

Business Traveller ^{Poland}

DECEMBER 2018/ JANUARY 2019 N° 12/2018-1/2019 (99) 9,60 PLN (8% VAT included)

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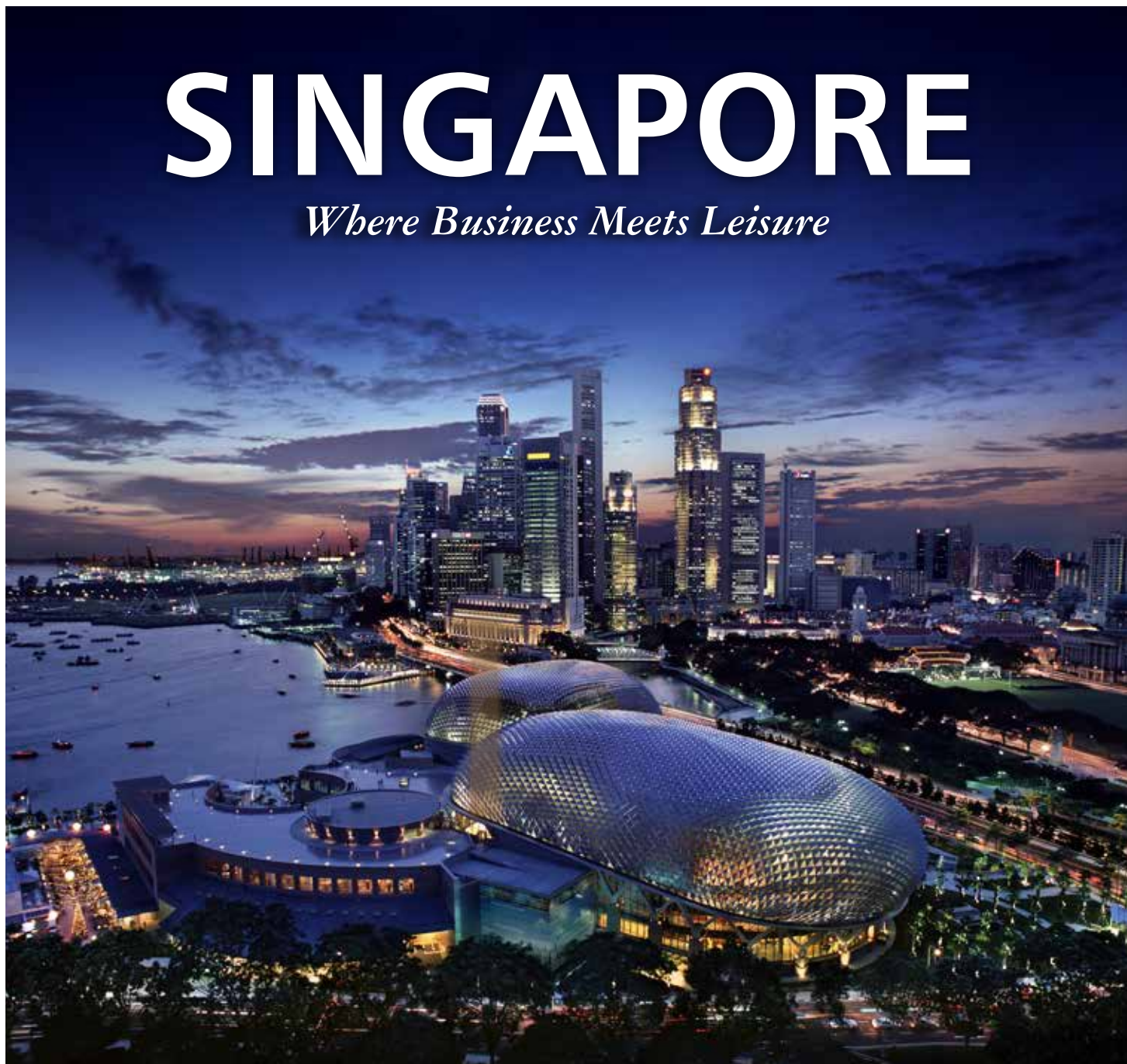
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NEW YEAR ON THE GO

With the imminent New Year, travellers look forward to new, exciting journeys. This is also a perfect time to ask yourself a few serious questions. Are you, perhaps, bored of travelling? Or do you sometimes feel slightly fed up with long-haul flights, frequent business trips, hours spent at airports, time zone changes and consequent jet lags? My answer is always the same: I'm never tired of travelling as long as I'm well prepared to my trip and I've organized it myself. I hope that you will find the info we collect for you while travelling around the world, useful when preparing to your next business trip in the oh-so-exciting 2019. I wish you numerous interesting travels, though for most of us they are our day-to-day reality.

In this issue I especially recommend our cover article, inviting you to visit one of the most remarkable countries in Asia and a real mecca for businesspeople - the city-state of Singapore. Conveniently located at the centre of Southeast Asia's air and sea lanes and naturally positioned as a gateway between Eastern and Western cultures, Singapore is an ideal home to many of the world's leading companies. Changi International, the eight-time winner of the Skytrax Award for the world's best airport, plays a crucial role here, linking Singapore to some 400 cities in 99 countries by 120 airlines.

You will find out about numerous exciting options Singapore has for MICE organizers, as well as leisure travellers.

On behalf of the entire editorial staff and the publisher, I would like to wish you a wonderful, successful and passionate New Year 2019.

Marzena Mróz

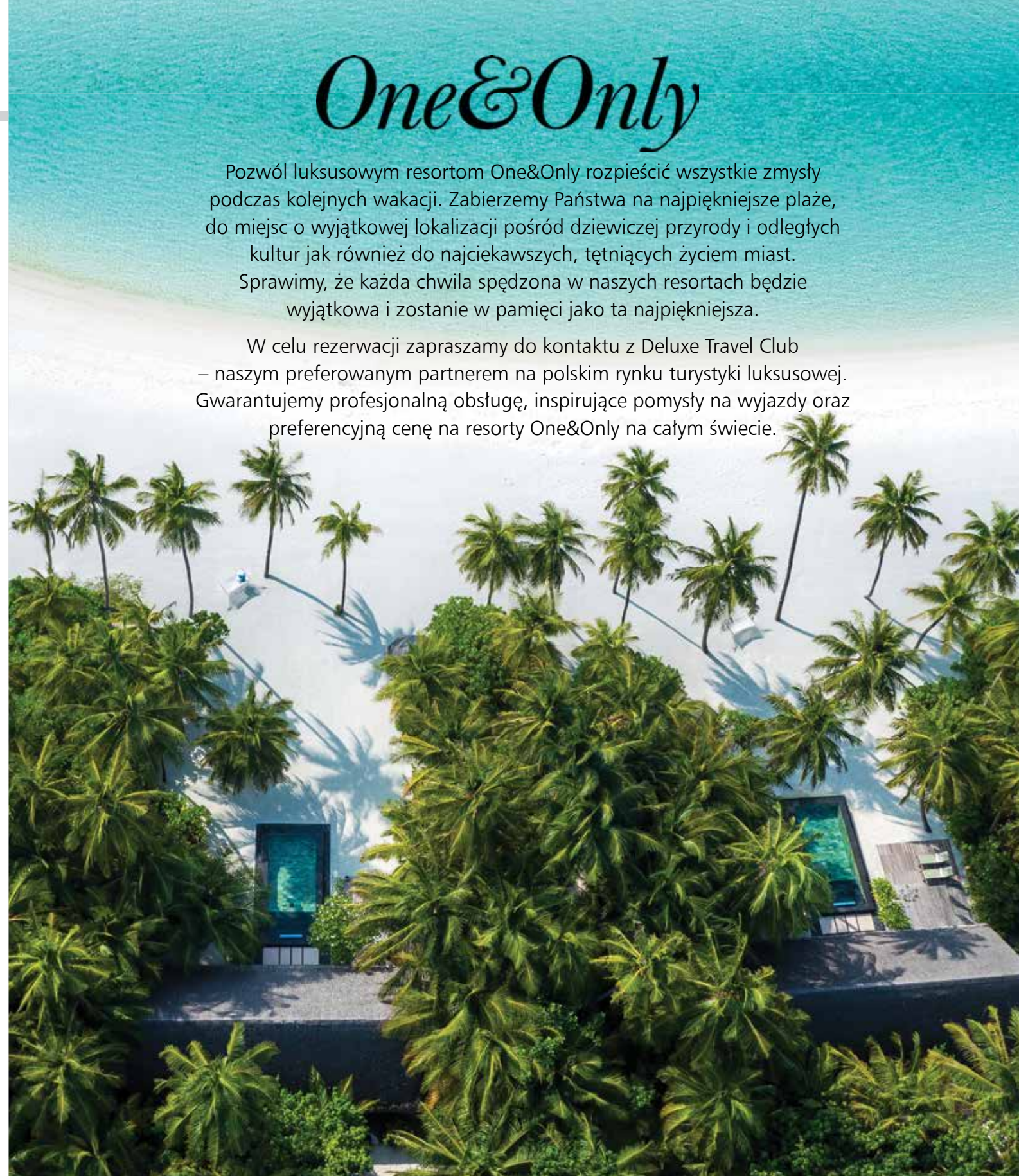
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W celu rezerwacji zapraszamy do kontaktu z Deluxe Travel Club – naszym preferowanym partnerem na polskim rynku turystyki luksusowej. Gwarantujemy profesjonalną obsługę, inspirujące pomysły na wyjazdy oraz preferencyjną cenę na resorty One&Only na całym świecie.



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KLM WILL FLY TO WROCLAW

The Royal Dutch Airlines have announced the launch of a new service to Poland. From 6 May 2019, KLM aircraft will begin scheduled flights on the Wrocław - Amsterdam - Wrocław route seven times a week. As a result, passengers based in Lower Silesia will gain access to the global network of the Dutch carrier via the Amsterdam Schiphol hub. Wrocław is the fourth Polish city, after Warsaw, Cracow and Gdańsk, to give passengers access to the vast flight network of the Dutch carrier offered via the popular Amsterdam airport. Also the KLM's partner airline Air France offers regular services departing the capital of Lower Silesia, launched just a half year ago. Following the inauguration of the new KLM service, the joining offer of Air France and KLM will comprise a total of 91 flights a week to/from Polish airports, which is a 90 percent increase over three years. The new connection will be launched in the historic year for KLM, as in 2019 the Dutch carrier will celebrate its centenary.

New Best Western hotels

Best Western brand has currently 19 properties in Poland and two more are planned to join the chain soon. The first one is the new four-star Best Western Premier Hotel City Center in Wrocław, which will welcome its first guests at the beginning of March 2019. It's already possible to book rooms in that property via Best Western reservation channels. Best Western Premier Hotel City Center is a cosy, eight-storey hotel, which due to its convenient location in the city centre, at the corner of Gwarna and Piłsudskiego streets, will be a convenient base for both business and leisure travellers. The property offers 64 rooms, a restaurant and mo-

dern conference facilities. One of the hotel walls is adorned with a mural designed by Katarzyna Radek, a student of the Academy of Fine Arts. It was painted on the gable wall of the building, next to the characteristic "Dobry wieczór we Wrocławiu" neon sign, welcoming travellers who leave the Central Railway Station. Another new Polish Best Western property is being prepared in Rzeszów, under the Best Western Premier sub-brand. Its interiors are characterized by unique style, lightness of architecture and original design. Best Western Premier Principle will offer 27 DeLux rooms. All come with a LED TV, a telephone, a safe, free wifi, individually controlled air conditioning, as well as the comfortable queen size beds. The property also has a spacious conference centre and an underground garage.



Best Western Premier Hotel City Center



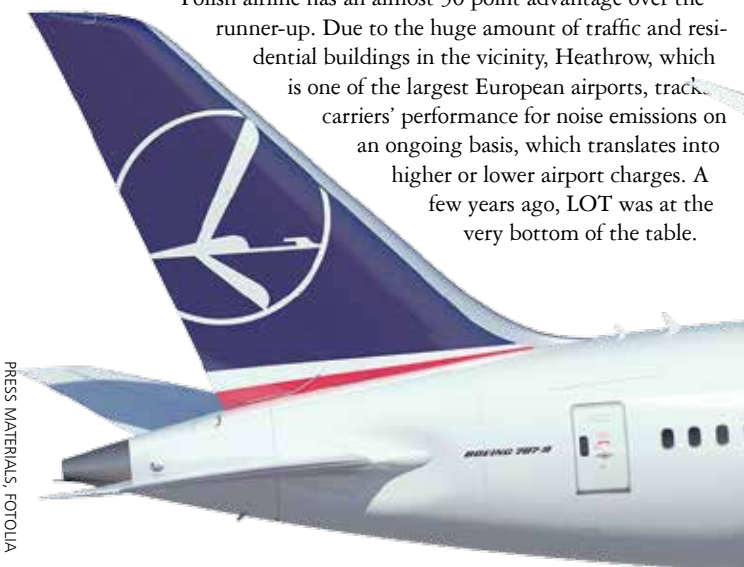
AURORA BOREALIS DANCES IN WINTER

The Northern Lights (also called Aurora Borealis) can be observed in Iceland from September to March. You can see it on a clear night and at high solar activity. The Northern Lights are caused by the solar wind, which uses the curving of the magnetic field around the poles to get closer to the Earth's atmosphere. Its charged (ionised) particles collide with the particles of air. This reaction produces light. When it happens, the sky is filled with huge ribbon-like formations that change their shapes and colours. Icelanders say that Aurora dances, and indeed, it very much resembles a flame, dancing in the northern sky.

