

# Business Traveller Poland

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NR 6/10 JUNE 2010

**Interview with**  
**Alicja Kornasiewicz**  
the CEO of Pekao SA



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HAVE CHANGED



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62



58



50



60



66

## 4 EDITORIAL

## 6 TOP NEWS

Hotel and airline news

## 14 TRIED&TESTED

Warsaw – Szczecin, PLL LOT, economy class; Warsaw – Rome, Alitalia, economy class; Warsaw – Vienna, Austrian, economy class; Radisson Blu Szczecin; Novotel Malta Poznań; Marriott Warsaw; Adam&Eve Belek; Europcar Rent a Car Szczecin

## REPORTS

## 30 WAGA WAGI

Luggage weight allowances have changed. Why?

## 32 TASTES OF THE WORLD

English tea in Warsaw – a visit to a restaurant Amber Room

## 34 PLL LOT

International panel conference "Heading towards the clear sky"

## 36 MALEV

Hungarian cure for the crisis

## 38 ORBIS

A holiday offer of the largest Polish hotel chain

## 40 GUIDE

A visit to Goleniów airport near Szczecin

## 44 BRUSSELS AIRLINES

The Belgian airline conquers the African sky

## 46 VISOR

AirFrance/KLM – a special offer

## 48 MAMAISON

Diana suites

## 50 VISOR

The offer of the Military Property Agency

## 52 IBERIA

The sky in the rhythm of flamenco

## DESTINATIONS

## 54 TUNISIA

Doing business in the pearl of Africa

## 54 WINE

The secrets of Tokaj

## CONFERENCES INCENTIVE TRIPS

## 58 BUDAPEST

The Hungarian capital has a wide choice of incentive



## LIFESTYLE

## 60 FRAUSCHER

Motorboats which are like racing cars

## 62 CRUISE

The magic of Norwegian fjords

## 66 ITALY

Club Med at the feet of Vesuvius

## 70 INTERVIEW

BT interviews Alicja Kornasiewicz, CEO of bank Pekao SA

## 72 TECHNO

Compact digital cameras

## 75 BUSINESS MOTO

The new Audi A5

## 76 BRUSSELS

4 hours in the Belgian capital

## 78 BT POLAND IN ENGLISH

## 82 ASK PETER

We answer all your questions regarding travelling



A business trip is generally relatively short, lasting perhaps 2-3 days, so naturally, we don't need to take a lot of things with us. However, a longer business trip is an entirely different story as we need to take into a consideration a very important factor – our baggage weight. In the past, the limits on baggage allowances were simple, but today the things have become a bit more complicated. How? You can read about it in our cover story.

The more we know, the luckier we are. All other tips (and our hands-on impressions) you will find in our 'Tried & Tested' section where we describe the flights we took to Szczecin, Milan, Istanbul, and Vienna. Also, in the section our impressions on visits to several hotels: Radisson in Szczecin, Novotel in Poznań, Turkish Antalya and Marriott in Warsaw. Nowadays, hotels do not only offer rooms for a temporary stay. Interestingly enough, long-term suite rentals are also becoming more and more popular, as in case of Diana Residence featured in one of our articles.

The financial crisis is rattling the aviation sector, but those airlines who have taken appropriate measures are doing quite well. This is the conclusion you may draw after reading our features on Malev, Iberia, Air France KLM and Belgian Brussels Airlines. Also in this issue an interesting article about Goleniów Airport near Szczecin.

As regards short and long-distance trips, we recommend visits to Bilbo and Hungary, as both these destinations seem ideal for corporate travellers. In Tunisia you can enjoy thalassotherapy which will make you feel like a newborn. This also applies to the journey to Norwegian fjords aboard Celebrity Constellation, or a holiday in one of Club Med's resort.

For dessert: a few features on technical novelties among photo cameras, a test-drive of the new Audi A5 Sportback, and something remarkable – an adrenaline pumping ride aboard a Frauscher motorboat. You must experience that. Or, at least, read about it.



**Robert Grzybowski**  
Wydawca BT Poland



Więcej informacji znajdziesz na stronie [businesstraveller.pl](http://businesstraveller.pl)

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## A huge fridge by LAN

South American airline LAN Cargo has opened the largest cold storage facility in the USA for imported and exported goods. The \$4 million facility is situated in Miami. Thanks to this, the company has expanded to 43,000 sqm its storage capacity for cold storage goods. The facility has a cutting edge system of temperature monitoring and a system of storage servicing.

## Finnair turns down compensation proposal

In April, due to closing of the airspace as a result of the ash cloud from Iceland, Finnair airline was forced to cancel over 1700 flights, which complicated travel plans for over 140,000 passengers. The airline has lost around 20 million euros due to the flight disruptions. Despite this, Finnair is opposed to the compensations which were approved in a form of subsidies to airlines from the EU. "Companies in a weaker economic condition are making strong demands for help. A subsidy stampede would distort competition, because the risk of airlines using the system for wider support would be great. We are already seeing support that contravenes the EU's state-aid rules", says Mika Vehviläinen, Finnair's CEO.

## LOT TELEGRAM LOT TELEGRAM LOT TELEGRAM LOT

### To Bratislava...

After a six-year break PLL LOT returns to Bratislava. Thanks to the new connection, the trip from Warsaw to the Slovak capital takes only around 90 minutes. The flights will be serviced by ATR planes, six times a week (except Saturdays). The departure from Warsaw to Bratislava has been scheduled at 11.40 am, and the plane from Bratislava to Warsaw is set to take off at 1.45 pm.

The Warsaw-Bratislava flight is the second new connection created by LOT this year. The carrier plans to expand its network for 2010 by starting new connections to Kaliningrad, Beirut, Yerevan and Gothenburg. LOT is also planning to increase the number of daily domestic connections to Katowice.

### ...Return to Estonia...

After a two-year break, on 10 May LOT resumed the connection between Warsaw and Tallinn. The flight which lasts around 100 minutes will be serviced by Embraers 145 and 170. Tallinn – the capital of Estonia, is one of the most beautiful cities in the Baltic region. The Old Town is listed by UNESCO and the city itself will be the European Capital of Culture in 2011. The flights are scheduled to depart every day from Warsaw at 11.10 and from Tallinn at 14.40.

### ... and to Katowice

From 1 June PLL LOT increases the number of flights on route Warsaw-Katowice. Up to now, this connection has been operated once a week, but now the flights from Warsaw to Katowice will be available three times a week.



## Sheraton Awarded

Sheraton Sopot Hotel Conference Center & Spa has been awarded a special prize in contest "The Best Tourism Promotion of Gdańsk and Pomerania 2009". The ceremony took place at 13 Gdańsk Tourism Fair which was organised by Gdańsk International Fair Co. "We are very proud that Sheraton Sopot Hotel Conference Center & Spa has been recognized as the best tourism investment in 2009. We are trying hard to create a unique place, in which the guests will feel at home. Also, we have just signed a contract for the 1000th hotel of Starwood chain", said Iva Trifonov, the General Manager of the Sheraton Hotel in Sopot.

The five-star Sheraton Sopot Hotel Conference Center & Spa has become an inherent part of Sopot's cityscape. It offers 189 rooms, including 7 luxurious suites. The hotel is well-known as the largest Conference Centre in Pomerania and is praised for its elegant restaurants Wave, InAsia, and Rotunda Bar. Another attraction of the property is its spa.



## PRZEZNACZONE DO BIZNESU



Zdobądź przewagę konkurencyjną lecąc naszą szybszą i krótszą północną trasą do Azji. Dzięki optymalnie zaplanowanym harmonogramom lotów, nagradzanej klasie business oraz w pełni płaskim fotelom dolećsz na miejsce wypoczęty i gotów do prowadzenia interesów. Najmłodsza flota powietrzna w Europie gwarantuje Ci podróż wygodną i w dobrym stylu.

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## EXECUTIVE ROOMS IN NOVOTEL HOTEL KATOWICE

The 11 storey, 4-star Novotel in Katowice is a truly business-oriented hotel which is particularly busy on weekdays. The hotel's offer and its facilities are adapted especially to the needs of business travellers who visit Silesia.

The hotel offers 300 rooms of Standard and Superior category and 10 Executive rooms. The higher category rooms (including Executive) are located on 1st, 2nd and 8th floors and come with LCD television screens, wired and wifi Internet, a safe, a sofa, a bathrobe, slippers, and room-darkening curtains. Executive rooms are fitted with iPod and iPhone docking stations, and a larger safe which may accommodate a laptop. Other facilities include free of charge calls, Pay television, and Essenza coffee maker with a wide selection of coffee pods. There are also standard hot drink making facilities, and free of charge mineral water in the drinks cabinet.

The bathroom comes with the heated mirror which does not steam up, very comfortable bathrobes, and slippers. The guests will also find in their rooms eco-friendly „N” brand cosmetics which are made exclusively for the Novotel brand and possess Ecocert and Eco-label certificates. The cosmetics are produced only from natural ingredients, do not contain parabenes or any other genetically modified substances. They are also said not to have been tested on animals. Apart from the soap



and shampoo available for the guests who stay in the standard rooms, the guests of Executive rooms receive moisturizer, peeling gel, and bath salt.

Another practical detail is the workdesk in the lounge. It is equipped with wheels to move the desk more freely and adapt its position to the guest's needs. Very convenient, indeed. Also, thanks to internal double doors it is possible to combine two adjoining rooms to make one larger studio apartment, ideal to hold larger business meetings.

Novotel Katowice Centrum is situated 1.5 kilometres from Katowice Central Railway Station and 30 kilometres from Pyrzowice airport. The hotel has two paid car parks (attended and unattended) which can accommodate up to 258 cars.

Novotel Katowice Centrum,  
al. Różdzieńskiego 16, 40 – 202 Katowice,  
tel. +48 32 2004444, H3377@accor.com

## Intercontinental Awarded



Hotel InterContinental Warszawa which belongs to InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) – one of the world's largest hotel chains, has been presented the “Hotel of the Year 2010” award at the BPCC Business Awards 2010. InterContinental Warszawa is a modern 5-star hotel located right in the centre of Warsaw, with 326 guest rooms and 75 luxurious Residence Suites on its offer. The guests may savour the dishes of the Polish and the world's cuisine in a number of hotel's restaurants such as Frida, +One Bar, and Downtown. There is also Riverview Wellness Centre, located on the 43th and 44th floor, which offers the highest indoor swimming pool in the city, gym classes, sauna, and steam bath.



## CHANGES IN WIZZAIR

WizzAir has announced that at the end of May it will discontinue its flights on the Turku-Warsaw route. At the same time, the airline is going to launch in mid-June a new flight from Gdańsk to Tampere. The flights from Turku to Gdańsk will be continued.



# SINGAPORE AIRLINES Nowa BUSINESS CLASS

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Nasza nowa Business Class – najbardziej obszerna w swojej kategorii, zapewnia luksus wypoczynku w czasie lotu. Wyjątkowy fotel rozkłada się w największe, idealnie płaskie łóżko, na którym możesz wyciągnąć się swobodnie.

- Boeing 777-300ER: z Frankfurtu, Londynu, Mediolanu do Singapuru i dalej
- Airbus 380: dwa razy dziennie z Londynu, codziennie z Paryża, Zurichu do Singapuru i dalej

Od 29 marca 2010 – B777-300ER pięć razy w tygodniu z Monachium do Singapuru i dalej



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## FIRST A380 FOR LUFTHANSA



Lufthansa has received the first out of 15 ordered A380s. Another three Airbus aircraft are planned to roll out of Airbus's production line by the end of this year. The new A380 wearing Lufthansa's livery will service the routes to Tokyo, Beijing and Johannesburg. Lufthansa is the 5th air carrier, which introduces A380 to its services. It is 28th aircraft Airbus has delivered for the global connections. The present fleet of

A380s flies on 21 routes between 5 continents and regularly visits 17 airports in the world.

During the delivery ceremony in Hamburg, Lufthansa presented the new, luxurious First Class cabin featuring eight seats on the upper deck. The same deck accommodates also 98 business seats. The exceptionally spacious and comfortable economy-class on the main deck holds 420 seats.

## Bliss and Peace in ProHarmonia Residence

Villa Barbara was built in 1906 in Łądek Zdrój – a town which has been a renowned health resort for almost seven centuries. The residence has recently undergone a thorough renovation, and currently it is known as ProHarmonia Rezydencja Wellness.

Villa Barbara aims its offer at demanding customers and is an ideal place to rest and recuperate. There are 20 spacious rooms, each decorated in a different style, but with attention to details and comfort of the guests. We will find there the



Bourbon room with an original 18th century bed, the room of Pharaohs with ancient motifs, the Karen Blixen with clearly emphasized African climates, and the Gothic suite immersed in medieval ascetic atmosphere.

The residence offers Spa & Wellness treatment and excellent cuisine. It also houses „Projektornia” – a tiny cinema which seats up to 9 people. For more information, visit: [proharmonia.pl](http://proharmonia.pl).





## TAM in the Star Alliance

Brazilian airlines TAM have joined the Star Alliance. The largest air carrier in Brazil offers 40 domestic connections and 10 connection to various destinations in South America. The airlines have become a part of the world's largest airline alliance which will now expand to 21,000 flights a day and almost 1200 destinations in 180 countries. TAM was introduced to the alliance by the Scandinavian airlines SAS - one of the co-founders of Star Alliance which was created in 1997.

## Summer Movies on Intercity



Starting July 1st, the Trójmiasto-Kraków trains (fast train 'Monciak-Krupówki' and 'Tetmajer' express train) will feature a cinema car with seats for 66 passengers.

The car has been equipped with two 26-inch LCD screens and 16 loudspeakers.

Films will be screened throughout the whole journey and the seats in the car are not subject to reservation.



Każde spotkanie i impreza organizowana z nami jest przedsięwzięciem zrównoważonym ekologicznie.



## Bierzemy odpowiedzialność za nasze środowisko

Wprowadzony w 2001 roku program odpowiedzialności w biznesie podkreśla nasze zaangażowanie w sprawy otoczenia naturalnego i społecznego. Każdy z naszych hoteli stworzył indywidualny plan działania w zakresie odpowiedzialności społecznej, ochrony środowiska oraz bezpieczeństwa i zadowolenia pracowników. Nasz program zarządzania odpowiedzialnością za środowisko został nagrodzony już wielokrotnie w wielu krajach.

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## SAS TO ADD NEW CONNECTIONS

The Scandinavian airlines (SAS) have introduced code-share connections for African and US destinations. This is an effect of code-share agreements with Continental Airlines and Ethiopian Airlines. With the new agreements in effect, SAS can offer their customers 14 code-share destinations in the USA; they will be serviced by Continental from SAS New York hub. The new agreement with Ethiopian Airlines is effective immediately and includes code share on Ethiopian Airlines' flight on the Stockholm-Rome-Addis Ababa route. With the new Continental Airlines agreement, SAS will add a further 19 code-share destinations across the US, Canada and Latin America, including Fort Lauderdale, Miami and Orlando.



## World Golfers Poland Championship i Diners Trophy



### Harmonogram turniejów eliminacyjnych:

Szczecin, Binowo Park GC – 12 June 2010  
 Kraków, Kraków Valley G&CC – 19 June 2010  
 Częstochowa, Rosa GC – 3 July 2010  
 Olsztyn, Mazury Golf & CC – 24 July 2010  
 Choszczno, Modry Las Golf Club – 15 August 2010  
 Szczecin, Binowo Park GC, finał – 27-29 August 2010  
 Tajlandia, Ha-Am, 30 Oct. – 05 Nov. 2010 (WGPC)  
 Mauritius, Anahita, 8-12 November 2010 (DC Trophy)

## Golf in Wejherów

**A**lmost 90 players turned up at the golf course in Wejherów on 22 May to participate in the 4th elimination round of World Golfers Poland Championship 2010 and Diners Club Trophy. The venue for the cham-

pionship was Sierra Golf Club which boasts an excellent quality of its course and advanced club facilities. The championship took place on Saturday morning and finished around 6 pm. You can access the results at [www.golfpgc.pl](http://www.golfpgc.pl).

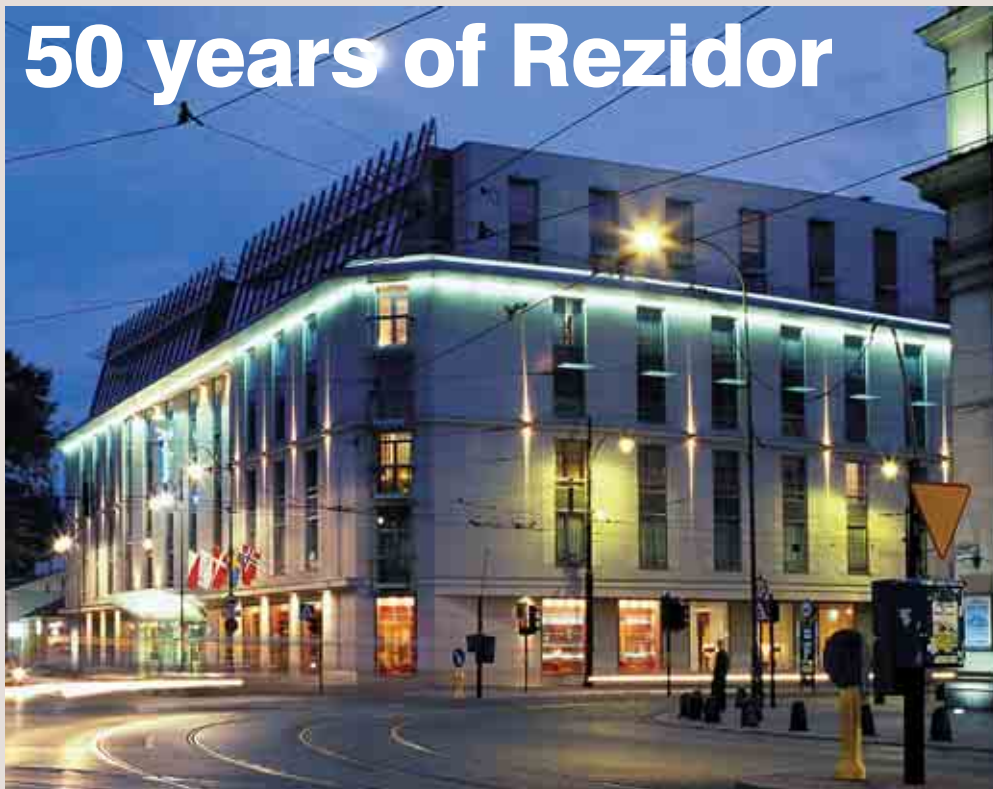
The Rezidor Hotel Group is celebrating its 50th birthday.

SAS Royal Hotel in Copenhagen – the first hotel of the chain, was launched on 1 July 1960. At that time the company was a small Scandinavian enterprise, but today it is a major player on the market with its 5 brands (Radisson Blu, Regent, Country Inn, Park Inn, Missoni), and over 400 hotels in 62 countries all over the world. In Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, Rezidor manages 86,300 rooms.

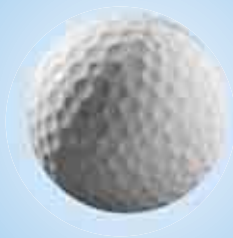
The Sas Royal in Copenhagen was the world's first designer hotel. It was designed by Arne Jacobsen as SAS airline decided that the construction should be kept in the best Scandinavian style.

The youngest brand of the group is Missoni, which was created together with the renowned Italian fashion house. In Poland, Rezidor has Radisson Blue hotels in Warsaw, Gdańsk, Szczecin, Wrocław, Cracow and Poznań, and also Park Inn hotel in Cracow.

# 50 years of Rezidor



## WORLD GOLFERS POLAND CHAMPIONSHIP 2010



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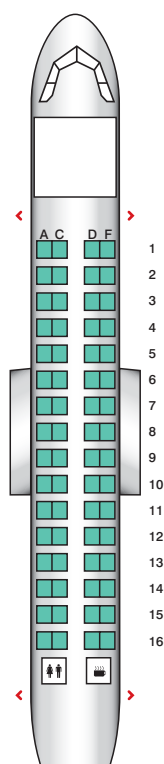
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DEJAN GOSPODAREK

**ONBOARD:** WARSAW – SZCZECIN

# LOT Polish Airlines ATR 72



**INFO** The connection is available three times a day. The first flight takes off at 6.40 am, the second one at 1.40 pm and the last one at 6.40 pm

**CHECK-IN** I arrived at the Warsaw airport a few minutes before 1 pm, as I decided to try the second possible flight to Szczecin on that day (LO3933). I didn't check-in via the Internet, so holding the ticket in my hand – and this time I was put on the standby – I made for the check-in desk for the passengers carrying only the hand baggage. You will find there a special stand with information about the permitted size of the baggage and a rack where you can put your bag to check if it qualifies as hand baggage.

A moment of uncertainty as to whether there are any vacant seats on the plane and... suddenly from a standby passenger I become a fully-fledged one. I was given my boarding pass with isle seat 14C and after a while I was standing in a long line to security control.

