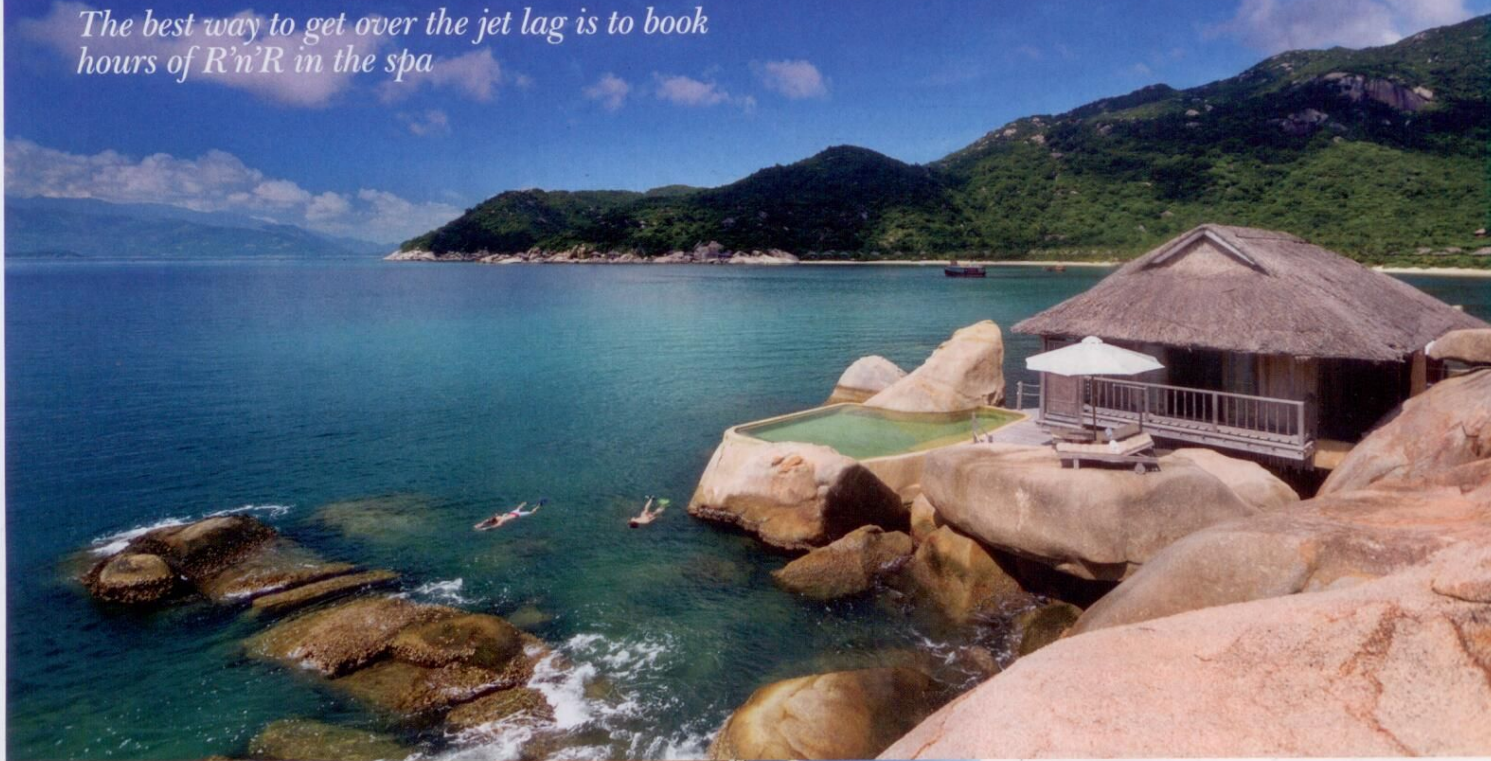


# In it for the long haul

*The best way to get over the jet lag is to book hours of R'n'R in the spa*



## 1 SIX SENSES RESORTS VIETNAM

Skimming across the sea towards Ninh Van Bay by speedboat transfer, the sunlight glints off the emerald water. It's an idyllic way to arrive at this remote beachfront resort nestling among ancient granite rocks. The 58 thatched villas with private pools are cocooned on the edge of the dry forest, where the aesthetic is 'traditional handmade' – from the resort's rustic furniture to the wooden taps of your outdoor shower. Bikes come with each villa so you can ride along the sandy tracks, discovering intimate spaces – the spa, the kitchen garden, the yoga pavilion, the dive centre, the beachside bar.

Six Senses has two resorts in Vietnam – Ninh Van Bay to the southeast, and Con Dao in the extreme south, the only inhabited island in a national park archipelago, a 45-minute flight from Saigon across the spectacular Mekong Delta.

Vietnam is an emerging destination, full of life and colour, but both these boutique resorts channel a tranquil vibe that is luxurious and pampering. Plenty of staff are on hand and your butler is your buggy



chauffeur and will happily run errands.

A polite greeting, 'Xin chào' is offered wherever you go; and among the softly spoken staff are some of the best-trained spa therapists in the world. It is no exaggeration to say that whatever you choose from the spa menu it will be executed with consistency and minute attention to detail. As you lie face down, your therapist places a silver bowl on the

floor filled with water, pebbles and brightly coloured lotus flowers. Scents of lemongrass, grown and distilled into oil in the organic garden, float on the air. The emerald green of the sea is echoed in the simple colour schemes of the two spas, with their bamboo window shades and silent ceiling fans. The modern world seems a long way away, indeed.

**BOOK IT** Cleveland Collection offers four nights at both resorts from £2,159pp, including flights and transfers. [clevelandcollection.co.uk](http://clevelandcollection.co.uk)