

Business Traveller Poland

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100

NEW BUSINESS HOTELS

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A PERFECT HOTEL

Each of us knows how important it is to stay in a good hotel. Regardless of whether you travel for business or for pleasure, hotels are one of the most important elements of your trip. An excellent hotel can even save a miserable journey - and vice versa - even the most beautiful destination will bring back bad memories if the hotel where you stayed did not meet your expectations. Today, a comfortable bed, a good location and wireless Internet access are simply not enough. Modern hotels designed for business travellers who spend there more time than at home (you can read about them in our feature article), are specialized establishments where you can organize a conference for several hundred people, relax in a good spa and enjoy a sophisticated dinner. Our list of the world's 100 new business hotels includes those that stand out thanks to their sophisticated design, restaurants awarded with Michelin stars, state-of-the-art conference centres, or guest rooms featuring such amenities as iPod docking stations, Apple HD entertainment system, or the iHome sound system. Let us have a look at the recently launched Sheraton in Macau, which is the world's largest hotel. It offers as many as 3,863 guest rooms, the meeting space with a total area of 20,000 sq m, including a ballroom for 5,000 people, and a spa with 15 treatment rooms as well as 3 outdoor pools. I hope you will enjoy reading this month's issue, which, I hope, will be a nice inspiration for you future journeys.

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief



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Hotel

Radisson Blu Waterfront

PRAISED BY TRAVELLERS

Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel in Stockholm has been recognized by travellers as one of the nicest and most friendly hotels in the world. This luxury hotel is next to the Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre and the Central Station. Radisson Blu Waterfront has been highly rated by the online community of travellers at tripadvisor website, especially for high comfort, perfect location, modern design, spacious rooms with numerous amenities, and carefully designed bathrooms. The modern, air-conditioned guest rooms at Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel have a seating area and a flat-screen TV with cable channels. Some include a Nespresso machine. Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel offers free Wi-Fi and gym access, fine dining and panoramic city views. Guests can relax by the fireplace in the lobby bar. The restaurant RBC Bar & Grill also features a cocktail bar that offers Swedish cuisine and international dishes. Waterfront's central location provides easy access to business and shopping districts, the Old Town and City Hall. Radisson Blu Waterfront Hotel is certified as an environmentally friendly hotel. We recommend it both to business travellers and tourists coming to Stockholm – as it is a truly fascinating city, especially during the so-called White Nights in June. More details at www.radisson.com

Education

Switzerland

SWISS LEARNING NOW AVAILABLE IN POLAND

Multicultural environment and mutual respect. Openness and focus on personal and intellectual development. Firmness and discipline in action. These are, in a nutshell, the premises of the legendary Swiss education. Now this highly regarded system is also available in Poland. With Swiss International Learning Platform parents can provide their children with quality education. The project was developed in 2006 by a group of owners of boarding schools. The aim of the organization is to present educa-



tional centres that guarantee excellent Swiss education. An important part of the process is ensuring that the alumni do not lose contact not only with each other but also with Switzerland. For more info contact: **Rc2 Raczkiewicz Chenczke Consultants; Paulina Nosarowska, Marta Wolińska PR Consultants** paulina.nosarowska@rc2.pl marta.wolinska@rc2.pl +48 22 435 11 60 **Swiss Learning - International Support; Sarah Perez+41 22 799 34 24** admissions@swiss-learning.com



Airline

British Airways

FLY TO LONDON WITH PRICE PROMISE

British Airways now offers passengers the so-called Price Promise for flights from Warsaw to London and back. How does it work? First, choose the most convenient flight on Warsaw – London route and then book a seat with the Price Promise. If you have already made your booking on ba.com and happened to have found the fare cheaper on another website, do not worry just complete a special claim form. Cheaper fare quoted must be for the same route(s), with each leg of the trip flown in the same order, for the same dates and flight numbers and for the same type of ticket (including fare conditions such as whether tickets are flexible, refundable or changeable). The guarantee applies to BA operated one-way and return point-to-point flights in all fare classes. You must have purchased the flight from the ba.com site operated in your country of departure and paid in the currency of your country of departure. Also, you must have found a cheaper bona-fide fare for a flight identical to the BA flight on a public point of sale travel website operated in your country of departure. Price Promise does not apply where the cheaper online fare is a discounted or promotional fare, or where the fare forms part of a travel package.

a e-Travel Management

Podróżuj mądrzej. Wydawaj mniej.



Obniżaj koszty, kontroluj wydatki z Amadeus e-Travel Management

Amadeus e-Travel Management to kompleksowe narzędzie internetowe do zarządzania podróżami służbowymi. Umożliwia firmom integrowanie wszystkich elementów globalnych programów podróży – firmowe wytyczne dotyczące wyjazdów służbowych, preferowani dostawcy czy negocjowane stawki – na jednej, prostej w obsłudze stronie internetowej.



Kompleksowa oferta usług turystycznych – przeloty, połączenia kolejowe, hotele, wypożyczalnie samochodów i usługi transferowe



Zgodność z korporacyjną polityką podróży – większa kontrola nad każdym aspektem planowania i rozliczania podróży służbowych; obniżenie kosztów zakupu usług turystycznych nawet o **20** proc.



Szeroki wybór dostawców – ponad **500** tradycyjnych linii lotniczych, **80** niskobudżetowych przewoźników, **92 000** obiektów hotelowych i **25** wypożyczalni samochodów w **36 000** lokalizacji na świecie



Dbłość o podróżnych i środowisko – pomiar poziomu emisji dwutlenku węgla (CO₂) wynikającej z podróży służbowych; przyjazny użytkownikowi interfejs, umożliwiający samodzielne rezerwowanie wszystkich usług turystycznych



Udokumentowane doświadczenie – ponad **5200** korporacji na świecie używa Amadeus e-Travel Management do zarządzania podróżami służbowymi; gwarancja bezpieczeństwa danych i niezawodności systemu

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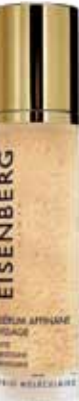
Hotels

MUSIC FANS SHOULD STAY HERE!

2013 is the year of rock music. Deep Purple will celebrate their 45th anniversary, AC/DC their 40th, and the Rolling Stones are close to their 50th. Do you want to follow your idols? Especially for fans of great bands, HRS has prepared a list of European hotels connected with the world music. Hotel nhov in Berlin offers six apartments, where an electric guitar is a standard piece of equipment; Hilton Amsterdam is where in 1969 John Lennon and Yoko Ono spent a week in bed, protesting against the Vietnam War; The Gore in London was the venue for the

premiere of the Beggars Banquet LP by the Rolling Stones; Rica Rock City hotel in Namsos, Norway features beds in the shape of an electric guitar and walls covered with lyrics of famous songs; Superbude Hotel St. Pauli in Hamburg offers Rockstar Suite which features a small stage; Zic Zac Rockhotel in Zurich named each of its rooms after famous musicians. Guests can choose between Deep Purple, Kiss, U2 and Queen. The hotel is also known for its Zic Zac Dorli restaurant and wacky parties that take place there. More details at hrs.pl

Beauty
Eisenberg



FACE SERUM

Looking at yourself in the mirror you notice the first signs of sagging facial skin ... The profile is less defined, the lower part of your face starts to droop a double chin appears, while the skin loses its firmness ... EISENBERG offers an innovative cosmetic that will help you regain the appropriate shape of your face! The modelling serum lifts, reshapes and redensifies the face. This light serum absorbs quickly and deeply penetrates the skin. When applied daily, the serum tones and firms, sculpts the cheeks and fights the slackening of the chin and the neck. The face is redefined, lifted as if slimmer looking. www.eisenberg.com

Airline
Finnair

THE NEW EDITION OF QUALITY HUNTERS

Finnair, one of the world's longest-running airlines, and Finavia, the operator of Helsinki Airport, have launched Quality Hunters 2013 in order to identify the key moments that can either make or break a journey, and seek out practical ways of improving the travel experience. This time, they will look to the extremely active and inventive online community that formed around the previous Quality Hunters initiative and whose keen interest in improving the quality of air travel has kept the discussion going ever since. Anyone can join the conversation by following @qualityhunters on Twitter. The blog at qualityhunters.com will discuss the ideas suggested by community members and follow their development process while sharing news about the initiative's progress. The initiative can also be followed on Facebook at facebook.com/qualityhunters.



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Culture

Event of the Year!

A UNIQUE EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY ALPHONSE MUCHA IN PRAGUE

This opportunity should not be missed.Until the end of July many art lovers will be visiting Prague in order to see a unique collection of posters by famous Art Nouveau artist Alfons Mucha. The posters are a part of collection owned by Ivan Lendl, a legendary Czech tennis player, and will be exhibited for the first time. The exhibition was first presented to the public in the Municipal House (Obecní dům) in Prague on April 10. The exhibition offers a look at all three periods of the artist’s work for print – Parisian, American and Bohemian. It’s the most extensive collection of Mucha’s works for print ever seen anywhere in the world. Visitors will get to see over 150 pieces, mainly including Mucha’s posters, but also calendars, decorative postcards and food wrappings. The exhibition is open until the end of July 2013, daily from 10.00 am to 7.00 pm. For more information about the exhibition go to www.lendl-mucha.czTourist information about the Czech Republic: www.czechtourism.com

Tourism

Portugal

ONLINE FOR THE MEDIA

Portuguese Tourism Board (Turismo de Portugal) has launched online press office for the media. In addition to the general information in English, the pressroom also features sections with local news in several other languages, including Polish. Journalists have here access to a database of photos, videos and electronic brochures presenting the most interesting attractions of Portugal. The pressroom does not require user registration: pressroom.visitportugal.com/en/local-news-room-poland



Airlines

SWISS

NEW FLIGHTS

From 12 May 2013 SWISS launches a new route from Zurich to Singapore. This will be the eighth city in Asia, which passengers will be able to reach with a convenient connection via Zurich. The new route will be operated with Airbus A340-300, which seats 219 passengers in three fare classes. Fares start at PLN 2,799. Booking: swiss.com



Airlines

Emirates

FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

Emirates Airlines will connect continental Europe and North America, offering direct flights between Milan and New York. The first transatlantic connection operated by the carrier will be launched on 1 October 2013. Linking Italy directly with America, the new route will provide an important connection between Continental Europe and the U.S., allowing Emirates to capitalise on the significant traffic flow between these cities and giving both leisure and business travellers more choice and added convenience. Customers looking to fly on the airline’s award-winning product will be able to seamlessly connect from points all over the U.S., including the West Coast, taking advantage of Emirates’ partnership with JetBlue, and across Europe, maximizing the airline’s frequent flyer partnership with easyJet. “Operating a trans-Atlantic route has been on our agenda for some time. Having carefully monitored traffic flows we have identified strong demand for both a direct connection and, importantly, for the Emirates product. The route is currently underserved, particularly with a strong premium product offering this is where we see a clear opening for Emirates. We intend to capitalise on this opportunity, stimulating further demand and encouraging additional traffic flow in both directions,” said Tim Clark, President Emirates.Emirates will deploy its state-of-the-art Boeing 777-300ER on this route, offering eight seats in First Class, 42 seats in Business Class and 310 seats in Economy Class. The aircraft will be equipped with Emirates’ award-winning ice system, offering over 1,400 channels of in-flight entertainment, as well gourmet chef-prepared meals.

Event

Hotel Scandic

BALL TO WELCOME SPRING

On 5 April 2013, Scandic Gdańsk Hotel hosted a ball for its guests. The goal of the event was to welcome spring. The decorations were natural and included spring flowers, while dishes were inspired by spring climate. Although the weather conditions were more wintry, the ball was attended by more than 100 guests. Most of them were customers and partners of the hotel, and the balls was a great opportunity to meet and thank for successful cooperation. The attractions of the evening included the performance of Jurki comedy group, a caricaturist, and the music by The Freaks band with Ola Pieczara as a lead singer.



Restaurant

Grand opening

KRUG EMBASSY IN AMBER ROOM

Krug Embassy is an exclusive lounge (for up to 12 guests), which features a carefully composed menu to suit tasting of all kinds of Krug champagne. The personnel of Sobański Palace received training in Champagne in order to become more familiar with the brand and to understand the idea behind Krug Embassies. Worldwide there are only 130 Krug tasting sites, and mere 20 so-called Embassies – that is specially designed rooms for tasting which are located in the most prestigious locations such as Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, Dorchester London, Adlon Berlin, or Guy Savoy Las Vegas. The new one has just been launched in Amber Room Restaurant in Warsaw (Al Ujazdowskie 13). The room will be used to serve breakfasts, lunches, and dinners, and it is also possible to organize here closed events. The opening ceremony for members of the Polish Business Club was hosted by Romain Cains – one of Krug’s Ambassadors.



Endorfina Restaurant
Zamoyski Palace, Foksal 2
www.endorfinafoksal.pl

100 NEW BUSINESS HOTELS AROUND THE WORLD

Business Traveller rounds up 100 hotels that have opened worldwide since the start of 2012.



EUROPE LONDON

1. Intercontinental Westminster The capital's second Intercontinental is housed in the 19th-century Queen Anne's Chambers on Broadway, it has 256 rooms, a smokehouse restaurant, a lively bar and a great art collection inspired by the hotel's Westminster location. ichotelsgroup.com

2. South Place A rare new-build for the City, South Place opened in September and is the first hotel project for restaurant operator D&D London. Unsurprisingly, the 80-room property has a strong focus on food, with a bistro, seafood eatery and two bars. southplacehotel.com

3. Citizen M Bankside London's first branch of the Dutch "affordable luxury" brand opened on Lavington Street in July. It has 192 compact yet well-equipped rooms along with a buzzing bar, a 24-hour food station, meeting rooms and free wifi. citizenm.com

4. Me London The trendy Foster and Partners-designed Me London had its official launch in March. The flagship property for Melia Hotels International's Me brand, it has 157 rooms with mood lighting, a rooftop bar, a steakhouse and an Italian eatery. melia.com

5. Café Royal Following extensive renovations, the historic Café Royal on Regent Street opened as a 159-room five-star hotel in December. Many of its 1860s features have been restored, including the iconic Grill Room. A spa is due to open in early summer. hotelcaferoyal.com

BIRMINGHAM

6. Hotel la Tour This new-build four-star property opened last March. Its 174 rooms have free wifi and media hubs, and there's a gym and meeting space. Chef Marcus Wareing helped to develop Aalto restaurant, which offers "a modern twist on English classics". hotel-latour.co.uk

EDINBURGH

7. Hotel Indigo IHG's boutique brand came to Edinburgh in March 2012. Housed in five townhouses on York Place, it has 60 stylish rooms, a restaurant, bar and gym. There are no dedicated business facilities, but guests can borrow laptops and use the free wifi. hiedinburgh.co.uk

DUBLIN

8. The Marker Set to open on April 2 in a striking black-and-white geometric building on Grand Canal Dock, across the Liffey from the CCD convention centre, the Marker is a member of the Leading Hotels

of the World. It has 187 rooms, a cocktail bar, brasserie, rooftop garden, spa and meeting space. themarketheroteldublin.com

PARIS

9. W Paris Opéra Open since February 2012, the W is housed in an 1870s Haussman building opposite the Opéra Garnier. Its 91 rooms are well equipped and feature tongue-in-cheek, Paris-inspired design elements. Arola restaurant is led by Michelin-starred chef Sergi Arola. wparis-opera.com

BRUSSELS

10. Thon Hotel EU Well located for the European district, this modern four-star from Norway's Thon Hotels opened in April 2012. Its 405 rooms have fridges and tea and coffee facilities, while Club rooms have Nespresso machines. Wifi is free if you book online. There are ten meeting rooms and a restaurant. thonhotels.com

AMSTERDAM

11. Andaz Amsterdam Prinsengracht Hyatt's trendy Andaz brand arrived in Amsterdam in October. The canalside five-star property features Dutch-inspired design by Marcel Wanders and 122 rooms offering free wifi, soft drinks and snacks. It has a spa and a restaurant with an "inventive western seaboard" menu. andaz.hyatt.com

BERLIN

12. Waldorf Astoria Germany got its first Waldorf Astoria in January. The 232-room hotel is housed in the new Zoofenster skyscraper in Charlottenburg, opposite Berlin Zoo. It features art deco design, a fine-dining restaurant by Michelin-starred chef Pierre Gagnaire and a Guerlain spa. waldorf-astoriaberlin.com

13. Das Stue Also bordering Berlin Zoo, this Design Hotels member opened in December in a 1930s Danish embassy building. Its 80 rooms offer free wifi. It has a restaurant by Michelin-starred Paco Perez, a spa, pool and meeting rooms. dasstue.com

HAMBURG

14. Barcelo This modern new-build four-star opened in March last year and is well located on Ferdinandstrasse, close to the central station. The 193 rooms come with 32-inch LCD TVs, iPod docks, free wifi and rainshowers. barcelo.com

VIENNA

15. Palais Hansen Kempinski Set to open in an 1870s listed building on

the Ring Boulevard last month, the Palais Hansen has 152 luxury rooms starting from 32 sqm. There are two restaurants. kempinski.com

16. Ritz-Carlton The luxury hotel group expanded into Austria last August. Housed in four 19th-century palaces on the Ring Boulevard, the Ritz-Carlton has 202 rooms and suites, a restaurant, a Guerlain spa, pool, conference space and rooftop bar. ritzcarlton.com

ROME

17. Gran Melia Gran Melia's luxury resort is built on the site of Villa Agrippina, home of Emperor Nero's mother, and artefacts found during the build are on show. It has 116 rooms across eight floors, with each level having its own theme, such as "sacred and profane love" and "great heroes", as well as indoor and outdoor dining. melia.com

BARCELONA

18. Hotel Indigo Barcelona Plaza Catalunya has 77 rooms "inspired by Gaudi's Modernisme movement", with free wifi. There is also a gym, outdoor pool, one meeting room and a Spanish restaurant. ichotelsgroup.com

