

Business Traveller Poland

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English summary

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Volvo. for life





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Usually, we associate holiday with rest and relaxation, but during that period our businesses don't stop operating. Luckily, it's now possible to combine work with pleasure and while taking care of our professional matters give ourselves some time to relax. Examples? There are plenty of them, starting with a short trip to Hungary, where during summer holiday two exceptional sporting events take place: the spectacular Air Show in Budapest, and another truly unforgettable experience – a visit to Hungaroring circuit to watch a Formula One race.

Croatia is also an ideal place to unwind in a pleasant atmosphere. The country is full of beautiful beaches and offers numerous opportunities for incentive travels. Not to mention an unforgettable cruise around the Adriatic and Aegean sea aboard the majestic The Splendour Of The Seas. It would be wrong not to mention the picturesque Bornholm island and France with its seven Club Med villages.

However a true business traveller never forgets about his duties and those are inextricably intertwined with hotels, aircraft and airports. In this issue we present the Hilton hotel in Warsaw, Scandic in Gdańsk, Ibis in Poznań and two Istanbul's hotels. We also take you to Kastrup airport in Copenhagen – the main airport of the North Europe, and to Berlin where we have found

several places which are a must to see while you have a break at work. Also, as usually, you will find here a lot of interesting information and news on the travel industry, especially with a closer look at offers of various airlines.

For the dessert the articles on novelties in the automotive industry, technology and about something which makes our journeys so pleasant – wine – this time the Austrian one.

Enjoy your reading.



Robert Grzybowski
Wydawca BT Poland



Read more details! Visit businessstraveller.pl

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NARESZNIE... NEX-5

Lustrzanka z kilkoma obiektywami - to za dużo w wielu sytuacjach. W górach, na rowerze, na codzienne spacerowanie po mieście. Zdarzało się, że przed większym wyzwaniem stawałem - tym bardziej potrzebowałem czegoś lekkiego, małego, ale ciągle zapewniającego normalną pracę z aparatem. Sony NEX-5* - jest wyposażony w dużą matrycę rozmiaru APS-C posiadającą ponad 14 milionów pikseli. Oferuje nie tylko możliwość pracy w plikach JPG, ale również w trybie RAW. Wymienne obiektywy są zaopatrzone w solidne, metalowe złącza bagnetowe. Na początek zaproponowano trzy ciekawe obiektywy, łącznie z bardzo płaskim, szerokokątnym „naleśnikiem” 16/2,8 z dwoma konwerterami - w tym rybie oko**. Opcjonalnie dostępny jest także wizjer lunetowy.

I najważniejsze: natychmiastowa reakcja na spust. I ten „klik” - tak dobrze znany z pracy lustrzanki. Tryb seryjny do 7 klatek na sekundę przerósł moje oczekiwania. Lista „miłych zaskoczeń” jest dłuższa. Podwójne gniazdo kart

pamięci - akceptujące Memory Stick™ i SD, adapter pozwalający na wpięcie obiektywów z lustrzanki Sony z mocowaniem A - od superjasnych standardów do teleobiektywów włącznie!

I te wspaniałe, rozległe panoramy - jeszcze w tym roku w wydaniu 3D.***

Możliwość filmowania wydaje się być naturalną. NEX-5 zapewnia jakość dalece ponad przeciętną, nawet wśród urządzeń Full HD. Model ten rejestruje pliki wideo w formacie AVCHD z dźwiękiem stereofonicznym. Dostępny jest także opcjonalny, kierunkowy mikrofon zewnętrzny.

Waga aparatu, wraz z obiektywem SEL 18-55, poniżej 500 gramów przyjemnie zaskakuje i pozwala na to, by aparat NEX-5 był zawsze pod ręką.



Zdjęcie i tekst Marek Arcimowicz

Z wykształcenia architekt - pianista, od ponad 10 lat zawodowo zajmuje się fotografią. Współpracował niemal ze wszystkimi fotograficznymi i podróżniczymi czasopismami (m.in.: National Geographic, Traveler, Poznaj Świat, Voyage, Podróże) w Polsce. Uczestnik XII i XIII Biennale Fotografii Górskiej (jest dwukrotnym laureatem I nagrody) i wielokrotny juror międzynarodowych konkursów fotograficznych.



Zdjęcie przedstawia rodzinę produktów α systemów A i E. Założenie obiektywu systemu A do aparatów NEX jest możliwe po użyciu dostępnego opcjonalnie adaptera (tylko ręczna ostrość).

* NEX-5 będzie dostępny pod koniec czerwca, ** Wspomniane konwertery są kompatybilne z obiektywem 16/2,8, *** Po aktualizacji oprogramowania w 2010.

LOT TELEGRAM LOT TELEGRAM LOT TELEGRAM LOT TELEGRAM LOT TELEGRAM



New Menu in LOT

Starting from 1st July, LOT introduces new business class menu with signature dishes by one of Poland's top chefs Robert Sowa.

The menu includes a number of highlights from the modern Polish cuisine such as smoked salmon

with lemon pepper, catfish filet with lentil ragout, or poultry liver mousse with raspberry sauce. Sowa also uses numerous seasonal products such as fresh strawberries, juicy green asparagus, or chanterelles.

The renowned Polish chef opts for light dishes –

so stodgy cream-based sauces have been replaced with light sauces based on olive oil like vinaigrette with tropical fruits or neapolitan sauce. There are also numerous salad offered as side dishes. Another novelty is a fruit salad.



To Beirut

LOT has launched a direct flight to the capital city of Lebanon – Beirut. The flights are available three times a week. This is the fourth new connection launched by LOT this year. The LOT's offer is not only convenient for people who plan an exotic trip, but also for everyone who travels between Lebanon and Scandinavia or Western Europe. The prices of the return tickets start from 1380 zł. The flights are operated by Embraer 175 aircraft and last 3 hours.

Embraers for the Polish Government

EuroLOT – a regional air carrier owned by the State Treasury and PLL LOT – has signed an agreement with Poland's Defence Ministry to lease out two aircraft for the use of government members, head of state and entourage. Polish VIPs will use two Embraers 175 which will be piloted and serviced by the personnel of LOT Polish Airlines. The agreement signed is valid through the end of 2013, with option of extension or early termination.

The Embraer 175 is a modern, jet propelled passenger aircraft, equipped with the latest radio navigation equipment and meeting the highest standards of passenger comfort. It can carry 82 passengers. Depending on the load, the range of the Embraer 175 is 3,500 km. There are currently twenty-two Embraer 170 and 175 aircraft in the LOT Polish Airlines fleet.

Children in Sheraton

Sheraton hotel in Poznań has played host to the youngest pupils of Single Mother Aid Foundation „Pro-Vita”. The Children's Day celebration has been organized by Sheraton staff regularly for several years.

This year, the older children participated in a swimming pool party and tried their strength in the gym. The younger ones spent time playing and getting acquainted with the hotel's nooks and crannies. Later, they prepared their own pizza and waffles. The event finished with a meal and various games.



AEGEAN AIRLINES IN STAR ALLIANCE

SAS Scandinavian Airlines on June 30 welcomed the Greek airline Aegean Airlines into Star Alliance, of which SAS is a founding member. For SAS customers, this means greater and smoother access to the popular destinations within Aegean Airlines' network and the ability to earn and spend EuroBonus points on all Aegean Airlines flights. Star Alliance now comprises 28 airlines offering 21,200 daily flights to 1,172 airports in 181 countries.

New features in EuroBonus

Scandinavian airline SAS has launched three new features to its popular customer loyalty programme, EuroBonus. Now, the members of the programme may book their seats with the points they accrue (earlier only a limited number of seats was available in this way), awarding points for one way tickets, and also the ability to buy flights with a com-

bination of points and cash. The purpose of those innovations is to provide the EuroBonus members with more efficient and easier methods of booking flights and allowing them to pay for the tickets both with cash and the accrued points. EuroBonus programme has 3 million members.



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BEZPŁATNE ZAKWATEROWANIE I ŚNIADANIE DLA 2 DZIECI DO 16 ROKU ŻYCIA.

W hotelu Novotel dzieci są ważnymi gośćmi. Powitamy je upominkiem, zaprosimy do kącika zabaw, a w restauracji zaoferujemy specjalne menu. Wiele z naszych hoteli posiada ogrody oraz baseny. Dla większej wygody doba hotelowa w niedzielę kończy się o godzinie 17-tej.

11 hoteli w Polsce:
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PARIS - TOKYO



With the arrival of the fourth Airbus A380 in its fleet, Air France will be offering as from 1 September 2010, three weekly frequencies between Paris and Tokyo. The flight will be daily as from 5 Octo-

ber. Tokyo is therefore the first destination in Asia to be served by the Air France A380 and the third worldwide after New York in November 2009 and Johannesburg in February 2010. Air France's A380 is equipped with 538 se-

ats, divided into three cabin classes. La Premiere (First) 9 seats on the main deck -, Affaires (Business) 80 seats on the upper deck and Voyageur (Economy) 449 seats divided between the two decks.

New Hilton in Gdańsk

A new 5-star Hilton hotel has been launched in Gdańsk. It is the second Hilton in Poland, with the first one located in Warsaw. The new Hilton offers 150 rooms and suites, a business centre, and even a rooftop Urban Beach. The hotel's atrium features a magnificent glass artwork named 'Seaflow-ers'. Guests can visit the hotel's gym, a wellness centre, Mercato – a restaurant serving locally inspired cuisine with Mediterranean influences, and High 5 Bar.



BT & CULTURE

The Taste Festival on Krupówki



The beginning of the holiday was especially delicious. The Trip group which runs four hotels (Ossa in Rawa Mazowiecka, and Belverder, Litwor, and Czarny Potok in Zakopane), celebrated its 20th anniversary by organizing "The Taste Festival" on Krupówki in Poland's winter capital. The visitors had an opportunity to taste delicious products, often manufactured by family businesses, and prepared according to traditional recipes. The festival finished with a wonderful concert of Mazowsze folk group.

* Nagle obudzitem się
i poczułem, że mam 8 lat





Little patients in Mamaison

Mamaison Hotel Le Regina Warsaw together with the ORCO Foundation and the Dr Clown Foundation organized a culinary workshop themed "Let's have healthy food!". Fifteen chronically ill patients from the Children's Clinical Hospital in Warsaw were invited to this special event which was also part of their treatment and incentive scheme prepared by the doctors in cooperation with the Dr Clown Foundation.

Lufthansa to fly to Africa



From the start of the winter flight schedule 2010/2011, Lufthansa Group will be providing links to 39 African cities.

Together with partners Austrian Airlines, Brussels Airlines, bmi and SWISS, Lufthansa will be reaching 25 countries across Africa. From this November Lufthansa will launch a new connection from Frankfurt to Pointe Noire. The flights to the main airport of the Republic of Congo will have a stopover in Libreville – the capital city of Gabon.

Brussels Airlines has a long standing experience in operating on African routes. The wide offer of connections by Lufthansa and Brussels Airlines gives passengers greater flexibility in planning their journeys to the Dark Land.

Kingfisher as a member elect.

India's Kingfisher Airlines has become a member elect of the oneworld alliance. A team of experts from British Airways - Kingfisher's sponsor for joining the alliance - and oneworld have helped the airline to begin the process of joining the alliance, and the carrier has cleared the first step by passing a safety audit.

Kingfisher has for some time been in talks with the members of oneworld regarding code share agreements which would enable integrated ticket booking. Such an agreement has already been signed by British Airways. Generally, the process to bring any airline on board any alliance normally takes 18-24 months. Adding Kingfisher to oneworld will give the alliance an additional 56 Indian cities to its network, expanding its global coverage to more than 800 destinations in almost 150 countries.



American Airlines

BRITISH AIRWAYS

CATHAY PACIFIC

FINNAIR

IBERIA

JAL JAPAN AIRLINES

LAN

MALEV

MEXICANA

QANTAS

ROYAL JORDANIAN

ONEWORLD / KINGFISHER



HOLIDAY WITH INTERCITY

PKP Intercity has introduced a holiday timetable for those who wish to go away on their holiday by rail. 80 new trains have been added on the routes to the most popular Polish tourist resorts. The Polish rail operator has also launched a promotion in the form of a 3-ticket package for any Express Intercity and Ekspres trains.

Another interesting offer is a journey to Siberia. Starting June, every Wednesday a train with a comfortable sleeping car departs Warsaw and travels 6,000 km to Irkutsk – the largest city in Siberia.


15 billion dollars



During the 2010 ILA Berlin Air Show, Airbus announced commitments across its broad product range covering a total of 67 aircraft, valued at over US \$15.3 billion. These commitments include firm orders for 32 A380 aircraft worth around US\$11.5 billion, plus Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreements for a further 35 aircraft totalling around \$3.8 billion.

The highlight of the show was the firm order from Emirates Airline for 32 A380s. Emirates has supported the development of the A380 from the earliest days, and this order – the single largest A380 order ever – is an unequivocal endorsement of both the A380's exceptional in-service performance, and also its role as a market-growth enabler for airlines that operate it.



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Nowa Panamera.

Nowy wymiar wydajności. Nieokiełznana jak każde Porsche, ale i oszczędna. 300 KM i spalanie na poziomie 9,3 l/100 km. 3,6-litrowy silnik V6 z bezpośrednim wtryskiem paliwa (DFI) i VarioCam Plus oraz opcjonalnie z 7-biegową skrzynią PDK i funkcją Auto Start-Stop. Do codziennego użytku i do dłuższych podróży.



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Westin Warsaw helps the flood victims

The hardship experienced by the flood victims triggered many responses of solidarity and support. Westin Warsaw, one of the most modern hotels in the Polish capital, also joined the action.

At the end of June, the hotel donated through the Polish Red Cross 50 TV sets for the families

who suffered in the latest flood. The TV sets will be sent to the flood victims in Gąbin, Stubice, Świniary, and Sokolniki.

"We are never indifferent to human tragedy and always try to help those in need, by taking part in such actions," said Stephan Sieberg, the General Manager of The Westin Warsaw hotel.

Finnair orders Airbus

Finnair airline has ordered 5 new Airbus A321ER aircraft. The aircraft's range is over 5,000 kilometres, which allows, for example, direct flights from Finland to the Canary Islands. The first delivery is scheduled in 2013. The new type of aircraft is more fuel efficient than before and it produces less emissions.

Malev signs code share deal



DEJAN GOSPODAREK

Malev Hungarian airline has signed a code-share agreement with Etihad Airways. The deal will provide travelers in Hungary access to the airline's network spread across 61 destinations. The agreement will be implemented from September 2010.

1000 HOURS OF DREAMLINER



BOEING

Boeing has performed the first flight of its 787 Dreamliner aircraft with General Electric engines. The test machines of Dreamliner have, so far, completed 1,000 hours of test flights.

787 Dreamliner with GE engines, referred to as ZA005, completed its maiden flight after

spending 3 hours and 48 minutes in the air over the State of Washington. Everything went smoothly and according to the plan. ZA005 will be used to test the General Electric engine package and demonstrate that the changes made with the new engine do not change the airplane's handling characteristics.

The sixth, and final, 787 to join the test program is expected to fly before the end of July.

The test fleet of Dreamliner has, so far, completed 1,000 hours of test flights. It is estimated that Boeing is now 40% through the test conditions they need in order to certify the first version of the Dreamliner.

CRACOW WITH ORBIS

Two Cracow hotels, which belong to Orbis Hotel Group, offer their guests the opportunity to discover the mysteries of the old Polish capital. The "Magical Cracow" is the name of the offer of Novotel Kraków Bronowice. The two-day package includes accommodation in a comfortable Superior Novation room, buffet breakfast, and a trip round Cracow with a guide. The prices for two nights for two people start with 751 PLN.

Those who want to visit the historical places located in the city centre and like the hubbub of the city, would definitely benefit from staying in Novotel Kraków Centrum, which is located just opposite the Wawel Castle. The Garden Brasserie restaurant serves the guests the delicacies of the Polish and international cuisine, while the recreation centre offers a swimming pool, a sauna, a jacuzzi, beauty treatment, and massages.

When visiting Cracow, it's worth taking advantage of the Hot Deals promotion prepared by 3-star Orbis Cracovia Kraków and Orbis Francuski Kraków hotels. Orbis Cracovia Kraków is

located opposite the National Museum, just a stone's throw from the Old City with the Main City Square and the Royal Wawel Castle. The offer of Orbis Francuski Kraków is ideal for those who want to feel the atmosphere of the old Cracow. The hotel is located in the very centre of the city in an old tenement house. A Hot Deals rates for a stay in a double rooms start with 321 PLN.

For those who wish to spend a little less on their accommodation, Ibis and Etap brands seem to be an ideal choice. The rates for a stay in a double room with air conditioning, TV set, and the Internet access start with 239 PLN. In summer, those who stay in Ibis hotels, may take advantage of a special seasonal promotion. The guests pay 40 PLN less off the standard price for every night. The offer is valid for week days as well as weekends. It includes a stay between 9 July and 5 September. You can book the room online at www.accorhotels.com or www.ibishotel.com. Etap Hotel Kraków Bronowice offers a stay in a double, air-conditioned room for as little as 139 PLN.



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TRIED & TESTED



ONBOARD: WARSAW – COPENHAGEN – BORNHOLM

Scandinavian/Cimber Sterling economy class

INFO SAS offers the first connection between Warsaw and Copenhagen already at 7.45 am (in cooperation with LOT). The other flights take off at 10.10 am, 5.40 pm (on Saturdays 2.10 pm), and 6.10 pm.

CHECK-IN The Internet is a great invention, which you start appreciating only after you have suddenly been deprived of it. It has become such an indispensable part of our lives that today's twenty-year-olds find it hard to believe that there was some time in the history when it didn't exist.

The scheduled departure of my flight SK752 to Copenhagen was at 2.10 pm. Bearing this in mind, I arrived at Okęcie airport at 1.00, and after several minutes of waiting, I felt I was getting bored to death. This was all the fault of the aforementioned 'great invention' thanks to which I had been able to self check-in the day before. However, I hadn't printed out the boarding pass since my suitcase was considerably large, so I had to collect the pass at SAS stand (there were

three of them available with no queues), where I left my luggage. The whole procedure took around 7 minutes.

As always, going through security check, carried out by Border Guards officers, is the highlight of the day. There are four security check points for the economy class, each with a state-of-the-art scanner, but usually only one of them is working. This time... it was no different. The only difference was that on Saturday everybody felt the weekend atmosphere, the queue wasn't that long and the Border Guards were in an exceptionally good mood, so the whole procedure went swiftly. Enough to say that I entered the departure lounge over an hour before the take off, so no wonder that the duty free shops had a ball on me.

BOARDING The boarding was scheduled to start at 1.25 pm. Two minutes before that the passengers were asked to go to B17 gate. Scandinavian is righteously considered one of the most punctual

airlines in the world. The passengers had their boarding passes and ID's checked and the bus, which was waiting downstairs, was filling up very quickly. The plane was standing several dozen meters away, so the whole trip was very short. We pulled up close to the sleek body of the CRJ 900 – the passengers with larger baggage put it on the trailer from which the ramp agents were putting it to the hold. We were allowed to take smaller bags with us on the plane.

FACTS

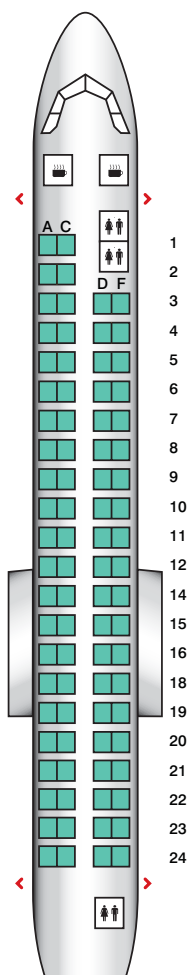
SEAT CONFIGURATION 2+2

SEAT PITCH 79 cm

SEAT WIDTH 44,5 cm

COST A ticket from Warsaw to Copenhagen booked on a weekday via the airline's website was available at 365.5 PLN (€88).

