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GATEWAY TO TOMORROW

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W WARSZAWIE...



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REMARKABLE AIRPORTS

I love airports - this seemingly anonymous space, which you can easily get used to, and sometimes even slightly addicted. I collect airports I have visited, proudly putting on my private list all the modern, traveller-friendly, luxury, and even sophisticated ones. Recently, during my trip to Iran, I landed at Khomeini Airport in Tehran. I was taken aback with the modern decor of the place - colourful designer furniture in the business lounge, delicious European breakfast and the best pomegranate juice I have ever drunk. Looking outside the window I could see the huge Alborz mountain range and empty spaces, which are not an uncommon sight in this extraordinary country. I invite you to read our feature article entitled "Gateway to tomorrow". You will find out which countries are building the world's most modern hubs that will be completely different from the airports that we know now. By 2050, the number of passengers travelling by air will increase from the current 2.8 to 16 billion. This means that large hubs will have a huge impact on cities, communities, and national economies. As a consequence, imaginative architects are going to be essential to make airports as efficient and attractive as possible. One thing is for sure - the days of designing airports that are functional and concrete are definitely over. Enjoy your reading!

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief





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Hotels

Radisson Blu

GOOD PLACES IN DUBAI

Radisson Blu hotels are especially popular among business travellers and families coming to Dubai.

Radisson Blu Dubai Downtown offers 242 modern and comfortably furnished rooms and suites, free internet access and fantastic views of the Burj Khalifa - one of the world's most spectacular towers. It's also famous for its excellent restaurant and a bar on the roof. The property has 6 meeting rooms as well as several other spaces for business meetings. The 5-star Radisson Blu Hotel Dubai Deira Creek is located in the city's business district. The hotel features 276 rooms and suites with balconies and fantastic views, 16 restaurants and bars, as well as a conference centre and numerous shops.

Radisson Blu Hotel Dubai Media City offers the highest quality of hotel services. It's known for its sophisticated restaurants and bars.

Radisson Blu Residence Dubai Marina is a luxury residence located on the coast. It's just a few minutes' walk from the famous Jumeirah beach, and guests also appreciate its cuisine and the shopping complex.

Radisson Blu Residence is located 35 km away from Dubai International Airport. The interiors and furnishing were designed by Italian designer Matteo Nunziatti. The property offers 151 one and two bedroom studio suites with balconies and fabulous views of the marina.

Radisson Royal Hotel is located in the heart of the metropolis, near the International Financial Centre and the airport. It offers 471 rooms with views of the Sheikh Zayed Road and Jumeirah Beach, four restaurants, two bars, as well as business facilities and a spa.

Hotels

Accor

CONQUERING AFRICA

Accor is the largest hotel operator in Africa, currently offering 17,000 rooms (116 hotels) in 18 countries. By 2016, this number will have increased by further 5,000 rooms. At the ibis Dakar inauguration ceremony, Accor took the opportunity to unveil its expansion objectives in sub-Saharan Africa and also launched PLANET 21, its sustainable development strategy, on this continent. It plans to expand principally through its economy and mid-scale brands ibis and Novotel, but also expand through its Mercure and Pullman brands as and when opportunities arise. The next establishment to open in sub-Saharan Africa is the ibis Lagos Ikeja in Nigeria (in spring 2013).

Airlines

AirFrance KLM

KLM TO CHARGE FOR CHECKED BAGGAGE

Beginning 22 April 2013, on European routes KLM will start charging passengers fees for pieces of checked baggage. The carrier claims that only 60 to 70 per cent of its short-haul passengers carry only hand luggage and most of them are willing to pay for extra services. Therefore, from 22 April KLM will introduce fees for checked baggage. However, if you are one of KLM's frequent flyers, or travelling on a flexible ticket type, you can check in your bag for free - aside the usual perks. Other passengers will be able to take advantage of 50% discount for luggage, if they pay the fee prior to their arrival at the airport.



Airlines

Emirates

FIRST LANDING IN WARSAW

On 6 February, the first Emirates plane landed in Warsaw, launching daily connections of the carrier to Poland. It's already 129th destination of the airline in its global route network. The route will be served by Airbus A330-200 aircraft. Emirates are the first airline to offer Polish passengers the opportunity to travel in first class cabin. The new connection will strengthen the economic ties between Poland and the United Arab Emirates.

The passengers of the first flight included senior representatives of the Emirates Group and important officials from the UAE. "It's an extremely important day not only for Emirates, but also for the Polish market. This new service will enable direct links into Poland, facilitating travel for tourists and traders from East Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Stimulating trade and driving demand for not only our services, but the new destination is an integral part of our growth strategy and we see Warsaw as an important part of this," said H.H. Sheikh Ahmed.

"This is truly an important day and a great honour for Warsaw Chopin Airport to have an Emirates aircraft on our tarmac," said Michał Marzec, Director of Warsaw Chopin Airport.



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Przetarg: 05.04. 2013 r.

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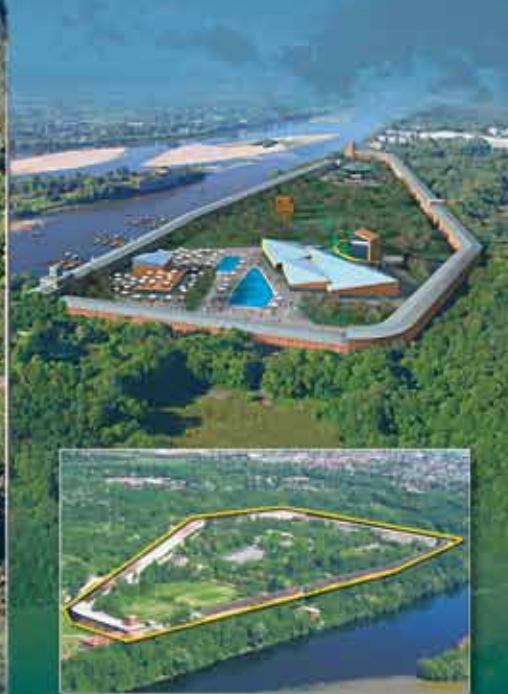
ul. 1-go Maja
Dz. 6/5



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Przetarg: kwiecień 2013 r.

TWIERDZA MODLIN

wizualizacja



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Przetarg: 24.04.2013 r.

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Airlines

Eurolot

HOLIDAYS IN CROATIA

Beginning May 2013, you will be able to reach Croatian beaches in just 3 hours, departing from Warsaw and Gdańsk, thanks to Eurolot launching new, direct flights to this beautiful country. The carrier tempts with attractive prices and short connection time. There are still available tickets starting at PLN 269 for flights from Warsaw and Gdańsk to Rijeka on the picturesque island of Krk. Return flights are offered at the same price. To book, go to eurolot.com.

Beginning the long May weekend, Eurolot will launch as many as 11 direct flights to Croatia departing from four Polish cities. Flights

from Warsaw and Gdańsk will depart to Zadar, Split, Dubrovnik and Rijeka. The airport which serves Rijeka is located on the island of Krk - one of the most popular islands in Croatia with an excellent tourist base. From there you can easily get a ferry to 3 other frequently visited islands of Rab, Pag and Cres.

Passengers flying with Eurolot can take up to 20 kg of checked baggage and 6 kg of hand baggage free of charge. Children under 2 years of age travel free of charge, while those under 18 years of age are eligible for a 50% discount.

Airlines

AirBerlin



SPRING - THE BEST TIME FOR ENTERTAINMENT IN BERLIN

Those of you who are eager to learn about new cultures and traditions can participate in the Carnival of Cultures 2013, which will be held from 17 to 20 May 2013. Sports enthusiasts can cheer runners in the 33rd Vattenfall Berlin Half Marathon (on 7 April), or go to the final of the German Cup in football (on 1 June). If you are more interested in music and art, don't miss concerts of Lana del Rey (15 April), Bon Jovi (18 June) and the Glenn Miller Orchestra (22 May). Museum goers shouldn't miss the 32nd Long Night of Museums (16 March).

Tickets can be booked at airberlin.com, via the carrier's Service Centre (tel. 00800 49 11 386, free of charge), as well as in travel agencies. Prices of roundtrip tickets start at PLN 369. All prices include taxes, charges and miles in topbonus frequent flyer programme.

Hotels

Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof

NEW APPROACH TO RELAXATION

The luxurious Steigenberger Frankfurter Hof hotel has recently launched its new wellness lounge named simply "The Spa". The 1,000 sq m facility offers among others traditional European spa treatment, luxurious beauty treatment, and a special programme aimed at male guests. "The Spa" also features a luxury barber, as well as uniquely designed hamam, a large area with saunas, and a Spa Suite which will be the first of its kind in Frankfurt. The décor was designed by Peter Silling & Associates from Cologne.



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Hotels

Sound Garden Hotel

SELF-SERVICE WITH GOOD SOUND

Warsaw's first self-service hotel is being constructed next to Warsaw Chopin Airport. Its name - Sound Garden Hotel - promises pleasures unavailable to other such facilities. Sound Garden will be the capital's first self-service with reservations made by its website or via a mobile application. Instead of the reception desk, the lobby will feature electronic kiosks in which guests will check in and pay for their stay, receiving the invoice via email.

Why the name Sound Garden? This is because each of the hotel's five floors will feature a different kind of music available in the rooms. Guests will decide for themselves what music atmosphere they want to relax in, choosing a room on jazz, pop, rock, nature sounds or silence floors. The hotel will also offer a full range of conference options. Each of the nine rooms in the Conference Centre will feature exceptional acoustics. The facility is prepared to host meetings for 800 participants at the same time. Each of the rooms has access to natural daylight, with blackout facilities. The names of the conference rooms will refer to the world of music, and the highlight of the meeting floor will be large-format photograph of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Palace in Wilanów, with which Sound Garden will collaborate on various projects. Symphony, which will be the largest room of Sound Garden Conference Centre, will accommodate up to 300 people, while Opera room, will seat up to 150 guests. The whole hotel and the Conference Centre will have access to free wi-fi. The opening of the hotel is planned for April 2013.

Switzerland Certina

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CERTINA - a Swiss manufacturer of sports watches, is an official partner and timekeeper of the World Rally Championship series. CERTINA has already been involved in the rally scene between 2002 and 2005, as a partner of Colin McRae and Petter Solberg. The brand has been associated with motor sports since the 1970s, and the return to the rally scene, with its dynamic image, fits perfectly with the sporty and reliable CERTINA watches. **Adrian Bosshard, President of CERTINA, confirms: "This dynamic and challenging environment is a perfect match for our brand and our timepieces."**



Airlines

Wizzair

SKIING BY PLANE

Till March, 30 Wizzair offers regular flights between Warsaw and Grenoble-Isere. Direct transfer is possible from the Airport to main ski-resorts like: les 2 Alpes, Alpe d'Huez, Val d'Isere, Tignes, Val Thorens, Les Menuires.

Shuttle bus hours are tailored to the flight schedule, so that the waiting time was reduced to a minimum.



Culture

People on Top

ROMANTIC BERLIN

One of the co-organizers of the prestigious Blaue Blume event awarding romantic short films at the International Film Festival in Berlin, is Krzysztof Mikulski, the director of Romance TV Poland (in the photo with Julia Walter - this year's winner). The jury includes a representative of SKY digital platform and the Austrian public television ORF, and its patrons are Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg and the famous German producer prof. Regina Ziegler. The career of Krzysztof Mikulski is the best example of a perfect Polish-German business cooperation. Mr. Mikulski moved to Germany 30 years ago and started working in one of the country's largest public television stations - ARD. He participated in creation of RTL, RTL2, and Sat channels. He created many well-known television and film formats, and was a co-founder of the German VIVA channel, which he brought to Poland in 2000. After VIVA Europe was taken over by MTV, Krzysztof Mikulski was a Chief Operating Officer for 8 MTV channels until 2008. Currently, he manages Romance TV Poland channel, which is available on n platform, via the smartcard TV, Orange Tu i Tam TV, TOYA and in over 30 other cable networks, rapidly expanding its business operations. The channel's ambassador and presenter is the actress Aleksandra Woźniak.

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PROMOCJA MAGAZYNU

Business Traveller Poland

NA TABLETY!



Winter Regioncard

Karkonosze

REST AND SAVE

You can save even several hundred PLN with Karkonosze Regioncard, available both on the Polish and Czech side of the Giant Mountains (Krkonoše). The winter version of the Karkonosze Regioncard offers more than 250 discounts, including the services frequently used by tourists who visit the Giant Mountains in winter. The card entitles you to discounts on cableways and lifts, in ski rental and service shops, ski schools, wellness centres, restaurants, shops, museums and many other places.

The price of the card is extremely attractive, taking into account the number of discounts it offers. In some cases, the expense pays off already after the first use of the card. The card for an adult person costs PLN 17, for a child (up to 15 years of age) only PLN 10. The cardholder may use it for any 14 days during the winter season, which is from November to the end of April. The winter discounts are also available to people who bought the card in the summer, but haven't used it, yet. "For example, if a family of four decides to spend a week in Cerna Hora-Pec Skiresort, they could save almost PLN 600 with cards purchased for all family members. You can also save on the evening entertainment, taxi services, restaurants, ski schools, and other services," says Matěj Dunka, the Project Director of Karkonosze Regioncard. The cardholders can enjoy discounts in all ski resorts located in the Giant Mountains. In Poland, 7 towns have joined the programme, but the list is continuing to grow. Each cardholder receives a practical catalogue with practical advice on where and how they can get discounts. The catalogue describes all types of discounts and other practical information, including the so-called "calculator of attractions". For more information and an exact list of facilities participating in the programme, go to www.regioncard.pl.

Fashion

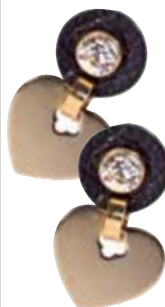
COCARDA



FOR UNIQUE LADIES

A new brand has entered the Polish jewellery market. COCARDA is aimed at modern women who want to stand out from the crowd and who appreciate quality. Italian leather and Swarovski crystals aren't the only advantages of the collection by the company who is a member of Polska Przedsiębiorcza start-up programme.

Cocarde was created with a passion for beauty and fashion. The brand's products are characterized by original and bold design in line with current trends in fashion. The premiere of the brand combined with the launch of the debut collection, took place in AIP Business Link in Warsaw's Zebra Tower. The meeting was hosted by Dorota Wróblewska, a known fashion creator and publisher of *Sophisti.pl*. Press breakfast organized on the occasion of the launch gathered a lot of people interested in the original design of the collection. Dorota Wróblewska talked about preparation for the show, and then interviewed the creator and the brand's designer - Olga Kulmaczewska. To see the entire collection, go to: www.cocarda.com



Art

Art Hotel

WHY ART?

You won't find any reproductions in Art Hotel. Instead, you can admire the original works by artists from Wrocław. All this perfectly integrated into the interior created by a painter and interior designer Renata Jarodźka. Perhaps that's why the hotel appeals to numerous Polish artists ... and Czesław Miłosz signed here his own poem which is engraved on a glass pane in the hotel restaurant ...

Art Hotel supports local artists and young people. It organizes exhibitions, sponsors art and culture centres. It also promotes the work of art students (www.studentartworks.com) and sponsors festivals, such as "New Horizons", "Wratistavia Cantans" or the "International Festival of Crime Fiction".



Zmywanie nigdy nie było tak szybkie!

