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British Library reels from cyber hit

◆ £7mn to rebuild after attack ◆ 40% chunk of reserves ◆ Online catalogue remains closed

RAFE UDDIN AND DANIEL THOMAS

The British Library will drain about 40 per cent of its reserves to recover from a cyber attack that has crippled one of the UK's critical research bodies and rendered most of its services inaccessible.

The London-based institution, which stores about 170mn pieces of work ranging from books to sound recordings, was forced offline in October after a ransomware attack.

Hackers published hundreds of thousands of stolen files online, including customer and personnel data, after the library refused to pay a £600,000 ransom. But it will now be forced to spend

10 times that amount rebuilding most digital services at an estimated cost of £6mn-£7mn, according to a person familiar with the matter, consuming a sizeable proportion of its £16.4mn in allocated reserves.

The British Library's online catalogue remains unavailable. Physical sites are open, but users must wait while librarians run through logs and find items on shelves.

The library said it was in "close and regular contact" with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, its government sponsor, but no formal bid had been made for government funds and it "maintains its own financial

reserve to help address unexpected issues".

A government official confirmed that the library would be expected to draw down from its reserves to recover from the attack. The library and the DCMS declined to comment on the estimated cost, which could change.

Academics and authors, particularly those based outside of London, have been hamstrung by a lack of services.

Matthew Eddy, a history professor at Durham University, said some of his work has been placed in "limbo" and he had been unable to complete a grant application. "Before the attack, I used it on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis."



The library was hit in October by the Rhysida hacking group, which published online hundreds of thousands of stolen files

Other users criticised the library for taking more than a month to notify them of the cyber attack.

Some of the library's services are scheduled to return this month, including a reference-only version of its online catalogue. It is unclear how long it will take before the institution – one of five legal deposit libraries in Britain entitled to a copy of each piece of published work in the UK – is fully operational.

Hacking group Rhysida, which has ties to Russian-linked Vice Society, in November claimed responsibility for the breach. It published the library's data after selling 10 per cent of the files to bidders via its dark web page.

Tequila sunset

Agave growers feel the chill

A farmer in Tequila, in Mexico's Jalisco state, cuts an agave plant to extract the pineapple used to make tequila.

Spirits makers had been struggling to secure enough agave to sate demand for record tequila sales in the US. But while consumption soared in the pandemic when locked-down drinkers splashed out on tequila – and again during the recovery when they spent their savings – the tipples are now falling out of favour.

The price of agave has more than halved in the past six months as growth in US tequila sales fell from as much as 45 per cent in the first half of 2022 to 5 per cent in the same period last year.

Sobering sales page 13



Ulises Ruiz/APP

Resignation over climate retreat adds by-election to Sunak's new year worries

JIM PICKARD AND ANNA GROSS

The Conservative party faces another by-election after former minister Chris Skidmore said he was quitting as an MP in protest at government plans to drill for more North Sea oil.

Skidmore, who had already announced he would not stand in the next election, said he was now quitting "as soon as possible" as MP for Kingswood in Gloucestershire and leaving the party.

In his resignation letter he said it was "a tragedy that the UK has been allowed to lose its climate leadership" under Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Sunak edged away from key climate commitments last summer by delaying plans to phase out sales of gas boilers and impose curbs on petrol and diesel cars, although he pledged to keep the wider 2050 net zero target.

Skidmore said he was quitting in protest at the Offshore Petroleum Licensing bill, to be introduced in the Commons next week. It requires the North Sea regulator to hold annual licensing rounds for drilling for oil and gas. "I cannot vote for the bill next week. The future will judge harshly those that do," he said.

Skidmore's move is a blow to Sunak, whose party is about 18 points behind Labour in the polls. Sunak this week confirmed that a general election would take place before the end of the year.

The prime minister is already facing a by-election in Wellingborough after former MP Peter Bone was found by a parliamentary watchdog to have committed indecent exposure.

The Tories have lost five out of six by-elections since last July, with Labour gaining four and the Liberal Democrats one.

Skidmore, who was energy minister when the 2050 commitment was signed into law, led a report into net zero for the government that was published in January 2023.

