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Natural highs

How did tree-house hotels become Bali's most coveted bookings?

The most sought-after stays in Indonesia right now aren't made of bricks and mortar, but rather bits of wood and bamboo. Forget your common or garden tree houses, though: Rumah Pohon's stilt cabins became Insta-famous for their perfect coastal panorama, while Bali-based architects IBUKU weave asper bamboo into curving, multi-floor properties, like Aura House in Ubud (pictured). Bookable on Boutique Homes, travellers are paying from \$245 a night to sleep in the rainforest without A/C. Why? Likening their rooms to "a nest or cocoon", IBUKU's founder

Elora Hardy told *Vogue*, "People need nature, or rather to feel and remember that they are part of it." Pinterest findings back her up, with searches for "nature travel" rising 88 per cent last year. Building tree houses also has a sustainable edge on standard hotels, she says: "[It] requires no clearing of the ground around the grove, and hotel owners (and visitors) have a stake in the health of the tree that supports the lodging." But no need to pack your hair shirt; Aura House adds a treetop plunge pool and Wi-Fi. Turns out it's easy being green. boutique-homes.com, ibuku.com