There are four desks with scanners in the zone, but I must admit that so far I have never seen all of them working at the same time. This time only one of them was open, so there was a long line of those eagerly waiting to take off their jackets, belts and, with a little bit of luck, perhaps even their shoes. Luckily, after a while the second desk was also opened and the whole security control procedure went more swiftly.

**BOARDING** I didn't have much time as the departures board next to B42 gate from which my plane was about to depart, was blinking menacingly the „Final call” announcement.

I picked up my pace, and just when I was about to produce my boarding pass and ID card at the gate, I heard my name being called to board the plane.

Downstairs, there was a bus waiting for me and around 30 people sitting inside. Luckily, I wasn't the only latecomer, so I wasn't treated with a lot of meaningful glares. After a while our bus left the terminal and headed towards our ATR72 which was hidden somewhere on the apron.

I put my bag on the trolley from which the ramp agents were putting the baggage into the hold. There were also two push-chairs since we had two little passengers on board.

**THE SEAT** I had flown a similar ATR72 several days earlier, with a seat in the sixth row, so the noise of the engines had literally been drowning out all my thoughts. This time, however, I was pleased to learn that I was to sit in row 14, which is the third one from the end. The seat configuration in the larger ATR is 2+2. The seats have blue upholstery and are quite comfortable, bearing in mind the fact that domestic flights are relatively short so passe.

The flight to Szczecin takes around one hour and fifteen minutes and is one of the longest domestic connections from Warsaw. We were informed about this by our captain while waiting for the take-off. The captain also introduced the whole cabin crew.

**THE FLIGHT** We took off a few minutes after the scheduled time. Everything went smoothly and, fortunately, the

noise of the engines wasn't that annoying. We reached the cruise speed and altitude after about five minutes. The „fasten your seat belts” sign turned off and we were informed that the in-flight service would start. The cabin crew served chocolate bars and offered water, apple juice, tea and coffee. The sun was exceptionally intense on that day and the aircraft was literally sun-filled. I could hardly see anything on the screen of my laptop and, to make matters worse, there are no window shades on ATRs.

**ARRIVAL** We arrived at Goleniów airport according to the schedule. After the plane parked on the apron, we had to take a short stroll to the terminal, which was only several dozen meters away. I took my hand baggage and headed towards the nearby airport's Europcar rental station. I was ready for a 40-kilometre trip to the centre of Szczecin.

**VERDICT** The Warsaw-Szczecin flight takes slightly over one hour and the relatively long trip to Szczecin's centre is trouble-free, as well.

*Wojciech Chelchowski*

## FACTS

**SEAT CONFIGURATION** 2+2

**SEAT PITCH** 75 cm

**SEAT WIDTH** 43 cm

**COST** BA ticket from Warsaw to Szczecin booked without promotion in the middle of May at LOT's website, cost 120 zł.

**CONTACT** lot.com



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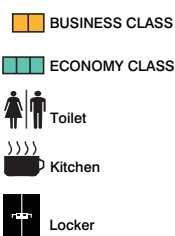
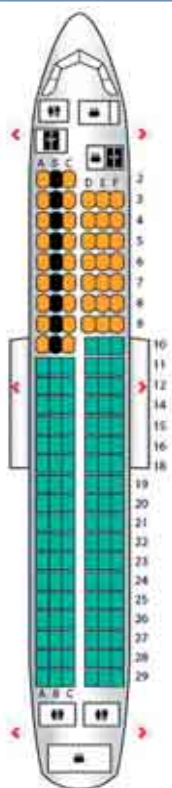
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 



**ONBOARD:** WARSAW - ROME

# Alitalia

## Airbus A320 economy class



**INFO** The Italian airline provides daily flights between Warsaw and Rome at 1.00 pm.

**CHECK-IN** I arrived at the airport 70 minutes before the expected departure of the AZ 491 flight. I had only my hand baggage with me, as I went to Rome only for business and just for several hours, so I quickly checked in at Alitalia's desk and with the boarding pass in my hand I headed towards the security control zone.

**BOARDING** The queue wasn't too long, but – as it is always case in Warsaw – only two out of four desks were open. On entering the maze made of tape barriers, I produced my boarding pass and ID. I was beginning to believe that this time everything will go smoothly when suddenly everything came to a halt. The reason was trivial – one of the female passengers was wearing a headscarf. A suspicious one – as it turned out. The scarf was thoroughly investigated while the poor passenger waited impatiently, her face flushed crimson with emotions. The whole thing lasted only a few minutes, but it was enough to cause unpleasant atmosphere. However, it was just a prelude to further adventures I was about to experience on that day.

When they announced boarding for my flight at B40 gate, I had already been there for a few minutes, reading a morning newspaper. I stood in a long queue of people, but, luckily, the boarding pass

check procedure went smooth as silk. Airbus A320 which is used by Alitalia for this connection, was standing at the boarding bridge, so getting on board was just a matter of seconds.

**THE SEAT** A320 is a modern and comfortable aircraft. It accommodates 153 passengers in business and economy classes in 3+3 configuration. On the day I was flying, there were several vacant seats, so after a prior consultation with the aircrew, I took one in row 14 where I was the only passenger. I put my bag under the seat in front of me to have easier access to my laptop during the flight. The seats are over 46 cm wide – this is more than the standard width, which makes them quite comfortable. What is more, the seat pitch is almost 80 cm, so there is plenty legroom, and during a 2-hour flight this is an obvious advantage. I fastened my seat belts and waited for the plane to take off. The push back procedure took place as scheduled and taxiing lasted around 10 minutes. When we reached the runway, the machine began to accelerate and then... all of a sudden it stopped. Passengers jolted forwards with a look of bewilderment and confusion on their faces. We taxied back to the apron and were informed that the captain was concerned about the engine thrust, so additional aircraft checking procedure would be necessary.

**THE FLIGHT** It took about 50 minutes. Finally, we were informed that the plane

was cleared to take off. We approached the second attempt at 2.00 pm and this time the take off was trouble-free. Several minutes later the „fasten your seat belts” sign turned off and the gloomy atmosphere disappeared. The captain spoke to us over the intercom, dispelled all our doubts and informed us on our route via Czech Republic and Austria to Fumicino airport, Italy.

Soon the in-flight service began. The passengers of the economy class received crisps, juices and coffee or tea. We could also order a glass of Italian red or white.

**ARRIVAL** The plane touched down the runway in Rome at exactly 16.16 pm. The transport to the terminal took another few minutes.

**VERDICT** Despite the above adventures, I arrived in the Italian capital relatively quickly. It seems to be a good choice for business travellers.

*Jakub Olgiewicz*

### FACTS

**SEAT CONFIGURATION** 3+3

**SEAT PITCH** 78,7 cm

**SEAT WIDTH** 46,3 cm

**KOSZT** A ticket from Warsaw to Vienna booked at the end of May on a weekday and via the airline's website was available at 783 PLN.

**CONTACT** alitalia.pl

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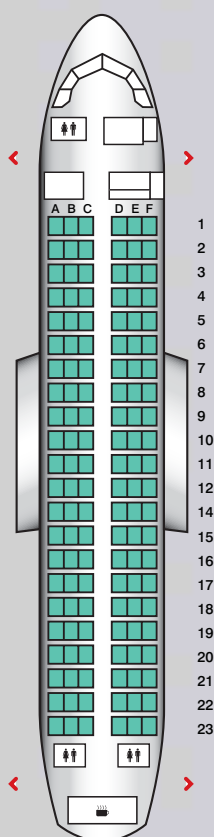
**Alitalia** SKYTEAM



**ONBOARD:** WARSAW - VIENNA

# Austrian Airlines

## Airbus A319 economy class



ECONOMY CLASS

Tiolet

Kitchen

Locker

**INFO** The connection from Warsaw to Vienna is available five times daily. The first flight departs at 7.55, with the following ones at 11.20, 15.20, 17.25 and 19.50.

**CHECK-IN** The Warsaw airport after 10 am is like a beehive. It finally looks like a civilized airport, but I'm not quite sure if it comes as its advantage or perhaps a disadvantage. There are lots of things going on with swarms of people everywhere and the announcements calling the latecomers to turn up for the check in. When I appeared in this melting pot with my reservation number of the flight OS626 to Vienna, I found the information on my check-in desk and went along the third lane in the new terminal. As it turned out, the two check-in desks with Austrian logo were empty, but the notices informed the passengers that they will be checked in at Lufthansa's desk. Indeed, the desks of the German carrier were occupied by two gentlemen who didn't seem to be overly busy. I produced my ID and asked if they need my reservation number. It wasn't necessary, so after a while I received my boarding pass with seat 19F next to the window.

**BOARDING** To my dismay, at the security control I saw a real pandemonium. There are four desks arranged for the control of the ordinary mortals from the economy class. However, only two of them were open while around the other two gathered a crowd of around a hundred people. It isn't funny anymore. Our Boarder Guard officers do want to

show you how important they are and that it's them who are ruling that place, but I think they miss the point.

The control lasted for ages, so when I finally got through, the board next to B37 exit displayed "boarding" message and I had to dash, because it turned out that I was one of the latecomers. After the ID and boarding pass check I went through the boarding bridge aboard Airbus A319, taking my seat in the fifth row from the end.

**THE SEAT** For the needs of the business class passengers it is possible to allot several rows which are then separated with a portable partition and have a curtained entrance. This time the business class was allotted three rows. Altogether 18 seats. There were only around 30 passengers present in the economy class.

I must admit that the Austrian A 319 has just enough leg space as needed, but I'm afraid that some passengers might start griping if they were to sit there during a long-haul flight.

Before the take-off we were welcomed by video screens displaying fabulous mountain landscapes with equally beautiful castles. The photos were accompanied with music which is so typical of the Austrian sense of humour. The pre-flight safety demonstration was also presented on the screens in German and English while the Polish reader read the basic rules before the animation was shown.

**THE FLIGHT** We reached the cruising altitude quite swiftly. After a few mo-

ments the in-flight service started. The Austrian crew whose regular uniforms are red, for the time of the service which is called "sweet and salty" (i.e. the choice of a sweet chocolate bar or a bag of salted snacks) put on tasteful white aprons. The crew also served coffee, tea, juices, and even red and white wine.

After a while, the first officer welcomed us aboard. We were informed on the consecutive stages of the journey and that due to favourable weather conditions we will arrive in the Austrian capital 15 minutes before the scheduled time.

**ARRIVAL** That was exactly the case. The flight attendants quickly picked up the dishes and the aircraft was ready to land. Luckily, I had only the hand baggage, so I left the terminal just a few minutes after the arrival.

**VERDICT** It is a quick connection with the Austrian capital and the service is really pleasant.

*Wojciech Chetchowski*

## FACTS

**SEAT CONFIGURATION** 3+3  
**ODLEGŁOŚĆ**

**SEAT PITCH** 76,2 cm

**SEAT WIDTH** 45 cm

**COST** A ticket from Warsaw to Vienna booked at the end of May on a weekday and via the airline's website was available at 501 PLN.

**CONTACT** austrian.com

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**HOTEL:** SZCZECIN

# Radisson Blu

**TRIED & TESTED**



**WHAT IS IT LIKE?** The Radisson Blu hotel is one of Szczecin's landmarks. It is a part of Pazim complex with one of its buildings being the tallest construction in the city.

Upon entering the lobby through glass sliding doors, we are welcomed by a spacious area with several black seats behind the entrance. On the left there is a corridor leading to a bar, which is always crowded, probably because it is a smoking zone. Behind the bar there is "Za Szafą" gallery presenting hand-craft items, china, paintings and even old postcards. You will find the reception desk opposite the entrance. The hotel staff are dressed in tasteful uniforms and are extremely helpful.

On the right, there is a jeweller's shop, selling mostly amber jewellery, and a Business Centre site – with a computer, Internet access and a printer. On the wall we will see a tablet commemorating important people who stayed in the hotel. Amongst them there are many politicians like Lech Wałęsa, Aleksander Kwaśniewski, Władysław Bartoszewski, and people of culture: William Wharton, Susan Vega or even the rock band Deep Purple.

The underground car park is large and there is a lift linking it to the hotel.

**WHERE IS IT?** Rodło Square is situated in the heart of Szczecin. The Hotel occupies 10 floors (technically there are 11 floors, but one of them is an office space which is unavailable for guests). The railway station is located 2 kilometres away and getting there takes only a few minutes. Goleniów airport is 45 kilometres away from the hotel, but it is relatively easy to get there by car or a taxi. You can also take a bus there.

**ROOM FACILITIES** There are 369 bedrooms in the Radisson Blu, and some of them are now being renovated.

Standard bedrooms are over 20 sq m. In each of them there is a double bed (or two single ones), individual climate control, a telephone with an answering machine, a minibar, tea and coffee making facilities, a safe, a TV set, and free access to the Internet.

The corridor on the 8th floor, where my bedroom was, had steely coloured walls and beige floor. The floor accommodates Business Class bedrooms (over 23 sq m each). Their guests are slightly more privileged because the rooms come with Nespresso coffee maker, a comfortable bathrobe, a pair of slippers for each of the guests, a morning newspaper delivered to the room, an unlimited fitness centre access, a free of charge Pay television,

## FACTS

**ROOMS** The hotel has 369 rooms, including 10 large apartments.

**TIPS** Spacious rooms, free broadband Internet, Baltica Wellness&Spa centre.

**PRICE** Internet rates for a standard room with breakfast start from 328 PLN.

**CONTACT** [radissonblu.com/hotel-szczecin](http://radissonblu.com/hotel-szczecin)







a “Super Breakfast Buffet” (free of charge room service), and a turndown service on request.

On the wall, there is a big hand painting of a sunflower. Behind the entrance (to switch electricity on, you have to insert your hotel card into a special slot), on the left there is a very efficient wardrobe system. You will find there two wardrobes with number of hangers, drawers, a sewing kit, and a clothes brush. Opposite there is an ironing board and a trouser press.

In the centre there is a huge comfortable bed, and a baggage shelf, a mini bar cabinet, and a television set next to the wall. There is also quite a large workdesk and a comfortable swivel chair. In the wall there is a broadband connection socket – the cable is in the drawer.

The bathroom is also very comfortable. It comes with a large mirror, a bathtub, a shower, a dryer and set of Anne Semolin cosmetics.

The Radisson offers 10 very spacious (50 – 70 sq m) suites. They all have a lounge with a kitchenette, and a bathroom for the guests. A bedroom with another bathroom is located in a separated area of the suite. The lounges are quite spacious, so not surprisingly, they are very often used to hold business meetings.

**BUSINESS FACILITIES** There are ten conference rooms in the hotel. The biggest one, Concerto, is situated on the first floor, along with the rest of the meeting-and-business facilities. Concerto is composed of three smaller rooms (Concerto I and III are 90 sq m, and Concerto II – 147 sq m), which could be connected thanks to movable partition wall system. Altogether the room is 327 sq m, and can accommodate up to 300 people.

Similarly, a 141 sq m Norwid room, can accommodate even up to 150 people and it consists of two smaller rooms (52 and 89 sq m). Other rooms on the first floor are: a very popular Mickiewicz room (80 sq m) – with a giant bay window and gigantic 4-metre windows, the Reymont (40 sq m) and the Sienkiewicz room (80 sq m). All of them are they have air-conditioning and are very well-equipped.

On the ground floor there is Vivaldi room, where also conferences are held. This 248 sq m room can accommodate 200 people. There is on more meeting venue on the 11th floor, next

to Copernicus bar. It can accommodate about 80 guests, and it also offers a beautiful panorama of the city.

**RESTAURANTS AND BARS** There are two hotel restaurants – Europa and Renaissance, situated next to each other on the ground floor. Europa serves full buffet breakfasts, lunches and dinners. Renaissance is an elegant a la carte venue which offers a fusion of multinational and Polish cuisine. The guest have also many other alternatives; for example, they can go to the Lobby Bar or the Copernicus night club on the 11th floor. There are definitely a lot of choices.

**LEISURE FACILITIES** Radisson boasts one of the best fitness clubs in the city. There is a professional gym, saunas, a swimming pool and a massage treatment facility. Radisson guests have a free access to Fitness World.

However, if you are in for a real treat, you should go to Baltica Wellness & Spa centre, which is adjacent to the hotel. The guests have an easy access to the place, as there is a passageway on the second floor leading to the centre, so you can go there wearing a bathrobe. What’s more, Radisson guests will get there a 10% discount on all the services, and there is plenty to choose from. Baltica is considered one of the best Spa centres in Poland. It has been in operation for only two years, but it has already managed to top the rankings twice in a row. You can spend there just one hour or even a whole weekend.

The complex occupies 3 floors and the area of over 2,000 sq m. There is a decent-sized fitness room, you can try one of 25 types of massages, or visit the only three-level cryochamber in the city, which is also used by professional sportspeople. The Wellness zone offers you baths (also aroma ones), showers with sound effects, beauty treatments, and a snow chamber for sauna enthusiasts. Medical consultations with specialists are also available. The agony of choice...

*Wojciech Chelchowski*

**VERDICT**

Well recognized in Szczecin, the hotel is well suited for business customers, offering them excellent business and leisure facilities.



**HOTEL:** POZNAŃ

## Novotel Poznań Malta

**WHAT IS IT LIKE?** There are two Novotel hotels in Poznań. The one in the centre (called Novotel Poznań Centrum) is huge and is the flagship of the Novotel chain, whereas Malta is a smaller 3-storey hotel hid amongst the greenery. The hotel was built 35 years ago, but in 2006 it was thoroughly renovated – with minor renovation works still underway.

The place is rich in flowers, glass elements and modern design. There is a large car park near the entrance and at the patio – a nice surprise – an outdoor swimming pool, a rarity in Poland. However, the greatest advantage of this place is its climate and silence, despite the fact that the hotel is near the city centre.

On the left to the entrance is the reception desk. It's not very big, situated near the staircase. Right next to it there is, more and more common in Novotel hotels, X-box 360 console table – occupied not only by the children.

**WHERE IS IT?** The 3-star Novotel Malta hotel is situated on Warszawska street – near Malta lake. It is on the International E30 Berlin-Warsaw route. Two kilometres away there is the city centre with the lovely Old Town part. The railway station and the area of Poznań International Fair where there are always some events going on, are located 5 km away from the hotel. Poznań-Ławica airport is situated 15 kilometres away, with a trip by a taxi taking merely half an hour. The motorists can leave their vehicles in one of 104 parking spaces in front of the building.

**ROOM FACILITIES** There are 149 bedrooms which can accommodate up to 298 guests. Two rooms have been adjusted to the needs of the disabled guests, and in 94 rooms smoking is prohibited.

The bedrooms are spacious and decorated in pastel shades. Facilities include a big comfortable bed, a long workdesk with a comfy swivel chair, a sofa for two, TV set with satellite TV (including Canal + for free) and tea and coffee making facilities. The guest can also benefit from free wifi available in the whole hotel area. If you come to Novotel with a family – you can make use of the standard Novotel offer: two children aged up to 16 can stay in the parents bedroom free of charge.

**BUSINESS FACILITIES** There are four conference rooms in the hotel. The smallest one is the Malta room (50 sq m), others include: Posnania, Olimpia and Warta – each occupying 70 sq m. All rooms offer natural light, air-conditioning, and all the equipment needed for a large meeting, including broadband internet access. Three bigger rooms can be connected into one, which gives a possibility to organize a conference for more than 200 participants. The hotel has also two smaller rooms (20 sq m each) intended for small corporate meetings or job interviews.

**RESTAURANTS AND BARS** On the ground floor there is The Garden Brasserie – a hotel restaurant catering for 90 guests. Large buffet breakfast are served here (from 6.00 – 10.00 am during the week, and 10.30 am at weekends), and a special “Early bird” breakfast – even from 4.00 am. Andrzej Szafrński, the chef recommends a rocket salad and roast beef with grilled cocktail tomatoes and ginger-soya vinaigrette as a starter; for the main course pork tenderloin grilled with bacon with fries, mixed lettuce salad with vinaigrette and feta cheese; and pear carpaccio with fruit sorbet for dessert.

### FACTS

**ROOMS** Novotel Malta has 149 rooms, including 2 adapted for the disabled guests.

**TIPS** Quiet neighbourhood, free wifi, internal garden with a swimming pool.

**COST** The rates for rooms start at 195 zł.

**CONTACT** Novotel Poznań Malta, ul. Warszawska 64/66, 61-028 Poznań; tel. 61 654 31 00; novotel.com



Guest may also go to the Lobby Bar, with TV screens embedded in the walls, where by a drink you can watch sports events. Open until midnight.

**LEISURE FACILITIES** The hotel provides a small fitness studio, and a 60 sq m outdoor swimming pool, open in summer season. There is also a bike rental in the hotel.

*Wojciech Chelchowski*

**VERDICT**

3-star hotel in a quiet and green area, catering for all the needs of a business traveller.



