

Business Traveller Poland

www.businesstraveller.pl

| 9,60 zł (8% VAT included) | N° 6/2018 (94) MAY 2018 |

QUITO RISING CAPITAL



| MYKONOS | FALKLAND ISLANDS | VAL VENOSTA | HAMBURG | MARRAKESH |

MARVIPOL[®]
development



UNIQUE
APARTMENTS

JEDYNE TAKIE MIEJSCE W WARSZAWIE

ZAINWESTUJ
W BIZNESOWYM
CENTRUM WARSZAWY
I ZARABIAJ **7%**
ROCZNIE PRZEZ
10 lat



WARSZAWA, UL. GRZYBOWSKA 51



PENTHOUSE

WIDOK 360°
15 000 000 zł *

17 PIĘTRO

70m²
1 540 000 zł *

5 PIĘTRO

28m²
434 000 zł *

RESTAURACJE
FITNESS

BASEN I SPA

* Podane ceny są cenami netto, do których doliczyć należy podatek VAT w wysokości 8%.
Treść niniejszego ogłoszenia nie stanowi oferty handlowej w rozumieniu Kodeksu Cywilnego.



22 536 50 44



MARVIPOL.PL



Editorial

6

On Top

- Hotel, restaurant, and airline news

8

Cover Story

- Rising capital

12

Tried&Tested

- Qantas B787-9 business class

18

Report

- Top 100 airport lounges

20

Hotels

- Sofitel - a patron of culture
- The Summer Rhythms of Brazil.
- Business meeting

30

32

- Organize it with Radisson Blu

34

Interview

- Music journey with ibis hotel family

36

Destinations

- Life Cyclades
- Windswept wonder
- Quays to success
- The Dream Cruise
- 4 hours in... Marrakech

38

44

48

54

64

Businessperson on Holiday

- Under the Shadow of Ortler

58

Health

- The Perfect Silhouette

60

Moto&Techno

- Game, set and watch

62

Ask Peter

66



TURKISH
AIRLINES



GOŚCINNOŚĆ TO WIĘCEJ NIŻ SŁOWO

Gościnność płynie z serca i z wielkiego pragnienia,
aby nasi Pasażerowie zawsze dostawali to, co najlepsze.

TURKISHAIRLINES.COM

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Business Traveller Poland

ul. Tamka 16/ 4, 00-349 Warszawa
tel.: +48 22 455 38 14, faks: +48 22 455 38 13
www.businesstraveller.pl

Redaktor naczelna Marzena Mróz
m.mroz@businesstraveller.pl

Dyrektor artystyczna Barbara Scharf
b.scharf@businesstraveller.pl

Skład/tamanie LACRIMA
lacrima.barbarascharf@gmail.com

Wydawnictwo ul. Tamka 16 /4
00-349 Warszawa
tel.: +48 22 455 38 33
faks: +48 22 455 38 13

Wydawca Robert Grzybowski
robertg@businesstraveller.pl

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

Reklama, sponsoring biuro@businesstraveller.pl

Dystrybucja, prenumerata Piotr Grzybowski
p.grzybowski@businesstraveller.pl

Druk LOTOS Poligrafia sp. z o.o.
04-987 Warszawa
ul. Wał Miedzeszyński 98
tel.: 22 872 22 66
www.lotos-poligrafia.pl

Business Traveller Julian Gregory
Managing Director Panacea Media
Lower Ground Floor
41-43 Maddox Street
London
W1S 2PD
tel.: +44 20 7821 2700
www.panaceapublishing.com
www.businesstraveller.com

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

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

FROM THE ANDES TO GALAPAGOS

Ecuator, although a relatively small country, has some of the world's most biodiverse areas – from the Amazon rainforest and the Andean mountains out to the Galapagos Islands. According to its official tourism agency, it is home to 18 per cent of the world's bird species and orchids, ten per cent of the world's amphibians and eight per cent of the world's mammals. But, this unique ecosystem is under threat from intense oil exploration, agriculture and expansive mining. Canopy Bridge, a non-profit network based in Quito, aims to prevent the irreversible changes. It is connecting indigenous farmers with buyers from the city and runs many educational programmes promoting better environmental considerations for both Ecuadorians and overseas visitors.

Quito is also the brain of what you could call the "Silicon Andes" - a hub for technological innovation and knowledge-intensive businesses. The Yachay Tech University, with a campus just outside the city, is part of this government project. The idea is that the university uses its \$400 million annual budget to collaborate with public and private research institutions.

To find out more, read our cover article, describing the new policy of Ecuador, as well as reporting on its economy and cultural phenomena. I was especially interested in the information that in the past year there was a real crop of food and beverage startups in Quito, particularly those ones manufacturing craft beer and chocolate. Enjoy your reading!



Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz.
editor-in-chief

Twój prywatny raj

IDEALNE MIEJSCE NA ZIEMI- TWOJA WILLA NA WODZIE!

Mała, prywatna wyspa i nowe przestronne eco chic wille.
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

Club Med



Holiday

SPA Dr Irena Eris Hotel

NEW FAMILY ROOMS

SPA Dr Irena Eris Wzgórza Dylewskie Hotel serves as an icon for Polish spa properties. The brand not only provides an extremely attractive offer to satisfy even the most demanding guests, but also cares about high standards of accommodation for those who like relaxing with their family. To increase the comfort of stay for people travelling with children, the hotel's family rooms have undergone thorough renovation, which included adding an extra bedroom with two full-size beds. The master bedroom now has a large double bed and a sofa, and is also connected with the terrace surrounded by lush greenery. The high comfort of stay is also ensured by spacious and fully equipped bathrooms with a washbasin, a bathtub, a shower cabin, a toilet and a bidet. Subdued fabric patterns and neutral wall colour tones combined with warm wood colours give the interiors a cosy character, which promotes relaxation. The new Superior Family rooms are ideal for both a luxurious holiday stay (we recommend the Breather á la carte package) and for family weekends. DrIrenaErisSPA.com

Book

The power of strategy

INSPIRATION FOR BUSINESSPEOPLE

13 years after the release of one of the most iconic and influential books on strategy in business, the Kim & Mauborgne team has written another one. The "Blue Ocean Shift" analyses the successes and failures of blue-ocean projects all over the world that were developed as part of the movement they have created.

The book is full of inspiring examples, taken from the real world, and telling you how leaders in various industries and organizations have transformed the red oceans crowded by competitors into broad, open blue oceans of the new market space, using the processes and tools described by the authors. mtbiznes.pl Kim and Maubor-



gne thoroughly analyse and compare the successes and failures of those blue-ocean projects, carried out worldwide in various industries, targeting both individual (B2C) and business (B2B) customers in the public, non-profit and government sectors.

"This book is based on 30 years of our research into the blue ocean," write the authors write in the introduction.



Beauty

Sephora

SUMMER INSPIRATIONS

Sephora has presented the new, spring look both for businesswomen and women on the go at different age. Luminous complexion, fresh skin, radiant look and revitalized face. What do all of these have in common? According to the stylists of the brand, the connecting link here is brilliance. For those who want to capture it, Made in Sephora - the expert in radiant look of the face - proposes a number of products to illuminate the skin. You can do it with soft daubs or over the entire surface, adding the attractive gloss to your lips and healthy freshness to your cheeks. To do it, you can use the full range of carefully selected products, created to help ladies achieve this stunning, spring look. sephora.pl





www.m5film.pl



Hotel

Galicja Wellness & Spa

RELAXATION IN THE CITY CENTRE

Galicja Wellness & Spa Oświęcim hotel is the result of a transformation of a 19th-century stagecoach post office building. The property has 48 guest rooms, a spa zone with saunas and jacuzzi, as well as several fully-equipped conference rooms, a pub and a spacious banquet hall, ideal for holding various parties and celebrations. Guests can also enjoy meals in two on-site restaurants, free parking, fast Wi-Fi and access to the wellness area. The hotel is surrounded by a beautiful, green garden, which despite the closeness of the city centre is a truly tranquil spot. The guests of the hotel included President Jacques Chirac, Prince Willen-Alexander, President Bronisław Komorowski, renowned politicians, athletes and numerous representatives of the world of science, culture and entertainment.

hotelgalicja.com.pl

Airlines

Finnair

MENU STRAIGHT FROM KOREA

Finnair continues its Signature Chef program and is, for the first time, featuring a signature menu designed by a Korean chef.

The new menu, created by acclaimed Korean Chef, Sung-Yeol Nam is now available in business class on Finnair's flights from Seoul to Helsinki. Seoul-based Chef Nam has created a menu which represents his food philosophy of traditional Korean food with a modern twist, focusing on fresh, seasonal ingredients. In the first menu, available May to July 2018, Finnair customers can enjoy beef rolls with young greens as an appetiser, followed by a main course with seabass Jeon served with grilled spring onion and Romanesco sauce. "I have found my inspiration from the ingredients and the food I grew up with," said Chef Nam. "I hope that my dishes will bring joy and comfort for those longing for home, but also appeal to those who are not so familiar with Korean cuisine."



Airlines

LOT

FROM WARSAW TO KAUNAS

The popular Kaunas is the third Lithuanian city regularly served by the Polish national carrier - LOT Polish Airlines. Passengers will be able to travel between Warsaw and Kaunas as many as six times a week (except on Saturdays). In addition, they have a choice of flights to Vilnius and Palanga. The aircraft departs Chopin Airport at 22:35, and lands in Kaunas at 00:45 (local time). From Kaunas to Warsaw, passengers can arrive by LOT every day except Sunday at 06:15, to land in the capital of Poland at 06:25, taking into account the difference in time. The flights are operated with the with Bombardier Q400 aircraft, which seats 78 passengers in three cabin classes. The trip between Warsaw and Kaunas takes less than an hour.

CZYM LUBUSKIE PRZYCIĄGA INWESTORÓW?

HOW DOES LUBUSZ PROVINCE ATTRACT INVESTORS?

Wyjątkowe walory województwa lubuskiego przyciągają inwestorów jak magnes. Dlaczego?

Przez województwo przechodzą szlaki transportowe na osi północ-południe i wschód-zachód, połączone z systemem autostrad europejskich. Pozwala to na łatwy transport produktów. Znaczne zalesienie województwa sprawia, że ulokowały się tu największe zakłady produkcyjne mebli i przetwórstwa drewna. Jednym z najważniejszych sektorów przemysłu jest motoryzacja – tu mają swoje zakłady firmy, produkujące podzespoły dla wszystkich liczących się marek motoryzacyjnych. Tak dużej koncentracji firm produkcyjnych nie można było osiągnąć bez odpowiedniej atmosfery do inwestowania w tym regionie - tworzonej przez odpowiedzialną i przyjazną biznesowi politykę kolejnych samorządów na wszystkich szczeblach. Na ciekawą ofertę województwa składa się m.in. ponad 1300 ha terenów inwestycyjnych, liczne zwolnienia i ulgi podatkowe, dostęp do funduszy europejskich i wysoka jakość życia. W ten sposób lubuskie przyciąga inwestorów z całego świata.

- Bardzo wzmocniliśmy nasz potencjał, teraz czas na inwestycje marzeń. Odważnie i bez kompleksów zrobimy to razem w partnerstwie - samorząd i biznes. Rolą samorządu jest stworzenie odpowiednich warunków do rozwoju gospodarczego. Chcę, by nasz region był otwarty, nowoczesny i innowacyjny, i by można go było nazwać zieloną krainą nowoczesnych technologii. Działamy w sposób otwarty, przejrzysty i przewidywalny. Mamy plan z jasną wizją, mamy programy branżowe i wieloletnie programy inwestycyjne. Dzięki dobrze zainwestowanym środkom skutecznie zmieniamy Lubuskie - mówi Elżbieta Anna Polak, marszałek województwa lubuskiego.

<http://investinlubuskie.pl> • <http://lubuskie.pl>



**Siła przyciągania
inwestorów**

**The power of attraction
investors**

Lubusz Province with its unique qualities is a real magnet for numerous investors. What is its secret?

The province lies on both North-South and East-West transport routes linked with the European highway system, which allows for easy transport of products within the continent. With high afforestation rate, the province is also the natural base for the country's largest furniture and wood processing plants. One of the most dominant sector here is the automotive industry and Lubusz Province is home to numerous companies manufacturing components for all major car makers. Such a high concentration of production companies could not be achieved without an appropriate atmosphere for investing in the region - created by a responsible and business-friendly policy of successive local governments, at all levels. The region's offer includes over 1,300ha of development-ready sites, numerous tax exemptions and reductions, access to European funds and a high quality of life. In this way, Lubusz Province is able to attract investors from all over the world.

<http://investinlubuskie.pl> • <http://lubuskie.pl>

RISING CAPITAL

Daniel Scheffler says that not only is Quito in Ecuador one of the highest altitude cities in the world – it is also on the up when it comes to economic potential





Flying into Quito, the first thing I notice is how much more spread out it is than I expected. The second is that we still seem high up. At 2,850 metres, the city sprawls across the eastern flank of Pichincha, an active volcano – after Bolivia's La Paz, it is the second-highest altitude city in the world. We cruise from the smart new airport, opened in 2013, to the old town, which has a quintessentially colonial South American feel. In 1978, the historic centre was made the first UNESCO World Heritage Site, and its churches, convents and public structures have recently been meticulously reconditioned.

From the rooftop of the 16th-century domed Metropolitan Cathedral of Quito on the Plaza Grande, the view is awe-inspiring. The winged Virgin Mary, Loma El Panecillo, surveys the city from a neighbouring hill-top, with greenery from the urban Parque Metropolitano and snow-capped mountains in the distance. Meanwhile, across town, the Basílica del Voto Nacional, an imposing neo-Gothic church, vies for attention.

A CHANGING CITY

Quito, home to around 2.6 million people, is the centre of government in Ecuador. The National Assembly is here, as is the presidential palace. In the past, Quito's biggest international players were oil companies, such as Andes Petroleum and Halliburton, but change is in the air thanks to a surfeit of young entrepreneurs. And with a new government elected in 2017, it is preparing to receive the world.

Some of the city's most impressive developments are already underway, and building sites and cranes are everywhere. For instance, the employment-creating underground metro will be opening mid-2019, and a cross-city cable-car system is planned for around the same time.

New tourist accommodation is another facet of the city's continued reinvention. New design hotel Carlota and luxury boutique property Illa Experience hotel, are both in the historic centre in period buildings that have been beautifully and sensitively modernised for the 21st-century traveller.

"Political and economic stability were never Ecuador's strength in the past," says Quito restaurateur Jan Niedrau, whose restaurant Zazu is a Relais & Châteaux member. "Governments were frequently overthrown by the people, corruption has been an issue for a long time and

a devastating economic crisis has struck the country."

But as Niedrau points out, Ecuadorians simply got used to this instability. "Quite frequently you will hear people comment that Ecuador in this sense is 'like a cork swimming on water'. The waves will rock and shake it, but it will always float," he says.

BUMPS IN THE ROAD

However, the road to real growth can be winding. Research company Focus Economics projects the GDP growth slowing to 1.7 per cent in 2018, while 1.3 per cent is already forecast for 2019; good, but not great. Which for President Lenín Moreno, who was recently granted a long-sought-



Ecuador, although a relatively small country, has some of the world's most biodiverse areas – from the Amazon rainforest and the Andean mountains out to the Galapagos Islands.



