



Business Traveller Poland

www.businesstraveller.pl

| 9,60 zł (8% VAT included) | N°6/2014 (52) JUNE 2014 |

FIRED UP

| AZERBAIJAN | XIAN | IONIAN ISLANDS | MARSEILLE | BRISBANE |



*to miejsce magiczne....
tylko dla najbardziej wymagających*



www.domnadniprem.pl

emial: biuro@domnadniprem.pl

tel: 793 936 665

*Nasze meble wykonujemy tak
jakby był to garnitur uszyty na miarę
idealnie pasujący do wnętrza
naszych Klientów*



Editorial

4

On Top

- Hotel, restaurant, and airline news

6

Cover Story

- Fired up

12

Tried&Tested

- innair A330-300 Business Class
- Intercontinental Grand Stanford
- Hotel Majestic Barrière
- Arłamów hotel
- A legendary place with good taste

18

20

22

24

26

Report

- Handle with care

28

Air Travel

- Lufthansa Presents its Premium Economy Class
- KLM's New World Business Class
- More Swedish Blue

34

36

38

Hotels

- First Mercure Hotel in Latvia
- A thought provoking journey with the luxury collection the "Well-being Movement"

40

42

Destinations

- Terracotta Warriors
- A miniature Paradise on the Ionian Sea
- On the waterfront
- 4 hours in... Marseille

44

48

50

64

A Business Person on Holiday

- Holidays after or before facelift...

54

Moto&Techno

- Go anywhere...
- The smart phone omenon

56

60

Ask Peter

66

Business Traveller Poland

ul. Świętokrzyska 36, 00-116 Warszawa
tel. +48 22 455 38 14, +fax +48 22 455 38 13
www.businesstraveller.pl

Redaktor naczelna Marzena Mróz
m.mroz@businesstraveller.pl

Sekretarz redakcji Joanna Kadej-Krzyczkowska
j.krzyczkowska@businesstraveller.pl

Dyrektor artystyczny Barbara Scharf
b.scharf@businesstraveller.pl

Skład/lamanie LACRIMA
lacrima.barbarascharf@gmail.com

Wydawnictwo ul. Świętokrzyska 36,
R&S Media Sp. z o.o. 00-116 Warszawa
tel. +48 22 455 38 33
fax +48 22 455 38 13

Wydawca Robert Grzybowski
robertg@businesstraveller.pl

Szef serwisu
www.businesstraveller.pl Filip Gawryś
f.gawrys@businesstraveller.pl

Reklama, sponsoring biuro@businesstraveller.pl

Dystrybucja, prenumerata TM Media,
Al. Jana Pawła II 61 lok. 239
tel. +48 22 252 80 38
fax +48 22 252 55 07

Druk Drukarnia TINTA
13-200 Działdowo,
ul. Żwirki i Wigury 22,
www.drukarniatinta.pl

Business Traveller

Managing director Julian Gregory
Panacea Publishing
International Limited
Warwick House
25/27 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 0PP
Tel: +44 20 7821 2700
www.panaceapublishing.com
www.businesstraveller.com

In the US, Business Traveler is published at 303 Fifth Avenue, 1308, NY 10016, tel 1 212 725 3500. In Germany, Business Traveller is published at Schulstrasse 34, 80634 Munich, tel. 89 167 9971, fax 89 167 9937. In Denmark, Business Traveller is published at Rymarksvej 46, 2900 Hellerup, tel. 45 3311 4413, fax 45 3311 4414. In Hungary, Business Traveller is published at 1074 Budapest, Munkas utca 9, tel. 36 1266 5853. In Hong Kong, Business Traveller Asia-Pacific and China are published at Suite 405 4/F Chinachem Exchange Square, 1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, tel. 852 2594 9300, fax 852 2519 6846. In the Middle East, Business Traveller Middle East is published jointly by Motivate Publishing, PO Box 2331, Dubai UAE, tel. 9714 282 4060, and Perry Publications. In Africa, Business Traveller Africa is published by Future Publishing (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 3355, Rivonia 2128, South Africa, tel. 27 11 803 2040.

© 2009 Perry Publications Ltd – a subsidiary of Panacea Publishing International Ltd, United Kingdom



IT'S TIME FOR BUSINESS

This month's feature article focuses on a country that is quite close to Poland, yet regarded as exotic. I'm talking here about Azerbaijan and its capital city of Baku. Some of our readers will surely be interested to know that the country's Shah Deniz Stage Two project will see gas transported 3,500km from the Caspian Sea to Europe via the expanded South Caucasus pipeline running through Azerbaijan and Georgia, onwards through Turkey's new Trans Anatolian Pipeline, and then Greece, Albania and Italy. Although investments, which will be an alternative to Russian gas supplies, will amount to US\$28 billion, some US\$100 billion of supply agreements have been made for a 25-year period. The economy of Azerbaijan, widely regarded as one of the fastest growing in the world, is based on oil and gas. Today, the country produces almost one million barrels of oil a day and 30 billion cubic metres of gas annually. No wonder that in 2013 GDP growth was 5 per cent, while this year it's anticipated to be 6.7 per cent, driven by its expanding non-oil sector. Is it an ideal place for investment? Unfortunately, the Soviet past can't be easily forgotten, and the current political system of this country also has its dark side. However, if you still wish to invest there, read our article to learn what you need to know about the cooperation with a company registered in Azerbaijan. Enjoy your reading.

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief



WIELKIE GRECKIE WAKACJE



UCIEKNIJ Z DOMU... do greckiej willi!

Własna willa na Lefkadzie - brzmi cudownie.

Jeśli lubisz dużą przestrzeń, prywatność i nowoczesne wyposażenie, to Wille Escape są idealne dla Ciebie!

CAŁA WYSPA U TWOICH STÓP.

CAŁY BASEN DLA CIEBIE

CAŁA WILLA WASZA

basen + willa escape + opieka rezydenta i samochód w cenie!



GRECOS.PL



Airline

Lufthansa

RECORD LOW FUEL CONSUMPTION!

In 2013 the passenger airlines in the Lufthansa Group beat the four-litre mark for the first time, with an average consumption of just 3.91 litres of kerosene per passenger per 100 kilometres. This is an improvement of 3.8 per cent over 2012. In short, the aviation group achieved over twice the annual efficiency target increase of 1.5 per cent set for the airline industry.

The second piece of good news: Absolute fuel consumption of the Lufthansa Group fell for the second time in a row since 2012, by 1.3 per cent year on year, despite a production increase of 2.3 per cent. In absolute terms, the Group's fuel use decreased 114,152 tons compared to 2012 and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions fell by more than 359,587 tons, a benefit for the environment. This is roughly equivalent to the CO₂ volume emitted annually by oil-fired heating systems in about 50,000 homes.

The Lufthansa Group is working continuously and systematically to improve the environmental impact of its international services. A department set up in 2013 specifically to improve fuel efficiency is currently examining almost 1,000 individual steps for realising further potential savings. They include programmes to achieve lasting weight reductions on board, testing and implementing new flight methods and developing intelligent software tools.

The most powerful lever for increasing efficiency is investing in technological progress, i.e. in the latest and most efficient aircraft.

With its current fleet renewal programme, the biggest in the history of the Lufthansa Group, the company is making good progress in this direction. As of 31 December 2013, the Group had a total of 261 aircraft on its order list for delivery by 2025 – this represents capital expenditure of EUR 32bn at list prices. It will also make life much easier for those living near major air traffic hubs. For example, the 100 aircraft from the A320neo family ordered by the Lufthansa Group are fitted with highly efficient, quieter engines and reduce the noise footprint of take-off and landing by around 50 per cent.

Holidays

Grasse, France

THE CAPITAL OF PERFUME

This town, located in the region of Provence-Alps-Cote d'Azur is home to the most famous and oldest perfume factories. Grasse is abundant in flower plantations mainly owing to chalky-clay soil, which creates ideal conditions for growing flowers. The place has been famous for its perfume industry since the 18th century. It's widely regarded as the global centre of production of natural scents, and its yearly revenue from this industry is estimated at €600 million. Without the exceptional scents of flowers from this region, there would be no unique perfume from Guerlain, Dior, or Nina Ricci. Chanel is so fond of



Grasse scents, that it has its own plantations here. Centifolia rose and grandiflorum jasmine that are grown here, are the necessary ingredients of the legendary Chanel N°5 – one of the five best-selling scents in the world.

Fragonard perfumery (www.fragonard.com), which has been creating scents since 1926, has its own museum and a showroom, and each year organises workshops where you can learn how to create your own, unique scent.

The scent of the flower fields reaches the centre of Grasse. In June you can smell here the distinct scent of roses, in August jasmine, and in October vervain. A game of golf played in such aromatic environment at Golf Country Club de Saint Donat (www.golfsaintdonat.com), can be a truly unforgettable experience



Top 10

Our ranking

BEACHES IN 2014

Looking forward to the summer, we have created a ranking of European beaches. Here's the list of the most beautiful, trendiest and the most fashionable strips of sand, the sea and the sky in 2014.

The first place on our list is occupied by Sagres beaches on the Portuguese Sagres Algarve coast. The sandy waterfront surrounded by high cliffs of coloured rocks, are a truly impressive sight. Also not without significance is the prevailing, pleasant Mediterranean climate. Accessible only from the ocean, Navagio Beach, also called the Shipwreck, is undoubtedly not only one of the most beautiful and most spectacular beaches in Zakynthos, but also in the whole of the Greek islands. Crystal-clear sea, white sand, sun and light breeze – these are the advantages of Nissi Beach in Cyprus, widely regarded as a paradise for active people. Meanwhile Las Salinas, Ibiza, once a popular place among the hippies, today is the Mecca of enthusiasts of new music, fashion and cuisine trends. Ölüdeniz is definitely the most beautiful beach in Turkey. It's long, wide and ends with a famous Blue Lagoon, partly surrounded by mountains. The remaining positions on our list are occupied by Villasimius beach in Sardinia, the Etretat in Normandy, Zlatni Rat beach on the Croatian island of Brač, Ses Illetes on Formentera (an island which is 45 times smaller than Majorca), and Danish, slightly hazy Skagen beach.



DOBRY SEN
I PYSZNE ŚNIADANIE
TO ENERGIA
NA CAŁY DZIEŃ



OSZCZĘDZAJ MINIMUM
-25 PLN *
ZA NOCLEG ZE ŚNIADANIEM

TYLKO NA ibisbudget.com



Katowice • Kraków • Szczecin • Toruń • Warszawa • Wrocław

*Promocyjna stawka za nocleg ze śniadaniem, minimum -25 PLN, dostępna każdego dnia, wyłącznie dla rezerwacji dokonywanych przez internet na stronach www.ibisbudget.com i www.accorhotels.com, w zależności od dostępności miejsc.



Tourism

Switzerland

AT THE TOP OF EUROPE

Jungfrauoch or Top of Europe (3,454 m asl) is the highest station of the railway line in Europe. This huge and truly impressive complex features several restaurants, the Sphinx Observatory, shops with Tissot watches and Lindt chocolates, a rotating observation deck, a snow park on the Aletsch glacier (available all year round), and the breath-taking Ice Palace with ice sculptures. In good weather, you can see from here an amazing panorama, which stretches from the Black Forest area to the Vosges.

Technology

Sony

PERFECT IMAGE SHARPNESS

Photographing birds taking off to flight, or shooting fast action sports was once a truly big challenge for a photographer. A77 II instantly focuses on moving objects and takes remarkably sharp images.

Designed for advanced amateurs a77 II is the successor to the acclaimed a77 and a700 cameras. Compared with model A77 it has an improved image quality. It's also more efficient in burst mode and offers solutions which help in recording movies with professional quality. However, a truly breakthrough solution is the advanced AF system based on phase detection. It's superior to autofocus systems offered by a lot of professional cameras. It effectively increases the accuracy of focus, for example on objects with horizontal stripes, which for many AF systems are an insurmountable obstacle. Metering data from all 79 focus points is processed by a brand new AF algorithm, optimized during practical tests.

In addition to the data from the AF sensor, it also uses information about the position of photographed objects and predicts their movements.



Airline

LOT

DREAMLINER FRANEK

On 1 May 2014 the "youngest child" of the Polish carrier landed at the Chopin airport in Warsaw. The LOT Polish Airlines fleet was joined by another Boeing 787 with registration numbers SP-LRF and a graceful name of Frank. Such name was given by passengers in an Internet contest.

Katarzyna Wąchała of Warsaw turned out to be the lucky winner. In reward she flew to visit the Boeing factory in Seattle, where these most modern machines in the world are manufactured. Then she returned to Poland with her "baby". "The choice was influenced by the reasons sent by the author," - explains LOT Press Officer. "The registration number of this aircraft is SP-LRF, so: first - F is for FraneK, second - F is the 6th letter of the alphabet and the 6th Dreamliner in LOT's fleet, third - FraneK is the Polish, timeless name, fourth - Franciszek is the name of two aces of the skies: Franciszek Peter and Franciszek Jacha. Finally, it's also the name of Franciszek Żwirko," explained Ms Wąchała her choice of the name. FraneK - from mid-May will start to fly on a regular long distance connections network of the Polish carrier.



Tourism

Lithuania

VILNIUS POLONICA

In terms of landscape, Vilnius is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Its centre is situated in the valley of the Neris River, while the Old Town lies at the confluence of the Neris and the Vilinia rivers. That is where we can find a number of Polish symbols of Vilnius, which are also a showcase of this magnificent city.

- The Gate of Dawn was one of the five gates in the city walls built between 1503-1522. Lithuanians call it "Aušros Vartai", which means "the Morning Star Gate". The peculiarity of the Gate is its chapel with the miraculous image of Our Lady of the Gate of Dawn, which is a pilgrimage site for Poles and Lithuanians. The cult of the Madonna of Vilnius began after Russian invasion in 1655. Later, the phrase: "Mother of Mercy, we fly to Your patronage" was repeated by thousands of believers, including Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki, Józef Piłsudski, and John Paul II.

- Old Rossa (kapines Rasu) is a historic, now closed cemetery, which is a true collective portrait of old Vilnius, strongly associated with Polish history. It's also one of the oldest necropolis in Europe – founded in 1769. It's a burial site for numerous prominent Poles, including Joachim Lelewel – the father of Polish historical school, Władysław Syrokomla, Euzebiusz Słowacki – the father of Juliusz, as well as his stepfather August Becu (both were professors at the University of Vilnius).

- The Vilnius Cathedral and Archcathedral Basilica (Arkiatedra bazylika) is the place where the history of Lithuania was for ages intertwined with Poland. This is where lies the body of Saint Casimir, Alexander Jagiellon, Barbara Radziwiłł, as well as the heart of Władysław IV Vasa. It's worth visiting the chapel of Saint Casimir – a symbol of the glory of Rzeczpospolita (Commonwealth) – as evidenced by the foundation plaque featuring the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth coat of arms. The interior was lined with multi-coloured marble. The rhythm of this stone panorama is set by silvered figures of Jagiello, Casimir IV Jagiellon, Jan Olbracht, Alexander Jagiellon, Sigismund Augustus and Władysław.

- Mickiewicz memorabilia - Adam Mickiewicz lived in several places in Vilnius. In a tenement house at 11 Bernardyńska he rented a ground floor flat facing the courtyard. Today it houses a small museum. Among the exhibits are personal belongings of the poet, including the table at which he sat while writing "Grażyna" narrative poem, as well as his armchair, and numerous manuscripts. There is also the Basilian Monastery, which was once turned into a prison by tsarist authorities. It's here where in 1823-1824 were incarcerated the Philomats and Filarets. Among them were Adam Mickiewicz and Ignacy Domeyko. The last address of the Polish bard in Vilnius is 22 Wielka Street. The wall of the building where the great poet lived before he was deported deep into Russia, now features a plaque that reads: "This is the house which Adam Mickiewicz left on 6 November 1824, leaving Vilnius forever".

