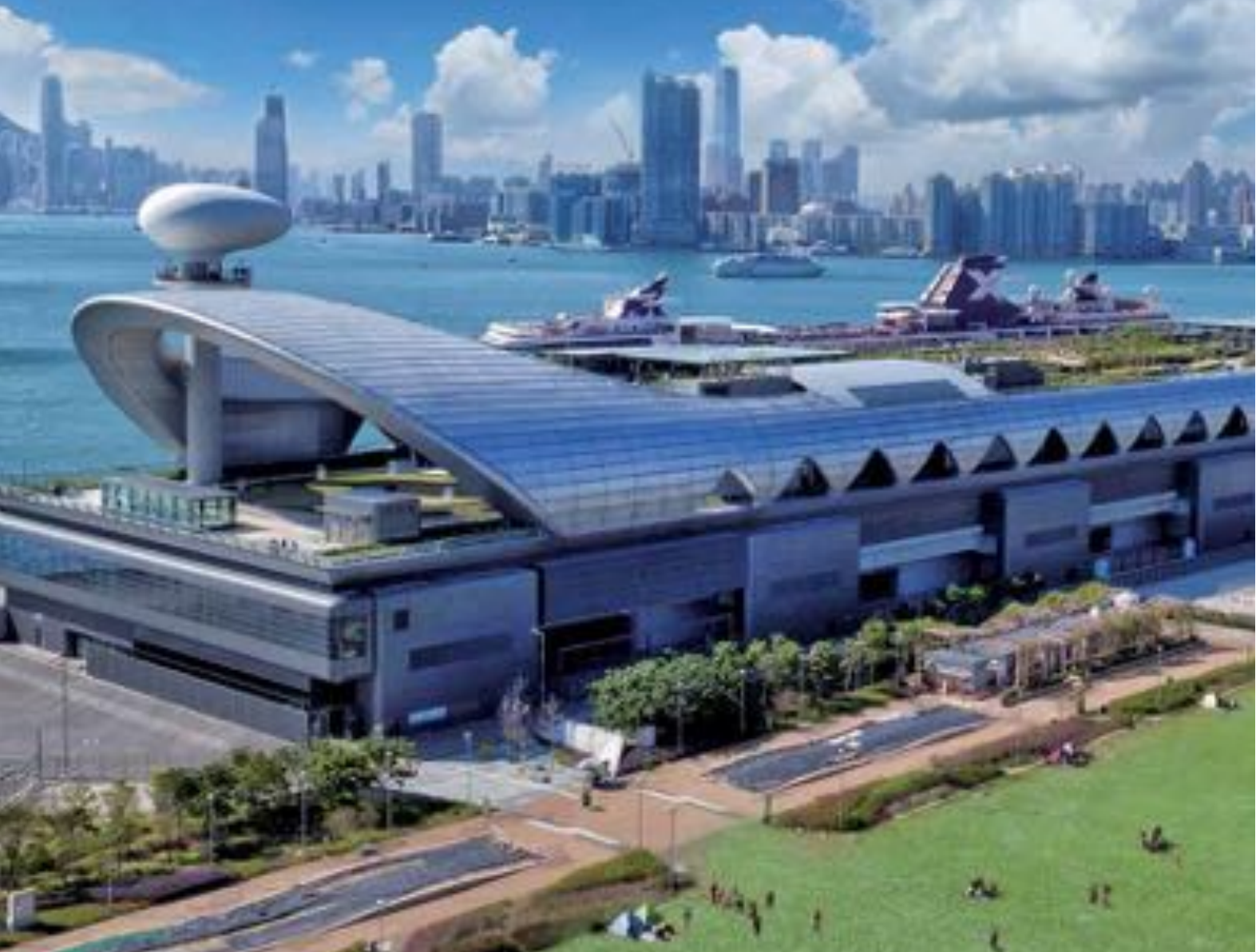


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## HARBOUR HIGHLIGHTS



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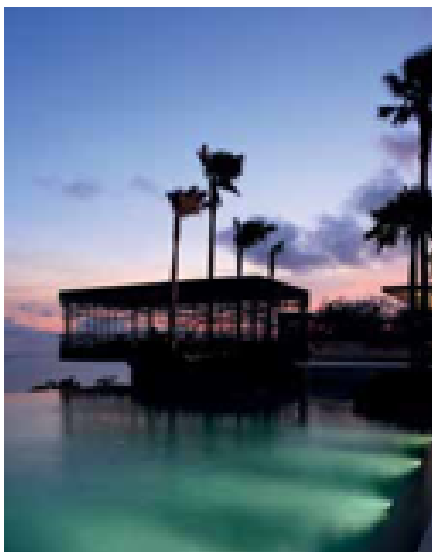


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## Editorial **6** On Top

- Hotel, restaurant, and airline news

**8**

## Cover Story

- Harbour highlights

**14**

## Tried&Tested

- FB777-300ER  
London – Jakarta,  
Business Class

**18**

## Report

- On the case

**22**

## Air Travel

- Pay it forward
- With LOT to Tel Aviv

**28**

**32**

## Hotels

- Well-being on the go

**34**

## Destinations

- Weekend in Denver
- Escape to Bali
- Another round?
- Under Vietnam's spell
- 4 hours in... Edinburgh

**36**

**42**

**46**

**50**

**64**

## Moto&Techno

- Electric cars powered up
- Quality and quantity

**56**

**60**

## Interview

- Lenovo is in the game

**62**

## Ask Peter

**66**

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FOU  
TEN  
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## Business Traveller Poland

ul. Tamka 16/ 4, 00-349 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/tamanie** LACRIMA  
lacrima.barbarascharf@gmail.com

**Wydawnictwo** ul. Tamka 16 /4  
00-349 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  
London  
W1S 2PD  
tel.: +44 20 7821 2700  
www.panaceapublishing.com  
www.businesstraveller.com

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

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# HOLIDAY IN HONG KONG?

**N**o matter what time of day you arrive in Hong Kong, the panorama of the city that suddenly unfolds in front of your eyes is truly impressive. And no wonder, because Hong Kong is a city whose horizon is as high as its impressive skyscrapers which are in no way inferior to those you can see in Manhattan.

Today Hong Kong is a mixture of exotic Asia and British tradition, firmly established for 156 years, when in 1842 England took over the city after the end of the first Opium War and it continued to administer until 1997. When Hong Kong returned to China in 1997, the Chinese government gave it the status of a Special Administrative Region. In this way the territory was allowed to retain its own capitalist economic and political system. English

remains the official language, and the Hong Kong dollar the official currency. Importantly, China's takeover of Hong Kong hasn't stunted the dynamic development of the city. Note that the gross national product (GDP) per capita is \$25,600-25,800, the unemployment rate doesn't exceed 5.2 per cent, and the individual income tax reaches a maximum of 16 per cent of total income. Hong Kong is still regarded as one of the most exclusive destinations in Asia and ranks first in the IQ ranking of its residents, with an average of 107!

I hope that our cover article will inspire you to visit Hong Kong or, perhaps even encourage you to invest in this truly fascinating city.



*Marzena Mróz*

**Marzena Mróz.**  
editor-in-chief



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## Airline

### Air France

#### IN-FLIGHT MEDITATION

Air France invites its customers travelling on board a long-haul flight to discover the benefits of meditation via the Mind app programme. Since June, young and older passengers have been enjoying original guided meditation sessions available in the new "meditation" section on their individual screens on board Air France aircraft. There are 12 available meditation sessions. Each programme, made up of an audio recording and a corresponding video, offers travellers world exclusive content to familiarize themselves with the concept of mindfulness and to feel in harmony with the special environment of an aircraft cabin.

Six meditation sessions for adults are taken from Christophe André's best-seller "Mindfulness day after day" edited by L'Iconoclaste, including the session 'Mind travel' and "Achieving inner calm and peace".

Meditation sessions can be run by selecting the "meditation" section on the touch screen of your in-flight entertainment system.

Air France in cooperation with Mind also recommend a mobile app (Mind app), which provides mindfulness initiation programmes not only during flights, but also on a daily basis. With over 200 sessions adapted to everyday life scenarios and designed by some of the greatest meditation experts, Mind is the leading reference in France. The app can be downloaded from iTunes or GooglePlay.

## Technology

### Samsung

#### SMARTPHONES ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

The capabilities that new technologies bring to our lives and business can be safely described as a global revolution that has transformed the life of the entire globe. One of the most dynamically developing is Samsung - a technological giant from Seoul. Products made by the South-Korean company have become an integral part of our lives, determining our needs. The latest range of Samsung flagship devices includes smartphones that allow for even greater mobility in busi-



ness. Beneath the stylish Infinity screen, covering almost the entire front panel of the phone, the manufacturer has packed powerful components. Samsung Galaxy S8 and S8 + connected to a monitor via DeX docking station, can be transformed into a computer, enabling you to use your phone as a desktop mode. Galaxy S8 and S8 + also support Secure Folder, which effectively encrypts sensitive documents, data sheets, blocking unauthorized access. In this way, Samsung smartphones make us more mobile, independent and creative. We are looking forward to other exciting news from South Korea.



## Culture

### Book

#### JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE WORLD

To properly explore Papua-New Guinea, you should have a large amount of knowledge, be cautious and be truly determined to eventually reach your destination. The dark corners of the region, but also its captivating beauty and cultural richness, are vividly described in the latest book by a traveller and photographer Paweł Zgrzebnicki, entitled "Where The World Ends" ("Tam, gdzie kończy się świat").

Is Papua New Guinea a paradise island? It's a land of picturesque mountain scenery, tropical forests, beautiful beaches and coral reefs. It's also one of the last areas on Earth where you can see the original communities. The land inhabited by hundreds of independent and until recently completely isolated groups, some of which are tribes that only occasionally have contact with modern civilization. Over 850 different languages have been classified here. An expedition to Papua New Guinea is an opportunity to meet people similar to those that lived thousands of years ago; to experience for a moment the long-gone times, and visit communities that don't know the notions of modern trade, time, distance, and ownership. It's a perfect choice for holidays!



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## Hotel

### Best Western Hotels&Resorts

#### NEW INVESTMENT

Best Western Hotels & Resorts, the second largest hotel chain in Poland, is launching its new properties. At the end of February the brand opened Best Western Plus Hotel Podklasztorze, housed in the historic 12th century Cistercian Abbey. The hotel offers 53 rooms featuring names that refer to the daily activities and duties of medieval monks, including the Scribe's Cell and the Herbalist's Cell. In June, first guests arrived at Best Western Hotel Mariacki, situated on site of a former 1930s brewery in Katowice. Also the well-known Rezydencja Gubałówka in Zakopane will soon become one of BW Premier Collection properties. The expansion of the chain in Poland doesn't involve only new openings, but also investment in the existing properties. At the beginning of June one of the five Best Western hotels in Krakow welcomed guests in newly-designed interiors and under a new brand name - Best Western Plus Kraków Old Town. Apart from local revamps and openings, the chain also has nearly 500 ongoing investment plans around the world.

## Beauty

### Solo minimalism

#### SCENT OF A MAN

Inspired by a minimalist lifestyle and dedicated to finding balance between contrasts. This is what the new fragrance Solo Loewe Esencial is all about. It's a new, fresh and metallic eau de toilette packed in a truly minimalist bottle. Its light, clean, timeless and precise iron design contrasts with thick yet delicate glass, giving rise to the ideal balance of opposites.

The eau de toilette has a distinct character and specific nuances of Spanish notes and essences, such as lime, thyme, rosemary and guava tree. While retaining the essence of fragrances from Solo Loewe range, Esencial is made with four harmonious accords: the spicy accord contrasted by aromatic one, blends with fresh metallic accord that contrasts with wooden one. Solo Loewe Esencial presents a simplicity of design which contrasts with the complex structure of the fragrance. The hardness of iron in contrast to the fragility of glass. The lightweight structure that reduces material to a minimum. The new creation by Loewe is a continuation of the quest for timeless nature and the essence stripped of unnecessary additives. A man can truly find himself in this balance, without losing his own essence. [sephora.pl](http://sephora.pl)



## Gadget

### Glasses



#### NOT ONLY FOR HOLIDAYS

Do perfect glasses exist? It's difficult to provide a clear-cut answer to this question. Searching for sunglasses that would be suitable for Polish summers, autumn trips to Italy, winter escapades to the sunny Asia and the cold Iceland, we have tested Ray-Ban® Blaze Collection. What we liked the most was, primarily, the innovative, flat lens design combined with mirror colours. The brand is well known and highly-valued, and the new model has a chance to become a real hit. We are quite confident that Ray-Ban® Blaze Collection will be in fashion not only in summer, but also throughout other seasons.



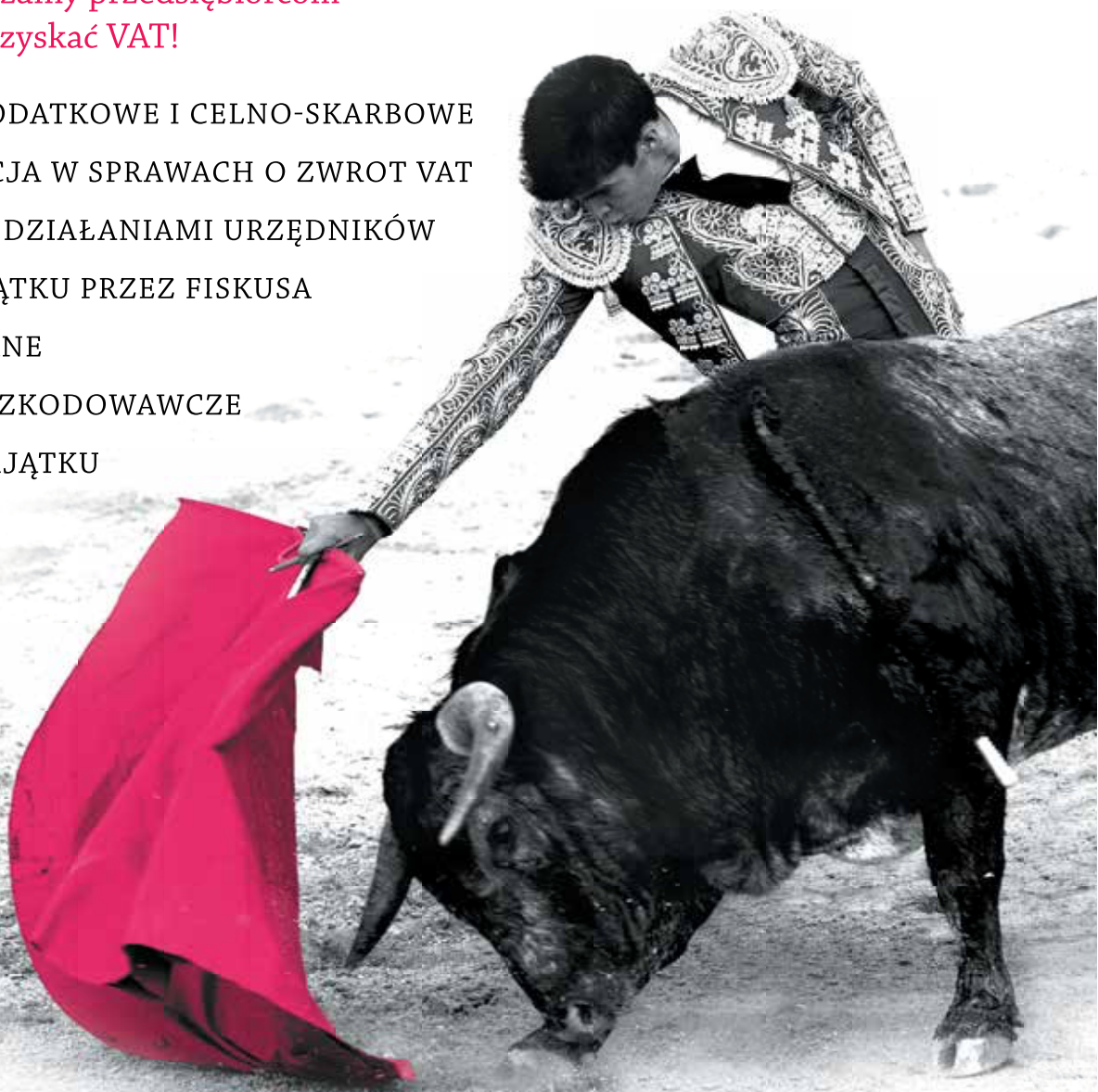


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## Airline

### Finnair

## WE WILL FLY TO LAPLAND

Since Lapland enjoys great popularity, in winter 2017 Finnair will launch connections to new destinations in the region. In total, from November to April, Finnair will offer 430,000 seats to Lapland, which is approximately 57,000 seats more compared to the previous winter 2016–2017 season. Between 1 January 1 and 24 March, Finnair will add four weekly frequencies to Rovaniemi on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, thus offering up to five flights daily from Helsinki. Kuusamo will see a 23 percent growth in seat capacity with three additional weekly frequencies operating on Mondays, Saturdays and Sundays.

