



FLIP THE SCRIPT

EPIC TREKS REFRAME THE NARRATIVE ABOUT PAKISTAN

Celebrated for its dramatic combination of adventure and nature – from the K2 and Nanga Parbat peaks sought out by climbers to the gentle peach gardens running along river valleys and the Himalayan cedar-covered slopes – this country has also been stereotyped as dangerous, but that was never the whole story. Now it is transforming into an outdoor playground, with locally run projects driving change. On the edge of Attabad Lake, Luxus Hunza has chalet-style cabins framing astonishing blue waters in floor-to-ceiling windows. Hunza on Foot, set up by former BBC World News high-risk advisor Naveed Khan, leads leisurely paced walks to lesser-travelled corners, connecting with indigenous culture and overnighing in willow groves. Meanwhile, retreats by Karachi-based yoga instructor Amafah Mubashir draw a different kind of nourishment from the landscape. Launching in August, Karakoram Bikers tours will switch up the tempo again, steering along the Khunjerab Pass and through the Deosai Plains on Suzuki and Honda rides. Then there's smart, solar-powered Glamp Katpana, the latest project by entrepreneur Fahad Mahmood, its tented architecture integrated into the snow-covered dunes of the Cold Desert, with a menu that includes just-caught trout and barbecued yak. A compelling retelling of Pakistan's natural appeal. ANAM HUSSAIN *Anam is the editor of 'Capra Falconeri Traveller', a new magazine celebrating Pakistani culture, whose first edition, The Modern Adventure Issue, is published in April (cftpakistanmag.co.uk)*



Sand dunes in the Katpana Desert. Above, Attabad Lake



WHAT'S TOUCHING DOWN AND WHAT'S PACKING UP

✦ ARRIVALS

GLOBAL CRAFTS

Intriguing digital platforms are connecting wanderlusting shoppers with worldwide makers. Check out Ishkar, which champions artisans from conflict zones, for cushions from Burkina Faso or glass objects from Afghanistan, and Foundland for unexpected gifts including Japanese homeware.

MIAMI

The Florida beach destination is upping its already high-octane ante this spring. There's new experimental art space Superblue – working with stage designer Es Devlin, light wizard James Turrell and Burning Man favourite Studio Drift – as well as the instantly scene-shaking Goodtime Hotel by Pharrell Williams and hospitality guru David Grutman.

WORDSMITHS

Amanda Gorman's reading at the American presidential inauguration, the UK's interactive Poem Pavilion at the rescheduled Dubai Expo, where artificial intelligence helps generate verses, and the rise of Insta-poets such as Canadian-Punjabi Rupri Kaur and New Zealand's Lang Leav prove the literary form is having a resurgence.

✦ DEPARTURES

KITCHEN COCKTAILS

New hotspots Gyp Sea Beach on St Barth's, from the Sibuet family who are behind the island's Villa Marie hotel, and Chiringuito Francis Mallmann in Uruguay get us dreaming of seaside spritzes again.

AIR MILES

Frequent-flyer cards may be languishing, but the Maldives has become the first country to launch its own loyalty programme, where visitors can earn points per night and collect bonus rewards for special occasions.

ANIMAL WORKOUTS

Cow cuddling, goat yoga, miniature-pig Pilates... let's leave the poor creatures alone. Instead, channel the natural kingdom for feelgood kicks with Animal Flow's Primal Movement online classes encompassing frog jumps, crab reaches and ape squats. FIONA KERR