Radisson **BLU**

NAKARM SWÓJ UMYSŁ

BRAIN FOOD. INNOWACYJNA KONCEPCJA
POSIŁKÓW, PODCZAS SPOTKAŃ W
HOTELACH RADISSON BLU.

**BRAIN FOOD
FOR MEETINGS**

SPECJALNIE WYSELEKCYJONOWANE
SKŁADNIKI ZAPEWNIĄ CI ŚWIEŻY UMYSŁ
PODCZAS KAŻDEGO SPOTKANIA.

WYBIERZ HOTELE RADISSON BLU:
GDAŃSK – SZCZECIN – KRAKÓW
WARSZAWA – WROCŁAW

EXPERIENCE
MEETINGS

HOTELS DESIGNED TO SAY YES!

T: +48 22 321 88 92 F: +48 22 320 17 54

groupdesk.poland@rezidor.com
radissonblu.pl



Hotel

Radisson Blu

RADISSON BLU HOTEL GDAŃSK CELEBRATES ITS FIFTH BIRTHDAY

Długi Targ (Long Market) is one of those magical places that has for years been attracting tourists to the Tri-City. Right next to the Neptune Fountain and Artus Court, there is a 5-star Radisson Blu Hotel, which this year celebrates its fifth birthday.

The hotels has 134 rooms, a restaurant and a bar, as well as conference and banquet facilities. Liked and appreciated by visitors and residents, owing to its excellent location, unique architecture and high level of service, Radisson Blu Gdańsk has recently received a Certificate of Excellence from users of TripAdvisor – a world-renowned website for travel lovers. It has a prestigious "Green Key" environmental certification, as well as ECARF certificate granted by the European Centre for Allergy Research Foundation to hotels that are friendly for people with allergic problems.

However, Radisson Blu isn't the only tourist attraction of Gdańsk. The hotel Hotel actively participates in the life of the city, undertaking a variety of actions for the benefit of the local community. Last year it sponsored the renovation of the day care centre in the Support Centre for Children and Youth in Gdańsk-Wrzeszcz, where children from the so-called „problem families” can learn and pursue their passions in a friendly environment.

To celebrate its fifth birthday the hotel organized city beautification campaign and planting flowers on rebates within Kobzdeja Square. It also joined the action organized by the city to promote bicycle commuting. For employees using this form of transport, the management of the hotel has prepared a spot to park their bikes, as well as energy-boosting snacks.

Vienna

Schönbrunn Palace

LIVE LIKE AN EMPEROR

The accommodation offer for those arriving in Vienna will soon be enriched by yet another exclusive item. The Schönbrunn Palace, one of Austria's most famous attractions, is now also home to unique hotel apartment created by Austria Trend Hotels Group. The apartment in the East Wing of Schönbrunn Palace has been carefully converted over the last few months, while taking full account of monument conservation. Check-in is in the neighbouring 4-star hotel, and the concierge will guide the visitors to the Suite in Schönbrunn.

The apartment has fully retained the imperial flair. The interior is bathed in gold, black and white – all hand-selected unique items inspired by the imperial palace. A fixed element is the famous court damask,



commonly known as "pineapple damask". The red silk fabric, named after the characteristic main motif of a stylised pineapple, was used exclusively for the Viennese Court. Elegant stucco work and Maria-Theresa chandeliers provide the finish touch for the magnificent rooms. The 167 sq m apartment features two bedrooms, two bathrooms, a salon, a living room and a kitchenette. The absolute highlight is the unique view from the Suite over the Gloriette, the Palace Park and the Privy Garden. The apartment can accommodate 2-4 guests.



Airline

Finnair

CLOSER TO ASIA

Greg Kaldahl, SVP, Resource Management, Finnair, answered our questions about the strategy of the Finnish carrier.

Why is it worth flying with Finnair to Asia?

Finnair offers the fastest connection between Europe and Asia via Helsinki due to its advantageous geographical position. Since Helsinki is naturally close to the flight path of dozens of Asia-Europe city pairs, when you travel with Finnair, you simply save time because you are flying to the right direction all the time - toward Asia. Our schedule is tailored to serve connecting passengers optimally and minimum connection time at Helsinki Airport is only 35 minutes, and the airport is convenient and uncongested, so changing flights is smooth and hassle-free.

What Asian destinations do you fly to?

We cover destinations that no other European airline serves at the moment, like Xian in China and Hanoi in Vietnam. We also offer flights to 11 other cities, such as Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka in Japan, Singapore, Delhi, Bangkok, Seoul, as well as three more in China - Hong Kong, Chongqing, and Shanghai.

What are Finnair's goals for the near future?

We continuously look for new destinations to be added to our network. We also want to guarantee our passengers the highest quality of our products. That is why, we are renovating our business class with full-flat seats and continuing our high standard service, like gourmet chef's meals in long-haul Business Class.



FOKSAL



ENDORFINA FOKSAL

PAŁAC ZAMOYSKICH

SPOTKANIA O MNIEJ LUB BARDZIEJ FORMALNYM CHARAKTERZE DO 2.000 OSÓB

RESTAURACJA, KLUB, ORANŻERIA, PAWILON WYSTAWOWO-KONCERTOWY,
SALE KONFERENCYJNE, OGRÓD, POKOJE GOŚCINNE.

ENDORFINA FOKSAL
UL. FOKSAL 2, WARSZAWA
WWW.ENDORFINAFOKSAL.PL



POTOKI
RESIDENCE
MOKOTÓW

Ekskluzywne domy
apartamenty
penthousey

tel. 22 545 70 20
www.potokiresidence.pl

od 9800 zł/m²



FIRED UP

The economy of Azerbaijan continues to be fuelled by oil and gas, but booming Baku is branching out, reports ***Jenny Southan***.



Baku is burning. From the open-air terrace of the 29th-floor Opera Sky bar, three giant tongues of fire can be seen rising from the city centre. Located on the shores of the landlocked Caspian Sea, the oil-rich Azeri capital unveiled its dramatic Flame Towers in 2012, with a Fairmont hotel opening in the final one last summer. Just north of the city limits, past fields of nodding pump jacks and lakes of murky oil, a natural furnace roars from the base of a dusty brown hillside. This is Azerbaijan, after all, the Land of Fire.

For hundreds of years, gas has streamed from the sandstone rockface of Yanar Dag, with plumes reaching heights of up to ten metres. The heat is intense, perfect for a barbecue, and, in winter, people come to sit and drink tea in the snow.

MILLION BARRELS A DAY

The largest of the three South Caucasus states, Azerbaijan resides on the claw-like Absheron Peninsula, which extends 60km into the sea.

The region attracted its first oil barons in the late 1800s. Robert and Ludvig Nobel, brothers of the better-known Alfred, set up one of the first oil companies, Branobel, in 1876.

Today, Azerbaijan produces almost one million barrels of oil a day and 30 billion cubic metres of gas annually. Late last year, the European Commission confirmed Europe would receive ten billion cubic metres of gas a year from the offshore Shah Deniz II gas field from the end of 2019. It means Europe will rely less on Russia, with whom political relations have been frayed, for fuel – at the moment it supplies about 30 per cent of Europe's oil and gas. The Shah Deniz Stage Two project will see gas transported 3,500km from the Caspian Sea to Europe via the expanded South Caucasus pipeline running through Azerbaijan and Georgia, onwards through Turkey's new Trans Anatolian Pipeline, and then Greece, Albania and Italy.

OLD AND NEW CITY

It was Baku's first oil barons that transformed the capital a century ago, bringing in Italian, French, German and Polish architects to build splendid Baroque, Eclectic Rococo and neo-Gothic mansions, palaces and casinos. Dubbed the "Paris of the East", between 1850 and 1920 more than 300 European-style buildings were constructed and many, such as the Rothschild Brothers

banking house and the State Philharmonic Concert Hall, remain. There's even a Little Venice.

The highlight is probably the 3km-long Baku Boulevard, created in 1909 as a picturesque seafront promenade with pristine gardens, lawns and trees. Nowadays, it stretches from Freedom Square at one end to National Flag Square at the other – here stands the world's second-tallest flagpole, with a 2,450 sqm Azeri banner billowing from it. Not far from the flagpole is the glittering, waterside Crystal Hall. The 25,000-capacity stadium was built to host the 2012 Eurovision Song Contest.

In December 2012, it was announced that Baku had won its bid to host the inaugural European Games (baku2015.com). Some 5,000 athletes from 49 nations will compete, with projects including an Olympic village, a 65,000-seat stadium, a gymnastics arena and an aquatic centre. Following this, the city will also host the World Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships in 2019.

DYNAMIC ECONOMY

Azerbaijan has one of the fastest-growing economies in the world – last year, GDP growth was 5 per cent, while this year it is



anticipated to be 6.7 per cent, driven by its expanding non-oil sector. Taking its lead from Arab states such as Abu Dhabi and Qatar, who know that their hydrocarbon resources aren't going to last forever, Azerbaijan is diversifying its economy so that it is not so reliant on oil and gas. Emerging sectors include financial services, infrastructure, consumer goods, construction, agriculture, ICT, tourism and education – all providing new opportunities for overseas investors. During the first nine months of last year, the non-oil sector (now accounting for 53 per cent of the economy) grew by 10.4 per cent. According to government report *Azerbaijan 2020: A Look into the Future*, the country aims to double per capita GDP by 2020, with an annual average growth rate of 7 per cent in the non-oil sector. It also intends to improve transport and logistic infrastructure, develop human capital, establish an effective social security system, support gender equality and protect cultural heritage. Azerbaijan gained independence from Russia after the dissolution of the Soviet Union on October 18, 1991. Back then, everyone was forced to speak Russian, so most people today are fluent in the language, as well as their native Azeri and, increasingly, English.

NEW LIFE

While the Soviet influence is still apparent, the country is doing its best to eliminate it – new European-style fascias are being attached to buildings, old housing being replaced, and the boxy Lada and Volga Gaz cars supplied by Russia for decades can no longer be bought. In fact, you will see more London taxis (though purple instead of black) than vintage models on the roads.

Quality of life has also improved. In 2001, 49 per cent of Azeris were living in poverty, whereas today the figure is closer to just 6 per cent. Unemployment is at about 5 per cent. According to TEAS, salaries have increased almost six times and pensions nine times in the past decade.

You don't have to spend long in Baku to witness signs of a wealthy elite. A new Four Seasons hotel opened in September 2012 on Neftchilar Avenue, Baku's equivalent to Paris's Champs-Élysées. Here you will find glossy boutiques from the likes of Giorgio Armani, Jimmy Choo, Tiffany and Valentino. Beneath the road, separating the hotel from Baku Boulevard, is a polished marble underpass, and all along the waterfront are



The government intends to improve transport and logistic infrastructure, develop human capital, establish an effective social security system, and protect cultural heritage.



buzzing cafés and restaurants. On the same avenue is Pasha Construction's Port Baku development (portbaku.az), which will incorporate Port Baku Towers – housing the HQ of BP – along with 900 luxury apartments and Port Baku Mall. Set to open this spring, the centre will have more than 300 designer brands. Ian Ferguson, director of shopping centres for Pasha, says: "The luxury market is well-established in Baku and has shown exceptional growth over the past few years, reinforced by an influx of affluent shoppers from the surrounding region, including southern Russia, Georgia and Iran." The hotel scene is similarly booming – the Jumeirah Bilgah Beach Club and the JW Marriott Absheron also opened in 2012, joining brands such as Hilton, Hyatt Regency, Kempinski, Park Hyatt, Sheraton, Staybridge Suites and Radisson Blu.

DARK SIDES

Although the city centre looks clean, attractive and even glitzy in places, some changes to the skyline have proved controversial, with organisations such as Amnesty International reporting forced evictions and the moving in of bulldozers without giving peo-

ple time to retrieve their possessions. Giorgi Gogia, senior South Caucasus researcher for Human Rights Watch, says: "Baku is a beautiful city but every time I arrive it's shocking to see how many new buildings there are, how many new constructions are taking maturity. With all this money and new development, very often the fundamental human rights are not respected.

The political system also has a dark side, with corruption a concern. Last October, long-standing president Ilham Aliyev was re-elected with 85 per cent of the vote, while opposition candidate Jamil Hasanli came second with only 5.5 per cent. Critics decried the result as fraudulent. Before the polls opened, the government accidentally released a mobile app displaying the "official" result that Aliyev had won with a 72 per cent majority. The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe described the election as "flawed", citing intimidation of candidates, voters and journalists, though the European Parliament concluded it was "free, fair and transparent".

DEMOCRACY: YES OR NO?

Can Azerbaijan really be considered a de-

mocracy? Gogia says: "It's hard to call a country with severe limits on freedom of expression, freedom of understanding and freedom of association. There's not a single independent TV station."

In its 2013 Corruption Perceptions Index, Transparency International ranked the country 127 out of 177 (with one being the least corrupt). TEAS says the situation is getting better, though, and that the president has launched a drive against corruption, sacking and even imprisoning police and officials found guilty.

There is no doubt Baku is hot right now – just make sure you don't get your fingers burnt. UK Trade and Investment's Doing Business in Azerbaijan report says: "Azerbaijan is a difficult market, with a major corruption problem. It is essential to conduct proper research and establish exactly who you are doing business with. Azerbaijani companies often will not respond to emails or phone calls. Information on companies can be difficult to access, with few having comprehensive English language websites. Due diligence can be difficult as many companies will not have audited accounts."

175 lat morskich podróży



zaufaj naszemu doświadczeniu



Morze Śródziemne ♦ Karaiby ♦ Fiordy Norweskie ♦ Azja ♦ Kanał Panamski ♦ Dubaj i Emiraty ♦ Dookoła Świata
Australia i Nowa Zelandia ♦ Hawaje ♦ Ameryka Południowa ♦ Alaska ♦ Transatlantyki

Na Rejsy.pl oferujemy 22 linie oceaniczne, ponad 4000 rejsów i 70 000 kabin do wyboru!



Marco Polo Travel Sp. z o.o.
ul. Woronicza 15
02-625 Warszawa

Tel: 22 492 77 90
Fax: 22 567 31 01
E-mail: info@rejsy.pl

www.rejsy.pl

Airline

WARSAW-HELSINKI-XI'AN

FINNAIR A330-300 BUSINESS CLASS



CONTACT
www.finnair.com

PRICE
from PLN 5,945

Finnair's seasonal connection to the city of Xi'an which boasts world class monuments, continues to enjoy great success. An interesting destination, fast connection, as well as an excellent service offered on board of the planes of the Finnish carrier, are truly recommendable.

WARSAW-HELSINKI

Business class passengers departing from Warsaw to Helsinki on board Finnair aircraft can spend time at the airport in Bolero lounge, which is located on the ground floor of the Warsaw airport. Note, that gate 44, from which the plane to Helsinki departs is quite far away from the lounge, so you have to reserve more than 10 minutes to get there.

Boarding began at 12.30. I had a window seat 1A in the first row,

which meant that I had extra legroom. As a welcome drink we were offered a choice of freshly squeezed orange juice, champagne or water.

We took off on time, at 1.05 pm. Soon after reaching cruising altitude flight attendants handed out wet warm towels to wipe our hands and began the on-board service. Lunch consisted of salmon on a bed of lettuce for a starter, and pancakes as the main dish. This was accompanied by a choice of juices, wines, tea and coffee, as well as Godiva chocolates served on fine porcelain and glass dishes designed especially for Finnair by Marimekko.

Nearly two hours into the flight across the northern cloudless sky, we landed at Vantaa airport in Helsinki. Since I had to wait nearly two hours for the next flight, I decided to spend it in a spacious and perfectly func-

tional business lounge. I also did some shopping in one of the numerous duty-free shops, which are one of the reasons of the immense popularity of this airport with passengers.

HELSINKI-XI'AN

My next flight to Xi'an in central China I took on board Airbus A330-300. The scheduled travel time was 8 hours and 25 minutes. Business class cabins have five rows of seats in a 5-3-2 configuration. My seat (1L) was located in the first row next to the window, which I think is worth recommendation. A smiling stewardess wearing a black and white dress and a nice forage cap, handed me a wet warm towel to wipe my hands, and then offered a glass of Nicolas Feuillatte Brut Grande Reserve champagne.