In 1978, the historic centre was made the first UNESCO World Heritage Site, and its churches, convents and public structures have recently been meticulously reconditioned.

after mandate to implement constitutional changes and pursue a more global-facing agenda, must be rather disappointing. The reduced oil output, along with planned austerity measures (to reduce the debt burden) is impacting overall economic activity. And according to the World Bank, the nation's high dependence on external borrowing, paired with not having its own currency (it uses the US dollar), is what could potentially jeopardise long-term financial stability.

But the economic outlook isn't all doom and gloom. In 2017, Ecuador joined the EU's trade pact with Colombia and Peru, agreeing to eliminate high tariffs and tackle technical barriers to trade. According to the Council of the European Union, the agreement "includes commitments on the enforcement of labour and environmental standards, as well as rapid and effective dispute settlement procedures."

QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

"Historically, Ecuador was known as a supplier of cheap raw materials – particularly products such as bananas, roses and cacao, with prawns the biggest – in addition to oil," says Jerry Toth, co-founder of To'ak, a high-end chocolate company based in Quito. "This type of economy generally presents a country with a very low ceiling of economic development. The government

recognises this, and for the last five years has encouraged Ecuadorian businesses to steer their focus towards 'finished goods', particularly from raw materials that are produced in-country. This isn't the kind of thing a country can change overnight," says Toth, "and Ecuador still has a long way to go. The country would sell its premium cacao at bulk prices, with low margins, to chocolate makers in countries such as Switzerland and the US, who used their specialised skills to produce the 'finished good' of chocolate, which commands higher margins."

NATURAL CHARMS

Ecuador, although a relatively small country, has some of the world's most biodiverse areas – from the Amazon rainforest and the Andean mountains out to the Galapagos Islands. According to its official tourism agency, it is home to 18 per cent of the world's bird species and orchids, ten per cent of the world's amphibians and eight per cent of the world's mammals. But, this is under threat from oil exploration, agriculture and mining. Canopy Bridge, a non-profit network based in Quito, aims to help. It is connecting indigenous farmers with buyers from the city and runs many educational programmes promoting better environmental considerations for both Ecuadorians and overseas visitors.

SILICON ANDES

Quito is also the brain of what you could call the "Silicon Andes". The Yachay Tech University, with a campus just outside the city, is part of a government project to establish a hub for technological innovation and knowledge-intensive businesses. The idea is that the university uses its \$400 million annual budget to collaborate with public and private research institutions.

But there is much more going on beyond this. In the past year, the emergence of food and beverage startups are most evident, particularly craft beer and chocolate. Now there are many dozens of Ecuadorian beer brands, all of which are small and local, but as Toth points out "legitimately good".

"Quito has always been important to me for many reasons, the first of which is that I'm from here," says businessman and ecologist Roque Sevilla. "Secondly, I was mayor of Quito from 1998 to 2000, so I've really gotten to know it well," "For Quito the era of digitalisation is gaining momentum and, once it goes into full force, it will help facilitate companies and businesses here, in a big way." It also helps that internet and mobile connectivity are among the fastest on the continent, according to mobile phone provider Movistar.

Patricio Alarcon, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, says the city has a fairly developed entrepreneurial ecosystem,

with coworking spaces, innovation spaces and incubators throughout. “IMPAQTO (a coworking community) is one of the most developed coworking spaces, renting out part of its infrastructure to companies such as Spain’s vehicle hire company Cabify,” he adds.

Currently, around 50 startups based in Quito are listed on the Startup Ranking website, with e-learning platform Cuestionarix and human resources specialist Evaluar.com ranking highest in Ecuador (points are given for importance on the internet and social influence). So it’s no wonder I can find activities such as Start Up Week-end, taking place in April, and business initiatives from organisations such as Kruger Corporation, which supports and motivates via its lab for startups.

LESS BUREAUCRACY

In the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business index, Ecuador currently ranks 118 out of 190 countries – one slot behind Argentina and four ahead of Uganda. This is an improvement from five years ago when it was ranked 139. “In 2006, before the start of former President Rafael Correa’s government, I remember having to wait in lines for

hours on end and having to hire a tramitador (middleman) for even the most trivial paperwork,” says Marcel Perkins, owner of the Illa Experience hotel. “This was usually a friend or partner of the person behind the desk at public offices. Nowadays most paperwork can be done online or quickly without having to pay anyone for these services. You can incorporate a company in a few days and be up and running with your business ideas quickly. Trademarks can be registered easily, there are several mediation and arbitration chambers to help solve problems and that business goes smoothly in general.

“In the tourism industry, infrastructure has moved on in leaps and bounds, and Ecuador has gone from being a pothole-ridden country that would destroy the sturdiest 4x4s, to having some of the best roads in South America,” adds Perkins, who also owns Latin Trails, a local tour operator.

And now, with the larger, improved airport, which opened outside of the city five years ago, many airlines feel comfortable to use this as a hub. Quito recently welcomed Jetblue, United Airlines and Air Europa, while from summer this year Condor will deliver direct flights from Frankfurt.

THE FUTURE

“Over the past few years a sense of pride has grown in the younger population. New graduates are studying gastronomy, tourism, hoteliering, arts and music – all related to rescuing Ecuador’s heritage,” says Perkins. The result is the rise of many restaurants offering haute cuisine and international fusion with local ingredients, interesting music venues showcasing local artists, micro breweries that use local grains, new types of city tours that involve unique experiences and eclectic boutique hotels.

“The city of Quito has become a metropolitan capital with cosmopolitan views that embraces modern lifestyles; the city is inclusive to minorities and, with Ecuador’s no visa policy, it has become home to citizens from several nations around around the globe,” adds Perkins.

The talk on the street is the need for more crowdsourcing, a free-trade area near the airport for the logistics industry and pedestrianising the old town for visitors – all good ideas for the near future. “With a solid business idea and plenty of passion, you will find few places in the world of this size that can compete with Quito,” says Niedrau.



Over the past few years a sense of pride has grown in the younger population. New graduates are studying gastronomy, tourism, hoteliering, arts and music – all related to rescuing Ecuador’s heritage.



ecocar.pl

Zadzwoń
+48 123456789

**Zamów przez aplikację
mobilną EcoCar**



WARSZAWA • WROCŁAW • GDAŃSK • GDYNIA • Sopot

QANTAS B787-9 BUSINESS CLASS



CONTACT
qantas.com.au

PRICE
The internet rate for a return business class flight from London to Perth costs £3,883.

FLIGHT TIME
16 hours 45 minutes (17 hours return).

At 14,500km, this is the third-longest commercial flight currently in operation, and the first scheduled nonstop service between the UK and Australia. It's served daily by a B787-9 from London Heathrow Terminal 3.

The new route means that Qantas now has three routes between Australia and London – the direct Perth-London service on the B787-9 Dreamliner; a reinstated Sydney-Singapore-London service on the A380; and London via Dubai from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide or Perth with partner airline Emirates on a mix of A380 and B777 aircraft.

BOARDING
The boarding took place from Gate 1. There was priority boarding for business class passengers, after children and the elderly. Business class is spread over two cabins in a configuration of 1-2-1 (A-EF-K). My seat was in the front cabin. The aircraft is configured for 236 passengers in three classes: 166 economy, 28 premium economy and 42 business class seats.

THE SEAT
I was in row 2 in a centre seat, 2E. The seat is a Thompson Aero model and allows every passenger to have direct aisle access. It has a staggered seating configuration, so that when the seat is fully reclined, the feet of the

passenger slide below the side table of the seat in front (sounds weird, but works well). The window seats are either close to the window, or slightly further away and closer to the aisle.

The seat has a 46 inch seat pitch, 80 inch bed seat length, and either a 23-24 inch seat width or a 24-25 inch bed width.

The seat can be in a reclined position from take-off right through to landing, because there is an over-the-shoulder strap as well as waist strap for safety (which you only have to wear for take-off and landing).

The seat is very spacious, with a large amount of storage space, a side table with storage and a good-sized armrest on both sides. The centre seats have a divider,

which is up when you enter the cabin, but that can be lowered if you want to chat with the passenger in the neighbouring seat. There is more storage under the side tables, though the exact location of this depends on which seat you are in. There's an area for magazines and a bottle of water, which was waiting at the seat when I boarded. There is a single washroom at the front, and two washrooms at the rear between the two business class cabins. These washrooms are small, and changing into pyjamas in the privacy of the washrooms requires at least a nodding acquaintance with the basics of yoga.

THE FLIGHT

Once on board we were offered water and champagne (Jacquart Brut Mosaïque), and our jackets were taken. After take off, we were offered Martin Grant sleep-suits. There were also washbags in two colours, darker colours for men, pink for ladies, with designs by Warakurna artist Polly Butler-Jackson. Further drinks weren't offered until 1500 and the lunch service took two hours from this time, so we finished eating at around 1700. I think this was because it was the inaugural flight, as service was much quicker on the return.

There was an appetiser of bubble and squeak – tasty, but we were given no cutlery. When I asked for a fork I was only given a napkin. I chose crab ca-

kes to start, which were moist and full of flavour, served with corn salsa, chilli and rocket. For a main I chose grilled chicken with mustard seed carrots, basmati rice and coriander yoghurt. The portions were generous and it was delicious. Desserts included ice cream, rhubarb trifle or cheeses. If you want to pre-order from a bigger menu, Qantas calls this service Menu Select.

Snacks offered throughout the flight included mozzarella, olive and spinach calzone; bacon sarnie with brown sauce; or beef cottage pie with peas.

I worked for a few hours and then reclined the bed; the flight attendants can do this for you. There's a mattress topper, which you slip over the headrest to keep it in place. There's also a good-sized pillow and duvet. The bed has enough room by the side that you can keep drinks and objects next to you and the IFE allows the screen to be dimmed so there's just a message in a low light telling you how much flight time remains.

The bed is good for sleeping, though once fully reclined to turn from your back onto your side isn't easy because your knees jam against the top of the alcove.

Once reclined you can raise the bed a little and read until it's time to go to sleep (or watch the IFE). I slept for a couple of hours. I then got up to fetch a snack and drink, before

going back for a longer sleep. I woke about three hours before landing and filled in the breakfast card. The care taken over the food is best shown by the breakfast selection, which included omelette and corn fritter, with pickled mushrooms, pancetta and tomato and chilli relish; cardamon pears with coconut yoghurt, quinoa, almonds, hazelnuts, blueberries and honey; smoked salmon, or soba and raw courgette strips with ponzu dressing. There's a choice of juices including spinach, cucumber, apple, celery and lemon.

ARRIVAL

We landed 20 minutes early into Perth and then made our way to immigration where there was no queue.

VERDICT

This is a historic new service and it was a pleasure to be on the inaugural flight to Perth. Once on board it didn't seem different from many other long-haul flights, with the extra three or four hours not really adding any discomfort. That might not be the case in economy or premium economy, one of the reasons Qantas has increased the number of premium seats on this aircraft. I hope the service is commercially successful, because being able to reach Perth so easily is a great start to a visit to Western Australia.

Tom Otley

Once on board it didn't seem different from many other long-haul flights, with the extra three or four hours not really adding any discomfort.



TOP 100 AIRPORT LOUNGES



Arrive at the airport early – these lounges are destinations in their own right





Pre- and post-flight pampering doesn't come cheaply for the airlines, especially when access is granted even to those in economy through their frequent flyer status.

Earlier this year, we asked Business Traveller's online Forum users to recommend their favourite airport lounges to fellow travellers. This elicited many well-informed responses – almost as enthusiastic as the suggestions for the worst airport lounges. Alongside your suggestions, we have added the best lounges we at BT have visited, and included “pay-to-enter” lounges as well as airline ones. This list isn't definitive, but it's a start.

We want spa treatments, premium food and drinks, and high-quality facilities and services akin to those in a four- or five-star hotel.

This sort of pre- and post-flight pampering doesn't come cheaply for the airlines, especially when access is granted even to those in economy through their frequent flyer status. With some lounge visitors consuming more in value than they generate in profit, this begs the question: should lounges be a reward for revenue or loyalty?

REVENUE VERSUS LOYALTY

I recently flew from Sydney to London on Qatar Airways in economy class. But as I'm a loyal Oneworld Emerald frequent flyer (ie the top tier), before the first flight to Doha, I was able to spend two hours at the Qantas first class lounge at Sydney International airport. This is because I was able to gain access to any Oneworld member's first class lounge before departure, an Emerald privilege. I arrived early, and so after a three-course gourmet lunch in the restaurant, several glasses of champagne, a complimentary 15-minute massage followed by a shower and then more champagne, it felt like I'd consumed a quarter of AU\$1,500 economy ticket's value in pure lounge extravagance.

Next stop was Doha before the four-hour transit to London. I'd been looking forward to enjoying Qatar Airways' flagship lounge at their hub in Doha, so I was surprised to be politely told that I wasn't eligible for entry. The Al Safwa lounge, described as “an oasis of luxury” complete with flowing waterfalls, a fine dining restaurant and spa, is available only to Qatar Airways customers holding a first class ticket. I was directed to the smaller but completely acceptable Qatar Airways first class lounge (there were no waterfalls) or invited to pay an additional 450 Qatari Riyals (about US\$150) for access to the much larger Al Mourjan lounge where Qatar Airways sends its business class passengers free of charge.

What had just happened? In Sydney, despite flying economy, Qatar Airways had invited me to the flagship Qantas first class lounge. Now in Doha, despite being Oneworld Emerald, I was denied access to Qa-



tar's own flagship lounge. This, mind you, was in accordance with the terms and conditions on the Oneworld and Qatar Airways websites.

NOT ALL LOUNGES ARE THE SAME

Qatar Airways is one of a growing list of premium airlines, including Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa and British Airways, which are distinguishing between revenue and loyalty when allocating lounge access, particularly at their busy hub lounges.

For example, even where a passenger holds a top-tier Star Alliance gold card, if they have an economy or premium economy ticket, they're not eligible to enter the Silverkris and Private Room lounges at their Changi hub (see reviews at business traveller.com). Instead they're invited to the Krisflyer Gold lounge, which doesn't provide showers or even dedicated toilets. Similarly, at London Heathrow T5, top-tier Oneworld Emerald cardholders don't get access to the Concorde Room, which is for those holding first class tickets. In Frankfurt, Lufthansa's first class terminal is limited to customers travelling in first class or HON Circle members. Top-tier Star

GOLD CARDHOLDERS DON'T GET ACCESS.

What this shows is that many airlines are now moving towards a model where, despite your frequent-flyer status, perks such as premium lounge access are provided based on the price you paid for your ticket, rather than your overall loyalty to the airline or alliance.

This arguably makes some sense. It corrects the injustice of a top-tier frequent-flyer status passenger who has paid \$2,000 for an economy ticket getting a significantly better pre-flight experience in the first class lounge than the \$8,000 business class ticket holder without frequent flyer status who can only use in the inferior business class lounge down the hallway.