CONTACT flightsas.com



ECONOMY CLASS

Toilet
 Kitchen

CRJ 900 is a modern jet aircraft which can accommodate up to 80 passengers. The abbreviation (CRJ) stands for Canadian Regional Jet, as the plane was designed to operate on short-haul routes up to 2,500 kilometres. CRJ is built by the Canadian consortium Bombardier and is highly praised by its aircrews and passengers.

THE SEAT The seats, which are upholstered in blue fabric, have 2+2 configuration and offer considerable space as for this type of aircraft. I had seat 5D, which was next to the aisle, a few rows in front of the plane's wings. I didn't feel any unpleasant vibrations and the noise during the take-off was barely audible, as well as throughout the flight. The CRJ 900 may not be a large aircraft, but the one I flew had three travel classes, and special plates fixed to the back of the seats informed which class a given seat belonged to. The plates can be freely arranged by the airline, depending on the number of booked seats. During my flight, the first two rows were business class, the third one was Economy Extra and the other ones, where I was sitting, were the regular economy class.

THE FLIGHT The difference between the classes became clearer 10 minutes into the flight, when the "fasten your seatbelts" lights turned off and typically for this part of the flight, there was a flurry of activity on board. The flight attendants put on grey aprons and the in-flight service began. In business and Economy Extra class, the passengers received their meals and drinks on special trays. Those travelling in the economy class could buy drinks from so-called Cloud Shop (a can of soft drink or a bottle of mineral water – 20 DKK, beer – 30 DKK, a sandwich – 40 DKK, 1 DKK equals about € 0.15) Luckily, I didn't need to buy anything, because at the airport I had been wise enough to purchase a bottle of mineral water.

ARRIVAL An hour into the flight, we started to prepare for the landing in Copenhagen. Kastrup is definitely a gorgeous place and the approach from the sea, with the sight of the giant windmills in the bay, is always unforgettable experience.

TRANSFER We got off the plane and entered a bus which, after a few minutes, transported us to the terminal of international arrivals. There we could either reclaim our luggage and leave the terminal, or go for a connecting flight.

I was flying to Ronne, the largest town on Bornholm, which is considered to be the island's capital (and is also Bornholm's only town with an airport), so I chose the latter. The departure board showed that the flight QI627 would depart in 40 minutes so I had to take a 21-minute walk to the domestic terminal 1. Of course, it is also possible (and much quicker!) to take a shuttle bus, but in my opinion the first choice is much more interesting. On my way, I went past architecturally intriguing constructions and interesting passages. Anyway, Kastrup is an exceptionally passenger-friendly airport. Every day there are at least 6 connections between Copenhagen and Ronne.

BOARDING I finally reached gate A33 behind which I could see the small ATR 42 aircraft which would take me to Bornholm. The aircraft had a red Viking helmet on the tail which is a part of livery of Cimber Sterling – a private company which serves domestic and European flights.

There were a dozen or so people waiting in the queue to check in, which was not surprising, as the ATR 42 can accommodate not more than 50 passengers. I had received my boarding pass in Warsaw, while checking my luggage, and there was no seat number stated on it. When the check-in procedure was over and our boarding passes and IDs were checked, we walked about 50 metres across the apron to our plane. There everyone took the seat they wanted. I was one of the last passengers to board, so I was left with a seat in the first row. I sat next to the window, with a blue fab-

ric upholstered wall right in front of me. The seats in 2+2 configuration are moderately comfortable, but those ones in the first row have more leg space, which contributes to some additional comfort.

THE FLIGHT We took off on time. There was no in-flight service provided, since the whole journey lasted around 25 minutes. Throughout the flight the "fasten your seat belts" light wouldn't turn off – the flight attendant explained that this was due to strong winds over the island which could cause some turbulence. Luckily, we didn't experience too much of it. However, the last minutes of the flight were truly remarkable, as we were flying low over the water

LANDING We landed in gusty wind conditions, but, luckily, without any trouble. The airport in Ronne is quite small. We disembarked the plane and went with our hand luggage to the terminal. To my surprise, I saw our good old Melex with a trailer, approaching the ATRs luggage hold. The ramp agents unloaded the baggage with exceptional care, which is not always the case at other airports. After a few minutes the large door opened and the Melex which was carrying our luggage entered the terminal, stopping along the marks painted on the floor. We took our baggage straight from the trailer – something I had never seen before. A few moments later I left the terminal.

VERDICT I arrived at the picturesque Danish island 4 hours after departing Warsaw. The connection is definitely a good alternative to the ferry trip.

Wojciech Chelchowski



TRIED & TESTED

ONBOARD: WARSAW – ISTANBUL

PLL LOT Boeing 737-500 business class

INFO The Turkish metropolis can be reached thanks to daily connections offered by LOT Polish Airlines. On Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays the planes takes off at 1.05 pm and the connection is operated by Boeing 737. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays the departure time is 1:40 pm, and the route is operated by Airbus A321 (in cooperation with Turkish Airlines).

CHECK-IN I was going to Turkey on business just for several hours, so my whole luggage consisted of a small suitcase and the laptop. I headed towards the check-in desk just under one hour to the scheduled departure time which was 1.05 pm. The procedure was exceptionally quick and painless. As I had my seat booked in the business class, I decided to take advantage of the fast lane for the privileged passengers. It took just a few minutes in total, and, with the boarding pass in my hand, I was ready to face the security control. There are two desks in the security control zone prepared only for the business class passengers. Only one of the desks was working, but the whole procedure was very quick. I put my belt, jacket, wallet and the contents of my pockets into one container, and the laptop without the case into the other. After a short

while I was allowed to enter the passenger zone where duty free shops are. My ticket entitled me to visit the business lounge where I could order free drinks and snacks, read a newspaper, or work in quiet and pleasant environment. This time, however, I didn't have time to do it. At least, I thought so when I appeared at gate A27 where, according to the schedule, at 12.20 the procedure of boarding was about to start. This, however, didn't happen as the passengers were informed that the departure would be delayed by about 40 minutes. The people who gathered around the gate, now slowly dispersed; many of them decided to spend the extra time doing shopping, while others started making phone calls. Thirty minutes later the whole group returned to gate A27.

BOARDING When boarding was finally announced, I produced my boarding pass and passport which were checked briefly by the personnel. I was left with the slip showing the number of my seat, and went to the bus waiting outside. The trip to the Boeing 737-500 parked on the apron of the airport took just a few minutes. The procedure of entering the plane went swiftly and without any trouble.

THE SEAT I entered the aircraft and took my seat situated in the second row

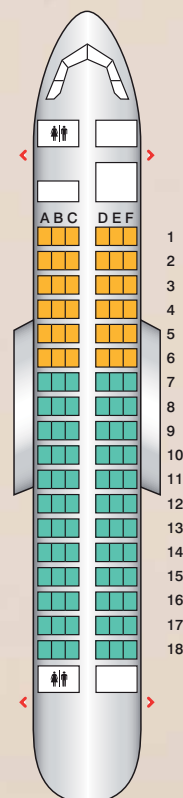
next to the window. The seats have 3+3 configuration. However, in the business class the middle seat in the row is always empty to provide the passengers with more comfort. I put my luggage into the overhead bin, and the laptop, for the time of take-off, into the pocket of the seat in front of me.

THE FLIGHT The push back took place at 2.10. The aircraft was taxiing for about 10 minutes, and the take-off went smoothly and without any problems. After about 15 minutes we reached the cruise speed and altitude, the "fasten your seatbelts" lights turned off, and the flight attendants were ready with the in-flight service. In the meantime, we were welcomed by the captain who also informed us on the planned route of our flight (via Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria to Turkey). The flight time was estimated at 2 hours and 20 minutes. The menu in the business class is prepared under the guidance of the renowned chef Robert Sowa, and the dish which I liked the most were definitely the lamb chops which really go well with equally excellent Chilean Frontera wine.

ARRIVAL We reached Ataturk airport at 5.40 pm – which was obviously past the scheduled time (according to the schedule we were supposed to land at 4.30 pm), so we were unable to make up for the lost time.

VERDICT The Polish airline offers a good service and a convenient connection on Warsaw-Istanbul route.

Jakub Olgiewicz



 BUSINESS CLASS
 ECONOMY CLASS
 Toilet



FACTS

SEAT CONFIGURATION 3+3

SEAT PITCH 81 cm

SEAT WIDTH 43 cm

COST A business class ticket booked on a weekday via the airline's website without any promotion was available at 2469 PLN (€617).

CONTACT flot.com



AMBER ROOM
RESTAURACJA

**ZAPRASZAMY DO RESTAURACJI AMBER ROOM W PAŁACU SOBAŃSKICH
NA NOWOCZESNĄ KUCHNIĘ POLSKĄ**

Restauracja Amber Room znajduje się na parterze w Pałacu Sobańskich, który jest siedzibą Klubu Polskiej Rady Biznesu. Udostępniając restaurację nie tylko członkom Klubu chcemy dać wszystkim, którzy doceniają jakość i kreatywność kulinarną, możliwość odwiedzenia tego szczególnego miejsca i spróbowania nowoczesnej kuchni polskiej.

W tygodniu między 12:00 – 15:00 zapraszamy na biznes lunch (88 PLN za osobę)

Codziennie zmieniamy menu w którym jest do wyboru przystawka, główne danie i deser, a także selekcja petit fours, kawa, herbata i woda.

Na kolacje oferujemy menu klasyczne (109 PLN za osobę)

Zestaw 3 dań do wyboru, n.p. sałatka cesar z chrupiącym boczkiem i grillowanym oscypkiem na przystawkę, glazurowane żeberka wieprzowe z selerem i wędzoną szalotką na danie główne, a na deser sernik z sorbetem malinowym i sosem z gorzkiej czekolady.

Za wszystkie kulinarne pomysły jest odpowiedzialny nasz Szef Kuchni Jacek Grochowina. Doświadczenie zdobywał pracując przez 5 lat w Londynie w Hotelu Ritz. Jest laureatem kilku nagród, w tym „Annual Award of Excellence 2008” przyznawanej przez Brytyjską „Academy of Culinary Arts”.

Nowoczesne i przytulne wnętrze, szeroka karta win dobrana przez naszego Sommeliera, ciekawe koktajle oraz profesjonalny zespół przyczynią się do tego że doznania kulinarne pozostaną niezapomniane.



Al. Ujazdowskie 13, Warszawa, tel. (48 22) 523 66 64, www.kprb.pl/amber

TRIED & TESTED

HOTEL: SZCZECIN

Novotel

WHAT IS IT LIKE? Behind the entrance to the hotel, there is a large area, where you will find the reception desk, sofas for guests, and a car rental. On the other side, opposite the lift, which you can use to get to an underground car park with 100 parking spaces, there is an entrance to the restaurant section of the hotel.

WHERE IS IT? Aleja 3 Maja is in the heart of Szczecin. The hotel is a short walking distance away from the bus and railway stations. It takes slightly more than 30 minutes to get from the hotel to the airport in Goleniów, which is about 40 kilometres away.

ROOM FACILITIES Szczecin Novotel is spread on four floors, the top one is dedicated to smokers, the rest ones are a non-smoking area. The hotel has 113 spacious bedrooms and 3 suites. Five bedrooms have been adapted for the disabled guests.

The standard room is about 25 sq m. All the rooms are air-conditioned and the guests are able to adjust the temperature themselves. The amenities include a huge double bed, a sofa for guests (when a need arises, an additional bed for children can be provided), a mini bar, a big wardrobe, a large workdesk with a comfortable swivel chair, coffee and tea making facilities and free mineral water. In some rooms there are already flat LCD TVs, in others the old equipment is going to be replaced within the next couple of months. Some rooms also have a flat safe for a laptop, but the guests can also make use of the free safes at the reception desk. Despite its location in the heart of the city with the car traffic and trams, the guests won't be bothered by the noise, as the hotel is perfectly soundproofed. An additional bonus

is the possibility to darken the room with thick curtains.

In the bathroom, painted in bright colours, there is a bathtub with a shower. The guests also receive Novotel toiletries.

The suites comprise a separate lounge (25 sq m), where you can easily organize a small business meeting, with a separate toilet for guests, and a bedroom with the bathroom. Amenities include tea and coffee making facilities, free access to PAY TV channels, and bathrobes and slippers in the bathroom.

Free wifi is available for the guests throughout the hotel. In bedrooms there is also possible to connect to the Internet via the traditional cable.

BUSINESS FACILITIES A large part of the first floor has been separated to serve as a conference centre. There are eight air-conditioned rooms with the access to natural light. The bigger one is the Amber (182 sq m), consisting of two smaller rooms. It can hold a meeting for even 200 participants. The Turkus room is 48 sq m and can accommodate up to 40 people, while Koral, Agat, Jaspis, Rubin and Szafir rooms occupy the area of 20-36 sq m and can cater for 12-30 guests. They are equipped with screens, professional sound system and an overhead projector.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS The Garden Brasserie, on the ground floor, can seat up to 200 guests and offers a fusion of international and Polish cuisine. Breakfasts in a form of buffet are served here from 6.00 am. Krzysztof Górczyński is the chef here. The Novotel cuisine has undergone radical changes recently, and can now satisfy the tastes of even the most demanding guests. The menu includes such spe-

FACTS

ROOMS Szczecin Novotel has 116 bedrooms including 3 suites.

TIPS Location, free internet access, excellent cuisine.

COST Internet rate for a stay in the middle of June was 280 PLN for a double room.

KONTAKT Novotel Szczecin; Aleja 3 Maja 31, 70-215 Szczecin; Tel. 91 48 01 400; novotel.com

cialties as tomato cream with salmon and curry aroma, grilled game meat with potatoes and red cabbage with juniper sauce. The restaurant also serves excellent steaks.

Le Bar, which can seat 30 people, is an ideal place to spend an evening and have a drink. The inner patio, used in the summer season, is a very interesting place. There is a screen and you can watch sports events here, while the staff set up a grill and serves drinks.

LEISURE FACILITIES In the hotel there is a large swimming pool (27-metre long) with the water of 32°C, a sauna, a Jacuzzi, and a well-equipped fitness room.

Wojciech Chelchowski



VERDICT

4-star hotel in the heart of Szczecin with all mod cons and excellent cuisine for a business traveller.

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HOTEL: WARSAW

Hilton Warsaw Hotel & Convention Centre

WHAT IS IT LIKE? The Hilton belongs to the most recognizable brands in the hotel industry. It is commonly associated with prestige and comfort. The company has become a major player due to Conrad Hilton, who bought the first hotel in 1919. Hilton hotels have always attached importance to innovations – they were the first to introduce TV in the rooms, electronic system of booking and to launch the first internet website. In the Warsaw Hilton the comfort can be felt everywhere: in the comfortable bedrooms, the spacious lobby, the perfectly designed conference centre or in the elegant fitness club.

FACTS

ROOMS The hotel has 314 rooms, including 11 suites.

TIPS Hilton Plus – bedrooms with separate areas for work and relaxation. Wifi and wired internet access. Excellent conference facilities.

PRICE A midweek stay in a standard room in the first week of July cost 495 PLN per night.

CONTACT Hilton Warsaw Hotel & Convention Centre, Grzybowska 63, 00-844 Warszawa
Tel. + 48 22 356 55 55, warsaw.hilton.com





WHERE IS IT? The hotel is situated in the centre of Warsaw, so it's close to a great number of business venues in the capital. It takes about 20-30 minutes to get there from the Warsaw Frédéric Chopin Airport. It's a short distance from the central railway station, it has also a very good location as far as public communication is concerned.

ROOM FACILITIES Warsaw Hilton has 314 air-conditioned (the air conditioning can be adjusted manually) bedrooms and suites. The amenities include the wireless and wired internet access, tea and coffee making facilities, an iron and an ironing board, a mini bar, an LCD TV set, and a comfortable workdesk. There are huge, floor-to-ceiling windows, which can be darkened completely. The floors in the marble bathrooms are heated, and the guests receive Crabtree & Evelyn toiletries.

The bedrooms are spacious, the smallest standard ones are 30 sq m. They are equipped with King or Twin beds, a coffee table with armchairs, and have pictures hanging above the bed. An interesting option are bedrooms with a separate work area, marked by „Plus” in their name (Deluxe Plus or Executive Plus). Executive Corner Suites are much more spacious – 64 sq m, and the presidential suite is 130 sq m. The latter one comprises a lounge, a dining room, bedrooms and a kitchenette.

BUSINESS FACILITIES Conference facilities are impressive, and located in a separate building, adjacent to the ma-

in part of this 26-storey hotel. There is a special area of 3,000 sq m, where conferences, training courses and business meetings can be held. The biggest conference room is Warsaw Hall. It is 1,406 sq m (plus a foyer of 520 sq m) and can hold up to 1,850 people. It can be divided into five smaller rooms. Besides, there are 12 Hilton Meeting Rooms, for about 26-75 people. There is also a Boardroom – a room devoted to meetings of boards of directors and supervisory boards.

The guests have also the possibility to use Business Center, equipped with computer equipment, photocopiers, printers, faxes and phones. If you are in need, you can rent a mobile or a tape recorder.

Executive rooms have access to the elegant business lounge, situated on the top floor of the hotel building, where you can check in and out, have access to books, newspapers, television. The place also serves breakfasts, drinks and snacks, and provides an excellent place for business meetings.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS The Meza restaurant is the main dining venue in the hotel. The chef, Sven Thomsen, specializes in international and Polish cuisine – especially the pierogis are a real delight of the palate. The restaurant serves breakfasts and lunches. It is open from 6.30 am to 11.00 pm. In the hotel there is also the Pistaccio Lobby Bar & Lounge, where you can chat with friends in a relaxing atmosphere. Especially so, because the bar offers a great selection of whisky and cognac, and delicious snacks.

Pistaccio is open from 8.00 am until 1.00 am. Another bar – Axis (open from 5.00 pm until 1.00 am) offers a wide selection of vodkas, cocktails and light meals. In the summer season the Piazza restaurant offers grilled dishes, salads, snacks and cocktails.

RECREATION The recreation is provided by the Holmes Place Lifestyle Club, which has a big 25-metre long swimming pool. Other facilities include high quality fitness equipment, and a sauna. There is a wide choice of sports activities to choose from, and you can also hire a personal coach. Thalgo Terrake Spa offers a wide range of exotic massages and beauty treatments for the whole body, as well as the facials. In the hotel there is also a jeweller's, an amber gallery, a florist's and a souvenir shop. Those in need of a major adrenaline rush can head for the Olympic Casino Sunrise, where they will find roulette, blackjack and poker tables.

Tomasz Niemaszko

VERDICT

Comfortable and elegant hotel with high quality service. An excellent place for someone who comes to the capital on business.



TRIED & TESTED

HOTEL: POZNAŃ

Ibis Centrum

WHAT IS IT LIKE? Ibis hotels have one undeniable advantage – you know very well what to expect from them. These are not wonderfully luxurious places, but they provide decent accommodation, nice cuisine and good quality service in all the hotels belonging to the French Accor corporation. The prices are reasonable. And so it is in Poznań. The Ibis hotel for the past 10 years has offered competitive prices, when compared to other hotels in the area. At the same time, the hotel provides business travellers with decent accommodation.

WHERE IS IT? 2-star Ibis hotel is only 2 kilometres away from the Main Railway Station. Similar distance separates it from the vibrant Old City. It takes about 20 minutes drive to get there from the Ławica airport, and 5 minutes away Poznań International Fair is organized. A short distance separates the hotel from the famous Malta, where many cultural events are held, there is also a ski slope



and a toboggan run. The hotel has also a rooftop paid car park.

