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• Describet places



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THE RAILWAY IS THE WAY TO GO

Nowadays, planes that carry us from a continent to a continent are fast, more efficient, and safer, but unfortunately - not cheap. Travel by car has its charm, but takes much time and energy. But let's not forget about trains. They are comfortable and such a form of travel has all the hallmarks of a romantic adventure. We have prepared a ranking of the ten little less well-known railway lines traveling between different cities of Europe. Trying to find the best, most interesting and most reliable train services, we have selected such operators as the Italian Italo, French Thalys, Austrian BB Railjet, the German luxury City Night Line, Elipsos which offers unique "hotel trains" linking Paris Austerlitz with Madrid Chamartin and Barcelona de Franca, as well as Cisalpino – the famous trans-Alpine service which links Zurich and Geneva with Milan. For those who are longing the heat of the summer sun, I recommend especially two articles. The first one about Hong Kong - a city whose horizon is as high as its impressive skyscrapers which are in no way inferior to those you can see in Manhattan. The second article is an interesting account of the author's visit to the Canary Islands, where unfortunately we cannot go by train, but which are a great alternative to the gloomy autumn weather in most European cities. Enjoy your reading!

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief



OFERUJEMY POŁĄCZENIA DO PONAD 125 MIAST NA CAŁYM ŚWIECIE CODZIENNIE WYLOTY Z WARSZAWY

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Hotels

Radisson Blu

LET'S DO SOMETHING FOR OTHERS

This year marks the 10th anniversary of Carlson Rezidor Responsible Business Action Month during which hotels of the group undertake various local community service projects. The slogan of this year's action was "Let's do something for others".

A group of friends representing Radisson Blu hotels in Warsaw and Szczecin, may not be professional runners, but it was already their second charity race. But for some it was the first such challenge in life! Each consecutive kilometre they ran was their personal world record.

All of them say that although they didn't realise how challenging it would be, they had a goal which added to their strength and courage! They took part in the Warsaw Marathon and Bieg na Piątkę not only for the result, but also to raise money for ISKIERKA FOUNDATION, which supports the treatment of children with cancer.

"Running this race I wanted to prove myself and to help others. An additional motivation is that we do it together with our friends", said Małgorzata Świercz, Radisson Blu Centrum Hotel, Warsaw "I'm running for a charitable purpose, and I must say that the very thought that by doing it I can help other people, is extremely motivating", said Agnieszka Olech, Radisson Blu Centrum Hotel, Warsaw

"By taking part in charity events where running is combined with collecting funds to help sick children, I know that in addition to doing something for myself, I also do something for others", said Paweł Prądyński, Radisson Blu Hotel Szczecin.

"When an event like this has such an important goal, reaching the finish line is something very exciting and incredible", Marek Ćwiek, Radisson Blu Hotel Szczecin.

Airlines Emirates

CONNECTION TO TAIPEI

Emirates, one of the world's fastest growing airlines, today announced the launch of non-stop passenger services to Taipei, its 16th destination in the Far East. The service will commence from 10th February 2014, initially with six non-stop flights per week to Taipei's Taoyuan International Airport.

The route will be operated by a three class Boeing 777-300ER equipped with eight luxurious private suites in First Class, 42 lie-flat seats in Business Class, and generous space for 304 passengers in Economy Class, along with gourmet cuisine in all classes - served by Emirates' multinational cabin crew.



Taipei, home to nearly seven million people, is an economic and cultural centre with renowned sights, attractions and a myriad of shopping options. The destination is famous for producing and exporting electronics, textiles, plastics and rubber, optical and photographic instruments and chemicals.

"Emirates SkyCargo has operated a dedicated freighter service to Taipei since 2003. Given its status as a global trading hub and the demand, it is a natural progression for Emirates to launch passenger services to Taipei," said Barry Brown, Emirates' Divisional Senior Vice President Commercial Operations East.



Hotel

Collectionneur

WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS

The Hotel du Collectionneur***** is proud to announce it has been elected as the France's Leading Business Hotel 2013 at the World Travel Awards ceremony that took place in Turkey on August, 31st.

"We are very honoured to have won this prestigious award recognizing all the efforts that we have accomplished this past year. The Hotel du Collectionneur is not only the largest 5-star hotel in France but now it is also one of the best. I would like to share this reward with all of our team

The Hotel offers 478 rooms and suites and 1,700 sq m of meeting and banqueting facilities, including 17 with day lighting, and able to accommodate up to 600 people.

It's one of the largest hotel conference centres in Paris. It's also known for its high-quality Spa (Decleor & Carita), as well as restaurants - Le Safran serving dishes of French cuisine, and an elegant retro Purlé Bar. The WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS is a competition that provides recognition and rewards.



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Są chwile i niezapomniane miejsca, które mówią o przyjemności oraz pasji. Lavazza BLUE to perfekcyjnie przygotowane espresso. Zawsze i wszędzie. Teraz możesz cieszyć się wspaniałym, intensywnym smakiem kawy nie tylko w Twoim biurze, ale także w muzeum, czy kinie.

Dzięki autoryzowanym dystrybutorom Lavazza zapewnia każdemu kompleksowe wsparcie.

www.lavazza.com



France Tourism

PICTURESQUE VILLAGES

According to the association "The Most Beautiful Villages of France" (Les Plus Beaux Villages de France), the villages distinguished by this title can see an increase in visitor numbers of 10-40 per cent. The story of the Most Beautiful Villages of France – an organisation, which now counts as members some 156 specially chosen villages – began back in 1981. Its efforts, which strongly influenced tourism industry in France, have attracted the attention of other countries that have followed suit and set up similar organisations. The French-English publication entitled "The Most Beautiful Villages: the French Experience and Other Foreign Developments", costs €25.

Car

Citroën C4 Picasso

FIVE STARS FOR C4

The CITROËN C4 Picasso, due to launch in Ireland in September, has earned five stars in the EuroNCAP test. The rating acknowledges the work put in to the new MPV, particularly on safety, as well as the quality of the EMP2 platform, which is making its debut on the new C4 Picasso. The C4 Picasso scored a total 82% according to the 2013 protocol, with five-star results in the four categories of Adult Protection, Child Protection, Pedestrian Protection and Assistance Systems. The new CITROËN C4 Picasso is a class-leading family car that stands out with its excellent child protection system and ultra-practical child seat attachment system. The new CITROËN C4 Picasso is available with the following driving aids for extra safety including active cruise control, indexed on the speed of other vehicles, an anti-collision alert that informs drivers using visuals, sound and by tightening the seatbelt, intelligent traction control for easier handling on low-grip surfaces, active seatbelts in the front seats that tighten when any danger is detected.



Air line Airberlin

ALWAYS GREAT PRICES FOR PASSENGERS

The second largest German airline guarantees the best prices for bookings made online. If you can find and book your airberlin flight at a lower price elsewhere online, however, airberlin will refund you the difference in fare.

Just submit a claim under the guarantee, using the online form to send the airline all the relevant details about the cheaper deal you have found with the online travel agency before midnight on the same day you booked your ticket. airberlin will check your claim under the guarantee within 3 days. Provided all the conditions are met, a refund of the difference in fare will be transferred via the method of payment you provided when making your booking and you will be sent an email informing you of this. Details of the guarantee are available at www.airberlin.com/bestpriceguarantee.

Beauty Eisenberg

EYE CONTOUR GEL

The very thin and vulnerable contour of the eye is one of the most sensitive parts of the face. In the case of the eyes and their surrounding areas, using delicate cosmetics is essential. Eisenberg has created eye contour gel that perfectly eliminates swelling, reduces dark circles around the eyes and provides a lifting effect. The unusual action of the gel made by Eisenberg is a combination of an innovative Trio-Moléculaire formula and specially selected ingredients. These include Cornflower water, which has decongesting properties; - Vitamin E, which softens, moisturizes, reduces wrinkles, acts anti-inflammatory and effectively neutralizes free radicals; - Hyaluronic Acid, which enables proper hydration of the extracellular matrix of connective tissue and forms a natural barrier protecting the body against bacterial infection; -wheat germ and borage oils, which prevent aging of the contour of the eye; Price PLN 319/30 ml. The cosmetics are available at Sephora perfumeries. www.eisenberg.com



Air line SAS

REPORT

Rickard Gustafson, SAS President and CEO, has commented the good results of his company for the third quarter of the year: "It is gratifying that our robust and sweeping restructuring program is having the anticipated effect and SAS exits the third quarter strongly with a positive income before tax of MSEK 1,120. After adjustments for nonrecurring items, the improvement in earnings was MSEK 476, a doubling compared with last year.

We have made substantial progress in the implementation of our plan to improve our financial position. In parallel, during the quarter, we were able to increase traffic through a significant improvement in productivity. During the summer, 32 new routes were opened, which contributed to increased passenger revenue at the same time as operating expenses decreased. We have signed a letter of intent with Airbus regarding the renewal of the SAS Group's long-haul fleet, which bolsters our long-term competitiveness. Competition in European air traffic remains very intense. Consequently, our focus is on completing the entirely necessary transition to a lower and more flexible cost structure, in parallel with our continued aggressive investment in our customer offering. Our forecast of achieving positive earnings for the full-year remains firmly in place."

Business Partnership

WHAT MATTERS IS A GOOD START

When you travel, especially for business, you know how important is to plan the goals for the trip and find right partners for their implementation. And by partners we mean hotels, airlines, as well as transportation services on the spot. All of these factors are particularly important in situations where the business trip has several stages or when you have a tight schedule of meetings.

Note the similarity of travel to starting a new business. A new business is a form of a journey that need special preparation.

What, then, in terms of organization, needs to be done to increase the chances of success of a new venture? Firstly, it is important to find the right people. Secondly, it is important to know the legal and tax regulations in force in the relevant market.

Thirdly, you should select a suitable partner specializing in tax and accounting area. It needs to be a company that gives you a real sense of security, will be efficient, and deeply committed.

DFK is a respected and recommended accounting firm, which also specializes in handling new business projects for its clients. The experienced consultants of DFK provide professional advice to both Polish and foreign companies wishing to enter our market.

It's noteworthy that the DFK provides legal, accounting, and tax management assistance. It can also help you set up your office, providing you with communication support, managing correspondence, etc. It's therefore a comprehensive offer, which allows you to focus on your business.

We should add that, in the opinion of numerous economists, the Polish market is one of the most promising in Europe, and certainly large enough and well developed to be a breeding ground of success for many new companies.

Business Traveller is encouraging you to take this trip. We believe that it may be a real road to success.



Partner

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www.dfk.pl



Jewellery

From passion for travel

INSPIRING PERU

Eva Lewanowicz designs large, distinct pieces of jewellery. She gets her inspiration from ethnic designs, colours and stones. Her work can be seen at international jewellery exhibitions, including Vicenza Oro in Italy, Bizutex in Madrid and the Złoto Srebro Czas in Warsaw. 2013 summer collection was presented at the Aurora Fashion Week in St. Petersburg. The designer lived in Spain for 10 years and still draws from the Iberian culture. "I'm not interested stereotypes", says Lewanowicz. "I tour the world and wherever I am, I look for old handicrafts. I believe that the old culture is our heritage. Creating jewellery, I try to combine the ethnic feel of the past with new technologies that herald the future", she continues.

From her latest trip to Peru, the designer brought inspirations, which are present in her autumn-winter collection. www.lewanowicz.com

Beauty

Phenomé

VELVETY SKIN

They say that a woman is as old as her skin, so it's worth taking care of it. This can be done with help of preparations base on ecological plant waters and a complex of carefully selected natural and organic active ingredients. Pure Sugarcane hand cream by Phenomé instantly smoothens and nourishes the skin. The cream leaves a delicate film on the skin of the hands to protect them from water loss and external factors. It's also worth trying the regenerating Milky Almond body butter which moisturizes and nourishes the skin, strengthening its protective barrier, and eliminating the feeling of tension and discomfort. The skin becomes firm, delicate and soft to the touch.



Beauty

La Mer

STOP THE TIME

Every woman wants to have forever young glowing skin. People for centuries have been trying to delay the signs of aging and turn back the clock. Now La Mer has developed a product, which may be a breakthrough in this area. It's a highly concentrated serum for the face, named The Essence.

This luxurious, 21-day treatment is said to bring spectacular effects. With the ingredients of The Essence, which are obtained in precise and complex process of biofermentation, the skin becomes rejuvenated, radiant and exudes youthful vitality. The Essence - the most exclusive product from La Mer – brings out all the best from



the skin, minimizing any visible signs of aging and allowing it to born again. All this owing to fermenting ingredients that fill the skin with protective nutrients. These are primarily Broth™, The Dormancy Ferment™, and The Mariponic Ferment™. The highly concentrated formula of The Essence is enclosed in three vials, and the whole placed in a capsule whose magnetic field keeps the active ingredients in constant motion. For best results, this luxury cosmetic should be used both morning and night (six applications) before applying La Mer cream.

Capacity: 3 vials (3-week treatment); price PLN 8,900.



Air line

Finnair

TOP CHEFS

As part of a meal service renewal underway at Finnair, Business Class customers are now able to enjoy new Signature Menus created by well-known Finnish chefs Pekka Terävä and Tomi Björck. The new menus will be introduced on 19 September, on flights to Japan, and will be subsequently introduced during October and November on flights to North America, Korea, India, Singapore and China.

"In-flight dining is an important part of a distinctive and personalized travel experience," says Anssi Komulainen, Finnair's SVP Customer Service. "Both Pekka and Tomi have a fresh style that is distinct from the mainstream. Pekka Terävä's exciting Nordic flavors are a natural fit with Finnair's identity, while Tomi Björck's new take on Asian cuisine supports our growing presence in the East."

The new menus include such Finnish specialties as reindeer fillet with mushroom puree, oven-baked potatoes and organic barley.

"I believe that the new meals will delight Finnair's customers and raise the international profile of Finnish culinary culture," says Maarit Keränen, Finnair's Head of Service Concept.

More details at: www.finnair.com

Radisson BLU

EXPERIENCE MEETINGS

SPOTKANIA Z SUKCESEM.
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WHAT'S ON

The most interesting cultural events

CRACOW A NEED OF FREEDOM

MOCAK Museum of Contemporary Art. Opening - 17 October
The exhibition is open from 18 October to 26 January 2014.

Works created after 1945 reflect a socio-political landscape of contemporary Europe. Human rights, equality, democracy is the main issues "The need for freedom" exhibition touches upon.

Visitors will be able to see the works of such artists as Yves Klein, Marina Abramović, Kulik and Przemysław Kwiek. The exhibition will be supplemented with a Polish-English catalogue. The texts were submitted by Zygmunt Bauman, Monika Flacke, a Norwegian politician Thorbjørn Jagland and Maria Anna Potocka. www.mocak.pl



WROCLAW THE MAGIC OF COLORS

21 September - 24 November

Ethnographic Museum - a section of National Museum in Wrocław Ponchos, dresses, scarves, women's and men's shirts, as well as dolls in regional costumes. These exhibits come from a collection belonging to Elżbieta Komarnicka, a translator and traveller. - This is another exhibition of Mexican arts and crafts in Ethnographic Museum in Wrocław - says Elżbieta Berendt, the museum manager. The exhibition is supplemented with photographs of the inhabitants of Mexico in folk costumes by Tomasz Grzyb. www.muzeumetnograficzne.pl



VIENNA LUCIAN FREUD

The exhibition is open from 8 October 2013 to 6 January 2014.

Museum of Fine Arts in Vienna will present the work of the British painter Lucian Freud (1922-2011) for the first time in Austria. The paintings presented at the exhibition were selected in close cooperation with the artist a few months before his death. The grandson of the psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud is considered one of the most important representatives of figurative painting of the twentieth century. www.khm.at/www.khm.at

WROCLAW GUITAR +

10 - 30 October 2013 - Wrocław Guitar Festival

The star of the festival will be Larry Coryell, an American guitarist, known as the godfather of jazz fusion. His concert will take place on 29 October in Impart. A series of classical music concerts will not be less interesting. The list of performers includes Lazhar Cherouana, the winner of Pittaluga International Guitar Competition in Alessandria, Dávid Pavlovits, Eamon McGrath and Duo Melis. Flamenco music will be represented by our native band Que Passa. Diknu Schneeberger, a Trio from Austria will present similar rhythms, while Peppino D'Agostino will give a fingerstyle performance. The festival will be inaugurated by a recital of music school students from the Poland, the Czech Republic, and Germany.

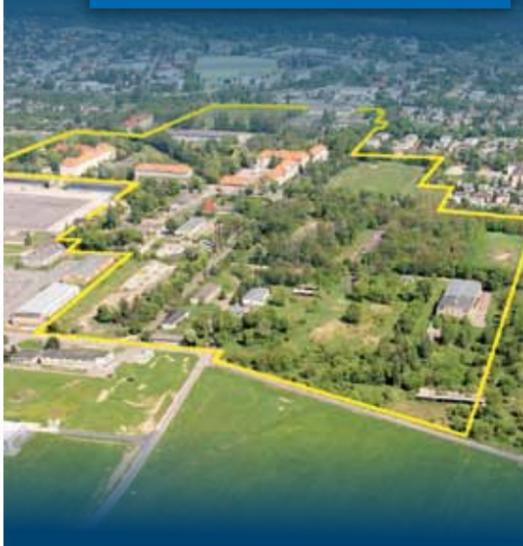
The closing "Jazz musicians for Jarema" concert will feature such artists as Marek Napiórkowski, Wojtek Pilichowski, Arthur Lesicki, Kiljański and Leszek Krzysztof Zaleski. www.gitaraplus.pl
www.gitaraplus.pl



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Ceny wywoławcze:
 od 1 200 000 PLN do 4 000 000 PLN
Przetarg: 29.10.2013r.

