Najlepsze osiedle w Polsce
Premiera IV etapu

Zamieszkał w kolejnym etapie najbardziej nagradzanego osiedla w Polsce

- lokalizacja w centrum Warszawy
- obok stacji metra Rondo Daszyńskiego
- powierzchnie od 32 m² do 137 m²
- duży wybór mieszkań pod inwestycję
- mieszkania z tarasami
- atrakcyjne lokale usługowe

ul. Kolejowa 49

t: 22 572 57 00

19dzielnica.pl
# Content September 2017

## Editorial
- **On Top**
  - Hotel, restaurant, and airline news

## Cover Story
- **Know your right**

## Tried & Tested
- **Qatar Airways Business Class**
- **Torch Doha**
- **Hotel Punta Negra**

## Report
- **Check into the future**

## Air Travel
- **With LOT to Gothenburg**

## Hotels
- **For Good Mood in ibis Hotels**
- **Hotel Bristol. Discover Warsaw From a Century Ago**

## Destinations
- **In the Okavango delta**
- **Escape to Costa del Sol**
- **North and South**
- **4 hours in... Guangzhou**

## Businessman on Holidays
- **For Skiers and Sailors**
- **Golfing around Muscat**

## Moto & Techno
- **Škoda's New Incarnation**

## Ask Peter
Most of us will probably have experienced being bumped at some point during our travels, though few will have grabbed the headlines in the way that Dr David Dao did on a recent United flight from Chicago. The video footage of the passenger being violently removed from an aircraft by police for refusing to give up his seat, quickly went viral. The airline was publicly shamed for such behaviour and had to pay the roughed traveller an undefined sum of money in an out-of-court settlement.

However, a much more common issue for air travellers is being denied boarding as a consequence of overbooking, because the airline has sold more tickets than it has seats on the plane. For most airlines this is a typical practice, and the consequence is that staff will either ask for volunteers to take a later flight (“voluntary bumping”) or pick on someone of their choosing (“involuntary bumping”). In both cases the compensation for passenger (if any) is determined individually. For more details, I recommend you to check our cover article, entitled: “Know your rights”, which will certainly be an interesting read for business travellers.
EKSKLUZYWNE I KOMFORTOWO WYPOSAŻONE APARTAMENTY W SAMYM CENTRUM WARSZAWY. GOTOWE DO ZAMIESZKANIA.
+Św 535 10 10 10 | www.apartamentycosmopolitan.pl |
**Watch**

Certina

**UNIQUE CHRONOGRAPH**

The marine world carries its own special challenges for timepieces. Only a handful are ever truly fit enough to deserve the proud label “diving watch”. Like its predecessors, the latest version of the popular DS Action Diver Chronograph has fully met all ISO 6425 requirements with flying colours and officially boasts a water resistance up to 300 metres. Its ultra-sporty design asserts its place among the greats in nautical timekeeping, a true descendant of the famous CERTINA DS-3, chosen in 1970 by the Australian Navy. It is a worthy successor to the famous Certina DS-3 model, used by the Australian Navy since 1970.

The dynamic character of the new DS Action Diver Chronograph

**Health**

Philips

**COCKTAIL FOR BREAKFAST**

We all need fibre in our diet. It helps out digestive system, cleans it from toxins and promotes immunity. It is then worth employing simple solutions to increase the fibre ratio in your diet. For example, never peel fruit and vegetables before blending. And if you like blending food, then you might want to check out the new high-speed blended Philips Innergizer HR3868. With its powerful 2000W motor and the speed of up to 45,000 rpm, it can grind down both soft and hard products, such as hard root vegetables, seeds and nuts. Is so effective that it can even blend an avocado pit! Equipped with the ProBlend Extreme technology, the blender’s blades break down vegetable and fruit cell walls, unlocking nutrients and making them much easier to digest. The appliance release 97 percent of nutrients from fruit and vegetables. It is a perfect choice for those who love daily fruit and vegetable smoothies. philips.com

**Airport**

Wrocław

**RECORD BREAKING SUMMER**

From January 2017 to the end of July, Wrocław Airport handled more than 1.6 million passengers. In July alone, the port served almost 316,000 travellers, an increase by 60,000 (22.3 percent) from the same period last year. “Last month we recorded not only the biggest traffic growth this year, but also the record-breaking aircraft load factor, which on some routes exceeded 96 percent,” says Jarosław Sztucki, Sales and Marketing Director at Wrocław Airport.

Low cost connections are increasingly popular with passengers. In July, more than 157,000 travellers opted for this type of travel. Most passengers in that period chose flights to the south of Europe, especially to Spain, Italy and Greece. As for flights to Tenerife and Malaga, the average load factor was 96 percent, while aircraft flying to Barcelona, Madrid, Rome, Lisbon and Palmas in Majorca were occupied in 95 percent. Airlines have also noticed that growing popularity of flights to the south of Europe. At the end of October, Ryanair will launch two new connections to Italian destinations: Palermo in Sicily and Naples. Low cost connections to Great Britain and Ireland also enjoy steady popularity. In July, the load factor on flights to Bristol, Glasgow and Cork exceeded 95 percent.

Also in July, the airport recorded an increase in the number of passengers travelling with large international carriers (more than 35,500 travellers). In this segment very good results records the new connection by LOT Polish Airlines to Tel Aviv, which in July, served almost 2,300 passengers.
HOTEL BELLOTTO
Catering

CATERING BIZNESOWY
ELEGANCJA • JAKOŚĆ • PASJA

tel. 660 406 480
www.catering.hotelbellotto.pl
LOT Dreamliner delivered parts of the innovative means of transport of the future from Warsaw to California’s largest city. The Polish Hyperloop pod has been designed and built by students of Warsaw University of Technology and Wrocław University of Science and Technology. The pod took part in international tests hosted by Elon Musk’s SpaceX. Test drives took place in a specially constructed steel pipe, 1.5 km in length and two meters in diameter. The pod moved in a low pressure pipe (using magnetic levitation), which significantly reduced energy consumption. The results of the experiment will be used to develop Hyperloop technology, super-fast means of land transport, which will allow to transport people and cargo at speeds reaching 1000 km/h.

TRANSPORTATION WITH THE SPEED OF 1000 km/h

Airlines
LOT

Buying a flat in Perła apartment complex, you can now combine making large profits with providing leisure opportunities for your family and friends. It is a good investment that guarantees capital diversification, quick investment return, and a large increase in real estate value. Perła comprises 36 apartments, ranging from 34 to 120 sqm. Built in the vicinity of the Napiwodzko-Ramucka Primeval Forest, the complex lies on the shore of Pluszne lake, near Olsztynek, on site of the former resort of the Prime Minister’s Office. The 18-hectare plot with forest, ravines, 1km of coastline, numerous bridges, and a pool, also houses the Kormoran Conference and Holiday Center. kormoranmierki.pl or recepcja@mierki.eu

Beauty
Becca

LIGHT COUNTS
Becca’s iconic cosmetics are now available in Poland and can be purchased at Sephora stores. The products are very popular, as their main aim is to brighten the face, also while on the go. The company was founded by Rebecca Morrice Williams, who began her career as a makeup artist in Perth, Australia. Unable to find the perfect foundation among the products available on the market, she decided to create it herself.

The light helps us look young, eliminates imperfections, redefines face contours and adds natural glow. That is why it became the inspiration for Becca cosmetics. Among the loyal customers of the brand are Elle MacPherson, Naomi Campbell, Kylie Minogue, Cameron Diaz and Reese Witherspoon. sephora.pl

Apartments
Perła

NEW INVESTMENT BY PLUSZNE LAKE

Beauty
Becca

LIGHT COUNTS
Becca’s iconic cosmetics are now available in Poland and can be purchased at Sephora stores. The products are very popular, as their main aim is to brighten the face, also while on the go. The company was founded by Rebecca Morrice Williams, who began her career as a makeup artist in Perth, Australia. Unable to find the perfect foundation among the products available on the market, she decided to create it herself.

The light helps us look young, eliminates imperfections, redefines face contours and adds natural glow. That is why it became the inspiration for Becca cosmetics. Among the loyal customers of the brand are Elle MacPherson, Naomi Campbell, Kylie Minogue, Cameron Diaz and Reese Witherspoon. sephora.pl
Twój prywatny raj
IDEALNE MIEJSCE NA ZIEMI- TWOJA WILLA NA WODZIE!
Mała, prywatna wyspa i nowe przestrzenne eco chic willa. Każda z własnym basenem, obsługą butlera i wszystkim, o czym zamarzysz…

Kontakt:
Przedstawicielstwo Club Med w Polsce
ul. Tamka 16, lok. 4, Warszawa
www.clubmed.pl
Private concierge:
p.maciejko@clubmed.pl
+48 664212513
KNOW YOUR RIGHT

The violent removal of a passenger from a full United aircraft has prompted heated debate over flyers’ rights. Jenny Southan explains why airlines overbook and how it might affect you.
Most frequent flyers will have experienced being bumped at some point during their travels, but few will have grabbed the headlines in the way that Dr David Dao did on a recent United flight from Chicago. Video footage of the passenger being violently removed from an aircraft by police for refusing to give up his seat went viral, and the airline was publicly shamed into settling a legal case filed by the plaintiff out of court.

While the story made headlines across global news sites, it did bring to the fore important questions about air passenger rights. In the case of Dao, he had been granted boarding but after he was picked to be removed to allow space for a United employee – and he refused to get off – he was “involuntarily deplaned”. In this instance, it resulted in a broken nose and two lost teeth.

A more common issue for air travellers is being denied boarding as a consequence of overbooking, whereby the airline has sold more tickets than it has seats on the plane. Most airlines do this as a matter of course, and the consequence is that staff will either ask for volunteers to take a later flight (“voluntary bumping”) or pick on someone of their choosing (“involuntary bumping”). In both instances, where you are in the world and which airline you are travelling with will determine what compensation you are entitled to – if any.

According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), 50,000 people were bumped from UK flights in 2015 (the equivalent of 0.02 per cent), either because of aircraft being swapped for smaller planes at the last minute, or overbooking.

The CAA says: “Airlines overbook because they sell a certain number of flexible tickets which means that those passengers do not have to travel on specific flights. They therefore anticipate a certain number of ‘no-shows’. If a passenger is denied boarding, they are entitled to a “minimum level of compensation, and must be offered an alternative flight, or ‘re-route’, at the earliest opportunity or at a date that suits, or offered a full refund, if they no longer want to fly”.

Travel editor Simon Calder told the Press Association that, in general, overbooking was a “benign practice”. He said: “The airlines make more money so they say they can keep fares down, the environment is better off because planes are flying fuller, passengers that desperately need to travel can book a seat on a flight even though it’s technically sold out, and people like me, who are happy to be flexible and to be paid money not to get on a flight, are happy because we make more money on the deal than we paid on the flight in the first place.”

Bill McKimm, UK business development director at technology consultancy ThoughtWorks, has a different viewpoint: “Overbooking tends to be a fairly blunt instrument – the airline will have a set algorithm across routes irrespective of thick routes like London-Paris where load factors are 99 per cent to 100 per cent, or smaller routes where the load factors are 50 per cent. We should be more intuitive,
especially on the routes that have a higher propensity for no-shows.”

OUTDATED PRACTICE
George Hobica, founder and chief executive of airline deals and advice site AirFareWatchdog, points out that overbooking, which is “a revenue play designed to increase profits” (but, in theory, brings down ticket prices), is an outmoded approach. He says: “Airlines started overbooking in the 1960s when, before the internet, you could call an airline and make a reservation without putting any money down. Back then, planes were 50 per cent empty – you would just pay when you arrived at check-in. But some people wouldn’t show up.”

He adds: “It was simple. Airfares were published on monthly timetables, there were no advance purchase discounts and no non-refundable fares. With no non-refundable fares, the airlines could safely overbook flights and it wasn’t a problem because there would be plenty of seats. But now we have non-refundable fares, which means that airlines in Europe, for example, keep your fare if you don’t show up – and sell your seat to someone else. They double-dip.”

