The best in the world

You don't want an OK holiday, you want an OMG one. Which is exactly why Travel's expert editors have spent the past 12 months sorting the truly outstanding from the merely very good. Now, from hotels to hamburgers, airlines to adventure sports, tour operators to turndown gifts, we reveal our absolute favourites...
The best... Spas

- In the Swiss ski resort Arosa, Tschuggen Grand Hotel (above) is a futuristic slice of five-star stardom, and the spa its trump card—enclosed in sail-shaped skylights of stained glass. The pool is the main pull, its indoor grotto areas perfect for gliding into before swimming out under the snowflakes (tschuggen.ch).
- The Palace Hotel Tokyo's Evian spa is a vision in white. The treatments are sublime, but nothing is as soothing as working your way up and down the geometric, royal-blue pool with skyscrapers glinting at you through floor-to-ceiling window panes (palacehoteltokyo.com).
- At Whatley Manor in Wiltshire, go beyond pampering La Prairie treatments, saunas and steam rooms — this unwind-wonderland also features a detoxifying mud chamber, salt scrub showers and Iyashi Dôme weight-loss machine (whatleymanor.com).
- Jungly oasis and limestone hills pour in through floor-to-ceiling windows at Phulay Bay, in Krabi, Thailand. Local herbs leave you sweet-smelling post-treatment, too (ritzcarlton.com).
- For pure drama, try The Rockhouse at Negril, Jamaica, where the ginger body-scrubs come with a side of crashing surf. Treatments take place at sunset in cliff-edge cabanas overlooking the sea (rockhouse.com).

The best... Walks

- In the Hollywood Hills, get above the city smog — not just for a spot of sunshine-infused exercise (this is L.A., world capital of skinny), but also for views of the city's immense circuit-board sprawl. You might spot some wildlife (pumas, raccoons or coyotes), but the most Instagrammable sight? You with the Hollywood sign.
- The Devon fishing village of Beer is all-old-England charm, what with its rusty squawk of gulls, hilly bends and shops selling clotted cream. It's five kilometres from Beer to the toffee-box-picture village of Branscombe, where the Jurassic Coast rambles into russet infinity. One sunny afternoon, we hiked over cliffs, up steep grassy meadow, past sheer drops and yawning blue views, to moules marinieres in the Masons Arms (masonsarms.co.uk), and now we do it every year.
- Fancy a real thigh-killer? Try Portofino to San Fruttuoso in Liguria, Italy — the views of the steel-blue Gulf of Tigullio are unforgettable. It gets increasingly steep, stony and rocky the further you ascend from superstar fave Portofino (where Taylor and Burton holidayed), but horizons of parasol pines and flickering butterflies lure you on.
- You end sharply down in a tiny cove — little San Fruttuoso. Stay for lunch: the pesto pasta at the pensione here is silkily delicious.
- Visit Seoraksan National Park (above) in South Korea in autumn, and the valley is flooded with orange and red. And with 30 peaks to choose from, you'll get a great view of it whichever path you choose. We say start at the huge Buddha statue, and follow a trail past waterfalls, rivers and temples echoing with chanting, and end with the breathtaking views from the top of Ulsanbawi rock.
- Start in Loutro, Crete, at dawn for the two-hour zigzag walk up the cliff face to tiny hilltop Anopolis. Breakfast under the vines in the pretty square — you've earned it.