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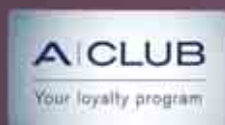
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W hotelu Novotel dzieci są ważnymi gośćmi. Powitamy je upominkiem, zaprosimy do kąci zabaw, a w restauracji zaoferujemy specjalne menu. Wiele z naszych hoteli posiada ogrody oraz baseny. Dla większej wygody doba hotelowa w niedzielę kończy się o godzinie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

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HOTEL: WARSAW

# Marriott



**WHAT IS IT LIKE?** The 41-storey Marriott hotel is known to everyone who has at least once visited Warsaw. Although now it has serious competition from other office buildings and hotels, it is still a distinctive part of the Polish capital's cityscape. All the more so, because the hotel has a direct connection to Warsaw's Central Rail Station via an underground passage, and the building's lower part, up to 20th floor, is used as an office space. As a result, the hotel is always crowded and buzzing with life both due to the guests who stay there (the hotel is often fully-booked) and people who visit the lobby or one of Marriott's restaurants. The hotel was launched in 1989 with great pomp – at that time being the only hotel in Poland managed by a western chain. There are numerous anecdotes about Marriott's first years of operation and the difficulties its personnel had to face. One of them concerned supplying the hotel with food. At that time, quality food was a rarity in Poland, so it had to be imported. To do that, the management had to call a long-distance call operator with whom they arranged an international call. The whole procedure took barely... a few days. An interesting fact – out of 4,000 people currently employed in the hotel, 70 have been working there since its launch 21 years ago. Despite the hotel's age, Marriott's interior looks like new due to its regular renovation. Each year, some part of the hotel is refreshed and redecorated. Also the ubiquitous works of art add

a bit of charm to Marriotts looks. It's hard not to mention one more advantage of the place, i.e. the sensational view over Warsaw – only few other places in Warsaw can boast such a panorama.

**WHERE IS IT?** It's difficult to imagine a more central location in Warsaw, next to the Palace of Culture. Driving there takes around 15 minutes (unless there are traffic jams), the underground station is a few hundred meters away, and there are numerous bus and tram lines. The area is packed with restaurants. There are also theatres, cinemas, Żłote Tarasy Mall, and obviously lots of companies, which is why Marriott is mostly occupied by business guests. It's not surprising though, as the hotel is business-friendly.

**ROOM FACILITIES** The residential part of the hotel spreads over floors 21-41 (the part below accommodates various offices with a separate entrance). The hotel has 518 rooms. Standard room facilities include a 1 King bed with a comfortable "Heaven's Sleep" mattress designed specially for Marriott chain, or two double beds. The other amenities are: a sofa, armchairs, LCD panel, a workdesk, a minibar, bottled water, and a safe. Each room has also an iron and an ironing board. Higher category rooms also come with slippers and a bathrobe, although they can also be ordered for standard rooms. All bathrooms have a bath with a shower – in the rooms of higher category the shower is separate. Marriott also offers their brand cosmetics. Wifi is available throughout the building (75 PLN/day – an access card can be bought in the lobby).

Floors 37-39 are prepared especially for business guests. There are 62 Executive rooms whose guests have access to the Executive Lounge, where they can have breakfast, check in and check out, use one of two computers, and order some drinks or snacks. The Executive Lounge is open 24 hours a day.

The hotel has an interesting offer of Business suites. There are 15 of them, each one consisting of two rooms: a large bedroom and a spacious lounge with a sofa, armchairs and a conference table. There is also a kitchenette, so the suite is an ideal place for a person who wants to stay in the city for a longer time. It is also a good venue for a small business meeting. If necessary, the Business suite can be connected with the adjoining suite,

## FACTS

**ROOMS** The hotel has 518 rooms including 361 standard guest rooms, 62 Executive rooms, 60 Corner Junior suites, 15 Business suites, 12 two-level suites, 4 meeting suites, 3 Vice-presidential suites, and 1 Presidential suite.

**TIPS** A large number of business venues, an Executive Lounge on level 38, an excellent place to rest and work.

**PRICE** Rates for a standard room in May started from 365 PLN.

**CONTACT** Hotel Marriott,  
Al. Jerozolimskie 65/79,  
00-697 Warszawa,  
tel. +48 22 630 55 28,  
marriott.com/wawpl

thus creating a large living space. Corner Junior Suites are also worth consideration. As their name suggests, those 60 suites are situated in the corners of the hotel building. Apart from an interesting interior arrangement, Corner Juniors have a corner bathroom with large windows presenting an unforgettable panorama of Warsaw.

Marriott has also other suites, the largest of them being the two-level Presidential Suite connected to the hotel's bar via a separate corridor (one of its guests was Michael Jackson who used the corridor to play darts). There are 3 bedroom, 3 bathrooms and a kitchen in the Suite.

The hotel is excellently soundproofed. The windows isolate the guests from all the traffic noise coming from the outside. In its offer Marriot has also 15 rooms adapted to the needs of the disabled guests. Marriott has implemented an environment-friendly policy. Throughout the building the traditional light bulbs were replaced with LED lights, and the hotel separates its waste. Also, for long stays, guests can request housekeeping services every 3 days instead of usual every day – in this way the hotel saves water and uses less detergents.

**BUSINESS FACILITIES** Marriott has a wide choice of function venues. There are 18 well-equipped meeting rooms with floor area of 2,600 sq m. The largest of them is The Ballroom which can accommodate up to 700 guests. It can be divided into six venues. Slightly smaller is the Congress Hall (up to 250 guests) with its own stage and translation booths. The Baltic Ballroom can be divided into three venues and can accommodate up to 500 guests. Marriott also offers other meeting venues ranging in size from 20 to 62 sq m. It goes without saying that due to such a large number of meeting rooms, it is possible to organize here any event, especially because the hotel provides its own waitstaff capable of serving as many as 5,000 guests. An interesting detail: all the devices in each meeting room can be operated via an iPod plugged to a special socket.

**RESTAURANTS AND BARS** The agency of choice. Marriott Hotel has 8 on-site restaurants and lounges. Italian cuisine lovers should visit Parmizzano's restaurant to try Mediterranean dishes (a delicious rocket salad and mouth-watering tiramisu), and excellent wines. Lilla Weneda serves buffet breakfast and



lunches. Vienna Café is a typical Vienna-style cafeteria, which offers delicious cakes and heavenly coffee. Sushi Bar specializes in typically Japanese cuisine.

La Pattiserie offers delectable homemade cakes and pastries. The Champions Sports Bar is sports-oriented and is a popular place for watching sports events while munching on typical American food. Lobby Bar serves a variety of cocktails and other drinks, and on the top floor you will find a two-floor Panorama bar (floors 40&41) with a choice of fine teas and coffees, and a splendid panorama of Warsaw.

**LEISURE FACILITIES.** The hotel won't let you down in this area, either. On level -1 there is World Health Class

Academy fitness centre. You will find here a spacious gym with high quality equipment, a dry sauna and a steam bath, two jacuzzi baths, and Guinot Institute SPA. You can also attend here various instructor supervised training sessions. Guest can use the facilities free of charge.

*Andrzej Czuba*

**VERDICT**

**Marriott Hotel is an ideal place for a business traveler. It offers comfortable rooms, wide choice of eating places and is located in the city centre.**



HOTEL: BELEK – TURKEY

# Adam&Eve

TRIED & TESTED



## FACTS

**ROOMS** Adam&Eve has 469 rooms, as well as five separate villas.

**TIPS** The design and the place itself is absolutely unique. Not to mention the leisure facilities and the excellent cuisine.

**PRICE** The Internet rate for a standard room in the second week of June was €230.

**CONTACT** Adam&Eve, Iskele Mevkii, Belek, 07500 Antalya  
tel. +90 242 710 1400, adamevehotels.com

**WHAT IS IT LIKE?** The place is not a hotel. Instead, in the advertising brochures Adam & Eve is referred to as “The Paradise on Earth”. There is something to it, as the ladies from the hotel staff are called Angels. In fact, this unusual hotel was designed and built in Hi Tech style. The LED lighting system is 13 kilometres long and rooms are equipped with 42-inch TV screens. This green hotel and its interior are in a perfectly ascetic tone. You have to like such kind of style, or at least tolerate it, but you obviously will never forget staying there.

**WHERE IS IT?** The hotel is located in Belek, in the province of Antalya in southwestern Turkey. The distance from the airport in the capital of the province, also called Antalya, is 35 km, so getting there takes no more than 45 minutes. The centre of Belek, a huge resort, is only one kilometre away.

**ROOM FACILITIES** Nowhere in the hotel can you taste the Hi-Tech as much as in the bedrooms. These are immaculately clean and have mirrors on the walls – the brochures say it’s beneficial to the guests, as they never feel alone. Sounds funny, but there’s something to it. On the six floors of the main building, there are 469 rooms. There are also five separate villas. The hotel offers exactly 1000 beds.

In the standard room (up to 64 sq m) there is a mini bar, a jacuzzi with chromotherapy, satellite TV, a shower and a sauna, the LED lightning system with selection of 11 colours, a sofa on the balcony, a safe for a laptop, and wifi. Standard suits have a bedroom and a living room. The most luxurious ones consist of two bedrooms, two sitting rooms and two bathrooms. Apart from that, there are five hotel villas with different kind of equipment. In a standard villa you will find a lounge, a sauna, a kitchen, a dressing room, two bathrooms and a private gar-

den. In more luxurious villas there are swimming pools, more rooms, and bigger gardens. The presidential villa can accommodate up to 8 people.

**BUSINESS FACILITIES** The hotel has enormous business facilities, which, like the rest of the interior, are of unique design. The ballroom, which could be divided into 3 smaller rooms, is of 1854 sq m and can accommodate up to 1,500 guests. The main conference room, for about 500 guests, can be divided into 2 smaller rooms. Of course, there are also smaller rooms – for 30-70 people, but also equipped with the most modern multimedia technology.

**RESTAURANTS AND BARS** There is a main restaurant, 12 bars offering different types of cuisine (delicious sushi), a French patisserie, and a small Italian restaurant – but it’s only a small fraction of what the hotel has to offer. The guests can take advantage of Ultra All Inclusive option. It includes meals, water, beer, and white and red wine. It’s easy to figure it out – the dishes printed in black in the menu are included in the price, whereas those printed in red, should be paid for separately. A popular place among the guests is the “blind restaurant”, which can seat up to 16 people at a time. There are no windows, it is completely dark in there and no movements are allowed – whenever you want to leave the table, you have to call the staff.

**LEISURE FACILITIES** Extensive leisure facilities seems impressive for anyone who visits Adam&Eve hotel. A giant 104-metre long swimming pool with stylish beach chairs is an ideal place to relax. There is also a 300-metre long beach, an inner swimming pool, and private ones with the villas. There is also a fitness centre, tennis courts, squash rooms, a volleyball court, a sports hall, and plenty of exercise classes like meditation, aerobics or pilates. The Spa centre offers 27 treatment rooms, saunas, Turkish bath, aromatherapy room, and 10 Spa Suites, where the guests can enjoy special services.

*Tomasz Koźmiński*

VERDICT

This is a hotel aimed at people who look for something original. An ideal place for business conference in an unusual setting, with excellent service and high quality cuisine.



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**INFO** Europcar is a company with a long history. It was established in 1949 in Paris. Presently it is one of the largest car rental networks in the world. Europcar has been present on the Polish market for almost 20 years and has 17 locations where you can collect or return the car (including international airports). The car rental station at Szczecin airport is located near the main exit of the arrivals terminal. It is impossible to miss it

**FORMALITIES** I arrived in Szczecin on Sunday. The problem was that the airport's car rental office, which is also the contact point, is closed on Sundays. I didn't even realize that because a member of the personnel turned up specially to serve me.

For the initial booking I needed to provide only my surname. I had to produce my ID card and the driving licence. The data was promptly entered into the system (as I had never used Europcar's services before). After a short while I received a special rental agreement form. Overleaf, there were Polish and English versions of the detailed terms and conditions of renting a car. The agreement includes personal data (with additional space for the data of a second driver if the car is rented for several people), planned location and hour of returning the vehicle, and obviously the prices. I also received a mobile phone number to the agent in case anything unexpected happened.



After a few minutes we went outside and made for the attended car park where my car was waiting. I also received a special token which I had to insert into a machine which lifts the car park's barrier.

I was asked to examine the car thoroughly and check the fuel level. The blue Volvo was in an excellent condition and looked great. I confirmed that everything was alright and signed one more document, approving the vehicle's condition.

**THE CAR** Volvo S40 with 2-litre Diesel engine had merely 19,200 kilometres on the odometre and it had been registered a few months earlier. In other words, the car was almost new and looked quite appealing. The engine is nippy and perfectly aligned with the 6-speed manual transmission. The speedometer reads up to 260 km/h, the engine has 140 BHP, there is a safety package, and a ride comfort typical of Volvo. I also received a GPS navigation which could be recharged from the lighter socket, so I wasn't afraid I would get lost.

Acceleration or overtaking on the dual carriageway to Szczecin was a piece of cake and the road from the airport to the centre of Szczecin is excellent. Getting there takes almost as much time as reaching Okęcie from the centre of Warsaw on a busy day (but in fact, the streets of Warsaw are always busy).

**CAR RETURN** Returning the car is the easiest possible procedure. I set the return date to 5.00 pm on Monday. There was nobody present at the station, but it didn't matter. I approached the Europcar's car park, pushed the button and somebody lifted the barrier for me. I parked the car in the space I took it from, took my belongings and went to the terminal. There, I put the keys and the vehicle documents to a special metal box located at the Europcar's station. It took me just a minute.

**COST** Europcar's vehicles are divided into many categories. The price is calculated on the basis of the group of a vehicle, and other factors (e.g. whether you are a loyalty programme member, or have special discounts). The best choice would be to check the price directly with the personnel of the company.

**VERDICT** Good cars, quick and basic formalities, the option of leaving the car at any company's station – these are definitely the biggest advantages of Europcar.

**CONTACT** europcar.com.pl

Wojciech Chelchowski



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# WATCH YOUR WEIGHT

Following on from our guide to carry-on luggage allowances – the Business Traveller guide to your check-in baggage.

**B**ack in the old days, writes Alex McWhirter, the rules on airline baggage allowances were simple. Economy class passengers could check in 20kg, while people in first class were allowed 40kg.

Those days are gone. Over the years the differences have blurred thanks to the arrival of different classes and the advent of loyalty schemes. To cap it all, the picture has become even more confusing as some carriers now use their baggage allowance as a marketing tool.

The chart overleaf is our guide to 25 airlines and their baggage allowances in different regions, including how much you might have to pay if you exceed them. It is thoroughly researched, but is not definitive.

It is generally accepted that check-in staff will turn a blind eye if your baggage weight is only a few kilos over the limit (that may not be the case with some of the budget carriers). But be aware that there is no hard and fast rule concerning airline generosity, especially today, when carriers are trying to cut costs and grab revenue.

Bear in mind that a plane's fuel consumption – and hence the flight's operating cost – is related to the weight on board, although much depends on the route, how well loaded the flight is and, crucially, which staff are on duty.

Where airlines do seem to crack down on excess baggage and charge almost without exception is on the abundant "worker" routes between the Gulf and the Indian subcontinent. That is because charging for large amounts of excess baggage (on a route where passengers take along bulky consumer items as

ISTOCKPHOTO

Some carriers now use their allowances as a marketing tool



gifts or for local resale) is a nice money earner. At gateway airports such as Dubai and Bahrain, it's routine to see staff at adjacent counters happily collecting their tolls from passengers. It can be a similar scenario when flying out of Europe to certain countries in Africa.

A further point to make is that many frequent travellers receive more generous allowances because they have status in loyalty schemes (see panel, right). For example, gold tier members of Star Alliance are afforded an extra 20kg when flying with member carriers, or an additional piece free of charge.

Even so, reader feedback suggests frequent travellers should be careful not to lose out when booking Star airlines and their partners. That is because not all Star carriers enrol partners in the same alliance. As reader Pete Rejchrt discovered: "Neither SA Express or Airlink would honour my extra Star gold allowance even though I had booked my flights through the South African Air-

ways (SAA) website and those carriers operate within the SAA alliance," he told Business Traveller. It could be a similar story when flying with Silk Air into Singapore Airlines' city-state hub.

In other cases, you may be connecting between carriers who grant different allowances even though they are part of the same alliance, you hold one ticket and are through-checking.

**There is no hard and fast rule concerning airline generosity**

When reader Paul Forman, a silver tier member of Cathay Pacific's Marco Polo Club, flew economy class Manchester-London-Hong Kong with Oneworld carriers, he assumed he was entitled to Cathay Pacific's 30kg allowance for both. But BA staff at Manchester played by the rule book and would only grant the carrier's regular 23kg for the link to Heathrow, so an excess fee was charged.

The crucial bits of advice are – when packing, if in doubt leave it out, and join a frequent flyer scheme. Following on from that, always double-check your entitlement and, when transferring flights, it's best to allow for the lower limit. ■

## **LFREQUENT FLYER SCHEME ALLOWANCES**

**BRITISH AIRWAYS** Gold and silver Executive Club members can carry two bags up to 32kg in total in all cabins on all routes.

**CATHAY** Pacific Marco Polo Club silver members receive an extra 10kg except on US routes. Gold members receive an extra 15kg and Diamond members get 20kg (only one extra piece of luggage on US routes). The maximum weight of first and business class baggage is 32kg per item, while economy class is 23kg – bags weighing 24kg-32kg carry an excess charge of US\$25 per item.

**EMIRATES** Skywards gold members get an extra 16kg, while silver members get 12kg. Passengers may check in multiple bags up to this allowance, but a 32kg limit applies to each bag.

**FINNAIR** Platinum, gold and silver Finnair Plus members are allowed 40kg of baggage free regardless of travel class.

**SINGAPORE AIRLINES** Krisflyer PPS Club members (and immediate family members on the same flight) are entitled to 100 per cent more baggage allowance on SIA and Silk Air. Krisflyer Elite gold receive 20kg extra to all destinations except the US and Canada, where they get one piece of extra luggage weighing up to 23kg.

**UNITED AIRLINES** Mileage Plus Premier, Premier Associate and Star Alliance silver members get two 23kg bags each. Global Services, 1K, Premier Executive and Star Alliance gold members get three 32kg bags. There is a 45kg per-bag limit to all checked luggage.

**VIRGIN ATLANTIC** Flying Club gold card holders can take one additional bag of up to 23kg irrespective of class of travel.

## **ALLIANCE ALLOWANCES**

**STAR ALLIANCE** Gold members get an extra 20kg or a third piece of luggage.

**ONEWORLD** Airline specific

**SKYTEAM** Airline specific



Amber Room restaurant is situated in the stylish interior of Sobański Palace in Warsaw, where the seat of Polish Business Roundtable Club is. It is one of just a few Polish restaurants to offer something we know only from movies: the real „afternoon tea” in the British fashion.

Everything started in 1840 with Anna the duchess of Bedford. At about 4 pm the duchess felt peckish, but the evening meal would not be served until 7 pm, which would be a long time since lunch. The duchess asked for a tray with bread, butter and cake to be brought to her room. From then on it became her ritual and she also started to invite her female friends. In this way, the afternoon tea break became a fashionable social event. To celebrate it with chic, the ladies wore long robes, gloves and hats. The afternoon snack was served between 4 pm and 5 pm and consisted of little sandwiches, biscuits and “scones” – English buns served with cream and jam.

# The Teatime

## AMBER IN THE BRITISH FASHION

If you want to know the taste of this real English afternoon snack, you have two options: you can either go to London, or visit Amber Room restaurant in Warsaw. This stylish place is located in the Sobański Palace. The restaurant has just introduced typical British afternoon tea to its offer.

What is in the menu? Naturally, tea – not surprisingly – the English sort. The guests can choose between Earl Grey and Darjeeling. They can taste different flavours like mint with a trace of lemon, green jasmine tea, or raspberry. Do not forget to try ice Ceylon Gold tea, flavoured with raspberry nectar, lavender with a trace of lemon, and pomegranate fruit with blackberry. There is also a wide choice of coffees. This typical English afternoon snack would not be complete without “scones”. These are baked right on the spot and served with jam and vanilla cream. On top of that

all, there is a choice of ever-present little sandwiches.

The summer is on its way, and the Amber Room restaurant has a huge terrace, which is an ideal place to relax and have a fresh, energetic cocktail. Lemon Lady is a mixture of lemon sorbet with a small portion of cognac and Cointreau. Primm’s No. 1 Cup, in turn, is an original version of a fruit cocktail mixed with ginger drink, created by James Pimm in 1820. The next one is Summer Gin Punch – a mixture of fresh raspberries, lemon, orange and pineapple. Naturally served with a lot of ice, gin and soda. There is also an alcohol-free lemonade with lemon juice and zest, pineapple and lemon sorbet.

## DELICIOUS AND ORIGINAL

Of course, Amber Room restaurant is not only about afternoons by the tea. The menu is extensive, full of original and excellent dishes. Many of the tra-





ditional dishes are offered in a new and original form, using the global trends in cuisine. In the menu, you can find a frappé of avocado with a crab, duck's breast with creamy carrot and figs, wild grilled salmon sliced and served with green vegetables, chocolate fondant with orange powder, and a cheesecake with rhubarb. All these culinary ideas are by chef Jacek Grochowina who worked for 5 years in Ritz Hotel in London. His culinary skills were also acquired at several other London restaurants including Le Gavroche (2 Michelin stars), Capitol (2 Michelin stars), Tom Aikens (1 Michelin star), The Grill at the Dorchester Hotel, and Kensington Roof Gardens (Richard Branson's restaurant), as well as in Dubai working for the world class Head Chef Emil Minev at Vu's restaurant (Jumeirah Emirates Towers). What is more, he is the winner of various prizes, including the "Annual Award of Excellence 2008" granted by British "Academy of Culinary Arts".