ZBYT WCZESNY DZWONEK DO DRZWI TO WYZWANIE DLA KAŻDEGO GOSPODARZA PRZYJĘCIA. PAMIĘTAJĄC O ZASADZIE UDANEGO PARTY, WEDŁUG KTÓREJ SPOTKANIA „PRZENOSZĄ SIĘ” DO KUCHNI, PRÓBUJEMY DOKONAĆ RZECZY NIEMOŻLIWEJ – POZMYWAĆ DZIESIĄTKI TALERZY, GARNKÓW I SZTUĆCÓW W KILKA SEKUND. TYPOWY WYŚCIG Z CZASEM, W KTÓRYM KAŻDY Z NAS BIERZE UDZIAŁ...

POTRZEBUJESZ PRZYSPIESZENIA

Funkcja varioSpeed Plus, w którą jest wyposażona nowa zmywarka marki Siemens SN56N596EU, przyspiesza jej pracę, skracając czas oczekiwania na czyste naczynia aż o 66%! Wybierając np. program Auto 45°C – 65°C i ustawiając nową funkcję, już po niecałej godzinie możemy cieszyć się czystością zastawy. Kiedy w kuchni jest już porządek, a goście z niecierpliwością czekają na deser, możemy skorzystać ze specjalnego programu turboSpeed 20 Minut. Wystarczy, że w trakcie posiłku włączymy zmywarkę, która nagrzeje się do temp. 65°C, aby wkrótce wstawić brudne naczynia i już po 20 minutach – używać ich. Jak to możliwe? Nowa zmywarka marki Siemens działa w oparciu o innowacyjny system przechowywania i zarządzania wodą. W praktyce oznacza to, że specjalna jej kieszeń przechowuje czystą wodę z poprzedniego cyklu, która jest wykorzystywana przy następnym uruchomieniu sprzętu. Dzięki temu rozwiązaniu zmywarka zużywa jedynie 6 litrów wody, które wystarczą do umycia 150 elementów kuchennych. To jeden z najbardziej wodo- i energooszczędnych sprzętów AGD na rynku.

WYGODA I KOMFORT

O wygodę i szybki załadunek dbają specjalnie dostosowane do różnego typu naczyń kosze. VarioFlex Plus to dodatkowe, specjalne miejsca na drobne filiżanki do espresso, czy nietypowe przybory kuchenne. Dzięki regulowanemu trójstopniowo górnemu koszykowi, który możemy ustawić pod kątem, szybko zapomnimy o konieczności ręcznego zmywania wysokich wazonów, czy dużych waz, które nie mieściły się do tej pory w starych zmywarkach.

A PO SKOŃCZONYM PRZYJĘCIU...

Gdy czas nie będzie odgrywał najważniejszej roli, można wybrać jeden z czterech standardowych programów: Garnki 70°C, Auto 45°C – 65°C, Eco 50°C lub Delikatny 40°C. Cykl zmywania uzupełnią także funkcje: Strefa Intensywna, zwiększająca ciśnienie wody w dolnym koszyku, Suszenie Ekstra oraz Higiena Plus, która sprawdzi się szczególnie przy sterylizacji słoików na przetwory, butelek na mleko, czy desek do krojenia z tworzywa sztucznego. Cena: 3879 zł; więcej na www.siemens-home.pl

Wnętra zmywarek marki Siemens objęte są 10-letnią gwarancją. Szczegóły na www.siemens-home.pl/10latgwarancji



GATEWAY TO TOMORROW

From the rise of the aerotropolis to holographic staff, **Marzena Mróz** and **Jenny Southan** look at how airports of the future will change the way we travel.





Air travel is entering a new era. With China planning to open 78 new airports by 2020 and the number of passengers travelling globally set to hit 16 billion a year by 2050 (up from 2.8 billion today), the role aviation hubs play in cities, societies and economies will become more important than ever. As a consequence, imaginative architects are going to be essential to make airports as efficient and attractive as possible. “The days of designing airports that are functional and concrete are over,” says Pat Askew, senior director of aviation and transportation for architectural company Gensler.

While in the past airports have generally been located outside of town, with terminals added as required, the economic ambitions of the BRIC nations are giving birth to a new kind of airport concept – the aerotropolis. As opposed to an airport that has only been geographically embraced by a city because of urban sprawl, an aerotropolis is a city that has been designed from scratch with an airport at its heart.

Greg Lindsay, co-author (with John D Kasarda) of *Aerotropolis*, says: “Do we think of airports as the ultimate nuisances and something we banish to the edge of our cities and then surround with steel mills and other horrible polluting things, or do we think of them as integral to the future and health of our city and build around them in intelligent ways?”

Such postmodern urban planning, which sees whole cities developed almost overnight

with landing strips and air traffic control towers at the centre, are proving popular in the Middle East and Asia, where populations are booming and governments have the power to quickly make blueprints reality.

In the time the UK has been deliberating over a third runway at Heathrow, the aerotropolis of Songdo in South Korea, connected to Incheon airport by a 12km bridge, has risen from 6 sq km of reclaimed land to a gleaming confluence of tower blocks, with the aim of connecting more than one-third of the world’s population to the metropolis within 3.5 hours’ flight time.

AIRPORTS WITH A SPIRIT

When it comes to revamping or building new airports, using design to evoke a sense of place is another emerging trend. Raymond Kollau, founder of *airlinetrends.com*, says: “Passengers are looking for a local experience. When people transfer at [Amsterdam] Schiphol they will be there for two or three hours so they are offered a touch of the Netherlands – there is a branch of the Rijksmuseum, the Holland Boulevard, where you can have Dutch food, and an airport library where you can read translations of Dutch authors.”

He also cites Copenhagen airport, which launched its CPH Apartment lounge in July last year – open to all travellers (at a fee of 169kr/£18), it is furnished in the style of an upscale Danish residence with a kitchen, dining room, lounge and study. Helsinki’s Almost@Home lounge, mean-

while, tempts visitors with woollen socks to relax in, on Artek Second Cycle sofas.

It’s not only happening in Europe. Tokyo Haneda’s new international terminal has opened an Edo-style market with paper lanterns and mock historic shops selling traditional food and handicrafts, while Denver airport has applied the concept to the overall look of its building, with a tent-like roof shaped as a series of white peaks as a nod to nearby snow-capped mountains.

Mouzhan Majidi, chief executive of Foster and Partners, which has designed airports such as Beijing International and Hong Kong Chek Lap Kok, says: “As international gateways, airports should reflect the spirit of the place they represent. Beijing International is a building born of its context. This is expressed in its dragon-like form and the traditional Chinese colours of the roof, as reds merge into golden yellows.

“Kuwait airport is similarly inspired by vernacular architecture – its design is responsive to one of the hottest inhabited environments on earth. Our research explored local shading and ventilation principles – the use of loggias and the shape and orientation of apertures in the thick walls, which allow daylight to penetrate interior spaces while ensuring a comfortable climate.”

Askew from Gensler, which conceptualised San Francisco’s new Terminal 2 and JFK’s Jet Blue T5, agrees: “There is competition on where to fly and where to transfer – it’s civic pride. There is a desire to make things look different, be more welcoming and



Doha (simulation)

„Airports should become integral to the future and health of our city and build around them in intelligent ways,” – says Greg Lindsay, co-author of *Aerotropolis*.



Airport City Berlin (simulation)

more indicative of the place in which it sits. One of the nicest projects Gensler did was Jackson Hall, Wyoming, in a national park – the airport looks like a lodge, but in a very contemporary way. It has lots of wood and a fireplace in the departure lounge.”

TRAVELL STARTS ON THE NET

While the aesthetics of an airport help to improve the experience of travellers, technology will continue to empower them. Online check-in may be old news but the impact it will have on the design of new airports is significant. Askew says terminals that were built a long time ago were designed according to very different criteria. “The change has been so rapid, the need for large areas for check-in has completely changed,” he says. “We are faced with a lot of big, empty halls that are unused, and very crowded airside areas.”

Paul Behan, head of passenger experience for trade body IATA, agrees: “If you look at Heathrow T5 compared with T4 ten years ago, in T4 there would have been about 150 desks and long queues leading to them, whereas T5 is designed on a wave concept – wave one for check-in at 95 self-service kiosks, wave two for those who have checked in online and need to drop a bag off, and wave three for check-in with an agent. It’s filtering out those people who need help from those who don’t.”

The smartphone is crucial to the technological changes taking place. Now you can download your boarding pass, change your seat, check your flight status, pay for upgrades and rebook flights all on your personal device. The growth in automated services at airports goes hand in hand with this, as biometric passport gates replace staffed immigration desks and airlines follow Lufthansa’s example of having self-boarding gates.

Security will also become more akin to something from *Total Recall* with the installation of IATA’s Checkpoint of the Future, which allows passengers to walk through a corridor of scanners with their hand luggage, and without taking out liquids or electrical items.

In October, Denmark’s Billund airport worked with Thomas Cook to enable travellers to print their luggage tags at home, while Singapore Changi has partnered with IT firm SITA to provide end-to-end tracking, management and tracing of checked bags. In the US, Delta Air Lines scans every case that goes on to domestic flights, so that with the aid of its app, passengers will know if theirs has not been loaded. Kollau says: “Thanks to in-flight wifi, you can also start sorting out any luggage problem in the air using social media. There is a new interplay of things happening in the air and on the ground.”

IN THE REAL TIME

The fact that Changi is embracing such technology is indicative of its dedication to offering the best airport experience possible – it has won the reader-voted Business Traveller award for Best Airport in the World for 25 years running. It also applies similar (if quirkier) innovations to enhance the maintenance of its public facilities. Tan Lye Teck, executive vice-president of corporate at Changi Airport Group, says: “Our Instant Feedback System (IFS) enables us to receive real-time feedback from customers at toilets, check-in, immigration and information counters as well as at retail and food and beverage outlets.

“For example, in washrooms equipped with the IFS, passengers are invited to rate the cleanliness. If they give a less than satisfactory rating, they are prompted to indicate

the reason by selecting on-screen icons – for example, ‘wet floor’, ‘no toilet paper’, ‘dirty basin’. A mobile alert is then transmitted to the smartphone of the cleaning supervisor, who can initiate the necessary corrective action.”

If you find that a little weird, prepare yourself for the roll-out of 2D holographic staff who provide real-time instructions at security and boarding gates – the technology has already been trialled at Paris Orly, Manchester, Luton and Birmingham. There are even augmented reality apps that translate signs into your native language when you hold your phone up to them – Schiphol and Paris CDG already offer this to Chinese travellers. In August, Gatwick trialled a virtual fridge at its North Terminal so flyers could use their phone to scan items they wanted Tesco to deliver to their home for when they got back.

LUXURY FOR EVERYONE

The democratising of luxuries formerly associated with club lounges is also going to be more common in the airport of tomorrow, with the likes of showers, free wifi, power points, comfortable seating and even snooze zones introduced in public spaces. The arrival of Yotel capsule hotels at Heathrow, Gatwick and Schiphol was the first good example of a hotelier capitalising on the power nap – you can book a 7 sqm-10 sqm room for four to 24 hours – but last summer Moscow Sheremetyevo took it a step further with its Sleep Box for long-haul transit passengers. Located near boarding gates, the 2m x 1.4m x 2.3m pods have two bunk beds and can be rented for between 30 minutes and several hours.

With all these innovations, the airport of the future is going to be a destination in itself. Shopping will continue to be a vital source of



Changi

revenue, but as Askew notes, “there is only so much money a passenger will spend before they get on a plane”. So in addition, the emphasis will be on keeping them relaxed and entertained, something the 50-million capacity Changi is an expert in.

Karin Lui, premium content director of trendwatching.com, says: “Singapore is fantastic – it has so many facilities, food courts, gardens, cinema complexes and things for kids. Even when you are queuing for immigration they have pretty little waterfalls.” (That’s not even mentioning the rooftop pool and butterfly sanctuary.) The only problem is that if every airport becomes like this, no one will ever want to board their flight.

Ten trend-setting airport developments

1. INCHEON TERMINAL 2, SEOUL

Construction on the Gensler-designed terminal began last year, with completion due in 2017. It represents the third of four phases of development for the airport, with the last scheduled to be finished in 2020. By then it will have five runways and transport 100 million passengers a year (at the moment it is 44 million). The 650,000 sqm “H”-shape terminal aims to be a retail destination in itself, much like T1, which generates more than

US\$400,000 a day at its Louis Vuitton store alone. There will also be indoor gardens, aviaries, running water, a spa, a hotel and event spaces. The translucent glass roof will let in filtered sunlight and it is hoped the building will achieve LEED platinum status.

2. NEW DOHA INTERNATIONAL-AIRPORT

Built on more than 60 per cent reclaimed land, next door to the current Doha International airport that it will replace, the NDIA is to open by next summer. It will have an annual capacity of 50 million passengers across a three-storey terminal with 40,000 sqm of retail space and lounges. As well as an Emiri terminal for VIPs and a public mosque, the HOK Group-designed facility will have two luxury hotels and a spa. It is one of the first airports to be specifically designed to accommodate the A380 superjumbo, for which there will be six dedicated gates.

3. KUWAIT INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL 2

Conceptualised by Foster and Partners, construction on Kuwait’s new terminal began this year. When it is finished in 2016, it will handle about 13 million people a year, with the option of expanding to 50 million by 2035. Taking the form of a three-pointed star with

the central space reaching an elevation of 25 metres, its single-roof concept (with tapered pale stone columns reminiscent of sails) is designed to make navigation from check-in to gate as easy as possible. It is hoped the project will achieve LEED gold status, thanks in part to rooftop solar panels.

4. BEIJING DAXING INTERNATIONAL

As if one state-of-the-art, 75 million-capacity airport isn’t enough, the Chinese capital is building a second one 46km south of Tiananmen Square. It will have an annual capacity of between 130 million and 200 million (mainly domestic traffic), making it the busiest in the world. Construction on the 55 sq km site (bigger than Bermuda) started late this year and is set for completion in 2017. It will have eight commercial runways and a high-speed city-centre train link.

5. QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

Amman’s Queen Alila is being replaced with a new terminal that will increase capacity to nine million annually when it is complete next year. Its 127 domed rooftops were inspired by Bedouin tents, with columns creating the impression of palm trees. Designed by Foster and Partners, it



The only problem is that if every airport becomes like Changi, no one will ever want to board their flight.

will have natural ventilation, gardens and courtyards with pools, photovoltaic roof panels and rainwater harvesting.

6. ABU DHABI MIDFIELD TERMINAL

Work on this 700,000 sqm facility, set to open in 2017, is to start by the end of the year. The work of Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates, it will have more than 18,000 sqm of designer shops, 10,000 sqm of restaurants and 27,500 sqm dedicated to lounges, hotels and even a museum of heritage and culture.

7. DUBAI AL MAKTOUM INTERNATIONAL PHASE TWO

Phase one of the 24-hour airport opened to cargo in 2010, and once complete in about 2018, will be able to handle 160 million travellers a year – more than twice that of Heathrow – and four A380s at once thanks to five runways. The second phase is under way, with two passenger terminals being added. One of the most expensive airport projects in the world, with an estimated

US\$82 billion price tag, it will be the eventual base of Emirates.