LISBON

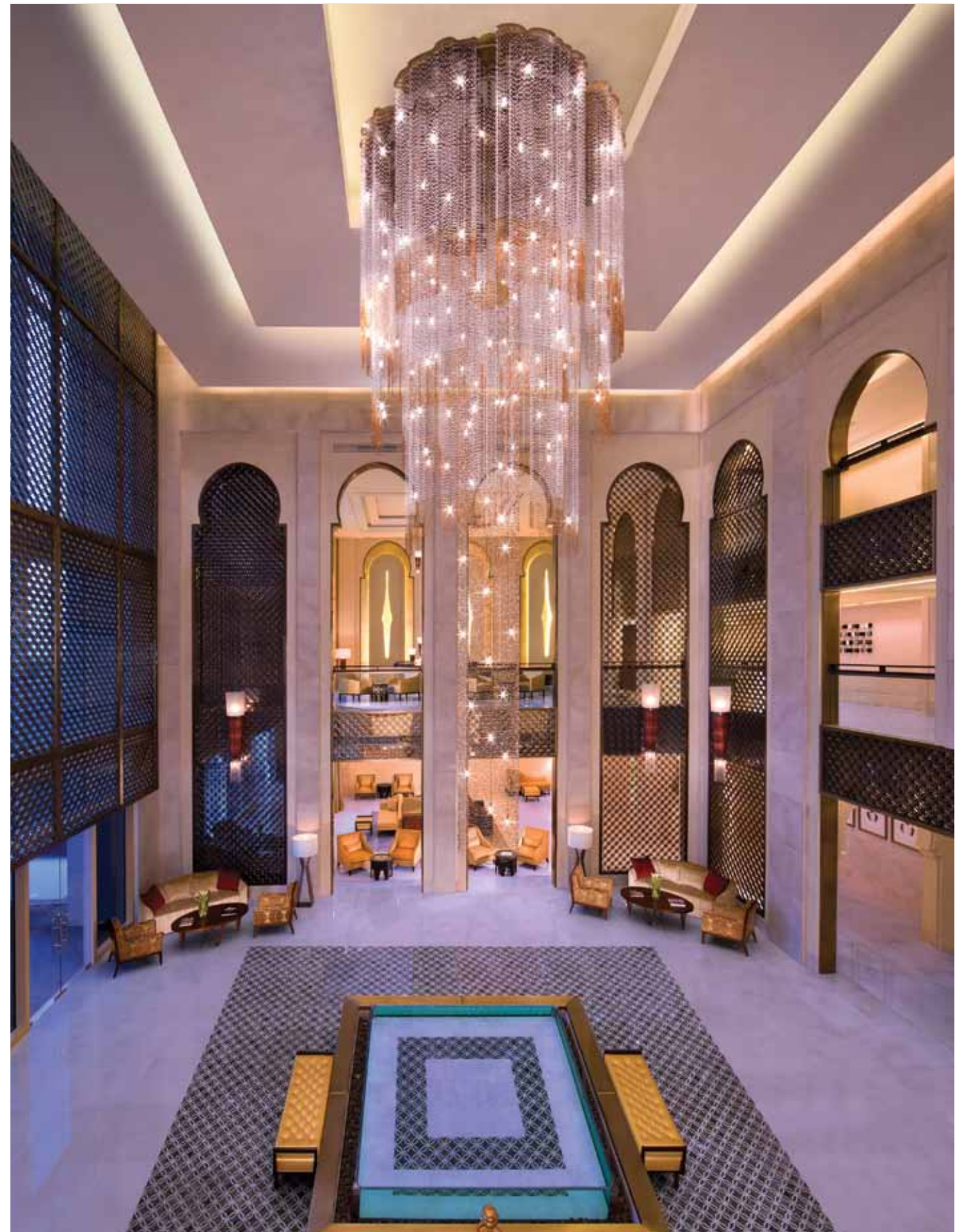
19. Myriad by Sana Hotels Incorporated into the 140-metre-tall riverside Vasco da Gama tower that stands next to the hotel, in Parque das Nacoes, this sleek property opened in September. Its 186 stylish rooms have free wifi. There is a restaurant, pool and spa, and the hotel is directly linked to the Myriad Crystal Centre for meetings and events. myriad.pt

ZURICH

20. 25 Hours Zurich West The hotel features imaginative design inspired by its location. The 126 rooms have bunk, queen- or king-size beds, free wifi and iHome sound systems, and there is also a restaurant and meeting space. 25hours-hotels.com

ISTANBUL

21. Le Méridien Istanbul Etiler Turkey got its first Le Méridien in January last year. The classy 34-storey new-build is located in the Etiler district and has lovely Bosphorus views. The 259 rooms start from 38 sqm, and there is a spa, restaurant and a sleek bar. lemeridienistanbuletiler.com
22) Renaissance Istanbul Bosphorus Open since August, this 20-storey new-build opened on the city's European side in the downtown Besiktas district. Its 212 rooms



Anantara Eastern Mangroves, Abu Dhabi

offer river or city views. It has a rooftop bar, Mediterranean restaurant, pool and spa. [marriott.co.uk](#)

KIEV

23. Fairmont Grand Hotel Kyiv Fairmont opened its first Eastern European hotel in April last year. The new-build is traditional in design and has a Grand Cru champagne bar, cocktail bar, grill restaurant, spa and meeting space. Its 258 rooms start from 40 sqm and offer city, river or courtyard views. [fairmont.com](#)

BAKU

24. Four Seasons Four Seasons made its Azerbaijan debut in September. The Beaux Arts-style new-build is located on the waterfront and has 171 rooms starting from 48 sqm, offering old city or Caspian Sea vistas. [fourseasons.com](#)

25. JW Marriott Absheron JW Marriott's 243-room property opened last May with its guestrooms offering sea or city views. The spa and pool are located on the 21st and 22nd floors, and there are Oriental and Italian restaurants. It has 2,000 sqm of meeting space. [jwmarriottbaku.com](#)

MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA
ABU DHABI

26. Ritz-Carlton Abu Dhabi Grand Canal This 447-room property on Khor Al Maqta', close to Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, opened in March. It has a spa, nine restaurants and bars, and a ballroom for 1,500 guests. [ritzcarlton.com](#)

27. St Regis St Regis Abu Dhabi has 228 rooms and 55 suites with free wifi. Along with 4,800 sqm of meeting space,

there is an outdoor pool, six bars and restaurants, a Remede spa and views of the sea. [starwoodhotels.com](#)

28. Sofitel Abu Dhabi Corniche The 44-floor, five-star Sofitel opened in March 2012 and has 282 rooms with contemporary interiors by Pierre Soulages. Suite guests also get butler service, Hermès toiletries and Nespresso machines. There are three restaurants, three bars, 2,600 sqm of event space, a gym, spa and outdoor pool. [sofitel.com](#)

29. Anantara Eastern Mangroves The 222 rooms in this waterfront property, located on a 1.2km strip along the Eastern Mangroves district, start from 57 sqm. There are five restaurants and bars, as well as a spa, and a private marina. [anantara.com](#)

DUBAI

30. Jumeirah Creekside This five-star facing Dubai Creek opened in July 2012. Its 292 rooms are at least 42 sqm and come with free wifi and soft drinks in the minibars. As well as rooftop lounge Cu-ba, offering panoramic vistas, there are a further five restaurants and bars, 25 meeting rooms, a spa and a health club with a two-tier pool. [jumeirah.com](#)

31. JW Marriott Marquis Another addition to Sheikh Zayed Road, the JW Marriott is the world's tallest hotel, with 72 floors, 684 rooms and 120 suites. The property has more than 7,500 sqm of event space, ten dining outlets, a pool and spa. It opened in November. [marriott.co.uk](#)

32. Fairmont the Palm This 381-room hotel opened on the world's largest manmade island in December. It has 3,000 sqm of meeting space, a private beach,

four pools and five bars and eateries (Ba, serving Chinese food, was set to open this month). [fairmont.com](#)

33. Al Ghurair Rayhaan by Rotana Open since December, this five-star alcohol-free Deira property has 428 rooms. It has an executive lounge offering free breakfast, "mocktails" and internet, plus four eateries – one serving the "finest Iranian caviar" – a pool, tennis and squash courts and a spa. Rotana also opened a 414-room Centro property (its budget brand) in October. [rotana.com](#)

DOHA

34. Intercontinental Doha the City With sweeping views of West Bay, the 56-floor hotel launched in February 2012 and has 759 smart, stylish rooms, a 45th-floor Club lounge, an extensive health centre, and eight drinking and dining outlets. [ichotelsgroup.com](#)

35. St Regis The 336-room St Regis opened in March 2012 and provides butler service for all guests, as well as access to a 250-metre-long beach on West Bay. It has ten restaurants and bars (two by Gordon Ramsay), a 1,500-capacity ballroom and an Olympic-size open-air pool. [starwoodhotels.com](#)

36. Hilton Towering over the Corniche and with its own beach, the 309-room Hilton opened last April and sports eight function spaces, a spa and pool, and six bars and restaurants. Suites and Executive rooms feature balconies and lounge access. [hilton.com](#)

MANAMA

37. Majestic Arjaan by Rotana Unveiled in March on the island of Muharraq,

a few minutes from Bahrain's capital, the hotel has 128 studios and apartments with free wifi. There is also an outdoor pool and three dining options. [rotana.com](#)

BEIRUT

38. Hilton Beirut Habtoor Grand Open since April 2012, the 185-room hotel has some of the biggest meeting venues in the country, including a 3,000-capacity ballroom. It has a three-floor health club, a pool, a fine-dining French restaurant and jazz bar. [hilton.com](#)

AMMAN

39. Millennium Located in the Shmeisani commercial district, the modern tower block houses 178 rooms, a 21st-floor spa and pool. There are two restaurants – Fatoush for seasonal cuisine and Toshi for Asian – and Sky Lounge bar. It opened in November. [millenniumhotels.com](#)

MUSCAT

40. Best Western Premier This four-star opened in the Al Khuwair commercial district in November 2012 and has 203 rooms with free wifi. There is an executive lounge serving snacks and soft drinks (this is a "dry" hotel), two restaurants, a café, pool, gym and four function spaces. [bestwestern.com](#)

JOHANNESBURG

41. The Maslow Formerly the Southern Sun Grayston hotel, Sun International opened this property as the four-star Maslow in January following closure for an £18 million renovation. Located in Sandton, the city's retail and business district, it has a gym, spa, pool, bistro and bar, and free wifi. [suninternational.com](#)

42. 54 on Bath This 75-room boutique hotel opened in June 2012 after Tsogo Sun converted the former Grace hotel and office buildings in Rosebank. Each room has a 42-inch LED TV, safe, free wifi and minibar. There is a fitness club, outdoor pool, all-day restaurant and meeting space. [tsogosunhotels.com](#)

LUSAKA

43. Radisson Blu Opened in September, the Radisson Blu is located in the Zambian capital's commercial district. As with all Radisson Blus, the 142 rooms have free wifi. It also features the brand's Italian Filini restaurant and bar, and has a gym, spa and outdoor pool. [radissonblu.com](#)

MAPUTO

44. Radisson Blu The brand also landed in Mozambique's capital, in Feb-

ruary. Located on the waterfront Avenida Marginal road, about 15 minutes from the airport, it has 154 rooms, a restaurant with a terrace, an outdoor pool and a gym. [radissonblu.com](#)

TUNIS

45. Novotel The Novotel Tunis opened in November on Mohamed V in the Tunisian capital's business district. Its 126 rooms have free wifi, while Executive rooms also come with a coffee machine and iPod dock. There is a restaurant and bar, 14 meeting rooms, a gym and outdoor pool. [novotel.com](#)

AMERICAS
NEW YORK

46. Conrad Situated in Lower Manhattan's Battery Park City, the 463 all-suite property opened in March 2012. The lobby's glass atrium features Loopy Doopy, a vibrant blue and purple Sol LeWitt painting spanning 13 floors. There is a rooftop bar offering Hudson River views and a Mediterranean fine-dining restaurant. [conradhotels.com](#)

47. Hyatt Place New York/Midtown-South Hyatt was set to debut its limited-service brand in Midtown South last month. Located on West 36th Street, the new-build's 185 rooms have free wifi. Made-to-order meals are available 24 hours, and there's a Bakery Café serving Starbucks coffee, a "grab-and-go" snack station and a gym. [place.hyatt.com](#)

48. Hyatt Union Square Hyatt is also opening a property under its mainline brand at the end of April. The 178-room hotel blends "high design with natural elements". Guestrooms have an urban feel and "tech-wired writers tables" on request. It will have an American brasserie, and an open-kitchen and wine gallery. [unionsquare.hyatt.com](#)

49. Tryp by Wyndham Times Square Open since February 2012, the first of Wyndham's Tryp properties in the US is located in the heart of Manhattan. Its 173 stylish rooms offer free wifi and iPod docks. Gastro bar at 35th Street serves tapas, and there are four meeting spaces, plus a rooftop balcony for events. [tryphotels.com](#)

WASHINGTON DC

50. Capella Washington DC, Georgetown Open since last month, the Capella's 49 pewter- and gold-toned rooms feature touchscreen technology and free wifi. Guests are offered a 24-hour personal assistant, free pressing of five items, and flexible check-in and check-out. There is a spa, a rooftop lounge and an infinity pool. [capellahotels.com](#)

CHICAGO

51. The Ivy A 15-storey boutique hotel one block from Michigan Avenue, the Ivy opened last June. The 63 rooms have marble bathrooms and come with free wifi, 42-inch flatscreen TVs and at least 29 sqm of space. The top-floor ballroom has city views. [exploreivy.com](#)

MIAMI

52. The James Royal Palm This five-star South Beach hotel opened in October. The 393 rooms feature free wifi, and there are two pools, a business lounge with video-conferencing, a spa, and six bars and restaurants, including Catch Miami, an outpost of the New York seafood restaurant. [jameshotels.com](#)

SAN FRANCISCO

53. Hotel Zetta Boutique hotel group Viceroy opened this trendy luxury property in February, minutes from Union Square. Hotel Zetta's 116 stylish rooms have free wifi, docking stations for wireless streaming and Illy espresso machines. There are Apple Macs in the lobby. [viceroy-hotelgroup.com](#)

LOS ANGELES

54. Hotel Wilshire Kimpton Hotels opened this 74-room property last April, minutes from Beverly Hills. With yellow and grey décor, rooms offer free wifi and personalised welcome amenities for In Touch members (free to join), and animal-print robes. The rooftop restaurant, bar and pool offer views of the Hollywood sign. [hotelwilshire.com](#)

LAS VEGAS

55. Hotel Nobu Open since February, Nobu's latest hotel is part of the Caesars Palace complex. Designed by David Rockwell, the 181 rooms have Japanese-style bathrooms, and dishes from Nobu restaurant can be ordered via room service. Guests get free valet parking and access to the spa. [nobucaesarspalace.com](#)

DALLAS

56. Le Méridien Dallas, the Stoneleigh Open since January, this 170-room hotel is housed in a 1920s building near the arts district. Rooms have spa baths, T/X serves south-western cuisine, and there are six meeting spaces. [starwoodhotels.com](#)

TORONTO

57. Shangri-La The Shangri-La opened on University Avenue in October. Its



Me London, London

202 rooms start from 42 sqm and there is an all-day restaurant, a bar serving 1930s-style cocktails, a 20-metre pool and a Miraj Hammam spa by Caudalie Paris. shangri-la.com 58) Four Seasons October also saw Four Seasons open a 55-storey, 259-room property in the Yorkville district, one block from the old Four Seasons, which closed in early 2012. Michelin-starred Daniel Boulud heads up Café Boulud, and there's a 2,787 sqm spa. fourseasons.com

MEXICO CITY

59. Intercontinental Presidente Santa Fe The city's second Intercontinental opened in June in the tallest building in the Santa Fe area. Its 111 rooms feature sleek décor, and Executive Club rooms come with butler service and free breakfast. The property has an art gallery, six restaurants, and a L'Occitane spa. ichotelsgroup.com

BUENOS AIRES

60. Buenos Aires Grand Situated in Recoleta, this independent property opened last autumn. Its 88 rooms have free wifi and Nespresso machines, and there is a spa, pool and restaurant. buenosairesgrand.com

LIMA

61. Hilton Lima Miraflores Hilton's Peruvian debut opened in December in the centre of Lima. Its 207 rooms feature local design elements such as lattice woodwork, while its restaurant serves US-Peruvian food, and the bar has a street-level terrace. There is a rooftop pool and a 430-person capacity ballroom. hilton.com

PANAMA CITY

62. Westin Playa Bonita Panama A 20-minute drive from downtown, Westin's beachside property opened in early 2012. Its 611 rooms have private terraces, and the property has eight restaurants and bars, 14 meeting spaces and an infinity pool. starwoodhotels.com

BOGOTA

63. BOG Hotel This Design Hotels member opened in spring 2012 near the financial district. The hotel has 55 rooms, two meeting spaces, a rooftop bar and pool, and a restaurant. boghotel.com

ASIA-PACIFIC SINGAPORE

64. Dorsett Located above the Outram Park MRT interchange station, this property from the Asian group was set to open last month and has 285 rooms with free wifi, posturepedic mattresses, and iP-

hone/iPad docks. There's a roof garden, gym and 30-metre outdoor pool and spa bath. dorsethotels.com

BANGKOK

65. W Bangkok December saw the soft opening of the 407-room W (work will be complete this month), located on North Sathorn Road in the commercial district. The slick, minimalist décor is offset by splashes of neon pink, ultra-violet and Cristal yellow, and there are two restaurants, an outdoor pool and six meeting spaces. starwoodhotels.com

66. Sofitel So Open since February 2012 in the Lumpini Park district, the stylish 238-room Sofitel So is inspired by five natural elements – water, earth, wood, metal and fire. The rooms are designed around the first four – while fire is represented in the aptly named Red Oven restaurant. All rooms offer free wifi, and Apple Mac minis. sofitel.com

67. Mercure Bangkok Siam In the heart of the Siam shopping district, this new Accor hotel opened in December. It has 189 rooms with free wifi, plus a restaurant and a bar, an outdoor swimming pool, a gym and meeting room. accorhotels.com

68. Okura Prestige Japan's Okura opened this 240-room luxury property last May under its Prestige brand, which aims to be more modern and chic than older Okuras. The 34-floor tower is on the corner of Wireless and Ploenchit roads and offers impressive views. It has an open-air pool, spa and three restaurants. okura-bangkok.com

HONG KONG

69. L'Hotel Elan Located in Kowloon's Kwun Tong neighbourhood, L'Hotel E'lan opened in September and is the fourth Hong Kong hotel in L'Hotel Group's portfolio. The smart property has 254 rooms with iPads, free wifi and complimentary minibars, a 35th-floor al fresco rooftop pool, one eatery and two event spaces. lhotelelan.com

70. Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Kowloon East Opened in September, the towering five-star Crowne Plaza is on the easterly side of Kowloon Peninsula, in the emerging business district of Tseung Kwan O with an MTR station below. It has 359 rooms (Executive Club ones offer lounge access and free wifi) and four restaurants, including a rooftop Italian. ichotelsgroup.com

71. Rosedale Kowloon Rosedale's second Hong Kong hotel opened in July in Tai Kok Tsui on the west side of Kowloon Peninsula close to Olympic MTR station, two stops from Central. The 435 rooms

feature free wifi and audio-video facilities, and there is a computer corner and gym. rosedalehotels.com

MACAU

72. Sheraton The world's largest Sheraton has an astonishing 3,863 rooms within the Sands Cotai Central complex. It also has extensive meeting space – a total of 20,000 sqm, including a pillarless ballroom for 5,000 people theatre-style – as well as a spa with 15 treatment rooms, and three outdoor pools. starwoodhotels.com

BEIJING

73. East Swire Hotels' second East (the other is in Hong Kong) opened in September in the Chaoyang district, 15 minutes from the airport. All 369 rooms have free wifi and there are club rooms with lounge access on the 24th and 25th floors. Beast (Body by East) features a gym, indoor swimming pool and outdoor splash pool, while Feast (Food by East) is an all-day international restaurant. east-beijing.com

74. Four Seasons Four Seasons made its Beijing debut in November, in the CBD's Yansha district. The 313 rooms (starting from 46 sqm) are built around a light-filled atrium, and there is 3,250 sqm of meeting space, a spa, indoor pool with city vistas, an executive lounge, two restaurants and a trio of bars. fourseasons.com

75. Conrad Open since February, the Conrad is within walking distance of the CBD. Its 289 rooms feature a palette of cream and gold, and have 46-inch LED TVs, and Chinese tea sets. There is an Executive lounge, three dining outlets, two bars and a spa. conradhotels.com

SHANGHAI

76. Four Seasons Shanghai Pudong Located in the gleaming 21st-Century Tower in the middle of the financial district of Pudong, the brand's second Shanghai property opened in November. It has 187 rooms, 15 suites and two restaurants, as well as a 35th-floor executive lounge and a spa with an indoor infinity pool. fourseasons.com

77. Twelve at Hengshan This Starwood Luxury Collection member opened in an art deco-style building on Hengshan Road in the Xuhui district in December. It features 171 rooms with free wifi, a 13-room spa, two restaurants and a fitness centre overlooking the indoor pool and hot tubs. luxurycollection.com

78. Banyan Tree Shanghai on the Bund The Banyan Tree's 130 rooms have views of the Huangpu River and marble

Komfortowy sen podczas lotu.

