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Into the wild

Guests checking in to this Cambodian jungle camp can arrive by zipline, zooming in like James Bond.

By CHRISTINE MCCABE



If jumping a cab to your hotel is a bit of a yawn, then guests checking in to designer Bill Bensley's new Cambodian jungle camp can arrive by zipline, skimming river and waterfalls, just like James Bond.

You'll touch down in the Landing Zone Bar where butlers will be on hand, no doubt bearing martinis, shaken not stirred. Less intrepid souls can ride a Jeep to the Shinta Mani Wild -Bensley Collection camp, opening November 1 deep within a private reserve and wildlife corridor linking two national parks, three hours' drive south of Phnom Penh.



The 15 luxury tented suites are along a 1.5km stretch of river.

Strung along a 1.5km stretch of river, the 15 luxury tented suites are cantilevered over the water to provide up-close views. Hotel and resort interior and landscape designer Bensley was inspired by Jackie Kennedy's visit to Cambodia in the 60s, so there are ornately carved beds, campaign furniture and alfresco slipper tubs on the decks. Chef Kien Wagner will forage in the forest for fresh ingredients (guests are welcome to join him); large mud crabs are a local delicacy. There'll be a permaculture farm to support the camp's restaurant.



Designer Bill Bensley was inspired by Jackie Kennedy's visit to Cambodia.

A team of naturalists has been at the camp for a year developing walks; you'll also be able to join rangers on patrol (the region is home to elephants, bears and tigers) or jump in a special expedition boat. From \$US1900 (\$2599) a night, inclusive of full board, drinks, transfers, activities and spa treatments.