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NEW GENERATION GADGETS

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LONG AUTUMN JOURNEYS

Summer in Europe ended a long time ago, but you can still find it on other continents. If you are searching for the sun and the warm breeze, you can always visit with us Buenos Aires, Singapore, the Maldives and Hawaii. You can also spend a fantastic time in Tokyo, Madera and Cordoba – going there on a business trip or just for short autumn holidays.

Our British correspondent Liat Clark discovers that though the Argentine capital has transformed itself in the past decade – though its life-affirming vibe remains steadfast. He presents the divine Buenos as a place where it is not only worth investing, but also spending holidays in boutique hotels located in such trendy districts as Recoleta, San Telmo, Palermo Soho, or Palermo Hollywood.

Tokyo, widely regarded as the greatest city in the world, is renowned for its ultrafast trains and long tea-making ceremonies. The city packed with concrete housing estates, but at the same time worshipping the nature. The kitschy Hallo Kitty goes here hand in hand with the sophisticated haiku poetry. It is definitely worth going there this autumn, taking advantage of the discounted pricing of airline tickets. Agata Janicka claims that the best way to tour Tokyo is by underground rail with one of its 13 lines. If in autumn you happen to be in Andalusia, you should definitely visit Cordoba. This proud raw city, which seems to hide a lot of dark secrets, is one of the most interesting in Spain. Located on the River Guadalquivir, it offers many sights - including one of the most beautiful churches in the world - the mosque of the caliphs. Cordoba also boasts excellent conference facilities, sophisticated restaurants and hotels. Enjoy your reading and the autumn escapades!

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief



NAJLEPSZA NA ŚWIECIE KLASA BIZNES

Projektując nasze luksusowe salony biznesowe i kabiny Klasy Biznes, dołożyliśmy wszelkich starań, abyś poczuł się w nich niczym w pięciogwiazdkowym hotelu. Nasz doświadczony personel sprawi, że będziesz mógł w pełni cieszyć się Najlepszą na Świecie Klasą Biznes, zarówno na lotnisku, jak i 10 tysięcy metrów nad ziemią. Qatar Airways, zdobywca nagrody dla Najlepszej na Świecie Klasy Biznes, Najlepszego na Świecie Salonu Biznesowego, oraz Najlepszego Personelu Pokładowego na Bliskim Wschodzie.

Aby uzyskać więcej informacji, odwiedź stronę: qatarairways.com/pl

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Hotels

Radisson

NEW HOTELS

The prestigious Radisson chain does not slow down its pace opening new hotels and renovating the existing ones. Recently, the long list of Radisson establishments has been expanded by three interesting hotels – each located in a different corner of the world. If you are new to Radisson offer, you might want to check one of these, and you will certainly not regret it.

Calgary Airport East is a prime location for people travelling to Calgary for business or for a family weekend. The hotel is situated not only close to the airport, but also within a short distance of several shopping malls and the zoo. Guests will enjoy here 120 modern and nicely arranged rooms. The strong point of this place is its conference centre with spacious rooms and offices allowing for privacy. The room rate also includes bus transfer from the airport, internet access, treatment at the Sana Spa as well as the use of the fitness centre.

Radisson Hotel Atlanta Northwest has just opened after a major refurbishment. It offers 218 rooms in different categories, ranging from the basic, through business class room, to suites and two-bedroom suites. Each is equipped with a comfortable bed and a plasma TV. The conference and fitness centres cover the impressive area of 6,600 sq m. There is also an outdoor swimming pool and good restaurants. Radisson Atlanta Northwest is located close to the most important attractions in the city such as Dobbins Air Force Base, Coca-Cola Enterprises and Marietta Square.

Radisson Aquatica Resort Barbados is just two miles from the white sands of the Caribbean Beach, where you can snorkel with turtles. There is free Wi-Fi, a fitness centre and an outdoor swimming pool. The hotel has 124 rooms and suites, some of which have a sea view, all with modern décor and elements characteristic of the ethnic art of Barbados. It is a great place to relax in the Caribbean. More details at: www.radisson.com.

Airlines

Finnair

ON BOARD AND AT THE AIRPORT

Finnair introduces a number of interesting upgrades. They include a significant expansion to in-flight entertainment on all long-haul flights as well as modernisation of the lounge zone at the airport in Helsinki.

Finnair has nearly doubled its range of in-flight entertainment options on all long-haul flights, with a choice of 72 movies and more than 150 TV shows. On some flights passengers now have also access to Samsung Tab 3 tablet computers, available to rent at a cost of €10.

Finnair is retrofitting an additional eight long-haul aircraft to provide seats that convert to



fully-flat beds in Business Class, for optimum comfort in long-haul travel.

Work has also started on building a new Premium Lounge in the non-Schengen area. It will be open in spring 2014 and complement the original Finnair Lounge, which routinely ranks in lists of the world's top airline lounges. More details at: www.finnair.com



Event

Book

THE CAPTAIN'S STORY

Tadeusz Wrona, a pilot for LOT Polish Airlines, and the man who blew the whole world by performing a successful belly-landing with Boeing 767. In his book entitled "Ja, kapitan" ("I – the captain"), he talks about his dreams, passions, ideals, and taking advantage of happy coincidences. He reconstructs his road from a rookie making his first steps in gliding, to being a captain of the world's most advanced passenger aircraft Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

This is how he describes his first glider flight: "I was excited about every second of this air trip and I at that time I already knew that flying was what I would like to do in my life. Actually, it was the only choice for me!"

Of course, the events related to the famous belly-landing are also described here. "When I got home, the plane had just landed. Before I turned on the TV, my husband was already on the ground. (...) I cannot describe the relief that I felt then. I burst into tears. I was sitting spellbound watching TV and crying," recalls Marzena, the captain's wife.

You can now buy the book in good bookstores at PLN 29.90

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NA TABLETY!

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France

Avignon

WINE, MUSIC AND FUN

On 21 November 2013 winemakers, wine brotherhoods, traders, and those who love this unique drink and like good fun, will meet to celebrate the new vintage of Côtes du Rhône wine. The event takes place annually and each ear gathers thousands of people. The guests to the festival will have a chance to try this year's products of local wineries, as well as numerous delicacies. They will also learn about the art of matching wines with meals. The highlight of the event will be the parade of wine brotherhoods which will be held at 6.15 pm. On that evening restaurants in Avignon will offer its guest a special Côtes du Rhône menu as well as a free glass wine! To read more about the city's attractions go to www.avignon-tourisme.com

Beauty

Eisenberg

IT IS A TEMPTATION YOU SIMPLY CANNOT RESIST!

J'OSE - a truly tempting scent! The iconic fragrance by EISENBERG – unforgettable, moving and provoking with a remarkable bouquet of the heart note which consists of Mocha coffee and jasmine blossom.

J'OSE is a combination of head notes of lemon, armoise, and mint, head notes of lavender, mocha coffee, and jasmine, and base notes of patchouli, cedarwood, musk, sandalwood, and amber.

J'OSE WOMEN and J'OSE MEN fragrances contain identical ingredients, but mixed in different proportions. Neither of them contains dyes and both have been created on the basis of subtle natural oils slightly enriched with a synthetic note to crate scent impressions that are not found in the nature. The fragrances are enrobed in nice bottles of transparent glass, which does not contain lead.

Price: PLN 259/30 ml; PLN 399/50 ml



Airlines

Air France

BUSINESS TRIPS

Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport is the seventh most important hub in the world and the third in Europe. Each day, it is used by thousands of businesspeople. For this reason, the last year's modernization of AIR FRANCE's main port was done with the needs of business travellers in mind.

The modernized Terminal 2E houses the world's largest business lounge, which occupies an area of over 3,000 sq m and can accommodate 800 guests at the same time. Those who want even more comfort, can use a spa where Clarins cosmetic company offers guests a range of free treatments. Hungry and thirsty travellers will recharge their batteries in a spacious restaurant, which also offers a wide range of hot meals. More info at www.airfrance.pl and www.klm.pl





Tourism

Norway

PARIS OF THE NORTH INVITES TOURISTS

From the jagged peaks of the Lofoten to the wide Finnmarksvidda plateau, from long summer days and white nights to the amazing winter nights illuminated by the Northern Lights. North Norway offers a variety of experiences in all seasons. It is worth crossing the polar circle and coming off towards the North Cape. Almost the whole of North Norway is located above the Arctic Circle, and its capital is the city of Tromsø, often called the Paris of the North. Great scenery await at every step, so get ready for a total enchantment.

Tromsø is a small town that can be visited on foot or using a convenient urban transport. You can reach the airport, which is located only 10 minutes from the town centre, by express buses operated by the airport, regular town buses, or a taxi. The main attractions include the Arctic Cathedral, Polaria Arctic Aquarium, the Polar Museum, as well as the northernmost brewery – Mack Bryggeri. You may also want to visit the Art Museum of Northern Norway and the Gallery of Modern Art, and if you are lucky you will also see the Festival of Northern Lights, or the Reindeer Racing Championship that takes place on the main street of Tromsø. The surrounding area is also packed with attractions - from extreme skiing to dogsledding, and snowmobile expeditions. This wonderful experience may become even more magical when the beautiful aurorae appear in the sky. More details at: www.visitnorway.pl

Airlines

British Airways

CULINARY HIGHS

Every day British Airways serves on board its aircraft more than 100,000 meals from the menu that is prepared by the world's greatest chefs such as Heston Blumenthal or Simone Hulstone. The menu is constantly fine-tuned and improved with new flavours and concepts. Now, the British national carrier also introduces a completely new menu in Club World (business) class. More details at: www.ba.com



Event
Award

LOT DOES IT AGAIN

LOT Polish Airlines has received the award for the best airline in Central and Eastern Europe. It is LOT's 16th award voted for by the readers of the British edition of the prestigious "Business Traveller" magazine! Congratulations also on behalf of the readers of Business Traveller Poland - the Polish edition of the British magazine.



Airlines
Emirates

THREE NEW PRODUCTS ON FOUR CONTINENTS

Emirates' expansion has reached new heights with the launch of flights to Clark in the Philippines, the inauguration of a route between Milan and New York, and a brand new A380 service to Brisbane – all on the same day in four different continents.

Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline, said: "Today is an extremely significant day for our network – we are connecting two great cities across the Atlantic, opening an important new gateway into the Philippines, which helps link Filipino communities across the world, and our magnificent flagship aircraft will quietly descend into yet another destination."

Clark will be Emirates' second gateway into the Philippines after Manila. Emirates already serves New York and Milan. The new service addresses an underserved transatlantic link between the two commercially vibrant cities, both in terms of non-stop flights and a premium product offering. Through agreements with JetBlue in the US and with Easyjet in Europe, customers can easily connect onto flights serving the US via New York and Europe via Milan. With the Milan-New York connection, Emirates becomes triple daily into New York, home to the largest Italian community in America.



ATTACHED:

LEONARD ADOR
HOTELS[illegible]

WHAT'S ON

The most interesting cultural events

CRACOW ERWIN WURM

MOCAK Museum of Contemporary Art, Cracow

The exhibition open from 17 October 2013 to 26 January 2014.

The displayed works include an artist who "swallowed the world", a bent truck curved up against a building, cucumbers cast in bronze and projects from the famous photo shoot for Palmers clothing brand. Considered too controversial, these were rejected by the company which ordered them. This is the first time this world-renowned artist has come to Poland with such an extensive exhibition. Wurm presents the photographs of people in unusual situations and deformed poses. The exhibition is interactive - with the help of instructions attached to everyday objects drawn by the artist the MOCAK visitors can make works of art of themselves. www.mocak.pl



LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL

15-24 November 2013

In spite of those who believe that the era of jazz has been gone for ever, thousands of fans are planning to take part in London's annual jazz festival. The highlights of this year's event is the evening opening gala and Stan Sulzmann's Neon Orchestra, Sonny Rollins and Madeleine Peyroux performances. The organizers invited various artists - you will be able to hear the pillars of the British music scene, traditional American jazz stars as well as young European artists. The list of performers includes Hugh Masekela, Arild Andersen, Paolo Conte, John McLaughlin and Zakir Hussain. Concerts will take place at the Southbank Centre, Royal Albert Hall, Barbican Centre, Ronnie Scott's, and the 606 Club. A detailed programme of concerts can be found at londonjazzfestival.org.uk

WARSAW JACOB AUE SOBOL

On 25 October an exhibition of works by the renowned Danish photographer launched the Leica Gallery situated in a building in 3 Mysia Street, where once the famous Censorship Office resided. "Everything is different," says Jacob Sobol about the exhibition at Leica Gallery Warszawa. The master of black-and-white photography shows here for the first time his latest project entitled "Arrivals and Departures". Jacob Aue Sobol is one of the most important contemporary artists of black and white photography. He is a traveller and inspiration seeker. "I'd rather participate than watch," he says and abandons the civilization, settling in Greenland, to become a hunter and a fisherman. Photos documenting his unusual approach to life have brought him fame. www.leica-camera.pl



NORMANDY AUTUMN OF DANCE, THEATRE AND MUSIC

Autumn marks the beginning of the Autumn Festival in Normandy (Automne en Normandie), the time of a cultural dialogue that enlivens the region every year, offering artistic encounters with theatre, music and dance. This year festival's theme is Masculine / Feminine. The subject of gender identity will be presented in all its complexity through a variety of performances by highly-regarded artists. Although some events of the festival will be held in Rouen, the capital of the region, the programme also includes smaller towns of Normandy, such as Le Havre, Louviers, Dieppe, Mont-Saint-Aignan, Evreux and Vernon. To see the programme and book tickets go to: <http://automne-en-normandie.com/en/>. To read more about the attractions of the region, visit: www.normandie-tourisme.fr



NEW GENERATION GADGETS

This premiere was long awaited by millions of tech-freaks round the worlds. And here it is! Samsung Poland has just released two latest mobile devices from the GALAXY family - GALAXY Note 3 smartphone and the GALAXY Gear watch.

A beautiful woman wearing a fashionable dress is looking at her designer watch. Is she checking the time? Probably. But the watch also enables her to access the Internet, make phone calls, take photos, store data...

No, it is not a part of a science fiction movie. This woman is a supermodel Erin Wasson and the scene took place early in September during New York Fashion Week, where the world's most important designers presented their spring-summer collections for 2014. Designed by Alexander Wang – the creative director of Balenciaga fashion house and the hottest name in the fashion industry – Samsung GALAXY Gear was a compulsory gadget of this year's show.

This is yet another example of the triumphant entry of Samsung GALAXY family to the world of fashion. Regular visitors to the Parish Fashion Week recently raved about the bags by the iconic Hexa by Kuho brand with a specially designed compartment for the ultramodern Samsung GALAXY Note 3. The designers explain that every true fashionista likes to be in touch with their friends and favourite fashion sites, and therefore they should always have their smartphone at hand. Another famous brand – Moschino – also follows this trend and on 21 September it officially started collaboration with Samsung. Now Moschino dresses not only celebrities and luxury fashion lovers, but also the icon of the technological style - Samsung GALAXY Note 3. This ultra-modern, unconventional smartphone with accessories from Moschino will become not only an essential part of everyday life, but also a unique addition to any, even the most unusual creation.

Why have these devices been able to conquer not only the hearts of their users, but also the world of grand fashion which it is not easy to impress, at all?