“Lapland has been attracting hundreds of thousands of international tourists every year,” says Juha Järvinen, Chief Commercial Officer at Finnair.

“We are happy to note that this also applies to passengers from Poland.” In the last winter season, the number of Polish passengers flying from Finnair to Lapland increased by more than 35 percent.

Lapland is best known for offering a range of winter activities from ice fishing, sighting of Northern Lights and skiing to husky safaris and reindeer sleigh rides. Finnair is the leading airline flying to Lapland and connects travellers via Helsinki to five Lapland airports with several weekly connections, and timetables designed to support smooth connections from Europe, Asia and North America. The airline also offer two flights from Warsaw to Helsinki, a daily flight from Gdańsk and up to five connections from Krakow.



## Beauty

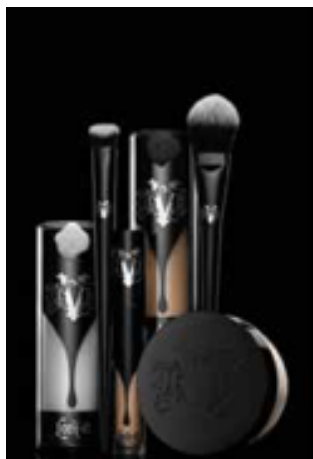
### Iconic brand

## KAT VON D

Kat Von D, a celebrated American tattoo artist, has announced the launch of her own collection of make-up products Kat Von D Beauty. In Poland the range will be available exclusively in Sephora stores from 22 September.

From an artist, musician and tattoo guru to the global beauty - Kat has created an iconic brand, offering a collection of long-lasting make-up cosmetics with pigments providing full colour coverage.

**Kat Von D Beauty is a brave brand that breaks codes by presenting a complete collection of make-up cosmetics for**



**eyes, skin and lips. Unusual packaging, designed by Kat, add this collection an original and authentic character. Kat has been a vegan for years and her cosmetics are not tested on animals. Almost all product formulas are vegan, most of them feature the “100% Cruelty Free!” on packaging.**

**Kat Von D celebrates the individual character of each woman as well as the way she expresses herself. The truly iconic global brand Kat Von D Beauty is also distinguished by its dynamic presence in social media that connect and stimulated one of the most creative beauty communities.**



## Holiday

### Masurian Region

## KAMIEŃ MILA CLUB

Where can you meet Mateusz Kusznierewicz this summer?

“My family is always keen to visit Masuria, and the Kamień Milla Club situated on the picturesque Beldany Lake. It's simply a perfect spot both for short and longer stays. It seems like time moves slower there, but it's also the place for active leisure aficionados and those who love outdoor activities, just like me,” says the double Olympic medallist in sailing. In Kamień Milla Club, the renowned Polish athlete runs his Kusznierewicz Academy. What attractions does it offer for young people and adults?

“My Academy has a very interesting offer for families and groups. We also offer camps for children and teenagers. I'm sure that everyone will find there something to their liking,” adds Kusznierewicz.

The Academy operates a state-of-the-art yacht fleet, including comfortably equipped 10-person vessels Antila 33 and Antila 27, which are mainly used for corporate regattas and cruises on the Great Masurian Lakes, but are also available for regular charter. Children and teenagers can participate in the Academy's sailing camp, multisport activities, as well as take a motorboat helmsmen and yachtsman courses. The staff of the centre are well-trained and the camp programme thoroughly refined.

Masuria is a truly fascinating region with a lot to offer., while Kamień Milla Club can give you a real taste of a sailor's life. [klubmila.pl](http://klubmila.pl)





## Architecture

### Architectural Award of the Mayor of Warsaw

#### HELMUT JAHN IN COSMOPOLITAN TWARDA 4

Helmut Jahn, one of the most prominent architects of the 21st century, has also been recently recognized in Poland. The apartment building Cosmopolitan Twarda 4 that he designed, has received the mayor's award in "Residential Architecture (single building)" category. Helmut Jahn visited the capital to receive the prize in person.

"This building is a positive contribution to the city and its people. We have managed to give Warsaw something it truly deserved, that is a world-class building. In this way we have improved the city, as well as the world, which is the most important thing today," said Helmut Jahn.

The design of the apartment building is the first and so far the only work of Helmut Jahn in Poland.

"With Helmut Jahn's help we were able to create a modern building, which perfectly fits the character and the

surroundings of Grzybowski Square.

The building responds to the needs of its residents, neighbours, as well as all people of Warsaw who use its commons spaces," says Karolina Kaim, the Chairwoman of the Board at Tacit Investment.

Helmut Jahn is the creator of more than 100 prestigious projects in the world, including the Sony Center Complex in Berlin, One Liberty Place (the tallest building in Philadelphia), Highlight Munich Business Towers, and the State of Illinois Center in Chicago.

Cosmopolitan Twarda 4 is a 160-metre tall, 44-storey apartment building. Its all-glass curtain walls provide truly amazing panoramic views of Warsaw. The building offers the highest standard of finish, comfort and safety - all this available in the unique space of Grzybowski Square. [apartamentycosmopolitan.pl](http://apartamentycosmopolitan.pl)



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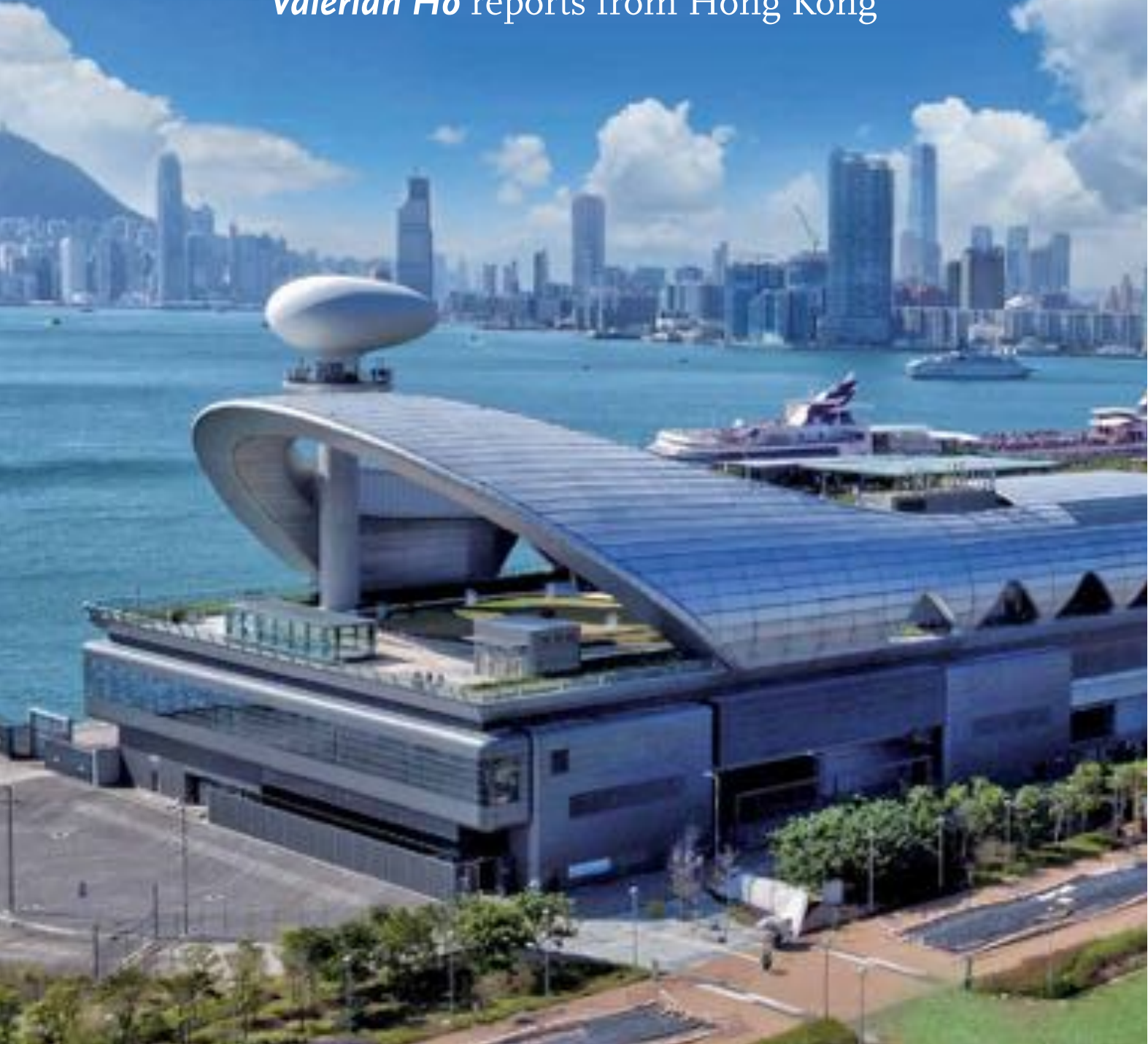
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# HARBOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Kowloon's waterfront is being transformed thanks to investment in some cutting-edge projects.  
**Valerian Ho** reports from Hong Kong









**A**s any visitor to Hong Kong will tell you, booking a hotel room with a view of the city's Victoria Harbour is expensive. Property along the waterfront is in high demand, and finding space to build is not easy.

On Hong Kong Island, development has been aggressive, with the government reclaiming about 10 per cent of the island's total area to make room for new projects. Much of this is now prime real estate, within walking distance from key hubs such as Hong Kong station and landmark five-star hotels including the Grand Hyatt and the Four Seasons.

### BRIGHT SIDE OF THE CITY

Across the harbour in Kowloon, growth has been slower, save for a few major developments in the districts of Tsim Sha Tsui and Austin, such as the 108-storey International Commerce Centre, which also houses the Ritz-Carlton across its top 16 floors. East Kowloon has remained fairly underdeveloped, with local industries rooted in manufacturing, and high-rise apartment blocks and shopping centres scattered throughout. Kowloon has famously been described by expats as "the Dark Side" owing to issues such as overcrowding and less spoken English, but, mainly, because of a lack of interest from international investors – until now. Over the past few decades, both the government and private companies have embarked on several regeneration projects, leading to a raft of new hotels, a dedicated cultural

precinct and the reinvention of formerly disused facilities.

One of the largest single developments has been going on for some time at Kai Tak in Kowloon Bay. Once the site of Hong Kong's runway, the area was left idle for many years while plans were discussed on how best to utilise the long, thin stretch of land that juts out into Kowloon Bay.

The answer seems obvious now – a striking new cruise terminal designed by Foster and Partners (captured on our cover). Alongside this, extensions to the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) network have made the area more convenient to access and navigate, encouraging major new hotels to move in.

Lastly, projects such as the West Kowloon Cultural District are putting the Kowloon waterfront on the map, making it a desirable place to live and work.

### REVAMPING THE RUNWAY

Kai Tak International airport was demolished in 1998. Hong Kong moved its aviation facilities to Chek Lap Kok, on the far side of Lantau Island, and the huge area of land that remained, spanning 320 hectares, became the highly complex Kai Tak Development project, representing the largest available plot of land fronting Victoria Harbour. Roll forward 20 years, and it now comprises government, institutional and community facilities, residential and commercial areas, and open green spaces.

The first of the major projects to be completed was the Kai Tak Cruise Terminal,

which launched in 2013 and is managed by Worldwide Cruise Terminals (WCT). Built on the former airport's famous old runway, the three-storey terminal can accommodate two mega-cruise ships of up to 200,000 tonnes. Since opening, the terminal has served 730,000 holidaymakers and, last year, it welcomed 18 cruises.

The facility is more than just a cruise terminal, however – its impressive harbour views also make it appealing for meetings and events. WCT provides space for a range of gatherings, regularly hosting more than 20 corporate dinners and weddings each month. It has four flexible indoor venues covering in excess of 3,000 sqm and catering to up to 3,000 guests, and can also make use of on-site food and drink outlets and outdoor areas, including its rooftop garden. Major events last year included functions for Volkswagen, Austrian Airlines and Tesla.

A vital boost for business in this section of the Kowloon harbour district is the development of the MTR network. Last year, an extension of the Kwun Tong Line opened from Yau Ma Tei station to Ho Man Tin and Whampoa. Since 2012, a link between Shatin and Central on Hong Kong Island has been under construction; the first phase of the 17km-long railway project – set to open in mid-2019 – will connect Tai Wai with Hung Hom, passing through new stations including Kai Tak, Ma Tau Wai and Ho Man Tin. The remaining Hung Hom to Admiralty cross-harbour section is targeted to start operation in 2021.



FOT: MATERIAŁ PRASOWY, ARCHIWUM



---

The Rosewood Hong Kong, which is opening next year, will also enjoy a great location.

---





## CHECKING IN

Just opened is Shangri-La's Kerry hotel – the first for this brand in Hong Kong – taking advantage of the MTR's new extension to Whampoa, and with an enviable location right at the water's edge next to the Hung Hom Star Ferry pier.

Designed by André Fu, known for his work on the Upper House hotel and Singapore's Fullerton Bay hotel, more than 60 per cent of the property's 546 rooms have harbour views. It also boasts the largest pillar-less ballroom in the city, holding up to 2,100 people for a reception. It features rock crystal chandeliers, a 15-metre LED video screen and an extensive harbour-view foyer.

Sharon Foo, director of communications for the Kerry Hotel Hong Kong, says: "Next door we have the two new Wheelock office towers, and the terrace in front of our International Market Place will be open to the public. We want to be part of the Hung Hom community."