ROOM FACILITIES As usually with Ibis hotels, everything is neat and comfy. There are 146 bedrooms of proper, Ibis standard. Bedrooms are 14 sq m, and come with one comfortable bed (or two separate ones), single, or double one and a bathroom with a shower. Amenities include an LCD TV set with satellite TV, a wardrobe and a comfortable work-desk. To make it easier to work, free wifi is available throughout the hotel. Bedrooms are air-conditioned, and come with curtains able to completely darken the room. Air-conditioning can be controlled manually, but you can also open the windows. Bedrooms are single or double, there is also a possibility to put an additional bed for a child. There is no room service, but at the reception desk you get everything you need: a hairdryer or an iron, there is also a possibility to use a deposit box, fax or a laundry. In this three-

storey hotel there are four bedrooms suitable for the handicapped.

BUSINESS FACILITIES Poznań Ibis hotel has two conference rooms on its offer. They are called Malta and Rusalka. Both are 25 sq m, and can be combined into one room, which can accommodate up to 50 guests altogether. These rooms are often used for small business meetings or training courses. Standard facilities include broadband internet access, air-conditioning, a flipchart, audio-visual equipment. There is also a possibility to organize a video conference. The hotel offers short coffee breaks and serves snacks, e.g. cakes, croissants or sandwiches. It is also possible to order lunch for all the participants.

On the lobby level there are two more rooms, also frequently used by business travellers. One of them has glass walls, and has two computers and a printer. The other room is divided by a wooden partition, and you will find there a large table, two comfortable armchairs and a computer. It is often used by business travellers for smaller meetings.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS L'Estaminet restaurant can seat 74 people, and serves dishes from international cuisine. Especially worth trying is the Norwegian salmon, but they also serve delicious beef. The menu is seasonal, so the set of dishes changes once in a while. What captures the attention are funny names, e.g. children section is called „Menu for little brats”. The same goes with breakfasts, served in a form of buffet from 6.30 am until 10.00 (11.00 at the weekend), but there is also early breakfast (from 4.00 am. to 6.00 am.), which is called “An Early Bird”, and late breakfast (after 10.00), called “Sleepy-head's breakfast”. A la carte restaurant is open from 12.00 am. until 10.30 pm., and right next to it there is an all-night bar.

RECREATION There are no recreational facilities at Ibis Hotel.

Andrzej Czuba

FACTS

ROOMS Ibis hotel in Poznań has 146 bedrooms of the same category, but they come with different beds – either one double or two single ones.

TIPS Wireless internet included in the price, convenient location.

PRICE A room in the Ibis hotel in the middle of June cost 167 PLN per night.

CONTACT Hotel Ibis Poznań Centrum
ul. Kazimierza Wielkiego 23, 61-863 Poznań, Poland,
tel. +48 61 858 44 00, accorhotels.com

VERDICT

Poznań is a business city, and Ibis hotel provides very good conditions for business trips to the city. Convenient location is a major advantage.

www.centrum lotow.pl

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r e z e r w a c j e o n l i n e

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HOTEL: GDAŃSK

Scandic

WHAT IS IT LIKE? Scandinavian and friendly – that’s how you could describe the Scandic hotel in a nutshell. A year ago it replaced the Holiday Inn. Scandic Hotels chain is a Scandinavian giant with 150 hotels (each one with unique architecture and decor). In Poland there are two of them – in Wrocław and Gdańsk. Scandic is concerned with the ecology and you can tell, as waste sorting, water in specially designed glass carafes, and food made from eco products are perfect examples of this policy. Close to the reception desk there is a typical Scandic shop, where you can buy all necessary things like shaving foam, or tights, but also coffee, sandwiches and Jamie Oliver books, as Scandic closely cooperates with this renowned British chef.

WHERE IS IT? In the heart of Gdańsk. Scandic Hotel is opposite the Main Railway Station. It’s a stone’s throw from the Old City, which is the most beautiful part of the city. Nearby, there is a shopping centre and a cinema, and 400 metres away in Heweliusz Street there is a mini terminal, where you can check in and be transferred to the airport. Despite being situated in the Gdańsk’s busiest artery, Scandic hotel is a quiet place thanks to its soundproof windows. There is no hotel car park, but nearby there is a huge public car park, which costs 40 PLN a day.

ROOM FACILITIES Scandic is a three-storey building with 143 bedrooms, including 18 double suites, consisting

of a bedroom, a bathroom, and a lounge – often used for small business meetings. The standard equipment includes one or two single beds, a TV, a mini bar, a bathroom with a bath or a shower, a safe, and coffee and tea making facilities. Huge desk provides a lot of place to work. The guests can use free wired internet - to get the access you need to ask for a code at the reception desk. The code is valid for 6 hours - after that time, you need to get a new one. The air conditioning in the bedrooms is fully adjustable, but you can also open the windows, which is important for those who are not big fans of air conditioning. The curtains let you completely darken the room. Such “artificial night” is especially useful for those who want to have a rest during the daytime. In the suites, the guest can expect free mineral water, and there are plans to introduce free mini bars as well. In the white-decorated bathroom the floor is heated, and bottled cosmetics, which are so often found in many other hotels, here were replaced with di-



FACTS

ROOMS Scandic Hotel has 143 bedrooms, including 18 double suites.

TIPS Wireless internet access included in the price, pro-eco solutions in the whole hotel, delicious food.

PRICE Booking a bedroom in Scandic hotel in the second week of June (in the middle of the week) cost 389 PLN.

CONTACT Hotel Scandic, Podwale Grodzkie 9 80-895 Gdańsk, Tel. +48 58 300 60 00
scandichotels.com/scandic-polska/
scandic-gdansk





spensers – this being in line with the eco-friendly policy of Scandica hotels. Just like the three-section rubbish bin, encouraging guests to sort the waste. What's interesting, if you put a lit cigarette into the bin, it will automatically shut to prevent fire. Eight rooms in the hotel can be combined together, in this way creating much larger space, if needed. In the bedrooms for the handicapped, there are special facilities like vibrating alarm clocks, additional peepholes in the door which are places lower than usually, and emergency buttons.

BUSINESS FACILITIES As for business facilities in the Gdańsk Scandica hotel, there are four conference rooms on the ground floor, and two on the last one. Gdańsk, Amsterdam and Kopenhagen rooms can be combined into one room of 330 sq m altogether and it is often used for big conferences or banquets, accommodating up to 330 people. Hamburg room, like the rooms on the third floor, is devoted for smaller meetings, and it can be divided into two smaller rooms. Guests can count on all sorts of facilities like audio-visual equipment, flipcharts,

screens and the internet access. All the rooms have access to the natural light. Scandic is eagerly supporting the “conscious meetings”, i.e. meetings organized in line with the eco-friendly rules – the hotel offers their own filtered water served in carafes, coffee from eco-friendly plantations, or even recyclable stationery. There is also organic menu, including dry fruit. The business offer is complemented with the business area with 2 computers and a printer.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS You can already start licking your lips as the cuisine in Gdańsk Scandic hotel is sensational! The chef Paweł Pawluk is both a magician and a miracle-worker, as all the dishes here are mouth-watering and praiseworthy.

The tomato soup with a huge cloud of cream, tuna steak or ravioli with grapefruit particles of different colour – these are only some of the culinary masterpieces.

All of these, together with excellent Chilean wines, make it really hard to leave the table in their Little Italy restaurant. The restaurant is open from 12.00 am until 10.00 pm, earlier you can eat here breakfast in the form of buffet (which includes 101 different items – it's one of Scandic traditions). They also have a special kids menu, composed in cooperation with Jamie Oliver. What's interesting, children may not only pick the food items, but also prepare them. On the menu, you'll also find gluten-free dishes.

LEISURE FACILITIES The hotel fitness club has a small gym, a sauna, a steam bath and a massage room (available at a special request). You can also rent a city bicycle in the characteristic red colour, or use Nordic walking poles.

Andrzej Czuba

VERDICT

Excellent choice for those who come to Gdańsk on business. Superb cuisine, a comfortable working place, which is also nicely-located.



HOTEL: ISTAMBUL Sumahan

TRIED & TESTED

WHAT IS IT LIKE? Sumahan is a hotel with history. It was built in the middle of 19th century as a small factory producing rakia. Today, after the renovation, it offers high quality accommodation and service. The major advantage of the hotel is that all the bedroom windows overlook the Bosphorus. In this way, the guests can observe the mythical Odysseus' journey home.

WHERE IS IT? Sumahan Hotel is situated on the Bosphorus coast, which separates Europe and Asia and combines the waters of the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea. It is located in the district of Cengelkoy, which was once a typical fishing village, and has preserved its characteristic charm to this day: there are wooden houses, fish restaurants and seaside promenades. The hotel has a good connection with the two bridges over the Bosphorus. It takes 30 minutes to get to the hotel from the airport.

ROOM FACILITIES Each bedroom has its own character – that's what is written in the hotel advertisements, and it's not an exaggeration. The amenities in most of the hotel rooms include fire places which contribute to the family atmosphere. The interior is both modern and cosy – it is achieved thanks to the combination of wood, marble, steel and bricks. The rooms come with spacious bathrooms, many of them are equipped with steam bath. Standard amenities include a mini bar, a safe, satellite TV, audio system and, naturally the internet access.

In the whole Sumahan hotel there are only suites, differing in equipment and decor. The smallest are DeLuxe suites, larger ones are called Junior Suites, and they come with a spacious lounge. Loft Suite is spread on two levels and has a separate garden. Each of these rooms is equipped with a comfortable workdesk.

BUSINESS FACILITIES Sumahan is not suitable for large conferences and me-



etings for a great number of people. However, it is an excellent choice for those who need a small, quiet and elegant place to stay with high quality service. The conference room can hold up to 35 people, and it comes with the highest quality equipment.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS The Kordon restaurant is a separate entity, but it belongs to the hotel complex. Its cosy interior make you feel relaxed and sets you in an optimistic mood before your meal. The food is excellent, indeed. Kordon specializes in fish and seafood, and having tried it I can really say they are real specialists. Salted tuna, smoked salmon or octopus salad – all this tastes divine and looks really great. The restaurant has a separate room, able to seat 60 people, often hired for company meetings or private parties. Breakfa-

FACTS

ROOMS Hotel Sumahan offers seven DeLuxe suites, three Executive Suites, three Junior Suites and also seven double level Loft Suites.

TIPS Comfortable, spacious suites. Excellent working conditions. The highest quality service.

PRICE A stay in a DeLuxe Suite costs €295 per night.

CONTACT 51 Cengelkoy, 34684 Istanbul
Tel. +90 216 422 8000, sumahan.com



sts, lunches and dinners are also served in a small hotel restaurant called Waterfront Terrace.

RECREATION Hamam. This one words explains it all to the Turkish people. Hamam is a traditional Turkish bath, and you will find one in the Sumahan hotel. It's a perfectly designed place in the shape of a circle and covered with a dome. Everyone feels relaxed after taking a bath or massage in the restful atmosphere of the place. There is also a small fitness centre in the hotel.

Tomasz Koźmiński

VERDICT

A high quality boutique hotel, where you can both work and have a rest, in relax in a relaxing atmosphere.



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HOTEL: ISTANBUL

Polat Renaissance

WHAT IS IT LIKE? This Luxurious 5-star hotel belongs to the Renaissance brand. It catches your attention even from a distance. It is a 27-storey building, its interior is warm and cosy and service is of good quality – all of these contribute to the high class of the place.

WHERE IS IT? It takes only 5 minutes to get there from the Ataturk airport. The Istanbul centre is about 20 minutes away.

ROOM FACILITIES There are 392 air-conditioned bedrooms and 22 suites spread across the 27 floors of the main building and another 1-storey building, situated next to a small swimming pool. Each room comes with an LCD TV set (with an interactive channel, where you can inspect your bills), a safe, a mini bar, coffee and tea making facilities, a workdesk, Queen or Twin bed, and access to wired or wireless Internet (around € 5 per day). The smallest bedroom is 26 sq m. Drinking water is complimentary and paid extra.

Some bedrooms in the hotel have access to the Club Lounge, a place aimed at satisfying businessmen's needs. These are standard rooms, and DeLuxe ones, occupying the space of 50 sq m each. Let's not forget about Junior Suites (those situated in the corners of the building are the most interesting), which are 61 sq m and consist of a bedroom, a lounge and a spacious bathroom. The largest one - the presidential suite is 145 sq m (with a dining room and an additional bathroom).

Hotel has also bedrooms on the ground floor: Garden Deluxe are the rooms situated in the main building, whereas Garden Standard are to be found in the so-called Annex Building, next to the pool – those rooms are arranged in a more traditional way.

BUSINESS FACILITIES The hotel has a large potential to organize conferences and other business meetings. There are 25 meeting rooms altogether. The total number of people, who can participate in a meeting in the biggest Ballroom and Foyer, reaches 2,000.

Those guests who book certain bedrooms, have also access to the Club Lounge. It's an ideal place for both informal and formal meetings, as well as for good relaxation.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS There are six restaurants in the hotel to satisfy the most sophisticated palates. Daphne specializes in Mediterranean and Turkish cuisine, and this is where breakfasts and lunches are served. Bier Stube serves German cuisine (delicious curry wurst) and excellent beers. Its interior is typically Bavarian. Nearby, for the sake of balance, there is the Champions restaurant which serves Mexican and American cuisine, and The Marmara Fish Restaurant – a place for sea food lovers - all the dishes are delicious and elegantly served. There is also The Royal China, a bar called Noblesse, which serves everything a good bar should have on its offer, and The Polat Patisserie, a French eatery, where you can order chocolates, cakes and pancakes.

LEISURE FACILITIES The Hotel has two swimming pools, one is indoor and the other one outdoor. There is also a sauna, a Turkish bath, a solarium, tennis courts and squash courts. Additionally, you can go to the Spa centre and a perfectly-equipped fitness centre.

Tomasz Karpiński

FACTS

ROOMS Hotel dysponuje 414 pokojami, w tej liczbie znajdują się 22 apartamenty.

TIPS The hotel is perfectly situated, offers comfortable work place, and a wide range of eateries to choose from (5 restaurants and a bar).

PRICE The Internet rate for a night in a standard room is about €165.

CONTACT Renaissance Polat Istanbul Hotel, 2 Yesilyurt Istanbul, 34149 Turkey, tel. + 90 212 4141800, marriott.com



VERDICT

It's an ideal hotel for a businessman visiting Istanbul. Apart from the ideal business conditions, it offers exciting possibilities for relaxation.

MAGAZYN

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RESTAURANT: WARSAW

Zielnik Café

INFO It's been 10 years since Zielnik Café was launched. The place was founded by Magdalena Gessler and Mariusz Diakowski. One year later – a summer garden was created in the Dreszer Park, opposite the restaurant. The garden is open from the beginning of May until the end of September. It's definitely one of the most beautiful summer gardens in Warsaw. It's small, cosy and nicely arranged – in a simple and comfortable manner. Additionally, it has comfortable chairs and nice ornaments. The kitchen is situated in a small separate pavilion – it's discreet and keeps the smells away. When the mosquitoes start attacking in the evening, the staff is well prepared – there are repellents, candles and blankets. It's a kind of place you would be proud to show to your foreign guests, and you yourself would want to come here for a lunch with your family too. There is even a playground for children nearby.

LOCATION Zielnik Café is situated in Odyńca street in the district of Mokotów, near Puławska – one of the capital's main streets. And so there is a constant trouble with the inadequate number of parking spaces.

THE INTERIOR To put it simply: it's just pretty. With no unnecessary embellishments, but refined taste and class. The main restaurant consists of four rooms, each one is a bit idyllic in style. On the walls there are hand made pictures of herbs, paintings, ubiquitous flowers and

bowls full of fruits – all this gives you a feeling of rural and domestic bliss, but at the same time, it's well thought out, a little bit ascetic, and giving you solace after a hard day.

MENU In the menu you will find no Magda Gessler's finesse and imagination. Instead, there is a lot of Mariusz Diakowski's good taste and solidity. Everything is fresh and made from high quality products. Among starters, you will find short cupcakes with smoked salmon and horseradish mousse in a honey mustard sauce, hot spinach with Gorgonzola cheese and white pepper, crayfish in cognac sauce with cream and croutons, and an excellent salmon steak tartare with crashed sesame snaps, fennel, mustard, sour cream and beans.

The soups in the Zielnik Café are seasonal, and it's definitely to the benefit of the customers as this season they can try dill-flavoured broth with home-made pasta, sorrel soup with hard-boiled egg or a purred green pea soup with croutons. Salads come with a great variety of taste-enriching ingredients. Grilled

prawns, rocket, slices of chicken breast, complemented by anchovies and parmesan sauce.

The main courses in the restaurant are an interesting fusion of tastes from all over the world, but this only highlights the high quality of the local original cuisine. Veal dumplings, Siberian pielmieni with sour cream and butter or salmon in a caper sauce and chive puree are definitely worth recommendation. Desserts are also fabulous. There is apple pie with vanilla ice cream or pancakes with apricots and cointreau. The wine choice is modest and the prices are average. Chablis, for 175 PLN a bottle, was delicious.

THE PERSONNEL A good restaurant can be recognized by its competent and unassuming service. The one in Zielnik is perfect. Quick, nice and natural – a customer will get necessary information without having to listen to exaggerated admiration of the dishes presented in the menu – which is common in some restaurants. Not to mention the fact, that waitresses in Zielnik are very pretty.

PRICES The cost of a dinner in Zielnik is average, if we take into account the fact that it's a restaurant in Warsaw. Starters cost slightly more than 30 PLN, soups are about 20 PLN, salads – between 33 and 37 PLN, the prices of main courses range between 35 and 69 PLN, and desserts cost about 20 PLN.

VERDICT A pleasant place, with high quality service – good for both a business meeting and a family lunch.

■ Zielnik Café, ul. Odyńca 15,
02-608 Warszawa
tel. 22 844 35 00, zielnikcafe.pl

Tomasz Koźmiński



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Holiday in Budapest

The capital of Hungary has a lot to offer. Holiday in Budapest can provide you with sports emotions at the highest pitch. **Jakub Olgiewicz** invites you for car and plane madness.



Budapest is one of the most beautiful European cities. It's a huge metropolis, as 20% of all the Hungarians live here, and it provides its visitors with many possibilities to relax, visit the sights and explore the neighbourhood. You can spend your time playing and having fun in the evenings with good company. There are also plenty of good hotels, high quality restaurants or fascinating museums.

money and organize one of Grand Prix races in a country from behind the Iron Curtain, i.e. in one of Soviet Union's satellite countries. Initially, the plan was to organize the "communist" Grand Prix in the lion's den – that is in Moscow itself. The talks were long and tedious because every now and again the Russians came up with new demands and limitations. That is why FIA decided to start negotiations with the Hungarians who thought that the event is not only a perfect way to

joined the F1 circus as the driver for BMW-Sauber team.

The Hungaroring circuit is 4,381 metres long and the race lasts 70 laps. The track designed by a Hungarian engineer Istvan Papp was built in such a way that the spectators could see as much on-track action as possible. This was, however, done at the cost of performance as Hungaroring is considered as one of the circuits where overtaking opportunities are exceptionally rare. In this aspect it

It's definitely worth finding some time to visit the Hungarian capital. Everyone who has ever visited it keeps it in their memory and is always willing to come back. Especially because holidays there guarantee you sports emotions at the highest level. Literally. Two of the sports events held in the summertime, attract hundreds of thousands people from all over the continent. The first one is Hungarian Grand Prix F1 Racing, the other one is air races as part of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship.

HUNGARORING – THE F1 RUSH

Contrary to common beliefs, Budapest has a long history of motor racing. The first Grand Prix was held here as early as 1936. The circuit, which was about 3 miles long, was situated in a park near the city centre. Several thousand spectators came to see and admire the roaring Mercedes and Ferraris. The race was won by the famous Italian driver Tazio Nuvolari who drove Alfa Romeo. Then, during the years of war and communist regime nobody seriously thought of resurrecting this event. Until the mid-80s, when there was visible political thaw in some countries of the Eastern Bloc.

