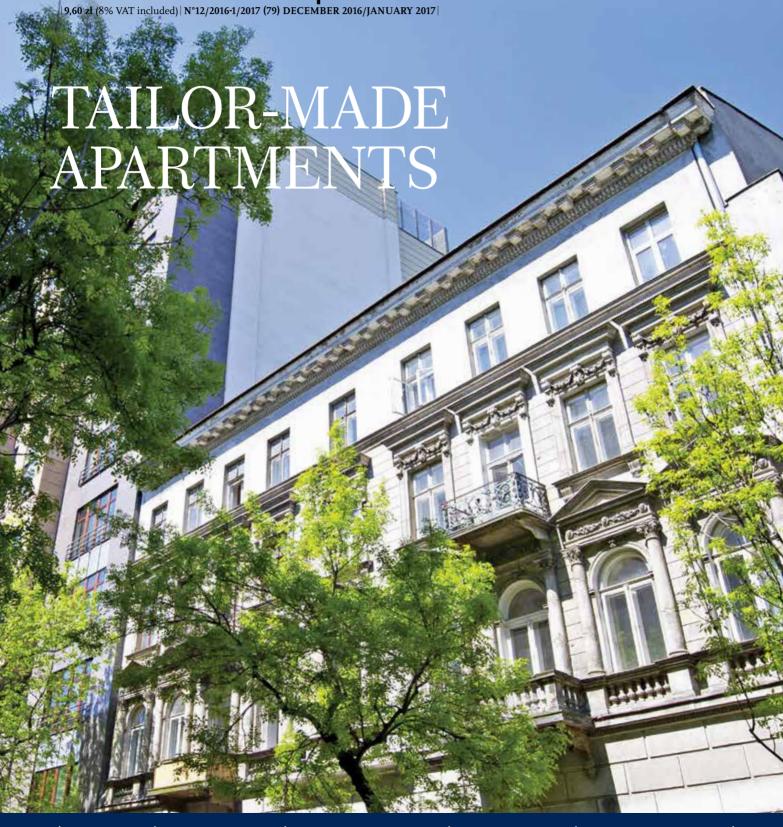
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Business Traveller Poland

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

Redaktor naczelna Marzena Mróz

m.mroz@businesstraveller.pl

Dyrektor artystyczna Barbara Scharf

b.scharf@businesstraveller.pl

Skład/łamanie 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

faks: +48 22 455 38 13

Wydawca Robert Grzybowski

robertg@businesstraveller.pl

Szef serwisu Filip Gawryś

www.businesstraveller.pl f.gawrys@businesstraveller.pl Reklama, sponsoring biuro@businesstraveller.pl

Dystrybucja, prenumerata Piotr Grzybowski

p.grzybowski@businesstraveller.pl

Druk LOTOS Poligrafia sp. z o.o. 04-987 Warszawa

ul. Wał Miedzeszyński 98

tel.: 22 872 22 66 www.lotos-poligrafia.pl

Business Traveller Julian Gregory

Managing Director Panacea Media

Lower Ground Floor 41-43 Maddox Street

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tel.: +44 20 7821 2700 www.panaceapublishing.com www.businesstraveller.com

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A JOURNEY FOR THE NEW YEAR

celand had been on my shortlist for a long time. I wanted to fly to Reykjavik to visit the northernmost capital of Europe, the mecca for hipsters and music lovers. It greeted me with the Northern Lights that I saw from the plane and I couldn't take my eyes off it all night. The capital of the island is white, blue and red. Life here is slow, stylish and free of glitz and aggressive self-promotion. Low wooden buildings perfectly blend with the dark blue background of the sea surface that appears at the end of the Reykjavik's narrow streets. Iceland charms with its nature and lifestyle, which is simple, yet refined, as is the island's unique music and cuisine based on seafood. When should you visit this remarkable place

that lies just about 4-hour flight from



Poland? In the winter there is a good chance of seeing the Northern Lights. In the summer, on the other hand, when days are longer and the temperature reaches 18 degrees Celsius, you can go into volcano craters or bathe in the hot springs as well as in the wonderfully cool waterfalls.

To see the Northern Lights, the new Harp building in Reykjavik, glittering like a crystal in the land of ice, go on the Golden Circle tour, watching waterfalls and geysers, bathe in the Blue Lagoon - a natural 8,700 sqm geothermal spa situated among the lava fields, and set out on a cruise in search of whales. Have you already planned all of this for the next year?

On behalf of the entire editorial staff and the publisher, I would like to wish you a wonderful, successful and passionate New Year 2017.



ZAPROJEKTOWANA SPECJALNIE DLA CIEBIE Nowa Business Class





Wypróbuj perfekcyjnie zaprojektowaną przestrzeń do pracy, rozrywki i odpoczynku w Nowej Business Class Singapore Airlines. Panel, który mieści wszystko czego potrzebujesz, aby popracować, łącznie z gniazdkiem zasilającym, abyś mógł być w kontakcie oraz z licznymi schowkami, abyś wszystko miał w zasięgu ręki. Fotel o szerokości 71 cm można ustawić w kilku nowych pozycjach, tak żeby było Ci najwygodniej i który zamienia się w zupełnie płaskie łóżko, abyś mógł wygodnie wypocząć podczas snu. Każdy szczegół jest doskonale przemyślany i zaprojektowany z myślą o Tobie.











Airline

Austrian Airlines

FROM VIENNA DIRECTLY TO LA

Austrian Airlines will add a new long-haul destination in North America to its flight schedule in the summer of 2017. Starting on April 10, 2017, a Boeing 777 will take off for Vienna bound for Los Angeles, the largest city in California, up to six times each week.

"After Chicago, Newark and Miami, L.A. is now the fourth new flight destination and the so far biggest leap into the USA", says Austrian Airlines Chief Commercial Officer Andreas Otto.

In an initial step, the Vienna-Los Angeles route will be served seasonally in the summer 2017 flight schedule. The metropolis of Los Angeles with its millions of inhabitants is not only interesting for point-to-point journeys, but especially for transfer traffic. About two-thirds of the passengers will change flights at the Vienna flight hub, especially in the direction of Western and Eastern Europe. In its summer 2017 flight schedule, Austrian Airlines will offer a total of up to 44 weekly non-stop flights to North America. This will encompass up to five times per week to Miami, a maximum of six weekly flights each to Los Angeles and Toronto, and up to one flight each day to Washington and Chicago. Austrian Airlines will continue to offer thirteen weekly flights to New York. Thanks to the new flight times, customers will have the advantage of being able to choose between a morning flight to Newark and an afternoon flight to New York JFK, and thus the opportunity to travel to New York at different times of day.

The flight from Vienna to Los Angeles will take about 12 hours 30 minutes. Prices of tickets start at PLN 3,150 including taxes. You can book them online at www.austrian.com, by telephone at 22 520 34 20 or from a travel agency.

Perfume

Michael Kors

NEW FRAGRANCE

The new scent introduces a fresh perspective to the Michael Kors world of beauty, one as inspired by the journey as it is by the destination. "Wonderlust is an infinite desire for adventure, romance, and discovery," says Michael Kors. "It's for the woman with the curiosity and passion to trust in herself and follow her heart."

A blend of luxurious blossoms mingle with delectably spiced notes in this Oriental Floral Gourmand. The fragrance begins with the freshness of Italian Bergamot and a tantalizing pop of Pink Pepper, soothed by the refined gourmand of Almond



Milk. Bright florals bloom from a captivating signature that is deepened with the provocative spice of Dianthus and the sheer, vanilla-like touch of Heliotrope. An exotic and creamy finish of Benzoin Siam, Sandalwood Sri Lanka and Cashmeran Wood completes the intoxicating embrace.

In a campaign by famed photographer and director Mario Testino, Lily Aldridge pursues adventure, romance and discovery with the handsome Dutch model, Wouter Peelen; price from PLN 219.





Zakopane

ARIES Hotel & SPA

ON HOLIDAYS BY PLANE

Aries Hotel & Spa is situated in the very centre of Zakopane, close to the famous Krupówki Street. The property is a unique blend of various styles, including the Alpine, the avant-garde of the 1920s and the artistic one of the 1950s. The effect is spectacular: Aries boasts incomparable local architecture, reverberating history and interesting contemporary elements.

Most of the rooms overlook the Tatra Mountains that are snowcapped in winter. It's a perfect spot for a romantic weekend getaway, holidays, school breaks, as well as conferences and corporate bonding events. The hotel now has an interesting offer for those who choose to travel to Zakopane by plane. You can book a stay at ARIES Hotel & SPA along with a transfer from Kraków-Balice airport and back. The driver waits for the guests in the arrivals hall, holding a board with their names and then takes them directly to the hotel. In this way you can save time and money by booking a package stay, at the lowest possible price along with the direct transfer to and from the airport in Kraków for a minimum of five people. Hotelaries.pl

Nowe Audi A5 Sportback Stworzone z marzeń



z ratą od 1 599 zł netto/m-c

Ideał dynamicznej sylwetki, sportowy charakter i innowacyjne rozwiązania techniczne. Nowe Audi A5 Sportback zachwyca perfekcją i stylem. Niezależnie od wybranej jednostki napędowej, model imponuje osiągami i dynamiką. Wyjątkowy komfort podróżowania zapewnia nie tylko doskonałe zawieszenie i opcjonalny napęd quattro, ale także bogate wyposażenie. Do tego reflektory Matrix LED oraz szereg zaawansowanych systemów wspierających kierowcę.

Oferta dla biznesu. Prezentowana miesięczna rata to wartość netto raty dla oferty leasingowej Audi Perfect Lease dla Audi A5 Sportback 1.4 TFSI 150 KM, S tronic, w cenie 159 900 zł brutto (silnik dostępny od stycznia 2017 roku). W zależności od wariantu i wersji zużycie paliwa w cyklu łączonym od 4,1 do 5,8 l/100 km, emisja $\rm CO_2$ od 107 do 132 g/km (dane na podstawie świadectw homologacji typu). Informacje dotyczące odzysku i recyklingu pojazdów wycofanych z eksploatacji na stronie www.audi.pl



Tourism

Switzerland

HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON

There is no better place to feel the magic of Christmas than in Switzerland - a country that is famous for its traditional Christmas customs. At that time Swiss towns and cities are then decorated with thousands of lights, baubles and lanterns. Each region prepares its own set of attractions, including the traditional Christmas fairs. The photo depicts Stein am Rhein - a picturesque town on Lake Constance. The town is known for its well-preserved Old Town with colourful facades, wooden houses and the magical Christmas atmosphere that dominates here in winter. You can also feel here a truly medieval atmosphere, because of the old but well-preserved castle that towers over the town.

mojaszwajcaria.pl/zima

Suitcase

Samsonite

LITE-SHOCK SERIES

It is the lightest Samsonite collection, made of the Curv® fabric. With its unique structure it is both light and remarkably resistant to impact. The unique shape and the ultra-thin lid of the suitcase set new standards in the market. Curv® is a fabric made from woven polypropylene strands

and then formed using a press and high temperature to a desired shape. Lids obtained in this process are very light, strong and

shock-resistant even with low temperatures. The suitcase is made in Hungary.

Features: lightweight design (only 2.5 kg for Spinner 75 cm), clever design of the interior (the spacer, pockets, mounting straps), an integrated three-digit TSA combination lock (useful when travelling to the USA), 10-year warranty. Available in black, tan, white, petrol blue, and copper and gold. samsonite.pl





Airline

Finnair

TO ASTANA VIA HELSINKI

Finnair will add a new short-haul route to Astana, Kazakhstan for the summer 2017 season. Finnair will operate two weekly flights between Helsinki and Astana, from June 19 to August 11. The new route will coincide with the 2017 World Expo which starts in June 2017.

The flights to Astana will be flown with an A319 aircraft and have a duration of four hours and ten minutes. "The addition of the Astana route will be a great asset in our expanding network for the summer 2017 season," says Juha Järvinen, Chief Commercial Officer at Finnair. "This will be the first time Finnair flies to Kazakhstan and we are excited to take this first step in growing our operations in the Central Asian region." The airline also offer two flights from Warsaw to Helsinki, a daily flight from Gdańsk and up to five connections from Kraków. finnair.com

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Tea

Pukka

ECOLOGY AND QUALITY

"Pukka" in Hindi means "excellent" or "of high quality". The name reflects the entire philosophy of the company and the products it manufactures. Plants used for production are always of the highest quality, grown without the use of pesticides. They are also free of any synthetic preservatives. Pukka uses only certified organic ingredients, completely vegetarian, derived from sustainable sources. The company's priorities include close cooperation with farmers on projects aimed at protecting endangered species of plants, as well as maintaining good relationships and fair prices of for agricultural cooperatives.

All Pukka products are certified by Soil Association and are manufactured in the UK. The teas were developed by Sebastian Pole - a herbal specialist. All the products are delicious, healthy and taste good at any time of the year. We, however, recommend them especially for cold winter mornings and evenings.

• Lemongrass & Ginger Bio

They say you can't fly without wings. Well, yes you can. The intense aroma of best lemongrass shoots combined with the spicy and invigorating ginger, are the perfect antidote for a bad mood.

• Revitalise Bio

Tea, which awakens and stimulates. The aroma hidden in one small sachet is truly remarkable. A crisp blend of cinnamons, ginger and cloves, combined with an aromatic dose of cardamom and orange with a hint of mint and green tea.

• Chamomile, Vanilla & Manuka Honey Bio

Based on soothing organic chamomile, sweetened with vanilla and manuka honey. A blend that helps you regain peace and harmony. biowitalni.pl







Hotel check

Bellotto

NEW PLACE IN A HISTORICAL SETTING

The five-star Bellotto hotel is housed in the 16th century palace located in Warsaw's Old Town. The palace was founded by the Bishop of Płock and until 1975 served as the seat of primates. Today, the historic walls of the palace are open to guests of Bellotto hotel, and are used as a venue for various conferences and exhibitions.

The hotel has 20 luxury rooms and suites. Each of them has been decorated with attention to detail to fully reflect the atmosphere of this historic place.

The property also utilizes seven renovated palace rooms, as well as spacious brick cellars where various conferences and business meetings are held.

It's also worth visiting the hotel's Focaccia Ristorante, which offers excellent Italian cuisine with a modern twist. Chefs at Focaccia have prepared a menu based entirely on genuine Italian ingredients, as well as handmade pasta. Also every day the restaurant offers a unique tasting menu prepared by the head chef. You should also try the Aperitivo Bar with Italian snacks.

And if you love sweets, you need to visit Miodowa Cafe located in the left win of the Bellotto. The pastry chef will certainly surprise those with a sweet tooth with its new confectionery concept. The chef draws inspiration from American confectionery. You can try here the famous marshmallows or delicious cronuts (a combination of a croissant and a donut). An absolute novelty is the dessert bar, with signature desserts served in tasting portions. All the pies, cakes and pastries are produced from natural products. hotelbellotto.pl







Take care of your health in one day

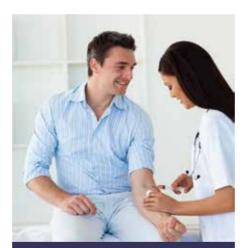
Do you know your glucose level? How about your cholesterol? Have you noticed that climbing stairs is becoming more and more exhausting? You're just tired, right? When was the last time you did any preventive tests?

'I've got no time this week', 'But I feel just fine'. There's no end to the excuses. But why? We often postpone check-ups because of the fast pace of our lives, but it's essential that we take care of our health so that it lasts for as long as possible. Whether you're a mother who shares time between home and work, a busy entrepreneur, or someone who's just starting a new life abroad, remember about yourself and your health.

We believe that if nothing hurts, we're fine. That's a mistake, as many diseases in their early stages don't have any noticeable symptoms. That's why regular testing is essential, because the earlier a disease is diagnosed, the sooner you'll be able to start treatment.