8. BERLIN BRANDENBURG INTERNATIONAL

After numerous delays, the new Berlin Brandenburg is set to open in October next year, replacing existing airports Tegel and Schönefeld. Designed to handle up to 30 million passengers initially, with the addition of two satellite terminals it could accommodate up to 50 million. Inside there will be 108 self-service check-in kiosks on top of 94 staffed desks, while outside, the nearby 109-hectare BER Business Park Berlin will be dedicated to convention centres and commercial and industrial outlets.

9. ZAGREB NEW TERMINAL

Designed by Zaha Hadid, work on Zagreb airport's new terminal is to start in mid-2013 and is due for completion in 2016. The additional 67,700 sqm of space may not be much compared with the likes of Abu Dhabi and Beijing, but the white, curvilinear-look-

ing structure, reminiscent of a network of sand-blasted bones, is extremely cutting-edge. It is described as “a distinctive, environmentally advanced building, organised through a series of flow lines, set in a tapestry-like configuration”, with “no clear distinction between floors, walls and roofs – the whole structure seamlessly integrates natural light, ventilation, access, signage and viewing areas”.

10. SPACEPORT AMERICA

The world's first private spaceport, costing US\$209 million, was unveiled in the New Mexico desert in October 2011 and has since seen a dozen suborbital flights launched. It signifies the first step into commercial space travel, the first instance of which is set for late next year with Virgin Galactic. Designed to achieve LEED gold certification, the building is cooled by “Earth tubes”, powered by solar panels, and ventilated with fresh air. The alien-looking Foster and Partners structure has been crafted to meld with the gentle curves of the surrounding landscape.

TURKISH AIRLINES FROM WARSAW TO SINGAPORE



CONTACT

www.turkishairlines.com

PRICE

Round-trip fares start at economic class 3 000 PLN business class 10 000 PLN

The undeniable advantage of travelling in business class on board a Turkish Airlines aircraft flying to Singapore (with a change in Istanbul), is that it gives you the chance to visit Europe's most beautiful business lounge, located at the Atatürk Airport.

WARSAW - ISTANBUL FLIGHT

The boarding procedure at the airport in Warsaw started 30 minutes before the scheduled

departure time (at 3 pm), from Gate 18. I boarded the Airbus 320 and took window seat 2A. Among the beverages offered by the flight attendants, I chose freshly squeezed orange juice. At 3.05 pm the aircraft took off, and 15 minutes into the flight the onboard service began. A warm, wet cloth to wipe your hands, a glass of wine, and salted pistachios are a good start to a long journey. Then, we were served delicious appetizers - humus, grilled vegetables,

cold meats, and yogurt. The main course consisted of grilled shrimps. The flight took just 2 hours and 10 minutes.

THE LOUNGE IN ISTANBUL

Business class passengers can wait there for the next stage of his journey. This spacious place, which resembles a wealthy Eastern seraglio, consists of several rooms and has a lot to offer. In addition to the relaxation zone, where you can relax in comfortable armchairs

among baskets of fruit and olive trees planted in giant pots, there is also a library with a pool table, a TV room with eight screens, a luggage storage facility (with combination locks), as well as a cinema with 20 seats, where you can watch films and concerts while gorging on fresh popcorn. There's also a special children's play area called CurioCity.

In the two restaurants of the lounge, Turkish chefs prepare the best dishes in front of the hungry travellers. Add to this, a large selection of spirits (including Turkish wines) and as many as 12 species of olives. I spent there 5 hours and wasn't bored even for a moment.

ISTANBUL-SINGAPORE FLIGHT

Boarding started an hour before the scheduled departure time, at 11.40 pm. After boarding the Airbus 330/200 which serves this route, I took seat 1D (in the middle). The seat configuration on board Turkish Airlines differs from what other carriers offer on long haul flights. Here, instead of 2-2-2 configuration, we have a nice return to the classics with 5 horizontal rows of 2 seats. Each passenger received a travel kit and slippers, as well as a beige duvet with red trim and a pillow.

Friendly, dark-haired flight attendants were serving orange juice while the chef was advising passengers on the dishes from the à la carte menu. For an appetizer we received smoked salmon, marinated shrimp, grilled zucchini and humus. For main course I ordered fried sea bass with steamed vegetables. As for wine, I chose Chablis Premier Cru Les Beuroys 2008. The dinner finished with dessert - chocolate mousse with tea and finally a glass of excellent Hennessy VSOP cognac.

After the meal I reclined my seat into a flat bed, turned on the spotlight (mounted on the long handy arm), and read a few pages of the book while listening to music from the in-flight



A reasonable price to pay for good quality.
The Turkish carrier has gained a number of awards in recent years and now I know that the airline deserves all the accolades.



entertainment system. This is how I spent most of the 10-hour journey.

The cabin crew woke up passengers for breakfast, which was served 90 minutes before landing. I chose scrambled eggs, delicious Turkish white cheese, tomatoes, cucumbers, olives, yogurt with applesauce, cherry jam, as well as traditional and French bread. The choice of drinks included coffee, tea, and champagne Gosset Grande Reserve

Brut. We landed in Singapore on schedule, at 5.20 pm local time.

VERDICT

A good connection with a change in Istanbul where you can visit the truly unique lounge. A reasonable price to pay for good quality. The Turkish carrier has gained a number of awards in recent years and now I know that the airline deserves all the accolades.

Marzena Mróz

RAFFLES PRASLIN



CONTACT

Raffles Praslin Seychelles
Anse Takamaka Praslin
tel. +248 4 296 000
www.affles.com/praslin

PRICE

€800 per night

Praslin, which is the second largest granite island of Seychelles, is situated about 50 km away from the capital of the archipelago of Mahé. The island is inhabited by mere 7,000 people, but its spectacular beaches, tropical landscapes and original vegetation, make it a true paradise on earth.

RAFFLES VILLAS

If you had any suspicions and wondered whether the Seychelles are a bit overrated, you should go to Raffles Praslin resort. Even the shortest stay will help you get rid of all the doubts. The resort consists of 86 luxurious villas furnished in a modern way. Each of them comes

with a spacious terrace, a small private swimming pool with hydro-massage, and, most of all, a unique and stunning view. Each has a dedicated 24/7 service - a private concierge caters for the guests' needs. The villas overlook the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, nearby islands or the garden and the pool.

I stayed in a villa facing the ocean and the Curieuse island in the distance. The living room and the bedroom of 125 sq m (including an open terrace) were furnished in a modern way, but with care about all the details characteristic for this part of the world. In the leisure area, there is a sofa, a flat TV screen, DVD and MP3 players, a Nespresso coffee maker and a tea kettle. In

the bathroom there is a bathtub facing a huge window and a set of branded toiletries. Those who prefer the shower can take it... outside. The bedroom comes with a huge bed facing a panoramic window, which overlooks the terrace. The window can be open. That way, you lose one wall in exchange for magnificent view.

Guests have also access to a large outdoor pool. The free wifi connection is available all over the area.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Breakfast in a form of generous buffet offer an astounding selection of tropical fruit and freshly-squeezed juices. It's served in Losean Restaurant & Delicates-

sen, where during lunchtime and dinnertime you can try typical Mediterranean dishes. In Curieuse Restaurant & Pool Bar, on the other hand, you can order fresh seafood, while in Danzil Lounge Bar - have a glass of cocktail and smoke a cigar. Another interesting place in Raffles is Takamaka Terrace Lounge, where under the starred sky you can smoke a waterpipe and have a cocktail. If it's a romantic dinner you want, you can have it on your terrace - the concierge will take care of all the details. The chefs will Creole specialties based on fruit, vegetables and fish under your eyes. With your meal you can order one of remarkable wines from almost all over the world.

SPA AND RELAXATION

Spa with a view over the ocean soothes your senses and stimulates the imagination. There are 13 pavilions where experienced massage therapists offer relaxing therapies based on Kerstin Florian products and natural pearls, which improve the condition of the skin. Next to the spa there is a fitness studio, a sauna, a jacuzzi, special showers and rooms where you can relax drinking fruit juices and cocktails.

Raffles offers various attractions for active leisure fans. You can do snorkelling, scuba-diving, canoeing around the bay, or try mountain biking. One of the more pleasant things to do in Praslin is staying on Anse Takamaka beach - to get there you have to walk for a few hundred metres. One of the five most beautiful - at least according to the guide books - beaches in the world, Anse Lazio, is just five-minute drive away from the resort. The sand here is as fine-grained and white as powder sugar.

Taking a trip to one of the nearby islands - Curieuse or La Digue - is also a worthwhile option. Seeing Vallée de Mai - a primeval forest is a must. This valley, named Eden by the dis-

coverers and listed as UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located further deep into Praslin. There you can see the coco de mer - the famous Seychelles nut.

VERDICT

A very good resort, offering relaxed atmosphere, magnificent beaches, fabulous food and vil-

las with luxurious conditions. Lush greenery and unforgettable views guarantee a pleasant stay. Families with small children have access to a mini club, while couples who hope for solitude in Praslin, can arrange a stay in Raffles away from other holidaymakers.

Rafał Sobiech



Very good resort offering relaxed atmosphere. Spa with a view over the ocean soothes your senses and stimulates the imagination.



DOUBLETREE BY HILTON



CONTACT

tel. 00 (248) 2599895
e-mail:
sales@allamanda-seychelles.com
www.allamanda-seychelles.com

PRICE

from €320 per room
breakfast included

This is the first DoubleTree by Hilton in the Indian Ocean region and the third Hilton Worldwide in Seychelles. The hotel previously known as the Allamanda Beach Resort & Spa, was thoroughly renovated after rebranding.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Today DoubleTree by Hilton Seychelles - Allamanda Resort & Spa is a four-star hotel located only 20 minutes away from Pointe Larue international airport. It's located in one of the most beautiful places in the world, surrounded by tropical vegetation.

ROOMS

The hotel offers 32 rooms (24 with an ocean view) in three categories. Ocean Vie is a 58 sq m suite, with stylish decor

of the lounge, a king-size bed, a private bathroom, a safe, and a furnished balcony. Ocean View Jacuzzi (60 sq m) has an additional amenity - a hot tub on the balcony. The most luxurious is the 70-metre Deluxe Ocean View Jacuzzi - also with a Jacuzzi on the balcony and an additional bathtub in the bathroom. All rooms are spacious and have air-conditioning, but it's also possible to open windows and let the ceiling fan do its job.

ATTRACTIONS

Although the hotel is situated only a dozens of steps from the ocean, the complex also has its swimming pool, and behind the main hotel building there's spa and wellness centre. There are also numerous attraction in the immediate vicinity of the hotel. You can snorkel

on the coral reef (which is very close to the beach), or go to the nearby market. In Kot Man-Ya Exotic Garden botanical garden, tourists can see over 200 species of orchids, or have a close encounter with turtles and... cute guinea pigs. You should also visit several art galleries run by local artists (e.g. Colbert Nouricce Studio, Adelaide Studio). The most convenient way to explore the island is by car, which can be rented at the hotel for about €40 per day.

VERDICT

It's a truly remarkable place for special guests. Standard-wise it's almost like a 5-star hotel. Full board costs €70 per person per day. A nice touch are significant discounts for children. Babies up to 5 years old can stay free of charge.

Rafał Sobiech



Golf paradise by *AIR MAURITIUS*



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Wielki Głęboćek 1,
87-313 Brzozie
www.gleboczek.pl
e-mail: gleboczek@gleboczek.pl
tel. +48 22 380 59 00;
+48 660 497 245

PRICE

Double room - from PLN 530

This is not only a feast for the body and palate, but also a place for a fruitful business meetings. I went there and I checked for myself why it's worth visiting Głęboćek Wine Resort & Spa.

WHERE IS IT?

Imagine a large terrace with an outdoor hot tub and a breathtaking panoramic view of a lake in the distance and young Polish vineyards on green terroir. The feel of tradition and rustic ambience is combined here with state-of-the-art spa. In recent years Poland has seen a flurry of spa openings, with the new facilities gaining hearts and minds of Polish customers.

However, Głęboćek, which is located in the beautiful hills of Brodnica Lakeland, clearly stands out among the best Polish spa centres.

HOTEL

Winnica (Vineyard) I/II hotel, which is a part of Głęboćek complex, offers nearly 50 rooms of various standards. Winnica I features 20 Duo double rooms, 1 Superior room, 3 Deluxe Apartments and 2 Suites. Winnica II offers 16 Duo rooms, 5 Single King rooms and 2 Superior rooms. We highly recommend the Deluxe apartments and Suites with their windows facing east. In this way you will be awakened by the sun whose rays reflect on the surface of the lake.

Additional accommodation, in an equally interesting environment, are available in the Settlement (Osada) which is a complex of three cottages – Gościnna (Hospitable), Stara (Old), and Wiejska (Rural). You can find there more intimacy, because each cottage features only a few rooms and suites. You can also stay in the Spa Cabin which is a free-standing, 80 sq m apartment with a view of the lake, own sauna, bathroom and spacious living area. There you can enjoy miscellaneous spa treatments available on request.

FOR BUSINESS

Głęboćek is mainly a spa hotel, but it can also effectively compete with so-called business-

friendly facilities. Last year's Profit Hotel Forum conference, which was attended by representatives of the hospitality industry, was also an occasion to present Profit Hotel Awards. Głęboćek was one of three nominees in the category of Best Polish Business Hotel. The award is well-deserved, because the owner of the hotel has recently invested substantial amounts of money in building a new conference and banquet centre. The centre features over 23 guest rooms and suites, as well as two conference/banquet facilities – 'Barolo' which can accommodate up to 250 people, and 'Morelino' for 80 guests. Another novelty is Pinot Nero nightclub. Another conference room for 80 people is located in Winnica I. All rooms are equipped with screens, projectors, air conditioning and Internet access.

FOR THE BODY

However, the biggest attractions of Głęboćek are the spa, the swimming pool and various types of treatment, including wine therapy which consists of Pinotage wine bath with grape leaf extracts. The treatment helps combat the first signs of skin aging. The "Drop of Sauvignon" is another relaxing treatment, performed on a stone table. The whole body, including the scalp and hair, are treated

with wine extracts, this time from Sauvignon variety. The treatment has rejuvenating properties and strengthens hair. As for facial treatment, I recommend the ones with an exceptionally tasty and graceful names. "Honey Temptation" is based on extracts of honey to improve circulation and the looks of the skin on the face. "Fruit Paradise" with fruit oils will help your skin recover its glow, while "Garden Tea" is a treatment based on extracts of tea to rejuvenate the skin.

VERDICT

The cuisine served in Głęboćek is another reason why the resort deserves all the accolades. The menu features delicious sour

rye soup, onion soup baked in the oven, as well as divine borscht and homemade bread. Luscious breakfasts deserve particular praise. Everything is served discreetly, with the refinement of pre-war Warsaw. Wine lovers can visit the Wine Cellar to have dinner with a sommelier who will spice up your meal with interesting stories about the wine you drink. The choice of wine is mind-blowing: from Polish Muscats made in Płochocki Winery, to perfect red Sicilian and Tuscan wines. The prices are on the higher side, but best quality never comes cheap. I assure you that you won't regret a cent spent here!

Rafał Sobiech

Głęboćek stands out as one of the best Polish spa centres.

Rustic ambience is combined here with state-of-the-art spa.

In recent years, Poland has seen a flurry of spa openings, with the new facilities gaining hearts and minds of Polish customers.