GALAXY NOTE 3 POWERFUL AND STYLISH

Compared to its predecessor, the Samsung GALAXY Note 3 features a larger Full HD Super AMOLED display (5.7-inch), a thinner (8.3 mm) and lighter (168 grams) body, as well as a stronger battery (3,200 mAh). With the 13-megapixel camera with Smart stabilization and a LED lamp with high colour rendering index, the new Samsung GALAXY Note 3 will capture all the important moments and scenes, even those in

poor light. Samsung Galaxy Note 3 offers the latest LTE technologies – CAT4 Carrier Aggregation and supports the greatest number of multiple frequencies. Incorporating the industry's largest 3GB RAM, the Galaxy Note 3 also provides faster and more powerful performance.

APPEARANCE

In addition to meaningful technological advancements, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 delivers a new premium look and feel. Expanding on the modern Samsung Galaxy design approach, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 adds a soft and textured-touch back cover and deli-

This ultra-modern,
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cate stitching. It also features a serration pattern on the side of the device that evokes a connection to the timeless and enduring strengths of classic notebooks and planners. Samsung Galaxy Note 3 will be available in Jet Black, Classic White and Blush Pink. In order to encourage its customers to express their personality and taste, Samsung will also offer exchangeable back covers in dozens of additional colours at launch.

STYLUS

The Click S Pen makes life easier, faster and more exciting. A simple click of the S Pen button while hovering over the screen introduces users to Air Command, a palette of five powerful features that truly make tasks easier and faster. With the Air Command feature, there is no need to toggle between screens, memorise commands or look up different menus. The Air Command feature provides access to the following key functions:

- Action Memo allows users to handwrite a note and automatically execute a function or convert that handwritten information into formatted content. Action Memo can instantly initiate a call, add to contacts, look up an address on a map, search the web, save a task to a to-do list, and more.
- Scrapbook enables users to organise or track down content and information from various sources including the web, YouTube and Gallery in one place so that users can easily look back at collected content all at once. When consumers save content for future use, Scrapbook also collects source material or URLs allowing them to easily refer back to the original source.
- The Screen Write feature captures the full screen image of the current page on the device and allows users to write comments or additional information onto the captured image.
- S Finder allows users to expansively search for content on their device regardless of the type. By putting in keywords or filters such as date, location and content type, users can search related documents, events, communication threads, and even the Help page – all in one place. In addition, users can also search for hand-written content in their Notes and memo applications, as well as symbols and formulas.
- Pen Window allows users to use the S Pen not only for drawing sketches or writing notes, but now also for opening a small



Samsung Galaxy Note 3 and Galaxy Gear create a perfect duo that lets you enjoy every moment, remaining in constant contact with the world.

application window for a true multitasking experience. Simply by drawing a window of any size, anywhere on the screen, users can easily and quickly open another application window such as YouTube, calculator or Browser without pausing current activity on the screen.

SCREEN

The Galaxy Note 3 enables enhanced multitasking capabilities that allow users to fully utilise the larger screen.

With the new Multi Window, users can toggle seamlessly between applications without closing the window or opening a new page, allowing for enhanced productivity and collaboration across programs. Consumers can also run one application in two windows at the same time. For instance, users can read the news in one browser while conducting a web search in another, or send an instant message through ChatON to a friend while reading a message from another friend.

In addition, using Drag and Drop mode within the new Multi Window, users can easily drag and drop content such as a text or image from one window to the other in an instant.

Pen Window from Air Command further enhances multitasking experience by allowing consumers to draw a window on the screen and launching popular applications while continuing current tasks on the Galaxy Note 3.

The 32 GB version of the GALAXY Note 3 with an additional microSD card slot has been on sale in Poland since the beginning of October 2013 with a suggested retail price of PLN 2,999.

SAMSUNG GALAXY GEAR - A PERFECT COMPANION

GALAXY Gear is a device which can be described as a perfect companion increasing the convenience of use of other Samsung GALAXY devices. It is a new concept device that allows users to live life in the moment while staying connected. Galaxy Gear will notify users and give them quick previews of incoming texts, emails and more coming from Galaxy Note 3. When an incoming message requires more than a quick glance, users can simply pick up their Samsung Galaxy devices and the



Smart Relay feature will instantly reveal the full content on the screen.

Voice support

The built-in speaker allows users to conduct hands-free calls directly from the Gear, maintaining connections to their mobile communications without disrupting their daily routines. It also introduces several features that help users easily capture life's meaningful moments which otherwise might be missed.

- With the Memographer feature, a 1.9 Megapixel camera, users who are on the move or participating in physical activities can record both photos and video to create quick, visual records of important information or events from their daily lives, as well as share them on their social networks.
- Extending the quick-record concept, Voice Memo lets users capture important thoughts or conversations from their wrists and save those voice recordings into texts on their Samsung GALAXY devices.

STYLISH ELEGANCE

Samsung GALAXY Gear embodies understated elegance. Its refined design, executed in, high-quality finishes, conjures images of luxury jewellery while still being understated enough to go well with any outfit. A rounded and simple flowing form wraps around the body, integrating with the user's personal environment, and maintaining comfort at all times.

PERSONALIZATION.

The GALAXY Gear also serves as a wristwatch and includes several face options that create the opportunity for users to personalize their watch face. It will come preloaded with 10 different clock options and more choices will be downloadable via Samsung Apps. The GALAXY Gear experience can be further personalized by selecting from six colors that will be available at launch:

Jet Black, Mocha Gray, Wild Orange, Oatmeal Beige, Rose Gold, and Lime Green.

Samsung GALAXY Gear has been on sale in Poland since the end of October with a suggested retail price of PLN 1,199.

Joanna Krzyczkowska

Designed by Alexander Wang – the creative director of Balenciaga fashion house and the hottest name in the fashion industry – Samsung GALAXY Gear was a compulsory gadget of this year's show.



Hotel

MALEDIVES

NIYAMA BY PER AQUUM



CONTACT
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20219 Olhuveli – Dhaalu Atoll
reservations@niyama.com
niyama.peraquum.com

PRICES
from \$ 950 + 8.80% tax + 10%
service charge + \$8 - city tax
per person per night

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
Located in the middle of the Indian Ocean, the archipelago has everything that is associated with luxury holidays. The air temperature is about 30° C, while the temperature of water is never lower than 25° C. The beaches are white and sandy, while the turquoise water is crystal clear. And although it may seem the archipelago is at the end of the world, it takes a little over 10 hours to get there from Poland. It is worth visiting Maldives all year round, but the period from December to April is considered the best season as it hardly ever rains at the time. Diving enthusiasts like to come here in November and April when the water is most transparent.

WHERE IS IT?
The most unspoilt and not quite discovered by tourists are the northern atolls, including Dhaalu. Here, on the island of Olhuveli, Niyama hotel was open in 2011. It offers a lot more than just a romantic escape from the reality. To get there from Male, the capital of Maldives, you need to take a seaplane flight. The journey takes about 40 minutes and can be arranged at the resort. You just need to submit such a request 72 hours prior to arrival. Seaplanes operate only during the day, so if you fly to Male after 3.30 pm, you need to book accommodation in the city. Transfer costs \$480 per person (net price).

ROOMS
The Niyama 5-star hotel features 86 luxury villas scattered

along a beautiful coastline - on the beach or at the edge of the lagoon. The smallest Beach Studio suites are 160 sq m, and offer a view over the lagoon, wooden terraces and a private path to the beach. Open air bathrooms come with deep bathtubs and rain shower heads. Other suites (for two or four people) are from 180 to 350 sq m large, with one or two bedrooms, a living room, a dining room and private pools illuminated at night. Deluxe Water Studio and Ocean suites feature infinity edge pools - you get the impression that the ocean is right on your doorstep. All rooms are air-conditioned and equipped with 40-inch TVs, BOSE™ Surround sound system and a well-stocked minibar. Free WiFi connection is available throughout the complex.

The interior is decorated in white, blue and various shades of yellow - from the most delicate cream to fiery orange. Wood components are made of noble species, mostly teak. Guests can also enjoy a personal butler service.

RESTAURANTS
Breakfasts, which are included in the price, are so lavish, that you need to have a real willpower to save room for lunch. And it is truly worth it, as the culinary offer will satisfy every palate. You need to take a boat to get to the Edge restaurant, and the views it offer should be enough an incentive to choose the place. The cuisine is excellent, especially fresh seafood and fantastic wines. Epicure restaurant offers international cuisine and a nice selection of wine displayed in a glass-walled wine cellar. It is also worth visiting the Tribal restaurant, located on the beach. It offers African cuisine and the dishes are cooked over fire. If you do not feel like going to the restaurant, you can order a take-away at The Deli. Dune Café, located by the pool, is famous for its original drinks, and in the Fahrenheit bar on the roof you can listen to live music.

And finally the crown of the hotel's list of venues - Subsix, the world's first underwater club. The walls are glazed, so they do not block the view, and the illuminated ocean makes you feel like a citizen of an underwater world.

ATTRACTIONS
It is impossible to mention even half of it. In the very hotel you can relax by playing on the simulator or darts, billiards, foosball or table tennis. In the games room you'll find a PS3, an Xbox and remote control vehicles. There are of course also all marine-related attractions - from snorkelling, through a cruise towards the sunset and a fishing trip, to more "serious" diving trips.

Niyama also offers underwater tours under the supervision of a marine biologist, who will show you the colourful creatures living in the coral reef. The hotel takes part in the government coral protection program and runs a sort of a "coral nursery". During the trip you can choose your own coral toddler, or even give it a name. It is impossible not to mention the luxury 24/7 Lime Spa, which offers everything the specialists in aromatherapy, phytotherapy and marine therapy could ever come up with. You can choose one of the already existing packages or create your own program under the supervision of an expert. There is also a gym, a swimming pool open all year round and a fitness club (with

the latest Precor equipment), where you can join zumba, yoga, tai chi or dancing class and many more.

VERDICT
It is an excellent location - quiet and calm, heavenly views, and at the same time you have access to all the mod cons and entertainment if you prefer active leisure over lying on the beach. Excellent breakfast and a varied restaurant offer. Note the coral reef protection program - once you see it with your own eyes, you will want to support all the environmental initiatives. Please Note! Taking of any marine treasures is prohibited. American Express, Visa, Euro- and Mastercard are accepted.

Rafał Sobiech

If you have ever wondered what a paradise looks like, go to Maldives. Granted, the phrase "paradise-like" is often overused in advertising brochures, but in this case the statement is anything but exaggeration.



Hotel

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

SEVEN STARS FOR THE BURJ AL ARAB HOTEL



The tallest, the most luxurious, boasting remarkable architecture, and located on an artificial island... Burj Al Arab is a hotel like from a fairy tale!

It is a hotel like from a fairy tale. Each visitor is greeted by five people with wet hand towels, dates, coffee, and a welcome drink (rose water). Each room in the 7-star Burj Al Arab is a two-level suite, each floor has a separate reception desk, and the guests can enjoy the privilege of a dedicated butler service.

THE WORLD'S HIGHEST
Located on an artificial island and towering the city with its distinct sail-like shape, the Burj Al Arab (the Arabian Tower) is recognized by the Guinness World Records Organization as the world's most luxurious hotel. The building owned by Jumeirah Hotels & Resorts was also awarded seven stars and the title of the world's tallest hotel with no office space. Spacious, luxurious, and dominated by colours of gold, red, and blue, the hotel is the embodiment of the myth of the Arabian glamour. During the day the façade of the Burj al Arab is snow-white, while at night it is illuminated and offers a spectrum of colours.
Right next to the hotel is Souk Madinat market where you can buy all the sophisticated products of both Western and Eastern world.

SUITES
The hotel has 202 suites. The 170 sq m, two-level Deluxe Suite (for two people) features a spacious living room with design furniture, a plasma TV, a minibar, a safe, a laptop, uncensored Internet access, a fax, and a copying machine. The flowers are imported daily from the Netherlands.

The Panoramic Suite (225 sq m) stands out even more with its luxurious interior and a private bar. The Club Suite (330 sq m) has also a snooker table and a bar. The Diplomatic Suite (670 sq m) consists of 3 bedrooms and a dining room. It has a separate entrance for a butler, a library and a bar for 4 people. The Presidential Suite (667 sq m) features a huge living room with a bar, a spacious dining room with kitchen, 2 bedrooms with 2 bathrooms, and spa with Hermes cosmetics and perfumes. The Royal Suite (780 sq m) has a truly palace-like décor with a private lift, a cinema room, 2 bedrooms with 2 bathrooms and spa, as well as the finest china.

RESTAURANTS, SPA AND THE HELIPAD.
Al Iwan located in the centre of the world's tallest hotel atrium is famous for its delicious Arabic cuisine. You can dine here looking at the sea. Al Mahara - which in Arabic means "an oyster shell" is one of the most spectacular restaurants in the world. It is accessed by a gilded arch, and its walls are also the walls of a giant aquarium teeming with hundreds of exotic fish, and it specializes mainly in serving fancy seafood dishes. Al Muntaha is located on the 27th floor, which is 200 m above sea level. It is known for its modern European cuisine. Bab Al Yam and Sahn Eddar offer international cuisine, while Junsui specializes in Asian dishes.

The hotel also features the Sky-view Bar, several conference rooms, a spa (with 14 treatment rooms), a library, a helipad, a multi-storey aquarium with living coral reef, Talise Spa, four swimming pools, a garden and a sun terrace.
In the middle of the atrium there is a fountain, where unusual aquatic shows take place – cascades of water fall down the fountain steps only to be thrown high into the air in a spectacular



choreographic presentation. It seems unbelievable but almost 2,000 square metres of the hotel is covered with 24-carat gold. This can be mainly seen in the Al Falak ballroom which is almost entirely lined with this precious metal. Colourful, hand-made rugs were imported from India, South Africa and England, granite used for interior detailing was mined in Brazil, while marbles came from Carrara. You can be brought to the hotel by luxury Rolls Royce limousines or by a helicopter which lands on the 28th floor of the building.

VERDICT
It is a fantastic hotel for special occasions. It is considered to be the most luxurious in the world and was, in fact, the world's first hotel to receive seven stars. The service is excellent, if only for the reason that the staff to guest ratio is... 8:1. Another interesting fact – for the time of their stay in the Burj Al Arab guests receive iPads whose casing is made of gold. This somewhat abstract gift speaks for itself, and is just a prelude to their stay in the land of the Arab dream.

Rafał Sobiech

CONTACT
Hotel Burj Al Arab
PO Box 74147, Dubai
Zjednoczone Emiraty Arabskie
tel. 00971 4 3017777
fax 00971 4 3017000
www.jumeirah.com

PRICE:
from 2000 \$

FOUR SEASONS MAUI



CONTACT
Hotel Four Seasons Maui
3900 Wailea Alanui
Dr HI 96753
USA
tel. +1 808-874-8000
www.fourseasons.com/maui

PRICES
double room - from \$495 plus taxes

WHERE IS IT?
The hotel, which is a part of the Four Seasons hotel chain, is situated on the Hawaiian island of Maui at Wailea Beach – one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. It offers spectacular views, the atmosphere of South-Californian glamour, and exceptional service with which it ranks high in all rankings.

INTERIOR
The rooms are spacious and well equipped. There's also modern, though well-hidden in-room entertainment system. The bathrooms are large and feature luxury Lorenzo Viloore-si toiletries. The rooms on the eighth floor are available only for Club Floor guests, who can enjoy there extra amenities and privileges, including spacious, furnished terraces, meals served throughout the day, as well as evening drinks.