For the same reasons, you shouldn't postpone seeing a doctor if something is already wrong, hoping 'it'll pass'. On top of that, every undiagnosed ailment that that keeps coming back (e.g. headaches, chest pain, loss of strength, nosebleeds) should be considered alarming.

Which tests should you get done? It's a good idea to test your blood every year. The results will give you valuable information about, for example, your glucose level, cholesterol, renal function, liver, and thyroid, as well as hormone levels. It's also a good idea to have an ECG, urine test, and to get your eyes tested. Cancer prevention is also important. This is all well and good, but how



Which tests should you get done? It's a good idea to test your blood every year.

can you remember about all these tests and find the time to perform them? The American Clinic Warsaw has the answer with its Total Health Screening, where the Personal Care Manager will schedule and coordinate a

American Clinic Warsaw Medicover Hospital al. Rzeczpospolitej 5, Warsaw phone +48 500 900 904 www.americanclinic.pl Total Health Screening. It's a comprehensive screening for both women and men that allows diseases to be diagnosed in their early stages. Using advanced technologies we monitor the heart, the coronary arteries, and the respiratory tract, among other things. This allows us to evaluate the risk of stroke, heart attack, atherosclerosis, diabetes, and any neoplastic changes, as well as other conditions. All the tests are performed at one location, in comfortable conditions, and to the highest international standards.

These comprehensive solutions are not only appreciated by 'locals', but also by foreigners who have come to Poland to stay for an extended period or permanently. The stress caused by cultural differences, the language barrier, and the formalities make them leave the issue of health until later. At the American Clinic Warsaw we address these issues. Our medical personnel are fluent in several languages, especially English. It's also the clinic administration that takes care of making and coordinating appointments as well as compiling and translating the necessary medical records. Upon the patient's request we can also consult the diagnosis with another facility abroad.

If your lifestyle is busy, you can easily forget about your health. Is it worth it? A lack of time is no longer an excuse when you have a diagnostic solution like the Total Health Screening at your disposal.





TAILOR-MADE APARTMENTS

A new investment with 16 remarkable apartments is now being developed in the very heart of Warsaw.

Housed in a renovated townhouse, this stylish place will feature original 120-years-old interiors, as well as new lifts, a garage and a gym.

oża 42 is the address situated in the very centre of the capital, near the Three Crosses Square, the Palace of Culture, as well as the Royal Łazienki Park, the State Opera and the Philharmonic Hall. At the end of 2017 the stylish townhouse located at this address will receive 16 unique apartments restored with utmost care, as well as new facilities, such as lifts, terraces, the underground garage and a gym.

BEST ADDRESS IN WARSAW

The building in Hoża street is likely to become one of the best addresses in Warsaw. The property will soon receive a new floor and attic, while the entire eastern façade, which has been designed from scratch, will feature bay windows. Also the restored 1894 gate leading to the reception area will become a stylish entrance, adorned with original sculptures. The floor will be finished with fine stoneware, while walls and ceilings will feature stucco works. The reception area will lead to the stairway with a lift, or to the courtyard, which will be a unique space with trees, shrubs and seasonal flowers. On the ground floor, overlooking the garden, there will be a swimming pool, a gym and the club room. The design of both staircases will be based on the original details, such as balustrades, stairs, entrance doors to apartments, restored stained-glass windows, floors and platforms.

Below the courtyard and in the deepened basement the architects have designed a spacious garage with 24 parking spaces, connected directly with the lifts (the entrance to the garage will be from the ramp in Hoża street). Interestingly, all the communal areas will be powered by electricity from photovoltaic panels.

TALL, SPACIOUS STYLISH

The original division with four apartments on each floor will remain unchanged, but each apartment will be custom-designed to satisfy the individual tastes of the buyers. Architect Michał Borowski points out that the spaces are tailor-made and everyone will be able to arrange their home individually. The apartments will also feature restored tiled stoves, stuccowork, floors and interior doors, lending the place a style of the prewar, chic Warsaw.

Floors 1-3 will feature 12 apartments with the floor area ranging from 65 to 200 square metres. The height of the walls will be 3.2 to 3.65 metres. The fourth and the fifth floor will house four new penthouses (80-350 sqm) with wall height ranging from 3.3 to 7.8 metres. The two largest penthouses will have their own 50 and 100 sqm terraces. The apartments can be equipped with a fireplace or a tile stove and the residents will have a choice of three various interior arrangements. All the systems and fittings have been adapted to modern standards. Electricity, heating, hot and cold water will be provided by the city. The apartments will also be fitted with a custom air-conditioning installation.

PLACE WITH SOUL AND HISTORY

Hoża 42 is the heart of the old Warsaw's city centre. The first estates were built here in 1766 and the name of the street refers to the fine and picturesque gardens that were grown in the area. The elegant townhouse at Hoża 42 was built in 1894-1895 by a gynaecologist Apolinary Thieme. At the beginning of the 20th century the building was the residence of Stefan Jabłkowski who founded the popular Jabłkowski Brothers Department Store in Bracka street. The majority of similar residential buildings were burnt after the Warsaw Uprising and demolished after the war. This one, however, managed to survive, and now will serve as a bridge between the history of the place and its modern capabilities. Construction work in the building at Hoża 42 began on 20 April 2016. The pace is fast, as the completion of the investment and the delivery of the ready apartments is scheduled for the end of 2017.

SHARED LUXURY

We want Hoża 42 to exist thorugh its residents. We want them to know and trust each other, as well as appreciate the value of their common asset. Magdalena Cybulska talks to Michał Borowski about the new investment.



The residents will have a choice of three interior arrangements for each apartment. All the systems and fittings have been adapted to modern standards.

Is Hoża 42 an apartment building, a townhouse or a residential

It's more of a luxury townhouse. We don't think of Hoża 42 as an apartment building, because it doesn't have good connotations, especially in Warsaw. This is because apartment buildings are often transformed into soulless aparthotels. We don't want that. Hoża 42 was built in 1893. It has survived until today, untouched by the war and tough times of communism. It's a true rarity! After the war the apartments at Hoża 42 were divided and converted into rental flats. We purchased the building from the first owners and reconstructed the original number of apartments, that is four on each floor two from the street and two from the yard. We will also recreate some of the original rooms - lounges and dining rooms. In total, there will be 16 apartments, ranging from 60 to 350 sqm. We will also restore the original staircases. We want this townhouse to have a soul.

Living in an old building isn't always the most comfortable. Our residents, however, will live in a building with a rich history, but also with all possible amenities and modern solutions. There will be lifts and an underground car park with more than 20 parking spaces. The two-level penthouses will be up to 8 metres tall, and will have spacious terraces, as well as private gardens with guest houses. On the ground floor there will be two commercial spaces, as well as a gym and a pool overlooking the backyard. Some of the apartments have already been sold.

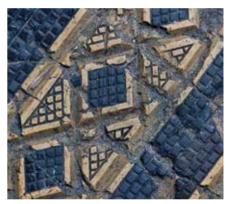
What are their owners most concerned about?

They wouldn't like Hoża 42 to become an aparthotel. We perfectly understand this concern. Aparthotels have a bad reputation for being noisy and full of strangers, because you never know to whom such apartments may be sub-let. Our residents also don't want Hoża 42 to become a ghost-house where all the apartments seem to be sold, but they aren't finished and uninhabited. It's unpleasant to live in such a house without any neighbours. The owners also expect that the building is well finished and effectively managed. They want to know what businesses will occupy the commercial spaces on the ground floor. They would rather see there a nice cafeteria than a 24/7 off-license shop. We listen to their opinions and we will be rent those spaces, thinking about their expectations.



We will recreate some of the original rooms - lounges and dining rooms. In total, there will be 16 apartments, ranging from 60 to 350 sam.







What does the "effective management" mean? Will the residents have access to concierge service?

It depends what you mean by this term. The French word "concierge" means simply "a caretaker". In Poland this job is more of a combination of a receptionist and a porter. Developers often promise to customers that their apartment building will have a concierge, but in reality it's a marketing trick. Firstly, the residents often don't realize that they need to pay for the service and the fee is included in their monthly fee for the housing community. Secondly, the "concierge" often means a security guard who sits at the front desk. We want to have a real porter, who lets guests in and out, takes care of security of the place, collects mail and parcels, and, if necessary, will call a taxi. We will also have a caretaker who will oversee the day-to-day runnning of the building.

Is it possible to prevent Hoża 42 from eventually becoming an aparthotel? To

what extent can the community interfere with the privacy of the residents?

In Poland this sort of interference is barely possible, but our experience shows that in recent times apartment owners are increasingly concerned about what we like to call "the common good". In New York City, mayor Bill de Blasio has recently launched a fierce war against short-term rental, which is a real plague there. The owners can pay heavy penalties for doing so. For other residents of such buildings, shortterm rental is a real hell, because those apartment are often sub-let to complete strangers and you never know what is going on in such a place. However, buying an apartment in Manhattan is no easy feat. In the most expensive neighbourhoods you first need to be accepted by the community. We all have heard stories when residents of such buildings objected to selling an apartment to Madonna or Justin Bieber, because they didn't want paparazzi and fans under their windows. They valued peace and quiet more than having a celebrity as their neighbour. In Sweden the law is even more restrictive. You can't have a share in a property. You can be a member of the community, trade the right to reside in a building, but you can't be the owner of an apartment. This is because apartments are owned by the community, which usually is against any subletting.

In Poland you can't forbid the owner of an apartment not to sublet it to someone else.

Theoretically, you can't do it. But we do what we can. If we know that the potential buyer of the apartment intends to sublet it, we won't sell it to them. We have lost several customers in this way. But for us it's important to have real and permanent residents. We are doing our best to achieve it. This is because living in a building where all the residents know and trust each other, is much more pleasant.





The design of both staircases will be based on the original architectural details. The apartments will also feature restored tiled stoves, stuccowork, floors and interior doors.



Ja już wybrałam - Święta i Sylwestra spędzimy nad morzem w Hotelu AQUARIUS SPA *****.



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he journey from Warsaw to Singapore with Finnair is a very pleasant experience, as the HEL-SIN route is served by the modern and comfortable A350-900 aircraft.

The flight times are convenient, too. The plane from Warsaw to Helsinki takes off at 7.05 pm and the whole flight, served by Embraer 190, takes less than 90 minutes. To get the most of the short stop at Vantaa airport (considered one of the friendliest in Europe), you should try the delicious lobster soup served there.

HELSINKI - SINGAPORE

The aircraft took off on time at 11.55 pm. My seat (12L) was a single one, situated at the window in business class cabin, which is configured 1x2x1. I had chosen that particular seat, hoping for more privacy, as it was turned slightly towards the window. I immediately noticed a few storage compartments, which proved very useful on that long flight (10 hours and 40 minutes). On boarding the aircraft all business class passengers received an amenity kit with Clarins-branded products. After we reached cruising al-

titude, the onboard service began. Finnair's signature menu on board the A350 is a return to the tradition of serving refined, gourmet meals during the flight. The dishes, created by Kari Aihinen, the manager and chef of Helsinki's Savoy restaurant, included such delicacies as whitefish roe mousse, hotsmoked Alpine salmon or reindeer entrocote. All of this served in a setting I'm so fond of - with tableware and textiles designed by the legendary Finnish design company Marimekko.

The dishes were paired with carefully selected spirits: Nicolas Feuillatte Brut Grande Reserve champagne, German Hattenheim Wisselbrunnen Riesling Kabinett 2014, South African Fairview Darling Sauvignon Blanc 2015, Italian La Roncaia Merlot 2012, as well as Meinklang Traminer Icewain 2012 and excellent Port wine.

Praised for the highest quality design and comfort, Finnair's A350 cabin is the creation of Helsinki-based dSign Vertti Kivi & Co. Its bright and spacious interior features white. blue and silver-grey décor inherently associated with Scandinavian style. The dynamic ambient mood LED lighting gradually changes to suit the time of day, destination or season. The system can create more than 16 million different colour combinations including the simulation of 24 celestial phenomena, such as the Northern Lights, while the panoramic windows let more natural light into the cabin.

With more cabin space and wider seats, the wide-body A350 offers passengers an unparalleled level of comfort. The total number of seats on board Finnair's A350 XWB is 297, out of which 46 are in Business Class, 43 in Economy Comfort and 208 in Economy class. Business class seats recline to fully flat bed and are very cosy. Passengers of this class, as well as

Finnair Plus Gold and Platinum members, and Sapphire and Emerald members of Oneworld loyalty scheme, can use the onboard Internet free of charge. In Economy class the access costs €5 per hour and €15 for the whole flight.

The Nordic Sky in-flight entertainment system, which is user-friendly and intuitive, and features a wide range of Hollywood blockbusters, old classics, music and BBC thematic channels. It also allows you to check your current location and see the real-time view from the aircraft's flight cameras, which is a truly fascinating option.

The plane landed gracefully at Changi Airport at 4.00 pm.

SINGAPORE - HELSINKI

On my return flight to Helsinki I travelled in the Economy class cabin. I had been allocated seat 55L, situated in the penultimate row of the plane, by the window. The aircraft left Changi at 11.55 pm. At dinner time we could choose between a fish and chicken dish and the selection of beverages included juices, wine, tea and coffee. Passengers in the Economy class cabin receive a blanket, a pillow and a bottle of mineral water.

The cabin features reclining slim-line seats with a pitch of 31 inches (around 80 cm). If you need more legroom, you should

go for Economy Comfort class located at the front of the cabin. All the seats are configured 3x3x3

The flight in Economy class allowed me to learn the benefits of the advanced pure air filtration system that changes cabin air every 2–3 minutes. What is more, the aircraft also boasts draft-free air management, adjustable temperature zones and lower cabin pressure, which altogether make passengers' flight truly enjoyable. We landed at Helsinki airport at 5.55 am. Then I had to wait just 2.5 hours for my connecting flight to Warsaw.

VERDICT

Undoubtedly, compared with the previous generations, the new A350 is a much quieter aircraft. New Rolls Royce engines designed specifically for Airbus, help reduce noise in the cabin and outside, and I must admit that I left the plane well-rested and without any symptoms of jet lag.

The on-board service is one of the best I have experienced. Interestingly, women travelling in business class cabin can use separate toilets reserved for ladies only and equipped with toiletries and essential hygiene products.

Five stars from me.

Marzena Mróz.

The on-board service is one of the best I have experienced. Interestingly, women travelling in business class cabin can use separate toilets reserved for ladies only and equipped with toiletries and essential hygiene products.







SINGAPORE Hotel

RAFFLES SINGAPORE



CONTACT

Raffles Singapore 1 Beach Road, Singapur 189673 Tel: +65 6337 1886 www.raffles.com

PRICE

From S\$1,450

affles Singapore hotel, which was launched in 1887, is a true icon of the hospitality industry and a place where every seasoned traveller would like to spend at least one night. Not surprisingly, with its classic architecture, tropical garden setting, as well as prestige and rich history, in 1987 the property was declared a National Monument. The hotel offers its guests 103 luxury suites, as well as the service that is second to none in all of Asia.

WHERE IS IT?

Raffles Singapore is situated in the very heart of Singapore's business and civic district, barely 20 minutes from Changi International Airport and just a two-minute ride on the MRT train from the bustling Orchard Road. It's also within walking distance of Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre.

ROOMS

The property offers 18 Raffles Inc. State-room Suites, 66 Courtyard and Palm Court Suites, 12 Personality Suites, 5 Grand Hotel Suites and 2 Presidential Suites. All of them feature marble-tiled bathrooms with designer toiletries, a TV and a DVD player, a minibar, air-conditioning, an electronic safe deposit box, free wifi and common or private verandas. The 67 sqm Raffles Inc. Stateroom Suites, which are located

in the historic Bras Basah Wing, comprise a bedroom and a convenient study area.

As the name suggests, Courtyard Suites (59 sqm) overlook the courtyard with a charming wall, covered with lush ferns. They seem to be a perfect option for guests who seek peace and quiet, as well as shelter from the tropical heat.

