

Go for Good

Giving back has never been so easy. Book a stay at any of these hotels and you can support great causes like local health clinics and coral reef conservation.

by JEN MURPHY

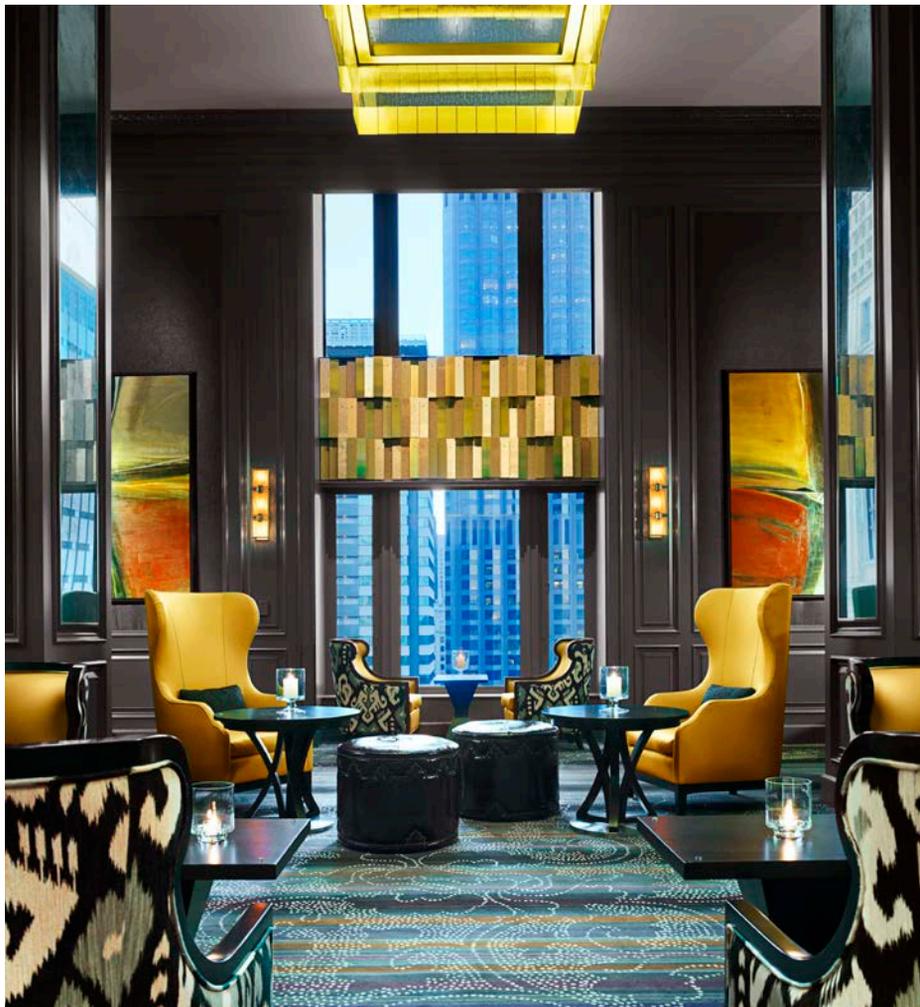
**SIX
SENSES**
Douro Valley,
Portugal



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1
GOLDENEYE HOTEL

Oracabessa Bay, Jamaica

GoldenEye has instant cachet simply for being the place where author Ian Fleming dreamed up his character James Bond, agent 007. The cool factor increased when Island Records founder Chris Blackwell bought the estate in 1976 and expanded it into a 52-acre resort with villas that spill onto Low Cay Beach. Guests can

kayak off a private dock, bike to Firefly (playwright Noël Coward's home), or go on a jet-ski safari. But the best part about GoldenEye is that it gives back to the community: In 1995 Blackwell started the Oracabessa Foundation, which supports programs like youth sports leagues and vocational training programs. *From \$400. goldeneye.com*

2
RITZ-CARLTON

San Francisco

In renovating the interior of this landmark hotel, designers drew inspiration from both the San Francisco Bay and couture fashion. The rooms' color schemes take cues from the steely blue and grays of the city's fog, and the furnishings, including tweed fabric chairs, are a nod to men's tailoring. While the hotel's look has changed, its commitment

to charities hasn't wavered. The staff donates unclaimed clothing from the lost and found to the Salvation Army, and every year sends 2,000 pounds of leftover soap to Clean the World, which recycles and distributes it to disadvantaged people around the world to prevent hygiene-related illnesses. *From \$399. ritzcarlton.com*