FIA federation – the governing body of Formula One, the pinnacle of motorsport which uses the most technologically advanced solutions, decided to earn more

repair the budget, but also to promote the country.

The Hungarians started building the Formula One race track in Mogyorod, near Budapest. The circuit was named Hungaroring and was ready after just eight months of construction work – a real example of socialist "good work". The first race was set to be held in 1986.

The appearance of the Hungarian Grand Prix in the F1 calendar was a truly great sensation. On the racing weekend, Budapest was literally besieged by racing fans. In front of the hotel where the drivers were staying, the organizers exhibited shiny F1 cars. The tourists from all over Europe, including a large group of Scandinavians, were taking thousands of photos. Also the Poles have visited the circuit for years, but they appeared in their thousands when Robert Kubica jo-

is often compared to the street circuit in Monte Carlo.

The first race was held on 10 August 1986 and was watched by over 200,000 spectators – a surprising number, considering the fact that at that time the prices of tickets by far exceeded the average salary of most Hungarians. The historical race was won by Nelson Piquet in Williams who repeated this success also a year later.

The circuit record of 1:19.071 is presently held by the seven time world champion Michael Schumacher who established it in his Ferrari in 2004. Schumacher is also the most time winner of the Hungarian Grand Prix – he managed to do it four times.

This year marks the 25th Hungarian Grand Prix and I think nobody would object if Robert Kubica celebrated this anniversary by winning the race.





A PILOT UNDER THE BRIDGE

The second half of August is the time for brave pilots and mad air races. Two days, 19th and 20th August are marked by the pilots performing acrobatic manoeuvres contradicting the laws of physics to the accompaniment of the cheering fans shouting enthusiastically from both banks of the Danube river. This is the magic of the Red Bull Air Race, which is going to be held at Hungarian capital for the 7th time in a row.

This competition involving pilots performing extremely difficult manoeuvres in small sports planes, is sometimes referred to as desperado racing, and it was first held in 2002. Red Bull, known for supporting the enthusiasts of fancy and death-defying sports events, has promoted and invested lots of money in this mixture of acrobatic manoeuvres and a race against the clock.

The Air Race is a sports event, where the participants have to fly in a small sport plane, along a particular route. For this purpose, in Budapest special inflatable pylons have been put in the waters of the Danube. The run is about 5 kilometres long, the air gates marked by the pylons are of two colours – blue ones serve as an information to the pilot that the gate must be crossed in level flight, while red ones ought to be crossed in vertical flight by tilting the plane by 90 degrees. It is a race against the clock, so the acrobatic manoeuvres look like an extreme show of courage and last less than a minute. The races are judged by a panel of judges: if a manoeuvre is performed against the rules – the pilot receives penalty seconds which add up to the overall time of the flight. The speed of flight reaches 370 kilometres per hour, and the load factor amounts even to 12 G.

In 2009 the Red Bull Air Show events attracted 3.5 million spectators altogether. This year the event is held in 8 cities on 5 continents. 15 pilots are going to take part in it, including Peter Besenyei, an outstanding and experienced Hungarian pilot, much admired by his countrymen.

The 2010 season started in March in Abu Dhabi, the next event took place in Perth, Australia, and later on in June the races were held in Windsor, Canada and New York. Now the Air Race has been moved to Europe. In the middle of July, the Air Race is taking place in Berlin, and later in Budapest and finally in Lisbon in September.

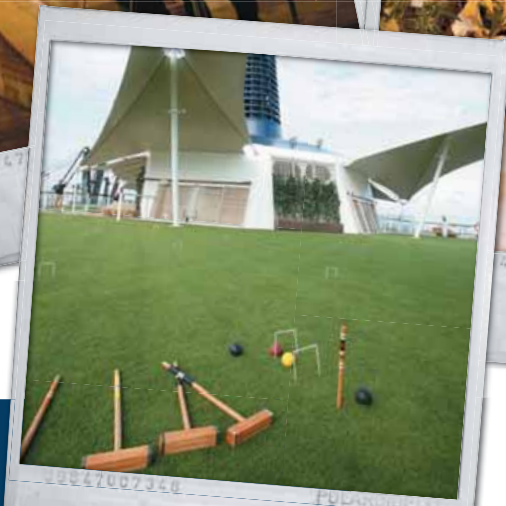
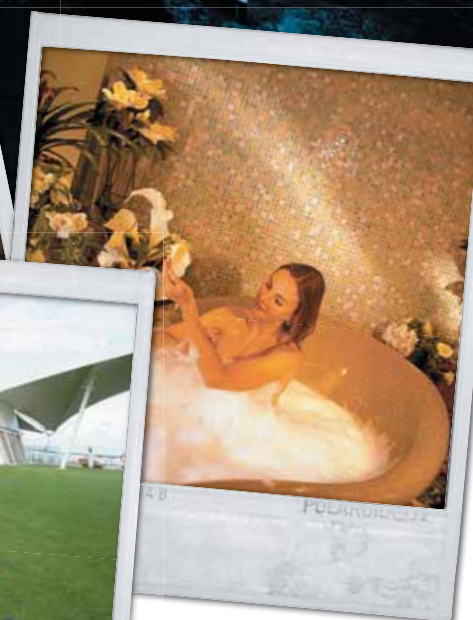
You can already book the tickets. This holiday season the Hungarian capital seems to be unrivalled. ■



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In May 1929 the company invited applications for designing LOT's logo. The winning project was that of artist Tadeusz Gronowski who proposed an image of a stylized crane in flight. In the same year the company's name was extended to "Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT".

The airline also joined the International Air Transportation Association (IATA). In 1934, LOT received its headquarters located at the new Warsaw Okęcie Airfield, where later the company built a modern passenger airport.

After the change of some Polish spelling rules, in 1938 the company's name became Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT (formerly, Polskie Linje Lotnicze). In May that year a LOT's crew operated a first experimental transatlantic flight from the United States to Poland.

The WWII hampered the development of the company. As a result, 16 out of 26 airplanes constituting the Polish fleet were interned in Romania. Unfortunately, in the course of war all LOT's hangars and airport buildings were destroyed.

FROM SOVIETS TO AMERICANS

In 1945, the pre-war company: Polskie Linie Lotnicze LOT Sp. z o. o. [Polish Airlines Ltd.] was re-established under compulsory state control. LOT's first post-war advertising poster depicted airplanes flying over the ruins and the slogan

A LOT of facts

Over 50 aircraft, more than 100 destinations, and the membership in the world's largest airline alliance – Star Alliance. These are present facts. However, LOT Polish Airlines started in a much more modest way.

The pioneering years of civil aviation were marked by the operation of numerous private companies which tried to organize Polish air transport. The most important events of that time were the inauguration of the first airline connection from Warsaw (1920) and regular flights from Gdańsk to Warsaw and further to Lvov (1922). Also in 1922 a limited liability company called „Aerolloyd” Polish Airlines was established. Later, the name was changed into „Aerolot”. In 1925 in Poznań an airplane transportation enterprise called Aero Sp. z o. o. [Ltd.] was established.

UNITED

In 1928, The Department of Civil Air Transportation in the Ministry of Transportation develops a programme of fundamental changes to take place in the Polish air transportation. All private air transportation companies were closed. Instead, the government established on 29 December 1928, one state self-governed enterprise called Linje Lotnicze LOT Sp. z o.o. The company started its operation on 1 January 1929. The range of existing connections increased and another two were launched: from Warsaw to Katowice and Bydgoszcz.





saying: „The wings of LOT Polish Airlines will help in reconstruction.” In 1946, the company had a fleet of ten Li-2 double engine aircrafts taken over from the army and started its first national connection after WWII on route Warsaw – Gdańsk. In the same year the company bought 9 Douglas DC-3 aircraft, and started again the network of domestic and international connections to Berlin, Paris, Stockholm and Prague. In 1955, the total number of passengers transported exceeded one million.

Within the next years LOT started buying new aircraft, including the first turbo-prop Soviet Il-18 which could seat up to 100 passengers. By the end of 1966, eight such planes were purchased. In 1963, the company established the first post-war non-European LOT connection to Cairo. In later years, followed the flights to Baghdad, Beirut, Benghazi, Damascus and Tunis.

The late 60s were the beginning of the era of jet airplanes in the Polish air transportation. In 1969, a new passenger terminal at Warsaw Okęcie Airport was opened. One year later the first long-haul Il-62 aircraft joined the fleet, and in 1973, the Polish airline established first charter connections on Warsaw-New York route. 1974 marked the establishment of The Department of Chartered Flights.

In 1978, artists Roman Duszek and Andrzej Zbrozek designed new aircraft livery for LOT. The aircraft would be painted white, with LOT written in cursive letters slanted to the right on the front section of the fuselage and the „crane” and Polish flag on the tail. However this didn't help much in light of the political crisis of the late 70s and early 80s. After martial law was imposed in Poland in 1981 - all flights were suspended and

their later re-establishment was a gradual process.

In the first half of the 80s, new routes were launched: initially from Warszawa to New Delhi and Beijing, and a few years later charter flights to Detroit and Los Angeles. One of the milestones in the company's history was the management decision to purchase American brand-new Boeing 767 aircraft in 1988. By doing so, LOT became the first airline in Central and Eastern Europe to use American aircraft.

AFTER THE BREAKTHROUGH

The political changes of 1989 were the foundation of the company's further development. New Boeings joined the fleet (767 and 737), together with the first French-Italian ATR-72 aircraft which appeared first in 1991. In the same year, LOT launched flights to Vilnius, Kiev, Minsk and Lvov.

In December 1992 LOT was transformed into a joint stock company of the State Treasury in order to adapt to new market economy conditions. Also that year, the company's first loyalty programme LOT Voyager was launched. Another stage in the process of increasing the range of connections was establishing new international flights to such destinations as Oslo, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf, and Vienna. At that time LOT had the youngest fleet of all the airlines.

Late 90s were marked by further increase in number of international connections from other Polish airports. LOT started flying to various destinations from Gdańsk, Cracow, Poznań, and Warsaw. In 1997 LOT established EuroLOT - a sister airline which took over the operations on domestic routes. A year later, LOT received the prestigious Business Travel World award for the Best Central and Eastern European Airline in Business Class.

1. A historic hall in LOT's head office
2. A flight schedule from 1939
3. The crew of the Polish aircraft which first flew over the Atlantic
4. PWS 24 aircraft, designed and manufactured in Poland
5. Lockheed Electra was purchased in 1936
6. Douglas DC-2 aircraft purchased by LOT in 1935
7. Junkers Ju-52, the largest LOT's aircraft of that time, could seat up to 15 passengers
8. Li-2 flew for LOT for 25 years since 1944. It was a Soviet version of Douglas DC-3
9. Il-18 was the first turbo-propeller aircraft which could take up to 100 passengers on board
10. Tu-134 started the jet era in LOT
11. Starting 1972, Il-62 made it possible for LOT to fly on the intercontinental route to New York
12. Thanks to Boeing aircraft, in the 90s, the Polish fleet was the youngest in Europe.

In 1999 LOT's fleet expanded with the purchase of three new Embraer aircraft, which helped to increase the number of offered connections. Also in 1999, the State Treasury signed agreements for the sale of LOT's shares to Swiss SAirGroup Holding. The turn of 20th and 21st centuries was marked by a significant increase in the number of connections. LOT's fleet increased by eight Embraers ERJ-145 and three Boeings 737-500. Delivery of 11 new airplanes in 2000 was the largest delivery of planes in one year in the company's history.

The following year, LOT signed a preliminary agreement on strategic cooperation with Lufthansa. These agreements were an important step towards LOT's Star Alliance membership. In the same year, LOT opened its new office building, and launched a new Miles & More loyalty programme.

In 2003, LOT and Embraer Brazilian manufacturer signed an agreement for the delivery of the new Embraer-170 airplanes. The following year the airline served over 4 million passengers. In recent years LOT has expanded its offer of connections, introduced a new system of electronic tickets, and successfully resisted the economic downturn. Undoubtedly, one of the most spectacular decisions was the purchase of the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner. LOT will become the first European airline to use the newest 787. ■

Tomasz Tomczyk



Kastrup Airport, **Kopenhagen**



When the plane descends just before reaching Copenhagen, the passengers wonder if the captain is trying to land on the sea. Luckily, after a short while they can see the land and several minutes later they arrive at Kastrup - the largest and one of the nicest airports in the Northern Europe.



We want to be considered as the best airport in the world,' say the representatives of Copenhagen Airports, the company which operates the airport in the Danish capital (also in Roskilde), and they seem to be consistent in pursuing that goal. Last year, the airport served 20 million passengers with the planned increase to 30 million in five years' time. For several years the airport in Copenhagen has been listed as one of the best in various rankings also the ones determined by passengers.

8 KILOMETRES FROM THE CENTRE

Kastrup – a city on Amager island, is located 8 kilometres north-east from the centre of Co-

penhagen. The airport is the main hub for the Scandinavian airline SAS. It's also extremely important for other airlines – in June this year Kastrup serviced 131 foreign destinations. The number of passengers in 2009 reached 19.7 mil. and the number of air operations (take-offs and landings) reached almost 240 thousand.

The airport occupies the area of 11.8 sq km and is divided into four major parts: for the passengers the most important is the northern one with three passenger terminals, a railway station and car parks. The planes take off and land on two 3.5 and 3.3 kilometre runways, and there is also a 2.8 km long cross-runway. The airport's equipment enables the aircraft to land even under conditions of extremely poor visibility. The

maximum capacity of the runway system is 83 operations (take-offs and landings) per hour.

SWEDEN? TO THE LEFT

Transport from Kastrup airport to the centre of Copenhagen is very convenient. The best way is to take a train – the station is situated under Terminal 3. To get to the platforms you can take a lift or an escalator. The underground railway is also within an easy reach – the station is situated at the end of Terminal 3. The tickets for the trains and the underground can be bought at the cash desk in Terminal 3 or from ticket machines located all over the airport. The underground trains depart every 4-5 minutes, in the evenings every 15-20 mins. The trip to the centre takes about 15 mins. ►





Transport from other terminals is provided by buses free of charge. The trip from the most remote Terminal 1 takes about 5 minutes. The bus runs every 10 minutes, between 4.30 am and 11.18 pm, and at night every 20 minutes—including weekends. It doesn't only stop at the terminals, but also at 10 airport's car parks (15-minute parking is free-of-charge, then 25 DKK for each consecutive hour, one-week parking costs 400 DKK). The car parks can accommodate up to 7,000 cars.

One of the advantages of the airport, or even a tourist attractions of some kind, is its proximity to Øresund Bridge which connects Copenhagen and Malmö, Sweden. The bridge can be found to the left of the airport. The construction is 16 km long and looks fabulous stretching over the sea. It can be crossed by trains, a car or a bus. However, a trip like this is quite costly - the toll charge for a car is 285 DKK.

ART AND AIRCRAFT

The airport in Copenhagen was founded in 1925 and its rapid development started after WWII. It consists of three terminals: Terminals 1 and 2 are connected with a long corridor called Pier A. Terminal 1, built 40 years ago, is used for domestic connections and has been expanded over the years. Terminal 2 was built even earlier – in 1960. At that time, it was the largest construction project in Denmark and was inaugurated by King Frederick IX. Obviously, it has also been frequently renovated. The newest construction, built in the 90s, is Terminal 3. Its shape was inspired by the shape of aircraft wings and its roof is 228 metres long. An indoor passage connects Terminal 3 with the Hilton Copenhagen Airport.

After leaving the security checkpoint, the passengers go to the parts where gates A, B, C and D are located. Pier A is used mainly for domestic flights. The other

**Kastrup
to lotnisko
wyjątkowo
przyjazne
pasażerom**

ones are used for European and intercontinental connections. It's worth mentioning that in January this year, SAS became the airport's strategic partner. As a result, the minimum connection time at Copenhagen Airport was reduced from 40 to 30 minutes for a number of SAS connections in the Nordic Region.

Since Kastrup airport is quite large, there are also numerous businesses located within its area. There are eight car rental agencies, and masses of shops where everyone will find something for themselves. Among them are duty free shops, numerous stores with clothes, toys, souvenirs and various accessories. There are also designer shops of such brands as Gucci, Porsche Design, or Versace. Not forgetting about a multitude of restaurants, bars and cafeterias.

The thing which strikes us on entering the airport's buildings is the ubiquitous space and light, which can be attributed to the modern architectural designs. But that's not the only thing. The management of Kastrup has for long been supporting artists who, in return, provide the airport with their works of art. The beautiful glass artwork which consists of 18 glass pieces and stands in the entrance area between Pier West and Pier A was created by Norwegian painter Frans Widerberg and Danish glass artist Per Steen Hebsgaard. The painter and the glass artist have also created three huge, bright-coloured glass mosaics named after the mystical concept of "Arcadia". There are a number of other works, but the most recognizable is the bronze sculpture called "Girls at the Airport" with two ladies leaning over the balcony of Terminal 3 and "observing" the passengers on the ground floor. Add to this various mosaics on the floors, or the unique Dandelion fountain located in front of the airport's building (the water from the fountain makes the shape of a dandelion).

BUSINESS FRIENDLY

At Kastrup airport the passengers will find several business lounges available for passengers of business and first classes. Especially interesting are SAS lounges. They are quite spacious, at the same time being very intriguing. Their design might be described as 'positively Scandinavian'. SAS Business Lounge is open from 5.30 am to 11 pm (or to the last SAS flight) and available for the passengers of certain airlines. The access to another lounge - SAS Scandinavian is granted for the owners of EuroBonus (and several other) cards. We will find there comfortable chairs, TVs, and magazines. It's also possible to order a meal or some snacks.

Business lounges are often used as conference rooms, but even more suitable are the rooms of Hilton hotel which for years has been considered to be the best business hotel in Denmark. Hilton Meetings Centre is located on the 4th floor of Terminal 3. It consists of 14 conference rooms, which can accommodate 4-50 guests.

One more interesting fact: the airport has so-called "The King's Suite" which is mainly used by the Scandinavian royal families, but presidents, parliament heads, prime ministers and foreign ministers. The King's Suite comprises a reception area, the king's room proper, and two small lounges. There is also a separate Queen's Room. The Suite is used by about 700 guests a year.

Obviously, the passengers might want to know something about the Internet access in the area. The airport has WiFi available throughout all terminals. Apart from that, the passengers can use so-called 'wayports' – that is self-service public access PCs in the transit area, where we have access to Microsoft Office programs and send e-mails.

For more information about the airport, visit: cph.dk ■

Jan Dobrowolski



SAXO BANK INVESTMENT IN A SCANDINAVIAN STYLE

Do you ever feel that life overwhelms you? Well, it can be different. Especially if you are able to take advantage of sensible solutions. Saxo Bank provides services at the highest level. On the same terms and conditions. To everyone.

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The platform offers in-depth analyses of shares which are more exact and detailed than any found in international news services.

UNPARALLELED SERVICES

Saxo Bank ensures its liquidity owing to its best partners and excellent relations with first class banks. For institutional clients

we offer direct trades of EUR/USD 50 million and USD/JPY, USD/CHF 20 million. Individual clients are offered the possibility to quickly and effectively turn their assets into cash without considerable loss.

Until recently the fees regarding all international equities were determined as a percentage of the turnover. Presently, in case of US equities, Saxo Bank uses so-called 'cents per share' commission which is calculated by multiplying the number of CFDs that they buy/sell with the applicable cents-per-share rate. In this way the commission for the purchase of more expensive US equities is much lower than the commission charged by Saxo Bank's competition.