The menu, based on the Nordic cuisine, was designed by Pekka Terava - the head chef of

Michelin-starred OLO restaurant in Helsinki. For a starter I opted for white asparagus soup decorated with tips of green asparagus. For the main course I chose entrecote of slow-cooked lamb served in dark thyme sauce with risotto and glazed carrot. As for dessert, we were offered a selection of cheeses, as well as Haagen-Dazs vanilla ice-cream. I was impressed with a large selection of fine wines available on board. White included Austrian Topf Gruner Veltliner Wechselberg 2012, and Alsatian Domaine Pfister Pinot Gris 2012, while among red wines there were French Ogier Heritages Chateauneuf Du Pape 2011, and Italian Villa Cafaggio San Martino 2006. Wine lovers could also try fine Kopke 30-Year Old Tawny Port from Douro province or Sauternes Chateau Liot 2009.

I like to fly with Finnair, also because of the attention of the airline to detail. This can be seen, for example, in beautiful tableware designed by Marimekko. The white oval plates, cups, soup cups and napkins, had the characteristic blue, green and grey patterns, which were simple, unpretentious, and typically Finnish. Drinking champagne from Ultima Thule glass is a real pleasure as in its design it resembles an icicle. It was designed by Tapio Wirkkala in 1969, to commemorate the first flight of a Finnair plane to JFK airport in New York. These glasses, now legendary, still look impressive to those who are design-conscious.

The interior of the aircraft is decorated in tones of light grey blue. All passengers received a pillow and a quilt with pillow cases featuring green circles on a white background – also designed by Marimekko. After lunch business class passengers could recline their seats to flat-bed position to feel as if they were sleeping in their own bedroom. We also received eco traveller kits with travel socks, an eye mask and ear plugs. I



liked two large shelves located right in front of my sit, where I was able to accommodate several China travel guides and a small handbag.

During the long flight to Xi'an, I had the opportunity to thoroughly test the flight entertainment system offered by Finnair. The system offers individual touchscreens, which can also be operated with a remote. You can choose one of the many movies - Western and Asian ones. You can also choose from a variety of music channels, and games. There is also a special channel for kids. Business class passengers can (for a fee) send text messages or e-mails, as well as communicate with each other

using the "seat to seat call" function. We landed in Xi'an at 6.30 pm local time.

VERDICT

The connection offered by Finnair is currently the most convenient option for passengers wishing to fly from Warsaw to Xi'an. It also allows for smooth connection with other Chinese countries. Finnair will operate this route until 24 October this year, so you'd better book your flight now. It's a unique product refined by Finnair down to the smallest details, and offered by the airline which boasts remarkable design features and excellent menu.

Marzena Mróz

The connection offered by Finnair is currently the most convenient option for passengers wishing to fly from Warsaw to Xi'an. Finnair will operate this route until 24 October this year, so you'd better book your flight now.

INTERCONTINENTAL GRAND STANFORD

**CONTACT**

Intercontinental Grand Stanford
Tsimshatsui East, Kowloon,
Hongkong
70 Mody Road
tel. (852)27215161
grandstanford@interconti.com
www.hongkong.intercontinental.com

PRICE

from HK\$ 4,500 plus 10 percent
service charge

This 5-star, modern, and ideally-located hotel is a perfect place for both holiday and a business trip. Not to mention that the view, which stretches from hotel windows is second to none.

WHERE IS IT?

The hotel is located in a quiet cul-de-sac of Kowloon district, which is famous for its excellent shopping and entertainment opportunities, as well as conference venues. It's close both to the famous Star Ferry and an MTR station. You can also use the hotel's free shuttle bus to Nathan Road, Canton Road, and Tsimshatsui. Getting to the

airport, whether by a private limousine, a taxi, or an express train departing Kowloon Station, takes just 50 minutes.

ROOMS

The hotel offers 570 luxurious rooms, including 36 suite. Almost all of them have a view of the Victoria Harbour, and with panoramic windows, you get an impression as if the ships were about to dock in your room. The view is truly spectacular. I stayed on the 10th floor in Premier Harbour View Room, which featured a very comfortable six-foot bed, a desk, an armchair, bedside cabinets, a safe, a huge LCD TV offering over 20 channels, a DVD

player, a suitcase rack, and a mini bar stocked with mineral water from Hawaii. There was a bathrobe in the closet, as well as an ironing board and an iron. I could choose from six types of pillows, that differed in size and type of fabric. The room also came with iPad and iPhone docking station, as well as a power strip with outlets matching different types of plugs. Exploring the hotel, I had the opportunity to see the 60-metre Primia Harbour View Suite. It was a truly modern-looking room, which featured marble floors, walls covered with precious fabrics, a spacious wardrobe, a Nespresso coffee maker, and bouquets of exotic flowers.

The bathroom with two sinks came equipped with both a bath and shower.

RESTAURANTS

You don't need to leave the hotel to eat well. There's an excellent, award-winning (also Michelin-awarded) Chinese restaurant called "Hoi King Heen", which is famous for its Cantonese-style cuisine based on seafood and tofu. Its head chef is Leung Fai Hung. The larger room of the restaurant, as well as five adjoining rooms, can be used for business meetings and other events. "Mistral" restaurant, recognized as one of the hundred best restaurants in Hong Kong, serves typical Italian dishes, such as spaghetti, carpaccio or pizza, as well as best Italian wines. "Café on M", overlooking the bay, is the place to go to try various dishes and snacks. If you wish to try the taste of real New York without leaving Hong Kong, go to Tiffany's New York Bar, where you can enjoy a good drink and listen to live music (open from 5.00 pm to 3.00 am).

CLUB INTERCONTINENTAL VIP LOUNGE

It's an ideal option for business-people, as well as tourists who are staying in Intercontinental Grand Stanford. The offer includes check-in and check-out assistance at Club Lounge on 1st Floor (instead of the reception desk); breakfast from 6.30 to 11.00 am served in a cosy room overlooking the bay; afternoon tea from 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm; evening snacks, cocktails and champagne from 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm; coffee, tea, and juices throughout the day, international newspapers, as well as free local calls and faxes. To take advantage of Club Intercontinental VIP Lounge, you need to pay HK\$ 800 per person per day.

BUSINESS, FITNESS, SPA

The business centre, which is open 24/7, offers assistance in rental of meeting rooms, conference venues with equip-

ment (which Intercontinental Grand Stanford is famous for), as well as provides secretarial and translation/interpreting services. The professional staff can take care of such details as printing business cards or booking airline tickets.

The roof of the hotel has an outdoor swimming pool, which is an important advantage of this place, especially for people who want to relax after a busy day. A small, but a well-equipped fitness room is right next door.

Guests can also take advantage of the offer of The Place spa, which uses cosmetics from French brand Sothys to provide regenerating treatment both for the face and the body.

VERDICT

It's a perfect place to stay while in Hong Kong. Being in the very centre of the city, you stay in a quiet part of it, with the ability to quickly transfer from one place to another. The hotel offers many amenities, is famous for its excellent service, design by John Chan – an eminent artist from Hong Kong, as well as for its unforgettable views on the bay. They are especially impressive in the evening, when the traffic on water picks up, and you can observe purple sails of junks navigating among the islands. I definitely recommend it!

Marzena Mróz

This 5-star, modern, and ideally-located hotel is a perfect place for both holiday and a business trip. Not to mention that the view, which stretches from hotel windows is second to none.



HOTEL MAJESTIC BARRIÈRE

**CONTACT**

10, La Croisette
06407 Cannes, France
tel. +33(0)970 820 900
www.majestic-barriere.com

PRICE

starting at €285 per night

It's one of the three legendary hotels in Cannes, which each year in May during Cannes Film Festival attracts the eyes of the whole world. Located on the seafront promenade, almost opposite the Festival Hall, it's the only hotel in the city where you can watch straight from your window as film stars walk along the red carpet. It's also the favourite hotel of Sharon Stone.

WHERE IS IT?

It couldn't be better! The hotel is just off Boulevard de la Croisette in Cannes, on the French Riviera, right on the waterfront. Its white body, designed in Art Deco style, can be seen from afar. Those who aren't lucky enough to stay here, come here to explore its interiors, or at least have a cup of coffee in one of its bars.

INTERIOR

The famous Majestic is valued not only for luxury, but above all for the history, style and the "soul". It offers 265 rooms, 84 suites, and 2 unique penthouses. The hotel combines elements of the past with modern amenities and that is probably why it's so often chosen by tourists. You can stay here, for example,

in one of superior rooms – nicely furnished, with panoramic views of the city, or in deluxe rooms - located on the upper floors and chosen by those who value peace and quiet. Guests usually opt for rooms with sea views. The elegant and modern furnished junior suites are 40 sq m large, and some of them have a terrace. Especially spectacular are Double Prestige Suite with two terraces, two bedrooms, and two large living rooms, as well as the 120 sq m Presidential Suite. The hotel also boasts its unique penthouses. Majestic Suite (located on the 7th floor) is almost 300 sq m large and has its own outdoor swimming pool. It's a truly luxury and prestigious place to stay and costs €22,000 per night (in high season even €10,000 more). Equally great is Christian Dior Suite situated on the 6th floor. Both penthouses are always occupied during the Film Festival, as they are considered to be the most prestigious accommodation in Cannes.

RESTAURANTS, SPAS, CONFERENCES

The hotel has four restaurants. There's swish and sophisticated Fouquet's, modern restaurant La Plage (open in spring and

summer), La Petite Maison de Nicole, which apart from exquisite menu also offers spectacular sea views, as well as Kinugawa, which specializes in Japanese cuisine. Rotonde Louise Pemery Bar is the place to go for a glass of champagne, while At Fouquet's bar is known for its noble and peaceful atmosphere. One of the strengths of the hotel is its spa offer based on the cosmetics from French company Clarins. Another attraction is the private beach and the outdoor swimming pool with heated water. The hotel also features a fitness centre, a cinema room for intimate screenings, as well as conference rooms that can accommodate from 10 to 800 people.

VERDICT

It's a unique hotel located in a spectacular place. Most of the rooms overlook the sea. They are beautifully decorated, spacious, and have comfortable beds. Add to this excellent staff who treat treats every guest like a movie star. I liked the sophisticated breakfast buffet with Pommery champagne. It's a place with lots of history, tradition and unique charm.

Marzena Mróz



Główny sponsor zawodowej grupy kolarskiej ActiveJet Team



activejet.pl

activejet-team.com



TUSZE, TONERY

ARŁAMÓW HOTEL



CONTACT

Hotel Arłamów S.A.
Arłamów, 38-700 Ustrzyki Dolne
tel. (+48) 13 461 65 00
fax (+48) 13 461 65 02
e-mail: recepca@arlamow.pl;
marketing@arlamow.pl

PRICE

single room
-from PLN 250 in The Residence
and PLN 300 in the main building
of the hotel
- double room
-from PLN 280 in The Residence
and PLN 330 in the main building
of the hotel

To learn more about the hotel's
special offers, go to
www.arlamow.pl

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Knowing the history of Arłamów, associated mainly with a luxury holiday resort of the Polish communist regime and the place where Lech Wałęsa was interned in 1982, I couldn't contain my delight while I was entering a wide forest avenue leading to a modern hotel facility opened in 2014. It's one of the biggest investments in the Polish hotel industry, with a multifunctional purpose and more than 72,000 sq m of usable area. The architects from MWM studio in Rzeszów have made the most of the remarkable landscape of the Carpathian Forest, creating a unique complex featuring impressive congress centre, recreational and sporting facilities, as well as world-class Wellness & Spa. There is even a huge patio with a glass-roof courtyard which enables the sunrays to fully penetrate the place, il-

luminating the omnipresent greenery and water cascades. Clear stone floors and warm colours throughout the interior, create a unique atmosphere. There's also "The Residence" – a historic building, which following a thorough renovation is available to guests, as well. I especially liked the 150-metre underground passage with a gallery of landscape photos of the Bieszczady region, taken by the area's best photographer Zdzisław Nater.

WHERE IS IT?

The hotel is situated on the top of Arłamów hill, 26 km from Ustrzyki Dolne, 100 km from Rzeszów Airport, and 110 km from Lviv. Driving along the forest roads of the area, you may come across lynxes, wolves, boars, and deer. From almost any place in the hotel, especially on sunny days, you can admire the beautiful landscapes with

forests, valleys, Słonne Mountains, Przemyśl Foothills, and the panoramic view of the High Bieszczady Mountains.

ROOMS

The new section of the hotel features 213 rooms, including 16 suites (2 presidential suites with private lifts) and 197 double rooms. The historical part (The Residence) comprises 37 double rooms and 4 suites – including Lech Wałęsa's one.

I stayed on the second floor of the new section, in a double room with breath-taking views of pastures and the outdoor, heated swimming pool.

All rooms are modern, large and comfortable, and come with bathrobes, slippers, as well as toiletries. The bathrooms have heated floors. All rooms also feature a minibar as well as coffee and tea making facilities. I don't need to mention a plasma TV and free wi-fi.



BUSINESS FACILITIES

The property is well prepared for the organization of congresses, conferences, sports competitions, events, concerts, exhibitions, and trade fairs. Its 1,400 sq m congress centre features 4 conference rooms which can be divided into smaller ones can together accommodate up to 1,500 people. All the rooms are equipped with modern audio and video systems. The largest available space is the 2,300 sq m courtyard with a glass roof.

SPORTS FACILITIES

The hotel's sports facilities spread over the area of 214 hectares. These include a huge sports hall with basketball, handball, volleyball, tennis and squash courts, as well as two shooting ranges, a climbing wall, a gym, fitness rooms, and a bowling alley. Next to the hall there are outdoor tennis courts, a horse farm with an indoor riding school, fish ponds, golf course, a ski resort with T-bar lifts, and a bike rental.

SPA AND RELAXATION

The Wellness & Spa section was designed on a grand scale. Subcarpathian Province isn't too wealthy in hot springs, but the hotel was able to overcome this snag, by building its own biomass power plant which produces electricity, heat, as well as chilled water for air conditioning. As a result, the outdoor swimming pool with heated water and massagers is open year round. You can also use the large indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, snow and ice caves, Finnish and Turkish saunas, as well as the Roman steam bath. Sixteen treatment rooms offer high quality treatments and rituals for face and body.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS

The hotel has two restaurants - Carpathia and Turnica. There is also Panorama café, a lobby bar and a nightclub. The Residence houses the hotel's third restaurant serving a la carte dishes, and outside the hotel there are two more wooden inns.



Each restaurant offers different menu, so your choice depends on your tastes. I recommend dishes served in The Residence, especially baked potato soup with crispy smoked bacon and a drop of truffle oil, tortellini with meat and mushroom cream, as well as venison dishes – excellently prepared and beautifully served. Carpathia restaurant serves buffet breakfasts with a large choice of options.

VERDICT

It's one of the most modern congress and conference centres in Poland. Its exceptional location means that it's a perfect place for relaxing weekend and longer stays for the whole family. It also offers great sports and leisure facilities, and features Poland's only private airstrip and helipad, as well as biomass power plant. It's also the place to go for golf, horse-riding, and hiking aficionados, and for skiers in winter.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska

AWARDS

- The winner of "Building of the Year in the Power Industry" award for its own biomass power plant
- Nominated in the "World Travel Awards" in "Poland's leading hotel" category
- Nominated in the "TOPHOTEL 2014" contest in "Debut" category
- Nominated in the "2014 Best Hotel Awards" in "Premiere of the Year" the category



A LEGENDARY PLACE WITH GOOD TASTE



Kitchen Gallery



Bar Victoria Lounge

CONTACT

Sofitel Warsaw Victoria
ul. Królewska 11
00-065 Warsaw
www.sofitel.com

OPENING HOURS:

Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne
- From Monday to Saturday,
noon - midnight
Kitchen Gallery -
Sundays 12.30-4.30 pm; other
days and after 15 June available
only for hotel guests

S O F I T E L
LUXURY HOTELS

WARSAW VICTORIA

Even many years ago Victoria Hotel was synonymous with luxury and high society. They sang songs about it and it even starred in several movies. Wherever else could the Lieutenant Borewicz in "07 Zgłoś się" ("07 Come In") TV series catch criminals if not in the majestic Victoria? Is there anything to add to this legendary fame of the hotel? Yes, there is. Today, the Victoria is not only a comfortable hotel, but also the place where you can have a delicious and original meal.