The wing that houses the Palm Court Suites (60-79 sqm) overlooks a verdant garden, lined with soaring palm trees and accessible exclusively to hotel guests.

The 12 Personality Suites (60-79 sqm) are named after famous guests who have stayed in the hotel over the years. Those include Ava Gardner, Charlie Chaplin, John Wayne and Joseph Conrad - to name just a few. Each of the Grand Hotel suites (133-156 sqm) is an example of elegance, charm and



grace. According to the hotel, their décor is heavily inspired by "the romance of travel in a bygone age" and I'm inclined to agree.

The most distinctive and stately suites are the Presidential ones, reserved for the most distinguished guests, such as the head od states. They are located in the main building and overlook the driveway. Each Presidential suite features a spacious lounge with antiques and artworks, as well as a dining room and two bedrooms.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Most of the culinary venues at Raffles Singapore recall the atmosphere of the era of elegance and are a true paradise for gourmets. They are also known for combining the best of the local culture and cuisine, serving dishes from various corners of the world.

The elegant Tiffin restaurant offers its guests a sumptuous buffet of authentic North Indian specialities during lunch and dinner. In the afternoon many guests also come here for a cup of excellent tea.

Raffles Grill, which is managed by Mickael Le Calvez, specializes in exquisite French cuisine. The windows of this fine venue overlook the court with palms, and its sophisticated menu (in October it featured white truffles from Piedmont) is ideally paired with a comprehensive wine list.



Writers Bar, which is located in the hotel lobby, pays tribute to the novelists and travel writers who have become part of the hotel's legend, including Somerset Maugham, Rudyard Kipling and James Michener.

A few steps away is the Bar and Billiard Room that offers a generous whisky and cocktail bar, as well as lavish champagne brunch on Sundays, attended by the glitterati of Singapore. The bar's highlight are two antique billiard tables that date back to the turn of the century.

The second floor of the hotel features the renowned Long Bar, where the famous Singapore Sling cocktail was created. Regardless of the time of day, the venue is always full with people.

Is a true icon of the hospitality industry and a place where every seasoned traveller would like to spend at least one night. Not surprisingly, with its classic architecture, tropical garden setting, as well as prestige and rich history, in 1987 the property was declared a National Monument



Hotel **SINGAPORE**



Writers Bar, which is located in the hotel lobby, pays tribute to the novelists and travel writers.







Interestingly, it's also Singapore's only place where guests are encouraged to litter by tossing peanut shells on the floor.

Down the corridor is Long Bar Steakhouse, a place to go for grilled prime cuts of beef, as well as quality seafood and delicious cold and hot appetizers.

At Raffles Courtyard, you can savour authentic Italian specialities: pizzas, a regional selection of pastas, as well as fresh salads. All of this served in a spacious alfresco setting with tropical palms.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The hotel is a perfect venue for organizing various meetings, conferences and other formal and less formal events. The Jubilee Lounge can accommodate up to 30 participants, Jubilee Hall can host up to 390 guests, while the Lawn accommodates even 300 people. There is also the beautiful ballroom for 350 guests.

SPA AND RELAXATION

Raffles Spa features exclusive rejuvenating treatments, inspired by Asian, Middle Eastern and European traditions. The facility has 7 treatment rooms, including a VIP suite where you can enjoy a soothing treatment together with your partner.

There is also a sauna and a steam room, as well as a wellequipped fitness centre and an outdoor swimming pool.

VERDICT

One of the world's most prestigious hotels in the world, which fully deserves the title. Interestingly, in the lobby there is the antique grandfather clock - which has been part of the hotel since it was founded in 1887. Every evening, when the clock strikes eight, the lobby's pianist plays the old Noel Coward tune "I'll See You Again". I'm sure that is exactly what all guests say upon leaving Raffles Spa. I definitely recommend it!

Marzena Mróz





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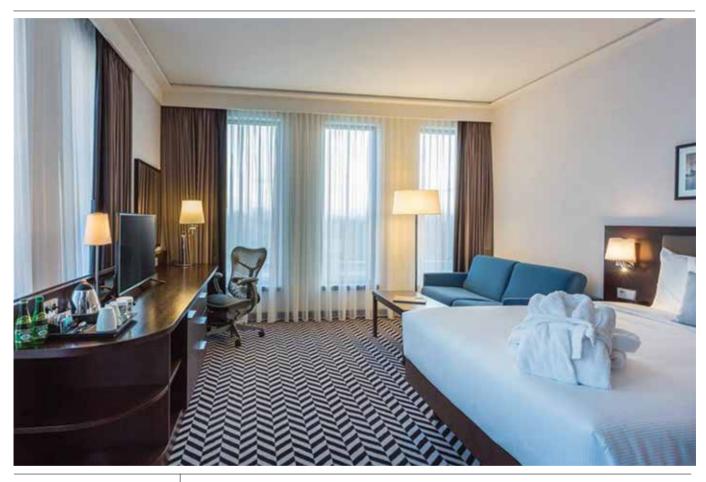
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Hotel KRAKOW

HILTON GARDEN INN KRAKOW AIRPORT



CONTACT

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PRICE From €50

WHERE IS IT?

The property boasts unique location, just 40 metres from the Kraków-Balice International Airport and it's the first airport hotel in Małopolska region. Its construction was one of the key parts of a big investment plan carried out by the Kraków airport. It takes merely a 15-minute journey in a modern, fast train to get from there to the historical Old City in Kraków. Its location near the ring road and easy access to A4 motorway means that its guests don't need to worry about having to get through the jammed city centre. Note, that the hotel guests have access to a giant, multi-storey roofed car park with 1,000 spaces.

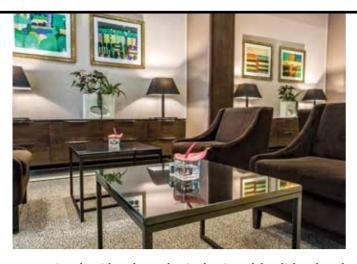
INTERIORS

The hotel offers 155 modern rooms furnished according to the standards of this global brand. Each is perfectly soundproof to provide the visitors with full comfort. All the rooms come with comfortable Suite Dreams bed by Serta® and a desk with an ergonomic chair. Hilton Garden Inn Krakow Airport also offers 10 functional conference rooms, ideal for organizing various trainings and conferences. Free

wireless Internet is available throughout the whole area of the hotel. There is also a fully-equipped, 24/7 business centre, a 24/7 Pavilion Pantry shop, a cutting-edge fitness room and a self-service laundry room.

BUSINESS FACILITIES

With its central location, the property is a perfect venue for international conferences, training and other corporate events. Its conference centre, consisting of 10 conference rooms with a possibility of any configuration and capacity for 370 participants, is one of the biggest in the Kraków area. All the rooms



are equipped with advanced high-tech AV equipment. For smaller business meetings the quieter boarding room will be just perfect. The 288 sqm lobby is large enough to fit even a car during fairs or conferences. The conference part, separated from the rest of the hotel, has its own entrance, which gives the event participants a sense of comfort and privacy. What is more, hotel designates a dedicated personal advisor for every event held in the interiors to take care of all the details.

RESTAURANT

The minimalist and modern interior of the place is dominated by simple forms and bright colours. As far as the culinary offer is concerned, the property stands out in the crowd of other restaurants of the chain. The menu changes seasonally and

is dominated by dishes based on seasonal products, carefullyselected from the best local suppliers. The chef, Miłosz Kowalski is a finalist of the world class Salone Culinaire competition held in Birmingham. He has a real talent for creating unique flavours by combining the latest trends with Polish culinary traditions. He prefers original, seasonal cuisine with elements of molecular cooking. What's more, the restaurant guests will be delighted to see the restaurant's long wine list, which should satisfy all the enthusiasts of this drink.

VERDICT

Perfectly located hotel offering high standard of services. One of its strengths is the caring staff, always willing to cater for the needs of its guests. It's worth noting that in the hotel



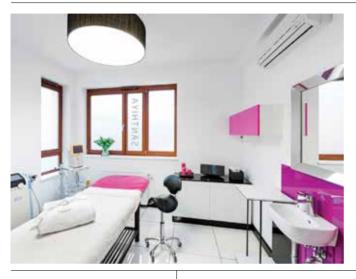
you can always check the updates on your flight departures and arrivals. Being part of the most well-known hotel brand in the world, Hilton Worldwide, the hotel was the only hotel in Poland to be awarded with a prestigious Hotel Success Award in February 2016. It has also been listed among the best hotels in Poland by a comparison service, Hotels Combined. The hotel bustles with life in every season, which creates a great atmosphere for business. Hilton Garden Inn Krakow Airport is recommended not only to travellers awaiting an early flight, or longer stopover. It is perfect for everyone looking for a high standard of service, good quality, international brand and comfort in travel. This is evidenced by the high occupancy rates and the number of conferences held here.

With its central location, the property is a perfect venue for international conferences, training and other corporate events.



WARSAW **Beauty**

SANTHIYA INSTITUTE





CONTACT

Instytut Pieknego Ciała Santhiya Warsaw, Miasteczko Wilanów ul. Kazachska 7/110 tel.: 22 651 67 01; 503 738 364 www.santhiya.pl

PRICE

from PLN 800

nstitute of the Beautiful Body "Santhiya" is situated in Wilanów, Warsaw. The décor of its handsome interiors is dominated by white, black and magenta colours. The institute offers a wide range of body, face, hand and feet treatments, as well as massages and spa. There is also a good hairdresser and a nail stylist. I opted for CoolTech treatment, which involves reduction of fat tissue by applying cold temperatures.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

CoolTech in a medical procedure which aims to remove excessive fat and cellulite. This is done by controlled cooling of the skin and intensive vacuum that sucks both the skin and subcutaneous tissue. It involves cold freezing out of fat cells, is completely non-invasive and visibly reduces fat deposits in the body. It's especially recommended to those, who cope with excessive fat tissues in difficult body parts and want to get rid of their spare tyre or love handles.

COOLTECH TREATMENT

A properly trained therapist told me first about the benefits of the procedure and she listed

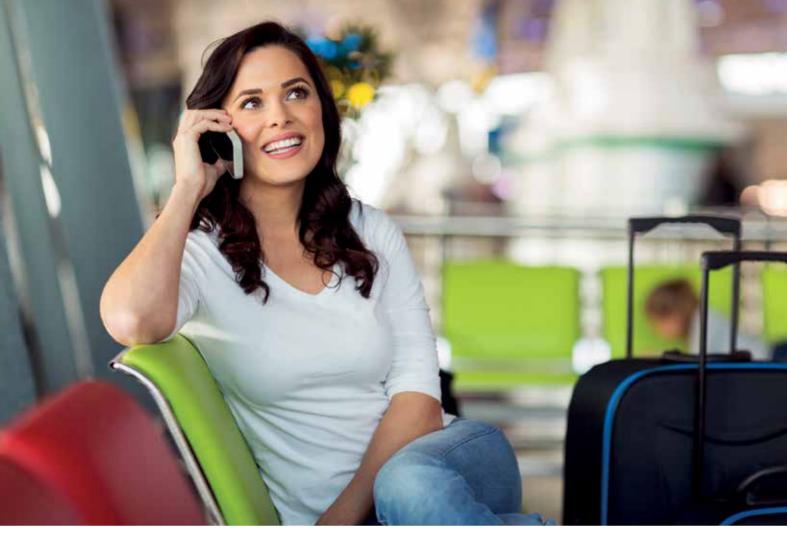
possible contraindications for its application (kidney and liver disorders, varicose veins, fever, a cesarean section scar, sunbathing in the period of two weeks before the procedure), as well as the possible side effects (fatigue, flu-like symptoms for up to 24 hours). Then she measured my abdomen in order to check the effectiveness of the device. The next stage involved preparing the skin for the applicator. The treatment area is secured with a special anti-frostbite screen. As a result, cooling the skin to -8 degrees doesn't cause frostbite. Cooltech by Cocoon Medical is the only device on the market that utilizes such low temperatures, resulting in high efficiency of the treatment. Special heads are placed on two selected areas of the abdomen. The procedure lasts 70 minutes and is completely painless. The only thing I felt was coldness and tingling, which wasn't unpleasant, at all. Then the beautician did a short massage of the area of my body that was frozen. Another stage involved the lymphatic drainage, which improves the flow of lymph and the process of removing fat cells from the body.

As I was informed, the process of fat removal usually takes 1-3 months. I also learnt that one treatment area can undergo the procedure up to three times, and the interval between sessions may not be less than six weeks. Frankly, I saw the effect even after just one treatment. After three weeks, while maintaining a moderate diet and practising yoga twice a week, the persistent fat fold that I had been unsuccessfully fighting for several years, completely disappeared.

VERDICT

It's one of the best slimming procedures on the market, guaranteeing spectacular and measurable results even after one application. It can remove up to 30 percento of fat cells in the area that has undergone the cryolipolysis. The process of fat reduction is non-invasive and based on natural metabolic processes. Cooltech treatment can be performed on the area of abdomen, hips, buttocks, thighs and arms. Not only does it work, but also increases your motivation to continue losing weight! I definitely recommend it!

Ewelina Biel



Zaledwie 49 kroków od samolotu znajdziesz łóżko wygodniejsze niż w swoim domu, menu smaczniejsze niż w swojej kuchni, warunki do pracy lepsze niż w swoim biurze. Zorganizujesz konferencję bez stresu, skorzystasz z Internetu bez obciążenia rachunku, poćwiczysz w klubie fitness o każdej porze, nie utkniesz w korkach śpiesząc się na poranny lot. Sprawdź nas.

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COMPETITION IN THE GULF

Alex McWhirter charts the unfaltering rise of the Middle East carriers – and how European and Asian airlines are fighting back.



ur cover story in Decem-2010-January 2011 ber reported on the dramatic rise of Gulf aviation and the threat it posed to Europe's hub airports and airlines. Six years on, we can reveal that our predictions have come true. The three major Gulf airlines - Dubai's Emirates, Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways - have continued to build their fleets and networks at the expense of rivals elsewhere.

When I interviewed Emirates founder Sir Maurice Flanagan back in April 1986, his airline was starting life with a handful of planes. The idea was that Dubai would have its own airline rather than rely on Bahrainbased Gulf Air for connectivity, so would be better represented on the world stage.

Nobody could have predicted that the following 30 years would see Emirates become the world's largest airline in terms of international mileage flown, and that Dubai would overtake London Heathrow as the world's leading international hub.

Gulf aviation has changed beyond all recognition. Like Abu Dhabi and Qatar, Oman followed Dubai's lead and established its own airline, Oman Air. Together, these carriers have changed the travelling lives of many millions of people based not only in Europe and North America but also in India, Africa, South East Asia and Australia.

POINT OF TRANSFER

The European carriers initially viewed the newcomers as irritants, just as they would have viewed the then emerging Asian airlines in the 1970s. Once the Gulf carriers gathered momentum, the Europeans became alarmed because they offered millions of passengers the opportunity to overfly Europe.

For many decades, Europe saw itself as the centre of world aviation. Previously, Indian nationals or expats heading to North America would route via Europe. Some still do, but increasing numbers are attracted to the Gulf carriers with their nonstop flights to either the US east or west coast.

Similarly, those travelling from North America's secondary cities to Africa, or vice-versa, found it just as convenient to take Gulf routings rather than change elsewhere in the US and again in Europe. In pre-Gulf days, Asian business travellers bound for Africa or Latin America had little choice but to route through Europe. Today, that's no longer the case.

The Gulf carriers weren't that innovative - they simply copied the business models of Dutch airline KLM and Singapore Airlines. They grew by targeting transfer rather than point-to-point passengers. In that regard, they were assisted by aviation-minded governments, beneficial geographical locations, the ability to operate 24 hours, and labour flexibility. In many cases they faced little, if any, competition.