LOT IS THE QUIETEST CARRIER

LOT Polish Airlines has topped the list of the quietest airlines operating at London Heathrow Airport! The Polish carrier is reported to emit the least noise of all airlines present at the airport. It's mainly possible thanks to modern Boeing B737 MAX 8 aircraft and a precise landing technique that Polish pilots have mastered. The FlyQuiet list published by Heathrow for the third quarter of this year, ranks LOT Polish Airlines in the first place (with 945 points) among 50 carriers that fly regularly to Heathrow airport. This is LOT's best result ever recorded in the history of Fly Quiet ranking. The

Polish airline has an almost 30 point advantage over the runner-up. Due to the huge amount of traffic and residential buildings in the vicinity, Heathrow, which is one of the largest European airports, tracks carriers' performance for noise emissions on an ongoing basis, which translates into higher or lower airport charges. A few years ago, LOT was at the very bottom of the table.



PRESS MATERIALS, FOTOLIA



IN THE SHADOW OF MATTERHORN

Winter in Switzerland usually means the perfect weather and equally ideal skiing conditions. If you are planning a winter getaway to Helvetia, you might want to visit Zermatt, one of the most charming towns situated in the canton of Valais at 1610 metres, at the foot of the Matterhorn, the sixth highest mountain in the Alps. For environmental reasons it's only available for vehicles powered by electric motors. The ski area surrounding Zermatt includes more than 60 cable cars and ski lifts, which will take ski aficionados to over

300 kilometres of different types of pistes. The most popular ski areas are Sunnegga-Rothorn Paradise, Gornergrat-Stockhorn and Schwarzsee-Matterhorn Glacier Paradise. One of the biggest attractions in Zermatt is the Gornergrat mountain (3,089 metres) and the Gornergratbahn rack railway that takes skiers to its peak. There you can enjoy a beautiful panorama of Matterhorn surrounded by numerous four-thousanders, as well as the Gorner glacier. The view is described as one of the world's seven tourist wonders.



IDEAS FOR PRESENTS

It's time to buy Christmas and New Year gifts. If you feel completely overwhelmed by the task, why don't you buy your loved ones a useful gadget from Sephora. Sophisticated cosmetics offered by this brand are never a bad choice for a Christmas present. A great idea for a surprise gift are the Advent calendars containing over 20 small gifts, including masks, capsules with shower cream, wipes for express eye make-up removal, velvet lipstick, nail polish, pocket mirror or a six-layer nail file. This year Sephora offers a wide range of perfumes both for her and for him. Other great Christmas present ideas include originally designed eye shadow palettes, eyebrow care and shape kits, bath cosmetics, creams, lotions and miniature versions of products that you can take with you on a journey; sephora.pl



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WORDS MARZENA MRÓZ



Conveniently located at the centre of Southeast Asia's air and sea lanes, and naturally positioned as a gateway between Eastern and Western cultures, Singapore is an ideal home to many of the world's leading companies. It is also Asia's most competitive country according to World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2018, and ranks as the world's second easiest place to do business (Doing Business 2018 report).

businesstraveller.pl

SINGAPORE

WHERE BUSINESS MEETS LEISURE

One of the world's most fascinating countries, Singapore is a gateway to the Asia-Pacific region. It is also a leading, world-class business city and MICE destination, offering extensive infrastructure, multicultural experiences and world-class entertainment. It is here where you can feel the pulse of the modern Asia.



JEWEL CHANGI AIRPORT

Changi International, the nine-time winner of the Skytrax Award for the world's best airport, plays a crucial role in Singapore's dynamic development, linking the city-state to some 400 cities in 90 countries by more than 120 air carriers.

In 2019, the airport will receive a new mixed-use complex called Jewel Changi Airport. Spanning ten storeys, the complex will include 300 retail and dining facilities, as well as a range of unique attractions, such as the Rain Vortex (the world's largest indoor waterfall), the Forest Valley (an indoor garden spanning five storeys), and Canopy Park at the topmost level with gardens and leisure facilities. Also, overlooking the stunning Rain Vortex, Jewel will feature a function space that will accommodate up to 1,000 guests for a cocktail event.

CLIMATE AND LANGUAGES

True to its Southeast Asian location, Singapore is characterised by a hot and humid climate. Located just one degree north of the equator, it enjoys a tropical/equatorial climate. Interestingly, the island does not have clear-cut seasons like summer, spring, autumn and winter.

Singapore is the only country in the Asian region that uses English as in government offices and for business matters, as it is the state's official language.

PASSION MADE POSSIBLE

Singapore has its own "Passion Made Possible" brand, which encapsulates the country's never-settling spirit of enterprise in making passions possible through grit and determination. As part of the campaign in 2017, Singapore Tourism Board introduced the unique concept of Passion Tribes, which looks at connecting your passion with the possibilities of what Singapore has to offer. The tribes are: Foodie, Collector, Explorer and Progressor, Culture Shaper, Socialiser and Action Seeker.

THE EVENTS CALENDAR

Understandably, interests of all the Passion Tribes are abundantly catered for in Singapore. Socializers can attend numerous music festivals and concerts happening in the city all year round, including ZoukOut – a dusk-till-dawn electronic dance music party held at the beginning of December on Sentosa Island, as well as the energetic Baybeats music festival taking place in August.

If you feel an Explorer in you, then you cannot miss on the November light-up ceremony, where the buzzing lifestyle precinct of Orchard Road is transformed into a wonderland of light, sound and colour - all in preparation for coming Christmas. You might also want to attend colourful Chinese New Year celebrations (early in February) and the Mid-Autumn Festival with lantern processions and oh-so-sweet mooncakes. Note that next year marks 200 years of history for Singapore, and the city-state will commemorate its bicentennial with numerous events, including exhibitions organised by the Asian Civilisations Museum, National Museum of Singapore, National Gallery of Singapore, and the showcase exhibition held at the historic Fort Canning Centre.

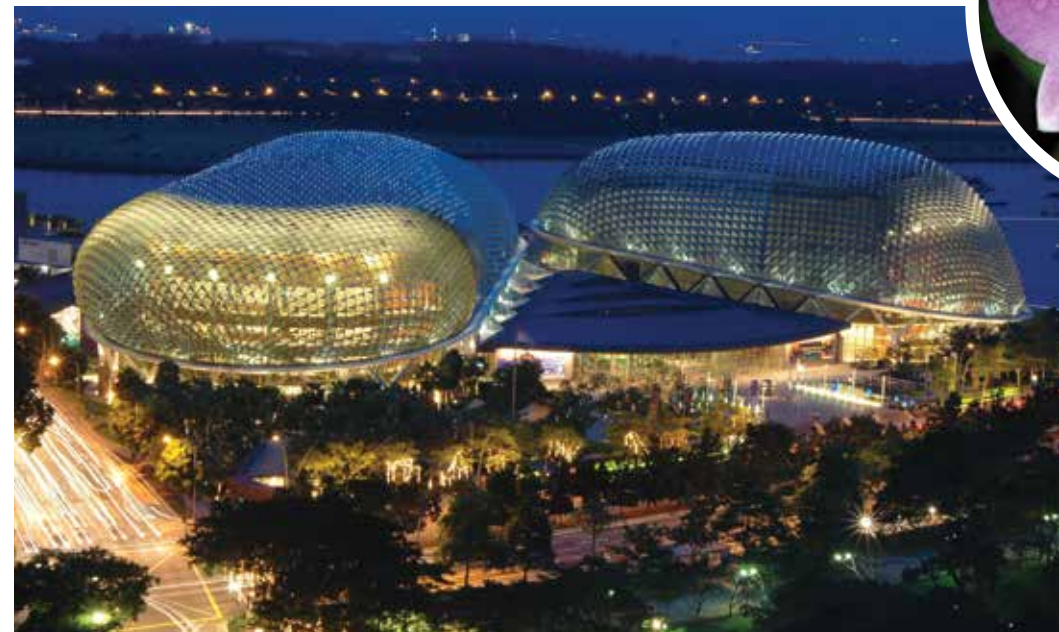
The first half of the year is the period of an increased activity of the Culture Shapers tribe with the Singapore Art Week and the Singapore International Festival of Arts taking place in January and April/May, respectively. Meanwhile, in June and July the Foodies tribe scours the town for the best delicacies in the area at Singapore Food Festival.

Singapore is also a major venue for important and widely acclaimed global business events.

The cultural offer of Singapore is quite comprehensive, and there is something for everyone here.

If you are an Action Seeker, time your trip to Singapore so you get to catch top sporting action at numerous world-class events, such as F1 Singapore Grand Prix at Marina Bay Street Circuit (September), HSBC World Rugby Singapore Sevens (April), and football International Champions Cup (July)

Finally, members of the Progressors tribe come to Singapore all year round to attend numerous business events, including conferences of major and innovative trades (Singapore International Robo Expo, Singapore Fintech Festival, Emtech Asia, Aviation Festival, Renewable Energy Week, Sea Asia, ConneCTechAsia), exhibitions (International Furniture Fair, Tyre Expo, Aviation Festival, Asia Healthcare week Asia, SuperFood Asia), as well as association conventions (Singapore LIVE, Supply Chain Asia Forum).



Singapore has its own "Passion Made Possible" brand, which encapsulates the country's never-settling spirit of enterprise.

SMART NATION

If you want to get a deeper insight into the research, innovation and enterprise that form the fabric of Singapore, you can go on various business-oriented tours to help you understand, why this city-state is on its way to becoming the world's first Smart Nation and innovation hub. On the Singapore City Gallery tour you will find out how Singapore has developed in the past 50 years. NE-Water Visitor Centre Tour is a perfect opportunity to witness first-hand the operation of advanced membrane and ultraviolet technologies that are used to make NEWater – treated used-water that is safe to drink.

FUN AND LEISURE

To unwind you might want to visit the Gardens by the Bay with the 25-50m tall steel structured called Supertrees, whose trunks are covered with orchids, ferns and flowering climbers. The park offers a breath-taking view of the nearby waterfront, and every night there are two free Garden Rhapsody music and light shows in the Supertree Grove. Gardens by the Bay is also home to the world's largest glass greenhouse, the Flower Dome, and the Cloud Forest with the world's highest indoor waterfall.

Other must-visit points of interest in the precinct also include the iconic Esplanade - home of Singapore's performing arts, as well National Gallery, South East Asia's largest display of modern art.

At this time of the year it is also worth paying a visit to the Singapore Zoo. Celebrating its 45th anniversary, this remarkable animal park offers visitors a one-of-a-kind after-dark experience that lights up the rainforest with new sights and sounds. Rainforest Lumina features 10 multimedia interactive zones spread out over one kilometre night walk, offering mesmerizing audio-visual experience designed to build awareness and respect for nature.

BARS

Singapore is by far the best drinking destination in Asia, having racked up five spots on this year's World's 50 →

Best Bars list. The winners include Manhattan at the Regent Hotel Singapore, which has climbed onto the podium clinching the 3rd spot (the highest among Singaporean watering holes). It boasts the world's first in-hotel rickhouse and a remarkable collection of house-made ingredients, accompanied by gourmet bar bites. Operation Dagger (sleek, minimalist décor plus cutting-edge drinks menu) and 28 HongKong Street (a speakeasy-style cocktail joint) have claimed the 23rd and 34th spots respectively, while Atlas, which debuted last year at 15th place, has soared to eighth spot this time round. The bar boasts an excellent selection of cocktails and possibly the widest variety of gin you could get anywhere in the world (there are more than 1,000 brands to choose from). Finally, Native bar offering regional spirits and peculiar ingredients (think foraged ants, for example), has skyrocketed up 34 spots to 13th place.

UNIQUE SPACES

Singapore offers over 1,000 venues, unique event spaces and green venues with versatile facilities. Among the most popular are the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre, Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre and the Singapore EXPO. All of them are suitable for large-scale international exhibitions and conferences, featuring state-of-the-art technology, as well as unique solutions, such as the ImmersiveAV Suite at Suntec, which features holograms and 360 degree projection screens.

Event organizers can also choose from a wide range of unique venues, including ArtScience Museum, Gardens by the Bay, Marina Bay Cruise Centre Singapore, Night Safari (one-of-a-kind 'Evening in the Wild' programme), Singapore Flyer observation wheel and Singapore Sports Hub.

Another unconventional venue that incorporates MICE facilities is the renowned Resorts World Sentosa Singapore. Opened in 2012, it offers delegates unforgettable experiences in several unique venues. These include



Those seeking ultimate relaxation often visit the Gardens by the Bay known for the tall steel structured called Supertrees, whose trunks are covered with orchids, ferns and flowering climbers.



Night safari is one of the most exciting attractions in Singapore.

lude S.E.A. Aquarium, one of the world's largest aquariums, as well as the Maritime Experiential Museum, Singapore's only maritime heritage museum. Universal Studios is yet another fun stop with a variety of venues available for various events, and it is possible to book specific zones or even the entire park.

Other exciting activities available at Resorts World Sentosa include daring obstacle courses at Megazip Adventure Park, indoor skydiving at iFly Singapore or a cruise aboard the stunning four-masted Royal Albatross, the only luxury tall ship of its kind available for charter in Asia. Less active groups can opt for a fun in the sun at the stylish Tanjong Beach club, also renowned for unforgettable beach parties attracting a vibrant crowd.

SUPPORT FOR EVENT PLANNERS

Singapore Exhibition & Convention Bureau (part of Singapore Tourism Board) seeks to encourage the growth of quality events with fresh, exciting and innovative content in the country. Business Events in Singapore (BEiS) is a financial assistance program that has been enhanced to expand possibilities for event planners so they can achieve an unforgettable Singapore MICE experience. The program includes support for content development, marketing and professional fees.

All in all, Singapore offers visitors a cornucopia of leisure experiences, at the same time being a top destination for MICE events.