Not all airlines overbook – JetBlue in the US and Ryanair in Europe are two that don’t. “It’s our long-standing policy,” a Ryanair spokesperson says. Its website states: “You don’t need to notify us if you are unable to travel [but] if you do not travel on your booked flight, the airfare, fees and charges are nonrefundable.” This means they are getting paid even if the traveller doesn’t show up.

After the United scandal, Southwest Airlines announced in April that it would stop overbooking. “The last thing that we want to do is deny a customer their flight,” said chief executive Gary Kelly. Although United didn’t agree to do the same, it consented to offering compensation of up to US$10,000 to passengers who volunteered to be bumped, an amount that Delta Air Lines said it would also be willing to pay. “After this, I don’t think we are going to see too much involuntary bumping,” Hobica says.

McKimm suggests improvements to back-end technology could also spell an end to overbooking because no-shows can be predicted. “I think machine learning and artificial intelligence should be able to help anticipate when people aren’t going to make their flight,” he says. “It will also be able to prompt people on the morning of their flight to check they are still available and inform of any queues at security.”

Until then, bumping (which could still happen if an airline needed to accommodate crew or an air marshal, for example) could be handled with more sensitivity and crea-

VOLUNTARY BUMPING
At the check-in or boarding area, airline employees will look for volunteers when it appears that the flight has been oversold. If you’re not in a rush, you can give your reservation back to the airline in exchange for compensation and a later flight.

Carriers can negotiate with their passengers for mutually acceptable compensation. Airlines generally offer a free trip or other transportation benefits to prospective volunteers. The airlines give employees guidelines for bargaining with passengers, and they may select those volunteers willing to sell back their reservations for the lowest price.

INVOLUNTARY BUMPING
Travellers who don’t get to fly are frequently entitled to denied boarding compensation in the form of a cheque or cash. The amount depends on the ticket price and length of delay:

- If the airline arranges substitute transportation that is scheduled to get you to your final destination (including later connections) within one hour of your original scheduled arrival time, there is no compensation.
- If the carrier arranges substitute transportation that is due to arrive at your destination between one and two hours after your original arrival time (between one and four hours on international flights), it must pay you an amount equal to 200 per cent of your one-way fare to your final destination that day, with a US$675 maximum.
- If the substitute transportation is scheduled to get you to your destination more than two hours later (four hours internationally), or if the airline does not make any substitute travel arrangements for you, the compensation doubles (400 per cent of your one-way fare, US$1,350 maximum).
tivity, using techniques such as “gamification”. He says: “Given increasing numbers of people are using mobile boarding passes, the airline could send a message saying: ‘For today only we are offering a luxury stay in a five-star hotel in exchange for flying tomorrow, and the first three customers to take it win.’”

IN THE KNOW
Until overbooking is a thing of the past, passengers need to be aware of their rights and what they are entitled to. Those travelers who are most vulnerable are those in economy class, who are not a member of the airline’s loyalty scheme, who are on a cheap ticket and are travelling with hand baggage only (a suitcase in the hold will be more problematic to deal with).

If you are lucky, bumping could result in an upgrade to premium economy or business class, but, equally, you could be “reaccommodated” on a later flight, with any compensation you might be entitled to – such as a credit note or cash – dependent on a variety of factors (see panels, below and previous page). What’s more, as McKimm points out: “Some airlines will recognise customers who have in the past been prepared to be compensated. This means if you have been voluntarily bumped before, you will be more likely to be bumped again.

Henrik Zillmer, founder and chief executive of AirHelp, a site that helps you to win compensation from airlines, says: “In the US, what normally happens is if you are in the airport, the ground staff will tell people the flight is overbooked and offer vouchers to surrender your reservation in exchange for a voucher and a later flight. Here we always recommend people not to take the voucher because airlines are offering you much less than what you are entitled to in cash. But people don’t know that. You should stick with your reservation and if they still refuse you access and boarding then you are entitled to up to US$1,350 for all US domestic flights.”

As a savvy traveller, it’s important to familiarise yourself with your airline’s “conditions of carriage” as they do vary. For example, these days, most airlines won’t reaccommodate you on a partner airline if you are denied boarding, although, in the US, it was a government requirement for many decades. Hobica says: “Airlines slowly realised these rules were still in their contracts and removed them.” However, Alaska Air and Hawaiian Airlines, for example, still uphold these rights.

In the EU, the maximum compensation a bumped passenger will receive is €600, which is less than in the US, but you will also have a hotel and meals paid for if you have to wait overnight for another flight, which you don’t get in the US. Regulations are complicated and region-specific – in many parts of the world you may find you have little to no rights at all, so flying with reputable carriers can make all the difference.

EU PASSENGER RIGHTS

You are only entitled to compensation for being denied boarding if your flight:

- is within the EU and operated either by an EU or non-EU airline
- arrives in the EU from outside the EU and is operated by an EU airline
- departs from the EU to a non-EU country operated by an EU or non-EU airline.

You are only entitled to compensation for your flight:

- €250 for flights of 1,500km or less
- €400 for flights more than 1,500km within the EU and all other flights between 1,500km and 3,500km
- €600 for flights more than 3,500km

europa.eu

You are only entitled to compensation for your flight:

- is within the EU and operated by an EU airline
- arrives in the EU from outside the EU and is operated by an EU airline
- departs from the EU to a non-EU country operated by an EU or non-EU airline.

You are only entitled to compensation for your flight:

- €250 for flights of 1,500km or less
- €400 for flights more than 1,500km within the EU and all other flights between 1,500km and 3,500km
- €600 for flights more than 3,500km

You are only entitled to compensation for your flight:

- is within the EU and operated by an EU airline
- arrives in the EU from outside the EU and is operated by an EU airline
- departs from the EU to a non-EU country operated by an EU or non-EU airline.
Condor - zapraszamy do naszej Klasy Biznes.

Leć z Polski* do Ameryki Północnej i Centralnej.

*Przez Frankfurt lub Monachium
I flew to the capital of Qatar on board Airbus A330-200. The Economy Class cabin had 236 seats, configured 2-4-2. Business Class comprised 24 seats in 2-2-2 configuration. The flight takes about 5 hours and 35 minutes.

The décor of the Business Class cabin is dominated by beige and burgundy tones. Once I took my seat, a flight attendant offered me a welcome drink. I also received a warm wet towel to refresh before the trip.

I noticed the adjustable reading light, mounted on the sides of the backrest of the seat and then I quickly learnt how to use its control panel. The seat can be reclined into a flat bed with a touch of a button. It has a headrest adjustable in six positions and a lumbar support that can be adjusted four-ways. There is also a power socket and a USB port. The IFE system features 15.4-inch touchscreen, as well as large over-ear headphones. The aircraft offers access to onboard wifi. The first 10 minutes are free of charge; longer packages (1 hour and without limit) need to be purchased.

We took off from Warsaw on time at 6:05 pm. After we reached cruising altitude, the in-flight service began. As an appetizer we could choose between classic Arab meze and pumpkin salad with goat cheese. These were followed by soup of roasted peppers and tomatoes and Arab-style chicken with rice or fish fillet with lemon and gnocchi with mushroom sauce to choose from. For dessert we were served ginger cheesecake with white chocolate, and a selection of drinks (coffee, juices and cocktails).

Each Business Class passenger received a travel kit with Castello Monte Vibiano Vecchio cosmetics. In the bathroom there was quality soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste and toiletries. The flight was relatively short, so I was able to take only a short nap. The rest of the time I filled with browsing the IFE system and enjoying the delicious onboard food.
After landing at Hamad International Airport, it’s worth checking out its business lounge, which is one of the most modern and most beautiful facilities of this type in the world. I was positively surprised with its fancy restaurant with wait service, as well as a wide choice of alcohol and comfortable seating.

DOHA – JOHANNESBURG
I flew to the capital of RSA on board B777-300ER. The aircraft seats 358 passengers: 316 in Economy Class configured 3-4-3, and 42 in Business Class with 2-2-2 configuration. The flight takes about 8 hours and 50 minutes. What draws your attention in Business Class, immediately after you take your seat, is a lot of leg room. Even a tall person will enjoy a lot of space there. Each Business Class passenger receives a pillow and a blanket, headphones, a travel kit with toiletries, as well as nice grey pyjamas.

When you press the button, the IFE screen unfolds from the armrest and its position can be adjusted to you liking. The whole system is easy to use and offers a wide selection of entertainment options, while the large noise-cancelling headphones are extremely useful if you want to take a nap. The interior of the aircraft is decorated in tones of beige with other colours by the bathroom and the galley. During the flight the colours change to lilac, reminiscent of Qatar Airways logo.

The table, which is decorated with noble wood, is covered with a white cloth before the meal. I started my feast with asparagus cream, followed by curry chicken with vegetables. Then I opted for a cheese plate, lemon tart and a selection of wine.

After the meal I reclined my seat into a flatbed and fell asleep. I woke up just before breakfast was served. We landed on time at 10:00 am.

VERDICT
A very good connection: convenient hours, professional service, refined cuisine, and the space that offers a lot of privacy in Business Class. Importantly, meals are served on request, you can order a dish at any time during the flight. It was the most enjoyable experience.

Rafał Sobiech
A member of the Leading Hotels of the World, the five-star Torch Doha is housed within the 300-metre tower that is the tallest construction in the capital of Qatar. The property was launched in June 2012.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
The giant torch tower is visible from far away – at night, its exterior is lit up by multi-coloured light displays. Interestingly, the hotel facilities are built within an inner “core” that travels all the way up to the top of the tower, and from the sleek hotel lobby you can look up and take in the scale of the building, which is quite fascinating. The structure has a very open feel, and its sheer size creates a sense of grandeur.

WHERE IS IT?
A 25-minute drive from downtown Doha in good traffic, the property is part of the capital’s Aspire Zone, a 250-hectare multi-sport complex that has previously hosted the Asian Games in 2006.

ROOM FACILITIES
Torch Doha has 167 rooms and suites, divided into four categories: Deluxe rooms, Junior suites, Executive suites and Diplomatic suites. All come with individually controlled air-conditioning systems, built-in remote control blinds and safe boxes.

Most guests opt for the entry-level 42 sqm Deluxe rooms with a comfortable king-sized bed with plump pillows and leather padding on the wall in place of a headboard; beside it were two armchairs with big cushions and a coffee table with a fruit bowl. Facing the bed upon a cabinet is a large Samsung flatscreen TV.

Each room is equipped with iPad technology allowing guests to control lighting, blinds and temperature.
to use iPads to order 24-hour room service, control the room’s lighting and temperature, as well as browse the Internet.

Other room amenities include a long desk, free wifi, a luggage rack, a Nespresso machine, kettle, tea-and coffee-making facilities, and a minibar stocked with water and soft drinks. The large bathroom with grey stone walls has a bath and separate shower with a rainshower head. There are also Asprey toiletries.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS
The Flying Carpet restaurant, named after the Arabic carpets suspended from its ceiling, is the hotel's main restaurant, located on the Mezzanine level of the hotel. It serves an extensive international buffet for breakfast and lunch, as well as dinner. Three

Sixty, situated on the 47th floor, is a revolving restaurant that serves international cuisine, while Panorama (50th floor) is another restaurant that offers vast views of Doha and serves contemporary Asian cuisine. It's also worth visiting the Torch Tea Garden, overlooking the Aspire Park.

RELAXATION AND CONFERENCES
Two meeting rooms are located on the Mezzanine level (each for 20 people). The 120 sqm conference room with access to daylight is equipped with an 106-inch TV with video-conferencing facilities. The hotel also has a large ballroom (315 sqm).

One of the major attractions of the hotel is its outdoor swimming pool that sticks out of the side of the building. Allegedly, the original plans were to make the bottom of the pool transparent, but the idea was abandoned in order not to scare the guests. Healthy lifestyle enthusiasts can use the hotel's sports facilities that include a gym with Technogym equipment, a spa lounge with waterfall relaxation area, a steam room and a sauna with a jet shower.

