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SECRET STOCKHOLM



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VIEW COSMOPOLITAN WARSZAWA

SECRET STOCKHOLM

Stockholm is undoubtedly a city of the future. Last year, it was ranked third in the European Digital City Index (behind London and Amsterdam) and, for a period, gave birth to more unicorns (billion-dollar start-ups) than any other place on the planet except Silicon Valley. No mean feat given its population of only one million people. While fledgling businesses prefer the vibe in the city centre, large companies such as Intel, Oracle, Sun Microsystems and Huawei have chosen to position themselves in Kista district. It is also home to the HQ of Swedish telecom giant Ericsson, which helped to bring the world 3G. In 2018, Stockholm will be the first of two cities on the planet (along with Estonian capital Tallinn) to have 5G, which workers in Kista are trialling. The city council's Vision 2040 blueprint intends for Stockholm to be "the most connected city in the world".

The new Urban ICT Arena for digital development launched in the tech park a few months ago – projects include the "Not Boring 5G Bike", demonstrating a bright future for the Internet of Things in Sweden.

I encourage you to read our cover article where our British correspondent provides a lot of fascinating facts about this remarkable city.

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz



TWORZYMY BIZNES NA NAJWYŻSZYM POZIOMIE

23 sale konferencyjne o pojemności do 2000 osób, blisko 400 pokoi i apartamentów w standardzie 3-5*, największe w regionie Centrum Kongresowe Gerlach dla 1200 osób, widokowy VIP Business Lounge "Giewont", funkcjonalna powierzchnia konferencyjna, urozmaicona oferta eventów towarzyszących w scenerii Tatr, doskonała lokalizacja i obsługa to nasza wyjątkowa oferta dla biznesu.



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RESORT & SPA

Nasalowy Dwór

ZAKOPANE



Airline

Lufthansa

NEW AIRCRAFT

On 28 September Lufthansa AG and Air Berlin PLC signed a letter of intent on the wet lease of up to 40 aircraft which will be operated by the Air Berlin Group for the Lufthansa Group companies Eurowings and Austrian Airlines. The six-year agreement is to start with the beginning of the 2017 summer schedule on 26 March. It would enable Eurowings to significantly expand its capacities and strengthen its position in the European point-to-point air transport market.

Eurowings currently operates a total fleet of 90 aircraft. Under the new agreement, Eurowings is to lease in 35 further aircraft from Air Berlin which would fly in Eurowings livery. Another five Air Berlin aircraft would be leased by Austrian Airlines. As both parties are aiming for a wet-lease collaboration all up to 40 aircraft concerned would not only be provided by Air Berlin but the Airline would also remain responsible for their operations, i.e. Air Berlin would continue to provide their cockpit and cabin crews and maintenance. The leased fleet of up to 29 Airbus A320 and up to eleven A319 would fit well into the existing Eurowings fleet, which consists entirely of Airbus aircraft.

The new aircraft would be based at seven airports in Germany, in Vienna and in Palma de Mallorca. The five aircraft destined for Austrian Airlines are to further strengthen the carrier's leading position at its home Vienna hub. The leases are to be agreed at competitive market rates. The final agreement will be concluded in the fourth quarter of 2016. Its implementation will further require the approval of the partners' supervisory boards and the relevant competition authorities.

Apartments

Cosmopolitan

WARSAW'S ICONIC SKYSCRAPER

Tacit Investment is an experienced investor with a strong capital position, as well as the forerunner in the luxury real estate market in Poland.

The company is distinguished by business awareness, inventive marketing methods based on promoting arts, as well as attention to every detail of its new investments.

The flagship investment by Tacit Investment is Cosmopolitan Twarda 4 residential tower that was built in the very heart of the capital, in Grzybowski Square. The building was designed by Helmut Jahn, one of the



greatest architects of the 21st century who also created such memorable forms as European Union Charlemagne building. Featuring 44 floors, all-glass curtain walls and finished to the highest standards, Cosmopolitan has quickly managed to become an iconic element of Warsaw's skyline. It is the capital's first such an investment that has defined a completely new category of apartment buildings in Poland. All of the 236 stylishly designed and fully equipped apartments offer a spectacular view of the entire Warsaw; www.apartamentycosmopolitan.pl



Restaurant

Warsaw

Z57 IN SASKA KĘPA

The reopening of the well-known Warsaw's restaurant! The cosy, nostalgic and evergreen Saska Kępa district now boasts yet another unique spot - the Z57 restaurant. The venue, which was reopened in September this year,

attracts with its nice, homely atmosphere, excellent cuisine, good wine, professional service and friendly owners. The cuisine is inspired by nature, while the menu is adjusted to the rhythm of the changing seasons. Creating his exquisite dishes, the head chef with masterfully combines numerous ingredients produced by the earth, air and water. One of the advantages of the restaurant is a short list of dishes in the menu, which is always a guarantee of the highest quality products.

Visit Z57 not only for delicious dishes, but also to taste specially selected, fine wines, as well as brilliant signature cocktails. It's a perfect place for an elegant dinner, corporate event, as well as a business meeting and a daily lunch; www.z57.pl





Phenomenon

Aurora Borealis

CHECK IT ON YOUR PHONE

Great news for all the fans of the aurora borealis phenomenon. Do you want to know when to go to Northern Norway to see the northern lights? Now it's much easier with a smartphone app making it easier to predict the appearance of the aurora borealis. The application is free to download and use. The occurrence of auroral belt covers an area of Northern Norway, from the Lofoten Islands to the North Cape. In practice, you can often see the same northern lights both in the Lofoten and Tromsø, only at a different angle. The app is available for Android and iOS systems. It predicts the occurrence of the phenomenon even a few days ahead. Aurora chasers should search for them above the 60 parallel, checking the weather, as the biggest chance for success is when the air is dry and the sky is clear.

Air line

Finnair



MORE FLIGHTS TO TOKYO AND HONG KONG.

Expanding its Asian route network, in summer season in addition to daily flights, Finnair will introduce additional four weekly connections to Tokyo as well as three to Hong Kong. The additional flights, which will be flown with the new Airbus A350 aircraft, will be operated between June 5 and October 27. The additional Tokyo frequencies will be operated as a joint business operation with Japan Airlines, British Airways and Iberia. With these additions, Finnair and its partner Japan Airlines will offer 18 weekly connections from Helsinki to Tokyo's Narita Airport. Finnair will also fly non-stop to Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka during the summer 2017 season, with a total of 35 weekly flights to Japan. Finnair will also add A350 frequencies to its Hong Kong route with three additional weekly flights between June 6 and October 28. Currently, Finnair flies to Hong Kong daily departing Helsinki and Hong Kong around midnight. Finnair's flights to Hong Kong are fully operated by A350 aircraft.

Tourism

Vienna

ILLUMINATED CITY

Two monumental buildings situated in the centre of the Austrian capital - the Museum of Art History and the Museum of Natural History - have received beautiful illumination. The project was a part of the 2016 Vienna Lights Festival. The audiovisual show, which for the first time involved the use of the interactive mapping technology, attracted more than 70,000 spectators. The whole performance can be described as a combination of video, light and sound with a slide show. With digital 3D technology and videomapping, the building of the Art Museum was transformed into a giant stage, while the building of the adjacent Museum of Natural History was illuminated by a slide show. Also, the nearby fountain presented smaller light installations to complement the main show.





Book

Mexico

LANDSCAPE WITHOUT THORNS

Lucha libre (Mexican version of wrestling), **danzon** (a sensual dance) or the famous **mariachis** - all of these make Mexico a truly unique place. Sylwia Mróz, a correspondent of the Polish Radio, presents a complete picture of the multi-coloured, Mexican culture, and describes the daily life of Mexicans. The book entitled „Pejzaż bez kolców” (“A Landscape Without Thorns”) is now available in good bookstores. Everything you have always wanted to know about this fascinating country is now described and explained in the book by Sylwia Mróz. This erudite and insightful, as well as lightweight and accessible guide to the Mexican soul, provides an answer to a key question: Why is Mexico so utterly different than in Europe? The author presents the country as it is: the intellectual and ordinary, sophisticated and casual, scholarly and plebeian; the Mexico that eats and drinks, dances and creates, loves and hates; the place that attracts every attentive and inquisitive tourist. “Pejzaż bez kolców” is by far the most complete and up-to-date study on Mexican culture, benefiting from them exceptional sensitivity and insightful remarks by the author.

Airline

LOT

WE WILL FLY TO SEOUL

On 17 October LOT's Dreamliner took off on its first scheduled flight from Warsaw to Seoul. From now on the Polish airlines will operate that route regularly three times a week, offering passengers the most convenient and effective way to travel from Europe to South Korea and back. Seoul is LOT's third Asian destination and the second one, after Tokyo, that has been launched this year.

The flights between Warsaw and Seoul is operated by the world's state-of-the-art planes, Boeing 787 Dreamliners, starting on October 17th every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Return flights from Seoul to Warsaw are scheduled for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays. LOT is the first airline in the Central and Eastern Europe to connect such a large number of European cities with South Korea.

The flight from Warsaw to Seoul takes slightly more than 10 hours. The passengers on the board of LOT's Dreamliner will have three travel classes at their disposal – LOT Business Class with flat-bed seats and cuisine resembling that of the best restaurants; LOT Premium Economy Class with larger, individual space and comfortable seats with footrests and thigh support, cocktail tables and extensive menu as well as LOT Economy Class with modern seats and individual on-board entertainment screens as well as USB ports, and also fresh and varied meals served during the flight.

“Opening direct flights always releases the potential in the tourism sector. Thanks to the connection offered by LOT many Poles decide to visit South Korea, even though they had no such plans before. I encourage them to do so, since Seoul deservedly is called a city that never sleeps and the Koreans themselves are called the Italians of Asia,” says Rafał Milczarski, LOT's CEO.



Warsaw

Fly Film Festival

EUROPE'S ONLY

Warsaw held the 7th International Aviation Film Festival “Fly Film Festival”, is Europe's only overview of films about aviation. Frederic Chopin International Airport is a partner of this event. Every year the festival organizers invite film producers and directors from all over the world. The previous editions of the festival gathered a total of 450 film from 37 countries. The productions focus primarily on civil, military and sport aviation, but also on other aspects, such as paragliding, astronautics and model making. The festival also presents historical films about aviation.

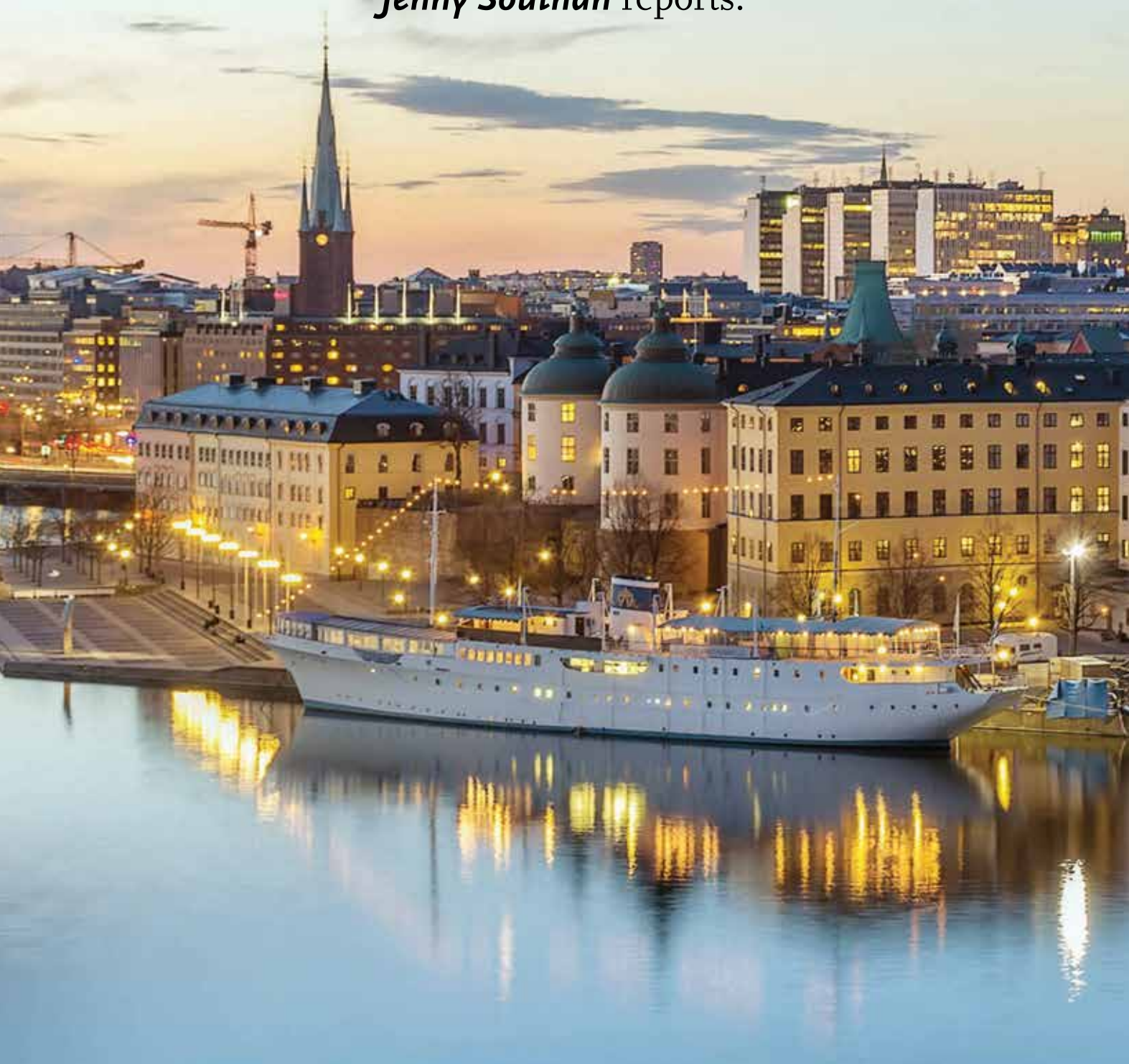
This year, the event features such productions, as “Star Trek: Beyond” (2016), “Space Dogs: Adventure to the Moon” (2014), and documentaries: “AWACS - samolot, który widzi wszystko” (AWACS - aircraft that sees everything), “Polacy w bazie NATO” (Poles in the NATO base) - directed by Włodzimierz Kuligowski, “Kobiety w mundurach” (Women in Uniforms) - directed by Mikołaj Lizut and Maciej Wiśniewski and “Latający doktor” (The Flying Doctor) - directed by Artur Frączek. The awards are presented in three categories: the best feature film, the best documentary and the best amateur film. The top accolade presented at the event is the Grand Prix award.

This year, for the first time in history, the competition screenings took place also in two other cities: Krakow and Dęblin.

SECRET STOCKHOLM

From microchip implants to billion-dollar start-ups, Stockholm is leading the field in terms of innovation.

Jenny Southan reports.





Patrick Mesterton has a microchip embedded in his hand. The chief executive of Epicentre, Stockholm's first "house of innovation", he was one of 60 members to voluntarily have RFID (radio frequency identification) tags implanted into their bodies last year. The size of a grain of rice, they are inserted under the skin with a syringe. "It hurt," Mesterton says.

The microchip works like a contactless debit card or office ID pass. With the swipe of a hand, members of the 8,000 sqm Epicentre co-working hub can pay for snacks from vending machines, open electronic security doors and activate photocopiers. "Every quarter we do a 'chip and beer' event so members can use our systems," Mesterton says. "For example, by using your chip you can print on-demand, instead of sensitive documents coming out when you aren't there."

Developed by Swedish biohacking group BioNyfiken, each implant has a unique binary number that can sync with an infinite number of readers. As the technology becomes more widespread, people will be able to gain access to their local gym, buy a sandwich from a nearby café, or send a virtual business card to a client's smartphone. There will be no need for credit cards, keys, ID passes, metro tickets or PINs.

