

TRAVELER'S NOTEBOOK

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FAST FACT
The Quay's Asian-fusion café doubles as one of Phnom Penh's chicest bars.

A Panoramic suite at the Quay Hotel, in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

CAMBODIA GREEN

SOUTHEAST ASIA Eco-friendliness doesn't have to take a backseat to good design—that's the implicit message of the newly opened **Quay Hotel**, an all-white four-story tower that shimmers along the riverside in Phnom Penh. In its sixteen suites, natural materials such as limestone (for the floors) and granite (lining the tubs) mingle with plasma TVs, white Arne Jacobsen Swan chairs and fluffy Minotto beds. Nods to French Indochina are plentiful, from the teak workstations in every guest room to the jungles of greenery on the expansive balconies. Though all this beauty may seem superficial, the hotel aims for something deeper: a connection with its environment. The Quay achieves carbon neutrality by distributing coal-free stoves to local communities (80 percent of Cambodia's carbon emissions come from charcoal stoves), but its green actions don't end there. In addition to providing natural amenities and chemical-free linens, the hotel gives guests a template to calculate their personal carbon usage—and local ways to offset those footprints. *Double rooms from \$80. 277 Sisowath Quay; 011-855-23-992-284; thequayhotel.com.*

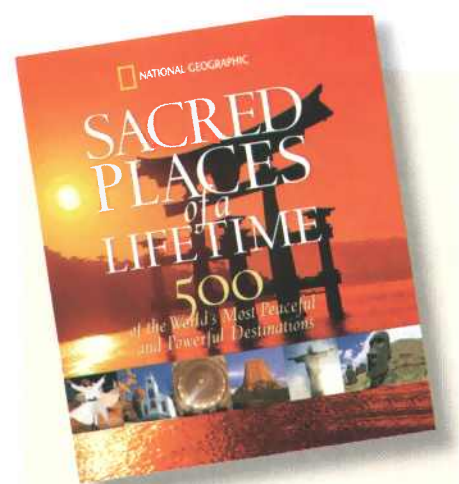
RON GLUCKMAN

THE EXPEDITION SHIP, UPGRADED Travelers who want to scale ancient walls and glide by glaciers at the earth's far reaches needn't relinquish luxury basics like marble bathrooms and walk-in wardrobes now that Silversea has launched its exploration vessel, the 132-cabin **Prince Albert II**. The ship's strengthened hull and small size allow it to navigate remote waters, thus opening up culturally rich destinations and pristine wilderness areas—and altering the formerly rugged expedition-cruise experience forever. A superb staff of naturalists begin days with lectures on the approaching region, then guide passengers on hikes through, say, the coastal forests of the South Pacific. Afterward, everyone simply washes off the mud, dresses for dinner and, later, dances on deck à la belle étoile. *Ten-night voyages to French Polynesia from \$3,537 per person, double occupancy. 800-722-9955; silversea.com.*

CLEO GLYDE



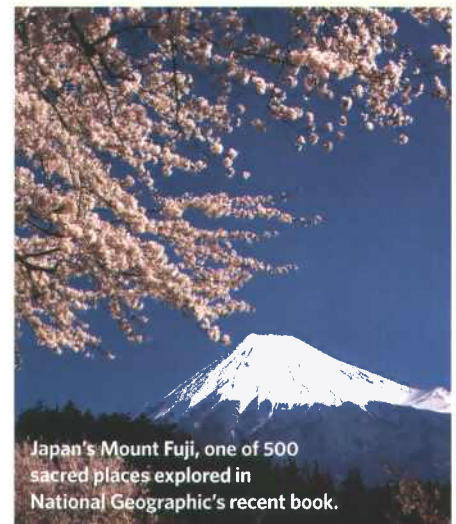
Silversea's *Prince Albert II* cruising through the Svalbard archipelago.



WHERE SPIRITS STILL TREAD

National Geographic's exhaustively researched tome *Sacred Places of a Lifetime: 500 of the World's Most Peaceful and Powerful Destinations* (\$40) goes far beyond church and mosque, profiling everything from the British well that was once worshipped as a nymph's lament to outback monoliths still venerated as the burial ground of a race of warrior snakes. For those eager to plan their own pilgrimages, the book also provides detailed information on when and how to visit each site.

ELIZA PICKERING



Japan's Mount Fuji, one of 500 sacred places explored in National Geographic's recent book.