VERDICT
A very good hotel for business travellers. A great advantage of the Torch is its location within the Aspire Zone. This means that guests can use its facilities, including two Olympic-sized swimming pools, squash and tennis courts, as well as a running track that encircles the lush 88-hectare Aspire Park.

Rafal Sobiech
BACKGROUND
Set in north-western Sardinia, Alghero is one of the island’s most seductive towns. It was ruled by the Spanish between 1400 and 1700 and this influence is writ large in the old quarter, called Barcelonetta, or Little Barcelona. The cobbled streets here still have a distinctive Catalan character and, to this day, the locals speak a Catalan dialect. The new town spreads out on the other side of the 16th-century walls, and offers easy access to a royal flush of white, sandy beaches. Hotel Punta Negra is located by one of them.

WHERE IS IT?
Set on a hillside looking out over the Gulf of Alghero, the Hotel Punta Negra was designed to make the most of its fantastic views. Right in front of the property there is a bus stop with buses to Alghero, and it takes just a 20-minute drive to reach the airport of Alghero Fertilia from here.

WHAT’S IT LIKE?
The hotel is defined by its low-level, Mediterranean-style architecture with characteristic...
arcades, two outdoor pools and a spacious terrace overlooking the sea and the natural surroundings. In the reception guests are welcomed by lovely staff and all the members of the personnel are professional and helpful. Punta Negra is a true oasis, where you can relax without having to leave the place. However, it’s worth taking a 20-minute stroll to reach the charming town of Fertilia with typically Italian cafés, several restaurants and shops.

**ROOMS**

The hotel offers 80 rooms and one suite. Bedrooms are spacious and modern, and decorated in a palette of soft pastel colours. Some come with sea views, while others have views of the pine forest behind the hotel. All the rooms come equipped with free high speed Wi-Fi, LCD flat screen TV, minibar, hairdryer, telephone, safe and air conditioning.

The décor of Classic Rooms at the Hotel Punta Negra features soft colours and handcrafted Sardinian patterns, which are characteristic of Mediterranean architecture. All rooms have tastefully decorated bathrooms with a large shower or bath.

Deluxe Rooms are situated in an exclusive location with a charming view of the sea and the distant Alghero. One of the biggest advantages of this room type is its terrace complete with two loungers and a table.

Family Rooms offer an elegant solution of two interconnecting rooms, perfect for the whole family and offering the full comfort of one room with a double bed, the other with two or three single beds and a single, spacious bathroom.

The hotel’s apple in the eye is its sea-view Suite, offering splendid scenic location, elegant furnishings and superior comfort. You will find here elegant wooden furniture, a comfortable couch, as well as

Set in north-western Sardinia, Alghero is one of the island’s most seductive towns.
Hotel ALGHERO, SARDINIA

The place is extremely romantic, unique and offers a special atmosphere. The view of the calm sea during the day and the stars in the evenings is simply unmatched.

a King Size bed. The additional advantage of the suite is a private terrace with sun loungers and a spacious bathroom with a bath and shower.

RESTAURANT
The hotel’s La Luna restaurant, which boasts a terrace overlooking the sea, offers a wide range of Mediterranean dishes and typical Sardinian delicacies. Breakfast is an American-style buffet, while lunch and dinner feature typical Italian recipes, as well as Catalan-inspired meat and fish dishes.

I recommend especially grilled royal prawns and lobster from Alghero, as well as delicious spaghetti with mussels, capers, olives and fresh tomatoes. As for dessert, try the parfait with nougat and mirto liqueur.

Once a week the restaurant becomes the venue for a Sardinian evening, where you can sample typical Sardinian cuisine. One of such delicacies is roasted pig with herbs that grow on the island.

THINGS TO DO
The hotel has two outdoor pools with crystal clear water, as well as a private beach with sun loungers, offering a peaceful, relaxing atmosphere. If, however, you get bored of lazy sunbathing, you can always benefit from a wide range of additional attractions organized by the hotel’s staff upon your request. These include water aerobics classes (twice daily) in the pool, horse riding, diving and snorkelling, boat cruises, as well as hiking and cycling trips. The hotel is also an ideal location for exploring the harbour and historical centre of wonderful Alghero, as well as discovering the beauty of Porto Conte Regional Park.

VERDICT
A great holiday destination, but also a good choice for an extended weekend. The place is extremely romantic, unique and offers a special atmosphere. The view of the calm sea during the day and the stars in the evenings from the terrace of La Luna restaurant, is simply unmatched. The beach is small, but sandy and very secluded. Since it’s situated just a few metres from the hotel, you can return to your room at any time or go to the bar for a good drink.

An important argument for visiting Sardinia is the direct connection offered by Wizz Air (wizzair.com) from Warsaw to Alghero. Convenient flight hours, as well as a short distance from Alghero Airport to Punta Negra hotel, make the place a perfect choice for a romantic getaway for two or for family holidays. The highest note from me.

Marzena Mróz
COLOMBE

PROJEKTOWANIE WNĘTRZ

www.colombe.pl
CHECK INTO THE FUTURE
From robot assistants to augmented reality, Marisa Cannon rounds up the latest advances helping to smooth your journey through the airport.
In the early days of commercial aviation, airports were small, modest facilities, made up of little more than an airfield and a solitary terminal. As airlines multiplied and passenger numbers soared, airports have been driven to meet new levels of customer service, streamlining the way passengers are processed and exploring new ways of entertaining them while they wait. Here is a round-up of new technological and recreational developments at airports around the world.

**BIOMETRIC SCREENING**

Passengers can be asked to show their documents up to five times when travelling through an airport. In the past few years, airports have begun introducing biometric devices at checkpoints, speeding up the screening process by verifying a person's identity with a face or fingerprint scan.

In March, BA launched a facial recognition system that captures a passenger’s features and allows them to board the plane without showing any documents. Currently available for some domestic flights departing Heathrow T5, the system will eventually be added to international routes. Amsterdam Schiphol and Dutch carrier KLM launched a similar trial earlier this year.

In the US, a fingerprint or iris scan will soon replace boarding passes at 22 major airports, with biometric lanes launched this year at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson, Los Angeles International, Minneapolis St Paul, New York JFK and La Guardia.

More ambitious still is Australia’s “Seamless Traveller” initiative, which aims to automate 90 per cent of screening processes at the country’s international airports with no human interaction by 2020.

**BEACON TECHNOLOGY**

This uses location detection transmitters fitted around the airport to track passenger movements, sending information such as flight times and boarding gates to their phones as they move through the terminal. Airlines have started using beacons to notify passengers of flight changes and sell add-ons such as lounge access, while airports are using it through their smartphone apps to map routes for lost passengers and to target them with advertising and retail promotions.

Doha’s Hamad International has installed 700 “iBeacons” to support its app, informing passengers of their flight status, baggage claim carousel, and time and direction to gate, while alerting them to offers as they walk past shops. In 2015, Hong Kong International was one of the first to introduce beacon technology in Asia, providing interactive maps that guide passengers to check-in counters, public transport points and departure gates.

In Europe, BA and Virgin Atlantic were some of the first airlines to trial beacons at Heathrow as early as 2014, around the same time that Amsterdam Schiphol began installing some 2,000 beacons, which, among other things, help to monitor and inform passengers of queue waiting times at security. In May this year, Gatwick also installed around 2,000 beacons across its North and South terminals, which support an augmented reality route-planner that can be used through the camera on a smartphone.

Beacon technology uses location detection transmitters fitted around the airport to track passenger movements, sending them information such as flight times and boarding gates.
Robotic customer service agents are no longer a thing of the future, with many airports using them to check in passengers and provide useful information such as local exchange rates and directions.

ROBOTIC ASSISTANTS
Robotic customer service agents are no longer a thing of the future, with many airports using them to check in passengers and provide useful information such as local exchange rates and directions.

Last year, KLM trialled its Spencer robot, which can scan boarding passes and guide lost travellers around Schiphol. At Tokyo Haneda, JAL tested its humanoid NAO robot, which could inform passengers (in three languages) about the weather at their destination as well as gate locations and opening times, while tech giant Hitachi trialled a roller-skating robot guide. Seoul Incheon is trialling the use of 15 robots – to clean floors, handle baggage and provide directions. The airport plans for additional robots to eventually perform security checks and serve food and drink in airport lounges.

FITNESS FACILITIES
Airport innovations aren’t just restricted to passenger processing. Gym facilities are growing in demand as travellers look to make better use of their time in transit. Hamad’s Vitality Wellbeing and Fitness Centre offers a 25-metre pool, a hydrotherapy tub, squash courts and a gym plus anti-jet lag massages. Chicago O’Hare has a yoga room, while Toronto Pearson has a 930 sqm fitness club and kit hire. At Changi, you can swim lengths in the T1 rooftop pool.

GREENERY
Changi is well known for its green spaces, from the butterfly garden in T3, which contains more than 1,000 tropical butterflies from 40 species, to the water lily, cactus and orchid gardens in T1 and T2. Dubai International’s Zen Gardens in T3 are replete with tropical vegetation, fishponds and benches to relax on. At Chicago O’Hare, passengers can visit an aeroponic garden where seedlings sprout from 26 vertical towers, growing herbs and vegetables that supply the airport’s restaurants.

CAPSULE HOTELS AND SLEEP PODS
Japan was first off the bat with the capsule hotel, offering weary office workers and thrifty travellers a place to rest their heads back in the 1980s. At Tokyo Narita’s T2, capsule hotel Nine Hours has 129 pods with beds and shower facilities charged on an hourly basis. In May, Dubai unveiled 27 sleep pods and double cabins as part of its Sleep ‘n’ Fly lounge in Terminal 3.

In 2015, Helsinki was the first European airport to introduce sleep pods, equipping them with hand luggage storage and power outlets, while Berlin Tegel and Munich’s Napcaps offer 4 sqm private cabins with a bed, desk, wifi, iPod dock and USB port, bookable for up to 12 hours.

LUGGAGE ASSISTANCE
Short of buying a new case, there’s not much you can do if your luggage handle breaks or a wheel comes loose while in transit. Not any more – Frankfurt’s Baggage Service (FGS) can repair all manner of mishaps, from snagged zippers to stuck wheels, at no extra charge. In the event of a write-off, you can buy a replacement suitcase should you need one. Tokyo Narita’s T2 also offers help with faulty luggage, whether it is opening a locked case, lubricating sticky wheels or making spare luggage keys. Delivery service Airportr will collect and transfer your bags to Heathrow, Gatwick or City from any London address, and check them in for you if you’re travelling with British Airways.

LEISURE SPACES
Frankfurt has recently opened a “Movie World”, where you can watch films and TV shows. It also has a “Gaming World” with the latest arcade and computer games available to play for free.

Amsterdam Schiphol hosts regular exhibitions in partnership with the city’s Rijksmuseum, presenting works by some of the country’s foremost artists. Seoul Incheon has an ice rink, a cinema and an 18-hole golf course a five-minute shuttle ride away, while Hong Kong has an indoor golf simulator and an IMAX screen accommodating 350 people.
Sekrety przedłużania świeżości

**VitaFresh plus**

Dzięki nowym lodówkom z systemem VitaFresh Plus możesz przechowywać świeżą żywność do 2x dłużej. Dlatego zdrowy styl życia stał się prostszy. Więcej świeżych pomysłów na [www.nofrost.pl](http://www.nofrost.pl)

LOT Polish Airlines is now serving another destination in Europe. Beginning 28 August, the Polish national carrier offers direct flights to Sweden’s second largest city - Gothenburg. It is the 40th connection launched by LOT since 2016.

FROM WARSAW TO SCANDINAVIA
With its new route, LOT Polish Airlines aims to strengthen its position in the Nordic countries, offering both business and leisure travellers access to a comprehensive range of connections to Eastern and Central Europe. Flights on Warsaw - Gothenburg route will be operated by LOT in cooperation with Nordica - the Estonian national carrier, which will help increase cost efficiency, including the cost of crew accommodation and aircraft parking.