In the United States, however, there's an opposite trend. When travelling domestically using the three main US carriers – Delta, United or American Airlines – in most cases (excluding certain trans-continental flights), top-spending first and business class ticket holders don't get any lounge access included in the fare. Only those with eligible tier frequent flyer status can enter the lounge before the flight. Here, loyalty truly trumps revenue.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR LOUNGES?

Qatar Airways recently announced they won't be providing complimentary lounge access to certain points-upgraded business and first class customers, at the same time offering a "pay-per-visit" option for those passengers without free access. Other full-service airlines such as Air France and Emirates already offer a similar scheme. While ruffling the feathers of some frequent flyers, this new pay-per-visit strategy addresses the enormous cost of providing complimentary lounges and provides all customers the opportunity to have a luxurious pre-flight experience. Top-tier frequent flyers may feel neglected, or that their loyalty seems to be downgraded or ignored.

UNITED KINGDOM

● **London Heathrow British Airways Concorde Room, T5** Refreshed in November 2017, the Concorde Room is for BA's first class passengers and Gold Guest List members. There's an à la carte restaurant for dining and a bar service.

● **Emirates, T3** Reviewed by BT last year (November 2017), this well-equipped lounge

has plenty of secluded spots to work and relax, and has the advantage of direct boarding of the plane from the lounge.

- **Etihad Airways, T4** Adjacent to the Terminal 4 Skyteam lounge, this has free spa treatments (albeit in 15-minute appointments), good food and a buzzy atmosphere. It's for first and business class passengers combined.

- **Lufthansa Senator, T2** Lufthansa has more than one lounge at Heathrow, one in the main Terminal 2 and one in Terminal 2B. The Senator lounge is for first class passengers and Star Alliance Gold Card holders.

- **Malaysia Airlines Golden lounge, T4** Both first and business class share a divided space. Service is personalised and attentive, and the food offering varied and of excellent quality.

- **No1 Heathrow, T3** Reviewed by BT in March 2017, this pay-for-entry lounge has "lots of amenities, contemporary décor and good food", and costs from £36 for three hours if booked online. Showers cost an extra £10; "sleep pods" from £60 for three hours.

- **Plaza Premium, T4** Plaza Premium has a strong presence at Heathrow, and many of its six lounges are impressive. For example, the T4 arrivals-side lounge has 25 luxurious showers (\$18/approx £13 for 30 minutes use). Prices are charged in US dollars, and lounge use starts at \$37/approx £26 for one hour.

- **Qantas, T3** Opened in November 2017, this has Neil Perry's Aussie-style dishes,

a cocktail bar, six shower suites, workstations and more besides. For first and business passengers class combined.

- **Qatar Airways Premium, T4** BT Forum user Amanda says this is the best at Heathrow: "Has to be the Qatar lounge at LHR – service, food, facilities are all top notch." It's open to Oneworld first and business passengers too.

- **United Airlines Club, T2B** One of the three Star Alliance airline lounges in Terminal 2B, the United lounge has good views, a lovely atmosphere and a long bar with good service and a wide selection of drinks.

- **Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse, T3** There have been recent changes including losing the spa bath, but this is still one of the top lounges in the world, and a great advertisement for the differentiation the Virgin brand has brought to flying.

- **London Gatwick British Airways Club and First, Gatwick South** With good views, a choice of wines and food and a mezzanine level in the Club lounge, these two newish lounges have been warmly welcomed by BA passengers.

EUROPE

- **51st & Green, Dublin** This is the pre-clearance business lounge for flights to the US. You can pay for access €35 per person online or €39 at reception, though it is complimentary to business class ticket holders.

- **Air France La Premiere, Paris Charles de Gaulle** Opinions differ about Air France, but there is a consensus about this classy lounge with its Clarins spa, top wines and serene, peaceful atmosphere.

- **Air France Business Hall L, Paris Charles de Gaulle** One of several refurbished or reinvented Air France lounges opened in January 2018, this also has a Clarins spa as part of the first phase; part two will follow in July 2018.

- **Aspire Aphrodite, Larnaca, Cyprus** Open to all travellers from £27.99 per head. "Good food and drink, plenty of space, comfortable seating, nice views, good internet and lovely staff," says BT Forum user ASK1945.

- **Aspire, Zurich Terminal E** Aspire has two lounges at Zurich. This one is that rare phenomenon – a lounge with an outdoor terrace, plus views of the apron, runway and the main terminal. It's a pay to enter lounge (charged in US dollars), and costs from £23.02 per visit.

- **The Loft, Brussels Airlines, Brussels** "Largeish with great tarmac views and super comfy armchairs by the windows with power. Decent food, drink and wifi and a nice feel generally," says BT Forum user Alex_F.

- **ARiklassi (Business), Tallinn** Passengers gain access for €30; some business travellers get in for free. "Good selection of food, quiet, outdoor terrace overlooking the aprons," says BT Forum user rferguson



● **Calpe Lounge, Gibraltar** A Priority Pass lounge run by Lounge Club; you can get access from US\$29. The views of the Rock are magnificent, and “You could sit outside on the sofas!” says BT Forum user Bath_VIP.

● **Cibeles VIP, Madrid** For non-Schengen passengers, this lounge is open to anyone for €30.60. “Nice large space with great apron views and reasonable food selection,” says BT Forum user travelsforfun.

● **Eventyr, Copenhagen Kastrup** Usually 250DKK to get into, this lounge also permits BA, Emirates, Delta and Norwegian flyers with the right status. It has showers and “superb views”, says BT Forum user Bath_VIP.

● **Finnair Premium, Helsinki** Great “for the Finnish design, food and sauna”, says BT Forum user travelsforfun. Exclusively for Finnair Plus Platinum and Gold members, or Oneworld Emerald cardholders.

● **Finnair Schengen Business, Helsinki** The Schengen lounge has good buffet food, and is “bright with plenty of seating”, as BT Forum user Blanicka put it. You can buy entry for €48.

● **Aegean Airlines non Schengen, Athens** A new option (opened December 2017) in Terminal A, this small lounge serves local Greek dishes such as spinach pie, plus Greek wines, but lacks hot food options.

● **KLM Crown, Amsterdam Schiphol** This lounge for intercontinental business passengers is undergoing an upgrade, but is still open; completion is planned for 2019.

● **Lufthansa First CLASS, Frankfurt** This entire first class terminal is “simply amazing and remains my most memorable lounge experience,” says BT Forum user MartynSinclair. Lufthansa and Swiss frequent fliers are welcome.

● **Lufthansa First CLASS, Munich** Cigar lounge, gourmet restaurant, showers and baths, and limousine service to the aircraft. Very modern, with views over the aircraft. Open to Lufthansa and Swiss frequent fliers.

● **Marco Polo Club, Venice** Pay for entry: €40. BT Forum user travelsforfun says, “Several very nice spaces including small outdoor selection.” Priority Pass members, Diners Club and a few others get in for free.

● **Swiss First, Zurich Terminal A** This lounge reopened in March 2018 with great food, bedrooms and an outside terrace in the summer. It’s widely considered to be one of the best lounges in the world.

● **Swiss First, Zurich Terminal E** Not as new as the Terminal A lounge but just as luxurious featuring bedrooms, champagne bar and two restaurants, plus an outside terrace.

● **Turkish Airlines, Istanbul** It may be crowded, but this lounge is “mind-blowing for a long stay, loads of things to eat and spaces to sit [and] fab drinks selection too,” as BT Forum user norbert2008 puts it.

● **VIP Lounge Frankfurt** A luxurious VIP area with limousine service, restaurant, private rooms/suites and cigar lounge. Premium

services, bundled at premium prices – starting from around €330 per person.

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA

● **bidvest premier, Cape Town** “A good selection of ripe fruit, cooked breakfasts, good espresso, interested staff and a quieter upstairs section affording a lovely view,” says BT Forum user barnacles.

● **British Airways Galleries/First, Johannesburg OR Tambo** BA’s First and Club lounges in Johannesburg have a “Great selection of fresh food... free massages, good wine selection, good coffee, lovely staff,” says BT Forum user miningguy.

● **British Airways, Dubai** A new addition to the BA network, this one is split into two distinct spaces, one being a small Concorde Bar which is accessed by a key card from the main business class lounge.

● **Emirates First Class, Dubai** The two Emirates lounges had a US\$11 million refurbishment completed in 2016. Paid-for access used to be for Emirates passengers, but you can now (since 2017) buy your way into first class for US\$200, while the business class lounge costs around half that price.

● **Etihad Airways First, Abu Dhabi** BT reviewed it in October 2016 and found the service, food and drink first-rate. You take a quick workout or spruce up at the barbers or spa before the flight. You can pay to get in (from US\$200 for first class, US\$100 for business).



● **Oman Air Business, Muscat** Day beds, showers, complimentary massage and more besides. “Full dining option – food is good. Nice bar area. Helpful business centre,” says BT Forum user cwoodward.

● **Qatar Airways Al Mourjan, Doha** One of five Qatar lounges in the main terminal, all sumptuous, this one has “sheer space and variety”, says BT Forum user Inquisitive.

● **Qatar Airways Al Safwa, Doha** Not content with having just one impressive first class lounge, Qatar has two. The Al Safwa, however, is exclusively for first class ticket holders flying with Qatar Airways.

● **Saudia Alfursan Golden, Jeddah** For first and business passengers in the busiest airport in Saudi Arabia. The international lounge is open to anyone for SAR189 (around £35).

● **Saudia Alfursan Golden, Riyadh** Both first and business under one roof, with first class more secluded. There’s a good buffet, showers and Apple computers to use.

● **SLOW, Cape Town** For domestic flights, including BA flights operated by Comair. A fabulous lounge with a huge selection of food and drink over two levels, two bars including a cocktail bar and the famous “Loo with a view”.

ASIA

● **All Nippon Airways First Class, Tokyo Haneda** For first class ANA or Star Alliance

guests. “Amazing! At 6:50am they were running around offering people champagne and Hibiki Japanese whisky”, says BT forum user KIngston.

● **American Express The Centurion, Hong Kong** For Amex Platinum Card and Centurion members. The Centurion area features a menu by chef Lau Yiu Fai of the Michelin-starred Yan Toh Heen at the Intercontinental Hong Kong.

● **Blue Ribbon, Bangkok Airways, Koh Samui, Thailand** A small but delightful lounge on this Thai island. “The most charming and relaxing place. Mostly open-sided thatched cabanas. Well-appointed and run,” says BT Forum user cwoodward.

● **Cathay Pacific The Deck, Hong Kong** Opened in March 2018, this replaces the Cabin lounge. It’s for Cathay’s first and business class passengers, Marco Polo Club Silver members, plus Oneworld Emerald and Sapphire members.

● **Cathay Pacific The Pier First, Hong Kong** Cathay Pacific has a number of lounges at Hong Kong: The Wing, The Cabin, The Bridge and The Pier. The Pier was refurbished in 2015, and the BT review in 2016 called it “superb”.

● **Cathay Pacific The Wing First, Hong Kong** Twenty-three shower rooms, workstations, a noodle bar. “While the Pier is cosier, this one has private cabanas with

baths... This alone wins it for me”, says BT Forum user ThomasCox.

● **Cathay Pacific First/Business, Manila** Opened in 2015, this well-designed lounge is the “Small sister to The Pier at Hong Kong. Good bar and food. Very comfortable, even for a few hours”, says BT Forum user cwoodward.

● **Cathay Pacific, Bangkok Suvarnabhumi** Opened in 2015, reviewed by BT in June 2017, for first and business passengers. “Very comfortable”, says BT Forum user MartynSinclair.

● **Cathay Pacific, Singapore Changi T4** Opened in 2017, this is one of the distinctive Studioilse-designed lounges which are becoming Cathay trademarks. Facilities include a noodle station, but no showers or tended bar.

● **Cathay Pacific, Tokyo Haneda** Cathay uses Studioilse to create its distinctive lounge designs, and this early revamp formed the template. The made-to-order noodles, hip looks and attractive wood surfaces are all there.

● **Cathay Pacific, Shanghai Pudong** The Cathay Pacific and Dragonair lounge is for first or business travellers plus one guest; or for Oneworld business class passengers.

● **China Airlines, Taipei Taoyuan** An impressive, surprisingly large and stylish business



lounge with extensive food options, showers, workstations and more. The buffet has a mix of Chinese and Western dishes.

- **GVK, Mumbai** Reviewed by BT in November 2016, this is “a well-equipped lounge to recharge and work”. Access is free for business and first class passengers of the many partner airlines.

- **Hong Kong Airlines Club Autus, Hong Kong** Opened in 2017 at a cost of more than £3 million, there are showers, a huge buffet and great views of the bridge to Macau. It's free for first and business class passengers, or you can pay HK\$350 (about £30) for entry.

- **JAL First, Tokyo Narita** The first class lounge for Oneworld Emerald members (the Sakura lounge is for business class). It's small, with a buffet section of Japanese and Western food, plus showers.

- **Malaysia Airlines Golden, Kuala Lumpur** Opened in March 2018, this smart lounge in the international terminal is a showcase for Malaysian food, with traditional Malay, Indian-Malay and Sino-Malay dishes, plus Western food.

- **Miracle, Bangkok** Part of the Priority Pass group. “Big space, nicely divided into areas and rarely seems busy... spacious and immaculately clean,” is the verdict of BT Forum user Travelling4Fun.

- **Oman Air, Bangkok** “Fresh dates, wonderful appetiser-sized dishes of hummus, hot dishes for main courses, and ‘authentic’ Arabic coffee,” says BT Forum user barnacles. For first and business class.

- **Plaza Premium East Hall, Hong Kong** This lounge takes paying guests, and also business class for airlines without their own lounges at the airport. BT reviewed it in March 2017. There's a twin lounge in the West Hall.

- **SATS Premier T1, Singapore Changi T1** Open to Priority Pass holders, this lounge has a buffet, showers and secluded booths where you can work in relative comfort. It's a busy lounge though, and used by many regional airlines.

- **Skyteam, Hong Kong** Often busy, but a highlight here is the “on demand” noodle bar, which provides three types of Chinese noodles that are cooked on order.

- **Singapore Airlines Silverkris, Singapore Changi T2** There are two Silverkris lounges



While ruffling the feathers of some frequent flyers, this new pay-per-visit strategy provides all customers the opportunity to have a luxurious pre-flight experience.





in Terminal 2B at Changi Airport – left for first class, right for business. “[Business] beats some first class lounges,” said Lady London on the BT Forum.

- **Singapore Airlines Silverkris First class, Singapore Changi T2** Business Traveller reviewed this first class lounge in March 2018, and found it had good service and everything you need. “Discreet luxury”, as BT Forum user Inquisitive put it.

- **Thai Airways Royal First, Bangkok** The feel is calm and friendly, and you can have a complimentary one-hour full body massage. Just make sure you don’t miss the plane.

- **Vietnam Airlines Lotus, Ho Chi Minh City** A Skyteam lounge with good facilities, decent wifi speed (for Vietnam) and even a “pet lounge”, because Vietnam Airlines allows domestic passengers to carry their dogs on board.

THE AMERICAS

- **Air Canada Signature Suite, Toronto** Very chic, with a full-service restaurant that includes a private dining room for small groups or families. Exemplary food and beautiful use of maple wood, but no showers.

