

THE  TIMES

MAGAZINE

Clive Myrie

**DEATH THREATS,
THE BBC AND HOW
THE WINDRUSH SCANDAL
DEVASTATED MY FAMILY**



THE COOLEST PLACES TO STAY IN EUROPE

Times travel guru Jenny Coad reveals her top 25

01



01 Koločep, Croatia

Croatia has been all over Instagram this summer and it's worked. I'm tempted by the smallest of its Elafiti Islands, Koločep, which is car-free, chilled out and only a 35-minute ferry from Dubrovnik. In the smaller of its two waterside villages, Gornje Celo, is Kalamota Beach House. Its 11 suites come with kitchenettes for simple suppers and there's also a seafront restaurant, G Chelo. Kayaks can be borrowed from the hotel to explore the clear waters and neighbouring Lopud (famous for Sunj beach) and Sipan (known for the posh Bowa beach club) are easy day trips.

Self-catering apartment from £391 for two in September (i-escape.com/kalamota-beach-house)

02 Casa Mana, Mallorca, Spain

In 2019, I worked with a photographer who told me about her dream to do up a Mallorcan finca. Overlooking the Serra de Tramuntana mountain range and surrounded by four hectares including lemon trees, Casa Mana is the realisation of that dream – Ana Lui and Matias Alexandro have created a gorgeous retreat. Like the magazine shoots Lui works on, it's perfectly composed to allow the 110-year-old finca to shine. It's a 25-minute drive from Palma, 30 minutes from Pollença beach and has a saltwater pool. The village of Binissalem is two miles away and Alexandro recommends its Italian restaurant, Terra di Vino. *Seven days self-catering for eight from £511 a night (manamallorca.com). Fly to Palma ➡*





09



11



12



10

beach. The trendiest stretch of the latter is Patacona, a little way out of the city (an hour's walk along the coast) or a 20-minute taxi ride. But it's worth it. You'll wish you owned one of the brightly coloured villas on the seafront. You might want to go for brunch at La Mas Bonita, which also rents out stylishly done apartments in the city (lamasbonita.es). Stay nearby at foodie retreat La Mozaira, a farmhouse-turned-hotel with swimming pool, farm-to-table restaurant, spa room and winery.

B&B doubles from £131 (lamasbonita.es). Fly to Valencia

09 Palma, Mallorca, Spain

On September 23, Palma's galleries and museums open until midnight for La Nit de l'Art, with English tours available. It's just another reason to visit this fantastically easygoing city with its midday vermouth culture (they make their own at La Rosa and it's delicious), homemade gelato (Ca'n Joan de s'Aigo is family-run and frequented by locals), brilliant tapas (try Tast Club), vast cathedral and wide, bike and walker-friendly esplanade that tempts you along the coast. Stay in a serene former nunnery, Convent de la Missio, in the old town with its dinky roof terrace plus pool. Or, if you're going in winter, Palma Riad is a lavish adults-only retreat.

B&B doubles at Convent de la Missio from £221 (conventdelamissio.com). Rooms at Palma Riad from £316 (palmariad.com)

10 Formentera, Spain

Formentera is the antidote to Ibiza, with serene beaches, pine and juniper forests and proper switch-off places to stay. One of these is Teranka, on a protected coastal stretch of popular Migjorn beach. It doesn't only have calming rooms, a pool, spa and rooftop bar specialising in sushi; it also comes with its own contemporary art collection and sculpture park. The and, La Mola, is a vineyard Bodega. Formentera has a few restaurants and menus.

October

eden's west coast y to it via road Kalmar Strait, gets od. This is where their summer and the park the public from sslott.se). The t exploring the walking trails ty of its residents c studios. There's gholt, and I like the look of the bathing hotel and organic B&B Eco by StrandNara. Ekerum resort also has its own self-catering farmhouse, which sleeps up to seven.

B&B doubles at Eco by StrandNara from £129 (strandnara.com). Ekerum farmhouse from £400 per night, including breakfast (ekerum.com). Fly to Malmo

12 Montenegro

Montenegro is still not as well trodden as other European hotspots, despite the small country having a seriously luxurious hotel scene (see, for example, Villa Milocer on its own tiny islet). It has Biogradska Gora, one of Europe's three remaining virgin forests, the largest lake in the Balkans, Lake Skadar, which spans Montenegro and Albania, and the beautiful Tara River canyon. Plus attractive coastal towns including mountain-backed Kotor and lively Budva. Hotels range from big, luxury players such as One&Only Portonovi at the entrance to Boka Bay, to small boutiques such as Palazzo Sbutega in the Bay of Kotor, with sunloungers on the waterfront. Seven nights' B&B at One&Only Portonovi from £3,536 per couple including flights and private transfers (scottdunn.com)

13 Antwerp, Belgium

There's been a lot of talk about Belgium among my travel colleagues, and Antwerp has emerged as one of this year's surprise city-break successes. It helps that it now has a cool new hotel in a former monastery, Botanic Sanctuary, and is four hours from London by train. Mile-long Kloosterstraat is filled with antiques and boutiques, and the city has a fashion district, Essentiel Antwerp's flagship store and

kvd creative