Business Lunch is another option to consider. The lunch menu is changed everyday and you can choose a starter, main course, dessert as well as petit fours, coffee, tea and water. Another suggestion is so-called Tasting Menu – a special

card aimed at the undecided guests. It consists of seven courses: amuse bouche, fried foie gras with passion flower, scallops with celery and a trace of vanilla, chanterelle latte with crispy chicken wings, halibut in tempura served with tomatoes, a saddle of lamb with Madeira sauce, and dessert a la carte.

The restaurant specializes primarily in catering for more intimate parties and events. All menu options are based on carefully selected dishes and flavors – and created individually for the clients based on their specific needs, whether it's cocktail party canapés, an elegant buffet, an all-day conference, or a dinner for closest friends. The Executive Chef Jacek Grochowina is personally involved in the preparation of the dishes for all catering requests.

The guests can also choose the best quality wines served by the sommeliers. Italian white Caulino, South-African Buitenverwachting, Italian red Chianto or Kim Crawford from New Zealand – these are only some of the choices.

Amber Room restaurant is situated on Al. Ujazdowskich 13 in Warsaw, open Mon-Fri 12.00–22.00, Sat 18.00 – 22.00. ■

*Michał Stoiński*



# Heading towards the **clear sky**

The airline industry is facing new challenges and must quickly find new solutions. The Polish air carrier truly realizes the gravity of the situation.

**T**he necessity to seek cost-saving measures, the need to recover from the huge crisis of the whole airline industry, thinking about the future to adapt to new, exceptionally demanding European regulations – these are several out of many challenges which the civil aviation is about to face. PLL LOT airlines seem to be aware of these problems, as in early May they organised a large panel conference called: Heading towards the clear sky. Sebastian Mikosz, the CEO of LOT, was the host of the conference. The other organisers were: Boeing Central & Eastern Europe, represented by president Henryka Bochniarz and Civil Aviation Office with its president Grzegorz Kruszyński. Several of the panel members represented the most important institutions of Polish and European aviation industry.

## **THE VOLCANO HAS DIMMED THE PICTURE**

The discussion was supposed to focus primarily on finding solutions which might contribute to saving the natural environment. However, obviously some part of the discussion was devoted to the recent volcano eruption in Iceland, which, in consequence, rapidly drained the pockets of air carriers who had already been trying to tough it out on the competitive market. Those few days at the end of April proved that at the European level there is, unfortunately no competent administrative organ which could bring this unusual situation under control. Also, even the most-respected experts in the business start doubting whether, in fact, such a spectacular action was necessary. Within several days around 110 thousand flights were cancelled and almost 10 million passengers grounded at the airports. Every day the air carriers were losing 400 million dollars. A few smaller airlines faced the



verge of bankruptcy. The airlines were lambasted and called every name under the sun, while the passengers were advised to demand compensation for... Exactly.

## **LESS CARBON DIOXIDE**

The matter of halting the flights due to the volcanic ash which polluted the sky is even more controversial as 2010 is the key year for the EU directive on carbon offsetting. All future limits will be calculated on the basis of this year's emissions. In other words, the more emission you show today, the better for you, as for any excess emission you will have to pay a penalty (100 euro for each ton of carbon dioxide which was emitted over the limit).

Civil aviation in Europe emits merely 3 per cent of greenhouse gases. International Air Transport Association has obliged the air carriers to gradu-

ally cut down on their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. According to the plan, the air transport is supposed to achieve "carbon neutral growth" by 2020 and cut overall emissions in half by 2050 compared with 2005.

## **THE GREEN APPROACH**

It is a huge challenge, as it means cutting down on emission by 1.5 per cent a year, so airlines are also seeking other solutions.

"Last year we implemented the Continuous Descent Approach (CDA) which minimizes fuel consumption, reduces the noise level by 50 percent and helps reduce the emission of harmful substances to the atmosphere. We are also gradually replacing our fleet with more modern and fuel efficient aircraft". said Sebastian Mikosz, CEO of LOT.



Ecological landing means touching down on the “neutral” gear. Depending on the type of a plane and the altitude at which the approach has started, it saves from 50 to 150 kilograms of fuel, at the same time reducing emission of harmful substances. Also the noise of the plane is reduced by 2 to 5 decibels.

It is one of the simple solutions which, in long term, can bring remarkably positive effects. LOT also counts on the new aircraft – the Dreamliner, which has been eagerly awaited. It is a revolutionary machine in the field of fuel efficiency, CO<sub>2</sub> emission (which is to be reduced by 20 per cent), and noise levels (to be reduced by 60 per cent). Passengers of PLL LOT are already able to calculate how their journey will impact the environment, using a special calculator of CO<sub>2</sub> emission available on LOT’s website (lot.pl).

LOT’s efforts are not surprising as the airspace above Poland is soon expected to experience a sharp growth in air traffic. According to the estimates – it will grow by 5-7 per cent annually up to 2030

Nowadays, the airline industry is facing more and more challenges

– one of the highest estimated rates in Europe.

### SESAR WITH BIOFUEL

However, bigger savings require systemic measures taken by the whole European family.

“Today, passenger aircraft are, in fact, one of the most economical means of transport. We have set ambitious goals to more effectively improve the environmental aspects of our products and services. Boeing is a pioneer in developing work on alternative energy such as biofuel, and is actively working on the development of systematic solutions such as the SESAR programme.” said Henryka Bochniarz, the president of Boeing Central & Eastern Europe.

SESAR (Single European Sky ATM Research) is a huge undertaking which aims at integration of the European airspace and refining the system of procedures to help save money and adapt the business to the demanding future requirements. SESAR will help create a system of Air Traffic Management (ATM) which

will be “compatible” for all in such aspects as satellite navigation, route management, and improving data exchange between the aircraft and the air traffic control.

It is a daunting task as the European airspace comprises 41 countries (including 27 EU members, which do not always have unanimous views in all matters), 70 air traffic control centres and over 18,000 air traffic controllers.

All these measures should lead to tripling the air traffic capacity in Europe and to reduction of air pollution by 10 per cent during each flight.

New solutions are also proposed in the area of fuel saving. For over a year an EU directive has been promoting the renewable energy. There is an ongoing research in this area, but there is still a long way to go before it is possible to refuel an aircraft with biomass fuel. Also, manufacturers are still working on more fuel-efficient and effective engines which run on traditional aviation fuel. The results are reported to be quite satisfactory. ■

*Jakub Olgiewicz*







# The Cure For Crisis

Last year Malev - the Hungarian airline, had a 10 % increase in the number of passengers. It is an effect of an anti-crisis strategy implemented by the company in April last year. As a result, Malev is today a serious player on the European aviation market.

MALEV / DEJAN GOSPODAREK

**T**he history of Hungarian aviation dates back to 1910 when the first airline – Aero Joint Stock Company – was founded. It was a completely different world with Austro-Hungarian Monarchy still on the map. The monarchy backed the establishment of one of the world's first airmail connections (between Budapest and Vienna) in 1918. After WWI, when Hungary became independent, a company called Marert

introduced regular air connections both on domestic and international routes. The development of civil aviation came to a halt due to WWII which destroyed the whole Hungarian air fleet and all the airports. They were later rebuilt as a result of Hungarian-Soviet cooperation, when a new international company Maszovelt was established. In 1954 the company changed its name to Malev and since then it has been a fully Hungarian enterprise. In the 90s the company

started replacing their old aircraft with new Boeings. Also at that time the airline underwent a series of organizational changes, which were obviously related to political transformations in Central Europe. In 1992 Alitalia bought a stake in the company, but the cooperation with the Italian carrier finished 10 years ago.

Presently, Malev serves 3 million passengers a year, flies to 50 cities in 35 countries, and has offices in 36 countries. The airline is a member of oneworld alliance and its passengers have access to 700 destinations in 150 countries worldwide. Malev's fleet consists of 22 aircraft, including 18 Boeings.

Today, Malev is one of the leading airlines operating in Europe and the Middle East. The recent economic downturn did not spare the company which, however, was able to consolidate its position on the market and even increase the number of carried passengers. This year Malev experienced ownership change as the Hungarian government acquired a 95 per cent share in the company. The economic downturn forced the airline to seek cost-saving measures and shutting down their international offices, including the one in Poland in October 2009. Malev is, however, still present on the Polish market thanks to its general agent DD Air Travel. As far as connections between Warsaw and





Budapest are concerned, Malev offers two flights a day, in the morning and in the evening with Bombardier Q400.

Shutting down the international offices brought the Hungarian airline notable savings of around € 1 mil. Recently the company has presented its financial results achieved since the introduction of the anti-crisis strategy. The number of passengers has increased by 10 per cent, and the market share by 2 per cent.

These are not the only effects of the new strategy. Also Duna Club – the frequent flyer programme has undergone a number of modifications. The airline has introduced a new point accrual system and so-called „dynamizing tools” such as tier-related special offers, the frequent flyer newsletter and the Malév-Citibank credit card promotion. At present Malév Duna Club has nearly 200,000 members, and their ranks are being increased by an average 3600 new members each month, and what is even more important, member activity – in other words, points accrual and points utilization – increased by 22% in the first quarter of this year. Another important area of restructuring concerned Malev’s corporate programme. A good indication of the success of the programme offering highly flexible conditions is the huge increase (+660%) in the number of corporate clients.

It is also worth mentioning Malev’s Sky Club Business class which provides the passengers with high level of comfort and services. The corporate travellers have more space between rows of seats and are also offered a wider choice of meals (which are also served in Economy class) – on long-haul flights, they can choose from selection of warm meals, appetisers, desserts and a cheese plate. In the evening, the passenger can choose from a cold menu and a wide range of beverages. The wine list contains an exclusive selection from Hungarian vineyards. On a prior request the passengers can also receive a special meal e.g. Kosher, vegetarian or gluten-free.

What will the future bring? The Hungarian airline focuses on the dynamic development of their in-flight and ground services. One of the examples could be the recent tier agreement with Sixt car rental company due to which Malev’s passengers may receive substantial discounts when booking their car via Malev’s website. In the quarterly report the Hungarian airline stated that despite staff reductions and a decrease in the number of aircraft, Malev had a 9 percent increase in passenger numbers, compared to the 1st quarter of 2009. It looks like the Hungarians have found a cure for the crisis. An effective one. ■

*Tomasz Karpiński*



Are you fed up with crowded beaches and with the thousands of people walking along the seaside promenades? Then choose a holiday in the mountains or by a lake.

# To sea or not

There are a number of appealing hotels, waiting for guests in Krkonoše, the Tatras or Masuria. Particularly interesting are the ones prepared by the hotels of Mercure brand. It's also worth visiting Wrocław, Poznań or Cracow, where you can stay at one of Ibis or Novotel hotels. They also offer a number of attractions for children.

Summer in the mountains or in the area of Great Masurian Lakes is an attractive alternative to holidays by the seaside. Tourists will find marvellous views, mountain routes and woodlands, ideal not only for walking, but also for jogging or cycling. And the nature is not the only one to overwhelm you with its treasures. Orbis Hotels have prepared various interesting packages for the incoming season. If you can't afford a proper holiday or you're feeling tired and need a short break, you should definitely try out some of the weekend proposals. You can focus on relaxation in the fresh air, spa treatments, active leisure or sightseeing some of the Polish cities, and then go back to your daily routine after you recharge your batteries.

## KARKONOSZE IN THE SUMMER SEASON

Mercure Skalny Karpacz hotel in Krkonoše is awaiting all the mountain-trip enthusiasts. Between 24 June and 19 September there is a special offer on three- and seven-day holiday packages (the longer the stay, the more attractions you get). Lovers of sport and outdoor activities can join aerobics, aqua aerobics or yoga classes, take part in cycling trips or try their hands at Nordic Walking. Guests can make use of the swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna or Turkish bath, fitness room, tennis courts or play table tennis or snooker. Naturally, the hotel doesn't forget about the youngest. Children can have fun in a toy room or in a playground – on a swing, a slide, or in an inflatable castle. Prices of a seven-day package start from 1871 PLN for a double-room (7 nights, breakfasts and dinners included). A three-day stay costs 1149 PLN for a double-room. Those who will decide to spend their holiday in picturesque Krkonoše,

can also find accommodation at Mercure Jelenia Góra hotel. Weekend packages are offered here throughout the summer, until 11 October. Those who feel like pampering their body, may do aqua aerobics, relax in a jacuzzi or spend some time in a sauna. Kids can have their fun in a paddling pool or in a toy room, and later they may join their parents round a bonfire, or a BBQ in the garden. The price of the package ranges from 479-599 PLN for a double room. Children under 16 can share a bedroom with the parents free of charge, or have a separate room at a 50% discount. Both hotels have various trips in their offer. Adventure-seekers can choose from the following trips: Lower Silesia Monuments» Miniatures Park, Sandstone Rock Town, Zoo Safari, Prague by night, Dresden, or Saxon Switzerland. The offer includes off-road trips or rock climbing.

## ZAKOPANE – CITY FULL OF ATTRACTIONS

Mercure Kasprowy Zakopane hotel has prepared an extraordinary offer for the incoming summer season. Every Monday from 21 June until 5 September, tourists can enjoy 6 days abounding with attractions. You can spend your time in an active way, or indulge in idleness. The programme is so extensive, that every day you can do something entirely different. For instance, you can go to the Slovak Paradise, where the brave ones can visit canyons with its waterfalls or ascend climbing frames. You may also spend your time in Aqua Park Tatrallandia. Other attractions include taking part in canoeing, or ATV rides or horse-riding. Those who wish to relax in a forested wilderness, may go mushroom picking in Tatra forests, and learn from professionals how to prepare the mushrooms. The youngest guests will enjoy numerous surprises prepared specially for them. They include cableway trip to Gubałówka, a visit to Trollandia park, or a pony ride. The youngest children can play in the new playground or go to Summer Kasprowy Cinema, but firstly they will be given welcoming presents. All guests are welcome to join a welcoming and a farewell bonfire.

Mercure Mrongovia Resort&Spa



For this year's summer, Orbis has an offer which will appeal to everyone



Mercure Kasprowy Zakopane



Mercure Skalny Karpacz



# to sea?



Ibis



Novotel

Mercure Jelenia Góra



The cost of 6-day package from Monday to Sunday is 2324 PLN for a double-room. The price includes breakfasts and dinners. Accommodation for children under 4 is free of charge, while one child aged 4-16 can share a bedroom with the parents for the extra charge of 93 PLN.

## MASURIA – A NATURE'S WONDER

Enthusiasts of Masurian landscapes can also choose from a couple of interesting offers. Mercure Mrongovia Resport & Spa has prepared a very attractive one. Guests may choose 2-7-day packages between 18 June and 31 August (except for 23-25.07.2010) spending their time actively, among lakes and forests. Each day brings new surprises and attractions. On Mondays, children and parents will be able to play beach ball. Adults can join aerobics classes or take part in table tennis tournament. Less active guests will enjoy playing Pictionary or workshops on table decoration and the art of folding napkins. On Tuesdays, adult guests can take part in yoga classes by a lake, bake cakes together with the whole family or participate in a family cooking contest. The youngest will also have a opportunity to show off their dancing skills at Mini-Hawaii disco and take part in a dancing contest. On Wednesdays the adults start with Power Aerobics. Bicycle enthusiasts will be willing to join a cycling trip of varying difficulty. As for activities for the kids, they can go to the tennis kindergarten, or learn how to prepare a salad for their mums. Thursday also starts with morning activities for adults – this time it is jogging. But the most exciting of all the attractions is a family trip to Animal Park in Kadzidłowo. The day closes with the parents and children reading stories together. Friday is the day of parties for teenagers and adults – the former can go to the «Under 18» disco, the latter can spend their time in a «Country Night» night club. On this day there is also a radio-controlled cars race and a family football match. Families will have a chance to check their orientation skills during a stalking game on Saturday. Later, the participants can relax by a bonfire and have a bite of a grilled sausage. In the evening a chance to feel the southern atmosphere and join a Latino Night. Sunday offer includes an exciting trip to a «Wild West» city of Mrongoville, and a meeting with the local sheriff combined with outdoor games in a Native American

village. After the excitements of the «Wild West» day, children will enjoy an ice-cream dessert in a witch's hut. There is also a Summer Cinema, open every day for all the guests. Parents can also make use of the Baby Spa package – while they enjoy the beauty treatments, a babysitter will take care of their children. The price of the package ranges from 890 to 2485 PLN for a double-room, breakfasts and dinners included.

## HOLIDAYS WITH THE KIDS

Summer is an ideal occasion to visit Polish cities, especially if you can take advantage of the special offers aimed at families with children. Such services are a part of Novotel hotels offer, in cities like Gdańsk, Poznań, Kraków, Wrocław or Warsaw. As a part of «Family&Novotel» programme, two children under 16, who share the bedroom with the parents, will get their accommodation and breakfast free of charge. Novotel hotels have also a special children's menu with their favourite dishes, prepared in line with the rules of healthy nutrition. A toy animal called Gustino will encourage the kids to choose something from the menu. The youngest guest will also be given toys as welcoming gifts. They can also check out modern and colourful play areas prepared especially for them. The play areas are to be found in hotel lobbies and are equipped with functional furniture and educational toys. Novotel group cooperates with Kapla building blocks producer, and so, the children can use them to play and stimulate their imagination. Teenagers usually are more fond of the Internet cafes and like playing computer and console games. As for baby infants, the offer includes gratuitous fittings such as a bottle warmer, cribs, high chairs and diaper changing tables.

## CHEAP SUMMER IN IBIS HOTELS

In summer, Ibis group offers in Poland the accommodation at reduced prices. If you grab the offer, you can visit Kraków, Warsaw, Częstochowa, Poznań, Szczecin, Kielce and Katowice. 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 via [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com), [www.ibishotel.com](http://www.ibishotel.com). What is more, you can change or cancel your reservation without bearing any additional costs. ■

# "SOLIDARITY" Szczecin Goleniów Airport



Fast development, several new investments, a boom in passenger and freight traffic. **Wojciech Chelchowski** visits the airport in Szczecin.

**T**he passenger transport in the area has been developing for 40 years. Before that, the place was used for military purposes. The Szczecin Goleniów Airport company, which presently manages the airport, was created in 1998 and 2 years later – on 1 July 2000, it took over the port's operations from PPL, with the initial capital of 40 million PLN. Now the capital has increased to almost 140 million.

## INVESTMENTS AND PLANS

Over the years there have been a number of investments in the airport. The runway was rebuilt and repaired, the apron was thoroughly modernised, and there are brand new passenger terminals and a watchtower for the airport's rescue and fire-fighting units. Also the whole, vast area of the airport was completely fenced.

The most recent novelty is the modern baggage storage room with baggage transporting system. The company received a wholesome financial backing from the Operational Programme Infrastructure

and Environment and bought L3's EDS machine for detecting illegal objects in the baggage. The machine's throughput is 1,800 bags per hour.

Soon, the airport will also have two modern fire engines and a complex equipment for winter maintenance of the airfield. Thanks to EU's subsidies the airport's apron will be renovated and expanded. The taxiway will also be renovated with three others to be built, because the airport's management wants to be ready for the increase in the traffic. Finally, the runway will undergo renovation, as well, to ensure bother-free operation for the next 20 years.

There are two car parks in front of the terminal. P1 accommodates up to 200 vehicles and the fee for the first hour is 7 PLN. The second car park – P2 – accommodates up to 150 vehicles and also offers long-term parking services.

The notice board next to the taxi rank provides information on the distances from the airport to various cities. We can learn, for example, that Szczecin is only 48 kilometers away, Świnoujście 75

kilometers away, and the distances to Kołobrzeg, Koszalin and Berlin are 100, 120 and 220 kilometers respectively.

The access to the terminal is via two double sliding doors. The entrance marked "Departures" is on the left. Opposite the entrance, you will see 10 check-in desks (one for the passengers with goods to declare), and a separate desk of Ryanair airline. The spiral staircase and the lift lead upstairs. On the left to the entrance there is an exchange office and a fair-sized Voyage restaurant which offers Italian cuisine. There is also a small duty-free shop called Aelia.

The second entrance to the terminal is marked "Arrivals". The domestic and international flights have separate gates. On the right there are desks of a car rental company, and a few stairs lead to a spacious restaurant called "Business Shark" with several tables, comfortable sofas and armchairs.

The airport's unique chapel is also nearby. The whole room is quite small, brightly-lit, and has several chairs. To





the left of the entrance we will see a glass boat-shaped altar. In fact, all the religious attributes in the chapel are made of glass. What is interesting, on each of the three walls there are three different religious symbols: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim

– with the last one obviously directed towards Mecca.

#### THE OBSERVATION DECK

Upstairs there are a few stands of travel agencies (used before charter flights) and

offices of a travel agency, airport's management, Cargo, and the entrance to the observation deck. Interestingly enough, to get there, we must undergo almost the same procedures as on entering the passenger area with walking through a metal detector and having the contents of our pockets checked. The notice on the door informs that the deck is open 20 minutes before the arrival of planes from London, Dublin and Oslo. The entrance fee is 2 PLN.