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Zrelaksuj się i wypocznij w naszych nowych, w pełni rozkładanych fotelach. Nowa Klasa Biznes* airberlin z 19-toma fotelami na pokładzie zapewnia jeszcze bardziej komfortowy serwis i więcej prywatności. Więcej informacji: airberlin.com/fullflat



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bathrooms with rainshowers, mirror TVs and round soaking baths. As an “urban resort”, it also has a three-floor spa and a health centre with a yoga studio, as well as a rooftop bar and two high-end eateries. It opened in October. [banyantree.com](#)

GUANGZHOU

79. Four Seasons Unveiled in July, the Four Seasons’ 302 rooms and 42 suites take up the 74th to 98th floors of the 103-storey IFC Guangzhou building, in Pearl River New City. The lobby is located on the glass-ceilinged 70th floor, while a horizon-edge indoor pool is on the 69th. There are five dining outlets (one on the 100th level) and two bars. [fourseasons.com](#)

80. Mandarin Oriental Connected to the Taikoo Hui shopping and office centre in the Tianhe CBD, the 263-room property opened in January. Starting from 60 sqm, rooms combine “British colonial and traditional Chinese design”. For food, there is Jiang by Chef Fei (Cantonese) and Ebony (grilled fare), along with a cake shop, cocktail bar and tea lounge. A spa and ballroom complete the offering. [mandarinoriental.com](#)

81. Guangzhou Marriott Hotel Tianhe Located in the heart of Tianhe, the Marriott opened last June and has 319 rooms, a 24-hour health centre, a spa, pool, a quartet of eateries (international and Chinese) and nine event venues. [marriott.co.uk](#)

CHENGDU

82. Dorsett Grand This 556-roomer opened in the Luomashi area in the

CBD in September. All rooms have iPod docks and free wifi. There are nine meeting rooms, along with a multi-function hall, a tea lounge, chess house, karaoke facilities, a gym and spa. [dorsett.com](#)

CHONGQING

83. Hyatt Regency Located in the Jiangbei district, the 321-room Hyatt Regency opened in a new mixed-use development in August last year. It has a ballroom, spa, 25-metre pool, gym, two eateries, pastry boutique, tea lounge and bar. [chongqing.regency.hyatt.com](#)

SHENZHEN

84. St Regis The St Regis is in the Luohu district, within 6km of three exhibition centres, and opened in January. In addition to the 24-hour butler service for its 290 rooms, it has five dining and drinking venues, a pool and 11 meeting spaces. [starwoodhotels.com](#)

SHENYANG

85. Doubletree by Hilton This 389-room new-build opened in July and includes 25 suites, two restaurants, a 24-metre pool and spa. The rooms start from 36 sqm and have separate baths and showers, and Crabtree and Evelyn amenities. [doubletreebyhilton.com](#)

TIANJIN

86. Indigo Launched in September, IHG’s Indigo Tianjin Haihe is located on Germanic Street in the Hexi district, close to the Hai River. Its 96 cosy rooms fea-

ture quirky murals, paintings and photos. Facilities include Blauer Engel beer house, a café, pool and meeting space. [ichotelsgroup.com](#)

XIAMEN

87. Kempinski Opened last April, the Kempinski overlooks Yundang Lake and is the tallest building in Fujian Province. It has 460 rooms (Executive rooms and suites have lounge access), plus Yue Fu Cantonese restaurant, Kempí Deli, Paulaner Brauhaus for Bavarian fare, and an all-day diner. There is a large spa and 2,600 sqm of meeting space. [kempinski.com](#)

TAIPEI

88. Okura Prestige Opened in August, the Okura is located in the central Zhongshan district. Its 208 rooms have outsize bathrooms with rainshowers, large tubs and TVs, and there is a health club, rooftop pool and sun terrace, and Chinese and Japanese restaurants. [okura.com](#)

JAKARTA

89. Keraton at the Plaza This 140-room Starwood Luxury Collection hotel opened in May 2012 in the commercial Thamrin district. The décor features Batik floral prints and intricate art pieces, and wifi is free. There are two eateries, a spa and pool. [luxurycollection.com](#)

KUALA LUMPUR

90. Grand Hyatt One of the first top-end hotels to open in Malaysia’s capital



Westin Playa Bonita, Panama

in a decade, the Grand Hyatt was unveiled last August, a short distance from the Petronas Towers. Its 412 rooms offer sweeping city views, as does the 25-metre rooftop pool. There are three restaurants, a spa, an executive lounge and 3,300 sqm of event space. [kualalumpur.grand.hyatt.com](#)

MANILA

91. Fairmont Makati Makati City is the fastest-growing cosmopolitan centre in Metro Manila, and December saw the opening of a 280-room Fairmont in a 30-storey tower. It has a pool, spa and gym, along with a ballroom, Café Macaron and Fairmont lounge. A 32-suite Raffles property is co-located in the tower and shares some facilities. [fairmont.com](#)

SEOUL

92. Conrad The 434-room hotel opened in November in Yeouido district, which is dubbed Seoul’s Wall Street. It’s one of four towers in the Seoul IFC building, to be completed in 2014. Rooms have Apple Mac mini-computers. [conradhotels.com](#)

BUSAN

93. Park Hyatt Nestling in Marine City adjacent to Haeundae beach, the 269-room Park Hyatt opened in February in a 33-floor Daniel Libeskind-designed

building featuring interiors by Japan’s Super Potato design company. There are two restaurants, a spa and a heated rooftop pool. [busan.park.hyatt.com](#)

MUMBAI

94. Sofitel Mumbai BKC This lavishly decorated luxury property soft-opened in February 2012 and had its official launch in August. Located in Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai’s new business district, it has 300 rooms with free wifi, four restaurants and a spa. [sofitel.com](#)

95. Shangri-La Shangri-La’s second hotel in India (after Delhi) opened in December in the retail and office development of High Street Phoenix, in Lower Parel. The 390 rooms offer free wifi, and Horizon Club guests can enjoy free breakfast, afternoon tea and evening cocktails. There are four bars and three restaurants. [shangri-la.com](#)

CHENNAI

96. ITC Grand Chola A Starwood Luxury Collection hotel, the Grand Chola opened in September in the business district of Guindy, and has 522 rooms, plus 78 serviced residences. Rooms come with iPads to control the lighting, air conditioning and security cameras. There are ten drinking and dining options, three pools, a spa and three gyms. [itchotels.in](#)

97. The Leela Palace Open since January, the opulent Leela is set on a two-hectare site facing the Bay of Bengal. The hotel has 326 rooms and suites, four restaurants, an ESPA spa, a 25-metre pool and 24-hour butler service in the exclusive Royal Club rooms. [theleela.com](#)

98. Westin Chennai Velachery The 215-room Westin opened in February. It has a pool, a spa, a cricket-themed lounge bar, all-day, Pan-Asian and poolside grill restaurants, and 1,170 sqm of function space. [starwoodhotels.com](#)

99. Park Hyatt Situated next to the governor’s residence, alongside the Guindy Forest Reserve, this 201-room hotel opened in October. A lily pond within a courtyard sits at the heart of the property, which also has a spa with a rooftop infinity pool and two restaurants. Rooms start from 43 sqm. [chennai.park.hyatt.com](#)

DELHI

100. Vivanta by Taj Gurgaon Gurgaon is the booming industrial and financial centre 30km south of New Delhi, and the new Vivanta is firmly aimed at business travellers. A 25-minute drive from New Delhi Indira Gandhi International airport, it has 208 rooms, an executive lounge, 960 sqm of function space, a round-the-clock international restaurant and a Thai eatery. It opened in January. [vivantabytaj.com](#)



Four Seasons Shanghai Pudong, Shanghai

Airline

Amsterdam - Lima BUSINESS CLASS

KLM BOEING 777-300



CONTACT
www.klm.pl

PRICE
PLN 16,500 for a round-trip ticket including taxes

In order to catch the plane from Amsterdam to Lima at 12.25 pm, I had to take another KLM flight from Warsaw to the capital of the Netherlands, which took at 6.20 am. After less than two hours, we landed at Schiphol Airport. Being one of Europe's largest airports, Schiphol will never get you bored. The port features numerous shops, bars, restaurants, and even a museum.

BOARDING AND TAKE-OFF

Exactly one hour before the scheduled departure time, the boarding procedure began. I decided to take advantage of the priority pass for business class passengers, which spared me waiting in a long queue. I had

seat 5D located in the last row of the first business class cabin, which turned out to be a particularly good choice. Although it was not a window seat, I did not regret it, as during in-flight service I was always served first, which was an additional plus.

As a welcome drink we were offered a choice of freshly squeezed orange juice, champagne or water. Then business class passenger received a Rolf & Victor travel kit – the ones for men were brown, while those for women were black. The kit consisted of a tube of face cream, a toothbrush and toothpaste, an eye mask, earplugs, as well as travel socks.

We took off at 12.35 pm with a 10 minute delay due to heavy traf-

fic at Schiphol. After reaching cruising altitude, the flight attendants handed out warm wet towels. Soon after that we were offered roasted peanuts and another glass of fine Billecart-Salmon champagne.

FLIGHT

Boeing 777-300 covers the distance on Amsterdam-Lima route in 12.5 hours. This went quite fast as it is very hard to be bored on board KLM planes.

First things first – the lunch was very tasty. The dishes were invented by Richard Ekkebus – the culinary director of Amber Restaurant in Hong Kong, whose signature menu for KLM's business class passengers has been available since December

2012. The appetizer consisted of fresh salmon cut into thin slices, served with hollandaise sauce, capers, shallots and cucumber. For the main course I chose cod in coconut sauce with lime, served with jasmine rice and Asian vegetables. For dessert we received the legendary Dutch cheese, mango mousse, and chocolates. The wine list was extensive – the wines offered on board KLM planes will satisfy even the most experienced experts in this field. The choice of white wines included Vin d'Or 2011 Boschendal Franschoek from South Africa, 1685 Sauvignon Blanc Grande Cuvee 2012 Boschendal Franschoek, and Grand Selection Chardonnay 2011 Lapostolle Chile. As for red wines, some of the most appealing were Spanish Beronia Reserva 2008 Rioja, Argentinian Malbec Reserva 2010 Bodega Norton Mendoza, as well as Quinta do Noval Douro 2007 from Portugal. To desserts we were offered

sweet Australian The Stump Jump Sticky Chardonnay 2010, as well as juices, sodas, cognac, whisky and liqueurs. On a long flight during the day, a good in-flight entertainment is a guarantee that you will not get bored. KLM's offer in this department did not let me down, either. The choice of available films was huge, so I went for the latest releases, such as "Argo", "Django" and "Anna Karenina". I watched them while lying on my seat (reclined to almost flat position), tucked in a dark blue blanket. While most passengers went to sleep right after the main meal, the cabin crew were always available, serving sandwiches, ice-cream, juice, and water. Two hours before the scheduled landing in the Peruvian capital, the flight attendants offered us an aperitif and handed out warm wet towels. We were also served light dinner - vitello tonnato as an appetizer and for the

main course vegetable lasagna or chicken with potatoes. Another nice touch (just before landing in Lima at 7.00 pm local time) was the fact that on leaving the plane each passenger received a blue Delft miniature porcelain house filled with Bols liqueur. Those who frequently travel in KLM's business class have a chance to gather the entire collection, which consists of 93 elements.

VERDICT

The long flight went very quickly. I particularly liked the excellent on-board service, sophisticated menu, great selection of wines and a wide selection of films available in the IFE system. And it gets better, as KLM has recently announced that they will soon fit in new fully reclined seats in the World Business Class and redecorate the cabin interior. It's a good choice for long haul flights!

Marzena Mróz



Very good on-board service, sophisticated menu, excellent selection of wines and a wide range of films – these are just some of the attractions you can enjoy as a passenger travelling in KLM's business class.



FOT: MATERIAL PRASOWE

Hotel

CAPE TOWN

CAPE CADOGAN



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The Republic of South Africa is an extraordinary country. Wild, untamed nature is contrasted with oases of real luxury. One of such luxurious places, which seem out of place on the edge of the African continent, is a beautiful Cape Cadogan boutique hotel, Cape Town.

WHERE IS IT?
Located in the heart (but not in the inner centre) of the city, the hotel offers quick access to all kinds of entertainment and attractions in Cape Town. In the close proximity there is South

African National Gallery, famous Greenmarket Square and the Castle of Good Hope. It is also close to Cape Town Medi Clinic (which may be useful after you have returned from safari, but let us stay positive) . The hotel windows overlook Table Mountain, and it you would like to have a close look - getting there takes only several minutes.

HOTEL
Upon entering we are taken into a whole different world, leaving behind all the hustle and inconveniences of our civilization. A beautiful Victorian edifice has

perfect proportions, and the interior design, furniture, sophisticated accessories and attention for every detail make you feel at home from the very minute you come in. Because transport from the airport is here a standard service, you get to the hotel with a "guide", who knows well how to take care of your luggage. It is delivered directly to the room, and you can relax at the hotel bar while completing the formalities, which are not bothersome or time-consuming at all. You can also rent a hotel limousine if you want to go to the downtown.

The reception desk staff are always helpful and ready to assist. They can arrange for you sightseeing the city and the neighbourhood, going on a photographic safari. Finally, they can book for you a table in any restaurant or tickets for a big event. Credit cards accepted in the hotel are: Visa, MC, Diners and Amex. Free wifi is available for the guests in the public areas of the hotel. There is also a swimming pool, a laundry room, and a car park, which can be accessible (at a charge) even after checking out.

ROOMS

If you are used to gigantic hotels, Cape Cadogan will seem like a fairy tale to you. It has only... six rooms. No wonder that after a few days you know everybody, and the staff treats you like a long-awaited guests, rather than anonymous clients. The interior is painted white, which gives an impression of coolness, with stylish dark wood furniture and golden details like lamps or furniture fitting. This is where modernity and history meet. On one hand, there is a modern designer desk and a state-of-the art shower cabin in the bathroom. On the other hand, the armchairs upholstered with brocade fabric look like they once belonged to Jane Austen. The windows are decorated with finely draped



curtains made from the thinnest batiste, thanks to which even the fierce South African sun seems delicate and soft. Rooms come with air-conditioning (smoking is not allowed), a safe, which can fit even a larger laptop, a mini bar, a TV set (with access to satellite TV), a DVD player and access to wireless Internet. There is also find there a kettle, a microwave oven and free bottled water. In the bathrooms there is a bathtub and a shower, a magnifying mirror useful for shaving or putting on make-up, a hair-dryer, a bathroom weight, a bathrobe and slippers. On request, you can also have access to an ironing board and an iron, but it is better to order the ironing service.

VERDICT

It is more of a luxurious guest-house rather than a hotel. Too small to have its own restaurant, but it does not seem to be problematic in any way. Breakfasts are diverse and really tasty - served in a dining room or in the inner courtyard. In the evening you are served a free glass of sherry and a few sandwiches. The staff know everything about the local restaurants, and their recommendations are trustworthy and reliable. Sophisticated interior design, a beautiful garden and views over Table Mountain and the city. Definitely deserves every one of its five stars.

Rafał Sobiech

The interior features white décor, which gives an impression of coolness, with stylish dark wood furniture and golden details like lamps or furniture fitting.



Gadget

DS Eagle Chronograph

INSPIRED BY AN EXTREME LIFESTYLE

The new DS Eagle is a timepiece for watch lovers with a taste for the unique and unusual. With a broad face and solid screwed-on bezel with beautiful carbon-fiber detailing, the chronograph is ready for any extreme situation, in sport or everyday life. For sport and everyday life. Water resistant up to a pressure of 20bar (200m), it is equipped with a textured screw-fastened black rubber strap and red-trimmed push-buttons—very sporty indeed, and its 24h GMT second time-zone will help to keep your work and travel schedule in perfect time.

EXTREMELY SPORTY
The DS Eagle Chronograph brings extreme-sport inspiration and finish to a timepiece with a fantastic quality/price ratio. Contrasting brushed and polished surfaces in 316L stainless steel, and racing-inspired

semi-circular carbon inserts on its screwed-on bezel give it a distinctly modern, sporty character.

IDEAL LEGIBILITY
Behind the scratch-resistant sapphire crystal with anti-reflection coating on both faces, the 12-hour, 60-minute and 60-second chronograph counters are bold and clear against the dial's textured finish, thanks to smart contrasts of red and white against black. All hands other than the central seconds indicator are skeletonised for a stylish design touch, and a large date window is ideally placed at 6 o'clock. Legibility is further enhanced by generous amounts of Superluminova on the large indices and HM hands and in the arrowheads added to both the 24h and the central seconds hand. Black PVD-coated screwed-on side guards neatly frame the design, while also providing additional protection, especially

for the red-trimmed push-buttons and screw-in crown—monogrammed with the letters 'DS' to highlight the use of the Double Security Concept. The screw-on case-back brings a further reminder of the DS Eagle's exceptional reliability and water resistance up to a pressure of 20 bar (200m), with the display of the CERTINA turtle logo, a longstanding symbol of great water resistance, robustness and longevity. Black PVD-coated screws fasten a textured, contoured black rubber strap and its sturdy pin-clasp buckle to the beautifully sculptured case.