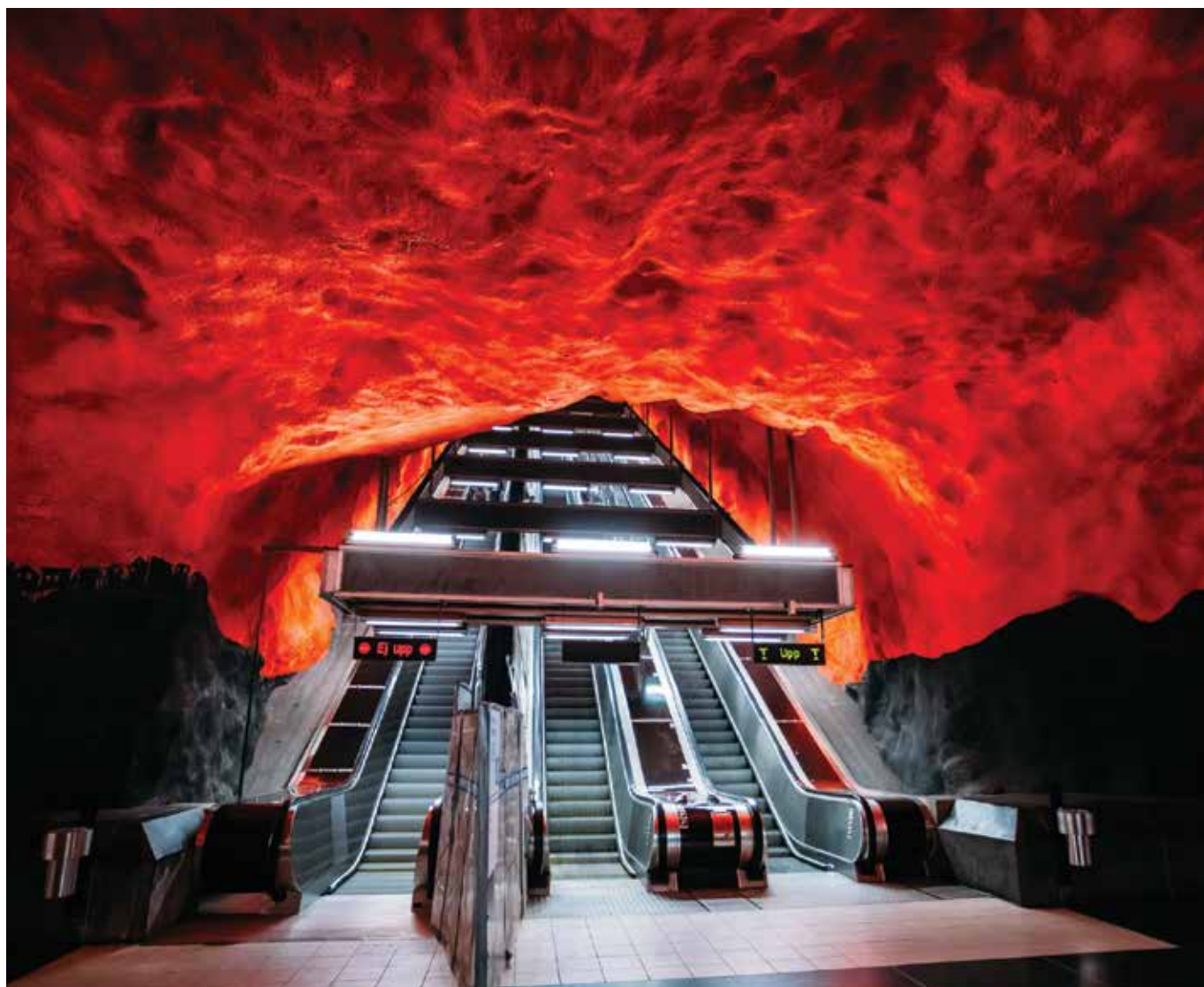
INSPIRING ECOSYSTEMS

Launched last year in Stockholm's downtown business district, Epicentre has open-plan workspaces, studios and offices for both tech start-ups and established multinationals such as Microsoft and IBM. The former are there to learn how to scale, while the latter take part in "innovation labs", but collaboration is a big part of it, too. Its

300 member companies (plus 1,500 individuals) also benefit from seminars, hackathons and "digital safaris" for prototype demos.

Mesterton says: "In a year, the average company we have here has grown 350 per cent. For example, Splay is the largest YouTube network we have in Sweden. They are owned by one of the traditional TV companies but have based themselves here as they want to grow in a different way. They were about 14 people when they arrived and are about 70 today."

Located on Malmskillnadsgatan, Epicentre is part of a futuristic quarter called Urban Escape (urbanescape.se), which is made up of five buildings being developed by AMF Fastigheter. Next year, a vast rooftop garden will be added, along with restaurants, bars and two lifestyle hotels from the



Nordic Choice group – the 343-room At Six and 200-room Hobo. The other buildings, for offices, retail, apartments and events, will be transformed by 2019.

The first phase of a new Epicentre site opened close by on Master Samuelsgatan in the summer, with completion of the 11,000 sqm space set for December. Virtual reality company Resolution Games, mentoring programme Google for Entrepreneurs and social media app FishBrain will be the first residents. Another co-working space is SUP46, which moved to its new location on Regeringsgatan earlier this year. In 2015, its tech start-up members collectively raised US\$31 million in funding.

START-UP CENTRAL

Last year, Stockholm was ranked third in the European Digital City Index (behind

London and Amsterdam) and, for a period, gave birth to more unicorns (billion-dollar start-ups) than any other place on the planet except Silicon Valley. No mean feat given its population of only one million people. Torbjörn Bengtsson, business development manager for Stockholm Business Region, predicts that Truecaller – an online phone directory and call blocker – is going to be the next unicorn coming out of the capital. It already has more than 100 million users. Stockholm is a forward-looking city that is proud to have the world's first “feminist” government, ensuring gender equality at every level of policymaking and allocation of resources. LGBT issues are also prioritised. Meanwhile, the motto of King Carl XVI Gustav is: “For Sweden – with the times.” If you happen to see the daily changing of the guard outside the palace, there is a chance

you will hear the brass band playing dance hits by Swedish House Mafia.

Fostering progress are organisations such as Stockholm Innovation and Growth (stockholminnovation.com), a non-profit incubator based in Kista Science City, 20 minutes from downtown. As well as coaching more than 180 start-ups, it recently backed a new 1,000 sqm co-working space, H2, for digital health companies in the Hagastaden district.

While fledgling businesses prefer the vibe in the city centre, large companies such as Intel, Oracle, Sun Microsystems and Huawei have chosen to position themselves in Kista. It is also home to the HQ of Swedish telecom giant Ericsson, which helped to bring the world 3G. In 2018, Stockholm will be the first of two cities on the planet (along with Estonian capital Tallinn) to have 5G, which workers in Kista are trialling.

Getting around Stockholm is made easy by its stunning underground metro system. Operating since 1950 and extending today to a 100km network.





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The city council's Vision 2040 blueprint intends for Stockholm to be "the most connected city in the world". The new Urban ICT Arena for digital development launched in the tech park a few months ago – projects include the "Not Boring 5G Bike", demonstrating a bright future for the Internet of Things in Sweden.

UNDERGROUND INNOVATION

Getting around Stockholm is made easy by its stunning underground metro system. Operating since 1950 and extending today to a 100km network of raw, cave-like tunnels, its imaginatively decorated stations have earned it the title of the "world's longest art gallery". Standout stops include T-Centralen, Kungsträdgården and Solna Centrum.

Electric car-sharing scheme Car2Go is also popular. A quick hop over the bridge from hipster enclave Södermalm, where people stop for cinnamon buns and artisan coffee, is the city's first "sustainable" district, Hammarby Sjöstad. Stockholm is

a city of 14 islands so is surrounded by water – walking around pristine Hammarby Sjöstad, you see boats moored outside modern apartment buildings and people reading the paper by bird-friendly marshland.

Tour guide Marco Giertz explains that there is no need for rubbish trucks in this neighbourhood as trash is sucked out of apartments through high-speed vacuum pipes. Toilet waste is turned into biogas that runs the local buses while, with the help of solar panels, houses consume half the electricity of conventional ones. A mountain made out of landfill waste is used as a ski slope in winter. By 2030, a whole new eco-district will emerge on the shores of Lake Värtan. The Royal Seaport, as it will be known, will have 12,000 homes and 35,000 offices.

FORWARD THINKING

Innovation is something that has been rewarded for well over a century here. The Nobel Prize has been presented annually in Stockholm for 115 years, and a new brass-

clad, triple-stack Nobel Centre is planned for a waterfront site near the National Museum by Nybroviken bay. Designed by David Chipperfield and Christoph Felger, construction is expected to start next year.

According to Bengtsson, other contributing factors to the city's cutting-edge approach are a strong engineering heritage, subsidised home computing in the 1990s and a global outlook that comes from being a small country. "You have to think internationally early on," he says.

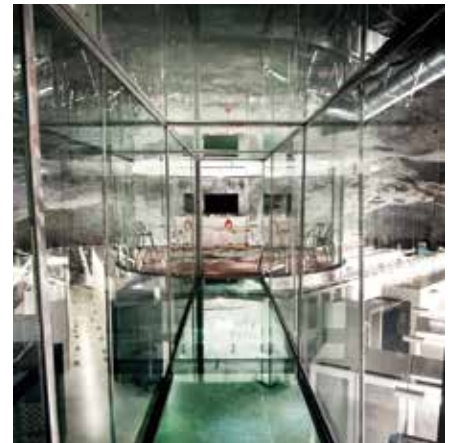
Epicentre's Mesterton highlights Sweden's excellent state schools and free university education, as well as inspiring role models. He says: "When you look at people in Sweden who have had big success, they are very open. Niklas Zennstrom, founder of Skype [bought by Microsoft in 2011 for US\$8.5 billion], is super-active in helping new entrepreneurs grow." Other mega successes to come out of the country include music streaming service Spotify; King, maker of the Candy Crush Saga game; and Minecraft game developer Mojang.

Bengtsson says: “The Nordics has 3 per cent of the European population but 11 per cent of the venture capital, and 53 per cent of the billion-dollar-plus exits [when a company goes public or is sold to another firm]. Between 2009 and 2014, Stockholm had almost 20 per cent of the European venture investment into fintech startups – twice the amount of Germany, Switzerland and Austria combined.” In total, the tech sector employs 18 per cent of people in Stockholm, while roughly 23,000 new businesses are registered in the city every year.

The global move towards cloud computing means that data storage has become big business in the Nordics. In 2015, it was reported that the data centre industry in Sweden generated Skr 13 billion (£1 billion) towards the country’s GDP.

One of the most impressive facilities in Stockholm is the Bahnhof Pionen data centre, which inhabits a former Cold War nuclear bunker under White Mountain in Södermalm. With half-metre-thick steel doors and a backup generator from a German submarine, it used to look after Wikileaks’ servers.

Bahnhof co-ordinator Johan Sandell says: “Data storage is getting bigger as people know Sweden is safe. They don’t want to put it in the US as they don’t know who has access to it. It is safe from hacking – and from governments.” The Bond-like lair has a “floating” glass conference room and green walls of living plants, while the heat generated by the servers is used to warm nearby houses. In Stockholm, evolution always means innovation.



Last year saw a record 13 million overnight hotel stays (a jump of 1.2 million).

WHERE TO STAY

Last year saw a record 13 million overnight hotel stays (a jump of 1.2 million), with guests flocking to the likes of the five-star Grand hotel (host of the Nobel Prize banquet), Hotel Skeppsholmen, the Berns and Ett Hem.

Meaning “At Home”, Ett Hem is part of Small Luxury Hotels of the World (slh.com) and occupies a converted Swedish mansion on Skoldungagatan in Ostermalm.

At the end of a hard day, a dinner of garden-fresh New Nordic cuisine at its rustic kitchen table is unmissable.

Buried deep underground, the new 106-room Hotel With Urban Deli (pictured below) has no need for blackout blinds. It was unveiled in 2015. Openings this year include Scandic’s Haymarket hotel, the upgraded Scandic Continental by Central station, and “luxury hostel” Generator.



VIRGIN HOTEL CHICAGO



The red-carpeted lobby staircase leads up to the Commons Club, intended to be the brand's signature lounge concept.

The world's first Virgin hotel opened in Chicago in January last year. Pitched as a lifestyle brand combining "smart innovation" with "straightforward value", Virgin Hotels will next launch properties in Palm Springs (2018), Nashville, New York and Dallas (all 2019). It plans to have 20 hotels by 2025, with European expansion in its sights.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Friendly, glamorous and very Virgin, the 250-room hotel is housed in the 26-storey 1920s art deco Old Dearborn Bank building. Design firm Rockwell Group has done a great job of bringing the Virgin personality into the property while restoring its original features, including the lobby's grand staircase, brass lift doors and oak cigar bar (now the front desk). There's lots of red, as you might expect, from the lip-shaped sofa outside to the scarlet Smeg minibar fridges. The staff are trendy and professional.

WHERE IS IT?

An excellent downtown location on North Wabash Avenue in the Loop, a few minutes' walk from the Chicago River and Millennium Park.

ROOM FACILITIES

The hotel has 250 rooms – or "Chambers" – including 38 one-bedroom suites and two penthouses. Starting from 26 sqm (Grand Chambers are 35 sqm; suites from 47 sqm), they are cleverly designed, with sleeping and dressing areas divided by wooden sliding doors. The dressing section includes a walk-in rainshower, make-up table, ample hanging space and shelving. Amenities are by Red

Flower. In the sleeping area is a custom-designed Virgin King bed with a sofa-like padded ergonomic headboard – designed for those who like to work or eat on their lap – plus a corner seat built into the foot of the bed.

There's also a desk, free wifi and local calls (international calls are at Skype-equivalent rates), a sleek Stellé speaker, bedside plug sockets and USB ports, and a 42-inch LG smart TV from which you can control the air con and order room service (no delivery charge). The minibar is fairly priced (Coke US\$1, beer US\$3, spirits US\$7), and tea and coffee are provided. Décor wise, the rooms are smart and unfussy, with hardwood flooring and grey felt wall coverings. My 19th-floor Chamber King had a great view of the river and the Trump hotel opposite, but only one bedside table, so I had to leave my phone and glass of water on the floor.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The red-carpeted lobby staircase leads up to the Commons Club, intended to be the brand's signature lounge concept. It features a double-height bar offering free drinks and made-to-order cocktails for guests from 7pm to 8pm (a nice touch); the "Funny Library", with large tables to work at plus books and games; and the semi-private Shag Room, with burlesque photos on the wall.

The street-facing Miss Ricky's is an all-day American diner that serves a good breakfast, and Two Zero Three is a coffee bar by day and a wine bar by night. On the top floor is Cerise, a funky rooftop bar with a wraparound terrace offering fabulous views. DJs play here, while live music and comedy take place regularly in Upstairs on the 25th floor.

MEETING FACILITIES

Three event spaces on the third floor hold between 12 and 120 people. Cerise, Upstairs and parts of the Commons Club can



On the top floor is Cerise, a funky rooftop bar with a wraparound terrace offering fabulous views.



also be hired, and Miss Ricky's has a private dining area.

LEISURE FACILITIES

The 25th-floor gym has Technogym kit and a covered terrace with AstroTurf, loungers and yoga mats. The basement spa has five treatment rooms and a hammam.

VERDICT

A very impressive debut for Virgin's hotel arm. Undoubtedly hip, it's also welcoming and well thought-out, with a refreshing approach to pricing the extras and an excellent array of dining and drinking venues. Most enjoyable.

Michelle Harbi

CONTACT

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203 North Wabash Avenue;
tel +1 312 940 4400;
www.virginhotels.com

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible mid-week stay in October started from US\$267 for a Chamber King room.

JUMEIRAH HIMALAYAS SHANGHAI



CONTACT

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tel +86 21 3858 0888;
www.jumeirah.com

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in November started from £201 for a Deluxe room.

This design-led business hotel was originally intended to be a Venu property – Jumeirah’s “contemporary lifestyle” brand, which is still to be launched. It opened in 2011.

WHAT’S IT LIKE?

The hotel is part of the large Himalayas Centre designed by Arata Isozaki (architect of the Barcelona Olympic stadium). It has a latticework façade and a central courtyard open to the elements, and is designed to look like an urban forest with dramatically sculpted columns.

The centre also opened in 2011 and, despite having a museum and gallery, seems empty, although the surrounding district has grown since I last stayed here five years ago in the neighbouring Kerry hotel.

From the outside, the property is striking and a little alien, with a red canopy and a water feature with statues of water buffalo. Inside, all seems dark at first but as your eyes adjust, it’s an arresting sight – a 16-metre-high square central atrium with tables and chairs gathered around a raised platform where Chinese folk dance

performances take place, and on the ceilings are projected everything from giant moons to comets burning through the sky. Across the walls is a 1,000-character Chinese poem in the calligraphy of ancient scholar Huai Su.

WHERE IS IT?

Next to Shanghai New International Expo Centre. It is convenient for the airport, as the high-speed Maglev train terminates one metro stop from the hotel’s nearest station (Huamu Road, Line 7), although there’s quite a walk between the two, so try



to get a taxi. Central Shanghai is a 30-minute metro ride away (similar in a taxi) and involves at least one change (normally on to Line 2 if you want to go shopping on East Nanjing Road or visit the Bund or People's Square).