After leaving the general access area through one of two security screening lanes, you enter a moderately spacious departures lounge with a bar in the centre and comfortable sofas on which you can spend the last minutes before boarding the plane. After boarding card and ID check, the passengers do not enter a bus, but must walk to the plane (a distance of several dozen meters) on foot.

Also, in the departures zone there is also a small, but cosy Executive Lounge, available for the passengers of traditional carriers who travel internationally. The





lounge opens 60 minutes before every international departure, and offers a selection of snacks and beverages. The entrance fee is 70 PLN and is paid on entering the lounge.

### CHARTERS AND IRREGULAR CARGO

The name "Solidarność" was added to the port's name 5 years ago in honour of Poland's renowned "Solidarity" movement. The first statistics showed the yearly passenger traffic of 40 thousand, but a real boom started on Poland joining the European Union. In the last two years the traffic went up to 300 thousand passengers a year. In fact, the airport's potential is much bigger, as it can service as many as 700 thousand passengers a year.

Among the various connections offered by the Goleniów port there are regular domestic flights to Warsaw serviced by PLL LOT three times a day, to Oslo twice a week by Norwegian – a low cost airline, to Dublin (twice a week) and to London (four times a week) by Ryanair, and Ryanair's connection to Liverpool which was launched at the end of May and is available twice a week.

A considerable share of air traffic at Goleniów airport is made up by charter flights. Periodically, tourist can fly from there to such destinations as Monastir in Tunisia, Hurghada and Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt, Crete and Zakynthos in Greece, Sunny Beach in Bulgaria and Antalya in Turkey.

The port's management is also keen to develop cargo traffic. This area of operation significantly contributes to the airport's profitability – especially when the services are of top quality and in Szczecin this is exactly the case. The port has been collaborating for two years with Chapman Freborn carrier and specializes in handling irregular cargo. It has participated in a number of logistically complicated operations, such as the transport of a 28-ton printing machine to Saudi Arabia, containers with transformer stations to Vietnam (weighing 45 tons), or pumps for oil refining to Kuwait.

### IT IS GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER

The distance between the Goleniów port and the centre of Szczecin seems to be quite large. Indeed, it is over 40 kilometers. Fortunately, it is very easy to reach the airport. Motorists can use the dual



The airport in Goleniów is planning a number of investments in the area,



carriageway and access the city in a fairly easy way with the whole trip lasting only 40 minutes. A direct shuttle bus is also available. It departs from the PLL LOT's office located in Aleja Wyzwolenia, 2 hours and 20 minutes before each flight. The shuttle bus returns to the city 20 minutes after landing of each plane. The trip by a taxi to the centre of Szczecin costs about 120-150 PLN. There are also numerous private minibuses which connect the airport with nearby towns.

There is, however, a real revolution underway. Soon the passengers will be able to use a new Airport- Szczecin rail-bus, which is going to stop only 50 meters away from the terminal. In this way, a comfortable and safe trip to the city will take merely half an hour. ■

### INFO

#### Port Lotniczy Szczecin-Goleniów im. NSZZ Solidarność

Glewoice, 72-100 Goleniów  
airport.com.pl, info@airport.com.pl

#### Information desk

+48 91 481 74 00  
+48 91 418 28 64

#### Lost baggage

+48 91 481 75 03

#### PLL LOT

+48 801 703 703

#### Ryanair

+48 703 303 033

#### Norwegian

+48 703 40 30 40

#### Parking

+48 91 481 74 00

#### Taxi rank

+48 91 481 76 90

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Samsung Wave od pierwszej chwili zachwyci Cię doskonałym wyświetlaczem **SuperAMOLED**, na którym strony internetowe, zdjęcia i filmy obejrzysz w jakości **obrazu HD**. Docenisz system operacyjny **bada**, napędzany przez superwydajny procesor **1GHZ**. Możliwości Wave możesz jeszcze bardziej wzbogacić, dzięki różnorodnym aplikacjom dostępnym w sklepie **Samsung Apps**. Twój osobisty asystent - **Social Hub** uporządkuje i pokaże w jednym miejscu wszystkie smsy, e-maile oraz wiadomości z Facebook wysłane przez Twoich przyjaciół.

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[wave.samsung.pl](http://wave.samsung.pl)

# Heading Towards Africa



Brussels Airlines advertises as “The airline of a new generation for a new generation of passengers which values punctuality and provides low-cost fares and top quality”. The airline has recently introduced 4 new connections between Europe and Africa.

**B**russels Airlines is a youngster on the aviation market, but it draws on its past experience. Eight years ago Belgian Sabena, a company with 80 years of tradition, went into liquidation. Sabena was replaced with SN Brussels Airlines which in 2006 merged with Virgin to create Brussels Airlines. In 2008 Lufthansa bought a 45 % stake in the company. Despite its young age, the Belgian carrier has a lot to boast. It is the major airline for air connections from Brussels, operating 300 daily flights from the capital city of the EU to various destinations.

## THE PEARLS OF THE DARK LAND

The African continent is one of the key areas of operation of the Belgian carrier. The airline has recently announced the launch of four new African destinations Land: Accra (Ghana), Cotonou (Benin), Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Lome (Togo). The flights will be available from July, departing from Brussels airport. This will considerably increase the portfolio of African destinations, especially because the current connections

to Abidjan (Ivory Coast) will also be increased. An additional Airbus A330 will join the Brussels Airlines fleet creating additional 110 staff positions within the company.

The four new destinations are situated in West Africa. Why? Let's look at the data. Ghana has 23.8 million inhabitants and has a growing economy specialising in mining and exploration of many natural resources (including oil) and export of cocoa. Every year many tourists visit the country to discover its impressive eco-tourism potential. Besides, many European regions, such as Benelux, Germany and UK have large Ghanaian communities. Benin, a former French colony, has approximately 8.5 million residents. The country is recognised in the export of cotton and in agricultural production and its government is currently focused on the development of international investment, agriculture, technology and tourism. Similarly to Burkina Faso which has a population of almost 16 million. Its economy depends on agricultural production, mining and many collaborative projects with other countries. Many Non-Governmental or-

ganisations are active in the country and tourism is steadily growing.

Former German colony, Togo has a population of 6.6 million and is known as the “Pearl of Africa”. It produces mainly agricultural products and cotton and specializes in mining (phosphate) exploration.

As you see, Brussels Airlines considers these destinations attractive both for business travellers and regular tourists, because Africa is a more and more fascinating continent. The airline will operate four weekly flights to Accra, and two weekly connections to Ouagadougou, Cotonou and Lome. With this expansion, Brussels Airlines will operate 18 destinations on the African continent.

## IN ALLIANCE

The management of Brussels Airlines emphasizes that Africa is their “second home”, but that continent is not the only area of interest of the Belgian airline. The company offers flights to 70 destinations (e.g. to the UAE, China, Thailand, India and North America), employs 3 thousand people and has a fleet of 50 aircraft. The airline's base is obviously in Brussels.





On its European routes, operated with AVRO, Airbus A319 and Boeing 737, Brussels Airlines offers the choice of three classes. B.business, is an ultra-flexible product, which offers timesaving and comfort at reasonable prices. B.flex economy + is a medium range class, while b.light economy is a low fare product. On medium- and long-haul flights, the airline operates traditional business or economy class. Long-haul flights are operated with Airbus A330-300 aircraft.

Brussels Airlines has been part of Star Alliance since December 2008. The Star Alliance network is the global leading airline network, in terms of daily flights, destinations and countries flown to and amount of member airlines (30). As a member of Star Alliance, Brussels Airlines are able to offer its passengers a variety of benefits, with the biggest one being the enlargement of the network. Passengers can now travel to over 1100 destinations throughout almost 200 countries) within a single network, and can rely on smooth transits throughout the route, as well as efficient baggage transfers and lounge access worldwide.

Brussels Airlines is also a member of Miles & More programme in which passengers can accumulate points for flights, hotel accommodation and renting cars. The points can be later redeemed for a class upgrade, car rental, booking a room in a hotel, or buying goods in certain shops. ■

*Tomasz Karpiński*



# Special OFFER



Every passenger likes to feel appreciated and favoured. Air France KLM airlines have prepared a special offer for their customers. Until the end of August the passengers of business and first classes can enjoy a free one-night stay in Sofitel Warsaw Victoria.



There is nothing better than to rest in a luxurious hotel before going on a long-haul flight. Air France and KLM's special offer has been designed for their passengers who travel on intercontinental flights (or returning to Warsaw). The offer includes: accommodation with breakfast and the transfer to the airport for 1 or 2 persons in Sofitel Warsaw Victoria hotel. Passengers who fly in Air France's La Premiere, Affaires and Premium Voyager classes (in KLM – World Business Class) will be offered the accommodation free of charge, while those who choose Voyager (in KLM – Economy) classes, will pay only 485 PLN net.

Only – as Warsaw's Sofitel Victoria is a 5-star, top-shelf hotel with great heritage. The Air France and KLM's promotion is valid for accommodation in Junior Suite. The guests will find there a comfortable bed called "My Bed", which was designed exclusively for Sofitel chain, a coffee and tea makers, mineral water and cosmetics by French company L'Occitane. Another crucial convenience is fast, free-of-charge Internet access and an unlimited access to a luxurious recreational centre with an originally designed swimming-pool. The centre has recently undergone a thorough renovation. Breakfasts are served in a form of a sumptuous buffet and as for dinner – it is worth visiting an excellent Canaletto restaurant. As

part of the joint promotion with Air France KLM, the hotel provides a free of charge transfer to the airport.

The offer is valid for hotel stays for 1 night directly before departure from Warsaw OR 1 night directly after arrival in Warsaw (dates indicated in the airline ticket). The offer is valid for the customers living in Poland, the holders of any Air France KLM ticket, issued in Poland for an intercontinental flights starting from Warsaw (via Amsterdam or Paris) only.

In order to take advantage of the promotion, the passenger has to be present his ticket at the hotel reception during check-in. The offer is subject to availability and blackout dates may apply at the hotel. Cancellation of the hotel reservation is possible free of charge until 6 p.m. on the day of arrival to the hotel. No cancellation beyond this time will be considered as a valid reservation and the customer will be charged of 1 night fee.

Important: the offer does not include extras, that is mini-bar, pay TV etc. or the hotel's bar. The offer does not apply for the groups and can not be combined with other Sofitel's promotions. Hotel reservations can be made via Air France KLM in Poland (mail.cto.waw@airfrance.fr) and Travel Agents (IATA) in Poland only. The offer is valid for hotel stays from: 15 April till 15 August 2010. ■

*Tomasz Koźmiński*



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# In the Arms of **Diana**

Long-term suite rental is becoming a more and more popular form of activity in the hotel industry. Diana suites are the best example of this trend, says **Olga Chelchowska**.



The MaMaison company has a wide range of suites to rent in Moscow, Prague, Budapest, Bratislava, Ostrava and Warsaw. In Poland, MaMaison manages Regina hotel and Diana suites.

## IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

Diana residence is located in the heart of Warsaw in Chmielna Street. It is within an easy walk of Nowy Świat and the old Royal Route. As the residence is not located in the main street, you can have a rest in peace and quiet, away from the city hubbub. The guests can stay in one the suites, just for one night or for longer. Some of the first guests stayed there for almost... 3 years.

It feels like home right after entering the main hall. A small reception desk on the left, dark wooden sofas with claret padding and delicate lighting – all of these contribute to unusually warm and pleasant atmosphere of the place. There are two lifts in the residence, taking guests up to the fourth and fifth floor of the building. You can also use them to get to the -1 level where the underground car park for hotel guests is located. Rooms are equipped like high standard apartments. The guests also get here full hotel service





which includes room service, housekeeping or an access to the laundry.

### FEELS LIKE HOME

The 46 suites differ in layout, so each of them has its unique character. The smallest one has 45 sq m, and has a bedroom with a big bed, a living room with a fully-equipped kitchenette (a fridge, a microwave oven, a cooker, coffee express and even plates, cups, glasses and cutlery), a workplace area and a bathroom with a bathtub, which can be easily converted into a shower. In the lounge of the “Superior Suite” you can use the AV equipment (flat TV screen with a satellite cable, a DVD player and a Hi-Fi). All the rooms have broadband internet access, both wired and wifi. To make guests feel safer, in a closet, on the left-hand side there is a safe, where you can easily leave your laptop.

“Exceptional Suites” occupy the area of more than 90 sq m. You can choose between one double bed or twins (two single ones) here. Facilities in these suites include workplace area with two workdesks, a large dressing room, a dishwasher in the kitchenette and a jacuzzi in the spacious bathroom. The biggest suite has over 100 sq m spread on two levels. The banisters between the levels are quite high, giving

you a sense of security, but also transparent, contributing to the feel of modernity and lightness.

The guests can choose among three different decors, as some suites are decorated in claret and golden tones, some in brown and beige, and others in cooler shades of blue and grey. In this way, everyone will find the right place for themselves, reflecting their own mood. There are two small conference rooms used for business meetings and equipped with all the necessary equipment. The smaller room can hold about 12 people, while the larger – over 20. However, it is common to rent

guest rooms for smaller meetings, as it guarantees privacy.

Downstairs, there is a fancy restaurant, where you can spend time in a relaxed atmosphere and eat delicious food prepared by the chef.

Guests checking in the Diana suites feel as if they were to live in fully and comfortably furnished flats. Thanks to its excellent location and high quality of both the interior and the service, the residence is hugely popular not only among the Polish citizens, but also guests from all over the world. To get more information on Diana suites, visit: [mamaison.com](http://mamaison.com) ■

Each of the suites has its unique character



# DOING BUSINESS WITH

# The Agency

The properties offered by the Military Property Agency are worth considering.



Modlin



Karpacz



Kępa Mieszczańska

Since 1996 the Military Property Agency is actively supporting the process of modernization of the Polish Army. As a specialized institution supervised by the Ministry of National Defence, the agency manages the movables and properties belonging to the Treasury. 93 % of the proceeds generated by selling redundant property and movables are transferred to the Armed Forces Modernization Fund. From the beginning of its operation the MPA allocated over PLN 1.3 billion for this purpose. The agency has a consistent policy of selling property and it still has a number of interesting assets which can be adapted in a creative and modern way. The work of the agency is a proof that the properties, which the army and the police no longer need, can become attractive investments.

On of the advantages of the agency's offer is its diversity. The properties which belong to the agency are located in almost all regions of Poland. They have various sizes, miscellaneous types of buildings, and can be utilized in multiple ways. They range from vast areas of former airfields or barracks, through storage rooms, to particularly interesting facilities located near important

transport junctions in holiday resorts or city centres. There are also such attractive properties as the citadel in Modlin Fortress, plots of land on Hel, guest houses in Szklarska Poręba, or the most expensive property in Poland – Kępa Mieszczańska in Wrocław.

## TRADITION AND MODERNITY

What distinguishes the properties offered by the MPA is its unique and historical character. A number of them are historic buildings with interesting and original architectural forms which, following appropriate adaptation, may not only be used for residential purposes, but also as conference venues or recreational centres. Apart from the aesthetic val-



Hel

ue, the historic properties have one more advantage which makes them particularly appealing to future investors – a 50 % rebate for the buyer since the properties are listed in the Historical Registry. The offer is aimed not only at large business entities which are active on the market, but also to smaller companies and individual investors. The agency observes the changing trends and adapts its offer to expectations of the potential buyers. The pragmatic market policy also means taking into consideration the economic realities. Therefore the agency frequently decides to divide large properties into smaller ones, or to lease them. The MPA cooperates with local governments, encouraging them to approve favourable land development plans, which contribute to the development and modernization of the regions.

The agency has 7 regional offices. You can find the details of the offer at: [www.amw.com.pl](http://www.amw.com.pl)



Siemens i kawa



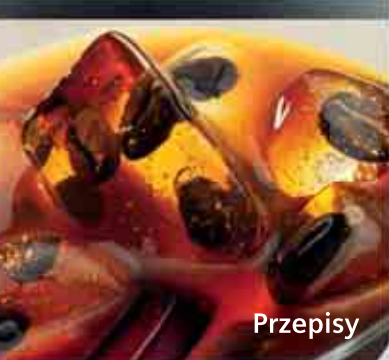
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**Ekspres ciśnieniowy EQ.7 to mistrz w profesjonalnym parzeniu kawy.** Futurystyczna technologia i wysmakowany design dostarczają wyjątkowej przyjemności – zarówno przy obsłudze, jak i degustacji wyśmienitej kawy. Najnowsze rozwiązania techniczne: **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 zawiera 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](http://www.siemens-kawa.pl) i zanurz się w egzotyczny świat kawy przy filiżance gorącego espresso!

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**SIEMENS**

# The Sky in the Rhythm of Flamenco

Iberia is presently one of the largest European airlines and **Tomasz Karczewski** checks what the Spanish carrier has on its offer regarding corporate travellers.

**T**he Spanish airline, has become a truly powerful player on the European market. It claims that last year, together with its partner – Iberia Regional/Air Nostrum, it served 25 mil. passengers. It is then not surprising that Iberia is particularly sensitive to the needs of its business customers. Apart from the economy class, Iberia offers their corporate travellers Business and Business Plus classes, which differ as regards the services offered both during the flight and on the ground.

## IN THE AIR...

Contrary to the common opinion, a business traveller has quite simple and obvious needs. He doesn't want to be bothered too much with all the flight related procedures, at the same time being provided with appropriate conditions to work and relax during his journey. In Business class on European flights to North Africa and Middle East, Iberia makes sure that the middle seat is always vacant. There is also a lot of leg room as the seat pitch is 83.8 cm and the seat width is 44 cm. This improvement has been introduced by the Spanish carrier on Airbus A-319, A-320, and A-321 aircraft. Business Plus offers even greater comfort. The seat in this class can be quickly turned into a flat bed equipped with an individual touch screen offering 15 sound channels, 26 video channels, and several video games.

The channels in the in-flight entertainment system are available in English and Spanish (a few films also in other languages). The AVOD has also such useful functions as rewinding/fast-forwarding and repeating a part of a film

The Business Class offers good meals, comfortable seats and technical novelties

or a song. Another popular option is watching live images from the camera situated on the tail of the aircraft (on A340/600) – in this way you can observe your whole flight from the take-off till the touchdown.

Business Plus passengers may send and receive text messages or e-mails via a touch screen installed in their seats. The service costs \$2.10 per message consisting of up to 160 characters. The seat's console also features a satellite phone. The calls cost \$9.95 per minute.

The catering service in Business Class includes freshly-prepared meals; the Spaniards propose a healthy and balanced diet with carefully selected wines. The menu focuses mostly on Spanish cuisine where tradition meets modern culinary trends. The dishes are prepared under the supervision of the renowned Spanish chef Sergi Arola. A typical menu in Business class may consist of dried fruit with saffron in olive oil, poultry consommé, grilled tenderloin with wine sauce, black truffle and cheese,







and caramel cake. In Business Plus where the choice is much broader, you will find such delicacies as vegetables with shrimps and garlic sauce, or stewed chicken with red wine, pears and vanilla. Since Spain is renowned for its wine production, the passengers will also find a wide selection of such wines as Rioja Tinto or Blanco Rias Baixas.

### ...AND ON THE GROUND

Iberia Airlines have several VIP lounges, not only in Madrid or Barcelona, but also in other Spanish and European cities e.g. in London or Paris. They are available for Iberia Plus loyalty programme members, Business Class and Business Plus passengers, and those who fly with member airlines of oneworld alliance.

The most spectacular are the VIP lounges in Madrid's new T4 terminal. Those who need to work will find there personal computers, free wifi and wired Internet access, as well as faxes and telephones. For those seeking relaxation, there are TVs, newspapers, and a bar with snacks and drinks. The VIP lounge in the Madrid's terminal has also so-called "Relaxation corners" i.e. special rooms with comfortable beds. The three lounges in Madrid take 4,500 sq m of space and their meeting rooms are often rented for various corporate events. The passengers on intercontinental flights can also have dinner there, go to a wine-tasting area or use one of the shower facilities.

Some other privileges that business travellers can count on at the airport include selecting the seats in advance, a separate check-in desk, greater luggage allowance and priority boarding, or even a limousine with chauffeur. Iberia advertises this service with slogan: "Disembark without coming back to earth". The option is available for Business Plus passengers travelling on intercontinental flights. However, it is limited to such cities as Madrid, Barcelona, Santiago de Chile, Buenos Aires, Mexico and Sao Paulo. The transfer to and from the airport is free of charge, but it must be arranged at least 72 hours before the flight.

Another service available for corporate travellers is a VIP car park in Madrid and Barcelona. It includes parking and safekeeping the car for three or seven days (depending on the type of flight), together with car insurance. It looks like you might stay longer with Iberia. ■



# Doing Business in Tunisia

Amazing story, extraordinary people, a stereotype to break. **Wojciech Chelchowski** discovers that Tunisia is also friendly to business customers.