RESTAURANTS
Breakfast at the Four Seasons is a feast worthy of Lucullus. Freshly squeezed tropical fruit juice, various milkshakes, organic porridge, rosemary ham

and eggs served in a number of ways – it's just a tiny part of the whole menu. Most of the products are provided by local farmers. Maui lies within five climatic zones, so it's a perfect place to grow various fruit and vegetables, such as strawberries, tomatoes, olives, papayas and even pineapples ... A visit to the hotel's restaurants will also be a delight to your palate. Ferraro's offers dishes of Italian cuisine and spectacular sunsets. I recommend lamb ragout and the local catch, which is fresh fish caught just a few hours earlier. You should also visit Wolfgang Puck's Spago restaurant for a delicious hearts of palm salad, or to DUO for a Japanese beef steak and crème brûlée with vanilla from Tahiti.

THINGS TO DO
Four Seasons Maui offers its guests free tennis courts, golf courses, and plenty of water sports. Bookworms will be happy to know that the hotel also rents iPods and Kindle readers. Other complimentary perks include poolside gazebos, deckchairs and beach umbrel-

las, as well as snacks available throughout the day. You can also learn here the basics of scuba diving and take outrigger canoe rides – all costs are included in the price of your room. In winter months canoe rides are especially rewarding, because the bay near the hotel is visited then by whales. Watching those majestic, large animals is a truly amazing thing, especially when you're in a boat rocked by huge waves. The water around the bay is so clear, that it's also easy to spot there sea turtles and larger species of fish.

VERDICT
Four Seasons Maui is a favourite place of the Californian crème de la crème. No wonder, after all, Hawaii is only a 5-hour flight from Los Angeles. The hotel is visited by numerous celebrities from the front pages of magazines, including Angelina Jolie. It's also here where the renowned chef Wolfgang Puck has opened a branch of his famous Spago restaurant where Oscar Gala after parties are held.

Anna Drozdowska



NEW AUTUMN MENU AT ENDORFINA



The popular Endorfina restaurant, located in the historic Palace of the Zamoyski family, offers now dishes from its new autumn menu. Apart from dishes with squash, mushrooms, and autumnal fruit, the menu also features such delicacies as smoked steak tartar, pink slices of fried duck, or spinach ravioli with smoked goose, which has its die-hard fans.

A NEW AND ORIGINAL MENU
When creating the new menu, the head chef Michał Górecki opted for ingredients that are available at this time of the year. One of the novelties is salad with smoked trout and marinated mushrooms (saffron milk caps) which is served with freshly baked rolls and butter chips. Another delicacy worth trying is grilled lamb with rocket and chanterelle mushrooms. Those who like soups, will certainly want to try squash soup with roasted pumpkin seeds and a drop of pumpkin oil, or fresh boletus soup with batter dumplings, served from

a decorative vase. As for the second course, I recommend fried fillet of catfish served on mushroom ragout in sauce with pink peppercorns with truffle puree and green courgette rolls. You should also try escalopes of milk veal in fiocco crudo ham, served on stewed spinach with oyster mushroom in Marsala sauce, confit potatoes and mixed vegetables. And, finally, dessert, without which you should not leave Endorfina! I recommend the apple tart from Landsberg apples with a hint of ginger, served with vanilla ice cream, or Bera Anjou pear flan on passion fruit mousse flavoured with hibiscus. They are excellent!

BUSINESS AND HOLIDAY EVENTS
Endorfina can be booked for corporate Christmas Eve suppers, from small intimate gatherings to parties for 300-400 people, which can be organized in the spacious rooms of the restaurant. Michał Górecki guarantees that the Christmas menu will certainly include a

modern incarnation of Polish traditional dishes. There will also be plenty of fish, including carp, pike, pikeperch, and sea trout. Not to mention the traditional herring, vegetable salads, Christmas soups (red borscht with mushroom dumplings, as well as boletus soup), pierogis (dumplings) with cabbage and mushrooms, kutia with linden honey, glazed poppy-seed and yeast cakes.

VERDICT
This is one of the most interesting restaurants in Warsaw. The extraordinary care taken by the head chef to include in the menu only the most exquisite dishes, the way they are served and presented (e.g. with fresh flowers) make the restaurant stand out from the crowd. Another plus for great service and remarkable presentation of dishes, which look like culinary pieces of art. It is also a great place for business lunch, served here from noon. The menu changes on a daily basis and the meal costs PLN 33.

Agata Janicka

CONTACT
Endorfina Foksal
ul. Foksal 2
Warsaw
www.endorfina.pl
tel. +48 22 827-54-11

Hotel

ZAKOPANE

BELVEDERE RESORT & SPA



CONTACT
Hotel Belvedere Resort & Spa
ul. Droga do Białego 3
34-500 Zakopane
tel. (+48) 18 202 12 00
fax (+48) 18 202 12 50
rezerwacje@belvederehotel.pl

PRICES
single room
- from PLN 190 (€45)
double room with breakfast -
from PLN 417 (€100);

For more special offers go to
www.hotelbelvedere.pl

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
Hotel Belvedere, designed by Leszek Krzanika, an architect and co-owner of a Trip group hotel, has an atmosphere and charm making you think about the interwar period and the architecture of Zakopane. Next to the reception area there is a spacious and cosy hall with a fireplace, where you can read a newspaper and chat with friends. You will also find here a few fashion boutiques. Whereas in the lobby bar you can not only spend time over a cup of coffee or a cocktail, but also observe people through the window when they are taking a bath in a pool or jacuzzi. For children, the greatest attraction is a huge aquarium with turtles. In every corner of the hotel you

can come across beautiful old furniture, paintings, engravings and a number of knick-knacks, baskets and decorations. You can see the owners attach great importance to details, which create the atmosphere of the place. On the upper floors the rooms and hallways are decorated in a regional style - with wooden furniture, painted chests and rugs made of sheepskin.

WHERE IS IT?
The hotel is situated at the foot of the Tatra Mountains, in a quiet part of town, just a 10-minute walk from Krupówki, 15 minutes away from Wielka Krokiew and 20 minutes away from the cable car to Gubałówka. Nearby there is a bus station, from

where you can get to Kuźnice, and from there to the Strążyska Valley in the opposite direction. If you want to reach the high mountain tops and valleys, you should go to a desired location taking a bus from the railway station.

ROOMS
The hotel offers 175 rooms, including 27 suites, 108 rooms with a double bed and an additional single bed, 18 double rooms with 2 single beds, 17 rooms with one double bed and 4 single rooms. Each room comes with a TV set, a minibar, the Internet access and a safe. At this time of the year the heated bathroom floor and heated towel rack are sure a nice addition to the stay.

Each suite consists of two sections - a bedroom and a living area. Some of the suites come with a fireplace, and the one for newlyweds has a round bathtub.

BUSINESS FACILITIES
When organizing a congress, you can choose only Belvedere. It has 8 conference rooms, and the largest one can accommodate up to 350 people. They can be combined or divided depending on the actual needs. The rooms are equipped with multimedia equipment. Catering and professional service are provided for.

SPA AND RELAXATION
The hotel has large hydrothermal facilities. You can use a Finnish, Turkish and infrared saunas, as well as a Roman bath. Other attractions include a waterslide for children and a large swimming pool and jacuzzi for adults. The spa institute offers treatments using Thalgo cosmetics and invites you for Thalassotherapy and body treatments. The hotel can also play squash, billiards or work out in a well-equipped modern fitness room.

THE RESTAURANT AND THE BAR
Chef Tomasz Przeniosło invites everyone to Wieniawa and Ziemiańska restaurants (open in high season), which specialize in Mediterranean and Polish cuisine, but also serve the chef's signature dishes. Do not miss

my favourite restaurant called Pod Aniołem and located on the third floor. It has folk décor and a beautiful wooden deck overlooking Giewont Mountain, so no wonder that on sunny days guests love to sit here and sunbathe. The cuisine is excellent. I recommend pumpkin cream with shrimps, fried mushrooms, tenderloin filers, boletus soup, grilled trout and pierogis. Evening entertainment is provided for at U-boat bar, located at level 2.

VERDICT
Exceptional location, unique atmosphere, friendly service. Excellent place to relax during a weekend, and longer holidays. I also recommend it for business events and conferences. Another bonus is the hotel's spacious underground car park located at level -1. Lovers of regional food and other goodies should definitely visit the culinary shop. More details at: www.rozmaitscibelvedere.pl.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



In every corner of the hotel you can see beautiful old furniture, paintings, engravings, as well as various knick-knacks. The owners attach great importance to details, which overall contributes to the great atmosphere of the place.

SKALNY HOTEL



CONTACT

Skalny Hotel
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fax +48 18 2019102
e-mail: skalny@skalny.com.pl
www.skalny.com.pl

PRICES

single room with breakfast -
from PLN 240
double room with breakfast-
from PLN 320

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The first impression of this hotel, located a little out of the way and hidden from the main street, is very good. Opened in 2000, it was designed in a style that is quite typical of Zakopane, with a distinctive sloping roof, wooden elements ... and the view of the mountains. When you enter it, you immediately feel at home. The glazed, spacious veranda, the bar, comfortable sofas and the cosy fireplace, contribute to the feeling of warmth and relaxation.

WHERE IS IT?

The hotel is located on Pardałówka - about 3 km away from the centre of Zakopane, 2.5 km from the lower station of Kasprowy cableway, 1 km from the ski lift to Nosal, and quite close to Antałówka. It is also 60 km away from the airports in

Poprad, while the port in Cracow is slightly farther (100 km). You can reach the city centre by bus – the bus stop is situated only 500 metres from the hotel. Skalny also has an enclosed playground, and a huge free car park. Nearby there are several running trails, which in winter are used for cross-country skiing.

ROOMS AND ATTRACTIONS

Skalny hotel offers 40 rooms, including 7 single rooms, 22 double rooms, 6 rooms for three, and 5 luxury suites. Most have views of the Tatras, and all are equipped with satellite TV and wireless internet. The décor of the rooms is dominated by bright colours and natural, organic materials. Buffet-style breakfasts are served in the hotel's cosy restaurant.

The hotel has a spa area with a small pool, jacuzzi, saunas, while the Beauty Academy specializes in treatments for the face and the body. After a long day on the trail, you can enjoy here soothing body massage combined with aromatherapy. Hotel guests are also fond of the hotel's squash court and the billiard room.

The offer of Skalny includes organizing business meetings and other events. The hotel provides professional equipment, service and the catering. The 119 sq m conference room can accommodate up to 120 people.

VERDICT

It is a friendly, family hotel located away from the hustle and bustle of the city. I recommend it especially for those with children and sport aficionados. It fully deserves its three stars.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



RESTAURANT FROM THE PROMISED LAND



This atmospheric restaurant, where you can eat delicious royal herring with cinnamon, sweet carp with raisins, and Borowiecki's duck, draws on the multicultural traditions of Łódź. Anatewka, where dine numerous international guests, is located near the famous Grand Hotel, right by the equally well-known Piotrkowska Street.

INTERIOR

When I entered the restaurant, I felt as if I were in my grandma's house. The oval tables covered with crochet tablecloths, old furniture, Art Nouveau vases, and old black-and-white photos hanging on the walls. The ground floor features three rooms in an enfilade, while upstairs there is a large room which can easily accommodate even 100 people. Right next to it there is a cosy room with a fireplace. Guests who visit Anatewka, enjoy listening to well-known old tunes played by a violinist.

Being in such a place you immediately feel the desire to try a dish that you would never order in a nouvelle cuisine restaurant. Indeed, the menu does not dis-

appoint. The dishes served in Anatewka are fairly simple, well-defined, and delicious.

MENU

For the start the menu offers a long list of cold starters. I started with steak tartar from the fillet steak which was excellent. I also tried goose pate with cranberry, Jewish carp with raisins and almonds, to relish the taste of herring prepared in various ways. Starting from herring with cranberry served on celery wafer, through herring with cinnamon, to a pickled slice of the fish served with caramelized pear.

As for soup, I chose czorba, which is the popular in Łódź "czernina". I sadly had to skip mushroom soup with meat dumplings, fish soup with sole fish balls, sorrel soup with croutons, and sour soup with eggs. Then I decided to tackle the main course. I was very tempted to try Borowiecki's duck served with apples on cranberries (note – it is a huge portion!), rack of lamb, beef tongue in horseradish sauce, as well as veal with porcini mushrooms. In the end, I opted for fish and then had

to choose from roasted pike, salmon, trout or cod. I chose the latter – it was nicely browned in the oven and served with roasted potatoes and carrot salad. I was too full to try any desserts, though they had tempting names: prunes immersed in plum vodka, paschal cheese-cake or Anatewka ice-cream.

HISTORY

Paweł Zyner, the owner of Anatewka, emphasizes that each of the four cultures that once lived together in Łódź, left their legacy and unforgettable atmosphere of the Promised Land. That is why, he opened here his restaurant where you can try original dishes of the Jewish cuisine, which you will not find anywhere else. Anatewka has also its branch in Manufaktura mall.

VERDICT

It is a unique restaurant with remarkable atmosphere, excellent food and live music. Tradition, sophisticated flavours and the charm of the place are more than enough to recommend the place.

Marzena Mróz

CONTACT

Restauracja Anatewka
ul. 6 Sierpnia 2/4, Łódź
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www.anatewka.pl

GRAND SPA AT SOFITEL GRAND SOPOT



CONTACT
Sofitel Grand Sopot
ul. Powstańców Warszawy 12/14,
81-718 Sopot
tel. 58 520 60 00
www.sofitel.com

PRICES
Classical massage (30/60 min)-
PLN 120/190;
Aromatic body scrub with Indo-
nesian flavours – PLN 100;
Meso Vit- PLN 350

Sofitel Grand Sopot is not only a legendary hotel located in a great spot, but also a place with a fabulous spa which fully deserves its GRAND name.

INTERIOR
The Grand SPA in Sopot consists of five intimate treatment rooms, a relaxation area overlooking the garden, the sandy beach, a well-equipped gym, a wellness zone with dry sauna and a steam room, as well as a pool. In contrast to other spaces of the hotel, the Grand SPA features ultra-modern décor, and the treatment rooms are decorated in Asian style. The spa combines traditional wellness rituals with the world trends in cosmetology, while the atmosphere of the place makes it a truly peaceful oasis. A few hours spent there allows you to regain not only your inner beauty and energy, but also the appropriate distance to the surrounding reality.

TREATMENTS
Grand SPA offers a number of body treatments and facials, minor treatments and a wide selection of massages inspired by traditions from around the world, which you can choose from the SPA Menu. The treatments are based on cosmetics by a luxury cosmetic brand Cinq Mondes, which in Poland are available only in Grand SPA. You can also take advantage of the exceptional facials by Ericson Laboratoire. I started my Grand SPA adventure with an aromatic scrub. Its beautiful fragrance was created with distinctive spices from the island of Java. Meanwhile salts from the Dead Sea made my skin on the whole body silky smooth. The treatment which lasted around 45 minutes was definitely a pleasant experience. Then I put myself in the hands of Martyna Kasprzykowska, who performed a one-hour classical massage, which was the best I have ever experienced in a Polish spa. Perfectly sensing my trouble spots, she brought true

relief to my tight muscles. Finally, I received the Meso-Vit facial treatment, which was described by my therapist as an innovative method of non-invasive aesthetic medicine, alternative to needle mesotherapy. I went into it pretty sceptical, but I have to admit that the result was amazing. Right after the treatment I noticed a large difference in the look of my face. It was now smooth, well moisturized and more elastic. This is probably the effect of the vitamin bomb I received. I definitely recommend it!