Meanwhile, the INSPIRE program offered jointly by the Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore Airlines and Changi Airport, is aimed at attracting more meeting and incentive groups from North America and Europe. The program combines attractive group airfares with a choice of complementary theme tours focusing on local culture or a cocktail experience at one of the iconic rooftop bars of Singapore. More details can be found on visitsingapore.com/mice/en/plan-your-event/event-assistance-schemes/#meetings-incentives

Business Events in Singapore (BEiS) is a financial assistance programme for MICE event planners.

A lengthy spit of sand and hollows jutting into the Atlantic, Cape Cod has long been a place of ebb and flow. The landscape itself seems transient, the shores of breezy dunes and freshwater kettle ponds constantly shifting their boundaries. Created from piles of glacial moraine as the last ice sheet receded, its days are numbered; it now has less than 5,000 years to go before the ocean consumes it. But right now, it's New England's holiday destination for visitors of all stripes: non-stop partying weekenders from Boston and New York, beachcombing families from New England, and plutocrats and presidents who jet in from Washington to their compounds — a tradition begun by the Kennedys. Cape Cod and its two islands — Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket — is a place where you come to meet people, but also to escape; to eat the seaside dishes our grandparents ate, but also to push out the boat with some cutting-edge cuisine.

Most striking of all, though, is the light and the scenery; mile after mile of white sand beaches, backed by the bleached-bone white of clapboard houses and weathered cedar shingles. Eventually you get to Provincetown at the very tip, where the Mayflower first landed before moving on and leaving it for the Nauset Indians. The European settlement of the Upper Cape came much later.

"Since the 19th century, American artists, from the amateur to the avant-garde, have been drawn to Provincetown as a site of inspiration," says Christine McCarthy, executive director of the Provincetown Art Association and Museum. "The reasons for that are many and complex, however the lure of the sea and the desire to experience its natural beauty are certainly at the forefront."

"This spit of land serves as a haven for all that is creative and unique, spiking at 100,000 visitors in the summer months, which drops to 3,000 year-round residents during the off season. For those who are lucky enough to call Provincetown home, the off season is magical."

Magical indeed. My first visit was 20 years ago, with a new American girlfriend who wanted to show me her childhood holiday spots. I was bowled over by the beauty of the historic Cape buildings, the dazzling beaches and the chumminess of the locals. We returned the following year. I was introduced to her family. Eventually, we married. We've been going there nearly every year since — most recently with my extended US family — each season exploring something new: the seafood, the craft brewery bars, the cycle tracks, the secluded walks, the islands. We've researched buying a home and moving there, and we may do yet. The winters might be tough, but the summers are long and idyllic, making the Cape hard to resist.

Looking for New England

With its intriguing history, wild natural beauty and excellent food and drink, Cape Cod's appeal is all-embracing

The dramatic red clay Aquinnah Cliffs are one of Martha's Vineyard's must-see tourist attractions

WORDS GUY DIMOND

MODERNISM & BEACH HOMES

Provincetown might be a tourist honeypot during the summer, but its hinterland is still remarkably unspoilt. The Outer Cape, as this furthest reach is called, began attracting summer visitors for its isolation and wild beauty during the 1930s. Momentum grew as Boston bohemians bought land cheaply during the Depression years, and fixed up shacks as summer homes. Then things took a rather different direction in the summer of 1937, when Walter Gropius, founder of Bauhaus and then a recently appointed professor at Harvard University near Boston, stayed on the Cape and hosted a reunion of European émigrés who had fled the Third Reich; he started a trend. This community returned for summer holidays. These modernist architects and artists began building holiday homes on the shores around Wellfleet, while building was relatively unrestricted. Some of these homes have been acquired and carefully restored by the Cape Cod Modern House Trust (ccmht.org), a small charity that rents the properties out by the week during the summer.

"There was a flourishing of innovative modernist architecture, built as experiments. The peak of this was in the 1940s and by the 1970s there were 100 or so modern homes. Many of them survive; some are privately owned, others, like the Trust's, are leased from the National Park Service," says Peter McMahon, founding director of the Cape Cod Modern House Trust.

The pleasures of the Outer Cape are simple yet exquisite; the striking sunsets, swimming in its ponds (freshwater lakes) and hiking in wooded trails along what is now the Cape Cod National Seashore, a huge nature reserve. Follow this northwards and you eventually reach Race Point, with the wild Atlantic and its unforgettable beaches on one side and Provincetown tucked away in the shelter of Cape Cod Bay on the other side.

EXPLORING THE CAPE

Cape Cod's high season is between Memorial Day (the last Monday in May) and the end of July. Provincetown is bold and busy, but there are a score of other towns, all with very different characters, to explore along the length of the Cape. On a map



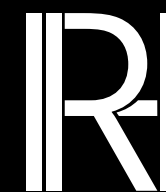
The Outer Cape began attracting summer visitors for its isolation and wild beauty during the 1930s

ABOVE: Stars and Stripes decorate a shingle house in Provincetown, Cape Cod, which was the site of the Mayflower's landing in 1620

GETTING THERE AND AROUND

Boston's Logan airport is the best arrival point. There are hourly buses to Hyannis, transport hub of the Mid Cape, and a good express ferry running to Provincetown. To get to the two main islands, the Steamship Authority runs regular ferry trips for foot passengers from several ports; cars must be booked in advance.

The simplest and best way to explore the Cape is by car; it's a two-hour drive from Logan airport to the port of Hyannis, three or more to Provincetown. Hertz has an airport branch with very fast pick-up and returns when you sign up for the (free) Gold Plus membership. One week's hire via hertz.co.uk costs from around US\$393 (£287).



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For the most impressive historical buildings of all, take the day ferry to the neighbouring island of Nantucket

ABOVE: Main Street in Harwich Port, Cape Cod, offers everything from boutique shops to fine dining

the Cape looks like a raised arm, and the “elbow” is called the Lower Cape; this is where the smart money builds homes in Chatham, Brewster and Harwich. The Lower Cape is also very popular with Boston and New England families renting local homes by the week, having barbecues and roasting s’mores in their backyards. It’s perfect for family holidays, with beaches, summer activities and affordable public golf courses, including Dennis Pines (dennisgolf.com) and Cranberry Valley (cranberryvalley.golf). Most of the Cape’s railways closed down long ago, but the quiet tracks have been converted into some of the best cycle trails you will find anywhere, with smooth surfaces running through the beautiful landscapes, past cranberry bogs and the occasional café and bike hire spot.

The many beaches and walking trails are sensational. Among my favourites are Nauset Beach for its ten miles of unspoilt sand and dunes; Seymour Pond and Long Pond for their swimming; Sandy Neck and Wing’s Island for beach walks; and the many cycle trails around Race Point.

To get a flavour of how it was before the visitor centres and car parks were built, Henry David Thoreau’s book *Cape Cod* describes the wild roses, huckleberries, beach plums, songbirds and people he met during his many visits in

the 1850s. Nowadays, the closer you get to Boston the more you feel the influence of that city, with day-trippers and heavier traffic. Take a tip: when driving, stick to Route 6A which is slower and snakes through picturesque, historic towns such as Sandwich, Dennis and Brewster.

ROOTED IN HISTORY

Local names around Cape Cod are a mix of Native American, colonial British and the occasional misnomer or mystery. Atlantic cod (known locally as “scrod”) was a huge part of the early economy of Massachusetts, hence Cape Cod. But the largest island off Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, has neither a Martha nor a vineyard, though it did have a lot of wild vines when it was described by Europeans in the 1600s; some think the name derives from this. These days it’s a big summer destination for vacationing New Englanders. The best way to get there is by the Steamship Authority ferry as a foot passenger, then use the frequent local buses that criss-cross the island.

In some ways Martha’s Vineyard is like the mainland part of the Cape in microcosm, with three distinct towns. Vineyard Haven in the main port is home to chi-chi shops and restaurants, but no bars. The Puritan influence can still be felt in some parts of the Cape,

and in Vineyard Haven alcohol can only be served with food. For this reason, nearby Oak Bluffs has tended to attract a younger crowd as it permits bars.

Oak Bluffs is considerably less buttoned-up now than it was in the 1830s, when it started out as a campground for week-long Christian gatherings, whose members would participate in religious meetings lasting several hours a day. Those early campgrounds were teetotal, and men and women slept in large tents provided by Methodist church sponsors, the genders divided by a curtain for modesty.

As the years went on, visiting families expected more comfort; the last tent was unpegged in 1914 but, by that time, more than 300 wooden cottages had been built, corralled around a central tabernacle. These “gingerbread cottages” are well preserved, whimsically decorated and brightly coloured; the connection to the church remains, but the ban on drinking is now relaxed, as an evening stroll down the adjacent main street, Circuit Avenue, will confirm.



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WHERE TO EAT AND DRINK

Menus on the Cape tend to cater for nostalgic New Englanders, comprising clam chowder, oysters, fried clams, lobster rolls and "scrod" (cod). There are now six microbreweries on the Cape, including the Naukabout Beer Company (naukabout.com), which has an atmospheric tap room (bar) in Mashpee. Here is my pick of the scores of Cape restaurants I've tried recently.

Lower Cape

When you're driving the length of the Cape, these two



new diners are worth seeking out. Chatham Filling Station (chathamfillingstation.com) on Route 28 has a retro Americana look, but a modern take on Southern cooking; try the grits (like polenta), the linguica (a Portuguese-style sausage) or a popover (Yorkshire pudding). Sunbird Kitchen (birdinthesun.com) on Route 6A in Orleans is one of the few hipster-style canteens on the Cape, with a menu that wouldn't be out of place in Brooklyn; banh mi rolls, excellent kimchi and fish tacos.

Provincetown

For the best array of bars and tourist restaurants on the Cape, head to Provincetown. If you want a fast and inexpensive bite to eat, The Canteen (the-

canteentown.com) is styled like a pop-up with its outdoor bench seating, but is now a fixture for its excellent breakfast dishes such as shakshuka, lunches of lobster rolls and evening cuisines ranging from Mexican to Japanese. For light meals and drinks, Strangers & Saints (strangersandsaints.com) has Mediterranean-inspired dishes and is a great vantage point for Commercial Street. Nearby Spindler's (spindlersptown.com) offers a tasty New England menu.

Martha's Vineyard

Garde East (gardeeast.com) in Vineyard Haven has it all: a great harbour view, slick service and modern dishes, such as raw scallop with dried squid ink and olive oil caviar.



FROM TOP: A boardwalk at Chatham, Cape Cod; one of Nantucket's cobble streets

While the visitors to the mainland of Cape Cod are predominantly Boston WASPs or of white European descent, the diversity of Oak Bluffs is noticeable; generations of African-American church-goers have visited the town, and the beach still known as the "Inkwell" became a destination for black holidaymakers. In more recent times, the Obamas holidayed nearby.

Further around the coast of Martha's Vineyard, Edgartown is worth a visit for its splendid architecture; it was once a whaling port, so the owners and sea captains could afford good homes. The 17th-century Cape Cod look was aged grey cedar shingles, but clapboard became popular later on. "Saltboxes" were more cottage-like, while the Georgian homes were grander and more elaborate. The Cape's signature wild roses, day lilies and blue hydrangeas still garland many such homes.

A WHALE OF A TIME

For the most impressive historical buildings, take the day ferry to the neighbouring island of Nantucket. Smal-

ler than Martha's Vineyard, it has lately become one of the "it" islands of the super-rich; the tiny airport is second only to Boston Logan in Massachusetts for the number of daily flights hosted, but here it's private jets and charters bringing visitors to their \$15 million homes and private pools. The island's economy is largely kept afloat by these part-time residents, many of them based in Washington DC or New York.

The grandest town there, the eponymous Nantucket, has always been affluent, its wealth accrued while it was the whaling capital of the world. The indigenous Wampanoag people taught the white settlers how to hunt whales, which was the genesis of the industry that eventually saw Herman Melville set the opening of Moby-Dick in the town.

Back on shore, huge mansions went up – some with the "widow's walk" atop the roof, a railed platform that afforded a view of the ocean and returning vessels. Nantucket's streets are still cobbled, and they traverse a remarkably well-preserved town.

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AIMING HIGH

With a growing middle class and one of Latin America's most stable economies, has Chile completed the journey from dictatorship to democracy?

With a growing middle class and one of Latin America's most stable economies, has Chile completed the journey from dictatorship to democracy?

The journey along Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins, from the historic downtown in the west to the glitzy suburbs beneath the Andes, reveals key facets of 21st-century Santiago, Chile's capital. Downtown is all civic HQs, Spanish-style plazas, colonial-era churches, a tiny characterful quarter known as Barrio París-Londres and grimy office blocks. On a typical afternoon, you'll see politicians and civil servants, a changing of the guard at the La Moneda presidential palace, and brown-suited clerks gathering for coffee and a smoke in the cafés con piernas – literally, “cafés with legs”: staunchly un-PC coffee shops where the all-female staff serve treacly espressos in lap-dancing garb. Over in the east lie the leafy barrios of Las Condes, Vitacura, El Golf, Nunoa and La Reina, overlapping with the huge commercial and residential district of Providencia. Headquarters for banks, multinationals and insurance firms tower above high-end flagship stores and flash restaurants. Manicured parks, golf clubs, embassies and mansions lie close by. The overall look is imported from the United States, as is the lifestyle: cars and country houses are commonplace.

THE CHILEAN “MIRACLE”

In the Eighties, Milton Friedman used the term “miracle of Chile” to characterise the redirection of Chile's economy as steered by a group of Chilean economists – mostly former Friedman acolytes – known as the “Chicago Boys”. It takes an economist to find good in a dictatorship: Friedman was celebrating the fact that Augusto Pinochet's government (1973-1990) had put socialism, high inflation and protectionism behind it, and had embraced neo-liberalism.

