

VOGUE

OUR BIGGEST SPRING ISSUE EVER

MAR

Over
the Top!

630

+ Pages
of

FABULOUS
FASHIONS

THE
POWER
ISSUE

Starring:

JENNIFER
HUDSON

America's
Dream Girl

PLUS

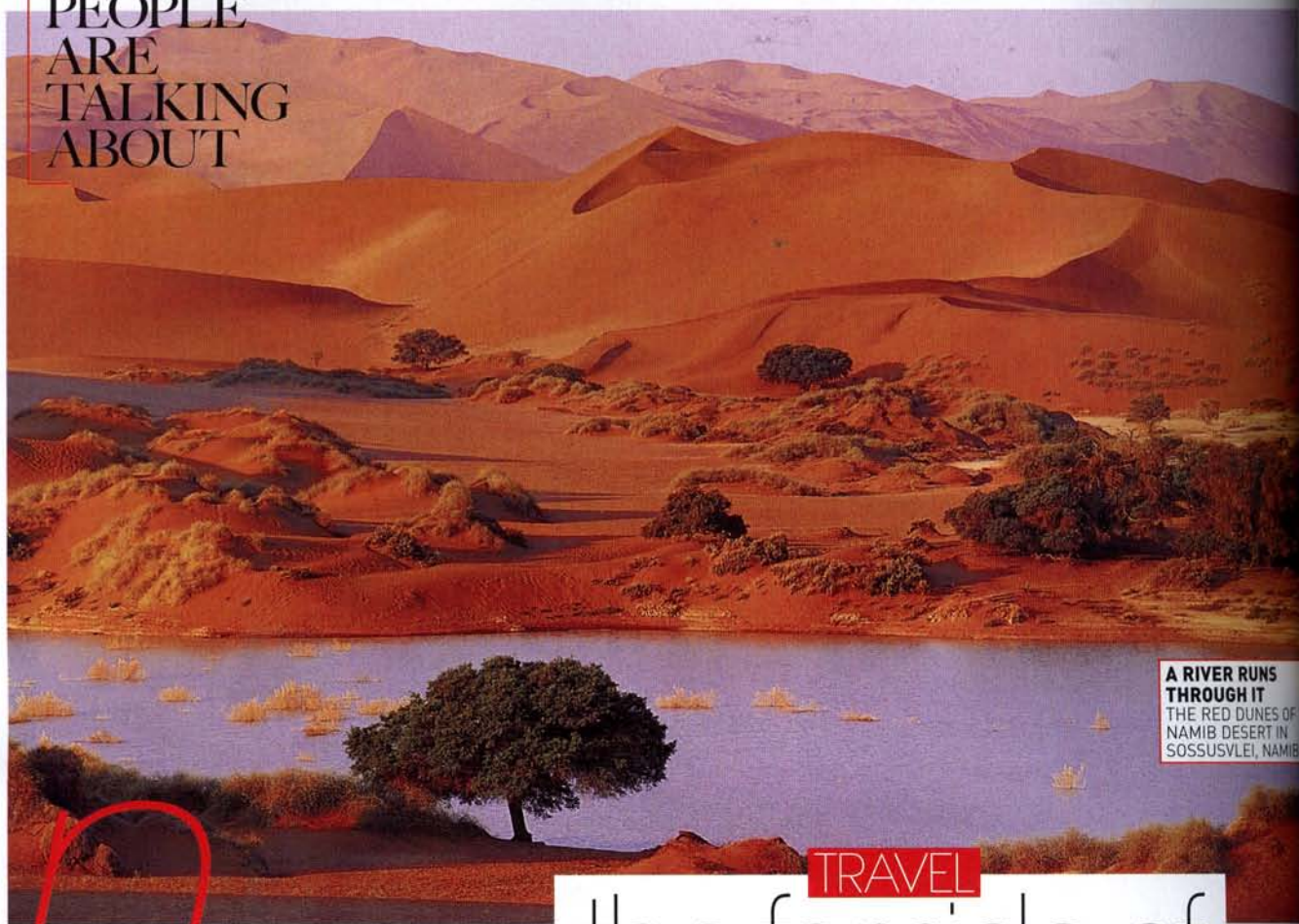
MICHELLE WILLIAMS
BILL NIGHY
IVANKA TRUMP
CRISTIANO RONALDO
NANCY PELOSI
VANESSA REDGRAVE
NATALIA VODIANOVA
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Treasure Hunt

100 Unbelievable Finds
for Under \$100



PEOPLE
ARE
TALKING
ABOUT



A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT
THE RED DUNES OF NAMIB DESERT IN SOSSUSVLEI, NAMIBIA

Namibia

why to go: The untamed "Skeleton Coast" and the spectacular Namib Desert.

when to go: May through October.

how to go: **Uncharted Outposts'** flying safaris have all the right stops (unchartedoutposts.com).

where to stay: Adjacent to one of Africa's largest game parks, **Onguma Tented Camp** has seven luxurious tents with stone walls and zinc tubs (ongumanamibia.com). **Wilderness Safaris** runs three stunningly situated lodges, including Serra Cafema Camp on the Kunene River (wilderness-safaris.com).

what to see: The Sossusvlei dunes from a hot-air balloon; the desert elephant.

what to bring back: Himba baskets and ostrich-eggshell-beaded jewelry.

best prep: Read Peter Orner's *The Second Coming of Mavala Shikongo*; watch *Sands of the Kalahari*.

trailblazers: Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie; Camilla Belle.