VERDICT
I can recommend Sofitel Grand Sopot and its Grand SPA, not only because of the unique seaside atmosphere, a wide range of treatments and massages, but above all for its excellent, professional service. It is a good place for a weekend getaway as well as for a longer holiday. The luxury hotel and the intimate spa where you can relax and recuperate, are worth their price.

Agata Janicka

FAMILY MINIVAN

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
Since it was the first time when I tested a French car designed for families with children, in order to fully assess its functionality, I invited my daughter and her child. The car from the outside looks a bit strange-has a short cut front with embedded lights.

INTERIOR
What is truly impressive is the innovative design of the cabin, especially the huge windscreen and retractable roof. Visibility is excellent and if there is too much sunlight you can extend the sunblinds and curtains on the side windows. The seats are quite comfortable, highly positioned, and feature optional heating and massage function. The passenger seat has also a retractable footrest. Folding armrests add to comfort, and well-shaped headrests can be adjusted to fit children carried on the seat. Above the rear-view mirror there is also a smaller one to observe children in the rear seats.

The C4 Picasso offers a great number of various storage compartments, useful both for the driver and passengers. Some of them are equipped with

12V and 230V outlets and USB socket. Passengers sitting in on rear seats have a lot of legroom, so you can put there even some extra luggage. As for a family car, the C4 Picasso features an impressive boot offering 537 litres of storage capacity. When the rear seats are folded the space increases to 637 litres. The boot lid (with integrated rear lights) is lifted by an electric motor.

TECHNOLOGY
I take my hat off to the designers of the C4 Picasso for the innovative technological solutions. The car features a 7-inch touchscreen to control navigation, air-conditioning, the media, as well as a 12-inch widescreen which displays the most important data for the driver. Both have intuitive interfaces, so it is easy to use them. For me the most useful were the two large gauges located in the centre console – especially the speedometer which warns you when you exceed the speed limit and when there are speed traps on the road. The standard equipment of the car is truly impressive. It includes ABS, BAS, ESP systems, 6 airbags, LED lights, electric

windows, a 7-inch tablet, a CD player with 6 speakers, and Bluetooth connectivity. The Exclusive trim also features dual-zone automatic air conditioning, remote access and keyless start, front parking radar, and more.

ENGINE AND TRANSMISSION
The car is nice to drive, the 6-speed manual transmission and the power steering work fine. The C4 Picasso is an agile car which offers a lot of road grip and has a well sound-proofed cabin. The tested model had a more powerful 1.6 THP engine, which was chosen the best engine of 2013 in its category. The car weighs 140 kg less than the previous model, thus there is no problem with the acceleration, even under heavy load.

VERDICT
The second generation of the compact MPV Citroen C4 Picasso is an innovative, comfortable, friendly and economical family car. It definitely is one of the leading MPVs on the market. It is the “Creative Technology” at its best!

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



MORE DETAILS AT:
www.citroen.pl

PRICE:
from PLN 59,900

GIFTMANIA

There is still quite a lot of time to Christmas, but it is still a good idea to start look around for unique gifts that Santa Claus will put on our behalf under the Christmas tree. Today, we propose a journey into the world of upscale cosmetics.

Miss Dior Le Parfum
Cheerful and sensual fragrance, which is an elegant invitation for an evening full of seduction.
Price: PLN 359/40 ml

J'adore Beautifying Cream
This intensive cream softens and nourishes the skin, while ensuring its flexibility. Effectively prevents drying of the skin.
Price: PLN 335/200 ml

Si Giorgio Armani
Elegant, sensual, intense, yet gentle. Si is a new interpretation of the Chypre scent that embraces the skin and overpowers the senses.
Price: PLN 369/50 ml

MonoDerma Dose
A daily dose of condensed vitamins C, A and E in convenient single capsules. The innovative 28-day treatment stimulates the synthesis of collagen and elastin, slowing the aging process of the skin and smoothing it out.
Price: PLN 130

La Mer The Collection For Men
A set of products for comprehensive skin care to make the skin firm and radiant, and reduces the signs of aging.
Price: PLN 1,290



Phenomé REPLENISHING moisturizing oil
Sustainable Science
A light, velvety oil for all skin types. Intensely moisturizes and nourishes the skin, smoothens fine lines and irregularities, and provides ingredients that fight free radicals.
Price: PLN 145/30 ml

Lancôme DreamTone Comprehensive Skin Tone Corrector
With three tailor-made formulas to target each pigmentation profile – from the fairest to the darkest – it's an innovative skincare approach for visible results.
Price: PLN 369/40 ml

Roberto Cavalli Nero Assoluto
Sweet and spicy. Captures the duality of nature Nero Assoluto, a subtle combination of sophistication and sensuality.
Price: PLN 350/75 ml

PLEATS PLEASE ISSEY MIYAKE
The inspiration to create this smell was the free movement of pleats and the light which is so ubiquitous in the world of Issey Miyake. Available at Sephora perfumeries.
Price: PLN 267/50 ml

Bobbi Brown Extra Repair Serum
It improves the condition of the skin, strengthens the protective barrier, and makes lines and wrinkles become less visible.
Price: PLN 479/30 ml

Hydrating Face Cream
The rich cream formula for normal to dry skin nourishes, hydrates and evenly releases moisture, caring for the skin throughout the day.
Price: PLN 219/50 ml

A NEW LEAF

From biophilic architecture to circadian lighting, **Jenny Southan** reveals the latest trends shaping sustainable airport design.



According to the European Commission, someone flying from London to New York and back again will generate about the same level of carbon emissions as an average European does heating their home for an entire year.

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

It's not unreasonable to question how "flying" and "green" are compatible, yet despite being responsible for a significant amount of greenhouse gases, there are plenty of innovations taking hold – from biofuel to eco-pilot training – that are reducing the harmful impact of planes. And the same goes for airports.

Jim Stanislaski, senior associate at architectural firm Gensler, which has worked on projects including Denver International, New York JFK and the recently unveiled Chennai International, says that in the future, sustainability will be "absolutely" integral to airport design. The reason why? Because "the alternative is not to care and build buildings that pollute even more".

This seems logical, but what does sustainability actually mean? Stanislaski says: "People, planet, profit – to develop environments that consider the impact on occupants in terms of health and well-being, the [wider] environmental impact, and saving money and resources."

He cites San Francisco's T2 for its sustainable food policies and the Portland International Jetport for its geothermal heating and cooling system, as well as the upcoming Greenville-Spartanburg in South Caro-

lina for its airside garden, and Terminal 2 at Incheon International, set for completion in 2017, for its indoor green space.

To recognise those airports that are taking real steps to reduce carbon emissions, Airports Council International (ACI) launched the independently assessed Airport Carbon Accreditation certification in 2009. There are four levels – the first being recognition for an airport mapping its carbon emissions, while the fourth (and highest) is for achieving "neutrality" by offsetting emissions.

At the moment, 75 airports in Europe have been recognised (only 14 have neutrality, including Oslo, Milan Malpensa and all ten of Swedavia's Swedish airports); 12 in Asia-Pacific (there are none at level four and only two at level three – Hong Kong International and Hyderabad); and one in Africa (Enfidha Hammamet airport in Tunisia) at the level one phase.

REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

Robert O'Meara, director of media and communications for ACI Europe, says: "The airport industry is keenly aware that efficiency and sustainability have become vital parts of any 21st-century business. One of the interesting things about this programme is the diversity of the efforts and innovations airports are putting in place to lower their carbon footprints."

"Stockholm Arlanda introduced a rule that incentivised hybrid-technology based taxis, which over time saw all the taxis serving the airport become hybrid/low emissions. The photovoltaic solar park at Athens Inter-

national is one example of an initiative that is clearly very compatible with the climate there – but it's not necessarily going to work as an option for every airport in Europe."

SUSTAINABLE AIRPORTS

Mouzhan Majidi, chief executive for Foster and Partners – which has worked on Beijing, Hong Kong Chek Lap Kok and Kuwait International, among other airports – agrees that sustainability, in all its permutations, is vitally important: "Airports long ago realised that they are stewards of the environment and very public places – and it's not just the buildings, it's the construction process, the vehicles, the way the planes are pulled out to the runway, the handling of waste water, and use of the sun as an alternative energy source."

"But these are all specific to climate and location. Perhaps the most important feature of a sustainable airport is its longevity. This means planning airports that can anticipate and accommodate growth."

Saving energy to cut emissions is something many airports have been doing for some time. Heathrow is aiming to reduce carbon from energy use by 34 per cent by 2020. After signing the Aviation Industry Commitment to Action on Climate Change (enviro.aero) in May last year, Chek Lap Kok pledged to become the world's greenest airport, taking steps such as replacing all of its lights with 100,000 LEDs by 2014 (saving 15 million kWh of electricity per year), and creating an all-electric fleet of airside saloon vehicles.

But being sustainable doesn't end there – here are three emerging environmental



Biophilia is a theory which believes that humans have a biological need to integrate with nature. Airport designers are gradually following this trend.



Airports, and even lounges, are notorious for having harsh, flat lighting that remains the same throughout the day and night, and anyone spending prolonged amounts of time in them can find it a draining experience.

trends that are going to shape the airport experience for the passenger.

BIOPHILIC ENVIRONMENTS

“We need nature in a deep and fundamental fashion, but we have often designed our cities in ways that both degrade the environment and alienate us from nature.” So reads the synopsis for a documentary by Stephen R Kellert and Bill Finnegan called Biophilic Design: The Architecture of Life (biophilicdesign.net). “Biophilia” is the theory that humans have a biological need to connect with nature for the sake of their well-being and health. Kellert adds: “If we were in a room that had no windows, that had just artificial light and processed air, basically you wouldn’t want to be there for very long. And if you were there for very long and somehow you couldn’t escape from that room, you would start to have a kind of a sensory deprivation.” The narrator of the film’s trailer concludes that alienation from nature is not inevitable consequences of modern life, but rather a failure in how we have deliberately chosen to design buildings, but we can design ourselves out of it with biophilic design.

Gensler’s Stanislawski also sees the value in this new approach, and has been working to incorporate it into projects such as Incheon’s new T2, which will feature “a huge indoor garden the size of a soccer field”, adding to the various oases already in the airport, such as an evergreen eco-garden, and flower, cactus and water gardens.

He says: “It’s much more than throwing a few plants and bushes around the terminal – it’s about having views to greenery

and incorporating greenery in a significant way throughout.” He highlights Greenville-Spartanburg International as an example: “It is unique in that it will have an airside garden – it is currently landside but in our new renovation it will be airside so that you’ll be able to sit by a landscaped garden with fountains and wait for your aircraft.” Voted the world’s best airport by Business Traveller readers for the past 25 years, Singapore’s Changi has been pioneering this approach for some time. It has a butterfly sanctuary with more than 1,000 species, exotic plants and a six-metre waterfall; a horticulture display; and orchid and sunflower gardens with more than 1,200 blooms between them.

CIRCADIAN SENSITIVITY

Jet lag is the bane of frequent travellers’ lives, but innovations in airport lighting may help to ease this in the future, especially when passengers are facing long overnight delays. At the end of last year, NASA committed to spending US\$11.2 million with Boeing on developing “circadian lighting” for its astronauts on the International Space Station to help their bodies keep in sync with their natural sleeping and waking patterns. The coloured LED illumination system will use red, white and blue to help them nod off when they need to and will replace all fluorescent lamps by 2016. Airports, and even lounges, are notorious for having harsh, flat lighting that remains the same throughout the day and night, and anyone spending prolonged amounts of time in them can find it a draining experience. In the future, it is possible that terminals will take inspira-

tion from NASA, and begin to install lighting that is sensitive to people’s circadian rhythms.

VIRTUOUS CONCESSIONS

With all the drinking and dining outlets an airport can have, there can be a huge amount of waste. Recycling policies have been around for years, but airports such as San Francisco are now taking this further by selling locally sourced, organic and artisanal produce from nearby farms and vineyards. Wherever possible, coffee also needs to be fairtrade, seafood must be sustainable and detergents low- or non-phosphate. Vendors in San Francisco’s T2 are also required to use biodegradable containers and cutlery, and separate food waste for composting.

In May 2011, Chicago O’Hare unveiled the largest on-airport apiary in the world, with more than a million bees living in hives. Not only does the project mean thousands of pounds of honey can be collected and sold in the airport (either in jars or as bathing products), but it helps to replenish declining bee populations. Rosemarie S Andolino, commissioner for the Chicago Department of Aviation says: “We also have the first indoor ‘aeroponic garden’ [a method of growing plants without soil] at an airport – we have 26 aeroponic towers that have more than 1,100 plants including fresh vegetables and herbs. Of course, there are plenty of other initiatives going on behind the scenes at airports worldwide – from harvesting rainwater to generating power from renewable resources such as the sun and biomass waste. But for the passenger, sustainability will hopefully mean a more enjoyable travel experience.

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INVESTING IS THE ONLY WAY

Marzena Mróz talks to **Bart Buyse**, General Manager for Poland at Lufthansa German Airlines

Lufthansa continues to invest in new products – how is it possible when the times are so tough?

Investments in new technology and efficiency, as well as those which improve passenger comfort, are a continuation of the ongoing modernization of the fleet within the whole Lufthansa Group. We are convinced that the only way to strengthen our position as the leading carrier and to continue our success in the market. Lufthansa is the only profitable traditional airline in Europe, with an operating profit of € 500 million last year. Forecasts for this year remain at the same level, so we can afford to invest in the fleet. Lufthansa has just placed an order for 59 ultra-modern aircraft. Our intercontinental fleet will be expanded by 37 units of Boeing 777-9X and 25 units of Airbus A350-900. The first ones will be delivered in early 2016. The older Boeing 747-400 and Airbus A340-300 will be phased out by 2015. The new machines will gradually replace our existing fleet. The value of the contract that Lufthansa Group has signed is € 14 bln at list prices and is the largest order of a private company in the history of German industry. The new fleet will reduce fuel consumption, carbon emissions and noise.

The board has also approved the order for 100 short and medium-haul aircraft...

That's right. Also the modernization of Business Class cabins on our intercontinental aircraft will be completed earlier than



Bart Buyse

planned. Lufthansa has accelerated the retrofitting process, which involves installing new Business Class seats, that are already in use on board the new B747-8s as well as our three A330s. By 2015 Lufthansa will invest another € 50 million in upgrading its entire fleet.

Are you planning to improve the on-board service, as well?

We will soon offer our passengers on continental routes a wide choice of films, TV series, music, games and access to the latest news. Lufthansa WorldShop offers a variety of branded products and services that which you can order during your flight from our online shop

with free delivery to your home. The service is now also available for medium-haul routes, and includes destinations in the former Soviet republics, the Middle East and North Africa. To use it, simply connect to the server via wi-fi with your laptop, tablet or smartphone. Next year the airline will be fitting 20 Airbus A321s with this in-flight entertainment solution, developed by Lufthansa Systems and dubbed BoardConnect. The system already proved very popular with passengers during its trial run over several months in the spring.

Are you satisfied with the results of Lufthansa in Poland?

Lufthansa does well on the Polish market - both in Warsaw and in other regions we are systematically increasing our presence. The number of passengers on Lufthansa flights from and to Poland continues to increase. We have also noted a continuous increase in business travel and Business Class. We are about to launch five additional connections per week from Rzeszów, and we have doubled the number of flights from Poznań to our main hub in Frankfurt. The winter schedule will also see an increase in the number of connections from Cracow to Frankfurt - from two to three a day. Responding to the expectations of our customers, the Katowice-Frankfurt route will soon be operated by larger and more modern aircraft. Also connections from Wrocław and Poznań to Munich will be operated by larger planes.