MADE TO MEASURE
The DS Eagle Chronograph comes in special packaging, and comes in two additional versions: an all-black PVD-coated model and a two-tone black/rose-gold PVD-coated model, both with a black rubber strap.

Marta Wilk

CONTACT
www.certina.com
tel. 22 256 81 43

PRICES
PLN 4,190 – steel/black PVD
PLN 4,690 – all black PVD
PLN 4,890 – black/rose-gold PVD



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Booking: (+ 48) 22 523 66 64
www.amberroom.pl

Michelin Guide Recommendation

Hotel

GDAŃSK

HOTEL GDAŃSK



CONTACT
Hotel Gdańsk
ul. Szafarnia 9
80-755 Gdańsk
tel. (+48) 58 300 17 17,
fax (+48) 58 300 17 18
e-mail:
rezerwacja@hotelgdansk.pl
www.hotelgdansk.pl

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
The Motława's Wharf has taken on a new glow in recent years. Old buildings have been reconstructed, including the greatest treasure – the Granary which dates back to the 18th century. The building has been revitalized in accordance with the recommendations of the conservator and adapted by the owners for hotel and catering purposes.

WHERE IS IT?
The hotel is located on the Motława river, in the centre of Gdańsk, close to a yacht marina and opposite the famous Crane. It is close to all the tourist attractions of the Old Town. The airport is 18 km away while

a 10-minute walk brings you to the central train station.

ROOMS
The architectural design of the hotel combines two utterly different parts: a historic one - located in a restored old Granary, and the one named Yachting – which is decorated in a modern maritime style. The décor of the Granary retains its old character. The rooms are decorated in colours of gold, burgundy and orange. Each room has a plasma TV, safe, minibar and wireless internet access. The Granary also features Lech Wałęsa Suite. The modern Yachting part features standard and premium

rooms as well as 4 deluxe suites with views of the marina and the Old Town. All of them have separate leisure and sleeping areas as well as 2 bathrooms. The Hotel also offers 2 family apartments, each with the floor area of almost 100 sq m. I stayed in a premium room 427. It was quite spacious and equipped with modern furniture. The bathroom with a modern-style sink and the toilet featured a wide range of mini toiletries, as well as bathrobes and slippers.

BUSINESS FACILITIES
The Yachting section also includes four modern meeting rooms (Baltic, Atlantic, Adriatic

and the Pacific), equipped with state-of-the-art AV equipment. The rooms can accommodate groups of 20 to 200 people. Outside there is a monitored car park.

BAR AND RESTAURANT
Both the hotel's restaurant and the unique microbrewery named Brovarnia, are worth visiting. The head chef of the restaurant offers his signature dishes based on fresh ingredients provided by local suppliers. In the morning guests can enjoy a full buffet, which includes a large selection of smoked fish, meats from local butchers, and assorted cheese. During the day, the hotel serves specialties such as the famous "Duck à la Brovarnia", "Gdańsk Fisherman Soup" or the exquisite "Beer Soup." Brovarnia microbrewery produces three types of delicious beer: pale lager, whet, and dark which has been chosen Poland's best in its category.

SPA
The top floor of the Yachting section features a luxury and tastefully decorated Med Spa, which offers a large selection of treatments. Some of them bring spectacular results as early as after just one visit. This is possible mainly thanks to advanced equipment which Med Spa uses, featuring such technologies as RayLife platform or Endermologie LPG. Some of the most popular treatments include "no scalpel facelift" and "no scalpel eye lift treatment" The treatments are performed with the use of the state-of-the-art Raylife platform. It is a response to women's desire for beauty and the fear of surgical intervention. It allows you to effectively combat flaccidity of the skin and other signs of aging. This is one of the most modern methods of restoring collagen fibres. Med Spa by Hotel Gdańsk also recommends a novelty, which has already gained the trust of

customers. Endermolift LPG is a rejuvenating treatment which involves facial massage with special rolls that stimulate fibroblasts to produce collagen and elastin. As a result, the skin is better supplied with blood and moisturized. It is worth noting that Med Spa by Hotel Gdańsk is a place where the safety of guests is of the utmost importance. The treatment offered by the spa is beneficial both for the body and the soul. It is an ideal place for relaxation and calming down. In Sauna Centre guests can enjoy the ice&salt grotto, the Finnish sauna with colour therapy,

the steam room with a starry sky effect, as well as heated beds and herbal teas.

VERDICT
Hotel Gdańsk is the essence of the city. It has hosted a number of famous politicians, journalists, and celebrities, including Lech Wałęsa, Jolanta and Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Prince Abdullazziza bin Abdullah al Saud, Günter Grass and during the Euro 2012 it was the HQ of the Spanish team. The hotel also has an excellent restaurant and one of the best spas in Poland.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



Hotel Gdańsk is a unique combination of the historic feel in the Granary section, with the feel of modernity in Yachting part decorated in maritime style.



AWARDS

- 2012 recommendation of FORBES magazine
- 2nd place in "best beauty spa" category in "Prestige Spa Awards 2010" contest.
- The award for Best Restaurant in Gdańsk in 2012
- The award for the best dark beer in Poland (produced in Brovarnia microbrewery)
- The "Hotel z Pomysłem" award

Hotel Podzamcze near Ogrodzieniec

POZIOM 511 DESIGN HOTEL & SPA



CONTACT
ul. Bonerów 33
42-440 Podzamcze near
Ogrodzieniec
tel. +48 32 746 28 00;
+48 600 462 800
fax +48 32 746 28 01
www.poziom511.com
facebook.com/poziom511

PRICE
A double room with breakfast
costs PLN 430 (about €103).

What makes this hotel stand out in the crowd is a modern, sophisticated and consistent design, a beautiful view over the castle in Ogrodzieniec and well-prepared menu in the hotel restaurant. The fact that it is located 511 metres above the sea level, on Castle Mountain is also a major attraction, as for Polish conditions.

WHERE IS IT?
The building is situated in the heart of Kraków-Częstochowa Upland, among limestone rocks, forest-covered hills, in the close proximity to the cas-

tle ruins of the Trail of the Eagles' Nests. The name Poziom 511 comes from the altitude on which the building was built (511 metres above the sea).. The whole hotel area belongs to a protected landscape park. The building is adjacent to the famous castle in Ogrodzieniec. Once called a Little Wawel Castle, it is now 600 years old and it was here where films "Janosik" and "Zemsta" by Andrzej Wajda were partly shot.

INTERIOR
The hotel is modern and original. It offers 42 rooms, including 6 suites, equipped with a mini bar, LCD screen with sat-

ellite TV, a phone, air conditioning and free access to the wireless Internet. The reception area is in a huge hall, where you will also find an island bar, and where you can have a cup of good tea or coffee. The design matches the natural surroundings of the hotel. One of the walls of the restaurant is a natural rock, which has been greatly adapted by Tomasz Wuczyński - the designer of the hotel. Guests can choose what room view they want, type of room, location of the room (in modern or original part), the size of the bed, how hard a mattress they want and a bathroom with



a bathtub or shower. I stayed in room 118 - a modern and bright one: a spacious window, white walls, dark grey ceiling, white shiny furniture, an armchair with hangers and convenient shelves, a huge bed, a desk, two chairs and a table. The bathroom came with a glass panel shower, a large blue sink and a hair-dryer. The room overlooked trees and the houses outside the castle walls.

RESTAURANTS
The hotel has two restaurants. Breakfasts are served in a small white room, which overlooks the surrounding rocks. Morning buffet included a selection of cheese, cold meat, egg sandwich spread, sausages, scrambled eggs and a home-made apple pie. Coffee and tea is prepared by the guests on their own. The restaurant where lunch and dinners are served has a simple and careful design. Two-person tables can be put together in any combination. There are also

round tables. The dishes served here are tasty and quite sophisticated. I tried excellent duck fois gras in Calvados, lobster cream as well as a pikeperch fillet cooked in white wine with basil, served with fresh spinach, gorgonzola and parsley sauce. But I was most fascinated by the composition of juices: strengthening (grapefruit, orange, kiwi, mango), vital (melon, mango, blueberries), purifying (apple, carrot, pineapple, ginger) and protective (pineapple, banana, orange).. All of them are, naturally, freshly-squeezed. You can also come up with your own composition.

SWIMMING POOL, SPA AND BUSINESS FACILITIES
Wellness zone is great and guests can access it free of charge. Poziom 511 is the first official Dr Irena Eris Beauty Partner in Poland. Apart from luxurious treatment and massage rooms, the SPA also has a unique VIP ROOM SPA that can



accommodate a people. It covers the area of almost 50 m2 and comes with beds and massage chairs, Japanese ofuro baths and heated divan beds. Guests have also access to 20-metre pool filled with spring water, Jacuzzi with a hydro massage, a sauna and a Turkish bath. The hotel has also business facilities able to accommodate 80 people, and is equipped with multimedia equipment, wireless internet access, whiteboards and flipcharts.

VERDICT
An original hotel project, unique scenery and high standard of service for affordable price. The surrounding favours outdoor activity. It encourages you to try out the numerous mountain trails, go on a cycling trip or have a go with nordic walking. It is 276 kilometres from Warsaw, 65 kilometres from Cracow, and only 48 - from Katowice.

Marzena Mróz



AWARDS RECEIVED

- In 2012 Poziom 511 was awarded the title of Luxury Brand of the year 2012, as well as prestigious Eurobuild Award in "New Hotel" category, for the best hote in East-Central Europe.
- In 2013 the hotel won the 6th edition of "Hotel z Pomysłem" ("A Hotel with an Idea") contest organized by "Hotelarz" magazine.

A NEW LOOK FOR PAPAYA



CONTACT

ul. Foksal 16
00-372 Warszawa
tel. 022 826 11 99
www.papaya.waw.pl
Delivery via website:
www.royalmenu.pl

Papaya restaurant, which has been present in Warsaw for 7 years, has changed its décor. This modern and spacious establishment with a sophisticated menu is a perfect place to go for lunch or dinner. Freshly squeezed mango and papaya juices, Kobe steaks, toro and akami tuna, oysters stored in a special aquarium as well as dishes from the Japanese Teppanyaki, set this place apart from many others.

INTERIOR

The décor features white floor and walls, large mirrors, a bar with a black counter, magenta plate pads, graphite-coloured sofas, and in the recesses in the ceiling there is even real grass which is illuminated in the evening! It is worth visiting the place to see how much it has changed.

You can have here lunch in the main dining room which features minimalist decor, enjoy a snack in the garden which has just been opened, or come here for a Sunday dinner in the room where Teppanyaki dishes are served. The Thai chef who

specializes in Teppanyaki, gives there a real culinary show, tossing food on a hot plate in front of guests and juggling the knives!

MENU

Dishes are prepared according to original recipes by chefs from Thailand. The head chef is not only a great cook, but she is also a skilled fruit carver, creating exquisite pieces of fruit art. Dishes are beautifully decorated with flowers, leaves and fruit.

"We focus on serving only healthy food," says Katarzyna Kakowska, the manager of Papaya. – "We import fresh fruit and vegetables from Thailand and we do not use monosodium glutamate," says Kakowska.

For an appetizer I tried tuna tartar with chilli and avocado, salmon tataki (fried with herbs), samosa dumplings, shrimp and vegetarian rolls, as well as a mango salad with shrimps & mint leaves. As for soups, I recommend Tom Khaa Kai and Tom Yum Kung. Between courses, the waiter brought me home-made lemon sorbet to refresh the taste buds.

It is hard to imagine an oriental restaurant without Pad Thai,

curry dishes, or Mee Goreng. As for the main courses, you should try Peking style duck deboned at the table, tricolore chicken with cashew nuts, sea bass grilled in banana leaf, shrimps in coconut milk with ginger & chilli, and for gourmets – grilled whole lobster and Kobe beef tenderloin. For dessert I recommend banana fried in coconut cake, chocolate volcano, or mango sticky rice with coconut milk. Sushi and sashimi lovers will also find here something for themselves. Dishes are served along with freshly squeezed fruit juices, well-chosen wines and coffee.

VERDICT

It is a truly good restaurant which now has a completely new décor. Dishes are served with great care, both in terms of their quality and looks. Prices are not too high, although some unique dishes are quite expensive (lobster, Kobe beef tenderloin). Add to this the professional waiting service, short waiting time for your order, and the opportunity to eat your lunch outdoors in the very centre of Warsaw.

Marzena Mróz



Car

KIA

KIA SPORTAGE 1,7 D/115 KM



I had always wanted to get behind the wheel of an SUV and look at the road from a different perspective. I had had the impression that those cars are safer, because you can see more and so you can react faster to unforeseen situations. But how to choose the right car among so many models available on the market? The SUV craze began a long time ago, and importers responded to the needs of drivers, offering a wide range of models. For those who do not want to pay through the nose for such a car, the choice is quite simple. The third generation of KIA Sportage has recently arrived at dealerships, arousing great interest, especially with its totally new design.

The third generation of KIA Sportage has recently arrived at dealerships, arousing great interest, especially with its totally new design.



ENGINES

Kia Sportage is positioned between the Q7 and Ford Kuga. Sportage is available in several trim levels, with three versions of diesel motor (1.7 CRDI/115 HP, 2.0 CRD / 136 HP and 2.0 CRDI/184 HP), as well as with front-wheel drive and a 1.6 GDI petrol engine producing 135 BHP. The car can be classified as a middle market offer in the SUV range. I decided to take the Sportage for a test ride along the motorway to Gdańsk.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The new KIA Sportage immediately strikes you with its modern look. It is clearly obvious that the new design, developed by German designers, including Peter Schreyer, has been very carefully thought out. My KIA was in a fashionable Techno Orange colour and was almost new – with a total mileage of just 7,000 kilometres. The paint shone beautifully in the sun, and set the car apart from

the rest. Compared to the previous generations of the Sportage, this one has simply striking looks.

One of the first things that grasped my attention was the unusual shape of the headlights as well as those located in the bumper. The side line with fairly narrow windows, strongly defined wheel arches and big 18-inch 235/55 wheels, creates a pleasant, powerful, yet graceful shape. The back of the car features a large boot lid (the boot capacity is 326 l) with a fairly small rear window.

RIDE QUALITY

After seeing the car from the outside, I got inside to take a look at the new design of the interior. I always pay great attention to comfort of the seats and here I was not disappointed

at all. The driver's seat is very well shaped and its headrest is right where it should be. There is plenty of space for the driver and passengers in the back. The dashboard features chrome elements, all the gauges are large, as are the side mirrors. The materials used for the interior are definitely high-end.

I started the engine and drove away. After a few minutes of driving I realized that cabin was extremely well sound-proofed, and even at high speeds you barely hear the sound of the motor. I drove to Gdańsk along the motorway, as I wanted to see the potential of this car. My 1.7 CRDI/115 HP handled very well when driven at steady speed within the speed limits, but definitely lacked power when overtaking. Perhaps, the version with the 2.0 CRDI/136 HP motor

does not have these restrictions. The car had a good road grip, all the on board systems worked perfectly, and the average fuel consumption was about 8 litres of diesel oil per 100 kilometres. The return trip was much slower due to heavy snowfall and slippery conditions. Despite the weather, my Kia Sportage stayed firmly on the road.

VERDICT

Kia Sportage is a modern family SUV available at an affordable price. It comes with a 7-year warranty and received 5 stars in the Euro NCAP safety tests. Another important argument in favour of buying this car is that it offers a wide range of on-board features, such as six airbags, ESP, electrical windows, air conditioning and seat warmers.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska

CONTACT
www.kia.com

PRICE
from PLN 68,80

HERTZ - one of the largest short-term rental companies, pays particular attention to the quality of its products and services, as well as the choice of car models to include in its fleet. Our choice of the new car to join the compact crossover (SUV) group was made following a meticulous analysis, as we knew that leading car manufacturers offer a lot attractive models in this segment. We have chosen KIA Sportage, mostly owing to its modern and practical style, high quality of build, and unprecedented reliability, which KIA has been known for in recent years. A few years ago, our clients approached KIA cars with some (often unnecessary) caution. However nowadays, cars of this make are very popular with our customers and they enjoy excellent reputation.

I encourage you to take advantage of the offer that HERTZ has prepared for rental of KIA Sportage. You can book the car online from May 2013 via www.hertz.pl website.

Jerzy Majewski

Chairman of the Board of Orbis Transport Sp. z oo
Hertz International Franchisee



Central Booking Office:

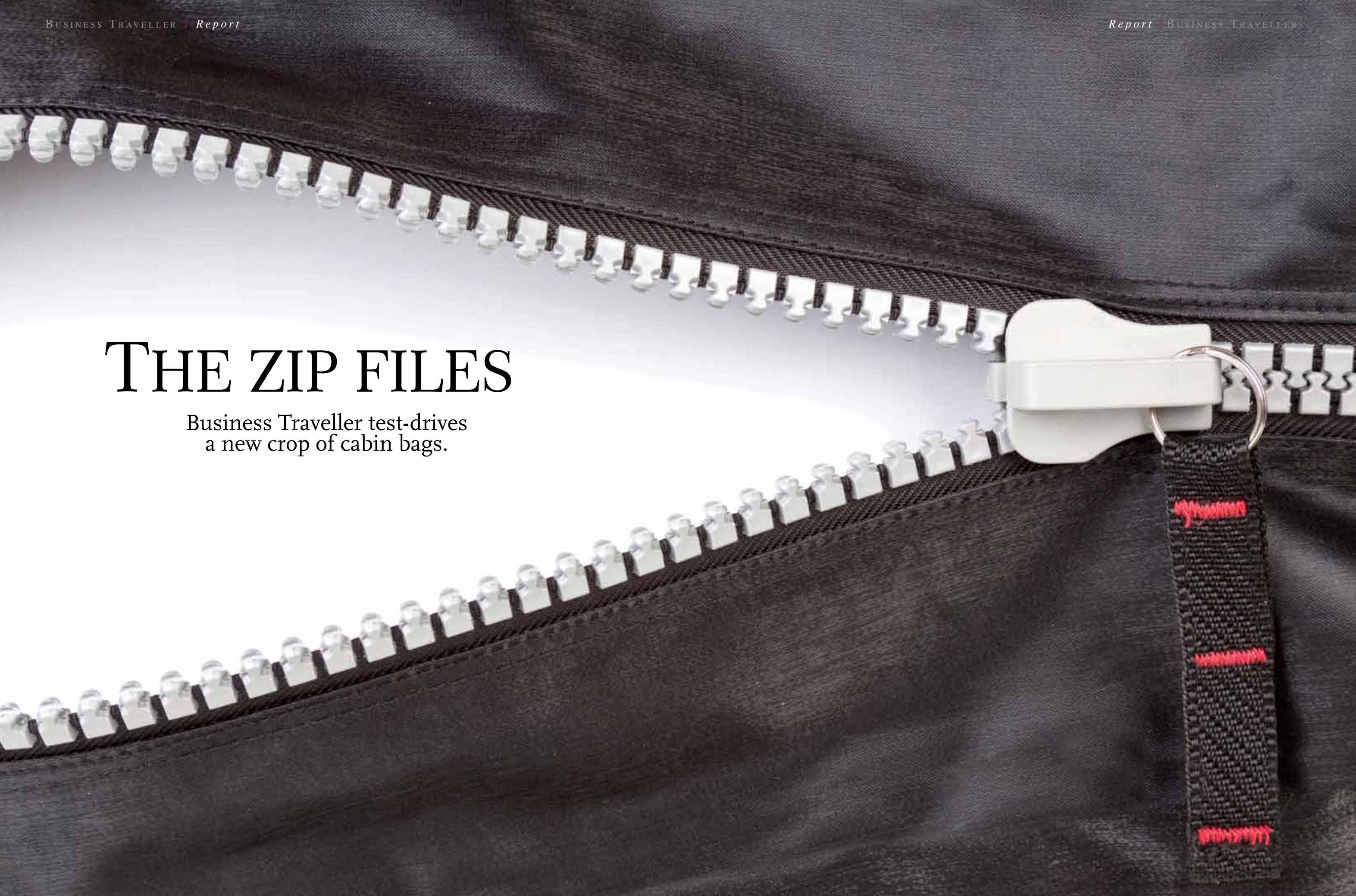
tel. (22) 50 01 620, 800 1 43789
rezerwacje@hertz.pl

Rental stations:

Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Katowice,
Cracow, Lublin, Łódź, Olsztyn,
Poznań, Rzeszów, Szczecin, Warsaw, Wrocław

THE ZIP FILES

Business Traveller test-drives
a new crop of cabin bags.