KRAKÓW
ul. Rakowicka



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Przeznaczenie: biurowe
Ceny wywoławcze:
 od 9 450 000,00 PLN do 34 250 000,00 PLN

WARSZAWA
ul. Waldorffa



Powierzchnia gruntu od: 1,2977 ha
Przeznaczenie: usługowo-handlowe
Cena wywoławcza: 8 000 000 PLN

www.amw.com.pl



CROSS THE CONTINENT

Alex McWhirter suggests ten lesser-known trains to try on your European travels

Everyone knows of Eurostar. Many of you will be aware of SNCF or Deutsche Bahn. But what about Elipsos, Italo or Lyria? These are just some of Europe's most useful and comfortable train companies connecting key business cities by day or night and offering a viable alternative to the plane.

QUALITY, SPEED, PUNCTUALITY

Some are "open access" operators taking advantage of EU rules allowing competition between train firms. Others are joint venture (JV) arrangements with their own revenue centres and a more service-minded culture towards passengers.

Certainly that is the case with TGV Lyria, a Franco-Swiss JV linking Paris with some of Switzerland's – if not Europe's – wealthiest cities, and whose staff have to serve demanding clientele.

Interviewed by rail magazine IRJ in June, Alain Barbey, director-general of TGV Lyria, boasted of a 34 per cent rise in passenger numbers over the past three years. Some of that increase is down to faster trains (owing to the opening of the Rhine-Rhone TGV line) but higher service standards are also a factor.

Barbey said: "We've found a high rate of customer satisfaction. Every time we add a new service we introduce a new customer-orientated culture. This is now our policy, adapting to the passenger."

TIME TO COMPETE

But not everything is perfect. Mark Smith, founder of rail site seat61.com, wishes that

open-access companies would operate across borders. "The competition is happening on routes already well served by the national operator," he says. "What is needed is more international competition." And while it's good in many ways to have separate train companies, it means Europe has a fragmented railway network in which passengers end up travelling with a collection of tickets.

Here is a round-up of ten lesser-known European rail operators. I have omitted fares because of complexity. There are myriad prices depending on routing and when you book, but as a rough guide, first class rail will be cheaper than a flexible air fare.

1. ITALO

While the UK's open-access firms survive on hand-me-down stock from British Rail, in Italy it's quite the opposite. Italo operates Alstom AGV high-speed trains that are, according to the publicity blurb, "il treno piu modern d'Europa".

This is not entirely surprising seeing as Italo is 20 per cent owned by SNCF (French Railways). One of Europe's few open-access firms, it plies Italy's main north-south rail routes. Services run from Turin, Milan and Venice in the north via Rome to Naples and Salerno in the south. There are up to 14 trains a day each way. Milan-Rome takes three hours, while Firenze-Rome takes 81 minutes. The main en route stops are Padua, Bologna and Florence.

Unlike state-owned Trenitalia, some services may operate from alternative main stations. These include Milan Garibaldi

and Rome Tiburtina. These may or may not prove convenient depending on the location of your hotel and meetings.

Onboard accommodation consists of Club (first class), Prima (business) and Smart (standard class). Meals are served at seat in premium classes but at an extra cost.

italotreno.it

2. THALYS

Thalys's high-speed rail network can be billed as one of Northern Europe's most useful for the businessperson. Its clever trains (these can cope with differing power and signalling systems in four countries) are modelled on France's TGVs. They operate regularly between Paris Nord, Amsterdam and Cologne. The main en route calling points are Brussels, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Schiphol airport.

You can whizz from Paris to Brussels in 82 minutes, with Paris-Amsterdam taking three hours 16 minutes, and Brussels-Amsterdam one hour 49 minutes. There are two classes – Comfort 1 (first class with free meals) or Comfort 2 (standard).

raileurope.co.uk

3. TGV LYRIA

This service-minded Franco-Swiss TGV links Paris Gare de Lyon with various cities in Switzerland including Basel, Zurich, Lausanne and Geneva. There are regular departures to Zurich and Geneva throughout the day. Timings are competitive with air – Paris-Geneva takes just over three hours with Paris-Zurich taking a little over four hours. Trains are two-class, and meals are served free in first.

tgv-lyria.com; loco2.com

4. ELIPSOS

There's nothing quite like the Elipsos "hotel train" linking Paris Austerlitz with Madrid Chamartin and Barcelona de Franca. But sample it while you can because this service may cease at the end of October if, as expected, the new high-speed line opens.

Elipsos is a 50/50 joint venture between France's SNCF and Spain's Renfe. Book the best onboard accommodation and you will get something akin to hotel standards. Plus, there's a proper – some might say "old-fashioned" – restaurant car serving both breakfast and dinner.

Each train (one service goes to Madrid, the other to Barcelona) leaves Paris in the evening to arrive the next morning. The trip to



Thalys's high-speed rail network can be billed as one of Northern Europe's most useful for the businessperson. Its TGV-style trains sprint the 265km between Paris and Brussels in 82 minutes.



the Spanish capital takes 15 hours 30 minutes, while Barcelona can be reached in 11 hours 30 minutes. Trains run over the "classic lines".

Elipsos trains comprise unique Spanish Talgo rolling stock, scaled-down carriages specially designed for an easy gauge change at the border as Spanish classic track differs from that elsewhere.

Book Club Class accommodation (which includes breakfast) or, better still, splash out on a Grand Class ticket, which also throws in dinner along with a cabin equipped with a shower and toilet.

elipsos.com; loco2.com

5. OBB RAILJET

The Austrians are a canny lot. Rather than spend billions of euros on building new high-speed lines and acquiring a fleet of complex trainsets, OBB Railjet uses tried-and-tested technology at a fraction of the cost.

Railjet operates with Siemens rolling stock and locomotives. Trains run at a top speed of 230 km/ph.

Services operate over core routes – Munich-Salzburg-Vienna-Budapest and Zurich-Innsbruck-Salzburg-Vienna-Budapest. Vienna Westbahnhof to Budapest Keleti takes about three hours and Vienna Westbahnhof

to Munich four hours. From December next year, there are plans for Railjet to operate a new route, Graz-Vienna-Prague.

You have a choice of first, business or standard class accommodation, and trains also come with a restaurant car. Meals at your seat are provided in first and business class (for a fee). oebb.at;

bahn.com

6. HKX

Germany's main open-access operator is the Hamburg-Koln Express. It plies the important business route between Cologne and Hamburg, calling at Dusseldorf and Essen.



There are three trains a day with a journey time of four hours 20 minutes.

Unlike Italy's Italo, the Cologne-Hamburg express is a value-for-money product, using ex-Deutsche Bahn trains. It's one-class only and operates far less frequently than Deutsche Bahn, but it's price competitive. hxx.de

7. CITY NIGHT LINE

The DB-owned City Night Line operates overnight sleeper trains covering Northern and Central Europe. Book the best accommodation, which, according to seat61.com's Mark Smith, is Deluxe.

This can be found either on trains formed of Comfortline or double-deck rolling stock. If travelling on the latter, then Smith suggests going for a compartment on the upper deck. The Comfortline coaches operate on selected routes – these include Paris to Berlin or Zurich, and Amsterdam to Munich or Prague. Double-decker stock can be found on routes such as Zurich to Hamburg or Berlin, Basel to Copenhagen, and Munich to Berlin or Hamburg.

Deluxe compartments are fitted with a shower and toilet. On the double-deckers they occupy the upper level, which affords a great view during the day. Breakfast is provided free. Typical journey times: Amsterdam-Prague 14 hours 25 minutes, Mu-

nich-Berlin nine hours 51 minutes, Paris Est-Berlin 12 hours 23 minutes. citynightline.de; bahn.com

8. TGV PARIS TO MILAN AND TURIN

This stand-alone service provides a fast, useful link between France's capital and two of Italy's main business cities. The big attraction here is the scenic views as the TGV traverses the French Alps on the section past Lyon.

Paris Gare de Lyon to Turin Porta Susa takes just over five hours 30 minutes, then the train moves onwards to Milan Porta Garibaldi, arriving seven hours ten minutes after leaving Paris. Trains run thrice daily and there are two classes. Meals (at a charge) are served at seat in first class. loco2.com

9. FRECCIAROSSA

This is Trenitalia's riposte to Italo. The high-speed trains link the cities of northern Italy, such as Turin and Milan, with Salerno in the south via Bologna, Florence and Rome. Services operate frequently – there are 20 a day between Milan Centrale and Rome Termini, covering the trip (not far short in mileage terms of London-Edinburgh) in about three hours nonstop. With such frequency and speed, it's a wonder that anyone

takes the plane at all. Stopping services also offer fast transits, the popular Florence SMN-Rome Termini sector being accomplished in around 90 minutes.

Somewhat confusingly, there are four separate classes – Executive (first class), which offers at-seat meals, Business with free drinks but meals taken in the restaurant car, Premium and Standard where passengers take meals in the restaurant. All meals are at extra cost.

trenitalia.com; loco2.com

10. CISALPINO

This famous trans-Alpine service links Zurich and Geneva with Milan. It is currently operated by conventional mainline rolling stock but from 2015 will be upgraded with modern Alstom tilting trains and, at the same time, will have the Cisalpino branding restored.

I include it here because not only is it one of the most scenic rail trips in Europe but it also provides an inexpensive (compared with air travel) link between Zurich, Geneva and northern Italy. Trains from Zurich to Milan Centrale (three hours 41 minutes) cross the Alps via the Gotthard Tunnel, while those running from Geneva pass through the Simplon Tunnel in three hours 53 minutes.

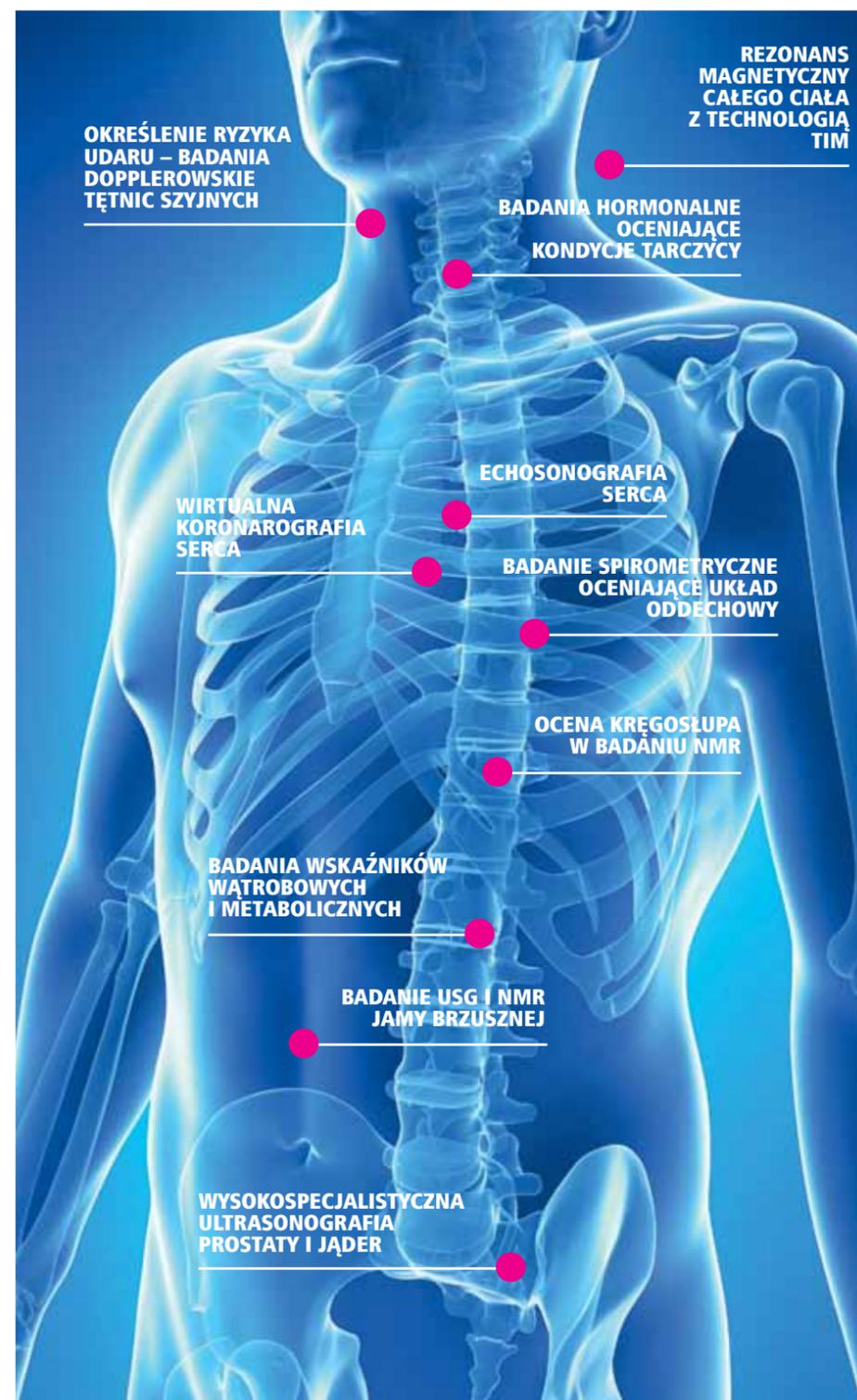
sbb.ch

OBB Railjet uses tried-and-tested technology at a fraction of the cost. Railjet operates with Siemens rolling stock and locomotives. Trains run at a top speed of 230 km/ph.



WYKRYJEMY CHOROBE ZANIM WYSTĄPIĄ OBJAWY

wyjatkowy program kompleksowych badań diagnostycznych



Czy wiesz, że 50% osób umiera z powodu schorzeń układu krążenia, a 25% z powodu nowotworów? Jak przeciwdziałać śmiertelnym chorobom i cieszyć się życiem? Jednym ze skutecznych rozwiązań jest Screening Stanu Zdrowia proponowany przez Szpital Medicover. To dogłębny i precyzyjny program badań diagnostycznych, pozwalający na szczegółowy przegląd i ocenę stanu zdrowia w ciągu 1 dnia.

W szpitalu Medicover wykonaliśmy ponad 700 screeningów. Dane są zaskakujące – aż w 70% przypadków wykryliśmy zmiany chorobowe, a 15% z nich wymagało natychmiastowej interwencji. Wśród nich były tak poważne schorzenia jak nowotwory czy tętniaki mózgu. Udało nam się rozpoznać wiele groźnych chorób w ich wczesnym stadium. Jest to możliwe dzięki bardzo czułym i niezwykle nowoczesnym aparatom do diagnostyki. Pozwalają one zdiagnozować chorobę nawet wtedy, gdy nie daje jeszcze żadnych objawów, a pacjent nie podejrzewa, że może mu coś dolegać.

Dzięki współpracy specjalistów z różnych dziedzin oraz zastosowaniu nowoczesnego sprzętu jesteśmy w stanie wcześniej rozpoznać choroby: układu sercowo-naczyniowego, wątroby, płuc, nerek, zaburzenia funkcjonowania tarczycy, bezobjawowe zakażenia oraz nowotwory. W przypadku zdiagnozowania poważnego schorzenia możemy podjąć natychmiastowe leczenie.

Screening Stanu Zdrowia to:

- jedyna taka oferta na polskim rynku
- najszerszy zakres badań
- pełna diagnoza i rekomendacje na przyszłość
- indywidualna obsługa i komfortowe warunki pobytu
- kompletna diagnoza w ciągu jednego dnia

DLA KOGO?

Screening Stanu Zdrowia szczególnie polecany jest osobom, które pragną mieć poczucie kontroli nad własnym zdrowiem, szanują swój czas i zależy im na szybkiej diagnozie, która sprawi, że lepiej wykorzystają swoje szanse w życiu i biznesie.