From 28 August, Nordica’s Bombardier CRJ-900 aircraft operate six weekly flights on this route. The connections from Gothenburg to Warsaw take place every day except Sundays, according to the following schedule: LO 496 GOT WAW 08:00-09:40; flight from Warsaw to Gothenburg will take off throughout the week except Saturdays, in the following hours: LO 495 WAW GOT 19:35-21:15.

STRATEGIC CONNECTION
“Gothenburg is yet another strategic route, which helps expand our Warsaw hub and contributes to strengthening the position of the Polish national carrier in Northern Europe. We intend to continue to exploit the potential for the increase in air traffic in that region. In Poland alone, the number of passengers is expected to rise by at least 5 percent per year, which means that we have
The launch of the Gothenburg route and the increase in flight frequencies on other routes is one of the key elements of the strategy to build a strong and the largest air hub in this part of Europe.

Our National Hub

The launch of the Gothenburg route and the increase in flight frequencies on other routes is one of the key elements of the strategy to build a strong and the largest air hub in this part of Europe. With the vast network of connections offered by LOT, Chopin International Airport is already a major hub. Nearly 50 percent of all passengers travelling with LOT, do not finish their journey in Warsaw, waiting here for a connecting flight offered by the Polish carrier.

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 haul 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. lot.com

To offer them a bigger number of attractive connections. It is also our response to the growing demand for connections between Poland and Scandinavian countries, as well as a perfect offer for Swedish passengers transiting through Warsaw to CEE countries,” says Adrian Kubicki, Director of Corporate Communications Office.

In summer 2017, in addition to the new connections to Gothenburg and Kaliningrad, the LOT Polish Airlines also inaugurated flights to Los Angeles, Astana, Pula, Podgorica, Newark (NY) and four regional airports of the capital of Israel. The airline has also increased the frequency of flights on 25 routes, including Warsaw to Lviv (from 12 to 19 weekly connections), Luxembourg (from 6 to 11), Vilnius (from 20 to 34), Odessa (from 7 to 14), as well as to Tokyo, Seoul, Belgrade, Chisinau, Kharkov, Cluj Napoca, Sofia, Budapest, Dusseldorf, London, Zadar, Yerevan and Tallinn.

Our National Hub

The launch of the Gothenburg route and the increase in flight frequencies on other routes is one of the key elements of the strategy to build a strong and the largest air hub in this part of Europe. With the vast network of connections offered by LOT, Chopin International Airport is already a major hub. Nearly 50 percent of all passengers travelling with LOT, do not finish their journey in Warsaw, waiting here for a connecting flight offered by the Polish carrier.

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 haul 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. lot.com
Ibis hotels are much more than just accommodation. The properties offer a space where you want to spend time, experience new things, but first of all, feel comfortable. Since music evokes good mood, ibis is now introducing it into its hotels. With this in mind, the brand has created a new campaign called: “ibis. where music lives”, with artists who will fill the interiors of the hotels with beautiful sound. A popular Polish singer Sarsa has been chosen as the ambassador of the campaign.

Music is one of the elements that can make ibis hotels become much more than just places to stay.

SPACE FOR MUSIC AND INSPIRATION
Music is becoming increasingly present in ibis properties. An example of this approach is a series of musical evenings, where unknown, but promising musicians can present their work on stage. Musical themes also accompany guests in their rooms inspired by this form of art. With a special Jukebox by Deez-er sound system, which allows you to become a DJ for a while and play your choice of songs in hotel’s public spaces. However, this marriage of ibis brand and music goes beyond hotel spaces. For a few years now, the ibis family has been a sponsor of one of the biggest music events in Europe - Sziget Festival. The brand is a special partner of the world music stage and provides a special relaxation zone for the event’s participants.

The new campaign is based on the brand’s previous music projects. It will be associated with the theme where a hotel is a place of inspiration for both artists and guests. Hotels are an integral part of lives of many artists, often becoming an im-
important context for their work. Some of the hits by the Rolling Stones or Deep Purple were created in hotel properties. They have also inspired the counterculture of the 1960s, as exemplified by the famous Chelsea hotel, where Janis Joplin and Jimi Hendrix lived and created their music.

Music is one of the elements that can make ibis hotels become much more than just places to stay. Attractive locations, modern design, comfort, business facilities - all this makes your stay in a hotel a pleasant and inspiring experience. What is more, ibis hotels are family-friendly. Music that fills the air in the properties of the brand is one more reason to stay there longer, enjoying the charming atmosphere created by the sounds. With the new fascinating experiences provided by ibis musical projects, people of all ages and interests will find there their own place.

IBIS FOR PROMISING ARTISTS
Drawing from the tradition of hotels as places of inspiration, the “ibis. where music lives” campaign offers artists an opportunity to develop. The campaign’s main element is a competition for musicians: singers and music bands, eager to conquer Polish music scene. Especially for this purpose, ibis has created an online platform ibis.com/tumieszka, where starting 5 September, artists can upload their music. Then web users will vote online to select the top 30 most interesting performers. Out of this group, the five winners will be chosen by Sarsa - the campaign’s ambassador, who was also shot to stardom by a talent contest.

RECORDING STUDIO AT THE HOTEL AND CONCERT WITH SARS
The winners will have a chance to record a song in a professional recording studio, set up in a room of one of ibis hotels. The recordings will be made under the watchful eyes of Dominik Buczkowski and Janek Bielecki - the producers who have created a number of hits for Universal Music brand. They have recorded numerous songs for such artists as Czesław Mozil, Mela Kotuluk and Sarsa. The finalists of the competition will also perform alongside Sarsa in an exclusive concert held in an ibis hotel.

Music that fills the air in ibis properties is a good reason to stay there longer, enjoying the charming atmosphere created by the sounds.
HOTEL BRISTOL
Discover Warsaw From a Century Ago

Bristol Luxury Collection Warsaw is one of the most recognizable buildings in the capital of Poland. Since its founding in 1901, it has been the venue for social gatherings of the country’s elite and the bohemian locals. However, the property attracts attention not only with its prestigious location in the historic Krakowskie Przedmieście street. Built more than a 100 years ago, the building still impresses with its neo-Renaissance façade designed by Władysław Marconi, while its original interiors are filled with the atmosphere of the old Warsaw. Its décor features in part authentic elements from the early 20th century, while the restored interiors were designed to preserve the art nouveau charm and the art deco style.

A REAL TREAT
Entering the lobby of the hotel, you will be transported to the days of the belle époque. The front desk is situated in exactly the same place where it was on 19 November 1901, when the hotel welcomed its first guest, Mrs Finot from Paris. Rich art nouveau influences are visible in almost all public spaces. One of the most distinctive features of the décor in the reception area is 600 brass leaves, designed in the style of art nouveau brooches. Only a few steps away, in the lobby, the walls covered with marble and an elegant mirror with a brass frame are illuminated by a restored chandelier. Directly below it there is a raised platform, decorated with fresh flowers every morning and surrounded by seating for guests. The idea harks back to the concept of a winter garden.
created by Otto Wagner. Decorated with a faithful reconstruction of dandelion paintings, the ceiling is a true treat for art nouveau lovers.

**ART DÉCO AND LUXURY**

Rooms and suites designed by Anita Rosato are a blend of art deco with modern luxury. The interiors feature harmony of shades of blue and delicate ivory colours with distinct ebony furniture. The real time vehicle, however, is the historic Paderewski Suite, which owes its name to the founder and the first owner of the hotel. Jan Ignacy Paderewski lived there for many years, treating the hotel as his home. Interestingly, there is still a desk and a chair in the suite that belonged to the pianist. Also crystal chandeliers, mirrors, sofas, the gilded davenport and decorative armchairs also come from the early 1900s and even the slightest change of design is consulted with city’s conservation officer. In the bedroom there is a vintage wardrobe with a mirror that saw the reflection of such notable guests, as Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip, the Emperor Akihito, Margaret Thatcher, Woody Allen, Bill Gates, The Rolling Stones and Marlene Dietrich.

**THE WORLD’S ONLY**

Entering the Column Bar, once again, you will be taken to the early 20th century. The walls here are adorned with original designs by Otton Wagner: a decorative frieze and round vintage lamps. Guests sitting near the tall windows have a view of the hotel’s patio where once used to be an illuminated crystal fountain.

Do not forget to visit the iconic Café Bristol, which invariably attracts guests with its classic Viennese-style décor, as well as fabulous desserts, created with traditional recipes from the early 20th century. Those recipes that have been passed on to new generations of Bristol’s confectioners, also contribute to the magic atmosphere of this place. However, the hotel’s new spaces also take hints from the old, historic interiors. Bristol Wine Bar features a monochromatic décor, which is further highlighted by the ubiquitous black colour and decorative cracked plates. The unique atmosphere of the place is created by a mirror made of phased glass and cast bronze, as well as modern light fixtures designed in the style of floral and organic art nouveau decorations. Hotel Bristol Warsaw is simply a beautiful and unique place both on local and global scale. No wonder it is part of The Luxury brand, which brings together the most prestigious hotels around the world.
IN THE OKAVANGO DELTA
Decades ago Botswana was known as one of Africa’s poorest countries. However, with its wise policy that involves utilizing its unique natural conditions, it has now become one of the richest states on the continent, boasting the highest living standards of indigenous people and zero unemployment rate. It’s simply a country of happy people.
Those unique natural conditions comprise... swamps and deserts, extending over 80 percent of the country. Rich in flora and fauna, the wetlands of the world’s largest inland delta, created by the Okavango River, stand in unique juxtaposition with the dry Kalahari desert, where structures made by bark beetles helped discover the Earth’s largest deposits of diamonds.

Nowadays, every restaurant, hotel chain, a clothing company or even a hair salon, must have the so-called “corporate philosophy”, that is a goal they wish to achieve. The excess of all those high-flying ideas may make you feel dizzy after a while, but luckily, there are some exceptions to the rule, proving that sometimes the goal is more important than business itself. One such example may be the two passionate naturalists and safari guides - Colin Bell and Chris McIntyre, who back in 1983 established an organization that turned wildlife hunting for the rich into a responsible business. Their aim was to showcase nature at its best, take care of its inviolable purity and protect animals. However, the most important objective was to invest the earned funds into education and development of the local community.

Their first “camps” were built in 1985 and comprised simple tents without any bathrooms or hotel-like amenities. Photos of wild animals and extremely rare species of birds and amphibians, went around the world, contributing greatly to the introduction of a total ban on hunting. Blood-thirsty hunting safaris turned into hunting for the best photos of wildlife. Today’s camps are luxurious oases, whose guests include correspondents of the National Geographic, equipped with heavy photo gear and giant camera lenses.

**TRACKING DOWN ANIMALS**

Those enthusiasts are able to spend long months, discreetly following animals and observing their behaviour: the way they hunt, breed, and finally die by natural causes. Animals can hear the softest sound of the natural danger, as well as see and sense the slightest sign of an approaching predator. However, they are surprisingly indifferent to the presence of vehicles carrying people who, equipped with their cameras and lenses, can navigate their 4x4s in between a herd of antelope and hungry hunting lionesses. As humans are completely ignored by both parties, the lucky photographers can observe and record the amazing act of hunting: a chase of an agile cheetah that can run at up to 120 km/h, graceful retreats of scared antelopes or desperate groans of a large elephant attacked by a pack of lions. Every day is different and one-of-a-kind. Morning safaris, where you can observe giraffes walking to the watering hole and spreading their long legs to dip their tongues into water, are utterly different from evening escapades when you get the chance to see African dogs (arguably more dangerous than lions) hunting for a huge buffalo, or ride for a few hours without seeing anything but a guinea fowl. Well-trained guides drive us by off-road cars around the vast parkland, sharing by radio information about a leopard spotted on a tree, ears of a cheetah protruding from the long grass, or a pride of lions that has just come out of their dens to hunt. In those nature reserves there is a rule of no more than three vehicles in one spot. As a result, you never feel that you are in a crowd - well, human crowd, because your car can be surrounded by a large group of animals in just a short moment.

