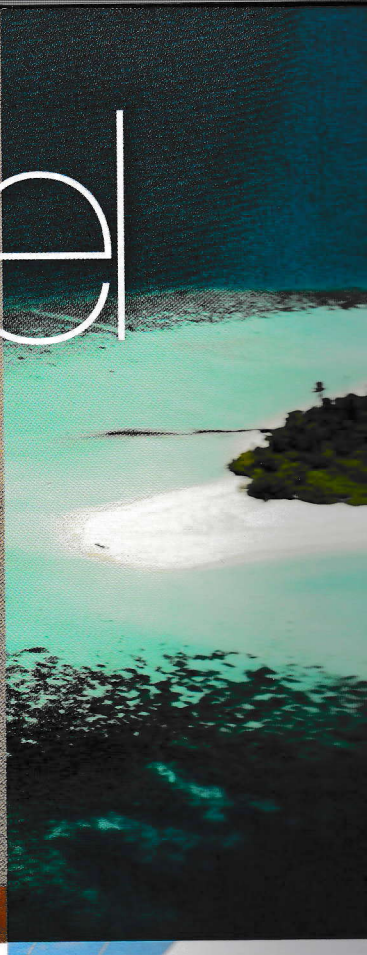


The Telegraph

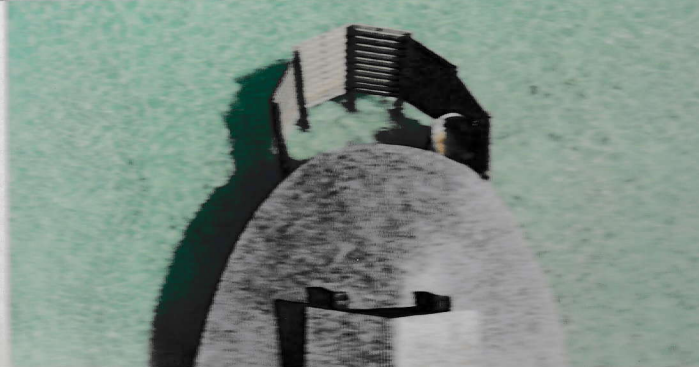
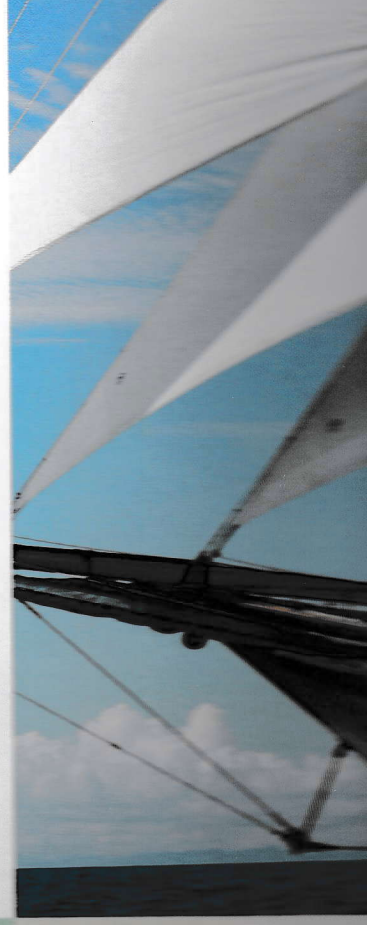
# ultravel



SPECIAL ISSUE

## OUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S HOT IN 2017

From luxury lodges and beautiful beaches  
to sybaritic spas and splendid castles, we reveal  
the most fabulous places to visit next year



