



Words Mark Chipperfield

final call



Final Call Peregrine Adventures is offering a rare opportunity to see a total solar eclipse in Canada's high Arctic. The company's 12-night Baffin Island and Explorer cruise will take passengers to witness the solar eclipse on August 1. During the voyage, passengers will see gigantic icebergs, polar bears and the rare horned narwhal whale. The tariff is \$7775 a person (twin share). The tariff includes meals, zodiac excursions and an education program. The voyage departs on July 22. Phone: 001 800 854 500; www.peregrineadventures.com.

Class Visitors to the southern Indian state of Kerala could make a beeline to the Raheem Residency, a heritage hotel in Alleppey, south of Cochin. This beautifully restored 19th-century house is now an elegant 10-room hotel. Opposite the beach, the residency offers massages, ayurvedic treatments and has a rooftop restaurant that serves local cuisine. Doubles from \$234. Alleppey is a one-hour-and-45-minute drive from Cochin. Raheem Residency, Beach Road, Alleppey, Kerala, India. Phone: 0011 91 4772 230 767; www.raheemresidency.com.

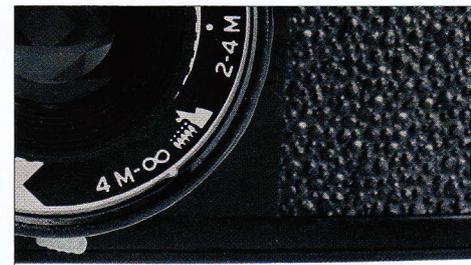


The latest travel news and products...



Orchard Road Singapore's luxury hotel scene just got a shot in the arm with the opening of the 299-room St Regis Singapore. It is centrally located – just around the corner from Orchard Road – and provides the highest-level of opulence, including Bentley limousines, an art collection, even an air-conditioned tennis court. All rooms and suites enjoy 24-hour butler service. Facilities include three restaurants, a wine bar and the Astor Bar, plus the Remede Spa. Doubles from \$477 a night. St Regis Singapore, 29 Tanglin Road, Singapore 247911. Phone: 0011 65 6506 6888; www.stregis.com.

Byron on Bali A climate-neutral luxury villa that runs on green power? Of course, it has to be in Byron Bay. Inspired by Bali's famous hill resorts, the environmentally sustainable Emerald Valley Villa combines contemporary architectural design with recycled hardwood, marble and hand-cut stone. The villa, a 25-minute drive from Byron, sleeps eight guests. Services include onsite concierge, spa therapies and catering. Nightly tariffs begin at \$1000. Emerald Valley Villa, 84 Jarretts Road, Goonengerry, NSW 2482. Phone: 6684 9398; www.emeraldvalleyvilla.com.



Happy Snaps When the Great Wall Plastics factory in Hong Kong first released the Diana camera it cost just \$1. The camera, which uses 120 film, became a cult among fans of low-tech photography who made it famous for its soft, dreamy images. After a 30-year absence, Diana is back – thanks to Lomography. The new Diana is back – thanks to Lomography. The new Diana has been reproduced in loving detail – right down to the original, two-shutter-speed lens. The camera is available for \$169.95 and has a two-year international warranty. From Lomography, 16 Elizabeth Street, Paddington. Phone: 9380 0000; www.lomography.com.au.

More Wallpaper The *Wallpaper* City Guides* have proved a massive hit since they were first released in 2006. Unlike most travel tomes, these little paperback guides boil down each city to its essential ingredients – a collection of greatest hits – allowing you to pick the best room in the coolest hotel, the hippest bar, most interesting piece of architecture or most worthwhile excursion. The latest batch of cities to join the *Wallpaper* City Guides* includes Budapest, Cairo, Chicago, Hanoi, Mumbai, Valencia and Warsaw. They cost \$12.95 each. Available at some bookshops or online at www.phaidon.com.