INTERIOR

The hotel has recently been thoroughly renovated, but the effects can be best seen in public spaces. Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne and Kitchen Gallery restaurants, as well as Victoria Lounge and the lobby were designed by world-renowned French designer Didier Gomez, known for designing boutiques such for Kenzo and Celine brands, as well as residences of such celebrities as Harrison Ford or Pierre Berge.

The hotel's flagship restaurant – that is Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne – delights with its refined décor in tones of beige, cream and grey. When you look up, you will see the light reflected by mirrored walls that surround the bright dining area. Black and white luminaires, orange light patches, and comfortable, geometric seats, provide a feeling of warmth and space. Of course, the biggest attraction of the place is its open kitchen. Here you can observe the head chef Maciej Majewski and his team at work, while they prepare a series of dishes that combine traditional Polish and French cuisine with a modern twist. Kitchen Gallery, on the other hand, is a combination of bright, elegant space with modern geometric shapes. The textures and colours used here provide homely atmosphere, while the youngest guests can enjoy their time here, leafing through numerous children's books.

MENU

Visit in Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne poses only one, big problem

– the choice of dishes is head-spinning. Should you try the famous pâté en croûte (in crust), chicken in Riesling, or baked French onion soup? Or maybe you should try Polish barley soup with egg and goose meat, or hand-chopped beef tartar? Guests also love slow-cooked veal cheeks, which make an impression on even the biggest gourmets. Those who like French desserts, should try Tatin Tart flambéed with Calvados, as well as Baba au rhum with Chantilly cream.

Kitchen Gallery, on the other hand, is a perfect restaurant for breakfasts, where hotel guests can start their day in a home-like atmosphere with a delicious meal. The menu also provides options for those on a diet.

VERDICT

Excellent cuisine based on the freshest ingredients of the highest quality. Note that Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne offers De-Light dishes – perfect for those who seek maximum culinary pleasure combined with minimum calories.

Joanna Kadej-Krzyczkowska



www.domnadniprem.pl

emial: biuro@domnadniprem.pl

tel: 793 936 665

*Nasze meble wykonujemy tak
jakby był to garnitur uszyty na miarę
idealnie pasujący do wnętrza
naszych Klientów*



HANDLE WITH CARE

What is the aviation industry doing to stop luggage getting lost in the system? **Rose Dykins** reports

Lost luggage is an emotive subject – which is perhaps why Business Traveller receives so many letters about it. The lack of control you feel when your bag doesn't turn up on the carousel is hard to accept for someone who's normally in charge – and is particularly distressing if you have a crucial meeting to attend.

Within the aviation sector, the term “mishandled” luggage is applied to all bags that are delayed, damaged, pilfered, lost or stolen after being checked in. The reasons behind glitches in the system can be human error, a fault in the automated systems that move luggage from check-in to aircraft, or tight transfers.

Finding out that your luggage is delayed is, arguably, no better than it being lost entirely. The uncertainty of whether you need to go shopping for more than just spare underwear, or try to rewrite that business proposal from memory at the risk of your luggage turning up the next day leaves you in state of limbo.

IT'S GETTING BETTER

You may find some comfort in remembering that airlines do not simply dismiss your mishandled bag as unfortunate collateral damage. In fact, it's a mistake that they cannot afford to make.

“Suddenly the delivery charges [for returning mishandled luggage to customers] have gone up, as have the payments to passengers while they wait for their luggage,” says Albert Chi, cofounder of [wefindbags.com](#), a company that uses the same tracking system as airlines to find missing bags for its customers. “There used to be a maximum amount of US dollars per kilo that passengers could claim back. A few years ago that increased, so there's a much bigger focus on luggage now, as it's costing the airlines so much.” While many readers will have experienced first-hand the difficulties in claiming back compensation from airlines, if successful, passengers are now entitled to up to the equivalent of US\$1,170 per bag under the Montréal Convention (although you will probably need receipts).

In 2008, trade body IATA (the International Air Transport Association) launched its Baggage Improvement Programme, visiting 120 airports around the world and recommending how luggage handling could be perfected.

Nick Gates, portfolio director for SITA, a specialist in air transport communications and IT solutions, says: “We had seen things

steadily get worse from 2003 to 2007, but there has been a significant improvement in the whole baggage process since then. We've seen airports and airlines spending money on baggage handling, sortation, tracking and reconciliations systems.”

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

How likely is a loss? According to SITA's 2014 Baggage Report, 21.8 million bags were mishandled last year. (In other words, for every 1,000 travellers, close to seven of them had their bags mishandled, which was an all-time low.)








There are several factors that put you at a greater risk of becoming one of the unlucky few.

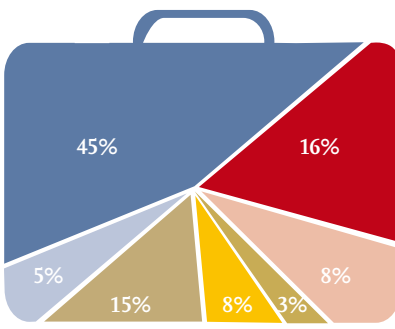
“Generally, the larger the airport, the greater the chance something is going to go wrong,” Gates says. “However, some airports have much better records of handling bags – a large airport in Asia will probably have a better record than a medium-sized airport in Europe.”

If you regularly take multi-sector flights then you are among the most likely to be parted with your checked luggage.

“The more sectors you fly, the higher the chance of your bag misconnecting,” Chi says. “If the first sector of your flight is delayed, you may be able to rush to catch your next flight, but your bag still has to go through the same checks.”

Reasons for delayed bags

-  Transfer mishandling
-  Failure to load
-  Loading error
-  Arrival mishandling
-  Airport/customs/whether/space-weight restriction
-  Ticketing error/bag switch/security/other
-  Tagging error



Gates says: “Transferring bags need to be treated as priority over those that are terminating their journey. The systems need to be in place for tracking these bags and knowing in advance where there may be problems – for example, if the first sector is running 30 minutes late – so that baggage-handlers can take steps to make sure they are moved more quickly between the two flights.”

He adds: “The adoption of technology that communicates real-time information is becoming more prevalent – but it's not adopted everywhere. It's down to the airlines and the airports.”

When it comes to investing in new baggage-handling technology, there are no rules as to who pays for what. Before making any big infrastructure changes, airports have to know that the demand is there from the airlines – and carriers have to be sure that they can generate enough revenue to justify the expense.

TECHNOLOGY COSTS

One example of this is radio-frequency identification (RFID). For the past decade, it has been possible to replace traditional barcodes on luggage labels with RFID memory chips. As RFID works via radio waves instead of lasers, it doesn't need a direct line of sight between the scanner and the tag. This gives a 99 per cent readability rate (as opposed to a 70-95 per cent chance with barcodes) and means cases are less likely to be misplaced. If you have flown via Hong Kong International or Las Vegas during the past couple of years, your luggage will have had an RFID tag attached. While other airports and airlines use the technology, these are the only airports to have implemented it across all of their flights.

Gates says: “Ten years ago, it was hoped that the whole world would move to using RFID but, unfortunately, it's not really been adopted by airlines and airports. I think it's down to the cost of the baggage tags themselves and a need to upgrade reading systems at the airport, which is a significant investment.”

Qantas has been offering such tags since 2010 – priced at AU\$30/£17 (or free for Platinum One, Platinum, Gold and Silver Frequent Flyer club members), the permanent Q Bag Tags are RFID-enabled and can be used across most of the airline's domestic network.

There has also been a flurry of tech companies creating RFID tags and cellular tracking

CERTINA

SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1888



OFFICIAL TIMING PARTNER OF THE



PRECISELY
YOUR
MOMENT

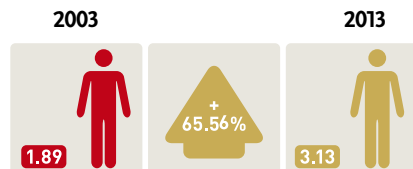
DS 2

WWW.CERTINA.COM

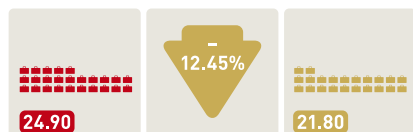


Trends for mishandled bags

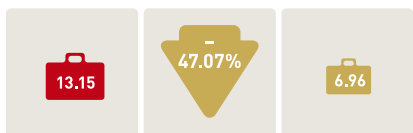
- Total passengers (billions)



- Total bags mishandled (millions)



- Mishandled bags per 1,000 passengers



SITA 2014 Baggage Report

devices (such as Rebound Tag, Trackdot and Trace Me Luggage Tracker) that attach to or slip inside suitcases.

Many of these come with a smartphone app, so passengers can track their luggage themselves and receive texts when it has been found. Prices typically range from £12 to £50, but many charge annual subscription fees on top.

PATENT FOR SUCCESS

However, Donald McIntosh, co-director of wefindbags.com, warns that this technology alone will not necessarily help you get your lost luggage back any faster. "The problem with these units is that if you're standing in London and your bag is sending you a message telling you it's airside in Miami, that's great, but what do you do?"

In addition to offering a trackable tag, wefindbags.com employs a team of experts who have experience of using World Tracer software – the global system developed by SITA for finding lost bags.

Rather than simply contacting the airline on your behalf on a publicly available number (as some of the other bag tracking com-

panies do), it uses its expertise to locate your luggage and speed up its repatriation.

Over the past few years, airports worldwide have adapted their infrastructure to bring their sorting systems up to speed, with a focus on improving the mishandling rates of transferring luggage.

Heathrow has been developing an underground baggage tunnel linking its terminals, with the network between T3 and T5 now operational, which will "lead to a reduced misconnect rate because transfer bags will travel more quickly and reliably," John Beasley, Heathrow's head of baggage strategy, was quoted as saying in the 2014 SITA report.

In general, there has been a move towards systems that are as automated as possible, rather than relying on manpower, to increase the speed and reliability of sorting.

The challenge is coping with the year-on-year growth of passengers and, therefore, the number of bags that systems have to deal with. That said, in 2013 the number of global airline passengers increased to 3.13 billion (up 5.1 per cent from 2012), yet the total number of mishandled bags dropped 21.2 per cent. So it could be worse.





Profesjonalne rozwiązania usługi WIFI dla właścicieli biurów, najemców, restauracji, galerii handlowych oraz innych lokali usługowych.

- Gwarantowana jakość oraz dostępność usług,
- Estetyczne instalacje wewnątrz budynków,
- Usługi dopasowane do potrzeb klienta,
- Bezpieczny dostęp do internetu,
- Niski koszt administracji usługi oraz sprzętu,
- Profesjonalnie przeprowadzone planowanie radiowe,
- Podział dostępu dla pracowników oraz gości biura,
- Dedykowany Opiekun dla każdego klienta

Aforte więcej niż Hot Spot

LUFTHANSA PRESENTS ITS PREMIUM ECONOMY CLASS



Lufthansa Premium Economy Class is located within the cabin as a clearly identifiable separate compartment between Business and Economy Class. Prices definitely will be closer to those offered in Economy Class.

New, comfortable seats and 50 percent more room for passengers – it's a unique travel experience at an affordable price. The new Premium Economy Class can be booked since May and will be available from November 2014, initially on the Boeing 747-8. More than 3,600 new seats will be installed during the next 12 months across the intercontinental fleet of the carrier.

"Our Premium Economy Class will create a completely new travel experience that combines affordability with greater comfort. The seats offer up to 50 percent more room than Economy Class and will position us in a

premium segment within the international competitive environment," said Jens Bischof, the Member of the Lufthansa German Airlines Board in charge of Sales, Product and Marketing. "We expect that each year more than 1.5 million passengers will use our new Premium Economy Class," he added.

The new product will enable Lufthansa to meet the requirements of many business and private passengers who travel with other airlines in a similar travel class or who fly Economy Class due to travel specifications. Following the introduction of its new full-flat Business Class, Lufthansa created a much wider gap between

Economy and Business Class. As a result, there is now room for its new Premium Economy Class, which offers considerably more space and comfort as well as many additional product features, but is closer to Economy Class than Business Class in terms of its average prices. The move also means that Lufthansa is introducing a completely new travel class for the first time in 35 years.

GERMAN PRECISION

The new seats were designed in partnership with the company müller/romca Industrial Design in Kiel and produced by the seat manufacturer ZIM Flugsitz near Lake Constance. Depend-



ing on the aircraft type, they are up to 3 centimetres wider and provide greater privacy as well as approximately 10 centimetres more room at the side thanks to each seat having its own wide armrest and a centre console between the seats. The back rest can be reclined further and the seat pitch is a significantly more spacious 38 inches, or 97 centimetres.

As a result, passengers have around one-and-a-half times as much room as Economy Class. The head rests can be set to the exact height desired and folded at the sides for added comfort and support. Height-adjustable foot rests from the second row back and – for technical reasons – leg supports with an integrated foot rest in the first row provide extra comfort. Practical features around the seats such as a bottle holder, electrical socket and lots of storage space for passengers' belongings also help to ensure a relaxed and pleasant journey.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE

With a baggage allowance of two items weighing up to 23 kilogrammes each, passengers can take twice as much free luggage with them compared with Economy Class. For an extra € 25, passengers can also enjoy the comfort of the Lufthansa Business Lounges before their departure. So far, they have only been available to passengers holding a certain status in

the Miles & More programme. Check-in and boarding procedures as well as hand luggage regulations are the same as in Economy Class.

An enhanced service awaits Premium Economy passengers on board: they are greeted with a welcome drink and will find their own water bottle as well as a high-quality amenity kit with practical travel accessories at their seat. Meals will be served on porcelain tableware. Passengers can navigate the extensive in-flight entertainment programme using their own touchscreen monitor on the seat in front of them. The screens are 11 to 12 inches (28 to 30 centimetres). A wide selection of magazines and newspapers completes the range of entertainment on offer.

HIGHEST QUALITY, GOOD PRICE

Lufthansa Premium Economy Class is located within the cabin as a clearly identifiable separate compartment between Business and Economy Class. It has a high-quality design and contains between 21 and 52 seats, depending on the aircraft type. Their installation will begin in autumn 2014 and will be completed in summer 2015. First planes to undergo this upgrade will be Boeing 747-8.

Fares in the Premium Economy cabin will be closer to Economy rather than Business class. For example, a return flight across

the North Atlantic or to Asia will cost an additional €600 on average.

The introduction of Premium Economy Class will complement the many improvements that Lufthansa plans to make in all classes on board and on the ground by 2015. By this point in time, the entire long-haul fleet will have the new First and Business Class – which will involve the installation of 7,000 new seats on the Company's aircraft. Apart from the interior of the cabins, services on board and on the ground are also being enhanced.

The seats offer up to 50 per cent more room than Economy Class and will position Lufthansa in a premium segment within the international competitive environment.



KLM'S NEW WORLD BUSINESS CLASS



World Business Class offers a three course meal composed by famous chefs awarded with Michelin stars. The selection of wines was made by an outstanding specialist in the field, Hubrecht Duijker.

Passengers travelling with KLM in Business Class on long-haul routes, are about to experience a fantastic change that the Dutch air carrier has prepared for its customers to provide them with even greater comfort.

The new World Business Class seats are fully horizontal lie-flat. These are also one of the longest seats in the industry, extending to impressive 2.7 metres. The seat-back in-flight entertainment systems also feature some of the largest screens in the industry, at 17 inches. Hard-shell of the seat provides passengers with a sense of privacy, while the seat's internal walls provide a more intimate and cosy atmosphere.