The Chinese – and, soon, the Japanese – are investing heavily in African infrastructure. But how many Chinese or Japanese airlines fly between their home countries and Africa? Closer to home, how many international flights does British Airways operate from the UK regions, or how many long-haul routes do Air France, Lufthansa, SAS and so on operate from airports outside of their main hubs?

The past six years has seen the Gulf airlines strengthen their networks by serving both main and secondary destinations. In Europe, they now fly from points as varied as Lisbon and Dublin in the west, Moscow and Minsk in the east, Helsinki and Stockholm in the north, and Athens and Larnaca in the south.



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In April 1986 Emirates was starting life with a handful of plane. Nobody could have predicted that the following 30 years would see it become one of the world's greatest carriers.

So if I am based in Scotland and want to fly to Phuket in Thailand, do I take a one-stop flight via the Gulf or opt for a trickier routing via London and Bangkok? If an Italian business traveller based in Emilia Romagna wishes to visit Asia, do they trek north to Milan or south to Rome, or simply take Emirates from their local airport of Bologna? Does the Belgian exporter bound for a secondary Indian destination route through the Gulf, or undertake an Amsterdam or Paris trek followed by a plane change in Mumbai or Delhi?

FEELING THE HEAT

It is true that some countries have sought to protect their national airlines by restricting the Gulf carriers. But it's highly political, and they haven't always succeeded. In any case, no matter what some governments do, the Gulf airlines continue to expand.

Over the past six years, what impact have the Gulf carriers had on the voluminous traffic flows between Europe, Asia and Australasia? Market growth has mainly shifted to the Gulf carriers. One need only look at the vast number of wide-body flights operating daily between the Gulf, Asia and Australasia. Yes, there have been a few cases where the Europeans have started new routes but, on the other hand, some have been dropped. For example, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta have been axed by Air France

and Lufthansa. Lufthansa and Austrian Airlines both scaled back their Gulf operations. Virgin Atlantic cut Mumbai, Sydney and Tokyo. BA's Australasian operation is reduced to a single daily Sydney flight. Australia's Oantas threw in its lot with Emirates. Its London services now route through Dubai in place of Singapore. Although it still flies twice daily to London from Australia, its other routes have been handed to Emirates.

Some Asian airline weaknesses have been exposed. Thai Airways and Malaysia Airlines have both scaled back their European services. Philippine Airlines and Garuda Indonesia returned to Europe with grand ambitions but failed to realise that the market had changed in their absence. Plans to resurrect routes to Paris, Frankfurt and Rome came to nothing.

Neither are the low-cost carriers immune. They're adept at wooing passengers in Europe from the established airlines, but flying long-haul is a different matter. They find it hard to compete with Gulf aviation when you add on the cost of ancillary fees and the fact that the Middle East airlines operate from more convenient airports.

CONVENIENCE AND PRICE COUNT

Three years ago, we reported how the Gulf carriers were undercutting Norwegian. The budget market is price driven; it has no loy-

alty. So if a member of the Malaysian community in Glasgow wanted a cut-price trip to visit family in Kuala Lumpur, it meant a choice between Emirates and Air Asia X. The cost and inconvenience of getting to London – let alone the cost of the ancillaries - meant Emirates won.

Air Asia X threw in the towel and retreated to Malaysia. To be fair, fuel prices at the time were much higher and the budget airline was operating inefficient aircraft. Whether or not Air Asia X returns to Europe with more fuel-efficient planes remains to be seen.

Norwegian, which originally wanted to fly all over Asia, ended up with a single service to Bangkok. Its Asian plans were dropped in favour of transatlantic ambition. The carrier increased flight capacity across the Atlantic by 51 per cent this summer - no wonder some airlines are saying there is now overcapacity.

SIA's Scoot plans to arrive in Europe next year with a Singapore-Athens service. With low fuel prices and a leisure-based product, it might just work... but don't hold your breath.

Some airlines are not just losing passengers. Kenya Airways has also lost staff. The generous (by Kenyan standards) salaries paid in the Gulf have prompted a brain drain that has led to its technical department being significantly understaffed.



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Still, some carriers are fighting back. The Lufthansa Group has formed joint ventures with fellow Star Alliance members Air China and Singapore Airlines, while Skyteam members Air France, KLM and Delta want to form a joint venture with India's Jet Airways. So far it's too early to say how effective these partnerships will prove. In any case, it may take only the return of high fuel prices, political unrest or an economic downturn for the situation to change yet again.

GULF AIRPORT GROWTH

Abu Dhabi International

Total traffic for the first half of 2016 reached 11.8 million passengers, a 6.6 per cent increase on the same period last year. The most popular destination was Mumbai, which saw a 26 per cent rise in passengers when comparing June in 2016 with June 2015. Etihad placed its A380 on the route in May. The new Midfield Terminal, slated for completion early next year, will increase the airport's capacity to more than 30 million passengers per year.

Dubai International

The world's top airport in terms of international passenger traffic and number three for total passenger traffic (as reported by Airports Council International). Traffic reached 40.5 million passengers in the first half of this year, up 5.8 per cent on the same period in 2015, with the top five countries in terms of total passenger volumes being India, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Pakistan and the US. Ten new A380 stands are due to be added at Concourse C by the end of 2018, taking the overall figure to almost 50, as part of a project to increase the airport's capacity to nearly 120 million passengers by 2023.

Dubai World Central

Passenger traffic at Dubai's second airport increased by more than 95 per cent during the first half of 2016 to 410,000, mainly driven by Flydubai, which, in addition to its operations at Dubai International, operates 35 weekly flights to five destinations from DWC. The airport is served by 17 passenger carriers, operating 174 flights weekly to 39 international destinations.

• Hamad International, Qatar

The airport served 17.6 million passengers during the first six months of 2016, a growth of more than 20 per cent on the same period last year, with the top routes being Dubai, London, Bangkok, Bahrain and Colombo, generating collectively 20.3 per cent of the airport's traffic. It has two dual capacity runways (used for takeoffs and landings at the same time), an airside hotel, two airside squash courts, a gym, a 25-metre pool and a spa.





#DesignedForSuccess

- udane spotkania z Radisson Blu

adania podają, że 89% osób w branży spotkań uważa, iż nowe technologie pozwolą w przyszłości w lepszy sposób przeprowadzać wydarzenia biznesowe. Przyszłość w sieci hoteli Radisson Blu staje się teraźniejszością. W kwestii organizacji udanych spotkań już teraz goście mogą korzystać tu z najnowszego sprzętu konferencyjnego i międzynarodowego doświadczenia. Zgodnie z dewizą "Designed for Success" specjaliści z hoteli Radisson Blu dzielą się z klientami swoją fachową wiedzą i dbają o ich zadowolenie z każdego rodzaju realizowanych wydarzeń – od kameralanych konferencji biznesowych po wytworne bale i bankiety. Oprócz unikatowej filozofii "Yes I CanSM" i programu lojalnościowego dla organizatorów konferencji - Club Carlson, skupiają się też na odpowiednim zaprojektowaniu pomieszczeń konferencyjnych, zastsowaniu nowoczesnych technologii i starannie skomponowanym cateringu.

Design drogą do sukcesu

Męczące, pracochłonne i stresujące dla uczestniczących w nich osób? Takie bardzo często są spotkania biznesowe... Dlatego konferencje w hotelach Radisson Blu odbywają się w przyja- znych, indywidualnie zaprojektowanych pomieszczeniach, w których zapewniony jest wysoki poziom nasłonecznienia i dopływ tlenu. Od lat wiadomo, że światło dzienne pozytywnie

wpływa na zdolność koncentracji i pamięć krótkotrwałą. Dlatego czasy, kiedy ciężkie kotary szczelnie zasłaniały okna sal konferencyjnych bezpowrotnie minęły. To nie wszystko – w wieku 8 lat człowiek osiąga aż 80% swojego kreatywnego potencjału. Jak wyzwolić pozostałych 20%? Z myślą o tym, pomieszczenia konferencyjne w hotelach Radisson Blu, a przede wszystkim sale Brain Box, zostały zaprojektowane tak, by w naturalny sposób maksymalnie stymulować kreatywność i wyobraźnię.

Efektywnie dzięki nowoczesnym technologiom

Technologie oparte na chmurze, sprzęt audiowizualny i wirtualne spotkania – to tylko trzy propozycje mające na celu zwiększenie efektywności konferencji. Oprócz wyposażenia w innowacyjne produkty, takie jak DigiChart, MultiPad, aplikacja OneTouch czy technologia AirPlay firmy Apple, nowoczesne hotele konferencyjne



Radisson Blu oferują również dostęp do szybkiego Internetu, umożliwiając w ten sposób gościom bardziej efektywną pracę. Wszystko to sprawia, że spotkanie biznesowe w hotelach tej marki to minimum stresu i problemów technicznych. Najnowsze technologie to jednak nie wszystko. Czy wiecie, że ręczne notowanie informacji znacznie bardziej wspomaga aktywne słuchanie niż pisanie np. na laptopie? Dlatego do dyspozycji gości zawsze dostępne są tu także notesy i ołówki.

Brain Food dla lepszej koncentracji

W hotelach Radisson Blu bardzo poważnie podchodzi się też do sprawy menu konferencyjnego, które właściwie skomponowane pozwala poprawić wydajność umysłową nawet o 20%. Specjalne posiłki opracowane we współpracy ze specjalistami od żywienia, doskonale wspomagają koncentrację. Od kreatywnej przerwy na kawę, przez smaczny lunch i bogate w witaminy przekąski, aż po kulinarne zwieńczenie udanego spotkania w czasie serwowanej kolacji – specjaliści z Radisson Blu dokładnie wiedzą, co i kiedy podać, by optymalnie wspomóc produktywność. Świeże, zdrowe i przygotowane z najlepszych lokalnych składników potrawy dostarczają optymalnych wartości odżywczych i energii – aż do ostatniej sekundy spotkania. Teraz dla osób, które w kwestii posiłków lubią nieco zaszaleć, hotele Radisson Blu przygotowały coś nowego - Food Trends. To podyktowane najnowszymi trendami menu w pięciu fascynujących stylach, które każdemu spotkaniu nadadzą wyjątkowy charakter.

Więcej informacji na: radissonblu.com/pl





LATAM AIRLINES EXPANDS ITS WINGS

With its modern fleet consisting of 324 aircraft serves 115 destinations in Latin America and 138 cities in 25 countries worldwide, LATAM Airlines is one of the most reliable carriers in South America.

he carrier serves on average 68 million passengers each year and has recently been awarded the title of the Best Airline of South America by Skytrax Institute. Business Traveller journalists who travel with LATAM, often write about their positive experiences with the airline, recommending its services. With LATAM you can see Atacama Desert in Chile, travel around Brazil or go to Peru to take photos of Machu Picchu. You can also embark on an air journey from Sydney to Auckland, from Buenos Aires to Sydney, as well as from Santiago de Chile to Melbourne or Brisbane. LATAM is known for its excellent fleet that includes such gems as Airbus A350, Boeing B777 and B787 Dreamliner models. Undoubtedly, the airline's forte is the punctuality and excellent on-board service (the meals are composed by famous chefs and paired with refined wines chosen by sommeliers). No wonder that LATAM has its diehard fans on all continents.

SKY PARTNERSHIP

The integration of LAN and TAM Airlines has resulted in creation of a new brand: LATAM Airlines, which provides passengers with even more options to simplify their journeys. The new VIP lounges guarantee a pleasant service and the modernized fleet of the carrier offers even more comfortable flying experience. The airline genuinely cares about its passengers, trying to provide them with the best service both on the ground and in the air.

LATAM is more than just a new brand; it is a name that represents the company, showing its passion and commitment to the whole Latin continent.

SUSTAINABLE PATH

LATAM Airlines is Latin America's first airline group, and the second in the world, to enter the Dow Jones World Sustainability Index, for the second consecutive year. This means that the carrier has been acknowledged for its economic performance, social responsibility and environmental management.

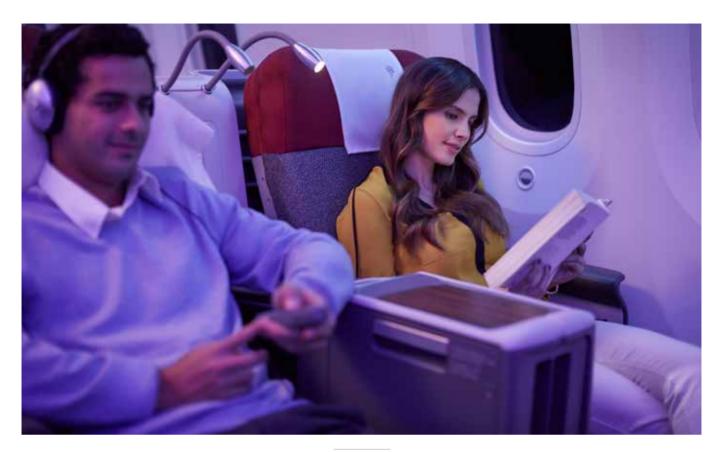
LATAM Airlines offers daily flights from six European cities to São Paulo (on board A350 & B777), 10 weekly connections to Santiago de Chile (served by Boeing 787 Dreamliner), a daily connection to Lima, Peru and three weekly connections to Guayaquil, Ecuador. All long-haul flights can be easily reached with a versatile feeder network in cooperation with other airlines.

PREMIUM BUSINESS

LATAM Airlines advertises its Premium Business class as "home away from home". One of its advantages is, undoubtedly, a comprehensive list of fine Latin American wines, as well as the menu prepared by exceptional culinary experts from the region.



Premium Business class on board LATAM aircraft features a comprehensive wine list, as well as a menu prepared by exceptional culinary experts from the region.



The comfortable seat that reclines into a 71.5-inch flat-bed is a big advantage of Premium Business class.





The class also boasts a comfortable seat that reclines into a 71.5-inch flat-bed and comes with an advanced in-flight entertainment system with individual 15.4-inch touchscreens. The on-board service is impeccable and the cabin crew very helpful.

PREMIUM ECONOMY

Premium Economy cabin is especially suited to business travellers within Latin America. Designed to meet the needs of short-distance flight passengers, it offers them excellent and prompt service. Passengers who choose to fly in this class can enjoy all the advantages of premium service, such as access to VIP lounges, first row seats with blocked middle seat, preferential check-in, boarding and luggage delivery, as well as excellent service on board.

ECONOMY CLASS

Passengers flying in Economy class are guaranteed to find relaxation from the moment they get on board the aircraft. They are offered two meal options during the flight and can also request special meals in advance. The in-flight entertainment system in the class comes with a wide selection of music, movies, TV series and games, available on a personal 9-inch screen.



Economy class comes with two meal options during the flight; you can also request special meals in advance. There is a wide choice of on-board entertainment options, too.





BENEFITS FOR PASSENGERS

- Mobile app. The airline's mobile app allows passengers on all flights to select their seats and download their boarding passes. It also informs them about their current miles collected. The app is available for iOS and Android mobile systems.
- Entertainment on board The in-flight entertainment system features hundreds of movies, TV series, documentaries or games - both for children and adults. Even the most demanding travellers will find there something for themselves.
- Wireless IFE on short-haul flights Airbus A320 aircraft now feature the new wireless in-flight entertainment (IFE) system, available on short-haul flights. The system generates a signal that allows passengers to access content for entertainment on their smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices during the flight.
- Miles for frequent travellers Members of the LATAM PASS frequent flyer programme and LATAM Fidelidade can earn and redeem kilometres or points when flying throughout the carrier's network. As an alliance member of oneworld, LATAM Airlines passengers who are members of the programme gain access to: fast track check-in at the airport, more than 950 destinations worldwide, more than 600 VIP lounges, as well as more options to accrue and redeem points.

ONEWORLD ALLIANCE

LATAM Airlines is a part of the unique oneworld alliance, which has been recognized as the "Best Airline Alliance" by Skytrax. oneworld is the largest airline alliance in South America and market leader in the United States.