Samsonite Litesphere
Office Mobile 50

The Litesphere has a neat system whereby one half of the bag has a padded sleeve for your laptop, while the other is kept for your clothes with cross straps. This means you can open each part separately, allowing you to pull out your laptop or papers without going into your clothes. That said, this is slightly smaller than some carry-ons, and the divide cuts down the space for clothes. On a two-night trip, there was no way I could have put in my gym gear or a spare pair of shoes. The case is light, at 2.3kg, and the exterior is made with Samsonite’s Pointshock technology – dot printing abrasion-resistant shields in key areas giving good protection. It’s available in maroon or brown. The two wheels handled rough pavements well, and there are two handles – one for picking up the bag, while the other raises for you to pull it behind you. It has an integrated combination lock accepted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).



Size 38.1cm x 22.1cm x 50cm
Weight 2.3kg
Price PLN 1149
Guarantee Five years
samsonite.pl

Wittchen
Suitcase

The line of suitcases made of high quality polycarbonate, is highly resistant to damage. It has very good insulating properties of up to -20 ° C. It protects not only against moisture, but also against mechanical damage. The suitcases are equipped with an integrated combination lock accepted by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). They are available in four colours: red, orange, blue and black. You can also choose among three sizes - from a small suitcase which fits an overhead bin in the plane, to a very large case suitable for a whole family. Wittchen light line is made of high density fabric. Thanks to this, the suitcases are light, but at the same time waterproof. The soft shell cases have one more advantage – they are quite flexible, so it is much easier to pack into them some bulky items. The suitcases have Swiss bearings and are available in three colours - red, black and navy blue.



Size 20”
Weight 2,8 kg
Price PLN 499
Guarantee 2 years
wittchen.pl, sklep.wittchen.com

Eagle Creek
Tarmac 20 Wide Body

This two-wheel case looks more casual than others on the market, but I was really impressed with its quality – I pulled it for five miles when it was empty and two miles when full, and it wheeled along smoothly for the duration. Made of recycled nylon and polyester, it comes in black, green or red, and didn’t mark – I tried the red version, the lightest colour. The handle was of good quality and easy to extend, and the padded side handle was comfortable to use even when the case was heavier. The quality of the zips is excellent. The interior doesn’t look spacious when you first open it but I was surprised by how much I could fit in – enough for a three- or four-day trip, with padded interior straps keeping everything in place. Inside are two mesh zipped pockets and a door panel pocket that was ideal for my laptop, as it was protected by the padded front pocket – you would easily fit in a 15-inch laptop. There is also a useful pocket on the front for your travel documents.



Size 51 cm x 41 cm x 23 cm
Weight 3,3 kg
Price PLN 1000
Guarantee Lifetime
penrithsurvival.com

Carlton Aztech Spinner
Laptop Trolley Case

Made of black polyester twill with orange lining, Carlton’s Aztech case has a padded exterior compartment for a 17-inch laptop, and an outer pocket for documents. With four wheels, it’s easy to manoeuvre – though can wander on uneven surfaces – and there is a padded top handle and a pull-up one. The interior doesn’t look as big as some other bags, and the built-in handle means the surface isn’t flat, but there is enough space for a two- to three-day trip. It has criss-cross straps, a mesh zipped section in the lid and a flap pocket for small items. It felt robust – Carlton puts the case through a 2km rolling road test, a “tumble test” subjecting it to more than 100 “random impacts”, and a one-metre drop test. It also tests the zips by opening and closing them 1,000 times, though I found the main one could stick a little. A TSA lock is supplied. A good quality case, especially at this price.



Size 55 cm x 39 cm x 20 cm
Weight 3,1 kg
Guarantee 3 years
Price PLN 550 zł
carltontravelgoods.com

AIRLINE ALLOWANCES
ECONOMY SHORT-HAUL

	MAXIMUM SIZE	MAXIMUM WEIGHT
Air Berlin	55cm x 40cm x 20cm	1 x 6kg
Air France	55cm x 35cm x 25cm	1 + 1 accessory (12kg total)
Aer Lingus	55cm x 40cm x 24cm	1 x 10kg
Alitalia	55cm x 35cm x 25cm	1 x 8kg
British Airways	56cm x 45cm x 25cm + 1 bag (45cm x 36cm x 20cm)	1 piece + 1 bag (able to lift) 23kg total
Brussels Airlines	55cm x 40cm x 23cm	1 x 6kg
Czech Airlines	55cm x 45cm x 25cm	1 x 8kg
Easyjet	56cm x 45cm x 25cm	1 piece (able to lift)
Finnair	56cm x 45cm x 25cm	1 x 8kg
Flybe	55cm x 40cm x 23cm	1 x 10kg
Iberia	55cm x 40cm x 20cm	1 x 10kg
KLM	55cm x 35cm x 25cm	1 + 1 additional item (12kg total)
Lufthansa	55cm x 40cm x 23cm	1 x 8kg
Monarch	56cm x 40cm x 25cm (total)	2 pieces (10 kg)
Ryanair	55cm x 40cm x 20cm	1 x 10kg
Wizzair	42cm x 32cm x 25cm (free) OR 56cm x 45cm x 25cm (€10)	1 piece (able to lift)

BUSINESS SHORT-HAUL

	MAXIMUM SIZE	MAXIMUM WEIGHT
Air Berlin	55cm x 40cm x 20cm	2 pieces (6kg each) + laptop
Air France	55cm x 35cm x 25cm	2 pieces + 1 accessory (18kg total)
Aer Lingus	55cm x 40cm x 24cm	1 x 10kg + laptop bag
Alitalia	55cm x 35cm x 25cm	1 x 8kg
British Airways	56cm x 45cm x 25cm + 1 bag (45cm x 36cm x 20cm)	1 piece + 1 bag (able to lift) 23kg total
Brussels Airlines	55cm x 40cm x 23cm	2 pieces (16kg total)
Czech Airlines	55cm x 45cm x 25cm + 1 bag (40cm x 30cm x 20cm)	2 pieces (12kg total)
Finnair	56cm x 45cm x 25cm + laptop bag/briefcase	2 pieces (10kg total)
Iberia	55cm x 40cm x 20cm	1 x 14kg
KLM	55cm x 35cm x 25cm + 1 bag smaller than (45cm x 20cm x 35cm)	1 + 1 bag + 1 additional item (18kg total)
Lufthansa	55cm x 25cm x 23cm	2 x 8kg

ACCESSORIES



- Turni's slimline USB travel adapter (£75 from its London Piccadilly store) is easy to slip into luggage and works in 150 countries, while its electronic scale (£50 in-store or on-line) will help you stay within your weight limit. turni.com



- If your case doesn't have a laptop section, Knomo's Bayswater quilted sleeve (various sizes, £45) will keep it safe. Choose from teaberry, ultraviolet, or black. The matching cable pouch (£25) doubles as a make-up bag. knomo.com



- Carry your iPad in style with Thomas Lyte's Byron case (£175). Made of calf leather and suede, it can be flipped over to create a stand-up display, and comes in sand, mustard and sea green. thomaslyte.com



- LAT56's Urban Warrior range of military-grade, ultra-light bags and accessories include the Suit Packing System (£69), which holds two suits and fits into hand luggage, and a leak-resistant washbag (£39). lat56.com

Briggs and Riley International Carry-on Expandable Wide-Body

This business case is extremely well made. Available in black and olive green, its ballistic nylon exterior helps to keep it clean. Its padded top and side handles make it easy to lift, while the main handle extends to three lengths. The two wheels are sturdy and the zips well made.

There is a large outer pocket for quick access to items, with a smaller one for travel documents, and a small pocket on the back with a concealed luggage tag. It has a hidden strap for attaching another bag, and a TSA lock. The flat interior is good for wrinkle-free packing, with mesh panels and straps keeping everything in place.

The case features Briggs and Riley's CX Expansion-Compression system, which allows you to extend the bag by more than 6cm, then compress it back to original size for storing in overhead lockers – it is easy to operate and meant I could fit in enough clothes for a five-day trip. The built-in garment folder holds two suits. A mesh pocket allows you to store smaller items. At 4.2kg, the case is heavy – packed to its expanded capacity, I would struggle to lift it high.



Size 50,8 cm x 39,4 cm x 20,3 cm (expands to 26,7cm)

Weight 4,2 kg

Price PLN 800 zł

Guarantee Lifetime, covers airline damage
briggs-riley.com, johnlewis.com

Antler Business 100 C1 Two-Wheel Standard Mobile Office

This bag also works well when you are only allowed to carry one item on board. The two-tone polyester case is split into two compartments – one for your papers, chargers and laptop, the other for your clothes – while a substantial front pocket contains a removable pouch that fits a 15.6-inch laptop. The main body is a decent size for a short trip (two nights max), and has a zipped cover so you can open up the case to access another pocket for papers without exposing your clothes and personal belongings. Elasticated straps keep things in place.

The case wheels well, and has a strong slide-up handle wide enough to balance a separate laptop case against. It comes with a clear plastic liquids bag and a fixed TSA lock. The case is elegant, discreet enough not to clash with your outfit, robust and hard wearing. Good value, too, though a little on the heavy side.



Size 55 cm x 40 cm x 20 cm

Weight 3kg

Price PLN 670 zł

Guarantee 2 years
antler.co.uk



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20 YEARS OF LUFTHANSA IN KATOWICE

Twenty years ago, Lufthansa launched its first air connection from Pyrzowice airport. Today, the German airline is the airport's most important international carrier.



Bart Buyse, the General Manager Poland at Lufthansa and Artur Tomasik, the President of the Upper Silesian Aviation Group.

Lufthansa is now the largest international carrier offering flights from Katowice (as many as 48 a week), and connecting Silesia with major air hubs in Germany.

A BIT OF HISTORY AND A FEAST AT THE AIRPORT

The first landing of Lufthansa's aircraft in Katowice took place on March 27, 1993. The flight was operated by Boeing 737. Since then, the German line has vastly increased its presence at the Pyrzowice airport. In 2007 a new connection to Düsseldorf was

launched. Last year, Lufthansa carried from Katowice more than 115,000 passengers, offering three daily flights to Frankfurt and one to Düsseldorf. The flights are operated by modern CRJ 900 and CRJ 700 aircraft featuring business and economy class cabins.

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary, the Katowice-Pyrzowice Airport held a number of events honouring the celebration. Passengers flying to Frankfurt were greeted by hostesses and a string quartet. Also at a specially decorated check-in

desks, the travellers received commemorative gifts.

During an evening banquet held at Monopol hotel in Katowice, more than 100 guests were entertained by music from Gentle Jazz Trio. Bart Buyse, the General Manager Poland at Lufthansa, and Artur Tomasik, the President of the Upper Silesian Aviation Group, met on this occasion with a number of business partners as well as with representatives of companies that participate in the PartnerPlusBenefit - a modern online programme designed specifi-



cally for businesses to significantly reduce travel expenses.

VERY IMPORTANT MARKET

For Lufthansa, Silesia is one of the most important markets in the business travel sector in Poland. The carrier collaborates with more than a thousand companies from around the region as part of the PartnerPlus-Benefit programme.

Lufthansa's market share is healthy 60 per cent and an increasing number of passengers in the first months of this year show that services of the German carrier are highly rated. The newly opened Business Lounge at Katowice Airport has also certainly contributed to the 20 per cent increase in the number of pas-

sengers traveling in Lufthansa's Business Class from Silesia.

DEVELOPMENT IS WHAT COUNTS

By 2014, Lufthansa will have invested over €3 billion in product development, including its First Class (which has been awarded a 5-Star ranking by Skytrax), and the refinement and expansion of airport lounges which are especially important for business travellers. The process of modernization will also include Business Class cabins of all Lufthansa's aircraft which serve intercontinental routes.

QUICKLY AND EASILY VIA FRANKFURT

The last year's opening of the



new Pier A-Plus at Frankfurt airport for all passengers traveling from Poland has made it much easier for them to connect to intercontinental flights served by the world's largest passenger aircraft such as the Airbus A380 and Boeing 747. With the new terminal changing planes is now much more convenient and takes less time. With this expansion, the biggest German airport will soon be able to handle 6 million new passengers, which will increase the total number of travellers using Frankfurt Airport to about 65 million per year. The new pier, which cost €700 million to build, is devoted exclusively to Lufthansa and other member airlines of Star Alliance.

The increasing number of passengers in the first months of this year show that services of the German carrier are highly rated.



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Austrian Airlines offer excellent opportunities to travel to more than 130 cities in 55 countries around the world. The Austrian carrier has a particularly well developed flight network of connections to Eastern Europe. The airline's aircraft fly to 43 cities in the region, including four cities in Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Krasnodar, and Rostov). It is worth noting in particular a large number of weekly flights to St. Petersburg and Chisinau (Moldova). The Austrian carrier also flies twice a week to Kosice (Slovakia), and once a week to Yerevan in Armenia, Sibiu in Romania and Skopje in Macedonia. As the most important specialist carrier to Eastern Europe, Austrian Airlines is reacting with this expansion to the East to the increase in its North American product to Chicago, and consequently offering the perfect East-West connection.

START HOLIDAYS ON A PLANE

The holiday flyer segment will once again offer numerous interesting holiday destinations in the 2013 summer schedule. The focal points will be Italy and Greece, with destinations such as Palermo being added from 26th April, 2013 and Chios from 29th May, 2013. Each destination will boast one flight connection a week. In Greece, Austrian Airlines is and remains the clear market leader, with 21 destinations. Quick and trouble-free change of planes in Vienna, the new comfortable passenger cabin and a unique service offered by smiling cabin crew – all of this will contribute to a good start of your holidays.

TREAT YOURSELF TO A LITTLE LUXURY

Economy Class passengers travelling with Austrian Airlines can now enjoy special services, which up to recently were only available

in Business Class. For example, if prior to your departure you wish to relax or work in peace and quiet, you can buy access to the exclusive lounge at Vienna Airport. If you want to make a surprise for your loved one who is travelling with Austrian Airlines, you can now order online for them a special three-course meal which is prepared on board the plane. For a small fee you can also book now a comfortable seat with more legroom. Austrian Airlines offers a lot more features that make every trip feel as if it were tailored to your needs.

A VALUABLE BOARDING PASS

Keep in mind that even after you have disembarked the plane, the Austrian Airlines boarding pass can be extremely valuable. It entitles you to numerous discounts, rebates, and free offers of partners of Austrian Airlines. It is just enough to show your boarding pass with your Austrian Airlines flight number.

CAPTIVATING KOREA

Whether you are planning a large global gathering or an intimate incentive event, South Korea should be at the top of your list.

Its capital, Seoul, has long been renowned for its culture and superb facilities but the country's eight regions all offer a diverse array of sightseeing, dining and entertainment options.

Take Gyeongju, the capital of the former Silla Dynasty in the southeast of the country, known as "the museum without walls" and designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage area. It's an example of what really sets Korea apart, with unique cultural programmes that can be tailored to enrich every participant's experience - from taekwondo lessons to temple stays in the country's historical centre.

For event planners, ease of access to these treasures is all-important, and Korea scores highly with the award winning Incheon International airport. The world's fourth largest airport, it is served by 56 airlines connecting 165 cities across the globe.

COEX, the world's tenth largest convention centre, hosted the G20 summit in 2010 and spearheads a wide range of state-of-the-art conference venues throughout the peninsula that are easily reached via an advanced regional transport network.

The futuristic nature of Korea's new developments is nowhere more in evidence than at Songdo, the world's most ambitious sustainable aerotropolis, connected to more than one-third of the world's population within

3.5 hours' flight time. Add to the mix an unmatched IT environment and it's clear why Korea has become one of the world's leading MICE (meeting, incentive, conference and exhibition) destinations.

At the same time, the country's stunning natural environment provides an unforgettable setting for incentive trips. Less than an hour's flight from the capital, Jeju Island is one of the world's "New Seven Wonders of Nature", offering everything from submarine tours of colourful marine life to hiking through lava tubes and volcanic craters.

Korea was named Asia's leading sports tourism destination at last year's World Travel Awards, while Taekwondo Park in Muju officially opens in March 2014 and is set to become a mecca for sports and corporate groups around the world.