Opening next year, is the Rosewood Hong Kong, which will also enjoy a great location. The luxury hotel will occupy 27 upper-level floors of a mixed-use tower on Salisbury Road in Tsim Sha Tsui, right beside Victoria Harbour on the site of the former New World Centre, which has belonged to Rosewood's owning company, New World Development, since the 1970s.

The 398-room property will feature eight restaurants and a spa, while the top 19 floors of the tower will house 199 long-stay luxury apartments with their own dedicated lounge, indoor pool and gym.

## CULTURAL CATALYST

In the second half of the 20th century, the Kowloon Peninsula's western shoreline was so packed with tower blocks that the only way to create new business possibilities was to reclaim land from the sea. The buildings now occupying new foundations include the International Commerce Centre and the huge Elements shopping mall, next to the W hotel.

One 40-hectare plot of land remained, providing the space to develop the West Kowloon Cultural District, a complex of theatres and performance spaces that will produce and host world-class exhibitions, performances and cultural events, and provide 23 hectares of public open space, including a 2km waterfront promenade.

Construction started in late 2013, and the headland area and Nursery Park have opened to the public, with events and festivals taking place throughout the year. Last September, the M+ Pavilion opened, a new space for artists and designers to present their work as part of small-scale exhibitions and events in the Art Park.

Next to M+, another significant development is planned. When it is complete in 2021, the Lyric Theatre Complex will comprise three theatres, as well as a Resident Company Centre – a "creative lab" for performers to collaborate and rehearse.

Last year, the West Kowloon Cultural District Authority also announced a partnership with the Beijing Palace Museum – a UNESCO World Heritage site – to launch a new attraction, the Hong Kong Palace Museum. Rocco Design Architects will draw up the blueprint – award-winning architect Rocco Yim designed the Yunnan Provincial Museum and Guangdong Museum in China, both of which are renowned for their striking, abstract aesthetics. Expected to open in 2022, the Hong Kong Palace Museum's permanent galleries will present 5,000 years of Chinese art, shared from the Beijing Palace Museum.

Hong Kong locals will welcome the recent funding of artistic and cultural sites for the Kowloon Peninsula, which will hopefully create another layer to a metropolis best known for its gleaming skyscrapers and business opportunities. As investment continues to pour into the area, Kowloon's new hotels and infrastructure will no doubt open up a new, exciting side to Hong Kong that many tourists and business people have yet to experience.





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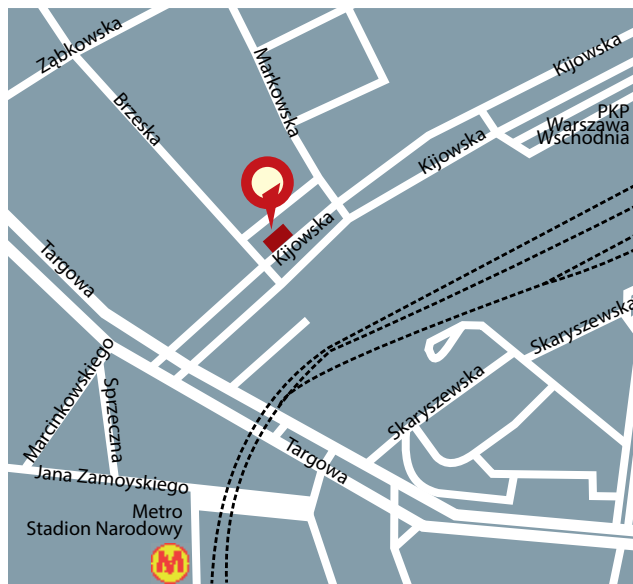
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# B777-300ER LONDON – JAKARTA, BUSINESS CLASS



## PRICE

Internet rates for a return business class flight from London to Jakarta in May ranged between £2,515 and £2,973 depending on flexibility.

## CONTACT:

[www.garuda-indonesia.com](http://www.garuda-indonesia.com)

**I**ndonesia's national airline started flying non-stop from Heathrow to Jakarta in March last year (the Skyteam member previously flew London-Jakarta via Amsterdam). The service started with five weekly flights but was reduced to three in winter 2016; there are plans to return to five in winter 2017. Return flights to London stop off at Singapore.

## CHECK-IN

I arrived at Heathrow Terminal 3 at 1800 for my departure at 2015. Online check-in is possible 24 hours beforehand but boarding passes were not available when I logged on so I had to collect mine at the airport (Zone F). At the business desk I was given a separate print-out of my luggage receipt and a fast-track arrivals voucher. Then I went through fast-

track security control which was also swift.

## THE LOUNGE

Garuda's business class passengers get free access to the paid-for No 1 Traveller lounge, which otherwise costs £26 online. I was impressed by the private library-style living rooms, although these must be booked in advance. It had a spa with paid-for treatments, showers, a cinema room, lots of

comfy seating, a long counter by the window to work at, sleep pods (£20) and a dining zone serving à la carte meals – some complimentary, others paid-for. There was also a free self-service buffet with various salads (potato, pasta, greens, tomato and quinoa) as well as brownies, muffins and cakes. Most drinks are free.

## BOARDING

Gate 18, eight minutes' walk away, opened at 1915. There was a priority channel and a separate seating area for first and business class flyers. Premium travellers were given priority. Once seated, hot towels, Billicart-Salmon Brut Rose champagne and newspapers were offered.

## THE SEAT

Business class is split across two cabins (rows 6-8 and 9-16) configured 1-2-1 (A, E-F, K/C, D-G, H). I was in 8A – it had a larger side table, which was a bonus. The colour scheme was a bit drab but the design and ergonomics were excellent. Measuring 21.2 inches (53.8cm) wide, it reclined into a 73-inch (185cm) fully-flat bed. I was impressed both by the level of privacy and the amount of surface and storage space. The seat also had a large entertainment screen, universal plug sockets and USB ports. Headphones and L'Occitane amenity kits were provided.

## WHICH SEAT TO CHOOSE?

I liked the more exclusive feel of the smaller business class cabin

– if you want guaranteed peace, go for window seats in rows 6 and 7. Avoid row 8 which is nearest the galley, and row 9 as this is closest to the washrooms. Middle seats E-F are best suited to couples as D-G are separated by tables. Window seats A and K are better than C and H as they are protected from the aisle by tables.

## THE FLIGHT

Drinks were served 20 minutes after take-off at 2105, followed by an egg canapé and nuts. Dinner was presented beautifully with tables set with cloths, little china dishes of salt and fresh black pepper, and bread and butter. There were four starters, as well as four mains. These included grilled marinated chicken, braised beef ribs, pan-fried plaice, and spinach and ricotta cannelloni. There were two desserts: spiced chocolate cake with raspberry coulis, and warm date and toffee pudding with vanilla bean ice cream. I opted for the cheese plate

The crew member who served me was very efficient, and there were several offers of drinks refills. A good selection of movies was on offer, although English-language ones had Indonesian subtitles. Wifi was available in different bundles – from US\$5 for texts to US\$21.95 for full web use.

I settled down to sleep at 2330 – it was easy to recline the seat fully flat. The bed was very comfortable but there was

no undersheet, which was a shame. There were no overhead vents either, so it got pretty stuffy.

In the morning the crew served breakfast. The menu listed fresh cut fruit, yoghurt and cereal, followed by rice porridge with poached chicken, French toast brioche or eggs cooked any way you like. There were sides of beans, seared cherry tomatoes, asparagus, bubble and squeak, and chicken sausage. Customs forms were handed out at 0940.

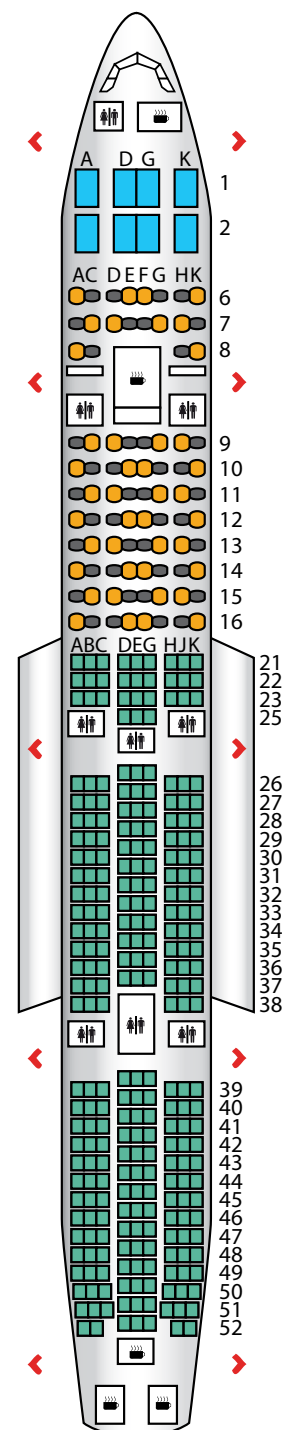
## ARRIVAL

We made our long, smooth descent to Jakarta airport just after 1700 local time. Priority disembarkation was given to first and then business class passengers via an airbridge to the terminal. Once through immigration, I found the Garuda Indonesia welcome lounge, where a member of staff took my baggage receipt and went to wait for my suitcase in reclaim (it took about 15 minutes).

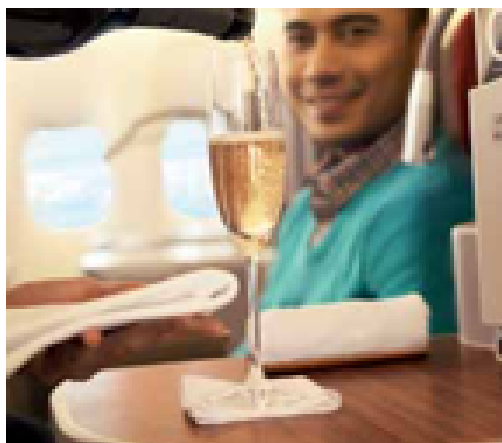
## VERDICT

This was the first time I had flown with Garuda and, having done so, would recommend its business class product to anyone. It ticks the boxes for fully-flat beds and direct aisle access, attentive crew, wifi, fresh and varied food, quality champagne and modern in-flight entertainment. Plus, it's the only airline that flies nonstop to Jakarta from London.

*Jenny Southan*



- Departure time: 20:15
- Flight time 13hrs 45mins
- Aircraft type B777-300ER
- Seat configuration 1-2-1
- Seat width 73in/53.8cm
- Seat recline 180 degrees
- Seat pitch 73in/109.2cm
- Bed length 73in/185cm







# ON THE CASE

**Marisa Cannon** puts the latest crop of larger suitcases through their paces to help you prepare for your next long-haul trip.



## Unbearable lightness of luggage

### TUMI V3 SHORT TRIP PACKING CASE

A new polycarbonate case from Tumi's lightest hard-side collection, this case weighs only 3.8kg – light given its size, and larger than its “short trip” description suggests. It is easy to handle when filled, requiring little effort to manoeuvre thanks to four wheels. There are two main compartments, with a large zip-up pocket containing a plastic hanger bracket for storing suits. The other section is open and covered with dark grey lining, with X-shaped tie-down straps and a third compartment on the outside of the flap which is useful for storing documents. A three-stage telescoping handle allows for good control when handling. It also has an integrated TSA lock.

**Verdict:** A solid, spacious case that is easy to handle. Best for trips lasting several days.

Dimensions: 66cm x 44.5cm x 25.5cm

**Volume:** 59 litres

**Weight:** 3.8kg

**Colour:** Hunter, Pacific blue, magenta, blur print, banana leaf print, black

**Wheels:** Four

**Price:** £445

tumi.com



## Style for a price

### VICTORINOX ETHERIUS MEDIUM

Made from Bayer polycarbonate, this hard-shell case is streamlined and sturdy, with four wheels and a retractable handle that can be set at three different positions. Separate grips on the side and top make it simple to lift. It has two zip-up dividing walls made out of mesh and nylon fabric, plus two elasticated Y-shaped compression straps to help keep clothes in place. It also expands to allow up to 27 per cent more volume. A welcome layer of security comes from the Access lock combination recovery programme, whereby owners can register their security codes online and retrieve them if forgotten.

**Verdict:** Stylish and good value for money, with utilitarian interiors that help to keep items in place.

**Dimensions:** 67cm x 45cm x 30cm

**Volume:** 65 litres

**Weight:** 4kg

**Colour:** Rose gold, silver, gold, Evergreen, Deep Lake

**Wheels:** Four

**Price:** £280

victorinox.com



## For special tasks

### ANTLER OXYGEN MEDIUM

The soft, polyester Antler Oxygen is a new ultra-light case with a strong, rip-resistant frame, as well as corner protectors designed to withstand the ravages of rough ground handling. Along with the expandable zip, the flexible material allows some give. It also has four wheels, top and side grip handles, an outer zip pocket concealed under a flap, plus TSA combination locks. Inside there is a mesh zip-up pocket and X-shaped straps for keeping items in place, although, when full, it can be a little unsteady. Cabin cases from the range come with a removable transparent toiletry bag.

**Verdict:** An extremely light-weight case made with durable fabric, although this picks up dirt easily.

**Dimensions:** 70cm x 43cm x 27cm

**Volume:** 74 litres

**Weight:** 2.2kg

**Colour:** Blue, red, black

**Wheels:** Four

**Price:** £155

antler.co.uk





### Quality guaranteed

#### BRIGGS AND RILEY TORQ LARGE SPINNER

This hard-shell case is extremely resilient, made with three layers of ultra-strong Makrolon polycarbonate. Inside, the front mesh pocket contains an adjustable loop for hanging suits, while the main compartment has two slender zip-up pockets on either side – good for holding small loose items – and a panel that attaches to the frame with clips, helping to compress the contents. Recessed double spinner wheels provide a decent level of control, while top and side grab points and moulded side feet keep the bag unscathed when placed on its side. It is on the heavier side, but comes with a life-time guarantee.

**Verdict:** Although weighty, the case is strong, with a number of compartments and panels to keep clothes wrinkle-free.

**Dimensions:** 76.2cm x 50.8cm x 30.5cm

**Volume:** 106.1 litres

**Weight:** 5.9kg

**Colour:** Cobalt, ruby, graphite

**Wheels:** Four

**Price:** £489

[briggs-riley.com](http://briggs-riley.com)



### Decent hybrid

#### SAMSONITE FUZE SPINNER

The name of this collection draws on its combination of hard and soft shell features, with the case boasting a robust, moulded frame alongside soft, woven nylon panels that allow greater flexibility. It has double tube handles, top and side grab points, four smooth-running wheels, and front and back pockets that are handy for holding documents. There are interior straps to keep clothes in place, plus a zip-up compartment with an extra pocket to keep loose items. An outer zip allows the case to expand a further 4cm, with TSA locks and a telescope handle that releases at two levels.

**Verdict:** A good-sized check-in case with plenty of pockets to help you stay organised. Black is best for hiding stains.