INTERNATIONAL **ROUTE NETWORK**

LATAM Airlines is Latin America's largest airline with the region's most comprehensive network. The carrier's fleet, which comprises latest generation Boeing and Airbus aircraft, flies to 138 destinations in 25 countries and carries cargo to 26 countries around the world.

DOMESTIC ROUTE NETWORK

LATAM Airlines offers access to Latin America's most extensive network of destinations, with greater connectivity within the continent, reaching more than 115 destinations in countries that include Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Paraguay. When traveling to South America, both in business or as a tourist, check the offer of LATAM at www.latam.com



Cabin crews do their best to guarantee passengers who fly with LATAM Airlines the most enjoyable on board experience.



PRIORITIES AND NEW CHALLENGES



Marzena Mróz talks to Frank Wagner, the Country Manager for Poland at Lufthansa German Airlines

Lufthansa continues to invest in the offered products. also in today's challenging times. What was the airline's priority in 2016?

In 2016 we completed fitting new Premium Economy Class seat on our intercontinental fleet. Nearly 3,600 seats in that class were installed on board 106 Lufthansa aircraft. The new Premium Economy has already proved to be a bestseller. Consumer ratings on our newest product, indicate a high level of satisfaction with the comfort, service and great value for the price it offers.

This year our company was also focused on environmental issues that constitute a considerable element of our business activities. The ongoing modernization of the fleet contributes significantly to this. In addition to the positive effects for the environment, the modernized fleet will be more efficient and offer lower running cost per unit. This will enable us to meet the high expectations of our customers regarding quality and reliability.

Are you planning to introduce any further amenities for passengers?

The modern fleet will greatly increase the comfort of travel. From January 2017 onwards, Lufthansa plans to base ten type A350-900 aircraft at their Munich hub. Its wider cabin will offer the passengers have more room and a generous sense of space. A self-service section in Business Class provides more passenger comfort, plus new seats in economy and larger monitors. Thanks to a special lighting concept, passengers arrive at their destination feeling more rested. We want our customers on board to feel comfortable and to arrive relaxed even after long flights.

This year, Lufthansa celebrated also the delivery of the world's first Airbus 320neo. The A320neo features technologically innovative engines and improved aerodynamics, which significantly reduces noise and CO2 emissions. Lufthansa Group has ordered a total of 116 A320neo and A321neo aircraft. Also our intercontinental fleet will gradually be equipped with wifi network connectivity option.

Are you satisfied with the results of Lufthansa in Poland?

We are very pleased with our results in Poland. We are actively contributing to the growth of mobility in one of the most dynamically developing markets in Europe. By the end of 2016, Lufthansa will carry more than 2 million passengers to and from Poland. Despite the strong competition and expanstion of low-cost carriers in Poland, Luf-







thansa continues to strengthen its position of the leading traditional airline. Together with other member of Lufthansa Group - Eurowings, which is one of the fastest growing airlines in Europe, we are expanding our base of customers who expect the lowest fares, also in Poland. To meet the growing demand in the market, we have introduced six additional connections per week between Wrocław and Frankfurt, and we have increased the number of seats on Warsaw - Bydgoszcz route.

Poland has always been one of the most important markets for Lufthansa, so we are carefully monitoring its development and the potential for growth. Passengers are at the heart of our strategy, which focuses on high quality, safety, punctuality, reliability and professional service. Lufthansa is especially focused on premium and business segments. This translates into a high share of corporate customers taking advantage of our services. Apart from Germany, Poland is the country where we have the largest number of corporate customers, particularly

from small and medium-sized enterprises.

This winter, Lufthansa passengers can choose from a variety of tourist destinations. Which ones do you personally recommend?

We have a very good news for travellers who love South Africa – in winter, Lufthansa relaunches the connection from Frankfurt to Cape Town. Passengers will also be able to fly to San Jose in Silicon Valley, as well as such attractive destinations as Mauritius, Malé and Cancún. Lufthansa has significantly increased the number of flights to Nairobi, Dallas and Poona, India. We will also add one weekly connection to Funchal in Madeira.

This winter, the Lufthansa Group airlines will be linking 255 destinations in 101 countries via its hubs in Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich, Vienna and Brussels, but also with many point-to-point connections.

What novelties can Lufthansa passengers expect to see in 2017?

Passengers travelling to Asia can expect numerous amenities thanks to the wide-reaching partnership agreement that Lufthansa has signed with Air China. The flight timetables of both airlines will be better coordinated with each other, allowing us to provide customers with more convenient connections between our individual route networks. The Lufthansa Group's joint venture with the flag carrier of the People's Republic of China is particularly significant as it clearly strengthens the presence of Lufthansa Group Airlines in the second-most important aviation market in the world. Together with the Transatlantic trilateral joint venture partnership with United Airlines and Air Canada, the Lufthansa Group now covers the world's most important intercontinental markets as part of its joint venture activities. As a result, around half of Lufthansa's long-haul flights are covered by joint ventures, securing additional benefits for customers.

Thank you for the interview.

Passengers are at the heart of our strategy, which focuses on high quality, safety, punctuality, reliability and professional service.

RUMPUĆ, ZAGRAJ AND MOUFLON AT WINESTONE RESTAURANTS



In line with modern trends, Winestone concept is based on an open-plan kitchen.

n 2013 Orbis Hotel Group created a culinary concept named Winestone. It's an original idea that departs from the traditional hotel catering for the increasingly popular wine bars. The main pillars of the concept are wine collection that has been carefully selected, and dishes served on stone boards. Winestone is already known in most Mercure hotels in Poland, as well as in several properties in Central and Eastern Europe.

CUISINE WITH HISTORY

Each region, whether in Poland or anywhere else, has its own distinctive dishes. Recipes for those delicacies are passed on from generation to generation, and it's a real challenge to try to reproduce them faithfully. Luckily, Winestone chefs are able to do this perfectly. In line with modern trends, Winestone concept is based on an openplan kitchen.

The menu at Mercure Kraków features the famous local "maczanka" that dates back to 16th

century and used to be a favourite street food of university students. Maczanka is a traditional bun with delicate centre, crispy crust and a slice of slowly braised pork loin. At Winestone the dish is served with sheep cheese and cranberry sauce.

In Wrocław you can try the mouflon from Giant Mountains, served with vegetables. The dish is part of the culinary heritage of the region. The meat of mouflon is slowly braised in wine with vegetables and mushrooms.



Toruń is famous for its gingerbread, but the local Winestone restaurant serves the delicious "zagraj" soup, which has been known here since the 19th century. Zagraj is a simple, yet very nutritious dish based on ingredients that are present at almost every home. Since the mid-20th century the soup has been based mostly on vegetables. Interestingly, zagraj used to be served for breakfast, lunch or even dinner.

Those who visit Winestone restaurant in Poznań, should definitely try the dish called "rumpuć". This thick vegetable soup/stew is very popular in Wielkopolska Region.

If you happen to be in the Tri-City, pop into the local Winestone restaurant to enjoy the delicious fish soup and Baltic cod.

PERMANENT FIXTURES ON THE MENU

The menu of each Winestone restaurant features the famous raisin sourdough bread, Spanish olive oil and butter from Charentes, France. Also lovers of Italian cuisine and burgers won't be disappointed, while those who are fond of traditional Polish dishes can try here the famous pierogis, the sour soup with porcini mushrooms, as well as a steak of seasonal Polish beef. Winestone restaurants also offer international classics, such as pork tenderloin with wild mushrooms or saltimbocca alla romana with sage sauce.

Each dish can be paired with appropriate wine. Winestone sommeliers offer several categories of wine, such as "fresh and light" (mostly white wines),



"fruity and delicious" (white and red), "balanced and elegant" (only dry red wines) and finally "aromatic and full" group that includes Malbec or Carmenere. The wines come from the best regions in the world. With wines classified in such a way, it's much easier to make the right choice.

The restaurants also have their own shops where you can buy olive oil, a wide selection of wine, as well as a blend of spices composed especially for Winestone. Mix the spices with olive oil and dip pieces of bread in it. It's the world's tastiest snack! This year Winestone was awarded the prestigious Food Business Award in "the restaurant chain with waiting staff" category.

facebook.com/winestonePL

Each region,
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Recipes for those
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them faithfully.
Luckily, Winestone
chefs are able to do this
perfectly.



NEW HEAD CHEF AT SHERATON WARSAW



arcin Sasin is the new head chef of Sheraton Warsaw Hotel. In his new role he will be responsible for creating menus and managing the kitchens of all the hotel's restaurants and bars, as well as for the offer of the banquet and catering department.

Marcin Sasin has been a part of the culinary world for 17 years and he has gained his professional experience in restaurants of such five-star hotels, as The Westin Warsaw or Sheraton where he was in charge of the offer of inAzia restaurant and was the sous chef.

Marcin Sasin's passion is the cuisine of Asia, especially its South-Eastern part. He regularly travels around Asia, looking for culinary inspiration both in best restaurants and from numerous street vendors selling

delicacies from wheeled carts. In his career he has had the opportunity to work with the best Thai chefs who have shared with him the secrets of this fascinating cuisine. He has also gained experience in Thailand, Singapore, China and Korea. Over the past few years he was also responsible for the menu of Chef's Table restaurant, where presented original dishes of the European cuisine.

Sasin regularly collaborates with organisations that promote Polish cuisine in Europe and Asia, and he teaches in culinary schools.

In Warsaw Sheraton he will be creating menus for the hotel's five restaurants and bars.

inAzia offers the cuisine of South-East Asia, namely of Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore, China and Indonesia. Dishes prepared here are based only on genuine Asian products, combining traditional recipes with the latest culinary trends. The menu features dishes utilizing century-old recipes and the elements of molecular cuisine or the sous vide method of cooking.

SomePlace Else and Tex-Mex. SomePlace Else is a true gem on the music map of Warsaw. The place which combines different genres with surprising sounds. Jazzy Nights on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Talent Nights on Thursdays, as well as Friday and Saturday 100% Live concerts - all of these guarantee an original blend of sounds that SomePlace Else is known for. Then there are the weekly Ladies' Nights and the monthly Latino Dancing events that further enrich the venue's offer.

The Olive restaurant specializes in quality Mediterranean cuisine. Every Sunday you can enjoy here a sumptuous brunch served to the accompaniment of lively jazz music.

Lobby Bar, located in the main part of the hotel, is an elegant and popular meeting spot for locals and hotel guests. The offer of the bar includes tasty snacks, cocktails and delicious coffee.

Chef's Table - a unique place that offers sophisticated dinners prepared by the chef on the customer's request. Come and experience a real culinary feast at a table set in the very heart of the hotel's kitchen.

In his new role Marcin Sasin will also be responsible for managing the culinary staff and for creating the offer of the banquet and catering department.





Marcin Sasin's passion is Asian cuisine. He regularly travels around Asia, looking for culinary inspiration in the best restaurants of the region.



ICELAND FOR THE NEW YEAR

To see the Northern Lights, the new Harp building in Reykjavik, glittering like a crystal in the land of ice, go on the Golden Circle tour, watching waterfalls and geysers, bathe in the Blue Lagoon and set out on a cruise in search of whales.

That's what we have planned for 2017!





celand delights with its nature and lifestyle - simple, yet refined. This also applied to the island's unique music and cuisine based on seafood. When should you visit this remarkable place that lies just about 4-hour flight from Poland? In the winter there is a good chance of seeing the Northern Lights. In the summer, on the other hand, when days are longer and the temperature reaches 18 degrees Celsius, you can go into volcano craters or bathe in the hot springs as well as in the wonderfully cool waterfalls.

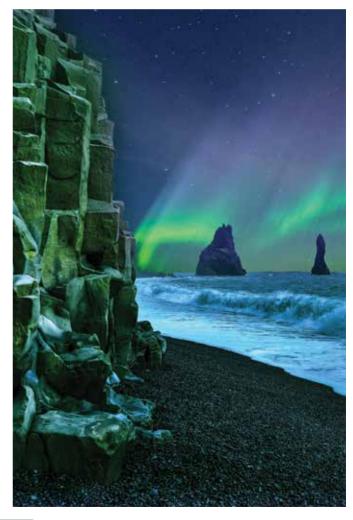
REYKJAVIK: MUSIC, COLOURS AND STYLE

The capital of the island is dominated by white, blue and red colours. Life here is slow, stylish and free of glitz and aggressive self-promotion. Low wooden buildings perfectly blend with the dark blue background of the sea surface that appears at the end of the narrow streets. It's worth visiting the new town hall, built on the shore of Lake Tjörnin, and then go the nearby square to see the statue of the father of the city - Skuli Magnússon. Heading to the main promenade, we pass by the shops selling local products, such as Shetland wool sweaters. skins of reindeer and seals, as well as salt, manufactured here in a variety of colours - including black. Fans of Icelandic music must pop into the 12 Tonar record store, where they will find the records of all their favourite artists. You can sit here on an old sofa and enjoy the music feast for as long as you wish. From the store it's only a stone's throw to the Lutheran Hakkgrimskirkja church with a distinctive architecture and a tall tower that offers a panoramic view of the entire city. My favourite spot in Reykjavik is Harpa - a new building with concert halls and conference rooms, which looks like a glittering crystal in the land of ice. It was designed by Henning Larsen Architects and Batteríið Architects studios with a considerable contribution of Olafur Eliasson who also created the artistic pavilion at Krakowskie Przedmieście in Warsaw. You can go to Harpa to see an opera, but you can also simply admire it from the outside.

NORTHERN LIGHTS AT WINTER NIGHTS

The Northern Lights (also called Aurora Borealis) can be observed in Iceland from September to March. You can see it on a clear night and at high solar activity. I was able to photograph in the last days of September, near Reykjavik at 2 am on my





The Northern Lights (also called Aurora Borealis) can be observed in Iceland from September to March. You can see it on a clear night and at high solar activity.

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The volcanic landscape is perfectly complemented by traditional turf houses with doors set into hillsides.





way from the airport to the hotel. But I could see its rays even before I got off the plane. The Northern Lights are caused by the solar wind, which uses the curving of the magnetic field around the poles to get closer to the Earth's atmosphere. Its charged (ionised) particles collide with the particles of air. This reaction produces light. When it happens, the sky is filled with huge ribbon-like formations that change their shapes and colours.

Icelanders say that Aurora dances, and indeed, it very much resembles a flame, dancing in the northern sky.

GOLDEN CIRCLE: WATERFALLS, GEYSERS, VOLCANOES

The dramatic 60-metre-tall waterfall of Seljalandsfoss is about an hour and 40 minutes outside of Reykjavik, on the south coast. It's an easy drive on Route 1, which is also known as the Ring Road because it runs in a 1,332 km loop around the entire island. Black lava fields stretch out on either side of the road, and nothing seems to grow here except for swathes of soft green moss that covers the sharp ridges of the volcanic rocks.

The weather seems to change minute by minute. Low cloud blocking out the horizon is broken by fistfuls of corporeal light to reveal blue sky. Then comes rain, a rainbow and freezing fog. Steep valleys give way to endless plateaus interspersed with rural townships and petrol stations - small and colourful like from a fairy tale.

You can also spot here traditional turf houses with doors set into hillsides. Built by humans, they seem to be better suited for habitation by elves - which more than half of Iceland's 330,000 residents believe exist. It's not uncommon for construction work to be halted for fear of disturbing them. In fact, two years ago, a planned highway was put on hold to allow an "elf chapel", in the form of a giant rock, to be moved to a new location.

