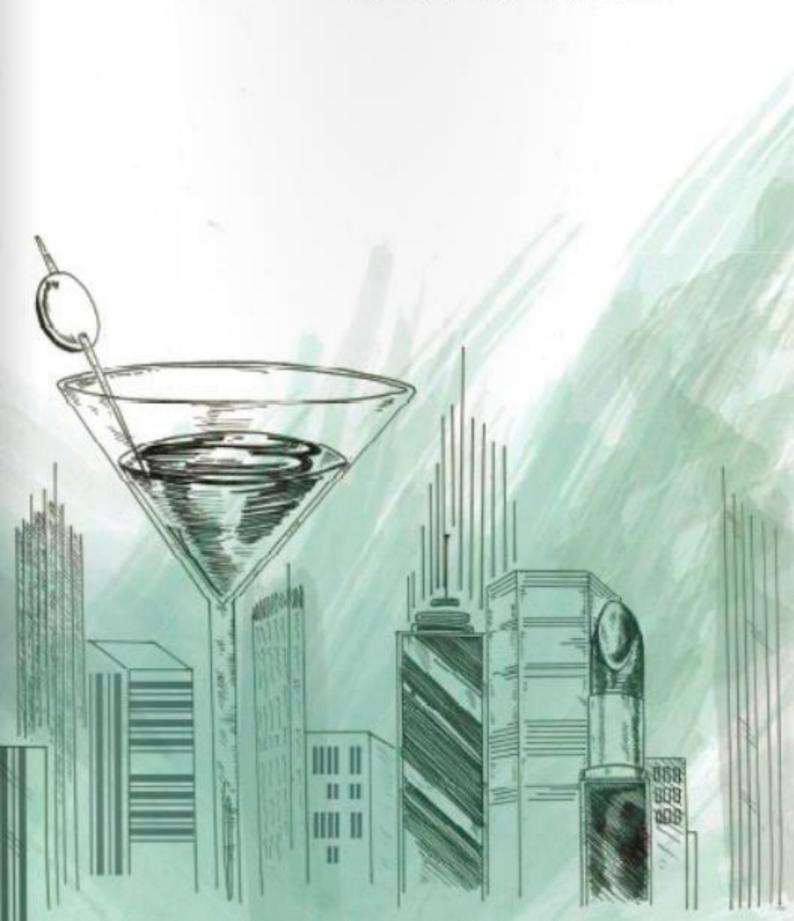
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Seeing as you'll be perched 2,000 metres above sea level anyway at Alila Jabal Akhdar, located on the edge of the Oman's Al Hajar mountain, you might as well explore the rest of the views, life and rugged landscapes from the other plateaus. Jump into one of the hotels 4x4s and they'll lead you through endless ancient paths and canyons to visit local villages and farmland, passing walnut groves, pomegranate fields and some of the oldest juniper trees on the Arabian peninsula, as well as precarious stone houses constructed against the steep mountain slopes if you dare to look.

(The World Above the Mountains experience costs from £34 per person per half day or from £50 per person for full-day tours. Rooms from £180 per person based on two sharing on a bed and breakfast basis. alilahotels.com)



Seeing as we've already dipped into single temperatures, what difference will dropping a few more degrees make? After all, if you're going to be cold, then better to make it worth the while. Land Rover Adventure Travel by Abercrombie & Kent have got the right idea with their adrenaline-pumping Iceland itinerary. Safely aboard Land Rover's Discovery Sport vehicle, you'll get to power through Thingvellir National Park and the Golden Circle where you'll come close to its magnificent geysers, glaciers and waterfalls, then just to keep you on your toes, a change in temperature at the Deildartunguhver Thermal Spring and a dip in the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa, a short drive from Reykjavik.

(From £3,995 per person for three nights based on two people travelling together. Flights not included. Departure dates are available for Jan and Feb 2015. abercrombiekent.co.uk)



ISLAND ESCAPE

Oh to be marooned on a warm, white-sand beach in the Maldives. What a dream. When you just want to kick back and truly relax, a stint on Maafushivaru's soft sands will do the world of good. The spa, located on a jetty of its own above the water with views of the lagoon, should help too. But if 500 metres of tropical island isn't enough, hop on over to Lonubo, a private islet just minutes away where you can be left to your own devices - with a few glasses of Champagne, naturally.

(Kuoni offers seven nights, all-inclusive with flights from £2,355 per person based on two sharing. maafushivaru.com)



CRUISING THROUGH THE MEKONG

Offering a different perspective on discovering Vietnam and Cambodia, Agua Expeditions' latest Agua Mekong luxury vessel will take you leisurely along the river from Siem Reap in north-western Cambodia through to Phnom Penh and then Saigon in Vietnam. Daily river and shore excursions are provided so you get to touch upon land too when you're not on board exploring the spa, pool, fitness centre or lounge bar.

(Three, four and seven-night itineraries are available through aquaexpeditions.com)