His resignation letter said the new law would send a "global signal that the UK is rowing ever further back from its climate commitments". There was no case for raising fossil fuel production as there was "exponential" growth in renewable and clean power, he argued. He could no longer "condone" the government as it edged away from its climate policies.

"To fail to act, rather than merely speak out, is to tolerate a status quo that cannot be sustained," he said.

Shadow climate secretary Ed Miliband congratulated Skidmore for "standing up to this desperate Conservative government".

Sunak trumps Starmer page 3



Pilots urge better safety on congested airport runways

This week's dramatic runway collision between two planes at Tokyo's Haneda airport demonstrated that passengers can be safer in the air than on the ground. Flying remains one of the safest forms of transport, with less than one fatal accident every 15mn flights. But as the travel industry gets into full swing following the pandemic, experts and pilots tell the Financial Times there is a need for improved safety systems on congested runways.

Aviation safety page 6

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World Markets

STOCK MARKETS

	Jan 5	Prev	%chg
S&P 500	4705.27	4688.88	0.35
Nasdaq Composite	14573.33	14510.30	0.43
Dow Jones Ind	37447.53	37440.34	0.02
FTSEurofirst 300	1882.39	1886.20	-0.20
Euro Stoxx 50	4463.00	4474.01	-0.25
FTSE 100	7689.61	7723.07	-0.43
FTSE All-Share	4196.35	4217.03	-0.49
CAC 40	7420.69	7450.63	-0.40
Xetra Dax	16594.21	16617.29	-0.14
Nikkei	33377.42	33288.29	0.27
Hang Seng	16535.33	16645.98	-0.66
MSCI World \$	3114.12	3115.68	-0.05
MSCI EM \$	1004.26	1003.13	0.11
MSCI ACWI \$	714.24	714.48	-0.03
FT Wilshire 2500	6078.57	6096.90	-0.30
FT Wilshire 5000	47358.00	47498.50	-0.30

CURRENCIES

Pair	Jan 5	Prev	Pair	Jan 5	Prev
\$/€	1.098	1.096	€/£	0.911	0.913
\$/¥	1.275	1.270	€/¥	0.784	0.788
€/¥	0.861	0.863	€/€	1.162	1.159
¥/\$	144.140	144.630	¥/€	158.244	158.450
¥/€	183.808	183.667	E index	81.892	81.618
SFr/€	0.930	0.931	SFr/£	1.081	1.079

CRYPTO

	Jan 5	Prev	%chg
Bitcoin (\$)	43425.00	44193.26	-1.74
Ethereum	2225.30	2269.30	-1.94

COMMODITIES

	Jan 5	Prev	%chg
Oil WTI \$	74.00	72.19	2.51
Oil Brent \$	78.99	77.59	1.80
Gold \$	2039.55	2042.10	-0.12

GOVERNMENT BONDS

Yield (%)	Jan 5	Prev	Chg
US 2 yr	4.37	4.39	-0.02
US 10 yr	4.00	3.99	0.01
US 30 yr	4.17	4.14	0.03
UK 2 yr	4.22	4.19	0.03
UK 10 yr	3.98	3.93	0.05
UK 30 yr	4.40	4.36	0.03
JPN 2 yr	0.03	0.05	-0.03
JPN 10 yr	0.60	0.62	-0.02
JPN 30 yr	1.61	1.64	-0.03
GER 2 yr	2.57	2.52	0.05
GER 10 yr	2.15	2.12	0.04
GER 30 yr	2.37	2.35	0.03

Prices are latest for edition
Data provided by Morningstar

ALPINE EAGLE

Chopard

THE ARTISAN OF EMOTIONS - SINCE 1860



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On a flight heading west from the city of Belém, at the Amazon river's gaping mouth, to the inland town of Santarém, I peered through the window at a landscape that from one horizon to the other was relentlessly, monotonously, exhilaratingly green. Covering it all was a filigree of creeks and inlets: tributaries of the two mighty rivers whose confluence I could see below me, glistening silver in the afternoon sun.

