

Guests at Shinta Mani Wild in the Cardamom Mountains of Cambodia can bathe on the deck of their luxury tent or settle into hammock nets over a fast-moving river.

CAMBODIA

A new tented camp is on a mission to mix luxury and conservation.

by Nora Walsh

WHEN TO GO December to April are the warmest and driest months for exploring Cambodia, including the rain forest corridor, which connects the Bokor and Kirirom National Parks in the southwest region of the country.

WHY NOW South of Cambodia's fabled temples of Angkor, a remote river valley in the Cardamom Mountains is now on the radar of intrepid travelers. That's because of Shinta Mani Wild, a recently opened luxury camp that embraces both conservation and design. By partnering with Wildlife Alliance

and the Cambodian government, the project aims to protect 400 riverside acres from mining, logging, and the poaching of endangered animals. The four-acre all-inclusive Shinta Mani Wild, created by Bangkok-based designer Bill Bensley, features 15 sprawling tents that sit along a riverbank. A zipline traverses rushing rivers and waterfalls before depositing guests directly in the camp's Landing Zone Bar, where a muddled lemongrass cocktail awaits. Guests who want a glimpse of conservation efforts can visit the on-site naturalist research center, take walks with expert botanists to spot rare orchids, or join rangers on motor-bikes as they clear the forest of snares set for wildlife.

HOW TO GET THERE From New York City to Cambodia's Phnom Penh International Airport, the best itineraries are on EVA Air, Cathay Pacific, and China Southern Airlines. Three-hour land transfers to Shinta Mani Wild from the airport are included in each booking.