Subsequent administrations were predominantly centre-left, but Chile continued to pursue a generally free-market approach to public spending and foreign investment. Since recovering democracy in 1990 every Chilean government has kept strong fiscal discipline policies. Household income has also increased, access to formal education has expanded, infrastructure has developed and democracy has grown stable. In fact, Chile has the highest rank in UNDP's [United Nations Development Programme] Human Development Index in Latin America.

In 2002 Chile signed an “association agreement” with the EU, ratified in 2005, which granted it most-favoured nation status; Chilean exports of agricultural and food products and services to the EU have since tripled. It was also the first South American nation to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. In 2006, Chile became the country with the highest GDP per capita in Latin America.



Chile's capital, Santiago, situated at the foot of the Andes mountains

WORDS CHRIS MOSS



SANTIAGO HOTELS

Hotel Santiago Mandarin Oriental

This Las Condes tower boasts fabulous views of the Andes and a striking 24-storey atrium. Refurb is due for completion any day soon. From £152. mandarinoriental.com

The Singular Santiago

Ultra-stylish contemporary 61-room hotel in the now buzzing Lastarria neighbourhood. There's a beautiful terrace and pool on the ninth floor. From £230. thesingular.com

Noi Vitacura Landmark designer building in the fashionable Alonso de Cordova area of Vitacura. The rooftop pool and bar are a popular meeting place. From £147. noihotels.com

W Santiago Funky interiors enliven this business-friendly tower in the El Golf neighbourhood. Dramatic views from the upper floors. From £188. marriott.com

Hotel Magnolia Neo-industrial style meets neo-gothic heritage in this 42-room beauty at the foot of the Cerro Santa Lucia hilltop park. From £131. hotelmagnolia.cl

ABOVE FROM LEFT: The Casacostanera shopping complex in fashionable Vitacura, Santiago; tours of Concha y Toro vineyard, just south of Santiago, reflect the growth of Chile's trade in wine tourism

BELOW: Terrace suite at Noi Vitacura, Santiago; roof terrace at Hotel Magnolia, Santiago



FOTOLIA, PRESS MATERIALS

HIDING BEHIND THE ANDES

Almost everything about Chile sets it apart from the rest of South America – most obviously the Andes mountains, which it shares with Argentina and Bolivia. It's a very long, extremely thin country, averaging only 110-miles wide with a 2,653-mile seaboard. It's exposed to the sea – and invasion – as well as to tsunamis. The country lies on the Pacific Ring of Fire; earthquakes are frequent and occasionally ferocious, as in the 8.8-magnitude quake of 2010 that left 525 dead and damaged 370,000 homes. The extreme topography also means the 15 official regions are markedly different.

Most Chileans are a mix of European and Amerindian. These and other factors contribute to a conflicted national identity. Mestizo Chileans will boast of their Anglophilia or wax lyrical about German ancestors. Chileans proud to be on excellent terms with the EU will decry Argentine hegemony and pour scorn on Bolivia's persistent claim to a seaboard – which it lost in wars with Chile and Peru in 1879-84.

COMMODITIES ARE KING

Chile's population is around 18 million, more than a third of whom live in metropolitan Santiago. Consequently Chile is extremely centralised, with 90 per cent of all corporate headquarters,

most transport and services and the best educated workers all in the capital. Santiago contributes about half of the country's US\$277.08 billion GDP. The provinces are largely cut off from these resources and, to date, decentralisation has been little more than a campaign slogan.

Commodities are both Chile's power-base and Achilles heel. Copper accounts for 43 per cent of the country's exports. China's economic slowdown and its escalating trade war with the US present significant challenges to this high degree of dependence. Declining copper prices led to a fall in GDP growth from 6.1 per cent in 2011 to 1.5 per cent in 2017, according to the World Bank.

Diversification has been slow. Some 2,800 products, ranging from wine, fresh fruit and salmon to lumber, beans and wool, are exported to more than 120 different countries. The long country's seven distinct macro-regions allows it to stagger harvests; it can also exploit the fact that harvest times fall during the northern hemisphere's cold seasons.

There has been innovation in the technology sector and small service-oriented businesses. Since 2010, publicly funded seed accelerator Start-Up Chile has worked with more than 1,300 small businesses. "Chilecon Valley" has

Odkryj magię zimy w SPA

POŚRÓD NATURY ZANURZONEJ W ZIMOWY SEN I OKRYTEJ BIAŁYM PUCHEM, ZNAJDZIESZ PEŁNE CIEPŁA I NIEZWYKŁEJ ATMOSFERY MIEJSCE, KTÓRE SPRAWI, ŻE SPĘDZISZ WYJĄTKOWE CHWILE.

Szukając magicznego, urokliwego i mającego „to coś” miejsca, nie można pominąć Hotelu SPA Dr Irena Eris Wzgórza Dylewskie usytuowanego w otulinie Parku Krajobrazowego. Możliwość ucieczki z miejskiego zgiełku i szybkiego przeniesienia się w świat relaksu, jak i upajania się każdą chwilą spędzoną w harmonii z otoczeniem, niezależnie od pory roku, jest marzeniem wielu z nas. Rozpościerająca się dookoła mazurskiego hotelu natura oraz wszechobecny spokój, zyskały status bezcennego waloru tego miejsca. Dzięki komfortowym warunkom i klimatycznym wnętrzom hotelu goście od razu doznają spokoju i wyciszenia. Dodając do tego doskonały serwis i troskę o gości, nie trzeba dodatkowej zachęty, by oddać się w ręce tutejszych specjalistów od dobrze spędzonego czasu.

Okazją do odkrywania tak wspaniałej atmosfery wypoczynku w malowniczej zimowej scenerii jest przygotowany przez Hotel SPA Dr Irena Eris Wzgórza Dylewskie na czas ferii pakiet „Dłużej=Taniej”. Pozwoli on gościom rozkoszować się zarówno aurą, jak i przygotowanymi atrakcjami. A co można robić? Wszystko i nic. Bogaty program animacji dla dzieci

zapraszający do wspólnych podróży Latającym Dywanem zapewni im dobrą zabawę. Najmłodsi goście, spotykając ulubionych bohaterów bajek, będą odkrywać nieprzemijające wartości i ukryte talenty oraz uruchamiać wyobraźnię i przeżywać niezwykle przygody. Nie zabraknie również aktywności dla dorosłych, bowiem każdego dnia czeka duża różnorodność zajęć ruchowych poprawiających kondycję i sylwetkę. Tym, którzy potrzebują przejście w tryb slow, hotel poleca Centrum SPA z basenami, jacuzzi, kompleksem saun i studio cardio lub Kosmetyczny Instytut z bogatą ofertą zabiegów pielęgnacyjnych, hight-tech oraz masażu wzbogacanych o aromaterapię. Ucztą dla ducha i ciała będzie również wizyta w restauracji, gdzie posiłki sprowadzają się celebrowania. Pyszne i podane w wykwintnej formie dania powstają na zamówienie, z najlepszej jakości składników i ze świeżych produktów od lokalnych dostawców. Nad ich przygotowaniem czuwa szef kuchni, dbając o zadowolenie wszystkich gości. Życzliwa, troskliwa i pełna naturalności opieka personelu hotelowego nad gośćmi czyni każdy ich pobyt wyjątkowym.

attracted entrepreneurs from 80-odd countries. The Ford Foundation funded the training of Chilean agronomists which led, in turn, to the introduction of new varieties of crops, such as yellow corn. But Chile has a risibly low research and development spend, slowing progress across all tech- and science-related sectors.

DESIRABLE DESTINATIONS

In 2012, Brazil's largest airline Tam and Chilean flag-carrier Lan merged to form Latam, the largest airline in Latin America. With a fleet in excess of 300 aircraft and a dozen cargo and passenger subsidiaries across South America, Latam has a turnover of just under \$8.5billion.

Headquartered in Santiago, Latam has helped turn Santiago's international airport into a promising hub – new services include nonstop to Melbourne and one-stop to Dubai – while enhancing the profile of both capital and country as a tourism destination.

What it lacks in culinary and cultural draws, Chile makes up for in alluring landscapes: the Atacama salt-flat, Elqui Valley and Torres del Paine national park are world-class attractions. In 2017, Chile announced a 2,400km Route of Parks linking up 17 national parks. Wine tourism, space tourism and adventure tourism are all growth areas.

According to Veronica Kunze, head of planning and research head at Fedetur, Chile's main tourism trade body: "International tourism has grown constantly and this trend is expected to continue, particularly with regard to special interest tourism. More and more people want to encounter nature away from civilisation, which is precisely what we have to offer."

Inbound tourism has more than doubled in the past ten years. From 2016 to 2017, there was a 14.3 per cent increase. While many visitors, both business and leisure, are from Argentina and other near-neighbours, Chile is now a mainstream rather than marginal destination for travellers.

Kunze says tourism is estimated to be directly responsible for 3.4 per cent of Chile's GDP and 5.1 per cent of employment.

Chile is extremely centralised – Santiago contributes about half of the country's GDP



ABOVE
Plaza de las Armas
Santiago

THE SOCIAL COST OF STABILITY

Chile's private sector has a massive stake in schools and universities, exacerbating inequalities with regard to access. Between 2011 and 2013, Chilean students led a series of protests demanding more official support and funding for public education.

Since then, there have been numerous marches, smaller in scale, against private education, anti-abortion laws, sexism and sexual harassment. In late July of this year, cost-cutting and planned job cuts prompted strikes at Codelco's Chuquibambilla open-pit mine in Calama in the Atacama desert. The mining union called for a strike at BHP Billiton's Escondida, the world's largest copper mine; at the time of writing, government-mediated talks with management were being extended.

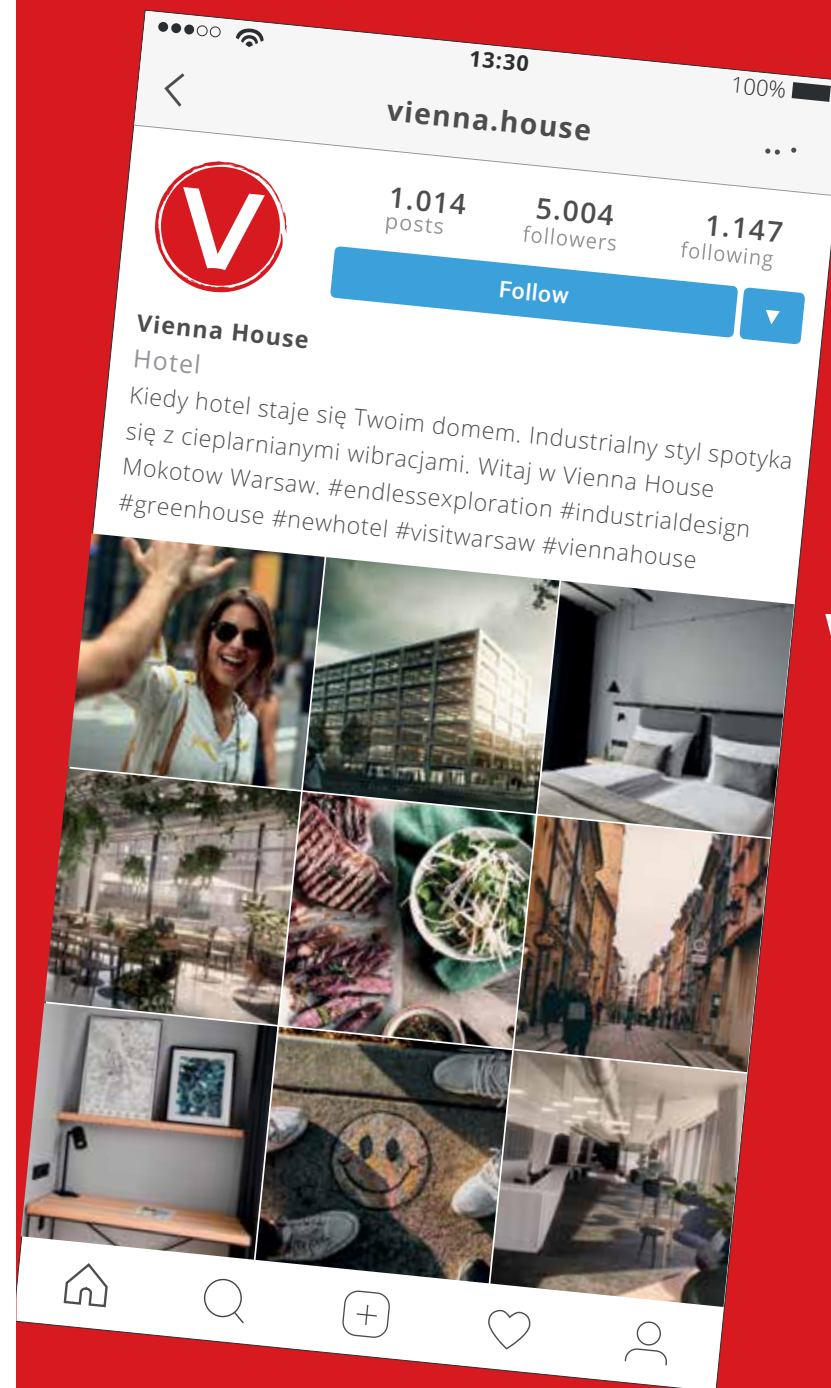
Other problems lie in wait along Chile's long border, from new cocaine-trafficking routes out of Bolivia to environmental challenges borne of the reliance on extraction industries.

The biggest obstacle of all, however, is the country's abject failure to redistribute the newly acquired – and, in some quarters, very visible – new wealth. In terms of income, according to the World Bank, Chile is the 20th most unequal country in the world: the richest 1 per cent of the population gets 33 per cent of the national income, while the top 5 per cent pockets 51.5 per cent.