A real safari is the one where on a vast area of national parks, which is at least as...
As large as that of Switzerland, people have no right to interfere with the processes occurring in nature. Even if you were eager to help an antelope that got injured during a chase, or save leopard cubs that lost their mother in a fight with a stronger predator, you can’t intervene, but drive by and take photos.

If you have never been to a safari, even the most detailed description of the emotions experienced by a sensitive observer, won’t do the justice. You simply must see it in person. From the usual curiosity and the thrill of thinking about the upcoming attractions, through the horror of observing a leopard sitting on a branch just above your head, to feeling overwhelmed by the sight of a great lion carrying its cub in its mouth or admiring the shiny skin of a giraffe.

**PRICE FOR THE UNIQUE MOMENTS**

Those exceptional experiences that are miles away from the usual “holiday product”, are available only for wealthy customers. To participate in a real safari taking place in the middle of a great parkland (such as the ones in Botswana), you need to shell out US$2,500 per person per night. In other words, a one week stay for two people will cost you US$35,000. This may seems unreasonably expensive, but a careful analysis shows that it’s not. Wilderness Safari along with other competitive organizations (offering comparable prices) spends huge sums on guarding the parklands from poachers, as well as protecting and studying the nature in the area. However, above all, they have a far-sighted policy of training and integrating local communities in the work to protect the wealth of nature. Those organizations don’t bring cheap labour from neighbouring countries, but have set themselves a goal of creating decent (or, in fact, comfortable) living conditions for the natives. All children from the surrounding villages are taken to nature reserves to receive a solid education in nature. Adults, following a thorough training in hospitality and nature, have a wide range of opportunities to find a well-paid job in the camps.

Only in Botswana alone, Wilderness Safaris has a dozen or so luxury camps. Unfenced, they don’t resemble typical hotels. Each comprises 8-12 luxury and spacious tents and the most luxurious ones boast amenities that are comparable to villas. Covering more than 200 sqm, they come with large bathrooms with outdoor and indoor showers, a terrace and, of course, a huge four poster bed with a double mosquito net. Some have a private pool, too. Due to temperature fluctuations, the beds are fitted with electric blankets or hot water bottles. During our stay, the wind was continuously raging through our 200-metre lounge, because the incredibly beautiful view of the marshes with yawning hippos, prevented us from covering the thin floor-to-ceiling mesh screens that covered three walls of the tent. Except for sturdy

You can meet here correspondents of the National Geographic, equipped with heavy photo gear and giant camera lenses.
furniture, the whole structure of the tent can easily be rolled up and transported to another location. Each tent is mounted on a solid base of wooden poles, which protects you against unwanted encounters with amphibians, reptiles or even elephants. A network of bridges, set high above potential animal routes, connects each tent with the common areas of the camp, such as reception, restaurants and spa. The restaurants, though roofed, are set in the open air to allow you to observe the nature, while enjoying your meal. Rooms come with electric light from solar panels, an emergency horn, powerful flashlights and lots of useful equipment, including insect repellent, thick blankets and a life jacket for boat trips. After dark, if you want to leave your tent, you must be accompanied by a guide. In the morning, on the sand next to the table where we had breakfast, our guide showed us traces of a lioness. She was there right before the sunrise. Luckily, so far, no animal has attacked a human in the camp and guides instruct guests thoroughly on how to behave properly in the animal kingdom.

Each camp is all inclusive, which means that the price includes not only unlimited safaris (in the morning at sunrise or in the evening before sunset - for as long as you wish), but also all meals, wine, drinks, afternoon tea and your personal guide. A camp with nine rooms is serviced by the personnel of almost 70. Meals are served in an elegant setting, though the food isn’t particularly refined. The probable reason for this is that most ingredients must be delivered a long way to the camp. Despite the huge green areas, you can’t plant herbs or flowers here, not to mention breeding chickens, because their smell would disturb the natural ecosystem. The land is ruled by the wildlife and you must toe the line.

All in all, the high price for the stay seems quite justified, considering how many components must be in place for the enterprise to be successful. Also, add to this a wide range of transportation, including flat motor boats, canoes and the world’s best Japanese 4x4s. Guests are transported from one place of stay to another by small lightweight Cessna Caravan planes. The flight takes anywhere from several minutes to more than an hour and provides a fantastic view of the Okavango backwaters.

FROM SWAMPS TO DESERTS

The best option is to arrange a weekly stay at different camps, with two days spent in each one (4 safaris per camp). Transfers are done in the middle of the day, so that you don’t miss a safari and manage to have lunch. The plane lands on a dirt runway or just a short-cut grass. I chose three luxury camps with the most varied safaris, from very wet, almost aquatic ones built on little islets, through those situated on mixed areas, to those set on dry savannas with thick bushes. The former ones featured cleared out waterways for boats where we rode among water lilies, while the latter ones had a grid of man-made paths in the bush. The paths are often occupied by elephants or buffaloes, and whenever it happens, people must stay patiently, waiting for the animals to retreat.

The staff at all Wilderness Safaris camps were pleasant and very friendly. King Pools Camp, located near the Namibian Border in the Linyanti region, is a relatively dry area densely covered with bushes and trees, full of elephants and predators (leopards, cheetahs, lions, hyenas, wild dogs), various species of antelope and other African animals.

A real safari is the one where on a vast area of national parks, people have no right to interfere with the processes occurring in the nature.
In Botswana alone, Wilderness has a dozen or so luxury camps. The staff at all Wilderness Safaris camps are pleasant and very friendly.
Swamps are home to many rare bird species. The camp owes its name to the Swedish king who used to visit this place regularly. It has 9 spacious, two-person villa tents (and one for families) with private pools or rather overgrown tubs. It also features a few wooden terraces that serve as observation decks, where you can sit on a large semi-circular stone couch padded with soft cushions, warming up by the fire and enjoying a glass of champagne before dinner.

**JAO CAMP**

This camp is situated on a small islet that lies in the very centre of the wet part of the Okavango Delta. Offering 9 river view rooms (each about 25 sqm), it guarantees its guests full privacy, while the adjoining terraces are a perfect place to unwind and watch the wildlife.

Each room comes with a lounge, a bed with an electric duvet, a work-desk, a free minibar, a dressing room, a bathroom and toilet. There is also a gym and a spa. The camp can accommodate up to 18 guests (the occupancy rate is almost always 100%), who can socialize at the afternoon tea or drink before dinner. Dinners here are very private. On request, the staff can set up one large communal table, but there are also a number of private spots where you can enjoy a romantic meal.

You set off for a safari by a boat; then you take a canoe or a 4x4. All the means of transport are comfortable and the whole trip is perfectly organized - from waterproof overcoats, through sun umbrella, to a box of white wine on ice.

**VUMBURA PLAINS**

One of the most luxurious camps in Africa, Vumbura Plains, consists of two separate residential areas (South and North), each one featuring 6 huge and beautifully decorated villas. Since it’s a mixed region, safaris take place here both on the water and by 4x4.

In the middle of the night I was awakened by peculiar noises. Terrified, I went out onto the terrace, holding an emergency horn in my hand. I stood there dumbfounded, while a bloat of hippos was passing slowly under my terrace. They were walking one by one like pre-schoolers, heading for the wetlands. They were so close, but I didn’t have a free hand to hold a camera and take photos. Still, it was a truly unique experience.

I have been to many safaris - from the most spectacular ones in Tanzania, through typically touristy escapade in Masai Mara, Kenya, to a modest one in Namibia. There were also varied safaris in Zimbabwe and Zambia, as well as those held in parks in RSA - from the private ones, like Shamwari, to the one in a great zoo located north of Cape Town. Undoubtedly, the Okavango Delta is one of the most fascinating regions.

Each safari here is exceptional. Our neighbours from another villa showed me a video they made with an iPad. I was surprised to see that on a morning safari they had totally different experiences and views than us. This is simply because they went in a different direction than we did. In all African countries that I had visited before, guards and guides carried weapons. In Botswana nobody had a rifle or a gun, yet there were no fatal accidents with animals killing people. In my view, this is down to the perfect training and knowledge of the natives, who thoroughly instruct guests on how to behave in the animal kingdom. The truth is, if we leave wild animals in their natural conditions, without creating any danger from humans, it may turn out that the place is a fairly safe, beautiful world for all creatures.

Magdalena Boratyńska

We were transported from one place of stay to another by small lightweight Cessna Caravan planes.
If you have never been to a safari, even the most detailed description of the emotions experienced by a sensitive observer, won’t do the justice. You simply must see it in person.
ESCAPE TO COSTA DEL SOL

Popular with a party crowd, Marbella and the Costa del Sol are equally well set up for high-end family-friendly holidays, discovers Emma Love.
The meeting point for my evening tapas tour of Marbella – outside one of the boozy beach bars on the main strip – doesn’t seem to be the most promising of starts. But within minutes of meeting Nancy Gomez Sanchez, founder of Tapa Experience, I am whisked away to the maze-like cobbled streets of the Old Town.

**TAPAS IN THE OLD TOWN**

It may only be a five-minute stroll but it feels like a world away – palm tree-lined squares with tinkling fountains at their centre are flanked by whitewashed houses, hot-pink bougainvillea trailing over their wrought-iron balconies.

Laid-back restaurants, the kind you want to linger at, sipping wine until the early hours, are around practically every corner. Which is where Nancy comes in. Taking away the tricky decision about which to choose, she takes me to a handful of her favourite non-touristy spots, teaching me to order in Spanish not just traditional dishes but more contemporary bites, too, such as a delicious slice of summer lasagne with layers of crab and avocado.

This is symbolic of my entire experience of the Costa del Sol. On first impressions, it seems like solely one thing – endless sandy beaches and golf courses – but scratch beneath the surface and there’s a lot more to discover. As I quickly come to realise, this popular section of Spain’s south coast, which is backed by the Sierra Blanca mountains and stretches from Malaga to Gibraltar, is a win-win for families thanks to its adventure theme parks for little ones and high-adrenaline activities for thrill-seeking teens (the hope being that the latter will be so distracted by all the action that they will forget about their iPhones).

**FOR YOUNG HOLIDAYMAKERS**

If you’re bringing the kids, it’s worth opting for a family villa at the Marbella Club (marbellaclub.com), which is about 4km west of Marbella town, at the heart of the “Golden Mile” and well positioned for exploring. Famed for the A-list guests who have partied and stayed here (Audrey Hepburn, Sean Connery, Brigitte Bardot and the like), this is a chic hotel that combines old-school glamour with facilities ranging from a thalasso spa to a smart champagne bar.
There are two outdoor pools, a handful of excellent restaurants (the pizzas at MC Café will please even the fussiest of eaters) and a beautifully designed kids’ club. Here, a central pergola is surrounded by a kitchen for cooking classes, a vegetable garden, an aroma lab where children pick flowers and learn how to create their own perfumes as presents for parents, a dance studio with Spanish guitars, and an arts and crafts room.

Sportier types can sign up for lessons at the world-class tennis club at sister hotel Puente Romano (puenteromano.com), an easy five-minute cycle ride along the pedestrian-only beachfront Paseo Maritimo (borrow a bicycle from outside reception), or a round of beginner’s golf at the Marbella Club Golf Resort, a 20-minute shuttle bus away in the Benahavis mountains. The neighbouring Marbella Club Equestrian Centre hosts Spanish showjumping and offers horse-riding lessons.

TOWARDS ANDALUSIA
If you want to venture further afield, hop on a boat to flashy Puerto Banus, full of designer boutiques, sports cars and luxury yachts in the marina. Or hire a car and discover the tiny villages and towns dotted around the Andalusian countryside. Ronda is particularly special, with a stunning stone bridge, the Puente Nuevo, crossing the El Tajo gorge that splits the city into two.