- **American Airlines Flagship, Miami** For first and business class, Oneworld Emerald and Sapphire flyers. “Very spacious with good food and drink,” says the BT Forum user who (presumably immodestly) calls himself “christ”.

- **American Airlines Flagship, New York JFK T8** According to BT Forum user ThomasCox, “Never felt crowded. Comfy lounge chairs by the huge floor-to-ceiling windows. There’s also a separate First Dining Room for genuine first class tickets.”

- **American Airlines Flagship, Chicago** “A cosy, comfortable space, especially charming and helpful staff and a decent food display,” says BT Forum user travelsforfun.

- **American Airlines Flagship, Los Angeles** The First Dining Room is a standout with its impressive à la carte menu. There are currently four Flagship lounges from AA; the next three are Dallas/Fort Worth, Heathrow, Philadelphia.

- **American Express The Centurion, Houston George Bush** Reviewed in November 2017 by BT, “a pleasant surprise from start to finish, a simply excellent lounge – and an impressive benefit for Platinum card holders (and Centurion ones).”

- **American Express The Centurion, Miami** This lounge is currently undergoing expansion, and will get new amenities including a wine bar plus private phone rooms. But even while parts of it are under wraps, it’s still very good.

- **British Airways, Boston Logan** BA is currently investing £88 million into its US lounges. The Concorde Dining restaurant is

one of the visible highlights of this investment, and it opened in 2017.

- **British Airways Concorde Room, New York JFK T7** For first class BA passengers. It’s a “comfortable, exclusive, spacious with friendly staff and excellent wine,” says BT Forum user ThomasCox.

- **British Airways Club/First, Chicago** Access to First lounge is for Emerald members or those travelling in first class. “While small, has lovely staff,” says BT Forum user ThomasCox.

- **British Airways Club/First, Houston** Also open to Emerald members and first class passengers. “Staff escort you to ensure you’re first to board”, says BT Forum user ThomasCox.

- **British Airways Galleries, Washington** When reviewed by BT, we noted “you can only go into the Concorde Dining [room] if you are flying First. Gold or Emerald Card won’t help.”

- **Delta Sky Club, Seattle Tacoma South** This 2016 lounge has “decent food and a view of Mount Rainier,” says BT Forum user travelsforfun. Non-Delta entry costs US\$59 per person.

- **Delta Sky Club, New York JFK T4** Primarily aimed at Delta Sky Club members, anyone can get in for \$50. This lounge boasts an outdoor patio in warm weather, and there are appealing shower facilities too.

● **Oneworld Business, Los Angeles** Customers can choose from eclectic and international menus created by renowned Australian fusion chef Neil Perry. There's also a cocktail bar and 16 shower suites.

● **Oneworld, Sao Paulo** Reviewed by Business Traveller in August 2015, when "the staff kept the buffet replenished and the place tidy. There were at least three attendants just looking after the six showers."

● **Qantas Business, Los Angeles** This Marc Newson-designed space is "a modern lounge with great à la carte food choices, and – as ever – great wine," says BT's Julian Gregory.

● **Star Alliance, Los Angeles** One of the best lounges in the US, with an "Open terrace, ramp views, good food, wine – what's not to like?" as BT Forum user trident3 puts it.

● **Star Alliance, Rio de Janeiro** Brazilian design is showcased at this attractive lounge, run by the Plaza Premium Group. It's open to Star Alliance Gold status passengers as well as business and first class ticket holders.

● **United Polaris, Chicago** This is United's flagship while more Polaris lounges are under construction. There are showers, daybeds, good food and cocktails.

● **Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse, New York JFK T4** BT Forum user Defcon5 likes the "craft beer, tapas". It also has a spa, good workstations with printers and British food on the menu.

● **Virgin Atlantic Clubhouse, Los Angeles** Reviewed by BT in 2015, this £2.5 million Clubhouse "has also got the basics right – and enough food so that you can get on the flight and sleep all the way home if you wish."

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

● **Air New Zealand International, Auckland** Opened in 2015, the ANZ flagship lounge is for ANZ business class passengers and travellers with a lot of Airpoints. "Comfortable – very good food and even better wine... close to all gates, good IT," says BT Forum user cwoodward.

● **Etihad Airways First and Business, Melbourne** You can now (since January 2018) buy walk-in access to this lounge for US\$75; or for an additional \$40, you can get the VIP room and live out your Bond villain fantasies sitting on the chic furniture (Blofeld white cat not supplied).

● **Qantas First, Sydney** "Hands down the most comfortable, most spacious lounge with a great view, the best/friendliest ser-

vice and the tastiest food," says BT Forum user ThomasCox.

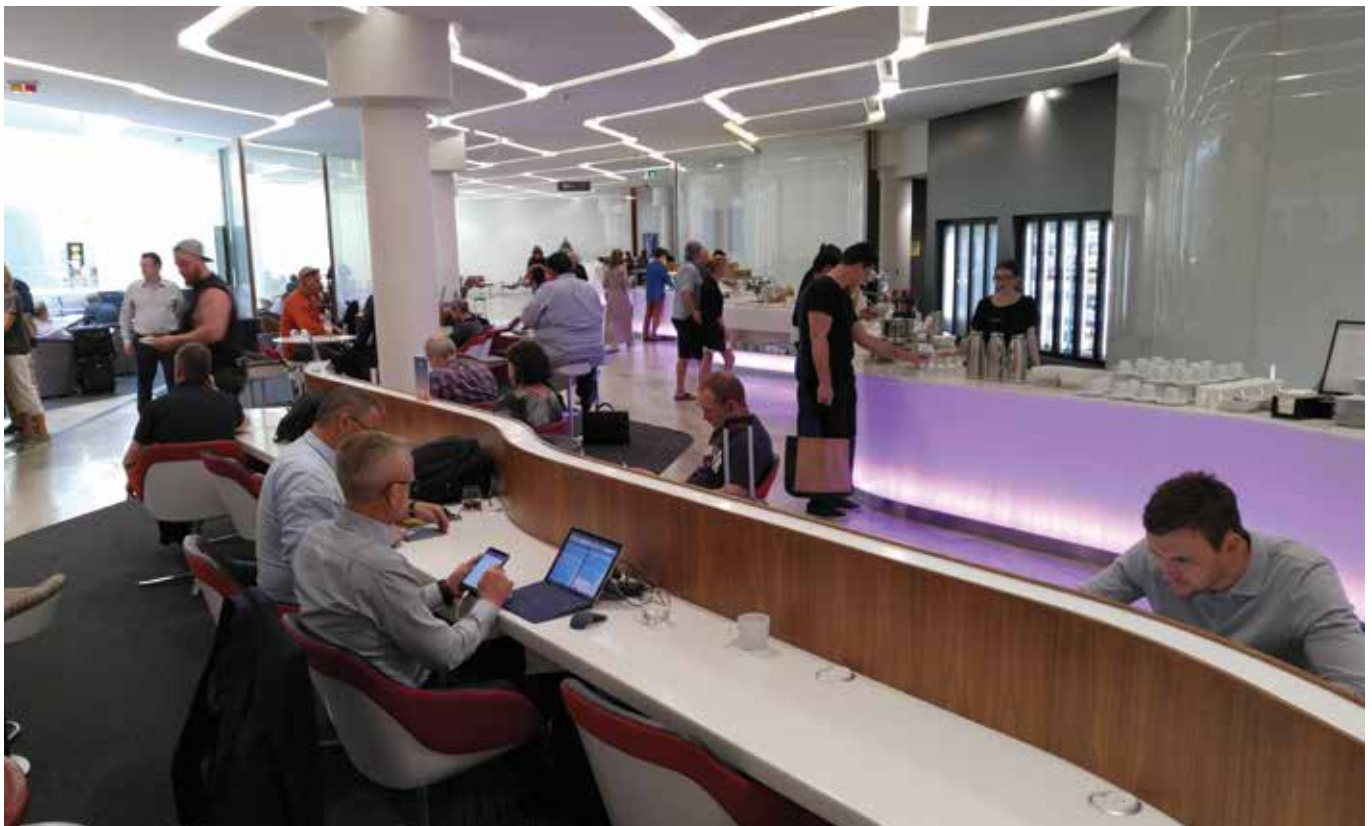
● **Qantas First, Brisbane** Qantas started out in Queensland nearly 100 years ago, so their Brisbane lounge is special with lots of natural light and smart design.

● **Qantas First, Melbourne** "Many people mention the QF First Lounge in Sydney. I rather like its smaller cousin in Melbourne, which is quieter but offers the same service," says BT Forum user Tom-inScotland.

● **Qantas international transit, Perth** With the introduction of Qantas' nonstop flights from London, this lounge focuses on "wellness" with wholesome food, yoga classes, "bright light therapy" and other jetlag-countering ideas for travellers on long haul flights.

● **Virgin Australia, Brisbane** Like the Virgin Australia lounges in the bigger cities, there's a dedicated espresso and wine bar in the centre of this lounge. The wifi is fast.

● **Virgin Australia, Sydney** The signature espresso and wine bar lies in the centre of the room, but there are also meeting rooms, and a huge range of reading material.



SOFITEL - A PATRON OF CULTURE



Sofitel Grand Sopot



Professor **Wacław Kunc**, the director of the Baltic Opera

Sofitel Hotels & Resort is a chain of luxury hotels with a French soul situated in the most prestigious locations in the world. Pursuing activities in the area of high culture, which are one of the foundations of the brand's philosophy, Sofitel invites its guests worldwide to numerous exhibitions, concerts and meetings with artists. As a patron of culture, this year Sofitel has become an official partner of the French Season in the Baltic Opera in Gdańsk.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BALTIC OPERA

Located in Sopot, Warsaw and Wrocław, Sofitel properties are

synonymous with elegance combined with sophisticated beauty and modern, French style. The Baltic Opera draws inspiration from those qualities, with its current repertoire takes us by the Seine River, where everything is teeming with life. The French Season includes performances by French composers, guest concerts by soloists and musicians, as well as various artistic and educational events associated with the rich French culture.

"Our collaboration with Sofitel during the French Season seems very natural for us. The values supported by the brand - culture, art, the French style - perfectly fit into our artistic

programme," says Professor Wacław Kunc, the director of the Baltic Opera. "As a cultural institution, we want the audience to see us as a creative, vibrant space, which attracts new audiences. The partnership with Sofitel helps us to fulfil this mission," he adds.

As part of this collaboration, Sofitel offers its guests a wide range of activities, including concerts in the opera and hotel spaces, as well as meetings with renowned musicians. One of the unique offers prepared by the brand was an event from the Elite Experience series attended by members of the LeClub AccorHotels loyalty programme. The members could redeem

their points collected in the programme for an unforgettable stay in Sofitel Grand Sopot hotel complete with an exclusive invitation to the premiere of Georges Bizet's classic opera entitled "The Pearl Fishers".

FÊTE DE LA MUSIQUE

The partnership with the Baltic Opera also goes perfectly in tune with "Fête de la Musique" music festival held in Sofitel hotels. This French tradition of playing, concerting and listening to music together is well established all over the world, and Sofitel hotels, which actively support this idea initiated 37 years ago in Paris, have also become its ambassador. This year, thanks to the collaboration with the Baltic Opera, Fête de la Musique will have a unique setting in the form of performances by talented opera singers making up the Belcanti soprano trio. The specially prepared repertoire of classical music inspired by French culture will soon fill the elegant spaces within Sofitel hotels, highlighting their sophisticated nature.

THE ART OF PAINTING AT SOFTEL HOTELS

Culture at its best is also present in Sofitel's spaces through photography and painting exhibitions. Vernissages and inspiring meetings with artists appeal both to occasional guests as well as regular visitors to Sofitel properties. An example can be Sofitel Wrocław Old Town, which collaborates closely with the DNA Gallery of Contemporary Art, organizing in its spaces numerous exhibitions of works of renowned painters. This year, as part of the 10th joint initiative the foyer of the Sofitel Wrocław Old Town will house the exhibition entitled "The Fragments of the World - Paintings and Reliefs" by talented artist Stanisław Tomalak. His works perfectly fit into the brand's philosophy: they are not only disturbingly beautiful, but also very interesting.



Orpheus in the Underworld, the Baltic Opera

With such initiatives, every Sofitel hotel worldwide guarantees its guests a real experience of the modern, French lifestyle.



The Pearl Fishers, the Baltic Opera.



Sofitel Grand Sopot

THE SUMMER RHYTHMS OF BRAZIL



The warm weather is enough of an incentive for al-fresco meetings. SomePlace Else restaurant at Sheraton Warsaw hotel on Three Crosses Square is the perfect spot to spend the evening with your friends. Live music, large screens for watching live sports events, and, of course, a wide selection of exquisite cocktails - all of this is a guarantee of great fun and can easily put you in a proper summer mood.

Mariusz Jamiołkowski, a bartender at SomePlace Else, tells us more about the trends for the upcoming season. Here are the best drinks for the summer of 2018 - all based on exotic ingredients to let you experience the

atmosphere of sunny destinations even better. This year is all about fruit and their refreshing power. Passion fruit, lime or lemon are popular ingredients of countless refreshing drinks. Pineapple and orange will sweeten your senses, while fresh herbs are known for their energy-boosting properties. It's time to start your holiday.

● **Polish Pornstar Martini** A classic drink, which owes its incredibly refreshing taste to fruit ingredients, in particular the exotic passion fruit. This sweet and sour plant perfectly quenches thirst, but is also a delicious snack, consumed with pleasure on hot summer days. Polish Pornstar Martini cocktail is prepared with Bison Grass Vodka

and sweet Brazilian Passoa liqueur. Combined with apple juice, lemon juice and passion fruit purée, it will definitely put you in a happy mood. For the perfect taste of the cocktail, you can serve it along with a glass of Prosecco.

● **Mojito** This cocktail is inextricably associated with summer and parties taking place both in clubs and outdoors. It's been popular in Poland for several years now, and appeals especially to women. The main ingredients are: lime, mint, rum and soda water. Mariusz Jamiołkowski notes that mojito should always be served chilled and sipped through a straw to fully enjoy its taste. In SomePlace Else, in addition to the

classic version of mojito, you can try many variations of this cocktail, all based on fruity, refreshing notes. For example, the Green Tea Mojito has the distinct flavour of pineapple, strawberry. Or go for the mysterious sounding Diablo Mojito. Oh, the agony of choice!

● **Aperol** Mariusz Jamiołkowski notes that certain drinks are simply timeless and always have a wide range of followers. These include the popular Aperol. This Italian bitter-sweet aperitif has been one of the most popular holiday spirits and the basic ingredient of the delicious Aperol Spritz cocktail. Made with extract from more than dozen aromatic herbs, bitter orange and sour rhubarb, Aperol's recipe has remained unchanged for years. It's the perfect summer tippie, as it tastes great everywhere, not only in Italy.

Visiting SomePlace Else, you should also try other summer cocktails, whose names bring to mind long journeys to exotic countries and encourage you to explore new flavour combinations. Fruits Safari, Red Bombai and Russian Mule, are all a guarantee of great fun and unforgettable moments spent with your friends. Every Thursday the restaurant offers a special cocktails menu for women. During the unique Ladies' Night we meet to chat, listen to live music, and enjoy fashionable, classic drinks. As always, there are numerous attractions and lots of great fun!