Saxo Bank has an international team of experienced analysts and strategists, who continuously process the information coming from the market, prepare the investor's news service, and provide recommendations at the client's request. ■

Saving the Rising Sun

JAL Japan Airlines is almost a symbol of the country. One of the world's largest air carriers is presently implementing a recovery programme.

The economic downturn which affected the lives of so millions of people and thousands of businesses, didn't spare the aviation industry. On the contrary, the industry received a particularly painful blow which knocked down many companies. The decreasing number of passengers, increasing costs, and dramatic slump in profits contributed to the fact that several airlines stood on the verge of bankruptcy, and many others were desperately trying to save their operations.

JAL - a Japanese airline has for long been the national air carrier. However, it has also had to face the brunt of the economic downturn. The airline is presently taking painful but necessary measures to overcome the difficulties and reclaim its strong position.



THE GIANT IS BORN

The fleet of over 280 aircraft, 52 million passengers served per year, over a million tons of transported cargo – all these numbers, without a doubt, sound extremely impressive. These are the latest numbers presented by JAL group.

Japan Air Lines Co. was established on 1 August 1951. After the Second World War, Japan had a number of economic limitations, and it had to wait several years before its first airline project was launched with the help of a capital of over 100 million yen. At the end of August 1951, Douglas DC3 aircraft leased from Philippine Airlines made several invitational flights, and the main event – the launch of the first domestic connection took place in October that year. Two years later, on 1 August 1953, the Diet of Japan (Japanese parliament) passed Japan Air Lines Company Act forming a new state-owned Japan Air Lines, which assumed all assets and liabilities of its private predecessor.

In the initial stages of the company's operation the aircraft, pilots, and even the flight attendants were "leased" from other airlines. Gradually, thanks to obtained certificates those positions were taken over by the Japanese personnel. One of the most important events for the young and thriving airline was the launch of its first international connection. On 2 February 1954 Douglas DC6, named proudly City of Tokyo, took 18 passengers on board and flew to San Francisco, with two brief technical stops at Wake Island and Honolulu. To commemorate this remarkable event, up to this day the connections between Tokyo and San Francisco are flight 001.

When in the 60s Japan Airlines purchased Douglas DC8 – the company's first jet aircraft – the number of international connections grew dramatically. The new destinations included Moscow, Paris, Rome, Hong Kong and New York. The signing of Civil Air Transport Agreement between the People's Republic of China and Japan caused the suspension of air route



between the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Japan. However, in 1975 a new subsidiary, Japan Asia Airways, was established and air services between the two countries were later restored. The fleet grew as JAL purchased the first modern Boeings. The Japanese air carrier became a force to be reckoned and quickly took over a large share of the market, especially on the transatlantic routes. In late 80s Japan Airlines was also privatized and merged with the third largest Japanese air carrier – JAS (Japan Air System). There were also other companies established within the JAL group, among them Japan Air Charters or budget airline JAL Express.

WAITING FOR THE DREAMLINER

At that time JAL was a large group consisting of Japan Airlines, JALways - used for holiday charters, JAL Express - a low cost airline which successfully competed on the market of budget operations, and a number of smaller companies (Hokkaido Air System, J-Air, Japan Air Commuter, Japan Transocean Air, and Ryukyu Air Commuter), which operated on the local market. Also the cargo sector generated considerable revenue.

At the peak of its operation the group served 220 destinations to 35 countries all over the world. In 2007 JAL joined Oneworld alliance. Apart from its main

line of business, the group had numerous other enterprises such as running a hotel chain. JAL became the largest air carrier in Asia and one of the five biggest airlines in the world.

JAL's fleet comprises 280 aircraft. Most of them are Boeings and the international routes are operated by 747, 767 and 777. The Japanese carrier has also a number of McDonnell Douglas aircraft and 22 Airbus A 3000 which fly mostly on domestic routes. JAL has also ordered from Boeing 35 ultra-modern Dreamliner aircraft which are said to be utterly revolutionary.



The airline has for long been renowned for the quality of its service –especially for punctuality and customer approach. On intercontinental routes there are four cabin classes: First Class, Executive, Premium Economy (introduced three years ago), and Economy. The airline's First Class passengers can enjoy the fully reclining, leather upholstered Skysleeper Solo seats. The passengers of all classes have access to excellent in-flight entertainment system. Another interesting detail are the cameras located on the wings, belly and the tail of the aircraft. Those who travel internationally are able to watch the live feed and in some cases even decide on the pictures from which camera they prefer to see.

STRIVING TO SURVIVE

The economic downfall had been looming over the aviation industry for a few years, and when it became the fact, JAL was one of its victims. The crisis hit so hard and lasted for so long that the losses turned out to be extremely severe. In February this year, shares of JAL were delisted from the Tokyo Stock Exchange, and the company applied for court protection under the Corporate Rehabilitation Law (the Japanese equivalent of Administration in UK). It was like an earthquake as it meant the greatest case of bankruptcy in the history of the continent. JAL's debt at that time oscillated around €10 million. In order to save the company Kazuo Inamori - a Japanese business guru was hired. Inamori is the founder of Kyocera Corporation who, after retiring from the chairmanship of his company, withdrew from the public life and became a Zen Buddhist priest. However, when the Japanese prime minister himself asked him for help, Inamori decided to act. JAL is also supported in its efforts to restructure the company by its strategic partner American Airlines.

The restructuring programme is already being implemented. Of course, it's not that easy as it involves reduction in workforce by several thousand employees, and those one who kept their jobs had to agree for temporary cuts in their salaries. JAL was also forced to shut several, less profitable destinations.

The most important is, however, the fact that the Japanese carrier is still operating and gradually regaining its position on the market. ■

Jakub Olgiewicz

COMFORTABLE *Premium Voyageur*



Premium Voyageur is Air France's new class on long-haul flights, a category located between economy and business classes. Premium Voyageur complements the Air France range of services with enhanced travelling comfort and service at very competitive fares.

The new class was introduced in autumn 2009. The fare scale for Premium Voyageur is extremely attractive, particularly for small and medium-size companies and for passengers accustomed to choosing Voyageur (economy) class for their leisure travel. By the end of 2010 all Air France's Boeing 777 aircraft flying on intercontinental routes (except flights to the Caribbean and Indian Ocean Islands) will have Premium Voyageur class.

SPACE AND COMFORT

The exceptional feature of the class is the personal space which is totally protected thanks to a fixed-shell seat offering 40% more room than in the Voyageur (economy) cabin. The Premium Voyageur cabin has around 20 seats in an area formerly occupied by 40 seats in Voyageur (economy) class.

The choice of a fixed-shell seat, generally reserved for the best Business class cabins, makes Air France the first European airline to offer such a comfortable seat in an intermediate cabin. The seat reclines to 123°, allowing the passenger to relax comfortably with the legs extended without intruding on the space of the passenger behind.

Each seat features: an electric plug for a laptop, a wide tray that can easily accommodate a laptop, comfortably lit by an individual directional reading light, a cocktail tray prolonging the armrest, and a noise-reducing headset. The individual video screen is 26 cm wide and passengers can choose from the selection of 85 films, available in 9 languages. Each month, close to 500 hours of programming are available in Premium Voyageur as in Business and Voyageur (economy) cabins: cinema, TV series, French and international newscasts, games, language lessons and even a jukebox with 200 CD titles

FRENCH DELIGHTS

Premium Voyageur meal service is the same as in Voyageur, a combination of gourmet pleasure and balanced menus throughout the flight. The service begins with an aperitif (champagne, wine, etc.) and is followed by a choice of two balanced hot dishes.

On flights lasting more than 10½ hours, a buffet service offers passengers a selection of snacks to suit all tastes, including mini-sandwiches and Häagen Dazs ice cream bars. Air France offers complimentary champagne in all cabins on its international long-haul routes.

Passengers in Premium Voyageur also receive similar amenities to those available in business class. On each seat, they will find a pure wool blanket, a feather pillow, a bottle of mineral water and a toiletries kit containing Clarins skincare for men and women, earphone covers, ear plugs, a toothbrush, a comb, toothpaste, a sleeping mask, and travel socks.

The leading French and international dailies and magazines, together with the "Air France Magazine", are available to Premium Voyageur and Voyageur (economy).

Premium Voyageur also offers services on the ground that make time in the airport much easier. The passengers may check in at priority desks in Paris and throughout the world. The checked baggage allowance is the same as in business cabin, i.e.: 2 bags weighing 32 kilos (compared with 23 kilos in Voyageur/economy class).

It is possible to purchase extra baggage allowance when checking in, at www.airfrance.pl. Passengers travelling in Premium Voyageur Class who are members of Flying Blue programme, earn Miles faster: a full-fare ticket in Premium Voyageur earns 25% more Miles than a full-fare ticket in Voyageur (economy) class.

Tomasz Koźmiński



HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Most passengers are positively surprised! In the most recent promotion the price of a return ticket (with all taxes included) to New York was 3770 PLN, to Tokyo 4940 PLN, and mere 5550 PLN on Paris-Buenos Aires route.

Other routes:

Shanghai	4540 PLN
Beijing	4550 PLN
Hong Kong	4540 PLN
Tokyo	4940 PLN
Singapore	6930 PLN
Seoul	6950 PLN
Osaka	7000 PLN
Buenos Aires	5550 PLN
Sao Paulo	5570 PLN
Santiago de Chile	8460 PLN
Cairo	4550 PLN
Dubai	4760 PLN
Lagos	5850 PLN
Dakar	8630 PLN
New York	3770 PLN
Houston	4810 PLN
Los Angeles	4810 PLN
Washington	3980 PLN
Montreal	4660 PLN
Mexico City	4790 PLN



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The Wings Over the Baltic

Air Baltic offers more and more destinations. The Latvian air carrier has been building its position for almost 15 years.



The aircraft with the characteristic yellow tail are a common sight on the grounds of Riga International Airport. As of present, the airline's fleet comprises 31 aircraft. The number of passengers served by Air Baltic exceeds 2.5 million a year. The airline is thriving.

The decision to create Air Baltic joint venture whose aim was to establish an airline, was made in 1995. In August that year, all necessary documents were signed and the first Air Baltic's plane took off in October. Initially, the company was co-owned by Scandinavian Airlines, the Latvian state (the major shareholder), and various funds and corporations from Denmark, Sweden and the USA. The first Air Baltic's air-



craft was a Swedish turboprop Saab 340 which could seat up to 33 passengers. Soon other aircraft were bought, including Avro RJ70 and Fokker 50, which later replaced the Saabs. At that time, the airline closely cooperated with SAS, becoming a partner in the Scandinavian carrier's EuroBonus programme.

In April 1997, cargo department was launched – the move was made to expand Air Baltic's offer and to provide new solutions which would contribute to the company's development.

HOW TO AVOID TROUBLE

Air Baltic welcomed the new millennium by introducing new uniforms for its aircrew and opening a large cargo centre at Riga's airport. In 2001, the airline carried its 1 millionth passenger. In December that year, the board of the company announced that for the first time in Air Baltic's history the company posted profit. It seemed that the most difficult period of investing large amount of money and waiting for profits was over. Unfortunately, the crisis on ►





the aviation market, which affected even the largest players, didn't spare the Latvian airline.

In 2003 Air Baltic received its first ordered Boeing 737-500, which seated over 120 passengers. Also that year the company closed with considerable profit. However, the following year wasn't that positive, as Air Baltic generated its first loss. In 2007 the airline started training Boeing 737 pilots at a simulator at its home base in Riga. The fleet was also further expanded by four new Boeing 737. At that time Air Baltic had 20 aircraft: 12 Boeing 737 and eight Fokker 50. Also, new connections were gradually being launched.

This policy turned out to be very reasonable and produced visible effects. The airline opened new representative offices in St. Petersburg and Tallin. Eventually, the company managed to overcome the problems. It seemed that the economic downfall came to an end and the airlines would now be able to steadily rebuild their operations. However, all those hopes went out of the window when due to the volcanic ash from Iceland European airlines suffered huge losses counted in billions of euro.

Łotewski
przewoźnik
skutecznie
broni się
przed
kryzysem
w liniach
lotniczych



THE WIND FROM THE SEA

The Latvian airline was able to survive the most difficult period. At the moment the Air Baltic Corporation is 53 per cent owned by the Latvian government, with the other 47 per cent in the hands of SIA Baltijas aviācijas sistēmas.

The airline carries over 2.5 million passengers every year and its head office is located on the grounds of Riga International Airport where the passengers may choose over 50 direct international destinations operated by Air Baltic. Among them are Amsterdam, Amman, Barcelona, Beirut, Copenhagen, Dubai, Helsinki, Madrid, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Tel Aviv, Vienna, Zurich, and Warsaw (operated daily - departure at 11.30 am, the return flight at 1.35 pm). The newest connections from Riga were launched at the beginning of July. Some of the most recent ones are the flights to Arkhangelsk, Russia, and Lulea – a city at the northern tip of Sweden.

The second Air Baltic's base, which is of growing importance, is the airport in Vilnius, Lithuania, from which the Latvian airline offers direct flights to Berlin, Amsterdam, Dublin, London, Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Tallin, and obviously to Riga.

The airline also offers 'flight+hotel' service, which is a package consisting of a plane ticket plus a stay in one of 10 Air Baltic Hotels located in 4 different countries. Another interesting idea is the first self-service bike rental service which was launched just before the holidays.

The fleet of the Latvian air carrier comprises 31 aircraft. The largest ones are two Boeing 757-200, which seat comfortably over 200 passengers and which are mainly used on the long-haul routes with distances exceeding 7,000 kilometres. The other machines are 10 Boeing



737-500 and 8 Boeing 737-300. Those aircraft are quite similar (B 737-300 is slightly longer and seats 149 passengers – 20 more than B 737-500). The smaller planes in the fleet of Air Baltic are Fokker 50 (11 machines of this type) and two Dash 8 Q400 NextGen – excellent turboprops produced by Canadian Bombardier. They seat 76 passengers.

The company presently employs almost 1,200 people. Without doubt, Air Baltic is doing quite good on the market and is already planning to buy new machines and launch new destinations, while cheap tickets offered by the Latvian airline are a good alternative to a journey by train, bus or a ferry. ■

Jakub Olgiewicz

Porsche Panamera

THE INDIVIDUALISM IN STYLE



If you are an adventure lover, looking for adrenaline, and living your life without looking back at others, then this car has definitely been created for you. Porsche Panamera is an unusual, original and unique car – it has a specific character and gives its owner a sense of strong personality.

When we think about a sports car, with the eyes of our soul we see a stereotypical model, which has for long been held in our minds: the aerodynamic bodywork, low suspension, excellent acceleration, and cutting edge technology. Porsche Panamera is a car which possesses all those characteristics, but at the same time adds much more to the stereotype – it is, in fact, a sports limousine, which introduces a completely new quality to the market, setting the trends and raising the bar very high for its competitors.

Panamera was officially unveiled at the Auto Shanghai Motor Show last year. Since it was launched, it has been enjoying great popularity among potential customers. That is why, Porsche has recently decided to extend the model range

of Panamera, and introduce new, basic Grand Turismo versions: Panamera and Panamera 4. Both versions are powered by new 3.6 V6 engine with direct petrol injection which produces 300 BHP (220 kW) and has peak torque of 400 Nm. Panamera has a rear wheel drive, while Panamera 4 is equipped with factory-installed four wheel drive.

It's an excellent example of a consistent realization of "Porsche Intelligent Performance" strategy - both models have a dual clutch Porsche transmission (PDK) and function Auto Start-Stop owing to which they consume less than 10 litres of petrol per 100 kilometres. The V6 engines conform to the strict Euro 5 emission standards in Europe and LEV in the USA.

Economy and the impressive performance, which is typical of Porsche, are not mutually exclusive. Porsche managed to achieve such a result owing to consistent use of light materials in building the parts of the car. The doors, the engine cover, the elements of suspension, and the wings are made of aluminium or of aluminium-magnesium alloys. The cars combine the sports character with high comfort and usefulness in everyday life. ■



Family & NOVOTEL

How can you spend holiday with children in an interesting way? Where to go on holiday, so that the children won't get bored? The answer could be a special Family & Novotel programme aimed at families who stay with children in Novotel hotels in the whole of Poland. But not only children can expect great fun. Xbox game consoles and the latest games would definitely be a chief attraction also for adults.



Family & Novotel

for families with children

As a part of the Family & Novotel programme, both the children and adults might expect various attractions like welcoming gifts, free baby equipment, attractive play areas, special menu aimed at kids, and only recently introduced Xbox game consoles. The programme is not only great fun for kids, but also a major saving for the parents.

FREE ACCOMMODATION AND BREAKFASTS FOR CHILDREN

As a part of "Family&Novotel" programme, two children under 16, who share a bedroom with the parents, will get their accommodation and breakfast free of charge. However, if they choose to live separately – the parents will get even 50% discount on another bedroom. As for baby infants, the offer includes gratuitous fittings such as a bottle warmer, cribs, high chairs and diaper changing tables. The possibility to check out until 5 pm on Sunday is an additional bonus. The Family & Novotel offer can be competitive also for the private accommodation – it's worth comparing the prices: it may turn out the accommodation at the hotel is cheaper.

TOYS FOR THE KIDS

In Novotel hotels children are very important guests. They receive special welcoming gifts, like e.g. cute cuddly



toys. Especially for them modern and colourful play areas have been arranged. They are situated in the hotel lobby and equipped with practical and pleasing little furniture and various educational toys. Novotel group cooperates with Kapla building blocks producer, and so the children can use them to play and stimulate their imagination.

XBOX CONSOLES FOR TEENAGERS

The biggest attraction for the children are Xbox 360 game consoles, which are available in all the Novotel hotels in Poland. Situated in the lobby in the form of com-



fortable game terminals ideally contribute to the modern design of the hotel interior. They are besieged not only by the children - the older guests also have fun racing cars or playing football in the virtual world.

UNRESTRICTED INTERNET ACCESS

Those who can't live without a computer or the internet will be delighted to know that if they have their own laptop, they can benefit from free wired and wireless internet in all the Novotel hotels. If you don't have a laptop it's not a problem either as you might make use of computer areas located in the hotel lobby.

HEALTHY FOOD FROM GUSTINO

Good quality meals for children are also provided here within the Family & Novotel programme. Novotel hotels have also a special children's menu with their favourite dishes, prepared in line with

the rules of healthy nutrition, under the supervision of a dietician. A toy animal named Gustino encourages kids to choose something from the menu, and it is also a symbol of the highest quality of the food. Waiting for the food to come can also be a great fun, as the youngest guests, even in the hotel restaurant, are always taken care of. While they wait, they are given picture charts and crayons.

COMFORTABLE, SPACIOUS ROOMS

Novotel provides the families with everything they need to make them feel comfortable. Modern, spacious and friendly bedrooms are designed in such a way, so that both the parents and the children will feel comfortable. The bedrooms are equipped with a double bed for the parents, TV with kids channels and an easily-convertible sofa bed.

SIGHTSEEING AND RECREATION

Novotel Hotels are ideal place for both longer holiday, e.g. at the seaside, as well as shorter, weekend stays. The programme enables you to visit Polish cities and

Młodszy ale
także starsi
goście hoteli
Novotel
znajdą
tam wiele
wakacyjnych
atrakcji

provides accommodation in the heart of metropolises - Novotel Warszawa Centrum is situated near The Palace of Culture and Science, Novotel Poznań Centrum lies next to the "Old Brewery" mall, while Novotel Kraków Centrum overlooks the Wawel. A great number of these hotels have beautiful gardens and swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor. Novotel Poznań Malta is a great idea for summer holiday - water sports enthusiasts can benefit from the outdoor swimming pool, and near the hotel there is also a lake and lots of greenery. Novotel Warszawa Airport offers a summer terrace and an outdoor swimming pool in the hotel's garden. As for weekends and longer holidays, Novotel Gdańsk Marina would be ideal, as it is located by the beach. It also has a heated indoor swimming pool, bicycle rental, two tennis courts, and volleyball and basketball courts. Beautiful gardens and children's playground are an additional bonus. ■

NOVOTEL HOTELS IN POLAND

Novotel Gdańsk Centrum
Novotel Gdańsk Marina
Novotel Katowice Centrum
Novotel Kraków Bronowice
Novotel Kraków Centrum
Novotel Poznań Centrum
Novotel Poznań Malta
Novotel Wrocław
Novotel Szczecin
Novotel Warszawa Airport
Novotel Warszawa Centrum
For details, visit
www.accorhotels.com
www.novotel.com



Bornholm – a God's Island

It's such a unique place and it's so near. **Wojciech Chelchowski** invites you for a magical trip round this Danish island.

