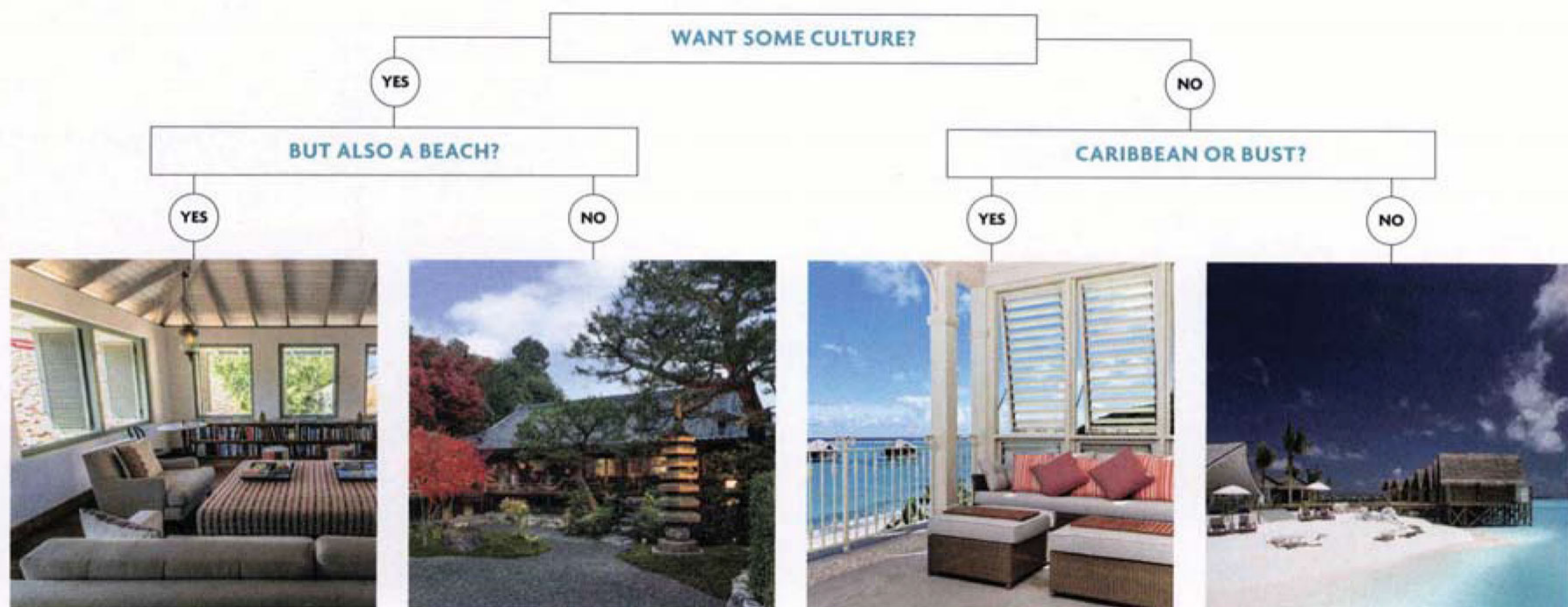


# Where to go...

## FOR A FARAWAY FLING



### FORT BAZAAR Galle Fort, Sri Lanka

No gloomy old colonial here – this 17th-century townhouse on Galle Fort's main drag has been given a thoroughly modern makeover. The Moorish mood of the courtyard – tiled floor and shimmering brass lanterns, overlooked by 18 pretty, pared-back rooms – make it the sort of place to lose a day counting butterflies, with chalky white walls, sage-green shutters and cool four-posters (minus the fabric swags); opt for an airy upstairs suite for views of the higgledy-piggledy rooftops. The tropical joys of Galle are right on your doorstep, but when it starts to sizzle (it will), dip into the pool or tuk-tuk it to the beach club. Church Street Social restaurant is pleasingly buzzy, with spicy egg hoppers for breakfast and fragrant Middle Eastern dishes or curries at supper. Follow with a snifter in the twinkly courtyard, wrapped in wafts of frangipani-scented air.

**BOOK IT** The Ultimate Travel Company offers seven nights, from £1,320 per person, incl. breakfast, flights and transfers ([theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk](http://theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk)).

### SUIRAN Kyoto, Japan

Arashiyama is basically Kyoto's version of Richmond – an easy train ride from the centre, and precisely the sort of calm you want. The place to stay is Suiran, based in a former imperial villa right next to the peaceful, jade-green Hozu River. All is super-zen, with rooms a mix of contemporary furniture and tatami-mat floors, some with their own private onsen (an open-air hot-spring bath), so you can gently poach while you look out at the surrounding hills. You'll be hungry after that – Kyo-Suiran restaurant offers traditional teppanyaki: order grilled Wagyu beef or lobster with sea urchin, then watch a tea ceremony at Café Hassui and try the *hisui-mochi*, a matcha-filled pudding. Do make time to explore Arashiyama itself; the bamboo forest is dreamy. It's best to go in the early morning to avoid the swarms of tourists, and en route you can stroll through nearby Tenryu-ji temple, a Unesco World Heritage site. Richmond doesn't have one of those.

**BOOK IT** Double, from £489 ([suirankyoto.com](http://suirankyoto.com)).

### PINK SANDS CLUB Canouan, St Vincent and the Grenadines

Pink Sands Club is just the right kind of isolated: it's both vast (the estate is 1,200 acres) and tiny (Canouan is only five square miles). They whizz you over from Barbados in a small plane in 20 minutes; once there, take off your watch and structure your time around pool-lounging, cocktail-drinking and beach-lolling – the sea is exactly like one of those screensavers. Stay in a villa or a suite (cream with splashes of pink), where the best bit is you only need to open the screen doors and take 10 steps to hit those bright wavelets. Start the day with rum cake in your bedroom, pre-breakfast, and drive a golf buggy through emerald-green hills (swerving the tortoises), or take a boat taxi to Shell Beach for prawn roti and ponder whether it's Romeo (restaurant) or Juliet (restaurant) for dinner. Work off the rum cake on the yoga platform, reached via a funicular, then have a muscle-loosening massage in the serene treetop ESPA spa. And repeat.

**BOOK IT** Double, from £1,076 ([pinksandsclub.com](http://pinksandsclub.com)).

### OZEN Maadhoo, Maldives

You can't escape the sea views at OZEN By Atmosphere. The entire place is built around making the most of that insanely turquoise, bath-warm ocean, starting with the rooms. Beachfront or overwater, the Indian Ocean is right there, wherever you turn, and the neat inside-outside design means you can take in the big blue without leaving your bed. Or your bath. In fact, we challenge you to find one single spot in your room that doesn't have views of the water. Keep on gazing at Traditions IndoCeylon, the smart Indian restaurant, or go for informal buffet lunches at laidback, sandy-floored the Palms (yes, yes – it has sea views too). The spa, with its divine ayurvedic treatments, has huge doors that open onto the waves, and the gym boasts machines facing the endless sea. Want more? Head beneath the surface to M6m, a glass-walled underwater restaurant where sofa seats are angled straight towards the fish peering in from the reef.

**BOOK IT** Hayes & Jarvis offers seven nights, from £3,047 per person, incl. flights ([hayesandjarvis.co.uk](http://hayesandjarvis.co.uk)).