And for gentlemen there are regular live sports broadcasts combined with fine beer and delicious snacks. SomePlace Else is not only the best option for evening entertainment. During the day, the restaurant is a popular lunch spot, both for individual and business customers. All this in the very centre of Warsaw, in the prestigious Sheraton Warsaw hotel.

Come and visit us with your friends to fully experience summer in SomePlace Else. More information at warszawa.

someplace-else.pl



SomePlace Else is not only the best option for evening entertainment. During the day, the restaurant is a popular lunch spot, both for individual and business customers. All this in the very centre of Warsaw.



BUSINESS MEETING

Organize it with Radisson Blu



Radisson Blu hotels in Poland are located in Warsaw, Krakow, Wrocław, Gdańsk, Szczecin and Świnoujście. New properties of the brand will soon be launched in Zakopane and Szklarska Poręba.

What should you take into consideration when choosing a room for a business meeting? The experts from Radisson Blue hotels will assist and guide you throughout the whole preparation process to guarantee a successful event.

COMMITTED AND COMPETENT

There are many advantages to organising a meeting in a hotel - one of the most obvious ones is the quality of service. An important role is played here by dedicated and competent personnel who will help you plan and coordinate the event. Each Radisson Blu hotel in Poland offers the assistance of the personal care coordinator who will always be at your disposal, taking care of even the tiniest details: from booking a room that will suit your needs, to comprehensive help in solving any potential technical problems during the event.

IDEAL CONFERENCE VENUE

Deciding on the venue of a conference, event organizers often

inquire if the facilities also accommodate options. The standards offered by Radisson Blu in this respect are at the world's highest level. All hotels of the brand are located within an easy reach of the local airport and close to the major attractions of the city. The conference rooms where the event will be held should also be appropriately equipped: have access to daylight, the blackout option, free fast Internet for all meeting attendees, as well as provide professional banquet service and catering facilities. It is also important for event organizers to be able to use rooms of different sizes - larger ones for the main meeting, as well as smaller boardrooms for more private conversations.

WELL-PLANNED MEAL

Did you know that a properly composed menu can increase concentration by up to 20 percent? It is worth taking this into account if you want to keep your delegates attention throughout the entire event. Delicious wholegrain bread, fresh fish, fruit,

vegetables, as well as lean meat - all of this can effectively keep your creativity flowing. The personnel at Radisson Blue hotels will make sure that the menu for your conference suits everyone's needs and tastes. You can also opt for a more creative catering menu instead of the usual coffee and biscuits. For example, it can be based on the cuisine of a given country with one dominant ingredient e.g. chocolate or strawberries. Another interesting choice will be a menu with a predominance of local products and regional dishes or the latest trends in street food.

MEETINGS WITH LOTS OF BENEFITS

An interesting loyalty scheme may be a great incentive to use the services of a selected brand. Organizers of events at Radisson Hotel Group™ hotels are members of the Radisson Rewards™ programme. With the scheme they have access to a range of additional privileges, can redeem their points for free stays, air miles and more.

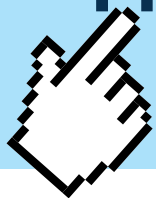


F!TE

Poszerzaj zasięg swojego biznesu IT z Federation of IT Experts!

Sprawdź korzyści na:

Fite-pl.org



Dowiedz się więcej:

+48 22 393 69 93

members@fite-pl.org

MUSIC JOURNEY WITH IBIS HOTEL FAMILY

Marzena Mróz talks to **Hanna Bernakiewicz**, the Economy Segment Manager for Poland and Eastern Europe at Orbis S.A.



The “Get to Sziget” campaign organized by ibis hotel family is in full swing. What’s it about?

The “Get to Sziget” campaign is yet another iteration of our initiative focused on music as ibis hotel family’s real passion. In this way we want to reach out to young people - to engage them in a common adventure, as well as to attract them with our offer. Hotels belonging to ibis family are very open to 20-30+ generation. They are modern and designed to create a friendly, creative atmosphere that promotes efficient work or studying. They are also easily accessible, both in terms of the extensive chain of our properties and affordable prices. These are factors, which are very important for the generation of the so-called Millennials.

“Get to Sziget” is a contest where you can win a unique journey. What are the prizes?

The winners of the competition will be offered a two-week trip, consisting of a 7-day tour around Europe and a 7-day stay at the Sziget Festival in Budapest. The whole is a recipe for a unique holiday and unforgettable adventure. The route leading to the event will be packed with attractions - they will have a chance to visit a number of fascinating cities, attend great concerts and participate in interesting tasks. And, of course, they will stay in comfortable ibis hotels. But this is just the beginning, because the main goal of the journey, the Sziget Festival, is a real celebration of music and one of the biggest events of this type in Europe. How big? Let me just say that the concerts there are held for seven days in a row

on nine different stages at the same time. The winners of the competition will be accompanied by the ambassadors of our campaign, Mattia and Elie, from the BEMY band. During the journey they will write a piece which will have its premiere at Europe Stage Presented by ibis at the Sziget Festival 2018. The song will also be accompanied by a music video, which will be a record of the adventures from the trip.

What are the conditions to participate in the competition? What do you need to do to win and who can apply?

The main task of the competition is to record a video which will convince everyone that it is you who should take part in the adventure and go to the Sziget Festival 2018. A link to the video posted on YouTube should

be included in the application form on ibis.com/gettosziget. Once the material appears on the website, it will gather votes from Internet users. The voting process will last until 17 June. Another part of the application includes planning a creative route to Budapest. This must include at least 7 out of 25 cities on the map where ibis family hotels are located. The campaign is carried out in the region of Eastern Europe. The competition is open to adults from Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Hungary, Lithuania and Latvia. We accept individual and group applications - up to three people. I encourage you to take part in this exciting competition as the prize is really worth your effort!

Thank you.



www.royalcaribbeancruises.pl

ul. Tamka 16, lok. 4, 00-349 Warszawa

info@rccl.pl, tel.: 00 22 455 38 48



LIFE CYCLADES

Mykonos has an ancient charm, and new beach clubs, bars and restaurants ensure its appeal continues today.





Scorpions beach club is like a sun-kissed, al fresco Soho House. Positioned on a Mars-like rocky outcrop next to the bay of Paraga, there are day beds scattered over the sand and under the striped shade of timber awnings. Transcendental chill-out music pumps a steady beat as barefoot staff – more akin to sun-bronzed Greek gods and goddesses, clad in frayed organic cotton robes and mirrored sunglasses – run around delivering iced water.

LIFE'S A BEACH

Launched in 2015, Scorpions is one of the most popular beach clubs in Mykonos; and while you may or may not want to party, dining at its rough-hewn, open-air restaurant should be experienced. Under sackcloth awnings, people recline at driftwood tables and order up platters of scorpion fish with Kalamata olives and chilli, lobster linguine and wood-fired tiger prawns with garlic oil. As the sun begins to set, speed boats begin arriving, offloading the “Rich Kids of Instagram”, who stroll along the jetty and up to the club. Here they order giant bottles of Belvedere vodka to be delivered to their cabanas. By this point, the ethno-electric beats are getting louder and the outfits more dazzling.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Since the 1950s, the Greek Cycladic island of Mykonos has been known as a glamorous, hedonistic escape in a similar vein to Ibiza. But at just 100 sq km (versus Ibiza's 570 sq km) and with just two million annual

tourists (versus more than seven million for Ibiza in 2016), there is a more boutique feel. And there isn't the same 24-hour clubbing vibe. “If you start partying in the afternoon you are in bed by midnight and then have the next day ahead of you,” says Stelios Koumantakis, general manager of the Mykonos Blu hotel. “We want people to come and feel completely relaxed.”

Mykonos Town – or simply “Chora” (meaning “town”), as it's known locally – is where you'll find the main concentration of bars and restaurants, although there are other gems dotted around such as Kiki's Tavern on the northern coast. Just a ten-minute drive from the airport, one of the first photo stops for visitors are the windmills of Kato Mili, on a hill overlooking the Chora. Continue down to the waterfront and you come to Little Venice, where you can sit with a pine-scented fresh basil and Mastika mojito and watch the water lap at the base of the sea wall just a few feet away. (Favourite bars include Caprice and Bao's.)

After watching the sunset deepen to a dark bruise on the horizon, the sea as smooth as opal yet broken up in places by islands of jet black, the evening is an idyllic time to wander pretty winding streets lined with souvenir shops and designer boutiques. Houses are painted white and blue, with vibrant pink and purple bougainvillea tumbling over garden walls. Packed Greek tavernas, with patrons drinking wine at tables outside, are plentiful. But for something a little more jetset, Matsuhisa restaurant from chef Nobuyuki “Nobu” Matsuhisa at the Belvedere hotel is a romantic

choice. Tables are placed in an oasis around a swimming pool illuminated by overhead lanterns, while the delicious Japanese-Peruvian dishes are presented like miniature works of art.

ALL AT SEA

Once it's time to really unwind, a boat trip is unbeatable and SYachting has five vessels available for charter. If you're lucky, you will have Captain Zoe at the helm – one of the few female captains in the whole of Greece. With the sea to yourself, you can dive off into the water to go snorkelling before enjoying fresh canapés and drinking sparkling wine on the deck.

Upon returning to the shore, you'll be back just in time for another sunset party – Jackie O's beach club does drag shows, while Nammos on Psarou beach regularly sees revellers dancing in the surf. Both have outstanding garden restaurants, too – the latter known for its seafood priced by the kilo, Kobe beef burgers, and methuselahs of Château Haut-Brion Blanc for €26,000 a pop.

If it's peace you're after, head to the serene Bill & Coo Suites and Lounge hotel for a massage, followed by a gin and tonic mixed at a trolley beside the infinity pool. At night, its gourmet restaurant offers dazzling views of the stars over the Aegean. Come to think of it – almost every location is Mykonos is picture-perfect.

WHERE TO STAY

- **Myconian Kyma** This hotel is perched high on a hill overlooking the Aegean Sea





Since the 1950s, the Greek Cycladic island of Mykonos has been known as a glamorous, hedonistic escape in a similar vein to Ibiza.





and Mykonos town, and is about 15 minutes' walk from the centre. Myconian Kyma has 52 fresh, minimalist rooms and 29 suites from 26 sqm to 40 sqm, all with terraces or balconies and some with plunge pools. As with many of the hotels on the island, the Cycladic architecture is that familiar mix of whitewashed walls with splashes of ultramarine, but here you'll also find iridescent pots and Scandi furniture. There's a spa and two outdoor pools next to the restaurant and bar.

Rooms from €300 in May. designhotels.com

- **Mykonos Blu** Part of Grecotels, this stunning hotel is well positioned above Psarou beach, about ten minutes from Mykonos town. Painted brilliant white both inside and out, it has dazzling turquoise lagoon pools and impressive views of the bay. There are two restaurants which serve contemporary Greek cuisine. The food available to people on loungers at the beach is also delicious. There is a wide array of rooms and suites across Island Bungalow, Island Suite and Blu Villa categories. If you feel like splashing out, the 125 sqm two-floor Deep Blu Villa (from €1,832 a night) is a staggering place to stay.

Rooms from €220 in May. wmykonosblu.com

- **Myconian Villa Collection** Midway along the southern coast of Mykonos is a cluster of resort hotels high above Elia beach (you need to take a minibus down and up). There are five styles of property. The Myconian Utopia and the Myconian Villas are a mix of two- to six-bedroom luxury villas, plus there are guest rooms from 30 sqm to 40 sqm, all with sea views. The highlight is the infinity pool, while attractive fine-dining restaurant has a Mediterranean menu.

Rooms from €265 in May. myconianvillas.gr

- **Blue Villas** Blue Villas has about 120 properties scattered all over the island, ranging from the affordable to the outrageously decadent, making them a great option for groups and families. A concierge team is available day and night to help with transfers, yacht charters, massage bookings and meals, as well as organising staff such as butlers and nannies.

Villas from €350-€1,200 per day. bluevillascollection.com



BEFORE YOU GO...

Restaurants and hotels open seasonally, so Mykonos is best visited in June or September as August gets unbearably crowded. Be warned that when leaving the island, the airport check-in hall is tiny – prepare for queues outside. It's also important to think carefully about the location of your hotel, as there aren't many taxis on the island – you will either need to walk, take a bus, or hire a vehicle (car, motorbike or quad bike). A new app, Aegean Taxi, is similar to Uber and worth downloading.



Jedną z pierwszych atrakcji, przy której masowo zatrzymują się wczasowicze w drodze z lotniska, są wiatraki Kato Mili stojące na wzgórzu z widokiem na chorę.



WINDSWEPT WONDER

It takes one of the most extraordinary journeys by military flight to get there, but the idiosyncratic Falkland Islands are well worth the effort

Could this be the most unusual airline route in the world? Twice a week, at precisely 2359, a Ministry of Defence charter flight slips out of RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire bound on a 18-hour, 8,000-mile flight

south to the Falkland Islands. Windblown and treeless, this remote archipelago of 778 islands lies around 400 miles east of the southern tip of South America and has a population of just 3,200 – plus an awful lot of sheep, penguins, seals and seabirds.

NO ONLINE BOOKING

Known as the South Atlantic Airbridge, this epic service linking the UK with the British Overseas Territory has been operating for more than 30 years and is a collector's item for fans of aviation and adven-

FOT: FOTOLIA



ture. While the flights are primarily filled with personnel and freight bound for the Mount Pleasant military garrison on East Falkland, a small number of civilians are also allowed on board – although getting a seat is by no means easy.

There is no online booking system. Potential passengers must first submit a flight request to the Falkland Islands Government Office in London well in advance – in my case, five months ahead of travel, as I am using this novel route as a way to explore these far-flung islands before joining a cruise south to Antarctica. During the

southern summer season from October to March, the capital – Stanley – is a popular port of call for both large ships cruising the coast of South America and expedition vessels offering intrepid voyages to South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.

No tickets are issued for this idiosyncratic flight, but ten days before departure you will be given a passenger reservation number and told when to report at the airfield. The MOD reserves the right to change its schedules, and delays seem to happen frequently. My flight was put back a day at just 24 hours' notice, but don't expect anyone to

Useful info

GETTING THERE

To book a seat on the South Atlantic Airbridge contact the Falkland Islands Government Office (020 7222 2542; travel@falklands.gov.fk). For information on the islands see falklandislands.com. Rainbow Tours (rainbowtours.co.uk) offers package holidays and One Ocean Expeditions (oneoceanexpeditions.com) has cruises from Stanley to South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula.

inform you of such a change of schedule – it is the passenger's responsibility to check the RAF Brize Norton website to discover such things, even though a one-way ticket costs a handsome £1,111 per person. The return fare is simply double this, while residents of the Falkland Islands pay around a third less.