**Dimensions:** 82cm x 53cm x 34cm

**Volume:** 122 litres

**Weight:** 4.1kg

**Colour:** Blue Nights, black

**Wheels:** Four

**Price:** £215

[samsonite.pl](http://samsonite.pl)



### Convenient to use

#### THULE SUBTERRA 3-IN-1

An inventive case that splits into two, with a zip-on outer bag that detaches to create a cabin-size rolling duffel. A clip-on strap also allows the outer section to convert to a separate over-the-shoulder bag. Although confusing at first, the design is impressive, with segments attaching and detaching via a series of zips and fastenings. When all parts are attached to the trolley, plastic clips help to compress the contents. It has two wheels, a telescoping handle, top, side and bottom grab points, plus internal straps to keep clothes in place. An interior mesh pocket along the length of the bag is good for carrying keys and currency.

**Verdict:** The case holds just enough for a three to four-night trip, but its design is great if you want a number of bag options.

**Dimensions:** 55cm x 37cm x 36cm

**Volume:** 56 litres

**Weight:** 3.5kg

**Colour:** Mineral, Dark Shadow

**Wheels:** Two

**Price:** £260

[thule.com](http://thule.com)



## Functional and spacious

### DELSEY MONTSOURIS

This expandable trolley case has a hard-shell underside and a soft top, with two capacious compartments inside. Available only in black, it's not the most attractive of the bunch, although it is roomy and durable, with a patented Securitech expandable zip (apparently 41 times more resilient than conventional zip fasteners), two interior horizontal straps, and heavy-duty outer clips for extra compression. What it lacks in looks, it makes up for in practicality, with anti-tilt stability feet, two large outer pockets, hardwearing wheels, TSA locks, Smart zip pullers and a soft-touch side handle for a smooth grip.

**Verdict:** A robust case with a number of useful storage features and plenty of expandable space.

**Dimensions:** 68cm x 43cm x 29cm

**Volume:** 76 litres

**Weight:** 3.9kg

**Colour:** Black

**Wheels:** Two

**Price:** £189

delsey.com



## Ideal for the weekend

### BRIC'S LIFE ROLLING DUFFEL

This lightweight duffel markets itself as being environmentally friendly, made with synthetic suede and vegetable-tanned Tuscan leather finishes. Alongside its trolley handle, the case's two wheels and anti-tilt feet are useful if you don't want to use it as a holdall. If you do, the handle can be hidden with a zip closure, and the two slender grips can be joined with a button fastening for easy carrying. Inside, the duffel has two zip-up compartments and compression straps made from durable ribbon, while the top of the case has another pocket for extra storage.

**Verdict:** Elegant and functional, if perhaps not the most hardwearing. Great for a weekend trip.

**Dimensions:** 72cm x 37cm x 32cm

**Volume:** 73 litres

**Weight:** 3.9kg

**Colour:** Camel, olive, blue, brown

**Wheels:** Two

**Price:** £570

brics.it

## Travel accessories

### TED BAKER RICASE TEXTURED LAPTOP CASE

This polyester case has a padded main compartment plus three external pockets suitable for holding travel documents. Available in red with a textured finish, it can hold a 13-inch laptop.

**Price:** £49 [tedbaker.co.uk](http://tedbaker.co.uk)



### SMYTHSON MARA CURRENCY CASE

Made from crocodile and calf leather, the Mara has four zip sections with a satin-finish lining. Available in Ocean Blue and Poppy, you can personalise it with gold lettering and monograms.

**Price:** £195 [smythson.com](http://smythson.com)



### SAMSONITE CITYSCAPE TECH LAPTOP BACKPACK

The Cityscape's RFID-protected pocket guards against skimming and identity fraud thanks to a blocking material placed between the outer layer and internal lining. It comes in three sizes, with the largest able to carry a 17-inch laptop.

**Price:** £129 [samsonite.pl](http://samsonite.pl)



### TUMI PATROL PACKABLE TRAVEL PUFFER JACKET

Made from water-resistant nylon, this puffer jacket converts to a travel pillow thanks to a hidden pouch in the collar. Available in navy, green and black, it is filled with down insulation and has a number of hidden pockets.

**Price:** £195 [tumi.com](http://tumi.com)



### TRACE ME LUGGAGE TRACKER

In partnership with the SITA global bag-tracing system, this luggage tracker contains technology so that if your case is lost or stolen, it can be identified by its serial number. Once the number is entered into the SITA system, you will be informed where your bag is and who to contact by text or email.

**Price:** £12.50 [tmlt.co.uk](http://tmlt.co.uk)





# HUCULSKA 5

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**kom. 662 006 700**

**tel. 22 625 45 15**

**[biuro@huculska5.waw.pl](mailto:biuro@huculska5.waw.pl)**

**[www.huculska5.waw.pl](http://www.huculska5.waw.pl)**

**Warszawa** **Dolny Mokotów**

# PAY IT FORWARD

**Jenny Southan** investigates the pros and cons of prepaid private jet cards.



**J**oe is a Silicon Roundabout entrepreneur based in London. His new job as chief executive will see him travelling more for work, especially in the US. He's happy to use commercial airlines to make transatlantic hops, but when it comes to domestic flights in America he is concerned that

the hassle of using conventional carriers and airport security will be counterproductive.

In the US, if you fly more than 400 hours a year on a private jet, you're better off buying your own aircraft, but Joe's not going to be that guy. Instead, a business acquaintance of his has recommended a "jet card",

which means he can prepay for a block of hours or load up an account with credit to use as and when he likes on a predetermined aircraft of his choice.

## CONVENIENT OPTION

If Joe decides this is right for him, he will require a chunk of cash upfront (this is not for



travellers who prefer a pay-as-you-go approach to jet charter). The benefits of a subscription will mean he gets to lock in a fixed hourly rate (he only pays for scheduled flight time – not diversions, delays, fuel, landing fees, de-icing or aircraft positioning, for example). He has guaranteed availability, there are no peak-hour restrictions and the booking process is speedy.

Private jet cards represent 20-25 per cent of charter revenue for boutique broker Skytime Jets, which launched in 2012. Some 60 per cent of its business comes from Europe, 30 per cent from the US and 10 per cent from the Middle East and Asia.

James Shotton, its co-founder and director, says: “We work with individuals who appreciate that buying a private jet card is not the cheapest way to fly but who want very high quality, personalised service. Customers can either negotiate on every single charter trip and have multiple conversations about price, or have a fixed price agreed at the beginning so they know exactly what they are getting.”

That certainty comes at a cost. The cheapest ten-hour package for a six-seat light jet is £47,000, or £4,700 an hour, compared with ad hoc charter of a six-seat Cessna Citation, which might be £1,500 an hour. There is a level of security against bankruptcy, too, as all payments are put into a dedicated escrow account so Skytime can only access it when you want to book. It lets you roll over unused hours to the next year, although not all companies will. Being eligible for a refund of your balance at any time is also something you will need to ensure you are entitled to.

#### FIRST OFF THE BLOCKS

Sentient Jet claims to have been the inventor of the private jet card, with 100 per cent of its revenue coming from this model even after 20 years. Its president and CEO, Andrew Collins, says:



One of the benefits of a subscription is that a customer gets to lock in a fixed hourly rate, paying only for scheduled flight time



The cheapest ten-hour package for a six-seat light jet is £47,000, or £4,700 an hour, compared with ad hoc charter of a six-seat Cessna Citation, which might be £1,500 an hour.

"About 60 per cent of our flights are related to business and 40 per cent to leisure. Whether it's a top executive looking to make an important board meeting in Cleveland after closing a deal with a client in New York, or a family member looking to get home in time for the holidays, flying private is a viable way to beat the clock."

Although private jet cards have been around since the late 1990s, jet charter broker Privatefly didn't start offering one until two years ago. Carol Cork, its marketing director and co-founder, says: "Our jet card works very much like an Oyster card, allowing customers to prepay for their travel. Feedback from some of our more frequent flyers showed us they wanted all of the same on-demand cost benefits and global coverage but with the increased speed and convenience of a prepaid account."

What does it cost? The minimum credit you can buy with Privatefly is £50,000 (in this case, you do not buy a bundle of hours). In return, you get the "best possible charter market price every time you fly, the

fastest response speeds possible when booking, flight credits on your jet card balance, aircraft upgrades, preferred cancellation terms, a dedicated flight advisor 24/7, and no blackout periods or peak days".

How quickly can you go from booking to boarding? Cork says: "We had a jet card customer go from enquiry to airborne in 31 minutes last week from Miami to Chicago. On average, almost a third fly within 24 hours of booking, and 66 per cent within a week."

Delta Air Lines is targeting the private market with its Delta Private Jets subsidiary. As well as selling regular charters, it offers private jet cards from US\$100,000 upwards, and you can earn ten Delta Sky Bonus points per dollar spent. The flights can also work in conjunction with regular Delta services, with chauffeur-driven Porsche cars taking you from one domestic flight to the next, missing out the terminal experience altogether.

Other companies that sell cards include Air Partner, Magellan Jet, Vistajet and Flexjets.

Netjets says its Marquis card is "ideal for anyone who flies under 50 hours per year and prefers a short-term commitment". Crewing, scheduling, maintenance and catering are all part of the package. Philip Baer, Netjets' senior vice-president of the UK and Nordics, says the card "is intended as a trial programme or for those who fly infrequently" (the company's main focus is on fractional ownership of its fleet of 700 jets).

Cork says: "In general, jet cards came about as a natural evolution of the private jet market. First, you could own your own private aircraft, then fractional ownership was created for those who wanted a share in a specific fleet, then a jet card became desirable, offering a block of flying time, but without the full or part-share financial investment of the aircraft asset."

#### COMPARE AND CONTRAST

Journalist and jet expert Doug Gollan says doing your research is essential, which is why he founded privatejetcardcomparisons.com, a site designed to help you work out what suits you



FOT: MATERIAŁY PRASOWE, ARCHIWUM, FOTOLIA

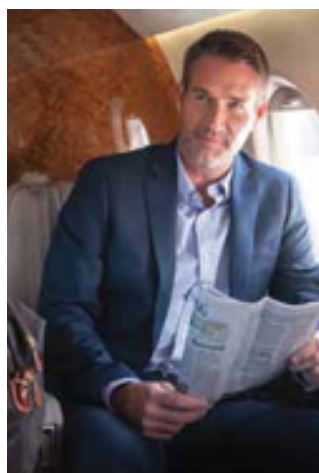


best. He says: “Do rich people really buy these programmes without reading the fine print? All the time. What happens? They get very upset after they see their first invoice.”

A lot of people choose a card based on a friend’s recommendation, he says. “But they might be doing a lot of two- or three-hour flights, whereas I want to do 20 flights to Boston, which take 40 minutes. One of the jet card variants is ‘daily minimums’ – if your provider has a 90-minute daily minimum they will charge my 40-minute flight as an hour and a half.”

One key benefit of jet cards is that the rate that you lock in is typically good for both one-way and round trips. Gollan says: “One provider might be willing to keep the jet for Nice in two days so they will give you a round-trip rate, but another will need it back in London the next day so will give you a one-way rate. The advantage of buying a card is that whether you do a round-trip or one-way flight, you know your rate is US\$8,000 dollars an hour and you don’t have to negotiate every time.” You may also get aircraft upgrades when your contracted jet is not available.

The downside of “on-demand” charter (when you’re not using a jet card) is that the “bargain” price you nabbed with the latest “Uber” of private jets may not be so cheap at the end of your journey. Gollan says: “When you charter a jet to Nice and there is fog so your plane has to divert, who pays for that diversion? You do. Jet cards cover diversions and de-icing, for example, as part of your inclusive rate. But if you think of four couples getting together to split a charter, and suddenly they find out their flight is getting diverted, costs can be in the multiple thousands of dollars.”



Patrick Margetson-Rushmore, chief executive of private jet operator Luxaviation UK, says: “It’s important to have a close look at the type of card you’re buying into before you sign the contract. All good jet card providers are flexible. Certainly, with the card that we provide, while your membership is based on a specific aircraft type, you can trade up or down within our fleet, as required. Jet cards are an easy, economical solution for regular charter flyers.”

If you don’t think a jet card is for you, Stratajet has a different kind of proposition. Instead of prepaying for a bundle of hours, which requires a large amount of capital to be tied up elsewhere, it has set about providing jets in the cheapest way possible – by selling seats on empty legs (private jets are usually booked one-way so return journeys tend to be scheduled without passengers). Given these trips can cost

75 per cent less than a typical charter, when people talk about the democratisation of private aviation, this is what they have in mind. The downside is that you don’t have the jet to yourself. What did

Joe choose? He’s still making up his mind.

## Pros and cons

### OF PREPAID CARDS

#### PROS

- You always know how much you are going to pay for your flights.
- You are guaranteed availability of your aircraft type (or an upgrade).
- There are no extra fees to worry about for the likes of delays, diversions and de-icing.
- You can manage your travel spend more easily as a company.
- There are no blackout periods or peak days.
- Rates are typically the same for one-way and round-trip flights.

#### CONS

- It costs more than ad hoc charter.
- You need a lot of capital upfront to buy one.
- Choosing a card is complicated.
- Unless your money is in escrow, you could lose it if the company goes bankrupt.
- Not all jet cards allow you to roll over hours or credit.
- A daily-minimum requirement of 90 minutes would mean you’re charged double for a 45-minute flight.

#### PREPAID CARD PROVIDERS

magellanjets.com  
 aircharter.co.uk  
 privatefly.com  
 skytimejets.com  
 airpartner.com  
 sentient.com  
 vistajet.com  
 luxaviationuk.com  
 netjets.com  
 deltaprivatejets.com



# WITH LOT TO TEL AVIV



**L**OT Polish Airlines has recently launched new connections from five Polish cities to sunny Israel.

At the end of June the Polish national airline inaugurated direct connections from Lublin, Poznań, Wrocław and Gdańsk to Israel - one of this year's most popular holiday destinations in the Mediterranean.

At the same time, LOT has doubled the frequency of flights from Warsaw. In this way, this summer, passengers flying from Poland can fly 19 times a week to Israel from several Polish airports. The flights are operated by Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft. The launch of the new connections to

Israel are a response to the growing popularity of this destination with Polish tourists.

## IDEAL DESTINATION

Israel is one of the most attractive destinations for this year's holiday. Located in the heart of the picturesque region, it is a perfect place for both active travellers and those looking for a quiet holiday. Tel Aviv Ben Gurion airport is located right next to the country's main attractions - close to the vibrant city centre and the historic city of Jerusalem. It also serves as a gateway for those willing to travel to the Dead Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. Israel already ranks as one of the most

popular tourist destinations, also for people seeking cultural and religious experiences. This may explain why country is very popular with Polish tourists.

With its cultural wealth and diversity, good infrastructure, excellent food, as well as sunny weather, Israel is a perfect place to explore as well as relax, virtually all year round. The country's numerous tourist attractions entice water sports enthusiasts from all over the world, especially those who love windsurfers or scuba diving. There is no way to get bored there!

## NEW FLIGHTS

Flights to Tel Aviv depart from Lublin on Mondays and Thurs-



days, on Tuesdays and Fridays from Wrocław, every Sunday from Gdańsk and every Wednesday from Poznań. Furthermore, LOT has nearly doubled the number of connections between Warsaw and Tel Aviv, adding a new day-time rotation on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. In this way, the Polish carrier offers passengers flying from Poland, a total of 19 weekly connections to Israel. In the near future, most flights will be operated by modern Boeing 737-800 NG aircraft. Three out of four ordered planes are already in operation.