NEW DESIGN

The new incarnation of KLM's Business Class is the work of Dutch designer Hella Jongerius, who has created a stylish and cosy interior, while respecting the ecology. In the project she utilized recycled woollen fabrics and some carpeting was made from discarded uniforms previously used by KLM attendants. The designers were also responsible for creating stylish tableware (Marcel Wenders) as well as designing travel kits for ladies and men. The new kit is the work of the famous Viktor & Rolf fashion house.

BLUE SKY DINING

World Business Class offers a three course meal composed by famous chefs awarded with Michelin stars. Since December 2014 the menu in KLM's Business Class has been designed by Sergio Herman who boasts three Michelin stars. The selection of wines was made by an



outstanding specialist in the field, Hubrecht Duijker.

The menu in Business Class changes on weekly basis, and travellers can choose such delicacies as braised venison or cod in curry served with coconut and lemon sauce. All dishes are served on tableware harking back to Dutch tradition of ceramics production, and designed specifically by Marcel Wanders.

Another nice Dutch accent are the gifts prepared for World Business Class passengers – these are miniature ceramic houses filled with Dutch gin. The characteristic white and blue canal houses are made of original Delft earthenware.

DESTINATIONS

The new Business Class cabin is already available on flights to

Nairobi in Africa, San Francisco, New York, Toronto, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston in North America, Mexico, Paramaribo, Curaçao, and San Maarten in South America and the Caribbean, as well as to Delhi, Shanghai, Seoul, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Beijing, Chengdu, and Bangkok in Asia. The new seats have been fitted on board all KLM's Boeing 747-400 aircraft. Soon the upgrade will also be available in B777-200 aircraft.

NOT ONLY THE FLIGHT

Passengers who opt for KLM's new Business Class are entitled to use luxury airport lounges, and become members of VIP Club – a solely Polish initiative, not available in the same formula anywhere else in the world. Its members, in addition to a limousine transfer or

accommodation at a Warsaw hotel prior or after their intercontinental journey, may also use a dedicated phone hotline to deal with all matters related to their journey. VIP membership also enables you to take advantage of specially-tailored offers. With the Gold Card you are granted free access to business lounges (regardless of your travel class), larger luggage allowance (1 item more than usually), and several other privileges – for example, earning more miles for flights.

Business Class travellers are also guaranteed the so-called "Sky Priority", which in practice means separate check-in counters, priority fast lane at security control, as well as priority at boarding and at luggage drop-off points. Have a good trip!

The new seat in KLM's World Business Class is extremely comfortable, wide and reclines into a flat-bed. A well-thought out seat configuration inside the originally designed cabin, provides passengers with even more space than before.



MORE SWEDISH BLUE



Marzena Mróz talks to **Wanda Brociek**, General Manager Poland at SAS airline.

A year ago, SAS removed the traditional division into business and economy classes and introduced a new offer. The standard option is now named SAS GO, while the option with additional privileges is called SAS PLUS. How do you assess this “revolution” from today’s perspective?

We have done enormous amount of work to make sure that our new offer is well-received on the Polish market, and I think that finally we can enjoy positive effects of this effort. Both passengers and travel agencies that sell our products found that SAS PLUS option, often only slightly pricier than SAS GO, at the same time provides passengers with a lot more benefits. The most important include the option to change a reservation without an additional fee (with which a passenger saves €60), 2 pieces of luggage up to 23 kg each, fast track security check, free meals and drinks on board, as well as entrance to our airport lounges, not to mention more points for

flights in EuroBonus and SAS Credits programmes.

How much you have to pay extra to take advantage of these benefits that are important especially for business travellers?

Trying to teach our passengers to fly consciously and wisely, we test different variations of our prices. We change them quite frequently and sometimes the price difference for a roundtrip ticket between the GO and PLUS fares is even as little as PLN 74! A lot of our customers who try the PLUS option, are quickly won over and stick to this product. I am pleased to confirm this by looking at the numbers demonstrating the growing popularity of SAS PLUS. As we know, there are a number of additional costs associated with travel, apart from the price of a ticket. These include transfers to the airport (which is often situated far from the city centre), parking fees, or extra luggage charges. The best way to check current deals is to visit our website www.flysas.pl or ask your travel agent about

SAS PLUS and then calculate which option will benefit you the most.

Flying with SAS often means a layover at one of my favourite airports – Kastrup in Copenhagen.

Passengers truly appreciate the possibility of transiting via Copenhagen. Kastrup is a friendly, cosy, and an inviting airport, which is regularly awarded as the most punctual in Northern Europe. It is also well-marked, offers a number of convenient solutions for travellers, and the average walking time from security to the gates furthest away is only 16 minutes. Interestingly, the whole transit area is covered with wooden floor. Kastrup also boasts Europe’s best airport shopping centre, featuring 120 stores located in the terminal! There are also several stylish restaurants, cafes, and bars, serving tasty food.

What new facilities has SAS introduced for passengers in the recent months?

Our priority is to make air travel





as simple as possible, simplifying some procedures for our passengers, especially in the area of luggage allowances. Until recently, the procedure was fairly complicated with division into checked and hand luggage, as well as special, outsize luggage which was paid extra. Now, however, depending on the travel class, you can take various configurations of luggage. On European routes SAS came up with the following allowances: in GO you can bring for free one item of hand luggage up to 8 kg and one item of checked luggage up to 23 kg. In PLUS you are entitled to bring one more item of checked luggage free of charge. On intercontinental routes luggage allowance is even bigger – in Business Class you can bring for free two pieces of hand luggage and two items of up to 32 kg of checked luggage. The main change is that from April such items as bikes, golf clubs, skis, snowboards, and musical instruments - apart from the double bass - are treated within the above mentioned limits, as standard checked luggage, at no extra cost. For example, when you travel in PLUS class, you can bring two items of checked luggage of up to 23 kg each. One of them can be, let us say, a golf bag, which you can take at no extra cost. That is why, I once again encourage you to choose your travel class wisely.

What if a PLUS class passengers wants to take two bikes on board?

They will also pay no extra charge, of course, on condition they do not carry anything more apart from carry-on luggage. However, if they wish to purchase excess luggage, they can always do it at our website or at airport self-service kiosks, which now have very attractive offers.

SAS encourages its passengers to participate in its EuroBonus loyalty programme. What benefits does it provide?

EuroBonus was launched in 1992 and today it has about 3,2 million members. Its members collect points for flights with SAS and other Star Alliance airlines, as well as for renting cars and stays in selected hotels. The collected points can be redeemed for air tickets or accommodation in hotels. Different levels offer passengers a variety of additional privileges. Silver membership is granted to passengers who flew at least 10 one-way flights with SAS, and it entitles you to check-in at Business Class counters, additional checked luggage allowance, access to airport lounges, and Fast Track in selected periods. Gold membership is granted for flying at least 50 flights with SAS, and apart

from all Silver status privileges also offers 25 percent more EuroBonus points, better availability of award flights, free choice of your seat in GO class, guaranteed seat when booking 48 hours before departure, as well as a Silver card to friends or family members. We have also recently introduced a new Diamond level of membership.

What does it offer passengers?

In addition to the privileges available to the holders of Silver and Gold cards, it also offers a Gold card for a person selected by the member. You can reach this tier status after flying 100 flights with SAS or the moment you collect at least 100,000 points. It is really worth it.

What are the sales forecasts for SAS Poland at the end of Q2 of this year?

I gladly admit that the forecasts are very optimistic. We have achieved a strong growth, which can be estimated at - I hope - as much as 30 percent. We are proud of this, but most of all we thank our passengers, and we want to assure them that we are working hard to be associated only with an easy and pleasant journey.

Thank you for the interview.

SAS PLUS class, often only slightly pricier than SAS GO, at the same time provides passengers with a lot more benefits. A lot of our customers who try the PLUS option, are quickly won over and stick to this product.

FIRST MERCURE HOTEL IN LATVIA



CONTACT

mercure.com
accorhotels.com

On 1 May, Mercure brand added a new hotel to its portfolio. In this way, the newly launched 4-star Mercure Riga Centre, has become the first Mercure hotel in Latvia. It operates under a franchise agreement concluded with the Orbis Hotel Group.

FOR BUSINESS AND TOURISM

Mercure Riga Centre is located in central Riga, close to numerous monuments of the old town. It's housed in a historical Art Nouveau building, dating back to

1901. The hotel is just a 15-minute drive from Riga Airport (RIX), and a minute-walk from Riga Central Railway Station.

Mercure Riga Centre offers 143 comfortably furnished rooms, including 128 standard single and double rooms. There are also 11 superior rooms named 'Privilege', as well as 4 Junior Suites.

The hotel's modern conference centre features 6 rooms with a maximum capacity of 100 people. They come with a professional audio-visual equipment, wireless wi-fi connection and a speaker's platform. On request,

for international meetings the hotel can provide simultaneous translation service.

"Joining Mercure brand is for us a huge opportunity to take advantage of the rich experience of Accor and Orbis Hotel Group. With the signed agreement, we have received the world's best know-how, access to modern and reliable booking tools, as well as full support for sales and marketing. I hope that our hotel will be a good example to attract more brands from Accor's portfolio to the Latvian hospitality market," said Aigars Gerhards, the



General Manager at Mercure Riga Centre.

BAR AND RESTAURANT

The hotel's "Traveller" restaurant is open daily from midday to 11.00 pm. Here, customers can try a variety of delicious dishes, served in stylish, air-conditioned interiors, and in spring and summer also on the terrace. The restaurant is a perfect choice for family dinner, business lunch, as well as romantic dinner for two. The hotel also has a bar, which offers a wide selection of drinks and snacks, served in the ambience of relaxing music.

FOR THE BODY AND SOUL

The hotel's Fitness Centre is the perfect place to relax and regenerate your body and mind. Guests can unwind here, using a variety of treatments and devices, such as massagers, jacuzzi, and saunas. During that time, their kids will be taken care of, by babysitters whose assistance needs to be ordered in advance. The hotel is fully accessible for the disabled.

MERCURE BRAND

The foundation of the brand is to be in harmony with people, tradition, history, culture and



nature. The chain includes more than 700 hotels located in 50 countries. The brand is dynamically expanding, mostly due to the franchise model, but also because the hotels of the chain draw on the local tradition and culture, skilfully combining modern solutions with the historical character of places. They are unique, while retaining high quality standards of the brand. Mercure's strength also comes from three values: authenticity, curiosity and commitment. Mercure Riga Centre is now 22nd hotel in the portfolio of Orbis Hotel Group.

Mercure Riga Centre is located in central Riga, close to numerous monuments of the old town, housed in a historic Art Nouveau building, dating back to 1901. It's just a 15-minute drive from Riga Airport (RIX), and a minute-walk from Riga Central Railway Station.



A THOUGHT PROVOKING JOURNEY WITH THE LUXURY COLLECTION



Helena Christensen, photographer, world-renowned model, as well as an experienced world traveller.

Helena Christense, a photographer, supermodel, and traveller has joined The Luxury Collection Hotels & Resorts, part of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, as the brand's new global ambassador.

The collaboration between the supermodel and hotels which offer travellers not only unique experiences, but also access to exclusive spots that are often inaccessible to every tourist, began with a trip to Peru, a country that inspires photographers with colourful landscapes and an amazing cultural wealth.

VISUAL JOURNEY

The explorations of Peru started with the coastal town of Paracas – home to the famous Paracas Hotel, and continued in Cusco where the access to local attractions was provided by concierges at Palacio del Inka hotel, and in the lush Sacred Valley full of picturesque views extending from Tambo del Inka in Urubamba.

Ms Christensen premiered her photography in an exhibit titled VISUAL JOURNEY, PERU. The photos were on display at Bleecker Street Arts Club and sales from the exhibition benefited Oxfam International, with whom Helena Christensen has worked for several years.

Much like travel, photography is most powerful when it is an immersive experience that elicits the emotions, memories and moods of a destination. "Exploring Peru with The Lux-

ury Collection was particularly special because they uncovered hidden treasures of the country that I have never experienced before,” said Helena Christensen. “The thought of being a global explorer is so thrilling, and is the perfect job for me!”, she added.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

“Through her photography, and throughout her career as a model, Helena Christensen has always shared a singular perspective on the world around her,” said Paul James, Global Brand Leader for The Luxury Collection, St. Regis and W Hotels Worldwide. “We are thrilled to work with her as our newest Global Explorer, and look forward to inspiring travellers together to experience and celebrate the world’s great destinations.”

WORLD CITIZEN

The Global Explorer program celebrates the vibrancy of some of the most enchanting destinations through the eyes of the world’s foremost innovators. Helena Christensen will bring a new lens to The Luxury Collection brand as a celebrated photographer and true citizen of the world – born in Copenhagen to a Danish father and Peruvian mother. She lives in New York and travels frequently to London, Paris, Milan, and Panama, as well each of her parents’ homelands. As her role unfolds, Christensen will offer an artistic and authentic view of The Luxury Collection brand’s extraordinary destinations through different collaborations. Christensen previously partnered with The Luxury Collection as a contributor to the brand’s acclaimed Latin America Destination Guide offering insider insights and travel tips.



Much like travel, photography is most powerful when it is an immersive experience that elicits the emotions, memories and moods of a destination.



TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

The Terracotta Army, guarding the mausoleum of the first emperor of China and often referred to as the “Eighth Wonder of the World”, is one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century. They are also the reason why every year millions of tourists visit the city of Xi'an, situated in the province of Shaanxi.



For 2,300 years, nearly 8,000 warriors, ready to defend the place, have been standing at the gates of the mausoleum. Each of the figures is different, has different facial features, hairstyle, outfit, looks and - it seems - thinks in a different way.

The most amazing are their faces, because each of them represents a different emotion. The researchers believe that each statue is likely to have had its real-life model. The warriors were created from parts joined together with clay, and since their heads were formed manually - no two are the same. Their individual features also suggest that the warriors were representatives of different peoples of the ancient China. Apart from faces with high foreheads, expressive eyes and prominent noses, there are also ones with Mongolian features. Also statues of horses were made with a lot of inspiration. They have open mouths, dilated nostrils, raised ears, and look extremely vivid and difficult to tame.

Interestingly, when the figures were unearthed in 1974 - they were colourful. Unfortunately, with time and reaction with air, the colours began to gradually fade away.

GUARDS OF THE TOMB

It's been 40 years since a few peasants from China's agricultural commune near Xi'an came across clay figures of soldiers while digging a new well. Archaeologists almost immediately began work on the crop field with a view on Li Shan mountains. The result was sensational - beneath the surface they found a whole army of soldiers, standing in rows one next to another. As it later turned out, the figures were part of the tomb erected for the Emperor Qin Shi Huang Di in 3rd century BC.

This First Emperor of China (as he would call himself) united several divided kingdoms, began the construction of the Great Wall, reformed the state law, and unified the writing system. On the other hand, he also ordered to burn libraries and bury

alive scholars who opposed him. 30 years before his death he gathered 700,000 forced labourers from all over the Empire and ordered them to construct an underground palace/mausoleum. A copper sarcophagus was made for the ruler, and the tomb full of treasures was protected by a system of crossbow booby traps. When the Emperor died, his son and successor buried him with his childless concubines. Above the tomb the workers created a 50-metre earthen hill where trees were planted. According to beliefs, the terracotta warriors were to guard the Emperor and help him to get power in the afterlife.

WALKERS AND GENERALS

In the ground niches archaeologists have discovered more than 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots, 520 horses, and 150 horse cavalry. The niches are about 7 metres deep and made up of layers of hard, firm ground. The first one features 11 3-metre wide corridors, is paved and has a wooden ceiling covered with reed





mats and layers of clay to protect it from water. Then it was covered with a 3-metre layer of soil. The niche is the most spectacular, because it's 1,230 metres long and contains 6,000 soldiers of the so-called main army. The second one features two units of infantry and cavalry, as well as chariots, while in the third one there's the command post with high ranking officers and other chariots. The terracotta warriors have horses and arms, and are wearing carefully crafted uniforms and chainmails. Each of them can be easily attributed to a particular type of service. Among them are archers, infantrymen, crossbowmen, riders leading horses, coachmen, officers, and a general.

