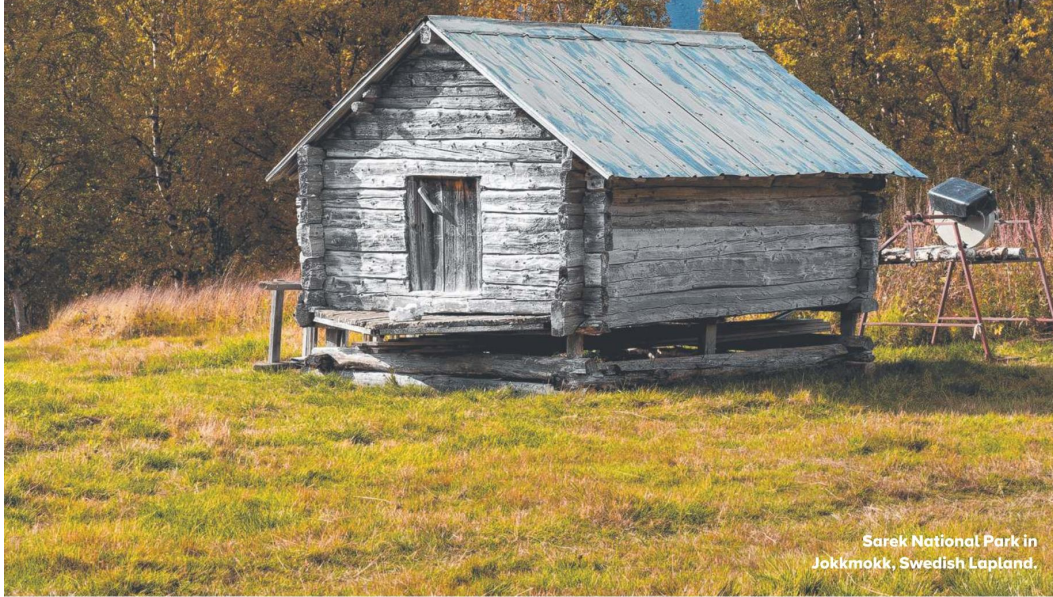


Swedish Lapland



Sarek National Park in Jokkmokk, Swedish Lapland.

ART HUB

Venice Biennale is the ultimate visual arts event in the world. I stayed in new hotel, Ca' di Dio, designed by Spanish architect Patricia Urquiola. It's away from the tourist throng in a former 13th-century monastery. It's both refined and austere.

MUSEUM HUNT

One of my favourites is Mori Art Museum in Roppongi, Tokyo. It's unexpected because you go up a high-rise building and see a panoramic view of the city. Tokyo Photographic Art Museum is equally interesting, it has a collection of about 35,000 works.

ON THE FRINGE

Art Jog is a fantastic annual festival in the Jogja National Museum in Yogyakarta. There are maybe 80 artists participating, it has a celebratory feel and you can see a lot of work at one venue.

REMOTE FESTIVALS

Desert Mob at the Araluen Arts Centre in Alice Springs has a real sense of community, all the remote art centres present their work, from the Hermansburg Potters to Iwantja Arts. Iwantja is a closed Indigenous community and this small art centre is producing some intoxicating work.

ISLAND VOICE

I worked with Japanese Samoan artist Yuki Kihara on *Paradise Camp*, her solo presentation representing New Zealand at the 59th Venice Biennale. On Upolu Island, Samoa, we travelled to villages, met chiefs and visited waterfalls at dawn. *Paradise Camp*, until December 31, at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. powerhouse.com.au



Natalie King

WHY I TRAVEL

From Samoa to Lapland, the international curator explores the world through the lens of contemporary art

“For me, artists are guardians of the imagination and they take me places that are intriguing.”

As one of Australia's leading international contemporary art curators Professor Natalie King's work takes her into the heart of destinations few of us experience. “Last year, I was invited by Katarina Pirak Sikku, a Sami artist from the Indigenous community in Lapland, to visit Jokkmokk in northern Sweden. We ate reindeer, she showed me the sacred sites and took me into the forest. These kind of travel experiences are exceptional and nourish me,” Melbourne-based King says.



Left: An exhibit highlighting climate change at the 59th Venice Biennale. Above: Curator Natalie King in Venice.

HIGHS AND LOWS



High life
The best hotel I've ever stayed in is the relatively new Aman Tokyo in Japan. It's completely lavish with the most beautiful interiors. It's very much about the shoji screens and Japanese timber, but also luxurious.



Stolen luggage
I had arrived in Rome with my children and our huge suitcases and someone who I thought was a porter was trying to push my luggage, but ended up being a thief and marching down the street with it. He tried to bribe me, so that was pretty perilous.

As told to Jenny Hewett