Visit koreamice.or.kr Email london@gokorea.co.uk Tel +44 (0)20 7321 2535

Event highlights

- Suncheon Garden Expo – until October 20, 2013
- Korean Formula One Grand Prix – Yongam, October 6, 2013
- Asian Games – Incheon, September 19-October 4, 2014
- Winter Olympics – Pyeongchang, February 9-25, 2018



With its rich mix of history and modernity, South Korea is an ideal choice for meetings and events



THE EUROPE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL GARDEN



EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER 2013

- Keukenhof Art Days from 2nd to 5th May
- Orchid weekend from 4th to 5th May
- Lilly Show from 10th to 20th May
- Sailor Choirs Festival from 18th to 19th May
- Barrel organ Festival on 20th May

Enthusiasts of spring flowers come each year to Keukenhof, a famous Dutch garden. 32 acres of the garden are filled with over 7 million flowers - tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and jonquils. No wonder then that the place is one of the most frequently visited and photographed spots in the world. Keukenhof is a unique garden. It presents the world's largest collection of bulbous plants, gathered in one place. This is probably the most popular attraction of the Netherlands and Europe, so far having been visited by almost 50 million tourists.

A HUNDRED TULIP VARIETIES

Each year, over 4.5 million tulips are planted in Keukenhof in over 100 varieties. This includes such famous ones as the black Queen of the Night, the white and read Carnaval de Nice, the scarlet Mona Lisa with yellow edges, or the mysterious Aladdin.

In autumn garden workers manually plant over seven million bulbs. They are supplied by 93 companies that possess a so-called "royal guarantee". Keukenhof also features 2,500 trees of 87 species, and visitors to the park can take a walk along

the alleys whose total length is 15 kilometres.

A GARDEN WITH HISTORY

Keukenhof has a very rich history. In the 15th century the area of today's flower garden belonged to the Dutch Princess Jakoby of Bavaria, who would come here to hunt. The area also provided herbs for the castle kitchen, hence the name Keukenhof, meaning "the kitchen garden".

The garden in its present form was founded in 1949 by a contemporary Leiden mayor, convinced by growers and bulb exporters who wanted to show their produce. Over some time, perennial plants started to be presented here as well.

The original design for what would become the Keukenhof was modelled on an English-style landscape garden by a well-known landscape architects, Zocherow and his son in 1850. They were also responsible for the design of the Amsterdam Vondelpark. At that time the estate was owned by a wealthy merchant family Van Pallandt. In 1999 the garden was expanded by 4 hectares, where a fan-shaped Conventional Garden was created (it is connected with the old part of Keukenhof).

The area also features a walled Castle Garden where the oldest varieties of tulips are grown, as well as a herb garden and a mysterious Labyrinth. Each year Keukenhof prepares new surprises - flowerbeds are rearranged, new secluded spots are created, as well as places where you can simply sit on the grass and just relax.

HOW TO GET THERE?

Keukenhof is located between Amsterdam and The Hague. On reaching Lisse, you will easily find your way to the Keukenhof - you just need to follow the signposts. Public transport: Keukenhof can be easily reached by bus No. 54, which leaves from a stop at Leiden train station, by bus No. 58 from Schiphol airport, as well as by buses No. 50 and No. 51 which run in both directions on Leiden - Haarlem route (departing from the railway station), passing Lisse on their route.

WHEN IS IT BEST TO VISIT?

This year, the world's most beautiful spring garden will be open until 20 May, from 8.00 am to 7.30 pm. Ticket offices are open until 6.00 pm.

Agata Janicka

KOREA



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WELCOME TO NOVOTEL ŁÓDŹ CENTRUM!

As of May this year, the tourists and business travellers planning to go to Łódź, will be able to stay in the newly-opened hotel.



KONTAKT
www.novotel.com
www.accorhotels.com

Novotel Łódź Centrum is the 12th hotel of this brand opened in Poland, and a flagship Novotel in Orbis Hotel Group portfolio, offering 161 guestrooms and eight conference rooms. This modern four-star hotel is located in the heart of the city on famous Piotrowska street, near Museum of Cinematography. At the same time it is a very strategic location for

business travellers - Piłsudski avenue is the main arterial road through the Łódź agglomeration, where headquarters of the biggest companies are located. This Novotel was designed by LITOBORSKI+MARCINIAK design agency from Poznań. The modern white and graphite edifice of the hotel matches well the architecture of other buildings on Piłsudskiego avenue. What makes it stand out in the

crowd, is its glass front, illuminated with LED lines in various shades of blue.

MODERNITY IS A STANDARD
Novotel Łódź Centrum is the most modern hotel of this brand in Poland. Guests can expect innovative equipment and the latest technologies. Novotel has been defining new trends in the hotel architecture from the moment it was found-



ed. You can also see it in the latest Łódź hotel, whose interior was designed by a French interior design studio called Igloo Architectures. Spaciousness is the most striking feature of the public areas in the new hotel. The choice of colours and light as well as the use of natural materials are supposed to contribute to the well-being of the guests.

ROOM TO RELAX

The 161 guestrooms were equipped in line with the latest standard of new generation rooms in Novotel hotels. Its concept was drawn up by a French studio Atome Associes - it combines a modern design and innovative technological solutions.

The rooms are decorated with natural toned-down colours of beige and brown with more distinctive overtones in three colours: red, yellow and blue. During the designing process much attention was drawn to the light, which is supposed to provide the guests with warm and relaxing atmosphere: there is an illuminated bed frame, designer Tholomeo lamps or spot lights for reading. An especially interesting and technologically innovative ele-

ment can be seen in Executive rooms on the 9th floor. For example, the glass panel between the room and the bathroom can turn opaque with just one click on the button to separate the two spaces. This solution provides the bathroom with access to daylight, which contributes to the sense of spaciousness, and yet the two spaces can be quickly separated.

Technology enthusiasts will find additional equipment in Executive rooms: an iPhone and iPad docking station and Nespresso coffee making machine. Each room comes with individually-adjusted air-conditioning, wifi internet access, a mini bar and a safe.

TALKING BUSINESS

On the first floor there are fitness rooms featuring equipment which meets "In Balance by Novotel" standard. You will also find here a conference area with eight modular rooms and a Business Corner room. Conference room arranged in line with Novotel Premium Meeting Rooms are characteristic thanks to their interesting and modern design as well as innovative technology. Thanks to multimedia touch panels in each of the rooms, you can adjust the lights, sound system and video display. Carefully selected modular equipment, functional light system and music give a sense of comfort during business meetings.



An especially interesting and technologically innovative element can be seen in Executive rooms on the 9th floor - a Privalite technology glass panel between a room and a bathroom, which can turn opaque with just one click on the button, to separate the two spaces.

STARWOOD WANTS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Joanna Krajewska talks to **Gonçalo Duarte Silva**, the managing director at Starwood Hotels & Resorts in Poland.



You came to Poland merely several months ago. On the other hand, you have been here for over three months now. How do you assess these three months spent in Poland?

It was a very intense period. First of all, I was trying to learn as much as possible about Polish hotels and projects which have been undertaken. I wanted to grasp a better understanding of the hospitality market in Poland, as well as get to know our teams in four cities and the offer of our hotels. I was also fortunate to participate in a very important event for our network – rebranding the Hotel Bristol as a Luxury Collection Hotel. The debut of this brand in Poland is not only important for us as a company, but it will also contribute to the promotion of Warsaw as a tourist destination. The Luxury Collection is Poland's first international hotel in the luxury segment. In this way we can attract to Warsaw a new group of customers - people who like to explore the world by being in a luxury environment and staying in hotels which by themselves are a reason to visit a given place. The introduction of the Luxury Collection brand also helps promote Warsaw on international markets. I have been working actively with my colleagues from other countries to organise press trips to Warsaw. We are also planning to produce a promotional material on the Polish capital for Starwood TV channel which is available in more than 260 Starwood hotels throughout Europe,

Africa and the Middle East. Also for me, personally, the first three months in Poland were very interesting with the new culture, people, completely different weather conditions ...

Is there anything else interesting that happened during those three months of your stay here?

I had a privilege to participate in several important projects, such as the launch of the new InAzia Restaurant in Sheraton Warsaw. We are continuously working on ways to use promotional synergy between our hotels in Poland, and we implement and adapt global solutions created by our head office to the needs of the Polish market. It is a truly fascinating and intense period for our industry and business. We are focused on creating an even more personalized experience for our guests, as well as on introducing innovative solutions that will increase their loyalty to our hotels.

Let's talk about the future. What innovations can customers expect to see soon?

We are working on new projects that will further enhance awareness of our brands in the market. As I said before, we want our guests to have personalized experience while staying at our hotels. Our top priority is promoting the Luxury Collection brand, strengthening its position in the Polish market, and promotion of the Hotel Bristol abroad. In Warsaw, we want to renovate the banquet space at the Sheraton and we are also

considering thorough renovation of the executive lounge and the lobby at the Westin hotel. We will soon open a roof terrace of the Sheraton Hotel in Cracow, which offers a beautiful view of the Vistula River and, in my opinion, is one of the most beautiful places to visit in summer in this city. Our hotel in Sopot has been preparing for the season, as well. We are also working on new, interesting promotions for members of our SPG loyalty programme. The programme is continuously growing and now it also offers attractive benefits in bars and restaurants. Additionally, we wish to continue our corporate social responsibility activities, encouraging our business partners, guests and employees to support educational projects which run in conjunction with UNICEF.

What attractions and promotions have you prepared for those who plan a stay in your beautiful hotel in Sopot?

Our team in Sopot is intensively preparing for the season, but, of course, the hotel works normally every day, serving both business travellers participating in conferences, as well as those guests who visit Sopot for the mere charm of the place. As for the facilities I am convinced that our guests will particularly like our Club Lounge which has recently been moved to a new location. It is now much more comfortable and offers a beautiful view of the beach and the pier.

Starwood is intensively developing its global portfolio. Is Poland taken into consideration in your future expansion plans?

Indeed, our company is growing very rapidly. In 2012 we launched nearly 70 hotels in 20 countries, strengthening our global portfolio especially in emerging markets, and what is more we plan even further



Club Lounge – Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Conference Center & Spa



Taras Widokowy & Lounge Bar, Sheraton Krakow Hotel

expansion. Over the next five years we will open 50 new hotels in Europe only. Poland is also one of the markets in which we want to expand the portfolio. Our goal is to introduce here new brands such as Aloft and Four Points by Sheraton. We would like to launch our hotels in Łódź, Wrocław, Katowice, Zakopane, but also in Warsaw and Cracow.

We have recently heard quite a lot about innovations that Starwood has made to its loyalty programme. Was it all worth it?

Members of the SPG programme constitute a large percentage of all our guests and

now they account for over 50% occupancy. This programme is our competitive advantage. Since its launch we have been working hard to improve our business model and we have invested a lot of time and effort to reach this position. We focus on innovative and customized solutions that are tailored to the needs of our guests. The benefits that we introduced last year, such as Your 24 or the Ambassador Programme, have changed the industry and proved to be a hit. In addition to revenue growth we were able to strengthen relationships with our guests who truly appreciate what we have created for them. So, yes, it was worth it.

We will soon open a roof terrace of the Sheraton Hotel in Cracow, which offers a beautiful view of the Vistula River and, in my opinion, is one of the most beautiful places to visit in summer in this city.

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Wrocław is the only city in Poland, in which there is a hotel belonging to the luxurious organization called Small Luxury Hotels of The World. In the capital of

Lower Silesia you can book a suite in 5-star Granary-La Suite Hotel on 24 Mennicza street. It is a so-called boutique hotel, which caters for the guests' sophisticated and refined needs. The main feature of such establishments is

that they are located in old buildings. This is also the case with The Granary-La Suite Hotel.

PLACE WITH HISTORY

The hotel is located in the former Herren-Malzshof granary.

This 16th-century building was erected in 1565, when the city regained the parcel of earl Rozdrażewski. Throughout the following years the building had many owners, until it was connected to the brewery on Słodownicza street in 1796. The later construction of the building was influenced by the activities during the World War II and a fire which broke out in 1970. But thanks to the thorough renovation, the building has undergone a radical transformation and today is known to house The Granary-La Suite Hotel.

LUXURIOUS, MODERN, COMFORTABLE

What makes The Granary stand out in the crowd is a careful attention to details. The interior was made from natural materials like stone, glass, brick or wood. Such combination results in harmonious atmosphere of the suits and timelessness of the public areas. The rooms are designed in a minimalist and toned down style, and thanks to the glass roof, each room is unique.

Guests have access to a well-equipped gym, a Turkish bath and a jacuzzi, in which you can relax after a tiring day of hard work. Surely both female as well as male guests will be delighted at the opportunity to use massage room, where you can choose from a selection of treatments intended to improve the condition of your face and body.



CUISINE - THE PRIDE OF THE GRANARY HOTEL

An intrinsic element of the hotel is Mennicza Fusion. The restaurant is in one of the ancient parts of the hotel and contributes to the atmosphere of the place. What characterizes the fusion cuisine are endless possibilities for the chef. Different culinary traditions can be combined with a modern way of cooking.

Fusion is a cooking style which takes what is best in different cuisines in the world, says Łukasz Dudziński, a chef in Menniczna Fusion. - What guarantees a success is using only fresh products and we are not likely to change this policy. The specialty of the restaurant (and the most frequently ordered dish) is Tuna Wellington

- served with wild mushrooms wrapped with spinach leaves and baked horseradish purée. Another dish worth recommending is duck confit in cabbage leaves. To get a better flavour, the fillet is cooked in low temperature and served with caramelized parsnip purée, potato gratin and a Porto sauce with stewed blackberries.

The dessert menu is equally extensive and includes hot dark chocolate fondant served with white chocolate ice cream or crème brûlée with roasted nuts and dulce de leche.

Mennicza Fusion is an unusually atmospheric place for all kinds of parties and banquets. To make a reservation or get more details go to www.thegranaryhotel.com.

Marta Wilk

The Granary-La Suite Hotel is an example of the so called boutique hotels - ones of a high standard, which cater for the guests' sophisticated and refined needs.



EAST SIDE STORY

While the west bank of the Huangpu River hosts Shanghai's historical legacy, the city's future is focused across the water in Lujiazui, reports **Claire Lin**.





Today, Lujiazui, the area of Pudong directly opposite the Bund, has taken over Puxi's role as Shanghai's financial hub, transforming into China's own Wall Street.

A century ago, the city of Shanghai was almost all located on the western side of the Huangpu River, an area known as Puxi. The impressive edifices of Chinese and foreign financial institutions stood along the famous riverfront Bund, looking across the water to an open expanse of muddy land known as Pudong, where the only habitation was a ramshackle fishing village. How times have changed. As Shanghai's fortunes took a turn for the better during the final decades of the 20th century, building in Pudong began and soon exploded into a frenzy of expansion, quickly becoming packed with high-rise buildings.

CHINESE WALL STREET

Today, Lujiazui, the area of Pudong directly opposite the Bund, has taken over Puxi's role as Shanghai's financial hub, transforming into China's own Wall Street. Its skyscraper-strewn cityscape now boasts the highest building density in China, while many believe that it can also claim to have the best view in Shanghai, looking across to the Bund skyline. Pudong's development eschewed an Old Shanghai-style ambience, instead taking on the polished, contemporary look of a Western city. Following the establishment of the headquarters of the People's Bank of China and Shanghai Futures Exchange in Lujiazui, financial institutions started to shift their business to Pudong. Currently, more than 30 per cent of China's foreign banks are located in Lujiazui, and Shanghai's total assets reached 1.08 trillion yuan (US\$173 billion) at the end of last year.

A NEW CITY

Many of New Shanghai's best known landmarks can be found here, from the Oriental Pearl TV Tower and the sky-piercing Jin Mao Tower to the iconic Shanghai World Financial Centre and the Shanghai International Finance Centre (IFC). Lujiazui is also home to an impressive assemblage of five-star hotels, including the Shangri-La, Ritz-Carlton, Grand Hyatt and Park Hyatt. The carefully planned 28 sq km Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone is divided into a financial centre, a business area, administrative and cultural centre and residential area, but is constantly expanding. Officials say there will be 45 more tall buildings near Lujiazui by the end of 2015, which will house more banks, multinational HQs and a fi-

financial school jointly established by New York University and East China Normal University.

LITTLE LUJIAZUI

Still, most people are only familiar with the area bordered by the Huangpu River to the west and north, Pudong South Road to the east, and Dongchang Road and Pudong Avenue to the south. Indeed, locals refer to this smaller area as "Little Lujiazui". Lujiazui has become the focus for all manner of major business events and conventions, but it lacks the history, architecture and cultural tradition that make for good sightseeing. Consequently, most business travellers head across the river to the Bund and Puxi for a cultural fix, but for those looking for some retail therapy, a top eatery or cool bar, no travel is necessary, as Lujiazui is blessed with excellent options.

WHERE TO EAT

Perhaps not surprisingly, given all the skyscrapers that have sprung up in Lujiazui, when eating you have a choice of looking up at the buildings, or down at the view. Options include:

Flair On the 58th floor of the Ritz-Carlton Shanghai Pudong, this restaurant and bar offers great views of the Huangpu River and Puxi from its outdoor seating area. It's always popular, and full at night if the weather is clear. It serves dishes from Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, China and Thailand tapas-style, and has a sushi bar. Open 5.30pm-2am (from 2pm Sat-Sun). Shanghai IFC, 8 Century Avenue; tel +86 21 2020 1888; ritzcarlton.com

- Living Room/100 Century Avenue The Park Hyatt's Living Room provides outstanding high-end cuisine in an elegant lounge setting. Chinese and Western light dishes are served, as well as afternoon tea. Perched on the hotel's 91st floor, the much-loved 100 Century Avenue is still the highest restaurant in Shanghai, and is a luxurious space serving a wide range of cuisines, including Western options such as steak, and Japanese sushi and sashimi. Living Room open 7am-12am; 100 Century Avenue open 6am-10.30am, 11.30am-2.30pm, 5.30pm-10.30pm. 100 Century Avenue; tel +86 21 6888 1234; parkhyatt.com
- Gran Melia The restaurants and bars at the Gran Melia hotel bring a welcome touch of Hispanic glamour to Pudong. Spanish

restaurant Albergo serves tapas, as well as offering "a gastronomic journey through a maze of sweet and sour dishes". Located on the 30th floor, the relaxed and opulent Red Passion Club offers great views, while at Havana Night you can enjoy some passionate Cuban cabaret. 1,288 Lujiazui Ring Road; tel +86 21 3867 8888; melia.com

- Nadaman This branch of the long-running group of Japanese fine-dining restaurants is located in the Shangri-La Pudong. The décor combines traditional touches such as paper lanterns with modern elements including reflective glass curtain walls and granite tables. Head chef Honda Masami leads his team in creating specialties such as the traditional kaiseki-ryori set menu. Open 11.30am-2.30pm, 6pm-10pm. 33 Fu Cheng Road; tel +86 21 5888 3768; shangri-la.com

Super Brand Mall If you want to get away from the hotel scene, the Super Brand Mall offers mid-priced, mostly Chinese eateries.

- Din Tai Fung (tel +86 21 5047 8883) is renowned for its steamed pork dumplings.
- South Beauty (tel +86 21 5047 1817; south-beauty.com) serves Sichuan cuisine and offers great river views.