On a slow Sunday, Santarém broiled in a stultifying tropical heat. Down at the harbour, among big-bellied riverboats with white-painted balconies like Mississippi steamers, stood the craft that would be my home during a five-day journey around and about the convergence of the Amazon and Tapajós rivers. The Tupaiú, one of three vessels belonging to the Amazon cruise company Kaiara, is a wooden-hulled yacht



White sands and pink dolphins

built in Manaus in 1987, sleeping a maximum of eight, whose wood-panelled cabins and simple comforts lend her an antique charm.

Among my half-dozen fellow passengers was Martin Frankenberg, a Cambridge-educated Brazilian who for many years was a partner in luxury travel firm Matueté before launching Kaiara in November 2022. At an informal briefing in the Tupaiú's open-sided dining area Frankenberg told us he'd first come to the region 20 years earlier, on a visit to a remote community in Acre state where his father-in-law had worked as a rubber-tapper. It was seeing the clouds of wildfire smoke over the city of São Paulo in 2018, however, that pushed him towards a new involvement with Amazon conservation and social welfare. Kaiara duly has a strong philanthropic dimension, working with riverside communities to offer guests experiences cultural, botanical and gastronomic.

We pulled out of the harbour into a stretch of water so wide that the opposite shore was no more than a blurry thread of green. For a while we sailed the visible dividing line where the waters of the Amazon, coloured a milky brown like weak instant coffee, collide with those of the Tapajós, which carry little sediment from their source in the old rocks of the central mountains. Then we crossed the line definitively, heading south into the clear blue Tapajós. Behind the boat a pod of pink dolphins – one of the Amazon's two endangered freshwater species, the other being a dun grey in colour – could be seen romping in our wake.

Just out of Santarém a group of silos and factory buildings rose above the riverbank. This was the Cargill depot where soya grown in deforested areas of the upper Amazon is brought for onward shipment to China. Out in the river a queue of giant barges waited to be unloaded. "This is what we're up against. Trading virgin forest for what? Cheap Chinese pork," muttered Frankenberg. The theme of environmental destruction would hover in the background over the following days, glimpsed from time to time as if through the corner of an eye. It's not part of Frankenberg's plan to freak out clients with the magnitude of the threats facing the Amazon, but neither does he believe they should be shielded from it.

As for me, my romantic idea of Amazon travel had always been ringfenced by doubts. I shared the popular belief, fomented by movies like *The Mission* and *Aguirre: Wrath of God*, that the rainforest was a place rife with danger and disease, a hostile environment where nature was out to get you in the form of poisonous snakes, crocodiles and piranhas, not to mention all manner of stinging and biting insects. Amazon navigation, I reckoned, would be a South American version of *The African Queen*, with a rickety boat pushing through narrow channels hemmed in by dark walls of vegetation.

Life on the Tupaiú could hardly have been further from that preconception. Such was the breadth of the river, as much as 12km in places, that the sun rose and set on the horizon of the water. Like an ocean the Tapajós had its sudden moods. The wind whipped up ragged waves on its surface (a phenomenon that has its own local name, *banzeiro*). As for vicious biting creatures, they tended to keep a wide berth. There were no piranhas, which prefer a murkier aquatic environment, so river swimming was a delightful possibility. There were also no mosquitoes, for these clear waters are too acidic to support them. The most dangerous thing here was the sun, which pounded down with a force requiring regular applications of sunblock.

Brazil | A new cruise takes passengers to the heart of the Amazon river's wildlife, pristine beaches and rich culinary traditions. *By Paul Richardson*



