



paying guests. Consequently, it has retained the feel of a grand, if a tad eccentric, family home. Choose between the domed, four-bedroom fantasy palace Casa la Loma, eye-poppingly bright on the outside and chic cool white on the inside; three large villas and a handful of lovely one-bedroom *casitas*, all furnished with exquisite local textiles. A vast, unspoilt wilderness fringing the Mexican Pacific, the estate is primarily an ecological foundation with the aim of studying and protecting the plant and wildlife within it – so there’s a vast network of nature trails to explore.

The lowdown

BA flies to Mexico City from London Heathrow. One-bedroom *casitas* cost from £350 per night. cuixmala.com

Casa do Dean, Brazil

Best known for his arresting celebrity portraits, photographer Dean Freeman has recently had an entirely different project up his sleeve – a gorgeous two-bedroom beach house in northeast Brazil. He completed it last summer and has been renting it to those in the know ever since. In the heart of the rainforest yet just a five-minute walk from the village of Arraial d’Ajuda and the beach, Casa do Dean was designed by local architect Carlos de Oliveira Rodrigues. To the glass walls, polished concrete floors and large wooden veranda, Dean has added Brazilian hardwood four-poster beds,

huge hammocks, Argentinean vintage furniture and art from all over the world.

The lowdown

BA flies to São Paulo from London Heathrow. Rent Casa do Dean from £1,350 per week for the house, which sleeps four. casadodean.com

Eagle Cottage, Kenya

While Kenya is awash with safari camps, the area around the six-suite Sabuk Lodge, located on the edge of its Northern Frontier District, is so remote that it remains little explored by foreigners. Perched on a cliff above the permanently flowing Ewaso Nyiro River, overlooking the Laikipia plains towards Mount Kenya, the wonderfully atmospheric lodge is best known for its old-school walking safaris. The recently added two-bedroom Eagle Cottage is geared specifically towards families.

The lowdown

BA flies to Nairobi from London Heathrow. Three-night stays for four people at Sabuk’s Eagle Cottage cost from £3,255 including all transfers, meals and activities. chelipecock.com



Hollywood Hilltop Star, Los Angeles

LA can be a tough place to live but it’s great for a holiday. Why not gatecrash the scene for a week by renting the ultimate Hollywood pad? On a quiet street just off Mulholland Drive, five minutes from Sunset Boulevard, the chic three-bedroom Hollywood Hilltop Star was designed in the 1960s by the dean of architecture at UCLA, Richard Anderson. Essentially six lava-rock pillars linked together by giant sheets of glass, the house is truly spectacular late in the evening, when it becomes the perfect lookout point for gazing over the twinkling lights of LA. Outside, fringed by landscaped gardens, are a swimming pool, plunge pool and numerous fountains.

The lowdown

BA flies to Los Angeles from London Heathrow. Seven nights at Hollywood Hilltop Star, which sleeps six, costs from £8,365. timeandplace.com



The Big Barn, Devon

There’s an inviting glow about the Big Barn all year round, especially as daylight falls and the biscuit-coloured stone walls and oak floors become illuminated by the numerous lamps and open fires within. In an area of outstanding natural beauty in the heart of South Hams, the barn and its tranquil surroundings take on an otherworldly quality. If you’re a group of friends who like to stay up late, or a family with boisterous children, that’s fine, too. The various living spaces are all private, adaptable and well-equipped with TV, DVD and underfloor heating. There are four en-suite bedrooms with funky furnishings while a fifth, which overlooks the huge dining room, doubles as a cosy den.

The lowdown

The Big Barn sleeps ten and costs from £1,400 per week. bigbarnholidayindevon.co.uk

Clockwise from top Casa do Dean’s stunning rainforest location in Brazil; and one of its chic rooms; the remote and atmospheric Eagle Cottage, Kenya

Previous pages: photography by Stewart Ferebee. Styling by Martha Ward. Hair and make-up by Kathinka Warre at Joy Goodman using Chanel. Model: Tassara Vilaca at Trump Model Management. Swimsuit: La Perla; hat, Melissa Odabashi; sunglasses, Linda Farrow Luxe; bangles, Pebble. This page: photography by www.casadodean.com