ROOMS

There are 401 rooms, including 62 suites and residences. The most common categories are Deluxe and Grand Deluxe (105 and 100 rooms, respectively). Next up are Premier and Grand Premier. All are contemporary with dark wood furniture, hardwood floors and modern Chinese art. Wifi is fast and free, and there is a 42-inch HD LCD TV, a good workdesk, a laptop safe, a minibar, tea facilities and an

Illy coffee machine. Bathrooms are semi-open with a separate bath, shower and L'Occitane toiletries. Upper floors offer good views of the Pudong district. One side of the hotel overlooks the Expo Centre. Club floors are 18, 19 and 20, with the executive lounge located on the 21st, offering alcoholic drinks in the evening and soft drinks throughout the day.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

On the ground floor is the lobby bar and Arte Café and Lounge, where a buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner are served – the breakfast was good, with lots of international choices. On the upper floors are Shang High, Japanese restaurant J-Mix, and the Grill Room.

MEETING FACILITIES

The hotel has two ballrooms – the Grand, holding 800 delegates, and the Himalayas, accommodating 350. Other options include a 5,000 sqm infinity garden on the sixth floor.

LEISURE FACILITIES

There is a gym and an indoor pool, although local memberships are sold, so this was the only busy part of the hotel at the weekend.

VERDICT

The location won't suit everyone, but if your work is in Pudong or accessible via metro Line 7, it's a top-class business hotel, recognisably a Jumeirah but with distinctive Chinese design and helpful staff with good English skills.

If your work is in Pudong or accessible via metro Line 7, it's a top-class business hotel, recognisably a Jumeirah but with distinctive Chinese design



LOEWS CHICAGO HOTEL



Modern and welcoming, the Loews is purpose-built for business travellers

Loews Hotels and Resorts operates 24 properties in the US and Canada. This downtown property opened in March last year, joining its Chicago O'Hare airport hotel, which launched in 2014.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Modern and welcoming, the Loews is purpose-built for business travellers. Housed in a gleaming 52-storey new-build, the 400-room property occupies the first 13 floors, with residences on the levels above. The expansive double-height lobby has reception desks on one side, a bar on the other (lively on the weekend) and ample seating.

There are tables with plug sockets and USB ports, TV screens showing sport, and boarding-pass printing stations. Some design elements are inspired by the city's history – a wooden-block artwork depicts how the skyline rose from the ashes of the Great Fire of 1871, metal panelling evokes the railroads, and Carl Sandburg's 1914 poem Chicago is inscribed in the lifts ("Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning"). The team are warm, engaging and helpful.

WHERE IS IT?

Centrally located in the Near North district of Streeterville, one block north of the Chicago River, two blocks east of North Michigan Avenue and a 15-minute walk from the lake.

ROOM FACILITIES

The 400 rooms and suites are airy, comfortable and spacious, ranging from 35 sqm for a Superior King to the 153 sqm Navy Pier suite. Decorated in



grey and ivory, they offer city, river or Lake Michigan views through floor-to-ceiling windows and come with free wifi, good-sized workdesks, 42-inch Samsung TVs, iHome docks, coffeemakers, minibars, robes, large walk-in showers (suites also have tubs) and bottled water at turndown. Premium Kings are the same size as Superior ones but offer better views from higher floors – mine, on level 12, had a fantastic view of Navy Pier.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

Off the lobby is Argentine restaurant Rural Society, which is led by celebrity chef Jose Garces and has a rustic, relaxed atmos-

phere. Succulent meats and fish are cooked on a wood-fired grill and presented sharing-plate style. The chef's tasting menu (from US\$60 per person), which can be accompanied by South American wine pairings (from US\$35), is superb. An à la carte breakfast is served here on weekends or in the ETA lobby lounge on weekdays. On the third floor is Streeterville Social, the city's largest rooftop terrace, at more than 800 sqm. Open from early summer to late autumn, it's separated into drinking and dining sections and is a buzzing spot attracting a local crowd, with sofas and giant Jenga. There's also a Starbucks on the ground floor.

MEETING FACILITIES

It has 2,700 sqm of indoor and outdoor event space, including two ballrooms.

LEISURE FACILITIES

There is a spa with three treatment rooms, a gym and an attractive 23-metre pool on the third floor. Or pull on your trainers and head for the splendid Lakefront Trail.

VERDICT

An excellent choice for business travellers. Spacious, well-equipped rooms, a strong food and drink offering, impressive event space and lovely staff, in a good location for getting around the city. Highly recommended.

CONTACT

455 North Park Drive;
tel +1 312 840 6600;
www.loewshotels.com

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible mid-week stay in October started from US\$328 for a Premium King room.



THE FRANKLIN HOTEL



CONTACT

The Franklin Hotel,
22-28 Egerton Gardens, London
SW3 2BD;
tel +44 (0) 207 584 5533;
www.thefranklinlondon.com
www.starhotels.com

PRICE

An introductory rate of £400
per night including breakfast is
currently available for midweek
stays in October.

The Franklin Hotel first opened in the early 1990s, within four combined Victorian townhouses on Egerton Gardens in Knightsbridge.

The property had been closed for several years before being acquired by Italian hotel group Starhotels and reopened in August. Renovation works have seen the room count lowered from around 50 to 35 rooms, and the interiors have been created by Anouska Hempel, responsible for London's Blakes Hotel and The Hempel (the latter of which closed in 2013).

Starhotels also counts London's The Gore and The Pelham within its portfolio, as well as The Castille in Paris, The Michaelangelo in New York,

and around a dozen hotels in Italy.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The entrance to the hotel is very discreet, so much so that we nearly walked past it – there is no formal reception area, but we were immediately greeted by a member of staff and invited to check-in at a large round marble table.

Decor throughout the hotel is predominantly monochrome, with varying shades of grey from the marble and limestone floors, Italian velvet upholstery, grey and cream wall hangings, and mirror framed prints.

The property backs onto peaceful communal residential gardens (which the hotel does not have access to), which gives the restaurant and garden-view

rooms an almost country estate feel, although it was slightly odd to open our curtains to see children playing with their trikes and scooters on the grass.

It's early days, and the hotel is experiencing a few teething issues – the lifts were working only intermittently during our stay, and my partner discovered a leak in the ladies' cloakroom which meant it had to be closed to guests.

But staff were excellent – polite, apologetic for these issues, and on hand to help – whether it be lugging enormous looking suitcases up the narrow staircases, or escorting guests to alternative cloakroom facilities. The hotel was also fully booked on the night we stayed, which is a good sign.

WHERE IS IT?

Just off Egerton Crescent, reportedly one of the most expensive streets in the world, around five minutes' walk from South Kensington Underground station, and just off the main Cromwell Road link from Heathrow airport. The hotel is also a couple of minutes' walk from the Natural History, Victoria and Albert and Science museums.

ROOM FACILITIES

Due to the nature of the building no two rooms are identical, with superior rooms ranging from around 18 to 24 sqm, and deluxe rooms measuring around 25 sqm.

Hempel has created two room design types – the mirror room with a distressed mirror-framed bed, mirrored drawers, and mirror-framed artworks of dried flowers (if this sounds gaudy, don't worry, it isn't), and the wire bed room, with a wrought iron four poster bed, and large art nouveau style mirrors.

Features include hardwood floors, Frette Italian linen, free wifi, safe, air conditioning, blackout blinds, and large flatscreen TVs with built-in Apple TV (I didn't have an Apple device with which to try this out via the app). Most superior rooms have combined bathroom and shower, although a couple have walk-in showers only, and toiletries are by Penhaligon.

Some suites feature a large wet room with bathtub, double rain showers and TVs built into the mirror.

Our room featured a print of the hotel's emblem, with the name "Joseph Herrmann" inside it. This was repeated around 20 times around the room (a little over the top to be honest). It's not a name I was familiar with, so asked a member of staff, and they said that Herrmann was "a friend" of Lord Egerton, after which the street is named.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The Franklin Restaurant by Alfredo Russo features dishes created by the Italian Michelin-starred chef and owner of Dolce Stil Novo restaurant within The Palace of Venaria near Turin.

Antipasti choices include the delicious polenta taragna with taleggio cheese and wild mushrooms (£15), while Secondi options include a rack of lamb casserole with roasted carrots and licorice (£28), and the wonderfully light sea bass with tomatoes, red onion and basil.

Decor continues the monochrome feel of the rest of the hotel – apparently Anouska Hempel had dined in the restaurant earlier that week, and complained that the lighting was too harsh to fully show off her design, so the main lights had been switched off and replaced

with table candles. This certainly gave the restaurant a more intimate feel, but for me the lighting was so subdued that it was hard to read the menu at times.

Note that at present the restaurant is only open to hotel guests, although it is hoped this will be extended to non-residents later this year.

Adjacent to the restaurant there is a champagne and cocktail bar, offering seven different champagnes and 22 types of gin.

MEETING FACILITIES

The Library is due to open at the end of September, and will be available for receptions for up to 40 guests, or as a private dining space for 14 to 18 people.

LEISURE FACILITIES

On the basement level there is a gym with natural light, which is now open to guests, as well as a hammam and spa treatment rooms which were still being finished when I visited.

When it is not in use for events, the Library will be available for guests to relax in, and will feature an open fire.

VERDICT

A peaceful setting, impeccable service and beautiful design both in the rooms and public spaces. If you are keen to use the leisure facilities check ahead with the hotel that they have opened.

Mark Caswell



CATHAY PACIFIC A350-900



KONTAKT

www.cathaypacific.com

This is a review of Cathay Pacific's Airbus A350-900, with 280 seats configured in three classes: 214 economy seats, 28 premium economy and 38 business. It is a new aircraft, and in addition is a return to Gatwick for Cathay after a gap of nearly 20 years. The four-times weekly service started in September 2016. Flight times can be found on the news pieces.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

I arrived at Hong Kong International at 2100 for my 0055 departure on CX343 to London Gatwick. I had already checked in at the city check-in at Central in Hong Kong and dropped my luggage. This meant I could bypass the Cathay check-in which is in zones B and C and go straight through security. Once there, I then went to the lounge.

BOARDING:

While in the lounge I had been told that my seat had been

swapped because there was a problem with the IFE screen. My new seat was 14D. I boarded at Gate 30 around 0030 for the 0055 departure on CX343, a flight of 12 hours and 30 minutes.

When I arrived at the gate boarding had already commenced, though there were separate queues for economy and premium passengers. Once on board, I was greeted and started working while other passengers joined the flight. I believe other passengers were offered a welcome drink (they all had one) but I may have missed this because of working or using the washroom. In any case, I did not want one having visited four lounges in the previous three hours.

THE SEAT

My seat was now 14D, a centre seat two rows from the front of the front cabin (there are a pair of seats 11D-G and then 12A -DG-K). No row 13. There are two cabins – a larger front cabin of 30

seats in a 1-2-1 configuration and a rear smaller one of 1-2-1 with just eight seats. There is a seat map on Cathay's website: Cathay Pacific A350-900 seat map.

These are new seats in all classes, with the premium economy and business seats designed by Studio F.A. Porsche. The seat will be immediately recognisable to those used to flying Cathay's business class – it is 1-2-1 in configuration, forward-facing but at an angle, with surrounds giving a fair degree of privacy without completely cutting you off from other seats (important for the centre seats where couples may be flying. The cabin seems spacious which is impressive when there are overhead lockers above the central seats, which wasn't the case with the Qatar Airways A350, Ethiopian or Finnair.

The seat has a foot-well/ ottoman close to your fellow passenger, so for amusement's sake (and I did not encourage his feet for the following performance) here is

my view, of his feet /socks as he waited for take-off.

On the previous flight I'd not been impressed with the tray table. This one, though, was better – still small but at least the table was more robust and did not slope as had my previous ones – perhaps it's just luck which you get.

THE FLIGHT

While waiting for take-off I navigated around the Inflight Entertainment and found the camera function, and as I waited for the doors to close and for us to begin the process of taking off I shut my eyes. It was around 0045 by this time. When I opened my eyes chocolates were being offered for the end of the meal service. Ninety minutes had passed. I could have gone back to sleep, but it's a long flight and I wanted to try the food. I asked if I could have a meal, and there was no problem. Full marks for flexibility, since most people who had dined had already finished their meals.

FOOD AND DRINK

The meals were offered in association with the Hong Kong restaurant Mott 32.

Cathay Pacific's new menus with Hong Kong's Mott 32. These are described as "ingredient-focused", and though it's hard to think of food that isn't, they were very tasty.

For supper I had freshly prepared savoury dips and grissini, chicken, French beans, fungus and mushrooms, kalia, carrot and steamed jasmine rice, seasonal berries and ginger syrup. They also offered a cheese plate, but I declined.

Note that the problems with the washrooms remained – namely that when you close and lock the door the sensor doesn't detect it, meaning the washroom shows as green light unoccupied in the main cabin, which means everyone tries the door while you are in there, and meanwhile you are in near-darkness because the light hasn't come on

fully. It's not so bad when you are prepared for it, but it needs fixing.

From talking with the flight attendants I know they had their own challenges with a coffee machine not working in the galley and other issues but these are all teething problems which will be fixed. The service was excellent throughout the flight, especially considering I think they were all quite new to the aircraft.

One point is that the A350-900 is very quiet, and from row 14 I could quite clearly hear the flight attendants chattering away in the galley, which probably would not have been audible on the B777-300ER or other aircraft. You can also hear fellow passengers snoring (though not yourself) or people talking to flight attendants from several rows away. There are noise-cancelling headphones, so most people either put ear plugs in and sleep or watch films.

Other disturbances (in terms of light) come from the large IFE screens, which are very bright. If your neighbour leaves their screen on but pushes it back into take off position it shines right at you, but if you wear an eye mask it's problem solved.

I slept extremely well. The bed is very comfortable and with the extra areas around the sides means it's extremely comfortable to move around and sleep on



your side, according to personal preference.

I woke about 0400 UK time, with just over two hours of the flight remaining. I brushed my teeth, and then did some work, connecting to the Wifi once again I had connected using my phone before sleeping and caught up on emails, now I used my laptop. The price was \$19.95 for the whole flight or \$9.95 for one hour.

In case you were wondering, you can't buy the one hour and then keep pausing it.

The Panasonic IFE system and connectivity is excellent. Cathay says that the service is available from gate to gate from departure to arrival, which is true in the sense that you can view the portal, but you can only surf websites and get your emails once above 10,000 feet. The IFE system also has three live channels which worked well. (BBC, CNN and Euronews). Note that for flights of six hours or less the price is US\$12.95 for flights of six hours and less. You can find more here.

Around 90 minutes before arrival breakfast was served.

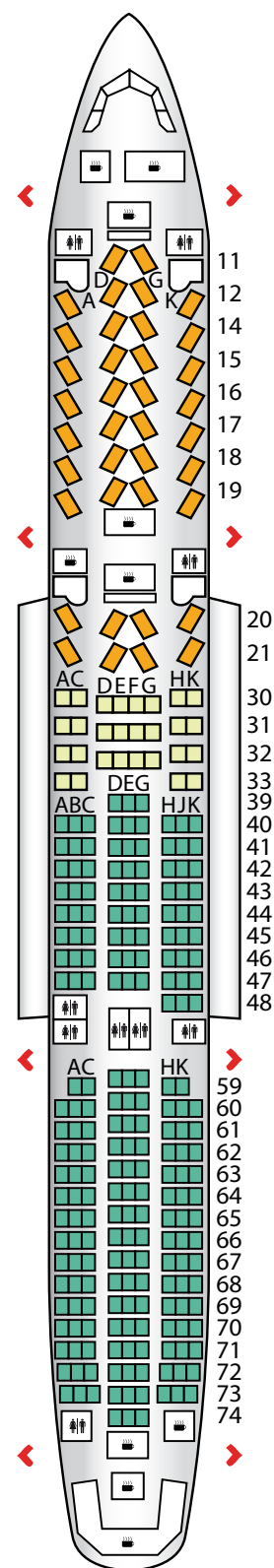
We landed without delay at 0620. Once we had landed we had a long taxi to the gate and were disembarked by 0635. Immigration was empty and our bags appeared quickly on the carousel. Cathay has no arrivals lounge or facility here at London Gatwick, though they told me they would look at it if there is a demand. From there I took a train from the Gatwick South Train Station into Central London.

VERDICT

Very good – the staff were excellent, the seat perfect for sleeping and working, and of course the A350 leaves you feeling fresher because of the reduced noise and lower altitude on board.

Once again the seats seem to be far from robust, though (and there are a few teething problems with the inflight entertainment). I'm sure these will soon be fixed.