THE AVANT-GARDE ANDEL'S



This one of the most beautiful business hotels in Poland is unique not only because of its design but also good cuisine and a well-equipped 3,100 sq m conference centre. Andel's is spacious, modern and elegant. Its design resembles New York lofts with its artistic space adapted to reflect the needs of the 21st century.

INTERIOR

This red-brick building, once housing a cotton mill, whose architecture combines both ancient and modern details, offers 278 rooms and suites. 216 double rooms (including 123 twin ones), 52 suites with kitchen annex suitable for longer stays, four two-storey Maisonette rooms, one Maisonette Deluxe located across two floors with a terrace and magnificent view over Łódź, and 4 rooms adapted to the needs of disabled guests. Standard rooms are narrow and tall which reflects the original architecture. The austerity of the white brick walls contrasts with bright colours of the decor, including remarkable floral patterns, modelled on the works by painters Katarzyna Kobro and Władysław Strzemiński, who created the famous alphabet used in the city's logotype. The original arches and bars have been preserved, so no wonder that the rooms look so different. In the 165-metre presidential suite, the two levels are connected with an old, cast-iron spiral staircase, restored from one of the buildings in the complex. Upstairs, there is a stylish library with an entrance to a 100-metre private terrace overlooking a panorama of Łódź.

The hotel's motto is: "Design is only a part of our philosophy. The latest trends and avant-garde art are a nice addition."

POST-INDUSTRIAL STYLE

The interior of the hotel and the rooms themselves was done by

two world-recognized British architects Jestico+Whiles. They created atmospheric interior while preserving the post-industrial character of the place. This ambiance is visible right upon entering the building in the spacious lobby, where a hundred-year-old bar & pole construction, original fans and cast-iron boards were put together with luxurious sofas, designer tables and swan armchairs. There are no straight lines, only inspirational curvatures.

The lobby has access to the natural light thanks to the glass roof and round openings in the atrium. Another brave combination of styles is the futuristic bar with purple lights combined with wood-covered walls and an old sewing machine on the counter. One of the walls of Oscar's Bar features a mural. M-city 234 can be interpreted as an allegory of Łódź - a city which in the 19th century was called the Polish Manchester.

CONFERENCE ROOMS

The hotel houses the biggest conference centre in the region: 7 conference rooms and a 1,300 sq m ballroom located on the fourth floor. The interior can be arranged specifically to suit the needs of guests. Delight Restaurant can accommodate 330 people, and Oscar's Bar has been visited by many Oscar winners, including Martin Scorsese.

There is an underground car park for 100 cars and Lounge Room intended for exclusive meetings. The hotel has a service lift which can transport large objects, such as a car or a piano. Andel's Łódź is located in the heart of the city, in Manufaktura shopping centre - only 5 km from Łódź Kaliska station and 10 km from the airport. The hotel's fitness studio and swimming pool also offer impressive panorama views of the city. The pool is located on the top floor of the building, in a 19th-century fire reservoir. A section of the floor around the pool is made of transparent



glass, so while walking you can see people on lower floors. The pool is a part of skySPaCe Fitness and Spa Centre, offering luxurious relaxation in a sauna, during massages or beauty treatment.

AWARDS

- 2012 World Travel Awards – nominated in „Poland's Leading Business Hotel” category
- Best Hotel Award 2012– the best hotel in Łódź
- Holiday Check Quality Selection 2012 – a city hotel
- International Hotel Award Europe 2011 – Best New Hotel

Construction & Design

- Design Hotel 2012 – portal HRS, Newsweek and Forbes
- Travellers' Choice 2013 i 2012 – portal TripAdvisor

VERDICT

Andel's is a truly original hotel - all the historical elements either have remained unchanged or were restored, and the new features have a modern design and follow the latest trends. Andel's Hotel also supports local artists, hosting numerous art exhibitions. It's an ideal place for a business meeting or a conference.

Marzena Mróz

CONTACT

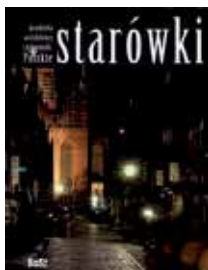
www.andelslodz.com

PRICES

single room – from €80
double room – from €100

BOOKS AND MUSIC

Marek Baranoski recommends books and CDs



Architecture masterpieces

Based on the assumption that the city is one of the most important symbols of culture, this carefully edited album is a valuable source of information about historical sites in Polish cities. Exceptional pictures by Waldemar and Zbigniew Pan documenting the charm of old towns in Warsaw, Cracow, Wrocław, Lublin, Poznań, Gniezno are complemented with photographs of lesser-known, but equally remarkable town halls, tenements and churches in Przemyśl, Płock, Toruń, Rzeszów, Grudziądz or Chełmno. After looking through the book, you will immediately feel the need to finally visit Lubomierz, Paczkowo, Olsztyn, Frombork and Tarnów. Michał Wiśniewski and Franciszek Ziejka provide interesting commentaries.

„Arcydzieła architektury i urbanistyki. Polskie Starówki”, Bosz Publishing House



A quest to find the flavour

Is it possible to learn anything new about chocolate, garlic, bell pepper or tomatoes? It seems so. The author of "Historia smaku" (A Taste of History), says the book is a story of two journeys. One of them is a time travel, which helped him collect fascinating stories about food products every day. The other one tells us about his life journey - places he visited and the people met along the way. The Polish subtitle of the book translates into "how vegetables and spices created fortunes, caused wars and drove people into madness". It's worth learning about the history of oil, try out a modified recipe for the French onion soup, or, together with the author, visit Romania in search for the truth about garlic and find out who discovered chilli.

Bryan Bruce „Historia smaku”, Carta Blanca Publishing House



A book for a flight

What should an ideal book for a flight be like? Light, pocket-sized and absolutely mesmerizing. Just like "Czas szybko się starzeje" (It's Getting Later All the Time) by a prominent Italian Portuguese literary historian, a connoisseur of works by Fernando Pessoa, considered one of the most outstanding contemporary European writers. The book consists of nine stories with a common theme of the past and memory. A former GDR agent, for years trailing Bertold Brecht, finally finds the grave of the writer to entrust his difficult secret to him. In a sea village an Italian officer, once exposed to uranium radiation in Kosovo, has an unusual conversation with a little girl. A general of the Hungarian army goes to Moscow to meet a man, who, in 1956 stood on the other side of the barricade.

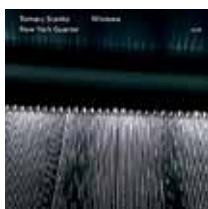
Antonio Tabucchi „Czas szybko się starzeje”, Czytelnik Publishing House



Brodka in English

"Lax" is an EP by Monika Brodka recorded in Los Angeles. You will find here 2 new tracks and four remix songs. "LAX" was promoted by "Varsovie" single, and there is also a clip. In both songs Monika Brodka sings in English. Songs like Dancing Shoes or Varsovie were recorded in Red Bull studio in Los Angeles under the supervision of Bartosz Dziedzic and the producer Eric Stenman. The remixes were made by Kampl!, Auer, Bueno Bros and Greg Kozo.

Monika Brodka, „Lax”, Kayax



About Wisława

Just like Miles Davis some time ago, the Polish trumpeter Tomasz Stańko seems to be good at starting bands. The latest one, created in New York went well beyond former expectations. Thomas Morgan, a genius improviser, Gerald Cleaver, and a Cuban pianist David Virelles who takes inspirations from religious music, Thelonius Monk and Andrew Hill, seem to be perfect to perform the pieces written by Stańko. The double album was inspired by poetry of Wisława Szymborska. That's really something!

Tomasz Stańko, „Wislawa”, Universal Music Polska



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MADE IN PEKIN

Marzena Mróz and our British correspondent **Rose Dykins** analyze whether it is worth to make business contacts in Beijing - a city which is increasingly feeling the impact of Western culture.





On October 1, hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Tiananmen Square during the raising of the national flag for the mid-autumn festival. Chinese tourists bolted down Chang An Avenue to reach the square and grab a vantage point. When the moment came for the flag to rise, a flock of birds was released into the pale pink sky, gracefully zigzagging above Tiananmen Tower. Rather than breaking into rapturous applause, the members of the crowd quietly raised their cameras and clicked away.

During China's second-biggest national holiday, Beijing's notorious smoggy skies were crystal-clear – possibly thanks to cloud seeding. About 85 million people took to the road across the country, and with many of them visiting the capital, there was a fantastic buzz. Throngs descended on the Forbidden City, the red-lanterned stalls of the night market and Wangfujing Street, which leads to the Sanlitun shopping district. Here, the array of international brands – from Haagen-Dazs to Apple – and designer stores in gleaming multistorey malls reflect the diverse consumer choice available to Beijingers.

CHANGING THE IMAGE

"Five years ago there weren't any fast fashion stores," says Nels Frye, editor-in-chief of China's Lifestyle magazine, who has lived and worked here for almost a decade. "The arrival of these has really changed the way people look and think about fashion."

The speedy development of a sophisticated consumer culture in China was recently explored by Andrew Roberts on bloomberg.com: "As more Louis Vuitton bags, Gucci wallets and Omega watches flood cities like Beijing, consumers are eschewing readily available logoed products in favour of more distinctive alternatives," he writes. "The shift to less conspicuous goods may dent growth at Vuitton and Gucci, which until recently sold more than half the luxury handbags in the world's second-largest economy."

To have reached the point of logo fatigue in a Communist country in such a short space of time is remarkable, and a testament to how quickly China continues to develop. In Tiger Head, Snake Tails, Jonathan Fenby writes: "For all the regime preservation measures and the lack of a visible alternative to the Communist Party, large ques-



tions hang over its nature and role now that it has ditched ideology in favour of managing economic expansion. It has had to allow society to move in directions unthinkable under Mao."

CHALLENGES OF THE FUTURE

After the rapid economic growth over the past decades, which was heavily reliant on manufactured exports, Beijing is looking to the future. As the world economy has slowed, so too has China's export industry. Lessening demand from the rest of the world has taken its toll, and the World Bank has forecast GDP growth to drop from 9.3 per cent to 7.7 per cent this year (contrast this with US growth estimated at 1.9 per cent, and the UK's GDP, which shrank 0.4 per cent in the second quarter).

To offset this, the government is pursuing growth through other means. "China has stated its goal to make the transition from being a producer to being a creator," Frye says. "This could partly be down to the increasing cost in labour or to follow the cultural development of society."

So what will this mean for the capital? "Beijing wants to become more service-industry focused," says Matthias Al-Amiry, general manager of the Raffles Beijing hotel, located minutes from Tiananmen Square (see business traveller.com/tried-and-tested for a review). "Before 2008, there were a lot of factories around the centre, which were shut down or relocated. After that, more and more international companies and brands started coming in. There's a lot of construction going on – I think we'll see many more office buildings going up on the fourth and fifth ring roads – call centres and financial and telecommunication companies."

HOTEL BOOM

Major hotel chains also continue to target Beijing, despite an over-saturated market. "Beijing is experiencing over-supply and under-demand for hotel rooms, not because of the Olympics, but this added to it," says Al-Amiry. "There was a boom in hotels because the economy exploded over the past 20 years, so everybody wanted to be part of that. We have another 1,500 luxury rooms coming to town in the next 18 months."

In September, the 313-room Four Seasons Beijing opened in the central business district (CBD), while a 325-room Conrad is set to open imminently. Rosewood Hotels and Resorts will debut in China with a 279-room property next summer and a 340-room W hotel will open in early 2014, both in the CBD.

Meanwhile, an alternative business culture is developing within the ancient alleyways



The apparent ideological contradictions that exist within China's capital don't have to hinder its growth – on the contrary, they just make it all the more fascinating.

at the heart of Beijing, the hutongs. Strolling through this Old City district, you see the grey-brick residences with shared bathrooms that have survived demolition (88 per cent have been destroyed, with residents rehoused in high-rise towers). The Beijingers that continue to live in the hutongs are mainly elderly and retired, but there has been a rise in expats drawn to the area in recent years.

"Foreigners fetishise this side of Beijing," Frye says. "I suppose it's mainly independent types that are interested in living in the hutongs. It's an odd transition to make, this movement into the third world within grandiose, super-rich Beijing. Very soon I think this will become one of the highest-rent places in the world – being so central, land values are so high, perhaps the equivalent of London's Mayfair."

A hutong resident himself, Frye is originally from Massachusetts. As well as his Lifestyle role, he runs "Hip Hutongs" tours, writes a fashion blog, and co-owns a tailoring company. He epitomises the expat start-up culture that has led to vintage stores, trendy bars, boutique hotels and high-end galleries springing up in the area – for a taste, check out the Wuhao Curated Shop (wuhaoonline.com), which is an oasis of calm after turning off Nan Luo Guxiang, the district's

main tourist drag. The invasion of independent businesses in what was the poorest area of the city centre, still inhabited by "east-enders" but equally attractive to local hipsters donning retro clothing, is reminiscent of London's Shoreditch scene.

FASHION COUNTS

Beijing's evolving fashion sense is perhaps an indication of the internationalisation of China's capital. "People are more knowledgeable about the world outside China," Frye says. "Five years ago it was more common to meet people who had never been out of China – now it's taken for granted that people want to travel. It's a vastly more cosmopolitan population."

That said, while my eloquent tour guide, Michael, could easily chat about his favourite characters from *The Big Bang Theory*, being an English-speaking traveller out and about, you are often struck by a language barrier, suggesting the Western influence is not quite as pervasive among the wider population.

"I think if you came back in five years' time, you'd find a lot more people speaking English, and probably behaving in a more service-orientated way, which comes less naturally to the area than in places like

Cambodia or South East Asian countries," Al-Amiry says. "What I realise from my Chinese colleagues is that more and more of their children's schools are offering English as a second language, which was not the case previously, and that's key to opening the country up to the rest of the world."

LIFE AFTER THE GAMES

When you ask people how things have changed, they will often begin their comparison with "Five years ago...", reflecting the impact that hosting the 2008 Olympics had on Beijing's evolution. No doubt the infrastructure that was put in place before the Games, and the influx of foreign visitors during them, has left its mark. And yet the city retains its authentic, often enigmatic feel. "For a nation that can look back to such a long history, the People's Republic of China is, in many ways, still in an adolescent phase as an actor on the world scene," Fenby writes in *Tiger Head, Snake Tails*. "What it wants, above all, is to be able to use the rest of the world for its domestic development, and to be able to go about its own way without the moralising of others." The apparent ideological contradictions that exist within China's capital don't have to hinder its growth – they just make it all the more fascinating.





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FIVE STARS FOR LUFTHANSA

Lufthansa has been awarded five stars in the latest Skytrax ranking review for a comprehensive range of products and services, developed specifically for first-class passengers.



Lufthansa's first class cabin is all about perfection down to the smallest detail. Each, even the tiniest element of the cabin was designed to ensure that even the longest journey is as comfortable as possible. First class passengers can always expect exceptional quality, including discrete and effective procedures at the airport, and outstanding on board service. Skytrax experts have awarded Lufthansa for exceptional comfort in the first class cabin.

PRIVACY AND SPACE

The cabin's innovative design offers plenty of open space, and thanks to the individually adjustable screens each passenger can decide how much privacy he wishes.

Each of the eight seats may be reclined into a fully flat-bed (207 cm long), with a touch of a single button. The temperature regulating duvet, high-quality pillow, and the ergonomic mattress, make the dream on board a truly unique experience.