The warriors were first shown to the public in 1979, and in 1994 opened the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses, which consists of three crypts and a large exhibition hall. It became World Heritage Site in 1987.

EVEN MORE TREASURES

Researchers suspect that their current discovery is only the tip of the iceberg. They estimate that the entire area of the tomb

occupies 56 sq km. In the two archaeological sites they have also found a lot of other statues not associated with the army. Among them they discovered figures of actors, circus performers and acrobats, who were to entertain the Emperor in the afterlife. It's quite probable that soon they will also unearth the palace of the Emperor, whose chambers – according to a legend – were beautifully decorated and filled with treasures, ceilings were covered with pearls, and among gold and silver sculptures floated wide rivers of mercury. The whole tomb complex was protected by a system of booby traps. Upon finishing their work, the builders – architects, craftsmen and labourers, were buried alive, taking the secrets of this structure to the grave.

Why has no-one opened the palace/tomb yet? The Chinese government diplomatically replies that they wait for reconstruction methods to be more advanced. Meanwhile, the superstitious citizens of China claim that the work isn't moving forward, because the government doesn't want to disrupt the eternal rest of the former ruler.

Marzena Mróz

Useful

INFORMATION

- How to get there? You can fly to Xi'an on board a Finnair aircraft, which offers 3 weekly connections. Standard Economy Class fare is PLN 2,235;
- Where to stay I recommend Hilton Xi'an, 199 Donxin Road Xincheng District, Xi'an
- Visa – Those travelling to China must apply for a visa. You can apply for it individually, or use the services of one of the travel agencies that specialize in organizing trips to the Middle Kingdom. One of them is CT Poland: Warsaw, al. Jana Pawła II 61 lok. 2, www.ctpoland.com.pl; tel. 22 654 51 33.
- What else is worth seeing - Xi'an is situated about 1,200 km away from Beijing. Apart from the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors located over 30 kilometres from the city, you should also visit the Great and Small Wild Goose Pagoda, the Great Mosque, stroll through the streets of the Muslim Quarter, and see the well-preserved walls that surround the old city.



A MINIATURE PARADISE ON THE IONIAN SEA

Tourists discovered the beauty of the Greek Islands already a long time ago. But it's more and more often that we dream about going to places that aren't packed with tourists, where we not only have access to all the summer attractions, but also feel the sense of adventure.

Eptanissa – that is "seven islands" – is the named pinned by the locals to the archipelago known to the rest of the world as the Ionian Islands. Located between the coasts of Greece and Italy, they attract with their blue waters, wide beaches and omnipresent emerald green. Travellers most often choose the best known island of Corfu and Zakynthos is now also experiencing a tourist boom, but the other Ionian Islands are still an oasis of

peace and quiet. Of course there are people coming here, but you can find truly pristine spots here, as well.

Although Cephalonia is about 800 sq km, and you can't possibly see everything, it's worth dividing your stay into two stages – discovering the island on your own and exploring everything that catches your attention (there are several car and scooter rental stations here), and the mandatory "must-see programme". It must surely in-

clude the Myrtos beach, which is considered the most beautiful one on the island. All around you can see majestic cliffs and only for the last 10 years ago have you been able to get here by car as well – although because of all the bloodcurdling switchbacks, this is not a route for those suffering from a fear of heights. It's worth mentioning that the famous movie "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" starring Nicolas Cage and Penelope Cruz was shot here.



After such natural attractions, it's worth grabbing a bite – which just couldn't be easier in Cephalonia.

Locals recommend Rombole - white wine produced in the area. You should definitely try it in Lixouri, which is famous for musical passion of its inhabitants – there is a concert on the market almost every night. You can't miss Fiscardo as well – it's one of the few villages, which survived the great earthquake of 1953. You can admire here the old architecture, which is so typical of the island.

From the port of Fiscardo you can get to Ithaca by ferry. In "Odyssey" Homer claimed that the island was "suitable for goats", but it must have changed over the years, although goats can still be seen here. You should see the famous Arethusa spring, as well as Eu-maeus and the Nymphs grotto.

Ithaca is known for its tiny bays and secluded beaches surrounded by green mountains. The most well-known are: Sarakiniko, Dex Minnīmata, Aetos, and Kourvoólia. There are no big hotels and tourist-oriented

restaurants here, but every village has its cosy taverns serving local delicacies. Frikes – a picturesque fishing village with a great port, where you can see luxurious yachts – is famous for excellent cuisine. Here you can also take a ferry ride to Lefkada.

This place is a bit more civilized. In Lefkada Town, a favourite sailors' spot, there is even a promenade - Ioannou Mela, the main street that has been pedestrianized and is now full of colourful arcades with streets diverging from it in all directions. If you head from Lefkas to Nidri (the main tourist resort, where you can party all night), you should stay at Ligia – a small local tavern famous for fabulous fish dishes. Lefkada is also one of Europe's best places to do windsurfing, in Nidri you will find a reputable diving base, and in Kathisma neighbourhood in the west, you can try your hand at paragliding. But all this is just a tiny fraction of what you need to see when on the Ionian Islands.

Joanna Kadej-Krzyczkowska

What is there to see?

A MANDATORY LIST

In Cephalonia

- Melissani Cave - discovered in the 1950s after an earthquake.
- Drogarati Cave - the main grotto is famous for its remarkable acoustics. Once concerts of such stars as Maria Callas or Luciano Pavarotti were held here.
- Myrthos beach - considered to be the most beautiful beach of the island. It has also been listed several times among some of the most beautiful beaches in Europe.
- Kipurion monastery – the place to go to enjoy the most beautiful sunsets.
- Agrilion monastery over the Antisamos beach – beautiful views of the sea and Ithaca.
- Mount's Beach – you can swim with turtles.

In Ithaca

- Kioni - the main tourist resort and one of the most beautiful towns on the island. Situated in a picturesque bay, about 24 km from Vathi, guarantees great views.



- Archaeological Museum in the capital of Vathi.
- Stavros - located about 16 km from Vathi, the second largest city on the island. There are two archaeological sites in the area: Pelikata citadel on the hill, a small museum and the School of Homer.
- The cave of the nymphs where, as the legend has it, Odysseus hid the treasures received from Alcinous, the king of Phaeacians.

On Lefkada

- Porto Katsiki beach – no picture can do it justice. Beautiful play of lights in the morning and evening.
- Ronies waterfalls – not only the waterfalls; the route leading to them is an attraction itself. You can get here after a short walk down a beautiful ravine, with a waterfall that has created a few ponds where you can take a bath.
- Cape Lefkatas – a rocky cape cutting into the sea with a beautiful lighthouse.
- St. Kyriaki festivities – a local festival celebrated in towns of Nidri and Vliho – on 7 July.
- Sardina – the country-famous festival held in honour of fishermen – takes place on the last Saturday in August in the village of Ligia.

ON THE WATERFRONT

Tamara Thiessen zips around Brisbane's riverside neighbourhoods by ferry and footbridge

Balmy and subtropical, the Queensland capital – Australia's third-biggest metropolis – is a river-hugging city. A thriving artistic scene of galleries, museums, music venues and festivals offsets the spirited outdoor culture of gardens, river sports and public partying. The Brisbane River meanders its way through the city-centre around a series of beak-shaped headlands. A vital source of food and connectivity for indigenous tribes for centuries, today it is a ticket to ride through one of Australia's greenest urban settings, where skyscrapers mix with bush land.

With 1,820 parks and gardens, Brisbane claims to be Australia's most biologically diverse capital, and wants to be its greenest by 2026 – carbon neutral and crammed with trees. Sprawling green spaces and multipurpose pathways flank the banks to the north and south. The environmental virtues are capped off by a highly efficient river transport system.

If you can extend your trip by a day or two or have downtime between meetings, hop on and off the free ferries – CityFerries and CityCats – around a network of 24 terminals, and lap up the city's villages, parks, museums, cafés and shops.

CBD

Even once drab pockets of the central business district have been transformed by green spaces. Nudging the Roma Street transit hub, long-derelict railway yards have been converted into a tiered oasis of ponds and forest at the Roma Street Parkland. There's also the Brisbane City Botanic Gardens – jutting into the river at the end of Gardens Point, the wifi-served space is great for morning workout.

The CBD is a mishmash of seventies malls, ultra-modern glassy office towers, 19th-century church spires and steel-clad espresso bars. An anachronism among the skyscrapers, the convict-built Commissariat Store at 115 William Street harks back to 1829, and

has a small museum dedicated to colonial history (entry AU\$6; queenslandhistory.org). For more on the city's past, the Classic City Centre Heritage Trail takes in 26 points of interest from its Queen Street starting point. The Contemporary Art and Architecture Public Art Trail is one of several other signposted walks, PDF maps for which are available online (brisbane.qld.gov.au).

The riverside Eagle Street is the heart of the financial and legal district, and is also where the business crowd heads to unwind over drinks. It's home to a couple of the city's best restaurants, with stunning locations as well as fare. Near the old Customs House and St John's Cathedral, at number 145, Esquire (esquire.net.au) dishes up contemporary cuisine – think blue mackerel with cavolo nero (black leaf kale), onion and juniper. For ritzier dining, Aria (ariarestaurant.com) is at number 1 in a white curved building, with views, mood lighting and an award-winning Australian chef in Matt Moran. The menu lists European classics



The Brisbane River – once a vital source of food and connectivity for indigenous tribes for centuries, today it is a ticket to ride through one of Australia's greenest urban settings, where skyscrapers mix with bush land.



AMBER ROOM

RESTAURANT



INGREDIENTS OF CULINARY EXCELLENCE



Michelin Guide Recommendation

Booking : + 48 22 523 66 64, www.amberroom.pl
Pałac Sobańskich, Al. Ujazdowskie 13, 00 - 567 Warsaw



made with local produce on the menu – try the duck consommé with miso cured duck, Moreton Bay bug and snow peas. Open for lunch weekdays and dinner daily.

SOUTH BANK AND WEST END

Major cultural institutions are centred on South Bank, an easy walk or ferry ride from the CBD. The free CityHopper ferry service runs from the CBD's North Quay. The Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art (qagoma.qld.gov.au) are located in the eye-catching, white stone-swathed Cultural Precinct on Stanley Place. Entry is free except to special exhibitions. Current highlights include Yirrkala Drawings (at QAG until July 13), a show of vibrant crayon sketches by a north-eastern Arnhem Land community, and Terrain (until September 2015 at GOMA), an exploration of the aesthetic influences of land and nature on indigenous artists. Open daily 10am-5pm.

The child-friendly Southbank Parklands strip has public barbecue facilities, a Nepalese pagoda and a "Liana Lounge" – recycled plastic seating inspired by Queensland rainforest plants. The strip is home to the state's symphony orchestra (qso.com.au) and the Maritime Museum (maritimemuseum.com.au). You could also check out what's on at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (qpac.com.au), which hosts dance, musicals, opera and free outdoor jazz jam sessions.

A tad scruffy to some, a bohemian, artsy melting pot for others, West End lies on the same foot-shaped point as South Bank. Either walk there or hop aboard a ferry for another three stops. This is also a good



weekend hangout, with a Saturday market in riverside Davies Park from 6am to 2pm. Shop for jewellery, pre-loved clothes, fruit and veg, and home-baked treats under the giant Moreton Bay fig trees. The zone has a curiosity cabinet of eateries. For breakfast or lunch, try Plenty (284 Montague Road), a farm-to-plate café-cum-food market, while the Gunshop Café (53 Mollison Street; thegunshopcafe.com) serves up stiff espresso in another post-industrial architectural marvel of brick and wood.

Urban walking enthusiasts should consider a circuit trail through the Botanic Gardens, past Parliament House through South Bank and on to West End. Cross back to the CBD via the solar-powered, LED-lit Kurilpa footbridge, nicknamed "Sticks Bridge" because of its spiky appearance.

NEW FARM/TENERIFFE

This former farming area, a few ferry stops and serpentine curves upstream from the CBD, is a buzzy mix of gardens, brightly painted Queenslander houses on flood-defying stilts, live music, pop-up markets, haute fashion and wine bars. On nearby Lamington Street, the Brisbane Powerhouse (brisbanepowerhouse.org) is a cultural and entertainment space with a continual schedule of festivals, theatre and free comedy, music and film events.

A few paddles upstream, the old wool stores and warehouses of Teneriffe have morphed into a chic, leafy zone of cafés, bars and boutiques. A cluster of CityCycle stations for the Brisbane bike-share scheme (citycycle.com.au) lies in the vicinity of Macquarie Street, ready to propel you along the river bikeways.

BULIMBA

From Teneriffe's ferry terminal, you can dart straight over to Bulimba on the adjacent headland. CityCats and regular ferries also hook up to this south-side neighbourhood from the CBD.

Sailing upriver, there is a sense of leaving the city behind, as the skyline fades and bushland reserves surge. A community of wide tree-lined avenues and creek-side biking and hiking trails,

Bulimba is, along with New Farm, one of Brisbane's most sought-after suburbs. A proliferation of designer homes has seen median house prices here outstrip AU\$1 million (£560,000).

Nonetheless, there's a breezy village feel about Oxford Street's bookshops and cafés. To kick back with the locals, head to the Bulimba Memorial Park, or the Vic Lucas Park out on the point.

KANGAROO POINT

Also on the south side, thumb-shaped Kangaroo Point is the place to go for sensational skylines and cliff-side jogging and walking tracks. The CityHopper ferries land at Holman Street, on the tip of the point, while others stop further inland at Thornton Street.

If you fancy some adrenaline-stirring adventure, Riverlife (riverlife.com.au) offers everything from abseiling to kayaking, as well as bike rental. You could also walk or cycle the 2.4km Art and the River Public Art Trail from the Maritime Museum along the Kangaroo Point boardwalk, to the Thornton Street ferry terminal, darting to the top of the cliffs at Kangaroo Point Park for a full river and city panorama.

Dr Irena Eris

HOTELE SPA

*Myśląc o wakacjach, marzymy o takim miejscu,
które zapewni błogi wypoczynek, komfortowe
warunki i doskonały serwis.*

A przy okazji... aby nasze dzieci się nie nudziły!

Hotele SPA Dr Irena Eris znane są z luksusu i holistycznej dbałości o piękno. Ale również z bogatej i ciekawej oferty, która spełnia oczekiwania zarówno dorosłych gości, jak i towarzyszących im pociech. Bliskość przyrody oraz okalające hotele malownicze krajobrazy tworzą wyjątkową oprawę, która sprzyja zapomnieniu o codziennych troskach i oddawaniu się pełnemu relaksowi.

Delektowanie się błogim „nicnierobieniem” w każdej chwili można zamienić na aktywne spędzenie wolnego czasu. Hotele proponują liczne atrakcje przygotowane specjalnie na sezon letni – np. **jogę, Nordic Walking, wycieczki rowerowe, zajęcia z trenerem osobistym.** Dla najmłodszych – zajęcia ruchowe, jazdę konną, fit for kids, miniakademię gotowania, artystyczną pracownię plastyczną i mnóstwo gier i zabaw tematycznych.

Nowością w tym roku jest codzienna nauka języka angielskiego poprzez zabawę.

Wyjątkowym miejscem w każdym hotelu jest **Kosmetyczny Instytut Dr Irena Eris** z szeroką gamą indywidualnie dobranych do potrzeb skóry zabiegów lub programów pielęgnacyjnych, orientalnych masażu, kuracji spa i zabiegów z zakresu medycyny estetycznej. Połączenie aktywności z profesjonalną pielęgnacją zapewni pełną odnowę biologiczną, dzięki której powrócimy do codziennych obowiązków z nową energią.

