

VOGUE

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WHY WE'RE WINNING IN MEN'S SPORTS

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02



HEARTBREAK HEALTH CHECK

1920s and 30s architectural elements inside the Alan Pye Cottage.



THE OWNER'S COTTAGE MIGHT MORE ACCURATELY BE DESCRIBED AS A HAMPTONS MANSION

Alan Pye Cottage's stone outdoor pavilion.



Pure bliss

Comfort, luxury and pristine riverside surrounds make Huka Lodge one of the world's finest escapes. *By Edwina McCann.*

Huka Lodge, on New Zealand's North Island near Lake Taupo, is legendary. The luxury retreat and fishing lodge has hosted royals, Miuccia Prada, Bill Gates and numerous other famous people. But if rugby is your thing, I recommend you do *not* book your stay to coincide with a Bledisloe Cup game, as I did. The All Blacks defeating the Wallabies made watching the match with a group of Kiwis in the beautifully appointed Trophy Room almost unbearable. Even the exquisite wines selected from the most extensive and beautiful cellar could not numb the pain caused by my fellow guests victorious and joyous to have two Australians in the room to tease.

That, however, was the only moment of humorous discomfort in an otherwise perfect weekend, which began with a private dinner in a pavilion located on seven hectares of manicured grounds beside a rapidly flowing river famed for its incredible fly fishing.

Dinner – and every meal we experienced by Michelin star-awarded chef Paul Froggatt – was exceptional. And the trout is a must – especially if you have caught it yourself.

Huka Lodge prides itself on being outstanding, hence its international reputation for being one of the best fly fishing lodges in the world. In 2016, *Condé Nast Traveller* named it the best hotel in New Zealand, which places Huka in the company of legendary hotels such as Le Bristol in Paris and Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc in the Antibes. And if fly fishing is not your thing, there are plenty of other activities, including golf and a choice of many courses – a favourite being Wairakei International Golf Course just five minutes' drive away. There is also biking, gliding, hunting, kayaking, horse riding and, in true New Zealand adventure-travel style, quad excursions and bungee jumping. Although the spa treatments in the room made it very tempting to just stay in.

Our home for our weekend was the stunning Alan Pye Cottage, named after the founder who in the 1920s established an unrivalled reputation for superb hospitality that continues to this day. Calling it a cottage when it has its own kitchen, swimming pool, double bedrooms, secluded courtyard garden, personal butler and chef hardly does it justice. It is really the home you have always dreamt of, designed by New Zealand-born interior designer Virginia Fisher. There are also 18 junior suites with river views and an Owner's Cottage, which might more accurately be described as a Hamptons mansion. Perfect for a family or group of friends, it has four generous suites and its own butler and chef on request. At Huka Lodge they are used to hosting people who are used to the best, and so the best is just what they deliver, in the most friendly and luxurious manner. *Go to www.hukalodge.co.nz.*



Stunning watery views from the Owner's Cottage.



The Owner's Cottage nestled amid the trees along the Waikato River.



A fireside lounging area amid the greenery.

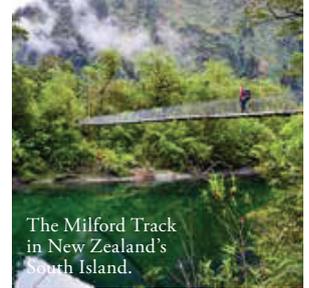
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TRAVEL FIT

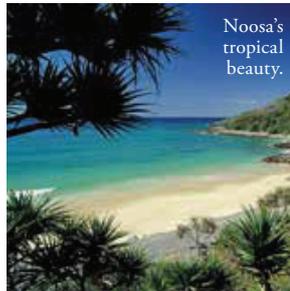
Holidays don't always have to be about sun, surf, snow or sleep: sport-orientated travellers are now planning their breaks around fitness.

Trekking

MILFORD TRACK (NEW ZEALAND)
New Zealand might be the Mecca of skiing, wine and health retreats, but it is also home to one of the most beautiful walking treks in the world. Traversing the Milford Track takes stamina, but you'll be rewarded with views of stunning glaciers, mountains, waterfalls and ancient rainforests. www.milfordtrack.net



The Milford Track in New Zealand's South Island.



Noosa's tropical beauty.

Swimming

NOOSA (QUEENSLAND)

As an island nation it is no wonder Australia has the best ocean swim events. Noosa's annual triathlon is the biggest of its kind in the world and is a fab sporty pit stop you can do as a relay with friends on the way north to explore the Great Barrier Reef, or south to soothe the soul in Byron Bay.

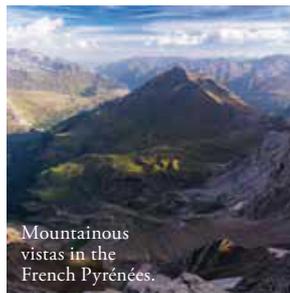
Running

VANCOUVER (CANADA)

Running is the best way to see a new city, and with half and full marathons now taking place in major destinations around the world, it's simple to pack your sneakers and set off to see the sights. Try the Lululemon SeaWheeze half-marathon in Vancouver for a picturesque race around the harbour. www.seawheeze.com



Runners on the scenic half-marathon in Vancouver.



Mountainous vistas in the French Pyrenees.

Cycling

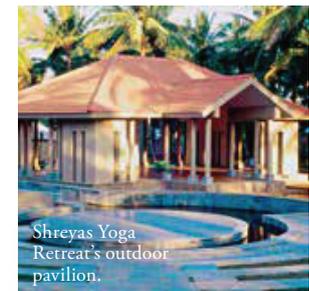
THE PYRENEES (FRANCE)

Take a bike excursion along the Tour de France cycling route while enjoying the stunning surrounds of the French Pyrénées mountain ranges and feasting on French culinary delights along the way. (This is one for the more dedicated who can cope with hills, valleys and travelling with your bicycle.)

Yoga

BANGALORE (INDIA)

While many resorts these days host sunrise yoga sessions, head to India for a more authentic experience. The Shreyas Yoga Retreat in Bangalore explores traditional Ashram yoga practices and offers massage and mindfulness, and even sources the evening's vegetables from its organic garden. www.shreyasretreat.com



Shreyas Yoga Retreat's outdoor pavilion.