Main: the Tupaiú moored on a beach in the Tapajós river

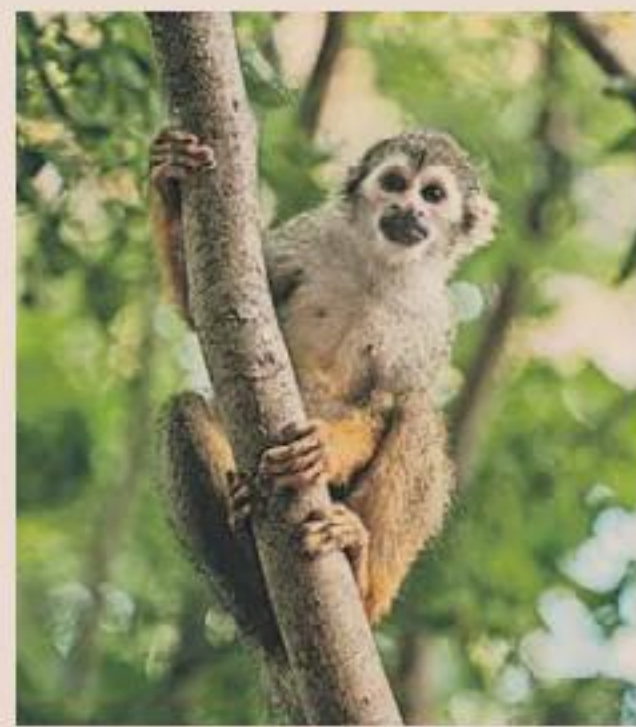
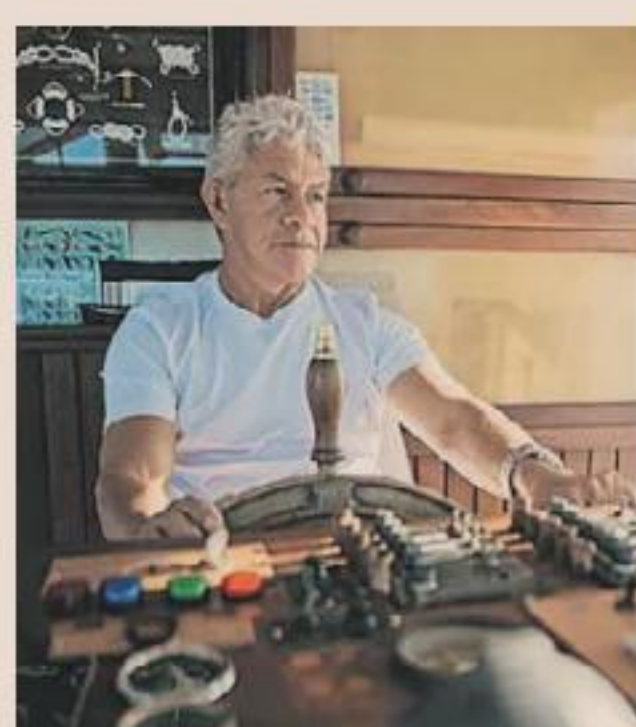
From far left: Dirleide, leader of the Atodi community, in a traditional canoe; an ancient samaúma tree in the heart of the forest, near the Jamaraguá community

Ryan Wilkes

The Tupaiú headed upstream, chugging along placidly, a fresh breeze fanning its open-sided decks. Eddies and currents swirled in the depths below. I scanned the horizon for other boats, thinking we might at least see one of those big-bellied ferries, perhaps making its slow way north towards the remote jungles around the Venezuelan border. But it seemed we were alone on this vast waterway. Or nearly alone: drifting in the distance was a fisherman in a straw hat who shared his bashed-up wooden canoe with two white cranes, one at each end.

As we cruised, Frankenberg told his passengers stories and facts about the Amazon, some of them alarming. A fifth of the forest has been destroyed in a single generation, often to make way for interventions which cause further damage, such as clandestine gold-mining or intensive agriculture. At least a third of all land deforested and planted, he suggested, becomes abandoned and barren within a few years. It was the southern end of the Brazilian Amazon, he claimed, that suffered most from the depredations of mining and agribusiness, while Roraima state, northern Amazonas and northern Pará (the vast state in which we were travelling), was still relatively well-preserved.

