



**From top:** Fairmont Banff Springs; Susan Sarandon; the Palm Court at New York's Plaza Hotel, home to the property's famous high tea

# Checking In with Susan Sarandon

*Condé Nast Traveller Middle East* caught up with the screen legend and Fairmont's newest global ambassador in New York to learn about her fondest travel memories



young girl for tea. And at the Fairmont Banff Springs, the view of that citadel that stands in the woods was really extraordinary. They just don't build them like that anymore, right?

## Your ultimate hotel amenity?

Oh, a view. And the thrill of getting into a bed that's got nice sheets and pillows, no matter where it is – if it's on safari or in a city. It's great to be able to have room service: if you can get a café au lait and a newspaper, and some fresh fruit. Or, a really really fabulous croissant... you're making me hungry!

## Any in-flight rituals?

I don't have a TV, so sometimes I just binge a series that I haven't seen. And I've got to say, the flights to Dubai are pretty amazing, when you get your own little house within the airplane and every kind of food that you could want. You don't want to go to sleep, you want to just stay up and have fun.

## What do you always seek out on your travels?

I'm drawn to textiles and pottery. I try to see what craft a particular place is known for – oh, you're known for your lace here? Rugs? This is the place to get opals? Can you take me off the beaten path and help me experience what a town is known for?

## What advice do you have for people hoping to travel mindfully and sustainably?

We've been isolated, but also understand how connected we are: we're aware of how our travel, our lives, our pollution affects people in other places. It's helpful to know that where you're staying has made a concerted effort on their water conservation or energy savings, and what they do in terms of food and waste reduction. **CH**

## What role has travel played in your life?

Travel infuses you with a sense of awe, and keeps you open to new cultures and new ways of thinking. It's such a privilege to be able to leave your bubble and surrender to a new place. Travel is essential to my mental health and to keeping my curiosity alive.

## Fairmont's newest campaign is called "The Grandest of Feelings." What drew you to it?

When they approached me, I started to look at their commitment to sustainability, water conservation, reforestation and energy savings – all of those things which you have to be aware of these days. It was a good pairing.

## What are some of your favourite hotels?

Certainly the Plaza, which is part of New York's personality, and where I've taken many a



INTERVIEW: SARAH KHAN