Charming Mijas, which lies midway between Malaga and Marbella, is also worth a stop, especially at lunchtime on Wednesdays, when there’s a free flamenco show in Plaza Virgen de la Pena. For a dash of culture, don’t discount Malaga either – this was Picasso’s birthplace and is home to the fantastic Picasso museum, plus the Centre for Contemporary Art and a pop-up of Paris’s Pompidou Centre on the renovated waterfront, which has works by Magritte, Bacon and Kahlo.

WATER PARKS AND BEACHES
Most children go wild for a water park, and the Costa del Sol has several of them. Parque Acuático in Mijas-Costa has slides for all ages, while Aqualand in Torremolinos is known for its stomach-flipping Kamikaze slide, artificial surf beach and rubber-ring Boomerang ride. There’s also Aventura Amazonia Marbella, an adventure park with 20 tree-top zip-lines spread across six circuits, from a “Minikids course” to the heart-pounding “Quick Jump” from a 12-metre platform.

But what of those beaches that the region is so famous for? One of the best by far is Playa Artola, to the west of Cabopino Marina and 14km from the centre of Marbella. It has clean shallow water, a curving bay of golden sand and is backed by dunes that are part of a protected nature reserve. Other must-visits include Real de Zaragoza – it’s far enough away from town that even in the height of summer, it doesn’t feel too crowded – and Playa Nagueles on the Golden Mile. However you like to spend time on holiday, it seems the Costa del Sol really does have something for everyone.
Costa del Sol seems like solely one thing – endless sandy beaches and golf courses – but scratch beneath the surface and there’s a lot more to discover.
NORTH AND SOUTH

From the heritage-laden north side of the Han River to the more modern south, the two halves of Seoul offer a diverse range of attractions for delegates with free time, says Craig Bright.

Seoul’s list of tourist activities and attractions is long and varied, representing a well of opportunity for those keen on exploring beyond the conference hall. With exhibition venues and meetings-focused hotels spread throughout the city, the South Korean capital’s extensive subway network ensures delegates can easily explore the sprawling metropolis and take in its diverse offerings, from food and heritage to pop culture and natural landscapes.

TWO FACES OF THE CITY

Divided by the Han River, Seoul has expanded in recent times from its old north-side cityscape to include a modern area south of the river. A number of commercial, financial, retail and entertainment develop-
ments are now found here, while the bulk of the city’s history and heritage is found to the north.

“Many of our competitors are located in Seoul’s southern area, but location-wise it’s not the same,” says Bruce Lee, general manager and president of the Grand Ambassador Seoul hotel in Jangchung-dong, on the north side of the river. “We benefit a lot from our location, near to Namsan Park, Myeongdong, Dongdaemun and Itaewon. These are all areas many foreigners are keen to see.”

Wherever you’re staying, visiting the city’s attractions is becoming increasingly easy. For starters, Seoul’s main international airport at Incheon is undergoing a major expansion with the opening of its new Terminal 2 building at the end of this year. Upgrades will also be made to the airport’s leisure offering in the near future, including an integrated resort and a second golf course located nearby.

DISCOVER SEOUL PASS
In July last year, the Seoul Tourism Organisation, together with the Seoul Metropolitan Government, launched the 24-hour Discover Seoul Pass to provide access to 16 of the city’s most popular sites. While many delegates may already receive a Seoul MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) card, which works as a partially prepaid travel card, the Discover Seoul Pass offers a more downtime-focused function.

At a cost of 39,900 won (£28), the pass has its own app and acts both as a travel card and entry ticket for tourist sites. A new 48-hour version was launched in May, costing 55,000 won (£38) and giving access to more than 20 attractions, plus discounts and coupons for 13 shops and venues.

“Both MICE and leisure tourists benefit from the Discover Seoul Pass and One More Trip, an online platform allowing locals to sell unique experiences and tours while of-
faring participants a memorable and differ-
ent experience,” says Park Jin-Hyeok, direc-
tor of the Seoul Convention Bureau. “These include Korean brewery tours, traditional
seal making and Korean barbecue tours,
among others.”

PALATIAL GRANDEUR
The most notable attractions that the pass
offers entry to are four of Seoul’s major pal-
aces, all on the north side of the river. While
Gyeongbokgung – the largest – is perhaps
the most popular, Changdeokgung and the
directly connected Changgyeonggung Pal-
ace in Jongno district are also impressive.

Built in 1405, Changdeokgung was named
a Unesco World Heritage site in 1997. The
palace buildings vary significantly in scale
and style, with ornate interiors and large
courtyards connected by winding, tree-
lined paths. Beyond the palace buildings is
the Huwon Secret Garden and its ponds and
streams. Changgyeonggung is a smaller
palace built in 1483 as a residence for wives
and concubines. Here, you can also wander
freely through its buildings, courtyards and
gardens with waterways and bridges.

To the southeast is another popular his-
toric attraction: Dongdaemun Gate. One of
the eight gates of the old Seoul City Wall
(parts of which still remain and can be hiked
along), Dongdaemun now sits somewhat in-
congruously in the midst of one of the city’s
top shopping and entertainment districts.
Close by is Cheonggyecheon Stream, which
bisects the old city centre, where 24-hour
malls sell all manner of goods and Dongda-
emun Design Plaza showcases exhibitions,
forums and fashion shows.

Still on the north side of the river is My-
eongdong, one of Seoul’s most popular dis-
tricts. This lively area is also a shopper’s par-
adise, with vast duty-free stores (including
the main branch of Lotte Duty Free, which
is connected to the Lotte Hotel Seoul), and
cosmetic and fashion outlets.

STREET FOOD
If retail therapy isn’t your thing, Myeong-
dong has another of Seoul’s greatest of-
ferings – street food. Getting acquainted
with the city’s culinary scene can be done
through its numerous street food stalls,
where delicacies span the spectrum from
twisty potato sticks and spicy tteokbokki rice
cakes to more upmarket fare such as grilled
scallops and lobster with garlic butter. For a
more formal affair, Myeongdong’s abundant
Korean barbecue, noodle and fried chicken
restaurants are definitely worth sampling.

Out towards the west of the city is Hong-
dae, another busy street-market district with
a younger focus owing to its proximity to
Hongik University. Street performances are
common here, with plenty of acts busking to
sizeable crowds. Cafés, galleries, clubs and
the artists’ Free Market can be found here,
while Hongdae Mural Street (also known as
Picasso's Street) is a prime spot to see both
graffiti and other artworks. Hongdae is also
home to the Trickeye and Ice Museum, which
displays trompe l’oeil artworks that visitors
can step into and take 3D-effect pictures.

To the east, Namsan Park on the cusps of
Yongsan district is home to both Namsan
Mountain and the N Seoul Tower. A popular
hiking area in the middle of the city, Nam-
san Park offers great views, particularly
from the 236-metre tower at the summit.

A short distance to the west of Namsan
Park is one of the city’s newest develop-
ments, Seoul Station 7017 Project, also
known as “Seoullo 7017”. At its core is the
rejuvenation of an almost 1km-long elevat-
ed road to create what has been described
as Seoul’s answer to the High Line in New
York.

The 45-year-old road was shut down in
2006 owing to its poor safety rating, leading
the Seoul Metropolitan Government to con-
vert it into a pedestrian “hanging garden”
walkway. The aim has been to connect the
underdeveloped area around Seoul station
to the city centre by turning it into a “cen-
tre of urban tourism and conventions” with
space for cultural programmes.

With exhibition venues and meetings-focused hotels spread throughout the city, the South Korean
capital’s extensive subway network ensures delegates can easily explore the sprawling metropolis.
TAKSÓWKI
Dla wymagających

www.ecocar.pl

tel. 123456789

Warszawa • Wrocław • Gdańsk • Gdynia • Sopot
DOWN SOUTH
While many of Seoul’s popular sites are concentrated north of the river, the more modern south is far from devoid of offerings. For a start, there’s the Noryangjin Fisheries Wholesale Market in Dongjak district, just across from Yeouido (which is home to the International Finance Centre Seoul, the IFC Mall and the Conrad Seoul hotel). First opened in 1927 north of the river, Noryangjin market was relocated in 1971 and is one of the country’s largest seafood markets. Things get going very early, typically around 1am, and there are a number of intriguing sights, including a live fish auction at about 3am.

For smaller groups, we’ve organised boat cruises on the Han and tours of the historical sites, but what’s really popular is the fish market,” says Conrad general manager Mark Meaney. “We bring people down during the day for a tour and guests can select their fish. They can have it cooked there, but we often bring it back to the hotel and have it as part of the meal.”

Also south of the river is the Figure Museum W, in the popular Gangnam district. A haven for fans of science-fiction movies and comics, the museum’s multiple floors are filled with action figures from Marvel and DC comics, films, and Japanese and Korean manga comics. There is also a “mania” shop stocked with figurines for fans and collectors.

Gangnam is also home to the SMTown at the Coex Artium, part of the Coex Centre, which includes a convention and exhibition centre as well as a shopping mall. Delegates can tour studios and video and photo sets used by South Korea’s K-pop stars. Classes led by choreographers and voice coaches are also a big hit with MICE groups, with experiences including dressing up in K-pop outfits at K-Live, a K-pop hologram performance hall.

East of the Coex Centre is the new Lotte World Tower, which opened in April. Standing at 556 metres and covering 123 floors (it’s the sixth-tallest in the world), its skywalk and observation deck provide some of the most expansive views available anywhere in the city.

For those looking for a more extravagant way to experience Seoul, the tower’s luxury, 235-room Signiel Seoul hotel has fine-dining and event spaces on the 76th, 79th and 81st floors. With European restaurant Stay by Yannick Alleno and Michelin-starred Bicena Korean both offering top-quality cuisine high above the ground, Signiel Seoul is a must for those looking to enjoy great food with fantastic views. koreaconvention.org
FOR SKIERS AND SAILORS

Morning skiing at 3,250 metres on Hintertux glacier in summer. Afternoon swims and sailing aboard a Soling class boat on Achensee lake. Oh, yes...

If you like combining winter and summer sports, then there is only one place for you to go in late spring, summer and early autumn.

There are several places in Europe where combining fire and water (or, in this case skiing with sailing) is possible. We went for the only year-round and most fascinating Tyrolean glacier named Hintertux, as well as the lovely Achensee lake, which was only an hour’s drive away.

SKIING...
The lower terminal of the glacier is situated at 1500 m, in Tuxertal valley, an extension of the Tyrolean Zillertal. You can meet here a lot of ski aficionado at any time of the year, but the place is also attended by numerous professional alpine skiers who train here all year round. So, in addition to the joy of skiing and with a little bit of good luck, you can grab here an autograph of your favourite athlete.

Summer-slash-autumn skiing is a perfect addition to winter snow madness. When the temperature in the valleys is often above 25 °C, the upper part of Hintertux is about 5-8 °C during the day. The secret to off-season skiing on glaciers is that the year-round snow lies on an icy base that keeps it alive during the day. At night, the temperature drops below zero, so in the morning expect a slightly frozen corduroy pattern, and in places even pure ice, which can truly motivate you to be at the top of the slope as early as possible. The best idea is to get to the glacier at around 8:30am and be there until noon. After a few hours, the high sun starts melting the snow to finally turn the hard firn into something that Austrian websites often refer to as “jelly-snow”. However, regardless of the time of day, groomers are incessantly smoothing out the surface of slopes. On some summer days, daily snowfall may reach up to 30 centimetres, and when it happens, you can enjoy the winter-like skiing conditions for at least a few days.

Tuxertal valley is a perfect starting point...
for exploring the area. There are a few several hotels situated near the lower terminus of the cableway. We liked the inexpensive three-star Hintertuxerhof hotel with charming rooms and terraces overlooking the face of the glacier, as well as the delightful buffet meals.

Those who choose not to take their own ski equipment, can easily find something proper in the well-stocked Sport Nenner rental store at the lower terminus.

