

Best resort

Mashpi Lodge, Ecuador

We've always liked adventures, especially when the destination is a place beyond all expectations. Our favourite resort this year, Mashpi Lodge, fits the bill perfectly. It is located deep in the Ecuadorian rainforest, a two-and-a-half-hour drive from Quito, past countless volcanoes and coffee plantations. Owner Roque Sevilla, a nature-loving entrepreneur and former mayor of Quito, commissioned local architect Alfredo Ribadeneira to build the spectacular glass, wood and recycled steel building, and asked Diego Arteta to design the elegant 22 bedrooms and three suites, the latter each with their own Jacuzzi. Surrounded by a nature reserve, Mashpi Lodge boasts a double-height, glass-framed dining room – a great spot to enjoy the panoramic views and the signature dish, fish baked in banana leaf. *Mashpi Lodge opens on 15 April. Tel: 593. 2 298 8200, www.mashpilodge.com. Rates: \$1,296 for an all-inclusive two-night stay*

TREE LOVE

Mashpi Lodge sits amid the cloud forest, home to many species of plants and birds, and has its own observation towers and trails, a cable car and aerial bicycles that glide along a zip-wire through the canopy