Squinting towards the distant shoreline I saw small patches of dazzling white dotted along the thin line of greenery. Dusk was falling as captain Sebastião dos Santos steered the Tupaiú towards one of these white patches, pulling up into the shallows of a beach as perfect as a Caribbean cove. Here we moored, stepping ashore on sand so soft and fine it squeaked under our feet like fresh snow. We lounged indolently in bath-warm water of a dark riverine blue as, right on cue, a crew member could be seen making his way along the beach with a tray of iced caipirinhas and assorted Brazilian snacks: crisp-fried cubes of tapioca, and croquettes



From top: Sabastião Santos, captain of the Tupaiú; a pirarucú and Brazil-nut-milk stew; a black-capped squirrel monkey; the Canal do Jari, which links the Amazon to the Tapajós river

Ryan Wilkes, Jillian Miller



woman Raimunda de Sousa, a softly spoken lady in simple western dress, led us through the forest to a shack where a group of village women were demonstrating the complex art of processing manioc roots, poisonous in their raw state, into the staple foods of *farinha* and *tucupi*. Further down the trail Raimunda began pointing out some of the plants and fruits which play a role in traditional Amazonian culture. The bark of this tree (*taxizeiro*) was, she said, a potent remedy for chest infections. The milk of the monkey vine was a cure for muscle and bone ache. The *urucum* berry produced a natural red face-paint, while scrapings of the noble *cumarú* tree made a seasoning for meat and fish. "These are things we've known for generations", said Raimunda simply.

Frankenberg pushed with his foot at the leaf mulch covering a forest path. "Underneath this is basically just sand. Remove the forest from the equation, and it becomes unproductive," he said. The conversation turned to the changing Amazon climate, the chronic drought currently assailing the region, and the increasingly erratic rhythms of nature. Trees were flowering out of season, said Raimunda. Stocks of river fish were falling fast. Wildfires were ever more frequent and ferocious.

The Amazon can provoke awe and amazement, but also rage and despair. Back on board, Frankenberg pulled up a GPS map of what would be our final major destination: the huge Tapajós National Forest, an area of some half-a-million hectares bounded to the west by the river, to the east by a long straight

road. Clearly visible even on his phone screen were the strips of bare land running eastward from the park's boundary in a fishbone pattern: tell-tale signs of the way logging activity has penetrated ever deeper into the primary forest. Even as we talked a soya barge slunk along the skyline.

Stepping on to the jetty at Jamaraguá, a small community where 43 of the residents are now involved in eco-tourism projects in the Tapajós reserve, we found Denildo Lopes de Santos ("Dido") waiting for us. Dido had once been a manioc farmer and was careless of the rainforest and its riches. "Then I started work as a guide here in the reserve. It was the best thing that's ever happened to me," he beamed.

At the start of the trail Dido paused to say a little prayer, asking for protection from the mother goddess who rules the forest. Then we entered her twilight realm. It was dark and fresh under the canopy, the sunlight filtering in 30 metres above giving a dreamlike sensation of being deep under water. This was old-growth woodland where trees of enormous value had reached a magnificent size. Insects made an avant-garde cacophony of squeaking, creaking, squawking, chirping; enormous blue butterflies flopped by like silk handker-