The new connections to Israel also mark LOT's return to Polish regional airports with international flights. Until recently,

the Polish carrier had only one international connection departing from other airport than Warsaw (Krakow-Chicago). In its strategy LOT had planned to exploit the potential of selected regional airports, as well as respond to the needs of passengers, depending solely on the availability of appropriate fleet and the number of seats.

#### NEW STRATEGY

The schedule of connections from regional airports to Tel Aviv also provides convenient connecting flights for passengers flying from Israel via Warsaw to New York, Newark, Chicago, Toronto or Los Angeles. The connecting time for log-haul flights will be greatly

reduced, to just an hour. The development of the route network is one of the elements of the strategy for profitable growth that LOT has been implementing since the beginning of 2016. In the last 18 months the Polish carrier has launched 30 new routes, including two long range ones - to Tokyo and Seoul. This year LOT has also greatly increased its presence in the USA. Since April you can fly from Warsaw to Newark and Los Angeles. Along with Krakow - Chicago route, in 2017 LOT will serve a total of six routes to North America. With the new flights to Tel Aviv, LOT will operate as many as 19 weekly connections between Poland and Israel.



Israel is one of the most attractive destinations for this year's holiday. Located in the heart of the picturesque region, it is a perfect place for both active travellers and those looking for a quiet holiday.



# WELL-BEING ON THE GO



Westin has developed the "Let's Rise" programme, comprising several initiatives to help guests recuperate from the hardship of travel.

Regardless of what obstacles you may encounter while traveling, Westin hotels will help you beat them. For Westin hotels the well-being of guests is of paramount importance. Explore our innovative programmes to help you sleep, eat, move, work and play much better than before you arrived at our hotel.

## LET'S RISE

Westin has developed the "Let's Rise" programme, comprising several initiatives to help guests recuperate from the hardship of travel. On entering the hotel, you are taken to the world of relaxation, well-being and tranquility. Compositions made with plants that soothe senses, the delicate scent of white tea, as well as the unique mood lighting, have been designed with the aim of making you experience an inner transformation.

Healthy, soothing sleep after an eventful day of work or explorations, is provided by Heavenly Beds, specially designed for Westin. It's a perfect combination of five soft pillows, three linens made of soft cotton, a thin blanket, duvets, and a specially fitted mattress, designed with help of physicians and physiotherapists. Next to the bed there is a flask of soothing lavender oil that calms you down and helps fall asleep.

Fusion restaurant offers a range of healthy, balanced dishes, filled with SuperFood-sRx ingredients, while JP's Bar prepared healthy and delicious juices Fresh By the Juicery. Also the youngest guests



will find something nutritious in the Healthy Children's Menu. All dishes have been composed with the aim to produce a synergy effect, which by properly combining the ingredients, increases their nutritional value and adds energy to every day. In this way, traveller don't have to give up on their healthy and rational diet. Also during conferences and meetings you can enjoy some interesting and nourishing coffee breaks.

Move well - also on the go. WestinWORKOUT fitness studio is open 24 hours a day. For guests who would like to go jogging in the dynamic scenery of Warsaw, we have prepared special running maps. If you don't have an exercise outfit, it's not a problem, either. Thanks to Westin's Gear Lending programme you can now rent apparel including shorts, shirts and socks.

#### THE WESTIN WARSAW SUPPORTS TRIATHLETES

The Westin Warsaw attaches great importance to good health and healthy living. That is why, on 11 June we became the official partner and hotel of Enea 5150 Warsaw event. More than 900 people participated in the triathlon race, including Michael Hopf, the manager of The Westin Warsaw. During the event our waiters served more than 300 litres of freshly squeezed juice to quench the thirst of the fans and the athletes.

#### GLOBAL RUNNING DAY

To emphasize our commitment to a healthy lifestyle and to celebrate the Global Running Day, The Westin Warsaw organized a running training carried out by a professional trainer. Several employees of the hotel who participated in the training, were later invited to a healthy breakfast made with SuperFoodsRX ingredients.



On 11 June, The Westin Warsaw became the official partner and hotel of Enea 5150 Warsaw event.





# WEEKEND IN DENVER

Lively attractions and easy access to the Rocky Mountains  
make the Colorado capital well worth your time,  
says ***Philip Watson***.







**F**riday morning at 7.30am, the Crawford hotel, downtown Denver. I am in the epicentre of the city; the elegant hotel forms part of the recent redevelopment of the historic Union Station terminal, at one time the main railway hub for the Colorado capital. I'm waiting for the lift to take me down for breakfast in one of the 1914 Beaux-Arts building's many buzzing cafés and restaurants.

Because of the hotel's unrivalled location, and the hour, I expect the doors to open to a fellow business traveller, or maybe a jet-lagged tourist. I do not expect to see a young couple in full, colour-coordinated ski gear, complete with skis, poles, boots, gloves, goggles, helmets and Go Pro cameras.

They look like they've stepped off a ski lift in Switzerland's upmarket Gstaad – not into an urban US elevator. They tell me a waiting minibus will be whisking them and some friends off to the Loveland Ski Area, 90km and about an hour and a half west of the "Mile-High City", in the glorious Rocky Mountains.

If it was a weekend during the ski season, they wouldn't even need the private shuttle – they could take the newly relaunched ski train direct from Union Station to another popular Denver ski destination, Winter Park, a couple of hours away.

## BOOM TOWN

In many ways, my "ski lift" experience is emblematic of a city that is thrillingly active and wholly surprising. The US Bureau of Statistics ranked Denver as the fastest-growing major city in the US in 2015, and, everywhere you look, it has the feel of a boom town – the cityscape is dominated by cranes and new tower blocks.

The metropolitan area is now home to more than three million people; it's claimed by Rich Grant and Irene Rawlings in their book *100 Things To Do In Denver Before You Die* that "the Mile-High City is growing on average by a thousand new residents a week".

It's certainly true that every millennial you meet seems to be from somewhere else, attracted to Denver by the three "Ms": money (well, job opportunities – the unemployment rate hovers at around 3 per cent and is one of the lowest in the country); mountains (as well as first-class skiing, the Rockies offer superb hiking, biking, climbing, kayaking and rafting); and marijuana (in 2005 it became the first major US city to legalise cannabis, leading to a mini-boom in weed cultivation, medical use and tourism).

Dubbed the "Wall Street of the West" at the beginning of the 20th century owing to

the rise of a small financial district along 17th Street, Denver has always had a strong business culture. Major companies in the area include Molson Coors, Lockheed Martin and United. Its geographical location has also made it a focus for the telecoms industry; communication with both North American coasts, South America, Europe and Asia is possible in the same business day.

Denver International airport, with its landmark multiple-peaked roof canopy – said to echo both Native American teepees and the Rockies – is now the sixth-busiest in the US, with more than 58 million passengers in 2016. Since April last year, it also has a direct rail link to Union Station; the journey takes 37 minutes and costs US\$9 each way.

## ART OF THE CITY

That kind of accessibility, and the fact that Denver is a relatively compact walking city claiming a remarkable 300 days of sunshine a year, makes it perfect for extending your trip across a weekend. The weather can be changeable, and, at exactly one mile above sea level, you need to protect yourself from the sun's intensity. Yet Denver is an extremely easy place to enjoy. There is even a free electric shuttle bus along the 16th



FOT: MATERIAŁ PRASOWE, ARCHIWUM

Street Mall, a mile-long pedestrian promenade designed by architect IM Pei, now fronted mostly by tacky general stores and tourist shops.

Near to the southern end of the mall is the Golden Triangle Museum District. Attractions here range from the Denver Art Museum (10am-5pm Tues-Sun, 8pm Fri; US\$13; [denverartmuseum.org](http://denverartmuseum.org)), with its eye-catching Daniel Libeskind extension, to a museum dedicated to the expansive paintings of Clyfford Still (10am-5pm Tues-Sun, 8pm Fri; US\$10; [clyffordstillmuseum.org](http://clyffordstillmuseum.org)), one of the Abstract Expressionist movement's most influential, if relatively unknown, artists.

The district even has its own Art hotel ([thearthotel.com](http://thearthotel.com)), opened in 2015, which displays a private collection of contemporary works by the likes of Sol LeWitt and Tracey Emin in its dramatic public spaces and 165 rooms.

If you prefer your culture live then Denver also delivers. It has the one of the largest performing arts complexes in the US, with ten venues housing everything from theatre to Broadway shows and a symphony orchestra ([denvercenter.org](http://denvercenter.org)). The 76,000-seater Sports Authority Field at Mile High is home to 2016 Super Bowl champions the Broncos, although tickets are hard to come by – every Sunday home game since 1970 has sold out (season runs Sept-Feb).

The city also boasts two legendary music venues along East Colfax Avenue (part of the longest commercial street in the US) – the Bluebird and Ogden theatres, both concert halls that are symbolic of Denver's eclectic music scene.

### LODO OR LOHI?

Head to LoDo (Lower Downtown Denver) to explore regenerating and newly hip historic neighbourhoods with a range of worthwhile diversions – the excellent Tattered Cover bookshop ([tatteredcover.com](http://tatteredcover.com)), the sumptuous Art Deco Cruise Room bar at Denver's oldest hotel, the Oxford ([theoxfordhotel.com](http://theoxfordhotel.com)) and the cool bars and restaurants along Larimer Square. Don't miss the "brewpub" that sparked Denver's justly famous craft beer and microbrewing scene, Wynkoop ([wynkoop.com](http://wynkoop.com)).

There is also LoHi (Lower Highlands), just across the South Platte River, worth visiting for the Williams and Graham "speakeasy" alone ([williamsandgraham.com](http://williamsandgraham.com)) – its wood-panelled backroom bar is hidden behind a tiny "bookshop". Another way to check out Denver is to jog or cycle – there are a remarkable 137km of paved trails around the city.



A good way to check out Denver is to jog or cycle  
– there are a remarkable 137km of paved trails around the city.





And then there is always shopping. As well as more than 160 upmarket stores at Cherry Creek Shopping Centre, 5km south-east of the city centre, there is one downtown flagship store that is not to be missed: Rockmount Ranch Wear ([rockmount.com](http://rockmount.com)). The Western outfitters that introduced the snap-button cowboy shirt to the world – and to Elvis, Bob Dylan, Robert Plant and Eric Clapton – was founded in 1946 by “Papa” Jack Weil, a businessman who worked until the age of 107.

Weil is said to have coined the phrase: “The West is not a place, it is a state of mind.” Denver today may be a hip, forward-thinking city, but it’s still very much connected to that history and belief. It’s a state of mind that, even for a weekend, is well worth entering.

For more information on Denver, including the Mile-High Culture Pass to various attractions (US\$30 for three days), see [visit-denver.org](http://visit-denver.org), [colorado.com](http://colorado.com)

### DENVER'S GREAT OUTDOORS

It’s only when you leave the city that you realise the sprawling metropolitan area is but a speck in the monumental Midwestern landscape: to the west is the soaring backdrop of the magnificent Rocky Mountains, while to the east lies the big skies and slow, flat, endless slide of the Great Plains. Here are three ways to get a whole new perspective on the Mile-High City:

Hire a car and head about half an hour west to the naturally formed Red Rocks Amphitheatre (open 7am-7pm April-Oct, 8am-4pm Nov-March; free; [redrocksonline.com](http://redrocksonline.com)), the striking 9,000-seat location of U2’s *Under a Blood Red Sky* concert video. Tens of thousands come here every year to work out, hike, visit the museum, or simply to relive meaningful musical moments. The long view back to the city and airport beyond is extraordinary.

On the way, drive the twisting, climbing Lariat Loop road to the Buffalo Bill Museum (9am-5pm daily May-Oct, Tues-Sun Nov-April; US\$5; [buffalobill.org](http://buffalobill.org)). Well-presented galleries tell the story of the army scout, buffalo hunter, cowboy showman and western pioneer. His grave is nearby on Lookout Mountain. The Colorado Sightseer provides half-day tours to both of the above (US\$50; [coloradosightseer.com](http://coloradosightseer.com)).

For the ultimate outdoor adventure, head to the spectacular Rocky Mountain National Park, 115km north-west of Denver. The vast 1,075 sq km park has countless peaks, alpine lakes, deep glacial valleys, pine forests, 565km of trails, and wildlife such as eagles, elk and even moose; it’s like Switzerland – on a very good day. Aspire offers scenic day-trips (US\$115; [aspire-tours.com](http://aspire-tours.com)).



Red Rocks Amphitheatre is a location of U2’s *Under a Blood Red Sky* concert video. Tens of thousands come here every year to work out, hike, visit the museum, or simply to relive meaningful musical moments.





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# ESCAPE TO BALI

Bali offers a wonderfully atmospheric setting for relaxation – just watch out for monkey business, says **Jenny Southan**.

**I**n Ubud's Sacred Monkey Forest, there are signs warning people not to touch, feed or make eye contact with the animals, but no one takes any notice. There are bananas for sale and staff hand out fistfuls of peanuts to tourists. It doesn't take much to attract the monkeys – I see

one tear open a shopping bag, and another peel fruit while sat on a child's shoulder. They especially like glittery earrings – on the stone steps of an amphitheatre, one leaps on to a woman and snatches at her jewelled lobe, making her scream, before running off with his prize.

## **MONKEYS, JUNGLE AND TEMPLES**

Tentatively making our way through the jungle, keeping an eye on the squabbling macaques in the trees, we pass ancient, moss-covered temples, statues of grinning apes, and ornate winged dragons





guarding a stone bridge high above a ravine. Officially a nature reserve (open daily 8.30am-6pm), its 700 or so monkeys are fed on sweet potato three times a day, but this doesn't suppress their appetite for mischief.

While I pose for a photo, a juvenile springs from nowhere and grabs my face, leaving two neat sets of scratches (albeit faint) across my temples. I spend the next hour googling: "Can you catch rabies from a monkey scratch?" (the answer is yes so I am freaking out) and ordering bottles of Bintang beer from the nearby Habitat Café, which has free wifi ([habitatubud.com](http://habitatubud.com)).

## ISLAND OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Next door is hipster co-working space Hubud ([hubud.org](http://hubud.org)). The bamboo house has an organic café where flip-flopped writers sit with laptops looking out on to paddy fields, and eager entrepreneurs spend hours coding while drinking kombucha (fermented tea). This summer, Hubud will host a Google-sponsored Startup Weekend for tourism and hospitality ventures.

Last year, almost five million people visited Bali, a 23 per cent increase on 2015. Joining high-end international brands such as Aman, Four Seasons, W, Anantara and Oberoi have been two hotels from Ritz-Carl-

ton (the Mandapa, a Reserve property, and the Ritz-Carlton Bali, opened in 2015), the Hoshinoya (January 2017) and the Capella Ubud, which will feature 22 luxury tents when it launches at the end of the year.

Asian chain Alila has four properties on the 5,780 sq km island of Bali – the Seminyak, Manggis, Uluwatu and Ubud, where I am staying. The resort is about 20 minutes' drive from the town of Ubud itself, popular over the years with hippies and backpackers. Along the sides of the streets, which are strewn with tiny trays of flowers and rice as offerings to the gods, are shops selling phallic bottle openers, knock-off Ray-Bans and leering masks. In the evening we stop



at Hujan ([hujanlocale.com](http://hujanlocale.com)), a stylish cocktail bar and restaurant that also does cooking classes. Opposite is Fair Warung Bale, a simple set-up serving delicious food in generous quantities. All of its profits go towards providing free healthcare for locals.