Hotele SPA Dr Irena Eris należą do elity hotelarskiej, stawiając na najwyższą jakość. W tym roku dołączyły do elitarnego grona najlepszych hoteli spa na świecie wyróżnionego przez **National Geographic – Luxury Spas The Collection 2014** – jako jedyne polskie hotele. Otrzymały nagrodę Travellers' Choice w kategorii hotele luksusowe oraz certyfikat jakości – Doskonałość – od największego na świecie portalu turystycznego TripAdvisor.





HOLIDAYS AFTER OR BEFORE FACELIFT...

Our young, fresh look is supposed to result from good genes and a healthy diet – not from aesthetic or surgery, and other wonders of modern technology.

The offer of new treatments with the use of fantastic equipment and great inventions is growing all the time. Ultrasound, lasers, infrared rays, vacuum massagers, freezing, liposuction, and a whole cornucopia of substances that upon injection make us thinner, better-looking... simply younger!

The overall trend for such procedures is to be less invasive, so that they have as little in common with classic surgery as possible, offer the shortest possible recovery period, and leave no visible side effects.

Since our improved look is supposed to come from our genes, the procedures need to be done in secret, so that nobody can see any traces of needles, scalpel, or even a

bruise. If you want to invest in improving your appearance, we truly recommend that you combine it with your holidays that you can spend alone or with a person acquainted with your secret plans. So, pack a wide-brim hat, an airy tulle pareo to protect you from the sun, and go on a fantastic holiday, which will leave you... transformed. You can always explain that it comes from a good rest. It's the first time when La Perla Clinic and Club Med - two unique companies representing very different industries – have decided to present a joined offer, combining vacation with beautification. Club Med resorts are holiday villages situated in the most beautiful places in the world, which boast vast areas of land (in Brazil up to 700 hectares),

beautiful gardens, and private beaches. They are safe, alluring, offer lots of sports and attractions, as well as great cuisine and an open bar. Nobody feels lonely there, the credit for which goes to friendly GOs – that is Gentle Organizers. You can select a club for singles which is reserved exclusively for adult guests, a quiet one for couples, or full of life and events for families. The best villages for post-treatment getaways are those with huge gardens where you can have your personal space. For example, Cherating in Malaysia offers a large garden, a private jungle, as well as a 2-kilometre stretch of a private beach and a 15-kilometre of an empty beach outside the club.

Magdalena Boratyńska

Suitable post-procedural camouflage

INVASIVE PROCEDURES

● **Traditional facelift...** a long period of convalescence – preferably at home. You can leave for your holiday 2 weeks after the procedure, on condition you wear a big hat to protect you from the sun.

● **Body Jet** water liposuction with fat transplantation, e.g. from thighs to the bust. 1 procedure and a 10-day recovery will give you 1 size less. It's a good idea to spend one week at home, and then dressed in pareo, you can present your prominent breasts on the beach at a Club Med village.

● **Revitalization** - needle mesotherapy.

For radiant, younger and well-nourished skin. The procedure is especially recommended before sunny holidays to nourish the skin before it's exposed to the sun. You won't need anything but an SPF filter to look a few years younger after your return from a Club Med village. If anyone asks, say it's thanks to your holiday.

● **Body and face lifting threads** (Golden thread, Happy Lift, PDO, etc.). The procedure can be done just before you leave for your holiday, but may result in minor bruising or swelling. The threads lift, thicken and rejuvenate any area of the body. They can be used all over your face, neck, belly (especially if it's thin yet blobby), thighs, and fat knees. A holiday after this procedure is more than desirable and can be spent in the sun.

● **Lip augmentation/filling wrinkles**, facial modelling and rejuvenation - fast metamorphosis for the summer! Reduction of wrinkles and shapely lips – you can leave immediately and any bruising or swelling will come off on your holiday.

NON-INVASIVE PROCEDURES – AN ALTERNATIVE FOR THE FAINT-HEARTED

● **Liposonix** 1 procedure, 1 hour, 1 size less – it's a real alternative to liposuction. 2.5 cm less in waist, abdomen or thighs. Note – after two weeks you will have to take in your skirt.

● **Ulthera** non-invasive, most effective face lift, the effects of which can be seen after about 3 months. Leaves no traces, no need for camouflage. Go away for holidays, for example to Club Med Kani village in the heavenly Maldives - it's relatively cheap and alcohol is included, which can't be overrated in a country which imposes a 500 percent duty on spirits. After a month, compare you pre- and after- photos. Incredible! This woman is at least 10 years younger... Surely, thanks to the fabulous holiday!

● **Thermage** - intense firming of the skin on the face and the body – this treatment is especially recommended for young mothers with a flabby belly after pregnancy. Ironing clothes – yes, but the skin? Well, ladies, prepare to be surprised with the effects. The procedure doesn't leave any traces and it's good to rest afterwards, for example in the beautiful Gregolimano village located on the Greek island of Evia. You can be sure, that on your return, everyone will notice the change. What did you do? It's your sweet secret.

● **Liporadiologie Vinci** - cellulite reduction and body contouring. The number of procedures required to achieve the desired effect: 8. If you start treatments before your holiday, you will return home with a smooth, firm and modelled body. And on the beach you can wear only bikini, no need to use scarves to cover your cellulite. After the procedure you may also give up jogging for a while, devoting all your time to sweet unwinding. Well, unless you are tempted by a wide range of new sports offered at Club Med villages: water skiing, sailing, windsurfing, trapeze academy... And oh those handsome instructors...

More info at www.la-perla.pl



It's the first time when La Perla Clinic and Club Med – two companies representing very different industries – have presented a joined offer, combining vacation with beautification.

KLINIKA
LA PERLA



GO ANYWHERE...

... do anything – this has for years been the philosophy of the brand. I must admit that the fourth-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee is a worthy successor to its legendary predecessors.





The legendary Jeep Cherokee was the most awaited launch of this year's Motor Show in Poznań. And it didn't let us down. The innovative design, cutting-edge equipment, efficiency, and the highest level of safety in its class – these are just a few of a long list of advantages of this model.

The new car raises the bar in its segment and features a new sleek and athletic design, enhanced on-road driving dynamics and handling, legendary Jeep 4x4 capability, premium interior craftsmanship, innovative technology, new levels of efficiency, entertainment and comfort and 'five-star' safety and security features that recently allowed the vehicle to earn the 'best in class' designation from Euro NCAP in the Small Off-road 4x4 category.

Engineered to excel on any and all terrains, the all-new Jeep Cherokee expresses the synthesis between stylistic innovation and family tradition, legendary 4x4 capability and technology: features that are fully embodied in the new Limited model.

DESIGN

The new Jeep Cherokee boasts a cutting-edge, revolutionary design and features world-class craftsmanship and exclusive technological contents. Sleek and athletic exterior lines project the Jeep design into the future and convey efficiency and aerodynamics without compromising the brand's stylistic heritage. Fluid, sleek exterior lines highlight the efficient, wind-splitting upper body of the Cherokee. The rugged, protective lower body conveys the legendary capa-

bility that is characteristic of every Jeep. The interior is modern, welcoming and comfortable. It features a sophisticated, refined design, hand-sculpted forms, signature Jeep styling cues, high-quality materials, precision craftsmanship and attention to detail. The cabin is designed to offer the driver ultimate comfort with useful, easy-to-operate technology and clever storage. The new Jeep Cherokee is available with three interior trim choices inspired from exotic locations and landscapes around the world, such as Morocco, Grand Canyon and the Italian Mount Vesuvio.

DRIVE

The new Jeep Cherokee takes the legendary Jeep 4x4 capability to the next level and offers the advantages of an all-weather,

Jeep Grand Cherokee is an absolute classic car. The fourth-generation of this model has retained all advantages of its predecessors, at the same time offering cutting-edge solutions, and clearly raising the bar in its segment.



all-terrain vehicle. The new generation of the Jeep mid-size SUV provides a choice of two innovative 4x4 systems for best-in-class 4x4 capability in all driving conditions: the single-speed, fully automatic Jeep Active Drive I, the two-speed Jeep Active Drive II.

The new Jeep Cherokee is also the first mid-size SUV to feature rear-axle disconnect, resulting in reduced energy loss when 4x4 capability isn't needed and improved fuel efficiency. The rear-axle disconnect seamlessly switches between two- and four-wheel drive for full-time torque management without requiring input from the driver.

The new Jeep Cherokee is the first mid-size SUV to feature a standard nine-speed automatic transmission. The new gearbox is equipped on the 170 horsepower 2.0-litre turbo diesel engine and on the petrol models of the new Cherokee range. The new, fully electronic nine-speed automatic, features on-the-fly shift map changing, with manual shifting capability via Electronic Range Select.

SAFETY

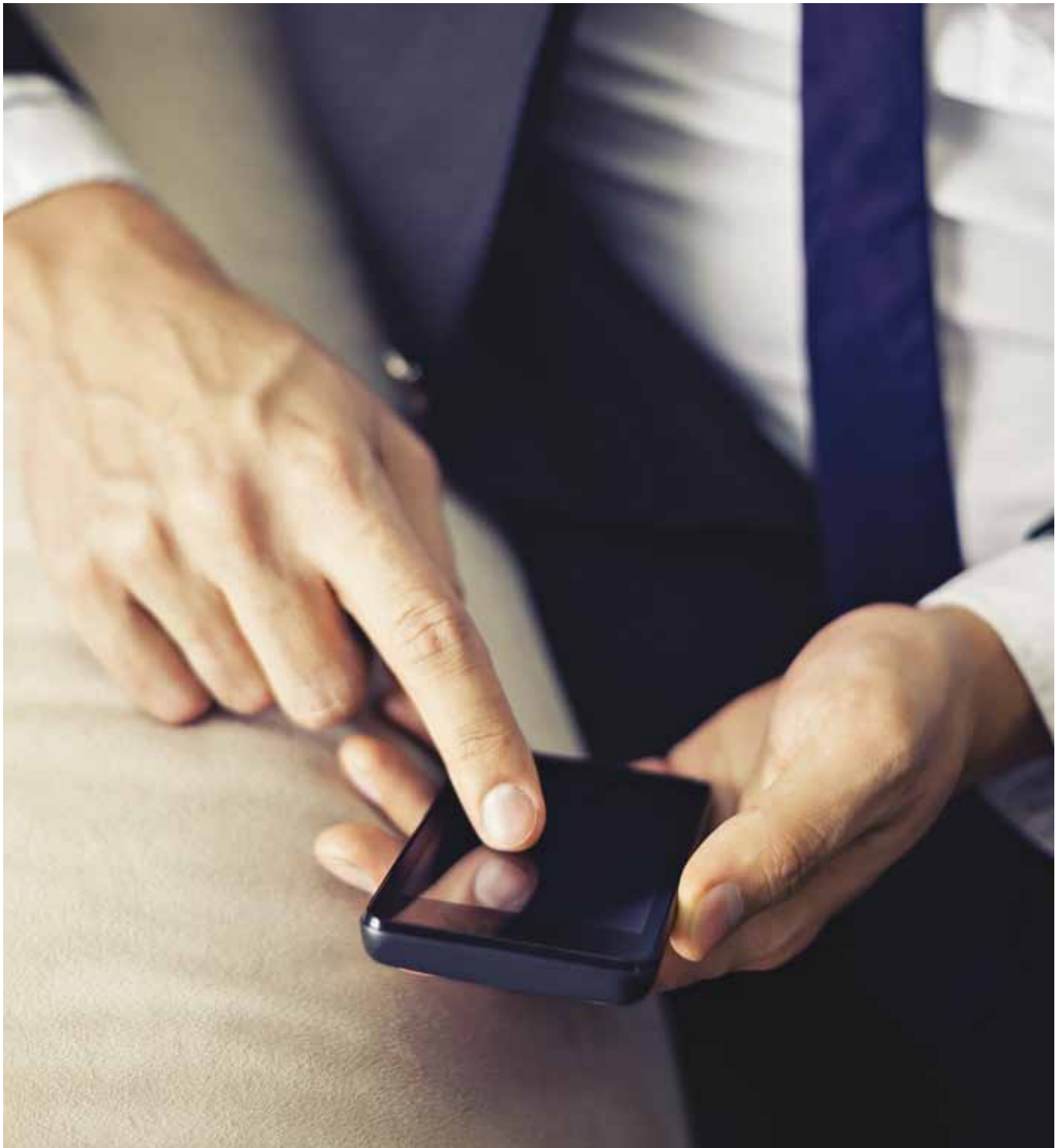
Safety and security were at the forefront in the development of the new Jeep Cherokee. The first safety element of the new Jeep Cherokee is represented by the new "Compact U.S. Wide (CUS-wide)" architecture, comprising a solid vehicle structure built with 65 percent high-strength steel. Jeep engineers then added more than 70 active and passive safety and security features, including an array of innovative systems.

Standard safety features on the new Jeep Cherokee consist of seven standard airbags (front seats multistage air bags, side bags, window bags, driver side knee air bag), ESC (Electronic Stability Control) with rollover mitigation (ERM) and ABS with off-road calibration. To ensure maximum protection, the complete offering of safety features available or optional on the new Jeep Cherokee includes new systems, such as the innovative Forward Collision Warning-Plus, ParkSense Parallel/Perpendicular Park Assist, Adaptive Cruise Control-Plus, Lane Departure Warning-Plus, Blind Spot Monitoring and Rear Cross Path Detection.

Joanna Kadej-Krzyczkowska



The new Jeep Cherokee has a powerful stance, an aggressive wheel-to-body proportion and a commanding road presence.



THE SMART PHONE OMENON

Competition is heating up in the smartphone market, with exciting new features and, finally, decent cameras, says ***Caramel Quin***

In the beginning there was the iPhone and it was good. We instantly forgot its predecessors – clunky Palm Pilots, Nokia bricks that opened like laptops, the Blackberry's tiny keyboard.

Google's Android operating system is the biggest challenge to Apple's iOS. Its look and feel is quite similar but whereas iOS is slick and polished, with just one carefully tested way of doing things, Android is easier to customise.

The same goes for software – premium applications often reach the iTunes App Store before they appear on Google Play, but the latter has a wider range of apps that let you tailor your experience more.

Other operating systems include Microsoft's Windows Phone, unsurprisingly championed by Nokia (Microsoft is in the process of buying the Finnish company), although Nokia has recently announced its first Android handsets. Blackberry persists with its own system, while new rivals such as Ubuntu and Tizen are due to arrive on smartphones soon.

Two main stories come out of 2014's industry announcements so far. The first is that cameras are the new battleground. Nokia's Lumia 1020 boasts a ridiculous 41 megapixels, detecting more detail than the human eye. Sony's Xperia Z2 takes 4K-resolution videos ready for the new wave of Ultra High Definition TVs.

HTC's One M8 has only 4.1 megapixels, a tenth of the Nokia, but they are larger "Ultra Pixels". It performs better in low light because each of the 4.1 million tiny sensors inside the camera is almost 50 per cent bigger than those in the iPhone 5S. What's more, it has a second sensor that captures depth information so you can adjust the focus after the photo is taken.

The second big story is that there is no single preferred size for a smartphone. Some people like a mini screen barely bigger than three inches, while others choose more immersive five-inch models. Then there are those who supersize their smartphones and opt for a six-inch "phablet". The smartphone continues to be our most valued piece of technology. We keep it close to us, and we're lost without it. If you have to prepare for a surprise meeting, it's your phone that saves the day. And our business data is entrusted to it, which is why the likes of Apple and Samsung are offering fingerprint security, and companies such as Boeing are working on phones that protect against hardware and software hacks.

Classic

APPLE IPHONE 5S

iOS

from £549 (from free with contract)

apple.com/uk

The fastest and best iPhone you can buy right now. But is that enough to beat the rise of premium Android smartphones? Its fingerprint sensor offers secure, quick unlocking. Its four-inch retina display (1,136 x 640 pixels) is beautifully crisp, and its eight-megapixel camera shoots 1080p Full HD video. But so do many of its rivals. It comes down to whether you prefer iOS - with its slick user interface and "walled garden" - or the more affordable, slightly geekier freedom of Android. Also, 16GB isn't much storage, and you can't add memory cards, so you might want to pay more for the 64GB model.