Between the two extremities of Avenida Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins is the laid back, rather romantic barrio of Bellavista. Here you'll find universities, bohemian bars, and Chilean poet and politician Pablo Neruda's former Santiago home, La Chascona, now a museum. This is the cultured, thoughtful face of Santiago, and definitely the place to stop for a coffee on your long hike. It remains to be seen whether Chile will continue to aim for the Andes, forgetting its bloody past and impoverished millions – or will seek a middle way.

FOTOLIA

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PARIS JE T'AIME

The City of Light offers a range of hotels few other destinations can match. We round up the latest developments

Over the past decade, the Parisian luxury hotel segment has gone through a radical transformation. A number of traditional palace hotels — names like the Ritz Paris, Hôtel de Crillon and Le Royal Monceau, long part of the city's fabric — closed their doors for renovation projects. Other brands made their debut, including three of the major high-end Asian hotel groups: Mandarin Oriental on Rue St Honoré, Shangri-La on Avenue d'Iéna and The Peninsula on Avenue Kléber. A nightly budget of four figures can soon become a reality if it's luxury you seek.

Fortunately, several new options combine style and affordability. The Hoxton cut the ribbon on its second hotel outside London in Paris, in a 16th-century building in the 2nd arrondissement. Just around the corner, the Experimental Group added Hôtel des Grands Boulevards to its growing portfolio, while a few minutes in the other direction it looks after the restaurant and bar of the renewed Hôtel Bachaumont. Micro “budget-chic” hotels aren't quite as prevalent as in a city like New York, but Dutch group Citizen M opened in the La Défense business district and at Gare du Lyon, and is working on more.

Beyond what we are able to cover over the next few pages, there are projects of every size and scale in various stages of development. Italian boutique hotel group JK Place, currently offering Rome, Florence and Capri, will add a 30-room hotel steps away from the Musée d'Orsay next year. Hôtel Costes, while working on its outpost on London's Sloane Square, may expand into the building next door, which previously housed Hotel Lotti. An ambitious project by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma between the Bibliothèque nationale de France and Halle Freyssinet, on the Left Bank, could be the start of a European presence for eco-luxury 1 Hotels. In an unusual development for Paris, there are a number of skyscraper proposals — such as Tour Triangle and Tours Duo — each of which come with hotel elements.

HOTEL LUTETIA

The last of the grand hotels to come out of a multi-year renovation, Hotel Lutetia reopened mid-July. Natural light streams from large windows into the completely reconfigured ground floor, featuring a neutral palette, with original elements restored or recreated — the ceiling fresco in Bar Joséphine was found under layers of paint and took 17,000 hours to restore. A →

WORDS PAUL J DEVRIES

new outdoor patio connects restaurant Le Saint Germain with L'Orangerie, where breakfast and weekend brunch are served. Multiple storeys were excavated underneath the hotel to make room for an Akasha Holistic Wellbeing Centre, with treatment rooms and a 17-metre pool.

Upstairs, there are 184 rooms and suites with clean lines and, similar to sister hotel Café Royal in London, striking light-marbled bathrooms. Courtyard-facing rooms contrast dark wooden floors with whites and pale greys, while those looking out over Boulevard Raspail add a rich blue on some of the walls and in the furniture. Lutetia Brasserie, overseen by chef Gérard Passédât, will open towards the end of the year, as will seven signature suites.

45 Boulevard Raspail;
+33 (0)1 4954 4600;
hotellutetia.com

RIGHT: Pink is a theme at Fauchon l'Hôtel

BELOW: Hotel Monte Cristo has rooms inspired by Alexandre Dumas



The ceiling fresco in Bar Joséphine at Hotel Lutetia took 17,000 hours to restore

dark hardwood floors and a pink, Fauchon Gourmet Bar with complementary treats. Some have views of the Eiffel Tower, while the Prestige Suite has a living room overlooking the Madeleine Church. Downstairs, Le Café Fauchon serves food and drinks throughout the day and evening, and has indoor and outdoor seating. There is also a library and a small spa.

4 Boulevard Malesherbes;
+33 (0)1 8786 2800;
hotel-fauchon-paris.fr

BRACH PARIS

Evok Hôtels Collection opened Brach Paris in October, in the 16th arrondissement near the Bois de Boulogne. Behind its glass façade with trees and hanging foliage are 59 rooms and suites designed by Philippe Starck, while a “sports club inspired by 1930s boxing clubs” offers a 22-metre pool, sauna, steam room, Himalayan salt cave and fitness facilities. Brach Paris follows the opening by Evok of Nolski Paris in 2016, and the group plans to add Cour des Vosges next year, one of the city’s most beautiful squares.

Brach Paris, 1-7 Rue Jean Richopin;
+33 (0)1 4430 1000;
brachparis.com

Cour des Vosges, Place des Vosges;
evokhotels.com/property/cour-des-vosges

MAISON ASTOR PARIS

Hilton cut the ribbon on Maison Astor this autumn, part of its Curio Collection and originally built by John Jacob Astor IV. Completely refurbished, it offers 131 rooms and suites, some with outdoor terrace, and a rooftop suite designed with fabrics from Hermès. The Dining Room serves French-American inspired food underneath the glass ceiling of the hotel’s courtyard.

Its opening comes on the heels of Niepce Paris earlier this year, also a Curio Collection hotel. Taking its name from Janine Niépce, a celebrated French photographer and journalist, it has 52 rooms and suites



FROM TOP: The bar and façade of Hotel Lutetia; plants and foliage adorn the Brach Paris



HOTEL MONTE CRISTO

Continuing on the Left Bank, Hotel Monte Cristo, the second of Les Hôtels Impertinents Group, also opened in July in the 5th arrondissement. Its 50 rooms and suites are inspired by “the 19th century and French genius”, represented by author Alexandre Dumas. They come in an eclectic mix of colours, with fringed velvet furniture, bedside lamps, and hanging lanterns. There is a 16-metre swimming pool and sauna in the basement, while a smoking room and bar are due to open in November. The group is looking at further hotel projects in the French capital.

20-22 Rue Pascal;
+33 (0)1 4009 0909;
hotelmontecristoparis.com

FAUCHON L'HÔTEL

Officially open since September 1, the first hotel from luxury grocer Fauchon can be found just off of Place de la Madeleine in the 8th arrondissement. Four core colours set the tone for its interior design: white, black, gold and Fauchon pink.

The 54 rooms and suites all have exterior views and come with

in a row of townhouses near Montparnasse, along with restaurant La Verrière. Hilton is also developing a 118-room hotel roughly midway between Niepce and the Eiffel Tower, with interiors designed by Philippe Starck, due sometime next year.

Maison Astor Paris, 11 Rue d'Astorg; +33 (0)6 4383 6448;

maisonastorparis.com

Niepce Paris, 4 Rue Niepce;

+33 (0)1 8375 6920;

niepceparis.com

Hilton Paris Eiffel Tower,

55 Avenue de Saxe; hilton.com

HÔTEL DU LOUVRE

On Rue de Rivoli, Hôtel du Louvre will reopen in 2019 as part of Hyatt's Unbound Collection, with 165 rooms and suites, a new lobby, bar and restaurant. The year after, a dual-branded Hyatt Place and Hyatt House property is to open at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airport, with a total of 430 rooms. Meanwhile, Hyatt Regency Étoile has undergone a complete renovation, with a new lobby, Regency Club lounge, and a fresh look for its 995 rooms and suites, and 34th floor panoramic bar.

Hôtel du Louvre, Place André Malraux; +33 (0)1 7311 1234;

parishoteldulouvre.hyatt.com

Hyatt Regency Étoile,

3 Place du Général Koenig;

+33 (0)1 4068 1234;

parisetoile.regency.hyatt.com

Hyatt Place/Hyatt House

Roissy-Charles

de Gaulle airport; hyatt.com

BULGARI HOTEL PARIS

At the start of the next decade, Bulgari Hotels will open a hotel on Avenue George V, taking the group's portfolio to eight properties worldwide. The majority of its 76 rooms will be suites, and facilities include a restaurant and bar with courtyard garden, and a spa with 25-metre pool.

Bulgari will be across the street from Four Seasons Hotel George V and its neighbour Prince de Galles, and only minutes from Hôtel Barrière le Fouquet's, on the corner



FROM TOP:

The glass ceiling of the courtyard at Maison Astor Paris; and one of the rooms; Hôtel du Louvre is due to reopen in 2019




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DESTINATIONS

with the Champs-Élysées. Four Seasons opened its new 720 sqm spa this summer, with 17-metre pool, fitness, treatment rooms and salon, while Barrière le Fouquet's will add 19 new rooms and suites by the end of this year.

Bulgari Hotel Paris, 30 Avenue George V; bulgarihotels.com
Four Seasons Hotel George V, 31 Avenue George V; +33 (0)1 4952 7000; fourseasons.com/paris
Hotel Barrière le Fouquet's, 46 Avenue George V; +33 (0)1 4069 6000; hotelsbarriere.com/en/paris/le-fouquets.html

CHEVAL BLANC SAMARITAINE

Closed since 2005, department store La Samaritaine is being brought back to life by LVMH. As part of its mixed-use future, it will contain Cheval Blanc Samaritaine, Cheval Blanc's fourth hotel, in the Art Deco portion of the building designed by Henri Sauvage. Facing the Seine at Pont Neuf, the bridge connecting the western tip of Île de la Cité, it will have 72 rooms and suites, a number of restaurants, and a garden terrace above the building's glass rooftop. Quai du Louvre; chevalblanc.com

KIMPTON PARIS

Having been acquired by IHG, Kimpton Hotels has expansion plans in Europe and Asia. That includes a property in Paris, with 122 rooms and 27 suites, a restaurant with patio, spa and fitness, event space and rooftop. Kimpton Paris should open in 2020 on Boulevard des Capucines, a short stroll from Opéra Garnier and around the corner from InterContinental le Grand, which is undergoing a refurbishment overseen by Pierre-Yves Rochon, during which it remains open.

Kimpton Paris, 25-29 Boulevard des Capucines; kimptonhotels.com
InterContinental le Grand, 2 Rue Scribe; +33 (0)1 4007 3232; parislegrand.intercontinental.com



FROM TOP:
The majority of rooms at Bulgari Hotel Paris will be suites; the spa at Four Seasons Hotel George V; Kimpton Paris will have 122 rooms



Four Seasons opened its new 720 sqm spa this summer, with a 17-metre pool



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WHITE FIVE

OR TYROLEAN GLACIER MARATHON

Almost 350 kilometres behind the wheel, dozens of kilometres of elevation and... hundreds of kilometres spent on skis. We have checked if it's possible for an "everyman skier" to visit five famous Tyrolean glaciers within a week.



Late autumn and early spring are the best times of the year to visit the White Five

FOTOFOTOLIA

WORDS FILIP GAWRYŚ, JULIA ZAMBRZYCKA

The beautiful weather, guaranteed snow and unforgettable views. This is exactly what you can expect from the five Tyrolean glaciers: Kaunertal, Pitztal, Sölden, Stubai and Hintertux. Our task is not an easy one: we decide to visit all of them in just one week. To do it, we buy a special skipass called White Five. Costing €410, it may not be the cheapest, but in return you get a 10-day access to all the five Tyrolean glaciers between 1 October and 15 May.

KAUNERTAL. WITH A SNOWGROOMER LICENSE

Kaunertal is the cosiest Austrian glacier, located in a valley of the same name. You can reach the Ochselnam valley station (2150 metres) by car or free ski bus. The road leading to the glacier is one of the most spectacular in the whole of the Alps, winding along an artificial water reservoir and the nearby hydroelectric power station.

Kaunertal is one of the least crowded glaciers in the area, open to skiers from October to May. The main lift is a gondola with heated seats, taking you to Karlesspitze (3100 meters above sea level). There are also two chairlifts and five T-bar lifts, serving slightly shorter slopes. In total it offers you more than 36 km of slopes, as well as a snowpark and freeride options.

However, a real highlight of the place is the opportunity to take a snow grooming training, where you learn how to

operate a huge snow groomer. Every ski aficionado should learn the basics of their sport, which include knowledge on how snow corduroy is made. A two-hour lesson held on the mighty Pistenbully is great fun, too, and after the training you receive a "snow grooming license", which, of course, should be taken with a grain of salt.

PITZTAL. ON THE ROOF OF TYROL

In the afternoon we leave Kaunertal and move to the Pitztal Glacier in the neighbouring valley. It's the highest area in Austria, where a modern gondola railway takes us to a head spinning height of 3440 metres. The morning greets us with a beautiful weather, so without undue delay we head towards Mittelberg Gletscherexpress. Founded in 1983, the underground railway, covers the altitude difference of 1111 metres in just nine minutes, with the final station at an altitude of 2841 metres. This is where the real core of the glacier is.

Pitztal offers 60 kilometres of perfectly groomed ski runs. Take the Wildspitzbahn gondola train, which reaches the 3440-metre peak called the Roof of Tyrol with an observation deck and the excellent Tirols Joechstes Cafe 3440 where you can unwind and enjoy the stunning panorama of the highest peaks in Tyrol.

Pitztal also features an intelligent snow management system called the Snowmaker. Built in 2013, the facility is sort of a snow factory, which irrespective of temperature of the air produces tons of white fluff, which then

is distributed around by groomers. This means that the snow conditions on the glacier aren't dependent on the weather conditions.

SÖLDEN. IN THE SHADOW OF JAMES BOND

Our next stop is the Sölden ski area, which is especially popular with young people. Located on the edge of the Otztal valley, it's here where the season of Alpine Ski World Cup inaugurates every October.