Tom Otley





THE LOUNGE LOWDOWN

Tom Otley and **Marisa Cannon** round up places to refresh, work and refuel across Heathrow's four terminals.

W

elcome to our round-up of Heathrow lounges, covering both departure and arrival facilities in T2, T3, T4 and T5 (Terminal 1 closed last year). In the UK, departure lounges are generally airside, while arrivals lounges are landside – the divide isn't quite as clear-cut as it may seem, though, because a transiting passenger may well use the airside facility as both an arrivals and departures lounge. In addition, the arrivals lounges listed here are accessible only to those who have "arrived" in the UK by clearing customs.

Access for you and any guests differs for every lounge, as do the costs of paying your way into ones that allow this. Membership programmes such as Priority Pass provide access to various venues – check what facilities you can use before you travel.

To save space, we assume that all lounges have work areas, sufficient power for your devices, free internet, cold food and complimentary soft drinks (although we may mention these where notable).

TERMINAL 2

● Aer Lingus Gold Circle

Directly to the right of security on the upper concourse, the Irish flag carrier's lounge (pictured above) features white oak walls and shag green carpets. Floor-to-ceiling windows face the southern runway and provide plenty of natural light. A small buffet offers soup, rolls and pastries, and cereal at breakfast. On the right of the entry hall is a spacious seating area with leather recliners, a good range of magazines, and tables and chairs for working. There are also showers and two small meeting rooms, one of which looks on to the runway. aerlingus.com

● Air Canada Maple Leaf

Located in Terminal 2B, the Maple Leaf lounge features materials native to Canada – Eramosa marble from Ontario, maple hardwood from Quebec and birch furniture from Calgary. Curved walls guide people from reception through to a refreshment zone on the left, a business centre and workzone with computers directly ahead, and an expansive seating area with a mez-

zanine level to the right. This part of the lounge has views of the runway through full-height windows. The "bistro" has self-service food (both hot and cold throughout the day), Molson lager on tap, an espresso machine and a staffed bar where you can order a glass of champagne. There are also three showers. aircanada.com

● Lufthansa Business and Senator

Next to the Aer Lingus facility, this is Lufthansa's largest lounge outside Germany, at 1,600 sqm, and comprises both a Business and a Senator section, which are connected. It has an apron view and a parquet floor. There is a good selection of hot and cold food to choose from, as well as a business area with a board table and a selection of magazines to browse through. It can get busy when other Star Alliance members choose to use it. lufthansa.com

● Plaza Premium Arrivals

Plaza Premium is expanding across the airport, with openings due in T3 arrivals, T4 arrivals and T5 departures over the



Access for you and any guests differs for every lounge, as do the costs of paying your way into ones that allow this. Membership programmes such as Priority Pass provide access to various venues.



In the UK, most departure lounges are generally airside, while arrivals lounges are landside.

next year. Along from the United Arrivals lounge, this has a small buffet with pastries and fruit, and a bar that offers unlimited tea, coffee and alcoholic drinks. A high bench at the back is good for working on laptops. Showers, treatment rooms for massages and “napping rooms” (for a fee) are in a concealed back area. A new English breakfast menu was recently launched and an afternoon tea offering is soon to come. Open 5am-10pm; £25 for one hour. [plaza-network.com](#)

● Plaza Premium Departures

To the right of the escalators on the lower concourse, this public lounge is an atmospheric place – there are no windows so it feels like a peaceful spa, with showers and day-bed rooms. It has a bar and several seating areas that are given privacy by slatted walls. There’s a good selection of food and alcohol available, although it’s the ability to book a room to sleep in that sets this lounge apart, with packages of up to ten hours available for transfer passengers. Access costs £35 for two hours. [plaza-network.com](#)

● Singapore Airlines Silverkris

Located on the upper level of Terminal 2B (along with United and Air Canada), the Singapore Airlines Silverkris lounge features the carrier’s new “home away from home” design and is split into a living

room, a dining room with a self-service buffet, a bar, “productivity pods” and showers. Waiting staff are on hand to deliver drinks. The first class area also has a self-service buffet, as well as à la carte dishes (there are five different menus per day, with at least two available at any one time). [singaporeair.com](#)

● United Club

The airline’s first facility outside the US to feature its new United Club design concept, this business class lounge is large, airy and luxurious, seating more than 280 guests. It has floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the airfield, with refreshment stations at either end. There is a circular TV lounge and a range of seating, from sofas and wing chairs to communal tables and dining areas. [united.com](#)

● United Global First Lounge

Across from the United Club business class lounge, the first class facility is for passengers of any Star Alliance carrier. Featuring airfield views, luxurious décor and vintage aviation-themed artwork, standout features include a Big Ben-style clock in its tea lounge, a wine room and a quiet zone with sofas and privacy drapes. There is a pressing service, along with eight showers (shared with United Club). [united.com](#)

● United Arrivals

On the left as you exit baggage claim, the lounge features white walls, cream chairs and polished gleaming surfaces, although, thankfully, the lighting isn’t too bright if you are still waking up after a long-haul flight. It has good shower suites with items such as razors and toothbrushes available, and offers suit pressing and a variety of hot and cold food. Air Canada and South African Airways passengers can also use it. Open 5am-2pm. [united.com](#)

TERMINAL 3

● American Airlines Flagship/Admirals

AA’s first class Flagship lounge has a newly launched à la carte dining space plus a small buffet of hot and cold dishes. A private corridor connects it with the business class Admirals lounge, which has a kitchen and a buffet at its centre, with secluded nooks surrounding for reading and working. A revamped menu by catering agency Rhubarb (of London’s Sky Garden) offers smoothies, superfood salads and protein pancakes, as well as a “build your own burger” station. There are nine showers, a TV room and business centre. [aa.com](#)

● American Airlines Arrivals

To the right of the T3 customs hall, AA’s arrivals facility opened in August and has 29 showers – the most of all the lounges in



Falcon Gold lounge is an ornate space with high arched doorways, potted plants and statement ornaments.



the terminal. A pressing service is available and, during peak hours, passengers are given a buzzer to notify them when a shower is free. A conference room holds ten people, and the buffet serves a hot brunch alongside jugs of mimosas and Bloody Marys. There is also a bistro station with jars of sweets and cookies. Open 5am-3.30pm.

aa.com

● British Airways Galleries

This is a larger lounge than it initially looks, although suffers slightly from a lack of natural light and a low ceiling. These two elements also contribute to it feeling cluttered and sometimes crowded – still, it has all the facilities you'd expect, and a good choice of food and drink. The space is broken into different areas so it's possible to find a quiet corner, and there is also a business centre. Located in Zone F. ba.com

● Cathay Pacific The Pier

Designed by London-based studio Ilse Crawford, the airline's newly refurbished lounge was set to open as we went to press in September. The design will reflect the Hong Kong flagship lounge, which features shower suites, a relaxation room and a self-service food hall and noodle bar. cathaypacific.com

● Emirates

This is the only lounge in the terminal from which passengers can board directly. Following an extension last October, the U-shaped lounge now holds up to 400 guests, with a sizeable dining area, showers, a prayer room and bars at both ends. There is a good range of hot dishes with Western, Asian and Middle Eastern options, as well as a large selection of cheeses and desserts. emirates.com

● No 1 Lounge

Like the BA Galleries lounge, this is a classy space, if rather dark. The décor is modern, with atmospheric spot lighting, and it offers a good choice of food and drink, including a bar with alcohol. There are also showers, a wide choice of magazines and several TVs. Located in Zone F, entry is £36. nollounges.com

● Virgin Atlantic Revivals

Now welcoming not only Virgin Upper Class guests but Delta One passengers, Virgin's Arrivals lounge is a short walk from customs on the terminal's upper level. Recognisably "on brand", with plenty of bright red touches, it has showers, a Cowshed spa, a business centre, newspapers and maga-

zines, a bar and a deli serving breakfast and healthy (and unhealthy) snacks. Open 5am-1.30pm virgin-atlantic.com

● Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse

Still one of the best lounges in the world, the 2,500 sqm Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse has lavish amounts of food and drink (both à la carte and buffet options). There is even a sit-up bar serving signature libations so you feel a real sense of occasion. It has lots of natural light, a pool table and a spa where you can get free massages and paid-for haircuts. virgin-atlantic.com

TERMINAL 4

● El Al King David Lounge

Managed by the Plaza Premium Group, the El Al King David lounge opened in May following the airline's move from T1 in April 2015. The 340 sqm facility has business and first class zones, free wifi, charging points, and three food counters with dishes supplied by family-run kosher restaurant Isola Bella. The lounge is located in front of gate 2 (EL Al flights depart from gate 3), and is open from 3.5 hours before flights. elal.com

● Etihad Airways

Near Gate 10, the Etihad lounge has a restaurant with an à la carte menu, buffet and a long white bar serving cocktails. It also has a Six Senses spa giving 15-25 minute treatments. All first class passengers are offered a free 15-minute treatment. There is a small separate lounge and dining area for passengers of the A380 Residence. etihad.com

● Gulf Air Falcon Gold

Spanning 600 sqm, the Falcon Gold lounge is an ornate space with high arched doorways, potted plants and statement ornaments. Weary travellers will appreciate the soft lighting, comfortable seating and Illy coffee counter. There is a central bar and buffet with Halal options, two private family rooms, showers, a prayer room, business centre and luggage lockers. Located between Gates 6 and 7. gulfair.com

● Malaysia Airlines Golden Lounge

Located next to Gate 6, the Golden lounge comprises one space divided into two, with the far end reserved for first class. It scores highly for both food and drink, prepared at a central bar, but it does lack plug points at the seats. The lounge is bright and has full-height windows on two sides. It also has a prayer room. malaysiaairlines.com



● Plaza Premium Departures

The lounge operator's T4 facility has the feel of a modern deli, featuring long communal tables with plug sockets at the seats, a self-service buffet with pastries, cold cuts and hot food, a coffee machine and cold drinks. There are lots of armchairs, with some in private hexagonal pods, while there are computers with stools at reception. Access costs £35 for two hours.

plaza-network.com

● Qatar Airways Premium Lounge

You feel as if you've stepped into a Middle Eastern five-star hotel when you enter this space. It has floor-to-ceiling windows along one wall and offers both buffet dining and an à la carte restaurant. There are showers, a business centre, and staff serving food and drinks. Located opposite Gate 6.

qatarairways.com

● Skyteam

Opened in 2009, this two-level facility was the first of Skyteam's Exclusive Lounges, and is located at Gate 10. The upper floor is aimed at business travellers and intended as a "quiet zone". Like the lower level, it features a green vertical garden by Patrick Blanc – it also has more power points. There's a Clarins spa for pre-boarding pampering, and hot and cold food is available.

skyteam.com



TERMINAL 5

● Aspire, the Lounge and Spa at LHR T5

Particularly welcome for anyone lacking Oneworld status, this paid-for facility, which opened last year, offers showers (£20 for 30 minutes) and spa treatments (soon these will be bookable in advance). Most drinks are free, although some alcohol costs extra. It costs £30 for a three-hour visit.

executivelounges.com

● British Airways Galleries

British Airways has a Galleries Club lounge at both the north and south ends of Terminal 5, as well as in the T5B satellite building. The North Galleries can get very busy, espe-

cially in the mornings, but is the first you reach after security; the ones at South and at T5B both have Elemis spas. ba.com

● British Airways Galleries First

Located at T5 South, this is a large space with an outdoor terrace, a buffet and two business areas. It ranges from being peaceful to crammed, and either a wide choice of food, magazines, good wines and champagne, or a limited one.

ba.com

● British Airways Concorde Room

As well as the possibility of a treatment in the Elemis spa (First passengers can book in advance), the chandelier-clad Concorde Room has its own à la carte restaurant, and a quieter atmosphere than the Galleries. There are also private cabanas with beds and en suite bathrooms.

ba.com

● Club Millesime at Sofitel London Heathrow

Take the lift to Level 1 from T5 arrivals and follow signs to the Sofitel hotel, where you'll find the lounge on the ground floor. Priority Pass members can take in four guests for up to five hours. Showers and paid-for spa treatments are available, plus a buffet, à la carte food and free wifi. Open 6.30am-10pm. £40 for non-members.

sofitel.com

The Singapore Airlines Silverkris lounge features the carrier's new "home away from home" design and is split into a living room, a dining room with a self-service buffet, a bar, "productivity pods" and showers.





Plaza Premium Departures has the feel of a modern deli. There are lots of armchairs and computers with stools at reception.

LUFTHANSA FOR WINTER HOLIDAYS



This winter member airlines of the Luftansa Group - Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, Eurowings, Lufthansa and SWISS International Air Lines - will be an even more attractive choice for both business and leisure travellers.

In the forthcoming 2016/2017 winter flight timetable, the airlines of the Lufthansa Group will offer its customers precisely 19,838 flights each week around the world. This winter, the Lufthansa Group airlines will link 255 destinations in 101 countries via its hubs in Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich, Vienna and Brussels, but also via many point-to-point routes. The winter flight timetables for the individual Group airlines apply from Sunday, 30 October 2016 to Saturday, 25 March 2017.

LUFTHANSA

Lufthansa lists a total of 194 destinations in its winter flight timetable and offers approximately 9,668 flights a week. There is some good news for

travellers who love South Africa: Lufthansa is adding a service from Frankfurt to Cape Town (South Africa) to its flight timetable again this winter. Starting on 2 December 2016, a Lufthansa aircraft will take off from Frankfurt every Wednesday, Friday and Sunday bound for the port city near Table Mountain. This year-round service expands the Lufthansa Group's multi-hub portfolio and perfectly complements the seasonal service previously operated out of Munich and Zurich in conjunction with Edelweiss. Flights will also run to San Jose (USA) in Silicon Valley over winter, along with the attractive dream destinations of Mauritius, Malé (Maldives) and Cancún (Mexico). Lufthansa has significantly increased the number of connections to Nairobi (Kenya), Dallas (USA) and Poona (India). Funchal (Madeira) is being added to the European programme, with a once-weekly flight.

The list of new European destinations served out of Frankfurt also includes Tromsø (Norway)

and Ivalo (Finland), with one flight to each per week. With these two new destinations and its existing twice-weekly service from Munich to Kittilä (Finland), Lufthansa will fly to three attractive tourist destinations in the far north of Europe. There will be an increase in the number of connections from Frankfurt to Wrocław (Poland) over winter. The winter schedule will see six new weekly connections to the Polish city. The new flights will take off everyday except Saturday. In total, in the winter timetable, the passengers of the Wrocław airport will have the choice of three daily connections to Frankfurt, from Monday through Friday, as well as on Sunday, while on Saturday there will be two daily flights.

A new year-round service to Marrakesh (Morocco) will be offered out of Munich. Lufthansa will start operating this route on 30 October, taking passengers to the Moroccan city twice a week. Denver (USA) and Tehran (Iran) will be added to the winter flight timetable as new des-

tinations and there will be more frequent services to Los Angeles, Miami (both USA) and Tel Aviv (Israel). Debrecen (Hungary), Odessa (Ukraine) and Porto (Portugal) will remain on the timetable. Also this winter passengers Lufthansa will open its first Munich - Rzeszów connection.

AUSTRIAN AIRLINES

In winter 2016/2017, Austrian Airlines will offer its passengers a wide range of up to 130 destinations in 56 countries. The Austrian carrier is stepping up its focus on tourist destinations over winter. For instance, a Boeing 767 will fly to the Cuban city of Havana once a week starting on 25 October. In addition, there will be direct flights from Vienna to the Maldives and Mauritius up to twice a week. The airline will offer as many as two weekly connections to Marrakesh and a once-weekly flight to Colombo in Sri Lanka in its winter flight timetable.

BRUSSELS AIRLINES

Starting on 6 March 2017, the Belgian airline will fly to the Indian metropolis of Mumbai from Brussels five times a week. The new service to Toronto (Canada), which was introduced during the last flight timetable period, will continue to run over winter. There is good news for anyone looking to travel to Africa. The seating capacity on flights to the popular winter destinations of Banjul (Gambia) and Dakar (Senegal) will be increased and more frequent services to Entebbe (Uganda) and Kigali (Rwanda)

will make it easier to travel to East Africa.

Compared with last winter, Brussels Airlines has significantly expanded its flight timetable, adding services from Brussels to Porto (Portugal), Naples (Italy), Belfast (Ireland), Nuremberg (Germany) and Nantes (France). On top of this, the airline is increasing its weekly flights to Lisbon (Portugal), Málaga, Tenerife (both Spain), Edinburgh (UK) and Billund (Denmark).