During the summer season, which lasts until October, there are 20 kilometres of well-groomed routes, served by 11 lifts. Austrians have a slightly different different approach to the protection of the environment than we do. The local wildlife can happily live in harmony with big business, and the owners of the infrastructure work hard to protect the glaciers. Outside the winter season you may come across here special white blankets, covering the areas where the ice layer is the thinnest. These are a part of a quite costly system that allows for reflecting solar heat away from the slope.

The glacial plateau features two long Olperer t-bar lifts taking skiers to the highest point in the area (3,238 metres). A little shorter Gefrorene lift is used mostly by ski clubs that train on the adjacent slope, and it’s a little bit crowded here. If you want longer rides, then go for the trail to Tuxer Fernerhaus, where you will find the region’s only open-air restaurant with a fabulous terrace overlooking the face of the glacier, as well as the delightful buffet meals.

During the summer season, which lasts until October, there are 20 kilometres of well-groomed routes, served by 11 lifts. Austrians have a slightly different different approach to the protection of the environment than we do. The local wildlife can happily live in harmony with big business, and the owners of the infrastructure work hard to protect the glaciers. Outside the winter season you may come across here special white blankets, covering the areas where the ice layer is the thinnest. These are a part of a quite costly system that allows for reflecting solar heat away from the slope.

The glacial plateau features two long Olperer t-bar lifts taking skiers to the highest point in the area (3,238 metres). A little shorter Gefrorene lift is used mostly by ski clubs that train on the adjacent slope, and it’s a little bit crowded here. If you want longer rides, then go for the trail to Tuxer Fernerhaus, where you will find the region’s only open-air restaurant with a fabulous terrace overlooking the face of the glacier, as well as the delightful buffet meals.

SAILING AND...

After lunch and a short rest at the hotel, we drive down to Mayerhofen, taking Zillertal valley, which leads to Achensee lake. The 65-kilometre scenic route takes an hour, but it’s extremely picturesque.

Achensee is a real gem. It’s the largest Alpine lake in the Tyrol with the quiet tourist towns of Achenkirch, Maurach, Pertisau, Steinberg and Wiesing scattered around. Surrounded by 2000-metre high peaks, the lake is long, narrow and 133 metres deep at its deepest point. It’s also famous for its azure and crystal clear waters, which warm up to 20 °C. Most visitors bathe here from early summer to autumn, and some practise diving, fishing, windsurfing or kitesurfing.

We chose sailing, which is a very popular activity in the area. There are several quiet marinas and sailing academies on the shores of Achensee, where you can rent various types of boats. Since the bottom of the lake drops off quickly, all boats rented here are keel rather than centreboard ones, to provides better stability on the water.

Useful info

- Hintertuxerhof hote
  Hintertux 780 A-6294 Hintertux
tel.: +43 5287 8530
e-mail: info@hintertuxerhof.at
hintertuxerhof.at
- Sailing academy, boat rental
  Yachtschule Schwaiger
  6215 Achenkirch
tel.: +43 676 637 4550
e-mail: yachtschule@schwaigernautik.com
  schwaigernautik.com
- Ski and bicycle rental
  Sport Nenner 6294 Hintertux 767
tel.: +43 5288 786 262
e-mail: info@sportnenner.at
  sportnenner.at

It’s a perfect idea for a short getaway, where you can combine skiing, sailing and mountain biking.

The most popular are Soling class boats, which resemble Polish Omegas, though they are slightly taller and longer. Soling was an Olympic class between 1972 and 2000, so it’s barely surprising that there are numerous racing events for those boats held on Achensee.

We pick up our Soling from a family-run Yachtschule Schwaiger sailing academy in Achenkirch.

The boat is very stable and fast. Interestingly, the shape of the lake also determines the types of winds that blow here. You can sail here either with full winds blowing in the back or tack against the wind on your way back. Two or three hours of sailing a day are enough to get to know the waters of the lake. On the way back you should stop at the charming beach in Maurach, which from a distance looks like a sandy wide seashore beach, but in fact, is covered with white pebbles.

... AND MOUNTAIN BIKES

At the end of the active day you can go mountain biking. Sport Nenner rental store offers excellent electrically-assisted bikes, which (depending on the gear you are in and the riding mode) can make your life much easier, especially while climbing steep trails in Tuxertal valley. There are more than 10 picturesque biking trails of varied difficulty along the valleys and streams, where you can come across numerous figurines of fairy tales characters, including dwarfs and Snow White.

With the electric assistance you can also easily get near local peaks, for example from Lanersbach via Höllensteinhütte to the hostel in Grielalm. The views you can find there at the sunset are simply unforgettable.

Filip Gawryś, Julia Zambrzycka
GOLFING AROUND MUSCAT

*Minty Clinch* tries out top courses in and around Oman’s capital.

1. **ALMOUJ GOLF**
   
   **Where is it?** 33km west of Muscat Old Town
   
   **What’s it like?** Greg Norman’s championship course is the focus of the Wave, a lifestyle development with a marina and exclusive real estate on a 6km coastal stretch between the Gulf of Oman and the Al Hajar Mountains. This is the ideal location for a classy links course that answers all the questions, apart from the ones about not raising your head at the sight of fabulous white sand beaches mid-shot, and maintaining focus as jets growl low on the flight path overhead.
   
   The par-4 opener sets the tone with a natural khwaar (lake) guarding the green, but the flavour of splendours is revealed on the par-3 second, a 230-yard hit off the back tees towards the sea, with a snaggly waste bunker blocking the right side. As with many traditional Scottish links, the long, narrow design maximises ocean frontage, although Oman’s aquamarine waters are a far cry from the Moray Firth.
   
   Opened in 2011, Almouj has 300 members and championship aspirations, currently met by the annual European Challenge tour event in November. The pros face a worthy climax at the imposing par 4, which sweeps along the shore in Pebble Beach mode.
   
   **Contact** The Wave, Madinat Sultan Al Qaboos; tel +968 2200 5990; almoujgolf.com
   
   **Price** Summer (June-Sept): 18 holes 30 rials (£62) weekdays (Sun-Thurs); 35 rials (£71) weekends (Fri-Sat). Winter (Oct-May): 50 rials (£102) weekdays; 60 rials (£122)
weekends. Includes buggy and Taylormade club hire.

**Club hours** 6.30am-6pm  
**Maximum handicap** Men 28, women 36 recommended; certificate not required.  
**Facilities** Championship course 18 holes, 7,310 yards, par 72; academy practice course nine holes, par 27. Teaching academy with swing studio, nine-hole par-3 beginners’ course, practice area and putting green.  
**After the golf** Two-level clubhouse offering international, Mediterranean and Omani specials in the Academy restaurant, lounge and terrace. Breakfast is served from 7am; last food orders 9.30pm.

### 2. GHALA GOLF CLUB

**Where is it?** 24km west of the Old Town  
**What’s it like?** If you’re looking for a course with character and a warm welcome, this is the one to pick. Provided you can find it – it’s easy to spot from afar but equally easy to miss off an ill-signed motorway slip road. Be mindful, too, that character can come with a high price in terms of lost balls and shredded scorecards.

Oman’s first 18-hole course, Ghala was a sand layout when it opened in 1971. In 2011 it was turned over to grass by Bill Longmuir, a prolific winner on the European Senior Tour and the current head pro at the Royal Westmoreland in Barbados.

Given that Ghala occupies a narrow, steep-sided wadi (valley) between mountains and motorway, Longmuir had to accommodate restricted terrain as well as a surfeit of sand. The first five holes wind upwards in a conventionally benevolent manner, but the sixth is a game changer, with a long carry over sand to the fairway.

This pattern is repeated on the remaining holes, with an ever less favourable ratio of grass to scrub. With blind tee shots and invasive pink cliffs, there are spots where you can only hope for a kindly ricochet to keep your ball in play.

**Contact** Muscat Expressway, Muscat Governorate; tel +968 9219 4957; ghalagolf.com  
**Price** Summer: 18 holes 26 rials (£53) weekdays; 30 rials (£61) weekends. Winter: 35 rials (£71) weekdays; 40 rials (£81) weekends. Buggy 5 rials (£10); club hire 5 rials (£10), assorted brands.  
**Club hours** 6.30am-6pm  
**Maximum handicap** 36 recommended  
**Facilities** 18 holes, 6,527 yards, par 72. Academy and floodlit driving range (6.30am-10pm), practice area, putting green.  
**After the golf** The restaurant, lounge, terrace and bar is run by Laval, a high-end operation that prides itself on gourmet Mediterranean cooking and lively nightlife. The club opens...
at noon and closes after midnight, with a daily happy hour from 6pm to 8pm.

3. MUSCAT HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
Where is it? 35km west of the Old Town
What’s it like? Opened in 2009, Muscat Hills was the first grass course in Oman, designed by Paul Thomas, son of former Ryder Cup player Dave. In a barren land crisscrossed with wadis, huge investment in irrigation has created the miracle of grassy uplands against the backdrop of the Al Hajar Mountains. Many of the holes are inviting, with spacious fairways that forgive all but the most errant drives. The exceptions are the par 3s, which require carry over ravines; grip it and rip it is the only way forward.

With the exception of the sixth hole, a bizarre anomaly with a partially blind tee shot into a hillside crossed by artificial stone walls of unknown purpose, Muscat Hills conforms to global resort course rules – longish but amateur-friendly, with immaculate greenkeeping. The 18th, a tough par 4 with a lake down the right and grass hummocks to the left, demanding a pinpoint approach to a target green, is a stiff finale.

Contact Airport Heights, Muscat 111; tel +968 2451 4080; muscathills.ecommune.com
Price Summer: 18 holes 40 rials (£83) weekdays; £50 (£104.50) weekends. Winter: 50 rials (£104.50) weekdays; 60 rials (£125) weekends. Buggy included; club hire 15 rials (£30.50), Calloway.

Club hours 7am-dusk
Maximum handicap Men 36, women 45; certificate not required.
Facilities 18 holes, 6,975 yards, par 72; academy and driving range, practice area, putting green.
After the golf Restaurant opens at 7am and closes when the last customer leaves. Bar open 12pm-3pm; 6pm onwards. On-site Intercontinental hotel under construction.

4. RAS AL HAMRA GOLF CLUB
Where is it? 9km west of the Old Town
What’s it like? The original nine-hole sand course at Ras Al Hamra introduced golf to Oman back in 1969. When sand gave way to grass in the 21st century, the designers used their ingenuity to incorporate multiple tee boxes and double greens into a 6,500-yard layout.

Using indigenous trees and scrub, they charted a desert-style track among wadis and coastal hillsides with views of the Arabian Sea. The course is fully floodlit, a popular aspect of a facility that is virtually in the city centre.

Contact Ras Al Hamra Street, Ras Al Hamra, Muscat; tel +968 9704 2505/2230 4850; rasalhamragolfclub.com
Price Summer: 18 holes 20 rials (£41) weekdays; 25 rials (£51) weekends. Winter: 30 rials (£61) weekdays; 40 rials (£81) weekends. Includes buggy; club hire 11 rials (£22), assorted brands.

Club hours 7.30am-3.30pm
Maximum handicap Men 36, women 45; certificate not required.
Facilities 18 holes on nine-hole course using two tee boxes on each hole, 6,500 yards, par 71. Academy and driving range, practice area, putting green.
After the golf All-day restaurant open from 7am until the floodlights go off.
Twój numer jest zawsze tam gdzie TY!
The fans of Volkswagen Group Škoda brand can now enjoy the latest iteration of the smallest model in the Czech automaker’s range.
The new Citigo is impressive and matches up to its rivals regarding features and comforts it offers. The world première of the new Škoda Citigo models was held in Prague. The invited journalists had the opportunity to test the car both in the centre of the beautiful Czech capital, and on a motorway.

REVAMPED IS BETTER
What does the new Citigo offer and what has changed from the previous version?
As for the external look of the car, the new Škoda is definitely rejuvenated. The front and the bonnet now have a slightly more rounded shape, while the headlights utilize LED technology. The highest trim levels also feature cornering fog lights, as well as light and rain sensors. The auto-light system automatically turns on and off daytime running lights, depending on the time of day.
The car is also equipped with a City Safe Drive system with emergency brake function, which monitors the traffic in front of the car within 10 m at up to 30 km/h. Should the driver fail to react to an obstacle in time, the system can prevent a collision.