• niektóre badania wykonywane w ramach Screeningu Stanu Zdrowia

TYLKO DLA CZYTELNIKÓW

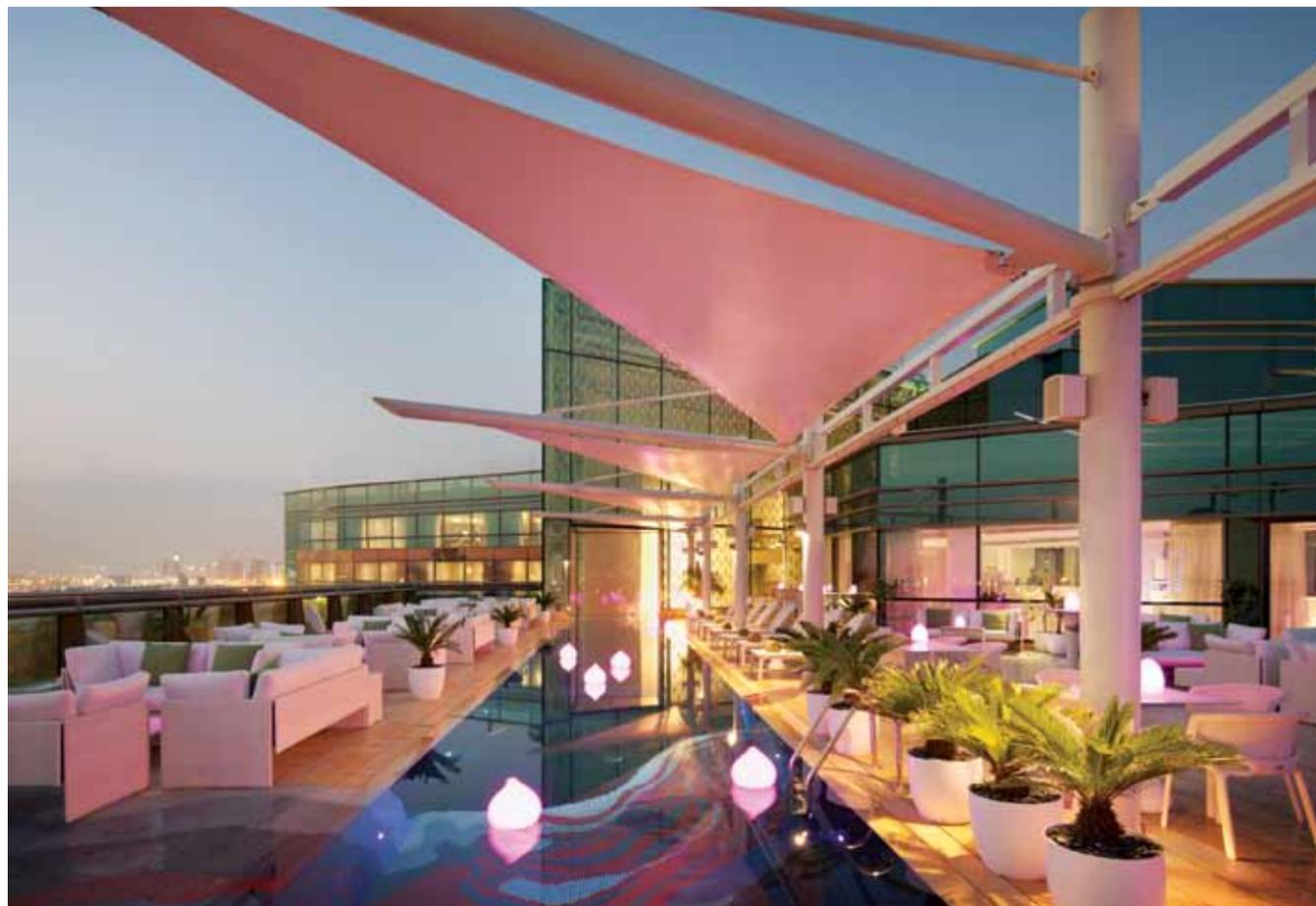
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CONTACT

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Dubai
United Arab Emirates
tel. 00 971 4 364 7111
www.jumeirah.com/en

PRICES

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WHAT'S IT LIKE?

It's clear that the main advantage of this five-star hotel is its location. It's situated by the bank of the Dubai Creek, in an exclusive area, less than three kilometres from Dubai International Airport. Within a few-minute walk there is a red line metro station, which goes from the Jebel Ali Port, through the city centre until Al Rashidiya.

ROOMS

Hotel has 152 comfortable rooms with modern design. The interior is designed in neutral tones of beige and cream, contrasted with bolder red elements. Floor-to-ceiling windows not only offer access to

plenty of natural light, but also provide excellent city views. Premier and Superior rooms come with single or double beds, and most of them are arranged in such a way, that you can watch TV lying down.

Although the rooms are huge, guests who like to have more space and can choose a studio apartment or duplex with winding stairs leading to the bedroom. All the suits also have a lounge and some come with a well-equipped kitchenette.

Most rooms are non-smoking, all of them have access to wi-fi. A child under 12 can stay in the parents' room, provided no extra bed is needed - otherwise you have to pay 150 AED (about

30 euro). However, a cot (for babies up to 2 years old) is provided free of charge on request.

RESTAURANTS

Jumeirah Creekside Hotel in Dubai is known for its great restaurants, offering an extremely varied menu.

At the heart of the hotel is Crimson Gallery - is a very-well located place on the ground floor, which cannot be missed. Guests usually go there for a meeting or to grab a quick cup of coffee or a cocktail.

Nearby there is the excellent Nomad restaurant. The company specializes in Asian dishes and thanks to the open kitchen, you can see how the dish is be-

ing prepared. The restaurant offers an extensive wine list, and since 4 October offers a Fantastic Sunday Brunch every Friday. Meals are served buffet style, there is also a children's menu and a play area with many attractions, including a bouncy castle and face painting. Babies under the age of six years can eat free of charge and children under 12 years receive a 50% discount.

If, however, you prefer a healthy diet, try Plumeria restaurant. On the mezzanine floor is the Blue Flame restaurant, which serves excellent meat and seafood. You can also get into the amazing glass-walled lift to the top of the building, to the terrace. The Cu-ba bar, next to the pool, offers a wide selection of spicy snacks, sweet desserts, and fantastic views.

ATTRACTIONS

In Dubai you can't complain about a lack of entertainment. Therefore, in order not to waste time, it's better to do shopping near the Deira district, where you will find, most of all, a jewellery bazaar. The famous Dubai Festival City Mall is only a stone's throw from there. Tourists will find here



everything their heart desires - cinemas, bowling alleys, restaurants and over 400 stores of world-famous brands.

Inside the hotel, you can't get bored either. Guests have access to 2 swimming pools, 14 spa treatment rooms, the Aviation Club fitness centre with a gym and tennis courts. And if you would like to relax in a more active way, the 18-hole Dubai Creek Golf course is within a walking distance. Each stay at the hotel includes one ticket to Jumeirah Beach

and one free ticket to the Wild Wadi water park.

VERDICT

Great place for both business, and a holiday. Jumeirah Creekside Hotel Art Collection is particularly noteworthy. Discovering the 482 works made by 51 contemporary artists from the area, while staying at the hotel, can be a great opportunity to get to know the local culture. American Express, Visa, Euro- and Mastercard are accepted.

Rafat Sobiech

The interior is designed in neutral tones of beige and cream, contrasted with bolder red elements. Floor-to-ceiling windows not only offer access to plenty of natural light, but also provide excellent city views.



Hotel

WĄSOWO PALACE

WĄSOWO



A 100 year-old alley, consisting of 462 linden trees leads directly to the estate in Wąsowo. A well-maintained gentry farm with a palace like from a fairy tale is beautifully situated amongst a landscape park.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Exiting the A2 motorway just outside Poznań I drove in a typical suburban area, with vast colourful fields and a 5-kilometre 100 year-old linden alley (462 lindens) which led me directly to the magnificent gate in Wąsowo estate. The baroque-classical building from 1781 instantly catches your attention – it is the residence of a noble Szczaniecki family. Nearby there is a chapel from 1786, where weddings ceremonies are held. There is also the Gardener's House, stables with some lovely Frisian ponies and a pond. Jarosław Szurka, the manager and an expert of the history of the estate, took me for a ride in a horse carriage around the property.

LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The palace was designed by Gustaw Erdman for the German family von Hardt and built in 1870 in neo-Gothic style. Beautifully situated on a hill in the village of Wąsowo, only 40 km from Poznań, it is surrounded by a nearly 60-acre landscape park with old linden trees, oaks and beeches.

Count Richard von Hardt, the owner, banker and industrialist, was a very progressive man and a great manager. During his time, many innovative investments were implemented, including construction of modern residential homes for servants and workers, a modern distillery, a blacksmith's shop, or paving the access roads. Today the estate looks very well, and the linden alley lined with houses is also impressive. Because of the visit of Kaiser Wilhelm II, the count of Hardt decided to expand his Gothic Villa into a Palace, adding a new wing, a large entrance and a glass loggia. The

facade of the palace is made of clinker brick and sandstone. A high octagonal tower of the palace also attracts attention. You will also be delighted by a large terrace overlooking the pond and park where you can dine in peace or have a coffee. The Szczaniecki Palace is located 20 meters from the Hardt Palace, while The Gardener's House and the Wąsowo Farmstead are about 200 and 900 meters respectively from The Hardt Palace. You can move around on foot, rent a bicycle or take a carriage ride.

ROOMS

After the war, the Palace was taken over by the State Treasury, and since 1995 it has been in private hands. The building was designed as a hotel and park complex and it is a place for meetings, conferences, business events and weddings. It was opened in 2000, and in 2011 the fire destroyed nearly 70 per cent of the place. Almost 200 people worked on the reconstruction of the palace, which was quickly put to use.

The Palace complex offers rooms in different categories, in four buildings. In the Hardt Palace there are 29 rooms, a large 400 sq m "Parkowa" conference room, a restaurant, a fireplace hall and a small leisure complex with a sauna and a swimming pool.

The Szczaniecki Palace has 14 rooms and a conference room, The Gardener's House has 6 rooms and the ecological Wąsowo Farmstead features 3 villas with 4 bedrooms each. The farmstead has also its own zoo where children can see llamas, fallow deer, rabbits, goats and other animals.

Rooms in the Hardt Palace are equipped with furniture modelled on those of the era. Each room has a plasma TV, a safe, a minibar and wireless internet access. Many rooms come with large four-posted beds. Each room has a unique decor and atmosphere. Some still have

the ceilings decorated with old panels. The suites generally consist of two parts: a sleeping and a living area. I stayed in suite 105 with a view of the park. I was told that suite 112 was the only one that survived the fire, because the spirit of Count Hardt, who lived just there, was watching over it.

My attention was also drawn to a beautiful marble staircase leading from the fireplace hall, which was broken in several places. According to a legend, it is the result of Count's fantasy who loved horses and happened to ride horseback into his bedroom.

Rooms at the Szczaniecki Palace are also furnished in the style of the era, each one is different and unique. For guests there is a place to play mini-golf or billiards. You can also rent a bicycle or take a carriage ride.

VERDICT

An extraordinary story. A fairytale landscape. One of the most beautiful palace and park complexes in the Great Poland. I would recommend it for conferences, training courses or weddings. Relaxation is guaranteed!

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska

CONTACT

Palace and Park Complex in Wąsowo
64-316 Kuś, ul. Parkowa 1
tel. (+48) 61 447 26 143,
fax (+48) 61 447 29 97
www.wasowo.pl

PRICES

Rooms / suits in the Szczaniecki and Hardt Palaces
- From PLN 330 (about €78)/ 2 people
Rooms in the Gardener's House
- from PLN 160 (~€38)/2 people
in the Farmstead - from PLN 330 (~€78)/2 people



Hotel

WARSAW

SOFITEL WARSAW VICTORIA



CONTACT

Sofitel Warsaw Victoria
ul. Królewska 11
00-065 Warszawa
tel. +48 22 657 80 11
e-mail: H3378@sofitel.com
www.sofitel-victoria-warsaw.com

PRICES

Classic room - from PLN 244

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

At the time of its construction in the 1970s, it was considered a symbol of luxury. The iconic "Czarny Kot" (Black Cat) club at the Victoria hotel (and at that time the only nightclub in Warsaw), was a subject of numerous rumours. Although times have changed, the Victoria is still an exceptional place.

A hotel's success is said to depend on three factors: location, location and location. If it's true, then Victoria was simply doomed to success. It's situated in the very heart of the business and tourist centre of Warsaw, at the famous Piłsudski Square, and a short walk from the Royal Palace. At the same time, it's only 9 km from Warsaw's main airport and 2 km from the Central Rail Station.

ROOMS

The hotel has 343 rooms, including several luxury suites, such as the impressive Imperial Suite located on the 7th floor. Sofitel Victoria offers three types of rooms: Classic, Superior (overlooking the quiet back of the hotel), and Luxury (on the front facing side). All the rooms come with air-conditioning, an LCD TV set, a minibar, direct

phone line, Wi-Fi, a safe, an Internet radio, as well as tea and coffee making facilities. The spacious marble bathrooms feature luxury Lanvin toiletries.

NEW DESIGN

Soon, the hotel's guests who love staying there on their visit to Warsaw, will enjoy newly renovated interiors of Sofitel Victoria.

Ultimately, the upgrade will include 161 guest rooms on three floors, along with the corridors, as well as 5 suites. The décor designed by Kaczmarek Studio is a combination of modern design and a playful form. The architects sought to create an ideal place for work and relaxation. The minimalist interior design is aimed at helping guests rest and unwind.

"The inspiration for this part of the project was the design of the 1970s – that is the time when the hotel was erected – combined with its contemporary reinterpretation", says Iwona Kaczmarek, the owner of Kaczmarek Studio. "Our design work for Sofitel is done in collaboration with French design manager Fanelie Gaffinel. The project must be tailored to the requirements and standards of

comfort that befit this leading hotel brand", she adds.

The changes were planned to provide guests with even more comfort than now. The bed, the most important element of a hotel room, features a thick, comfortable mattress and an upholstered headboard which looks like made of stone.

Particular attention was also paid to the materials used in the renovation. Soft velour fabrics add a touch of elegant cosiness. The décor is dominated by soft colours, enhanced by purple, turquoise, and golden accents.

"To add a bit of modern flare to the rooms, headboards of beds are a sort of three-dimensional panels, which is a reference to the style and form of the facade of the hotel. Also the drawings in the rooms are the geometric interpretation of the 1970s design.

VERDICT

Sofitel Victoria is a friendly place where you want to go back. It's close to all the capital's attractions, and yet the area is surprisingly quiet. A big plus for the excellent Recreation Centre with a swimming pool, a gym, a Turkish bath, and a massage room.

Joanna Krzyczkowska

Car

BMW Z4

LADIES SUMMER TOUR

A contoured bonnet, long wheelbase, low waistline, and low-slung rear-end, form an image of a vehicle with perfect proportions, which make almost every driver stare at it, as you pass by and disappear in the distance. This is how works the magic of the new BMW Z4 which we're driving along the scenic route towards Wzgórze Dylewskie, invited by BMW Polska.

PASSION AND PERFECTION

No other words can describe this ride in a better way. Passion and perfection that were put into the process of creating this remarkable car, were also present here with the guests invited to the event: Lidia Popiel, Kinga Baranowska, and Mika Urbaniak. It seems like the key to BMW's success lies in the fact that its cars deliver on the promise from the adverts, saying that they're "designed for driving pleasure". The classic propor-

tions and cutting-edge technology – it's the shortest definition of the BMW Z4 which with its new incarnation also offers innovative equipment. The new Z4 has a modified bodyline, refreshed interior, the Design Pure Traction equipment package, a new sDrive18i motor, as well expanded services from BMW ConnectedDrive.

The also comes in 11 colours of paint, including new metallic shades that can be ordered only in combination with the Design Pure Traction package which livens up the roadster's character. This can be seen for example the interior where dominate two contrasting colours: black and orange. The new package replaces the previously offered Design Pure Impulse and is optionally available in combination with other body colours.

MOTORS

BMW Z4 is available with five powerful petrol engines to choose from - three four-cylin-

der units and two six-cylinder ones. All of them use BMW TwinPower Turbo technology, which guarantees superior driving dynamics and high fuel efficiency across a broader range of engine speeds. All the engines conform to the strict Euro 6 emission standards in Europe to come into force in 2014.

VERDICT

Luxury and modernity – these words say it all. Standard equipment on board the Z4 includes xenon headlights, air conditioning, heated rear window, Soft Clouse Automatic function for the boot lid, as well as runflat tyres. BMW also offers a number of driver assistance solutions and mobile services as part of the BMW ConnectedDrive. If the Professional navigation system is specified, the ConnectedDrive Services option enables use of internet-based information and entertainment services inside the car.

Marta Wilk

MORE DETAILS AT

www.bmw.pl

PRICE

PLN 151 900



The classic proportions and cutting-edge technology – it's the shortest definition of the BMW Z4 which with its new incarnation also offers innovative equipment.

SHARLEY MEDICAL SPA



CONTACT
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Aleja Jana Pawła II 75
Warsaw
tel. +48 636 46 64; +48 636 46 66
www.sharley.pl

Salus per aquam or “health by water” – this sentence, which dates back to Ancient times, has had a real renaissance in the last 20 years. Today, no hotel luxury hotel can afford not to offer spa among its amenities. Quality is measured by the sophistication of the place, its exotic décor and a large number of treatments that generally have nothing to do with healing water. What counts more is the magnificent view of the sea, river, or the lake.

ESCAPE FROM WINTER

There are places on earth where fabulous spa facilities offer heavenly pleasure experienced with all the senses. These include Bali, Maldives, Seychelles... But what can you do, when you're doomed to spend the winter in our quite gloomy reality? Luckily, there's is one, hidden place, close to the centre of Warsaw, where you can get away from winter and the grey world. It's Sharley! This elegant beauty salon, which is often associated with slightly painful beauty treatment (with

the use of needles), has also a completely different face hidden underground. The capital is packed with establishments, which proudly call themselves “spas”, but in most cases their offer is limited to a simple treatment room with a massage bed. However, Sharley plays in a completely different league.

FOR COUPLES

The spa boasts not only beautiful décor, cosy atmosphere and a relaxing Jacuzzi bath for two (with complimentary bottle of champagne or wine, and snacks), but also a dry sauna, a steam room, and a spacious massage room. It also has something that I've never seen before. It offers an interesting alternative for spending a lovely day or evening with your partner. Nobody will barge in or even call you, because... there's no mobile service coverage.

STYLISH INTERIOR

Imagine that suddenly you decide to get away from it all, and instead of going somewhere far away, you hide from the rest of the world in a stylish building at

Babka Roundabout. In the underground complex with golden décor, candlelight, clouds of steam, and delicate scent of essential oils. There are dozens of them out there. The only difficult decision you have to take there is choose what fragrance is to fill the air while you undergo a unique body massage, which includes the face, but also the ears, hair and the hands. Małgosia, who is an incredibly skilled masseur, knows everything about relaxation and healing techniques, but after a while I forgot what she was saying, because I gave myself in to the pleasurable sensations.