Is Lufthansa's First Class popular with Polish passengers?

In Poland Lufthansa is the leading airline among those carriers that offer the First Class product, and our market share in this sector is more than 50%. In the first seven months of this year ticket sales increased by 50% compared to the previous year. We also observe a steady increase in interest in Lufthansa Private Jet services. Also, not so long ago and for the first time in Poland (at the Economic Forum in Krynica), we presented our new First Class seat. All the visitors had the opportunity to experience an unforgettable comfort of the first class product, whose concept was based on the real needs of passengers. This innovative seat combines ergonomics and comfort, and when extended, becomes "the best bed in its class". Measuring 2.07 metres in length and 80 centimetres in width, the comfortable bed offers plenty of room, enabling passengers to enjoy deep, relaxing sleep.

Lufthansa's First Class has recently received the highest possible rating in the prestigious Skytrax ranking, which evaluates the quality of services provided by airlines... Lufthansa was awarded five stars, especially for the exceptional comfort and quality of service on board, as well as exclusive amenities in the Lufthansa First Class Terminal in the airline's main hub – the airport in Frankfurt. We have also received the prestigious international Five Star Diamond Award from the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences. We were honoured for three outstanding accomplishments of our premium service portfolio: The Lufthansa First Class onboard its intercontinental fleet, the Lufthansa First Class Terminal in Frankfurt and the Lufthansa First Class Lounge at New York's JFK International Airport.

Thank you for the interview.



Lufthansa is the only profitable traditional airline in Europe, with an operating profit of € 500 million last year. Forecasts for this year remain at the same level, so we can afford to invest in the fleet.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES - A REAL FIRST CLASS!



First Class



Business Class

When talking about luxury design, there is no better solution for Singapore Airlines' First Class interior than the BMW Group Designworks USA. The updated design for the seats and suites was introduced on board the new Boeing 777-300ER. Singapore Airlines said it had spent two years and invested \$150 million (US) for this venture.

"Special attention has been given to ergonomics, comfort, convenience and design, as well as to our customers' interests and lifestyles. The task that we gave ourselves and our design partners when we started the process was to make 'A Great Way to Fly' even better. We are confident that we have delivered," said SIA's Executive Vice President Commercial Mak Swee Wah.

PRIVATE KINGDOM

Singapore Airlines' new First Class seat features a new fixed-back shell design with curved side panels to provide a clear demarcation of personal space, for added privacy. At 35 inches in width, and with an increased bed length from 80 to 82 inches, it

is one of the most spacious First Class products in the sky. An ergonomically sculpted cushion and improved adjustable headrest have been introduced for greater seating comfort, while new features such as a padded headboard for extra support and an additional mattress layer ensure customers enjoy a good rest.

Another key feature is the in-seat lighting. Extensive tests were carried out to determine the optimal light colour and intensity, with brightness adjustability. In addition to reading lights, the seat features ambient lighting, which not only accentuates the seat design but also serves as a night light in a dimmed cabin.

Complementing the experience is a new state-of-the-art inflight entertainment system. First Class customers will be able to enjoy the new KrisWorld on a sleek 24-inch LCD screen, with video touch-screen handsets. To ensure that personal devices are within easy reach, even while charging, both eXport and USB ports are discreetly located within a leather-lined bespoke stowage compartment by the side of the seat. HDMI ports have also been added to provide the flexibility for

customers to use KrisWorld as their own personal media player.

COMFORTABLE BUSINESS

The new Business Class seat offers greater recline at 132 degrees, and features an improved ergonomic seat cushion. When converted, it becomes one of the industry's widest full-flat beds, at 78 inches in length. In addition, the new Business Class seat boasts two new seating positions – 'Lazy Z' and 'Sundeck' – following in-depth research and feedback from customers.

Taking into account customer feedback for increased stowage space, there is now an amenity stowage area on the side console and a laptop stowage area. Other enhanced features include an 18-inch LCD screen and video touch-screen handset for customers to enjoy the next generation KrisWorld, as well as an all-in one business panel including in-seat power supply, USB port, eXport and HDMI ports.

Like the new First Class seat detailed above, the new Business Class seat boasts a floodlight reading light and the LCD monitor on/off switch for added convenience.

Singapore Airlines, considered one of the best airlines of the world, defining new trends in luxury travel, has recently introduced new products.



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A YEAR MARKED BY MERCURE



Mercure brand is best characterized by three words: authenticity, curiosity, and commitment. The brand combines the strength of an international network with experience, history, culture and unique character of places where it is present. Mercure invites guests to celebrate its 40th birthday, because precisely in 1973 it opened its first hotel.

THE YEAR OF MERCURE

2013 is an extremely important year for Mercure, not only because it celebrates its 40th birthday, but also because it is being repositioned in the market. The brand upgrades its offer, introduces global commitment to quality, accelerates the pace of development, and refreshes its visual identity. In recent years Mercure has been committed to

building and strengthening its image. The brand has improved its communication and distribution platform, introduced new favourable prices, and changed its promotion policy. Now, Mercure introduces further changes, from a new approach to greeting guests, through a refreshed catering concept, a business traveller-oriented offer, to a far reaching commitment to quality and subsequent improvements.

WHAT'S NEW AT MERCURE

In a number of its European hotels Mercure has begun implementation of a new concept for lobby design, which is unprecedented in the middle-class segment. The traditional reception desk has now been replaced by a solution which facilitates interaction between the front desk staff and guests. A receptionist

plays here a role of a host inviting guests to his or her table or to the lobby where everyone can feel at home.

Mercure hotels in Poland have introduced a new dining concept named WINESTONE. It consists of two elements - a unique collection of wine selected by experienced sommeliers (WINE), and dishes served on "les planches" - stone plates (STONE) straight from fashionable French restaurants. The dining rooms of restaurants are also arranged in such a way to create nice atmosphere. The décor with purple and black colours are combined with wooden, large tables and a marble-topped bar, encourages guests to spend more time in the restaurant. While waiting for their orders, guest may observe the chef at work. Some dishes have received a new look and are

served in a more attractive way, while the taste of food remains at the highest level. The new menu will certainly surprise with its diversity. You can find there tasty, healthy food, regional specialties, fine wine and freshly baked sourdough bread. The brand also took a serious commitment to ensure the same high quality of service for all hotels belonging to the chain. Starting 2014, the Mercure Quality Guarantee, which is based on 96 shared quality guidelines and is designed to ensure that the guest experience is consistent in all Mercure hotels, will also be implemented in Poland.

The features of the refreshed brand include naturalness, enthusiasm, and optimism. Mercure represents in this way a modern vision of middle-class hotels, which is a response to growing expectations of guests.

MERCURE – AN ORIGINAL EXPERIENCE

Hotels of Mercure brand are inspired by tradition of the place they are located. They combine local history with modernity. This is reflected in the interior design, as well as the menu full

of regional delicacies. Mercure International Hotels is a chain which consists of over 700 hotels - each of them rooted in the local community and run by enthusiastic hoteliers. Both business and leisure travellers will certainly find Mercure an attractive alternative to other hotel chains and independent hotels.

There are almost 750 hotels of the brand located in 51 countries, including 18 in Poland. The hotels are located in city centres, by the sea or in the mountains. For franchisees Mercure brand is an excellent opportunity and a way to preserve local character of their hotel, while enhancing operations through global standards and solutions used by the chain.

More and more hoteliers are choosing to join the network – most recently Mercure Piotrków Trybunalski Vestil, Krynica Zdrój, Mercure Resort & SPA, and Mercure Warsaw Airport.

MERCURE PIOTRKÓW TRYBUNALSKI VESTIL

Nestled between Łódź and Warsaw Mercure Piotrkow Trybunalski Vestil is an attractive

hotel for business travellers. It has six fully equipped meeting rooms where several meetings, conferences, seminars and banquets can be organized at the same time. In addition, the hotel offers a unique relaxation experience in unique Beer Baths and the SPA Zone.

MERCURE KRYNICA ZDRÓJ RESORT & SPA

The hotel is close to ski lifts, an ice rink, ski and mountain bike rental shops, a funicular to Parkowa Mountain, and tennis courts. It is located in the Beskid Sądecki region which is well known for its spa properties.

MERCURE WARSZAWA AIRPORT

Mercure Warszawa Airport is the perfect choice for those who wish to be within easy reach of the capital. It is close to major business facilities and tourist attractions of Warsaw, and its close proximity to E77 European route allows you to quickly set off in the direction of Cracow, Katowice and Wrocław, making the hotel a perfect place for a stopover in Poland.



2013 is an extremely important year for Mercure, not only because it celebrates its 40th birthday, but also because it is being repositioned in the market.



WESTIN HOTEL IN WARSAW CELEBRATES ITS 10TH BIRTHDAY



MORE INFO AT:
www.westin.pl

When it was being built, it aroused excitement and enthusiasm. It was considered to be an architectural breath of fresh air in Warsaw. It delighted with its glazed tube and glass-walled lifts. It introduced fusion cuisine to Poland, but above all, it was the only hotel that convinced its guests to take a good

care of themselves when away from home. It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years since grand opening of Westin Warsaw.

Located at the crossroads of Grzybowska Street and Jana Pawła II Avenue in Warsaw, Westin is distinguished by its unique architecture. The 20-storey building features a futuristic glass tube with fast

and ultra-modern lifts, all of which offer stunning panoramic views of Warsaw. Since the very beginning the hotel has been known for its excellent cuisine. The culinary gems created by the head chef have been praised by both numerous critics and juries of international culinary competitions. Thanks to Westin 10 years ago the Poles learnt about the qualities of fu-

sion cuisine which combines European ingredients with Far East flavours.

However, what truly distinguishes the hotel is that when you are checking out of it, you feel much better than before checked in. This is mainly due to numerous initiatives taken by the hotel in order to improve the well-being of the guests. Actually, it is not surprising, since the hotel's motto is "Do it for yourself."

This philosophy is visible already upon entering the hotel. Our senses are awakened with the scent of white tea, which was created specifically for the brand and is a composition of white tea with notes of geranium and freesia.

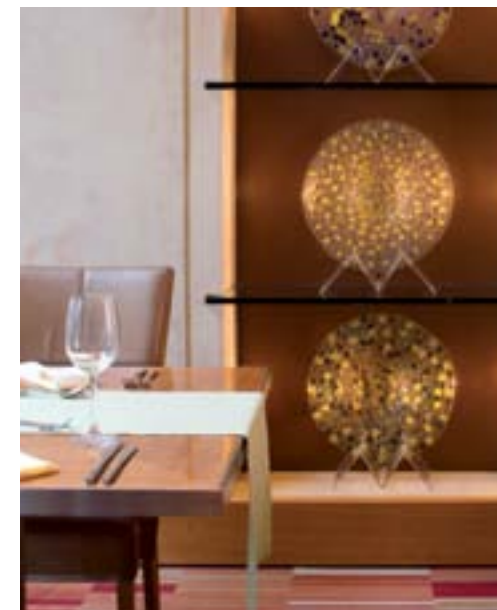
After a long journey, guests can recuperate in a massage room or even in their own room, taking advantage of the in-room spa service. When a guest chooses the latter option, a massage therapist will come to their room with a foldable massage bed and perform a treatment procedure tailored to individual needs.

For those who prefer active leisure, Westin offers training in the 24/7 Westing WorkOUT studio, and encourages them to explore Warsaw while jogging. RunWESTIN jogging maps prepared by specialists will guide the runner from the main entrance of the hotel through the most interesting places in the area. What is more, the runners do not even have to pack sports shoes into their suitcase, because with Westin's Gear Lending programme they can borrow them for a small fee.

An actively spent day requires a good sleep. Sleeping in Westin hotel is a unique experience thanks to the Heavenly Beds. The work on designing the world's most comfortable bed took several months. One of the stages involved testing 50 beds from 35 hotels by executives who put bed comfort at the top of the things they most want in a hotel. The result was



Westin's philosophy is visible already upon entering the hotel. Our senses are awakened with the scent of white tea, which was created specifically for the brand.



the Heavenly Bed, consisting of a specially designed mattress, three linens made of soft cotton, a thin blanket, duvets, and five pillows that range from fluffy to firm. Talking about Westin, it is impossible not to mention its cuisine. The head chef Janusz Korzyński is able to conjure miracles from any product. He is also known for his passion for healthy eating, and therefore he has keenly introduced

in the menu SuperFoodsRX dishes composed of ingredients that consumed together have a higher nutritional value than individually. After such a meal, you have energy for the whole day, you find it easier to concentrate and are effective for many hours.

This year, Westin Warsaw celebrates its 10th birthday and we wish the hotel and its staff a lot of success for the next decade.

Weronika Kozek

BETWEEN THE SEA AND THE SKY

18 million years ago, in the Miocene epoch,
a new island emerged on the Atlantic ocean as a result of
a volcano eruption.



Over the next epochs the giant volcano grew and transformed, bursting hot lava and spewing smoke and ashes. Finally, it grew weaker, lost its destructive energy and putting aside its rough past, it let the nature work. And as in a biblical story, flowers and trees grew over the fertile land, giving shelter to insects and birds, turning into a paradise garden. And eventually the first people arrived - Portuguese sailors João Zarco and Tristão Teixeira, who were thrown onto the island by a heavy storm. Upon seeing a mountainous island covered with laurel forests they came up with an adequate name - Madeira, the forested island. It was in 1418.

ON THE SKY TRAILS

Today the journey is less random. After a two-hour flight from Lisbon, flying 850 km over the Atlantic, you can safely arrive at

Funchal airport. The plane lands on the very shore, touching the waves with its wheels, because only here you can find a stripe of flat land. At night, the island looks like a Christmas tree with hundreds of lights. The daylight reinforces the impression that it is not a land of the lazy. You have to walk up and down the forest-covered hills into the flowing streams in a valley, from the hotel on the cliff to the beach, from a market to a port. Fitness and exercise is provided for by the nature itself. The 50-km long island with its highest peak of 1860 m is ideal both for beginner mountain climbers as well as the enthusiasts of high rock climbing.

The mid-island of Madeira is sparsely populated and covered with valleys, gullies and laurel, cedar and eucalyptus trees. It is the best preserved European relic of ancient tertiary forest covers, which give us such well-

known spices as bay leaves. The atmosphere is further emphasized by mountain-related infrastructure. You can take a cable car ride from Funchal to the top of Monte to visit a monastery, and then go down on traditional wooden sledge. The runners of the sledge are abundantly greased to be able to slide down the tarmac. In the past this was the usual way to transport goods to the city. Nowadays it is an attraction for the tourists, who scream in excitement whenever there is a sharp bend or hard brake.

LIFT TO THE PARADISE

The added value of Madeira mountains is the azure sea visible from any top and at any time during the hike you can replace the footwork with arm work and take a swim in the Atlantic ocean. The 580-meter Cabo Girão cliff, the highest one in Europe, may be the keystone for the two zones. At

You will find here red pitangas, cucumber-like cerimans, philodendron berries, which taste like pineapple and banana, passion fruit, papayas, mangos and pineapples. The stalls look like taken from a still-life painting.



The added value of Madeira mountains is the azure sea visible from any top and at any time during the hike you can replace the footwork with arm work and take a swim in the Atlantic ocean.