The independently adjustable backrest and footrest allow easy

adjustment of the seats in a position that is most comfortable when you relax or work. The tray table is maximized in size to cater for both dining and working.

The automatic air humidification system, electric window screens, individual illumination control, as well as the reading lamp, contribute to overall comfort in the cabin. With the use of outer skin insulation, sound-insulating curtains, and unique sound-deadening flooring, first class cabin is quietest part in the aircraft.



The exceptional standard of the first class is further highlighted by fresh colours, additional lockers and compartments, as well as discreet lighting. The set of luxury toiletries help you refresh in the spacious bathroom. Skytrax experts were also impressed by the personal in-flight entertainment system, featuring 17-inch screens to enable passengers to watch over 100 films in eight languages, play video games, or take a quick language course. There is also a wide selection of TV channels and radio stations, as well as an extensive collection of CDs and audio books.

On intercontinental flights passengers can also enjoy unique

meals. Lufthansa is the only airline to completely different menus created by different renowned chefs every two months in the aircraft cabin. In addition, you may enjoy Lufthansa's exclusive selections of wines as a part of the "Vinothek Discoveries" onboard programme, with the wine list changed every two months.

LUXURY ON THE GROUND

Travelling in first class also means enjoying the highest standards of service prior to boarding. That is why, Skytrax experts also rated highly the ground service. For example, the First-Class Terminal in Frankfurt won acclaim for its comfortable armchairs and so-

fas as well as other amenities including quiet rooms with daybeds, a separate cigar lounge, spacious bathrooms offering high-quality toiletries as well as an extensive choice of hot or cold meals. Of course, exquisite cuisine can be enjoyed in peace and quiet, while maintaining complete privacy on one of the largest airports in the world.

Since this January dedicated personal assistants have been available at many airports worldwide to attend personally to requirements of first class passengers. Their main task is to assist passengers in all the necessary procedures and accompanying them to baggage reclaim in an exclusive area.

Each, even the tiniest element of the cabin was designed to ensure that even the longest journey is as comfortable as possible. First class passengers can always expect exceptional quality.



EXPANSION OF MERCURE IN POLAND

Whether you are travelling for business or leisure, Mercure hotels promise an enjoyable stay thanks to the unique combination of diversity of the offer with a high standard of service.



www.mercure.com
www.accorhotels.com

Mercure International Hotels is a chain which consists of over 700 hotels - each of them rooted in the local community and run by enthusiastic hoteliers. The history of the brand in Poland started in 1993. For two decades, the chain has rapidly expanded and at present 17 hotels operates under the Mercure brand.

Mercure is one of the fastest growing chains of mid-range and luxury hotels in Poland. Recently, it has launched several new hotels in Poland - in War-

saw, Krynica and Piotrków Trybunalski. Each Mercure hotel has a unique character shaped by its strong ties to the local community. The environmental impact is visible in all aspects of hotel operations, from design, through service and restaurant menu, which always includes the best products of the region.

MERCURE WARSZAWA CENTRUM

In January 2013, the former Holiday Inn Warsaw hotel changed its name to Mercure Warszawa Centrum. Now the

establishment has been re-branded and its public areas received new decor. This is the second hotel of the brand in the Polish capital (after Mercure Warszawa Grand). It is located in the very heart of Warsaw, in the immediate vicinity of miscellaneous business, administrative and commercial centres. It is also only 300 metres from the Central Railway Station and 8 km from Okęcie International Airport.

It offers 338 rooms with high speed Internet access. The hotel has 10 meeting rooms with a to-

tal area of 522 sq m, as well as a Business Centre. Some of its amenities include room service, underground car park and a fitness centre. This 4-star hotel perfectly combines hospitality, international cuisine and a high standard of service.

MERCURE PIOTRKÓW TRYBUNALSKI VESTIL

The 3-star Vestil Business & Conference hotel has changed its name to Mercure Piotrków Trybunalski Vestil. The property joined the Mercure chain under a franchise contract.

At present, the hotel offers 38 guest rooms, but after the renovation this number will increase to 62. Each room will come with LCD TVs, wired and wireless high-speed internet access, a large and comfortable work desk, a spacious bathroom with shower, as well as a comfortable bed.

Mercure Piotrków Trybunalski Vestil offers six fully equipped meeting rooms where several meetings, conferences, seminars and banquets can be organized at the same time. In addition, high-performance WiFi is available throughout all the hotel's public areas offering 150 Mb/s downstream and 10 Mb/s upstream rates.

Pepper & Salt Restaurant offers interesting and tasty menu. The elegant decor and glass walls with views of the city skyline will please even the most demanding guests.

MERCURE CIESZYN

Previously known as Orbis Halny Cieszyn, the hotel joined the chain in February 2013. The property has undergone thorough modernization in connection with the process of rebranding. The 3-star hotel in Cieszyn is located near the largest border crossing with the Czech Republic and the international route connecting the north and south of Europe, only 2 km from the Old Town of Cieszyn. The hotel has 78 comfortable, well-equipped rooms

and suites with a separate bedroom and a lounge.

Guests travelling on business can use here one of the four air-conditioned and professionally equipped conference rooms with a total area of over 250 sq m. Mercure is also a journey to a land of sensual pleasure. After a hard day's work, guests can relax in the hotel's beauty centre with sauna, whirlpool, massage and beauty treatment.

MERCURE WARSZAWA AIRPORT

Mercure Warszawa Airport will be the third hotel of the brand located in the Polish capital, after Mercure Grand Warszawa and Mercure Warszawa Centrum. The hotel will join the chain in the third quarter of 2013. It will offer 117 comfortable guests rooms, 9 conference rooms, a

restaurant and a bar. Due to its excellent location, close to the Frederic Chopin Airport, it will certainly appeal to all those travelling on business.

MERCURE KRYNICA ZDRÓJ RESORT & SPA

Mercure Krynica Zdrój Resort & SPA is the second hotel of the brand in Małopolskie voivodeship. The hotel joined the chain in February 2013. It offers numerous amenities, including a gym, 100 modern guests rooms, Zdrojowa restaurant and Wine Bar, 4 meeting rooms, a swimming pool, as well as medical SPA. Beskid Sądecki is a perfect place to relax at any time of the year. The hotel is situated near ski lifts, an ice rink, ski and mountain bike rental shops, a funicular to Parkowa Mountain, and tennis courts.

Both business and leisure travellers will certainly find Mercure an attractive alternative to other hotel chains and independent hotels.

It is the only mid-range hotel brand that combines the strength of an international chain with guaranteed quality standards.



Mercure Warszawa Centrum



Mercure Piotrków Trybunalski

NEW InAzia RESTAURANT - CREATIVE ASIAN CUISINE

A new restaurant named InAzia has recently been launched in Sheraton Warsaw hotel. InAzia attracts guests with flavours of Southeast Asia, and captivates with the art of food presentation which is done in front of customers.



CONTACT

www.restauracja-inazia.p

InAzia was created as a continuation of the culinary journey through the flavours and aromas of Asia, which had been started by the award-winning The Oriental restaurant. In the new restaurant all art lovers will find a unique and very personal dining experience that will be further strengthened by the decor of the interior, inspired by modern Asian design.

However, an true advantage of the restaurant lies in the menu created by Marcin Sasin, whose passion is cuisine of Asia - especially its south-eastern part. For 15 years he gained experience under the guidance of excellent Thai chefs who told him the secrets of their best recipes for traditional dishes of the region. Dishes created by Marcin Sasin are an authentic journey through the aromas and fla-

vours of Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, China and Indonesia. The chef regularly travels around Asia, looking for culinary inspiration both in best restaurants and from numerous street vendors selling delicacies from wheeled carts. His dishes are based only on genuine products, which he finds and imports from Asia. Sasin likes to use traditional recipes, but he also enriches them with ele-

ments that represent the latest trends in cooking, such as molecular cuisine. It's worth visiting the restaurant, if only to try the mouth-watering Tom Yam Kung soup with shrimp, cilantro, tomatoes and chilli pepper. The procedure of serving the soup is a true culinary spectacle, as it's the experienced waiters who give the final shape to the dish. Another dish you simply must try at InAzia is halibut served with coconut milk, peas and lemon grass. It delights with the delicate texture of the fish, and with rich aroma of lemon grass, whose qualities are highlighted by hot chilli. However, this what truly distinguishes the restaurant is the art of dish presentation, which takes place in front of the guests, right at their table. Marcin Sasin claims that it's an important element of his creative vision of Asian cuisine. When asked where he drew ideas for new culinary creations, the chef says that he has always wanted to combine flavours of the world's most interesting cuisine with modern methods of preparing dishes, such as sous vide or molecular cuisine in a unique setting and environment.

Speaking of the environment, it's worth mentioning that the architectural concept of the restaurant was created by a British designer, who in preparation for his work devoted much time to analyse the best interiors of Asian restaurants located in numerous European capitals, and then applied the best solutions in InAzia. The interior is dominated by cosy beige tones highlighted with gold, copper, and delicate brown colour. Everything fits neatly, creating an elegant and inviting space where culinary experience is of utmost importance.

InAzia restaurant is situated in the very centre of Plac Trzech Krzyży (Three Crosses Square), the genuine ingredients are imported from Asia, while the talented chefs and waiting staff make it an ideal place for an elegant dinner.



The chef says that he has always wanted to combine flavours of the world's most interesting cuisine with modern methods of preparing dishes, such as sous vide or molecular cuisine in a unique setting.





THROUGH AFRICA BY TRAIN

Rovos Rail is much more than just a train.
It's a five-star hotel, an upscale restaurant and means of transport which allows you to explore Africa from different places, while marvelling at how this extraordinary continent changes with every mile you cover.

The idea to create Rovos Rail was conceived over 20 years ago by Rohan Vos, a South African entrepreneur. In 1989, he decided to buy several antique rail cars and a steam engine. Initially, the idea was supposed to be only a holiday means of transport for families, but soon the modest initiative evolved into a brand known by almost all railway enthusiasts worldwide. Two complete trains (each one with 20 cars), historic steam locomotives in conjunction with a private “colonial-style” railway station in the suburbs of Pretoria, became the foundation for further development of the service. The aim of the company was to combine modern comfort with the chic of Edwardian la belle époque. Nowadays, a journey by Rovos Rail train starts at train stations in Cape Town or Pretoria, where Rovos Rail has its own lounge. Guests are welcomed by one of the members of the family, there is a string quartet playing, while waiters serve champagne.



TRAVELLING THROUGH SAVANNAH

The classic coaches of the train were thoroughly renovated and half of them date back to the 1920s. However, the most interesting element is the locomotive Class 6 Tiffany built in 1883, which is probably the oldest “active” engine in the world. It consumes 300 litres of water and 75 kg of coal per 1 kilometre. This means that during a 100 km journey the machine uses 30,000 litres of water and 7.5 ton of coal! The company’s three steam engines, which Rohan Vos saved from scrapyard, were named after his daughters. No need to say, that the restoration process was long and expensive! Travellers can choose among Pullman Suites (7 sq m), Deluxe Suites (11 sq m), and large 16 sq m Royal Suites which take up half of the space of the whole carriage. The first one is equipped with a sofa bed in double or twin versions. Deluxe Suites have separate beds with a heated mattress, as well as chairs and

a table. The most comfortable suites feature a spacious bathroom with a bathtub – a real convenience, taking into consideration that it’s on board a train. Of course, each suite is equipped with a wardrobe, a hair dryer, a shower, a sink, a toilet, a desk, a luggage rack, a small fridge, a safe and air conditioning. On average, there is one member of the personnel for two passengers.

TRAVELLING WITHOUT A LAPTOP

Those travelling with Rovos Rail can enjoy more space than on board the famous Orient Express or the English Royal Scotsman. The train is truly stylish and looks like from a fairy tale. The golden logo of the company looks stunning on dark green livery of the coaches. The 14 long carriages with 21 rooms and suites, can accommodate up to 42 passengers. To keep the spirit of the old railway alive, the owners opted out of installing TVs on board the trains. Also using lap-



The idea to create Rovos Rail was conceived over 20 years ago by Rohan Vos, a South African entrepreneur. In 1989, he decided to buy several antique rail cars and a steam engine. Initially, the idea was supposed to be only a holiday means of transport for families, but soon the modest initiative evolved into a brand known by almost all railway enthusiasts worldwide.



Those travelling with Rovos Rail can enjoy more space than on board the famous Orient Express or the English Royal Scotsman. The train is truly stylish and looks like from a fairy tale.



tops or iPads in public areas of the train are frowned upon. One of the unusual gadget you can find in your suite are special protective goggles which you should wear for your safety while leaning out of the open window. Guests are provided with a number of various options on how to spend their time during travel. One of them is the so-called "Observation Car" with large windows where you can watch the changing landscapes. It's located at the end of the train and features open-air balconies. The place where most travellers gather is the restaurant whose decor resembles 1920s, with ornate wooden pillars. Meals are served at set times, and each of them is a real treat. At dinner, evening dress is *de rigueur*. A jacket and tie for gentlemen, and an elegant dress with high heel shoes for ladies, are the absolute minimum. The Victorian décor, silverware, candles, fresh flowers and the best china, simply require appropriate attire. Dinner always consists of four courses, including two options for the main course. Local specialties are antelope and ostrich meat, seafood, as well as traditional bobotie casserole. Add to this best South African wines, including Thelema, Meerlust Rubicon and Warwick Trilogy from Stellenbosch. All-inclusive, of course. You can also enjoy there your afternoon tea.

There is also a specially designed Club Car which can host smokers and this is the only place on the train where smoking is allowed.

CONTINENT WITHOUT BORDERS

The destinations offered by Rovos Rail sound fabulous. The most popular routes are Pretoria-Cape Town, and Durban-Victoria Falls. However, the most famous are much longer trips. You can, for example, watch the beautiful scenery of Mpumalanga Reserve, Victoria Falls, Namibia desert, and the wildlife of Kruger Park, as well as lush fields of sugar cane in KwaZulu-Natal and the magnificent Garden Route along the southern coast. Golf enthusiasts may want to go on a special 9-day safari course for both experienced players and beginners. In May each year Rovos Rail offers a 3,000 km trip from Pretoria to Namibia. The first stop is the Kimberley, the place where one of the most famous diamonds fevers took off. Then the train goes through Upington to the border with Namibia, where travellers go on a foot trip to the Fish River Canyon which is only a bit smaller than the renowned Grand Canyon of the Colorado. The train goes then towards Tsumeb in Etosha National Park and to Swakopmund - a perfectly preserved German town on the At-

lantic Ocean, which was established in 19th century. However, the most popular is the 6,100 km long Cape Town - Dar es Salaam route which leads through Botswana, Zimbabwe and Zambia to Tanzania. The company also has its own planes which are used on certain routes. During the journey, the guests are accommodated in best lounges and hotels (the cost of all trips and hotels is included in the fare). For example, after safari in Madikwe park, passengers travel through Botswana and Zimbabwe to stay in a hotel situated at the foot of Victoria Falls. On the border of Zambia and Tanzania you can go on a hiking trip through the bush, ending in a picnic at Kundalila waterfalls. Rovos Rail also organizes trips across the whole African continent, from Cape Town to Cairo. It's a truly exciting journey, which takes almost a month! During this expedition travellers explore all of Egypt, including Cairo, Luxor, Valley of the Kings, Abu Simbel, as well as pyramids and temples. Then they head to Lake Victoria, Mount Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Zanzibar, and Victoria Falls.