Everyone coming here, is struck by Bornholm's beauty. It's uniquely charming, full of contrasts and beautiful nature. It's peaceful and of relaxing atmosphere – and is often referred to as “The Pearl of the Baltic Sea”, “Majorca of the North”, or a place where God was resting upon creating the world. Bornholm is an excellent place to rest and have a corporate team building event.

WITHIN THE REACH

It's the Denmark's easternmost area, and practically a stone's throw from Poland. There are a number of ways in which you can get to Bornholm. It takes less than an hour to fly from Poland to Copenhagen. The local Kastrup airport is one of the most beautiful in the whole Europe. You can take a free bus from the national terminal, but if you have some free time, it's definitely worth walking through the corridors. Climber Sterling is a private carrier cooperating with Scandinavian

Airlines and it flies on the Copenhagen-Ronne route. It takes about 20 minutes to get to the island, you won't even have time to read. If you choose to travel by sea, you can take a hydrofoil which goes from Kołobrzeg to Nexø – it's only 90 kilometres and you can take a bike on board. An alternative option would be a ferry from Świnoujście to Ronne, available in summer season, on board of which you can take a car.

DELICIOUS HERRING

Bornholm tourist accommodation base is quite large and is developing really fast. There are several good hotels where business groups can book. In Ronne there is Griffen hotel - one of the biggest on the island, which offers 142 bedrooms and conference facilities for up to 350 participants. There is also a 4-star Radisson Blu, known for its excellent cuisine, with 72 bedrooms – each one with a balcony, and conference rooms suitable for as many as 300 people. In the neighbourhood of Nexø, there is the highly

recommended Balka hotel, situated only 200 metres away from the beach, with 95 bedrooms and conference facilities for 600 people. In Allinge, in the north, you can stay at the 4-star Friheden hotel, with 59 bedrooms, including 11 3-room suites, a nice Spa and a good restaurant. On the eastern coast in Svaneke, you will find The Ostersoen – the oldest hotel on the island. It dates back to the beginning of 18th century, and has a couple of nice suites. You can also rent one of the luxury apartment buildings, in the Gudhjem neighbourhood on the eastern coast – there are 60, but there are no restaurant. It's because people in Bornholm, as well as the Danish in general, are not accusto-





med to board and lodging. They prefer to be able to decide what they eat, and when. That's why renting holiday cottages is so popular here. There are dozens of such luxurious cottages, especially in the town of Dueodde in the South, where fabulous beaches spread over kilometres. Many of the cottages have indoor swimming pools.

This is also the reason why there are many restaurants and eateries where you can have an excellent meal. Naturally, herring, which is served in all forms, is the trademark here. It's worth visiting one of the smoke houses in Svaneke, Hasle, Allinge or Gudhjem – they have characteristic white chimneys and offer delicious, freshly smoked fish. It's the boast of the island. Throughout the years the herrings were transported to Copenhagen, and then sold from the ship. For fish enthusiasts a hot herring à la Bornholm with salt and a slice of dark bread tastes heavenly.

THE GLASS WORLD

Bornholm's history is almost tangible. It's enough to visit Bornholm Natur near Aakirkeby – the new centre for nature education, built with a tremendous amount of effort and in perfect style. Fully in-

teractive, it gives the opportunity to learn about the island's unusual history - it was once a fragment of a desert, the bed of the ocean and a tropical forest inhabited by dinosaurs.

Bornholm boasts a great bicycle lane system, excellent for those who prefer muscle-powered vehicles more than something faster, noisier, and fume-generating. Lanes are practically everywhere, covered mostly with tarmac or concrete. Out of the seven routes, which are almost 230 kilometres long, one leads around the whole island, which gives you a chance to go and see Bornholm along the coast. Naturally, it's a challenge for really tough guys. Other lanes connect certain villages in Bornholm – there's no doubt that the bicycle has its rightful place among the island's means of transport. Especially as there are plenty of bicycle rental shops. You will find them in every village, but most of the local hotels also offer bicycles to their guests.

For years, the island has been known for its unique art – mostly glass and ceramics industry. There are many manufacturing producing these real pieces of art. Some of them are Pernille Bulow in Svaneke, or Baltic Sea Glass in Gudhjem – the most famous, frequently awarded

and widely recognized one. It was founded by a Danish-American married couple, and the works produced there are genuinely unique. The company organizes special demonstrations for visitors – you can see how these glass valuables are made.

THE UNDERWATER PARADISE

Team building event in Bornholm can have a form of blissful idleness, especially if you choose to spend some time in the south of the island, on one of the many sandy beaches, considered the most charming in the whole of Europe. But it is ►





also possible to have a really active time here – and it's definitely worth rising to the challenge.

First of all – the island is a real paradise for sailors. There are a couple of ports, some of them really small (including apparently the smallest port in Europe – Bakke Havn, with only four small fishing vessels), ready to accommodate boats of very small draft. Sailing infrastructure on the island is very well developed, so they can expect support in almost every corner.

It's located in the Baltic Sea, but the waters around Bornholm are definitely cleaner, than on our Polish coast. That's why the island is popular among scuba-diving enthusiasts. But there's no need to take your own equipment, as there are a couple of rental shops with instructors ready to help. Another sport which is gradually gaining popularity is sea kayaking. Arsdale is one of many places, where you will find necessary equipment and professional instructors, who will supervise and give you the first lessons.



If you are in for some adrenaline flow, you can take part in an business group event held by Hammersø lake and near the local quarry flooded by water. More skilful and courageous ones, can try rock climbing - naturally under supervision of the experts. For the most courageous participants there are other attractions, like abseiling down a high cliff right to the water – surely, a unique experience. Golf lovers will not be disappointed. On the island there are three professional courses, including a 18-hole one. They are beautifully located. You might think the

wind can hinder the plans of golf players, but it does not get in the way so much – it is considered a part of the game.

On 140-kilometre coast, fishermen will also find some place for themselves. While sitting in this magnificent natural surroundings, it would be a nice idea to try fishing for sea trout, but you can also organize a fishing boat trip, get a rod and angle for codfish.

Bornholm is an ideal place, where everyone will find something for themselves, without exceptions. It's a God's island, after all. ■



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Dubrovnik

Breathtaking landscapes, the emerald-like Adriatic, high quality hotels and lots of attractions, which could add colour to your business trip. Where? Naturally, in Croatia.

Adriatic Pearls



Zagreb



Dubrovnik

Croatia is situated on the Eastern coast of the Adriatic. Once, having been part of Yugoslavia, today it aspires to become a member of the European Union. The country has already healed the wounds it received in the war in the early 90s. It is flourishing and that's why it is a perfect place to organize a conference or company trip. It's a country of rich history, beautiful nature, crystal clear sea, and at the same time it is a culturally diverse place, which makes it even more interesting. Not to mention the fact that Croatia is not that far away (only about 2 hours by plane), it has favourable weather

conditions, delicious cuisine, excellent wines and the infrastructure – most of the formerly existing hotels have been renovated, many new ones have been built, and all of them are of high quality..

Zagreb is the capital of the Republic of Croatia, a city of interesting architecture, museums, theatres, art galleries, restaurants and pubs, and omnipresent greenery. Numerous historical monuments remind us of the rich history of the city. It's a great idea to take advantage of the fact and organize a treasure-seeking game, which always actively involves all the participants. A nice idea is also a „tram party” with champagne and live music: the two-car tram dates



Dubrovnik



Plitvice



Dubrovnik



Long Otok



Split

back to 1923, and can hold up to 80 people. A great place to organize banquets in Zagreb are local mediaeval, renaissance and baroque palaces. Traditional folk dances soirée, where you can learn to dance the circle dance, dating back to the antiquity, (danced in circles to the accompaniment of the clarinet, violin and drums), is undoubtedly an unforgettable experience. Just like tasting Croatian wines in one of the basements in Zagreb, and it must be said that alcohol here is excellent, especially Prošek - the wine made from dried grapes. There is also a possibility to organize a knight tournament on one of the castles near Zagreb (e.g. Zagarje), go on hot air ballooning over amazing landscapes, take a tour round Plitvice lakes, where we can admire 16 lakes and 90 waterfalls belonging to Plitvice Lakes National Park. It's also worth mentioning that canoeing on the Dobra river is one of the most popular activities during incentive travels.

In Zagreb there are many excellent restaurants, like Stara Vura which is situated in the basement of 17th-century Orthodox monastery. It can hold about 100 people, while Okrugljak restaurant, situated on the slope of the mount Medvednica, can cater for twice as many guests. Stari Puntijar is a family-run restaurant with over 160 years of tradition. It is decorated with old paintings, weapon and hunting trophies. It can accommodate up to 150 guests inside, and

170 on the terrace. These are only a couple of examples, but the food served there is really delicious. Especially the traditional dishes: žara is grilled meat, the name eeva-peiei refers to fingers of mince meat, and pljeskavica is a patty made from three different type of meat. When by the Adriatic, you should remember to taste local seafood and fish: brodet are several types of fish in sauce and lignije are squids. You should also definitely try fiš paprikaš, the traditional hot fish goulash, cooked in a cauldron.

When talking about Croatia, many people immediately think about Dubrovnik. It's not surprising as Dubrovnik is one of the most interesting cities in the Mediterranean Basin. It is surrounded by historical city walls, and there is a number of charming narrow streets and architectural curiosities. It was also placed on UNESCO's list of world heritage sights. Dubrovnik is an ideal place for group trips, and many of them are indeed organized here. One of them is a sightseeing tour round this historical city, which enables you to learn about the Franciscan Monastery, the Rector's Palace (seat of the former authorities), a huge Onofrio fountain, Sponza Palace, or the Church of St. Blaise. Dubrovnik is also an ideal place to organize a treasure-seeking game, which enables you to learn about the city's history. The participants are divided into groups and are given certain tasks to do; if they succeed – they re-

ceive fragments of a map, which would lead them to a treasure hidden somewhere in the city. Another interesting idea is organizing a sailing regatta – it could be done in a form of a short sailing course, or a real race. An excellent choice would also be a trip to an island such as Koločep, Šipan or Lopud, where you can walk through orange and lemon groves, have a fish picnic and some wine tasting. Another tempting option is a trip by an old Dalmatian galleon to Cavtat, a small town close to Dubrovnik, where you can have dinner to the accompaniment of local musicians. The outskirts of Dubrovnik are also a perfect spot for unusual safari adventures down the Ko-



Zadar

Croatia is a country with rich history, charming nature and unbelievably clear water.



navle valley and the hills, from where you can see breathtaking views of the neighbourhood. Another suggestion is to take part in painting workshops held by real artists from Dubrovnik – the participants are provided with paint, brushes and palettes, and throughout the day they try to paint, using various styles and techniques. There are plenty of good restaurants in Dubrovnik, with the most interesting ones being Nautika and Proto which both specialize in fish dishes. Labirint, in turn, is a fusion of a restaurant and a night club, while Rustica is a tavern with traditional marine decor.

Mljet island is another interesting place in Croatia. Over 60% of its area are forests, but many caves are also to be found here. Here, you can organize an extraordinary trip, with the participants climbing the walls of the Odysseus cave. The cave is 30-metre deep, and it is how high you need to climb, to get out of there. Even beginners can take part in such an excursion.

If you'd like to know what a real renaissance garden used to look like, you should visit the arboretum in Trsteno, where you can admire trees from all over the world. Another place worth visiting is the town of Ston, especially because of its 5-kilometre town walls built of stone. An interesting place to visit is also the Pelješac vineyard, whose fame dates back to the Middle Ages. Visiting tour includes a lecture on wine production and tasting the best local wines. From this place you can go to the town of Korčula, where, supposedly Marco Polo was born. In Split, which is considered one

of the most important cities of Dalmatia, the emperor Diocletian erected his residence in 4th century. In Zadar, in turn, you will find a Roman forum dating back to the 1st century.

These are just a few of numerous places worth visiting in Croatia. There is also the Kvarner Gulf with the city of Opatija, which is the local conference venue. There is the city of Rijeka, where the famous carnival is held. The Istria peninsula is full of such charming places like Hum, the smallest town in the world and beautiful coastline. Another interesting region is Slavonia, Southern Croatia, where you can see the Osijek fortress or the scenic Drava river, which is excellent for water trips. Today's Croatia has one major disadvantage – there are too many attractions to choose from. ■



Kotorska Bay

KOTOR

Among many beautiful spots in Dalmatia, Kotor is exceptionally charming. It's one of the best preserved medieval cities, and is full of historic buildings of that period. Kotor is situated in a bay and is surrounded by mountains on three sides. It belongs to Montenegro, but it's within an easy reach from Dubrovnik. The nearby Budva is also definitely worth visiting.



Sveti Djordje island



St. Stephen's Isle, near Budva

WHERE TO STAY

In Croatia there are many interesting hotels, ideal for organizing conferences and group meetings. Here are some of the examples.

REGENT ESPLANADE ZAGREB A very stylish 5-star hotel. There are 209 bedrooms and 13 suites. - It was renovated a few years ago. Two restaurant rooms and nine conference rooms, the larger can hold up to 283 people.

KAZBEK Located in Dubrovnik in a castle dating back to 16th century. There are only 12 bedrooms, but because of its unique atmosphere and quality, it fully deserves its 5 stars. The conference facilities can cater for 100 people, and there are also 3 restaurants. kazbekdubrovnik.com

RADISSON BLU Also in Dubrovnik. This 5-star high quality hotel belongs to the Rezidor Hotel Group. 201 bedrooms, including 24 suites. Three restaurants, twelve conference rooms, the biggest of which can hold up to 850 people. radissonblu.com

LE MERIDIEN LAV It is situated near Split, in the town of Podstrana. It has a 800-metre long beach, 381 bedrooms and suites, a casino and a Spa centre. It has the biggest conference centre in the whole Adriatic coastline, and its area is 2,900 sq m. starwoodhotels.com

DUBROVNIK PALACE It's a fusion of a hotel and a Spa centre. It has interesting, cascade architecture, thanks to which all the bedrooms have a view over the sea. It has 308 bedrooms, 5 restaurants, and 8 conference rooms, which can accommodate even 1,000 people altogether.



Austria



It's Not the Way You Think...

Throughout the years we have associated Austria only with the Wiener schnitzel and chocolate gateaux. Recently, however, it has focused on the quality, and gained an important place on the oenological map of Europe.

Most of the world's wine lands are located away from the big metropolises. However, Austria is an exception to the rule. The three most interesting wine regions are situated on the rocky hills overlooking Vienna - Wachau, Styria and Burgenland. The view is stunning. When walking among the steep vineyards near Krems, you will see the Prater's big wheel and The Kunsthistorisches Museum. But there's much more to Austrian vineyards than just the panorama. The producers have decided to lower the efficiency to increase the quality of wine. Among many grape varieties grown here, the most precious is white Gruner Veltiner. That's because Gruner has absolutely unique character, comprising soft and ethereal lily of the valley aromas, hot herbal scents and fresh overtones of mirabelle plums and gooseberry. It's very soothing and smooth, and it's sometimes used to produce balsamic, honey-like Eiswein. The wine is made from overripe grapes, which have been frozen on the vine, and so when the grapes are pressed, what leaks out is only the grape must, whereas the ice crystals remain inside. It is, however, very sweet and requires a solid dessert, which, contrary to what you may think, will deprive the wine of its sweetness, allowing its complexity to come to surface. Even though Eiswein

is the most popular sweet Austrian wine, due to its spectacular process of production, the real hidden treasure are amber-coloured Trockenberenauslese coming from around the lake of Burgenland. Similarly to Hungarian Tokaji Aszu, these wines are also produced using the noble rot. As for quality, they are far better than ice wines, and, unfortunately, more expensive. Just like in the case of Gruner Veltiner, it is the local grape varieties that prevail, e.g. Muscat Ottonel or Welsch Riesling. Which of course doesn't mean that in Austria you can't find any of the cosmopolitan grape varieties from France. Together with Gruner Veltiner's success, other varieties have also gained popularity, like styrian Sauvignon Blanc, which beguiles by its mineral structure, and creamy Viennese Chardonnay.

In Austria you will also find red wines. However, due to the cool climate, they are much less spectacular. When staying at one of numerous cosy Gasthauses around Vienna, you can safely order white wine on spec, but with red wines you'd better stick to well-known producers and your own experiences. Red wine production in such cool climate requires the work of an expert. And it's not that they are not present there – only it seems obvious that not everyone can be one. The main red grape varieties include St. Laurent (sometimes in white version), Zweigelt and

Biaufrankisch. The whimsical and difficult to grow Pinot Noir has been slowly gaining a significant position. St. Laurent is incredibly fruity, and resembles Champagne Pinot Meunier. It has light and delicate character and relatively low acidity for a wine from this region. Zweigelt is more muscular, spicy with stronger tannins. Blaufrankisch is the most rustic, smells of peat, moss and birch bark with a discreet flavour of blackberry and dried mushroom overtones. And because the characters of all the three varieties complement one another perfectly, they are frequently mixed together in various proportions. The biggest wines are produced in Burgenland, where some other labels rub shoulders with them. Pinot Noir doesn't feel quite right in the proximity of Vienna, and gives surprisingly warm and soft wines, provided the wine producer doesn't keep it for too long in the oak barrels. Such a tendency is the main cause of Pinot Noir getting spoiled throughout the world, from Germany to California (where it's too hot for this variety).

It's time to give Austria its well-deserved place on the winemaking map of Europe and admit it's worth visiting, not only as a stop while heading for Italy, but as a destination. For behind the facade of beer, sausages and "spring salads" consisting mainly of vinegar, there lies a picturesque and diverse country smelling of good wine and damp cellars. Visit Austria, and you will find that the local wine makers could easily intimidate the most laid-back European nations with their sense of humour and easiness. ■

Michał Poddany, Robert Mielżyński



It's time to give Austria its well-deserved place on the winemaking map of Europe and admit it's worth visiting

Discover the Antiquity

From charming Venice to the ancient ruins of Ephesus. From the lovely streets of Dubrovnik to the emerald landscapes of Santorini. Michał Stoiński takes you on a trip aboard Splendour of the Seas. **Michał Stoiński.**

These holidays will remain forever in your memory. During the cruise on Splendour of the Seas, which goes from Venice, through Dubrovnik, Ephesus, Santorini, Corfu and back to this famous Roman city, we get the occasion to learn about true jewels of the ancient culture. Spa salon, excellent cuisine and beautiful beaches are an additional bonus. It's a perfect occasion to plunge in the ancient world, and travel in comfortable conditions at the same time. You have also a possibility to take an optional trip, organized by the staff.

A CITY ON WATER

Venice is a port and a place where the 7-day cruise on the Adriatic and the Aegean Sea starts. The city needs no introduction, and those who haven't visited yet, should do it immediately, especially because Venice is in danger of being flooded (there is even a special rescue program to save the city). Famous like any other, it is undoubtedly a magical place,

and anyone who has walked along its canals, succumbs to its charm. It's a city of lovers, there is no question about that.

