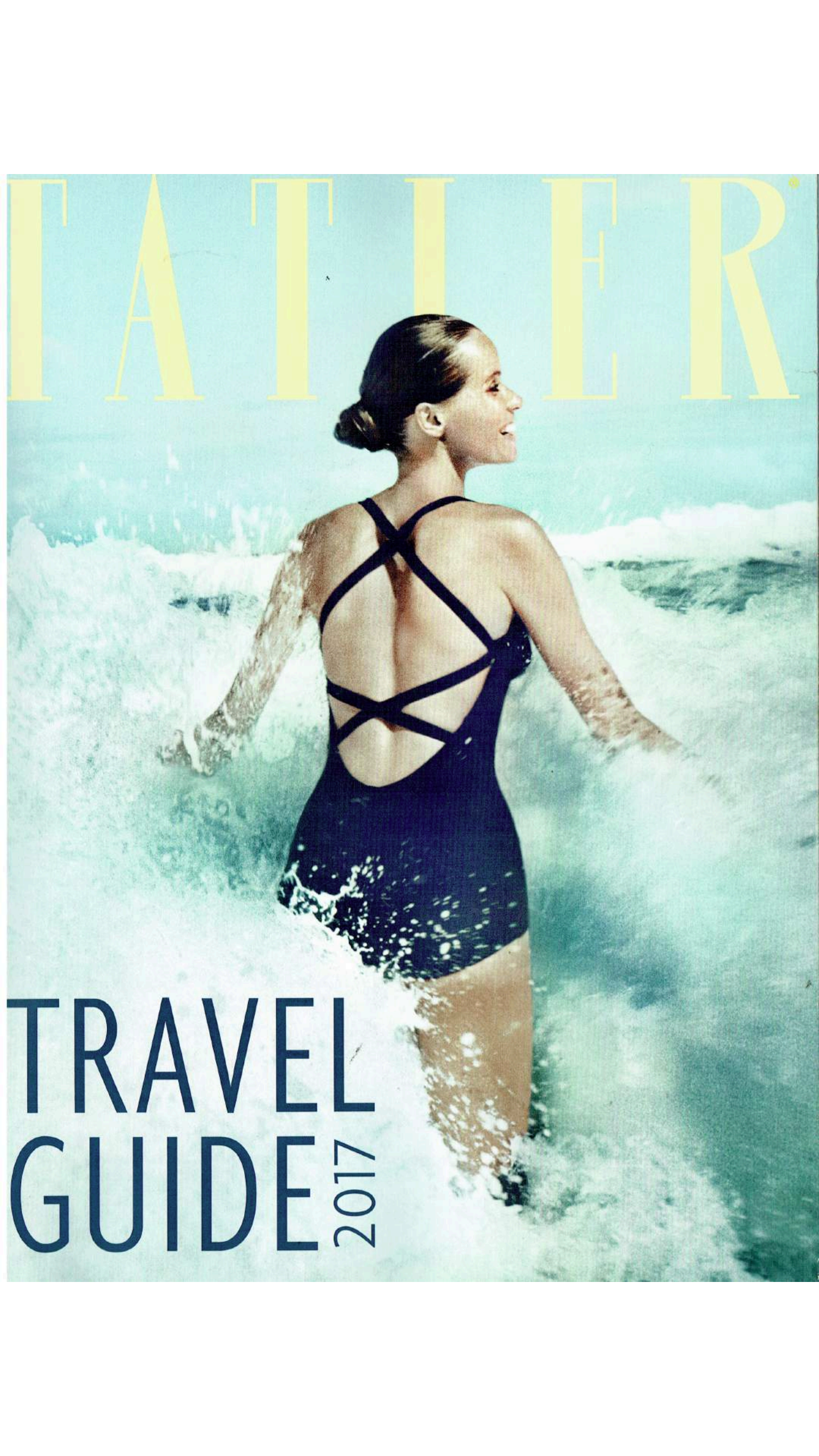


FAT T I E R

TRAVEL
GUIDE 2017



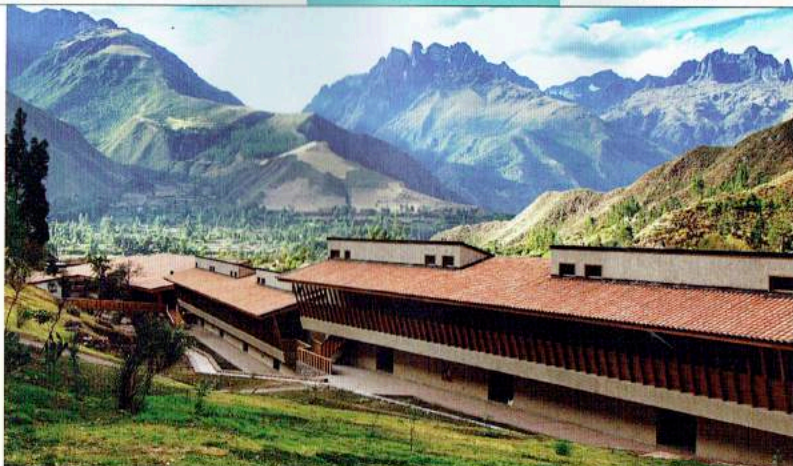
1 DAY

2 DAYS

3 DAYS

4 DAYS

5 DAYS



EXPLORA VALLE SAGRADO

CUSCO, PERU

The problem with Machu Picchu is having to share it with a few thousand other people. Time to find the Inca road less travelled. Enter Explora, the Chilean outfit that's bagged the choicest spots in Patagonia, Atacama and Easter Island, and has now opened up a far-flung corner of Peru's Sacred Valley. Set among fields of red quinoa and golden corn and flanked by evergreen slopes, the long, low building takes its cue from the surroundings – stone, adobe and wood, with blasts of colour from handwoven blankets. It's less hotel, more luxe base camp – 20 'explorations', most on two feet or two wheels, will take you to Inca ruins and up snow-tipped peaks for views of turquoise lagoons and sparkling glaciers, startling doe-eyed llamas on the way. Knock back that local altitude-sickness-busting coca tea before you set out, though. You're going where the air is rarefied. **BOOK IT** Aracari (aracari.com; 00 51 1 651 2424) offers four nights, full board, as part of an eight-night trip, from £4,280, including domestic flights, transfers and tours.



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Swing by the 17th-century Pomacabua Bath House for a well-earned massage and to take in the views from the pool.



SVATMA

THANJAVUR, INDIA

Get an atlas (we're old school here). Look up Thanjavur (tip: it's in southern India). Commit it to memory. Because Indophiles will be flocking to the subcontinent's newest hub of revived arts. And in tune with the city's renaissance is Svatma, an immaculate hotel in a restored colonial mansion. Just dipping into its menu of brilliantly curated cultural activities will make your head spin. Fancy a spot of Vedic chanting with Hindu priests, or an afternoon making musical instruments out of jackfruit wood? Or how about learning how to cook a proper Tamil thali? You'll be wanting a nap after all that – make sure you're up in time for the hotel's evening classical-music recital, followed by an 11-course supper in the rooftop restaurant. Highbrow bragging rights: off the chart. **BOOK IT** The Ultimate Travel Company (theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk; 020 3051 8098) offers three nights, as part of a 14-night trip, from £3,295, including flights, transfers and private driver.

WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Watch the mighty tower of the 1,000-year-old Brihadeeswara Temple turn the colour of golden syrup in the setting sun.