The island is ideal both for beginner mountain climbers as well as the enthusiasts of high rock climbing.

its top there is a vantage point with a glass terrace protruding over the precipice. If, for some reason, you have trouble going down, nearby you will find a lift attached to the edge of the cliff. While admiring the amazing views you slowly descend to the Faja dos Padres farm. Here you will find a miniature paradise garden abundant with fruit trees, a home winery and a beach with a fishing pier. Everywhere you can see the passion of Mr. and Mrs. Fernandes, the owners of the place. Anyway, the whole coast of Madeira is steep while the beaches are narrow and rocky. But the sea is perfect. Warm ocean waves provide great conditions for windsurfing. Swimmers will make use of special pools separated from the outer sea with a rock groyne. Thanks to them you can enjoy the water even when the waves are very high. But if your idea of a perfect holiday is a white sandy beach, you can take a 40-minute ship cruise to Porto Santo, where you can enjoy the sunbathing bliss all day long. History enthusiasts can go aboard a replica of Christopher Columbus' carrack - Santa Maria, which sails into the ocean daily in search for dolphins and whales. You can also try fishing and borrow a boat from one of the small fishing ports.

MARKET LIE A PIECE OF ART
Fishing and tourism are the main occupations of the Madeira citizens. The island is famous for banana cultivation and sun-drenched vineyards, mild climate and fertile volcanic soil.

All products from Madeira can be found at Funchal market, where you can try before you buy fruit, vegetables, or freshly gutted fish. You will find here red pitangas, cucumber-like cerimans, philodendron berries, which taste like pineapple and banana, passion fruit, papayas, mangos and pineapples. The stalls look like taken from a still-life paintings and the sellers wear traditional clothes and colourful knit hats. You should definitely try the black scabbardfish - a specialty of Madeira. The fish, with its big teeth and protruding eyes may look a bit scary, but its delicate white meat, when fried with sweet banana, can be a real treat for your palate. Traditional dishes of the Madeira people were more modest: bolo de caco bread served warm with garlic butter, milho frito corn polenta, and batata doce - sweet potatoes served with "honey" made from sugar cane. Their liquor has remained the same - the excellent Madeira wine. The wine, attracting the world's attention to the island thanks to its name, undergoes the pro-



Here you will find Faja dos Padres - a miniature paradise garden abundant with fruit trees, a home winery and a beach with a fishing pier.

cess of maderisation in the temperature of 50 C and with its 20% alcohol content is one of the longest-lived wines. People still drink 150-year old vintage wines, and Madeira wine sales bring almost half of the island's income. If you need a refreshing drink, try poncha - a lemon and orange juice with honey, based on local rum produced from the sugar cane.

IN THE LAND OF ETERNAL SPRING
Funchal is the capital of the island and its only major city with a port and an airport. It is here where Rally Madeira - one of the most famous European rallies is held every August. In June, in turn, the city attracts old cars enthusiasts, who want to take part in the Classic Rally - Volta a Madeira. Beautiful cars, emerging from countless bends, stunning landscapes, the squeal of tyres - this automobile festival lasting four days is simply something you should not miss. The city also has some old-fashioned charm. Small white houses with red roofs tightly cover the coastal hillside. The old town roads are paved with a mosaic of black and white stones typical of volcanic islands. On

the oldest street, Rua de Santa Maria, the residents compete against one another by painting their home doors in artistic way. The walls are often decorated with mosaics of blue and white tiles called azulejos. Although originally Madeira served as a stopping point for sailors during overseas expeditions, it quickly became known for its exceptionally healthy climate. It is defined as an eternal spring, as temperatures hover around 20-25 degrees, rainfall is scarce, and the mountainous air is very clear.

Recommended

- **FourViews Hotels**
tel. (+351) 291 724 000
www.fourviewshotels.com
geral@fouviewhotels.com
- **Enotel Quinta do Sol**
www.enotelquintadosol.pt
tel. (+ 351) 291 724 219
reservations@enotel.com
- **Faja dos Padres**
info@fajadospadres.com,
tel. (+351) 291 944 538



The well-known personas that visited the island include Winston Churchill, Ernest Hemingway, the Empress Sissi, while Karl Habsburg, the Austria's last emperor was buried here. Cristiano dos Santos Aveiro, called Ronaldo in honour of president Reagan, is a native Madeiran. The island was also visited by two most prominent Polish people of the 20th century. Jozef Pilsudski spent here three months in 1930 and 1931 to improve his health. The statue of the Marshall is located on the promenade in Funchal. He is also remembered for having blocked the Madeiran post office as millions of wishing cards were sent to him by Polish children on his name day. John Paul II also earned a street named after him as well as a monument in front of the cathedral in Funchal, erected to commemorate the pilgrimage from June 2007. Madeira still confirms its reputation as a place for active people, where mountains, the sea and the eternal spring add positive energy, and where you can live life to the fullest.

Barbara Scharf

MORE INFO AT: www.visitmadeira.pt



TOURING TOKYO

Tokyo is renowned for its ultrafast trains and long tea-making ceremonies. It’s a city packed with concrete housing estates, but at the same time worshipping the nature. The kitschy Hallo Kitty goes here hand in hand with the sophisticated haiku poetry. Agata Janicka invites you on a tour round the world’s greatest city.

Modern Tokyo was established as a result of two dramatic events of the 20th century - the great earthquake in 1923 and the Second World War. The destruction of the city as a result of these disasters allowed architects to design it from scratch so now it’s ultra-modern, efficient and dynamic. It’s therefore hard to find today in Tokyo traces of the old Japan, as dreamed about by many tourists. Along with Yokohama, Kawasaki,

Saitama and other towns along the Gulf of the Tokyo, it creates an urban area with nearly 40 million inhabitants, thus gaining the title of the largest city in the world.

THIRTEEN LINES
How to explore this huge metropolis? The best way is to use the Tokyo underground which is reliable and has 13 lines. Planning such a tour, it’s worth using a GPS app, with which you will be able to move smoothly

around the city’s most interesting attractions. The stations are well marked (with transcriptions of the names in English). Just remember that each station has several exits, which can be quite distant from each other, but it’s not difficult to find the right one, as signboards are placed every 30 meters, and you can also always ask the station’s personnel for help. One problem is that the underground system is served by two carriers, which means two different types of tickets. The best

choice is to purchase PASMO card (initial deposit of ¥500 – you can grab it at the gates to platforms), and charge it in special machines (the menu is also displayed in English). The average cost of a single trip is ¥200 yen (€2) and depends on the number of stations. The cheapest ticket costs €160. Is the underground system punctual? You bet it’s! Statistics show that the average delay of trains in the country is 6 seconds per year, including even delays due to natural disasters.

IMPERIAL PALACE
Tokyo is a huge city (2,188 sq km) and, for the first-time visitor, initially daunting. The trick is to master the transport system, starting off with the subway and the JR (Japanese Railways) lines, particularly the Yamanote line, from which point the metropolis suddenly becomes far more manageable. This tour starts at one of its oldest spots – the Imperial Palace in the centre of the city. It takes its name from the fact this has been the home of the Japanese emperor since 1868, though Edo Castle occupied the area for centuries beforehand. The current emperor, Akihito, and his wife still live in the palace, though you are unlikely to spot them, not least since the general public are only allowed into the Imperial Palace Grounds on January 2 and December 23 (the emperor’s birthday), two dates universally unpopular for business travel.

MARUNOUCHI
Leave the Imperial Palace Gardens to the east and you’ll be in the shopping and business district of Marunouchi. An easy-on-the-eye introduction to Tokyo, this isn’t the neon bustling futureopolis that you may have been expecting, but long, straight streets filled with offices, the odd five-star hotel and international brand shops. For visiting bankers, it will be a home from home, but assuming you can resist the lure of the shopping, it’s the renovated Tokyo station you are heading for. It looks western, though apparently the guidebook story of it being modelled on Amsterdam’s Centraal station isn’t true – still, with the adjacent Tokyo Station hotel. Be exploratory, and enter the station via the hotel. Walk through the lobby and out into the station itself, then head to the metro (Tokyo) to buy tickets for the rest of this tour. Buy a pack of 11 coupon tickets (1,900/£13) to cover you for all metro journeys up to 11km. marunouchi.com/en/, thetokyostationhotel.jp, tokyometro.jp/en

SONY BUILDING
Take the southbound Marunouchi line and get off at the next stop, Ginza station. The



Planning a tour around Tokyo, it’s worth using a GPS app, with which you will be able to move smoothly around the city’s most interesting attractions.





TOKIO JAPONIA

CODZIENNE LOTY DO TOKIO

Odwiedź największą metropolię na świecie, czyli niesamowite Tokio. To tętniące życiem miasto oferuje mnóstwo ciekawych sklepów, rozrywek dla duszy i ciała, oraz wyśmienitych restauracji. Znajdziesz tu także wiele zabytkowych dzielnic, ciekawych muzeów, świątyń i przepięknych ogrodów. Odkryj tę wyjątkową kulturę, którą tak wielu z nas uwielbia.

Rezerwuj bilety zawsze na stronie:
qatarairways.com/pl



World's 5-star airline.

QATAR
AIRWAYS القطرية

Sony building is a Tokyo landmark and, inside, the many staircases, bewildering layout and sheer volume of products on display – many of which are not yet for sale in Europe – make it a must-see. For anyone keen on electronics, its eight floors offer more than enough to while away an afternoon, and the fourth floor is the tax-free shopping zone. 531 Ginza; sonybuilding.jp

ASAKUSA

You've been to the geographical centre, now find the city's real centre – the Senso-ji Temple in the Asakusa district. From Ginza station, take the northbound Ginza metro line to Asakusa station. The temple is a living, breathing place where rituals are still performed, and everyone from local students to old ladies comes to ask for good fortune. Consider arranging a guide before your trip – Via Japan can help, and can provide simple instructions on how to negotiate the city, along with notes on what you are seeing. A guide will explain that holding opposites in dynamic tension is the Japa-

nese way of doing things, hence the stunning juxtapositions of ancient and modern you will see in the city. The approach to the temple provides yet another contrast – small stalls selling traditional gifts and the ancient Kaminarimon Gate set against the backdrop of the striking Asakusa Culture Tourist Information Centre and Asahi building (pictured bottom left and right respectively). The latter's design, by Philippe Starck, is a celebration of the beer, with the strange golden wave escaping from one side symbolising the Asahi flame.

KOTOBUKIYA

If you have a pre-conceived notion of the Japanese having a strange affection for science fiction and fantasy dolls, Kotobukiya is the place to have those ideas confirmed. To reach it, hop back on the Ginza line and travel south, change at Ueno, and take the Hibiya line to Akihabara, Tokyo's electronic district. The store has everything from Star Wars to Godzilla and Howl's Moving Castle. Many are collector's items, including painted resin Fine Art Statues, Bishoujo (pretty



The Shiba Park in Minato district features the renowned Tokyo Tower with an observation deck.



The Imperial Palace is open to visitors only on twice a year. Depending on the weather, you can wander around the outer gardens, take pictures of Nijubashi bridge, and then head off towards the high rises for your whistle-stop tour of the city.

girl) Statues and One Coin Mini Figures. Step outside and check out the vending machines where you can pick up complete meals. kotoeu.com

OMOTESANDO HILLS

Take the Hibiya line back to Ueno, then take the Ginza line westwards to Shibuya, a couple of minutes' walk from Omotesando Hills. High-end shopping malls aren't in short supply in Tokyo, but this is something special. Japanese architect Tadao Ando's design gets around the fact that the mall is on a hill with an ingenious series of ramps, escalators and stairs, which really enlivens the place. Shops include Escada, Black Fleece by Brooks Brothers, and Dolce and Gabbana. After dark, the façade acts as an LED advertisement. omotesandohills.com/english

TEMPLES AND MUSEUMS

One of the biggest attractions is a typical Shinto shrine built in the fifteenth century in the castle of shoguns. It's located in the eastern part of the Akasaka district. But the most important Shinto shrine in Tokyo is Meiji Shrine, which is situated in the western area of Shinjuku. It houses the remains

of Emperor Meiji revered as national relics. Be sure to also visit at least some of the museums in Tokyo. The National Museum of the History of Japan, the Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, which is the oldest museum devoted to contemporary art of Japan and the world and displays work of such artists as A. Warhol or R. Lichtenstein. The Edo-Tokyo Museum features a model of the eighteenth-century Shitamachi district - the city's historical centre.

IMPORTANT INFO

The Japanese metropolis received its name in the second half of the nineteenth century (Tokyo means "the eastern capital"). The original name was Edo, which grew by more than 2,500, transforming itself from a fishing village into the seat of the shogun, and later the emperor. Destroyed in 1923 by an earthquake and air raids during the Second World War, the Great Tokyo revived even greater.

A ride from one end of city to the other (about 150 km) takes usually a couple of hours, despite a well-developed transport network (13 underground railway lines, the city rail, buses). In the beginning the

transportation system may seem a bit complicated, but it really makes life easier for residents and tourists.

If you are not interested in sightseeing, Tokyo offers all the entertainment, one can only think of. From theatres, night-clubs, thousands of shops and popular Patchinko arcades, to peculiar places where you can for example, cuddle furry animals, or dress up as a character from the manga.



CODZIENNE
LOTY DO
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* Wszystkie loty przez Dohę



LATIN SPIRIT

The Argentine capital has transformed itself in the past decade – though its life-affirming vibe remains steadfast, discovers **Liat Clark**.

On a crisp spring October morning in Villa Crespo, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner’s smiling face follows me down the cobbled tree-lined streets. Plastered on every crumbling corner of this part of town, the Argentine president’s fist-pump peace sign is accompanied by the words “Companera, cuente

con nosotros para lo que falta” (comrade, count on us for whatever you need), and just a little graffiti. A few weeks after my visit, Fernandez was re-elected in a landslide victory, trumping her nearest opponent, socialist Hermes Binner, by 54 per cent to 17 per cent and cementing the country’s hard-won economic

and political stability following decades of uncertainty.

W WINDING ROAD

“After Argentina’s catastrophic economic meltdown in 2001, the number of people living on the poverty line increased to nearly 50 per cent,” says Colin M Lewis, professor

of Latin American economic history at the London School of Economics (LSE). “Now 60 per cent of Argentinians are considerably better off than they were in 2000-02. In that sense, Fernandez should have got 60 per cent of the votes.” When Argentina defaulted on a US\$132 billion debt ten years ago – the largest default in history – the road back seemed inconceivably long. Marred by years of hyperinflation (from 1944 to 2010 the average was 215 per cent), corruption and military intervention, the country’s dramatic turnaround could not have been predicted. Since 2003, annual economic growth has been, on average, 8 per cent, and it shows.

FOT: DREAMSTIME

NOT THE MOST EXPENSIVE

“Buenos Aires has changed a heck of a lot in the past six years,” says Paul Irvine, co-founder of luxury South American travel operator Dehouche (dehouche.com). “In 2003 it was pretty edgy – there were people digging through rubbish and stray dogs everywhere. Now the tax regime is okay, businesses from abroad are coming in – maybe because it’s so cheap and everyone knows it’s not going to stay that way forever.” Buenos Aires was ranked the 159th most expensive city for expatriates in consulting firm Mercer’s 2011 cost of living survey, compared with Sao Paulo (tenth) and Rio de Janeiro (12th).