ALPHABETICAL BOARDING

Arriving at RAF Brize Norton four hours before departure, it is clear that I am catching one of the most security-conscious flights in the world open to civilians. After being issued with a bright orange pass permitting access to the heavily protected base, we are taken by coach to a functional terminal where I meet my fellow passengers – around a hundred mostly young, principally male soldiers with severe haircuts and camouflage-patterned backpacks. Only 31 seats are generally made available for “Non Mil Pax” (non-military passengers), as the green luggage label tied to my suitcase puts it. Nationals from 13 countries – including Russia, China, Taiwan and Vietnam – are excluded from purchasing tickets. On average only five passengers per flight are tourists like me, the rest of this select band being business travellers, relatives and islanders. Everyone is remarkably friendly – within minutes I've met the local dentist and tanner and already feel part of the community, while the young

soldiers are quiet, courteous and helpful.

It is a long and tiresome wait to get on board. Screens in the terminal reveal the parallel universe of the military, showing the time in Cyprus, Dubai and the Falklands. The only flight due for arrival is coming from Kabul. The final security checks are carried out alphabetically by surname, while bus transfers to the plane are organised by seat number.

Operated by Airtanker, a British charter airline that supports the UK Armed Forces, our grey Airbus A330-200 is surprisingly comfortable, with 291 economy seats in a 2-4-2 configuration plus two hospital beds at the rear. The seat pitch is a generous 34 inches, which is better (by two inches) than the economy seats on the new Qantas 787-9 Dreamliner service connecting London and Perth, a journey of 17 hours. All seats are pre-allocated, and there is no business class or premium economy. IFE is limited to TV screens that drop down from the centre of the aircraft ceiling to show films from days of yore, such as Wall Street, so most passengers bring their own tablets plus a back-up power supply as there are no USB sockets. Headphones, a cushion and a rug are provided, along with an Airtanker-branded amenity kit with earplugs, eye-mask and socks. There is no alcohol and the food – which ranges from basic (filled rolls and muesli bars) to dire (battered cheese and ham croquettes) – is handed

out in white paper cartons with plastic RAF cutlery by uniformed (non-military) flight crew who are polite and efficient. You won't go hungry – in a lifetime of travel, this is the first flight I've been on where you get offered seconds of the main meal.

A STOP ON SAL

Until June last year, this globe-spanning flight touched down to refuel on Ascension Island, another British Overseas Territory lost in the South Atlantic Ocean. As a result of problems with the island's runway, this routing has been suspended until 2020. Instead, after a six-hour-20-minute night flight, we touched down on the pancake-flat desert island of Sal in Cape Verde, off the coast of West Africa. The two-hour break inside its modern commercial terminal created a mad dash for the smoking zone and power-charging points, while some soldiers – clearly used to all this – unroll their sleeping bags and grab some kip on the floor. As dawn breaks, we look out wistfully at the palm trees and blushing sky and savour the rising tropical heat – in the sub-Antarctic Falkland Islands, the average summer temperature is 10°C, falling to 2°C in winter.

ENJOYING THE SEAVIEW

Back on board, we now face a day flight of ten hours 20 minutes. “If you like looking at the sea you're in for a treat,” Captain



Few people realise how large the Falkland Islands are – they are almost the size of Northern Ireland and laced together by a plucky combination of ferry, supply ship and domestic flights.



These days the Falkland Islands are a much happier place. The excellent Historic Dockyard Museum in Stanley tells the story of its growth from an isolated band of sheep farms to a thriving, self-sufficient economy primarily based on fishing.

Oliver drolly comments, “because there’s nothing else to see.” By now the flight is only half-full – some passengers bound for Ascension Island have disembarked to catch a smaller plane that is capable of landing there – which allows the remaining travellers to spread out. Yet more food comes, followed by plentiful jugs of water and lemon squash as if it’s school sports day. While this isn’t the most pampering of flights, the Airbridge serves its purpose well, providing you factor the likelihood of delays into your travel plans. The only other way to reach the Falkland Islands is a round-the-houses route via Chile that involves stops in Santiago and Punta Arenas. This can be cheaper, but takes more than 24 hours – and the once-a-week connection on to Mount Pleasant Airfield is often sold out well in advance during the summer season.

AN ISLAND WITH HISTORY

At long last, we begin our final descent to these enigmatic specks on the other side of the world. Constructed after the 1982 war with Argentina, Mount Pleasant Complex is home to some 1,300 servicepeople who live as a self-contained community 38 miles west of Stanley. Transfers to the capital are initially on unsealed roads bordered with peaks and bays that became

familiar names during the 74-day conflict in 1982. Wireless Ridge, Mount Tumble-down, Bluff Cove... this traumatic episode may have happened over 35 years ago, but it is fresh in the minds of many islanders. It’s well worth booking a half-day battlefield tour to learn about what went on. Along with three local civilians, 255 British and 649 Argentine troops died in a grim struggle fought in severe winter conditions. The remains of destroyed helicopters and hill-top dug-outs used by the invading troops can still be seen, while abundant memorials pay tribute to those who were lost.

OIL, BEER AND PENGUINS

These days the Falkland Islands are a much happier place. The excellent Historic Dockyard Museum in Stanley tells the story of its growth from an isolated band of sheep farms to a thriving, self-sufficient economy (excluding defence services) primarily based on fishing. Oil was discovered offshore in 2010, and while its current low price has stalled exploitation, it promises revenue. According to statistics issued by the Falkland Islands Tourist Board, the annual number of business travellers to the islands has bubbled around 1,500 for many years, with a similar amount of land-based leisure visitors. The latter is forecast to

grow by five per cent by 2020, while cruise ship visitors average around 55,000 a year. Most of these only spend a few hours here – admiring the king penguins at Volunteer Point, sipping pints of Iron Lady IPA in the Victory Bar, taking selfies beside Stanley’s red phone boxes and bust of Margaret Thatcher – but anyone who stays longer will discover somewhere very special.

Few people realise how large the Falkland Islands are – they are almost the size of Northern Ireland and laced together by a plucky combination of ferry, supply ship and domestic flights operated by the Falkland Islands Government Air Service. These use a venerable fleet of ten-seater twin-prop Britten-Norman BN-2 Islander aircraft, originally built in the Isle of Wight, that sport a smart livery of red, white and blue. Flying low across an austere landscape of peat fields and sheep-speckled hills, their destinations include grass strips on outlying islands such as Pebble, Carcass and Sealion that are home to deserted white sand beaches and a glorious array of wildlife including elephant seals, sea lions, five species of penguin and huge colonies of black-browed albatross. While the Falkland Islands might take some reaching, once you get here you’ll never regret it.

Nigel Tisdall



QUAYS TO SUCCESS

Hamburg's renaissance is centred on the docks, but reaches every street corner.

There's a new word on the streets of Germany's second biggest city: to "corner". In our era of smartphones and predictive text, where language gets mashed, this piece of English means to buy a beer from a kiosk and stand on a street corner chatting with a group of friends. It is something of a social phenomenon in the trendier areas of Hamburg on sunny summer evenings.

Elements of Hamburg society don't like this "cornering", and it certainly doesn't sit comfortably with the staid, buttoned-up image of the wealthy trading city. But then this is also the city that has recently been declared the most liveable in Germany (Economist Intelligence Unit), the fourth best city destination in the world (Lonely Planet), and home to the world's best nightlife (Hostelworld).

Locals are slightly mystified by all these sudden accolades. Hamburg has been like this for a long time, they say, but it seems that the rest of us are only just cottoning on.

There's a very big reason for this "why now?" A reason that rises proudly from among the former wharves. The Elbphilharmonie, or Elphi for short, is a giant construct of glass and brick, a radical wave-topped warehouse. This hugely expensive concert hall/hotel/apartment block is Hamburg's equivalent of the Eiffel Tower, and it has attracted a staggering four million visitors in its first year of operation. And that includes an awful lot of bloggers and journalists whose media coverage has put the city on the map.

DOWNTOWN

Sometimes fancifully called the Venice of the North thanks to all its bridges and canals, Hamburg has always thrived on its waterside location. Mariners navigating up the River Elbe into Germany's largest port have long appreciated the fact that they can moor right next to downtown, rather than be excluded to some distant, industrial no man's land. Hamburg's central docklands make them feel welcome, although fast turnaround times these days mean they barely get the chance to go ashore.

It was the port that created the original urbanisation along a web of streets between the banks of the Elbe and the Alster lakes. Here, the remaining Hanseatic warehouses and shipping company headquarters have been transformed into banks and exclusive boutiques. The key cultural institutions such as the Kunsthalle art gallery are here, as are the famous St Michael's church and the Rathaus, the neo-Renaissance style town hall. The city centre is pleasant



Hamburg has recently been declared the most liveable in Germany, the fourth best city destination in the world, and home to the world's best nightlife.

enough, especially on the terraced lakeside at Jungfernstieg, where white and red cruisers pick up passengers for a saunter out onto the stippled, swan-rich waters of the two Alster lakes. The Outer Alster, in particular, is lined with coffee houses and fine villas.

Around Uhlenhorst, along the eastern shore, it looks like some luxury seaside resort with joggers, cyclists and picnickers making the most of the waterside greenery. But there's far more to Hamburg than this.

HAFENCITY

The best approach to Hamburg's waterside is the elevated U-bahn, which runs out through Baumwall to Landungsbrücken, the busy landing stage for all the harbour cruises and ferries. There's a new elevated walkway here, too, with a unique view: to your right, big ships and cranes silhouetted like question marks against the sky, and to your left, warehouses and the Elphi. And it's towards the left that Hamburg's gravity has shifted in the past decade, expanding the city centre by some 40 per cent. Not long ago HafenCity's docklands became too small for the new generation ships; now it is one of the largest urban developments in Europe, and one which has taken care to mix offices with residential and cultural institutions. And to make sure it is sustainable and accessible, planning rules here insist that any residential projects must be one third for sale, one third rentable, and one third social housing.

All this new development, with its sleek modern architecture, is behind the initial barricade of the Speicherstadt, two massive and elegant UNESCO-registered rows of brick-built warehouses dating back 100 years, separated by a finger of water. Originally for storage of spices and coffee, these now house tourist attractions such as Miniatur Wunderland, a miniature model world which has topped the list of Germany's most popular attractions for the past two years, beating centuries-old historic sites (see page 54).

Beyond Speicherstadt are the various quays in their new configurations, particularly Grasbrookkai and Sandtorkai, with waterside bars, restaurants and prestigious commercial tenants. The city's cruise terminal (cruising is huge here) is on Strandkai, and a collection of historic ships rubs gently against the pontoon in Sandtorhafen.

Dominating this whole dockscape is the €800 million Elphi, which sits out on the end of Kaiserkai, drawing a constant stream of visitors. Designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron, its audacious concept meant that its construction was fraught with budget-busting delays, but that's all water under the bridge, now that it's finished. At its heart is an organically shaped concert hall with 2,100 seats and a wide programme of different types of music. Some of its concert tickets are only available to locals, and most sell out, but everyone can come up to what is called the Plaza (at busy times you need to pre-book through the visitor centre), on the intersection between the original giant brick warehouse and the flowing glass-work on top. Positioned right at the point of the quay, the Elphi offers a magnificent view in all directions; this concert hall has its feet in the water, and its head in the clouds.

ST PAULI AND BEYOND

Hamburg's reputation as nightlife destination is traditionally associated with the salty Reeperbahn, but these days the table-dancing clubs are going out of business. There's still an "over 18s only" shutter across Herbertstrasse, the heart of the prostitution zone, and stag parties still come swaying down the streets, but more people come here these days for music, and musicals; this is, after all, where the Beatles started out and perfected their craft from 1960-62. There's now a big music festival every September. Locals are here, too, but not on the main drag; the side streets around the Reeperbahn are home to large numbers of public relations companies and discreet restaurants such as Krug in Paul-Roosen Strasse, or Chug on Taubenstrasse which

serves taster flights of innovative cocktail creations.

For the many locals heading for a night out, the early evening hangouts are further inland, to the north, in the up and coming districts of Karolinenviertel and Sternschanze. This is where all that trendy “cornering” is going on.

Karolinen is essentially just a couple of streets of local fashion designers and quirky shops and cafés. Its main axis is Marktstrasse, with shoemakers, pottery shops and street art.

The biggest landmark building in this area is the huge World War II bunker on Feldstrasse, which currently hosts all kinds of creative organisations, but is slated to become a hotel with a roof garden and a museum. Next door is a fine conversion already completed: the brick-built Rindermarkthalle, a former cattle market, now with an open-plan interior housing pop-up stores and food outlets at the centre and supermarkets around the edges (though not the usual German discount stores).

Sternschanze sits to the northwest of the Rindermarkthalle. Its main axis, Schulterblatt Strasse, is a mix of shops and manifestations of typical Hamburgian alternative living, particularly in the iconic squat of Rote Flora, a former music hall now festooned in banners and rechristened Achidi-John-Platz after an African immigrant who died in suspicious circumstances. There’s a squatter stockade of campervans around the corner, and the wide pavements create a big gathering point on summer evenings.

This part of town is a focal point for the

young, the creative and the upwardly mobile, many of whom gravitate a couple of streets north to the Schanzenhof, a hipsterish conversion of brick-built, market-style buildings. Here, there’s a big craft brewery (Ratsherrn) beer garden, a coffee roaster cum meeting place café (Elbgold Rostkaffee) and the Bullerei, a big restaurant run by TV chef Tim Mälzer, Germany’s equivalent of Jamie Oliver.

ALTONA AND OVELGONNE

Until as recently as 1871, the Hanseatic city of Hamburg was staunchly independent, and it was surrounded on the north and west by Denmark. Its western axis, Altona, was under Danish rule, and so the adjoining region of Ottensen is distinctively low-rise, with Scandinavian-influenced architecture and sociable triangular town squares that could be out of Paris’s Montmartre. This is still an independent thinking part of town, and with the shops along Ottenser Hauptstrasse (starting with big brands and ending with quirky independents, delis and bakeries) there’s enough going on for locals not to need to go downtown for their needs.

A short walk south from Ottensen’s centre you find yourself back on the banks of the river. This exclusive northern bank is a place of big villas built for merchants and sea captains, while down towards the water’s edge are pretty rows of Danish-influenced cottages. Here, at Ovelgonne, is one of Hamburg’s biggest surprises: the Elbstrand beach along the river bank. This long stretch of sand, with fish restaurants and beach bar Strandperle, is a destination

for families on hot summer days. It’s an unusual place to build sandcastles, in the shadow of passing supertankers.

Despite its distance downstream, Elbstrand and Ovelgonne are part of Hamburg’s public transportation system. In fact, route 62 back to Landungsbrücken must be one of the travel bargains of the world. Who needs a harbour cruise when this ferry, which runs every ten minutes, charges down the Elbe, with the Elphi looming up out of the haze?

MINIATUR WUNDERLAND

At first sight, the departures board of this German airport seems normal enough. It must be one of the big hubs, for there are imminent flights to the likes of New York, Johannesburg, Osaka and Panama City, with airlines like Lufthansa, United and Condor. But also coming up is a flight to Kilimanjaro, which strikes an odd note: surely the tiny Kilimanjaro airport doesn’t have direct flights departing from Germany? And then, at 1425, the killer entry: destination Death Star, serviced by the Millennium Falcon. And there it is, parked up on the apron among the A380s and the B777s: the Star Wars’ Falcon, an ugly duckling among the beautiful big birds. It’s a geek moment the model-makers couldn’t resist.