It's a country of huge contrasts. It was the Europe's granary in the times when the Romans founded Carthage, a commercial centre and the vanguard of the contemporary navy. Later, came the times of colonial dependence, and finally gaining independence. This, surprisingly for this continent and Arabic roots, led to democratic freedom. The polygamy was abolished, and women have a right to vote. The long-standing president Habib Bourguiba who was supposed to be in office until his death, was removed from power in a coup. It was, however, a rather "civilised" revolt, as a panel of doctors were called to announce that the aging president should retire.

### NOT ONLY FOR TOURISTS

It is common to think of Tunisia as of a holiday destination which is swarmed with tourists – something far from exceptional. But that's not true. There is plenty to visit, and the standards are so high, you can safely think of organizing team building events or a company conference here. It's worth it.

It's easy to get there as there are a couple of charter destinations and you can find Tunisian airlines in almost all of our airports. Apart from this, there is PLL LOT and some small carriers. The flight from Warsaw to Tunis or Monastir takes less than four hours and both the conditions and the price of the charter flight are convenient. When you finally find yourself in Africa, the plan of your journey can become exceptionally detailed and varied. But first of all a bit of history.

A visit to Carthage is definitely an unforgettable experience. Impressive ruins give you the idea of how big the city was. Some of the columns, sculptures, and fragments of mosaics decorating the walls of houses or baths are in an amazingly good condition – you can imagine the richness and splendour of this huge city. The splendid historical monuments sharply contrast with modern golf courses, popular even with the most demanding clients. There are a couple of them in Tunisia, but there are plans to develop new solutions.

Accommodation in Tunisia is just excellent. Dozens of high quality hotels can guarantee the best conditions of your stay. In Hammamet, one of the most popular tourist destinations in Tunisia, you can stay at one of Les Or-



angers Group hotels: 5-star Royal Azur Thalasso Golf, 4-star Sol Azur Beach, with excellent business facilities for a few hundreds of people, or in 3-star hotel, Ben Azur Thalassa, which is currently being renovated. In a new part of Hammamet, a quarter called Yasmine and built in the recent years solely for the purpose of tourist industry, there is an excellent Hasdrubal Thalassa & Spa hotel. It offers 5-star accommodation of the top notch quality with wonderful Spa section and a suite, which got to the Guinness World Records. The Salambo villa occupies the area of 1542 sq m and is the biggest hotel suite in the world. It has a separate garage, indoor and outdoor swimming pool, Spa, kitchen and a couple of bedrooms. You can easily get lost in there.

In Sousse, the city of Tunisian high society, there is an irresistible Tour Khalef hotel with 570 spacious bedrooms, and in Monastir, right next to the international airport, there is Radisson Blu hotel, which also has extensive accommodation and business facilities. In a nearby location the biggest Thalassotherapy centre is being built.

### THALASSO – RIGHT OUT OF THE SEA

Thalasso is gradually becoming a new symbol of Tunisia. It's a curative and

Thalasso is gradually becoming a new symbol of Tunisia

relaxing way of using what the sea has to offer – the micro-organisms and most of all, the algae. In Tunisia, there are already more than 20, fully-equipped thalassotherapy centres. It makes Tunisia the second, right after France, biggest resort in the world. And you can't deny these treatments are getting more and more popular and already gaining profits.

The water is pumped through a special system of pumps from the distance of at least 400 metres away from the sea shore and a depth of six metres. It guarantees its appropriate quality. No chemical substances are added to it. The algae are to be found in thousands of varieties, however, for therapies usually *Laminaria* are used.

A large number of patients (40% of them being men) are clients who expect some help in reducing stress and tiredness. There are many types of such treatments and all of them end in a relaxing massage of the whole body. The rest of the guests in thalasso centres can take advantage of other treatments helping to cure motor ailments, arthritis, and backaches. Each visit to thalasso centre is preceded by a medical consultation.

Soon you can expect another account from Business Traveller's visit to Tunisia, as the place is truly remarkable. ■

# Tokaji **Amber**

Most of us have a reluctant attitude towards sweet wines, including Tokaji. You may think they are too infantile, and a true connoisseur should avoid them like the plague, but you couldn't be more wrong. The only thing you need is to be able to tell the difference between the noble and the low quality ones.



Not so long time ago, finding a bottle of good Tokaji wine was virtually impossible. Luckily, it has changed. The 1993 vintage was both a breakthrough and the return to the best traditions. The renaissance of the Hungarian wine required some funds and a number of foreign companies bought and invested in the production of Tokaji. Among them were such giants as AXA, Vega Sicilia (a legendary wine producer from Spain), and Hugh Johnson, a prominent journalist and wine critic. Today Tokaji wine is back in the wine market, not only because of the famous Aszu dessert wine.

The wines coming from the foothills of clay and rock Tokaj-Hegyalja, can be subdivided into three groups. The first one includes dry white wines (virtually no red wines are produced here), produced mostly from one, selected grape variety. Furmint and Harslevelu are the most common ones, but there are also hybrid grapes. In this way we obtain wine of a high acidity level, which is perfectly integrated with the heavy mineral aromas and the taste of slightly overripe fruit.

Today Tokaji wine is back in the market not only because of the famous Aszu.

The second group are the late harvest wines. Grapes are left on the vines until they are slightly overripe. Thanks to this, much sugar is left unprocessed by the yeasts after the fermentation. These wines, unlike the dry ones, have unusually fruity flavour, and its honey-like sweetness emphasizes the juicy characteristics of local grape varieties. The same is true for Harslevelu, which tastes raw and mild when dry, but generates unusual aftertaste of pure tangerine when harvested late. Once these wines were produced mostly from Sarga Muscotaly or yellow Muscat, nowadays all grape varieties are used.

The third group are the wines produced by means of noble rot of botrytis cinerea. When the air humidity and temperature is high, the grapes are attacked by the rot, which perforates the fruit skin and causes water to evaporate quicker. It also enriches the juice aroma with the characteristic truffle and spice overtone. This is how Szamorodni Tokaji and Aszu Tokaji are produced. Szamorodni Tokaji is a Hungarian equivalent of the French Sauternes. The grape growers collect the whole grapes, which are a mixture of healthy and infected fruits. Then the juice is pressed and the process of fermentation begins. The final effect is somewhat accidental, as it's not possible to control the ratio of the rotten and healthy fruit. Unlike Sauternes, Szamorodni Tokaji could be made into dry, by means of different yeasts varieties, which can process more sugar and thus, produce more alcohol. That's how

you get the most unusual wine – strong, oxidized, with little fruit flavour, and of interesting barrel, cheese and cognac aromas.

The second variety of botrytised wines – and deserving praise – is the sweet, blossom Aszu. To its production only infected fruits are used, which are picked manually. The grapes are pressed gently under their own weight and the first run juice is referred to as Eszencia. It's a real rarity, which is bottled up separately after at least ten years of barreling. Eszencia is also highly expensive, it costs about €500 a bottle. Yet, it can easily wait even a hundred years until it's opened, and it will get better with each year. The rest of the essence is pressed mechanically and mixed with dry wine in the ratio estimated by puttonosa – special baskets used for harvesting. Aszu Tokaji can be of 3, 4, 5 or 6 puttonyos (there is also Aszu Eszencia which is an equivalent of 7 puttonyos), which means that for the production of one barrel of wine, three or more baskets of essence are used. Currently, the ratio is estimated by measuring the level of sugar. The more puttonyos, the sweeter, thicker and more aromatic the wine is. But what allows the sweet Tokaji wines to knock spots off the competition, is their acidity. It may seem rather strange, but Aszu Tokaji wines are more acid than most dry wines. Naturally, it is hidden behind the thick sweetness, but without this acidity the wine would be bland and could not be distinguished from the grandma's jam. ■

*Michał Poddany, Robert Mielżyński*



# Business Traveller Poland

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# In the Rythm of Csárdás

Thinking about conference trips, we often look for exotic ideas to surprise our guests. However, the real exoticism may be closer than we think. Take Hungary, for example. It offers excellent spicy food, and equally spiced up adventures.

**B**udapest is a city of incredibly rich history, dating back to the Roman times. At the beginning of 10th century, the Hungarians settled down here, and Buda was their first settlement. In 12th century the city was in its heyday, while since 1541 for about 150 years it was under the Turkish rule. Later came the Habsburgs, and upon the connection of Buda and Pest, the city of Budapest was founded in 1873. Today, it is one of the most charming cities in central Europe. What's more, it is particularly friendly as the climate there is similar to ours – the average yearly temperature being 10–11°C.

The overwhelming number of attractions make Budapest an ideal place for a group trip. As we know, Budapest consists of two parts – Buda and Pest, one being different from the other. Buda is more monumental and official, whereas Pest, because of the traditions, is more commercial and bustling with life. One of the most representative places in Budapest is Várhegy (the Castle Hill) – here you will find the oldest part of the city, and the Royal Castle. A walk around the Old City is an unforgettable experience, as the buildings have retained their

old character. The Gellért Hill or Roman ruins are not less enchanting. It is worth emphasizing the role of Danube in the development of the city. Unlike in Warsaw, the river is an integral part of the Hungarian capital – boulevards in Budapest are always crowded, and boat trips are one of the biggest attractions. Tourists coming to Budapest always visit the Margaret Island – artificially formed about 60 years ago. It is 2.5 kilometre long, and there are hotels, tennis courts, swimming pools and restaurants.

Speaking of which, there are plenty of excellent restaurants in Budapest. Belcanto, where the waiters sing the opera songs, is one of the most famous ones. The menu here changes every week, and among the local specialties you will find goulash soup, perch fillet with mushrooms and fried tomatoes, goose leg with squash and champagne, potatoes and onion soufflé or pork chop in tomato sauce.

Another place which is definitely worth visiting is Borkatakomba. The restaurant can cater for up to 200 people, and it is known not only for excellent cuisine, but also the way wine is served – it is literally poured into customers' mouths by means of a special wine pipette. There are a few rooms to sit, including a Barrels



Budapest offers a number of remarkable attractions







room, where you can spend nice evening having dinner in the middle of gigantic wine barrels. Also worth mentioning are folk events, which are held in the restaurant. A Gypsy band or musicians playing the zither and xylophone ideally complete the atmosphere of the place.

Gundel is a restaurant with 100 years of heritage. Many distinguished people

like Queen Elisabeth II, Hilary Clinton or the pope John Paul II dined here. You should try excellent Hungarian dishes like asparagus soup or goose liver.

Budapest boasts outstanding hotel base. There are plenty of five- and four-star hotels. Hilton is situated near St. Matthew church. Apart from views of Danube, it offers 24 conference rooms accommodating up to 660 people, wifi in the whole building, and comfortable standard rooms of 31 sq m. The hotel restaurant called Icon is one of the best in the city – anyone who tries their Fillet of Duck with Panna Cotta will always come back. The 10-storey Marriott hotel has been recently renovated and now has 342 rooms and 22 suites on its offer. There are 19 conference rooms of 1,700 sq m altogether, so it could be a venue for any kind of conference. The hotel restaurant serves delicious cuisine, and the guests may also relax in the AQVA bar. The next hotel on the list is Intercontinental, where you will find a Corso restaurant, a 500 sq m spa (Budapest is the only European capital with natural medicinal waters and has a status of a health-resort) and 9 conference rooms of 1,000 sq m altogether. Kempinski Hotel Corvinus, with its 335 luxurious bedrooms and 31 suites, is also an interesting place.

A visit to Budapest offers attractions not only in the city – there are also plenty of them outside, with Puszta being one of them. This unique place is a real steppe, where wranglers used to breed horses for hundreds of years. Today there is Hortobágy National Park. Within its area you can see steppes and villages in preserved state – they form a kind of a museum, which you can walk around on foot, by bicycle or on horseback. In Puszta you

can experience the mirage phenomenon, which usually occurs around the village of Cserpes. To reach Puszta from Budapest you can travel by a historic train, which gets «hijacked» by the wranglers.

50 kilometres further away from the capital, there is a city of Esztergom with a monumental basilica rising over the other buildings. It is situated on the castle hill, where the prince Vajk was born. Over a thousand years ago, he received the crown from the pope and was given the baptismal name Stephen. Another very climatic city is Szentendre, which is quite similar to the Polish city of Kazimierz. There are numerous shops, galleries and buskers, and the narrow, winding streets with little climatic cafés contribute to the unique atmosphere of this place.

It's unthinkable to visit Hungary without tasting the local wine. You shouldn't, however, make the mistake of making judgment about their wines on the basis of what you can find in the Polish shops. In reality, the Hungarian wines are excellent! The best of them are produced on the South, and the best vineyards are in Villány, Villánykövesd, Kisharsány, Nagyarsány and in Siklós.

Hungaroring is a Hungarian racing circuit and an annual venue for Formula One races. It is definitely worth visiting, as the engine roar and the rush of adrenaline contribute to an overall incredible experience. In August in Budapest Red Bull Air Race is held during which the competitors have to fly a marked course in the fastest time possible. The sight of aeroplanes flying over the bridges of Danube is an unforgettable memory. As you can see, Budapest can take you to the highest levels of emotions. ■





# Frauscher On the Wave

Steering 717 GT Frauscher motorboat is a dose of adrenaline at the highest level. Not surprisingly, this model has recently been chosen the Powerboat of the Year 2010. **Wojciech Chelchowski** reports from the lake.

**G**munden is a small, quiet town, 250 km away from Vienna. It lies by fabulous Lake Traunsee where the Frauscher family dockyard is located.

The company was founded in 1927 in Vienna by Engelbert Frauscher. He quickly gained recognition and the models of his sailing boats became known also outside Austria. After WWII the production was moved to Gmunden where, in the 50s, the first models of motorboats and electric boats were created.

Presently, the company is managed by three Frauscher siblings. Andrea is in charge of finances, Michael is responsible for manufacturing matters, while Stefan, who keeps an eye on sales and marketing departments, in 2002 became the world champion in the popular H-Boat

class. The Frauscher company is about to move to a new, much larger factory. They have already bought a plot of land and the construction works are to start within several months.

## MANUAL WORK

The company has almost 40 employees and presently produces three types of sailing yachts and seven types of motor and electric yachts which can be easily modified. Especially because most of the production process involves meticulous manual work. The smallest boat is Alasio (6.5 m long, electric engine), while the largest one is 909 Benaco with the length of 9.03 m which can carry up to 8 passengers.

GT is Frauscher's flagship model. It is not the largest one (7.17 m long, 2.25 m wide), but it is exceptional in its class.



Stefan, Michael and Andrea Frauscher – the owners of the family business





That is why GT won the European Powerboat of the Year Award 2010.

The boat is simply beautiful. It has a black sleek body and a removable canvas top with plastic windows. The upper deck is covered with teak wood with black trim, while the whole interior is white. There are two comfortable seats and the back bench which can accommodate up to three passengers.

The colours are obviously the matter of choice. They can be adapted to individual customer's needs. Enough to say that I witnessed the moment when one of the new yachts was being prepared for shipment to one of the French celebrities. The boat was resting on a platform with rubber and fabric protection, wrapped in foil, and ... all in blue. The customer had such a whim and Frauscher did not refuse.

The steering wheel with a stylish "F" letter in the middle, is located on the right hand side. The dashboard has several gauges and controls such as the fuel gauge, the

computer with various warning lights, a rev-counter with a digital speed display in km/h (particularly useful if we want to have some reference to a car speed) and a speedometer which shows the speed in knots and miles. Below, there are several control switches and a built-in radio.

The throttle lever is on the side, next to the driver's seat. It is just enough to press a button and move it forward. A very neat safety feature is a special "valve" with a piece of thin cable attached to it which the driver fastens around his leg. If the driver falls into water (e.g. as a result of capsizing), the cable releases the lock which, in turn, immediately stops the engine.

And the engine of 717 GT is powerful – it is a 5.7 litre Volvo which produces 420 BHP.

#### A CAP WITH A POMPON

When you turn the key, you are greeted with a deep low sound which resembles a Porsche on low revs. In fact, I felt there as if I were sitting in the low seat of that famous German machine – not very comfortable, but promising a lot of enjoyment.

Before the test ride I received waterproof trousers with braces and a jacket. I was slightly surprised when Mat – my "minder" from the company, who was wearing this gear – put on my head a thick woollen cap with a pompon although it was neither raining nor relatively cold. However, I was soon to understand why Mat did that as a few seconds later, we headed towards the open lake.

Mat moved the throttle lever forward and the engine rapidly climbed in revs shooting us forward like an arrow. I noticed on the display that at one moment we were going 101 km/h and although the boat had a windshield, the wind was so strong that I could hardly catch my breath. When you travel at such high speed, your hair is doing some crazy dance on your head. This is when you wish you had a cap. Preferably thick, woollen and with a pompon.

My boat was ripping the waters of Lake Traunsee. The boat reacted to every, even the most delicate movement of the steering wheel. We had great fun making sharp turns. These can be achieved by slowing down delicately and then quick acceleration, which produces a breathtaking effect. Mat also showed me another trick. A cruise ship nearby was producing small waves on which we were bouncing like on a springboard. I must admit that the feel of hundreds of kilograms bobbing on the waves of the lake was an unforgettable experience.

After almost one hour of this madness I returned to the port with messed up hair and shaking with emotions. Frauscher GT 717 may be quite an expensive toy, but it is definitely worth its price. Prices? They vary depending on the type of the yacht, its engine, accessories – all of these are tailored according to the customer's needs. The prices of smaller models start with € 30,000, but to obtain more detailed information it is better to contact the Polish branch of the company. ■

The wind in the hair and masses of emotions – it is an unforgettable experience!



# The Magic of Fjords

It is hard to imagine a more spectacular journey in Europe, at least landscape-wise. **Michał Stoiński** discovers the Norwegian fjords while sailing on the deck of Celebrity Constellation.

Oldedalen Valley

It is a dream trip for many. Why? Look at the photos and you will have no doubt that the Norwegian fjords are one of the world's wonders. Add to this the icebergs, the Aurora Borealis and the delicious king crab, and you will understand why the cruise to the Northern tip of Europe aboard Celebrity Constellation is an amazing experience. Especially, because the ship itself is highly interesting, and apart from numerous attractions aboard, the passengers are also provided with a number of attractive tour trips. Which are optional, naturally speaking.

## AMSTERDAM

The journey lasts 12 nights, starts and ends in Amsterdam. This famous city can itself be a fascinating place of destination. It is worth spending here some time sightseeing, even if it's only for a couple of hours. Cycling through the narrow streets over canals, which are numerous in Amsterdam, would be a great idea, as well as a trip on a boat with a glass roof. It takes only an hour,



Amsterdam

and while sailing you can admire, for instance, the baroque royal palace on Dam Square (one of the Queen's residence), 550-year old temple Nieuwe Kerk or Mint Tower, which was used to mint coins in the 17th century.

Amsterdam is also a city of museums, so if you have any spare time, you should definitely visit three places: Rembrandt House Museum, where you will get ac-

quainted with the visionary style of this great artist, the modern Van Gogh Museum, where anyone can appreciate the artistry of this well-known painter, and the Anne Frank House, which is a place where this WWII memoirist was hiding together with her Jewish family.

Amsterdam is well known for its diamonds, so a visit to a diamond lapidary workshop is also an attractive way to spend time here. The Gassan company gives you an opportunity to see lapidaries at work, and also get yourself a "small" souvenir. The capital of the Netherlands (in fact there are two capitals, the other one is the Hague), is also a home to numerous restaurants (the local Argentinian cuisine is especially worth a recommendation), cafés and famous coffee shops. As well as original-looking people, as Amsterdam has always been a magnet for all kinds of artists and globetrotters.

## ALESUND -TROMSO

Celebrity Constellation sails out of Amsterdam on Monday afternoon, the next





day the passengers spend at sea, and a day later, they reach the Norwegian city of Alesund. This sea port occupying a couple of islands connected by bridges, is known for its architecture in the Art Nouveau style (colourful roofs of the building is a characteristic feature of the city). In 1904 Alesund was struck by great fire, and then rebuilt within the following three years. It is one of the stories

you may hear during a guide tour of the city centre and a scenic fishing port. The Sunnmoere outdoor museum is an interesting place, where you can find over 50 traditional houses built by means of various techniques in wood and stone. It is also worthy to pay a visit to an old stone church, one of its part having been built in 1250, or climb the mount Aksla and see the spectacular panorama of the city



Alesund



## Celebrity Constellation

Celebrity Constellation ship belongs to Celebrity Cruises shipowner. It takes aboard 2034 passengers. It was launched in May 2002, and has 11 luxury boards, each one of them designed to cater for all of the passengers' needs. It provides comfortable accommodation, excellent food, opportunities to practise sports and relax, as well as Broadway-like performances.

During a cruise, good cuisine is one the basic things and the ship menu is just excellent. Amongst the starters you will find a cocktail made of shrimps in garlic sauce, meat and cheese plate with olives and grilled red pepper. Onion soup served with Gruyere cheese is also delicious, as well as lobster cream and cognac. Salmon with boiled potatoes and frilled asparagus served with Dutch sauce or chicken breast pickled in herbs served with broccoli and carrots grilled with honey will satisfy the most demanding gourmets. Don't forget about the wines, amongst which you will find the finest quality wines from the vineyards from all over the world. The menu described above, is only an example, the range of available dishes is much wider. The best place to have dinner is the main restaurant with elegant but not artificial atmosphere. It's not the only restaurant aboard, you can also go to Tuscan Grille Restaurant which serves steaks. Passengers will also find here a couple of cafes, typical Italian ice cream parlour, and a Cellar Masters winery, where you can not only try, but also learn a lot about different types of wine, and cuisines they should accompany.