VERDICT

Sharley Spa is an excellent place for those who seek silence, heavenly pleasure, and wish to be alone for a while... if only for a few hours. It seems like a perfect place to spend your birthday, wedding anniversary, or even recharge after a difficult divorce. Or simply a place to go to with you loved one. Try it, it's much cheaper than an air ticket to an exotic place.

Magdalena Boratyńska

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Laurin & Klement is the range-topping trim of the new Skoda Superb, which has just gone on sale. The spacious saloon will satisfy even the most demanding customers.

Laurin & Klement is the range-topping trim of the new Skoda Superb, which has just gone on sale. The spacious saloon will satisfy even the most demanding customers. The facelift of the model included minor stylistic changes to the grille, the head and taillights, as well as a new line of the boot lid in the saloon version. Laurin & Klement trim comes with 18-inch dedicated alloy wheels and a chrome front grille. Front door sills now feature Laurin & Klement lettering on the doorsills and the wings. From the outside, these are the only elements that distinguish the standard Superb from the luxury L&K version. What counts here, is discreet elegance.

MODERN TECHNOLOGY

The first thing you will note in the new Superb is its impressively spacious interior, which allows for comfortable journey of passengers sitting both in the

front seat and in the back. The interior design and high quality materials used in the car, can only be seen in high-end limousines.

The Twin Door system allows you to have a sedan-style boot for most occasions and a large hatchback for whenever you're hauling large objects.

Another convenience comes with comfortable, electrically adjusted leather seats with a memory function. The seats are additionally heated and ventilated, which makes them extremely comfortable and useful at any time of the year.

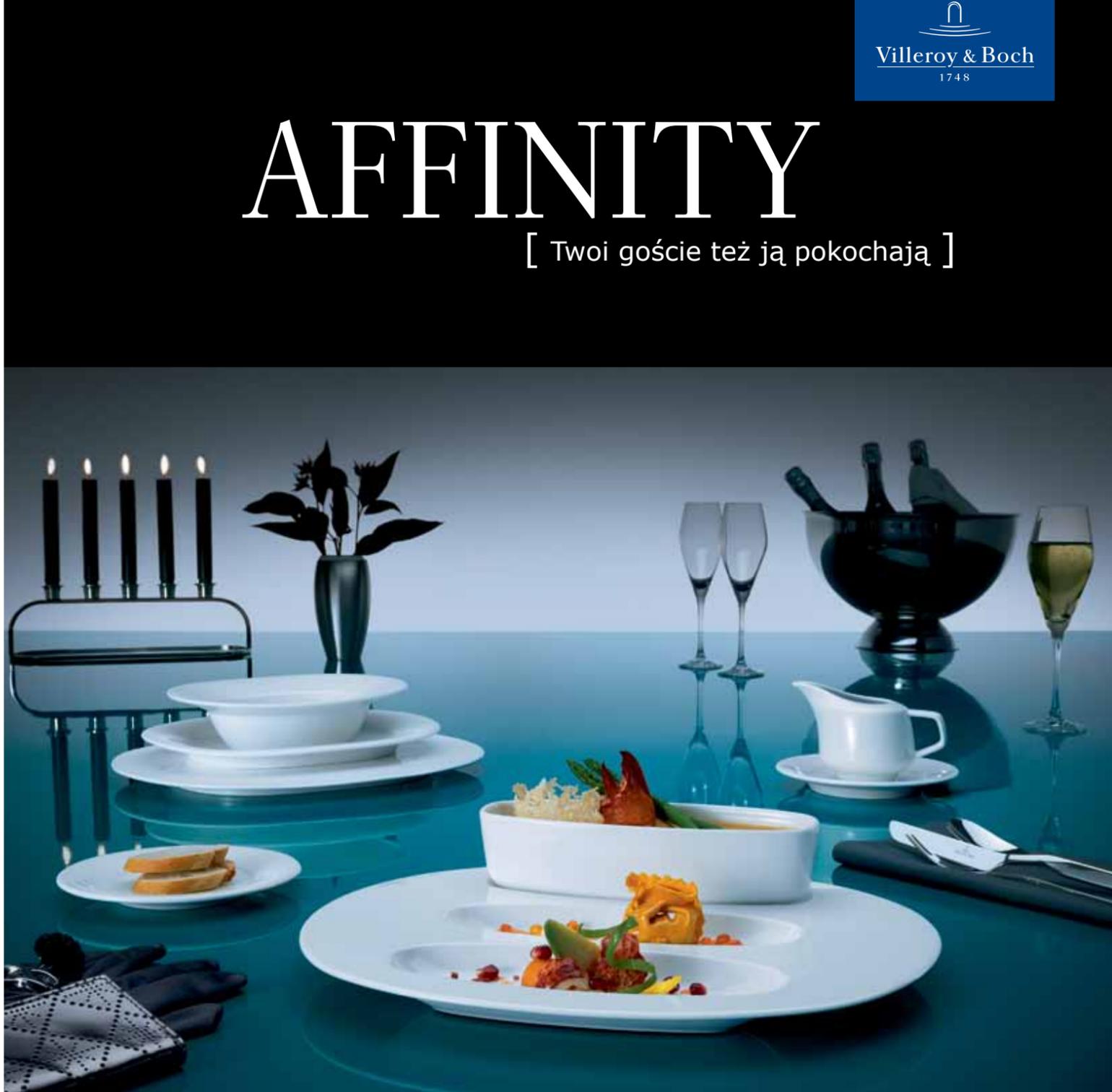
The luxury Superb also features a navigation system, while Bluetooth wireless communications system automatically detects and connects to devices, which support this method of communication. With this feature, you can easily stream music from your smartphone, laptop, or tablet and play it through via the car's audio system. The wireless connectivity also enables

you to display the menu of your smartphone on the car's screen, so you can dial a number as if you were holding the phone in your hand.

THE HEART OF THE NEW SUPERB

The Laurin & Klement trim also comes with superb motors. Customers can choose among two diesel and two petrol units. We have tested the version with the two-litre 200 hp petrol engine, which also features a dual-clutch automatic DSG gearbox. The car accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in less than 8 seconds, and its top speed is 220-240 km/h. With the dual-clutch transmission, shifting time is minimized, and the box can also work in the manual mode. Just press the throttle pedal to experience the sports potential of the Superb. In the city, the 2.0 litre version consumes 10-13 litres of petrol per 100 km, depending on the driving style.

Aleksander Dobkowski



AFFINITY

[Twoi goście też ją pokochają]

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From PLN 107,900

Whenever I watched films with Catherine Deneuve, who was driving a convertible along the coastal beaches of Cannes and St. Tropez, wearing a scarf, which was floating in the wind, I wondered how it really feels. Now I had an opportunity to feel the wind in my hair and face with the legend – Mazda's biggest commercial success and the world's best-selling roadster.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

I sat behind the wheel of a black and white beauty with a slight disbelief that it was really happening. I examined it on all sides, and I can confirm what experts and fans of the model say. The car has been created for people who love freedom, seek aesthetic pleasure and fun from driving. It's definitely not a family vehicle.

Its low body (set even lower than in the previous generation) and the greater wheelbase didn't translate into a larger space inside.

There's no room for extra passengers or any functional storage compartments. The passenger cabin is has been designed only for two people. Comfortable leather seats, little room for elbows, and the ceiling almost directly above your head ... But when you open the roof, suddenly the entire interior becomes extremely spacious and the car seems to rush forward like a stallion.

The conveniently placed gear and handbrake levers are right at hand. The dashboard feature two large and easy-to-read gauges, while other buttons are somewhat scattered around and you need some time to find them. Not surprisingly, the boot of the MX-5 is tiny, which may be a con for some, but a big pro for others!

This car wasn't made to carry luggage, but to have fun! After starting the 16-valve engine, I hear the distinct whir of the 2-litre motor. The lightweight roadster bolted forward and I had to control myself not to push the gas pedal harder. I had to wait

until I entered the motorway towards Cracow, to fully enjoy the ride.

The car has a perfect road grip, its traction has been fine-tuned, and the fairly stiff suspension makes the MX-5 behave slightly like a go-cart. The beautiful purr of the engine drowned out the music from the radio, but this time music wasn't the most important.

I also looked at the standard equipment of the MX-5, which includes electric windows and mirrors, automatic climate control, BOSE audio system, bi-xenon headlights, and 17-inch alloy wheels. I really like the leather trim on the steering wheel and the gear lever. Not to mention the leather seats with heaters.

VERDICT

The third generation Mazda MX-5 is the most reliable car in its class, highly praised by customers and car experts. Another plus is its rich standard equipment. It's a real joy to drive!

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska

TELEKOMUNIKACJA dla biznesu

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- **Własna sieć światłowodowa**

POINT AND SHOOT

Put down your smartphone and see what the latest batch of digital cameras can do, says **Steve Dinneen**.



These are testing times indeed for camera manufacturers. Once upon a time, a compact camera was a vital part of the traveller's arsenal – the best way to remind people how glamorous your life was. Then smartphones arrived, packing increasingly complex capability and spoiling the party – sales of digital cameras have fallen 29 per cent in the past five years, with a high proportion of losses coming from the budget end of the market. It isn't all doom and gloom, though. Increased competition has led to a raft of new innovations aimed at protecting the stand-alone camera from the ceaseless march of the smartphone. Just as smartphones co-opted camera technology, now cameras are integrating features we are more used to seeing on our phones.

PHOTOS IN THE CLOUD

One such development is the integration of wifi and even 3G. With traditional cameras, uploading your images can be painfully slow. You need to transfer the shots from your memory card to a computer and sift through them using a photo-editing programme before you can even think about putting them on the web. But in a fraction of the time, you can use your smartphone to Instagram a photo of your dinner (complete with retro filter), upload a “selfie” to Face-

book, or post a snap of a street in New York to Pinterest. Now both Nikon and Samsung have wifi-enabled cameras that run Google's Android software, allowing you to save your photos in the cloud instantly and upload images to Facebook and Twitter through their respective apps. These cameras are great if you need to instantly send an image to the web (perfect for bloggers, for instance) but the trade-off is they tend to lack the advanced features of higher-end models.

CHOOSE ACCORDING TO YOUR NEEDS

Other abilities being integrated into cameras include the option to shoot in 3D – something that has failed to catch on in smartphones – to capture HD video, or to wirelessly share images between cameras (so you don't have to wait for a dozen group pictures to be taken). Some of these features are great; others little more than gimmicks. So how do you decide which device to go for? The first question to ask yourself is what you're going to use it for. If most of your photos have at least one glass of wine in them, you probably don't want to lug around a 1kg DSLR (you don't need a rocket launcher to kill a pigeon). Conversely, if you're a keen bird-watcher, you're going to end up with a lot of very blurry pictures if you opt for a compact.

COMPACTS ARE NOT THAT BAD

DSLRs (digital single-lens reflex) are the kings of the camera world, allowing you to take high-resolution pictures in a fraction of a second, even in low light. But they are expensive (at least £400 for an entry-level model), heavy and can be dauntingly complex for beginners.

Opting for a refurbished camera can knock a significant amount from the price but there are pitfalls. Even cameras that have been officially refurbished by the manufacturer will usually have a limited warranty period – durations vary but usually fall between 90 days and six months, compared with the usual one-year warranty on a new purchase. Taking out an extended warranty is usually an option but this can be expensive, somewhat defeating the purpose of going for a refurbished model in the first place.

There is also a new wave of Compact System Cameras (CSCs) that claim to rival the quality and versatility of DSLRs in far smaller, lighter casings – often at a fraction of the price. While photography geeks tend to turn their noses up at this category, the quality is improving fast. Lastly, a decent compact camera will take images far better than your smartphone and fit easily into your hand luggage. Here is our guide to some of the best new products on the market.



Convenient and easy to use

SONY NEX-3N

Type Compact System Camera
£379 (with 16mm-50mm lens)
sony.co.uk

This is one of the smallest and lightest (210g) interchangeable lens cameras out there but it still packs a punch, with a 16.1-megapixel sensor that takes great pictures even in low light. It has a 180-degree tilting LCD screen, which makes taking pictures at awkward angles – over railings or at gigs, for example – far easier. It also has some features you would usually expect to see on more expensive cameras, such as a pop-up flash. It's a good device for beginners who want to learn more about photography by experimenting with different lenses, as it allows you to slowly build up the amount of manual control you have over pictures.

Pros Relatively cheap, great in low light

Cons LCD screen is not as sharp as it could be



Let the Web be with you

SAMSUNG GALAXY CAMERA

Type Compact
£349 (£389 for 3G model)
samsung.com/uk

Samsung claims this is the most connected camera in the world, and it may have a point. The Galaxy is the closest to a smartphone you can get in a camera, even running the familiar Google Android 4.1 operating system. Having in-built wifi and 3G (it takes a micro-SIM and offers a 30-day trial on the Three network) means you can instantly save your pictures in the cloud, eliminating the potential double whammy of losing both your camera and the photos. You can also upload images straight to your Facebook and Twitter feeds. It takes pretty good pictures – thanks, in part, to its 16.3-megapixel sensor – and it is relatively light, at 300g. There is 50GB of free Dropbox storage included, meaning you will have lots of space to store all the pictures you upload on the go.

Pros Great connectivity

Cons Poor battery life if using wifi or 3G a lot

Retro looks

PENTAX MX-1

Type Compact
£375

pentax.co.uk

This handsome, retro-looking camera comes in at the high end of the compact market, with a 4 x optical zoom and great low-light performance. It is sturdily constructed, with satisfyingly old-school brass plates running along the top and bottom, and takes better pictures than its 12-megapixel sensor would suggest. It has a pop-up flash and a large, sharp LCD screen. However, it is rather big for a basic point-and-shoot, and weighs 363g. The price tag is on the expensive side but you're paying as much for the styling as the gadgetry inside. If you are a trendy type, though, this is a must-have wardrobe accessory.

Pros Looks great

Cons No hot-shoe mount for separate flash



Great all-rounder

NIKON D7100

Type DSLR
£1,300 (with 18mm-105mm VR lens)
nikon.co.uk

The D7100 is Nikon's new addition to its line-up of upper-mid range DSLRs. It is a step down from semi-professional level (falling into a category usually called “enthusiast”). It's versatile, powerful and gives incredibly sharp images, courtesy of its 24.1-megapixel sensor. If you're a seasoned amateur looking to take your shots to the next level, this is the unit for you. Advanced features include anti-vibration technology and a 51-point auto-focus system, both of which help to ensure you get stunningly deep, crisp images. At 1.19kg with a basic lens, it's actually a remarkably portable DSLR. A great all-rounder but not one for beginners.

Pros Amazing picture quality

Cons Long processing time between taking a photo and being able to preview it





Simple yet impressive
CANON POWERSHOT SX240

Type Compact
£150 (amazon.co.uk)
canon.co.uk
If you are looking for a £150 camera, this is a great option. It's smart, well-constructed and light (224g) and, while its 12.1-megapixel sensor probably won't help you to win any competitions, it will certainly document your trips with far more finesse than your average smartphone. Its three-inch LCD touchscreen is among the best in its class and its menus are easy to navigate. The 20 x optical zoom is impressive and the battery life of around 230 shots is also decent. If you want a high level of customisation, this isn't for you – but what do you expect at this price point?
Pros Well built, cheap
Cons Little scope for customisation, no GPS for location tagging (many compact cameras have this)



Tough enough
PANASONIC LUMIX DMC GH3

Panasonic LUMIX DMC GH3
Type Compact System Camera
£1,304 (with 14mm-140mm lens, amazon.co.uk)
panasonic.co.uk
The GH3 is a highly versatile CSC with an admirable feature set. It combines a touchscreen LCD display and wifi connectivity with some high-end image capture technology usually associated with a DSLR. Still images and video are excellent, but its ability to shoot in very light or dark conditions is lacking compared with some DSLR rivals. It has a 16.05-megapixel sensor and is splash- and dust-proof. Its autofocus system works well and the amount of manual control has been increased to make it appeal more to serious photography buffs.
Pros Comprehensive range of features
Cons Question marks over low-light performance

Dream on
CANON EOS 1D C

Type DSLR
£4,800 (body only, amazon.co.uk)
canon.co.uk
This professional-grade DSLR is one of the best cameras out there. Capable of shooting 4K video (which makes HD video look as pixelated as a 1980s computer game) and able to capture breathtaking stills, this is the zenith of many photographers' camera buying lives. It has an 18.1-megapixel full-frame CMOS sensor and can shoot up to 14 frames a second. It is also able to shoot bright images in extremely low light. At 1.36kg, it's not light, but neither is it heavy for a camera packing such high-end hardware. It's not for beginners but if you need the very best then it will fulfil all your needs.
Pros Amazing video shooting capability, professional quality stills
Cons Did you see the price tag?