Heading further east on the Golden Circle Tour will bring you to the boiling fountain geyser of Strokkur, which explodes out of the ground every eight minutes, as well as the magnificent Gullfoss waterfall. You can also hike through Thingvellir National Park or dive through the Silfra fissure, which is an underwater gap between the con-









Hotel Bellotto

Iceland

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- How to get there? Wizz Air offers flights to Reykjavik from Warsaw, Gdańsk and Katowice. Fares start at PLN 169 (one way, including taxes and fees). More info at wizzair.com
- Where to stay? In Reykjavik we recommend the stylish Kvosin hotel or the legendary KEX hostel, situated right by the sea.
- Where to eat? Try the delicious lobster soup in the Old Port of Reykjavik next to Marina hotel. For the best sandwiches on the island go to Floran Garden Bistro at the Botanical Garden.
- How to explore? Goldentours organizes various activities and tours, including Golden Circle, a trip to volcano craters, glacier trekking or whale watching. More infor at goldentours.is
- What is worth seeing? In addition to the attractions listed above, it's definitely worth going on a whale-watching cruise. The half-day boat expedition starts at the port in Reykjavik. Whales can be observed in summer and autumn. If you are lucky, you will see the flippers and the back of those giant mammals.

tinental plates of North America and Eurasia. I went on this trip with Orvar Sigurdsson, the owner of Goldentours travel agency. Knowing Iceland like no-one else, he decided that I also need to visit Vic - the southernmost city of Iceland.

No frequent traveller will forget the eruption of Eyjafjallajokull in April 2010, which created an ash cloud so great that flights in many European airports were cancelled for weeks. Now covered by a 100 sqkm ice cap, Seljalandsfoss waterfall sits right beneath it. A little further on is Skogafoss, where the Skoga River cascades over the edge of a 60-metre cliff. From here, it's a 6km drive to Solheimajokull glacier.

After less than an hour we reach the village of Reynishverfisvegur, which is adjacent to Vik. It's here that we finally arrive at the sea, where frightening waves have been known to take people from the black beaches. It's a scene of extraordinary natural beauty; at the base of the cliffs are a cluster of hexagonal basalt columns that double as seats or steps to climb. Also here is Halsanefshellir cave. the Black Beach café, and the perfect viewing point for Dyrholaey, a stone arch that dips into the ocean further along the coast. There is a puffin colony here in summer.

BLUE LAGOON: THE WORLD'S MOST STUNNING SPA

For a visit in Blue Lagoon (bluelagoon. com), an 8,700 sqm natural geothermal spa set among lava fields a short drive from the airport, you should reserve at least five hours. Two new coves were added recently, while a 60-room luxury hotel will open next year. The pale, milky blue water is warm and in places even hot. The place is popular regardless the weather. It's yet another Icelandic miracle that you need to see, feel and experience. Its water that is rich in minerals is naturally heated inside the earth. The hot water also drives the turbines at Svarstsengi geothermal power plant whose smoking chimneys are right next to the pools. Then cooled to 37-39 degrees and still rich in minerals, is pumped into the lagoon pools.

It also contains a lot of silica, and one of the biggest attractions and a great fun is smearing your face and body with silica mud that is stored in containers placed around the pools. Blue Lagoon also features a spa that offers a full range of health and beauty treatments, as well as a wide choice of cosmetics and other skin care products. Then there is also a fine restaurant called Lava and a pool bar where you can enjoy natural juices, wine and beer, without even leaving water.

Marzena Mróz



The half-day whale-watching expeditions starts at the port in Reykjavik.





Blue Lagoonis a natural geothermal spa set among lava fields. The pale, milky blue water is warm and in places even hot.



Avis to międzynarodowa wypożyczalnia samochodów osobowych i dostawczych. Nasze punkty wynajmu w Polsce znajdują się na lotniskach i centrach ponad 30 miast.

Oferujemy:

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INDIA LIKE FROM A FAIRY TALE

Known as "the Empire of the Soul" or "the Land of Kings", Rajasthan is India's most magical region, shrouded in mist of bloody secrets and legends about rulers of the Orient, says Marzena Mróz.

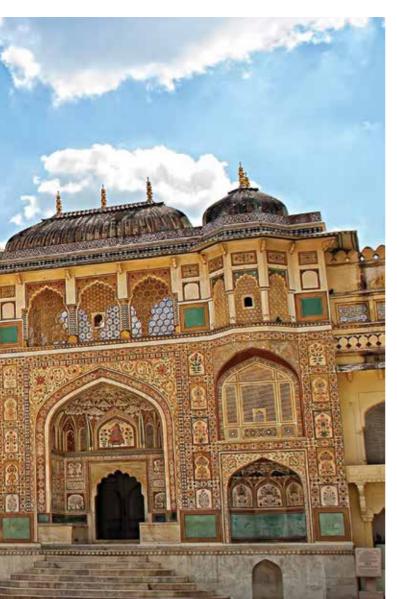
ndia's largest state - Rajasthan - is a colourful, proud and exotic place, visited by tourists from all over the world intent on finding there the traces of its Oriental past. The state is well-known for its production of cement, wool, wheat and sugar cane, as well as for its greatest treasure - precious stones that once were eagerly collected by maharajahs. The capital and the

largest city of Rajasthan is Jaipur inhabited by more than 3 million people. However, the most dynamic growth has been seen in tourism industry, which presently generates 8 percent of the state's domestic product. Its savvy rulers no longer engage in large or small politics, don't conquer new lands or wage murderous domestic wars. Instead, they were able to recognize the new trends, transforming their palaces into high-end hotels that have become true oases of luxury reminiscent of the most voluptuous palaces from Scheherazade's tales.

MIRAGE CITY

Undoubtedly, the most unique place in Rajasthan is the city of Udaipur, situated on the grounds of the former Mewar Kingdom,









and, believe it or not, ruled continually by one dynasty for more than 1200 years now! Udaipur is like a mirage: unreal, ethereal and slightly demonic - seemingly melting away and disappearing at sunrise and sunset. With its remarkable charm, romantic location, magic light and transparent air, it was highly praised by French impressionists. The desert wasteland that surrounds Udaipur clearly contrasts with all the majestic beauty that is just round the corner. Intricate designs of marble palaces, temples decorated with Kamasutra carvings, and havelis with their pink-coloured steps, are reflected in the waters of the utterly unreal Lake Pichola. When Citor, the capital of Mewa, was conquered by the Mughal ruler Akbar in 1568, Maharajah Udai Singh II built a new city on the shores of this desert lake and gave it his name. Life in Udaipur was the most pleasurable in the 17th century. At that time the city was so wealthy that every year its maharajahs would be weighed at the gate of the palace and their weight in gold or silver was distributed to lucky locals.

MAZE OF CHAMBERS

The remnant of the former glory, which reflects the refined taste and extravagant life of the rulers, is the City Palace - the largest royal residence in Rajasthan, covering more than 2 hectares of land and its front wall stretching for 475 metres. Not surprisingly, the palace was the apple in the eye of 22 maharajahs, who built new wings to the property, thus adding even more splendour to the dynasty between 16th to 21st centuries. Behind the defence walls of the royal residence there is a maze of chambers, bedrooms, suites and courtyards, interconnected by narrow corridors, steep stairs and secret passages that were designed in such a way to confuse potential invaders. Today the palace is open to visitors, although it's still inhabited by the present maharajah. At times the ruler, dressed in a colourful attire - an orange turban and blue harem pants invites the visitors to his chambers for the afternoon tea.

HOLIDAY WITH THE KING

The concept of "the holiday with the maharajah" was introduced by Bhagwat Singh, the 34th maharajah of Udaipur and Mewar Kingdom. He was also the driving force behind the creation of Heritage Resorts and Hotels - one of the most sophisticated hotel brands in the world, which currently manages only palaces and hotels housed in historic buildings. In the early 1960s the resourceful ruler decided to transform his unique summer residence Jag Niwas into a hotel known today as Lake Palace (www.tajhotels.com), which

soon was acclaimed as the world's most luxury property of this type. It was also one of the locations where James Bond film "Octopussy" was shot. Lake Palace is situated in the centre of a lake, which reflects the building's giant façade like a mirror. The openwork arches, painted lintels, curved roofs, breezy pavilions, ponds, patios, gardens and fountains - once the objects of desire of many rulers - today are available to anyone who can afford to pay for the luxury. The hotel rooms/royal chambers are equipped with state-of-the-art amenities, such as air conditioning, heated swimming pools, spa and satellite connectivity, while the on-site restaurants serve trendy fusion dishes seasoned with massala, turmeric and cardamom. All the rooms of the renovated palace overlook the romantic lake and come decorated with dazzling shaped glass pieces, crystal mirrors, frescoes, inlaid marble, gilded lamps and the popular miniature paintings.

1000 GUESTS AT THE TABLE

Another unique place, known for its fairytale grandiose lavishness is the historic Umaid Bhawan Palace in Iodhpur, Built with dun-coloured sandstone, it boasts 347

rooms, including eight dining rooms, a ball room, two theatres, several lavishly furnished lounges, an underground swimming pool and a huge vaulted banquet hall which hosted 1,000 guests on its opening. The palace, which is a blend of eastern and western architectural styles, was built for Maharajah Umaid Singh and today is occupied by his grandson Gaj Singh who have transformed the family residence into a luxury hotel. Interestingly, some forward-looking Rajasthan rulers invested not only in their own residences, but also in whole cities. One of them was Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur, which is famous for its pink coloured buildings. Surrounded by merlon walls with seven gates and built in line with all the laws of geometry, it's one of the most fascinating cities of Rajasthan. To this day you can visit the city's astronomical observatory, which consists of nineteen instruments for measuring time, predicting eclipses and tracking location of major stars as the earth orbits around the sun. The residence of Jai Singh II is also subject of an interesting tale. The legend has it that one night the maharajah woke up suddenly and saw Krishna. Enchanted by the beauty of the palace, the god

demanded that the ruler give him the place as a temple. In return Krishna gave him the idea for the construction of Jaipur.

Unfortunately, it seems that India is the only place on Earth where gods exchange residences with mortals.

e-VISA TO INDIA

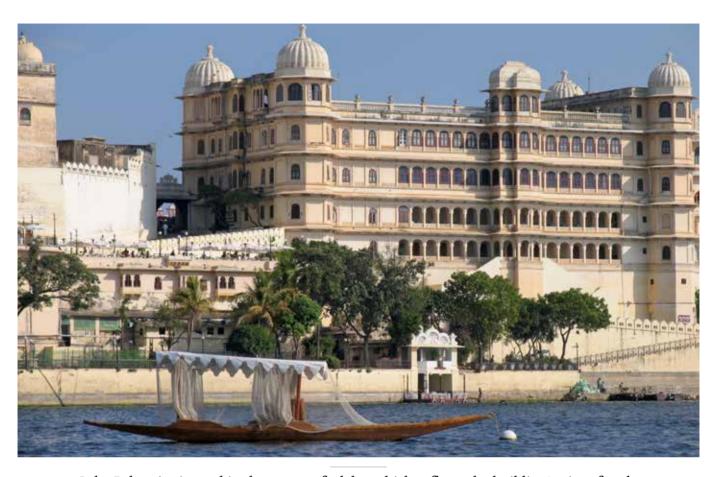
The Indian e-Tourist visa can be obtained online, instead of applying by sending in your original passport and documents. The e-Tourist visa approval will be issued in advance electronically, before the date of travel to India; the actual visa sticker will be placed inside your passport at the airport on arrival in India.

Citizens of 150 countries, including Poland, are eligible to apply for the India online visa (eTV) the e-Visa is processed and issued electronically and sent to the traveller via email. When the traveller arrives in India at more than 10 International Airports their passport will be stamped.

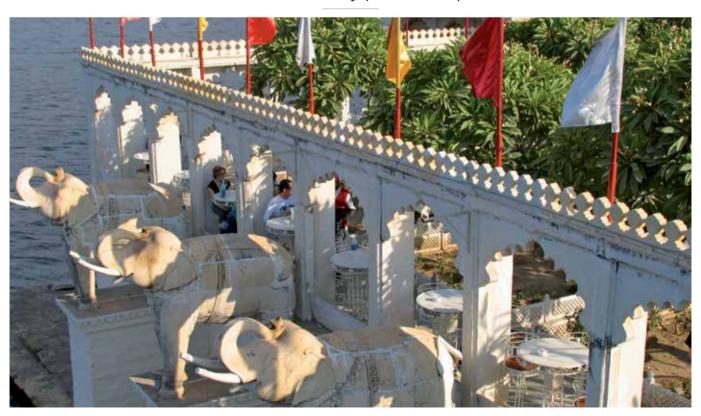
The Indian e-Tourist visa is generally issued for a single entry visit with a duration of stay up to 30 days. A maximum of two Indian e-Visas can be issued for the same traveller within one year.



Interestingly, some forward-looking Rajasthan rulers invested not only in their own residences, but also in whole cities.



Lake Palace is situated in the centre of a lake, which reflects the building's giant façade like a mirror. Once the object of desire of many rulers - today it's available to anyone who can afford to pay for the luxury.





MAURITIUS – FAMILY FUN AND ADVENTURE IN TROPICAL PARADISE

Tourists who come to Mauritius fall in love at first sight with its gorgeous lagoons, clear ocean waters and beautiful wide beaches. The island also offers numerous interesting film locations, and is a perfect place to practise sports, organize a corporate event or a romantic wedding.

auritius is a premium destination for diving, submersible craft adventures, as well as exciting undersea walks. There is also a wide choice of catamaran and speedboat excursions on the endless waters of the Indian Ocean. Equally popular are small plane and helicopter flights that enable you to admire the island's spectacular diversity of landscapes.

GOLFING AND PARKS

Mauritius boasts ten luxury 18-hole courses, as well as three smaller, 9-hole ones. In 2016, the country was awarded the title of Golf Destination of the Year for the Africa Indian Ocean and Gulf countries region by

IAGTO, the Global Golf Tourism Organisation. One of the greatest highlights of Mauritius are its ten natural and leisure parks, where you can find the wealth of local flora and fauna, such as giant tortoises, crocodiles, ostriches, giraffes, lions, cheetahs and caracals.

FOR ADRENALINE AND TRANQUILLITY LOVERS

Mauritius is renowned for being a perfect venue for practising extreme sports. Its favourable wind conditions, splendid lagoons and good waves make it ideal for kiteboarding. Then there are the exciting zip lines rides, which are an integral part of various excursions, as well as the skydiving experience where you jump in a tandem with an instructor to admire the unforgettable views. Those who are fond of hiking and trekking won't be disappointed here, either. You can visit on foot the island's volcanic peaks that offer stunning panoramic views, or go to Black River Gorges Natural Park, which is the largest on the island. Other popular peaks on the island are Lion Mountain, Le Pouce Mountain, Le Morne Brabant and Piton de la Rivière Noire.

ACCOMMODATION

Every holidaymaker that comes to Mauritius will find here a suitable place to stay. There is a vast choice of fully equipped villas and bungalows on the island, allowing you for greater independence and direct access to sea activities. Equally popular are Bed & Breakfast properties that often are situated right on the beach. They offer a range of amenities and boast high quality of service.

CUISINE

The cuisine of Mauritius is based on fresh seafood, exotic fruit and spices. Other commonly used ingredients include garlic, ginger and sweet tomatoes. One of the specialities is, undoubtedly, the dish called Briani, which is made from rice, spices, meat and potatoes.

A well-known ingredient in the Mauritian cuisine is the palm heart used for the so-called "millionaire's salad". Many dishes are prepared on lava stone, including Roche Carri – a traditional dish that can be ordered at any restaurant. Other popular delicacies that are often sold at street stalls include dhal puri, farata, samoossa, gato pima, gato arouy.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Mauritius hosts a number of international events, such as the AfrAsia Golf Tournament, marathons, triathlons and cycle races. On the cultural scene, the International Kreol Festival is now a major annual event,

which culminates with the most important Creole musical concert, attracting more than 100,000 spectators. New to the island's calendar of events is the festival, Porlwi by Light, a magical night feast celebration of old Port Louis.

MICE

With its state-of-the art infrastructures, Mauritius holds an increasing appeal for MICE travel and tourism market. Dedicated to major international conferences and conventions, the 17,000 sqm Swami Vivekananda International Conference Centre is the most important infrastructure available for large-scale events for up to 3,500 participants. Mauritius has also become a prized destination for the organisation of major and exclusive group events.