But there is much more to a cruise than just the cuisine. For many of them spending their time actively is a crucial thing. Celebrity Constellation is not going to let them ▶







Lysefjord, the view from Stavanger Rock



Bergen



Jostedal Iceberg



A king crab

and the gulf. A trip to the island of Giske, connected to the mainland with a bridge as well as an underwater tunnel, will give you equally spectacular views. A trip along the fjord, down the so-called Trolls Path is an incredible experience for everyone. In fact, Trollstigen is a narrow tarmac path, which ascends and descends down the mountain slopes, it has 11 very sharp bends, and its slope incline is 9% – you need to be a really careful driver to go through it safely. The most interesting place on the path is the bridge, built from natural stone, which can be found next to the Stigfossen waterfall.

The ship sails away from Alesund in the afternoon, the fourth day is spent at sea, as it crosses the polar circle – if you are lucky you can see a mesmerizing display of colours, known as aurora borealis. On the next day Celebrity Constellation reaches Tromsø. It's the biggest city in the north of Norway, the polar night lasts here from the end of November until January, whereas the polar day from May until July. The city, situated amongst spectacular fjords, has the world's northernmost attractions: a university, a planetarium, a cableway, and the Mack brewery, open since 1877. Tromsø is known as the "gate to the Antarctic", and the Celebrity Constellation passengers can enjoy many attractions, such as a trip to a local culture centre, situated a couple kilometres away, where you can meet the peoples of Sami, drive a sled dog team, admire the reindeers and visit a laavo – a cone-shaped tent, used in this region. Other attractions include: a trip to Som-

marøy, the biggest fishing village in the area with its mere 300 inhabitants; a visit to an arctic centre of Polaria with its huge aquariums full of seals and fish. There is also a panoramic cinema with 5 projectors and a screen 21 m in width and 3.2 in height; or a visit to the Arctic Cathedral with a vertical section in a shape of a triangle. Diving in the local freezing waters is, undoubtedly, an unforgettable experience. It is done in special suits under the supervision of the instructors.

### HONNIGSVAG – MOLDE – GEIRANGER

On the next day of the cruise the ship casts its anchor at Honningsvåg, the capital of the Europe's northernmost municipality of Nordkapp. This is the very tip of the Continent, further away there is only the North Pole. The first settlement in this area was founded 10,000 years ago. All because of the Gulf Stream, a warm ocean current, thanks to which the temperature in January is about 4°C, which is warmer than in other places at this latitude. The waters of the Barents Sea remain ice-free. Honningsvåg serves as an example illustrating people's persistence in reconstructing their houses – the city was completely destroyed by the Germans (only a church survived) during the World War II. A visit to Artico Ice Bar is an interesting experience, as even the film screen is made of ice, whereas taking part in the king crab fishing will also remain in your memory. The leg span of this crustacean can reach up to 2 metres and weigh even up to 12 kilos. Af-





Seven Sisters Waterfall in Geiranger Fjord

ter the fishing you can watch as the crab dishes are prepared and later try some of the specialties in the laavo tent. The Europe's northernmost point is situated on the island of Mageroy at the height of 310 metres – it takes 45 minutes to get there from Honningsvåg by bus.

After the excitements of Nordkapp, it's time to come back to the middle part of Norway. Celebrity Constellation spends the next day at sea, and on the following day it reaches Molde, known as "the city of roses". It is because Molde is famous for the biggest cultivation of roses in Norway. Of all the local attractions, the museum of Romsdal, where you can find Vikings' houses, is especially worth visiting. A trip to the mount Varden, which gives you a view of the Romsdal Alps, covered in snow, fjords and numerous islands, is an alternative way of spending your time here.

Geiranger, a popular Norwegian resort, is the next stop on this itinerary. Geiranger is especially famous for the impressive Seven Sisters Waterfall, which discharges thousands of tonnes of water from the height of few hundred metres. It is worth going on a trip round the local fjord, you can also go kayaking down the mountain rivers. It's an ideal place for adventure-seekers and photographers, it goes without saying!

## OLDEN – BERGEN

Olden is a small town, but it's a place of destination of many cruise ships every year. Why? Because it is a remarkably charming place, situated in a beautiful

Nordfjord gulf near Jostedal, the biggest glacier on the Continent.

It covers the area of 487 square metres, and its highest point is over 2,000 metres.

Naturally, it defines the local attractions: the most interesting include a trip to Briksdalen, one of the arms of this huge glacier. Awesome photographs are a souvenir of the trip, especially because you have to go through a wooden bridge over a waterfall to get to the glacier's tongue. A trip round Loen lake is also worth attention, as the view of the glacier from a boat is really remarkable. You can also go to Fjaerland, a town, which up to 1986 had no road connection to the rest of the country. It was made possible only after the construction of 7-kilometre tunnel under the glacier.

The last town during this cruise round Norwegian fjords is Bergen. It is a former Viking settlement, surrounded by fjords, mountains and glaciers, and it's the second largest city in Norway. Taking a walk through the city enables you to reflect on its past. Haakon's Hall, St. Mary's Church and the house and museum of Edward Grieg (the composer lived here for 22 years) – are only some of the numerous places in the area worth visiting. Don't forget to do down to the UNESCO protected hanseatic merchant quarter.

Passengers of Celebrity Constellation spend their last night at sea, on their way back to Amsterdam. And although Amsterdam delights with its cultural diversity, you start missing the fjords right after returning to the port – it feels like this part of Scandinavia has some kind of magic. ■

## A BUSINESSMAN ON HOLIDAY



down in this aspect. Aquaspa (we recommend thalassotherapy) offer a whole range of relaxation treatments. The passengers may also check out a fully-equipped fitness centre – you can exercise under the supervision of the instructors, and the offer is really astounding. There are also plenty of swimming pools and jacuzzis. If you want to relax close to nature, go to the Persian garden where you can also use a private sauna. Shipmates Fun Factory is a club created especially for children. Children

aged 3-17 will enjoy sports activities organized specially for them by a group of instructors. On the upper deck of the ship there are a basketball pitch and a volleyball court.

What is different about the cruise ships, when compared to other means of transportation, is the number of facilities available aboard. Here you will find Celebrity Theatre – a real theatre hall, where you can see performances with world-class scenery and choreography. In Martini Club, the passengers will enjoy the top quality champagnes or top-shelf cocktails (all kinds of Martinis are signature cocktails here). Fortune's Casino, as the name suggests – is an



ideal place for fortune seekers. You can see the wheel of fortune turning while playing roulette, as well as many other games, which will provide you with the excitement you need. Other Celebrity Constellation facilities include a library, with an internet café, and a cinema, which could also be changed into a conference hall, if the need arises. The Emporium is nothing else than just a shopping centre with a variety of shops, where the passengers can buy cosmetics, alcohol and designer clothes. Another interesting initiative is something referred here to as "enrichment", that is broadening your general knowledge while enjoying the cruise. There is a wide choice of lectures on many subjects (while cruising fjords, you will learn much about Scandinavian history since the era of Vikings up until modern times), as well as wine or computer skills courses.

The passengers are lodged in comfortable inside and outside cabins. The latter category includes cabins with a window, a balcony and suites. The price includes all the meals, some of the drinks and many activities available aboard.





# Ciao, Italia!

What do you get if you mix Italian chic and elegance with beautiful beaches, crystal clear water, excellent cuisine and a plenty of offers to actively spend free time? Naturally, a top quality summer holiday – **Janusz Orliński** presents a Club Med recipe alla Italiano.

**T**here are 4 Club Med villages in Italy. All of them have 3 tridents in Club Med's classification, have beautiful location and are very comfortable. They also have excellent service and sports & recreational offer. If you are thinking of visiting Southern Italy, you should seriously consider staying in Kamarina, Napitii, Metaponto or Otranto.

## KAMARINA

If you looked at Club Med resort in Kamarina, Sicily from a bird's eye view,

you would mostly see a huge swimming pool in a shape resembling the South American step pyramids. It is the centre of the village, surrounded by oceans of beach chairs, umbrellas, and hotels further away. It is a vast area of 96 ha, with a golf course and 21 clay tennis courts.

Kamarina offers 686 rooms in a luxury elegant hotel and bungalows, which altogether constitute the so-called Villaggio. It is a maze of narrow streets and small parks dotted with flowers, which together form a village in a Sicilian fashion. The one-storey bungalows are built out of local stone. The hotel, situated







Academy, are included in the price. The latter means – you won't be bored there. Naturally, you may remain indifferent to the GO (Gentle Organizers) suggestions, but it is far more exciting to take part in interesting activities, amongst which you will find karaoke contests, fitness classes at the swimming pool, or football tournaments. All this becomes an intriguing fusion of sport, relaxation, social life and an opportunity to fulfil your potential. Sports Academies (tennis and sailing) organize classes 6 times a week, under supervision of experienced instructors. Apart from this, you can practise archery, basketball, volleyball, squash, mini golf, water polo, or go to the fitness centre. Med Kamarina Club has also wellness centre on its offer. You can have a number of wellness treatments here in seven separate rooms, or go to a Zen tea room (ideal for meditation).

#### **NAPITIA**

We are leaving Sicily and moving on to a region called Calabria. Here, in a town of Napitia, we will find another Club Med centre. Its architecture resembles colonial buildings, mainly due to its central multi-storey house, supported by ▶

a bit further away from the centre of the place, is a three-storey building and all its bedrooms have balconies. What is important, the bedrooms are tasteful and equipped with furniture in muted colours. The rooms can be joined together thus giving you more space. The suites in the hotel part of Kamarina have the size of up to 58 sq m.

Club Med is well-known for two reasons: the all inclusive system and its perfect organization. The former means that such things as meals, cool beverages, a glass of wine at dinner or various activities, e.g. Tennis Academy or Sailing







wooden posts. This “colonial feel” is seen also in other places, like in La Terrazza restaurant, thanks to its bamboo decor. Half of this 20-hectare resort is occupied by pine forest and vast beach, where you will find beach chairs, umbrellas, showers and a bar.

Club Med Napitia offers 596 bedrooms in the hotel and in eight bungalows. The latter have two levels with two rooms on each floor. There are three restaurants nearby. La Terrazza is situated next to the main swimming pool. It specializes in Italian cuisine, and the meals are served in a form of buffet. The Bougainvillier serves multinational cuisine, and at The Golfo, situated on the beach, you can order snack at lunchtime.

Club Med enables parents to have a rest from the strains of parenthood, and gives children an opportunity to have fun without involving their parents. GO staff organize clubs and activities for kids of all age, providing them with equipment suitable for their age. There are 4 age groups: Baby Club Med (babies up to 2 years old), Petit Club Med (children between 2-4), Mini Club Med (4-11 years old) and Junior Club Med (between 11 and 17).

They can choose from a range of sports activities, games or creative plays, which make them so involved that they barely realize their mums and dads are not around. Both adults, teenagers and kids can take part in numerous sports activities, like Tennis or Sailing Academy, bowling, team sports or canoeing. There is also a Decléor spa centre.

## METAPONTO

A trapeze, on which you can check your gymnastics skills, 18 tennis courts (activities traditionally organized by Tennis Academy take place six days a week), a climbing frame, gymnastics classes, roller skates, bikes, archery, catamaran and windsurfing – these are only a few of the numerous attractions waiting for the guests in Metaponto centre. Other activi-



ties available include bowling, table tennis, a fitness centre, football, water polo, kayaks and volleyball. Naturally, everything is included in the price.

The village occupies the area of 45 ha and is situated in Taranto Gulf on Ionian Sea. Its characteristic feature are bungalows painted white to attract attention. You can explore it travelling by mini train, which runs through a beautiful pine forest, along the beach and the main swimming pool. Apart from this one, there is also a separate pool for children.

Metaponto, just like other centres in Italy, is an ideal holiday destination for families with children (extensive programme of activities and child care). The beautiful sandy beach is about 90 metres wide. Gardens full of pines, eucalyptus and fruit trees make this place a perfect spot for relaxation. The same is true for 441 comfortable rooms. All of them are located in bungalows equipped with balconies. There are no hotels in Metaponto.

Multinational cuisine in a form of buffet is a specialty of the local La Terrazza restaurant. There, you will find the Baby Zone, a special area for children, where







parents can prepare meals for their kids. If you feel like trying some regional specialties, go to a stylish La Vecchia Lucania restaurant. It is especially good for evening meals.

### OTRANTO

Water is a strongly emphasized aspect of the fourth Italian Club Med village. This is because Otranto, situated in a picturesque gulf in Apulia, can boast excellent swimming pools, a beautiful beach and an extensive water sports offer. Scuba-diving and snorkelling in the local gulf is an ideal occasion to get familiarised with the colourful, underwater world. The guests can also take a motor boat or catamaran cruise (there are also plenty of kayaks there). You can also go to a swimming pool not only to relax, but also take

part in exciting water polo matches.

Bungalows in Otranto have interesting architecture – they were erected in cubistic style – the upper floor looks like a box put upon another box. One or two-storey bungalows constitute two sectors. They are surrounded by greenery while the pattern of alleys and squares between them is supposed to make them look like typical Italian villages.

A standard bedroom, just like in other Club Med resorts, is called a Club Room. It has a private terrace, air-conditioning, an LCD TV, a bathroom with a shower, a telephone and a hair dryer. Suites consist of a bedroom and a lounge with a huge terrace (45 sq m) equipped with garden furniture.

As usually in Italian Club Med centres, there is a La Terrazza restaurant,

Club Med villages in Italy offer a number of ways to spend an excellent holiday

with the tables made of local stone. Guests can also go to The Ranch restaurant. As the name suggest, it serves mainly grilled meat and fish. It opens in the evenings and is located by the swimming pool. The bars in Club Med centre are open throughout the day and in the evenings.

The most interesting sports offer in Otranto is the Fitness Academy which has a wide choice of everyday activities with the assistance of qualified instructors. Naturally, tennis lessons also take part here, as well as many other sports activities like golf, team games and water sports. There is plenty to choose from, but that's a characteristic feature of all the villages with the trident sign. Holiday at Club Med is a synonym of deep relaxation and great fun. ■



### OUTSIDE THE CLUB – 12 OPTIONAL EXCURSION OFFERS

#### KAMARINA (Sicily)

- Agrigento – a guided trip through The Valley of the Temples.
- Malta – wonderful island with 1,000-year history, full of splendid monuments.
- Etna – a trip to the top of the Europe's highest active volcano.

#### NAPITIA (Kalabria)

- Triolo – a tiny village, and a place for “an evening between two seas”.
- Aeolian Islands – a boat trip across the Tyrrhenian Sea
- Reggio – the tip of the Italian “shoe”, a town dating back to 8th century BC.

#### METAPONTO (Taranto)

- Alberobello – a picturesque village called “the Smurf village”, situated in the midst of olive groves.
- Capri – a famous island with beautiful scenery and cinema stars' villas.
- Martina Franca – a visit to the local market.

#### OTRANTO (Apulia)

- Lecce – a town with baroque architecture.
- A boat trip – getting to know the coastline from the other side, and fishing by night as an alternative.
- Gallipoli – a picturesque fishing village.

Business Traveller  
interviews

**Alicja Kornasiewicz,**  
CEO of bank Pekao SA

# A dream journey

**I usually travel to...** It depends whether it's a business trip or holidays. Since Pekao SA Bank is a part of UniCredit Group, on business trips I travel to Milan, Turin or Vienna. However, several months earlier, in my previous position, I travelled mostly to Central and Eastern European countries, including Russia, the Ukraine and Turkey. Also to London, because – using aircraft terminology, it is a kind of “hub” for the contemporary European business. In my free time, I enjoy discovering new places, cultures, and interesting people.

**On the plane I like...** When flying I especially like a moment of peace and quiet. It's one of the places where you are not bothered with phone calls, e-mails or text messages. At least for the time being. I wish it could stay like that, but considering how fast the technology is developing, I begin to doubt it...

**My favourite hotel is...** – It's really hard to pick just one. It also depends on the type of transportation, as I have different needs if I arrive at a hotel in the middle of the night, after a hard day of business negotiation, and I have to get up first thing in the morning to catch another plane. Recently, I have stayed a few times at an interesting Hempel hotel in London arranged in Japanese style. This hint of exoticism and elegant asceticism really spoke to me. On the other hand, I have completely different expectations, when I want to have some free time with my family. In this category I also have my favourite – it's Residence Les Cascades in Soma Bay, Egypt. It's truly an oasis of peace and quiet. Generally speaking, I prefer peaceful hotels – those with golden chandeliers are definitely not for me. One more thing – there needs to be a pleasant scent – this truly contributes to pleasant relaxation.

**My remedy for a long journey:** Reading – it hasn't changed for many years. I always take plenty of books to catch up when I'm in for a long journey. And in between the chapters, I like to ponder about various things. Usually before the plane touches down, I already have a “to do list” for the next couple of days.

**I always take with me...** – Tonnes of books. Luckily there are bigger baggage limits in business class.

**I regret that...** – Concorde don't fly anymore. These were great, really fast, and





# ...to the Moon



comfortable planes. I will never forget the day when I flew from New York to London in 3.5 hours. These planes used to fly on much higher altitude, and so the views were totally different. You could really see the Earth...

**My favourite air port and why** – Definitely Vienna Schwechat, for many reasons. First of all, the airport itself is well-organized and friendly. Passing from one gate to another is not difficult,

shopping zones are clearly separated and the staff are friendly. Secondly, plane delays are very rare there, which is a crucial thing in business. Finally, Schwechat is well connected with other destinations. You can get everywhere from there.

**What attracts my attention in hotels is...** – Nice atmosphere. It may sound strange, but after all it is the most important aspect, as the hotel is supposed to act as a temporary home. I appreciate hotels

where there is peace and quiet, and the staff are discrete and not pushy.

**When I have a break, I usually...** – Unfortunately, I rarely have a break. Usually, when I'm on a business trip, my agenda could not be tighter. And when I'm on holiday with my family, I want to spend with them as much time as possible. But – taking into account the things I said earlier – I can say that when I do have a break, I will most probably bury myself in a book or two.

**The greatest holiday so far...** It's the most difficult question you could ask me. Mauritius, Thailand, Burma, Philippines, Goa – they were all beautiful. Mauritius is an ideal spot to forget about problems and to rest. Thailand, however, is very interesting as regards its culture.

**Trip adventure I would like to forget about** – Unfortunately, I could tell you a number of stories for this one. For example, when I woke up in San Francisco at 7.40 am, thinking that I had a plane at 8.00 pm. However, it turned out, that as I was waking up, my plane was just taking off. I could also tell you how unpleasant it is to face beggars in India. But what has really stuck in my memory, was the journey to Peru. I was walking around the city centre together with the Polish ambassador, and I was mugged and robbed. I lost the whole purse and its contents – the cards, documents, medicines and glasses. And because I tried to fight the attacker, I ended up being bruised and my dress was ruined. Today, I've learnt my lesson – you should always keep your eyes wide open, no matter where you are, alone or not.

**I know I'm going to visit...** – Mongolia, in order to get to know its culture and history. Then, when I finally have some free time, I'm going to make a tour round the former republics of the Soviet Union. But this time, I'm going to travel by car, not by plane. And I'm going to make a lot of stops, to be able to talk to the local people and not worry about the schedule. However, if you asked me about my dream trip, I would tell you it's the trip to the Moon. And I hope, I'll get there soon, as well.

# The World in Pictures

**S**mall is beautiful and sometimes very efficient. Compact cameras are unfairly perceived as equipment for the beginners and easy going users. Compacts are rapidly growing stronger. They offer advanced functions, excellent lenses, manual settings, at the same time being small and handy. Most photography lovers decide to buy more advanced DSLR cameras, which make them look more professional than they really are and sit snugly in the hand. Unfortunately, such users are not technically prepared to take advantage of all the options offered by such cameras and mostly set them to the automatic mode. Advanced compact cameras can amaze us with an outstanding quality of photos, at the same time being less costly than DSLRs and less noticeable, which may turn useful while travelling. Darek Zawadzki, our colleague and an electronics whizz, checks six well-equipped compact digital cameras.

## SONY CYBER-SHOT DSC-HX5V

The camera boasts its compact size, ease of use and excellent quality of pictures. HX5 has a wide-angle 25 mm lens with 10x optical zoom, which in combination with the intelligent mode Sweep Panorama (which captures and stitches a series of images to create a wide angle panorama) produces an electrifying effect. As befits an advanced compact camera, Sony also records HD movies in 1080i resolution (AVCHD format). What you also get is the CCD's with 10.2 MMP of effective resolution, a fast BIONZ image processor, 3-inch Clear Photo LCD display, GPS module and intelligent automatic features for beginners.

Price 1399 PLN.



