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NEED SUNSHINE NOW? MIAMI, SEYCHELLES, GRAN CANARIA & BARBADOS (ON BUDGET!)

THE THREE-IN-ONE BREAK

Bringing new meaning to the term multi-activity holiday, the latest trip to Mongolia with luxury-holiday specialist Wexas packs modern cities, icy lakes and snow-sprinkled desert – plus three festivals – into just 12 days. After a night in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, you'll head off to Khovsgol's Ice Festival, where competitors pit themselves against each other in ice-sumo and tug-of-war competitions across a frozen lake (no mean feat in temperatures that can dip to -40°C). Make time for Nukht's Eagle Festival, a dramatic celebration featuring hunters, dressed in sumptuous furs and embroidered leather, sending their birds off in search of rabbits. Finally, it's into the Gobi Desert for the Thousand Camel Festival, to watch hundreds of the beasts race across the wilderness, as Mongolian music rings out across the empty landscape. Wexas (020 7638 5892, www.wexas.com) sells the 11-night trip from £4,070pp, B&B, including Heathrow flights.



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You've written, tweeted and even accosted us on the street to ask. So here's the most on-the-pulse list in the biz – a round-up of the 42 holiday ideas that insiders can't stop talking about. Read on, for inspiration to take you through the year...

ILLUSTRATIONS BY **PETER CROWTHER**

1. A FABULOUS FAR EAST RETREAT

STAY CHIC Previously, the only way to mix muslin-draped, petal-strewn luxury with time at Cambodia's spectacular Angkor temples was to catch a plane to Vietnam or Thailand. But now history-hungry honeymooners (and others) can get it all in one stop: the country's first five-star eco-resort opens on the empty Koh Rong archipelago this month – and it's a stunner. The 27 villas at Song Saa (which aptly means 'sweethearts' in Khmer) are sprawling affairs set across two private islands, and have their own infinity pool. The restaurant chef has cooked for everyone from Fergie to Brad Pitt, and the spa does rose-

scented spa treatments, devised by a woman who spent years with shamans across the globe (that's dedication!) to create the most relaxing massages out there. It's the landscape that's the real star, though: a photogenic mélange of dense jungle, perfect white sand, and pinch-me-I'm-dreaming turquoise water. Wexas (020 7835 5892, www.wexas.com) has a nine-night 'Lost City & New Resort' trip from £3,895pp, B&B, including flights from Heathrow, three nights at the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor in Siem Reap and six at Song Saa. **HOT TIP:** There's no need to pay for an upgrade here. Unlike many five-stars, even the standard rooms come with all the bells and whistles.



2. GOING INTO ORBIT

NOW BUZZARRE The most exotic destination for 2012? Space. Virgin Galactic's inaugural flight jets off this year, with seats costing a cosmic £250,000. (Book through Elegant Resorts: 01244 897003, www.elegantresorts.co.uk.) **HOT TIP:** Hold off for a couple of years. Experts predict ticket prices will drop to around £5,000 as competition increases in a decade or two – about the same as a fortnight in the Maldives.



3. THE FAST WAY OUT OF LONDON

TAKING OFF If you want to make a quick getaway from the capital, heading east is the answer. EasyJet's eight new routes from Southend airport in Essex share runway time with only a handful of Aer Arann flights to Ireland and a weekly FlyBe service to Jersey which should ensure smooth departures. And it's only a 50-minute train ride from London Liverpool St (0905 821 8505, www.easyjet.com). Meanwhile, the capital's most convenient airport,

City (30–40 minutes from Oxford Circus on the tube and DLR, www.londoncityairport.com), continues to expand: BA (0844 493 0787, www.ba.com) now has 17 routes from here, including new ones to Chambéry, Málaga, Copenhagen, Faro, Ibiza and Stockholm. **HOT TIP:** Check the price of rail tickets before you board en route to the airport. If there's a group of you, it'll be cheaper to travel in style – in a taxi. A black cab from Oxford Circus to City Airport, for example, costs £28 – the same as four one-day Travelcards.