EUROWINGS

For the first time, Eurowings Europe aircraft will fly from the new base in Salzburg to Zurich (Switzerland) six times a week, Geneva (Switzerland) three times a week, Brussels (Belgium) four times, Paris (France) five times and Hamburg (Germany) three times a week. There will be seven flights per week to Cologne-Bonn (Germany).

A host of attractive new destinations will be served out of Vienna this winter. Eurowings passengers will be able to fly to Málaga, Fuerteventura and Las Palmas twice a week or head to the Andalusian city of Jerez de la Frontera (all Spain) once a week. Rome and Pisa will be added to the list of destinations in Italy. Passengers looking to soak up the Egyptian sun over winter can now fly from Vienna to Marsa Alam (Egypt) once a week. A new once-weekly service will also be available to Faro (Portugal).

During the winter season, the long-haul programme will be expanded with a once-weekly flight

from Cologne to the Cuban capital of Havana. The first winter service from Cologne to Miami (USA) and back will also be introduced. There will be more frequent long-haul services from Cologne to Varadero (Cuba), Mauritius and Phuket (Thailand). The destinations of Lanzarote, Fuerteventura (both Spain) and Lisbon (Portugal) will be added to the list of flights out of Düsseldorf.

SWISS

In the forthcoming winter flight timetable, the new SWISS long-haul aircraft, a Boeing 777-300ER, will be used for flights to Miami and San Francisco for the first time. Starting on 3 March 2017, the new flagship will also fly to Singapore every day. This service is currently run three times a week using a Boeing 777-300ER. SWISS will also step up its weekly connections to Hamburg, Berlin (both Germany), Krakow (Poland) and Belgrade (Serbia) in winter. Between 4 and 25 February 2017, SWISS will also offer a number of new scheduled flights between Zurich, Sion (Valais, Switzerland) and London City (UK). SWISS will use larger aircraft on flights to Spain (Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia), Portugal (Lisbon) and Italy (Rome, Florence) this winter.

In the new winter flight timetable 2016/2017, SWISS will serve 100 destinations in 44 countries.

In addition to this, SWISS will offer connections to holiday destinations around the world in conjunction with its partner Edelweiss during the winter season 2016/2017.

This winter
Lufthansa Group
will be an even
more attractive
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business
and leisure
travellers.



MERCURE KRAKOW THE OLD TOWN IN THE MAGICAL CITY



The hotel lobby is adorned with portraits of Barbara Radziwiłł and Elizabeth of Austria.

Each year Krakow is visited by nearly 10 million tourists from all over the world. The altar by Veit Stoss, Wawel Castle, the Cloth Hall, a ride by a horse-drawn carriage - these are some of the attractions you need to tick off when visiting the city for the first time. Now, however a tourist or a business guest can experience the history and atmosphere of the city even while staying in their hotel. All they need to do is to book a stay in Mercure Kraków Stare Miasto.

WAWEL AND THE INFLUENTIAL WOMEN OF THE RENAISSANCE KRAKOW

The hotel lobby is adorned with portraits of Barbara Radziwiłł and Elizabeth of Austria. The portrait of Queen Barbara is a multimedia image, which means that four times per hour the monarch "revives" and goes for a walk around the most beautiful corners of Krakow, to finally return to the hotel and take her place in the painting. You can also take a selfie with the queen in eight different settings. Such a photo can be then sent as a postcard with greetings from Krakow. Looking at Mercure's brand wall, guests can recall their visit to Wawel Castle where they saw the famous Wawel Heads in the Hall of Deputies. The hotel wall features faithful 3D copies of the heads. Wawel inspirations can also be noticed in the reception area, where the lavishly carved front desk looks like the 16th century furniture. The same is true for table in the lobby where guests can use station-



ary PCs with internet access. The chairs here also resemble the ones from the Renaissance period, while the carpets on the floor hark back to the famous Jagiellonian tapestries. In the lobby everyone will find comfortable seating; you can choose between designer throne-like armchairs and smaller velvet-upholstered chairs or soft sofas.

EXQUISITELY AND WITH A LOCAL TWIST AT WINESTONE

In addition to the characteristic elements, such as the fuchsia-coloured wall above the bar or high tables and chairs, the Winestone restaurant also boasts several distinctive features. These include copper pots hanging over the bar, and cushions adorned with Gothic-like patterns. Another attractive element is the large rustic table with the top made of old elm.

The menu, in line with the slogan of Mercure and Winestone, draws inspiration from the local cuisine.

The offer includes sauerkraut soup with liseicka sausage, as well as the delicious Krakow "maczanka" - a precursor of today's hamburger, known since the 16th century and particularly popular with students.

IN THE COMPANY OF THE JAGIELLONIANS

The hotel offers 198 rooms divided into three main categories; Twin, Standard and Privilege. There are also 3 rooms adapted to the needs of disabled guests, 4 Junior Suites and one Executive Suite. One of the walls in each room is covered with a wallpaper presenting the image of Queen Bona Sforza and King Sigismund I the Old - it's a large-format print of a



16th-century lithograph. Some of the rooms and the fitness zone overlook a surprising mural. Its creators have playfully alluded to the historical aspirations of the hotel - there is a dragon head poking out of one of the window.

In the meeting zone of the lobby you can admire the famous painting entitled "A pictorial guide to the kings and queens of Poland" by Wojciech Fangor, reinterpreted here by Sławomir Witkowski. The hotel has 5 meeting rooms with a total area of 300 sqm, as well as a boardroom. There is also a Business Centre with modern equipment. The devices run on iOS and Android. In all the rooms there are special touch panels with which you can fully manage the space. Obviously, WiFi is available throughout the whole area of the hotel.

In the lobby everyone will find comfortable seating; you can choose between designer throne-like armchairs and smaller velvet-upholstered chairs or soft sofas.



NEW MEETING ROOMS AT THE WESTIN WARSAW



The meetings and events space at the Westin Warsaw hotel has been thoroughly renovated. The new interiors have been designed so that each meeting organized in the very centre of Warsaw can be held in tranquil atmosphere.

Everything - from the décor and technological amenities to the unobtrusive service and a rich culinary offer - has been

designed to cater for the needs of event organizers.

INSPIRED BY NATURE

The London-based Anita Rosato's studio, which has collaborated with the hotel for years, has created a remarkable meeting space whose elements allude directly to the nature, are abound in organic details, but also reflect contemporary trends in interior design.

The wallpapers, as well as the fabrics on wall panels and chairs, feature peaceful, natural and soothing colours. The carpets, which were made to order, look original with grey colour tones and delicate copper accents. Panels made of natural cork, rock-shaped mirrors, the perfectly round lights embedded in the ceiling, as well as other interesting accessories used here by the designers, highlight the original

aim of the renovation - to draw inspiration from the harmony and order of the nature. The impression is further enhanced by the view from the windows. It stretches over the numerous trees, making you feel as if you were in a green enclave, hidden in the heart of the bustling city.

TAILOR-MADE MEETINGS

Whether a business meeting, a private party, a gala dinner or an intimate meal, all those events can be managed by the hotel's meeting planners who take care of every minute detail so that the guests can make the most of the event. The conference rooms are equipped with state-of-the-art AV systems, wifi, overhead projectors and screens.

The hotel offers 10 meeting rooms, ranging from 27 to 455 sqm. The conference space at the Westin Warsaw is perfect for both small business meetings and large conferences for up to 500 participants. The ballroom is 5.5 metres high and is an ideal venue for an impressive evening gala, a symposium or a wedding reception.

TAKING CARE OF WELL-BEING

The head chef Janusz Korzyński has prepared a new, surprising culinary offer. Guests can select from several carefully composed packages, as well as receive a menu prepared on request, taking into account their individual preferences.

Healthy lifestyle aficionado will be pleased to learn the the superfoods offer, the Westin is famous for, has now been expanded. Superfoods coffee breaks involve healthy ingredients served in a balanced way. They need to provide the body and mind with necessary energy, regenerate and be rich in flavours. That is why, they are not only nutritious, but also delicious

LET'S MEET AT THE WESTIN

The Westin Warsaw is perfectly located in the capital's business



Whether a business meeting, a private party, a gala dinner or an intimate meal, all those events can be managed by the hotel's meeting planners who take care of every minute detail so that the guests can make the most of the event.



district, a few steps from the Palace of Culture and Science, the Złote Tarasy mall, as well as the ONZ roundabout and the M2 metro station. Its modern architecture, unique interior design and attentive staff will make you feel here very comfortable.

The logistically favourable location, close to the city's major skyscrapers and the central railway station, as well as good connection to the airport and the impressive 361 rooms - all of this make the Westin a "no brainer" choice as a conference venue by even organizers.





LAZING ON THE RIVER

Asia's great rivers are suddenly hot – and the phenomenon hasn't peaked. The continent's rivers are now second only to European waterways as anchors for upscale breaks.

Cruises have long been popular along North American rivers, while they're increasingly available in South America and Australia, and Africa offers more than just the Nile. But Asia provides the biggest challenge to European dominance, with huge growth occurring in the past decade – particularly at the opulent end of the market.

Consider this: Myanmar (Burma), until recently a tourism backwater, now has 18 cruise vessels travelling up and down the Ayeyarwady (still advertised as the arguably more exotic-sounding Irrawaddy, so we'll use that) where there were none 15 years ago. Even greater numbers of vessels cruise the Mekong (almost all on its Vietnamese and Cambodian reaches), and China's Yangtze is busiest of all.

Some voyagers deal directly with cruise companies. However, most use travel agents – some of which reinvent themselves as cruise specialists, the rest generally touting links to companies which have their own vessels or ties to operators that do. For instance, Aqua Expeditions recently launched a round-the-clock travel agents' portal which CEO Francesco Galli Zugaro believes "streamlines the booking process". This is an industry of deep discounting. Shop around, either online or by studying brochures – prices can vary markedly for

the same cruise. (The best prices are sometimes offered by vessel operators rather than commission-shaving agencies.)

Luxury river cruise vessels tend to be shallow-draught and barge style – the waters are mostly calm. Passenger numbers are typically small, between 40 and 80 in large-cabin environs much like boutique hotel rooms, with satellite TV and wifi standard and balconies optional. Read on for a sampling of what's available:

THAILAND

Time-strapped visitors to Bangkok can add short but memorable cruises to the beginning or end of business trips – a particularly good idea if a partner meets you in the Thai capital or you have the family in tow. The Chao Phraya – a major waterway used by cargo ships, ferries and barges – snakes through the city, brushing against riverside skyscrapers and a string of historic buildings (including the famed Mandarin Oriental). Sightseeing is heavily skewed towards the nation's Buddhist faith. Attractions seen from the river include the Grand Palace, National Museum and Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun).

Rice barges, some 100-plus years old, are stylishly refurbished in Thai style for 80km overnight cruises to the 665-year-old, temple-studded city of Ayutthaya, one of

Thailand's most visited destinations. Service is friendly and attentive aboard these shiny teak barges. I travel on the 12-passenger, six-cabin Anantara Song (run by the Manohra Cruises branch of the upscale Anantara resort chain), spending much of my time watching the passing scene while trailing my feet in the Chao Phraya. The experience is mirrored on the same company's Anantara Dream, but other operators have similar offerings. From a distance these rice barges are much like those still used as freight-carrying workhorses – but, close up, they ooze opulence.

Day-trip cruise options between Bangkok and Ayutthaya also exist – but they're more rushed. On the Anantara Song, by contrast, I am in unhurried mode – enjoying Thai cuisine, stopping at sacred temples, exploring Bang Pa-In Summer Palace and rambling amid ancient city ruins.

CAMBODIA & VIETNAM

In Indochina's Mekong Delta region, increasing demand has seen operators boost the number rather than size of vessels to retain their "boutique" feeling. Often in replicated French-colonial style, most carry about 50 passengers.

One-week trips, in either direction, cruise the Mekong between Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's southern metropolis, and





Passenger numbers are typically small, between 40 and 80 in large-cabin environs much like boutique hotel rooms, with satellite TV and wifi standard and balconies optional.





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Cambodia's Siem Reap, a mere five kilometres from the spectacular ruins at Angkor Wat – unsurprisingly, a voyage highlight. Time is usually added on for accompanying land excursions at either end.

Ho Chi Minh City, still commonly called Saigon, is itself one of Southeast Asia's most interesting conurbations, with fascinating landmarks such as the elaborate Central Post Office, designed by Frenchman Gustave Eiffel (best-known for the Eiffel Tower); Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon; the 119-year-old Municipal Theatre, and the intricately decorated City Hall (often called by its French name, Hotel de Ville).

Cruises include a stop at Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh – and days savouring the Mekong, which narrows at some points for some atmospheric Apocalypse Now day-dreaming as the jungle presses in. Some cruises visit villages and rural markets close to the riverbanks.

MYANMAR

Sightseeing is usually included in cruise packages; Yangon tours encompass major attractions like the Shwedagon Pagoda and Sule Pagoda, as well as other temples in this overwhelmingly Buddhist nation. There's generally time, too, to explore a city where numerous once-grand British colonial buildings have decayed into delightful decrepitude. Many are wedged between steel-and-glass high rises showcasing Myanmar's recent embrace of foreign investment.

After a northbound cruise, I join fellow passengers atop Mandalay Hill, gazing down on a modernising Asian city that retains its distinct Buddhist identity, with pagodas dominating the view. Later, a tour for passengers takes in the "world's biggest book" – 729 stupas bearing lengthy religious inscriptions, located within Kuthodaw Pagoda's 5.25 hectares. At sunset we walk across 165-year-old U Bein Teak Bridge, still used, crossing a shallow lake and linking two villages 1.2 kilometres apart.

The cruise itself is generally on modern vessels with design influences from the days of the British Raj. We pass rusting freighters filled with sacks of rice, tankers, fishing boats and tugs towing raft-like clumps of logs. At Yandabo, a village famed for pottery making, I eyeball a barge being piled high with clay pots for a Yangon-bound downstream voyage. We call at venerated temples, crowded markets, jewellery workshops and a school.

Cruiseco Explorer Captain Mg Mg, whose 32-strong crew looks after 58 passengers, reveals he's "travelled up and down the Irrawaddy for 32 years and I never tire of it.



one number

to rozwiązanie zunifikowanej komunikacji, które pozwala na dostęp do usług z dowolnego miejsca na świecie.
Poczuj swobodę i komfort komunikacji, gdy Twój numer jest zawsze tam gdzie jesteś TY!

Kids from remote villages wave from riverbanks – and we often spot Irrawaddy river dolphins arcing in and out of the water.” Meals blend Western and Myanmar cuisines, with an emphasis on the former. On-board entertainment includes traditional puppet shows, cooking classes and lessons in tying longyis (traditional cloths worn as skirts by both sexes) and applying thanaka (a yellowish paste made from pounded bark – universally worn as antiseptic, sunscreen, cooling agent and facial decoration).

In Bagan, we go ballooning above an estimated 2,200 pagodas and stupas – or wander through art-filled pagodas such as Ananda, built nine centuries ago.

A recent addition to Myanmar’s ever-expanding cruise options is the luxurious Coral Discoverer, which travels through the Irrawaddy Delta visiting remote fishing villages, while several cruises now head up the Chindwin River, a shallow tributary of the Irrawaddy, to access farther-flung areas.

INDIA

With an astonishing 2,816 kilometres of navigable waterways, India’s river cruising market is playing catch-up with the country’s extensive and renowned railway network, which carries grand tourist trains on journeys evoking bygone times.

Most cruises start in West Bengal’s Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) and explore the lower Ganges, Hooghly (also spelt Hugli) and Brahmaputra, passing through wildlife sanctuaries, visiting archaeological sites, skirting traffic-choked towns and gliding into rural India – stopping at village markets, artisans’ workshops and schools along the way.

Alternatively, seven-night cruises leave Patna, renowned for its archaeological sites, and stop at the sensory overdose that is Varanasi, where hundreds of revered Hindu temples serve the faithful. You can also cruise from Kolkata to the World Heritage-listed Sundarbans National Park, where tigers swim amid the mangroves.

CHINA

The Asian giant boasts the continent’s most developed cruise industry. At last count, more than 60 vessels were based on the 6,300-kilometre Yangtze, the world’s longest river in a single country – and many of them cater for the mass market.

Cruises concentrate on a scenic stretch including the main attraction: the Three Gorges, always visited during daylight hours to enhance viewing.

The Three Gorges Dam Project, completed seven years ago, involved flooding towns

and villages – creating an enormous reservoir to generate hydroelectricity and ease insatiable Chinese demand. The demise of cruising was widely forecast, but instead it’s grown with a widened, deepened river accommodating bigger vessels.

Yangtze cruises remind many passengers of ocean travel: a few ships hold more than 500 people. Even the 124-passenger Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer, a top-drawer option, is considered small, despite accommodating more than double the number of passengers generally carried on Asian rivers. Consequently, opulence is comparatively inexpensive.

