. Flights on British Airways from London Gatwick to Tobago cost from £502 per person (ba.com)

Below and right: solar-powered showers and eco turf: just two of Seaglass's 'green' additions to enjoy alongside the luxuries

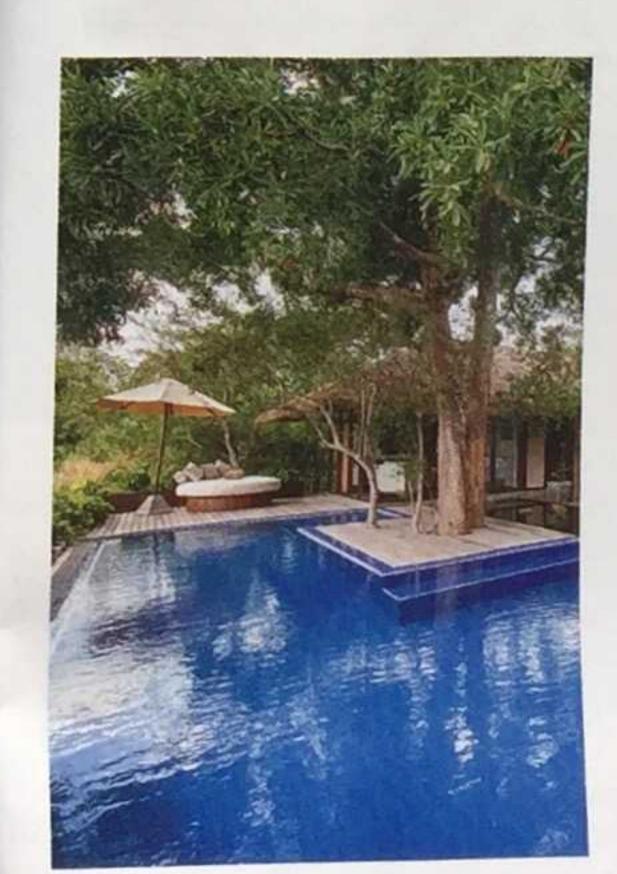




A CORNISH OFF-GRID STAYCATION

Perched on Cornwall's clifftops overlooking Whitsand Bay, Seaglass in Tregonhawke is not your average British bolthole. Forgo air travel altogether in favour of the staycation, and smugly tuck yourself up in this almost entirely self-sufficient private beach hut. Thanks largely to the owners' personal eco credentials and attention to detail (think solar-powered Velux windows, green sedum roof, natural slate and stone walling from a local quarry, plus drought-resistant eco turf), Seaglass has been awarded a prestigious gold certificate from Green Tourism. Surfers and stargazers will feel as though they have the beach to themselves. It's also perfect for dolphin spotting in summer, before a wind-down in the heated outdoor shower or hot tub with vino in recycled wine glasses. This is a digital detox spot to rival the best but if you get lonely, head in to nearby towns Cawsand and Kingsand for the freshest seafood caught the same day. Bliss.

Rates start from £1,695 for a seven-night stay for two people or £995 for a short break (three-night weekend or a four-night break, Monday to Friday). For further information or to book, visit seaglass.uniquehomestays.com



Indulge in a villa with a private pool (above), relax in Ulagalla's spa and dine on fresh local organic produce (right)

SRI LANKA'S ECO LUXURY LODGE

Overlooking lotus-topped reservoirs, forests and paddy fields (not one tree was felled during the lodge's construction and 1,000 were planted), the views here are best enjoyed via your private sun deck or plunge pool. The 25 luxe chalets at Ulagalla, just south of Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka, have been constructed from Durra (100 per cent recyclable



material formed from agricultural waste), while 50 per cent of the resort's energy is powered by an on-site solar farm – proving environmental kudos and beautiful interiors can be bedfellows. The resort has even been accredited with a silver LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. You can cycle from your chalet to the ancient, but lovingly restored wallauwa (manor house), 30m swimming pool and sunken spa on your own bicycle. And organic fruit, vegetables and rice are used in the resort's kitchens, while the activities, including kayaking and horse riding, have minimum impact on the environment. It's win-win.

Sri Lanka In Style offers six nights at Ulagalla and one night at Residence by Uga Escapes in Colombo from £2,915. Price includes return flights from London, plus transfers, and is based on two sharing a double room on a B&B basis. Visit srilankainstyle.com