There are 117 islands in the Venetian lagoon. Naturally, you can't visit all of them, but there are a couple of places, you should definitely see. Among them, there is Piazza San Marco, which is always full of tourists, artists and buskers. Other sights include Doge's Palace, and the most famous in the whole city 17th-century Bridge of Sighs, where the convicts were walked for the last time before imprisonment. Don't forget about St. Mark's Basilica, erected in 9th century and later rebuilt. It costs €8 to look at the panorama of Venice from the 99-metre high St. Mark's Campanile, but it's worth its price, as it's the best place to take pictures. Taking a gondola ride is a must. From this perspective you will really appreciate the charm of this unusual city. The best time of the day to take the ride is in the evening. The most popular Venetian souvenir is a mask – the choice is enormous and some of them are real pieces of art.

THE CROATIAN FASHION

Splendour of the Sea sets off from Venice in the afternoon and reaches the port in



Dubrovnik on the very next day. The city, situated in the South of Croatia, has many bays, beaches, cliffs and forests, and it is considered one of the most beautiful places in the whole country. Despite the war damage in 1991, Dubrovnik still looks splendid.

The Old City, and the city walls, which date back to 13th century, were placed on UNESCO's list of world heritage sights. Naturally, it's not the only attraction here. It's also worth visiting



Croatian coast combined with tasting of some local wine. But you should definitely start with a visit to the village of Orasac, where you can learn about the traditional way of olive oil production. The local mill is „driven” by horses. Next, visit Ston, which is „an oyster capital” of Croatia. Finally take the opportunity to taste wine in Ponikve. Those, who prefer to spend their holiday in an active way, shouldn't miss the opportunity to snorkel along the Dubrovnik coast. a wakacji, absolutnie nie powinni przegapić możliwości nurkowania u wybrzeży Dubrownika.

THE CHARM OF EPHEBUS

Once called Ephesus, today Kusadasi, since we are in Turkey. It's the fourth day of the boat trip, as The Splendour of the Seas spent the third one at sea. The ancient Ephesus was founded by the Greeks in 11th century BC. They built here the

Arboretum, the biggest botanic garden in Croatia. Don't forget to visit the Franciscan Monastery and the Onofrio fountain, erected in 1444 – apparently anyone who drinks water from all of the sixteen head-shaped taps will have good luck. The 15th century Rector's Palace, the seat of the former Republic of Dubrovnik, belongs to one of the most interesting monuments in the area.

It's worth taking advantage of the Royal Caribbean offer and go on a trip along the



A JOURNEY WITH SPLENDOUR

The Splendour of the Sea was launched in 1996. It can accommodate up to 2,076 passengers. It is 87-metre long and reaches the speed of 24 knots. The ship has a conference centre and six other rooms which can also be used for business meetings.

The passengers travel in comfortable conditions – they can choose between inside cabins, outside cabins with balconies, and a couple of suite types. Standard facilities include two beds, a wardrobe, a bathroom, a TV set and a mini bar and a phone. The price includes the meals and cold drinks. Alcohol and optional trips are not included in the price.

There are plenty of attractions awaiting the passengers during the cruise. For instance, there are very impressive Broadway-like performances staged in the ship's concert hall (it can



hold over 800 people). On one deck you will find swimming pools and Jacuzzi, but it is used not only for relaxation – there is always a special place where you can take part in various competitions. Among the facilities for active passengers there is a mini golf course with 18 holes, a climbing frame, jogging track, a fitness centre and a Spa.

When a passenger takes a walk around the ship, (there always are many walkers), they always hear music. The music accompanies them not only as a background theme while shopping in a shopping centre, but most of all in the evenings, when they can relax in one of the ship's clubs. Champagne Terrace and Bar are places where you can savour the taste of cocktails. Viking Crown Lounge and Top Hat Lounge, ▶



famous Temple of Artemis (in 383 BC a shoemaker called Herostratos set fire to it). One of the Greek kings of Ephesus was Croesus, who gathered a fortune and his name became a synonym for a wealthy person. Later, Ephesus was under Roman rule – about 250 thousand people lived here at that time. Today it is known as one of the best preserved ancient cities.

Things worth seeing? During a several hours long stay in Ephesus, you could see virtually everything. There is a gate leading to a real ancient city. The Temple of Artemis, considered by the Greeks as one of the world's wonders, didn't stand the test of time (except for some parts), but there are other places of religious cult, like the temples of emperors: Hadrian and Domitian, or the Church of Mary. There is also the Library of Celsus, Roman bath

houses, the Trajan fountain, Odeon (theatre), a commercial agora, a huge stadium, or the Great Theatre which could accommodate up to 24 thousand spectators and where supposedly St. Paul made one of his speeches. Not everything is open for the visitors – the archaeological work in Ephesus is still in progress.

THE ISLAND OF WINDS

Crystal clear water, dark sandy beaches and villages with white houses with blue roofs – it's a typical picture which is usually associated with Santorini, one of the most beautiful Greek islands. The visit to the island takes place during the fifth day of the Splendour of the Sea cruise. In 1600 BC the island was struck by the eruption of Thera volcano, the biggest one in history. It is believed that a 200-metre high tsunami wave was for-

The cruise onboard **Splendour of the Seas** is an excellent lesson of history

med, which flooded the Atlantis. As a result, a huge crater was formed and its irregular slopes and cliffs contribute to the characteristic image of today's Santorini.

The island is known for the production of sweet wines and cherry tomatoes. Fira is the capital, with Ia being another major city. There are no forests here - in fact Santorini is a rocky tip of an underwater volcano, with a monastery built on its highest hill. You should definitely try the Chlora goat cheese. Other local specialties include moussaka (aubergine with meat) and the seafood, of course.

Santorini is sometimes referred to as "the island of winds". It's a paradise for the enthusiasts of such water sports like windsurfing, kite surfing or sailing. Along the beaches there are plenty of rental companies, where you will find all the necessary equipment.





THE EMERALD ISLE

This is how the Corfu island is sometimes called. The ship reaches it on the sixth day of our journey. Undoubtedly, the island deserves its nickname – its charm impresses all the visitors who come here. Corfu is the second biggest Ionic island with the area of 593 sqm. Since the half of the 19th century it has been a popular holiday destination among the European aristocracy – that's why you will find here palaces, once belonging, for instance, to the House of Habsburg. You should definitely see the Achilleion Palace, erected by Austrian empress Elisabeth in 1891. There are beautiful gardens and the view over the sea is just stunning.

Corfu was called "the green heart of Greece", because of its forests and numerous olive groves. Olives are valued not only for its culinary purposes, but they

are also used in home-made cosmetic production – if you're lucky you can get them on local markets. The capital of the island is Kerkyra, full of monuments, narrow streets and churches. Visiting its Archaeological Museum to see an ancient coins collection would be a great idea. There is also the Shell Museum, where you can buy unusual shells retrieved from the sea depths. There are many remnants of the British rule, e.g. The British Lord High Commissioners Residence from the beginning of the 19th century.

Corfu would lose much of its magic, if it wasn't for its wide, beautiful beaches and the blue sea. It's just enough to sit on the sand to forget about the whole world. But this is exactly why you decide to go on a holiday cruise aboard the Splendour of the Seas. ■



in turn, are discos, where you can have fun until the early morning hours. The same goes with The Casino Royale, where adventure seekers will find electric game machine, video poker, and roulette and blackjack tables.

What usually causes much interest during the cruise is the cuisine, and it must be said that The Splendour of the Sea doesn't disappoint in this area.

Breakfasts and lunches are served in Windjammer Cafe – the selection of food will make your head spin.

You can also use the buffet to have your dinner, but usually they are eaten in more elegant atmosphere together with other passengers. Usually passengers are seated so that those from different countries won't be „shuffled“, and will have a chance to exchange different opinions and experiences.

As for the service, the multilingual staff are always ready to help and smiling. It's obvious that taking care of the guests is a vital part of their training course. You can see it quite clearly during the dinner: each table is attended by a couple of waiters, and the chief waiter will always find a couple of minutes to chat with the passengers. Not a big deal, but it definitely contributes to the unique atmosphere, so rarely found in other places. But that's what these cruises are like - unique and incomparable to anything else.



Three Colours:

Club Med

In the home country of Club Med there's no use looking for plain and uninteresting villages. They are exactly the opposite – says **Kuba Rams** – and recommends all the seven of them.

When in 1950, Gerard Blitz – a water polo champion and an enthusiast of an active leisure – founded the very first Club Méditerranée village, he wasn't aware it would bring about a real revolution. The revolutionary 'all inclusive' format with a number of attractions and excellent cuisine included in the price – which later became a trademark of all the villages, the GOs (Gracious Organizers) willing to help in any situations – all these were completely new ideas.

A village on Spanish Majorca aroused general interest, and so new villages were founded. Currently, there are almost 80 of them, and they guarantee you fabulous holiday in the most beautiful places in the world. French Club Med villages are located in seven places.



CARGESE

The club was built on the west coast of Corsica, almost 60 kilometres north of Ajaccio – the capital of the island. Cargese lies by the waters of a small, but also one of the most beautiful Corsican bays – Sagone. The long sandy beach at the footsteps of a high hill (the region is referred to as Small Greece) is the first impression which stays in your memory for a long time. The easiest way to get there is from Ajaccio airport – the trip takes slightly over an hour.

The 3-trident village is a family club, there are 439 bedrooms in one and two-storey bungalows scattered around the 13-ha region, forested with pines. The bedrooms are quite spacious (almost 20 sq m) and fully equipped. For families, an ideal solution are combined rooms, which allow you to spend time in comfortable conditions of a studio apartment.

The main restaurant offers you the opportunity to eat delicious food while admire stunning views of the sea and the bay. The guests can take advantage of two bars, including the one on the beach, which serves drinks and snacks until late in the evening.

There are seven Club Med's villages in France, each one with a unique offer



Apart from the swimming pool, the village guests can make practise all sort of water activities like catamaran or kayak sailing, windsurfing. They can also take diving lesson – these, however, are paid extra. There are 12 courts for tennis lovers.

There is also a Mini Club Med for children aged 4-11 and Junior's Club Med for teenagers under 18.

SANT AMBROGGIO

Further in the north of the island in the Calvi bay, there is a three-trident club aimed at active families – an excellent base from which you can explore the region and go on trips further into the island. It's a real paradise for sailing enthusiasts. The closest airport is only a couple of kilometres away from the club.



Several dozen metres away there is a beach, and it's pebbly, so remember to take special water shoes.

The bungalows scattered around the area have 291 elegant and comfortable bedrooms altogether. You can choose a room with a spectacular view of the sea, or a family apartment comprising two smaller rooms and located on ground floor of every bungalow (such club family room is 27 sq m).

Le Citadel restaurant, with a view over sea and a marina, offers excellent meals in the form of a buffet. There is also a special Baby Zone, where parents can prepare meals for the youngest. The restaurant terrace is a smokers' zone. Next to the swimming pool, there is a big bar, open throughout the day. The kids can spend time in Mini (4 years old and above) and Junior's Club (11-18).

Apart from the sailing activities, the sports attraction of the club is the diving academy. The local crystal clear waters and caves, like Tropicana – from 5 to 20-metre deep, or Revellata cave – 12-40 metres, will guarantee you truly unforgettable experiences.

VITTEL

There are two Club Med's villages in this town situated in Lorraine. Vittel is three hours drive away from Paris and is well-known for its mineral water.

Vittel Ermitage is a four-trident oasis of luxury hidden in a huge park. It invites everyone, including families with children, although there are no children clubs there.

The hotel, built in the Art Deco style from the twenties, is a four-storey building with 104 nice-looking bedrooms. You can choose a club, deluxe bedroom or a suite (a huge lounge and a bedroom of almost 30 sq m).

The main L'Ermitage restaurant will definitely satisfy tastes of all, even the



From typically family holidays to the maximum of sports thrill - there is really a lot to choose from

most demanding guests. It serves excellent cuisine and its terrace directly faces the nearby golf course. In Le Lorraine, a three-room restaurant situated in a park, you can enjoy a wide choice of dishes from international cuisine. There is also a Baby Zone there. You should book the tables at the reception desk.

Golf and tennis are the two main sports attractions. It's also worth finding some time to visit the Club Spa and take a walk around the beautiful neighbourhood.

Vittel Le Parc is a 3-trident club and it's hidden amongst picturesque park areas of the place. Its total area is about 600 ha. It's an ideal place for family holiday. There are all sorts of children clubs in the village and the highly-qualified staff will take care and organize activities for 4-month babies, as well as teenagers over 17.

Two multi-storey hotel buildings, Grand and Les Courtilles altogether have 363 spacious rooms and suites. ►





Le Lorraine and Les Colonnes restaurant (available for the guests from both Vittel villages) provide excellent meals, while Les Curtilles restaurant, in the smaller hotel, serves lavish breakfasts.

As for the entertainment, the Club provides a well-equipped gym and sports activities in the Club area (tennis school, volleyball, archery). Outside the Club, you can take horse riding lessons, for extra charge.

LA PALMYRE ATLANTIQUE

The 3-trident family village for the active ones is situated on the French coast, about 2 hours drive north from Bordeaux, near the famous Cordouan lighthouse. The area is huge—about 26 ha (including the forest), the beaches are almost 30-kilometre long, and there are also 40-kilometre long bicycle lanes.

The bungalows are hidden amongst the trees, or located in such a way so that

the windows overlook the sea; altogether there are 392 rooms. The guests can choose between club bedrooms and deluxe ones (which come with a fully furnished terrace).

L'Atlantic restaurant serves a different buffet everyday, and the tables are places both inside, and on the terrace. In Le Fleur de Sel restaurant, on the first floor, you can savour the taste of seafood with discreet waiter service. There are also



plenty of bars serving drinks included in the price of the stay.

Save your energy for catamaran sailing or tennis, archery, rock climbing, or roller skating. It's also worth visiting the Wellness centre.

Children clubs guarantee child care for kids aged 2 and above. Teenagers may spend their time at Junior's Club Med.

Other attractions include a visit to the local zoo, where you can see over 1,600 various animals, or an excellent La Rochelle aquarium with hundreds of sea creatures.

OPIO

In the heart of Provence, there is a 50-ha centre for demanding families. It's a 4-trident village, and it's definitely worth its reputation. It takes about an hour to get here from Nice, which is about 30 kilometres away.

The main attraction for the adults, if only they prefer such a way of spending their time, is a 9-hole golf course in the village area, as well as about 20 professional courses in the neighbourhood. The

The cuisine offered by Club Med is remarkable and leaves the guests deeply impressed



golf enthusiasts can really forget about the whole world here. The same is true for the beginners, especially because the sessions in the golf academy are included in the price of the stay.

It's also worth taking advantage of the offer on bicycle trips or tennis training. Naturally, you must visit the club's fitness centre – there are three swimming pools, a fully-equipped gym and a steam bath. Another attraction is an excellent Keiraõ Spa.

The Opio village has 435 comfortable rooms placed in two-storey bungalows. Among club bedrooms, you can choose one with a balcony, a garden, or rooms aimed at families or handicapped guests. The suites are perfectly supplied and spacious (almost 60 sq m), each one has a private swimming pool.

There are three restaurants serving

excellent food: Le Provence – recently redecorated, and offering a huge terrace; L'Esterel – placed in the very heart of the village, open in lunch and dinner time; Le Golf – recently rebuilt, situated near a golf course, serves delicious lunches. There are also 4 bars awaiting the guests, including night bar Le Mistral.

The parents may leave their kids under professional supervision – Baby Club Med is suitable for babies of 4 months and above.

POMPADOUR

It is situated between Toulouse and Limoges, and is a real paradise for horse-riding enthusiasts. You will find there one of the best European horse-riding centres – there are eight horse-riding schools and over 4-kilometre long training course.

The village area is 60 ha, and the neighbourhood is rustic. The architecture makes you think of an old and quite big manor house. The hotel is a three-storey building, and a couple of dozen kilometres there is a smaller building, called Cavallo. There are 230 2-trident bedrooms altogether.

The main restaurant's decor resembles a peasant cottage, the guests can also make use of two bars serving drinks and snacks. There is professional child care for children of 2 and above. ■

An idea for a trip... A book!

Lilla Pawelec, National Account Manager for Sony Ericsson Polska answers Business Traveller's questions.

1. I usually travel to... Countries of Central Europe: Hungary, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Slovenia.

2. On the plane I like... – I'm tall, so I need to have enough leg space between the rows of seats.

3. My favourite hotel... – I don't have a favourite hotel or a hotel group. It's the people, events and situations I associate my trips with. But I definitely prefer smaller hotels.

4. An idea for a trip... – A book. The best would be a captivating detective novel.

5. I always take with me... – Since my holiday in Turkey with my friends – hand cream. When travelling on business, naturally, I need to have a laptop. I also take my mobile, also to listen to music and check my mailbox. However, I like the most when I'm accompanied by my co-workers when travelling on business, and when I'm on holiday, by family and friends.

6. When travelling... – I usually sleep or read. My business trips are often one-day long. In order to catch a flight at 7.00 am. I need to get up early, even at 4.00 or 5.00 am., so I try to have a rest during early flights. If it's a long flight, I like watching films and reading. But nothing comes close to good company when travelling.

7. I regret that... – I think I don't regret anything. It may sound weird, but I think it's good that talking on the phone is not allowed during the flight. I think it would be awkward and tiring to have to listen to other people's conversations.

8. My favourite airport... – Munich and Warsaw. Munich – because it's spacious and well-organized. And Warsaw – because it's ours, Polish.

9. What attracts my attention in hotels is... – Cleanliness, cleanliness and cleanliness. And if it's possible to open the windows wide. I try to avoid air-conditioned hotels, where you can't open the windows.

10. When I have a break, I usually... It depends on place, situation and time. In many places, where I go, I have friends and colleagues. If it's only possible, I try to spend my time with them. When coming to a place for the first time, I usually send postcards to my 7-year-old niece.

11. The best holiday so far... – The United States. Twice. First time I went to the Eastern Coast, and two years later – to the Western one. I travelled in a rented car, from the North to the South. I could make stops in interesting places, with no hurrying and in a different time zone, for all three weeks. I recommend it to everyone.

12. Trip adventure I'd be willing to forget about... – Quite recently, in Budapest. Someone stole my purse while I was having a business dinner in a restaurant. I spent the next day in the Polish embassy, waiting for a temporary passport, to be able to come back home. It was a very unpleasant experience, especially in a foreign country.

13. I know I'm going to visit... – I haven't dreamt about where to go yet. But I definitely know who with.

Siemens i kawa



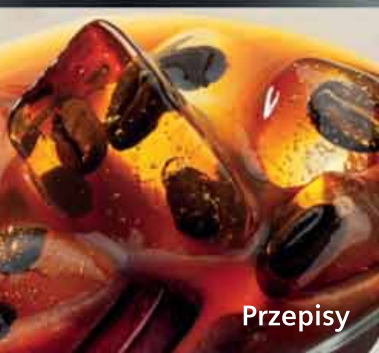
Gatunki



5M baristy



Przepisy



Potęga smaku i aromatu
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Ekspres ciśnieniowy EQ.7 to mistrz w profesjonalnym parzeniu kawy. Futurystyczna technologia i wysmakowany design dostarczają wyjątkowej przyjemności – zarówno przy obsłudze, jak i degustacji wyśmienitej kawy. Najnowsze rozwiązania techniczne: **system senso flow**, czy **aroma pressure** pozwalają osiągnąć wyjątkowo głęboki smak i aromat, a w **cream center** powstaje idealna pianka o kremowej konsystencji. **Ruchomy dystrybutor** znakomicie ułatwia serwowanie kawy. Wszystko o ekspresach Siemens zawierają strony naszego **serwisu internetowego**. Znajdziesz tam także kompendium wiedzy o kulturze kawy: jej historii, uprawach, gatunkach oraz przepisy na pyszności z kawy – zarówno słodkie, jak i pikantne! Wejdź na www.siemens-kawa.pl i zanurz się w egzotyczny świat kawy przy filiżance gorącego espresso!