ECONOMICAL ENGINE
As a typical urban vehicle, the Citigo can be equipped with relatively small and economical engines, which although not offering significant performance, are sufficiently suited to dynamic city driving. The first one is called Green-Tec and offers 60 hp while the other one generates 75 hp.
The more powerful unit accelerates from 0 to 100 km/h in 14 seconds and its top speed is 173 km/h. We easily managed to get it to 130 km/h on a short stretch of motorway. The fuel economy is within reasonable limits, too. In urban driving the car consumes up to 6 litres of petrol per 100 km, while in extra-urban environment the figure drops to 4.5 litre. Obviously, all this with sensible driving.

SAFETY ON THE GO
As for safety, the new Citigo matches up to market standards. Škoda has equipped the car with a set of airbags, ESP and ASR systems, three-point safety belts with pre-tensioners, as well as automatic emergency lights on hard braking.

The interior of the new Škoda has changed considerably from the previous version. The car features standard multifunction leather steering wheel for easy sound control and using mobile phone in the car.

RICH INTERIOR
The interior of the new Škoda has changed considerably from the previous version. On all trim levels the car features standard multifunction leather steering wheel for easy sound control and using mobile phone in the car. The dashboard accommodates fuel gauge, rev-counter and speedometer. The car’s climate control works fast and efficiently.
As you might expect it from a 2017 model, it’s easy integrate it with your smartphone via bluetooth. Phone calls made with the hands-free speakerphone sound clear and crisp. You can connect to the built-in touchscreen multimedia system complete with six speakers via AUX input, USB or an SD card slot. The revamped Škoda offers a number of solution known from the Simply Clever concept. Under the passengers seat there is a special storage space for an umbrella, while under the driver’s seat there is a safety vest holder. The small Škoda also features a multimedia holder in the centre console, a parking ticket holder, a cup holder between the seats, a 1.5-litre bottle holder in the storage compartments of the front doors, variable boot floor, boot nets and hooks for securing luggage.

TRIVIA
The new Škoda is about 3.6m long, 1.65m wide and 1.5m high. It’s available in two trim levels: Ambition and Style. There is also a special version called Monte Carlo, as well as an action model named Fun.
Wheels are offered in 14, 15 and 16-inch sizes. The new 15-inch ‘Conan’ al-loy wheel (optional for SE L trim level) is available in silver and black colours, with the shape of the eight spokes creating the impression of a turbine. Anoth-er novelty in Ambition and Style trims are optional black polished 16-inch Scorpius light alloy wheels. In terms of body colours, the vibrant standard colour Kiwi Green replaces the metallic colour Spring Green.
The ŠKODA CITIGO offers a boot capacity of 251 l and elbow room of 1,169mm (in the five-door). With the rear seats folded down, the boot can hold 951 l in the three-door and 959 l in the five-door.
The prices for the new Citigo start at PLN36,900 for the three-door and PLN38,400 for the five door Ambition version.

Filip Gawryś
As for the external look of the car, the new Škoda is definitely rejuvenated. The front and the bonnet now have a slightly more rounded shape, while the headlights utilize LED technology.
Walerian Ho takes in spectacular views, local art and gourmet cooking in the buzzing Chinese city.

**JIANG BY CHEF FEI**
No journey should start on an empty stomach, so first head to the Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou for lunch in one of its outstanding dining outlets. For a local flavour, Jiang by Chef Fei serves Cantonese cuisine directed by Chef Fei, voted the “Best Chef in China” in 2015 by Lifestyle Magazine. The restaurant has a contemporary design with a palette of grey, brown and cream, while wooden floors, patterned carpets and exquisite Oriental artwork add a sophisticated touch. The new menu (available until June) includes signature dishes such as Xisha Island crayfish with garlic sauce (RMB188/US$27) and black pepper Alaskan crab (market price).

**Info:** 389 Tianhe Road, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 510620; mandarinoriental.com/guangzhou

**CANTON TOWER**
From the hotel, take a ten-minute taxi ride to the 600-metre Canton Tower – the third tallest tower in the world – and enjoy sprawling views of the city and Pearl River. There is an outdoor observation deck at 488 metres, or hop into one of the crystal cabins of the Bubble Tram for a 360-degree ride around the top of the tower. If you overindulged at lunch, then burn off the calories with the Sky Walk – the world’s longest spiral staircase – which stretches from levels 32 to 64 and offers interesting architectural views. You can learn more about the building and how it resists hurricanes and earthquakes in the Science and Technology Marvel Tour Hall on levels 109 and 110. Meanwhile, adrenaline junkies can try the heart-pumping Sky Drop, a “standing” free fall experience.
GUANGDONG MUSEUM OF ART
Leave the tower and cross Zhujiang River (Pearl River) via Guangzhou Avenue – a ten-minute walk will bring you to Er Sha Island. Walk west along the island’s southern riverbank to reach the Guangdong Museum of Art. The museum has 12 exhibition halls showcasing large- and small-scale works ranging from oil paintings and sculptures to ceramic work and calligraphy, from both local and international artists. Remember to bring your passport as you need to go through a security check before entering the museum.

Info: Free admission; open daily 9am–5pm except Monday; 38 Yinyu Road, Er Sha Island, Yuexiu district, Guangzhou; gdmoa.org

THE MEMORIAL MUSEUM OF GENERALISSIMO SUN YAT-SEN’S MANSION
Jump in a taxi for a ten-minute zip back across the river to learn about the “Father of the Nation” Sun Yat-sen. The Memorial Museum of Generalissimo Sun Yat-sen’s Mansion, built in 1917, was once Sun’s house and office, and an important military facility due to its close proximity to the river. In 1999, the city government conducted a RMB15 million (US$2.2 million) renovation of the building and it was reopened as a museum in 2006. There are two buildings – North and South – depicting the original setup during Sun’s brief residence. There are also exhibitions talking about Sun’s life and the history of Guangzhou.

Info: Free admission; open 9am–5.30pm except Monday; 18 Dongsha Street, Fanzhi Road, Haizhu district, Guangzhou; dyshf.com

BAR 5
Cross back over the river once more and head to Yanjiang Middle Road, where you will find LN Hotel 5. The hotel recently joined the Small Luxury Hotels collection and has a fabulous rooftop bar on level 7 called Bar 5. Skilled bartenders practise molecular mixology alongside classic cocktails. Try the signature Baijiu rice wine cocktail, relax on the comfortable couches and enjoy fantastic 180-degree river views that encompass the iconic Canton Tower – a perfect way to finish the day.

Info: Open 5.30pm–1.30am; 277 Yanjiang Road, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou; lingnanhotelfive.com
Difference in ticket prices

My bosses are planning to travel from Europe to Asia in November. The CFO will be flying from Warsaw to Tokyo directly. The other boss will be flying from London to Paris, then to Seoul, and finally from Tokyo to Paris. I’ve checked the fares at a travel agency - the ticket will cost more than €6,000. However, the price for a return ticket to London, it was more than €1,000 cheaper. Where did this difference come from?

Weronika

Dear Weronika,

While the first trip from Warsaw to Tokyo is quite easy to arrange, then the other one is quite complex. The general rule is very simple. The cheapest tickets are offered for return flights on the same airline or airlines affiliated with the same alliance. On long journeys, tickets for flights with a stopover can be up to 30 percent cheaper than direct flights. A direct trip from Poland to Tokyo takes about 10 hours. LOT Polish Airlines offers attractive fares, also in Business Class, especially if you buy a ticket well in advance. Promotional fares start at about PLN 10,000 for a roundtrip ticket. A last minute ticket with the possibility of changes and returns, costs more than PLN 30,000.

In the case of combined flights, especially when you book a return to a country other than the one where you start the journey, this looks a bit different. A promotional fare for the London-Tokyo-London business class ticket is about PLN 8,000 (Air China via Beijing), PLN 10,000 (KLM via Amsterdam), and PLN 12,000 zlotys (Lufthansa via Frankfurt). The travel must be booked at least a few weeks in advance and there is a minimum stay requirement at the port of destination (3 days or a weekend). Flexible fares are much more expensive with ticket prices that allow for any changes and returns, starting from PLN 24,000.

In the case of London-Paris-Seoul-Tokyo-Paris route, it’s not possible to apply any promotional fare, as the countries of departure and destination are different (Great Britain and France). In addition, the passenger will use airlines that are members of different air alliances. Therefore, only a full fare can be applied (based on two one way tickets), hence such a high total price. If the passenger completes the trip in London (and uses all the ticket coupons), the price may be significantly reduced.

Priority Boarding

I try to fly with the airline where I can accrue point on my Miles&More card, mostly with Lufthansa. I like to be seated at the front of the cabin, which allows for a quick exit after landing. My company is cutting costs, so this year we rarely fly in Business Class. As a result, I can’t always be the first to embark the plane. How much does it cost to book a seat in the front section? I sometimes fly with no-frills airlines. Does Miles&More card guarantee priority boarding there?

Mariusz

Dear Mariusz,

Lufthansa offers two services related to embarking a plane. Those are Priority Boarding and Quick Boarding. Available at German airports, Quick Boarding is a service which involves automated gates where you can scan the code from the boarding card and embark the plane. The whole process is done without the assistance of the airport staff.

On the other hand, Priority Boarding, as the name suggests, enables some travellers to board the aircraft before others. This option has always been available to Business Class passengers. However, in recent years many companies introduced travel restrictions regarding travelling in Business Class on short European voyages. Luckily, you can still take advantage of Priority Boarding, even if you are travelling in Economy. This privilege is granted, for example, to passengers with Lufthansa Economy Flex fare ticket.

Regardless of the type of ticket, Priority Boarding is also available for high tier member of the Miles&More programme, including Hon Circle, Senator tiers, and the holders of gold cards (Gold tier). Silver tier members can’t enjoy Priority Boarding.

The fee for seat selection is dependent on the type of ticket/fare. For free, you can book a specific seat for Economy Classic and Economy Flex fares. Economy Light fares don’t include any additional services. For transcontinental flights, the standard seat fee is €25 (€50-100 for a seat with extra leg space). For European flights, this is €10 (or €25-40 for a seat with extra leg space).
Frankfurt Airport

Thank you for voting us “Best Airport in Europe”

Readers of the Business Traveller Poland magazine have voted Frankfurt Airport the ‘Best Airport in Europe’ for the fourth time in a row. FRA’s combination of excellent connectivity and top quality service standards ensure a high level of customer satisfaction and passenger choice for FRA.

Gute Reise! We make it happen
Pieniądze Ci służą
na koncie oprocentowanym 1,3% z Pakietem PREMIUM

Konto
NR 1
NA RYNKU¹

Przejdz do Banku klasy PREMIUM

Poznaj korzyści nowego konta
www.dbNETpremium.pl

¹ Konto dbNET PREMIUM zajęło 1. miejsce w rankingu TotalMoney.pl z dn. 28.06.2017 r. (ranking kont premium) oraz w rankingu portalu Bankier.pl z dn. 12.07.2017 r.
Saldo Konto dbNET PREMIUM jest oprocentowane stałą stopą procentową w wysokości 1,30% w skali roku. Kapitalizacja odsetek na Konce dbNET PREMIUM następuje na koniec każdego miesiąca kalendarzowego.
Do Promocji dbNET PREMIUM Klient może przystąpić w okresie od 22 maja 2017 r. do 31 grudnia 2017 r. Szczegółowe informacje na temat Promocji dbNET PREMIUM znajdują się w Regulaminie dostępnym na www.dbnetbank.pl oraz w Oddziałach Banku. Niniejsza treść nie stanowi oferty w rozumieniu art. 98 Kodeksu cywilnego i ma charakter wyłącznie informacyjny.
Deutsche Bank Polska S.A., ul. Armii Ludowej 28, 00-809 Warszawa