## LUXURY RESORTS

While Ubud is fun for a day, the main draw for me is escaping to the steamy climes of the Alila Ubud, set high above the tree canopy, with a jade infinity pool that offers a staggering panorama of the misty, verdant valley. (If you're after sun, bear in mind that the dry season is between April and September.)

Apart from the squawk of monkeys and birds, the resort is wonderfully peaceful, days beginning with a traditional breakfast on the terrace – chilled watermelon and red chilli juice, and a bowl of nasi goreng ayam (fried rice with chicken, a fried egg and pickles). While standard rooms are comfortable (the outdoor rainshowers are the high-

light), the palapa-roofed villas with private pools are very special.

If you are staying for more than a couple of days, you may be tempted to book one of the excursions that the Alila organises, such as quad biking, VW jungle safaris or morning bird watching. You can even hike to the summit of active volcano Mount Batur. The on-site spa specialises in traditional massages to leave even the most stressed-out business traveller feeling reborn after meetings in hectic Jakarta, just under two hours' flight away.

We take the hotel shuttle 55km to the Alila Uluwatu, perched on cliffs at the southerly tip of the island (only 35 minutes from the international airport). The focal point of the minimalist, all-villa resort is the enormous pool and gravity-defying cantilevered Sunset Cabana bar, although guests also have the pleasure of their own personal plunge pools and hyper-modern residences, accessed by golf cart.

Apart from a perilous hike down hundreds of narrow steps to the beach, there is nothing

to distract you from relaxing. During the day, staff set down poolside hampers of iced water, menus and sunscreen (although I'd advise you to use your own factor 30 as the ozone layer is thin in these parts). In your personal 291 sqm villa, you can lounge on a day bed and have a butler wait on you around the clock.

In contrast to more rustic eating in Ubud, the Uluwatu opts for fine dining. Alone in concept restaurant Quila, we embark on a ten-course "sensory journey" that starts with us being blindfolded while eating a cube of rock lobster covered in green foam, then consuming a mushroom meringue encased in dry ice. By now, I can safely say that my traumatic experience in the monkey forest feels far behind me.

A two-night weekend stay at the Alila Ubud starts from US\$370 for a Superior room in July. The Alila Uluwatu starts from US\$884 for a one-bedroom villa. Visit [alila-hotels.com](http://alila-hotels.com), [destination-asia.com](http://destination-asia.com), [garuda-indonesia.com](http://garuda-indonesia.com)



Alila Ubud, set high above the tree canopy, entices with its jade infinity pool that offers a staggering panorama of the misty, verdant valley.



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## ANOTHER ROUND?

Oktoberfest is known the world over, but Munich's legendary beer scene can be enjoyed throughout the year, says **Andrew Eames**.



**T**here's no doubting the refreshment of choice in Munich. Even as you step off the plane, there it is in the terminal – the Airbrau, the only airport brewery in Europe, with its gleaming vats and mash tuns in situ at the back.

Inside, an appreciative public will be settling down to that essential Bavarian pre-flight pick-me-up – white sausages, pretzels and a freshly brewed half-litre of Mayday, Jetstream or Kumulus. Or all three.

## BEER CELEBRATION

The airport's showcasing of beer culture is no surprise to anyone who knows Munich. This is, after all, the home of the Reinheitsgebot – the purity law that insists German beer should contain only malted grains, hops and water (yeast was added later), a principle that still governs domestic production 501 years after it was first enacted. It is also the city with the most famous beer festival in the world, Oktoberfest, where seven million litres of the stuff are consumed in the course of a very merry fortnight.

But you don't have to be here in October (actually the festival starts in late September) to get the full, convivial experience. This is a city that takes great pride in its traditions, and to ignore its beer gardens and beer halls is to miss out on an important part of urban life.

Although it has since spread throughout the world, the concept of the biergarten originated in Munich a little over 200 years ago, when King Maximilian I granted permission to the city's brewers to sell direct from their cellars. Back in those days, there was no refrigeration, so brewers did most of their work in winter, stored their stock underground and then planted trees (usually horse chestnuts) to protect their cellars from the summer sun.

## LIQUID BREAD

For customers arriving at the cellar door, this combination of leafy shade and "liquid bread" proved too much of a temptation, and rather than lug the beer home, they settled under the trees to get stuck in. Eventually, they also brought their own food and the concept of the beer garden was born.

These days, the best Munich gardens, such as Hirschgarten ([hirschgarten.com](http://hirschgarten.com)), beside a deer park, and Seehaus ([kuffler.de](http://kuffler.de)), set on a lakeside in the English Garden, are open year



Munich is a city with the most famous beer festival in the world, Oktoberfest, where seven million litres of the stuff are consumed in the course of a very merry fortnight.



The introduction of unfiltered, cloudy beer that retains the friendly bacteria, has started a new trend in Munich. A microbrewery such as Giesinger with a bar-restaurant above the brewhouse, is an example of this approach.

round, but are busiest between spring and autumn.

Of the two, Seehaus tends to appeal more to the schickimicki (trendy) crowd. Hirschgarten is much more informal, and reached through typical inner-city allotments. This is the biggest beer garden in town, with 8,000 seats, and you can still bring your own food, but mainstays such as spare ribs, sausages, smoked fish and Backhendl (chicken) are available from stalls throughout.

While generally beer gardens tend to be seasonal, the downtown beer halls remain popular all year round. The most famous by far is the Hofbrauhaus ([hofbraeuhaus.de](http://hofbraeuhaus.de)), and with its 3,000 seats and a brass band from 11am, it is no place for shrinking violets.

Most of the drinkers here will be visitors, but there are still tables lined with watery-eyed, lederhosen-wearing gentlemen who'll willingly pose for selfies with tourists. The food served – traditional meat, bread and potatoes – is remarkably good value, but the challenge is finding a seat and hearing yourself think.

The Hofbrauhaus certainly has its place, but if you've only got time for one beer hall visit, locals would point you towards any-

thing Augustiner, a privately owned Munich brewery with several stunning old halls and a high-quality beer that is largely unknown internationally – the brewery is kept busy enough with local demand.

One of the most central Augustiner venues is at Grossgaststaetten ([augustiner-restaurant.com](http://augustiner-restaurant.com)) on Neuhauser Strasse, with its art nouveau interiors, polished tabletops and walls covered in antlers. This is a far more relaxed ambience than at the Hofbrauhaus, although you'll probably be sharing a table and your neighbours will likely want to clink glasses in a toast. Here, as in the rest of Germany, you must look them in the eye as you do so.

### NEW TRENDS

Traditions aside, there are changes afoot in the Munich beer scene, particularly with the introduction of unfiltered, cloudy beer that retains the friendly bacteria. A new microbrewery such as Giesinger ([giesinger-braeu.de](http://giesinger-braeu.de)), south of the Isar, with a bar-restaurant above the brewhouse, is an example of the newer, fresher approach. The airport's Airbrau produces unfiltered, too.

Then there are the craft brewers, such as the hipster-friendly Hopfenhacker ([hopfenhacker.de](http://hopfenhacker.de)), based in Haidhausen, where

they hand-make deliciously fragrant beers. Unlike Berlin, where the craft beer scene is well developed, there are only three or four such brewers in Munich, says Hopfenhacker, but then this is a more conservative society and change comes slowly.

Beer culture doesn't begin and end in Munich, and it can be a great excuse for wider exploration of the surrounding area. For example, 40km south-west of the city and stunningly located on a little hilltop above Ammersee, the Benedictine monks of the Andechs monastery still brew the "liquid bread" they started to produce for pilgrims several hundred years ago. Today, the number of holy pilgrims may have dwindled, but the beer garden nevertheless attracts a million visitors a year.

Over in the north-east of Bavaria near the Czech border, the Zoigl ([zoiglbier.de](http://zoiglbier.de)) tradition continues at a pace. Families in villages in the Oberpfalz region, around the town of Windischeschenbach, take it in turns to use the community brewhouse to make their own beer, cart it home and then throw open their front doors to invite the beer pilgrims in.

Even if you don't particularly like the taste of the brewed stuff, there's no denying that its discovery is a cultural experience.





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# UNDER VIETNAM'S SPELL

Our Asian correspondent **Tamsin Cocks** falls in love with Hanoi's contrasts and is bewitched by mystical Halong Bay.

I'm sipping an espresso at La Terrasse – the Parisian-style pavement bistro of the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi. The hotel lies in the heart of the French

Quarter, an area resplendent with colonial architecture, broad, tree-lined boulevards and stunning landmarks like the Hanoi Opera House.

The Sofitel Metropole is a prime example – opened in 1901, the beautiful granddame hasn't aged a day, with a perfect chalk-white, four-storey façade elegantly framed by lofty





The Sofitel Metropole is a prime example – opened in 1901, the beautiful granddame hasn't aged a day.



French windows and dark-green shutters. Except tonight, I can't see any of these details. The entire street – along with most of the city – has been plunged into darkness for Hanoi's participation in Earth Hour, a global WWF initiative that sees businesses and landmarks power down to raise awareness of environmental issues.

Hushed under total darkness, the effect is quite magical. There is barely a murmur in the café as we all admire the strangely serene setting. I can't help but conjure up images from Hanoi's turbulent not-so-

distant past, when the northern Vietnamese city trembled under wartime bombing raids.

#### PATH OF HISTORY

This is partly due to the fact we've just experienced the hotel's fascinating Path of History tour. Led by knowledgeable Ambassadors of History, guests are taken on a journey that starts in the lobby – which itself invokes the era of French Indochina, with ceiling fans, dark-green leather armchairs, tiled floors and old-fashioned telephones with message

pads. The tour brings to life artefacts in the display cabinet, before moving through the Wall of Fame that documents the realms of notable figures who have stayed within its walls, from American folk singer Joan Baez to writer Graham Greene and President George Bush.

The final stop is the most exciting: the secret bomb shelter, built in the 1960s and only rediscovered in 2011. The claustrophobic concrete bunker, as basic as it is, was once a refuge for the hotel's privileged guests during the bombing raids – though the hotel staff





Vietnam's crazy street traffic is notorious, but it still has to be seen to be believed.



had to take their chances in drains under flimsy manhole covers outside...

Eventually the lights come flickering back on at the café, rousing us from our reverie.

### STREET JOY

Finishing our coffees, we wander towards the Old Quarter. Before we've walked 200 metres, we're confronted with what seems to be an impromptu street party, extending the whole way around Hoàn Kiem Lake. As it turns out, the city government has ordered the surrounding streets be pedestrianised every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7pm to midnight. The result is a carnival-like atmosphere, drawing locals and tourists alike. We see groups of musicians, choirs and street performers, with others playing badminton and navigating double skipping ropes.

The simple happiness is contagious, and the backdrop of the lake is beautiful. Numerous couples have snatched secluded spots on the bank under the trees to gaze at the romantic scene, perhaps hoping to spy one of the legendary giant turtles that once populated the lake (though the last known resident – Cu Rua, aka great-grandfather turtle – died in January last year).

### OLD ORDER

In Hanoi's Old Quarter, the scene abruptly changes and horns fill the air. Vietnam's crazy street traffic is notorious, but it still has to be seen to be believed. I stand open-jawed on more than one street corner, boggling at the delightful madness in front of me. Impossibly narrow streets are treated as fair game by a two-way stream of cars, mopeds, bikes and people. One man nonchalantly freewheels through the chaos, texting with one hand, a cigarette held lazily in the other.

Full of character, the heart of the Old Quarter is a maze of teetering two-storey avenues, populated with brightly coloured and slightly crumbling colonial villas that house shops, bars and restaurants. Down some of the busier streets, an impenetrable swarm of people spill out of bars and clubs, with tables lining the narrow avenues.

We stoop to sit at child-size pavement chairs and tables for a steaming bowl of pho, Vietnam's ubiquitous noodle soup, before enjoying a Hanoi beer while overlooking the streets from a rickety over-



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I'm completely blown away by the sheer size of Halong Bay – a vast, watery spectacle with jungle-topped islands spreading out over a colossal 1,553 square kilometres.

hanging structure. On our return to the Metropole, we stop for a nightcap (or two) at Angelica, the hotel's late-night bar with dark hues of red and a resident DJ. A couple of rather lethal martinis later, we stumble happily to bed.

#### **BEAUTY ON THE BAY**

If you have the time, don't pass up on the chance to visit the World Heritage-listed Halong Bay. A mystical land- and waterscape, it features almost 2,000 limestone islands and provided the perfect fantasy backdrop for recent blockbuster Kong: Skull Island.

Don't try and squeeze this into a day. Numerous cruise packages allow you to stop overnight on the water – and it's an incredible sight to wake up to. The four-hour journey out includes a stop at the Hong Ngoc Shopping Centre, and while this is undoubtedly a tourist trap, don't instantly dismiss it. Firstly, the range of souvenirs, from traditional lacquerware and paintings to jewellery and other trinkets, is beautiful to browse, with some high-quality pieces.

Secondly, many of the artworks are created by disabled people and the proceeds are used to fund charitable missions.

Paradise Cruise ([paradisecruise.com](http://paradisecruise.com)) offers one of the most luxurious berths on the water. The recently launched Paradise Elegance is a gorgeous, gleaming white vessel with 31 deluxe guest quarters. Inside it has a glamorous olde-worlde feel with smooth, modern finishings. The cabins are beautiful – far more spacious than I was expecting, with dark, glossy mahogany walls. The bedroom has a comfy king-size bed and TV, with a private balcony, dressing room and large bathroom – with fully plumbed toilets and hot showers.

We set sail out of the harbour with a flotilla of other pleasure boats and glide towards the looming wall of islands that signal the start of the heritage site. In virtually no time we're lost amidst the towering green monoliths, shrouded in a misty veil. I'm completely blown away by the sheer size of Halong Bay – a vast, watery spectacle with jungle-topped islands spreading out over a colossal 1,553 square kilometres.

We are gathered for a ship briefing shortly after setting off, where we are introduced to our jovial captain. He greets us warmly and runs through the itinerary, which includes a choice of excursions such as visiting Cua Van floating village, exploring the area by kayak, climbing to the peak of Ti Top Island for breathtaking panoramic views, or entering the depths of Sung Sot Cave.