As you might have guessed by now, this is not a real airport. This is Knuffingen, in Hamburg’s Miniatur Wunderland, but half-close your eyes and you can barely tell the difference. In the distance, planes are taking off and landing. Arrivals are taxiing to the gates, led by “Follow Me” vehicles and





Sternschanze is a focal point for the young, the creative and the upwardly mobile, many of whom gravitate a couple of streets north to the Schanzenhofe. Here, there's a big craft brewery (Ratsherrn) beer garden.



attended by passenger buses and baggage crews. Fire engines circle the perimeter, and the whole thing is a blaze of lights, especially when “night time” falls.

For aviation enthusiasts, the realism and detail of Knuffingen airport is mesmerising, especially when you see the lift system that shuffles the departed aircraft back to the arriving queue, and all the apron vehicles bringing themselves into recharging docking stations when they sense their battery power is getting low. Its ambition and complexity are breath-taking.

For the past couple of years, Miniatur Wunderland, which is housed in Hamburg’s UNESCO-registered Speicherstadt warehouses where downtown meets docklands, has been Germany’s most popular tourist attraction. This is slightly to the consternation of the national tourist board, because cultural icons such as Neuschwanstein Castle and the Brandenburg Gate are being trumped by what is essentially a model railway.

Wunderland doesn’t need special promotion; word of mouth has always done it proud. The annual throughput of 1.4 million people is already a struggle within the confined space available, and at the busiest times you can wait for many hours if you haven’t reserved in advance. Sometimes, in the height of the summer, the doors stay open until the early hours of the morning to give everyone a chance.

It is clear from the entrance that the project is still very much home-grown; there’s none of the flashy presentation associated

with big entertainment corporations. Inside, a screen shows the origins of its 16.5 million visitors since it started 17 years ago. The big numbers are the Germans, Austrians, Swiss, Dutch, Brits and Americans; the small numbers are Tonga (six visitors so far) and the Vatican City (five – and it doesn’t say whether one was the Holy Father himself).

Miniatur Wunderland is the brainchild of twin brothers Frederik and Gerrit Braun, who both remain fully involved in the project. When they first went to the tourist board with their idea, all those years ago, they were turned down, on the basis that model railways appeal only to men and boys. And yet today, says marketing officer Thomas Cerny, it is female visitors who declare themselves most satisfied, probably because they “come with the lowest expectations”.

Certainly the statistics are impressive. Aside from the airport, some 270 model trains are simultaneously threading their way through a variety of national landscapes (Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy, etc), along with 9,250 cars, 260,000 model people and 385,000 LED lights. There are even ships on real water bringing themselves into docks guided by working rudders and propellers.

But what makes it work for everyone, and not just trainspotter types, is the detail; the little touches of humour, such as the water skiing penguins and the two monks gazing through the trees at a naked sunbather. There are over 100 figures making love in these landscapes. And there’s lots of social

observation: the wannabe suicide being talked down off a clifftop, the long queues of women at the toilets in the pop concert, and the Hamburg hipster pulling his bed out of the wall in his studio flat when night falls.

And night does fall. Every 15 minutes the mood and the lighting changes. Several after-dark set pieces include the eruption of Vesuvius, complete with smoke and lava, which took years to perfect. And the opening up of the Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg’s extraordinary wave-topped concert hall, with tiny moving figures in the orchestra.

All of this is run by a team of around 370 people, which includes the two cleaners who have to walk over the displays like delicate-toed King Kongs between 4am and 6am, wielding vacuum cleaners; dust is the biggest enemy of something with so many tiny electrically powered moving parts, and it takes them three weeks to clean the whole thing, before they start again.

Miniatur Wunderland is clearly a hugely, and maybe unexpectedly, successful enterprise. The Brauns have just turned 50, and their next plan is to open up a France and England section, but with no room left in the current warehouse, they’ve submitted plans to do so in its sister building across the canal. That’ll mean a bridge between the two, but that also brings the model makers up against a new obstacle: Speicherstadt’s UNESCO World Heritage status.

So the next chapter in its development starts with UNESCO versus Miniatur Wunderland, something of a David and Goliath battle. There’s probably a model in that.





Miniatur Wunderland is clearly a hugely, and maybe unexpectedly, successful enterprise.





THE DREAM CRUISE

A floating city, an entertainment centre on the sea, a Broadway in the middle of the ocean - that's what the new Norwegian Bliss is all about. But wait, there's more. Now you can immerse yourself in the luxury that even Titanic passengers couldn't dream of.

Somewhere between Mexico and Barbados there is a city-state that can be reached by anyone eager to make their dreams come true.

TITANIC'S YOUNGER BROTHER

Launched in 2018, the Norwegian Bliss cruise liner is like a small metropolis. This huge 330-metre long ship can accommodate more than 4,000 passengers plus 1,500 members of the crew doing their best to cater to all your whims. Not impressed? What if I say that it has 20 decks and more than... 2,000 passenger cabins? The designers of the legendary Titanic couldn't even dream of such numbers. In addition to classic cabins and those with the balcony, Norwegian Bliss offers rooms with a lounge, a spacious terrace and deck chairs. Located at the stern,

the rooms guarantee perfect views and unforgettable sunsets and sunrises. But even the most luxury accommodation won't keep you in your room (or cabin) for too long, because the ship is packed with numerous other attractions, too.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Norwegian Bliss has 27 restaurants and 14 bars, where you can order almost any spirit available on Earth or the most exquisite cocktail you can only imagine. Well-trained bartenders can create literally anything, using a shaker, a glass, fine alcohol and several other ingredients. Even if you aren't sure what you like, those "cocktail wizards" will concoct a drink that will spark you up. In between the aperitif and the last drink of the day, passengers can choose from



Norwegian Bliss is simply an amusement park and a spa all in one, interspersed with numerous restaurants and bars. A dream come true spot for gourmets.



excellent restaurants serving specialties from around the world - from fish & chips or seafood, to exquisite lamb chop served on mashed potatoes along with blanched vegetables. Such a meal can not only be a feast for the palate, but also for the eyes, because windows some of the restaurants overlook the open sea. So... dig in and enjoy the views. The sun setting over the horizon and its distorted reflection in the vast ocean waters are an ideal visual addition to the exquisite dinner, with waiters in close attendance.

ENTERTAINMENT WITH A VIEW

But the new Norwegian Bliss is not only about luxury cabins, best cocktails and fancy dishes. After all this wining and dining, you can always pop into a jacuzzi or go for a swim in a pool, visit the on-site spa, the bowling alley or slide down water chutes. Not interested? What about a round of black jack or an exciting poker game in the casino? And if you are into more hair-raising activities, you can always visit the world's only go-kart race track located on a ship. Not only is the track unique due to its unusual location, but also because it spreads over two decks of the vessel. Races here are held under the watchful eye of a race steward, and are truly a one-of-a-kind entertainment. If you want, you can race your rivals somewhere in the middle of the Caribbean Sea - surrounded only by its vast waters.

You can also play a team "war game", equipped with a laser paintball gun. Those thrilling and adrenaline-boosting competitions are held in a large scale mock-up of a futuristic city. After all this madness and yet another visit to an onboard eatery to recharge your batteries, it's time for a real Broadway show. Watching the Tony Award-winning musical "Jersey Boys" - one of the longest running shows in Broadway history - is a truly enjoyable experience.

Sports enthusiasts who love early morning jogging, can take the 700-metre long "scenic route" that runs along the ship's sides. And if you want to relax with your favourite book while having a pleasurable sunbath, you can choose from hundreds of deck chairs set on the highest decks. Norwegian Bliss is simply an amusement park and a spa all in one, interspersed with numerous restaurants and bars. It's also a dream come true spot for gourmets and a paradise for children. And at the end of the day, when you have tried it all and still can't get enough, you can always pop into a club for an all-night party with delicious cocktails and music that makes your feet shuffle.

Aleksander Grzybowski



This huge 330-metre long ship can accommodate more than 4,000 passengers plus 1,500 members of the crew doing their best to cater to all your whims.





UNDER THE SHADOW OF ORTLER

South Tyrolean hospitality, closeness to nature, magnificent historic sites and winter attractions of the Italian Alps available to tourists also in summer. A holiday spent in Val Venosta valley is never a bad choice. Especially, if you stay at Hof am Schloss.

As our base for a short stay of few days we chose the Hof am Schloss farm with a majestic castle situated in a tiny and quiet village of Lichtenberg, next to Prad am Stilferjoch. Its owners, Manuela and Florian along with their four children have lived here for many years, regularly adding more attractions to the place. Suffice it to say that the apartments they offer are in perfect condition, feature spacious terraces and provide maximum comfort and intimacy.

PEOPLE AND NATURE

Hof am Schloss is an ideal spot to connect with nature. The eggs served for breakfast come from free range chickens, milk and yoghurt from cows reared on site, bacon from the hosts' own pigs and honey from on-site hives. You could say that the Hof am Schloss is for agritourism like the official measure of kilogram stored in Sevres – it can't be more perfect than this. While the farm's goats and donkeys are extremely popular with children, adults are far more interested in the small on-site cheese and

bacon factory, because Manuel and Florian take care of every aspect of your stay. After an active day, you can climb the nearby peak and rock with a medieval castle and an impressive view of the Venosta Valley. Sipping a glass of your delicious home-made wine in an abandoned castle courtyard is certainly worth the sin.

Hof am Schloss is a member of the Roter Hahn association. The organization, whose name means 'Red Rooster', brings together more than 1800 farms in South Tyrol and Alto Adige. Initially, Italian farms offered very cheap accommodation, because their standards were low. Today, more than 30 years later, the Roter Hahn is the hallmark of quality and the member farms often specialize in selected attractions, such as production of wine, cheese or fruit and vegetable preserves, animal breeding or horse riding activities. In short: each affiliated farm must offer no more than five suites or eight rooms (no mass tourism). They are also subject to a rigorous evaluation and similarly to hotels, have their own rating that ranges from 1 to 5 flowers.

GLORENZA, THE GEM OF ARCHITECTURE

You must definitely pay a visit to Glorenza (Glurns) - one of the smallest towns in Europe, which was granted its charter at the turn of the 13th and 14th centuries. The town is inhabited by just 900 people, and it literally oozes history. The old part of Glorenza is surrounded by medieval walls and to get inside you need to find one of several historic gates.

Unwinding under large bay windows and facades offering a lot of shade is a truly unforgettable experience. Visit Tea Salon, a charming place to relax, and exchange a few words with Traude Horvath, an Austrian woman who moved to South Tyrol several years ago and now she and her husband pick local herbs, preparing her own tea blends, which she then serves to her guests.

And if you feel somewhat hungry, you can always head for Birkenhof farm, where the Hilber family serves heavenly dumplings in various flavours. And don't you worry about their high calorie content, because you can always burn it all later by... skiing down Paso Stelvio.



PASSO STELVIO AND SOLDA FOR CYCLISTS AND SKIERS

An absolute must have during your stay in this part of South Tyrol, is a visit to Passo Stelvio (Stilsferjoch), which is one of the highest paved mountain passes in European Alps, and the highest of eastern Alps. You can drive here to the impressive altitude of 2,760 metres above sea level, passing the charming Trafoi and several dozen blood-curdling mountain bends along the way.

Note that, depending on the weather conditions, the pass that takes you all the way down to the Italian town of Bormio or to Switzerland, is open from late spring to early autumn, usually from May to October.

This one of the most famous mountain roads in Europe was built in the times of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its route hasn't changed for more than a hundred years. Reserve an hour to get to the top, because with the sharp turns and hairpins for most of the trip you need to drive 20-30 kmph in second gear. But it's not the only reason why you shouldn't hurry, the other one being picturesque views of the surrounding three-thousanders, including the range of Ortler - the highest peak in the Italian Eastern Alps (3,905 m above sea level).

Passo Stelvio is also a mecca for mountain bikers, considered to be one of the most demanding climbs in Europe.

There are several hotels located on the pass and, most importantly, the lower terminal of the Passo Stelvio aerial tramway, taking tourists to the top of the glacier - one of the biggest summer attractions of the area. The infrastructure here may not be top notch (there are mostly t-bar lifts), but never



mind this; what counts is that Passo Stelvio is one of only few European glaciers where you can ski even in summer.

SUMMER SKIING

Almost 15 kilometres of perfectly groomed ski runs is more than enough to guarantee a day or two of unexpected fun in the middle of summer. Not to mention that at that time of the year the glacier is the training ground for top national Alpine skiing teams, which poses a great opportunity to get an autograph from one of the world's best skiers.

And when the summer season comes to an end and the road to Passo Stelvio is closed (usually with the first snowfall), another glacier in Sulda (Sulden) opens in the area for the autumn/spring season. It's a very exciting for all those who love skiing in intimate, almost private conditions, without thousands of loud teenagers practising apres-ski activities. A gondola takes you here from the lower terminal at 1,900 metres up to 3,250 m. The 44 kilometres of pistes are served here by a total of 11 ropeways, mostly chairlifts.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Hof am Schloss farm
Schlossweg 11, 39026 Lichtenberg
Prad am Stilfserjoch
Italy
www.hof-am-schloss.com
Roter Hahn – Farms of the South Tyrol
www.roterhahn.pl
Solda glacier ski centre (Sulden)
www.seilbahnsulden.it

Filip Gawryś

THE PERFECT SILHOUETTE



Body shaping with the help of aesthetic medicine aims at improving the appearance of the skin, reducing cellulite, improving the figure and, in consequence, the proportions of the whole body.

Contemporary lifestyle is becoming increasingly sedentary. We eat meals on the go, our dinners are too sumptuous, we suffer from chronic stress and don't have time for any physical activity. As a result, it becomes increasingly difficult to retain the perfect silhouette. Luckily, there are some ways to counteract those changes in the shape of your body.

As we all know it, the best recipe for healthy and slim body is physical activity. Well, lots of it. However, there are situations where the body is taking an undesirable shape and you, overwhelmed by professional challenges, can't deal with the problem in an appropriate manner.

BODY SHAPING

Body shaping with the help of aesthetic medicine is aimed at improving the appearance of the skin, reducing cellulite, improving the figure and, in consequence, the proportions of the whole body. Especially effective are A Procell (anti-cellulite) and A Probody (for body

shaping) treatments, using the "thermistor-controlled subdermal skin tightening" method. The is used in conjunction with a miniature probe thermistor, which is inserted under the skin using local anaesthesia to heat the subcutaneous tissue to a pre-set target temperature. During this procedure the body temperature is monitored and regulated by the computer system. In addition, with advanced temperature monitoring, the physician receives a real-time picture of the temperature of the epidermis, which guarantees the precision of the heating effect while maintaining safety.

REDUCE WEIGHT

"Bariatric surgery also guarantees a truly spectacular weight loss," says Dr Elżbieta Radzikowska, the owner of Radzikowska Clinic. "It's presently the most effective method for long-term treatment of obesity, reducing body weight and, above all, the volume of fat tissue," she explains.

