

by Diana Hubbell

## Q+A

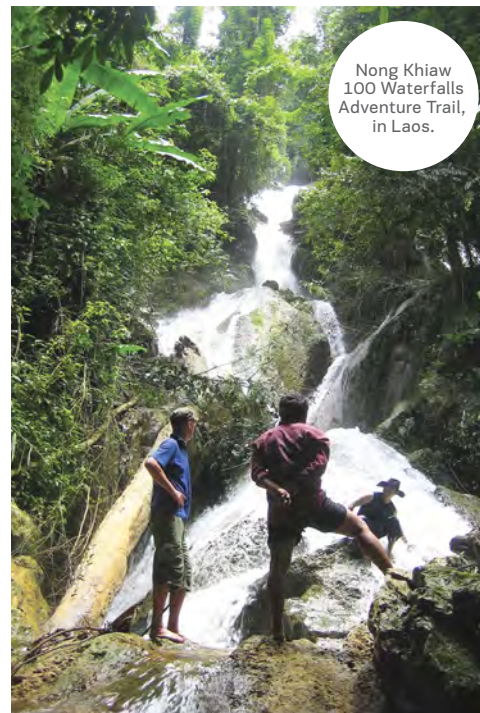
## IS IT WORTH TAKING A VACATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE RAINY SEASON? WHAT IS THERE TO DO?

There's a deluge of fun travel options across the region even during the soggy months of the year.

Try one of these four trips to keep the green season from raining on your parade.



Cabana pool bar at the Banyan Tree Macau.



Nong Khiaw 100 Waterfalls Adventure Trail, in Laos.

### MACAU

#### Casino-hop till you drop

You'll never notice a downpour amid the glitz and glitter of the Cotai Strip. Asia's answer to Vegas has been booming to the tune of US\$45 billion a year and all that cash keeps cropping up in wilder ways. In 2017, Zaha Hadid's surreal creation for City of Dreams will open, as will the US\$3.9 billion Lisboa Palace with a Karl Lagerfeld-designed hotel. In the meantime, never fear if the weather turns foul—you can stay warm and dry at the **Banyan Tree Macau**, where even the most affordable rooms offer sweeping views. [banyantree.com](http://banyantree.com); doubles from MOP3,099.

### INDONESIA

#### Embark on a spa journey

Falling raindrops melt into soothing background music as masseuses gently knead away your tension over the course of three days. At the spa at **The Chedi Sakala**, a newly opened resort in one of Bali's quietest havens, the products are organic and the surroundings are extra indulgent. Your retreat begins with a two-hour-plus combination of crystal body polish, bath ritual and facial, then continues on days two and three with Balinese, Himalayan stone and other muscle-melting massages. [ghmhotels.com](http://ghmhotels.com); three-day spa ritual package from Rp3,380,000.

### THE PHILIPPINES

#### Dive beneath the surface

What's a little extra water when you're already wearing a full wetsuit? Plunge into the Bohol Sea for an exploration of at least seven reef-fringed islands such as marine sanctuary Apo Island and dark-sand Dauin, teeming with skeleton shrimp. Everything from frogfish to whale sharks to pygmy seahorses call this biological hot spot home. And since it can only be reached by liveaboard boats—like the **S/Y Philippine Siren**, a luxury vessel hand-crafted from iron and teak—there's nary another tourist in sight. [sirenfleet.com](http://sirenfleet.com); six- to 10-night diving trips to Southern Visayas from €1,950, including all meals and equipment.

### LAOS

#### Go chasing waterfalls

"Green season" isn't a euphemism—during this time of year the jungles come alive in all possible shades of emerald. It's perfect for trekking, particularly when you march past mighty waterfalls that swell spectacularly with the extra rainfall. On this journey from **Tiger Trails**, an eco-friendly tour operator that supports local Lao communities, you'll climb along a series of increasingly impressive cascades, culminating in one spectacular 20-meter aquatic avalanche. [Tiger Trails](http://TigerTrails.com); [laos-adventures.com](http://laos-adventures.com); one-day Nong Khiaw - 100 Waterfalls adventure trail from US\$74, inclusive of food and guide.