TRAVEL

the far side of the world

Richard Alleman tells you everything you need to know to explore five of the most gloriously remote places on Earth.

laos

why to go: For the lush landscapes and magnificent temples.

when to go: November through March.

how to go: Plot a private adventure with New York-based **Absolute Travel**, whose eleven-day Slowly Down the Mekong River tour covers—by land, air, and riverboat—the best of the country (absolutetravel.com).

where to stay: In the World Heritage site of Luang Prabang, **Maison Souvannaphoum** has 21 stylish rooms, the world-class Angsana Spa, and one of the town's top tables (coloursofangsana.com).

what to see: The temples of Luang Prabang from nearby Mount Phousi; the Irrawaddy River dolphins.

what to bring back: Expat Carol Cassidy's indigenously made silk textiles (laotextiles.com).

best prep: Read Christopher Kremmer's *Stalking the Elephant Kings: In Search of Laos*; watch Marguerite Duras's *India Song*.

trailblazers: Howard Dean; Mick Jagger.

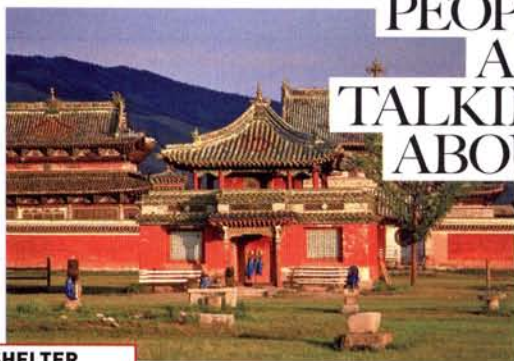
mongolia

why to go: Pristine lakes and rivers, ancient Buddhist monasteries, and the magical Gobi Desert. *travel* >425

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT



GIMME SHELTER
CHILE'S REMOTA (LEFT)
AND A MONASTERY
IN MONGOLIA'S
OVORHANGAY PROVINCE.



when to go: May to September.

how to go: **Nomadic Expeditions'** itineraries include everything from camel festivals to horseback expeditions (nomadicexpeditions.com).

where to stay: The **Three Camel Lodge** brings luxury to the desert, with fifteen brand-new superdeluxe gers (traditional round felt tents), boasting solar electricity, modern bathrooms, and beautiful hand-painted local furniture (threecamels.com).

what to see: The Gobi's starry night sky; herds of wild takhi horses.

what to bring back: Cashmere blankets, leather boots, and Kazakh embroidered tapestries.

best prep: Read Louisa Waugh's *Hearing Birds Fly: A Nomadic Year in Mongolia*; watch *The Story of the Weeping Camel*.

trailblazers: Marco Polo; Prince Andrew the Duke of York.

patagonia

why to go: For the ice-blue glaciers and staggering mountains and fjords.

when to go: October to March.

how to go: **Mountain Travel Sobek** offers an eight-day hike around Chile's towering Paine massif (mtsobek.com); **Butterfield & Robinson's** ten-day jaunt provides stops at top lodges (butterfield.com); and **Blue Parallel** uses private planes, guides, and estancias (blueparallel.com).

where to stay: **Remota** is a striking new eco-lodge near Torres del Paine National Park (remota.cl).

what to see: Torres del Paine's granite peaks; elephant seals.

what to bring back: Guanaco

sweaters (guenguel.com.ar); Mapuche Indian silver jewelry.

best prep: Read Bruce Chatwin's *In Patagonia*; watch *The Motorcycle Diaries*.

trailblazers: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; Martin Amis.

antarctica

why to go: It's as close as one can get to another planet without leaving this one.

when to go: October to March.

how to go: **Abercrombie & Kent's** 198-passenger *Explorer II* has staterooms with balconies and an impressive roster of onboard experts (abercrombiekent.com). For closer encounters, try **Quark Expeditions'** Icebreaker Adventures (quarkexpeditions.com) or **Mountain Travel Sobek's** *Spirit of Sydney*, a 60-foot sailing yacht used to visit remote islands.

what to see: The glacier-strewn Lemaire Channel, a.k.a. "Kodak Gap"; the emperor penguin.

what to bring back: A renewed commitment to help save the Earth.

best prep: Read Alfred Lansing's *Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage*; watch *March of the Penguins*.

trailblazers: Captain James Cook; Al Gore. □

pata >426

MUSIC

AIR TIME
NICOLAS GODIN
(LEFT) AND
JEAN-BENOÎT
DUNCKEL RELEASE
THEIR FOURTH
MAJOR ALBUM.

PAS DE DEUX

Seated at a discreet corner table overlooking the Hudson at Craftsteak restaurant and layered in Agnès B., Prada, Dior Homme, and A.P.C., Nicolas Godin and Jean-Benoît Dunckel, who collectively make up the two-man band Air, look just like they sound: stylishly understated. In their highly anticipated new album, **Pocket Symphony**, the Frenchmen return to the dreamy minimalist soundscapes that have made them international mood-makers—and gotten them featured on the soundtracks of Sofia Coppola's films. Their latest work features vocals from Pulp's Jarvis Cocker and experiments with the Japanese samisen. It also reunites them with atmospheric producer extraordinaire Nigel Godrich (Radiohead's *OK Computer*). Finishing each other's sentences, Godin and Dunckel say they find inspiration in their beloved Paris, fatherhood (Godin has two children, Dunckel three), and in Godin's case, a 1926 Steinway: "I told my accountant I don't need anything else in life." —LIZA GHORBANI