



There's no such thing as a typical day at Shinta Mani Wild. In fact, there's nothing typical about this Bensley Collection hotel. Our guests might find themselves embarking on a midnight mining raid with wildlife rangers, traversing secret backwaters on pontoon-style boats, enjoying just-caught crab (barbecued on-board by a Bensley Butler), or discovering – and tasting – Cambodia's natural larder in the company of expert naturalists. We champion the spirit of adventure, inviting visitors to interact authentically with our incredible national parkland setting.

Recognising that Shinta Mani Wild's environment is incredibly precious, we've partnered with the Wildlife Alliance: a non-profit organisation, whose work includes catching poachers and illegal loggers. Adventurous types can head out with the rangers on motorbikes, spending a day with the team as they clear the forests of snares and mines. Patrols are tailored to guests' tastes and fitness levels: shorter Jeep safaris, snare-viewings and trips to the Shinta Mani-funded ranger station – handily positioned just above our tents – are also on offer.

Nautical types can take to the waters. Our six-metre-long luxury boats have been artfully crafted from wood and metal. These are Bill Bensley-designed – so naturally they also have a fully-equipped bar and a top deck with a daybed, a sunroof and sun loungers. Drop anchor in a beautiful backwater and go kayaking in the upper reaches of the estuary, seeking prawns and giant crabs – aka lunch – while your obliging butler cranks up the barbecue, in preparation for a seafood feast.

Keen cooks should spend some time with our friendly resident chef, who is determined to prevent indigenous Cambodian herbs and plants from disappearing from their forests. Embark on an edible treasure hunt in the wilderness; back at boutique basecamp, you'll cook up your just-plucked bounty with some expert help. Try jungle fruit such as kuy (which tastes like the love child of an orange, mango and passion fruit), or prahok: a traditional fermented fish paste, which adds a salty flavour-kick to pork and seafood dishes.

Our chef has been assisted by our resident expert naturalists, who are passionate about all things flora and fauna. One of these botany experts is an orchid-aficionado; they recently discovered an entirely new-to-the-region species of the exotic flower growing here, alongside fragrant wild vanilla. Guests can visit the naturalists' research centre at the ranger station, or accompany the team as they check their camera traps. We're not just concerned with our own backyard, though – our vision extends further afield. Wildlife exchange programmes with fellow naturalists, scientists and researchers in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Africa and Mongolia are in the works.

All of this adventuring calls for some well-deserved rest and relaxation. Step forward the Boulder Spa, whose chemical-free treatments feature healing plant extracts. Our signature spa ritual combines medicinal plant infusions, with ingredients foraged from the rainforest. Living up to its name, the spa's two treatment rooms are set amid dramatic natural boulders, but the river takes centre stage, too. Have a river-stone foot massage while soaking in a waterfall pool – relaxing has never been so exhilarating. Unwind with a guided yoga or meditation class, or try our Cambodian take on tenkara: a meditative form of Japanese fly-fishing.

'On the rocks' takes on a whole new meaning via our picnics: guests can sit and enjoy a butler-prepared, al fresco feast beside a cascading waterfall. Picnics can also be arranged atop a mountain, aboard a Bensley Boat, during one of the camp's exciting expeditions, or back at boutique basecamp, on your tent's deck. Decide on your hamper's contents in advance (pick from Cambodian, Western, Mediterranean and Asian options) and leave the rest to your attentive Bensley Butler. They'll go ahead of you and set everything up; you'll also be treated to a cold towel and a monster gin and tonic on arrival...

Talking of drinks, fancy a mobile cocktail party? Shinta Mani Wild's playful side is apparent in its Land Rover Bar: a WW2 vehicle, brilliantly reimagined as a portable, slightly bonkers bar. Once guests arrive at a surprise sundowner location, they'll be treated to the sight of the vehicle ingeniously unfolding into a one-off bar – followed by a tippie or two, naturally. Shinta Mani Wild's General Manager, Sangjay, makes a mighty host...

