

TRAVEL > ROUTE DU BONHEUR > > EN ROUTE TO ARCHITECTURAL TREASURES  
Published on 18/07/2024

# En route to architectural treasures

In 2024, Relais & Châteaux not only celebrates its 70th anniversary as an Association, but the inauguration of its first Route du Bonheur (Road of Happiness).



SHARE THIS ARTICLE



Today, there are nearly 150 such itineraries globally, showcasing cultural, culinary and natural gems at every stop. This imagined route demonstrates the diversity of the world's architectural styles that the Association represents.

### A palace on the bank of the Nile

[Al Moudira Hotel](#), Luxor, Egypt

The Egyptian architect Olivier Sednaoui and his master masons summoned the full force of their imaginations to fulfill the request—and indeed, the dream—of the Al Moudira Hotel's former owner, Zeina Aboukheir. Although it was only built on the west bank of the Nile in 1999, its magnificent terracotta arches and domes appear at first glance as if they have been a part of the landscape for thousands of years. From its shady patios to its gardens of palm and lemon trees, this pretty palace offers a secluded place to relax and recuperate between excursions to the nearby Valley of the Kings.



### A refuge at the peak of comfort

[Hotel Union Øye](#), Norangsfjorden, Norway

At the tip of the Norangsfjord lies the small, isolated hamlet of Øye, where you'll find this elegant building, every piece of which was shipped here by boat in 1891. With its architecture of Swiss inspiration, this stone-and-wood haven envelops visitors in hushed splendor. All the materials of the manor harmonize with the majestic natural environment of the Sunnmøre Alps. The conservatory, fireplaces, moldings and extensive library sweep guests into something of a timeless reverie. It feels like a privilege to walk in the footsteps of the collection of writers, climbers, artists and royalty who have all visited to drink in the beauty of the fjords.





**An architectural jewel amidst the vineyards**

[Le Saint-James Bouliac](#), Bouliac, France

Built in 1989, the Saint-James Bouliac is something of an 'architect's hotel.' Its four contemporary buildings, inspired by the tobacco-drying barns of yore, were designed by the Pritzker Prizewinner, architect Jean Nouvel. Overlooking the vineyards, the city and the Garonne Valley, these buildings offer unique spaces enhanced by large bay windows, offering panoramic views of the landscape. Natural and raw materials find their place here, from each of the guest rooms to the Michelin-starred restaurant.



**Understated space, ultimate introspection**

[CIRQA](#), Arequipa, Peru

This former monastery was built in 1540, the very same year as the historical city of Arequipa. In handcrafted white volcanic stone, with high vaulted ceilings, the monks' living areas have been converted into 11 very elegant suites. The rooftop offers a view of surrounding volcanoes and of the refinement of this city, which is listed as a World Heritage Site with UNESCO.



**Along the Tao way**

[Su Shien Valley](#), Chengde, China





Related articles in our Magazine



Fall and Winter in Morocco  
[Click here to read](#)



#### NEWSLETTER

I agree to receive messages from Relais & Châteaux in order to benefit from exclusive offers and invitations from Relais & Châteaux and its few partner brands, as well as personalized contents in view of my next stays.

SUBSCRIBE >

#### MOBILE APPS

Download our apps to discover and book our exquisite hotels and fine dining restaurants worldwide.



#### RESERVATIONS BY PHONE

Argentina or find your country number  
\*International charges apply

+54 11 4326 3861\*

#### FOLLOW US



- CAREERS
- SEMINAR & MEETING
- CONTACTS
- PARTNERS
- TROPHIES
- FAQ
- SITEMAP
- LEGAL
- PERSONAL DATA
- TERMS AND CONDITIONS
- CREDITS
- COOKIES SETTINGS
- TRAVEL AGENT