Voice and gestures

MOTOROLA MOTO X

Android

£300 (from free with contract)

motorola.co.uk

Motorola's top-of-the-range smartphone takes the Android operating system and then adds its own skin over the top. The ten-megapixel camera and 1080p Full HD camcorder have novel controls, like twisting your wrist to launch the camera app. Home screen notifications can be tailored on the 4.7-inch (1,280 x 720 pixel) display. And, most notably, it makes a big thing of voice control. Say "Okay, Google Now..." and you can command it to send messages, schedule appointments, take notes, and, of course Google stuff. It's the one Android phone that gives iPhone's Siri a run for her money.



Undestructible

SONY XPERIA Z2

Android

£599 (from free with contract)

sonymobile.com

Graphics are king on this Sony, whether you want to take photos, shoot videos or watch a movie on the move on its lush 5.2-inch screen (1,920 x 1,080 pixels) with beautiful, bright colours. Its 20.7-megapixel camera takes sharp snaps and even 4K video, with four times the resolution of 1080p Full HD. Aside from visual prowess, the Z2 is a capable Android smartphone with a couple of other neat tricks - it's waterproof and dustproof, so should survive everyday life, and comes with noise-cancelling in-ear headphones, perfect for cutting out background sound on planes and trains.



Not too pricey

GOOGLE NEXUS 5

Android

from £299 (from free with contract)

google.co.uk/nexus

Google's own-brand Nexus smartphones - which are actually manufactured by LG - have a great reputation for value for money. The Nexus 5 is no different, being a premium handset that feels like it should cost twice the price. Its 4.9-inch (1,920 x 1,080 pixel) display is comparable with far pricier rivals. The eight-megapixel camera is nothing to write home about, yet it's still good enough to match the iPhone 5S. Unusually, you can charge it wirelessly by popping it on a special pad - a great feature that's sure to be snapped up by other manufacturers in the near future.



The challenger

SAMSUNG GALAXY S5

Android

from £579 (from £69 with contract)
samsung.com/uk

The acclaimed Galaxy S4 has influenced every new phone launched over the past year, so it's a hard act to follow. The S5 upgrades the specs - processing and graphics are faster, the screen is bumped from 4.99 to 5.1 inches (resolution remains 1,920 x 1,080 pixels), and the camera has 16, rather than 13, megapixels. More interesting are the new features - a fingerprint scanner for quick, secure unlocking, a heart rate sensor to complement its fitness tools and an ultra-fast camera autofocus (0.3 seconds). Like the Xperia, it's waterproof and dustproof.



Strong battery

BLACKBERRY Z30

Blackberry 10

from £499 (from free with contract)
uk.blackberry.com

Blackberry still has a loyal fan base among business users for its email capabilities, and among young people for its BBM instant messaging. But now that other phones can juggle your Gmail beautifully, and WhatsApp offers cross-platform messaging, what's left for Blackberry? The Z30 has a five-inch (1,280 x 720 pixel) touchscreen instead of QWERTY keyboard but still handles email and documents well. It also has an eight-megapixel camera, but it's the battery life of up to 25 hours that will appeal to heavy users. At 170g, it's as heavy as some six-inch "phablets", though.



The photo artist

HTC ONE M8

Android

£529 (from free with contract)
htc.com/uk

The original HTC One recently won the Best Smartphone gong at the Global Mobile Awards, and the M8 looks even more impressive, with a five-inch screen (1,920 x 1,080 pixels), and a motion sensor for intelligent features such as automatically answering calls if you lift it to your ear. But the big story is the 4.1 "Ultra Pixel" camera - its larger pixels and f/2.0 aperture offer great low-light performance, while its dual sensor records depth information, so you can adjust the focus and depth of field at a later date. Snaps will never be blurry again. The front camera has a wide-angle lens for better "selfies".



Secure

LG G PRO2

Android

price TBC
lg.com/uk

This falls squarely in the "phablet" category - halfway between a smartphone and a tablet. It's a fully-featured smartphone but its dimensions (138.5cm x 70.9cm x 9.1cm) make it too big for many pockets. And it looks a bit "Dom Joly" if you lift it to your ear. But its 5.9-inch (1,920 x 1,080 pixels) screen is a good size if data, rather than voice calls, is your priority. This new model (launching later in the year, date yet to be announced as we went to press) has improved sound and a new security feature called Knock Code, whereby you unlock the phone with a secret pattern of taps or "knocks" on the screen, like the Secret Seven's tree house.



The super-sensor

NOKIA LUMIA 1020

Windows Phone 8

from £520 (from free with contract)
nokia.com

Another camera-focused smartphone, this has a 41-megapixel sensor for super-sharp snaps containing more detail than the eye can see. You can zoom in on the 4.5-inch (1,280 x 768 pixels) screen and still get photos good enough to print, while optical image stabilisation and an optional tripod mount stop it getting shaky. Zeiss optics with six physical lenses, xenon flash and mechanical shutter mean results are good in low light too. And if you prefer Instagram to photo albums, the Lumia simultaneously takes a smaller five-megapixel picture that is ideal for sharing with friends on social networks.



Mysterious

IPHONE 6

iOS

price TBC
apple.com/uk

Apple used to maintain incredible secrecy ahead of its product launches. These days, not so much - leaks from factories, retailers and the like mean that rumours are increasingly accurate. Based on past release schedules, the iPhone 6 is expected to launch this summer, September at the latest. It's expected to come in a range of screen sizes, offer wireless charging and a better camera. Other rumours include curved glass and solar cells. Most exciting is the fact that Apple has been buying up huge stocks of sapphire crystal - the material used to protect watch faces. Could the iPhone 6 boast a screen that is virtually unbreakable?



NAJSZYBSZA DROGA DO PIAZZA DUOMO

VIA
MONTENAPOLEONE



**WARSZAWA
MEDIOLAN LINATE**

OD **410** PLN

W DWIE STRONY, CENA CAŁKOWITA

ODKRYJ NOWY, BEZPOŚREDNI LOT ALITALII Z WARSZAWY
DO MEDIOLANU LINATE, NAJLEPIEJ POŁOŻONEGO LOTNISKA
ZNAJDUJĄCEGO SIĘ TYLKO 7KM OD CENTRUM MIASTA.

Alitalia SKYTEAM
ALITALIA.COM

4 HOURS IN... MARSEILLE

Thanks to a 7 billion euro transformation, France's second-largest city is looking good. **Jenny Southan** soaks up the highlights



LE PANIER

Dating back to the 17th century, it's set back a short distance from the Vieux Port. Wander its quiet, narrow streets and floral squares, up shaded steps and past green-shuttered houses, and you will stumble across all manner of curiosities. Having gone through a process of gentrification over the past quarter of a century, the neighbourhood is now home to rustic cafés with pavement seating, artisan workshops and ateliers sell-

ing trendy antiques, handmade ceramics and Marseille's La Cagole beer. You may also spot some unusual street art – from papier-mâché sculptures on Rue de Petit Puits, to peeling walls plastered with the pages of 1940s magazines.

J4 ESPLANADE

Exit the Panier district by Marseille cathedral, stopping to pop in if you have time, otherwise continuing down Boulevard du Littoral to where it meets J4 Esplanade, a

huge seaside plaza.

Here you will immediately spot Villa Méditerranée, with its 36-metre cantilevered event space hovering over a pool, and the nearby Rudy Ricciotti-designed MuCEM (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations, open daily 11am-6pm).

Both were unveiled last summer as part of the city's Capital of Culture celebrations. The gleaming glass exterior of the latter is partially encased in twisted black latticework, while inside are changing ex-



ture and sweeping views of the harbour. On Sundays there is a brunch buffet (€25) laid out on the floor below – help yourself to a generous plate of creamy French cheese and crusty baguette before taking a seat in the open air. The Rowing Club also offers tapas, barbecues, Provençal wine and à la carte dishes.

Open daily (except Sun and Mon evenings) 12pm-3pm, 6pm-12am. 34 Boulevard Charles Livon; tel +33 491 900 778; rowing-clubrestaurant.com

NOTRE-DAME DE LA GARDE

If you are feeling energetic, hike 25 minutes up to the Notre-Dame de la Garde cathedral, which stands high on a rocky limestone summit, making it the city's most famous landmark.

After scaling the meandering flight of steps to the top, you will be rewarded with a magnificent panorama – an endless expanse of orange rooftops, the Bay of Marseille glittering blue and the Frioul archipelago of islands.

The Neo-Byzantine basilica has a 41-metre-tall square bell tower crowned with a gilded statue of the Madonna and child. Inside, you will be greeted by the warmth of a thousand flickering candles.

The heavenly vaulted structure, adorned with intricate mosaics and murals, is held up by hefty red and white striped marble columns. Model sailboats hang from the ceiling, a nod to Marseille's nautical heritage. Open daily from 7am to 7pm (winter) or 8pm (summer). Rue Fort du Sanctuaire; notredamedelagarde.com

CITE RADIEUSE

Hop in a taxi to 280 Boulevard Michelet, about ten minutes away, where you will find a striking Brutalist housing block designed by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier.

Dating back to the early 1950s, each of its 300 or so duplex apartments allow residents to step out on to their own private balcony.

Last summer, the roof of the building, which was once an outdoor gym, was restored at a cost of 7 million euros by local industrial designer Ito Morabito and turned into a public art space. As well as an indoor gallery, shop and artist studios, there is a paddling pool and a giant turquoise sculpture of Le Corbusier coming out of the ground.

Take the lift up to level nine, where you can enjoy 360-degree vistas.

Open daily 9am-6pm; entry is free. Tours take place at 2.30pm and 4.30pm for €10 and include a look at one of the apartments. Alternatively, there is a hotel with vintage rooms from €78 a night (gerardin-corbusier.com).



hibitions of contemporary art. Stop for a coffee at the rooftop restaurant, and then cross the aerial gangway that connects to the historic Fort Saint-Jean. mucem.org, villa-mediterranee.org

VIEUX PORT

Make your way out of the fort and on to the Quai du Port promenade that winds around the harbour.

The Vieux Port, as it is known, was recently transformed by Foster and Partners, and now has a broad granite walkway that runs alongside the bobbing boats.

At the far end is the Ombrière, a 1,000 sqm slice of polished steel held up by slim metal

pillars to create a reflective canopy that protects pedestrians from sun and rain. If you are here between 8am and 1pm, you can watch jaunty fishermen selling crates of shellfish, grouper and wriggling eels to local chefs, who turn them into bouillabaisse.

ROWING CLUB

Follow the curve of the waterside Quai de Rive Neuve up the hill, and turn right down a rough track beneath the hilltop Sofitel hotel to reach the Rowing Club. Ascend the concrete steps all the way to the top, where you will emerge on to an expansive rooftop terrace complete with Astroturf, colourful hand-painted decking, comic print furni-



ASK PETER

Letters

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

Booking in Eurostar

My boss asked me to book him a Brussels-to-London train ticket with Eurostar. On the way to Brussels he's going to travel with a contractor, while on the way back he wants to travel in second class. Can I book them seats together? Can I choose a seat that is facing the direction of the travel? On domestic trains it's never possible. My boss also wanted a seat where you could easily plug a laptop, as he wants to work during the journey. Will the internet be accessible?

Monika

Dear Monika,

Naturally you can book for your boss a seat next to his travel companion. When booking a ticket on Eurostar trains, the seats are assigned automatically by the system, but you can also pick a specific seat in the compartment. Contrary to national trains, Eurostar trains have unified the train sets. That's why you can choose the seat facing the direction you want.

In business class (I'm assuming you mean business premier or standard premier) there are double seats, where the passengers sit next to each other, or solo seats. I highly recommend choosing the solo seats facing each other, by a table. Naturally, one of the people will sit opposite to the direction of the travel, but these seats are the most comfortable if you want to work or talk on the ride. It's best to choose seats in the middle of the train car, away from the entrance and the toilets.

When it comes to plugging the laptop, things get a little bit more complicated. As for business premier or standard premier class, the sockets are available in every car. In standard class, the sockets are only in two cars: number 5 and 14. That's why you need to make sure your boss has a seat in one of these cars. In standard class there are no solo seats – only double seats on both sides of the aisle.

Unfortunately, there's no internet access on the trains right now. There were plans to launch the internet access last year, but they were postponed to 2014 (upgraded trains) and 2015 (new train-sets).

A cheaper ticket, but with no refund

I had to change a part of my route, specifically my London – Warsaw ticket reservation. The ticket was 365 GBP. I paid 60 GBP for the change. I checked on the internet – a ticket for a new route was 245 GBP. I asked for a refund of the price difference, but my agent said it wasn't possible. Does it comply with the rules? I often pay more for a ticket, if I change the route, so why doesn't it work the other way?

Jerzy

Dear Jerzy,

I have checked the ticket which you sent to me, and your travel agent is right. He followed the current rules imposed by the airline. In case of a date change and with restrictive tickets, you need to pay extra for the change. It's difficult to give the exact amount, as you never know what particular fares will be available on the route you've chosen. If you make the changes in advance, you will only have to pay a handling charge. If there are still some seats available in your original rate, you don't have to pay the price difference.

In your case the situation is indeed different, as the rates on the new flight are lower than the original. All you need to do is pay the handling charge, but the most logical question is 'am I entitled to a refund?'. Not really. Air carriers reserve the inability to reverse the use of rates lower than those currently used. Such situation is colloquially referred to as a "downgrade". You can't be given back a part of the price you paid because of a date change. This is to protect the interests of the carrier. Airlines can't risk the loss of revenues and a situation when a flight is no longer profitable due to changes initiated by the passenger. Now, your next question might be: "In that case, can I return the whole ticket, and buy a new one with a lower price?" Naturally, the answer is also 'no'. Your ticket is non-refundable, and besides, you've already used some of your flight coupons. You can only apply for a refund for unused airport charges, but this is not going to be a cheaper option.



SIEMENS

Ekscytujące piękno, futurystyczna technologia.

www.siemens-home.pl

Aktualnie projektanci wnętrz kuchennych coraz częściej proponują proste formy wkomponowane w otwartą, jasną przestrzeń. Najnowsze modele urządzeń Siemens świetnie spełniają te wymagania. Zarówno piekarniki, płyty grzewcze, jak i chłodziarki oraz okapy wyróżniają się ponadczasowym wzornictwem o niezwykle eleganckiej, oszczędnej linii. Ekskluzywna obudowa z materiałów

najwyższej jakości kryje innowacyjne rozwiązania i zaawansowaną automatykę, która zapewnia urządzeniom maksymalną samodzielność i efektywność. Kontrolowane przez elektroniczne systemy sensorowe, pracują oszczędnie i cicho, z gwarancją doskonałych efektów. Dla Twojego komfortu i dla dobra natury. Więcej informacji: www.siemens-home.pl

Nowe BMW M4
Coupé



Radość z jazdy



CZŁOWIEK. MASZYNA. NAJWYŻSZE OSIĄGI.

NOWE BMW M4 COUPÉ.

Nieprzeciętna moc, wyśmienite prowadzenie i niezapomniane wrażenia z jazdy – zarówno na torze wyścigowym, jak i na drodze. Nowe BMW M4 Coupé to atleta doskonały. Każdy jego detal wyraża potęgę sportowego charakteru, od inteligentnej, lekkiej konstrukcji, poprzez aktywny mechanizm różnicowy M, aż po opcjonalne, karbonowo-ceramiczne hamulce M. Nowe BMW M4 Coupé to 431 KM, które tylko czeka, by pokazać Ci pełnię swoich wyścigowych możliwości. Bądź pierwszy – nie tylko na mecie. Dowiedz się więcej u Dealera BMW Auto Fus.

Dealer BMW Auto Fus

ul. Ostrobramska 73
04-175 Warszawa
Tel.: +48 22 613 90 03
www.bmw-autofus.pl



Zeskanuj kod QR
i zobacz nowe BMW M4 Coupé w ruchu.