Rafał Sobiech

CONTACT: www.rovos.co.za
PRICE: from €1,500



The destinations offered by Rovos Rail sound fabulous. The most popular routes are Pretoria-Cape Town, and Durban-Victoria Falls. However, longer journeys are much more exciting.



A PLACE WITH A VIEW

Those who have visited this place, don't have any doubts. When asked about the most beautiful view in the world, they respond without hesitation - False Bay in South Africa. The boutique five-star hotel Colona Castle, located a 30 minute drive from Cape Town, offers perfect views.



It's not a place for those seeking fun, bustle of the city, or noisy restaurants and bars. Its charm won't probably be appreciated by pool-loving holidaymakers. Travellers love Colona Castle for the beautiful views from the large windows, striking interior design, and the opportunity to talk to the owners of the hotel, who know everything about Africa.

THE MORNING JOY

The villa is situated on a hill. Going there by taxi from Cape Town, you go past the famous South African vineyards. After half an hour you reach the place that my taxi driver described as "the end of the world", and which, in fact, turned out to be the beginning of my unique African experience. On the left there's the spectacular Table Mountain, to the right - the False Bay, on the horizon - the lake and the mountains. The view that unfolds in front of your eyes is a 180-degree panorama that delights with colours, the light changing several times of the day, and with the vastness of the space. The most beautiful time of the day is the morning when the sun comes out from behind the mountains. Sitting on the terrace, you can watch this amazing moment when the sunburst breaks the dawn.

COLONA CASTLE SUITES

The spacious villa, which is classical in its proportions and decorated in Mediterranean style, can be seen from a long distance. White, large windows of almost every room in the building overlook the spectacular turquoise waters of the Atlantic Ocean. All rooms and suites in Colona Castle are furnished with antique furniture, which Michael and Nicole - the hotel owners - have collected with a passion for many years. The most sophisticated hotel room is Full Luxury Penthouse Suite. It consists of a bedroom with a king-size bed and a large lounge with a library which features a private balcony. The windows overlook the nearby Constantia, Table Mountain and the ocean. The English Suite features a lounge with a library, a spacious room with a comfortable bed, as well as two bathrooms - one with shower and the other decorated in the Victorian style - with a separate toilet. The lounge also has a large balcony overlooking Table Mountain and the False Bay. Three Executive Suites are also worth recommendation. The



All rooms and suites in Colona Castle are furnished with antique furniture, which Michael and Nicole - the hotel owners - have collected with a passion for many years.



Chinese Suite features a four-poster bed, cupboards, shelves and bedside tables - all antique and imported from China. There are also two bathrooms: a Victorian one and a marble one with a modern shower. The decor of the New Suite is dominated by marble and glass. The bedroom has a huge 2x2 m four-poster bed, and comfy chairs where you can relax after a busy day. Guests are especially fond of the modern bathroom with shower and a separate toilet, as well as a private patio with views of the False Bay. Green and blue are dominant colours in the Mughal Suite. On the walls there are eastern crystal mirrors and paintings, while the bedroom has two beds that can be joined together. The Green, Moroccan and Safari Suites are also creatively decorated.

LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Colona Castle is a great place to start exploring Africa. The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool overlooking the mountains. Wine lovers can taste carefully selected varieties and vintages stored by the owners in the spacious cellar. It's worth visiting the hotel's spa and enjoy a candlelit dinner - preferably in the company of the extraordinary hotel owners who have a wealth of knowledge about Africa. Colona Castle doesn't have a bar, but the hosts frequently inquire guests about their habits and preferences. In the morning, Nicole, who is a native of France,

makes you a cup of your favourite coffee, while Michael - a typical English gentleman - offers the best wine from his cellar. It's a real pleasure to talk to them. They know Africa very well, as for many years they lived in Kenya and Botswana.

The area around the hotel is also interesting. It's worth going to Boulders beach where you can swim with penguins. The spectacular, wide beach in Camps Bay, in the shadow of Lion's Head and the Twelve Apostles range, is a place where you could spend not only your holiday, but also your whole life. Surrounded by palm trees and excellent restaurants serving seafood, it's not even crowded in high season, which is at the end of December and the beginning of January. In Bantry bay, most houses are luxurious mansions located on the steep slopes of the mountain. In Clifton, which has recently been quite popular, there are four small beaches separated with granite boulders. Lion's Head peak protects all enthusiasts of this place from strong South-Eastern winds. One of the most beautiful beaches in the neighbourhood is Llandudno, situated around 10 km eastwards from Camps Bay. It's semi-circular in shape, with golden sand and crystal clear water, and is considered the most romantic place to watch the sunset. Nearly an hour's walk along the rock coast separates in from Sandy Bay - naturists' favourite beach. The

road along Hout Bay is winding and dangerous because of its unusual location and breath-taking views. Literally every kilometre you need to stop, because the landscape changes here very quickly. The most spectacular are the views from the mountain called Chapman's Peak.

Staying in Colona Castle, you can visit Cape Town on a daily basis. There you should definitely see the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront - entertainment district modelled on the most stylish places in London, Boston and San Francisco. Another interesting place is the Two Oceans Aquarium open in 1995, where we can admire over 300 species of fish brought here from the Indian and the Atlantic Ocean. You must also visit the Long Street with a lot of Victorian, Cape Dutch and art deco houses. The place is considered to be the most beautiful part of the city.

The trip from Colona Castle to the Cape of Good Hope won't take you more than half an hour. Standing in this southernmost place in Africa, you can truly feel that you've reached the edge of the world! Here, you can observe whales, dolphins, penguins or seals, as well as come across mountain zebras and antelopes. And it's only a beginning...

Rafał Sobiech

CONTACT: www.colonacastle.co.za

PRICE: from €200 per night.





Travellers love Colona Castle for the beautiful views from the large windows, striking interior design, and the opportunity to talk to the owners of the hotel, who know everything about Africa.





SKIING A'LA FRANCE

It was 1972 when Pierre Schnebelen launched a project that most people considered to be simply insane. The architects of the ski resort built at an altitude of 2,300 metres above sea level (the highest located resort in the French Alps), had one primary goal – to make access to skiing facilities as simple as possible.

No ski buses, walking with skis, or cars.

You might think that this is pure 'ski-fiction', but it really works.

I arrived in Val Thorens on a sunny, February morning. Our car had to clear numerous hairpin bends to take us to Massif de la Vanoise of Les Trois Vallées region. Here the road ends at a large parking area. It's the gateway to the resort, which looks like a small mountain town.

Uniform, low, 3-storey houses are scattered around the place. The gondolas, which are the local means of transport, quietly slide by overhead. The town centre features several hotels of different class, two shopping malls, bars, restaurants and discos. The place is perfect for young people, the "apres

ski" (after skiing) nightlife is in full bloom, and thanks to the 'no cars allowed' rule, the streets are packed with pedestrians and skiers. During the high season, which lasts from early December until the middle of May, the outdoor stage hosts numerous concerts and outdoor events.



Where to go

- Hotel Altapura, Val Thorens
tel. +33 (0) 4 80 36 80 36
contact@altapura.fr www.altapura.fr
- Le hameau du Kashmir
tel. + 33 (0) 4 79 09 50 20
www.montagnettes.com
- Kaya Chalet-Hotel
Wilage de Reberty - Les Menuires
info@hotel-kaya.com www.hotel-kaya.com
- Restaurant Brasserie de Montagne
tel. + 33 (0)4 79 00 61 06
lamaisondesavoy@gmail.com
- Rene &Maxime Melleur
La Bouitte
Saint-Martim de Belleville
www.la-bouitte.com
- Chalet d'alpage chez Pepe Nicolas
tel. + 33 (0)6 09 45 28 35
info@chezpepenicolas.com
www.chezpepenicolas.com



IN THE LAND OF SNOW

Les Trois Vallées is mostly about skiing. In winter and spring at the altitude of over 2,000 metres, you don't have to worry about the lack of snow. It's the world's largest ski area with 600 km of ski runs prepared on the slopes of 23 mountains, including six glaciers. The runs are linked by a network of lifts which can be accessed upon purchasing just one ski pass. The choice of slopes and their difficulty is enormous - from bunny hills to black slopes used by professionals. I recommend going to Cime Caron which, at the height of 3,200 meters, is the highest spot in the area, offering a magnificent view. I didn't count, but you can reportedly see there over 1,000 Alpine peaks, including Mont Blanc.

The French promote freeriding, which is skiing on ungroomed slopes. Many slopes are marked available for such pleasures.

Just remember that your success depends on whether you will be able to sit on the back of your skis. Otherwise, instead of sliding down the slope, you will dig yourself into a 3-metre snow layer.

Below, in the valley, there are numerous snow parks of various sizes, with jumps and other obstacles for freestyle enthusiasts. This year they were equipped with the jump recording function, so after a short while you can watch your attempt on a large video wall. In this way, in Val Thorens you can become a local celebrity. Of course the Val Thorens is abundant in ski rental shops as well as ski schools, including the famous Ecole du Ski Français.

Of course, there are also plenty of activities for children, though the neighbouring village of Les Menuires offers even more attractions and is a good choice for families. For example, the little one will certainly have

great fun in special ski kindergartens with experienced instructors taking care of them.

LET'S HAVE SOME FUN

The French are masters at inventing unusual activities, so no wonder that in French Alps you will find a plenty of hard core entertainment which go one step further than elsewhere. A thermal outdoor pool in winter may not be that extreme, but ice diving in a mountain lake surely is. Driving around hairpins may seem quite a challenge, but what would you say then about crazy drifting on ice under the supervision of an instructor from the local ice driving school? To get an even bigger adrenaline rush, you can try downhill snowbiking. Traditionalists will certainly go for a dog sledding expedition.

I personally recommend the toboggan run, especially in the evening. You receive a plastic sled, a helmet, a head torch, and then



The picturesque Saint Martin is the historical capital of the region.

plunge yourself into darkness. The torch provides only a narrow streak of light, and since you rush on the sled like a rocket... you barely see anything. Collisions are frequent, but luckily not too dangerous. The run is winding and steep, but also well secured on both sides with snow berms. This successfully prevents you from leaving the run in a random place, so you can be sure you will eventually reach the finish line.

FONDUE OR RACLETTE

France is all about cuisine. No wonder that at the lunch time all the slopes are simply empty. There are numerous restaurants and bars situated near the lifts. Although you won't see any sheep here, there are plenty of local cheese dairies which look a bit like shepherd's huts. Upon entering the place, customers receive a churn of milk and are offered fondue. Hungry guests dip chunks of delicious bread in a mixture of melted cheese, white wine and spices, which bubbles in the pot. I also recommend raclette - here Raclette cheese round is heated and then scraped onto diners' plates accompanied by bacon and potatoes.

All lifts are open until 5 pm, so for dinner you need to go to the valleys. My favourite restaurant there was Chez Pepe Nicolas. It is located in several mountain huts which were rebuilt, but retain their original layout. It's a truly atmospheric place, with real oil lamps on tables and a St. Bernard puppy fawning around your legs. Not to mention the delicious pork hock on wine... Simply delicious. It's a place for gourmets, so it's wise to book a table beforehand. I also recommend La Bouitte restaurant, run by Meilleur family. It's situated in an old 19th century house made of stone and wood, built in the historic capital of the region - the village of Saint Martin. The restaurant already has two Michelin stars and does its best to get the third one. If you remember the film "L'aile ou la cuisse" (The Wing or the Thigh), starring Louis de Funès, you certainly understand what the stars mean for the French. It's also worth noting the best wine cellar in the region, located under the La Bouitte. The restaurant holds workshops and courses in French cuisine. If you are interested in the history of the region, it's worth visiting the museum of the region in Saint Martin.

The atmosphere of the old days is brought back to life with the interior of an old farm combined with recorded sounds of everyday life as it was 150 years ago. In this way, you can find out what the life of pastoral families looked like in the picturesque valley of Belleville. The 1960s brought the end to that world.

Barbara Scharf



The French are masters at inventing unusual activities, so no wonder that in French Alps you will find a plenty of hard core entertainment which go one step further than elsewhere.



AT THE FOOT OF SASSOLUNGO

Those who have been there, always come back. Those who haven't... must simply go. Val Gardena / Alpe di Siusi ski resort is a must on the list of every decent skier.



Sella Ronda. This is the magic word which many ski aficionados quickly associate with the most beautiful ski run in Europe, situated in the most scenic part of the Alps - the Dolomites, which dominate a large part of the Italian, German-speaking South Tyrol. Val Gardena / Alpe di Siusi is a perfect starting base for all-day ski trips around the Sella massif, but you might as well spend here a whole week, not being bored for even a second.

AT THE FOOT OF SASSOLUNGO

The ski resort, which stretches at the foot of the picturesque and unique Sassolungo mountain (3,181 m) offers over 180 kilometres of ski runs of varying difficulty. Everyone will find here something that they like, but most of the trails are moderately difficult slopes (red) which are always well-marked and perfectly prepared by snow groomers. The capacity of the lifts, which are mostly comfortable gondolas and chairlifts, is the incredible 100,000 people per hour.

Val Gardena regularly hosts FIS Alpine World Cup events (on black Sasslong piste), while the slopes of Seceda (2,518 m) host the so-called Gardenissima which is one of the longest (more than 9 kilometres) giant slaloms in the Alps, open to all skiers. There are also four slalom runs with automatic time measurement. And if you have enough courage, you can take a chance and see how fast you can go down Punta D'oro (2,200 m). The best skiers reach the dizzying speed of almost 100 km/h!

FOR THE BODY AND THE SOUL

But skiing isn't the only attraction of this place. If you are wine and slow food lover, Val Gardena is also the place to go. The I Vini d'Italia guide in collaboration with Gambero Rosso & Slow Food organisation, has awarded the prestigious "Tre Bicchieri" (three glasses) award to 26 wines from the region of South Tyrol. You can enjoy those wines served in several cosy rifugi on the slopes of Val Gardena and Alpe di Siusi. Lagrein red and white Gewürztraminer,

are typical South Tyrol varieties, which perfectly pairs with the local speck and cheese.

THE CROSSROADS OF CULTURES

Having fun on the slopes of the Dolomites, remember how exciting this area is. Until 1919, Sudtirol (or Alto Adige in Italian) belonged to Austria - hence the inhabitants speak primarily German. However, after a few decades of the Italian governance, the place seems to be at the crossroads of cultures. You can feel there the German Ordnung interspersed with southern Italian ease. There's speck, but also pizza and pasta, which you can wash down with real bombardino. With a bit of luck you might come across Reinhold Messner - a true mountaineering legend who was the first climber to ascend all fourteen "eight-thousanders", reached the peak of Mount Everest without an oxygen mask, and crossed the length and breadth of Antarctica, Greenland, Tibet and the Takla Makan desert.

Filip Gawryś



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Michelin Guide Recommendation

SPRING IN SLOVAKIA

In winter we go to the mountains to ski, in summer - to go climbing. Slovak Tatra mountains are equally or maybe even more fascinating also during spring time, says **Adrian Kubicki**. The reason is simple – in spring both skiing and climbing is possible.