- **Matto** (tel +86 21 5081 0966; mattopizza.com) provides an authentic, fun Italian culinary experience. Chef Enzo has more than a decade's catering experience in China and has worked in many five-star hotels. The restaurant's style is simple and trendy, while imported Italian spaghetti and ovens sourced from Naples result in authentic tastes and fresh, crispy pizzas. 168 Lujiazui West Road; superbrandmall.com

The IFC mall provides options in a slightly more upmarket vein. US chain Morton's of

- **Chicago Bar and Steakhouse** (tel +86 21 6075 8888; mortons.com/shanghai) chose to open its first China restaurant here – with space for 400 diners, it's the world's largest Morton's. Huge French windows present diners with great views of prospering Lujiazui while they chow down on thick, tender steaks or tasty lobster soup, and there's a VIP area for private gatherings and feasts.

- **Isola white interior** of this Italian restaurant (tel +86 21 5012 1277; isolashanghai.com) creates an elegant environment for dining, and its well-priced lunches are popular with business people. Options include stone-baked pizzas, pastas and oven-baked black cod.

- **Lei Garden** (tel +86 21 5106 1688; leigarden.hk/eng) offers Cantonese cuisine, while **Jade Mansion** (tel +86 21 5012 7728) offers fine local flavours. Top-notch Japanese eateries include **Haiku by Hatsune** (tel +86 21 3882 0792; haikushanghai.com) and **Tenya** (tel +86 21 3868 5357).

8 Century Avenue; shanghaiifc mall.com.cn/en

WHAT TO SEE

- **Oriental Pearl TV Tower**

The 468-metre symbol of Shanghai is an instantly recognisable landmark containing 11 spheres of various sizes. A restaurant and visitors' viewing area are open to the public. Entry fees range from 100 yuan (£10) for access to the second sphere, and 150 yuan (£15) for three spheres and the museum.

- **Shanghai World Financial Centre**

There are three viewing platforms – the 100th-floor observation deck is Shanghai's highest accessible point, with a 55-metre-long walkway suspended in mid-air, with a transparent bottom to test your nerve. The elevator takes 66 seconds to reach the 94th floor Sky Arena. swfc-shanghai.com

- **Aurora Art Museum**

Located in the annex building of the Aurora 21st Century Building, this museum displays an amazing collection of jade antiquities, as well as Buddhist sculptures, ancient pottery and portraits. auroraplaza.com



- **World Expo Site**

Though most of the pavilions from the 2010 Shanghai World Expo have been dismantled, some survived and were renovated. The China pavilion remains, while the Saudi Arabia pavilion has been converted into the Moon Boat, featuring the world's largest IMAX cinema – which has a 1,600 sqm circular screen.

NEW HOTELS IN LUJIAZUI...

The former Sofitel JJ Oriental was rebranded as a Hilton Doubletree in February last year. The 850-room Doubletree By Hilton Hotel Shanghai Pudong is housed over two towers, with facilities including more than 2,000 sqm of meeting space, a gym, spa, outdoor tennis courts and an indoor pool. doubletree.hilton.com

Four Seasons opened its second Shanghai property in September in the new 55-storey 21st Century Tower. The Four Seasons Shanghai Pudong has 172 rooms and 15 suites, restaurants, an executive lounge, spa facilities and an indoor pool overlooking Shanghai's skyline, and event space for up to 500 people. fourseasons.com/pudong

Mandarin Oriental is due to launch a Lujiazui property on the bank of the Huangpu River in July. The Mandarin Oriental Pudong Shanghai will have 44 suites, 318 guestrooms and 210 serviced apartments, along with six restaurants and bars and a spa with 13 suites. mandarinoriental.com

... AND BEYOND

The Renaissance Shanghai Caohejing opened in August last year in Caohejing Hi-Tech Park in the western Xuhui district, about 7km from Hongqiao airport. It has 383 rooms, three restaurants, a pool, gym and 14 meeting rooms, including a 570 sqm ballroom. marriott.co.uk

The Banyan Tree Shanghai on the Bund opened in October. Located on the western side of the Huangpu River, it has 130 rooms – all with river views – as well as four conference rooms, a spa and rooftop bar. banyantree.com

Twelve at Hengshan – part of Starwood Hotels and Resorts' Luxury Collection – opened in November in the Xuhui district. It has 171 rooms, a pool, a spa, two restau-

rants, a shopping gallery and 1,300 sqm of event space. starwoodhotels.com

The 440-room Sheraton Shanghai Waigaoqiao opened in December, and is a 20-minute drive from Pudong International airport. It has a spa and 2,600 sqm of meeting space. starwoodhotels.com

The 324-room Shanghai Marriott Hotel Pudong East launched in January in the Jin-qiao Export Processing Zone. It has an executive lounge, three restaurants, and 1,700 sqm of meeting space. marriott.co.uk

Shanghai's third Shangri-La is set to open in a 60-storey tower in the Jing An district in the second quarter of this year. The 508-room Jing An Shangri-La West Shanghai will have a 55th-floor executive lounge, a spa, Chinese, Italian and steakhouse restaurants, and 4,465 sqm of meeting space. shangri-la.com

The first W hotel for the city is to open in the north Bund area, in Hongkou district, in December 2014. The 379-room W Shanghai the Bund will have a spa, indoor and outdoor pools and two ballrooms. starwood-hotels.com



A JOURNEY TO THE SOURCE OF LIGHT

Alicante - the city as well as the province of the same name, whose shores bear the famous name of the Costa Blanca, is not just the beautiful beaches. You will find here monuments, remnants of ancient cultures, climbing routes, as well as shops, seaside boardwalks and restaurants. **Marzena Mróz** encourages you to visit this Spanish province.

The name Alicante comes from Arabic word meaning the source of light, and it really feel suitable for this part of Spain. It is because of the climate, which is one of the biggest attractions here. Winters are

virtually non-existent and 2800 of sunny days a year and the average temperature of 18°C, are sufficient incentives to make you come to Alicante any time of year. Especially that the sea temperature rarely goes below 15°C.

WHERE MAGELLAN STARTED HIS VOYAGE

The city of Alicante is one of the most important ports in the Mediterranean. This is where Ferdinand Magellan started his around-the-world voyage. The capital of the

province is bustling with life even during the night, which you can see from the top of mount Castillo de Santa Barbara. It is also worth seeing the baroque city hall, Museo de la Asegurada, housing a collection of modern art, including works by Miro, Tapies and Chillida, as well as MARQ - a modern archaeological museum. A beautiful seaside promenade, with its cafés, bars and restaurants, has a climate which resembles Côte d'Azur.

THOUSANDS OF PALM TREES!

An interesting place is nearby Huerto del Cura - known from palmerals and listed by UNESCO as World Heritage Site. There are 300,000 palm trees growing there! You can also go to a nearby town of Elda, famous for the shoes museum, and a possibility to do the shopping in one of many outlets. After

the eventful day, it is worthy to have lunch at one of the best restaurants in the neighbourhood - La Sirena. It is well-known for its delicious tapas.

MOUNTAINS OR THE SEA?

When I think of Costa Blanca, I think mostly of seaside resorts. And indeed, in the region of Alicante, from Denia to Pilar de la Horadada, you will see vast areas of white sand with beautiful hotels. One of the most interesting and popular beaches are those in Torrevieja, Xabia, Denia, San Juan and Benidorm. One of the most beautiful cities on the coastline is Altea with its 6-kilometre long beach with tiny bays and the old town with white and blue buildings. Not everyone knows, however, that apart from the sea, you can also spend your time in the mountains. One of the least well-

WORTH VISITING

- Hotel Barcelo Asia Gardens&Thai Spa 5* – exclusive and extravagant, one of the best hotels in Costa Blanca. You can book it in Itaka travel agency, www.itaka.pl
- Hotel Pueblo Acantilado Suites 4* – located on the top of El Campello cliff, overlooking Costa Blanca. For more details go to: www.itaka.pl
- Hotel Areca – 4* – close to Alicante airport, ideal for spending the night before going back to Poland in the morning, www.hotelareca.es
- A school and workshop of Paco Torrealblanca, one of the best confectioners not only in Spain but also in the whole world; Avenida Jose Martine Gonzales 103, 3600 Elda, tel: 00 34 965388224; www.torreblanca.net

Other sites of interest

- Shoe Museum in Elda; www.museocalzado.com
- the town of Guadalest, www.guadalest.es
- the seaside resort of Torrevieja with a 14-kilometre long coastline, www.torrevieja.es
- Orihuela – a city with the most beautiful cathedral in the area, www.orihuelaturistica.es

To take with you

- "Costa Blanca Insight Pocket Guide: Alicante and Murcia"



known attractions in Costa Blanca are natural parks and 15 mountain peaks in the province, towering 1,200 metres above the sea and tempting you with a challenge to climb them. It is also worth visiting some of the cities located in the mountains.

A CITY ON THE ROCKS

Guadalest - located in the mountain part of Alicante, located 25 kilometres from the coast, covers the area of 16 kilometres square. It is populated by less than 200 people. With its citrus and almond trees orchards, the city waits for the tourists all year long. Its main attraction is a small castle built in 11th century by the Muslims, and museums, including a museum of miniatures.

The only way to get to Guadalest, just like in the old days, is to walk through a 15-me-



The only way to get to Guadalest, just like in the old days, is to walk through a 15-metre long mountain tunnel known as L'Alcazaiba or Sant Josep.

tre long mountain tunnel known as L'Alcazaiba or Sant Josep. . It was quite easy for the inhabitants to fight off the invaders - it was enough to cut off the only way out. What also helped them was almost vertical rock cliffs, steep hill-sides and slippery mountains, admired by the tourists today. You should have at least 4 spare hours to thoroughly visit Guadalest.

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CATHEDRAL IN THE AREA

In order to see it, you need to head to the town of Orihuela, almost 60 kilometres away from Alicante. It is really worth it! The original name of the place also comes from Arabic and means a pot of gold in a valley. Orihuela is saturated with history - you can trade the baroque, renaissance and gothic influences. The wealth of historical heritage can be seen in the irrigation system on the Segura river, which comes from the beginnings of the Arab presence in this region. The technology made it possible to grow orange and lemon trees as well as vegetables. The Orihuela Costa is 16-kilometre long and stretches along the coastline of Spain and features It is beautiful beaches such as Punta Prima, Playa Flamenca, La Zenia, Cabo Roig, Dehesa de Campoamor or Mil Palmeras. Apart from the cathedral, there are other sights worth seeing, including a painting by Diego Silva Velazquez Temptation of St. Thomas in the museum.

FIESTA EACH DAY

The inhabitant of the area are known for their love for partying. Any reason is good enough to get together and celebrate. In each season you can take part in one of many fiestas of Mauritanian or Christian origin. The most popular ones include: Good Weeek celebrations in Orihuela and Crevilente, a procession on Palm Sunday in Elche, the Cavalcade of Magi in Alcoy - the oldest one in the whole of Spain, Els Bous a la Mar in Denia or international choir festival in Torrevieja. Both inhabitants and the tourists like the bonfires of Saint Joh - lasting from 20th to 29th June. Fire plays the leading role in these celebrations and the climax is on 24th June, St. John the Baptist's Day, and the moment when the fire destroys the cardboard and wooden sculptures made for the occasion. The city never gets to sleep on these days, and people have fun until the morning hours. That's Alicante!



Winters are virtually non-existent and 2800 of sunny days a year and the average temperature of 18°C, are sufficient incentives to make you come to Alicante any time of year.



AN ICONIC AND FUNCTIONAL CAR

It's a whole new chapter in the history of Fiat 500. The Italian icon of style is now available in Abarth and Cabrio versions. The 500L combines the iconic nature of the 500 style with the functionality of Fiat's design.



With MPV passenger space combined with the feel of a small SUV on the road and the restrained dimensions, efficiency and style of the original Fiat 500, the new model defies the conventional distinctions between the practical and the desirable. By following this novel recipe, the Fiat 500L combines characteristics peculiar to different classes to offer a concept of distinctive and versatile first car that is an alternative to the traditional saloons of the B and C segments. The 500L is totally new in the way it expresses its styling individuality, communicates with the outside world and opens its doors to a new on-board experience. The letter 'L' sums up the three dimensions enclosed in the new Fiat solution: Large, Light, and Loft.

LARGE: EFFICIENT SPACE

The 500L expresses the taste of Italian style with a distinctive look and interprets the peculiar Fiat capability of conceiving and designing cars which are innovative in substance and in form. Just as the 600 Multipla was the forerunner of the concept of compact people carrier, the 500L is the new Fiat interpretation of the Simply More philosophy applied to the 'Multispace' concept.



According to the latest research, 4.1 metres is the average length of cars sold in Europe. It is a standard size that allows you to travel and easily move around in traffic. The Fiat 500L is 4 metres and 15 centimetres long. But its real competitive advantage is that with only 7 cm more than a Fiat Punto, the Fiat 500L easily accommodates five passengers 2 meters tall with their five suitcases without ever compromising passenger room. Suffice it to say that the Fiat 500L boasts the best passenger volume index in the segment: with front and rear volumes combined, passengers have a space of 3.17 cubic metres available.

The new model is leader in its category in terms of ratio between external dimensions - 415 cm long, 178 cm wide, 166 cm high and

261 cm wheelbase - and interior space understood both as passenger compartment and luggage compartment, which boasts a capacity of almost 400 litres, which means being able to transport up to five roller suitcases. The rear seats are longitudinally adjustable and separately folding to further increase rear passenger comfort.

The Fiat 500L is then Large also in terms of functionality, as the 1,500 possible configurations of the interior space demonstrate. For example, the customer can easily transport any material up to 2.4 metres long by folding the front passenger seat and only one rear seat forward. Regarding exterior dimensions, its load capacity is the best of its category. Cargo Magic Space, adjustable in three levels, is also in the luggage compartment so you can separate fragile objects from heavy ones, clean objects from dirty ones, and wet objects from dry ones.

LIGHT: ALTRUISTIC TECHNOLOGY

L also stands for Light meant as that 'lightness' feeling that improves and simplifies the quality of life, that innovation that is not an end in itself, but always to man's benefit. Besides, Fiat has always been a byword for

innovative cars that offer sophisticated technological solutions which are nonetheless straightforward to use and satisfy both the concrete needs of everyday mobility.

At launch, the Fiat 500L will propose three efficient engines distinguished by their lower polluting emissions and CO2 levels, corresponding to real economic benefit in everyday use for the customer: two petrol (105 HP 0.9 TwinAir and 95 HP 1.4 litres) engines and one turbodiesel (85 HP 1.3 Multijet 2) engine. Turbo TwinAir engine boasts record-breaking emissions in its segment of only 112 g/km.

Light also is the simplicity of use of the on-board technology of the new car. An example? The 5" touchscreen of the 500L UConnect multimedia system, one of the largest of its class, lets you manage all the major media content of the car such as radio, mobile phone, Media Player, iPod or smartphone, all rigorously wireless.

It is also possible to view all the information supplied by the brand new eco:Drive LIVE software on the 5" touchscreen in real time. The software is the latest evolution of the eco-friendly application developed by Fiat in 2009. The system can analyse your driv-

ing style thanks to the data collected on the car and provide personalised suggestions in order to reduce up to 16% of fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. With the 500L eco:Drive becomes LIVE, meaning you can receive feedback about your driving style in real time, thus attaining immediate fuel consumption and emission reductions. It is also possible to save the data of every journey on a compatible USB memory stick and smartphone.

LOFT: PERSONAL SIZE

Loft is a contemporary, wide, open and luminous dimension. Just like the new 500L that has been imagined and produced in the same way as a beautiful and functional design house. Designed by the Centro Stile Fiat which drew inspiration from the cab forward concept, the 500L has 360° glazing to ensure that its visibility is the best of class in addition to increasing the sense of command of the road and to make parking manoeuvres easier. The glass roof - the largest in its category with a size of 1.5 square metres - floods the passenger compartment with plenty of light. It is available in two versions: electric roof or Skydome.

Turning your car into a unique and personalised object. With this goal in mind, the Lineaccessori for the new 500L designed by the Centro Stile Fiat and produced by Mopar was created. More than 140 products increase comfort and improve enjoyment of leisure activities and the quality of life on board.

Just like you would expect from a home Hi-Fi system, the Fiat 500L offers a new premium sound system developed in collaboration with Beats Audio. The system exploits an advanced equalizer algorithm, creating a high definition and clean sound that the Beats founders (the artist and record producer Dr. Dre, the Interscope Geffen A&M Records chairman and record producer Jimmy Iovine) require in their recording studios.

Finally, another world premiere is the brand new coffee machine created in collaboration with Lavazza. The 500L is the first standard-production car in the world to offer a true espresso coffee machine that utilises the technology of the 'A Modo Mio' pods. It is perfectly integrated in the car with a deck designed expressly by Fiat.

Joanna Krzyckowska

Less than a year ago, exactly five years after the presentation of the Fiat 500, and 55 years since the debut of the iconic Fiat 500, on July 4, 2012, in Turin, the world saw the new Fiat 500L.





WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH...

Steve Dinneen presents hardcore gadgets that will survive the most challenging of trips.

Technology is no longer a luxury – it’s a necessity. Our jobs revolve around it, our social lives depend on it, our memories are digitised and stored on it. Make no mistake, we are dancing to technology’s tune now, not the other way around. This is why it can be nothing short of a disaster if you are abroad and discover an overzealous baggage handler has worked his magic on your laptop. While you’re away, you need technology you can rely on – gadgets that can take a knock or two before retiring to the great circuit board in the sky. The sensible traveller takes precautions – and there are plenty of tools to help you protect your electronics. It might be worth investing in a “second” version of some of your favourite gadgets for when you’re on the road. And a phone with a brightly coloured waterproof casing might not be the best fashion statement but you’ll be glad of it if it falls in the hotel pool just before you need to make an important call. There are a host of products to protect your tech, from waterproof tablet covers to indestructible laptop cases – even emergency kits that can throw you a lifeline if it’s already too late and you’re fishing your iPhone out of the sea. Here is our guide to the best, toughest technology that will keep you connected whatever the conditions.

For critical missions

TABLET

Panasonic Android Toughpad FZ-A1
£775; go-rugged.com
If you need a tablet that will last, the Panasonic Android Toughpad is for you. The 10.1-inch tablet is designed to withstand being dropped from almost 1.5 metres, and is resistant to dust and water. It also has advanced hardware encryption, in case you are worried about it falling into the wrong hands – Panasonic says the Toughpad is designed to appeal to “mission critical government personnel and highly mobile field forces”. It also comes with a micro SD card slot, micro USB and micro HDMI ports, GPS, the option of 4G, and Android version 4.0.