Cruising from Shanghai to Chongqing takes 11 nights. Far more popular are three-night Chongqing–Yichang cruises encompassing the gorgeous gorges. Big ships come with gyms and cinemas. Shore excursions feature Chinese banquets, opera, acrobatic displays and the like.

Listening to other passengers, it’s clear that the Three Gorges elicits the most intense anticipation – it’s what they’ve come to see. And, as we travel for 120 kilometres between spectacular walls of rock and foliage, it’s clear they aren’t disappointed. A less “exclusive” experience it may be, but this is still one of the world’s iconic river trips.



The Asian giant boasts the continent’s most developed cruise industry. Cruises concentrate on a scenic stretch including the main attraction: the Three Gorges.



www.royalcaribbeancruises.pl
 ul. Świętokrzyska 36, 00-116 Warszawa
 info@rccl.pl, tel. 004822 455 38 48





GOLFING AROUND VIENNA

Minty Clinch finds rich history, gargoyles and plenty of tricky holes on the pristine greens surrounding the Austrian capital.

Challenging

1 DIAMOND COUNTRY CLUB

Where is it?

60km west of Vienna

What's it like?

When Rafael Cabrera-Bello's final putt fell centimetres short of a record-breaking European Tour score of 59 at the Fontana Golf Club in 2009, the Austrian Open found a tougher long-term home at the Diamond Country Club.

Opened in 2002, the Diamond championship course is flat and aquatic. The centrepiece is an enormous artificial lake, while the few holes that don't run along its shores have mini water hazards. In addition to the sandy variety, there are several subterranean bunkers, built to shelter petroleum depot workers during the Second World War.

After meeting his second wife at the Lyoness Austrian Open welcome ceremony, Miguel Angel Jimenez redesigned several of the holes, notably the mighty par-four dog-leg eighth, rated stroke index one. Three of the par threes have island greens, while the signature 16th curves around the lake to an equally elusive peninsula pin. Best take your A-game, or sink without trace.

The nine-hole Park Course forms part of the 18-hole Country Course, a diffuse layout with long walks from green to tee, but a softer option for higher handicappers. Hotel guests play the first 12 for free, but there are plans to incorporate the holes into two 18-hole courses.

Contact

Am Golfplatz 1, 3,452 Altzenbrugg;
tel +43 227 520 075;

diamondcountryclub.com

Price

Diamond course Mon-Thurs e80, Fri-Sun e100, after 4pm €50/€70; Park Course nine holes €35; buggy €25, clubs €23 (Callaway).

Club hours

8am-5pm (6am high season).

Maximum handicap

Men 26, women 30 recommended; certificate not required.

Facilities

Diamond course 18 holes, 6,819m, par 72; Park course nine holes played twice, 3,773m, par 34; Country course (hotel guests only) 12 holes, 3,513m, par 48.

After the golf The main clubhouse has eight bedrooms, a large restaurant (breakfast from 7.30am) and a sports bar. Between May and September, the action moves to the Boathouse, a nautical concept with decking overlooking an artificial lake and a sandy beach. On Thursdays, queues form at 5pm for the barbecue (all you can eat for e20 a head). Dinner in UND, a smart gourmet restaurant under the same ownership in a neighbouring town, is a bargain at e60 per person (minimum two) for three courses plus transport there and back in a Diamond Bentley. The aparthotel with 36 luxurious rooms and suites, with kitchens and terraces, opened last year.



Sporty flair

2 GOLF CLUB ADAMSTAL FRANZ WITTMANN

Where is it?

75km south-west of Vienna.

What's it like?

A friendly enterprise owned by Austria's celebrity rally driver, Franz Wittmann, near his native village of Ramsau. A passionate golfer, he created the course in 1995, dynamiting Alpine foothills to open up perspectives defined by rocks and ravines in richly mixed coniferous forest. In today's politically green climate, even a sporting hero would be refused planning permission for such a radical transformation of the environment, but the results are challenging and spectacular. This is not the longest of courses, but narrow fairways and constant changes of elevation ensure that it takes no prisoners. The holes are luxuriously private – so well set apart that golfers rarely see their fellow players. A sliver of spare terrain near the clubhouse allows for a 19th betting hole, a par three that traditionally decides who buys the drinks at the "20th hole".

Contact

A-3172 Ramsau, Gaupmannsgraben 21;

tel +43 2764 3500; adamstal.at

Price

Championship course Mon-Thurs €80, Fri-Sun €95; nine-hole course €35; buggy €30; clubs e€25 (Titleist).

Club hours

7.30am-7pm (flexibility according to season and demand). Course open April to December, weather permitting.

Maximum handicap

45; certificate not required.

Facilities

18-hole championship course, 5,919m, par 70, plus 19th betting hole; nine-hole Wallerbach course, 5,338m, par 34; driving range, practice area, putting green.

After the golf

In good weather, golfers gather on the terrace overlooking the winter garden outside the clubhouse. The mountain fare is as traditional as the surroundings, especially in the halfway house, where Franz Wittmann Jr's mother-in-law rules a tiny kitchen, preparing free sausage-and-cheese open sandwiches. Built as a hotel in 1900, the clubhouse has ten guestrooms.



Luxury and precision

3 GOLF CLUB FONTANA

Where is it?

40km south of Vienna.

What's it like?

An exclusive members' club on the outskirts of Baden, a fashionable spa town in easy reach of downtown Vienna. Lakes feature prominently, most notably the 20-hectare turquoise inland sea that dominates the final holes. The course, designed by Canadian Doug Carrick, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year. The soil excavated from the lakes provided the raw material for a typically North American target golf course, with sculptured fairways and undulating greens. By any standards, this former European Tour venue is impressive, with stands of pine trees and distant views of wide horizons. Risk reward shots over water and sand hazards to reach target greens put a premium on accurate iron play – lesser mortals must rely on strategy to keep their scorecards clean.

Contact

Fontanasportsveranstaltungen GMBH, Fontana Allee 1, 2,522 Oberwaltersdorf; tel +43 2253 6062 203; fontana.at

Price

Mon-Thurs €100 Oct 15-Apr 30, €140 May 1-Oct 14; Fri-Sun €100/€155; buggy €40, clubs €40 (Taylormade).

Club hours

7.30am-6pm

Maximum handicap

Men and women 36 recommended at weekend; certificate not required.

Facilities 18-hole golf course, 6,089m, par 72; driving range, practice area, putting green.

After the golf The opulent clubhouse has a bar, a library, a restaurant (8am-10pm) and fitness and wellness areas (member's guests day pass e50). There's a waterfront terrace, with the 18th green at one end and a sandy beach (day pass e25) at the other. Tennis courts also available.



Aristocrat among golf courses

4 GOLF CLUB SCHLOSS SCHOENBORN

Where is it?

40km north of Vienna.

What's it like?

Not to be confused with Schoenbrunn, Vienna's 1,441-room Baroque palace built as a summer residence for the Hapsburgs, but similarly rewarding for its aristocratic ambience. Since 1989, the handsome early 18-century house and its extensive outbuildings have formed the focus of 27 holes of very playable golf.

The transformation of the lovely 104-hectare park into a relaxed members' club was completed by 2000. This is an easy walk among mature trees on flat fairways, with lakes and avenues providing expansive perspectives. What you see is what you get – plenty of landing space off the tees and immaculate putting surfaces on the greens. In theory, there are no excuses for high scores, but triumphal arches, snarling gargoyles and bare-breasted nymphs in the line of play are undeniably distracting – as is the danger of raising your head on the par-three 11th, where the house forms a backdrop

to the green. The wildlife is striking, with a heron that rules aggressively at the seventh – a lake hole with a water fountain.

Contact

Schloss Schoenborn, 2013 Schoenborn; tel +43 2267 2863; gcschoenborn.com

Price

18 holes Mon-Thurs €75, Fri-Sun €95, buggy €38, clubs €30.

Club hours

9am-6pm

Maximum handicap 36; certificate not required.

Facilities

Three nine-hole loops – red 6,387m, green 6,073m, gold 6,114m, par 72; driving range, practice area, putting green.

After the golf A small courtyard café serves breakfast from 8am in summer, then snacks until 7pm. The main restaurant and bar are in the Schloss, with a terrace that offers pit stops at the 11th and 18th greens, and a yesteryear menu including dumplings and schnitzel; open for lunch and dinner (until 10pm).



Discover Poland with Discovery Travel

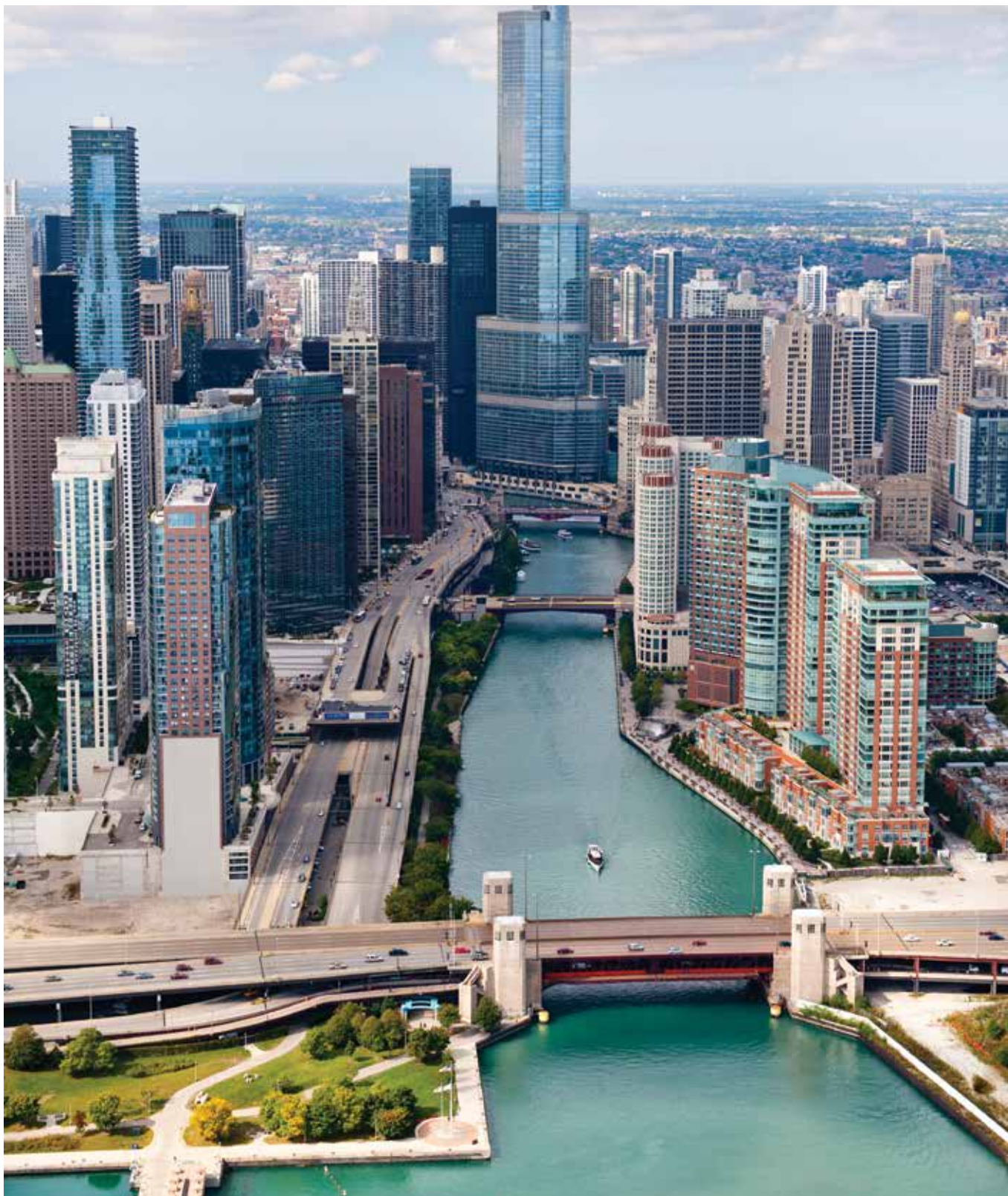
Grupy MICE w Polsce

Konferencje i bankiety firmowe

Rezerwacje hotelowe

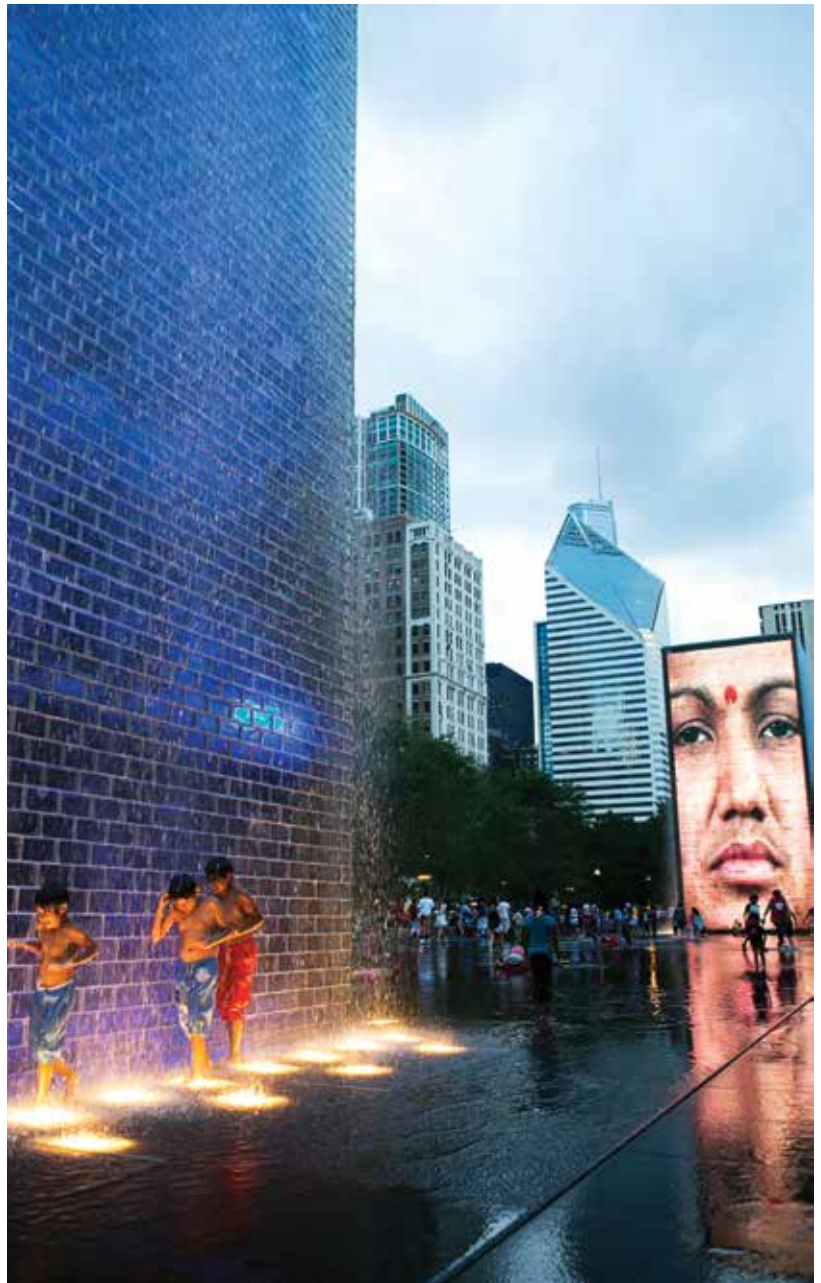
Wieloletnie doświadczenie oraz wysoka jakość usług





MY KIND OF TOWN

Michelle Harbi is won over by Chicago's superlative attractions and fun-loving spirit.



Crossing Michigan Avenue on a Friday night en route to dinner, we were suddenly stopped in our tracks by a flash mob of cyclists. A seemingly endless mass of them whooshed through as they headed up the Magnificent Mile, ringing their bells and calling out, “Happy Friday!”

Chicagoans love their weekends – in fact, in the summer, when I visited, they love every day. It’s no wonder, perhaps, for a city that experiences such long and cold winters. From leisurely lunches on streetside terraces to post-work cocktails atop its rooftop bars, everywhere was buzzing with locals enjoying the sunshine. Even after the baseball at Wrigley Field on a Wednesday after-

noon, the surrounding bars were thick with a party crowd, no one looking particularly bothered about heading back to the office. Chicago has phenomenal architecture – the world’s first skyscraper was built here in 1885, at a then-dizzying ten storeys, albeit somewhat of a dwarf compared with the city’s tallest building these days, the 110-floor Willis Tower. It is blessed by its fabulous setting on Lake Michigan, offers excellent shopping along the Magnificent Mile and beyond, and has abundant green spaces, world-beating art, great hotels, superb dining and lively bars. And, while being a huge metropolis, it retains a relaxed and friendly Midwestern vibe. Can you tell I liked it?