Sölden is a real skiing conglomerate with an impressive elevation gain, 800 centimetres of average annual snowfall, and more than 30 ski lifts serving over 140 kilometres of runs. The ski area stretches at the foot of three three-thousanders (the so-called "BIG 3") served by comfortable gondolas: Gaislachkogel (3058 metres), Tiefenbachkogel (3250 metres) and Schwarze Schneid (3340 metres).

An interesting tidbit for film fans. The coolest action scenes of the James Bond "Spectre" movie (starring Daniel Craig) were shot in Sölden. It's worth visiting all the locations that appeared in the film, as well as having a meal in the excellent Ice Q gourmet restaurant with austere yet cosy décor. Nearby there is the unique Elements 007 cinematic installation, where you can go on a tour through the various galleries dedicated to the most famous British secret agent, focusing primarily on the scenes shot in Sölden.

WHERE TO STAY

- Kaunertal - Weisseespitze Platz 30 hotel, A-6524 Kaunertal weisseespitze.com
- Pitztal - Sonnblick hotel, Plangeross 45A-6481 St. Petersburg. Leonhard im Pitztal sonnblick-pitztal.at
- Sölden - Liebe Sonne hotel, Dorfstraße 58 A-6450 Sölden liebesonne.at
- Stubai - Hotel Der Stubaihof, Stubaitalstrasse 64, A-6167 Neustift i. Stubaital der-stubaihof.com
- Hintertux - Klausnerhof hotel, A-6294 Hintertux 770 klausnerhof.at

For more information about the White Five, go to tirolergletscher.com

STUBAI. STILL THE GREATEST

The next day we visit the Stubaital valley, which is the largest glacial area in Austria, covering almost 1500 hectares of land. Stubai is still a dynamically growing ski centre, as shown by the latest investment opened in 2016. With a length of 4.7 kilometres the 3S Eisgratbahn gondola lift is the longest cable car in the Alps. The journey takes less than 10 minutes and each cabin features 24 seats, 8 standing places and free Wi-Fi.

Throughout the season, which runs from the end of September until June, you can use all the ski runs available on four glaciers: Eisjochferner, Windachferner, Gaiskarferner and Daunerferner – 108 kilometres of runs in total. Adrenaline junkies may use the area's 13 freeride slopes and the Stubai Zoo snowpark, while for snowboarders there is a separate Moreboards Stubai Zoo complex.

HINTERTUX. WITH ED SHEERAN IN THE BACKGROUND

Our last stop is Hintertux. In the morning we head towards the lower terminal, where we can choose between two gondolas that will take us to Sommerbergalm station (2100 metres above sea level). From here you can take a six-person chairlift to Tuxer Joch Haus (2319 metres) or a chairlift with a change to a t-bar lift leading to Olperer. The complex system of lifts allows for a varied selection of ski runs depending on your skills. The glacial plateau features two long Olperer t-bar lifts, which take skiers to the highest point (3238 metres).

Enthusiasts of deep snow skiing can enjoy here several freeride runs, and snowboard and freeride aficionado can master their skills in Betterpark Hintertux at an altitude of 3200 metres.

In the latter part of the day it's worth visiting the Spannagelhöhle cave and the Natur Eis Palast.

Interestingly, last year the revered English singer Ed Sheeran visited the glacier to make a video to his song entitled "Perfect". So far the video has been watched on YouTube more than one and a half billion times.

BUILDING BLOCKCHAINS

How the future of currency looks set to shake up the travel industry

WORDS JANICE LEUNG HAYES



Most people have heard of Bitcoin by now – the mysterious electronic currency created by “Satoshi Nakamoto”, a nom de plume for the inventor, or inventors, of Bitcoin. By creating Bitcoin, Nakamoto also invented the concept of the blockchain: a database that is immutable, secured by advanced cryptography (encryption and codes) and backed up with identical copies of information on a global network of computers. This network is not controlled by a single authority, and has so far proven impossible to hack. The technology is complicated, but the concept is simple: blockchain is essentially a ledger or database that is open and decentralised, and allows for the creation of censorship-proof, secure, borderless, paperless currency that can’t be tampered with or changed. Bitcoin was the first, but it’s been followed by many others, referred to as “altcoins”, including Ethereum, Litecoin, Dash and Monero.

IMMUTABLE SYSTEM

Security has always been a concern in the world of internet payment, but experts like Leonhard Weese, founder of the Bitcoin Association of Hong Kong, feel that it’s the conventional banking system that is insecure. “Credit cards are a bit of a mess from a security perspective,” says Weese. “All the information you need to spend on a credit card is written on the card. Anyone who observes it can use it.”

The breakthrough of blockchain comes down to “trustlessness”, according to Clifford Choi, technical advisor at Emurgo, a blockchain venture fund and incubator. “You don’t own the data you give to Facebook,” says Choi, “you just have to trust them with it if you want to use their services. It’s the same for the money in your bank account, though most people don’t read the small print.”

With a currency on a decentralised blockchain, such as Bitcoin, there’s no need for trust in an institution – what the ledger shows is yours and you can store and spend it without the need for a bank.

NEW CURRENCY EXCHANGE

For travellers, one immediate advantage of blockchain is currency exchange. Blockchain enables overseas transactions to be completed without paying bank fees or inflated exchange

rates, as travellers can exchange cryptocurrency for local currency with fewer intermediaries.

At present, this can be done at cryptocurrency ATMs or by physically trading with someone on the ground. A number of FinTech solution providers are rapidly emerging to help

facilitate this. Bitspark is one such company, which offers 100,000 physical locations around the world for people to send and receive cash via blockchain technology.

Digital currency exchange ventures can also be used by businesses trading in Bitcoin to exchange the value into their home currency. Online travel agency Expedia has started to accept Bitcoin on this premise, using a company called Coinbase to exchange value from its Bitcoin transactions to fiat currency.

Rafael Hauxley, author of Bitcoin vs The 2018 Recession, who is currently shooting a Netflix documentary about the cryptocurrency’s impact on the world, says: “The most obvious inconvenience of using fiat currency is how much money I lose converting from my home currency to local currency. There’s a reason that currency converters often sit in expensive tourist locations – they’re making money, hand over fist. By using BTMs [Bitcoin ATMs] and local Bitcoin sellers and buyers, I’ve often saved enough on fees to enjoy a nice dinner or two.”

Moving and accessing money via blockchain can eliminate the woes of losing a bank card, having your account frozen while overseas, or having to travel with large bundles of cash. Weese also points out the benefits of blockchain could provide an outlet for the emergent middle classes and entrepreneurs in countries without a functioning banking system.

DAPPLICATIONS

Blockchain is also poised to revolutionise “peer-to-peer” systems with more transparency and trust.

“You can build apps like Airbnb and Uber [on the blockchain], but we call them ‘dapps’ because they’re decentralised applications – there’s no central entity,” says Stewart Mackenzie, co-founder of Fractalide, which creates tools for non-technical users to build dapps.

“Existing so-called ‘peer-to-peer’ services such as Uber and Airbnb are not actually peer-to-peer. They’re extremely centralised – you pay a central entity, you use their servers, they control all the data so you need to trust them with everything; you need to trust that they haven’t manipulated the data, that they’re able to protect your information from hackers, that they’re not selling your data, and so on.

Blockchains enable overseas transactions without paying bank fees or inflated exchange rates



“Centralised entities, like companies, are easy targets. You can lobby against them, as taxi unions and hotel groups have done. People who rely on Airbnb and Uber can suddenly find themselves without access to these services if they’re in a jurisdiction where the government decides to block them. This is also a huge problem for people who rely on the peer-to-peer economy for their income.

“You can think of a dapp like any other app, but instead of running on a company’s servers, it runs on a programmable layer of the blockchain. This gives it all the benefits of being trustless and decentralised. When you build things on a blockchain like this, making use of what’s called ‘smart contracts’, the code becomes incontrovertible law. What the code says will happen is what will happen.”

For example, if you were renting an apartment on a dapp, Mackenzie says, “the dapp might require that enough of your cryptocurrency be locked to pay for the booking and that the funds be released either back to you or to the accommodation provider at a specific date depending on whether or not certain criteria are met before that time. It could depend on anything; maybe you want to book ski accommodation but get a certain percentage of the money back if there’s no snow. With blockchains like Cardano combined with Fractalide, building things like this becomes very easy. “We haven’t really seen mass adoption of dapps yet, but we are fast approaching a tipping point,” he concludes.

TRAVEL IMPLICATIONS

Roughly 260 airlines worldwide, plus hotels, online travel agents and other travel service providers, have already begun to accept Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies (“altcoins”).

As Hauxley experienced: “I could buy airline tickets with Surf Air, book a hotel via Expedia, pay directly for my burger and beer at brewpubs in Hong Kong, and

withdraw my money in local currency around the world using BTMs or local Bitcoins.”

A major disrupter, however, is the travel-focused dapp Winding Tree, which is targeting traditional middlemen online travel agencies, such as Expedia, by teaming up directly with providers including Lufthansa and Air New Zealand. With Winding Tree, a travel agent or individual traveller could, for example, have real-time access to seats on Air New Zealand flights without going through an intermediary, thereby cutting costs and lag time. Winding Tree is also connecting travellers to hotel and travel guide providers.

Other possibilities include keeping track of loyalty programmes for hotels and airlines, which can be an area fraught with issues and errors. If all airlines in a global alliance were to do ticketing and air miles on a shared blockchain, there would be no need to trust each other and the transactions would be much simpler and more efficient, says Choi.

One new entrant tackling this area is Sandblock, which aims to enable travel providers to create their own loyalty tokens. These could be traded for brand rewards or converted into fiat currency.

Meanwhile, other start-up ventures are tackling specific traveller woes, such as queuing at airports and more efficient processing of personal data to streamline security checks.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

As an emerging technology, blockchain has colossal potential but is still limited in practice. Weese recalls a time in Amsterdam when a friend’s HSBC account was switched to the UnionPay system and he was unable to access his account. “I was able to lend him a few thousand dollars-worth of Bitcoin, which he traded for Euros, but it was lucky for him that I was there and able to make the trade. Bitcoin is not quite ‘there’ yet, where it’s really useful in practice. It depends on who you are and where you are.”

Choi agrees the technology needs to mature, and points out this is already happening: “Bitcoin uses the first generation of blockchain. To this day, it’s still the most secure which makes it great as a store of value, but you can’t do much else with it. It’s like the underlying architecture of the internet and the first static HTML websites of the late 1990s.

“Ethereum (another type of blockchain) came along later and allowed more functionality – and now we’re just starting to see third-generation blockchains, like Cardano, which can power the blockchain equivalent of Facebook, Google, and your favourite apps.”

Whether you like it or not, Hauxley says the blockchain way of life is coming. “I choose to live off my Bitcoin. But for people who aren’t choosing to be affected, even they’ll start noticing within the next five years. Travellers will certainly see the benefit in five years or less.”

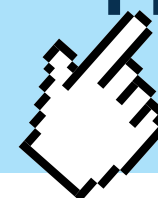
Czy nam się to podoba, czy nie, przyszłość należy do blockchainów.



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This winter LOT flies to Rio, Cancún and Mombasa

This winter, LOT's Dreamliners will take passengers from Warsaw to 10 cities in Brazil, Thailand, Vietnam, Kenya and Mexico, as well as to Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Mauritius. In the planned flight schedule, the Polish national carrier will operate nearly 80 charter flights monthly.

The new charter flight offer results from an agreement signed by LOT Polish Airlines with the Rainbow Tours and TUI Poland. As part of this collaboration the Polish carrier provides its aircraft with full crew to serve selected tourist destinations. The offer includes the following connections:

- Brazil / Rio de Janeiro from 11 November to 3 December every 10/11 days,
- Thailand / Bangkok from 3 November to 23 March every 7 days,
- Thailand / Phuket from 5 November to 18 March every 7 days,
- Vietnam / Ho Chi Minh from 4 November to 21 March every 10/11 days,
- Mexico / Cancún from 2 November to 15 March every 7 days,

BELOW FROM THE LEFT:
Rio de Janeiro;
Thailand; Cuba

- Cuba / Varadero from 7 November to 20 March every 7 days,
- Kenya / Mombasa from 3 November to 18 March every 7 days,
- Dominican Republic / Punta Cana from 30 December to 25 February every 7 days,
- Dominican Republic / Puerto Plata from 8 November to 6 May every 10/11 days,
- Mauritius from 7 November to 27 March every 7 days.

All planned charter services will be operated by Boeing B787-8 Dreamliner aircraft with 252 passenger seats divided into three travel classes: LOT Charters Business, LOT Charters Premium and LOT Charters Economy.

The longest charter connection is currently the flight from Warsaw to Rio de Janeiro, during which LOT's Dreamliners cover 11,000 kilometres on a 13-hour journey. By comparison, the longest regular scheduled flight operated by the Polish carrier is on Warsaw - Los Angeles route (12 hours and 20 minutes, almost 9700 kilometres).

"We are glad that together with Rainbow and TUI Poland we can offer attractive charter flights from Warsaw. The new offer comprises comfortable and direct flights also



"We are glad that together with Rainbow and TUI Poland we can offer attractive charter flights from Warsaw. The new offer comprises comfortable and direct flights also to destinations that will see our return after several years of absence."



to destinations that will see our return after several years of absence. LOT's offer of charter flights is highly valued by passengers and business partners. Our competitive advantage lies in the fact that all charter flights are made with Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, the most modern and comfortable wide-body aircraft in the world. Last year, we transported nearly 70,000 passengers on our charter flights," says Iwona Stańczak, the Head of Charter & ACMI at LOT Polish Airlines.