3
SIX SENSES

Douro Valley, Portugal

The ecofriendly Six Senses brand debuted its first European property in July on 20 acres of vine-covered land overlooking the Douro River. Guests can geek out on port at the in-house Wine Library or indulge in a grape-based scrub at the 24,000-square-foot spa. A bottle of Portuguese wine is an essential souvenir, but

guests should also consider purchasing a miniature donkey figurine made with wool and Portuguese clay. The indigenous Miranda donkey has been adopted as the hotel's mascot, and 50 percent of profits from the sale of each replica is donated to a local rescue association that works to protect the endangered animal. *From \$270. sixsenses.com*



4

COCOA ISLAND BY COMO

*Makunufushi,
Maldives*

Each of the COMO resort's 33 over-water bungalows has a private terrace that lets guests jump straight into the lagoon and snorkel amidst colorful fish and coral. Some of the larger suites are built in the shape of *dhoni* boats—traditional wooden vessels used by local anglers. Cocoa Island is home to

some of the best diving in the Indian Ocean, with at least 25 sites near the resort, including a shipwreck. COMO recently launched its Coral Propagation Program, which offers guests the opportunity to protect and regrow the 1,000-plus species found around the resort by planting a coral frame. *From \$1,100. comohotels.com/cocoa island*

5

MAUNA KEA BEACH HOTEL

Hawaii
To celebrate its 50th anniversary this year, the iconic Mauna Kea resort, a member of the AFAR Collection, set out to perform 50 Acts of Aloha by the end of 2015. Gestures range from six weeks of complimentary tennis lessons for local middle-school kids to beach cleanups and benefits to support local hospitals. While the resort

is named for its perfect white sand beach, the aloha also extends to the Big Island's other natural wonders, including the dormant Mauna Kea volcano. The resort can arrange for guests to give back too by spending a day planting trees and clearing trails in the mountain's unique dry forest, home to an endangered bird known as the palila. *From \$325. prince resortshawaii.com*

6

TONGABEZI LODGE

Zambia
Tongabezi co-founder Ben Parker is one of Zambia's sustainable-travel pioneers. When he built this lodge on the Zambezi River in 1990, luxury bush lodging didn't exist yet, but he nailed a perfect balance of ecosenitivity (wood decks in sustainable pine) and refined comfort (claw-foot tubs with river views). When employees requested a school for their

children, Parker's wife, Vanessa, built Tujatane: the Tongabezi Trust School on neighboring land. Completely funded by donations, the school has grown from 15 to 250 students in 19 years. Guests can donate supplies, sponsor a year's worth of lunches, or pay for a student's entire education. *From \$618, all-inclusive. tongabezi.com*



7 ↗

KASBAH DU TOUBKAL*Atlas Mountains, Morocco*

Set high in the mountains, a 90-minute drive from bustling Marrakech, Kasbah du Toubkal gives visitors a unique taste of traditional Berber life. British owners Mike and Chris McHugo run the Kasbah in partnership with the local Imilil village community, which means the vibe is more guesthouse

than hotel. Rooms are decorated simply with handmade Berber rugs and carved walnut furniture, and traditional djellabas replace bathrobes. A five percent surcharge on every guest bill goes toward village projects such as flood protection, waste management, reforestation, and educating local girls.

From \$190. kasbahdutoubkal.com

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NIHIWATU*Sumba Island, Indonesia*

Founded by a surfer in search of the perfect wave, Nihiwatu is a model of sustainable luxury. The resort's remote location on the jungle-edged coast of Sumba Island lures travelers looking for true escape and the hedonistic pleasures of private candlelit tree house dinners and hikes to cliff-top spas. But it's the cultural

and community experiences that set Nihiwatu apart from other far-flung hotels. Sumbanese villagers make up 90 percent of the staff, and the resort contributes to the Sumba Foundation, which funds health clinics, water wells, and educational initiatives. Guests can observe island traditions, tour the projects, or volunteer at a school lunch program. *From \$900. nihiwatu.com*

Conservation Role Models**AND BEYOND PHINDA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE***South Africa*

Through the Rhinos without Borders campaign, the safari company and Beyond is moving more than 100 rhinos from the Phinda Private Game Reserve to Botswana to help counter the effects of poaching.

From \$450. andbeyond.com

PLAYA VIVA*Guerrero, Mexico*

This ecohotel's community-staffed marine turtle sanctuary allows guests to help collect eggs and return baby turtles to the ocean.

From \$410, all-inclusive. playaviva.com

SONG SAA*Koh Rong Archipelago, Cambodia*

In 2006, Song Saa created Cambodia's first marine reserve. Guests can accompany resident marine biologists on snorkeling excursions.

From \$840. songsaa.com