The excess skin and fat from the middle and lower abdomen can also be effectively corrected

by abdominoplasty, popularly called the "tummy tuck". During the procedure the surgeon can remove several skinfolds, moves the navel, and, if necessary, strengthens the abdominal muscles by using appropriate seams or by implanting the so-called "nets" that reinforce the abdominal wall.

"During the abdominal plastic surgery, the skinfold is removed from the lower part of the abdomen. We also often perform plastic surgery of the abdominal muscles, removing their stretch and hernias. In some cases, abdominal surgery is also combined with liposuction. The incision is made in the lower part of the lower abdomen to hide the scar," says Dr Radzikowska.

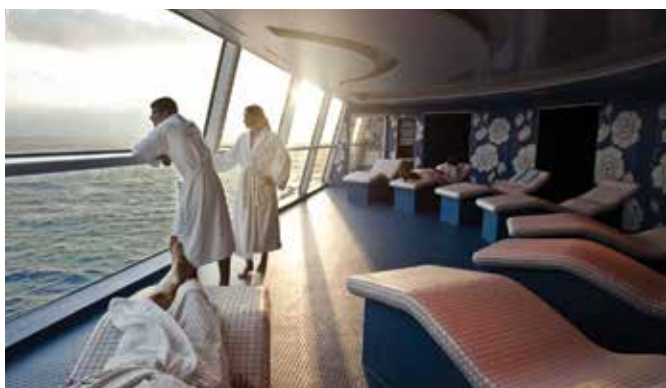
S PRObody is a non-invasive method aimed at firming and rejuvenating the skin. With the use of radio waves of very high frequencies the therapist heats up the deep layers of the skin (deep dermis). This leads to breaking down collagen bonds, which in turn stimulates enhanced recovery of collagen fibres. radzikowskaclinic.pl



www.celebritycruises.pl

ul. Tamka 16, lok.4, 00-349 Warszawa

tel. 004822 455 38 48





GAME, SET AND WATCH

Patek Philippe reminds the world it's a serious player in the "sports-luxe" league with new Nautilus and Aquanaut models.

At Baselworld, the watch industry's largest annual fair, there are two stands that draw a constant crowd from the moment the turnstiles open: Rolex, and Patek Philippe. Eve-

ryone from extravagantly tailored European executives to athleisure-clad Instagram influencers flock to see what creations these two have released. Many raise their phones hypnotically to the two-storey screens show-

ing images of the same watches in lavish detail, snapping away without breaking step.

Patek Philippe – Swiss, 179 years old this year, and without doubt the most prestigious watch brand at the show – revealed

two watches that reinforce its presence in the “sports-luxe” arena: the Nautilus Perpetual Calendar (also called the 5740; Patek nerds refer to models by their four-digit references) and the Aquanaut Chronograph (ref. 5968). If “sports-luxe” conjures up images of men awkwardly attempting to play tennis in a suit or suchlike, worry not. The entire watch industry’s use of the phrase “sports watch” to describe anything that is relatively sturdy of form and cased in stainless steel (or these days, titanium, carbon fibre, or ceramic) dates back to the 1950s and 60s, when that kind of thing was used for practical purposes. Then at the start of the 1970s, the Italian market expressed a demand for something a bit more refined that you could still wear to the beach, and “sports-luxe” was born with the likes of the Royal Oak, the Laureato, Vacheron Constantin’s 222 and – in 1976 – the Patek Philippe Nautilus. The Aquanaut, a tilt at a yet-sportier, younger and more “entry-level” (such things are relative) market, appeared in 1997.

SPECIALIST IN ALL STYLES

Part of the Patek Philippe magic is the brand’s ability to wear multiple guises. For many, it exudes old-school elegance and



craftsmanship of the highest order, expressed via perpetual calendars, split-second monopusher chronographs (with one button for start, stop and re-set), and minute repeaters (watches that chime the minute on request, using tiny hammers and gongs). At the same time, there is a totally separate Patek Philippe customer for whom it is all about the Nautilus, now, forever and always. Here, to an extent, those two worlds collide, as Patek Philippe equips the Nautilus with a perpetual calendar movement for the first time this year. It’s a combination that might sound bizarre on the face of it – a so-called sporty design with the most conservative, classical movement inside – but Patek Philippe’s perpetual calendars are so highly regarded (the brand was the first to use the function in a wristwatch, in 1925) and the Nautilus shape so spot-on that this was always going to be something of a holy grail watch.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Thankfully, Patek has not bungled this hybrid design. The limited edition pieces brought out to mark the Nautilus’s 40th anniversary in 2016 were politely criticised as being somewhat overstated – with the embossed text “1976 - 40 - 2016” writ large across the centre of the dial. But here the execution is delicate, adeptly marrying the dense display of information with the strong horizontal striping common to all Nautiluses. The date display is slightly larger than the others (day of the week and 24-hour dial at 9 o’clock; month and leap year at 3 o’clock), and the correctors to adjust everything have been smartly integrated into the 8.4mm thick case so as to leave no unsightly protuberances. To emphasise its status at the top of the Nautilus family, it is cased in solid white gold, including the bracelet and clasp that – happily – Patek Philippe has reengineered to reduce the chance of it falling off your wrist. It has a retail price of £91,150, but if you were by some miracle to have one in your possession, there are probably buyers who would hand over double

that on the spot, such is the waiting list and their rarity.

Should you be infatuated with the Nautilus’s elliptical shape and yet struggling to lay your hands on nearly a hundred grand right away, the brand still has something for you. For a mere £33,510, you can get your name on the waiting list for the reference-numbered 5968A-001 Aquanaut chronograph. It’s the first time a chronograph has graced Patek Philippe’s less expensive range – and it’s an in-house flyback (while timing, the second hand will at the press of the 4 o’clock pusher fly back instantly to zero and recommence timing all in one action).

BRIGHT COLOURS

What really seals the deal for me with the 5968 is the design. The Seventies-inspired match of brown and orange on the dial is enough to make it stand out, but the real punch comes in the orange rubber strap, supplied as an optional extra with the standard black. By the standards of such an august manufacture, that’s not just loosening one’s tie, it’s wrapping it around your head and jumping fully clothed into the nearest marble pool – and I respect them all the more for it.

Chris Hall



4 HOURS IN... MARRAKECH

There is so much to see in this medieval Moroccan city, it pays to know where to go if you are exploring with limited time



BAHIA PALACE

Start your journey at one of the city's crowning architectural glories – a spectacular 19th-century palace once home to the wives and concubines of the Grand Vizier to the sultan. Spanning eight hectares, the 150-room riad is a maze of interconnected harems, adorned with vibrant mosaics and cedar wood archways embellished with Quranic verses and Berber designs. In the courtyards, ferns, banana plants and orange trees flourish, while slender pathways lead visitors into the high-ceilinged halls. It's

worth investing in a city guide who knows the key attractions well if you've got limited time to explore.
palais-bahia.com

THE SOUKS

Head north and you'll stumble into a labyrinth of terracotta-coloured alleyways inlaid with haphazardly assembled market stalls. This is where you'll find some of the best shopping in North Africa. The stall owners tout everything from leather bags and jewellery to scarves and

slippers, plus Moroccan-inspired iterations of the latest fashion from the high street. Native to Morocco, argan oil is also sold in bulk here, though much of what you'll see won't be good quality – head instead to Assouss Argane on Rue Mouassine, which sells quality-regulated creams, serums and oils for use on the skin and hair. In the souk, haggling is sport, and shopkeepers know how much their pieces fetch elsewhere. Playful banter can go a long way, but never pay more than 50 per cent of the asking price.

LE JARDIN SECRET

After an hour's bartering you'll feel like you need a cool drink. Head to Café Sahrij at Le Jardin Secret for a pick-me-up in this oasis of lush greenery, water features and pavilions spread across a complex dating back 400 years. Built by the 16th-century Sultan Moulay 'Abd-Allah, the gardens fell into disrepair in the early 20th century, reopening in 2016 after a decade of restoration. Today, they thrive with tropical foliage, cacti and flowering plants alongside gurgling fountains originally used for bathing before prayer. Order a pot of mint tea and the tarte du jour from Le Jardin's outdoor café and enjoy the sun on your face away from the chaotic medina outside. There's a Dhs 50 (£4) entrance fee to the garden.

lejardinsecretmarrakech.com

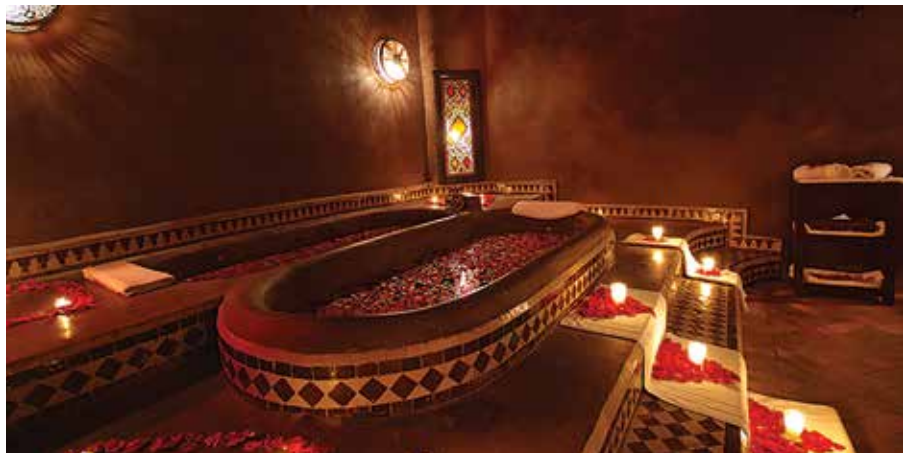


LES BAINS DE MARRAKECH

No trip to Marrakech is complete without a visit to a hammam. A common tradition in the Islamic world, the Moroccan ritual uses a clay known locally as ghassoul, taken from the Atlas mountains and combined with natural oils to soften the skin before being scrubbed off with a rough mitt. There are a number of these spas dotted across the Medina (walled part of the old town), but they vary in standard. If you're after guaranteed luxury and faultless service, head to Les Bains de Marrakech, a 20-minute-walk south of Le Jardin, where you can unwind in a soaking tub strewn with rose petals before your treatment. If you've just got an hour, opt for the 45-minute hammam (£17), which you can combine with an algae wrap for the same price.

lesbainsdemarrakech.com

No trip to Marrakech is complete without a visit to a hammam
- a common tradition in the Islamic world.



MUSÉE YVES SAINT LAURENT

Launched last October, this tribute to the pioneering French designer has raised Marrakech's cultural profile. Yves Saint Laurent fell in love with the city after his first visit in 1966, and shortly after bought a holiday home where he would spend a month each year working on his haute couture collections. He credited the city with much of his sartorial inspiration for decades to follow. Designed by Studio KO, the museum chronicles Saint Laurent's life from his early days as creative director of Christian Dior to his retirement show in 2002, featuring a display of 50 defining garments alongside sketches, photography and video that give insight to his life and career. Don't miss the spectacular portraits of Catherine Deneuve.

museeyslmarakech.com





ASK PETER

Letters

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

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

Mail your question to: redakcja@businessstraveller.pl

Additional insurance

I'm going to rent a car in France. I can only use the services of one specific rental company that my firm has signed a contract with. I have tried to ask them what insurance cover we have in the event of an accident, but I haven't received a clear answer. There are a lot of tourists in the south of France and lots of them are careless drivers. What additional insurance should I buy?

Roman

Dear Roman,

Your company's corporate contract signed with the rental company has favourable rental rates, but it's quite basic as regards the insurance coverage. Although the basic fee for renting a car is very competitive, the final rental price depends on the type of insurance chosen.

Your rate includes only compulsory third party insurance and, to a very limited extent, own damage insurance, with a fairly high deductible of €1,500. It doesn't include additional options, such as broken windows, damage to wheels, tyres and bodywork, or e.g. emergency fuel delivery assistance. In addition, a deposit of between €1000 and €3000 is required, depending on the type of car you are renting. The deposit is non-refundable in the event of an accident or damage to the vehicle and is credited towards claim adjustments.

I always suggest buying the comprehensive (full) insurance package, which is an essential part of the rental service and should guarantee full protection in the event of any misfortune. It's not a good idea to save on such expenses. I certainly recommend you purchase the collision damage waiver, which removes your responsibility for damage to a hire car whilst you are hiring it, as well as travel assistance insurance covering legal aid (especially important abroad). The additional fee can range from about €100 to €200 per week, but it's incomparably lower than the amount of the deductible. For details on insurance coverage, you should consult your company's administrative department. Many corporations don't pay enough attention to the scope of insurance coverage, and contracts with rental companies are often reviewed only after the fact (a collision or any other accident). Additional insurance options should be offered at the time of signing the rental agreement.

Promotional hotel rates

I have a problem with booking a room in a hotel. Our travel agency has made a reservation for three nights in New York. The first night for US\$416, the other two for US\$525. I'd like to point out that we have a valid contract with the hotel and a price guarantee. Now I need to modify the reservation from three to two nights, but it turns out that in such a case each night will cost us US\$602. Why has the price risen so much? Can the travel agent set it "willy-nilly"? Some time ago I booked a stay in another hotel in NY, and even with later changes to the reservation, the price stayed the same.

Ewa

Dear Ewa,

You made the reservation three months in advance. The hotel confirmed the promotional rate, not the corporate rate, based on the forecasted demand. Hotel chains, just like the airlines, use a dynamic price management system. That's why, prices depend on many factors, such as the planned occupancy, the current season, day of the week, special events (conferences, congresses, political events or group block reservations).

The rate that was originally confirmed is valid for a stay of minimum three days. If this is not the case, the hotel may apply a different rate, usually a higher one. The reservation system then cancels the original reservation and checks the rates available at the time of modification. It's more or less as if you were booking the room again. The promotional rate is no longer available, and you don't meet the condition for a minimum stay required. You were offered a different price from the offer that doesn't contain any additional conditions. Your corporate rate, which has been contracted for the whole year, doesn't require a reservation well in advance. It's available even one day before the arrival, there is no requirement for a minimum stay and it allows you to cancel your reservation until 6 pm on the day of arrival. Such conditions are very favourable, but the price is, unfortunately, higher than the previous promotional offer.

Smaller hotels that don't use advanced booking systems are free to make changes to their reservations. You didn't have any problems with modifying your previous reservation, because you had booked a room at a standard rate that didn't have any special stipulations.



BOSCH
Technologia. Inżynieria. Życie.

Sekrety przedłużania świeżości

♥ VitaFresh ♥

Ozłójd nowym lodówkiem z systemem VitaFresh i na miesiąc przedłużyś świeżość żywności do 3x dłużej. Dlatego nie musisz się martwić, kiedy przetrzymasz w lodówce świeżość produktów na tygodnie.

Bosch. Właśnie to jest. Właśnie to jest. Dlatego nie musisz się martwić, kiedy przetrzymasz w lodówce świeżość produktów na tygodnie.





**Wznieś się wyżej
z dwuosobową Radą Doradców**

Study Journal required, unless otherwise indicated under each listed discipline. Consultation with the Coordinator in the appropriate subject is highly recommended. The following list is intended to serve as a guiding principle.

Index

100

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