WEDDINGS

With its stunning scenery and warm tropical climate, Mauritius is the top romantic venue for weddings and honeymoons. Most hotels on the island offer extensive wedding and honeymoon packages to cater for intimate or large events of up to 800 guests.

CINEMATOGRAPHIC TOURISM

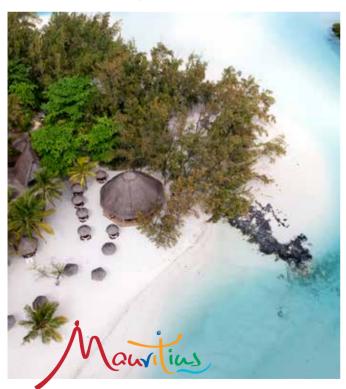
Mauritius has positioned itself as a shooting destination with the international cinema-

tography industry. Local authorities and the Mauritius Government Tourist Office offer a set of incentive and facilitative measures to the film industry.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

Mauritius offers a range of venues where you can explore the island's rich culture and giving a revealing insight into the country's fascinating past. These include the Blue Penny Museum devoted to Mauritian history and art and L'Aventure du Sucre - an old sugar factory converted into a museum dedicated to 250 years of the history of sugar production in Mauritius. The islands also boasts two UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the historic complex of buildings Aapravasi Ghat, and Le Morne Brabant peninsula, where fugitive slaves used to hide during the early colonial times of the island.

You should also visit the La Vallée des Couleurs Museum, which recollects the geological history of the island; the Château de Labourdonnais - a stunning colonial house that has been restored to show the lifestyle of the families who lived there in the 19th century; and the Photography Museum which displays almost a million photographs and has a collection of more than 1,000 cameras from various times. Mauritius, here we come!







Some of the best beaches on the island include Pereybère, Flic en Flac, Le Morne, Belle Mare, Blue Bay and Ile aux Cerfs. Set against jet-black volcanic rocks among the lush green landscape, they look simply stunning.



WEEKEND IN BAVARIA

Tom Otley heads to a secluded Bavarian castle-turned-luxury resort that hosted the G7 summit last year.

chloss Elmau came to the world's attention when it played host to the G7 summit in June last year. The Bavarian Alps provided an incongruous backdrop both to the international meeting and the unfolding crisis, as waves of immigrants made their way across Europe. Pictures of Barack Obama and Angela Merkel debating around a bench in the grounds certainly put the location on the map. Of course, just because a hotel hosts a global summit, it doesn't mean it is right for your holiday, but if the management can keep several world leaders and their entourages happy, there's a good chance they can satisfy your loved ones, too.

RESORT FOR LEADERS

We were there in February. The 90-minute drive from Munich airport was through pouring rain, which turned to sleet as we reached the swish resort town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, location of the 1936 Winter Olympics. The ski runs down into town seemed empty, but as we climbed higher into the woods and then down into a valley, the sleet became snow, dusting the pine trees in white. By the time we pulled up at the resort, the lights were glinting at the

windows and winter darkness had fallen. An hour later, we were swimming in one of the heated outdoor pools as the snow settled on balconies and roofs. Quite a first impres-

The hotel is divided into two parts: the original Schloss (castle), or "Hideaway", with 115 rooms and suites, and the newer Retreat, which has 47 suites. Furnishings throughout are of high quality, with parquet floors, handmade carpets from Iran and antiques from all over the world. Highspeed wifi is free throughout the resort and grounds. Deluxe rooms, Junior suites and



Standard suites are all located in the new South and West wing of the Schloss. Most have floor-to-ceiling windows and views to the Wetterstein mountain range. We stayed in the Retreat, which also had stunning views, and a balcony too cold to step out on, but which must be a lovely place in summer.

HOTEL ATTRACTIONS

There are nine restaurants serving up a range of cuisines, including Thai, Italian, Bavarian and even a fondue venue (Kaminstuberl). There isn't much in the way of cheap eats here - a burger for the kids is inevitably wagyu beef and comes in at €25, but room rates include a €50 per person per day dining allowance. If you have a meal at the Michelin-starred Luce d'Oro you will spend considerably more (six courses is €135 per person), but the food is polished and the presentation faultless, so much so that at least half the diners were Instagramming photos of it.

The snow continued throughout the first night and, after a good sleep aided by the superior soundproofing, we spent the morning careering down a slope just below the hotel on traditional wooden sledges. After lunch we explored the hotel, wandering



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through a billiard lounge with table football, past grand pianos on landings, several libraries lined with hundreds of ainterestinglooking books, a tea lounge, an elegant bar with another grand piano, two yoga studios and the kit room, where guests can rent everything from the latest skis to Nordic walking equipment. Everywhere we went, staff were happy to help and answer questions.

VISIONARY PROJECT

The combination of service and superb facilities set in a beautiful location only partly explains why the resort is so special. A glimpse into its 100-year history reveals how the resort has - unusually - remained true to the vision of its founder.

Dr Johannes Muller was a Protestant theologian and philosopher who wanted Schloss Elmau to be "a space for the development of personal and communal life free of any ideology". In spite of various interruptions and challenges - such as the 2005 fire that destroyed two-thirds of the castle - that ethos has endured. It's why the G7 summit was a good fit - and why the resort hosts more than 200 cultural events each vear.

We had just missed cellist Mischa Maisky when we visited, but caught some superb performances including a Vivaldi flute concerto by La Folia Barockorchester and Stefan Temmingh, and a jazz recital by accordionist Vincent Peirani and Michael Wollny on piano. The duo had been in residence recording a CD. This is more than a bit of marketing; it is core to the hotel's appeal. How often have you been promised live music at a resort hotel and sat through the same tired performer night after night? Then there's the health and fitness options. No self-respecting European resort hotel can afford to neglect its spa facilities, but Schloss Elmau's are outstanding. In a strange way, the 2005 fire helped, necessitating the reconstruction of the Schloss by 2007 and the addition of the Retreat, opened in 2015, next door. Covering about 7,000 sqm over four floors, facilities include the adultsonly Badehaus spa with 25-metre outdoor infinity pool, probably the largest hammam





west of Istanbul at 500 sqm, and a family spa. In summer, there is also a Nature spa in the grounds. In addition, the Retreat has the Shantigiri spa with adult, women and family sections, two saunas and steam rooms, infinity lap and saltwater pools, a cold plunge pool and eight treatment rooms. There is a choice of several yoga, pilates and qigong classes on offer daily.

EXPLORING THE AREA

While there is much to do in the resort, it's worth exploring further afield. The surrounding area's activities differ according to the season but, whether hiking or crosscountry skiing, it's worth making the effort to visit Elmauer Alm - a wooden ski cabin located at 1,203 metres above sea level. Built in 1924 and open year-round, it has a modern central wood burner, red-and-white checked tablecloths and matching curtains.

Faces fresh from our hike, we found not everything had to be Michelin-starred to be delicious, tucking into warming Bavarian classics such as soup and currywurst. Standing on the terrace afterwards, the Wetterstein mountains appeared through the clouds for the first time on our trip, providing a majestic backdrop to our juvenile sledging antics as we returned to the hotel. I don't know what it is about sledging (or surfing for that matter) that causes even grown adults to yell like children, but it feels good. That night, we tried to imagine what the resort would be like to visit in summer. Different, but equally brilliant, was the conclusion. Those world leaders would know.

Rooms in the main building start from €408 per night based on two people sharing, and in the Retreat from €628 per night. schloss-elmau.de



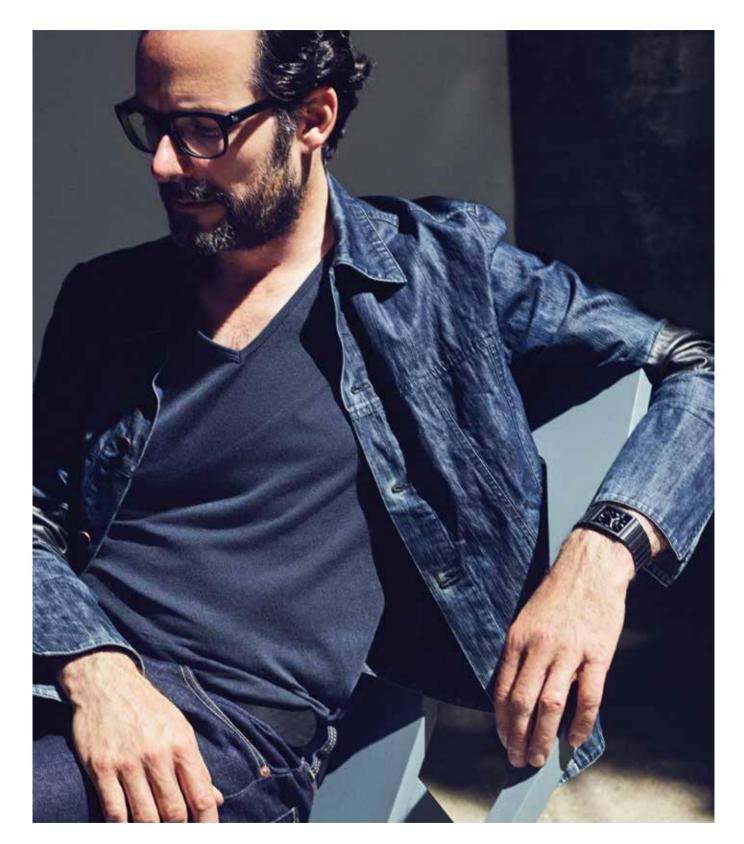
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www.siemens-home.pl

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

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



WATCHES: WEAR IT WELL

From minimalist design statements to exquisite detailing, **Timothy Barber** presents a selection of luxury timepieces to suit all tastes.

Design watches

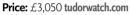
NOMOS GLASHÜTTE TETRA NEOMATIK NACHTBLAU

Bauhaus minimalism with added contemporary funk from the offbeat German watchmaker **Price:** £2,980 nomos-glashuette.com



TUDOR HERITAGE BLACK BAY DARK

The uber-stylish vintage-infused watch gets a contemporary all-black makeover





CHRISTOPHER WARD C65 TRIDENT CLASSIC MK II

Style and substance combine perfectly in this on-trend everyday watch

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Form and function – only for connoisseurs

RADO CERAMICA KONSTANTIN GRCIC

Price: £1,300 rado.com

The world of Munich-based industrial designer Konstantin Grcic, famed for his stark, pared-down furniture and radical use of materials, may seem a world away from the traditions and classicism of Swiss watches. But watch design is itself a broad church, and Grcic has brought his vision to bear on the Ceramica by Rado, Konstantin Grcic edition.

First introduced in the early 1990s, the Ceramica brought futuristic, scratch-proof ceramic casing into watch cases for the first time. Grcic's reimagining of this design classic brings out a more subtle and organic character in the Ceramica, softening the edges, adding gentle curves and giving the formerly glossy surface a silky matt finish. It is available in both men's and women's styles – the latter with diamond dial markers and a white-cased option – but it is the limitededition "Signature" version, with its austere, angular dial design, that should be the pick of today's black polo-necked design mavens.





Speed and style

BREMONT DH-88

Price: £7.995 bremont.com

The chronograph – the watch with a stopwatch – remains the ultimate Boy's Own style of timekeeper: it's got history (associated as it is with adventurous pursuits such as aviation, space travel and motor racing), bags of charm and a satisfying sense of action and purpose, thanks to the extra stopwatch dials and buttons.

British firm Bremont looked to the Golden Age of aviation to inspire its latest timepiece, the luxurious DH-88 chronograph. It's named after the De Havilland 88, a stupendously handsome aircraft that set the record for the fastest flight from England to Australia back in 1934, winning a 20-aeroplane race that captivated the world.

The watch packs in a second time zone, rotating 24-hour ring and date, in a design full of period detail, for one of the most polished and luxurious Bremont aviation watches yet.

Four other handsome chronographs...

PATEK PHILIPPE **REFERENCE 5170**

Patek Philippe Reference 5170 The venerable maison's flagship hand-wound chronograph in its most opulent guise

Price: £53,320 patek.com



VACHERON CONSTANTIN OVERSEAS CHRONOGRAPH

Comes with interchangeable bracelet and leather or rubber strap options, for the ultimate versatile chrono

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OMEGA SPEEDMASTER CK 2998

The legendary "Speedy" reborn in a limitededition blue and white livery

Price: £4,100 omega-watches.com



SHINOLA RUNWELL SPORT **CHRONO 48MM**

The Detroit brand's first titanium watch with a leather strap is part of a gift set that also includes a black nylon strap

Price: £960 shinola.co.uk



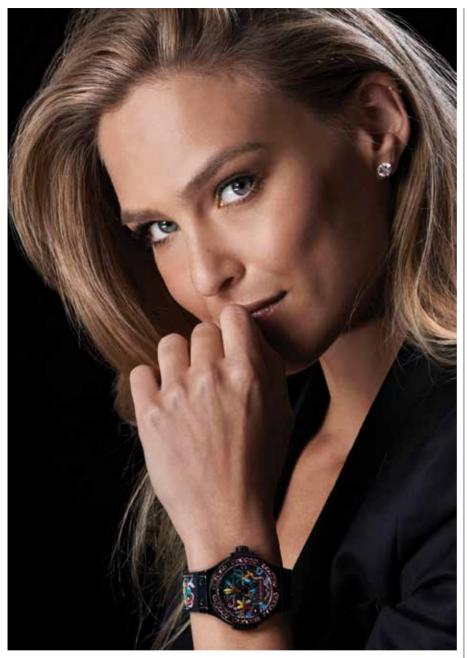




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Takich Świąt życzymy Państwu. Zespół Hoteli SPA Dr Irena Eris



Eye catcher

HUBLOT BIG BANG BRODERIE SUGAR SKULL CERAMIC

Price: £11,800 hublot.com

They may be small but the dials of women's watches are proving to be canvasses for an increasingly vibrant sense of creativity and artistic daring, not to mention the deployment of decorative techniques that seem distinctly unlikely.

Hublot's magnificently monikered Big Bang Broderie Sugar Skull collection is just such a case in point – the brand has unleashed the colourful spirit of Mexico's Day of the Dead in a series of watches that incorporate silk embroidery into the body of the watch itself.

The needlework is carried out by Swiss artisans more used to embroidering lace lingerie, but in this case stitching a spectacular Mexican skull pattern into the dial, as well as decorating the strap.

Four more colourful women's timepieces...

JAEGER-LECOULTRE REVERSO **CLASSIC DUETTO** BY CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN

The shoe maestro brings catwalk glamour to Jaeger-LeCoultre's heritage model

Price: £7,950 jaeger-lecoultre.com



HARRY WINSTON PREMIER **PRECIOUS WEAVING**

Tiny shards of mother of pearl are assembled on the dial, in accordance with Japan's "raden" technique

POA harrywinston.com



LONGINES LA GRANDE CLASSIQUE

A marguetry of coloured mother of pearl decorates the Longines dial

Price: £910 longines.com



ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL 26MM

Rolex recently embellished its Oyster Perpetual line with zinging new dial colours

Price: £3,250 rolex.com





WYDOBYWA TO, CO W *kawie* NAJLEPSZE



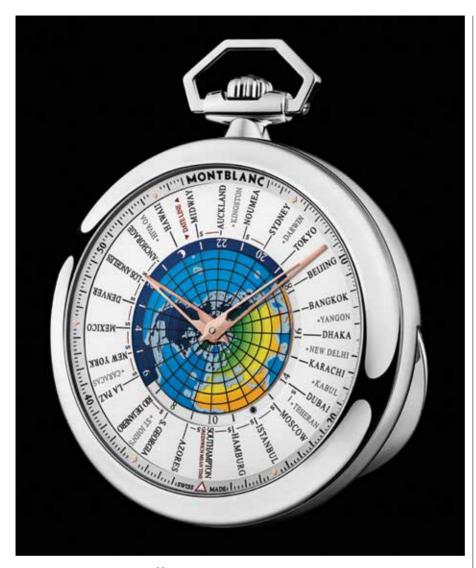


Kawa ze świeżo zmielonych ziaren smakuje najlepiej. Niezwykle trwałe, opatentowane ceramiczne młynki Saeco pozwalają cieszyć się prawdziwym smakiem i aromatem kawy w Twoim domu.