The future moving in.

SIEMENS

Camera! Action!

Technological revolution has hit the video market. Almost each respectable gadget lover has replaced his good old CRT TV screen with a plasma or an LCD. However, modern, flat screens can display superb picture in Full HD mode on one condition: that the input signal is also of perfect quality. In other words, HDTV receivers are responsible for providing good TV signal, Blu-ray players for good quality of the picture in the movies, and HD camcorders for faithful reproduction of what we record with our camcorders. What does that mean? It means... that it's high time we bought new equipment. Our home Hollywood isn't only about the weddings, christenings and family trips. We also want to record important events in the lives of our lovely offsprings, so in the future it might be quite awkward to present our adult child with a record of their younger days, stored on some old-fashioned data storage medium. The newest HD camcorders use both memory cards and hard disks, recording video material at the highest quality. Camcorders can also be used to take still photos just like standard digital cameras. Well, they are not yet as good as SLRs, but they can for sure take over the role of a typical compact camera. Below is a list of 6 excellent camcorders, which, according to our electronics-whizz – Darek Zawadzki – will provide you with many years of pleasant and trouble-free video recording.



SONY HDR-AX2000E

Sony doesn't need any special recommendation as both amateurs and professionals know very well that the Handycam brand is a guarantee of the highest quality of video images. AX2000E may not be called a professional TV camera, but it's also very far from being called an amateur "toy" for a weekend outing. Its mere looks command respect! The range of its functions and technical solutions is also impressive: a wide angle G Lens with 20x optical zoom, relay recording with dual memory card slots, Exmor CMOS 6.0 mm sensors (for colour accuracy, high sensitivity and low noise), SteadyShot optical image stabilizer with active mode which ensures more stable shots without compromising picture quality, FX mode (records video at 1920x1080/50i at 24Mb/s which is the highest bit-rate specified by the AVCHD format), XLR connectors (to plug in 2 additional stereo microphones), independent zoom, focus, and iris rings, and finally the manual gain/shutter/white balance. The user can choose to monitor the picture with a panoramic 3.2-inch Xtra Fine LCD display, or through a 0.45 inch Xtra Fine viewfinder. The price of this unique camcorder is 'mere' **18000 PLN**.



ISTOCK



CANON LEGRIA HF S

Three times a Legria! Canon has introduced the newest HD camcorder series with 3 models: HF S200 – which costs **3899 PLN**, HF S20 for **4249 PLN** and HF S21 – **4999 PLN**. The camcorders differ only regarding their storage capacity: S200 has two SDHC memory slots, S20 offers additional 32 GB of internal flash memory, while the the flagship S21 has 64GB dual flash memory. All of them have the same 8 MP Full HD CMOS sensor, Canon video lens with 10x optical zoom and DIGIC DV III image processor. The camcorders record at the maximum bit rate of 24 Mb/s. There's also image optical stabilization, a built-in iris diaphragm, 3.5 inch LCD touchscreen monitor (S21 has also an electronic viewfinder). Well, there's nothing left but to start shooting!



TOSHIBA CAMILEO H20

HD for beginners. If you are about to start your adventure with moving pictures, we recommend Toshiba's H20. If we take into consideration its attractive price (**800 PLN**) and good technical specifications, the camcorder seems to be an excellent choice for rookie film makers. Toshiba brand is relatively little known on the Polish market, although it's one of the major manufacturers of audio/video equipment in the world. H20 records video with HD resolution (1080p), takes still photos (8 MP), is user-friendly, and has an easy to use interface. The user can monitor the recording using a 3-inch swivel LCD display. The camcorder is geared with a 5x optical and 4x digital zoom, energy-saving CMOS sensor (working up to 4 hours), 128 MB of internal memory (expandable with SD/SDHC card reader), and YouTube link function to upload the recorded videos to YouTube.



JVC GZ-HM1

The flagship product of JVC is equipped with a solid lens by renowned Konica-Minolta (F2.8-4.5), 10x optical zoom, advanced image stabilizer, 10.62 MPP CMOS sensor, HD Gigabrid Premium II Engine, and Super LoLux technology (which ensures superior sensitivity to low light). The Japanese camcorder stores the Full HD data on SD cards (in AVCHD format). Those lovers of social network services will definitely appreciate the option to upload the video files directly to YouTube. Apart from the video, the camcorder takes digital stills at 10 MP resolution (5.7 MP while recording a Full HD video).

Price: 4899 PLN.

PANASONIC HDC-TM700

TM700 takes advantage of its 32 GB of internal flash memory. If this large storage space is full, the camcorder automatically switches recording to a memory card (SDXC/SDHC/SD). Inside the chassis we'll find a solid portion of electronics, including 3xMOS sensor which ensures high quality of recorded video (in Full HD) and stills (17.1 MP in Still Image mode or 14.7 MP for the video material). There's also the new Crystal Engine Pro (which produces clear and sharp images), 1080p Progressive Recording at 50 fps (providing smooth and clear image), Power O.I.S. technology (optical image stabilization), Wind Noise Canceller, Time Lapse Recording, and a brand new Leica Dicomar lens (F1.5-2.8) with 12x optical zoom. The user is provided with a wide 3.0-inch touch screen LCD monitor which makes operating the camcorder so much easier.

Price: 5400 PLN.



SANYO XACTI DMX-CA100

The birth of the world's first water waterproof full HD camcorder was announced on 28 May in Tokyo. The device will be launched at the end of June, this year. Unfortunately, the Polish enthusiasts of underwater video recording will be forced to visit one of the 'old' members of EU, the USA, or Japan, because Sanyo brand is barely present on the Polish market. It's a real shame since the company has a number of extremely interesting products. It doesn't come as a surprise then, that we were unable to test the newest Xacti camcorder, but basing on what we know about the previous models, we can assume that it's going to be a very solid piece of electronics. The manufacturer claims that the camcorder can be used to a depth of 3 meters underwater for up to 60 minutes. It also captures 14 mega-pixel photos, in addition to Full HD video shooting. We will also find there a 5x optical zoom, 2.7 inch LCD monitor and SD/SDHC/SDXC card reader. The price hasn't been announced yet.





The Aviator

The new Saab 9-5 Aero is extravagant, Scandinavian to the core, has real character and a lot in common with aviation. That is why this car will appeal to everyone – men who love speed and acceleration, and women who value safety, functionality and comfort.

Saab has for long produced fighter jet aircraft. Many of us know such names as Viggen, Draken, or Gripen – these Swedish-built fighters are quite well recognizable. But what do they have in common with the automobile division of the company which specializes in manufacturing limousines and SUVs? Well, cars made by Saab utilize technology implemented in fighter planes – no other automobile manufacturer can say something like this about their cars.

AVIATION ROOTS

Aero, meaning 'related to the air', I suppose? That's true, but Aero isn't just empty words. It's just enough to look closer at some details. The wheel rims look like the blades of a turbofan and the spoilers are shaped in such a way that at high speeds the car will produce as little air resistance as possible. The interior reveals two more aviation patents – the windscreens display which shows the vehicle's speed, rpm, and navigation, and the Night Panel – a switch to turn off the lighting of

the instrument panel, except for essential information, for less distraction when night driving. According to Swedish engineers, the Night Panel is extremely helpful while driving at night as the excess of light can tire the driver's eyes.

IS IT STILL SWEDISH?

Until very recently, Saab was owned by General Motors. The trouble was that the manufacturer of Opels and Chevrolets didn't have any marketing strategy concerning Saabs. Costs grew which led to a terrible decision – Saabs were to be assembled from cheaper and less reliable parts. This, in turn, angered customers, because nobody wants to have a luxurious car, which has the same tacky switches as those in a cheap Opel, and the radio which comes directly from even cheaper Chevrolet. The sales dropped so rapidly that GM decided to get rid of the Swedish make. The rights to Saab's trademark and technology were taken over by the Dutch Spyker. It might seem a bit risky, because the Dutch specialize mainly in building slightly ephemeral and extremely expen-

sive sports cars. The new 9-5 debuted with Saab already in Spyker's hands and the plans for the future are quite ambitious: by 2015 Saab will have presented a few utterly new models as the result of Swedish-Dutch cooperation.

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

The strongest Saab 9-5 Aero with V6 2.8 litre turbo engine produces 300 BHP and has the torque of 400 Nm. Performance? The 9-5 doesn't lack in power. However, the car is relatively large (5 metres long, the boot capacity – 515 litres), so the best choice would be the XWD version – that is the four wheel drive. The clever electronics, which analyse data sent by 20 sensors, can precisely dose the torque to each of the four wheels which, in turn, results in better traction.

The basic version costs around 140,000 PLN (€35,000), for the top version you will have to prepare as much as 250,000 PLN (€62,500). Quite a lot, but people buy this car to stand out of the crowd, and for this you must pay. The new 9-5 is a beautiful car, packed with the newest technology, but also... quite traditional and clearly relating to its great heritage. Excellent! Saab simply doesn't disappoint. ■

Rafał Jemielita is a journalist for Playboy and a co-presenter of TVN Turbo's 'Automaniak' – a motor magazine programme.



Evidence of the German capital's troubled past stands alongside examples of its thrilling present, finds
Jenny Southan.

01 TIERGARTEN

This vast 630-acre park, known as the “green lung” of the city, can provide an opportunity for relaxation or sightseeing depending on your mood. It's split in two by Strasse des 17 Juni and a good place to start is at the golden Victory Column – Barack Obama addressed a crowd of 200,000 people here in July last year. Head north along one of the many winding paths and you'll stumble across modern sculptures and historical monuments, such as the striking Soviet War Memorial.

If you skirt along the banks of the River Spree, which runs along the edge of the north side of the park, you will also see Germany's ultra-modern, glass-shelled government buildings. These include the Bundeskanzleramt (chancellery) and Paul-Lobe-Haus (parliamentary office), which are part of the relatively new government district.

Feeling peckish? Pick up a bratwurst (sausage sandwich) from a street vendor and eat it on the grass. Beware, though – while the Berlin Wall might be gone, the East German tradition of stripping off when enjoying leisure time hasn't, so you might see more than you bargained for.

02 GALERIES LAFAYETTE

From the Tiergarten, cross the line marking where the Wall once stood and walk a couple of blocks to Friedrichstrasse. At number 76-78 you will see a curved glass and steel building called

Quartier 205, which is home to the art deco-style Galeries Lafayette, a branch of the iconic French department store. Here you will find everything from perfume and designer clothes to high-quality champagne, cheese, seafood, foie gras and wine. But it's worth visiting for the gleaming futuristic interior alone. Designed by Jean Nouvel, the central atrium comprises two giant glass-panelled cones (one stretching up from the ground floor to the roof, the other inverted and spanning four floors below) that together form rainbow-tinted walls, through which you can see people walking around. Open Mon-Sat 10am-8pm; galerie-s-lafayette.de

03 GENDARMENMARKT

Exiting Quartier 205 on Charlottenstrasse, you will emerge on to the beautiful Gendarmenmarkt. Dating back to the 18th century, the square earned its name from the cuirassier regiment of gens d'armes (mounted cavalry in the army of Frederik the Great of Prussia) that was deployed here until 1773.

The neoclassical building in the centre of the square is the Konzerthaus Berlin. Badly damaged during the Second World War, it was completely restored by 1984 and now hundreds of events take place in its four halls. To the left sits the terracotta-roofed Französischer Dom, a Protestant church that houses an exhibition devoted to the history of French Protestantism and the Huguenots in Berlin (open 12pm-5pm, closed Mondays, free entry). To the other side of the Konzerthaus stands the Deutscher Dom – a victim of fire in 1945, it was reopened in 1996 as a cathedral and a museum of German political history (open 10am-7pm, closed Mondays, free entry). Visit

konzerthaus.de, franzoesische-kirche.de, bundestag.de

04 FASSBENDER AND RAUSCH

Cross the street and you'll come to a truly decadent shop offering not only a mouth-watering array of handmade truffles, nutty pralines and slabs of marbled chocolate, but a few of Berlin's most famous sights recreated in edible form. Even if you are not looking to buy, it is worth popping in to see the chocolate constructions of Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag.

The company came into being in 1999 when two chocolate-making families – Fassbender and Rausch – joined forces, and is a great place to stop for a creamy cup of hot chocolate or even a cocoa-themed dinner in the restaurant. The shop is open daily from 10am-8pm (Sundays from 11am), while the café and restaurant are open from 11am-8pm. Charlottenstrasse 60; fassbender-rausch.de

05 HI-FLYER

This year is the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and if you walk a short way to Zimmerstrasse, you will see a row of bricks in the road marking where East was once divided from West. From here you will easily spot the huge Hi-Flyer “Die Welt” balloon, located right on the border in what was once a no-man's land between the two sides. Attached to the ground by a steel cable, it can take up to 30 passengers 150 metres into the air for sweeping views of the city. Open 10am-10pm in summer (until 12.30am Fri-Sat), and 11am-6pm in winter (7pm Fri-Sat). Tickets €19. Visit air-service-berlin.de

06 ANHALTER BAHNHOF

If you don't have time for a balloon flight, continue left down Wilhelmstrasse into West Berlin to the ruins of the Anhalter Bahnhof, located in an open area opposite the Topography of Terror, an outdoor exhibition dedicated to the Nazi Party and its crimes.

The Anhalter Bahnhof, built in 1841, was once one of Europe's most important railway termini – by 1930, trains carrying an average of 44,000 people every day departed for destinations such as Rome, Athens and Naples.

However, during the Second World War, its purpose was far more sinister – many thousands of Jews were deported from this station to the Theresienstadt concentration camp, in what is now the Czech Republic. By 1945 the station was devastated by allied bombing, leaving



01.00





only the façade of the main entrance, restored on several occasions since, as a reminder of its former legacy.

07 SOLAR

Berlin is famed for its thriving and often hard-to-locate dining and clubbing scene, but if you know where to go, you will be in for a treat. From Anhalter Bahnhof, cross the road to a modern tower block in a courtyard just off Stresemannstrasse at number 76. When you enter, you will be shown to a glowing red glass lift, which ascends on the outside of the building. On the 16th floor is Solar restaurant and on the 17th is a lounge bar with live DJs – this retro-chic venue offers panoramic views of the city (you can't miss the Berlin TV tower) and a tempting German and international fusion menu.

The waiting staff are young, glamorous and confident, and the dishes are tantalising – choose from frappé of avocado soup with Tabasco sauce (€5) or wels catfish with Serrano ham, risotto and peas (€9) to start, or wiener schnitzel with potato salad (€18.50) or beef tenderloin with chanterelles and potato gratin (€28.50) for the main. Call Solar on +49 163 765 2700 as reservations are recommended. Open Mon-Thu 6pm-2am, Fri-Sat 6pm-4am, Sun 10am-2am. Visit solarberlin.com ■

Go to germany-tourism.co.uk and visitberlin.de for more information.

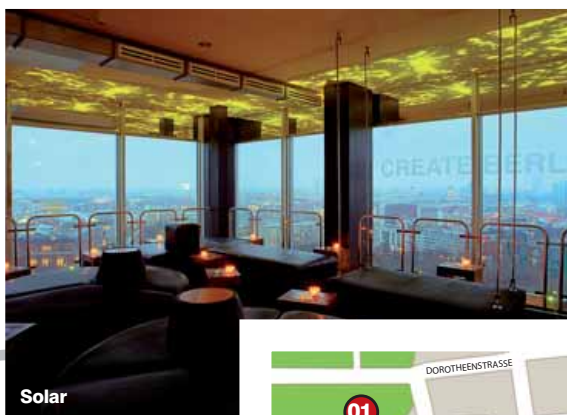


Victory Column



Anhalter Bahnhof

Gendarmenmarkt



Solar



Fassbender Rausch



04.00



Topography of Terror and Hi-Flyer balloon



? ask Peter

Do you have any questions about travelling, ticket prices, passenger services, or loyalty programmes? We will be pleased to answer them!

Send Peter an e-mail at: redakcja@businesstraveller.pl



BUSINESS LOUNGE

I'm responsible for booking business trips in a large company. Our company's policy allows only for flying in economy class. One of the workers flew in business class and himself paid the difference in price. The cost was relatively low and he even earned some points in the frequent flyer programme. He asked me about the possibility to make use of a special lounge on the airport. On what conditions can you make use of those lounges?

Mada

Dear Magda,

A lot of corporations has verified their business trip policy and allowed their workers to fly only in economy class, especially on short routes. However, flying in business class, apart from the special service, gives you also many other privileges – even before embarking on a plane. There is a possibility to check in at separate desks, bigger baggage allowance, the possibility to choose a particular seat on a plane, more points in loyalty programs and being the first one to embark and disembark. Some airports have also the so called fast track service on their offer, and it allows you to get onboard straightaway after the check-in. Other facilities include the possibility to use the business class lounge, dedicated to business travellers exclusively.

Such lounges are to be found at most airports. They are managed by the airport or directly by an airline. Access to selected lounges is guaranteed also to the owners of some credit cards. Many airlines have their own lounges, dedicated only to their passengers. On their standard offer you will find free drinks (including alcohol) and snacks. Also, free internet access is to be found there. There are also more exclusive lounges with restaurants, and a so called 'si-

lence zone', where you can have a nap. More and more often there is also a possibility to go to a SPA, appreciated especially after long intercontinental flights. First class lounges also offer services of a hairdresser, cosmetician or even a massage. The passengers are called by loudspeakers a couple of minutes before closing the gate, and therefore they don't have to wait together with others.

Another facility includes the possibility to have a meal in the lounge, instead of eating onboard, especially before long night flights. In such a case, the flight attendant suggests reclining the seat to the horizontal position right after the plane takes off.

It's worth mentioning that you can make use of the business class lounge only on the day of departure (or when arriving at your destination) after showing your boarding pass. Some airlines allow you to invite one person to the lounge, as your honour guest. To get detailed information, you should ask a particular airline.

Despite trips regulations in many companies, the passengers often fly in business class. Luckily, there is always the possibility to pay the difference between the tariffs. As an alternative, you can also make use of your frequent flyer points, and be upgraded to business class.

WHAT'S A STOPOVER?

On the website of one of the airlines I read about the special offer of free stopover. What is this stopover? There are three hotels to choose from. I wasn't interested in such an offer before, but now I would like to make use of it. Do all the airlines have this stopover on their offer, and which cities are included?

Mariusz

Dear Mariusz,

The term stopover in the booking terminology refers to a break between two or more parts of a journey for a certain period of time and a stay in a particular city. With international flights, we talk about a change/transfer when you spend up to 24 hours in the hub, whereas anything above 24 hours is referred to as stopover. The exception is flying within United States and Canada, where the stopover is an interruption lasting more than 4 hours. It should be mentioned that not all the tariffs allow for such a long stay in a particular city. Low, special tariffs allow only for a change/transfer (up to 24 hours). More expensive tariffs allow the possibility of stopover on their conditions. That's why especially with business trip which includes travelling around a couple of cities, you should bear in mind that the price of the ticket would go up.

The airlines cooperate with hotel chains offering the transit passengers rooms at special rates. The same goes with the passengers who have decided to make a stopover. Such an offer often comes as a part of the whole package and is especially popular in Asian countries. You've mentioned three hotels to choose from, so I guess each one is different star, so the price of the package would also be different.

The similar package offer refers also to weekend stays. The flight and two-day stay at a hotel is often included in the price of the standard ticket. I encourage you to check out the details on the web sites of particular airlines. One of them offers free accommodation at a hotel for the first class passengers in the summer season. The offers are often extended to museum or theatre tickets, sometimes also shopping coupons for certain shops, or even sightseeing tour with a guide. Families are often offered special packages with amusement park tickets.



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