RIVER VIEW

Taking in Chicago’s soaring architecture can simply be done by wandering the streets of the Loop – the business district – where many of the best examples are located. But if craning your neck gets too much, then take them in from the water.

One of the city’s most popular attractions, and rightly so, is the Chicago Architecture Foundation river cruise aboard First Lady Cruises, which will take you past more than 50 of the city’s finest structures. The foundation’s knowledgeable volunteers share the stories behind the buildings, in doing so providing an insight into the history of Chicago itself.

The river is a great vantage point from which to see the range of architectural styles in close proximity – from the clean lines of Ludwig Mies van der Rohe's AMA Plaza to the 1960s corn-cob-shaped Marina City towers and the majestic Wrigley Building. Tours last an hour and a half and run throughout the day (April–November; from US\$44; cruisechicago.com).

MASTER OF ART

Back on dry land, take some time to explore the city's expansive public art collection. In 1967, the huge Cubist sculpture by Picasso on Daley Plaza was gifted to Chicago by the artist; the following decade, the city council ruled that 1.33 per cent of the budget for new public buildings and spaces be set aside for original art. There are now more than 100 works dotted around Downtown, including pieces by Joan Miro, Sol LeWitt and Henry Moore.

Wander through Millennium Park and you'll discover some more recent landmarks – Frank Gehry's eye-popping Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Anish Kapoor's perspective-bending Cloud Gate sculpture, and the Crown Fountain. Designed by Spain's Jaume Plensa, this

comprises two 15-metre-high glass blocks on to which the faces of Chicago citizens are projected; wait long enough and water will spout out of their mouths, gargoyle style, for kids to splash around in.

At the end of Millennium Park, you could easily spend half a day in the Art Institute of Chicago – one of the world's best galleries, with a collection spanning about 300,000 works. The Impressionism and New Contemporary sections are superb – the latter reopened last year and is home to pieces by Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein – while Edward Hopper's Nighthawks and Grant Wood's American Gothic are among the other major draws (open 10.30am–5pm, Thurs 8pm; US\$25; artic.edu).

HOME RUN

Still, if the weather is with you, you don't want to be indoors all day. A stroll, jog or cycle along the Lakefront Trail, which hugs the shoreline for almost 30km, is a must. We spent a glorious Saturday afternoon wandering Navy Pier, where a covers band played Prince classics, before heading northwards past the packed city beaches, taking in the

sparkling calm of Lake Michigan and the skyline view back to Downtown.

Ducking into Lincoln Park, we stumbled into a dog show being held by the residents of the Gold Coast – the city's most genteel neighbourhood. They can't have been too impressed back in 1959, when one of the grand houses that line its peaceful streets was acquired by Hugh Hefner for his first Playboy Mansion.

Hefner and his Bunnies moved on in 1974, but there is always a party to be found somewhere in the city – and if it's match day, it's at Wrigley Field. If the Chicago Cubs are playing while you are in town, do go – even if you know nothing about baseball, it's tremendous fun. The fans are unstintingly passionate, even though the Cubs haven't won the World Series for more than a century, and the stadium – one of the oldest major league grounds in the US – is fantastically atmospheric.

DINING AND DRINKING

● Signature Room at the 95th

Pay US\$20 to access the 94th-floor observation deck of the John Hancock Centre – or skip the queue and spend it in the Signa-



Chicago has phenomenal architecture – the world's first skyscraper was built here in 1885, at a then-dizzying ten storeys.



Even after the baseball at Wrigley Field on a Wednesday afternoon, the surrounding bars were thick with a party crowd, no one looking particularly bothered about heading back to the office.



ture Room restaurant (pictured above) one floor up, or the Signature Lounge on the 96th. The views are sensational – book a window table in advance – and the contemporary American food is flavoursome and generous.

Open 11am-2.30pm, 5pm-10pm (11pm Fri/Sat, from 10am Sat/Sun). 875 North Michigan Avenue; tel +1 312 787 9596; signatureroom.com

● Cindy's

In a prime spot facing Millennium Park, Cindy's is the lively rooftop bar and restaurant of the Chicago Athletic Association hotel, a luxury conversion of a historic gentleman's club that opened last year. Located on the 13th floor, its outdoor terrace is a great place to sip one of the expertly mixed cocktails (pictured right) in warmer weather.

Weekdays 11am-2pm, 4pm-2am; weekends 10am-3pm, 4pm-3am (Sun 12am). 12 South Michigan Avenue; tel +1 312 792 3502; cindysrooftop.com

● The Gage

A few doors down from Cindy's and well placed for the Art Institute of Chicago, this

smart restaurant and bar is popular with the after-work crowd and also serves a superb weekend brunch – the BLT with over-easy egg, provolone and basil-tarragon aioli (US\$12) will keep you fed for the day, while the Bloody Mary (US\$12), complete with a garnish of corned beef and Irish cheddar, is a meal in itself.

Open 11am-2am (until 12am Mon, 10am-3am Sat, 10am-12am Sun). 24 South Michigan Avenue; tel +1 312 372 4243; thegagechicago.com

● RPM Italian

A glamorous, buzzing restaurant in the River North district serving high-end Italian cuisine. People-watch over a bellini at the bar (pictured above right) before enjoying deliciously creamy burrata (US\$15) and richly flavoured pappardelle Bolognese with short rib ragu (US\$14). Sister venue RPM Steak is located two blocks south on West Kinzie Street.

Open 4pm-12am (11pm Mon, 12.30am Fri, 3pm-12.30am Sat, 12pm-11pm Sun). 52 West Illinois Street; tel +1 312 222 1888; rpmrestaurants.com

● Bavette's

This elegant French-inspired steakhouse has an atmospheric, jazzy ambience and is located in River North. The cuts of meat (from US\$39) are superb, and perfectly cooked – accompany with decadent sides such as creamed spinach with blue cheese and caramelised onions, and charred brussels sprouts with Dijon mustard and parmesan (US\$12). The Old Fashioned cocktails are good, too.

Open 5pm-11.30pm (12.30am Fri-Sat, 10.30pm Sun). 218 West Kinzie St; tel +1 312 624 8154; bavetteschicago.com

● Green River

Located in Streeterville, just north of the Chicago River, this upmarket 18th-floor restaurant and bar opened last year. The cocktails, inspired by the city's Irish heritage, are creative and well crafted, the seasonal American cuisine is impressive, and the staff are passionate and knowledgeable. Take a seat on the outdoor terrace (pictured below) for lake and skyline views.

Open 11.30am-10pm (11pm Thurs/Fri; 11am-3pm, 5pm-11pm Sat; 11am-3pm Sun). 259 East Erie Street; tel +1 312 337 0101; greenriverchi.com



Green River is a luxury restaurant situated north of the Chicago River. It features a spacious terrace with lake and skyline views, and is famous for its cocktails inspired by the city's Irish heritage. The seasonal American cuisine is equally impressive.

TECHNOLOGIA W WALCE Z OZNAKAMI STARZENIA



Wraz z upływem lat struktury skóry ulegają znacznemu osłabieniu. Skóra traci swoją elastyczność i jędrność, pojawiają się zmarszczki, zmienia się owal twarzy. Zmniejsza się produkcja włókien kolagenowych i elastyny, zaburzeniu ulegają naturalne procesy uwodnienia komórek skóry.

ULTRA LIFTING kuracja liftingująca z 3-aktywnym retinolem rozpoczyna się diagnozą i wywiadem kosmetycznym, które są integralnym elementem każdego zabiegu w Kosmetycznym Instytucie Dr Irena Eris. Pozwala na ustalenie najbardziej odpowiedniego programu pielęgnacyjnego zarówno w gabinecie jak i w domu, a także pomaga przy planowaniu długofalowej pielęgnacji.

Kluczowym etapem zabiegu jest Masaż Modelująco-Liftingujący, podczas którego aplikowany jest innowacyjny koncentrat 3-ACTIVE RETINOL, oparty na trzech aktywnych formach witaminy A: retinolu, estrze witaminy A oraz ekstrakcie z błękitnej algi. 3-ACTIVE RETINOL poprawia struktury skóry przyczyniając się do zwiększenia produkcji kolagenu i elastyny, odpowiadających za jej elastyczność. Gwarantuje natychmiastowe i silne działanie przeciwstarzeniowe. Masaż łączy w sobie techniki masażu klasycznego, elementy drenażu limfatycznego oraz stymulację punktów energetycznych. Poprawia ukrwienie, ujędźnia skórę oraz powoduje uczucie głębokiego relaksu i odprężenia.

Połączenie innowacyjnej linii profesjonalnych preparatów **Dr Irena Eris PROSYSTEM PROFESSIONAL** z nowoczesną technologią **Dr Irena Eris REVICORE Hi-Tech System** wzmacnia efekty zabiegu. W zależności od wskazań zabieg **ULTRA LIFTING** można wykonać w oparciu o 5 technologii: **MEZOTERAPIĘ BEZIGŁOWĄ, MASAŻ PRÓŻNIOWY – DERMADRENAGE, OXY-BRAZJĘ, MIKRODERMABRAZJĘ DIAMENTOWĄ i PEELING KAWITACYJNY LED.**



SPEKTAKULARNE EFEKTY*

- poprawa elastyczności skóry
- wyraźne zmniejszenie widoczności zmarszczek
- poprawa gęstości skóry

* badania w Centrum Naukowo-Badawczym Dr Irena Eris

Dr Irena Eris PROSYSTEM HOME CARE ULTRA LIFTING – pielęgnacja domowa



Odmłodzenie skóry, efekt liftingu

Unikatowa formuła pielęgnacyjna o innowacyjnym systemie wielowymiarowego spłykania zmarszczek i liftingu skóry twarzy. Zapewnia przedłużone działanie odmładzające poprzez uruchomienie wielopoziomowych procesów odnowy, wpływających na rekonstrukcję struktur skóry. Docierając do głębszych warstw skóry, efektywnie pobudza syntezę kolagenu, elastyny, kwasu hialuronowego, wyraźnie zwiększając jej jędrność i elastyczność.

Dr Irena Eris

KOSMETYCZNE INSTYTUTY



CARRY ON TRAVELLING

Looking for a new set of wheels? We check out the latest cabin cases.

The art of the capsule wardrobe is something every business traveller has to master, especially now that so many airlines charge for checked baggage. Plus, it's far more efficient to travel with hand baggage only.

However, as we all know, most airlines have restrictions on the size of bag that

can be taken on board – generally the height is 55-56cm, while the width is 35-45cm and the depth 20-25cm. Sometimes weight is a factor, too (12kg is the upper limit but it could be as little as 5kg), while carriers such as Easyjet may state that you must simply be able to lift it unassisted. (It also only guarantees to accept carry-on cases in the cabin no larger than 45cm x

36cm x 20cm – bigger ones might have to go in the hold.) Shopping for a bag that will be accepted on all airlines can be tricky. To help, here is a round-up of the latest cases and holdalls for your next short-haul trip, complete with dimensions, weights and standout features. Just check the limitations set by your carrier before you buy.

Futuristic one

WITTCHEN

This new, super-light Wittchen case has a futuristic look, with its honeycomb hexagon design. Made from self-reinforcing thermoplastic, it's an ultimate choice for a frequent traveller. It has a warranty, a combination lock and smooth-glide wheels with 360-degree rotation.

Price: PLN 295

Dimensions: 56cm x 37cm x 20cm

Weight: 2.3kg

Wheels: 4

Colours: black, burgundy, grey, dark blue, orange
wittchen.com



Good quality, nice price

SAMSONITE SMARTTOP SPINNER

This durable, softside nylon case has a handy zip-up compartment on top that is big enough to place a passport, phone and bag of liquids for easy access, plus a TSA cable lock for added security, and a sturdy two-bar handle. Good value for money.

Price: £135

Dimensions:

56cm x 45cm x 25cm

Weight: 2.3kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Red and midnight blue
samsonite.co.uk



Style for a price

REVELATION FINLAY

Revelation is Antler's budget brand. The Finlay is both stylish and robust, making it great value for money. The ABS plastic exterior is scratch-resistant, and the case comes with a combination padlock, built-in telescoping handle and side grip.

Price: £49

Dimensions:

55cm x 35cm x 20cm

Weight: 2.6kg

Wheels: Two

Colours:

Charcoal and turquoise
revelationlondon.com



Lightness of luggage

TUMI V3 INTERNATIONAL CARRY-ON

Tumi claims that the V3 is its lightest hardside case ever, although it's heavier than some rivals. The case is made from sleek polycarbonate and has a telescoping handle, TSA lock and three interior zip pockets. Monogramming can be added for free.

Price: £475

Dimensions: 56cm x 35.5cm x 23cm

Weight: 2.9kg

Wheels: Four

Colours:

Waterfall stripe, merlot, steel blue, black
tumi.com



PoTradition applauded

BRICS BELLAGIO 2

Made from Makrolon polycarbonate with Tuscan leather trim, giving it the look of a more traditional trunk, this is the "new and improved" version of Brics' Bellagio case. The front pocket is handy for storing a laptop.

Price: £475

Dimensions:

55cm x 39cm x 24cm

Weight: 3.4kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Black, olive, tobacco, cream, grey, red
brics.it



Case of prey

TED BAKER BURGUNDY GRAPHITE

The high-street fashion retailer has launched a glossy hard-shell cabin case with a graphite-print front panel and quirky bird of prey lining. It has a 40-litre capacity and features zip-up front pockets, a combination lock and an aircraft-grade aluminium handle.

Price: £199

Dimensions: 54cm x 37cm x 24cm

Weight: 2.5kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Dark red
tedbaker.com



Unisex

SERAPIAN EVOLUTION SMALL TROLLEY

Crafted in Milan, this sophisticated case is made from calfskin and has a suede-effect micro-fibre interior accessed via palladium zips, secured with an old-school padlock and key. Its unisex design would work for both men and women.

Price: €1,485

Dimensions: 54.8cm x 38cm x 20cm

Weight: 3.5kg

Wheels: Two

Colours: Black, caramel

uk.serapian.com



Spacious

BRIGGS AND RILEY SYMPATICO CARRY-ON EXPANDABLE SPINNER

This polycarbonate trolley has a clip-down compression system so you can pack up to 22 per cent more. The telescoping handle is installed without creating ridges inside, so clothes can be placed flat in a built-in suiter.

Price: £399

Dimensions: 53.3cm x 35.5cm x 23cm

Weight: 3.6kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Blue, burgundy, black
briggs-riley.com



Comfort above all

VICTORINOX SPECTRA EXPANDABLE GLOBAL CARRY-ON

This case from Switzerland's Victorinox has a 3cm zippered expansion section, stabilising straps for holding the case together when opened upright, a 15.6-inch interior laptop slot and pockets for smaller items.

Price: £315

Dimensions:

55cm x 38cm x 20cm

Weight: 3.1kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Red, black

victorinox.com



Space-age look

DELSEY HELIUM AIR 2 CABIN TROLLEY CASE

A 42.5-litre cabin case with a space-age look. Now in its 70th year, Delsey claims that its high-tech zip is 41 times more resilient than a normal fastener. It also comes with an ID code for online registration, and a ten-year guarantee.

Price: £169

Dimensions: 55cm x 35cm x 25cm

Weight: 2.6kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: White, blue, silver grey, black, tangerine, red, emerald
delsey.com



Pricey yet worth it

GLADSTONE G24 TROLLEY

Gladstone produces high-end luggage for lovers of style. This leather cabin case is one of the most expensive and heaviest here, but it has enviable details such as a diamond-cut bolt in brass and plated pewter, handmade by a jeweller in Florence.

Price: £1,395

Dimensions:

53.5cm x 36cm x 20cm

Weight: 4.8kg

Wheels: Four

Colour: Grey
gladstonelondon.com



Useful accessories

GATE 8 SPINMATE MULTIWHEEL

Launched last month, this hardside carry-on has a 15-inch, zip-off nylon laptop bag and a clear pouch for toiletries.

