

BRITISH AIRWAYS

nightlife

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From Hell's Kitchen to Thai heaven

Gordon Ramsay gets a taste of Phuket



Deep space
The Blue Hole of Belize is a spectacular underwater volcano

Blue sky thinking

Seeking a sightseeing tour with a difference? **Lisa Johnson** takes an aerial safari by helicopter

There's nothing like a bird's eye view of the world, especially when you're looking at scenery as stunning as the 400ft-deep Blue Hole of Belize, the sprawling cityscape of Rio or ruins of the Incan empire. Latin America has an embarrassment of natural and cultural riches, and a thrilling way to experience them is from the seat of a Bell helicopter or Cessna 206.

Bespoke travel company Blue Parallel was inspired to launch its aerial sightseeing programme after organising the logistics for *National Geographic* photographer Robert Haas. His book, *Through the Eyes of the Condor*, caught the imagination of Blue Parallel's founder,

Emmanuel Burgio, who recalls accompanying the photographer over the salt flats of Mexico's Yucatán, watching 'pink flamingos shoot off like a firework'.

A Frenchman and former investment banker, Burgio began Blue Parallel after finding himself organising long weekends for colleagues at Machu Picchu and other World Heritage sites. His company specialises in accessing the inaccessible in Central and South America, whether from the air or on the ground. Vantage points include the sundeck of a remote private home in the Quebrada de Humahuaca in Argentina. +44 (0)20 8819 3904, blueparallel.com