Tough as a truck

TELEPHONE

JCB Toughphone Pro-Smart TP909
£314; heavenlyandroid.co.uk
If you’re looking for a phone that is virtually indestructible, why not go for one made by a company that’s famous for producing dumper trucks? The JCB Toughphone Pro-Smart comes with a reinforced, dust-proof casing that can withstand some spectacular falls. Even better, it is waterproof up to one metre for 30 minutes. The Android handset is rather basic, but it is an ideal second phone for people who plan on doing some serious travelling and don’t want to risk dropping their iPhone in a river (or the toilet).



Three layers of protection

IPAD CASE

Otterbox Defender Series
US\$90; otterbox.com
If your iPad is your pride and joy, it would be wise to invest in a seriously tough case. Enter the Otterbox Defender Series, which offers three layers of protection, including a screen cover and an outer layer that doubles up as a stand for watching movies. The newest version will comfortably house either second- or third-generation iPads (not first) and it even works with Apple’s smart-cover technology, switching the screen off when the case is closed.



Indestructible

CAMERA

Olympus Tough TG-820
£233; argos.co.uk
The rugged credentials of Olympus’s toughest camera are mightily impressive – take it for a swim up to ten metres deep, expose it to conditions of up to minus 10°C, drop it from two metres or even crush it with up to 100kg. The compact camera is coated in a polycarbonate shell that feels like it could take some serious damage, and even the LCD screen on the back is scratchproof. The camera itself is decent, with 12 megapixels, a five-times optical zoom and a folded lens design, meaning there are no protrusions to break off.



Perfect time in all conditions

WATCH

5.11 Tactical HRT SNIPER Watch
£240; 511tactical.com
Make sure your timepiece is tough enough by investing in the 5.11 Tactical HRT Watch. The name 5.11 comes from the Yosemite Decimal rating scale for rock climbing – an indication of the punishment it can withstand. The titanium casing is waterproof to 100 metres and the hands glow in the dark. It is also built to keep perfect time at altitude and in periods of humidity. Shooting fans can input ballistic information (including temperature and wind velocity) into an in-built computer.



Hard set to break

HEADSET

BlueAnt T1 rugged Bluetooth headset
US\$49; blueantwireless.com

This Bluetooth headset is designed to work in extreme conditions. It is resistant to damp, dust, knocks and bumps, meaning you can keep your phone safely in your pocket and let the headset combat the elements. The silicon covers that protect the unit are replaceable, so even if it takes a real battering, you may be able to salvage it. Features include verbal caller ID, meaning the headset can announce who is calling.



Armored laptop

ALUMINUM LAPTOP CASE

Mezzi Caliber Series Aluminum Laptop Case
US\$150; mezzi.com

Taking your laptop abroad can be stressful, with the cost of replacing it secondary to the lost documents stored on it. You will be able to travel a little more comfortably, though, if you know your laptop is safely stored in this near-indestructible aluminum case. Mezzi's stylish product is big enough to fit your charger and other extras in but light enough to carry around without sending your arm to sleep. And if you needed another reason to buy one, it is so cool, it even featured in the video to Jay-Z's Show Me What You Got.



The hardest on the market?

HARD DRIVE

LaCie Rugged Thunderbolt
£200; store.apple.com/uk

This 1TB hard drive (measuring 8.9cm x 14cm x 2.5cm) has a shockproof casing that will keep your information safe from harm. It comes with both Thunderbolt and USB 3.0 connectivity, so transferring large files is quick and painless. The speeds are so fast, in fact, that unlike many other devices in the category, it can be used as a production drive, running and editing large files without having to first transfer them to your laptop or desktop. There is enough storage space for dozens of movies, as well as those spreadsheets on your to-do-list.



Dry it all

PHONE DRYING KIT

Dry All Wet Smartphone Emergency Kit
US\$50; shop.dry-all.com

If your phone takes an unexpected turn for the wetter while you are away, the Dry All Wet Smartphone Emergency Kit promises to dry it in no time, using what the company claims is "the most effective and aggressive dehumidifier for electronics available anywhere in the world". Just slip your soaked phone into the case and, six hours later, with any luck, it won't have any lasting damage. A version is also available for tablets and e-readers, costing US\$40. There are no guarantees, but it could prove to be a lifesaver.



A tough one

VIDEO CAMER

Kodak PlaySport (Zx5) HD Waterproof Pocket Video Camera
£64; amazon.co.uk

This smartphone-sized video camera is one tough device. Its rubberised plastic coating is dust-proof, can survive a drop from 1.5 metres and take a dip in up to three metres of water. It is able to shoot in 1080p full HD video, captured at 30 frames a second. With an SD card to top up the storage space, it can hold ten hours of video in 1080p.



Almost like a lifebelt

WATERPROOF CASE

BeachBuoy Waterproof Case
£15; maplin.co.uk

You don't need to spend the earth to make your gadgets travel-proof. The Beachbuoy acts like a wetsuit for your mobile, tablet or e-reader, allowing you to read in the pool or bath without having to worry about dropping it. It is simple to use – slide the device in, roll the top down and seal it with velcro – and most touchscreen devices will work through the clear plastic cover. It is good for taking on the beach, as enough air is trapped in the pocket that your phone should float, making it easier to retrieve during an accident. It is waterproof up to about five metres – enough for anything but scuba diving.



SIEMENS



Ekscytujące piękno,
futurystyczna technologia.

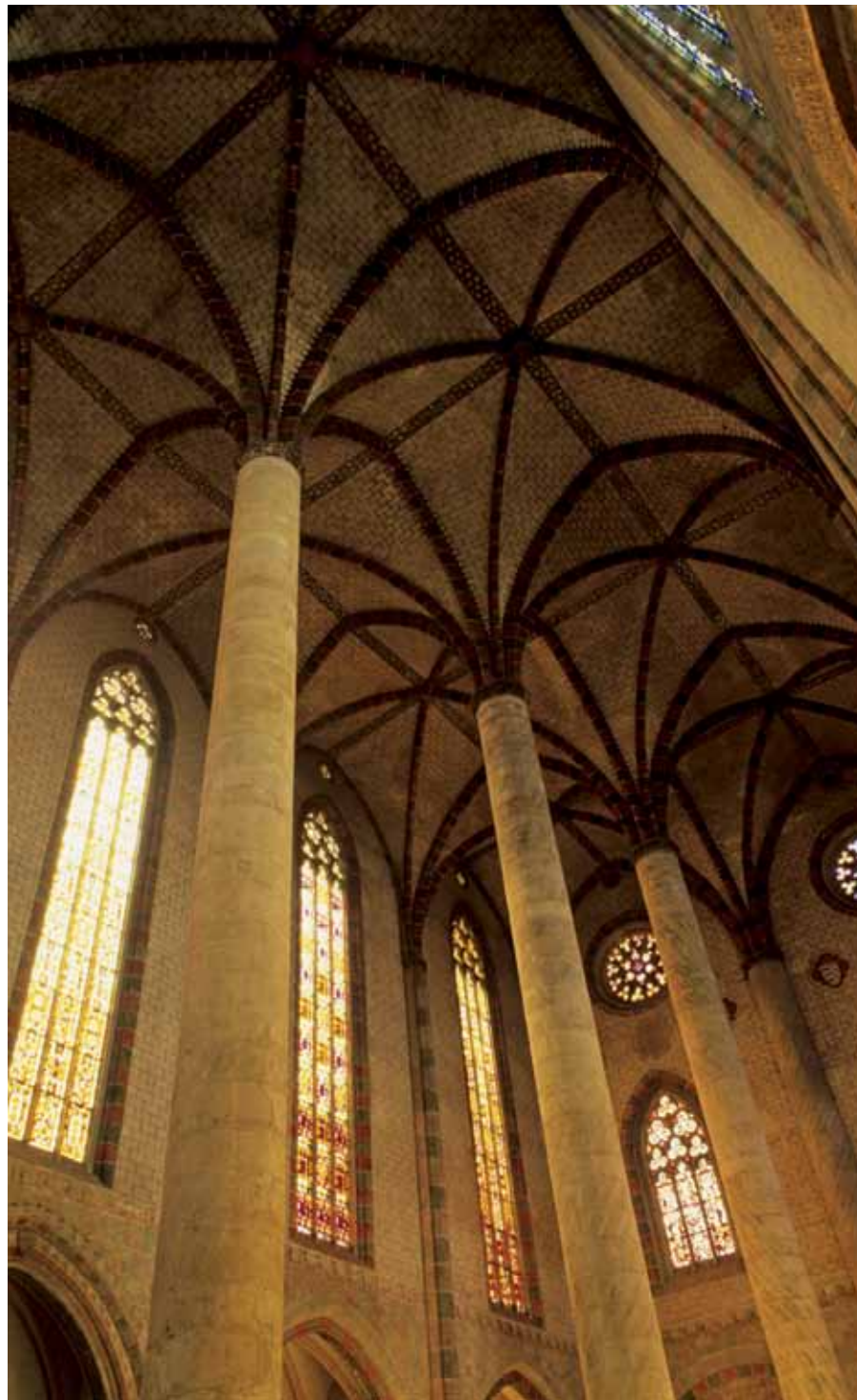
www.siemens-home.pl

Aktualnie projektanci wnętrz kuchennych coraz częściej proponują proste formy wkomponowane w otwartą, jasną przestrzeń. Najnowsze modele urządzeń Siemens świetnie spełniają te wymagania. Zarówno piekarniki, płyty grzewcze, jak i chłodziarki oraz okapy wyróżniają się ponadczasowym wzornictwem o niezwykle eleganckiej, oszczędnej linii. Ekskluzywna obudowa z materiałów

najwyższej jakości kryje innowacyjne rozwiązania i zaawansowaną automatykę, która zapewnia urządzeniom maksymalną samodzielność i efektywność. Kontrolowane przez elektroniczne systemy sensorowe, pracują oszczędnie i cicho, z gwarancją doskonałych efektów. Dla Twojego komfortu i dla dobra natury. Więcej informacji: www.siemens-home.pl

4 HOURS IN... TOULOUSE

From Romanesque churches to 20th-century shock-art, France's pink city never fails to charm, finds Robin Gauldie.



MAISON DE LA VIOLETTE

The floating Maison de la Violette is a handy place to begin your stroll around Toulouse. If you're burdened with bags, stash them at Toulouse-Matabiau station. It overlooks the Canal du Midi, which was created to link Toulouse with the Mediterranean in the 17th century. Aboard a vintage barge moored on the canal's west bank, founder Hélène Vié has created a museum and shop dedicated to the city's iconic flower, the Toulouse violet, which gives the city's football team its nickname – "les Violets". Tradition has it that the flower was first brought to the city by Napoleon's soldiers. Exhibits include postcards, posters and patchwork, but the main aim is to persuade you to sample, and perhaps buy, violet-perfumed sweets, liqueurs and teas. Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-12.30pm, 2pm-7pm; free entry. Canal du Midi at corner of Allées Jean Jaurès, opposite Third Boulevard Bonrepos; lamaisondelaviolette.com

BASILIQUE ST-SERNIN

Walk down Allées Jean-Jaurès to Jean-Jaurès metro station, turn right, then at Jeanne d'Arc metro turn left. Ahead, the Romanesque campanile of Basilique St-Sernin is an unmissable landmark, and a dizzying example of what medieval builders could achieve using humble brick. The cathedral was built between 1070 and 1120 to house the relics of Toulouse's first bishop, martyred in 250AD.

St-Sernin is still an essential stop for pilgrims on the trek from France to Santiago de Compostela, in northern Spain. Even for the less devout, it's an impressive space, embellished by fine marble bas-reliefs and medieval frescoes – the latter were discovered when 19th-century plaster was removed from the walls. Look up to admire the red and green-patterned brickwork of the cathedral's spectacular vaulted ceiling. Open daily 10am-12pm, 2pm-5.30pm; free entry. 13 Place Saint-Sernin; basilique-st-sernin-toulouse.fr

MARCHE VICTOR HUGO

A five-minute stroll from St-Sernin, down Rue du Périgord and Rue du Sale, the Mar-



There's still a rosy glow to the pink brickwork that gives Toulouse its soubriquet and lends a special warmth to the arcades and café-terrasses around the Place du Capitole.



ché Victor Hugo is the gastronomic heart of a city that takes its food seriously. This huge modern emporium is crammed with stalls selling paté, seafood, cheese, charcuterie and, of course, meat. After all the fuss about horse meat finding its way into British burgers, the chevaline section is a reminder that the French eat it with gusto. More to British tastes are local specialities such as Toulouse sausage, cassoulet and confit de canard. There are five restaurants on the first floor open for lunch only – try Le Louchebem (Tues-Sun 12.30pm-2.30pm; lelouchebem.com), where starters cost from €6 and meaty main courses are €13-€28. If you simply fancy a drink, join the locals at one of the market's four stand-up café-bars. Open Tues-Sun dawn-1pm. Place Victor Hugo; marchevictorhugo.fr

PLACE DU CAPITOLE

A five-minute walk from the southwest corner of Place Victor Hugo brings you to the hub of the old city. There's still a rosy glow to the pink brickwork that gives Toulouse its soubriquet and lends a special warmth to the arcades and café-terrasses around the

Place du Capitole. Here, art deco bistro Le Bibent (at number 5) is the place to sample Toulouse's signature cocktail, the purple kir royale à la violette, made with champagne and violet liqueur. Dominating the square is the Capitole itself. It has been the seat of local administration on and off for centuries and, behind the eight pink columns of its grand façade, it still houses the municipal offices of the Hotel de Ville. In the Salle Henri Martin, ten huge canvases celebrate the city. In Les Réveurs (the Dreamers), the central figure is socialist leader Jean Jaurès, who was assassinated for trying to head off the First World War. Opening hours vary – normally 9am-12pm and 2pm-5pm.

LE CENTRE DE L'AFFICHE

Take a two-stop ride on metro line A from Capitole to St-Cyprien-République, on the other side of the Garonne. St-Cyprien is Toulouse's post-industrial area, where warehouses and factories are being reclaimed as housing and performance and art venues. Check out the Centre de l'Affiche – dedicated to poster, postcard, packaging and label art, its huge collection offers a glimpse of

how commercial graphic design and branding has evolved over some two centuries. Look out for Toulouse-Lautrec's iconic poster promoting performer Aristide Bruant, in a broad-brimmed fedora and sweeping red scarf, in cabaret at Les Ambassadeurs. Open Mon-Fri 9am-12pm, 2pm-6pm; free entry. 58 Allées Charles de Fitte; centreaffiche.toulouse.fr

MUSEE DES ABATTOIRS

A two-minute walk up Allées Charles de Fitte from the Centre de l'Affiche, this collection of modern art is a challenge. Picasso's immense La Dépouille du Minotaure en Costume d'Arlequin has pride of place, supported by some of the godfathers of 20th century shock-art. Mapplethorpe, Rauschenberg, Dubuffet and Duchamp are all represented in the collections of this former slaughterhouse. There's an on-site café-bar, L'Hémicycle, where you can grab a stiff drink to help you recover from the sometimes startling impact of their work. Open Wed-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun 11am-7pm; entry €7. 76 Allées Charles de Fitte; lesabattoirs.org

FOT: © ATOUT FRANCE/JEAN FRANÇOIS TRIPELON – JARRY (2)
© ATOUT FRANCE/MAURICE SUBERVIE, © ATOUT FRANCE/FRANCK CHAREL



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@businesstraveller.pl

Stopover without a visa?

I'm planning a long journey this year. I will have a stopover in a country, where Polish citizens are obliged to have a visa (the USA, Qatar, United Arab Emirates).. I would like to know if I need visa to these countries, when waiting for the next flight? I assume I won't leave the airport at the time.

Daniel

Dear Daniel,

The matter is the easiest with Qatar, because as of 4th September 2012, the rules concerning issuing tourist visas for Polish citizens has been simplified. You can get it at the airport in Doha, without the having the earlier promise of a visa. If you are not leaving the transit zone, and your flight is on the same day, visa is not required.

It is a whole lot different in the USA, however. It is necessary to obtain a transit C-1 visa for citizens of the countries which do not have a visa exemption agreement with the USA. Transit visa is required even if you are not leaving the transit zone at the airport. If you don't have a tourist/business B1/B2 visa, you should go to the consulate to apply for a transit visa. All the details concerning the required documents (passport validity, a photograph, charge, additional documents like confirmed airplane ticket, hotel reservation) can be obtained during a phone call to consulate in Warsaw or Cracow. During the talk with the consulate the information concerning your journey will be verified. Each tourist applying for a transit visa is treated as a potential immigrant and has to prove they have enough money for a stay in the USA, is indeed only passing through the USA and has permanent ties with their place of residence in Poland.

Polish citizens going to Dubai need to have a visa. If you are not leaving the transit zone, and your flight is within the next 8 hours, it is not required. There are also popular 96-hour or 7-day transit visas for short stays in Dubai. To get a visa (or a promise of a visa, in fact), you need to apply for it in advance - about 7 months before your flight to Dubai. You can also apply for it while booking a ticket through the airline.

However, the information I am providing here is only approximate. Since visa requirements may change dynamically, you should seek information closer to the day of your planned departure.

Extended insurance policy?

Financial director of our company is going on a meeting to the company's headquarters in New York. A few months ago she had health problems because of high pressure and she asked for a special insurance. When buying plane tickets I usually buy standard insurance in our agency. Should I buy for a special policy? Is it much more expensive?

Joanna

Dear Joanna

We often focus on saving on costs of plane tickets as well as insurance policies. And it is not a good thing to do, as a proper insurance policy gives us high standard of protection. Standard insurance policies provide us with medical help in case of an emergency specified in the general terms of the policy. Such help has financial limitations. That is why you should pay attention to the upper limit of compensation your insurance company is obliged to pay. The cheapest policies cover only a few-days stay at a hospital, and then the patient is transported back to Poland.

Standard policies also have a limited liability. Usually they do not cover emergencies connected with doing sports or working abroad, as well as the consequences of chronic diseases. This last risk is connected with your question. When buying a policy, you should indicate that you need an extended one, covering the risks connected with a chronic disease (hypertension, diabetes, heart condition). Not all chronic diseases are included in the insurance cover. That is why you should carefully study the general insurance conditions.

The fee in this variant is higher than with the standard policy. Sometimes two or three times as high. But the cost of several thousand zlotys for a policy is nothing compared to the costs of hospital treatment abroad. If you stick to the standard variant, your insurance company will refuse to cover the costs of treatment, if the health problems are connected with a chronic disease. Take into account the fact that treating heart stroke caused by hypertension is very expensive.

Before a journey you should contact your physician. Each journey is a strain for the organism even if you are healthy. With long-haul flight, the doctor may give some special recommendations.

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