As the scale of operations and charter operations increases, the Polish carrier is planning to launch further charter flights using not only Dreamliners, but also the medium-haul fleet, including modern, narrow-body Boeing B737 aircraft. In the summer 2018 season, LOT also offered charter flights from Warsaw and Katowice to Turkish Antalya and from Warsaw to Kefalonia in Greece. The carrier is considering launching charter flights from other Polish airports.

In the 2018/2019 winter schedule, LOT will operate nearly 80 charter flights a month. The current agreement

FROM TOP:
Business Class
cabin on board the
Dreamliner
Boeing 787
Dreamliner

signed with Rainbow and TUI Poland is valid until the winter season of 2019/2020.

LOT Polish Airlines is currently the fastest growing airline in Europe. The carrier's flight network comprises 105 routes. Since 2016, LOT has launched more than 60 direct connections, including flights from Warsaw to Miami, Los Angeles, Newark, Seoul, Tokyo and Singapore, from Budapest to New York and Chicago, from Cracow to Chicago and from Rzeszów to Newark. The expansion of the flight network is possible, among others, with the purchase of new aircraft. In June 2018 the 11th Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner joined the fleet. By the end of 2019, the Dreamliner fleet which serves long-haul routes will increase to 15 aircraft. The launch of a new long-haul flight is part of LOT Polish Airlines' current strategy that provides for a steady growth of flight offer available at the transport hub in Warsaw.

In 2017, LOT carried a total of over 6.8 million passengers, up more than 25 per cent year on year. This year, it plans to carry approximately 9 million passengers.

Qatar Airways' Dreamliner on the route from Warsaw

Qatar Airways has increased availability on flights to Warsaw by permanently including a Boeing 787 Dreamliner in its flight schedule. The world's most advanced aircraft, B787 now serves two daily flights from Warsaw to Doha Airport.

The introduction of the new wide-bodied aircraft is a proof of the airline's deep commitment to serving the Polish market. Since the inaugural flight to Warsaw that took off in December 2012, the number of passengers travelling on board Qatar Airways aircraft from Warsaw has been growing steadily.

The introduction of Qatar Airways' Dreamliner on services departing Warsaw means that, for the first time in history, the connection to Poland is served by the most modern and luxurious passenger aircraft, providing passengers with the highest comfort of travel.

"We are pleased to offer our passengers the latest generation of aircraft with greater capacity, that is the superb Boeing 787 Dreamliner. Since 2012, we have been offering Polish passengers convenient connections as part of our growing flight network with a convenient transfer in Doha - said Akbar Al Baker, the CEO of Qatar Airways Group.

From 2 November 2018 Qatar Airways flies from Warsaw to Doha 16 times a week: with three flights on Mondays and Fridays and two flights on other days of the week.

LATEST TECHNOLOGY

Boeing 787 Dreamliner is packed with technology that allows passengers to reach their destination more refreshed than on other aircraft. With the use of state-of-the-art

Boeing 787 Dreamliner is packed with technology that allows passengers to reach their destination more refreshed than on other aircraft.

BELOW:
Seats in Business Class; Seats in Economy Class

technology, the B787 are able to maintain a higher pressure and air humidity on board than other passenger aircraft in this class. This guarantees 8% more oxygen, higher humidity and more efficient air filtration, reducing the effects of altitude sickness, and vertigo, making a trip on board the Dreamliner a pleasurable experience.

A specially designed ceiling extends over the length of the Business Class cabin, and larve overhead luggage compartments provide 30 percent more capacity than standard ones. Also the Dreamliner's windows are much larger than in other aircraft of this class, offering passengers unique views during the flight. The windows do not have plastic shades - instead they are dimmed and can be adjusted to let in various amounts of light by both the passenger and the crew.

The Dreamliner operated by Qatar Airways has a total of 254 seats. The award-winning Business Class features 22 seats configured 1-2-1, offering all passengers direct access to the aisle. Passengers can relax comfortably seats which recline to a fully-flat beds or use the time spent during the flight in a more productive manner, taking advantage of on-board connectivity services.

ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

The innovative Oryx One system provides in-flight entertainment and connectivity. Equipped with an intuitive touch screen panel, it offers passengers easy access to more than 4,000 movies, TV series and games. Importantly, the

system is available both in Business and Economy Class. In addition, with on-board Wi-Fi network it's easy to stay in touch with friends, family or customers on all continents.

Waiting for your next connection at Hamad International Airport in Doha, you can shop in more than 70 well-stocked stores, offering an unprecedented choice of products by high-end brands. On the site of the airport there are also squash courts, a hotel with a pool, and a spa. After landing at Hamad International Airport in Doha, it's worth checking out its business lounge, which is one of the most modern and most beautiful facilities of this type in the world.

200 AIRCRAFT, 150 DESTINATIONS

Qatar's national carrier is one of fastest growing airlines and has one of the youngest fleets in the world. Currently, in the 20th year of its operation, Qatar Airways boasts a fleet of more than 200 modern aircraft serving more than 160 business and tourist destinations on six continents.

This year the carrier has received a number of industry awards, including the Airline of the Year title in the prestigious "World Airline Awards 2017" competition presented

by Skytrax, a global organisation that conducts research for commercial airlines. This is the fourth time Qatar Airways has received this award. Qatar's national carrier has also received many other prestigious awards, including Best Airline in the Middle East, World's Best Business Class and World's Best First Class Airline Lounge.

For more than 20 years now Qatar Airways has been serving business and leisure travellers, flying to more than 150 destinations worldwide. In 2018 this world's fast-growing airline will expand its extensive flight network with new, exciting destinations, including Thessaloniki (Greece), Cardiff (UK) and many others.

GOING PLACES TOGETHER

Qatar Airways is a member of the Oneworld air alliance, which brings together a number of airlines from all over the world. In 2015, Oneworld was recognized for the third time in its history as the world's best airline alliance. Qatar Airways was the first Gulf carrier to join Oneworld, giving its passengers access to more than 1000 airports in over 150 countries and 14,250 daily flights.

Qatar Airways is proud to support many interesting international and local initiatives dedicated to developing the global community they serve. The airline is the official partner of FIFA and sponsors many top level sporting events, including the FIFA World Cup 2018 and 2022, recognising the value of sport as a means of bringing people closer together, which is reflected in the brand's slogan: "Going Places Together".

The third largest international cargo airline, Qatar Airways Cargo serves more than 60 cargo airports around the world through its Doha hub and delivers cargo to more than 160 of the world's most important destinations by means of over 200 aircraft. The Qatar Airways Cargo fleet consists of eight A330s freighter version, as well as 13 B777 and two B747-8 freighter planes; qatarairways.com



ABOVE:
Business Class seat;
Business Class;
Qatar Airways' B787
Dreamliner



Christmas at AccorHotels

Christmas traditions are one of the most celebrated in our culture. Although every year more and more people decide to spend Christmas away from home, most of them look for places where they can feel the true spirit and atmosphere of this unique holiday. Luckily, it's not difficult to find them, because Mercure, Novotel and Sofitel hotels know well how to create a true Christmas experience.

LOCALLY AND FESTIVELY IN MERCURE HOTELS

In locally inspired Mercure hotels you will be able to enjoy the whole extent of Christmas traditions with a regional twist. Having their own, unique style and character, the hotels prepare a plethora of attractions for the Christmas/New Year period to highlight the unique character and atmosphere of the holiday.

In the lobby of Mercure Kraków Stare Miasto there is a beautiful 5-metre tall Christmas tree with colourful lights. The hotel's Winestone restaurant has prepared a special Christmas menu evoking the unique flavours of the holiday with a creative touch by the head chef Maciej Pluta. Culinary proposals include goose fillet, herring tartar and porcini cream soup. There will also be a variety of Christmas beverages, such as Christmas Eve punch or aromatic hot chocolate with trimmings.

In addition to the traditional Christmas menu, Mercure Wrocław Centrum has prepared a dedicated urban game to help you explore the unique spots of the Christmas Fair and go on an unforgettable journey across the City of Hundred Bridges. The attraction will be available for guests individually and as part of special packages with accommodation.

CELEBRATING SPECIAL MOMENTS WITH NOVOTEL

Believing that every moment in life counts, hotels operate in line with "Time Well Spent" philosophy. It's especially important during Christmas time, which is usually spent with our families, friends or employees. Novotel hotels have prepared a wide choice of meeting options with a delicious menu designed especially for this occasion. They also invite guests to participate in unforgettable New Year's Eve and carnival balls.

Novotel Warszawa Centrum is organizing a unique New Year's Eve dinner with a carefully designed menu and a live cooking station. Guests will enjoy live jazz music and dance beats provided by a DJ. The oh-so-popular photo booth will



Unique stay and the Christmas magic

also be available. During the pre-Christmas period, the hotel organizes Christmas Eve parties with a dedicated buffet menu. The served dishes combine tradition and a modern twist.

Mercure Poznań Centrum hotel has also prepared a number of attractions for its guests. The property invites both hotel guests and locals to spend time together in its cosy interiors decorated in keeping with Christmas tradition. There will be a Christmas tree in the lobby or winter tea in the menu of Wise Cafe. The holiday celebration will end with a big carnival ball in the style of the 1980s.

Similarly to Mercure Wrocław, Novotel Wrocław City and Novotel Wrocław Centrum hotels invite all those looking for Christmas magic to have fun and take part in the exciting urban game.



Although every year more and more people decide to spend Christmas away from home, most of them look for places where they can feel the true spirit and atmosphere of this unique holiday.

ENCHANTED JOURNEY OR ART DE NOËL IN SOFTEL HOTELS

Sofitel Hotels & Resorts are global ambassadors of French culture, chic and elegance. Every year, the brand chooses an interesting, almost magical theme that accompanies guests during Christmas. This year's Sofitel hotels invite you on an enchanted journey to the world full of Christmas magic. Hotel decorations will relate to symbols that are generally associated with magic journeys.

Sofitel Grand Sopot combines dreams of a holiday by the sea with a cosy stay in a hotel and the warmth of homely Christmas. Tomasz Koprowski, the head chef of Art Deco restaurant, will invite all guests to an exquisite Christmas Eve supper, and the sound of sea waves will perfectly resonate with Christmas carols. The hotel is also preparing a number of attractions for children, including exciting activities and visits of Santa Claus with a bag full of gifts.

If you are planning to spend Christmas in Sofitel Wrocław Old Town, be prepared for a truly magical atmosphere, highlighted by the unique menu offered by the Pan Tadeusz restaurant. The hotel's bar will be filled with the spicy



Celebrate Christmas while travelling

aroma of mulled wine, composed according to a traditional Polish recipe. In the hotel lobby there will be a special kiosk with Christmas greeting cards with proceeds going towards charitable causes.

Sofitel Warsaw is celebrating the festive atmosphere by organizing a series of events presenting Polish and French culture. The head chef is preparing a unique Christmas Eve supper with exquisite dishes from French and Polish cuisine. There will also be a classic New Year's Eve party in the form of a festive dinner with a delicious menu.

JP's BAR - living with the pace of Warsaw

Warsaw is a city that bustles with business, cultural and entertainment life. The capital of Poland is constantly changing, as are the tastes of its residents. We like to participate in outdoor events, don't want to be perceived as reclusive, but make the most of what Warsaw has to offer us... And it has a lot.

One of the venues that are well known to both Warsaw residents and visitors, is the JP's Bar at The Westin Warsaw Hotel. With its excellent location, rich culinary offer and, above all, professional service, the bar never ceases to bustle with life, just like the city itself. From October 2018m JP's Bar will present its brand new interior, which will be even more modern, spacious and elegant.

NEW DESIGN, THE SAME PRESTIGE

The new iteration of JP's Bar has been designed in a very functional way. The concept is simple. The new space can be used for both formal and social meetings. All the elements of the interior are in sync with one another. Just look down - the wavy carpet designs are redolent of Warsaw's Vistula River, while the colour palette takes hints from the Polish golden autumn. Wooden elements made of American walnut, brass ornaments in organic shapes and the marble top are inspired by nature, and perfectly complete the whole picture. The bar is separated from the rest of the space with semi-transparent partitions, creating an intimate atmosphere and encouraging exploration of what's not seen at first glance.

UNIQUE MAKEOVER

The decor of the place changes depending on the time of day. Just like Warsaw, in the morning it's soaked in the sun, while in the evening it becomes an elegant venue designed to celebrate various occasions and enjoy life. The new décor comes with a new offer. In the morning, you can pop in here to enjoy fruit and vegetable juices. At lunchtime JP's Bar offers hot pastries straight from the on-site confectionery. In the evening changes its character. The bar offers exquisite cocktails - the bartenders serve delicious classic drinks, but they don't shy away from more unusual concoctions, either. You will see it for yourself.

What favours such a makeover? Our architects have come up with an interesting solution to visibly distinguish be-



tween the bar's morning/afternoon offer, and the evening when the place teems with life. How did they do it? By designing special alcohol shelves that aren't visible until the evening. During the day, their presence remains shrouded in a mystery.

COSMOPOLITAN OFFER

Warsaw is a conglomerate of local and international influences, which is perfectly reflected in the head chef Janusz Korzyński's signature menu. Healthy lifestyle lovers, veggies, Asian cuisine aficionado - all of them will find something tasty at JP's Bar. The bar's all-time hot-seller is freshly squeezed parsley juice, a perfect option for a snack.

The concept is simple. The new space can be used for both formal and social meetings. All the elements of the interior are in sync with one another.

At lunchtime or dinner, we especially recommend the Eat Well Bowl, which is a dish that you compose yourself, choosing the ingredients according to your tastes. All served in a stylish bowl. And for slightly more undecided guests, the chef has prepared a choice of tried-and-tested dishes, such as American burgers (with or without meat), salads, wok dishes, pad thai and many other delicious options. Also the evening offer leaves nothing to be desired, with a wide selection of exclusive alcohols of world-renowned brands, including high-quality wines and other liquors. JP's Bar menu is rich in taste, deep aroma and proven, original recipes. You should also try the unique Crafted at Westin offer, comprising unique cocktails that you won't find anywhere else.