OPATENTOWANY CERAMICZNY Młynek

PHILIPS

Saeco, a Philips brand



Rolls-Royce among timepieces

MONTBLANC 4810 ORBIS TERRARUM LIMITED EDITION POCKET WATCH

Price: £6.900

For those who believe travel has a grander purpose than as a mere function of business or leisure, this Montblanc pocket watch is the perfect keepsake. In fact, it's a spot of old-fashioned business travel that inspired it – in 1906, the year Montblanc was born, its founders sailed to America on a fact-finding mission that would prove critical to the company's success. Made to mark the brand's 110th birthday, the steel-cased pocket watch evokes, rather beautifully, the classic era of the Blue Riband ocean voyage - the dial even has hints of an old ship's engine telegraph, while the back bears an engraving of an ocean liner.

Montblanc's watchmaking has been on a journey of its own in recent years, from purveyor of generic Swiss tickers to some of the most impressive – and keenly priced – fine watches around. World timers have become a particular speciality, and Montblanc produces in-house the mechanism that enables the time to be read at any moment in zones right around the world – including, in the pocket watch, zones at halfhour differences that don't make it on to watches.

And the "4810" of the title? That's the height in metres of Mont Blanc itself.

Four more travel timers...

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FLEET CARS

Company car drivers used to be something of a joke. The free car to be used and abused, the shiny suits, the jacket hanging up in the rear window, the Overdrive credit card filling their cupboards at home with free petrol station glass tumblers. Now, though, everything has changed.





Whereas in the past, the focus was on the biggest discount available on the purchase price, nowadays, the car's initial price, average fuel economy, servicing and running costs and end residual value for the next three years and 60,000 miles, or sometimes longer, are reduced to a single pence-per-mile rate.





ell, almost. When it comes to company cars, drivers and their fleet managers have to be sharper and wiser than ever. While some of that old-school car snobbery remains among drivers, fleet managers have to take into account everything from constantly changing tax regimes, emissions and maintenance costs, to staff well-being and happiness. "Running a car fleet has become much more diverse and professional in recent years," says John Pryor, chairman of the Association of Car Fleet Operators and fleet and travel manager at Arcadia Group. "It's now much more about pure mobility and how you want to get your staff from A to B. It's not about the price of the car, it's about the cost of the journey and also about the company's overall carbon dioxide emissions."

The government introduced new emissions-based company car tax rates in 2002 to encourage the purchase of cleaner vehicles. As those rates became increasingly punitive, the company car lost its appeal for many. With so many car financing options now available, the monthly cash sum offered by many firms, in lieu of a company car, is easy to spend on a new vehicle of your choice.

That had been the case according to figures from HMRC, which show that while 1.6 million UK residents paid company car tax in 1999-2000, that number has been steadily

dropping. Still, the 2014-15 figure of 950,000 was the first rise in a decade of drivers paying benefit-in-kind tax on a company car.

The reasons for the turnaround are numerous. Despite new car financing being more affordable than ever, many forget about the everyday running costs such as servicing, insurance, road tax and fuel that are taken care of by a company. And if you switch or lose jobs, you're still committed to making those payments until the end of the agreement.

"Many drivers have opted out of the system in the past and then found out just how expensive it is to run a car, so are returning to the company schemes," explains company car consultant Paul Barker. "Personal finance leasing has undoubtedly become easier and more popular, but a lot of people simply don't want that hassle. Agreeing to take a company car makes it an easy onestop-shop option."

Since the emissions-based tax rate changes, fleet managers have got a lot smarter in their deals with car manufacturers. Whereas in the past, the focus was on the biggest discount available on the purchase price (a "pile 'em high and sell 'em cheap" approach), now many fleet operators are more concerned with the whole life costs. Nowadays, the car's initial price, average fuel economy, servicing and running costs and end residual value for the next three years and 60,000 miles, or sometimes longer, are reduced to a single pence-per-mile rate. In particular, a higher residual value after those three years can mean a car that is initially more expensive can work out to be cheaper to run long-term.

At the same time, the new generation of plug-in hybrid cars have become attractive options for their ultra-low emissions. On the surface, that's good, but only if they have easy access to charging posts at work or home and, crucially, use them. Without regular charging, some fleet managers have found the running costs for these cars to be far higher than a more traditional equivalent.

There are other issues to consider, too. How do you want your company to be perceived when your employees go out to meet clients? In competitive sales environments, a company car remains an obvious status symbol, especially with premium brands. Cars are often seen as a retention tool and a perk for staff, which might be a somewhat outdated concept, but it's one that works for many firms at certain levels. Go too premium with your cars, though, and your clients might start questioning your fees. It's a fine balance.

That doesn't mean having to go with obvious choices. Mini expects to do more than









13,000 corporate sales this year, and its Business Partnership Programme offers SMEs a dedicated local corporate business manager. And while the Citroen C4 Picasso people carrier is hardly your archetypal fleet car, it has vast appeal to those with larger families - more than three-quarters of them leaving

Five smart fleet car choices

FORD MONDEO

From £20,895

Despite the rise of premium badges in the company car sector, Tony Blair's core voter, Mondeo man, is still alive and well. The car itself is better than ever with petrol-electric hybrid and upmarket Vignale versions now on offer too.

BMW 740E

From £68,330

Plug-in hybrid battery technology and fourwheel drive come to BMW's luxury 7-Series flagship range with the 740e and 740Le. With a 0-60mph time of 5.3 seconds, an all-electric range of 29 miles and 49g/km emissions, it's a tempting proposition.

OPEL ASTRA

From £15.445

Like the Mondeo, the Vauxhall Astra is another traditional fleet stalwart. With the Focus now starting to show its age, the excellent new Astra was declared the 2016 European Car of the Year. It also features Vauxhall's brilliant Onstar connectivity system for remote onboard assistance such as satnav programming or vehicle diagnostics.

RENAULT KANGOO ZE

From f.17.298

While hybrid and electric power is growing in popularity for cars, sales are still relatively rare in the van world. Along with the Nissan e-NV200, this Kangoo ZE is the perfect way for your company to make green deliveries.

AUDI A4

From £26.350

Along with the BMW 3-Series, the Audi A4 has become the go-to premium saloon for junior execs. A good range of engines and exceptional build quality make it a great choice.

showrooms this year have been to fleets and company car drivers.

In all shapes and sizes, with a premium badge on the bonnet or not and whatever the tax regime, it seems that the popularity of the company car is set to continue for some time yet.



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HOURS IN ... **SHANGHAI**

An afternoon on and around the Bund provides insight into Shanghai's past, present and future. By Jeremy Tredinnick



THE BUND

Once a muddy riverbank where boats unloaded and took on heavy bales of merchandise via rickety wooden planking, this 1.5-kilometre stretch of the Huangpu River has morphed into one of the most visited of China's many tourist sites - in fact, foreigners will feel distinctly outnumbered as they wander down the broad pedestrian promenade that fronts onto the river, dodging hawkers and snapping photos of groups of Chinese ballroom dancing or doing the fan dance.

Starting at Suzhou Creek and the iron arcs of Garden Bridge, you'll pass through Huangpu Park - originally open to foreigners only - and its Monument to the People's Heroes, a concrete pyramid that seems more suited to the modern architectural jungle of the Pudong district on the river's far side. Lining the Bund's length is a procession of grand buildings created by the foreign banks and great trading houses of Shanghai's early 20th-century heyday. Neoclassical edifices stand shoulder to shoulder - a reminder of the pomp and splendour of that exciting time. Standouts include the Peace Hotel (formerly Sassoon House), whose art-deco lobby and stained glass is worth checking out; the Shanghai Customs House with its distinctive clock tower; and the Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (formerly the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation building), in front of which a huge bronze bull apes New York's Wall Street icon. Bund 18 should be explored, as the renovation of its interior is exquisite - it now houses top-end retail and dining/drinking establishments (as does Three on the Bund farther down).

PEACE HOTEL, NANJING ROAD EAST

The Peace Hotel stands on the corner of one of old Shanghai's main thoroughfares: Nanjing Road. The stretch from the Bund up to People's Park is two kilometres of chaotic shopping mania. Expensive brand names jostle for space with mainstream high-street stores, souvenir shops and eateries of every description. It claims to be the busiest shopping street in the world – and if the crowds I've had to deal with are anything to go by, that's a fair bet. Whether you're a shopaholic or not, a stroll up this street is an experience.

M ON THE BUND

Before reaching the southern end of the Bund, head into the former Nissin Shipping building at No 5 for lunch at M on the Bund. Located on the seventh floor and boasting a rooftop terrace with tremendous views up the curving Bund, this was one of the first Western restaurants to open in the city. Its menu is rooted in classical European cuisine but with novel twists thrown in, and Middle Eastern and North African dishes also feature. The décor is warm and refined, referencing Shanghai's glamorous past with some style. Lunch 11.30am-2.30pm (Mon-Fri), dinner 6-10.30pm; 7/F No 5 The Bund

(corner of Guangdong Lu); tel +86 21 6350 9988; m-restaurantgroup.com/mbund

YUYUAN GARDEN STATION, SHANGHAI, CHINA

Where the Bund ends, at Yanan Road East, turn "inland" for a block then south (left) – you'll soon be part of a stream of people heading into the old Chinese quarter, a rambling network of streets and alleys whose focal point is the Yuyuan Garden. This restored classical 16th-century Chinese garden, built by government official Pan Yunduan for his parents, is a beautiful example of Ming-era landscaping that covers more than two hectares filled with pavilions linked by covered corridors and bridges, open courtyards, streams, ponds, ancient trees and stands of bamboo.

Sadly you're unlikely to find the peace and tranquillity it was designed to inspire, since you'll be sharing it with hordes of mostly Chinese tourists, but nevertheless, wandering its winding walkways, pausing in ornate pavilions with curving eaves, and gazing into carp-filled pools by weeping willows is a wonderful antidote to the city strife outside. The Wall of Cloud-piercing Dragon, Exquisite Jade Rock, Inner Garden and Hall of Heralding Spring are all highlights.

Next to the garden's entrance is the famous Mid-lake Pavilion Teahouse with its zigzag bridge – a cultural must-do if you're willing to fight the crush – and after that it's time to work your way back through the kitsch of the bazaar to the Huangpu River. Yuyuan Garden is open 8.30am-5.30pm; entry RMB40 (US\$6); 218 Anren Jie (Street).

HUANGHU RIVER CRUISE

Back at the southern end of the Bund's pedestrian promenade, a fleet of riverboats line the riverside, all touting sunset cruises ranging from 30 minutes to three hours plus, depending on how far up or down the river you'd like to float. The shorter sunset cruises are a great way of finishing your day. As night falls, the old colonial edifices of the Bund light up like Xmas decorations on one side, while on the other, in Pudong's Lujiazui district, the 21st century stands brash and vertiginously tall, with skyscrapers such as the Oriental Pearl Tower, Jin Mao Tower, Shanghai Financial Center and the latest - and tallest- Shanghai Tower piercing the sky in a neon show that matches any metropolis for architectural swagger. Many companies along the river wharves offer cruises; prices generally range from RMB60-150 (US\$9-23) with a one-hour cruise costing around RMB100 (US\$15).







The restored classical 16th-century Yuyyan Garden, built by government official Pan Yunduan for his parents, is a beautiful example of Ming-era landscaping



ASK PETER

Letters

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

Luggage limits

I'm flying to Barcelona through London with British Airways. I was offered a price with no luggage, but I need to take a large suitcase. What is the luggage allowance when it comes to weight? I forgot to ask in the travel agency. Can I also take hand luggage with me? Will I need to pay for an extra suitcase? Is it possible to choose a specific seat on the plane in advance?

Hanna

Dear Hanna,

A few years ago British Airways offered lower rates for passengers travelling only with hand luggage. This translated into a lower price of the ticket and the passenger paid only for the actually implemented services, as is the case with budget airlines. Other passengers can use a slightly higher fare, which allows to take one piece of luggage. In the case of a flight to Barcelona, the weight of your suitcase must not exceed 23 kilograms, and its maximum size is 90x75x43 centimetres.

The airline's luggage allowances are very reasonable. Your cabin luggage should be no bigger than 56x45x25 centimetres, and apart from than you can take a laptop bag, with the maximum dimensions of 40x30x15 centimetres. Both bags can weigh up to 23kgs each. So, you should be able to comply with these limits without a problem.

You should notify the carrier about each additional piece of luggage (beyond the indicated limit) ahead of time. Airport checkin is charged extra at the airport, but you can also pay for the excess luggage online. There is a discount when paying via the website.

The promotional rate and the fact that you don't have the loyalty programme card make it impossible for you to select the seat. The selection of a specific seat is possible only 24 hours before the departure at the check-in desk on the carrier's website.

Before going on a voyage

I'm planning to go on a sea voyage around Mediterranean Sea. We are setting off from Savony, Italy. There is no airport in Savona. What is the easiest way to get to the port? Is it possible to reach it by train from Milan? How long does the journey take?

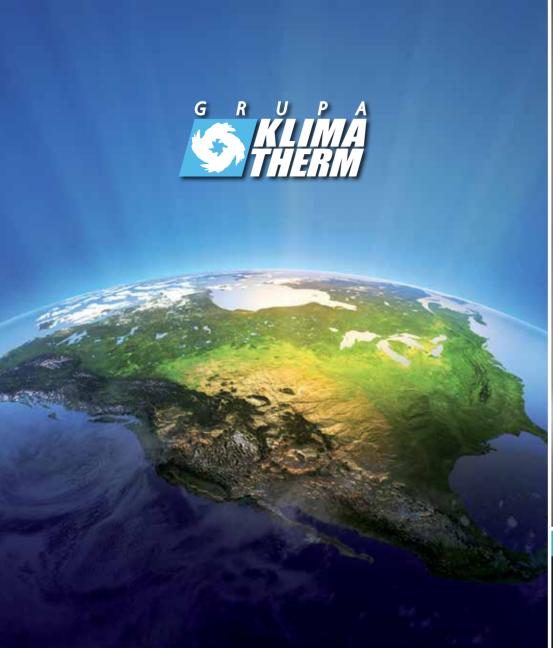
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Dear Leszek.

Savona is a big port, very popular among cruise ship operators. The real problem is the lack of an airport nearby. There are several ways to get to Savona and the most popular is by train. The nearest airport is in Genoa, but it operates only a small number of flights. You can take advantage of one of many regular connections between Savona and Genoa, and then change to a train to Milan. The railway station in Savona is situated next to the port and a taxi ride to get there takes no more than 10 minutes. Some people opt for a 30-minutes' walk.

I suggest using the type of transfer offered directly by your shipping line. The transfers are made from airports directly to the terminal at the port. A one-wat trip costs between €30 to €50. You can make the reservation and payment while booking your cruise, but you can also pay for the service later. This guarantees that you won't be late for the ship's departure and the cruise line will take care of you from the moment you leave the airport. Checking-in your luggage is also a lot easier. Buses run from the airports in Nice and Milan.

Naturally, you can always rent a car at the airport and get to the port on your own. A drive from the Milan airport to Nice takes a little less than 3 hours. Bear in mind, that not all car rentals allow for the so called one-way rental, and will charge you extra for dropping the car off in another location. That's why it's advisable to carefully read the information about all the costs. The most comfortable option is to use a private limousine. There are several companies in Nice and Milan which transfer passengers from airports to the port in a limousine. But the costs are significantly higher, as the prices of a one-way trip start from €250.







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