



FROM LEFT The bright and breezy Felix Hotel; go on a Moroccan adventure with Intrepid Travel; World Expeditions offers female-friendly tours.

Laid-back Layover

Good news for long-haul flyers tired of drawn-out stopovers and travellers with early-bird flights: a pair of recently opened airport hotels are injecting quirk, personality and pleasure into their flight-path locations — and they're close to home, too.

As well as a cocktail bar and a rooftop cinema, Sydney's Felix Hotel has a 24-hour self-service shop with pastries, salads and sandwiches,

providing the perfect place to snack before bedding down for the night ahead of a next-day flight. Across the Tasman, Naumi Auckland Airport offers an outdoor pool and yoga on the deck, as well as meeting spaces and bar areas.

Perhaps most importantly, both hotels have excellent soundproofing, comfortable beds and blackout curtains, so you'll be guaranteed a good night's rest before heading up and away in the morning. www.felixhotel.com.au; www.naumihotels.com.

This Time it's Personal

Travel is becoming less about star ratings and more about authentic, tailored experiences.

The way we travel is changing: gone are the days of 'doing' a place, sleeping in a bland but pleasant bubble and venturing out for snippets of sights and culture. Now we want immersion, authenticity and experiences that align with our interests. Tour operators are catching on, offering tours for everyone from teenagers to adventurous women channelling their inner goddesses. Even airport hotels are injecting jet-lag friendly fun into a stopover. Here we look at three ways a trip overseas can now mean a lot more than just sun, sand and lost luggage.



Happy Families

Parents planning a family holiday wish for three things: friends for their kids, adult time and a break from life's endless organisation. Intrepid Travel has listened, launching a range of tours for the whole tribe, from African safaris to Croatian island hopping.

The tour group has also recognised that the shape of the modern family is changing and have adapted their offerings to suit. Now you can book solo parent tours through India, Thailand, Egypt and more, tailored for parents going it alone with their kids, as well as specially designed tours for those travelling with teenagers. www.intrepidtravel.com.

Women's World

For female travellers, World Expeditions is offering a range of women-only tours. Launched in 2016 when female participation on their active adventure tours hit 54 per cent — an increase of almost 20 per cent in two decades — the trips include mountaineering in the Canadian Rockies and multi-day walks in Australia, among others. The Larapinta Goddess Walk is the ideal digital detox, combining three days of exploring the desert with yoga to foster fitter and more mindful deities. www.worldexpeditions.com.



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