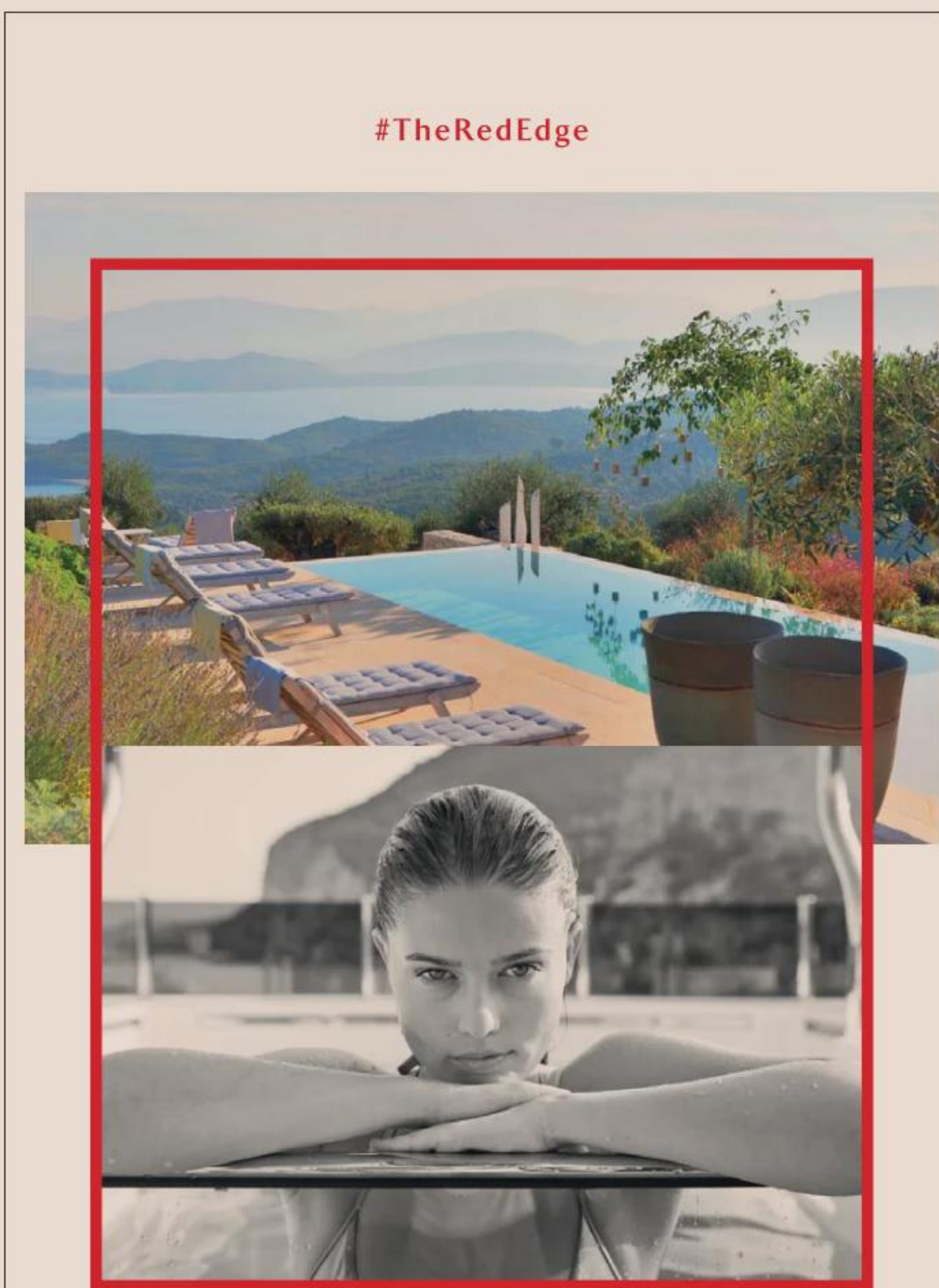
Behind the boat, a pod of endangered pink dolphins could be seen romping in our wake

chiefs. Dido knew every tree, every flower, every creature hereabout. Coming upon a *seringueira*, the rubber tree that fuelled the Amazon's first economic boom, he scratched diagonal lines in the bark and a thick white goo began to flow. As he walked he made hooting bird calls; real birds answered from the depths of the wood.

On the journey's last evening the crew of the Tupaiú had devised a magical conclusion. At the tip of the sandbar a table had been laid with a circle of lanterns and a pit dug into the sand with blankets for stargazing. There were pineapple and passion fruit caipirinhas, and a whole river fish grilled over coals. And, much later, there was a midnight safari. With Dido paddling silently at the helm of a wide canoe, we slipped into a creek pushing deep into the forest behind the riverbank. Our guide's headlamp shone like a searchlight, probing the waterline for signs of life. A racket of croaking bullfrogs echoed through the woods. The Amazon night had a thousand eyes: twin points glowing brightly in the dark. The Boa constrictor's eyes are yellow, whispered Dido. The jaguar's eyes are blue.

i / DETAILS

Paul Richardson was a guest of Cazenove + Loyd (*cazloyd.com*), which offers a week's tailor-made trip to the Brazilian Amazon from £3,800 per person, including five nights onboard a private yacht with Kaiara (*kaiara.com.br*). The price, based on a group of eight travelling together, includes all meals and guided trips in the Amazon



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For indigenous peoples like these the rainforest is both larder, pharmacy and builder's merchant. Atodi's medicine