Small but skilled
SONY DSC-RX1

Type Compact
£2,600
sony.co.uk
Sony's Rx1 is a compact in size only, offering specs that punch far above its meagre weight (only 482g). Its whopping price tag is justified by gadgetry including a full-frame CMOS sensor that offers 24.3 megapixels, while its Carl Zeiss Sonnar lens allows for incredibly sharp, high-contrast images. The results are low in noise and high in clarity. It is capable of impressive macro work and is able to automatically patch together panoramic shots. If you want a high-end camera that won't take years to get to grips with, this could be the one you're looking for. It is also one of the few cameras to rival Leica in the looks department.
Pros Excellent feature set, easy to use
Cons Relatively short battery life



Iconic brand
LEICA M 240

Type Digital rangefinder
£5,100
uk.leica-camera.com
Leica is the holy grail for hipster photographers – a status symbol that also takes incredible, not to mention huge, pictures courtesy of its 24-megapixel sensor. This model incorporates features you may not expect to see on a Leica, including a live view LCD screen and HD video capture. Leicas are expensive and, in a head-to-head test, come up short against the higher-end DSLRs from the big conglomerates. But this misses the point – Leicas make you slow down and really think about what you're shooting. You feel like you have a beautifully crafted slice of camera history in your hands (at 680g, it also feels reassuringly hefty). If you can afford one, you won't regret it.
Pros Great image quality
Cons Expensive for the feature set



Good compromise
OLYMPUS PEN E-PL5

Olympus PEN E-PL5
Type Compact System Camera
£429 (with 14mm-42mm II R Lens, amazon.co.uk)
olympus.co.uk
This mid-range CSC is a good bridge between a compact and the more complex world of the DSLR. Equally comfortable in point-and-shoot mode and manual, it has some impressive specs for a mid-range camera, including a 35-point auto-focus system. It is light, at 279g (body only), and can take some impressive pictures (it has a 16.1-megapixel image sensor). It's a well constructed, durable camera that will keep the interest of photography newbies and more experienced users alike. As ever, though, DSLR enthusiasts will argue that this compact system camera falls short on both image quality and portability.
Pros Good price
Cons No built-in flash

LOT – WE ARE CHANGING FOR YOU



Marzena Mróz talks to Sebastian Mikosz, the CEO at LOT Polish Airlines

LOT has recently been undergoing a real revolution. Which of the changes, do you think is the most important?

We are the first airline in Europe, which introduced the world's most modern aircraft - Boeing 787 Dreamliner. It's unique not only with its technological advancement, but also because of the radical change that our passengers can feel. The aircraft provides an unprecedented travel comfort, not only in business class, which a lot of our passengers consider to be one of the best on transatlantic routes. Of course, that's not all. LOT has been changing fundamentally in a number of different areas.

What are your company's priorities for the next year?

We want to act consistently and pursue the aims included in the Restructuring Plan. The plan was approved by our owner, the Ministry of the Treasury and filed with the European Commission. After the commission's approval, I will be able to talk more openly about our

priorities. Without going into details, I can say that we are focusing, among others, on the optimization of our fleet, reducing costs, and competing on the long-haul market, especially with our business class product.

LOT has new standards of service on European routes. What benefits will they bring to passengers?

We have upgraded our catering offer. Our "LOT Gourmet" menu includes new sandwiches, salads, wraps, pizza, and a variety of beverages. We also serve now Starbucks coffee on board our aircraft. It's true that these menu items are available at extra charge, but passengers benefit from a completely different quality and choice of food. Prices have been calculated so as to be accessible for everyone. They are much lower than at the airport or in other airlines, which charge passengers for in-flight meals. Note, however, that on all domestic and European flights in economy class we still serve free mineral water and a snack. We have prepared for this change very carefully,

asking passengers what they think about our company and what they would like to change. It turned out that most of them suggested changes in our catering service, declaring that they wouldn't mind paying extra in exchange for a wider choice of products and a tastier meal. The first few weeks are confirming this. Our passengers are eager to use the new catering service, and I must admit that on some flights some of the products simply sold out.

What are your favourites in the new menu?

I especially like Greek salad and the chicken wrap. I'm also a big fan of porridge with apple and cinnamon.

What about the new services – Taxi & Fly, Limo service, Meet & Greet, and Pre-order? Are they necessary?

Civil aviation is a tough business. Of course, air transportation is the key here, but with the changing market and increasing competition, you need to work on lower margins. That's why it's important to provide



additional services. After all, a trip doesn't begin and end at the airport ... That's the approach our passengers expect from us. That's why we have launched Taxi & Fly service to provide passengers with convenient transportation from home to the airport and back. You can order this service while booking a ticket at lot.com or by calling our 24/7 Call Centre. For those who appreciate luxury, we offer limousines that take passengers straight to the plane. Obviously, this solution is aimed mostly at business customers, who are more likely to use it. Both services have been introduced for a trial test period in Warsaw. Another service aimed at passenger comfort is Meet & Greet where our personnel meet passengers at the entrance to Chopin Airport and assist them with all the procedures prior to their departure. We also have the LOT Info SMS service, which informs passengers on the status of their flight, as well as a mobile app with which you can take advantage of our promotions, book a ticket, or check in for your flight.

Starting 10 August, all LOT's long-haul flights have been operated by the Dreamliners. Where will they take us this winter?

That's correct, since August, we have been using only the

Dreamliners on routes to New York, Chicago, Toronto, and Beijing. In winter, however, these aircraft will be used not only for long-haul connections. We have partnered with two major travel agencies which will charter our aircraft. Starting November this year, we will fly from Warsaw to such exotic places as Bangkok, Colombo in Sri Lanka, Cancun in Mexico, Varadero in Cuba, Mombasa in Kenya, La Romana in the Dominican Republic, or Porlamar in Venezuela. It's a completely new quality in charter services. Luxury, modernity and ... direct connections. Our cooperation with tour operators is extremely attractive, especially since the alternative is a long flight with a stopover.

How many Dreamliners will there ultimately be in the LOT's fleet?

Our ultimate goal is to have 8 Dreamliners. The last one will be delivered in 2016, and now we have 5 planes of this type. Their debut wasn't the most spectacular due to the decision of the manufacturer to ground them early this year, but since 1 June they have been regularly serving long-haul routes. They work perfectly and are liked by our passengers. The best evidence of this is the increase in ticket sales for our long-haul routes, even though the Dreamlinery suffer from excessive media attention.

Show me at least one info saying that Boeing 787 has made 250 flawless flights, but just one slight delay is widely commented on the Internet, as well as by the press, radio and TV. Such a delay or flight cancellation is statistically likely and shouldn't cause such an uproar, especially in the summer when planes fly much more frequently and intensively exploited.

Why do so many Poles still choose to fly with LOT?

There are at least a few reasons for that. For example, they are certain that we will fly them to a centrally located airport and they won't have to spend extra time and money to reach their destination. They don't have to worry about hidden, extra charges. They know that they don't have to pay extra for their checked luggage. Not without significance is the fact that our fleet is one of the youngest in Europe. I'm sure that on long-haul flights, the Dreamliner gives us extra leverage. Ask anyone who has flown on board the B787, if they would like to cross the Atlantic in any other plane. In 2012, we were selected by IATA as one of the world's safest airlines. We are appreciated and rewarded for our punctuality, and we are a valuable brand name, which you can trust.

Thank you for the interview.



In the first quarter of this year, we transported more than 1,250,000 passengers, which was an improvement compared to the same period last year. Throughout the past year, we carried 4,970,000 passengers. Our goal for this year is to increase this number to 5 million.

Lufthansa at the Economic Forum in Krynica

FIRST CLASS SEAT AND TRANSATLANTIC CONNECTIONS



During the 23rd Economic Forum, which took place at the beginning of September in Krynica, Lufthansa presented for the first time in Poland its First Class seat. The German carrier was also present at the stand of the American Chamber of Commerce. Guests of the most prestigious Polish meeting of the business

world had an occasion to try Lufthansa's First Class seat, and experience an unforgettable comfort available on board of the German carrier's aircraft. The design of the seat is based on real needs of passengers. The innovative seat combines ergonomics and comfort, and when extended, becomes "the best bed in its class". And I must admit that the it fully deserves

this name. Measuring 2.07 metres in length and 80 centimetres in width, the comfortable bed offers plenty of room, enabling passengers to enjoy deep, relaxing sleep.

The air humidification system the first of its kind to be installed on a commercial aircraft - and the lighting concept, which adjusts according to the time of day, also contribute to

wards passengers' well-being on board. First Class passengers have an extraordinary amount of space. In the cabin, there are no overhead bins. Instead, each passenger has an individual closet, which is lockable, in addition to the generous storage facilities around the seat.

FIVE STARS FROM SKYTRAX

Lufthansa's First Class has recently received the highest possible rating in the prestigious Skytrax ranking, which evaluates the quality of services provided by airlines.

Lufthansa was awarded five stars, especially for the exceptional comfort and quality of service on board, as well as exclusive amenities in the Lufthansa First Class Terminal in the airline's main hub – the airport in Frankfurt. The award reflects the highest standards and the excellent quality of service. Lufthansa has also been voted "The Best Western European Airline" as well as "The Best Transatlantic Airline", which clearly confirms the high level of customer satisfaction.

BEST ONBOARD CUISINE

Lufthansa's guests in First Class can also enjoy now new culinary highlights. On flights from Germany, Lufthansa is offering "Culinary Delights" - a new programme, a step on from the popular Star Chefs concept, which is based on culinary skills and products of various Michelin-starred chefs. Previously served snacks, have now been replaced with excellent dishes with caviar and a variety of sandwiches. In addition, the in-flight menus come on top-class tableware in a new design and new elements, like individual salt and pepper pots for each passenger, an extra small bowl with olive oil and elegant glass carafes for fresh water.

LEADER IN CONNECTIONS TO NEW YORK

Lufthansa was also present at the stand of the American



Guests of the most prestigious Polish meeting of the business world had an occasion to try Lufthansa's First Class seat, and experience an unforgettable comfort available on board of the German carrier's aircraft.



Chamber of Commerce, which at the Forum in Krynica promoted New York City. It's not surprising though, as Lufthansa's ticket sales on Poland-New York route from January to July

this year increased by more than one third compared to the same period last year. In this way, the airline's market share on the route has grown to impressive 30 per cent.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES - JUST LIKE IN THE CINEMA



Singapore Airlines (SIA) launched a new brand campaign titled "The Lengths We Go To", showcasing the airline's commitment to put the customer at the heart of everything it does, in all classes of travel.

The global campaign, which will run on television, print and digital platforms, turns the spotlight on the lengths to which the Airline goes to make every customer feel special.

JUST LIKE HOME

Explaining the thinking behind the brand campaign, Singapore Airlines' Executive Vice President Commercial, Mr Mak Swee Wah, said: "Making every customer feel at home when they fly with us has always been the cornerstone of our service philosophy. Our customers' preferences have always been the foremost consideration in the creation process for our new products, which are sourced from all over the world. This new campaign sets out to reaffirm this commitment."

GIRL FROM SINGAPORE

Singapore Airlines' efforts to deliver the best travel experience to its customers are epitomised by the iconic Singapore

Girl, who plays the protagonist in three short features. All three commercials were filmed on location – Fujian in China, Glasgow in Scotland and Venice in Italy – and involved local production crews of hundreds of people.

The first commercial depicts how SIA tailors quality products to suit the needs of its customers. A tea plantation and teahouse in Fujian were selected as the setting as this is the region from which SIA sources Jasmine tea. The second commercial illustrates how SIA delivers the comforts of home through innovative products and services. Renowned Glasgow-based Andrew Muirhead & Son, Europe's oldest tannery, was used as the filming location as it is where the leather used in SIA's Business Class seats is produced. The third commercial demonstrates SIA's focus on curation to offer customers the best from around the world. It is set in Venice and features the Venice

Film Festival, for which SIA is the Official Airline this year.

VIDEOS ON THE SITE

In addition to Hollywood blockbusters, SIA's award-winning KrisWorld in-flight entertainment system features films in more than 10 languages, including a selection of critically-acclaimed artistic films to cater to customers' varied preferences.

This campaign also marks a shift to actively engage consumers via digital touchpoints. As part of that shift, a new microsite is being launched on singaporeair.com. In addition to the four films, it will feature a behind-the-scenes look at the production of the commercials, photo essays and videos explaining how SIA's brand promise is validated through its offerings. The Airline's YouTube page, youtube.com/user/singapore-air, has also been revamped, featuring more interactive navigation and enhanced organisation of content.



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Michelin Guide Recommendation

AVANZI – TOP CLASS DESIGN AT IBIS HOTELS



CONTACT
 ibis.com
 accorhotels.com

Welcome! We have been waiting for you! This sign greets visitors entering ibis hotels in Poland. On the one hand, it is simply a warm welcome, while on the other an incentive to experience renovated interiors of ibis hotels. The “Avanzi” project has changed the face of the brand beyond recognition! The project involves modernization of public areas in ibis hotels, increasing the comfort of stay without a change in the price per night.

GLOBAL CONCEPT
 Orbis Hotel Group and Accor are implementing the next phase of the plan to modernize the new ibis family, dubbed the Avanzi project. One of the key elements is to adapt the interiors of the hotels to new expectations of their guests. Nowadays, customers all

over the world are looking for individuality, modernity, and security, which is manifested, among others, in high quality of service or the product itself. In order to meet these needs, ibis has decided to introduce the global Avanzi concept into its hotels. Innovative designs and surprising use of public space, as well as a cosy and homely atmosphere - these are the basic characteristics of Avanzi. The main goal of the concept is to encourage visitors to spend more time in public spaces, and use it as an opportunity to socialize. With the Avanzi project, ibis family wants to show that not only large luxury hotels, but also budget ones can feature modern, unconventional décor.

AVANZI IS INTERACTION!
 The entire Avanzi project has been planned to facilitate in-

teraction between hotel guests. This has been achieved by merging spaces where form serves function. The lobby is now a relaxing space where guests can meet, work, rest, and enjoy a delicious meal. It's simply a multifunctional, well-equipped space, which is the heart and a focal point of the hotel. The interior has been designed in a fashionable style with vivid tones and the addition of wooden details, warm colour accents, and prints on the walls and the ceiling. The atmosphere of cosiness and comfort is further enhanced thanks to rocking chairs, large sofas and tables with tops for board games. Another innovative solution has also been implemented at the reception desk. A specially designed modern display panel shows useful information such as



room rates, currency exchange rates, the weather, and special offers.

NEW FACE OF THREE IBIS HOTELS IN WARSAW

The first hotel in Poland, where the Avanzi project was carried out is ibis Warsaw Old Town, whose guests have been able to experience the advantages of the new concept since April this year. In August renovation works were completed in ibis Warszawa Centrum situated on Alei Solidarności, and in ibis Warszawa Ostrobramska, located on Warsaw east exit road. The new concept has changed beyond recognition public areas in these hotels. Thanks to Avanzi now they charm with their modern design and high quality of finish. At the end of this year, a similar upgrade is planned in ibis Łódź Centrum, located in the very heart of Łódź, at the corner of Piłsudski and Piotrowska Streets.

RESPONSIBLE IBIS

Ibis is the world's leading budget brand not only in terms of the interior design of its hotels. Ibis is the first hotel chain in the world that has successfully implemented a quality management system ISO 9001. Currently 758 ibis hotels in 21 countries (including all ibis hotels in

Poland) are ISO 9001 certified. Recently, two hotels in Poland: ibis Warszawa Reduta and ibis Kraków Stare Miasto (Old Town) – have become Poland's first to receive a very valuable and unique ISO 14001 environmental management system certification. This document sets stringent requirements on hotel managers regarding compliance with the legal regulations in the environmental management. The certificate confirms that the hotels are socially and environmentally responsible, and their activities are compatible with the environment in all aspects. Since 2012 the ibis family has also been implementing the principles of Planet 21 - a global

sustainable development programme created by Accor. The program is structured around 21 commitments backed by quantifiable objectives that all Accor and Orbis S.A. hotels are expected to meet by 2015. These include employee training in disease prevention, promoting balanced meals, using eco-labelled products, reduction in water consumption, and decrease in energy use at Accor's owned and leased hotels worldwide. Ibis is committed to environmental protection, and continues to reduce its water and energy consumption, sort and manage its waste, and raise awareness of environmental challenges amongst its employees and guests.

The new concept has utterly transformed the public areas of the hotels. Thanks to Avanzi now they charm with their modern design and high quality of finish.



A NEW INCARNATION OF SHERATON WARSAW

Renovation of the hotel's banquet halls is now complete.



WIĘCEJ NA
www.sheraton.pl

Sheraton Warsaw has completed renovation of its banquet area, including the ballroom, the foyer and meeting rooms. The architectural design was created by a renowned architect Anita Rosato, responsible for interior designs of numerous luxurious hotels worldwide, including Hotel Bristol in Warsaw.

The newly redecorated conference rooms of the hotel now look both modern and elegant. The designer's task was to introduce a cosy feel into the conference centre and give it an individual character, making it a convenient environment for business meetings, as well as the elegant gala dinners and receptions.

PATTERN, COLOUR AND LIGHT

Anita Rosato opted for a composition of modern designs and textures. The palette of saturated plums and intense reds was highlighted by colours of honey and saffron. The floor is covered with a carpet, which was designed specifically for the Warsaw Sheraton. The décor is

complemented by elegant lighting, modern and interactive digital signage system, as well as works of art selected by Anita Rosato herself.

The renovated banquet halls are a perfect venue for wedding receptions, important galas, as well as corporate meetings.

The hotel offers its guests 11 conference rooms with a total area of over 1,100 sq m. Sheraton also boasts its huge 500 sq m ballroom with a large and functional foyer, surrounded by smaller function rooms. With this configuration, the ground floor can accommodate up to 550 people. There are also smaller rooms where you can hold more private meetings and conferences.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

With the renovation of the banquet area, chef Artur Grajber, has introduced new menus for banquets and coffee breaks. Stylishly served snacks, cocktails, and other drinks, which customers can compose according to their own preferences, as well as a variety of healthy foods, will be a true highlight of the events organized in Sheraton.

The chef also makes sure that the menu is original and individually tailored to each event. The dishes served on such occasions are always unique and unforgettable.

For companies that wish to emphasize their commitment to the protection of the environment, the hotel has a special "Clutter Free" offer, which minimizes clutter and maximizes meeting space. It offers free standing streamlined vanity stations that provide paper, pens, glasses, water and other thoughtful touches, keeping the main work area uncluttered and organized.