## NIKON COOLPIX P100

P100 sits comfortably in the hand – an invaluable characteristics, especially appreciated while photo-hunting. The solid chassis with ergonomic hand-grip, wide-angle Nikkor lens with ED glass and 26x optical zoom (equivalent to 26-678 mm), CMOS picture processor, 10.3 MP sensor and the legendary brand which does not need any further recommendations. Nikon shoots excellent photos and record Full HD movies (with stereo sound). A convenient 3-inch adjustable screen is another detail which really comes in handy. The Japanese engineers packed their toy with lots of solid electronics e.g. five functions to reduce image blur, a wide range of scene modes to facilitate shooting, the option of setting the exposure manually and so-called multi-exposure mode (in poor light conditions P100 captures 8 frames and then combines them to produce a picture of a better quality) and HDMI port to connect the camera with the TV screen. All of those for only 1739 PLN.







### SAMSUNG EX1

It is the flagship model among Samsung cameras. The Koreans equipped it with an excellent wide-angle Schneider KREUZNACH 24 mm lens with impressive focal length of 1.9 and 3x optical zoom. EX1 has also a 10 MP CCD, efficient DRIMeIII picture processor, dual image stabilizer (optical and digital), and 3-inch swiveling AMOLED display. Manual setting freaks will definitely appreciate the full manual control over the shutter and aperture. Beginners can rely fully on Smart Auto 2.0 – intelligent scene recognition technology, which can be used both for taking still pictures and making movies.

**Price 1799 PLN.**

### CANON POWERSHOT G11

It is one of the most advanced and also most respected compacts. G11 is often used by professional photographers as an auxiliary camera, which by itself is the best recommendation. Inside the classic chassis there is a 10 MP CCD sensor, DIGIC 4 image processor and Dual Anti-Noise system. The camera has also a solid lens: (equivalent to 28-140 mm) with 2.8-4.5 focal length, and a 5x zoom with optical image stabilizer. One of the novelties is a 2.8 inch adjustable PureColor II VA LCD monitor, which has been introduced in response to the feedback from the users of the previous G series. Additionally, we get: manual modes, external flash mounting, built-in 3-level natural density filter, precise white balance control, ability to shoot in RAW format and an HDMI mini connector. The range of accessories available for the camera is exceptionally broad: from flashes to waterproof housing which enables you to take your camera up to 40 metres underwater.

**Price 2249 PLN.**





### OLYMPUS SP-800UZ

The Japanese with the feel. The model is equipped with a solid wide-angle lens with 30x optical zoom and focal range from 28 to 840 mm. Additionally, we get a 14 MP CCD, dual image stabilizer, TruePic III 3-inch LCD display (16:9), 2GB of internal memory and HD movie mode (720p). Olympus has also armed its compact with a whole battery of electronic aids: the Shading Compensation technology, facet detection, iAuto mode, AF tracking and "Magic Filters".

Price 1499 PLN.



### PANASONIC LUMIX DMC-TZ10

Lumix has for years been Panasonic's brand of digital cameras, which turned out to be a successful move. Today, the Lumix brand is Panasonic's equivalent to Sony's Handycam or Cyber-shot. It is a well respected brand which, if it was needed, might as well function separately. TZ10 is a inconspicuous-looking camera with truly amazing functions. What we get here is a 25 mm wide-angle Leica DC VARIO ELMAR lens with 12x optical zoom (equivalent to 25-300 mm in 36mm cameras), 14.5 MP CCD sensor (12.1 MP photos), picture processor Venus Engine HD II with intelligent technology resolution, a built-in GPS receiver (presents current info on geographical location and records the coordinates of the place where the photo is taken), manual exposure control, optical image stabilizer Power O.I.S and a 3" LCD screen. The camera also records movies in HD resolution.

Price: 1799 PLN.







# Audi A5 a Versatile Car

Quite versatile. Audi A5 Sportback may not be a terrain car, but it combines the elements which seem impossible to go together.

**T**his car has a shape of a coupe – it is elegant and ageless, at the same time being comfortable as you would expect it from a top-shelf sedan. Moreover, with its huge boot it is as functional as a station wagon.

Audi first presented the coupe version of A5. Later, they unveiled the convertible and now we have received a new SW-like A5 Sportback (in the regular version, or in the most recent “S” version - which stands for “sport”) You might wonder why they didn’t decide to present all

those versions at once, since all A5 are similar and have a lot of common elements. In theory it is possible, but nobody wanted to take a risk before the first version of A5 was launched. Those fears turned out to be unfounded and unnecessary as the elegant coupe from Ingolstadt (where Audis HQ are) has found a whole crowd of followers. Firstly, of those who wish to stand out (the convertible and coupe are quite extravagant vehicles). Later, followed the demanding drivers with families and with... a clearly defined notion of beauty and space. “My car has to be unique and elegant, but also spacious, because I use it for work. It must also be four-door to comfortably accommodate my customers and a child seat!” To tell you the truth – the Germans have managed to please everyone.

## I'M NOT THAT ORDINARY

It would be good if every “Sportback” which rolls out of Audi production line carried such a sticker, because these cars are far from ordinary. Starting with the suspension, through the AWD and 7-speed automatic transmission to engines for “the kings of the space”. Calm and unpretentious? These engines are powerful enough (160 to 333 BHP; maximum speed of the latter is 250 km/h), modern (the petrol engines have direct fuel injection and turbo), superbly equipped

(just like coupe – with Bang&Olufsen audio system, optional sports differentials or even “climate controlled comfort seats”).

## A PRACTICAL COUPE

If you compare A5 to A4 sedan, you will notice that A5’s ride height is 3.6 cm lower than A4’s. Not much, but enough for the Audi to look “flatter” and visually very long. It was supposed to look like coupe, right? And it does! It was just enough to get rid of the frames round the door and reduce the size of the door windows. The result? If it wasn’t for the central pillar, the Sportback could easily be mistaken for the 2-door version. A practical value? Five seats plus 480-litre boot and... the fifth door – this may come as a surprise, but A5 Sportback is not a sedan, but a much more useful liftback.

This car is not only beautiful, but it also drives like a charm. Everyone would like to have one – but not many will. Why? Well, all this technology has its value – the most basic version of the car costs around 140,000 PLN (€ 35,000). Shame... or not? At least, there’s always something to dream about. ■

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



# 04 HOURS IN BRUSSELS

Manneken Pis



**Michelle Mannion** uncovers quirky statues, energy food and surrealist art in the capital city of the European Union

01.00



## 01 MANNEKEN PIS

Whoever said Brussels was humourless? Start your tour at this small fountain, perplexingly one of the city's most celebrated sights, and get an idea of the quirkiness beneath the sober exterior of Europe's capital. Manneken Pis means "little pee man" and that's exactly what this is – a pint-sized statue of a naked boy relieving himself into a font below. Legend has it the wee hero it depicts saved the city in the 14th century by neutralising a bomb with his jet stream. The monument has had a few scrapes itself – the original version was retrieved after being stolen by the English, but then disappeared after French forces swiped it, to be replaced by the current bronze form in 1619.

It's said Louis XV was so contrite about his troops' behaviour that he gave the sculpture a gold costume, and since then the dapper little dude has accumulated about 800 outfits from around the world, many of which are on display in Brussels City Museum on the Grand Place. He's dressed up a few times a week in everything from a lifeguard suit to the Venezuelan national costume, and whenever he gets a new outfit he pees beer. A bit of a cottage industry has grown up around him too – opposite is the Manneken Pis pub, and next door is an eponymous chocolaterie, where you can buy toxic-looking yellow- and red-coloured creations in his image. The statue is located at the corner of Rue de l'Etuve and Rue du Chêne.

## 02 ROYAL GALLERIES OF SAINT-HUBERT

From the ridiculous to the sublime – cut up Rue de l'Etuve to Brussels' main square,

the Grand Place, and take a moment to soak in the lively atmosphere and suitably grand buildings that border it. These include the Gothic-style town hall with its 96-metre high spire, a good landmark by which to get your bearings. Take Rue de la Colline and at the top you'll see your next stop, the Royal Galleries of Saint-Hubert. Two elegant shopping arcades built in 1846 in Italian Renaissance style, they are reminiscent of Milan's Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II and feature a beautiful glass domed ceiling. Browse among the marble-fronted shops, which sell everything from chocolate and lace to antique jewellery and designer handbags, then reward your efforts with a Belgian beer or coffee at the Café Deville – a great spot for people-watching.

## 03 RENE MAGRITTE MUSEUM

From here, it's a short walk to the Mont des Arts and Brussels' cultural quarter. A plethora of museums are located in the area around Place Royale and Place du Musée, from the Royal Museums of Fine Arts to the Museum of Musical Instruments. The latest addition, open since June, celebrates the work of Belgian surrealist painter René Magritte and is housed in a neoclassical building on Place Royale. It contains 250 works by the artist as well as an atmospheric set of portrait photos by Duane Michals that hint at the character of the man in the bowler hat. There's also a film called Magritte, Day and Night that provides an 'overview of the life of the artist and the man' – but as it's 52 minutes long, it might be a stretch for this particular four-hour tour... Open Tue-Sun 10am-5pm (8pm Wed). Entry e8 (as it's newly opened



Palac Sprawiedliwości

it's very popular, so be prepared to queue). 135 Rue Esseghem; tel. +32 2428 2626; magrittemuseum.be

## 04 SABLON

Take Rue de la Régence to Sablon, one of the most well-heeled areas of the city. It comprises two parts, separated by the late-gothic Church of Our Lady of Sablon – to your left is Petit Sablon, a pretty garden with a fountain in the middle topped by statues of Count Egmont and Count Hornes, beheaded in the Grand Place in 1568 for demanding religious freedom. Around the park are 48 statues depicting the medieval crafts of Brussels.

To your right is Grand Sablon, a tree-lined cobbled area lined with antique shops, restaurants and furniture stores – an antique market takes place here on the weekends. In the centre sits the Minerva Fountain, a gift to the city from English lord Thomas Bruce, a political refugee in





Królewskie galerie św. Huberta



Sablon



Rouge Tomato



the 18th century. He's said to have introduced high tea to Brussels, and you can partake of it in Wittamer, a family-owned bakery, chocolaterie and tea room, and Flamant, a homeware and jewellery emporium. Pay a visit to Pierre Marcolini's flagship store at the bottom of Grand Sablon – one of the most well-regarded chocolatiers in Belgium, his creations are artworks in themselves.

#### 05 PALACE OF JUSTICE

If you continue down Rue de la Régence you can't miss the colossal Palace of Justice with its gold dome and towering columns. Built between 1866 and 1883, the iron and stone structure is bigger than St Peter's Basilica in Rome. A combination of Greek, Roman and Egyptian styles, it was a labour of love for architect Joseph Poelaert, who was driven mad by the project and died three years before it was completed. Maybe this was down to the snowballing cost – paid for by the taxpayer, it

went five times over budget. As it's still the supreme court of Belgium, you can go in and have a look around for free – in the morning the main room buzzes with lawyers talking to their clients at the wooden benches around its edges. There's also a lift next to the building that provides a great vista of the city.

#### 06 ROUGE TOMATE

By now it's probably time to refuse, so make your way down Avenue Louise to Rouge Tomato for a meal with a difference. The restaurant's concept is healthy cuisine with a gastronomic focus, but this is not merely jumping on a trendy bandwagon – the menus are drawn up with dieticians to provide nutritious, energising meals (no cream or butter, plenty of vegetables), exquisitely presented.

The décor is similarly fresh, with a cream and red palette, close-up prints of luscious-looking vegetables, and floor-to-ceiling windows looking on to the secluded gar-

den at the back – a good place to sit in warm weather. Try one of the speciality juices – the celery, apple and mint combination is particularly good – and if you're here at lunchtime, the «balanced business lunch» is a good shout, with a set starter, main and coffee for €22. There is also a Rouge Tomato in New York. 190 Avenue Louise; tel +32 2647 7044; [rougetomate.com](http://rougetomate.com) – [Wejdź.na.brusselsinternational.be](http://Wejdź.na.brusselsinternational.be)



04.00



## 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@businessstraveller.pl



### THE VOLCANIC ASH GROUNDED ME

I booked a plane ticket to London for 19 April and I couldn't go because of the volcano eruption.

I couldn't get through to the airport, the only information I got was from the web site. At one moment it was announced that the airspace over Poland was open again, but my flight to London was still cancelled – there were no departures from Warsaw. The plane took off only after 6 days of waiting. Could you explain why I was not allowed to depart, although planes were already flying?

**Iwona**

**Dear Iwona,**

The situation of all the airlines operating flights over Europe was one of a kind. Vol-

cano eruptions in Europe had never caused flight complications on such a large scale. Everyone was equally unprepared to such unusual situation.

The planes undergo a series of tests to verify their ability to fly in difficult conditions (changes of temperature, rain, snow, storms, strong winds). The volcano ash and its influence on planes had not, so far, been examined so carefully. That is why appropriate procedures had not been worked out. What is more, the ash of European volcanoes may have a different structure and composition than volcano ashes from other parts of the world.

We have to bear in mind that it's the passengers' safety that counts the most. That's why a rather drastic decision was made to close the airspace over Europe. At first, all the flights were cancelled. The closure of

the airspace over Poland meant that no plane could take off, fly over, or land in Poland. At some point, the ash fell down to some level, above which the air was clear.

This allowed for the safe flights at a particular altitude, but the take-offs and landings were still far from safe, which seems to be your situation. The planes could only fly over the airspace of Poland, but could not go down beyond a certain altitude. That's why your plane to London could not take off.

Currently, airports, airlines and meteorological services are beginning to cooperate with volcanologists, to be better prepared to similar situations in the future. Plane manufacturers and airlines are definitely going to learn from these experiences. Flight routes are also going to be corrected. Instead of taking a more economic route, we are going to fly longer but safer.

### A CAT ONBOARD

What should I do to take a cat with me on the plane? In a few months I'm planning to go to Spain and I would like to take my pet with me. Do I need any special certificates? Will I have to bear any extra costs?

**Ewelina**

**Dear Ewelina,**

Naturally transporting animals by air is possible. However, it is subject to special procedures. In case of small animals, passengers can take them with themselves to the cabin. They should be, however, always kept in cages of specific size (the maximum size of a cage can vary depending on the airline and the type of the plane).

The cage should fit under the seat in front of you. Animals should remain in cages throughout the flight. Some carriers accept the so-called soft cages made of thick plastic, in which some elements are bendable, which reduces their overall size.

Pets (together with the cage) should not exceed a certain weight limit, which is usually 8 kg. Most carriers allow only for dogs and cats to be transported. There is also a limit of the number of animals being transported at one time. Usually it is one animal in one cabin – e.g.: one dog in business and one in economic class.

Larger animals can be transported under the plane.

Most planes have special holds intended for animals transportation. These places are air-conditioned and the suitable temperature is always kept there. On longer flights, each cage is provided with its own container with water. Sometimes it is recommended to give animals a mild tranquilizer – the animals can also be stressed by the flight.

You should necessarily inform the airline on planning to bring an animal with you, when booking your ticket. Airlines verify if it is possible to bring a pet on board within 48 hours. You should always inform them on the size of the cage and the weight of the animal. You will also need the passport number (is-

sued by some veterinary hospitals) and the microchip number. The vet will also give you the necessary information on which countries require animals to go through quarantine – sometimes it may take even a couple of months. Such information can significantly change our plans.

Some airlines do not allow for dogs transportation on selected routes in summer time. It applies to short-nosed dogs, as they may not bear the heat and their electrolyte balance may be disturbed.

There is an extra charge on animal transportation. The cage is treated as another baggage item and the extra charges may vary according to the route we take. The above regulations do not apply to guide dogs accompanying the blind person. These dogs get special treatment, as they do not travel in cages and airlines do not charge extra for bringing them on board. What is more, such a dog gets on board first in order to familiarize itself with the plane layout and the crew. Thanks to it, its owner will feel more comfortable during the flight.



## Doświadczając piękna Doświadczając luksusu...

*Każda kobieta lubi poddawać się zabiegom, które sprawiają, że pięknieje i czuje się wyjątkowa. W Malayka Beauty Center eksperci pielęgnacji urody wiedzą, jak wszechstronnie zadbać o urodę i doskonałe samopoczucie Klientek.*

### Dlaczego Malayka Beauty Center jest miejscem wyjątkowym?

**M**alayka Beauty Center jest jedynym miejscem w Warszawie, które proponuje **wszystkie metody przedłużania i zagęszczania rzęs** pojedynczymi rzęsami o indywidualnie dobranej grubości i długości, z możliwością dodatkowego zdobienia na przykład modnymi kryształkami. Efekty są zadziwiające – pomimo, że dłuższe i bardziej gęste od naturalnych, rzęsy nadal wyglądają jak własne. Są trwałe – utrzymują się nawet do ośmiu tygodni. Spojrzenie staje się bardziej wyraziste, a oczy nabierają wyjątkowego blasku.

Malayka Beauty Center to miejsce, które oferuje całą gamę zabiegów kolorystycznych, nowoczesne techniki strzyżenia i stylizacji oraz odnowy włosów. Profesjonaliści zadbać zarówno o fryzurę, jak i o nawilżenie włosów, przywrócenie im gładkości, miękkości i połysku – skuteczność profesjonalnej pielęgnacji zapewnią wykorzystywane przez nich kosmetyki ekskluzywnych marek **Alterna** i **Seishin**. Zastosowanie odpowiedniego masażu zrelaksuje, ukoji skórę głowy, a zabieg z użyciem urządzenia **MicroMist** pozwoli odżywczym składnikom wnikać głęboko w strukturę włosów.

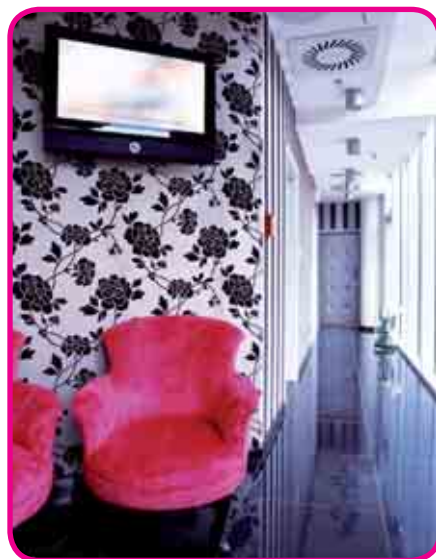
Malayka Beauty Center oferuje ekskluzywne profesjonalne zabiegi na twarz i ciało. Proponuje najlepsze światowe marki, m.in.: **Bellefontaine**, **Andre Zagozda**, **Pevonia Botanica**, a także autorskie programy pielęgnacyjne. Malayka beauty center proponuje unikalną metodę usuwania zbędnego owłosienia na twarzy oraz precyzyjnego kształtowania linii brwi **wschodnią sztuką nitkowania**.

Malayka Beauty Center zapewnia pielęgnacyjną opiekę nad kobietami w ciąży.

Programy dobierane są przy współpracy z ginekologiem, dietetykiem, a także trenerem fitness.

Malayka Beauty Center proponuje zabiegi medycyny estetycznej, wśród których znajdują się ostrykiwania, wypełniania, peelingsi lekarskie, rozwiązania likwidujące zmarszczki i przebarwienia oraz kuracje z zastosowaniem **Macrolane** – powiększanie piersi i pośladków oraz odmładzanie skóry rąk. Oferuje preparaty renomowanych marek i najlepszą opiekę medyczną.

Malayka Beauty Center proponuje zabiegi wykorzystujące wysoko zaawansowaną technologię i najwyższej klasy aparaturę. Pozwalają one przywrócić sylwetce harmonijne kształty oraz zniwelować niedoskonałości skóry zwiększając jednocześnie jej gładkość, miękkość i elastyczność. Urządzenie **Body Mix RF** charakteryzuje się unikalną skutecznością – szybko i trwale modeluje sylwetkę, redukuje cellulit i nadmiar tkanki tłuszczowej. **Body Health** wykorzystuje właściwości masażu próżniowego – zabiegi charakteryzują się silnym działaniem drenującym i detoksującym. Poprawiają obieg limfy w tkankach oraz redukują masę tkanki tłuszczowej. W Malayka beauty center dostępne są również najnowocześniejsze rozwiązania estetyczne oparte na technologii światła pulsacyjnego – urządzenie **Trios-Laser**. Stosowane jest ono w zabiegach usuwania nadmiernego owłosienia, a także w kuracjach odmładzających (fotoodmładzanie) i minimalizujących defekty skóry (m.in.: likwidowanie rumienia i przebarwień oraz leczenie trądziku). Ofertę uzupełnia **Royal Liner** – najwyższej klasy profesjonalny i precyzyjny sprzęt do makijażu permanentnego.





„**Rezydencja Radziwiłłowska**”, zwieńczona charakterystyczną neobarokową wieżą, to przykład eklektycznej architektury z przełomu XIX i XX wieku. Zlokalizowany w niej „**Apartament z Wieżą**” zachwyca przestronnymi (ponad 250m<sup>2</sup>) i nasłonecznionymi wnętrzami

✱

własna wieża – własny basen – własna przestrzeń

✱

podziemne prywatne SPA oraz automatyczne garaże,  
a widok z jego okien na panoramę Krakowa urzeka swoim pięknem

✱

może to być wyjątkowa inwestycja lub jakże wyjątkowe „Twoje miejsce” w zabytkowym Krakowie...

✱

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