

HAVANA

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LOS ANGELES

ultratravel®

FALL/WINTER 2015

YOUR GUIDE TO HEAVEN ON EARTH

Escape TO ONE&ONLY HAYMAN ISLAND

**RIDE THE
ROVOS
RAIL**

**INDIA HICKS
CHECKS IN AT
LA RÉSERVE
PARIS**

+ TRAVEL INSIDERS
Jo Malone, Ken Fulk
and Nadja Swarovski



*"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds
one in its net of wonder forever."*

— Jacques-Yves Cousteau



U.S. EDITION

An aerial photograph of New York City, showing Central Park in the foreground with its dense green trees. In the background, the city skyline is visible, featuring numerous skyscrapers. The most prominent building is the Freedom Tower, which has a distinctive red and white striped top section. Other notable buildings include the Empire State Building and the Chrysler Building. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

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BEST OF THE BEST

The votes are in! Introducing the winners of the first U.S. ULTRA Awards.

BY SARAH KHAN AND KATHRYN ROMEYN





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The first class cabin aboard Etihad Airways; prepare to tackle your busy day with a peaceful night's rest while flying Business class with British Airways; azure blue waters take over your senses at One&Only Hayman Island; **CENTER:** Modern luxury in the lobby of The Langham, Chicago.

BEST FIRST CLASS Etihad Airways

Long before stepping onto the aircraft, Etihad's first-class guests begin indulging in the airline's exhaustive services: personal chauffeur privileges, check-in with welcome drink and dates, spa therapies and fine dining in the lounges. Once tucked into the totally private first-class apartment—designed in soothing taupe tones, fitted with both a leather chair and separate bed with all-natural linens—the pampering really begins. Middle Eastern hospitality gives way to vintage wines, fine bone china, crystal glassware, turndown service with pillow mist and pulse-point oil and a multi-course made-to-order meal prepared by the on-board chef, including pre-dessert treats and XO Cognac.

RUNNERS UP

- Cathay Pacific
- British Airways
- Emirates
- American Airlines

BEST BUSINESS CLASS British Airways

With its exclusive Club World section, British Airways has elevated the business class experience to enviable heights. Most notable is the six-foot fully flat bed it transforms into, which—along with a crisp quilted blanket, memory foam headrest and privacy screen—allows for easy z's. Noise-canceling headphones, a 10-inch entertainment screen and a video RCA connection that allows guests to plug in and view their own digital equipment also helps one forget they're mid-air. Add to that food featuring local ingredients, luxe Elemis skincare and private lounge access, and passengers may never want to disembark.

RUNNERS UP

- Emirates
- Qatar Airways
- Virgin Atlantic
- American Airlines

BEST HOTEL IN AUSTRALIA/ NEW ZEALAND One&Only Hayman Island, Queensland

If you're going to go all out on a memorable Great Barrier Reef adventure, then you better make sure your hotel is pretty spectacular too. The One&Only Hayman Island delivers in spades: the lush island in the serene Coral Sea is a diver's paradise, to be sure, but it's also a luxury lover's dream, with 160 stylishly appointed rooms (consider booking a swim-up suite with direct pool access), a decadent spa, two pools and seven restaurants and bars sure to entice even the most discerning diner. This is a wonder of a hotel worthy of one of the natural wonders of the world.

RUNNERS UP

- Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island
- The Louise, Barossa Valley
- Saffire Freycinet, Coles Bay
- Shangri-La Hotel, Sydney

BEST NEW HOTEL The Langham, Chicago

Who doesn't love a spot of English elegance? The Langham, Chicago—the beloved brand's fourth outpost in the U.S.—has been winning over the Windy City ever since it opened its doors in 2013 in one of downtown Chicago's most beloved Mies van der Rohe buildings. Inside you'll find a glittering lobby, 286 guest rooms and 48 suites with dramatic floor-to-ceiling windows—all the better to take in that iconic skyline from the comfort of your bed. But what really cemented this award for Langham is the level of service we've come to expect from the brand: no request is too big, no interaction is forgotten and unparalleled hospitality that warms even the chilliest Chicago evening.

RUNNERS UP

- Baccarat Hotel & Residences, New York
- The Peninsula Paris
- The High Line Hotel, New York
- The Rosewood London