BOUTIQUE HOTELS

● **Faena Hotel and Universe** Housed in an old red-brick grain mill in Puerto Madero, the 108-room, Philippe Starck-designed Faena is suitably dramatic. Two restaurants, a bar and a tango hall are located off a long, red-lit corridor. El Mercado eatery is a mix of industrial lampshades and Victorian memorabilia, while El Bistro is an Alice in Wonderland fantasy of pure white and unicorns. Guestrooms are finished in velvet and white leather, and event spaces include a 280-capacity ballroom and three boardrooms. The elegant outdoor pool is better suited to posing with cocktails than doing laps. 45 Martha Salotti; tel +54 114 0109 000; faenahotelanduniverse.com Rooms from US\$469

● **Algodon Mansion** This 1912 mansion – the capital’s first Relais and Châteaux property – is a great example of the Belle Epoque architecture common in Recoleta. It reopened in September 2010, having been converted to create ten generously proportioned suites, each with a spacious bathroom and lounge. Suites come with a free bottle of wine from the Algodon vineyards and 24-hour butler service. The 120 sqm Algodon Royal Suites feature a wine bar and dining area for 20, and there is a 50-seat restaurant, cognac bar, cigar lounge, spa and rooftop pool. 1,647 Montevideo; tel +54 113 5307 777; algodonmansion.com Rooms from US\$665

● **Palermo Place** Opened in May last year in Palermo Hollywood, this intimate property has 26 suites, all with their own kitchens. There is no restaurant on site but dining tables can be set up on the eighth-floor roof terrace if you wish to have food delivered. There is a five-star concierge service, free wifi and the option to set up a long-distance telephone bundle to cut costs. Spa treatments are available by appointment. 5,865 Nicaragua; tel +54 113 2209 600; palermoplace.com Rooms from US\$284

● **Alvear Art hotel** This 139-room property is due to open in September, a few minutes’ drive from Retiro and Puerto Madero. An affiliate of the classical Alvear Palace hotel, it will feature a restaurant with a winter garden, a spa on the top floors, meeting space for 250 delegates theatre-style, and a business centre. The rooms – and two suites – will be contemporary in style, with 24-hour room service and bathrooms equipped with spa baths. 1,036 Suipacha; tel +54 114 8082 100; alveararthotel.com Rooms from US\$ 295



LaBoca the most colourful district of the city. Formerly inhabited by the poor, today is a landmark attraction for tourists.

Measures taken to balance the books post-2001 initially deterred foreign investment. Subsidies on energy helped Argentini-ans but were not afforded to overseas compa-nies – “I’m not the president of the corpo-rations, I’m the president of the 40 million Argentines,” Fernandez said in defence of the policy. Caps were put on energy and transport tariffs and renationalisation be-came rampant.

INVESTORS SOUGHT

When growth stabilised, steps were taken to attract business again. Incentives for oil companies introduced in 2008 proved par-ticularly successful, with Chinese energy firms Sinopec and Chinese National Off-shore Oil Corporation investing US\$13 bil-lion in 2010, and fellow energy companies Repsol, Exxon Mobil and Apache reopen-ing bases in Buenos Aires the same year. In 2011, Spain’s Repsol YPF discovered a billion barrels of shale oil in Argentina – which could make the country the number one producer. “Business demand is increasing at a rate of knots,” says Irvine, who has seen a growth in requests for meetings and incentives from London-based corporate finance firms. “Companies from around the world are just starting to do business here – they have to. If you are in any sort of sphere of business and don’t have exposure to South American markets, you’re missing out.”

DIVINE BUENOS

Trendy Palermo Soho and Palermo Holly-wood are sure signs of a rapidly growing middle class – wide paved streets are lined with neocolonial painted villas housing cafés and independent boutiques. The area is packed with restaurants, where two of the nation’s greatest exports are celebrated – steak and Malbec. Moments away from Plaza Cortazar, where craft stalls flog art and handmade jewellery, Cabernet has a beautiful tree-sheltered courtyard and huge steaks from 80 pesos (£12). A few blocks away from Palermo, Villa Crespo – an old industrial district that has morphed into a vibrant muddle of chic bars and mechanics’ garages – has retained its porteno (“people of the port”) spirit, though a new US\$50 million mall announced in December will open nearby in 2013. On the other side of Palermo, Belle Epoque-era townhouses fill Recoleta, one of the smartest districts in town. The mix of designer stores, embassies and well-heeled locals contrast with the tourist trap of Recoleta cemetery, where the Buenos



Turn towards the port and you will see the city’s ambitions laid out in front of the Rio de la Plata. The luxurious skyscrapers are home to the world’s largest corporations including Google.

Aires elite demonstrate their wealth even in death with elaborate mausoleums. Past here, Retiro is the financial district, a nondescript mix of busy roads and bus terminals. A short way south, the historic neighbourhood of San Telmo typifies the Buenos Aires spirit, with its ageing coloni-al-era churches, antiques stores and squares full of dancers practising the tango.

BUSINESS RETURNS TO THE CITY

Luxury residences the Alvear Tower and the Aleph will both open here in 2013 – the latter is part of the Faena group, dominat-ing the area with its mix of Philippe Starck-designed residences and hotels, while the former will be the capital’s tallest building, at 54 storeys. Repsol’s glittering 160-metre-tall headquarters – completed in 2008 and designed by César Pelli, the Argentine archi-tect behind Kuala Lumpur’s Petronas Towers – is a testament to the return of in-ternational business. The government is also taking steps to cre-ate specialised commercial districts, includ-ing a high-tech centre in Parque Patricios. When Google moved to Argentina, its chief executive Eric Schmidt declared: “Latin

America has the fastest growth in the in-ternet sector – more than Asia, the US and Europe,” and today it is reported to have the fastest-growing wireless sector.

TOURIST BOOM

Meanwhile, tourism continues to boom. “In 2010, we reached a record of ten million visi-tors,” says Federico Esper, general director for research and training at Buenos Aires Tourism Observatory. “In 2011 we expected growth in domestic tourism of 10 per cent, and 5 per cent in international.” To cope with demand, Esper says US\$1 billion was invested in the city’s hotel industry in the past four years. The growth in visitors from Asia – and from China in particular – is im-portant. New air links from Europe and the Middle East are also set to boost tourism. On the ground, metro lines are being ex-tended west and to Retiro, and there are plans for three new lines. In the past year, new cycle lanes and a metro bus service (modern buses with a dedicated lane) have been introduced, although for business travellers the swiftest way to get around is by taxi. International airport Ezeiza is a 30-minute drive in good traffic – however, this is a rarity.

UPS AND DOWNS

Despite the buoyant mood, one key issue mars optimism. Historically, political in-stability and inflation have led to nerv-ous financial markets and capital flight, and Fernandez’s decision to curb the ex-change of pesos to dollars could be a cause for concern. “It indicates that reserves are declining, and the government is perhaps losing control of the economy,” says Lewis. Inflation is reported to be about 9 per cent, but the real figure is widely consid-ered to be nearer 25 per cent. Argentine agencies publishing their own figures have been threatened with criminal pro-ceedings. This has not gone unnoticed by the international community and, in No-vember, the International Monetary Fund left Argentina out of its Latin American tour as it failed to provide adequate statis-tics. Still, on the streets of Buenos Aires, these murmurings could not be more distant. Young portenos are out in force, restlessly opening new galleries and restaurants each week, while in the squares of San Telmo, the mood is light, the wine flows freely, and the dancers tango long into the night.

TASTES OF SINGAPORE

Our Asian correspondent **Reggie Ho** dines in the Lion city.



OLD SHASHLIK

“That place has been there forever!” is what you’ll hear from almost every local when you bring up Shashlik. In fact, it’s only about 25 years old but it’s a spin-off of Troika, which opened in 1943 before folding in the eighties. Tucked away on the sixth floor of an old shopping arcade, its décor can only be described as vintage, but it is worth coming to experience how Singaporeans used to view Western dining before all the Michelin action stormed the city. A sixth-generation chef cooks up the Russian borsch (beetroot soup), and loyalists swear by the steak. Finish with the baked Alaska. The signature beef fillet costs S\$30 (£16).

● Open daily 12pm-3pm, 6.30pm-10.30pm
545 Orchard Road, 6-19 Far East Shopping Centre
tel +65 6732 6401

NEW POLLEN

Part of the vast new Gardens by the Bay complex, Pollen opened last June. The experience is like eating in a greenhouse, as it is located in the giant Flower Dome. A herb garden in the second-floor tea lounge grows fragrant plants used in the restaurant’s dishes. The refined menu includes signatures such as “Trip to Japan 2012” – chef Jason Atherton’s own take on sashimi, with giant scallops stacked on pieces of white radish and topped with slices of sea urchin, with “radish snow” sprinkled on the side. The “English breakfast” – an egg slow-cooked for an hour at 57°C and served with Iberico ham, bacon and tomato sauce – is



also superb. Pastry chef Andrew Lara produces inventive molecular desserts. Starters are from S\$29 (£15), mains from S\$65 (£34).
● Open daily 12pm-2.30pm, 6pm-10pm
Gardens by the Bay, 18 Marina Gardens Drive 1-9
tel +65 6604 9988
pollen.com.sg

BORROWED GUNTHER’S

The best place to sample French cuisine in Singapore is Gunther’s. Serving “simple, honest” dishes prepared “from the heart” by award-winning chef Gunther Hubrechen, it’s located on swanky Purvis Street. The cold angel hair pasta with Oscietra caviar, kombu (seaweed) and truffle oil is the talk of the town – after that, choose a selection of fresh ingredients from the tray – many of which are still alive. My Alaskan king crab leg “Belle Vue” was sensational, while the

grilled Japanese squid with Parmesan foam and tomato rice, and the roasted Pyrenees milk-fed lamb with gratin potato and green chilli fritters were divine. There are more than 350 wines to choose from. Appetisers are from S\$18 (£9), mains from S\$38 (£20).

● Open Mon-Sat 12.30pm-2.30pm, 6.30pm-10.30pm
36 Purvis Street 1-3
tel +65 6338 8955
gunthers.com.sg

VIEW 1-ALTITUDE

The way to get to this sky-high venue is convoluted – you have to queue, pass a velvet rope for the lift to the 62nd floor, where a flight of stairs takes you to the pinnacle – but it’s worth it. You can circle around the venue and see the whole of Singapore – as well as a bit of Indonesia. This is more a casual place to drink and snack than a restaurant, but the thin-crust pizzas, homemade otah (mackerel cake) on toast, spicy wings and Thai chicken with prawn sauce can easily make a meal. The cocktails are what people come for, though. Bear in mind that to sit at a table, there is a minimum spend of S\$100 (£52) per person. Pizzas are from S\$20 (£10), cocktails from S\$16 (£8). The Rochester Group also operates a restaurant, Stellar, on the floor below, serving continental food and sushi.

● Open Mon-Thurs 6pm-2am, Fri-Sat until 4am, Sun 1am
1 Raffles Place
tel +65 6438 0410
1-altitude.com



THE ASIAN WAY

Business Traveller’s Asia-Pacific team reveals the unspoken rules you should follow to seal a deal in the region.

While Western manners generally work in major commercial hubs of Asia, observing local customs can mean the difference between impressing or alienating your client. Still, those customs can vary widely depending on what country you are in – here’s a quick guide.

INDIA
India’s colonial past means it is a cauldron of cultures with well-ingrained British influences. This is reflected in how Indians meet and greet, with Western conventions practised as easily as local traditions. Greetings: Handshakes are normal, although at very formal events, such as meeting politicians, a namaste – placing your palms together in front of your chest – will be expected. Generally, a junior does not initiate a handshake with senior members of staff but will wait for them to extend their hand first. Business cards: As in most Asian cultures, handing out cards is an art in itself. Eye contact is expected and two hands should be used. Honorifics: There aren’t any specific honorifics in Indian culture – Mr and Mrs will do.

Punctuality: In a nation where family commitments take priority and infrastructure never fails to surprise even the locals, flexibility is important. Meetings: One major difference is the perception of individualism versus collectivism in the Indian work ethic. Juniors are expected to keep their opinions to themselves because criticism of work can be interpreted as a personal attack. Teamwork, on the other hand, is revered. Attire: The sweltering heat and monsoons that dominate the weather for much of the year mean a full suit is not necessary, although formal attire is expected. Dining and entertaining: Bear in mind that not all Indians eat meat, while some may only eat it on particular days. Also, some will never touch alcohol while others will drink with gusto. **CHINA**
In China face-to-face contact is preferred and having the right guanxi (relationships) is vital. Western mannerisms are much more accepted these days but observing local etiquette will help you to gain trust more quickly, especially with those who are over 40. Greetings: Handshakes are a good way to

start before exchanging cards. Smoking is still commonplace in meetings. Business cards: Use both hands – if it’s from someone important, you may even want to bow slightly when receiving. The first word of the name is usually the surname. Honorifics: In Putonghua (or Mandarin, the official language), Mr is xiansheng and Ms is xiaojie for younger women or nushi for others. Taitai (Mrs) is less common, except when the woman is accompanied by her husband. Punctuality: In a society where seniority and status are everything, the more important the person you are meeting, the longer you will have to be prepared to wait. Unless you are the one calling the shots or know the person really well, don’t be late as this will be seen as disrespectful, no matter what the reason. Meetings: The host or most senior attendee will invite the others to take their seats – if you are not that person, wait for the cue. Attire: Western business attire has become de rigueur, but Mandarin collars for men or Chinese qipao (national silk dress) for women are also acceptable. If the person you are meeting holds the key to your next big deal,

try not to wear something too expensive, or they may feel upstaged. High-end Italian fashion houses are revered in China. Dining and entertaining: In an upscale Chinese establishment, you will have two pairs of chopsticks – one for picking up food from the shared dishes to put on your plate, and another for picking it up from your plate to eat. Alcohol, especially very strong Chinese liquors, may be offered.

THE PHILIPPINES
Most Filipinos tick are very warm people and speak English quite well. Greetings: Proffering a hand for a handshake is the way to initiate a first-time encounter. If the discussion ends on a positive note, your Filipino associate could get chummier and enter your personal space with a light hand on your back as you walk out of the meeting. Business cards: These are usually exchanged with one hand. Honorifics: Mr or Ms is safe but most executives will tell you straight away to call them by their first name or nickname unless they are high up in the company or much older. Punctuality: If running late, it’s advisable to call ahead to explain, and allowances will be given.

Meetings: When the boss speaks, everyone listens, though debate is encouraged. Attire: With summer nearly all year round, wearing a suit is impractical. Opt for a long-sleeved shirt – a tie is optional except for top-level discussions. Women should avoid sleeveless attire and go for hemlines grazing the knee or slightly below. Dining and entertaining: It is not uncommon for business talk to spill over into these social occasions.

SINGAPORE
This island nation is made up of three major ethnic communities – Chinese, Indian and Malay. Greetings: While shaking hands is the general custom, bear in mind that Malay men, who are Muslim, cannot touch women in public. Business cards: Exchange with both hands and examine closely before putting in a holder. The Chinese are particular about this – do not give tattered cards. Honorifics: Same as in the West. Punctuality: Business is conducted more formally than in most Western countries, so it is important not just to be on time, but even slightly early. Meetings: Singaporeans are shrewd yet non-confrontational negotiators, preferring a softer approach – be careful not to be too persistent, and know when to let go. Questioning authority is taboo. Attire: A shirt and tie is usual for men, while a dress or skirt and blouse is most appropriate for women. Suits should be reserved for functions. Dining and entertaining: Your hosts may “serve” food from the main dish to guests. Singaporeans will rarely be offended if you suggest meeting at a less pricey location – as long as the food is good.