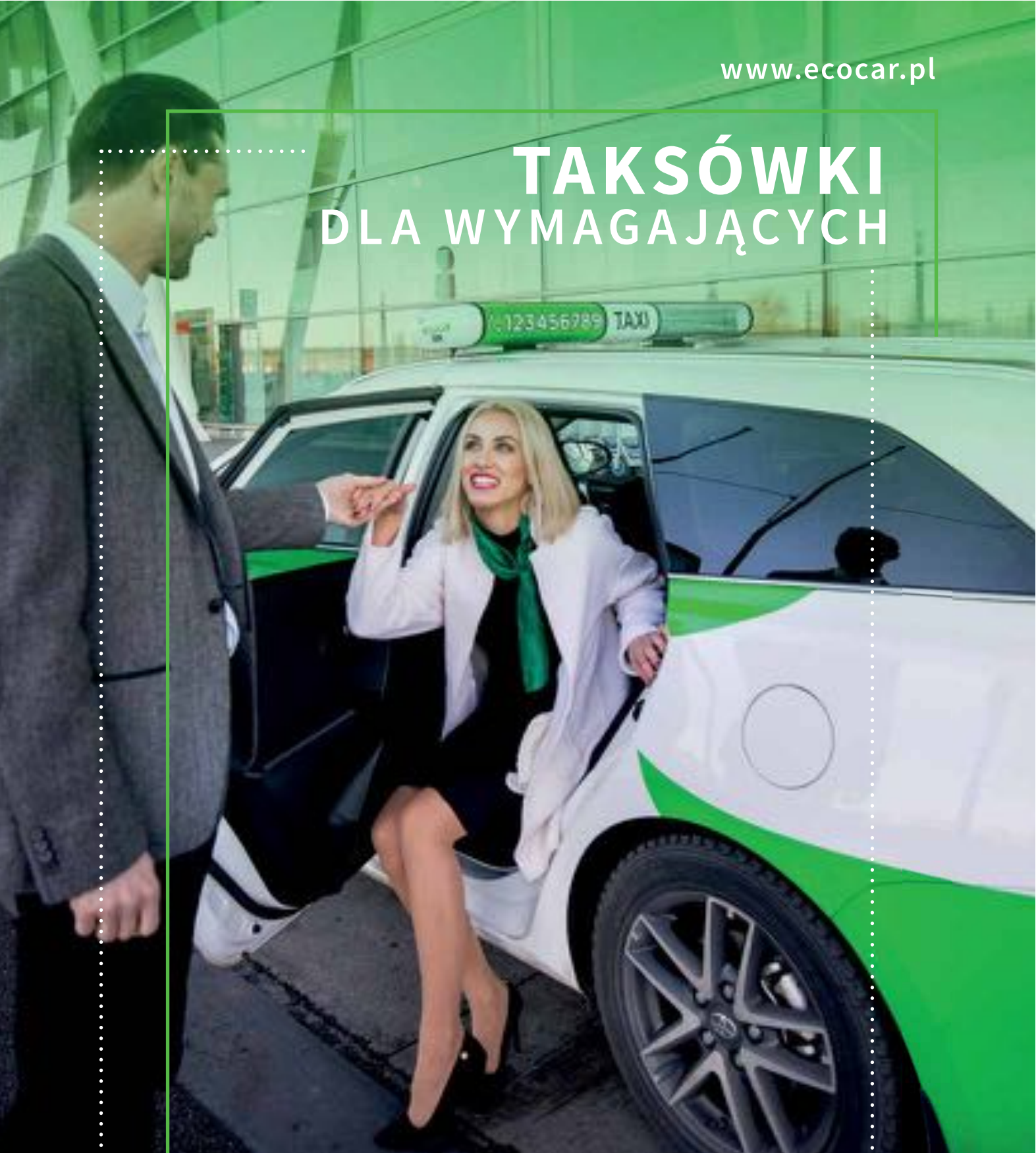
After a safety briefing is concluded, we tuck into a buffet lunch, with a delicious and varied selection particularly strong on seafood. Other activities on board include a sunset cooking class on the top deck, live entertainment from a Filipino band in the piano bar (with ample opportunity to join in if you're so inclined), spa treatments and a 6.30am t'ai chi class on the sundeck.

In the evening, the dark outlines of the surrounding limestone rocks are illuminated from the soft glow of other boats huddled together for the night. But rather than feeling "too touristy", in this otherworldly landscape you're glad of the company. Just in case King Kong is lurking...



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# ELECTRIC CARS POWERED UP

Could an electric car be for you? **Nat Barnes** looks at advances in the industry and the best new options on the market.





**E**lectricity. We use it to light our homes, cook our food and make a cup of tea, so why not to power our cars? Last year, sales of alternatively fuelled new cars in the UK – hybrids, electric and fuel cell cars – rose by more than a fifth, which was on top of a 40 per cent rise in 2015. After a somewhat slow start, British drivers are finally beginning to embrace electric powered motoring.

### GREAT RETURN

Electric cars have been around a lot longer than you might think. British inventor Thomas Parker built the first production electric car as long ago as 1884, and they enjoyed considerable popularity in the early days of motoring. It was only the arrival of cheap petrol and the greater range and speed of cars powered by internal combustion engines in the early 1900s that would seal the fate for electric-powered motoring.

Until now, that is, because electric motoring is back in all its forms. Those last four words are crucial if you're considering battery power for your next car. Electric cars come in numerous shapes and sizes, from those that run on electricity alone (EVs), have assistance from a petrol or diesel engine (hybrids or range extended vehicles) or even run on hydrogen.

None of them are without their drawbacks. For all-electric cars, there's the thorny subject of range. At present, most EVs can cover around 120-150 miles on a full charge (which usually costs £2-2.50), but then can require up to eight hours to recharge after being plugged in. That makes them ideal for urban use if you have easy access to a charging point, but not if you don't have off-street parking or



### Know your

### ELECTRIC CARS

Electric vehicles can come in many different forms – here's how to differentiate between them.

- **Electric Vehicles (EVs)** – eg, Nissan Leaf, Renault Zoe, Tesla Model S. As their name suggests, these are purely battery-driven with electric motors.
- **Electric Vehicles with Range Extenders** – eg, BMW i3 REX. The same as fully electric cars but with small extra petrol engines to provide more range when required.
- **Hybrids** – eg, Lexus RX450h, Toyota Prius. Has a petrol or diesel engine for longer or faster journeys, plus a battery pack for extra power or slower, urban driving.
- **Plug-In Hybrids (PHEVs)** – eg, Audi A3 e-tron, Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV. Like standard hybrid cars but with larger battery packs for a longer electric-only range.
- **Fuel-cell vehicles** – eg, Toyota Mirai. The same as EVs but with an onboard hydrogen fuel cell to generate electricity. Can only be refuelled by hydrogen alone.






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One of the biggest challengers for manufacturers of electric vehicles is designing a battery that can be charged fast and will also dramatically increase the car's range.

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need to travel further in a hurry. Away from home, charging points are run by different companies and with different charging rates, meaning you might need to have multiple accounts with multiple firms. Rather illogically, you can't just turn up and swipe your credit card as you might think. The cost of fitting a charging point at home can vary, too, from £700 to nothing depending on the manufacturer and their offers.

Thackery Davis, a teacher from East Sussex, bought his Renault Zoe in 2015. "We originally planned to use the Zoe as our second car, but we've ended up using it far more than we imagined," he says. "We'd definitely recommend it, although you do have to plan ahead in terms of charging it up for longer journeys. For us, the range anxiety isn't a problem as we've got another car, but it might be limiting if it was our only transport."

Still, there are multiple answers to that range anxiety. Some electric cars can use rapid-charging points, while Tesla has a network of superchargers that can provide 170

miles of range in 30 minutes. Alternatively, there are models such as BMW's i3, which is sold either in purely electric form (with a 125-mile range) or with a small range extender petrol engine for an extra £3,000, which provides electricity when your range is low and increases distance to 206 miles.

#### **HYBRIDS CONQUER THE MARKET**

Then there are the ever-popular hybrids. In standard form, hybrids use their batteries for slow-speed urban driving and recharge them as you brake or slow down. However, the recent fashion, especially at the premium end of the market, is for plug-in hybrids. These have larger batteries and, therefore, a longer electric-only range. They also boast considerably lower emissions, meaning much-reduced company car tax bills.

#### **TAXES AND POLITICS**

Ah, yes, the thorny issue of tax and politics. At present, there are three levels of govern-

ment grant for electric cars, ranging from £2,500 up to £4,500 depending on its price, range and emissions. Purely electric vehicles obviously get the most, but any plug-ins over £60,000, such as Volvo's XC90, don't get anything at all.

What's more, as exposed in our previous feature on fleet cars ("Value driven", November 2016), those plug-in hybrids are only cheap to run if you actually plug them in and utilise their electric-only range. HMRC has yet to address how it will tax electricity for motoring, too. Fully charge your electric car for 150 miles and the government sees next to nothing, whereas an equivalent 150 miles-worth of petrol or diesel (or indeed any amount) sees it earn about 60 per cent of the pump price.

Therein lies the rub for future governments, too. They want us to drive cleaner cars and move to battery power, but are reducing the grants provided as it becomes more popular, and, in turn, will be forced to look at other motoring taxes to recoup



the lost revenue from traditional fossil fuels.

The Netherlands' big tax incentives saw car buyers flock to electric cars in 2015, making the country Europe's biggest plug-in hybrid market. But when the Dutch government reduced those incentives last year, sales of plug-ins dropped by 47 per cent.

"While the electric car market has progressed, there are still hurdles to overcome and the experience in the Netherlands shows that electric cars are still dependent on incentives for sales," says Nick Gibbs, UK correspondent for Automotive News Europe.

### FIGHTING FOR A LONGER RANGE

Battery technology is making some gains but certainly isn't leaping ahead, and many manufacturers are quoting 2019 or beyond for when electric cars will have a good range and prices equivalent to petrol and diesel models. Then again, like Betamax video players, compact discs or the pop career of Martha and the Muffins after Echo Beach (apologies to those under 40), the days of plug-in electric cars could be numbered when they've only just begun.

Toyota has already introduced its Mirai fuel cell car, which uses hydrogen to produce electricity to power its cars, so doesn't need recharging (just refilling). Hyundai and Mercedes are also tapping into this market, having both already had fuel cell models under development for some time.

Unlike charging via a plug, hydrogen can be provided via a forecourt pump in exactly the same process and virtually the same time as a petrol or diesel pump. The real benefits of a fuel cell car are that its only emissions are water – so clean that you could actually drink it. The big downside is the lack of filling points – the UK will have a grand total of 14 by the end of this year.

With all of hydrogen's ease of use and similarities to today's filling pumps, it would certainly seem to be the logical next step, although the Toyota Prius has been on sale for 20 years and motorists are only now getting comfortable with hybrid technology.

Electricity may well be powering your car in the future, but perhaps not quite in the way that you might think...



## Five of the best

### RENAULT ZOE

**Price:** from £17,845

Renault's superb Zoe supermini looks cute, drives even better and a new, bigger battery provides a 186-mile range. You can buy the battery outright with the car or hire it separately for a monthly charge..



### BMW i8

**Price:** £104,660

With looks straight out of a science fiction film, the i8 boasts supercar performance but with tree-loving emissions. Expect a convertible version to be available at some point next year.



### VOLVO XC90 T8 PLUG-IN HYBRID

**Price:** from £61,715

Volvo's XC90 is undoubtedly one of the hottest seven-seater SUVs on the market. This flagship T8 version only makes it even more desirable. A 2.0-litre petrol engine combines with an electric motor for an electric-only 30-mile range.



### HYUNDAI IONIQ

**Price:** from £19,995

In a single swoop, Hyundai has effectively out-Priused the Toyota Prius. A smart five-door hatchback, at present the Ioniq comes in either fully electric or petrol-electric hybrid forms, with a plug-in hybrid due later this year.



### TOYOTA MIRAI

**Price:** £66,000

The UK's first commercially available fuel cell car that runs on hydrogen. The only downsides are looks that only its mother could love, and that it's easier to find unicorn tears than a UK filling station.



# QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Offering arguably the world's widest choice of watches, Japan's Seiko has been playing the venerable Swiss brands at their own game for decades, says **Chris Hall**.



Some of you will already be wondering what we are doing writing about Seiko in what is supposed to be a luxury watch column.

True, you can buy a Seiko on Amazon for £30 and, being Japanese, the company has never been sniffy about digital or quartz technology in the same way as the Swiss brands. But there's nothing wrong with its entry-level watches – the Seiko 5 is hands-down the cheapest way to own a mechanical watch (versions abound, starting at about £60) and is an icon in its own right, having been on sale since 1963.

What's remarkable is that the company behind this humble ticker also produces minute repeaters and tourbillons; high-end mechanical watches adorned with masterful decoration and fine movements within. It is no exaggeration to say that Seiko offers one of the widest choices of watches in the world.

### JAPANESE TRUMP CARDS

It's not all perfect – the recently introduced Grand Seiko Sport range leaves a lot to be desired stylistically, and the Astron collection, with its GPS link-up, feels rather 1990s – but with its Grand Seiko and Credor watches, Seiko can match up to any mainstream Swiss brand in terms of quality and craftsmanship.

For many, here lies part of its charm. Seiko has been getting up the noses of the Swiss since the 1960s, when it started turning up to official timekeeping competitions and – within a couple of years – sweeping the board. The Swiss hadn't even contemplated a foreign entrant, let alone one so competent, and promptly took their ball away in a fit of national pique.

Undeterred, Seiko continued to innovate at a rapid pace. It made a name for itself in the world of professional dive watches in the 1970s – becoming, along the way, the first company to use titanium in a watch case, a full decade before IWC and Porsche Design would make the same claim.

### REAL GEMS

Seiko developed the quartz watch movement (something that would at a stroke cripple the Swiss watch industry) and went on to create multiple ingenious hybrid movements – the Kinetic and Spring Drive, both worth articles in their own right – ensuring



it had something of good value at every level of the market.

You could be excused a level of ignorance over Seiko's more interesting watches and history – the brand is not the best at getting the story out there, and for decades has not marketed Grand Seiko, Credor or even its coolest dive watches to a UK audience. That is changing, slowly – at Seiko, everything is very deliberate – and, later this month, it is opening its first dedicated UK store, in London's Knightsbridge. That in itself has been a long time coming – everything had to be just right – but it should herald a period of greater attention for watch fans in the UK.

Perfectionism comes at least as naturally to the Japanese as to the Swiss, and the obsession over hand-finishing is equally strong. Seiko's high-end pieces benefit from zaratsu polishing – techniques honed over centuries of knife and sword creation, miniaturised for the hands or indexes of a watch. The lines of a Grand Seiko case are as crisp and clean as anything around – not for nothing do connoisseurs hold them up as Rolex rivals.

### OWN IDENTITY

This year, Seiko has given the Grand Seiko sub-brand a bit more of its own identity (after nearly 60 years), removing "Seiko" from the dials and letting it go out with just "Grand Seiko" at 12 o'clock.

Yes, this is letting one's hair down, Seiko style, but you can't scoff at the results. The move is being marked by the release of three limited-edition watches that hark back to the first Grand Seiko designs from 1960. Available in stainless steel, 18-carat gold and platinum (itself a nod to the past, as the first Grand Seiko watches, intended as they were to rival the finest Swiss watches, were cased in platinum), they are some of the simplest, most elegant watches released this year.

Each is powered by a hand-wound mechanical movement – made in-house by Seiko, naturally – and measures 38mm across. The steel model (£5,000) is a little thicker than the other two, and stands out from the platinum with its blued steel seconds hand. A total of 1,960 pieces will be produced; there will be 353 of the gold (£18,000) and 136 of the platinum (£30,000). If that's not motivation to visit the new boutique, I don't know what is.