For over 17 years Sheraton Warsaw has been a venue for major galas and conferences, including those of international importance. The hotel owes its reputation to not only its elegant interiors, but also the highest quality of service.



The "Clutter Free" setting is designed to create a simple, practical working environment no matter the setup you request.



THE ISLANDS FROM DREAMS AND CLOUDS

Locals claim that this is the site of the legendary Atlantis. Apparently, you can still observe it sometimes, looming somewhere in the clouds as the eighth island. It's just a legend, but once you get here, you will feel as if you are discovering a place full of magic.



Las Palmas Airport, Gran Canaria, looks like any other. We landed after midnight and the terminal was almost empty. Nice smell, I was wondering what they use to wash the floor, trying to identify the delicate aroma. The same scent as elusive and omnipresent as a mist was everywhere - in the minibus, which took us to the city, on the street, in the hotel. It's a little thing, but it had been intriguing me until I finally found what it was...

THE KINGDOM OF THE SUN AND WAVES

Gran Canaria is called a miniature continent, as you'll find here everything - mountain trails, charming valleys, the ocean and long beaches with white sand. One of them is Las Canteras, whose beauty is unquestionable and although a lot of beaches in the area look fabulous, Las Canteras has one more advantage. A few centuries ago, as a result of a volcanic eruption, rocks were thrown out of the crater, forming a natural reef which protects the shore from high waves of the sea. The bottom of the ocean slopes gently, the wind is nice, it's not surprising surfers from all over the world love this place. And that the water temperature rarely drops below 18 degrees C, there's al-

ways something going on in the water, or below the surface.

You can practise here all of the water sports known in the world and a few ones invented just here. You'll see people flying in a kite-like device which is pulled by a motor boat, or surfing the sea while standing on a board and dipping a long paddle in the ocean. Canary Lateen Sailing regattas (on small boats with huge triangular sails) look impressive even to experienced sailors-amateurs from the continent. There are such "easy" disciplines like various types of surfing and floating on anything that is capable of floating.

The biggest rivals are the beaches of Las Canteras in the south: in Maspalomas, Playa de Ingles (which despite its name is not a beach, but a village) and Meloneras. These villages form a resort, where you will find everything that can be described as luxury. Beaches and dunes that look as if no one has ever been there before, shops of renowned brands, conference centres such as the Congress Palace and ExpoMeloneras, and most of all, hotels, hotels, and even more hotels ... These are, however, cleverly hidden in the flourishing jungle, giving its guests a sense of privacy. But if you're not interested in secluded places, you can stay in the

nearby Pasito Blanco. It's a miniature gated villa residential area located right next to the most luxurious golf course in the island and the Europe-famous Yacht Club. About 1200 euros per week for such luxuries seems a reasonable price.

And the island isn't short of famous hotels. Seaside Palm Beach is actually on the beach, and from one of its big balconies you can enjoy the sunset over the ocean. Gloria Palace Amadores can also tempt you with amazing views - it's located on a cliff, and looks like it's merged into the rock. Villa del Conde, owned by Lopesan brothers' network and modelled on the Church of St. Sebastian with towers, a bell-tower, and a dome - will give you a completely different experience Santa Catalina in Las Palmas, a hotel open since... 1896, also can't be missed.

THE CALL OF HISTORY AND THE OCEAN

You can never complain about the lack of monuments here. Quite the opposite - you would have to stay here for a long time to see all that is worth visiting. You should start with Vegueta, the oldest settlement on the island. Here, everything - from the pavement to wooden balconies, has a historical value. The most famous building is Casa

de Colón, but in fact, Columbus never lived here. He only visited the office of the local governor. But since he did it in 1492, we can safely say that the conquest of America started in this very place.

Or perhaps you'd like to start over? Visit the Museo Canario (www.elmuseocanario.com) and learn how this mini world looked like before the arrival of the conquerors from the Continent? Maybe this will help you understand how come you can see traces of all the architectural styles in the cathedral on Santa Ana Square? If you really need to know, it's because it was built for over 400 years. It is impossible to overlook the Museo de La Rama (Branch Museum) - but it isn't about vegetation but Our Lady of the Snows' Festivity taking place in the charming town of Agaete. But there is always some festivity on Gran Canaria, the people know how to celebrate and it's hard to guess what's the history of each tradition. The Branch Day is celebrated in honour of the Virgin Mary, but a few centuries earlier on that day, people prayed for the rain.

On this island, nothing is as ordinary as it looks. The Guanchos people, who lived here during the pre-Columbian times, worshipped the most famous Gran Canaria rock - Roque Nublo, in English: "Rock Clouded". A winding road leads to the tiny parking lot, to go further; you have to do so on foot. The path is not very long (about 30 min walk) and not very steep, but the bare rock seems to be white-hot, but it's just an illusion. Going there is a must, as from under the 80-metre obelisk you'll see a landscape so beautiful that it can't even be compared to the view from a plane. The ocean-surrounded island under your feet seems to be your last haven - a magical place from which you set off on a great journey into the unknown. Even if Columbus hadn't planned his expedition earlier, standing here he would have heard the call of the ocean.

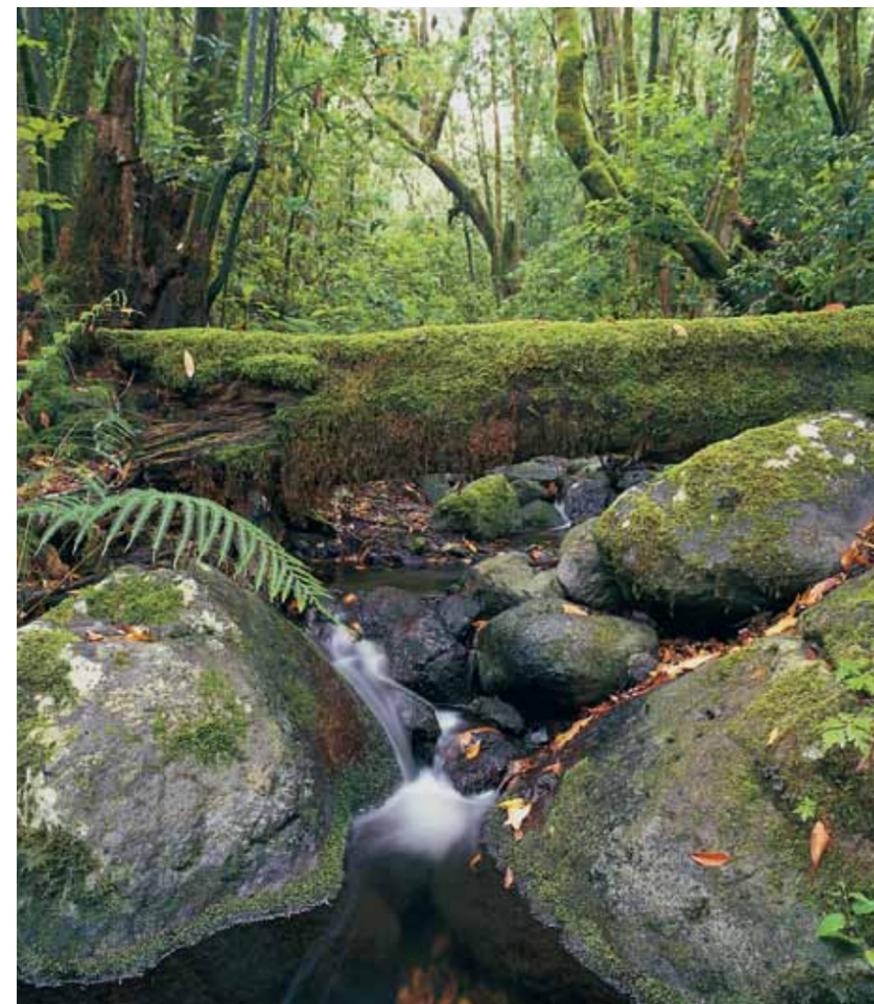
During this trip, I discovered a secret of the elusive scent I felt at the airport. Here, you can feel it more distinctively. It's the smell of the ocean, Canarian pine tree that can't be seen anywhere else, and powerful Lavender bushes growing on almost bare rocks.

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME

The next day I flew to Gomera with local airlines. It was a surprise after the anonymity associated with huge airports and planes. I got onto a small plane from the runway on the domestic terminal. The captain of the aircraft was standing by the door and wel-



The hillside terraces carved in stone are the only cultivation method used on Gomera. Above are only the famous Garayonay laurel forests. It's a magical place where the trees resemble bearded giants and streams come not from a source, but directly from the clouds.



Rogue Nublo - a place of worship of the ancient inhabitants, the Guanchos people. Today is the most famous rock and a symbol of Gran Canaria. From a distance, it's hard to believe that this single block of rock is 80 meters high. Next to it there's a Frog, a Monk and a Hen, and on the horizon you can see Tenerife and the Teide volcano.



The entire coastline of Gomera is covered with charming bays and rock pools. It's also worth to go on a boat cruise - boats of all sizes set off from the Valle Gran Rey port. If you're lucky, you can come across a dolphin or a whale during the trip.

coming the passengers - like in the pioneering era of aviation. On hearing a foreign language, he asked me where we were from. "Soi s de Polonia", I said and he smiled broadly, as if Poland evoked some warm feelings in him.

After a short stop in Tenerife, there were only a few people left on board. The captain talked to us again, and enchanted by our guide, Anna, invited her to see the cockpit. We were very envious, but thanks to her, we had quite a surprise too. During the flight, the captain was describing the views from the windows, and we could do hundreds of pictures from different angles moving around the plane. Luckily, the flight attendants didn't mind.

Several minutes later we landed at Gomera Airport located on a massive cliff. Like everything else around here.

THE ROADS, WHICH AREN'T THERE

If you haven't seen Gomera rounds, you don't know what a steep slope and winding roads really are. After a 30-minute ride, it turned out that we were in the same place, but at a higher altitude. Wherever you look, there are smaller and bigger terraces, occasionally with a palm tree shading them from the sun. The stone houses hang clinging to

the slopes and look as if they were accessible only from the air. Wherever there's any flat area on the island, it's occupied by villages, but still they are sparingly scattered, as there isn't enough space. Not surprisingly, there are only 7,000 people living in the only town on the island and its capital, which constitutes about 1/3 of the whole population. Perhaps that's why - and we could really feel it - tourists aren't reduced here to the content of their wallets. Naturally, on the coast you can see luxury hotels, glittering discotheques, and restaurants with flamboyant neon lights. But if you go further, you will discover a whole new world. Life goes on slowly, people smile, no one is in a hurry, and you can get along with everyone - but to this day I don't know how I did that, as the only Spanish phrase I know is 'vino tinto' (red wine).

It turns out, however, that people on Gomera speak some... Polish. This was demonstrated by Stephanie, who presented us with a local peculiarity - the whistled language. It consists of syllables, so we could clearly hear Stephanie whistling wi-thai-cie (welcome). This is an old pastoral way of passing messages from one side of the valley to the other, because the whistle can be heard well within 4 kilometres. Stephanie said that her grandfather still uses the language every

day, but she learned it at school, where it's a compulsory subject. She proudly stated that in 2009 it was put on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

IN THE FOREST AS OLD AS THE WORLD

The Garajonay National Park also made it to the List. You'll know why the moment you enter one of the trails. Forests like this one covered the whole Europe millions years ago. The well-known dandelions are waist-high, and bay leaves (the ones we use in the kitchen, as well as the poisonous variety) grow on huge trees forming a dense forest. The fairy-tale like landscape is emphasized by the ubiquitous garlands of lichen in all possible shades of green and streams flowing directly from the clouds. And this is not just a poetic metaphor, as they really don't have a source, they are formed from water vapour that condenses on the mountain tops.

They say that each of the Canary Islands is unique and one of a kind. The two I saw convinced me that it's true. Gran Canaria is a sunny paradise where you forget about all your sorrows. On La Gomera our human worries seem insignificant when confronted with the majesty of the nature.

Joanna Kadej-Krzyczkowska





HOLIDAYS IN HONG KONG

No matter what time of day you come to Hong Kong, the panorama of the city is stunning. On the horizon, you can see some of the tallest buildings in the world, which are in no way inferior to those the skyscrapers in Manhattan. **Marzena Mróz** encourages you to visit this amazing Asian metropolis.

Today Hong Kong is an exotic mix of Asian and British tradition, firmly established for 156 years.

In 1842 after the first Opium War, the British took over the island of Hong Kong, they built the city and administered it until 1997.

When Hong Kong returned to China, the Chinese government gave it a status of a special administrative region, thus ensuring its maintenance in the Chinese territory for the next 50 years of the capitalist system and the existing social system. English was still the official language, and the Hong Kong dollar - the official currency. What is important - the taking over of Hong Kong by China has not stopped the rapid development of the city. It's still regarded as one of the most exclusive places in Asia - and what's more - it occupies the first place in the global IQ ranking: 107 is an average score here!

THE TALLEST AND MOST EXPENSIVE

When in Hong Kong, you must see Central District, where you will see the branches of all the banks from the Western world. All of them are overshadowed by the Bank of China Tower - the 370 meters tall tower was designed by the author of the pyramid standing in the courtyard of the Louvre - IM Pei, and Hong Kong & Shanghai Bank (HSBC), which, until recently used to be the world's most expensive building designed by an English designer, Norman Foster. Both of these buildings now have a powerful competitor - the 420 metres tall International Finance Centre Two topped with lots of winding towers, which is considered the most distinctive feature in the harbour panorama.

Hong Kong is deservedly famous for its remarkable architectural panorama that delights every visitor to this beautiful city. The tallest and most interesting skyscrapers are:

- International Finance Centre II - 406.9 m, 90 storeys, built in 2003
- Nina - 318.8 m, 80 floors, 2006
- International Finance Centre II - 406.9 m, 90 storeys, built in 1992
- Bank of China - 305 m, 72 storeys, built in 1990
- The Centre - 292 m, 73 storeys, built in 1998
- The Cheung Kong Centre - 282 m, 63 storeys, built in 1999
- Sorrento - 256.3 m 74 storeys, built in 2003
- Langham - 255.1 m, 59 storeys, built in 2004
- HarbourSide - 255 m, 74 storeys, built in 2003



Hong Kong is deservedly famous for its remarkable architectural panorama. Among the skyscrapers you can still see buildings designed in traditional Chinese style.





- HighCliff – 252.4 m 73 storeys, built in 2003

You can start the visit to the city from the Star Ferry Pier, where ferries carry the passengers from since 1898. Nearby there is the Jardine House, called "The House of a Thousand Arseholes" by the citizens and the Exchange Square towers - the seat of the Stock Exchange. In the close proximity, there are also Botanical Gardens, the zoo and the Flagstaff Museum of Teaware. Perhaps the biggest attraction of the city is the famous upscale district of Victoria Peak, which can be reached by railway going through a thicket of banana plants. Its peak overlooks a fantastic panorama, and on a clear day, you can even see Macau.

MUSEUMS, TEMPLES, GARDENS

It's worth going to the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (www.hk.heritage.museum), whose exhibits include traditional clothing, boats, musical instruments, china, objects made from bronze and jade, and artefacts dating back to the Neolithic Age until the twentieth century. Equally inter-

esting is the Museum of Art (Hong Kong Museum of Art, www.hk.art.museum), which collects items made from lacquer, bamboo, ceramics, as well as paintings and calligraphy from the sixteenth century to the present day.

While the Man Mo Temple is the oldest and most important one on the island. It was named after the two main deities: Man - the

History of opium trade

1842 - The Treaty of Nanjing was signed ending the first Opium War. One of its provisions was the takeover of Hong Kong - then belonging to the territory of China - by the United Kingdom.

1898 - an agreement was signed by the terms of which China leased Hong Kong to the United Kingdom for 99 years.

1997 - Hong Kong returns to China. China promised to give Hong Kong authorities considerable autonomy in all matters except for foreign policy and armed forces until 2047.



The city hosts numerous world-famous events. The most popular include the Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival, Ghost Festival or Mid-Autumn Festival.

god of literature and Mo - the god of war. Hong Kong citizens believe that if you enter it and light an incense stick, you will find happiness, good health and achieve business success. Wong Tai Sin - the most popular Taoist temple in the city is located on the edge of the Kowloon peninsula. It's visited not only by followers of Taoism, but also Confucianists, Buddhists and Catholics, believing you can pray for happiness here. Just outside there is a clinic, where doctors use both western and traditional Chinese medicine. The visitors usually also come to the nearby garden of Nine Dragons with ponds, waterfalls, and fan-shaped pavilions.

BUDDHA ON THE ISLAND

The International Airport - usually the first place we see when arriving to Hong Kong - is located on the island of Chek Lap Kok, near the slightly larger island of Lantau. Nearby you will see the Tung Chung fortress from

1817. In the central, mountainous part of the island, there is Po Lin monastery, visible from the distance thanks to distinctive red and golden colours. There is also a 24-metre tall statue of Buddha, towering over the area and attracting almost all tourists who come to Hong Kong.

The largest city on Lantau Island, the Tanka people still live in wooden stilt houses built over the canals. Lantau Island is also famous for its long, clean, and empty beaches. The most beautiful of them stretch between Cheung Sha and Tong Fuk. The most popular, but also the most crowded one is the Silvermine Bay Beach, near the ferry port. When is the best to go to the exotic Hong Kong? In fact, every month is good. In addition, you can still take part in numerous and colourful festivals. The most popular include the Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival, Ghost Festival, Mid-Autumn Festival, Qingmingjie or winter solstice.

