

Snow patrol

Seeking winter sport? Look no further...

By Francesca SYZ



POLE POSITION

I have long had the 'should we, shouldn't we' dilemma about travelling to Antarctica. Of course I want to go but can it be done sustainably enough to justify? The luxury adventure travel company White Desert has offered the closest thing to a low-impact way of visiting the continent's wild interior, implementing carbon off-setting since 2007 – years before anyone else had heard of it.

Now, on the 60th anniversary of the international Antarctic Treaty – which states that Antarctica should be the preserve of science, devoid of military and nuclear activity, and recognises the benefits of sustainable tourism – White Desert is launching its second trailblazing camp. Better still, it is flying its planes there using sustainable aviation fuel for the first time, cutting the carbon emissions of each flight by 80 per cent.

Following hot on the heels of its first highly luxurious Whichaway Camp (where accommodation is in futuristic fibreglass pods and guests have included Prince Harry, Bear Grylls and Buzz Aldrin), the new mountaintop Wolf's Fang camp, which sleeps 12, offers an even more adventurous experience, with its six canvas sleeping tents more akin to an African safari lodge, furnished with leather armchairs and faux-fur wraps and rugs. With 24 hours of almost continuous daylight, there is plenty of time for guests to try their hand at ice-climbing, abseiling, fat biking and gentle peak hikes, before returning to the camp's 'ice bar' igloo for pre-dinner cocktails.

The first departure to the camp is 28 November, with nine further departures before early February 2022. A six-day Virgin Summit trip starts from £33,000 per person, white-desert.com

ABOVE The stunning landscape of Antarctica's North East ridge