When slowly passing the winding roads through Slovak Tatra mountains, you will easily become immersed in the surrounding nature. But there's more to admire than just the views - the infrastructure, accommodation base, ski lifts and queues are much more different to what you may remember from the past. Today most of the mountain towns resemble resorts in the Alps rather than the socialist state.

SKIING UNDER THE SUN

For those of you who look for places where you can ski late in the spring, Tatranská Lomnica will be an ideal destination. It's easy to get here by car or plane, as there is an airport in Poprada, only a few kilometres away. The choice of accommodation in Lomnica is quite big.

Grand Hotel Praha is especially worthy of attention. In this huge, ancient over a hundred-year-old building, there are both standard rooms as well as spacious and bright suits. In the hotel you may try excellent cuisine, and each night you can have a meal to live piano music.

Lomnica is a skiing paradise even as late as in April. It's enough to take a trip by one of the cableways towards Skalnaté Pleso. At the height of 1,700 metres above the sea level, thanks to the continuous work of snow cannons, you can ski down the slopes and admire the Tatra mountains bathed in sunlight. And once you get bored by all this, you can get on a cableway heading towards Lomnický štít and admire the view through the windows of the local restaurant.

PEARLS AMONG THE MOUNTAINS

Those who prefer walking to climbing should go further along. When heading towards the Low Tatras you have to spend at least one night in the boutique Tri Studnický hotel.

The building resembles a highlander hut. The interior of the hall and guestrooms are decorated with wood, stone





Those who prefer walking to climbing should go further along. When heading towards the Low Tatras you have to spend at least one night in the boutique Tri Studnický hotel.

and copper, while the room comes with real fireplaces. The hotel also has its wellness centre. Guests have access to a sauna, from which you can enter a mountain stream so clear that you can see trout swimming in it! Naturally this is more likely to be a summer activity. In winter and spring, after all the attractions, all you need is having a rest and put more wood into the fireplace.

But there is much more to Tri Studnický than just the interior. Another thing that characterises the hotel is its cuisine - awarded several times for the mastery, sophistication and great culinary ideas of its chef. Roman Kovač learned how to cook under the supervision of the British Master Chef, Peter Gorton. Today he serves dishes from European and international cuisine with the original Slovak overtones. You can try real Slovak delicacies, like lamb in vin rouge sauce served on spinach.

When leaving Tri Studnický you can go further towards the mountains until you reach

Jasna. The resort located at the bottom of Mount Chopok offers excellent skiing conditions in winter for people of all levels of skill. Among the ski runs of the total length of 45 kilometres, there are ones which should cater for the needs of the most demanding professionals, as well as beginner skiers.

In spring and summer Chopok is an ideal place to go for a walk. Well-labelled tracks, a beautiful forest and a stunning view over High Tatras where you can meditate and chill out. The mountain is also accessible thanks to the lifts and cableway. There are 29 of them here, and their total capacity is 30 thousand people per hour! Among them there is a brand new Funitel Priehyba-Chopok cableway for 24 people. There is also the first Twinliner ropeway system, making it possible for the cables to go up even when the wind is heavy.

IN A TROPICAL COUNTRY

Surrounded by snow-covered Tatra peaks you can have a rest bathing in warm water!

The famous Tatralandia is the biggest complex of pools and other water-related attractions in eastern Europe. The place is quite popular with Polish people and hot springs are most often frequented. The temperature of the hot waters is 70 degrees Celsius, regardless of the season. But thanks to the cooling system, the water in the pool is slightly above 30 degrees, so it's neither too cold or too hot.

But you don't have to stay outdoors for the whole time. Tatralandia is also a modern complex of indoor pools with slides, hydro-massage and a professional spa. The place is still being developed. Thanks to multi-million investment, an artificial island called Tropical Paradise is now available to the tourists. You will find there swimming pools with salt water, real palm trees imported from Florida, and a pirate ship where you can also have a rest. Treasure hunters might be disappointed to know the island is only a replica...



ARTY AMSTERDAM

Sauntering around Amsterdam on a sunny autumnal day is good for the soul. The whirring of bicycle wheels, the stretches of still canals lined with pretty houseboats and the warmth of the locals should make it one of the most relaxing and pleasant capitals you'll encounter. **Agata Janicka** invites you to visit the Dutch capital.

Much is being done to shed the negative image of the red light district, which can mar visitors' views of the Dutch capital. The city council has invested millions of euros in buying out the owners of the notorious red-tinted-windowed brothels – its ambition to close half of these has been put into action, and there are plans for the same proportion of cannabis "coffee shops" to shut. The intention is not to eliminate them but to counteract their overrepresentation to the rest of the world, which detracts attention from the many other ways that Amsterdam expresses its distinctive, liberal character.

"Amsterdam has always nurtured creativity and liberty, which gives it a special culture," says Rhiannon Pickles, an arts public relations professional based in the city. "Artists have complete freedom to do what they

want." If you're working in the city, consider extending your stay to immerse yourself in its rich artistic scene.

STEDELIJK MUSEUM

The futuristic new wing of this modern art and design gallery looks like a gigantic spaceship has landed on the vast, green Museumplein. It reopened in September following an eight-year renovation, and the new section somehow blends well with the whitewashed brick interiors of the original 19th century building, now home to the permanent collection.

Exhibitions demonstrate how artists have evolved – follow Malevich's journey from generic sketcher to pioneering abstract artist – and the impact of the world wars on art. Installation fans will love Yayoi Kusama's Aggregation: One Thousand Boats Show, a vessel formed from plaster phallic shapes,

with a pair of women's shoes left inside as if the wearer has jumped out, and Kienholz's The Beanery, a eerie reconstruction of his local bar, which you walk inside to find time standing still

Open Tue and Wed 11am-5pm, Thurs until 10pm, Fri-Sun 10am-6pm; entry €15. 10 (US\$19) Museumplein; <http://stedelijk.nl>

HERMITAGE MUSEUM

Upon entering the courtyard of the Hermitage, the bustle of the surrounding Jewish quarter melts away. Until recently, the museum presented "Impressionism: Sensation and Inspiration", with works from St Petersburg's State Hermitage. It deepened your understanding of how Impressionist paintings may have been received in the 19th century. Presented alongside meticulous Realist works by Roybet, Scheffer and Laurens, you could see why the vivid splodges and



loose brushstrokes of Monet, Renoir and Pissarro may have been perceived as unfinished and radical.

Open daily 9am-5pm; entry €17.50 (US\$22.33). 51 Amstel; www.hermitage.nl

RIJKSMUSEUM

Another significant renovation for the city's art scene is that of the Rijksmuseum, to be completed in April 2013. In the meantime, the grand Museumplein building has one exhibition, "The Masterpieces," focusing on the Dutch Golden Age of the 17th century. Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* is on show, along with the extravagant dollhouses of Petronella Dunois. One replicates her family home, with even the wall murals and silver kitchen utensils reproduced to the same specification.

Open daily 9am-6pm; entry €14.10; (US\$18) Jan Luijkenstraat; www.rijksmuseum.nl

OLD CHURCH AND W139

In September, the annual AIR8 Independent Art Fair was held in the 14th century Old Church in the red light district. The beautiful building merits a visit on its own, but as an exhibition space it provides an atmospheric setting, with a surprisingly contemporary feel. It hosts exhibitions throughout the year.

Parallel is Warmoesstraat, home to W139, a non-profit institution where artists collaborate. It began as a squat in 1979 and is now an inviting workspace that welcomes visitors to watch art in action. When I dropped in, artists were working on 90 posters to be hung around the city, while Edwin Deen's *Liquid Rainbow* – a garden sprinkler filled with coloured paint – was firing at the walls. Old Church open Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm, Sun from 1pm, www.oudekerk.nl; W139 open Mon-Sun 12pm-6pm, <http://w139.nl>

WESTERGASFABRIEK

A 15-minute tram ride from Leidseplein brings you to this former red-brick gasworks factory, now a culture park. Exhibitions take place regularly and there are lots of hipster restaurants and bars. There's a definite bohemian feel to the place, enhanced by the creative start-up businesses and artists-in-residence set up here. In September, it hosted the inaugural Unseen festival, which showcased photography from more than 50 galleries in the extensive exhibition space, including the cylindrical former cooling tower. November welcomes the Sieraad Art Fair for jewellery design, and in January, it is the host venue for Amsterdam fashion week. 27 Polonceaukade; www.westergasfabriek.nl, www.visitholland.com

Important info

WHERE TO EAT

● **BRASSERIE HARKEMA** At this buzzing eatery on the theatre strip, waiters in white T-shirts take your order while runners in black T-shirts bring it to your table. The wildly varied menu includes classics with an international twist. 67 Nes; tel +31 20 428 2222; www.brasserieharkema.nl

● **ANNA** A minimalist high-end restaurant in the heart of the red light district. Truffle risotto served with sautéed veal cheek, poached egg and a foam of forest mushrooms is among the inventive, beautifully presented dishes. 111 Warmoesstraat; tel +31 20 428 1111; www.restaurantanna.nl

● **DE CULINAIRE WERKPLAATS** At this eatery opposite Westergasfabriek, you are asked to help yourself to wine and bring your dishes up to be cleaned. The experimental five-course menu changes every six weeks, and you pay what you think it was worth. 10 Fannius Scholtenstraat; tel +31 06 5464 6576; www.deculinairewerkplaats.nl

WHERE TO STAY

● **Hotel Notting Hill** Located close to Albert Cuyp Market, the hotel opened in October last year. The 67 rooms feature dogtooth-check carpets and cartoons of the hotel's mascot, "Monsieur Notting Hill", of whom there is a bronze statue in the lobby. 26 Westeinde; www.hotelnottinghill.nl

● **The Toren** The seductive indigo walls, velvet furniture and chandeliers in the softly lit lobby set the tone of this canal-side hotel. Double spa baths, crocodile-skin walls and subtly glittering wallpaper are among the furnishings in the 37 rooms. 164 Keizersgracht; www.thetoren.nl

● **ANDAZ AMSTERDAM PRINSENGRACHT** October saw the opening of Europe's second Andaz property (the other is in London). The design is full of salutes to local culture, from the Delft-patterned lobby to the hand-painted sinks in the 122 rooms. 587 Prinsengracht; www.prinsengracht.andaz.com

SAFETY WITH... A ROAR

Volvo has expanded its model range by a new Crossover - V40 Cross Country. The aggressive appearance and increased ride height encourage your to try V40 Cross Country in extraurban areas. The car comes with a choice of two petrol engines and three diesel versions.





Volvo V40 Cross VCountry is the safest car in the history of the Euro NCAP crash tests. It is equipped with a number of pioneering solutions in its class to enhance security, including active cruise control, an airbag system for pedestrians with emergency braking (the first such solution in the world), as well as the City Safety system, which (if necessary) automatically engages brakes at speeds up to 50 km/h. All of these are a part of IntelliSafe - the brand's approach to smart security. The new Volvo has created a new niche in the market, as you can perceive it as a compact crossover or an offroad compact car. Prices of V40 Cross Country with D2 engine start at PLN 98,420.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL

The ride height of the V40 Cross Country was raised by 40 mm compared to the standard model. From the outside, the car is distinguished by a new front end with a dark, contrasting bumper, honeycomb mesh grille, and upright DRL-lights. The back of the crossover features a contrasting rear bumper with an integrated skid plate. The

model's look is completed by a new set of 19" light alloy wheels.

No matter what type of driver you are, among the range of offered motors you will easily find the one that suits you best - from the 254 bhp T5 engine to the economical D2 diesel, which emits just 99 grams of CO2 per kilometre.

Other available engines include diesel units 2.0 D3 150 bhp, 2.0 D4 177 bhp, as well as 1.6 T4 petrol engine, offering 180 bhp. The 2-litre diesel motors are five-cylinder units, which is a unique feature among compact cars. All versions are equipped with the environmentally friendly system Start / Stop button which also improves fuel consumption. The price of T5 AWD version with an automatic transmission starts from PLN 129,420.

The top version, which features a 2.5 litre motor and the power output of 254 bhp, is available with 4WD system and the Hill Descent Control feature. This controls the car's speed automatically when driving down steep inclines. In this way, you are always in control of the situation - regardless of the weather or terrain.

"This is a brand new model in our range. Several years ago we offered Volvo V70 Cross Country, but now, with a new V40 Cross Country we go to very competitive market of crossovers. We truly hope that we will succeed here, as we did in other segments," said Mariusz Nycz, Marketing & PR Director at Volvo Auto Polska S.A.

COMFORT PLUS DESIGN

The ergonomic seats in Volvo V40 Cross Country have an attractive two-tone design and accent stitching. As part of Volvo's Sensus philosophy, you can adjust the brightness of the interior LED lights as well as choose from seven different theatre light modes to create your desired ambience.

V40 Cross Country was first unveiled at the Paris motor show. You can now order the car at Volvo dealerships and the first deliveries took place in January 2013. You can fully customize the car to meet your needs. Full price list with a detailed description of R-Design equipment can be downloaded from: http://www.volvocars.com/pl/all-cars/Documents/cenniki/V40CC_cennik.pdf.



The new Volvo has created a new niche in the market, as you can perceive it as a compact crossover or an offroad compact car. What is more, Volvo V40 Cross VCountry is the safest car in the history of the Euro NCAP crash tests.



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DESIGNED FOR THE YOUTH

B&O Play is the youngest child of Bang&Olufsen, the renowned Danish manufacturer of high quality audio and video equipment. The sub-brand focuses on innovation and a young users.

B&O Play is a new brand by Bang&Olufsen, focused on the designing mobile and wireless audio systems that can be integrated with Apple products.

It was created for young people who are primary users of the iPad and the iPhone, and its main feature is ultimate innovation.

BEOLIT 12 - MODERNITY IN RETRO STYLE

The first B&O Play product is Beolit 12 - a speaker which appeared on the market in April 2012. Designed in retro style by Dane Cecilia Manza, it won the prestigious Red Dot Award 2012 for the best product design. The speaker has a compact body with rounded edges, and a natural aluminium grille. The speaker is available in yellow, graphite, blue and grey colours. The full grain leather handle is mounted diagonally to increase stability during handling.

Beolit 12 is equipped with a digital class D amplifier, while Apple AirPlay operating system lets you play music directly from your iPhone, iPod or iPad. In addition, thanks to the USB connector, you can directly connect the speaker to any iOS device. The standard line-in input enables you to connect other audio sources, and Ethernet LAN port. Built-in rechargeable battery



allows for up to 8 hours playback with network disabled, and up to 4 hours playback with network enabled.

B&O Play range also includes the BeoPlay A8 - a wireless upgrade of the best-selling and award-winning BeoSound 8 speaker. The BeoPlay A8 automatically detects Apple devices, allowing you to switch to listening on the sound system's high-quality speakers. Another novelty is the BeoPlay A3, a docking station for the iPad. You can snap in and out your iPad of the aluminium-trimmed, black wedge-shaped device, which can be held or placed in either portrait or landscape position.

And another novelty is the BeoPlay V1 TV. Designed by Anders Hermansen, it's strongly in line with the Scandinavian aesthetics. An easy-to-use remote control also works with devices by other manufacturers, is also ready for Apple TV2 receiver. The TV



With wireless audio streaming technology developed by Bang & Olufsen, all the company's products provide you with excellent sound quality regardless of the setting.



is available in two sizes: 32" and 40", and in black or white colours.