Business Traveller subscribers get 25 per cent off via the Business Traveller Plus reward scheme – visit businesstraveller.com/bt-plus

Price: £159

Dimensions:

40cm x 46.5cm x 25cm

Weight: 3kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Black
gate8-luggage.co.uk



ALL
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* Podane kwoty są kwotami brutto. Wysokość miesięcznej raty jest obliczona dla MINI One za 90 500 zł, przy założeniu następujących parametrów: oferta MINI Comfort Lease, opłata wstępna 10%, okres leasingu 36 miesięcy, średnioroczny deklarowany przebieg 10 000 km, gwarantowana wartość końcowa. Szczegóły u Dealerów MINI. Niniejsza symulacja nie stanowi oferty w rozumieniu Art. 66 Kodeksu Cywilnego. MINI Comfort Lease jest oferowany przez BMW Financial Services Polska Sp. z o.o.

New generation

LAT 56 RW-01.1 ROAD WARRIOR 2-WHEEL WITH GARMENT BAG

LAT 56 unveiled its new-generation carry-on in the summer. In addition to the company's signature water-resistant military-spec moulded EVA foam and ballistic nylon exterior, the case comes with a detachable laundry bag, a suit carrier, a combination padlock and an easily accessible pocket for your liquids.

Price: £299

Dimensions:

55cm x 37cm x 21cm

Weight: 3.1kg

Wheels: Two

Colours: Black

lat56.com



Two is better than one

BUGABOO BOXER

Launched last month, this is the first piece of luggage to be designed by Dutch pushchair manufacturer Bugaboo. The product consists of up to two interlocking suitcases (one long-haul, one short-haul) and a laptop bag on a detachable trolley. Mix and match units depending on your trip.

Price: Chassis and cabin case £790; chassis, cabin case and laptop bag £1,033

Chassis: 55cm x 35cm x 23cm; 3.2kg

Cabin case: 51cm x 35cm x 18cm; 2kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Black, white, red

bugaboo.com



Ultimate quality

LOUIS VUITTON HORIZON 55 ROLLING LUGGAGE

Produced in collaboration with industrial designer Marc Newson, Horizon is the first collection of rolling luggage from Louis Vuitton. In Epi leather, the case has an anodised aluminium extendable handle that wraps around the case so there are no internal ridges, plus a TSA zip-pull lock. More private jet than Easyjet.

Price: £2,560-£3,550

Dimensions: 55cm x 39cm x 21cm

Weight: 3.3kg

Wheels: Four

Colours: Indigo, saphir, coquelicot, noir, piment, citron, fuschia, VVN

louisvuitton.com



In any colour

RIMOWA SALSA AIR ULTRALIGHT CABIN MULTIWHEEL

Rimowa added five new colours to its Salsa Air range earlier this year. Made of polycarbonate, the case is one of the lightest hard-shell options on the market and comes with TSA-approved locks.

Price: £355

Weight: 1.9kg

Dimensions:

55cm x 40cm x 20cm

NEW Colours: Ultra violet,

guards red,

ice blue, navy,

lime green

rimowa.com



Holdalls

HUGO BOSS SIGNATURE L B HOLD WEEKENDER

This business-like nylon holdall from Hugo Boss has leather detailing and round stitched handles, as well as a detachable strap.

Price: £550

Dimensions: 48.5cm x 29cm x 26.5cm

Colours: Black

hugoboss.com



SAINT LUKE ST BARTHS SHORT-HAUL

Each bag is lined with pineapple print fabric, while the "ethical entrepreneurs" at Saint Luke donate US\$20 per sale to providing clean water to people in Nepal.

Price: £125

Dimensions: 55cm x 43cm x 21cm

Colours: Navy, green, red

saintluke.com



SANDQVIST JORDAN

This waxed cotton canvas weekender with leather detailing from Swedish brand Sandqvist has a removable strap and zip pockets both inside and out.

Price: £279

Dimensions: 50cm x 31cm x 21.5cm

Colours: Waxed khaki, black sandqvist.net



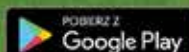
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kontakt@ecocar.pl www.ecocar.pl

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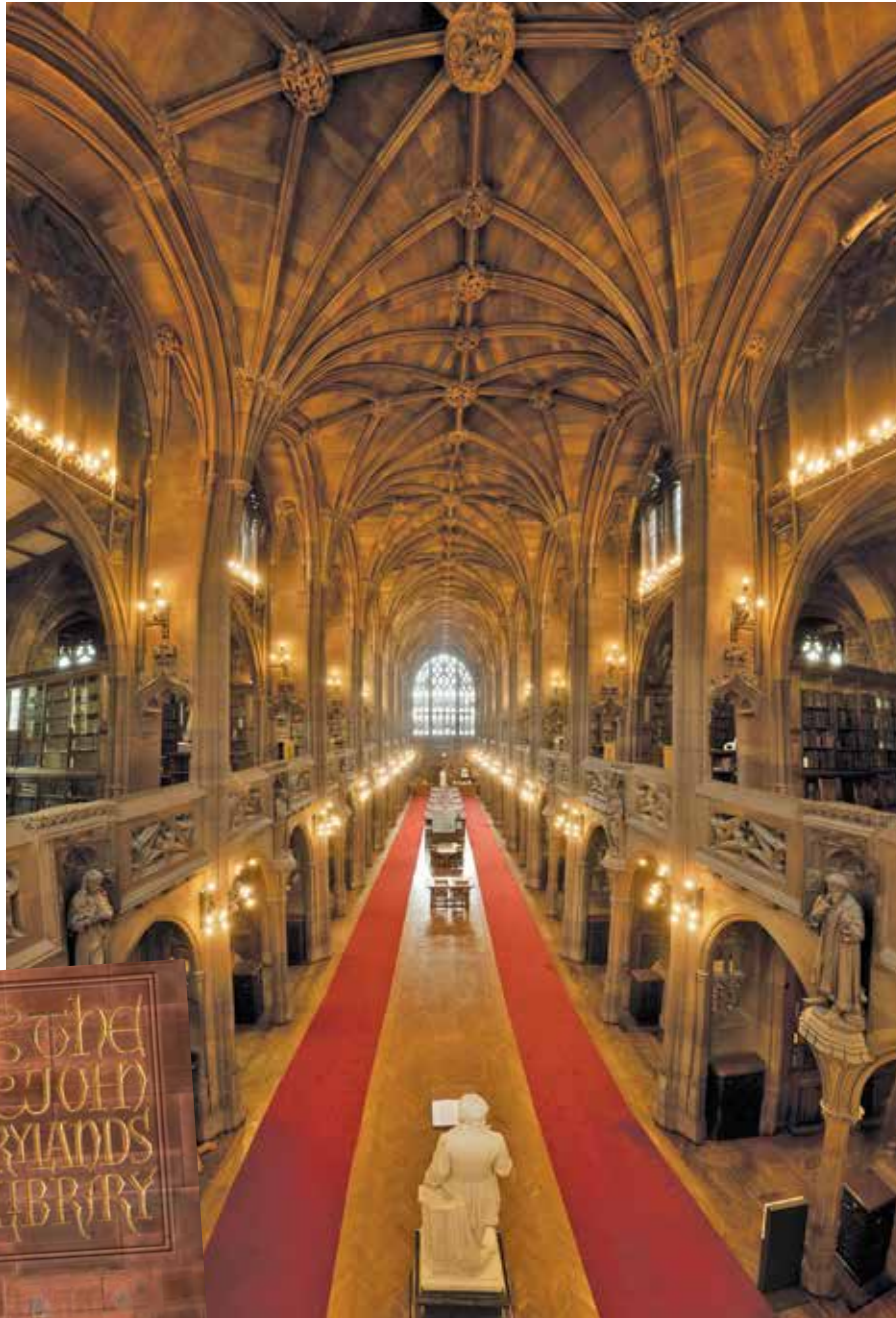
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4

GODZINY W... MANCHESTER

Tom Otley takes in the excellent exhibitions and historic corners of the northern powerhouse.



The library's centrepiece, the Historic Reading Room, is presided over by marble statues of John and Enriqueta,

THE PRINTWORKS

Start in the heart of the city at the Printworks, a reminder of Manchester's central position in industry and cutting-edge media. As the name suggests, the building was originally a newspaper printworks dating back to 1873, where the Evening Chronicle and Daily Mirror were produced. Closed in 1985, it was redeveloped as an entertainment complex in 2000 and has more than 20 restaurants and bars. If it's raining, it's a good place to get your bearings and plan your visit.

EXCHANGE SQUARE

The 1996 IRA bomb attack caused widespread damage to the city centre and spurred redevelopment, including Exchange Square, now the heart of the city's shopping district where stores include Selfridges and Harvey Nichols. Walk the route of the water feature running in a crescent shape through the square – this is the route of a ditch running into the nearby River Irwell around which Manchester was originally built. The 17th-century Old Wellington Inn and Sinclair's Oyster Bar were moved to their current positions during redevelopment. Behind them is Manchester's lovely cathedral, worth a visit for the interiors – free tours take place between 10.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Saturday.

manchestercathedral.org

NORTHERN QUARTER

Pass through Piccadilly Gardens to reach the Northern Quarter, bounded by Victoria, Great Ancoats Street and the High Street. Here you'll find a more personable side of Manchester – great pubs, record shops (yes, vinyl), vintage clothes stores, galleries and street art. The architecture is firmly red-brick industrial northern, and all the better for it. Some 18 artists and designers have studios in the Manchester Craft and Design Centre, housed in the old Fish Market on Oak Street, built in 1873.

craftanddesign.com

northernquartermanchester.com

JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY

The wealth created by the city's working class eventually found its way back to them via the civic buildings erected for their benefit. A short walk along Deansgate will bring you to the John Rylands Library, a welcome retreat from the busy shopping streets.

Rylands was one of the city's first multimillionaires. When he died, his wife, Enriqueta, used £500,000 of his fortune to create the library. Designed by Basil Champneys, this astonishing neo-Gothic building opened on January 1, 1900 and became part of the University of Manchester in 1972, holding its special collections. Exhibitions change regularly, housed amid the stunning architecture fashioned from pink and grey Cumbrian sandstone, Polish oak, white moulded plasterwork and art nouveau bronze. The library's centrepiece, the Historic Reading Room, is presided over by marble statues of John and Enriqueta, and was built nine metres above street level to minimise disturbance from the horse-drawn traffic on the cobblestones below. It is still effective today. Open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun-Mon 12pm-5pm.

manchester.ac.uk/library/rylands

MANCHESTER MUSEUM

Take a short bus ride or a 20-minute walk to reach your last two stops. Halfway down Oxford Road is the Manchester Museum, which has an extensive set of permanent exhibitions of everything from stuffed animals to Egyptian mummies. As of last month, the entire top floor of the historic Grade II-listed building has become the Study, with the historic space opened up and original features restored. A place for visitors to conduct research, it features bespoke furniture by Ben Kelly Design (BKD) and state-of-the-art equipment, such as a video microscope capable of sharing still images direct to Twitter.

Free entry; open 10am-5pm

museum.manchester.ac.uk

thestudymcr.com

THE WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

A little further along Oxford Road, the Whitworth was founded in 1889 in memory of industrialist Sir Joseph Whitworth. Originally known as the Whitworth Institute and Park, it was for "people of all social classes", and set in a park that would counteract the malaise of inner city life. Supported by 60 eminent Mancunians, including C P Scott, editor of the Manchester Guardian (now The Guardian), its holdings include a world textile collection, as well as British watercolours and drawings.



Several extensions have been made to the Whitworth Art Gallery that doubled its size, with steel and glass wings extending into the park, and a new art garden and orchard.



Several extensions have been made, including a £15 million one last year that doubled its size, with steel and glass wings extending into the park, and a new art garden and orchard.

Until April 23, the "Marcantonio Raimondi and Raphael" exhibition showcases the pioneers of European printmaking.

whitworth.manchester.ac.uk



ASK PETER

Letters

Piotr Kalita is related with air transport market for almost 20 years.

He is specializing in corporate and diplomatic travel segment. Have a question? - ask Piotr.

Mail your question to: redakcja@businessstraveller.pl

A car outside a hotel

I made a car rental reservation for my boss. The car was supposed to be delivered to a hotel near London. When making the reservation, I made it clear that the boss won't be at the hotel and the keys were supposed to wait for him at the reception desk. But when my boss arrived at the hotel in the evening, neither the keys nor the car were there. The car was indeed delivered as arranged, but was returned to the rental point, as my boss was unable to sign the documents, as he wasn't there. The car was eventually delivered once again, in the morning the next day. On top of all that, after two weeks we received an invoice with parking and processing fees. My boss says he shouldn't be made to pay for this, as the car park for hotel guests was supposed to be free of charge.

Danuta

Dear Danuta,

When renting a car, you are obliged to sign a car rental contract. The employee delivering the car was following the regulations and refused to leave the car keys and documents at the reception desk. Such rentals aren't typical, and always require individual arrangements with the company department that delivers the car.

According to the regulations, the car can be picked up only after signing the contract (on paper or in an electronic form). That is why the driver's presence is required. These are the conditions of the insurance policy. It's because the responsibility for the car is being transferred onto the driver. Some corporate contracts come with special insurance clauses, which make it possible for a car to be delivered to the company's headquarters.

In your case, the car was rented on standard rules. According to the regulations, the rental company wasn't obliged to leave the car keys to a third party, and could require that the contract was signed before leaving the car.

All the additional charges, such as car park, highway toll or fines are payable by the renter and added to the invoice. Car rental companies don't accept complaints from customers in such situations. The validity of the charges should be discussed directly with the institution that imposes them, such as a car park administration, the police, municipal services etc. If the car park fee was charged wrongly, the car rental company might give it back, but they aren't obliged to return the processing fee.

Changing the departure date

I have bought a ticket from Munich to Warsaw and a return ticket for €276. I have to postpone the departure date a day later. The travel agency charges me €185 and extra €65 for changing the date on the ticket. But when I checked it on Lufthansa's website, it turned out that a new Munich to Warsaw ticket costs only €165. Why is the agency trying to fleece me? I'm thinking of buying a new ticket instead of returning the old one.

Wioleta

Dear Wioleta,

I have looked through the ticket copy you have sent me. From what I can see, the travel agency isn't trying to misinform you. The agent who is dealing with your business trip is complying with the rules and procedures imposed by the airlines.

The general rule is that all the flight tickets must be used in the exact order in which they were issued. Any changes in any of the parameters of your journey (date, time, routes, country of departure) require recalculation and ticket exchange analogous to the travel fare applied. If you didn't use the first leg of your ticket, the whole of it would automatically lose validity. As a result, you would have to buy the return ticket for the last leg of your journey. That is why contacting your travel agent before your journey begins is so important.

In the case of a change in the first leg of the journey, the whole ticket has to be revaluated for the new travel fare. Your ticket was purchased well in advance, when the fares were relatively low. Now the availability of the seats has changed, the low fares are sold out, and you have to pay the difference in fares (€185), plus the penalty fee for the change in the reservation. There will also be a transaction fee agreed upon in the contract with your travel agent.

That is why it isn't recommended to buy a new ticket on your own, because ultimately, you will be subject to greater cost than those calculated by your agent.

A modern kitchen featuring Siemens iSensoric appliances. The kitchen has a dark, minimalist design with a large island. The appliances include a built-in oven, a microwave, a refrigerator, and a dishwasher. The background wall is made of dark, textured panels, and the ceiling is a warm, wood-like material. The lighting is soft and focused on the appliances.

SIEMENS

Grupa BSH jest licencjodawcą w odniesieniu do znaków towarowych, do których uprawnień jest Siemens AG.

iSensoric. Technologia, która wyzwala kreatywność. Piękno, które inspiruje.

www.siemens-home.pl

Ekskluzywna linia sprzętu do zabudowy marki Siemens łączy elegancję oszczędnej formy z futurystyczną funkcjonalnością. Nowatorskie rozwiązania widoczne są zarówno w pięknym i konsekwentnym wzornictwie, jak i w zaawansowanej technologii, przekładającej się na maksymalną samodzielność i efektywność wszystkich urządzeń. Kontrolowane przez elektroniczne systemy sensorowe, pracują oszczędnie i cicho, z gwarancją

doskonałych efektów. Zarówno piekarniki, płyty grzewcze, okapy, jak i zmywarki oraz chłodziarki to prawdziwi eksperci, stworzeni do perfekcyjnego spełniania oczekiwań użytkownika. Technologia iSensoric otwiera przed nami nowe horyzonty, nadając obowiązkom kuchennym rangę kreatywnej twórczości. Marka Siemens wkracza w nową erę, inspirując swoich Klientów do odkrywania nieznanych dotąd możliwości dla domowej kuchni.

Siemens. The future moving in.



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Istnieje tradycyjny luksus i luksus **Volvo XC90 Excellence**.

Rozbudź wszystkie zmysły i pocuj perfekcyjne połączenie najlepszych naturalnych materiałów z innowacyjną technologią.

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