# LENOVO IS IN THE GAME

**Marzena Mróz** talks to **Andrzej Sowiński**, Country General Manager for Poland at Lenovo.



**Lenovo has an established position in the Polish market as a proven and reliable brand.**

We have been one of the leading players in the Polish market, which has been confirmed by various accolades, including the Business Traveller Poland Award for the 'Best Laptop for Business'. Such distinctions are particularly enjoyable, as they

highlight the strengths of our products and are a clear indicator for our potential customers. We value the opinion of our customers, and we are very proud that we have topped the 'Best Personal Computer' category in the '2017 Trusted Brand' consumer opinion survey carried out by Kantar Millward Brown. For Lenovo, this distinction is extremely important, because

the respondents represented the SME sector (small and medium-sized companies), which is crucial for us. Following our success in the consumer market, we are now strengthening our position in the business computer market, with a full range of products. We are glad to be one of just 23 companies awarded with the 'Trusted Brand' title. All the awards we receive (only



last year six of our products received 57 various awards at IFA exhibition), prove the strong position of our brand, as well as a high level of technological solutions and innovation that we employ. By combining these elements, we have become a leading company, selling up to four devices every second.

**However, Lenovo is not only about personal computers.**

Lenovo is not only the leader in the PC market in Poland (IDC report for Q4 2016), but we also top the tablet market. In 2015, we added to our portfolio Motorola smartphones, and the legendary brand now boasts a 7.8 per cent market share, which is very promising, and we see further potential for growth there. 2015 also marked our second large acquisition - Lenovo took over the Polish x86 server business from IBM. Such acquisition is always a long and complicated process, but today we can say that we have managed to build a strong team of competent professionals, and we can successfully compete in this challenging market. With our comprehensive offering that caters to the needs of both larger enterprises and small and medium-sized businesses, at the end of 2016 we enjoyed a strong fourth position in the Polish server market with 8.9 percent share.

In addition to expanding our portfolio, Lenovo is constantly working on new innovative solutions. One of the areas of our interest is the virtual and augmented reality. The potential is enormous. That is why, we have teamed up with Google to launch Tango project, for which we have created Lenovo PHAB 2 Pro. Tango project is about combining hardware and software together to bring the power of augmented reality to everyday life. With this solution you can place a virtual item in a real location and vice versa, or easily measure objects and



spaces. There are countless possibilities of using Tango technology. These include indoor navigation, where traditional GPS systems do not work, which can also be extremely useful for visually impaired people, because the device is describing the environment to the user in real time.

Is it possible that VR is just a fad and it will not come into daily use, at all? I hope not, because it has so many various uses that business is interested in. And that is why, it will naturally become popular among consumers, as well. It will, most probably, become seamlessly integrated into our lives and we will soon stop noticing it. It will be as natural as using a smartphone or car navigation. Technologies become a natural part of our professional and personal lives. The boundaries between consumer and business solutions are becoming blurred.

**Why the need to highlight the business device category?**

With the introduction of convertible laptops, they have become a versatile working environment. It takes just a few seconds to turn a mobile device - a tablet - into a stationary working environment with a wide range of peripherals, such as a large monitor, a mouse or docking station. However, with all those additional elements, most of us want to keep our desks tidy and aesthetically pleasing. To help provide better workplace

ergonomics, we offer such solutions as ThinkPad WiGig - a desktop hub with LAN and USB ports, video outputs, and many

more to eliminate unnecessary wires from the workspace. Being a multitasking tool, a business laptop should also have ultralight design, guarantee long battery life and high resistance to mechanical damage. All this to

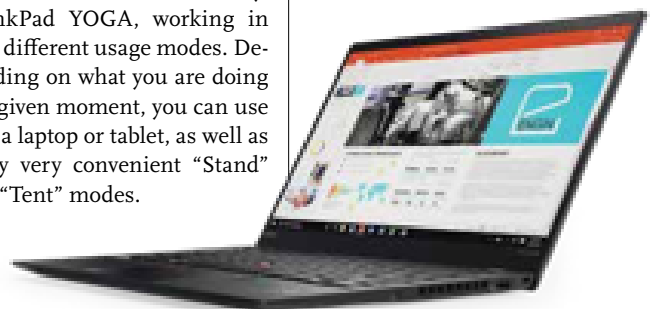
make sure that whatever the day brings on, your computer will never let you down.

You can minimize such risk of downtime at work, consciously choosing devices that suit our needs and provide maximum security. As one of the largest suppliers of business equipment, we always adjust our long-term strategy to customer needs.

**What is Lenovo's business strategy for 2017? What are your plans for the development in Poland?**

2017 will be about maintaining our position in segments where we are leaders (desktop PCs, all-in-one, and tablets), as well as about conquering new areas. Most importantly, in the latter half of the year we want to have a strong entry into the smartphone market with our Motorola brand. Secondly, we are working hard to improve our position as one of the largest server providers in Poland. We also look at new trends in the industry. It seems that the future belongs to convertible devices that meet the diverse needs of customers and provide a wide range of uses. One of such devices is, undoubtedly, ThinkPad YOGA, working in four different usage modes. Depending on what you are doing at a given moment, you can use it as a laptop or tablet, as well as enjoy very convenient "Stand" and "Tent" modes.

Lenovo is not only the leader in the PC market in Poland (IDC report for Q4 2016), but we also top the tablet market. In 2015, we added to our portfolio Motorola smartphones, and the legendary brand now boasts a 7.8 per cent market share, which is very promising, and we see further potential for growth there.



# 4 HOURS IN... EDINBURGH

The Scottish capital is much more than just kilts and whiskey. The city has a wealthy history and a number of beautiful historic buildings. And all this shrouded in a mystery of a certain cemetery.



## GREYFRIARS KIRKYARD

Begin at Greyfriars Kirkyard, an eerie, often mist-shrouded cemetery where a number of famous Scots are interred, including James Craig, architect of Edinburgh's New Town, and Robert Adam, who designed the first minister's residence, Bute House, and London member's club Home House.

In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the cemetery was regularly plundered by Edinburgh's notorious "resurrectionists", who, under the cover of night, would pry open coffins and hijack their contents to sell to surgeons and medical students for dissection. More ghastly still is the tale of George

Mackenzie, a ruthless 17th-century judge who persecuted hundreds of Protestant Covenanters, imprisoned them in the Kirkyard's grounds and then sentenced them to public hanging at nearby Grassmarket Square.

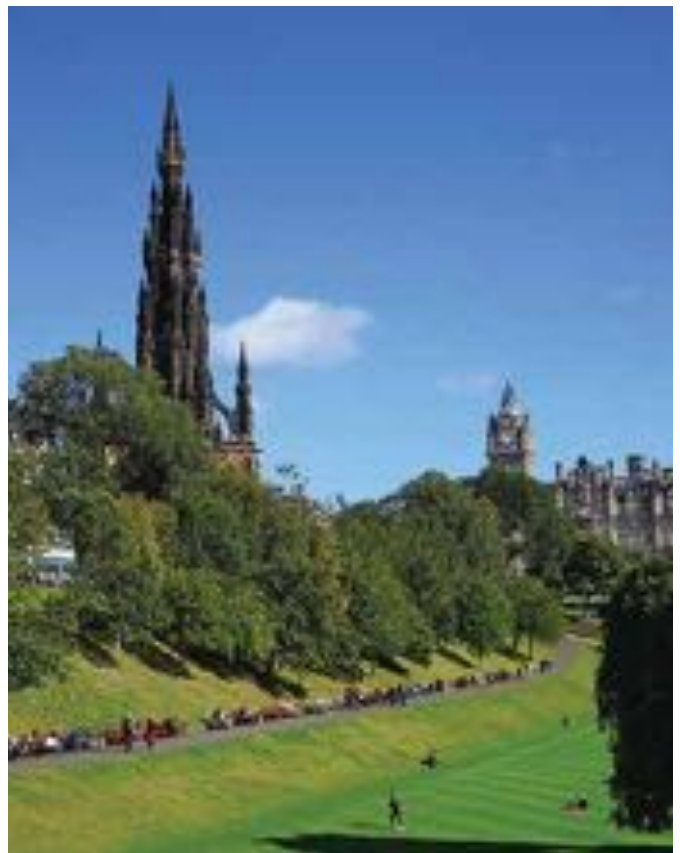
When he eventually died, "Bluidy Mackenzie", as he is more commonly known, was buried in the same cemetery in his very own mausoleum. Following an incident where the tomb was broken into, Mackenzie's ghost is said to have "woken", provoking reports of violent, paranormal attacks on the cemetery's visitors. The chamber has since been sealed by the city council, but guides will tell you not to get too close...

## G&V ROYAL MILE HOTEL

Leaving the Kirkyard via Candlemaker Row, take a left on to Cowgatehead and climb Victoria Street until you reach George IV Bridge. Turn left and you'll see the G&V Royal Mile. Formerly a Missoni hotel, the 136-room property is home to the Epicurean bar, one of Edinburgh's most fashionable watering holes.

Opened last November, the bar has already won a prestigious regional title of Best Bar at the Scottish Hotel Awards, and offers an inventive drinks menu inspired by the Scottish Colourists, a group of post-Impressionist painters. It's a sleek, atmospheric





For contemporary art lovers, the museum has an impressive programme of temporary exhibits, as well as a wide-ranging permanent display.

space featuring fuchsia leather booths, monochrome floor tiling and Scandi furniture. Try Le Manteau Chinois (£9), inspired by the works of JD Fergusson and made with Dewar's 12-year-old Scotch, Amer Piccon (an orange-flavoured liqueur), beetroot, rhubarb, orange blossom oolong and orange and ginger marmalade.

Upstairs on the mezzanine level, Italian restaurant Cucina was refurbished in July last year and features beautiful wall murals, colourful throw pillows and flamboyant crockery. On the menu is a range of rustic pastas and risottos alongside heavier meat and fish dishes that champion Scottish produce. G&V Royal Mile, 1 George IV Bridge; tel +44 (0)131 220 6666; quorvuscollection.com

## PRINCES STREET

The city's main shopping thoroughfare stretches past Waverley train station, extending a mile westward toward the district of Haymarket and Edinburgh's imperious Castle. The street itself is flanked with statues of historic Scottish figures, from 19th-century explorer David Livingstone to Adam Black, an early publisher of the Encyclopæ-

dia Britannica, while the world's largest monument to a writer (at 61 metres) stands beside the boulevard – the imposing, soot-stained Scott Monument, commemorating Sir Walter Scott.

A raft of high-street shops line the road, but the quirky cafés and independent retailers nearby are also worth peeking into. Check out 21st Century Kilts on Thistle Street nearby for current tweed and tartan fashion, or Social Bite on Rose Street, a lively sandwich shop that donates all of its profits to good causes.

## WATER OF LEITH

From the end of Princes Street, walk westward for ten minutes to Dean Gardens – the closest point from the city centre to the Water of Leith. This is Edinburgh's main river, which bends and curls through the city's outskirts until it reaches the coastal town of Leith, before pouring into the North Sea. Follow the river upstream along the overgrown pathway, passing under the stone arches of Dean Bridge and the stately Rharma Church on the hillside above. Away from the city's bustle, wander through the lush woodland, where geese probe the riverbank

for morsels and rabbits dart under wild, unkempt bushes.

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART

Carry on alongside the river until you reach Belford Road, taking a right on to Belford Terrace. Further along, you'll find the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, the main collection of which is housed in a grand neoclassical building with the words "Everything is going to be alright" installed in blue neon across the façade's frieze.

For contemporary art lovers, the museum has an impressive programme of temporary exhibits, as well as a wide-ranging permanent display ranging from post-war European figure painting to pop art and abstract pieces. Dotted across the museum's grounds you'll also find a number of installations, and a stroll around will reveal works by the likes of Tony Cragg, Damien Hurst, Henry Moore and Rachel Whiteread. Open daily 10am-5pm; free entry (there is a charge for some exhibitions). nationalgalleries.org Virgin Trains East Coast operates 24 weekday services between London and Edinburgh. virgintrains, eastcoast.com



# ASK PETER

## Letters

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

### Gold tier status

*My boss flies regularly with British Airways. He has recently been upgraded to Gold tier status in the airline's loyalty programme. I don't quite understand the tier names, because the e-mail message included various terms. What privileges is he entitled to after the upgrade? Does he get, for example, a preferred standby status?*

**Magda**

Dear Magda,  
British Airways is a member of Oneworld alliance, bringing together such carriers as American Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Qantas, Iberia, Finnair, JAL, Qatar Airways, Air Berlin, Malaysia Airlines, LATAM.

Each of those airlines may have its own loyalty programme with its own terms and conditions. Oneworld alliance has an additional, joint offer called Oneworld Priority, addressed to members of frequent flyer programmes of the member airlines. Some confusion may be caused by the fact that Oneworld membership levels (tiers) have different names than in the individual programmes of the carriers who are members of the Alliance.

British Airways has its own names for the airline's four membership tiers in Executive Club programme. These are: Blue, Bronze, Silver and the highest called Gold. Oneworld tiers are: Ruby (equivalent to Bronze), Sapphire (equivalent to Silver) and Emerald (equivalent to Gold).

The lowest tier, which is Blue, doesn't have its equivalent in the Oneworld offer, so its members can enjoy additional benefits provided by Ruby tier.

For these reasons, you may encounter two different terms (Gold or Emerald), when arranging a trip for your boss. These are essentially equivalent. Passengers with the highest tier status enjoy a number of privileges such as: waiting list priority (preferred standby status), seat selection, priority boarding, increased luggage allowance, bonus flight points or upgrades to a higher travel class. For more details, please read the conditions of the programme, available on the website of the carrier or of Oneworld alliance.

### Travelling with twins

*My sister is going on holiday to Spain. She is taking her children with her (18-months old twins). Are there any discounts for such passengers? In a travel agency she was told that the kids can't get the same discount and one of them must have a more expensive ticket. I'd be glad if you could clarify it for me. Should I fly with my sister?*

**Tatiana**

Dear Tatiana,  
A child under the age of two who doesn't occupy a separate seat on a plane is entitled to a 90 percent discount from the standard fare (or selected promotional fares). In aviation terminology, such passenger is referred to as an "infant". For such a child you don't have to pay certain airport charges, either, so such a ticket is usually very cheap. Also note that the luggage allowance is limited here to 10 kilograms.

One drawback is having to hold the baby on your knees during the entire flight. On some aircraft it's possible to place it in a special cradle (this applies to very young children). Those children must travel only with their guardian. It's unacceptable for one adult passenger to take care of more than one child for two reasons related to passenger safety. Firstly, you can attach only one "belly" or "loop" belt (a belt for a child) to the adult's safety belt. Secondly, in each row of seats there is only one extra oxygen mask. That's why, there can be only one additional passenger in each row, because in case of decompression, each person must be able to use an individual mask. Remember that the adult should put on his oxygen mask first before helping his child.

Therefore, the second child can only travel under the conditions for older children - from 2 to 12 years old. Small travellers are usually given a 50 or 25 percent discount off the adult fare and have the right to take their own seat. Also the luggage allowance is here the same as for an adult.

An air travel with two young children is quite cumbersome. If you have the opportunity to travel with your sister, the other twin can fly as an "infant" under your care. Note, however, that in such situation, you will have to sit in two different rows.





# Odloty do Amsterdamu

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K R A K Ó W 2 X

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