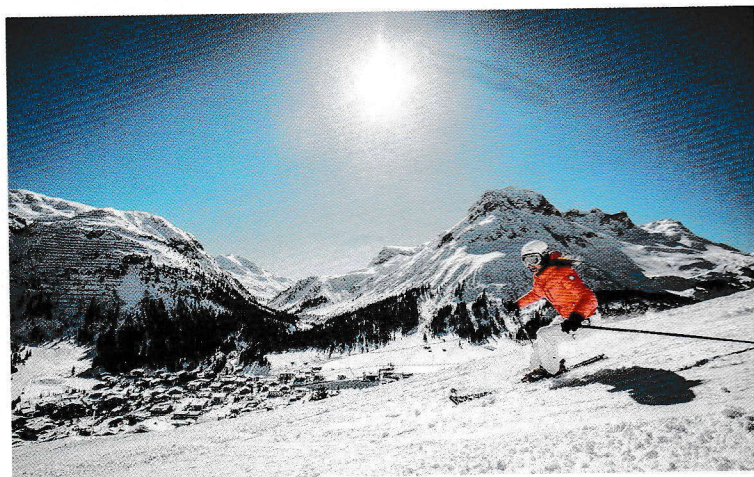




## ED DESTINATION

### Mountains, Tajikistan

ist destination in the world in 2015, according to the  
 which is why in 2017 Edge Expeditions will be running a  
 ry's spectacular Pamir Mountains: one the most  
 corners of the planet. With a team of expert guides,  
 w wilderness by either four-wheel-drive vehicles, with  
 legendary Pamir Highway, travellers will spend days  
 , ancient ruins and high mountain passes that very few  
 a five-star hotel in the capital, Dushanbe, while on the  
 with hot showers, comfortable beds, Egyptian cotton  
 pedition's private chef. Along the way, both British and  
 f the region, while astronomers with telescopes will  
 ight-polluted night skies in the world.  
 ing a 14-day *Luxury Tajikistan journey by four-wheel-drive*  
 and ending at Dushanbe, including transfers, motorcycle  
 guides and medic, but excluding international flights



## THE COOL SKI SPOT

### Lech, Austria

Size matters to ski resorts, so the hotly anticipated coronation of **Ski Arlberg** as Austria's largest contiguous ski area is big news indeed. Encompassing eight villages, including big hitters St Anton, Lech and Zürs, Ski Arlberg is already one of the best-known ski areas in the Alps. But now its four new lifts are open, linking the entire area to deliver 109 miles of pistes (three more than Val d'Isère), Ski Arlberg will join the ranks of the world's über resorts. The four connected lifts, known as the Flexenbahn, will place Lech at the epicentre of the ski area (stealing some thunder from St Anton). While expanding its lifts, Lech has also been consolidating its position as Austria's leading town for luxury ski chalets. In December – hot on the heels of properties like the Aurelio Clubhouse, Chalet N, Chalet 1597 and Überhaus, which have raised the luxury bar in recent years – **Severin's Alpine Retreat** will open its doors. The nine-suite hotel will be fitted with only the best: Minotti furnishings, a spa with an indoor infinity pool and hypoxic chamber for altitude training, and a ski room with bespoke Indigo kit. Guests can take over the chalet, for free rein over the suites, restaurant, capacious spa and fire-lit lounges, or plump for The Residence: a sleek four-bedroom private apartment spanning two floors with a professional kitchen, cinema, bar and outdoor hot tub.

*The Oxford Ski Company (oxfordski.com) offers a week for two people at Severin's Alpine Retreat (severins-lech.at) from £6,440, including transfers and flights*

### ation for 2017?

ne new hot, then  
 to see penguin  
 ce caves and  
 nd to go kite-surfing,  
 ing, then fly south  
 at the South Pole.

### usual destination?

w Guinea. A fantastic  
 pend three days  
 tribesmen in the  
 explore the Sepik  
 then cruise the  
 a luxury yacht.

### ext?

Those desert  
 es look incredible. I'd  
 see oryx and desert-  
 ions and elephants.

### Your best wildlife trip?

One in which we watched  
 a polar bear hunt on the pack  
 ice north of Svalbard. It's a very  
 rare event to see and we had  
 a grandstand view from our  
 expedition cruise ship. To me,  
 a boat is the finest way to go  
 out exploring: whether that's  
 on an icebreaker or a luxury  
 adventure sailing yacht.

### Favourite place with family?

I'm originally from New  
 Zealand, and nothing beats  
 Whitianga on the Pacific  
 Ocean side of the Coromandel  
 Peninsula, with its limestone  
 cliffs and white-sand beaches.  
 eyos-expeditions.com