THAILAND
Thais are very easy-going and, especially in bigger cities, are accustomed to foreign mannerisms. Greetings: Placing your palms together in front of your chest and bowing – a wai – is customary. The higher your palms are, the greater the respect expressed. Business cards: Using two hands and making eye contact is important – smiling also goes a long way in the “Land of Smiles”. Honorifics: Khun is widely used to address

people, and roughly translates as Mr or Ms. This is followed by the first name, which is not considered informal. Ka (or na ka) and krap is added by Thai women and men respectively to the end of almost every sentence in formal situations. It has no exact meaning, but is polite. Punctuality: Anywhere between 15 minutes to an hour of tardiness is not interpreted as rude. Meetings: A calm, quiet tone is best received by Thais. They are unlikely to raise their voice, and nor will they interrupt anyone. When it comes to deals, Thais are reluctant to say “no”, so if you have established what in Western terms you would consider the fine print, don’t necessarily expect complete delivery. Thais also consider the top of your head sacred, and feet are viewed with distaste, so never point with your feet or touch someone else on the head. Attire: Presentation is important to Thais so this tends to be more formal than one would expect from such relaxed people, especially given the climate. Dining and entertaining: Thais eat only with a spoon and fork. As in most of Asia, everybody shares dishes.

TAIWAN
Those who have travelled on both sides of the strait will tell you that the Taiwanese are more easy-going, so while many of the tips for China apply here to a certain degree, they are more likely to be forgiving if you decline to smoke or drink. One distinct difference is that Taiwanese are much more vocal in their opinions. While politeness is important, they will be more likely to accept a different point of view without being offended.



If you are meeting a very important person, you might want to wear a suit. For women, a blouse and a suit skirt will do the job.

TOURISM AND BUSINESS



From 28 to 30 November the Congress Centre MT Polska will host the 21st International Travel Show TT Warsaw 2013. It is the most important business event of the tourism industry in Poland and this year its partner country is Tunisia. The fair will be held under the honorary patronage of the vice-marshal of the Sejm – Cezary Grabarczyk, the Minister of Sport and Tourism – Joanna Mucha, and President of the capital city of Warsaw – Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz.

MULTI-CULTURAL DIALOGUE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS

The Congress Centre MT Polska in Warsaw will be transformed then into an international, multicultural platform for dialogue and integration of the representatives of the tourism sector. The event is an opportunity for the industry to sum up the finished season, discuss plans and present the offer for next year. TT Warsaw is also a great place to make new business contacts.

Urszula Potęga, the CEO of MT

Targi Polska says that it is important for the fair to respond to the needs of professionals. “We listen to our partners and we understand their need to adapt business tools to the current situation on the market. We want to support them through our markets, and create space for communication of representatives from all over the world,” says Ms. Potęga.

VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD AND NOVELTIES

The exhibitors from the tourist industry will include tour operators from around the world, Polish and foreign tourist organizations, countries, cities, as well as representatives of the hotels, SPAs, tourist attractions, carriers, insurance companies and providers of new technologies for tourism.

This year, the organizer will pay particular attention to conference facilities and new technologies. The fair will feature a separate section devoted for exhibitors from MICE sector, as well as those who offer new technologies and services for tourism industry. The offer will

be supported by numerous accompanying events devoted to the subject.

MICE – AN IMPORTANT TOURISM SECTOR

On the first day, the participants of the seminar “The Congress Architecture” held by the Polish Tourist Organisation and the Conferences and Congresses in Poland Association, will try to define the ingredients of a professionally organized congress. The seminar will also be an occasion to introduce modern technologies that are used when organizing congresses and conferences.

NEW TECHNOLOGIES -ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The second day of TT Warsaw is the Day of New Technologies. Today they are essential tools in the tourism sector, which facilitate access to information and improve effective sales of services. Polish Tourist Organisation will present the Polish Tourist Information System, while the Association of Incentive Travel Organisers will demonstrate how to use mobile tools to work more effectively.

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CONTACT

To receive more information and register online, go to www.ttwarsaw.pl

THE LION'S CLAW

In a world of constant change, there is a new group of buyers. These are the people who live in constant motion, and who feel the real need for speed. Although they live on all continents and are very different, they share one thing – they look for products that suit their personality.



PEUGEOT

Peugeot has succeeded in addressing this challenge, because the new dynamic crossover is a nice addition to the B segment. Merely 4.16 metres long and 1.74 metres wide Peugeot 2008 is extremely agile and great to drive. At the same time it features a solid construction which is more typical of SUV models, offering in this way a spacious interior, high driving comfort, and incredible functionality. The model does well both in the urban jungle or on the road, where the escape from the everyday hustle and bustle is made easier with 2008's unique driveability and numerous solutions which improve comfort. This new urban crossover is a comprehensive offering that meets the expectations of a wide range of customers around the world.

HARMONY AND MODERNITY

With its higher-driving position the 2008's beefed-up wheel arches house 17-inch 'Diamond' wheels fitted with 'Mud&Snow' tyres. The black bumpers and body sills serve to protect it from abrasions with the addition of front and rear body protection and side mouldings in stainless steel. The front face adopts the latest Peugeot style codes, impressing with harmony, quality, and accurate fitting of the elements. The streamlined design of the front grille is a strong stylistic feature which also improves aerodynamics and fuel efficiency. The innovative headlamps are designed precisely to reflect the technical functions. Sharp

and precise, they act with the bodywork to given the outline appearance of a cat's pupil. Sculpted, they are at one with the front face, giving it an even more expressive, technological and individual character. This look is emphasised by LED daytime running lights, as well as finely sculpted bonnet lines which infer lightness, strength and protection. This new urban crossover has elegant and sophisticated sculpted wings and sides, indicating clear athletic qualities. The generous glazed surfaces, including the panoramic roof available on some models, promise a spacious interior open to its surroundings. The rear also combines strength with dynamism. The boot volume, with a low loading sill, has above it a roofline with dynamic curves, inspired by the double-bubble roofline of the desirable RCZ Sports Coupé. The interior has been designed functionally and comfortably, for the driver to fully enjoy every moment spent in the cabin, and at the same time it exudes modernity. The upper part of the instrument panel is covered in satin-like fabric, and the cabin is further enlivened by chrome trim on air vents, the handbrake lever, the lower section of the steering wheel, the gear shift knob and the touch-screen frames. A similar attention to detail can be seen in cabin lighting. When you turn on the lights, the cabin is automatically illuminated with blue LEDs. This comfortable atmosphere is

further enhanced by a panoramic roof with electric sliding cover, which provides extra light into the interior.

ON AND OFF ROAD...

The chassis has been adapted to the low weight of the vehicle (only 1,045 kilograms). Thanks to its specially designed suspension, the 2008 provides high stability and driving dynamics. You can, therefore, enjoy a comfortable ride, even when driving on a winding road. To provide more assistance, Peugeot has equipped the 2008 with a functional and versatile Grip Control system which adjusts the car to the road conditions. It controls the front axle, allowing you to be in full control of the vehicle. Interestingly, thanks to the lightweight and aerodynamic stance of the car, as well as a wide range of engines equipped with Start & Stop system, fuel consumption has been greatly reduced (even up to 3.8 l/100 km) as have CO2 emissions (98 g/km). Peugeot 2008 sets new standards for crossovers in the small car segment. In order to meet the needs of customers worldwide, Peugeot has created a truly ambitious project. It was supposed to be a car that provides a unique driving experience, stylish design, and high functionality. This is because customers expect a car that is attractive in style, practical, well assembled, and drives perfectly. In other words, they expect a car just like the 2008.

Zuzanna Krzyczkowska



The interior has been designed functionally and comfortably, for the driver to fully enjoy every moment spent in the cabin, and at the same time it exudes modernity.



The 2008 provides high stability and driving dynamics. You can, therefore, enjoy a comfortable ride, even when driving on a winding road.



4 HOURS IN... CORDOBA

Full of legends, proud, austere and mysterious, Córdoba is one of the most interesting cities in Spain. It offers many historical sites, as well as great restaurants and hotels. **Marzena Mróz** believes that if you visit Andalusia in autumn, you cannot miss it.



MUSEUMS

Archaeological Museum, located at Jeronimo Paez square, houses memorabilia from past centuries found in Córdoba and the neighbourhood. You will find here items from the Roman, Visigoth, Islamic and Gothic times. The most interesting exhibits include a bronze bull found in the vicinity of Medina Azahara or Iberian sculptures resembling Chinese Fo dogs - mythical guardian animals. You will also find the world's biggest collection of lead sarcophagi.

The Museum of Fine Arts, which is located in the former hospital, you can admire the paintings of Murillo, Zurbaran and Goya, and the opposite building houses a collection of paintings by a great painter, Julio Romero de Torres, famous for his portraits of women. Bullfighting Museum is also worth visiting. Inside you will see the exhibition of bullfighting-related items: swords, muletas, matador costumes. Córdoba is also famous as the place of birth of two most famous matadors - Manolete and Lagartija.

MOSQUE

The temple of the Umayyad caliphs of the symbol of Córdoba. You would never guess what is inside Mezquita judging by its walls. It was built for over two centuries, from 785 AD. The mosque covers the area of 175 x 128 metres and is still considered the largest one in the Islamic world. 850 columns, forming a repeating arrangement make a truly remarkable impression. You may feel there as if you found yourself in a room full of mirrors. The pillars, different in heights, materials and style of decoration, support two-colour striped arches, giving an illusion of a higher ceiling and more space. The most impressive section, however, is the mihrab - a niche which shows the direction to Mecca. Its frame is a true masterpiece of Moorish mosaics.

Once in this very place there was a Roman temple, and then the Visigoths erected here a Christian Basilica of St. Vincente. The



Puente Romano is an impressive historic 240 metre-long bridge. It connects the two sides of the city divided by the Guadalquivir river.



Christian Córdoba once again turned the mosque into the Church of the Assumption, and in 1523 construction works on the new church started. Today, it presents three prevalent styles - Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque

PUENTE ROMANO

This spectacular 240-metre bridge connects the two sides of the city divided by the Guadalquivir river. Supported with 16 arches, it was built during the time of Augustus, as part of the so-called Via Augusta - the most important transport route in the area. For a long time it was the only road leading into the city, thus it is regarded not only a beautiful, but also strategic construction.

In the middle of the Puente Romano from 1651, there is a statue of the archangel Raphael, who is the patron saint of Córdoba

and who saved the city from the plague at that time. At the end of the bridge, on the city side, there is Puerta del Puente - Bridge Gate - a portal modelled on the Roman Triumphal Arch. At the southernmost end of the city, opposite to the old town, you will see Torre de la Calahorra fortress, which looks like taken out of a fairy tale about a princess and a dragon. You simply must visit it, or at least take a photo of it.

ALCAZAR

Near the bridge there is a fortified manor house called Alcázar de los Reyes Cristianos. Built at the time of Alfonso XI, it was the residence of Ferdinand and Isabella during their campaign against the Muslims. Today, you can stroll through the vast Arabian-style patios, gardens, or relax by the pools shaded by cypress trees. You can also

see the monuments of the rulers who used to live here in the Paseo de los Reyes. At the end of the promenade there is a square with monuments of the kings and Christopher Columbus, who used to visit Córdoba to report on his voyages to the Queen Isabella.

THE JEWISH QUARTER

While in Córdoba, try to find some spare time to walk along the narrow and winding streets of the Jewish quarter. The streets will take you to small white houses, which date back to the days of peace between various nations. It is here where once lived Averroes a prominent astronomer, physicist, mathematician, and physician, as well as a famous Jewish philosopher and physician Maimonides. It is a good idea to enter the synagogue with a giant olive tree in front of it, to see the remains of mudéjar style inside.



ASK PETER

Letters

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

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

Mail your question to: redakcja@businesstraveller.pl

Price confusion

I bought a ticket to London via Frankfurt for PLN 824. However, I could not fly and wanted to rebook for another day. One day the surcharge was PLN 252, and the next day it went up to PLN 442. However, the new ticket (through Paris) for a new date costs PLN 658. But I could not turn the old ticket and buy a cheaper one. Why are the prices so different? And why can't I even change the name on the ticket?

Łukasz

Dear Łukasz,
I have checked the ticket you sent to me. The ticket is a low fare one, which does not allow any returns. However, the confirmation you received says that changes are possible after paying €60 plus the rate difference. This means that in the case of full seat availability it is sufficient to pay the equivalent of 60 euros to change the ticket. It is this amount (PLN 252) which was suggested to you when you wanted to change the ticket for the first time. No airline or agent can rebook a ticket like yours without charging you the extra payment at the same time.

The situation on every route is very dynamic and the availability of seats changes every minute. Cheap seats which were available an hour before, may get booked as the tickets are being sold all the time. This is what happened when you finally decided to rebook the ticket. Apart from the standard charge of €60, you also had to pay the rate difference. The difference between the new price for the current flights and the initial price was €45. Hence the surcharge. Buying a new ticket may seem more cost-effective. To your final calculation you need to add the payments you already made. Unfortunately these are non-refundable.

Your ticket had an additional restriction when it comes to the minimum time of your stay in London. You cannot fly back to Poland sooner than after 3 days. You arrive in London on Monday, so you cannot leave earlier than in Thursday with this rate. This condition has been met.

Air tickets come with the "non-transferable" note, which means you cannot give them to another person. Some low-cost airlines sometimes charge extra for changing the name on a ticket. However, their business model is based on different principles and cannot be directly compared to traditional carriers. Any further changes in your booking will be subject to the same rules as it was with the original ticket.

Were there really no available seats?

A few days ago I received information about the planned changes in my loyalty programme. Naturally, for the worse. I'll get fewer points for flights when I buy a cheaper ticket. It upset me as I could not use the points for a Barcelona flight during holidays, as apparently there were no seats. In the end I bought a regular ticket for the plane, a little more expensive than the supposedly free one. On the plane, there were a few empty seats. Why was I misinformed about the number of seats?

Katarzyna

Dear Katarzyna,
Passengers often receives only a brief note that there are no seats. It is true, but it only refers to the pool of the seats designated as free or promotional. It often happens that higher fares are still available. It's because there is a limited number of such prize-tickets. Generally, there are only several of them on each route, otherwise the flight would be unprofitable. The rules are the same as with booking cheap promotional tickets. First of all booking must be made well in advance. You also need to demonstrate a high degree of flexibility when selecting the dates. Popular destinations, such as Barcelona can have cheap seats sold out a few months ahead of time.

A smaller number of points is directly related to the lower price of the ticket, before taxes and airport fees. It may seem that ticket prices are quite high, but in fact the airlines have consistently lowered the rates and offered a lot of promotions recently. That is why carrier cannot use the same points conversion system in the loyalty programmes as they did before. On the other hand, the additional charges (the insurance fee which includes the fluctuations in the fuel price, airport charges, customs and immigration charges) have gone up. These payments do not convert into the points, so even when using a free ticket you are obliged to pay the extra charges. Hence the impression that free tickets are not free at all.

This is quite different when you exchange points for flights on the transcontinental sector or in business class. Then the number of airport charges is lower in relation to the value of the ticket. Some loyalty programmes allow you to pay the airport charges with your additional points.

Please note that the points can also be redeemed for an upgrade to a higher cabin class. You do not pay then extra airport charges and the availability of seats is generally better.

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