BEOPLAY A9 - MINIMALIST DESIGN WITH MAXIMUM POWER

B&O PLAY is expanding its innovative series of wireless audio sets, launching the most powerful device ever. BeoPlay A9 features original, minimalist design by Øivind Alexander Slaatto. It integrates wireless connectivity with magically simple operation. Simply hook it up to the power supply and connect wirelessly to your iPhone, iPad or Android device, for the BeoPlay A9 to play

the streamed sound. The sound is so powerful that it fills even the largest room, and so rich that it can compete with much more elaborate sets.

Increasing the volume or muting the sound has never been easier. Just move your hand in front of the motion sensor to control the volume. If you wish to mute the sound, just put your hand on top of it. You can also adjust the volume (and select the order of the tracks), with your tablet or smartphone.

BeoPlay A9 is equipped with two 3/4" tweeters and two 3" midrange speakers, powered by a separate, 80-watt Class-D amplifiers. The 8" subwoofer with 160 watts of power, enriches the sound with powerful, precisely controlled bass thanks to bass reflex design. Three sound modes (wall, corner, free-standing position) allow you to optimize the sound depending on the location of the BeoPlay A9. Prices from PLN 1,000 to PLN 3,000

BEOLAB 15 AND 16 - QUALITY SOUND WITHOUT COMPROMISE

The new integrated sound system provides perfect and rich sound. It suits any room, regardless of its decor. The set includes: BeoLab 15 loudspeaker, BeoLab 16 subwoofer, and Amplifier 1. The speakers are partially embedded into the wall.

Integrated sound is a touch of luxury in kitchens, dining rooms and other places where we wish to listen to music. Integrated speakers are a great alternative to free-

standing models, the use of which is limited by available space or interior design. With the new system by Bang&Olufsen, neither design lovers nor audiophiles will have to look for compromises.

The integrated solution consists of two speakers and a subwoofer that are connected to a separate, hidden amplifier and then embedded in the walls or the ceiling. The characteristic circular speakers feature elegant and discreet design. When you turn off the system, the speakers and the subwoofer hide in the wall, and the only visible part is the subtle geometric composition designed by Anders Hermansen. When you turn the set on, a special engine directs the speakers in the desired direction, which results in excellent sound quality. The speakers are made of brushed aluminium and feature fabric white or black fabric covers. The subwoofer is made of brushed aluminium.

"This integrated solution is designed for people who want to have good sound without having to find a place for free-standing speakers. The sound quality is as you would expect from Bang & Olufsen, and when you finish listening to music, the speakers hide in the wall, still looking great," says product manager, Michael Jensen. Price from PLN 6,000

To see the new range of products from B&O Play line, visit Bang & Olufsen showroom in Warsaw at ul. Piękna 18. More details at: www.bang-olufsen-centrum.pl

Joanna Krzyczkowska



TRAVEL APP FOR MANAGERS

No matter where you set off on a journey - whether it's one of the countries in Asia, a sunny island in the Caribbean or an office in Manhattan - you certainly don't want to lose contact with your company. TETA Mobile HR gives you an easy access to personnel documents from anywhere in the world, anytime.

The product has been created by the developer of mobile applications JOJO Mobile Poland for UNIT4 TETA (one of the largest providers of business software in Poland), and provides solutions for employee and manager self-service. The application is available for owners of smartphones running iOS and Android.

MORE TIME AND MONEY

The demand for employee and manager self-service mobile software to be used on

smartphones, is steadily growing. This is because companies have noticed that mobile solutions can vastly contribute to saving time, increasing employee productivity, and the optimization of costs associated with the implementation of HR processes. Mobile applications are an invaluable tool for managers and HR specialists, as they allow the acceleration of information flow, eliminate multiple data entry and processing thus relieving the employee from performing repetitive actions, and eliminate paper document flow substantially reducing costs.

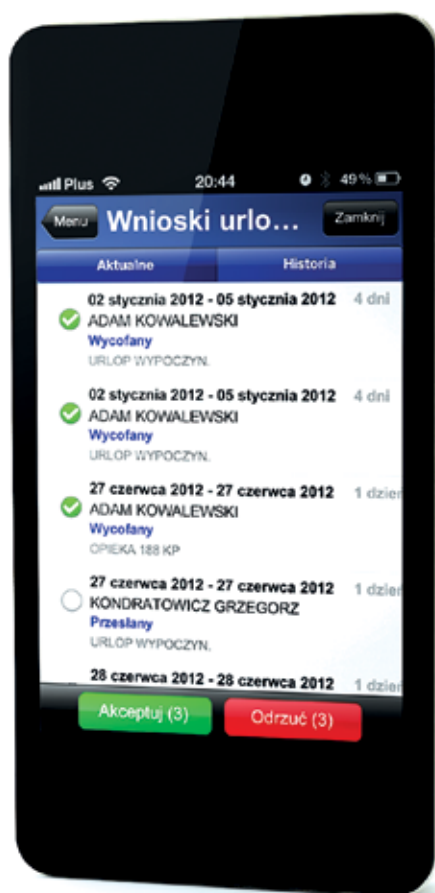
MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

What's so innovative about TETA Mobile HR? Companies often share personnel documentation via intranet in the form of web-based applications. With the development of smartphones this trend has moved to mobile devices. The application provides solutions for employee and manager self-service. Most popular HR processes have been synchronized with TETA HRM system (self-service web-based platform, which can be used by any employee of the company). Its users have access to their own personal information, which enables them to monitor their holiday entitlement, or submit leave requests directly from the application.

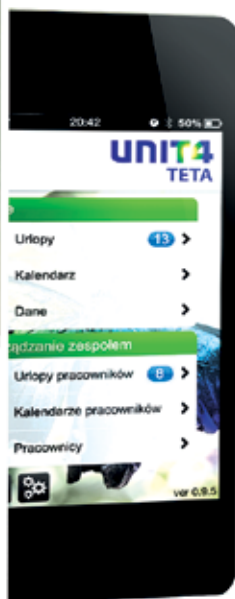
SELF-SERVICE FOR ANYONE

The application is divided into two functional modules. Employment service module is self-service for employees, while management service module enables self-service for managers. The employee panel features information about holiday entitlement, a calendar showing the person's absences, as well as their personal information. The manager's module enables you to monitor leave applications made by employees. It also includes an information card for each employee, to facilitate communication between the manager and his subordinates. The manager has access to the necessary employee-related data, including his or her position within the company, the date of hire, the form of employment, and the branch of the company he/she works for. The manager can also contacted the employee by phone or e-mail which can be done via the application. All operations performed on the mobile device are directly reflected in the web application which is an addition to ERP TETA 2000 and TETA Constellation packages.

Adrian Michalski



The application is available for owners of smartphones running iOS and Android.



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4 HOURS IN... LIMA

Ian McCurrach's whistle-stop tour of the Peruvian capital takes in Inca shrines, spooky catacombs and gourmet cooking.



A good place to get to grips with its sprawling, dusty capital is Plaza de Armas, at the heart of downtown. Here you cannot miss the monolithic Government Palace, Cathedral of Lima and Archbishop's Palace.

PLAZA DE ARMAS

Peru is enjoying a renaissance right now and is arguably the hottest country in South America. A good place to get to grips with its sprawling, dusty capital is Plaza de Armas, at the heart of downtown. Here you cannot miss the monolithic Government Palace, Cathedral of Lima and Archbishop's Palace, all remnants of the country's golden age and commissioned in 1535 by the city's founder, Pizarro, "Conqueror of the Incas". Access to the Government Palace is restricted to private tours, which can be booked through the protocol office (tel +51 1311 3908), but the impressive changing of the guard takes place outside every day at noon. The cathedral and its museum of religious art are also worth a visit.

GRAN BOLIVAR HOTEL

For a touch of faded old-world glamour, head for a drink at the Bolivar (Jr de la Union 958, El Centro), which dates back to 1924 and has commanding views over Plaza de Armas. Back in its heyday, Orson Welles regularly propped up the bar – downing a reported 40-plus signature pisco sours at any one sitting – and Ava Gardner danced on the bar and sashayed along the corridors in a see-through dressing gown.

Pisco is a grape-based spirit akin to brandy and is the national drink of Peru. As a testament to the past, there is a vintage Ford Model T parked in the lobby, which once met guests and ferried them around town during the 1920s. Ask to have a look at the glittering Golden Lounge ballroom, a replica of the stateroom of the same name in the Government Palace. granhotelbolivar.com.pe

CHURCH AND MONASTERY OF SAN FRANCISCO

A short walk away, the Church and Monastery of San Francisco was built in the late 1600s and is notable for its impressively proportioned Baroque architecture, gold-leaf decoration and intricate latticework fittings. The complex is also home to a library stacked with religious literature and artefacts. For those not of faint heart, there is a decidedly eerie warren of catacombs



containing more than 25,000 skeletons. The catacombs have survived the passage of time and earthquakes relatively intact, but gone are the secret underground tunnels that are said to have once linked the church and monastery directly to the Cathedral of Lima and the Tribunal of the Holy Inquisition. Steer clear of the elderly ladies hovering outside hell-bent on selling small packs of birdseed (not quite tuppence a bag) or risk being bombed by an army of descending dirty pigeons. Open daily 9.30am-5.45pm. Organised tours last about an hour and include a ghostly walk through the catacombs. museocatacumbas.com

MALABAR

Lima is fast becoming a capital of culinary delights, and is home to Japanese celebrity chef Nobuyuki "Nobu" Matsuhisa, who opened his first restaurant here. Another star on the scene is Pedro Miguel Schiaffino, whose renowned Malabar eatery is in San Isidro – this will be your next stop. Taxis are plentiful and easy to hail so pick up a cab for the

eight-minute ride (\$/6/£1.50). Cuisine is New Peruvian with an emphasis on locally sourced produce – specialities include ceviche of tiger catfish, milk-fed pork with garlic foam and watercress, and giant river snails. The décor stands out with walls the colour of blood orange and a warm shade of brandy. Two courses will cost about £15. Avenida Camino Real 101, San Isidro; tel +51 1440 5200.

MIRAFLORES AND HUACA PUCLLANA

Hail a cab and head five minutes south to the coastal district of Miraflores. A series of public parks run through this green neighbourhood, which is dotted with upmarket residences, restaurants, bars, nightclubs and cinemas. The big draw here for history buffs is Huaca Pucllana, a vast pyramid of mud that was once a shrine dating back to the Incas. A wander around the ruins is like stepping back in time. The central adobe temple has been completely restored and excavations still continue on

the site, which gives it a Raiders of the Lost Ark meets The Mummy feel. After dark the site is lit quite spectacularly, which enhances the movie feel. Open daily (except Tues), 9am-5pm; entry \$/7 (£1.70).

EL MALECON

El Malecon is the official name of the pathway running the six-mile-stretch along the coast from Malecon de la Marina, through Malecon Cisneros to Malecon de la Reserva. The cliff paths offer wonderful panoramic views over the Pacific, but note that mist, similar to the fog of San Francisco, frequently blows in from the ocean. The coastal trail is littered with statues and sculptures designed by well-known Peruvian artists, such as Victor Delfin's statue of lovers embracing. It's a prime paragliding site and ten-minute tandem flights with a guide are on offer from local outfits along the way. If you'd rather stay on terra firma but would like to cover the whole distance, you could pick up a bike from Bike Tours of Lima: biketoursoflima.com



ASK PETER

Letters

Piotr Kalita is related with air transport market for almost 20 years. He is specializing in corporate and diplomatic travel segment. Have a question? - ask Piotr. Mail your question to: redakcja@businessstraveller.pl

A complaint after the flight

I was flying on business to Nuremberg with a stopover in Düsseldorf. My flight to Düsseldorf was delayed. I failed to catch another flight. The ground crew changed my booking for another flight. Just before the take-off, a flight attendant said the plane couldn't fly due to air traffic restriction and the flight was put off until the next day. We were offered a stay at a hotel, but for the taxi and breakfast I had to pay myself. Can I expect I refund for the taxi and breakfast? I didn't have time to lodge a complaint at the airport.

Magda

Dear Magda

Your situation is far from extraordinary. Delays occur on a daily basis for a variety of reasons. Airlines are prepared to deal with such situations. They have their internal procedures, but also have to adhere to the law, especially EU regulation 261/2004 on passenger's rights.

In case of cancelling or a long flight delay, airlines are always obliged to take care of their passengers, regardless of the cause of the delay or cancellation. That includes providing a passenger with a meal, access to a phone or email, transport to a hotel and accommodation. Normally, this is a hotel near the airport, although in specific situations like a natural disaster the standard procedure includes arranging camp beds in the airport terminal. I understand, your situation was far from extreme.

To my mind, the airline should have provided you with both transportation and a meal. That's why you should complain with the airline and provide them with the number of your plane ticket. You should also include receipts for the taxi and breakfast. Your flight took place on EU area, so you can adduce the 261/2004 regulation. What's more, you can demand a refund, provided the delay was over 2 hours and if it was caused by circumstances within the airline's control.

If the delayed has changed your business plans (e.g. cancellation of a business meeting), you could have demanded to change your ticket into a round-trip one, from the stopover point to your original destination, as well as demand a refund for the whole price of the ticket.

I suggest you get acquainted with the regulation, which carefully describes the passenger's rights and duties of an airline. It will make it easier for you, to write your complaint.

Does my son need a passport?

What documents are required to cross the border? I'm going to London with my 14-year-old son. Does a child need a separate passport, if he's added to mine? A friend told me I also need a passport as England doesn't belong to The Schengen Area. Isn't an ID card or a driving licence enough? I'd like some clarification.

Anna

Dear Anna,

The only documents allowing you to cross the border are a passport and an ID card. This applies to everyone, including children. As of 26th June 2012 children cannot be added to their parents' passports. Thus, children cannot go abroad on this based on that document. It is required that each child has their own passport or an ID card. You can apply for it the moment you receive the birth certificate. That's why you should apply for the document as soon as possible, so that your son can go to London.

The laws regulating travelling to the EU countries not belonging to The Schengen Area are sometimes unclear. When travelling within EU, you're not subject to boarder control, but the identity of each passenger is verified during the check-in. The identity can be confirmed only based on an ID or a passport. Neither your driving licence nor your son's birth certificate give such possibilities.

As a reminder, when travelling within the EU, all is needed to confirm your identity is your ID card. When travelling to the UK, which partly belongs to The Schengen Area, you have to go through boarder control based on a valid ID card or a passport. You also need only an ID card when travelling to members of EU as well as countries belonging to The Schengen Area but not to the EU (Sweden, Norway, Lichtenstein).

However, if you're leaving the EU, the only document that allows you to cross the border is a valid passport.



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łów kryje innowacyjne rozwiązania i zaawansowaną automatykę, dzięki której urządzenia działają prawie samodzielnie, nie wymagając Twojego zaangażowania. Kontrolowane przez elektroniczne systemy, pracują wydajnie, skutecznie i cicho, zapewniając idealnie świeżą atmosferę w kuchni. Więcej informacji: www.siemens-home.pl

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Umów się na jazdę próbną. Zapraszamy do salonów.

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Informacje o działaniach dotyczących odzysku i recyklingu samochodów wycofanych z eksploatacji: www.toyota.pl.

*wg publikowanych przez koncerny motoryzacyjne danych dotyczących wielkości sprzedaży marek samochodowych w 2012 roku

**wg rankingu niezawodności TÜV 2013 w kategoriach aut: 6-7, 8-9 i 10-11 lat