Hong Kong

FACTS AND FIGURES

- The total area of the metropolis including over 260 islands is 1104.04 sq km. Hong Kong Island - 80.47 sq km; Kowloon - 46.93sq km; New Territories and Outlying Islands - 976.64 sq km.
- 6200 people per km2 makes Hong Kong one of the most densely populated places in the world.
- Life expectancy: women - 84.4 years, men - 78.8 years.
- Each year, the city is visited by over 25 million tourists.
- Gross National Product (GNP) per capita amounts to over \$25,000. Unemployment rate - 5.2%. Individual income tax reaches a maximum of 16 % of total income.
- Stock exchange trade amounts to \$578.9 billion.
- Market capitalization - \$1044.2 billion.
- Hong Kong has 1955 km of roads with 541,000 licensed vehicles - so on average there are 277 vehicles per kilometre.
- The longest bridge: Tsing Ma Bridge (1377 m).
- 75 % of Hong Kong is urban areas. Among them there are 23 parks and 15 special protection areas with a total area of 41 582 hectares.
- Climate: tropical, monsoon with an average annual temperature of 23 C.
- Average rainfall is 2214 mm, mostly during the tropical cyclone season lasting from May to November.
- In Hong Kong the sun shines for about 5.3 hours a day on average.

5-GWIAZDKOWE PODRÓŻE

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SKIING AT CLUB MED

Pragelato Via Lattea and Valmorel – the two new Club Med resorts situated in the Alps, offer everything skiers need to be happy: hotels situated on the slopes, hundreds of kilometres of varied ski runs, mountain spaces, great restaurants and a large selection of après-ski activities.

It's never too early to think about the upcoming ski season. I especially recommend two new Club Med resorts – one in the Italian Piedmont, close to Turin, and the other in the French Savoie region. Valmorel is a great place for families with children, while Pragelato Vialattea means winter holiday spent in your own villa with a fireplace. Both resorts offer a completely new quality provided by Club Med, that is elegance, luxury, and the individual approach to the needs of even the most demanding guests.

PRAGELATO VIALATTEA

This Club Med resort is located in the Piedmont, 90 km from Turin, near the famous Olympic village of Sestiere. Skier can enjoy there over 400 km of perfectly prepared

slopes, modern, cosy chalets and villas with a living area downstairs, two bedrooms upstairs, two bathrooms, and a kitchen equipped with such amenities as coffee maker, and a fridge stocked in drinks. All of this at an altitude of 1,600 m above sea level, right next to a ski lift! It's a perfect place for a family holiday, especially because the resort's skiing academy is available even for 4-year-olds.

There's also a cosy club room with fireplace, where you can read in quiet, as well as a bar and a room where evening performances and dances are held.

Club Med Pragelato Vialattea also features fancy, intimate restaurants. The rich buffet includes top quality products – lots of fresh fish, lamb, beef tenderloin, guinea fowl, shrimps, foie gras, sushi, salads, veg-

etables, fruit and 30 flavours of ice cream. There's also an interesting restaurant/bar called Trattoria, where on a long counter lie dozens of varieties of cheese, prosciutto and antipasti such as artichokes in olive oil, sun-dried tomatoes, aromatic pizza, and other hot dishes. You can place orders at the counter or with a waiter, and everything is included in the price of your stay, as is the evening entertainment, ski passes, and assistance of ski instructors.

However, skiers don't have to be limited to the nearest slopes to make sure they won't miss lunchtime. Each day they can dine in a different restaurant, choosing among the numerous ones affiliated with Club Med. They just have to remember to sign up at the front desk if they ski individually, not in a group. As for other après-ski

pleasures available in Pragelato Vialattea, I recommend a large swimming pool and Payot spa.

VALMOREL

This Club Med resort located 120 km from Geneva and 15 km from Moutiers, lies in the Savoie department and a little known, but a truly wonderful region of France called Grand Domaine.

The newly built, and very comfortable hotel situated on the slope, is suitable for families with children. Some of its amenities include spacious suites, personalised service, complimentary champagne, a cosy bar, and a fireplace. Add to this ski runs with a total length of 150 km, 90 lifts, off-piste slopes, four fancy restaurants with different decorative ambiances depending on the theme of the season, and the best cuisine in the Alps! The club has a swimming pool, a sauna, and a Turkish bath. You can also sign up for a Nordic walking trip or a tobogganing adventure. Other entertainments available outside the resort include horse riding, snowmobiles, as well as heliskiing.

Rafał Sobiech

To book or learn about current promotions, go to: www.clubmed.pl



The Alpine resorts of Club Med offer well groomed slopes, great service, fantastic cuisine, and plenty of winter activities - from dog sledding to heliskiing.





Dresden - a city by the Elbe River

FROM ZWINGER TO BMW

The world-famous museums, monuments and architectural attractions, but also the bustling shopping malls, entertainment, colourful nightlife and luxury cars - in Germany, every city has its own unique character.

1. DRESDEN "Florence on the Elbe"

The capital of Saxony can charm you with its lovely architecture, music events, and the stunning riverside panorama. The centre of Dresden is dominated by the most beautiful Baroque, Renaissance, and neoclassical buildings: Zwinger Palace, Semper Opera House, Brühl Terraces, the residential castle, or the Church of Our Lady (Frauenkirche).

On the right bank of the Elbe River flowing through the city, you can see the New Town (Neustadt), which is full of contrasts. Its northern district "Äußere Neustadt", with its shops, bars and restaurants and vibrant nightlife is frequently visited by artists. Art enthusiasts will love Dresden because its full of unique museums such as the Green Vault, the Turkish Chamber and Old Masters Gallery - famous because it houses Sistine Madonna by Raphael.

Besides art, Dresden offers a variety of original attractions, like antique steamship cruises with jazz music on the deck. Elbe flowing through the city creates a sophisti-

cated setting for many outdoor performances. Some of them include Movie Nights, Elbhangfest folk festival, or Steamboat Parade. Along the river, there's a bicycle route, which will take you to the Pillnitz Castle.

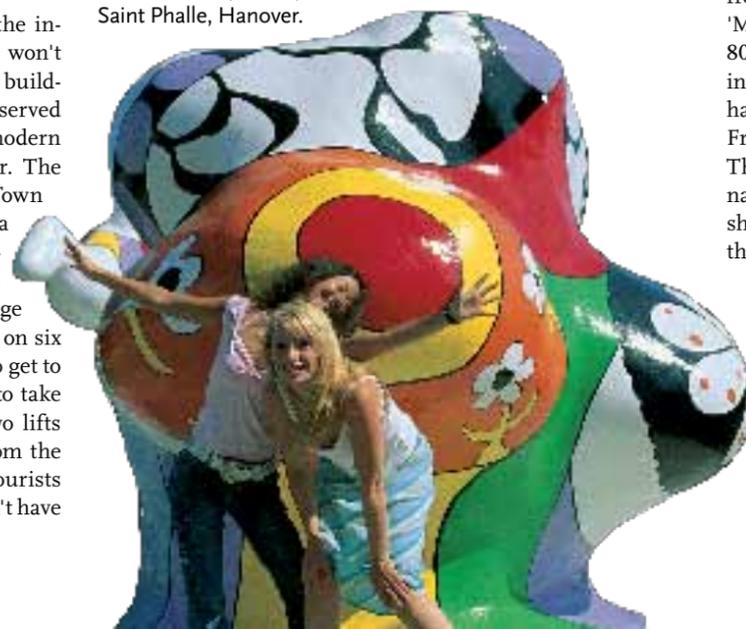
2. HANOVER "Following in the footsteps of a red thread"

Hanover is associated mainly with the international fair and congresses. You won't find here any old town with antique buildings and timber-framed houses preserved only by the river Leine. Behind the modern façade there's still much to discover. The most attractive square with the Old Town Hall and Marktkirche, is less than a kilometre from one of the most beautiful railway stations in Germany. What is also noteworthy is the huge building of the New Town Hall built on six thousand beech pillars. If you want to get to the dome of the building, you need to take the original lift - it's one of only two lifts in Europe with an oblique shaft. From the top you can see a vast panorama. Tourists who wish to explore Hanover, but don't have

much time, should take the Red Thread trail. It's marked by a red line that goes along the streets and pavements leading to over 30 most attractive destinations. It takes about two hours to complete the route.

Hanover is also known as the city of gar-

A "Nana" sculpture by Niki de Saint Phalle, Hanover.



Going down the narrow, cobbled streets, you can relax in one of over 100 traditional bars and restaurants and enjoy apple wine (produced here for over 250 years) served in traditional jugs with cobalt patterns.



Traditional wine jugs from Frankfurt

dens. It's here that you will find the royal Herrenhausen gardens, which have been there for over 300 years. The most famous one is the Grosser Garten, which hosts international firework displays during the summer. Sculptures, caves and artificial waterfalls and Great Fountain in Grosser Garten create an amazing atmosphere is perfect for long walks.

3. FRANKFURT "Apple wine in Mainhattan"

Frankfurt is a city associated with size: right here is the largest airport in Germany, an extensive banking district with skyscrapers, from which the city gained the nickname 'Mainhattan', huge fairgrounds and an 80-kilometre strip of green land surrounding the city. The greatest German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe also came from Frankfurt.

The towering skyscrapers belong to the financial institutions. They have become the showpiece of the city since the erection of the first one - Garden Towers (127 m) in the 1970s. Commerzbank-Tower (259 m) is the tallest in the European Union, but you can admire the city panorama only from Main Tower (200 m). The skyline of skyscrapers is best seen from the bridge over the Main River. By its banks also lies the Museumsufer, a picturesque district with 26 museums. Frankfurt has also another, slightly



The panorama of the Marienplatz, Munich

more traditional side: the old town with timber-framed houses, boutiques, and cosy cafes. At the heart of the city, there's Römerberg - a historic district with city hall called Romer, which has been the mayor's seat for over 600 years. One of its main attractions is the Imperial Hall, where splendid balls were organized. Elections and coronations of German kings and emperors were usually held in the nearby gothic imperial cathedral. In St. Paul's Church you can get the taste of the recent history of Germany - in 1848 the first National Assembly meeting took place here. Today, it's a symbol of freedom and democracy, and hosts important political and cultural events.

The Sachsenhausen district is regarded as the nicest area of Frankfurt. Going down the narrow, cobbled streets, you can relax in one of over 100 traditional bars and restaurants and enjoy apple wine (produced here for over 250 years), served in traditional jugs with cobalt patterns.

4. MUNICH "Not only Oktoberfest"

Munich is a city of contrasts, where tradition is intertwined with modernity. The ideal starting point is the Marienplatz Square with a column of Mary - the patron saint of Bavaria. Around the square you can see the old and the new town hall, the Church of St. Peter (Peterskirche) and the Church of Our Lady (Frauenkirche) with towers with green

onion-shaped domes. A stone's throw from there, there's a food market (Viktualienmarkt), where you can find both local delicacies and products from all over the world. Munich is also a city of culture and art. In the centre, there are 89 theatres and in the museum district, you will find the most important museums and galleries: Alte Pinakothek and Neue Pinakothek and the Pinakothek der Moderne. The local Deutsches Museum is the world's largest museum of technology and science. The exhibits include the first Siemens electric locomotive, a three-wheeled vehicle by Benz, or the world's first submarine.

If you need a moment to rest, go to the English Garden by the Isar River. One of the numerous local attractions is the Chinese Tower with a beer garden. Nearby there's a residence of the Bavarian Wittelsbach rulers. If you can't visit Munich for the Oktoberfest festival, you can feel the traditional atmosphere in Hofbrauhaus, a former brewery. People here are also dressed traditionally in leather shorts and dresses called drindl, and drink beer out of 1-litre beer mugs. Munich is a place for sports and automotive industry enthusiasts. You can, for example go to the Allianz Arena to see a football match, visit the Olympic Park, or the headquarters of the German car giant BMW with its car museum and the "BMW World" exhibition centre.

Olga Teoderek and Róża Jarmuż

A BUSINESSPERSON MADE TO MEASURE



“The brand doesn't matter. What matters, however, is what your jacket is made out of and who made it – people driven by passion or some nameless assembly line at the end of the world.”

Men's fashion seems to be so simple! You just put on a jacket, trousers, a white shirt, a pair of nice shoes and you're done. But since it's so easy, why are there so many badly dressed men in the streets? The principles of elegance are simple and the most important is - the clothes you wear must fit you properly.

SECRETS OF THE PERFECT SUIT

“There's a reason why we wear suits, preferably tuxedos, to a wedding”, says Janusz Bielenia, the founder of the Warsaw “Studio Szycia na Miarę” (The Tailoring Studio). “The truth is that the vast majority of men look fine in a suit. A well-cut suit can hide your imperfections, but it must be made to measure and, not bought off the peg”, he adds.

A good tailor is always your closest friend and advisor, especially if the customer's figure is far from being perfect.

Let's start from the jacket, which has several magical functions. For example, depending on its length, it can visually shorten or extend the legs. Similarly, well-tailored shoulders will turn a skinny person into a muscular macho. A good jacket can also make you look thinner as well as add you some dignity. To make a perfect jacket, a tailor needs to take care of a number of details. For example, the lapels – they can make your chest look either slender or wider, depending on their width. It's just one of a series of tricks, which are well-known to tailors and stylists. A suit can really work wonders with a person's figure, as long as it's made to measure. How can you recognise a good

quality suit? “For example, by the sleeves”, Bielenia explains. “Setting them in is the biggest challenge for any tailor. Form fitting, narrowly tailored sleeves, can make a man look slender. They don't wrinkle and cause creases on the back. They are an extension of well-formed shoulders. The most important, however, is the whole design and the highest quality of the fabric.”

DOUBLE-BREADED SUITS – NOT FOR EVERYONE

Janusz Bielenia is a fan of the classics. He believes that classic attire suits almost any occasion and can prevent you from a fashion faux pas. “If you don't know how to dress, go for the classic style”, he advises.

What about the trends in men's fashion? “You should observe them and always decide whether the novelties suit your profession and... figure”, says Bielenia. For example, the double-breasted jacket, which is now very popular on the streets of Milan, won't suit everyone. Bear in mind that such a jacket needs to be constantly buttoned up, because an unbuttoned one looks shapeless and makes you look more corpulent. Also, when it's buttoned up, it can feel too tight on the body. In other words, it's a great choice, but for a slim, slender body. Meanwhile, the blazer, which originated in old-fashioned, elegant country clubs, is one of the most popular jackets on the streets of big cities.

Just as setting in the sleeve can be a measure of the quality of tailoring, its length shows if a suit is properly fitted to the figure. A too long sleeve is a basic sin committed by Polish businessmen and those who aspire to that name. The principle is simple – the cuff of a jacket should end at the wrist, and the cuff of a shirt should stick out from the jacket sleeve by not more than half a centimetre.

A good jacket should also have buttons on its cuffs – usually four of them. “Their appear-



ance in this place dates back to Napoleonic wars, when military doctors often needed to roll up sleeves of an injured soldier up to the elbow”, explains Bielenia. “Today the buttons remain as a symbol of an elegant jacket”.

THE PRICE OF INDIVIDUALITY

A good suit can make you stand out of the crowd and the most interesting designs for men's attire can be seen at Florence's Pitti fairs. It's a real cornucopia of male fashion! British check patterns combined with colourful cravats, elegant light navy blue suits with orange shoes and crazy hats. Grey shirts with green jackets. And one common element - top quality. Regardless of the idea and form, all jackets, shirts, and trousers

are sewn with soft and excellent quality fabrics, because one can counterfeit a lot of things, except for good quality fabric. Genuine cashmere fits different than its imitation bought in a chain store. The highest quality wool combined with good tailoring skills can work wonders. In some designs, linen makes an item of clothing remarkably light looking.

“To make a good suit you need two things – quality fabric and a skilled tailor”, says Janusz Bielenia. “The brand doesn't matter. What matters, however, is what your jacket is made out of and who made it – people driven by passion or some nameless assembly line at the end of the world”, he explains.

Rafał Sobiech

CONTACT
www.bielenia.com

NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO CHANGE TOURISM INDUSTRY

How do online booking tools help manage our business travel? What benefits do they bring to corporations and travel agencies? **Marzena Mróz** interviews **Paweł Rek**, the CEO of Amadeus Poland and the Regional Director for Central Europe, about the latest trends in the development of the tourism industry.



How has the tourism market been developing in the recent years?

Recent years have been marked by the development of online tools and the growing importance of the online sales channel. Especially popular are the so-called "self-booking tools" used to manage business trips. They are a response to the efforts of companies to optimize their spending.

What are those applications and what benefits do they provide to companies?

Our solutions for business travel management are used by thousands of institutions around the world. Amadeus e-Travel Management is an application designed for large corporations, while Amadeus e-Power Corporate – is addressed to medium-sized businesses. We have created these tools to provide updated information on flights, hotels, or rental of cars. This translates into cost savings and allows you to control every aspect of planning and reimbursing business trip expenses. The systems also include individual preferences (in compliance with travel policies), and allow to generate travel expense reports. Consistent use of these tools can reduce travel expenses by up to 20 per cent.

How do tools like AeTM contribute to this impressive reduction of expenses?

The tool implementation process begins with establishing by a company a set of rules and regulations related to business travel, the so-called travel policy. It determines, for example, which hotels, airlines, or car rental companies an employee can book, and establishes restrictions on the use of business class or upgraded rooms in hotels. In many companies, there is a problem of lack of control over employees in planning their trips. They may choose more expensive hotels and flights, or opt for the cheapest, but restrictive fares, which in the event of any changes require additional charges. With the introduction of travel policy, you can not only enforce the rules for selecting the offer, but also negotiate conditions with service providers.

Is the use of those web-based systems difficult?

