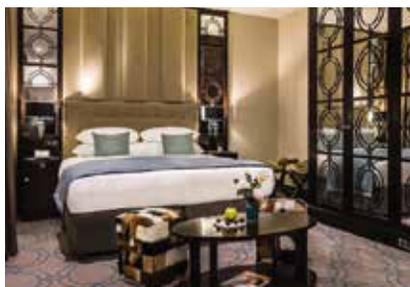


# GQ TRAVEL

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Spruced-up classics and a future favourite in the capital; South America's luxury sleeper train; plus, the ultimate Aman expeditions



Guilty pleasure: A deluxe double at the Courthouse Hotel Shoreditch

UNTIL 1996, a night in London's Old Street Courthouse was generally the prerogative of the accused, but since shuttering for the obligatory stretch as a location for gritty urban dramas (*Spooks*, *Luther*, you get the picture) it's now reopened as the **Courthouse Hotel Shoreditch**. Whether it's the first or last of those words

that gets you drooling depends on whether you fancy pacing the same corridors as Ron and Reggie Kray, or hanging out in the fast-moving social scene of **LONDON's** East End. Rest assured that, whichever it is, the 86 guest rooms and 42 suites (including two rooftop one-bedroom "residences") are a world away from the quirky setting of the bar, with its five refurbished cells. *Rooms from £189. shoreditch.courthouse-hotel.com*

The cornerstone of Knightsbridge's five-star hotel portfolio since 1972, the **Berkeley** recently unveiled its new façade, the first phase of an exterior/interior renovation that includes a new Robert Angell-designed restaurant-bar, the Collins Room, named after the designer of its iconic Blue Bar, which has also undergone an extensive refurbishment. New suites are available this autumn, together with a fleet of south-facing rooms benefiting from their own private terraces, also designed by Richard Rogers' practice. *Rooms from £325 plus VAT. the-berkeley.co.uk*

The footprint of Piccadilly's **The Athenaeum** might not have changed, but refurbishment has transformed the dowdy lobby into an atrium, and added a terrace from which to observe the goings-on in Green Park. Passers-by can benefit from Michelin-starred chefs Chris and Jeff Galvin's involvement in the rebranded restaurant and bar. *Park view rooms from £260. athenaeumhotel.com*

Next year sees the launch of **SOUTH AMERICA's** first luxury sleeper train services, with the **Belmond Andean Explorer** offering previously unimaginable comfort on one- and two-night journeys through the Peruvian Highlands from Cusco to Lake Titicaca and Arequipa. Prices start at £315 for the one-night Spirit Of The Andes expedition, including, meals, drinks and scheduled excursions. *belmond.com*

For the ultimate Aman fix, sign up for two all-inclusive journeys: an 18-day expedition across **China, Bhutan, India and Sri Lanka** by private jet that runs from 9-26 October, and costs £43,185, or a ten-day voyage aboard the two-masted sailing ship **Amandira** exploring the spice islands, casting off on 21 October and costing £6,190 per two-person cabin. **BP**  *aman.com*



Rooms with a hue: The Berkeley's Collins Room and Blue Bar (right)



Range finder: The Belmond Andean Explorer's dining car (above) and (right) amazing views of the South American hinterland

Spice world (below): Aman's two-masted sailing ship, Amandira