Our tools for corporate travel management have been designed in such a way that their use is very intuitive. The applications allow you to quickly search for offers, which are clearly presented on a single page. The interface is clear and contains all the information and bookmarks that you need to plan a trip. With a few clicks, you can go through all the stages of the booking process. We also want our tools to be tailored to local markets. Both e-Travel Management and e-Power Corporate

are available in Polish language. The mobile version of Amadeus e-Travel Management is also very useful especially in emergency situations or when a user needs to introduce unexpected changes to their itinerary. A 24-hour help desk support is also offered by some Travel Management Companies, that is business travel management offices.

What future is the for the tourism industry?

According to the report "From chaos to collaboration", created for Amadeus, by 2020 the new technologies will have helped reduce stressful situations while travelling. Smart and safe luggage and ticket tagging, the introduction of electronic chips, biometrics, remote fingerprint reading, will allow us to replace the traditional check-in procedure with an automatic transit. Data on travel-related payments will be integrated, and in order to personalize and integrate services we will use intelligent passenger records and contactless technologies. The dynamic development of solutions to facilitate travel, stronger focus on customer needs, and building long-term relationships, will contribute to the growth of competition in the tourism market. Those who look ahead and take seriously the expectations of customers, will be real winners dictating future trends.

Thank you for the interview.




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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

Siemens. The future moving in.

THE GERMAN FLAGSHIP BMW 5 SERIES

Is there a versatile limousine, which is suited
to various roads and provides real driving pleasure?
Of course, there is!



I was invited by BMW to Munich to find out for myself if the new BMW 5 Series is truly something to marvel at. We arrived at the airport in Munich with a delay of one hour. There we were welcomed by extremely friendly representatives of the company, and then went together to Garching, where BMW facilities are located. When we got there, we noticed three shiny new cars – a saloon, a Touring and a Gran Turismo – already waiting for us.

THREE FACES OF LUXURY

I was immediately attracted to the silver saloon/limousine version. It seemed to be observing us with its LED eyes, which significantly differ from the headlights known from the previous generation of the model. The grille has also been modified and now looks more muscular, while the lower spoiler seems extremely eager to add downforce to the car in motion. The 20-inch wheels, dual exhaust, and the revised silhouette of the car, are also easily noticeable. Now, the body seems to be slightly lower, and more aerodynamic like a crouching panther getting ready to attack its prey. Despite its di-

mensions the saloon version seemed quite agile and I simply couldn't wait to jump in behind the wheel...

At its launch, the Gran Turismo raised considerable controversy. It still has as many supporters as opponents, and for me it looks like a bulked-up version of the basic 5 Series. Despite my initial mistrust, I enjoyed the new GT much more than its previous incarnations. Maybe it's because the new version seems to be larger, which makes its back less dominant than before. BMW engineers have enlarged the already huge boot by a further 60 litres, achieving impressive 500 litres of storage capacity – an impressive feat for a business sedan. And as if it wasn't good enough, the car I tested had a gorgeous white interior, which was simply the icing on the cake.

What about the Touring version – or simply the station wagon? Unfortunately, I didn't have get an opportunity to drive it, so I can only express my opinion on its looks. Let me set it straight – I'm far from being a station-wagon aficionado. But the new Touring has that "something" - the front of the saloon version, the unobtrusively large back, the pretty,

long line. In other words, it has all the features of a stylish station wagon. The 560-litre boot after folding the rear seats provides the incredible 1,670 litres of storage space! Oddly enough – the storage space of the GT version can be increased by mere 30 litres...

THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

After a brief presentation, one of the BMW people handed me over the keys to the Gran Turismo, instructed me on how to use the navigation system, and wished me a pleasant drive. The 535i version I tested was equipped with a 3-litre turbocharged petrol engine producing 306 hp and 400 Nm of torque, and accelerated confidently, albeit a bit ... majestically. Even when I put the pedal to the metal, the car hesitated for a moment, and when it finally made the decision to accelerate, it didn't have the "wow" effect on me. But as a lover of small and nippy cars, I might have assessed the BMW a bit too subjectively.

The GT seems very obedient, but at first glance seems a bit heavy, which can be easily felt while driving. This is, however, the price you pay for the compromise – that is for the

impressive space you get with this car. Let's not forget about the luxury the new BMW Series 5 offers. I'm sure that the list of options and accessories will satisfy the needs of even the most demanding customers. Each version offers such goodies as the onboard computer, the Traffic Jam Assistant, or Lane Departure Warning which recognises when your BMW is straying from your lane, and gives you early warning with a discrete vibration of the steering wheel. You can also take advantage of Concierge Services, and call a BMW consultant to ask for the route to a hotel. In terms of extra accessories – the new BMW is a true mobile office. It will make or answer a call for you, receive and read an e-mail message, an in case of an accident its eCall system will inform BMW of the estimated damage of the car and the likely severity of the passengers' injuries.

After lunch at the Green Hill Golf Resort, I had a chance to test the sedan version. The 130 km route loaded into the navigation system ran among the tiny towns in and around Munich. The road climbed sharply to suddenly incline at 14 degrees. The car equipped with a 3-litre turbo diesel motor, producing 258 hp, worked perfectly, roll-

ing along as if casually. Wondering how on earth a sedan was able to conquer my heart, which up to then had belonged to small, rigid and not always comfortable cars, I lost all track of time. Suddenly, I realised that I should be back Garching in 20 minutes which was 60 kilometres away. There was no time to waste. I switch the settings to the sports mode and stepped on the gas pedal. And this is where my love for small cars was shattered for good. The powerful, two-ton luxury sedan I was just driving, was rolling swiftly along the winding road, as if it was glued to it, hugging turns like a breeze, reacting immediately to every nudge of the pedals or the steering wheel. I forgot that I was driving a vehicle with a fairly large boot, but the car didn't seem to think about it, either. 258 bhp and 560 Nm of torque was more than enough for this type of road. But on the final, nearly 20-kilometre stretch of highway I decided to check the real potential of the 3-litre diesel motor. When the speedometer showed 238 km/h, I let go, but it was still 12 km less than the maximum speed declared by the manufacturer. This is not the M5, but no one expects it to be. The motor delivers power smoothly and from

the lowest revs. What was the finale of this adventure? The BMW with hot brake discs and me with a huge smile got to Garching three minutes ahead of time.

THE HEART KNOWS NO MASTER

What are the target customer groups for each version of the car? It's not for me to decide, but if you skip the stylistic issues, and personal likes, the Gran Turismo will be better suited to long-distance trips with a lot of luggage, allowing you to cover thousands of kilometres in comfort.

What about the sedan? It's classic and versatile, like a little black dress in the wardrobe of every woman. It can't be too ostentatious, but needs to make an appropriate impression. This is what this car exactly is. It has the luxury of the 5 Series combined with the vigour of the 3 Series. This car makes you want to drive it, and I simply didn't feel like getting out of it. But perhaps I'm not objective. Who knows – maybe the GT would handle the similar conditions better than the sedan? But despite the brown interior (which colour I dislike, to say the least), my heart was stolen by the silver 530d.

Zuzanna Krzyczkowska

5 July saw the premiere of the new BMW 5 Series in the manufacturer's facilities in Garching near Munich. When we got there, we noticed three shiny new cars – a sedan, a station-wagon and a Gran Turismo – already waiting for us.



TIME FOR LUXURY

Reliability, precision and innovation have characterized the philosophy of the company since 1888, when it was founded by the Kurth Brothers. Today, Certina has offices in more than 60 countries and is a brand belonging to the Swatch Group, the largest watchmaking company in the world.



Tradition, style and power

CERTINA DS LIMITED EDITION

With a new automatic movement that delivers an impressive 80-hour power reserve, the CERTINA DS is the perfect illustration of how tradition and innovation can work together. Design elements rooted in the brand's early days are complemented by more modern aspects such as the pink gold PVD treatment and the transparent back. Bridging past and present, this special anniversary edition DS timepiece is produced as a 5,000-piece limited series.

The CERTINA DS unites elegance and precision by placing the Powermatic 80 movement in a stylish 40mm 316L stainless-steel case with brushed lugs and a polished bezel. A transparent case-back allows watch lovers to cast a glance inside at the movement, whose black rotor has been decorated with the CERTINA turtle logo as well as the inscription "125th Anniversary". A rounded sapphire crystal with anti-reflection coating opens onto a black concave dial decorated with the same special anniversary mention and—in a wink back at tradition, the former 'double-C' CERTINA logo, also embossed over the crown tip. The DS is of course equipped with the CERTINA DS Concept, to ensure its water resistance up to a pressure of 10 bar (100m), and fastens with a brown leather strap and twin push-button butterfly buckle.

Specifications - Swiss automatic movement, water resistant to 100 metres (10 bar), DS (Double Security); Suggested retail price: PLN 2,790. For more information about all models go to www.certina.com

Two styles, one elegance

DS PRIME LADY CHRONOGRAPH

Available in white with diamonds and black with contrasting metallic steel. DS Prime Lady is a chronograph with sporty accents, but the three subtle Top Wesselton diamonds on the dial and sophisticated, 60 full cut diamonds on the bezel, create together the remarkably elegant character of this excellent Certina watch.

Real connoisseurs will appreciate the beautiful, geometric case of the DS Prime Lady made of 316L stainless steel. They will love how polished and brushed lugs are contrasted with the impressive bezel adorned with 60 full cut Top Wesselton diamonds. The clear and transparent case houses the dial with black nickel-plated hands and indices, as well as a row of three diamonds at 12 o'clock. The dial is protected by sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating.

The outer part of the dial is decorated with concentric circles surrounding the central zone with two precise chronograph counters featuring 30-minute, 1/10-second and continuous seconds. The DS Concept system guarantees water-resistant to 100 m.

Specifications - ETA G01.211 movement, 30-minute, 60-second, 1/10 second chronographs; brushed and polished 316L stainless steel case, diameter 39 mm, 60 full cut Top Wesselton diamonds, VS-SI 32/34, 0.41 carats; Suggested retail price: C004.217.66.036.00 – PLN 7,640 C004.217.11.056.00 – PLN 1,990.

Inspired by an extreme lifestyle

DS EAGLE CHRONOGRAPH

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.

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.

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, clear against the dial's textured finish, thanks to smart contrasts of red, and white against black.

Specifications - Swiss ETA G10.961 quartz chronograph, 24-hour GMT function (second time zone); 316L stainless steel polished /brushed case, diameter 46 mm, sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on both sides, Suggested retail price: PLN 4,190.

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4 HOURS IN... DAR ES SALAAM

Ramsey Qubein takes a quick-fire tour of the Tanzanian city



NATIONAL MUSEUM AND HOUSE OF CULTURE

The bustling port city of Dar es Salaam – often referred to simply as Dar by locals – boasts a natural harbour, a surprising blend of European and Arabic architecture and a dynamic energy that shows its growing stature on the world business stage. For your whistle-stop tour, it's probably easiest to hire a driver through your hotel, which

will cost roughly TZS 30,000-40,000 (£12-£16) for four hours. Start at the National Museum and House of Culture in the middle of downtown. Established in 1940, it's a good way to gain an insight into Tanzania's history. The collection includes the first human remains discovered in the region, including 2,000 year-old fossils found during the Leakey Digs excavations, relics from the Sukuma and Nyamezi tribes,

and art and photographs from before and after the country's independence from the UK in 1961. An exhibit of remnants from the city's US embassy, which was bombed by Islamic jihad groups in 1998, killing at least 11 people, is particularly moving. The museum has a café if you want a coffee stop. Open 9am-5pm, entry TZS 8,000 (£3). Shaaban Roberts Street; houseofculture.or.tz

BOTANICAL GARDENS

Stroll across the street to the city's botanical gardens, which are free to enter and feature towering African teak and mahogany trees and blossoming rose and hibiscus flowers. While traffic may slow to a crawl during the morning and evening rush hours, this jungle-like green space is a calming oasis in the middle of the frenzy. Its origins stem from the German colonial era (1880-1919), when they were much more expansive than they are today. But in a city with very little downtown greenery, it is a welcome place to steal a breath of fresh air. While there are few benches or chairs for lounging, you may spot office workers having lunch on the lawn or the occasional jogger.

VILLAGE MUSEUM

En route to your next stop, ask your driver to swing by the roundabout downtown where the Askari Monument sits – it bears the names of the Askari heroes (East African soldiers) who fought in the British Carrier Corps in the First World War – and the nearby Clock Tower, erected by Dar's citizens to celebrate it gaining city status in 1961. The drive to the Village Museum takes ten to 15 minutes.

Comprising about 100 straw, clay and mud huts, this al fresco museum showcases the architecture and living traditions of Tanzania's tribes. At first the huts appear similar, but their diversity becomes more apparent once you look inside – the guides will explain the differences between the tribes. Take in the wooden pottery, earthen beds and hand-carved spears used by tribespeople across the country. At the café, try ugali – a ball of maize flour with spicy vegetables and meat. The market sells beaded jewellery and hand-carved animal statues. Old Bagamoyo Road; 9.30am-6pm; entry TZS 8,000 (£3).

TINGA TINGA CENTRE

A five- to ten-minute drive from the museum to Oyster Bay, where many of the city's best ocean views can be found, the Tinga Tinga Centre is a must for art lovers. Named after Tanzanian artist Edward TingaTinga, this co-operative provides a base for the hundreds of Tanzanian painters and designers who carry out their work independently but need a place to showcase their goods. You can watch the artists at work, and their vibrant depictions of African daily life make a great memento to take home. Don't be surprised to have numerous craftspeople proudly lurching forward to show you their creations and entice you to buy. Bargaining is de rigueur and perfectly acceptable, and



some of the artists are willing to accept foreign currency. tingatinga.org

SOUTHERN SUN HOTEL

The drive back to the city centre may take 20-30 minutes depending on traffic (try to leave before the close of the work day). End your tour with a poolside cocktail or Tusker beer at the Southern Sun on Garden Avenue. The hotel's subtle Moorish décor – think carved archways and exotic mid-Ori-

ent artworks – harks back to Tanzania's past as an Arab trading post. If you have time for a full meal, go for the Zanzibar-spiced chicken at Baraza restaurant. It is prepared in the rotisserie with an assortment of local sauces and spices. Other favourites include spicy Swahili seafood curry and coconut-infused prawns. The space is packed with Tanzanian artwork and surrounded by greenery. Open 11am-10pm; tel +255 22 213 7575; tsogotunhotels.com



ASK PETER

Letters

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

All about baggage

I recently flew from Amsterdam to Paris and Moscow with KLM airline and I have a few luggage-related questions. How many pieces can I take without any extra charge? Why is luggage sometimes included in the price of the ticket, and other times it's not? Does the luggage fee depend on the price of the ticket?

Tadeusz

Dear Tadeusz
Recently I've been getting more and more questions about the check luggage allowances. This is connected with the introduction of additional restrictions on luggage by airlines, dependent on the class of travel and the ticket price.
The Dutch KLM airline has introduced changes in the check luggage allowances before the summer - on 14 May. I will try to give you some basic information about luggage allowances.
In economy class you can check two pieces of luggage weighing 23 kg for free on a transcontinental route (including European stints of the journey) Within Europe you can travel for free with just one piece of hand luggage (1 bag and a laptop, weighing no more than 12 kg). For checked luggage, you have to pay extra. The fee is €30 per 1 piece, if you pay at the airport and €15 each when paying via the website.
But, naturally, there are exceptions. You can check one piece of luggage, if you have bought a ticket in higher economy rates (booking class Y or B). One free piece of luggage is also allowed when flying to Russia, Georgia, the Ukraine, Italy and Belarus. Probably for this reason, you didn't have to pay for luggage during a trip to Moscow.
However, regular customers can expect a number of advantages from their airline. One of these benefits is the ability to carry a free piece of checked baggage at the ticket purchased at a lower fare (booking classes Y and lower than B). So if you are a member of the KLM Flying Blue loyalty program, you may benefit from this offer. Just ask your agent to enter the number to your reservation and show the card when you check in at the airport. These advantages are available already with a basic level of program membership (Ivory status). Similar benefits are available to those travellers, whose companies have signed a corporate agreement with KLM in which separate, specific regulations are set.

How to book a limousine?

I'm organizing a meeting for finance directors from various international branches. They come to London with different airlines. One of them asked me to book a free limousine with a chauffeur. He's flying from Singapore via Dubai with Emirates. How can I book a limousine? What make of the car can I expect?

Katarzyna

Dear Katarzyna,
Emirates offers a range of additional services to their passengers, including a free shuttle service to and from the airport in limousine with a driver (Chauffeur-drive service). You need to book the limousine at least 48 hours ahead of time. However, the booking procedure can start only after your e-ticket has been issued. The service can be ordered in any port within your travel route (transport from home to the airport, transport from the airport to the hotel in the destination city, and similarly on the way back).
The limo collects the passenger from their home or hotel about three hours before the departure. Depending on the distance and the expected traffic, this time may be extended. The driver has the passenger's number, so they can be in contact. You should keep to the leaving time, as the limo waits for no more than 15 minutes.
Please note that this free service has a distance limit. For example, in London the driver may go to a place situated no further than 70 miles from the airport (Heathrow or Gatwick). The service is available for all the addresses in the Greater London area. However, if the distance is bigger, then the shuttle service is still available at an additional cost.
You should also pay attention if it indeed is an Emirates airlines plane. Service is not available if the flight number has an 'Emirates' mark, but the flight itself is operated by a plane belonging to another airline. You can check the details directly at the carrier's office.
Car makes used for the service may vary, according to the agreement with a local subcontractor in a given city. For example, in Dubai these are Volvo cars for business class passengers or Mercedes for first class passengers. The service is also available in Warsaw.

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