SOCIALIZING MADE EASIER

However you don't frequent a bar only for its nice décor, but first and foremost to meet people. During the day you can see here business partners closing important deals by a cup of freshly brewed coffee; young couples planning their next trip while sipping green smoothies; and a group of friends celebrating the promotion of their colleague with their favourite drinks. Whether for business or privately, every occasion seems perfect to visit the new JP's Bar at the Westin Hotel.

ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum - inspired by the river

Unique interiors, unlimited creativity, attention to the tiniest details, and only 13 months that it took to complete the investment. This is how the ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum hotel was created. Located at 1a Zagórna Street, the property has 179 rooms, four conference spaces and a unique culinary offer based on the menu of Winestone restaurant. What else does the new Warsaw hotel offer?

FIND IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.

Dynamic development is an inseparable feature of today's Warsaw. The progress is visible both in the emerging architecture and in the initiatives that add colour to individual parts of the city. ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum fits perfectly into this process, providing unforgettable experience from your stay in the capital of Poland. Imaginative design and perfect harmony with nature - these complementary extremes are the perfect choice for those who wish to experience a fantastic adventure and rediscover the city. The hotel's location near the Vistula River makes it a truly tranquil place. At the same time with relative close proximity of cultural and entertainment centre, the property is a good choice for those wanting to explore the fun side of the city.

GET INSPIRED

The main goal of ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum is to surprise and inspire and its unique design proves that there is no limit to creativity. The unconventional and unique character of the ibis Styles brand philosophy is reflected here through the use of numerous elements of the décor related to the main theme of the hotel i.e. spending time on the river. The reception desk resembles a futuristic rock, the café has a picnic décor, and the guests rooms look like big colourful tents. Is it possible? ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum is introducing this unusual design concept into all of its 179 rooms. Their décor is all about bold colours, striped fabrics and distinctive details, which altogether create the impression of an

The hotel's location near the Vistula River makes it a truly tranquil place.

Winestone restaurant offers perfectly composed dishes and fine wines. The unique taste sensations are complemented by the unique décor in the style of a popular wine bar.



enclosed space, evoking good memories of joyful moments spent by the river. It's a space where you can break away from everyday routine, relax and have remarkably colourful dreams in Sweet Bed by ibis Styles.

TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT!

The closeness of the Vistula River was an inspiration and a starting point for ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum - a property deeply committed to the protection of the environment.

These aren't just empty slogans, as the hotel has been awarded the BREEAM certificate for facilities meeting highest ecological standards. The implementation of a zero waste strategy, reduction of plastic waste and the use of modern photovoltaic panels: these are just a few examples of good practices implemented in the interest of the natural environment. ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum creates standards of sustainable hospitality, where daily care of the guest goes hand in hand with long-term care for the world around us.

EAT SOMETHING DELICIOUS!

The hotel also has a unique offer for gourmets. The on-site Winestone restaurant delights not only with its unconventional yet tasteful décor, but also with exquisite dishes that will leave no one indifferent. The original concept of the place where traditional hotel restaurants are replaced by popular wine bars, exudes simplicity and authenticity, at the same time offering a wealth of flavours and aromas of carefully selected ingredients and perfectly composed dishes. Winestone is a great choice for gourmets, both those spending the night in a hotel and those eager to explore the delicious offer of this remarkable restaurant. Don't wait any longer - find out what else ibis Styles Warszawa Centrum can surprise you with. Get inspired by the cheerful atmosphere of the hotel and try its great food. In other words, experience something special.... on the banks of the river!

Comfortable and carefully designed rooms are a perfect space for rest and relaxation. The Sweet Bed by ibis Styles bed guarantees good sleep, while the creative tent-like décor of all the 179 rooms will take you into the world of unlimited imagination.



One&Only Royal Mirage Dubai



INFO

One&Only Royal Mirage is situated on the private, sandy Jumeirah beach, which stretches for over one kilometre. As a luxurious oasis in a big city, it also boasts the most beautiful garden complex in Dubai. Hotel guests can choose the standard and style of accommodation that suits them best by choosing rooms or suites in one of the three hotel wings. The hotel is completely unique, considered by many to be the most stylish property of this type in the whole of the UAE.

ROOMS AND SUITES

There is a large selection of rooms, suites and villas, spread over 26 hectares of private gardens.

The Palace section is the ideal choice for those looking for true palace splendour and timeless elegance with a hint of oriental atmosphere. Arabian Court will satisfy enthusiasts of Arab style, beautiful and symmetrical gardens as well as fancy fountains. Part of the prestigious Luxury Hotels of the World collection, Residence&Spa, was created for those looking for tranquillity, relaxation and harmony.

CUISINE

In eight on-site restaurants of the complex, world-renowned chefs prepare classic Mediterranean, Moroccan, international, Middle Eastern, grilled and seafood dishes. They are served both al fresco with a view of the gardens or Dubai panorama, as well as in the lavish interiors of the hotel. There are also four bars where the world's best bartenders serve fancy cocktails and the most exquisite champagne.

ACTIVE LEISURE

The luxurious on-site spa and Dubai's famous traditional hammam will pamper all your senses. In addition to hair and nail salon, as well as a well equipped fitness centre, fans of active leisure can use here volleyball, basketball and tennis courts, practise a wide range of water sports or master their skills at a nearby golf course. The youngest holidaymakers will have a great fun in the hotel's KidsOnly mini club.

VERDICT

One&Only Royal Mirage is a hotel recommended for the most demanding travellers.
Marta Domagala, Deluxe Travel Club



CONTACT

Deluxe Travel Club
al. Solidarności 117 lok. 406
00-140 Warsaw
tel.: (22) 12 422 22,435 77
dtc@deluxetravelclub.pl
www.deluxetravelclub.pl
www.dubaideluxe.pl

PRICE

from US\$2390 per 2 people
for 7 nights with breakfast,
between May and August



Contact Deluxe Travel Club
to learn more about this
luxury hotel - one of the best
properties of this type
in the UAE.



One&Only Le Saint Geran Mauritius



CONTACT

Deluxe Travel Club
al. Solidarności 117 lok. 406
00-140 Warsaw
tel.: (22) 12 422 22,435 77
dtc@deluxetravelclub.pl
www.deluxetravelclub.pl

PRICES

From €3490 per 2 people
for 7 nights with breakfast,
from May to August

INFO

Long hailed as the iconic luxury retreat in Mauritius, One&Only Le Saint Geran has recently been reopened following extensive renovation, which has taken this unique hotel to an even higher level of luxury. Its perfect location near the most beautiful beach stretching for almost two kilometres, makes it a favourite choice for travellers arriving on the island. Not without significance is the fact that the hotel is surrounded by warm waters of the Indian Ocean from the west and by peaceful lagoons from the east, overlooking sugar cane plantation and several mountain peaks.

ACCOMMODATION

The luxurious rooms and suites decorated in local style, which resonates with the exotic views of the lagoon, the ocean or the beach, guarantee a fantastic holiday. The balconies and terraces adjacent to the rooms come with comfortable chairs, allowing you to enjoy warm evenings and nights. The hotel also offers suites with two or three bedrooms, as well as a beautiful villa with two bedrooms and a private swimming pool.

CUISINE

There are five on-site restaurants, serving international, Asian and local cuisine, as well as BBQ dishes and steaks. There are also several quiet places where you can order a light salad or sip a cocktail at sunset. In the evenings, the hotel offers live music performed by local artists.



It's the world-class hotel and the favourite choice of
customers of Deluxe Travel Club who visit Mauritius.



ACTIVE LEISURE

The renovated luxury spa with a hair salon and massage rooms, offers an extensive choice of services by beauty experts. If you want to calm down, you can take a yoga class held in a beautiful pavilion opposite the main building. Active leisure enthusiasts can use three on-site pools and the water sports centre. The youngest holidaymakers will have an unforgettable time in the KidsOnly miniclub, while for teenage guests there is a dedicated OneTribe club.

VERDICT

A spectacular hotel, perfect for special occasions and celebrations. It's considered one of the most luxurious in the world and justly so. Excellent service, stylish rooms and suites, and the offer of the restaurant will leave no one indifferent. It's a good place for both an exotic holiday for two and for families with children.

Marta Domagala, Deluxe Travel Club

Turkish Airlines Airbus 330-200 and 330-300 Business Class Warsaw - Istanbul - Kathmandu



Turkish Airlines offers a very convenient connection to the capital city of Nepal from Warsaw. In October I had the pleasure of flying with this carrier in Business Class cabin on board Airbus A330-200 to Istanbul and then on A330-300 to Kathmandu.

CHECK-IN

Check-in for Business Class passengers went very smoothly, then I used my fast track privilege to breeze through passport control and went to the duty-free zone. Business Class passengers were also invited to use the business lounge at Warsaw Chopin airport. After less than an hour, passengers boarded the aircraft, first travellers with special needs, then families with children and Business Class passengers.

ON BOARD A330-200

Once I took my seat, a flight attendant offered me a welcome drink. I opted for a freshly squeezed lime juice with mint. The Business Class cabin features very pleasant décor in grey tone with red trims. Seat configuration 2-2-2 Once we reached cruising altitude, passengers were

the main course. I went for gnocchi with parmesan, tomato sauce and olives. The set also included various types of cheese, and dessert comprised Turkish rice pudding and a small portion of Turkish delight. There were also juices to choose from, and for connoisseurs the finest wines from all over the world. On special request passengers could also receive Turkish coffee, chocolate and various blends of tea. All dishes were served very tastefully, on white porcelain tableware. The flight to Istanbul took almost two hours.

THE LOUNGE ISTANBUL

After landing at Ataturk Airport in Istanbul I had some time to visit one of the most modern business lounges in the world. The elegant interiors of the lounge can accommodate up to 2000 passengers at the same time on the area of about 3000 sqm. It also has specially designed rooms for work, TV zone, a library, a billiard room, a cinema, two restaurants serving Turkish specialties, cosy relaxation areas with lots of greenery, as well as a kids' corner called the Turkish Kids Club.

ON BOARD A330-300

After more than an hour's rest, I was ready to take a flight to Kathmandu. The planned departure time was 8.45pm and the flight time 8 hours. The check-in was very efficient and



Turkish Airlines was awarded the "Best Business Class Onboard Catering" title by Skytrax.

we were soon invited to board the aircraft. This time I was truly impressed with the spacious Business Class cabin. At the front of the seat there was a special slot for shoes and other clever storage space, as well as a large selection of press. The seat reclined into a flat bed with a touch of a button. It also had a comfortable, adjustable headrest and a footrest. My seat was 2A. The whole cabin accommodates 28 seats in 2-2-2 configuration. Each business class passengers received

an amenity kit, a blanket, and a headset for the in-flight entertainment system. Touchscreens were installed in the front seats, while the controls for the IFE system were slotted into the main armrests. Also on this flight the onboard service began with a welcome drink; this time I opted for freshly squeezed orange juice. From the dinner menu, apart from delicious eastern snacks, I chose kasar, which was a light omelette with cheese, spinach and potatoes. I also ordered a glass of white wine

and fruit tea. Meals were served on elegant porcelain tableware with white tablecloths giving you an impression of dining in a fancy restaurant. All the details, including small salt and pepper shakers looked fine and tasteful. The on-board wine list was also quite extensive and included the finest wines from various wineries. After such a great feast, I decided to recline the seat into the flatbed position to have some rest. I put the headphones on and for a few tranquil hours I enjoyed music from the extensive on-board library. Two hours before landing the cabin crew served breakfast. I chose salmon with celery salad served with multigrain rolls. Dessert comprised chocolate mousse and a cup of cappuccino. Landing in the tricky mountain region of Kathmandu was perfect and on time.

VERDICT

It was a very good flight. The cabin crew were friendly and professional and the seat was very comfortable. I also liked the option of ordering food at your convenience, and the excellent meals. No wonder that the Turkish carrier was awarded the "Best Business Class Onboard Catering" title by Skytrax organisation. I recommend Turkish Airlines as the best choice for the Warsaw-Nepal route.

Rafał Sobiech



Stars of Bangkok

With the next edition of the city's Michelin Guide due at the end of the year, we examine the effect its 2018 debut has had on the foodie scene

DESTINATIONS

WORDS CATHARINE NICOL



Last year, Bangkok restaurants of every sort, from the highest echelons of fine dining to street-food eateries, were searched out, inspected and reinspected by the people behind the Michelin Guide. Finally, on December 6, 2017, three two-star restaurants, 14 one-star restaurants and a longer list of Bib Gourmands and Plates made it into the world-famous little red book.

Without a doubt, the chef who stole the Michelin show was the diminutive 72-year-old Jay Fai (or Auntie Fai), the culinary talent behind the only street-food venue to win a star. She is renowned for the high-quality, and relatively high-priced, crab omelette and prawn noodles she wok-fries at her family's open-air Banglamphu shophouse. A surprised and rather overwhelmed Auntie Fai donned chef whites for the occasion (she usually wears a rather beguiling outfit of T-shirt, apron, beanie hat and protective ski goggles) and confessed that before

the event she really had no idea what a Michelin star was and almost decided not to attend.

By contrast, one-star winner Bee Satongun, co-founder of Paste alongside Australian husband Jason Bailey, said she had been waiting a long time for Michelin to come to town. The 42-year-old chef has been cooking since she was five, and now specialises in giving old royal Thai recipes a contemporary touch.

"Thai cuisine can take its rightful place as one of the most diverse, intense cuisines in the world today," announced Michael Ellis, international director of the Michelin Guide, at the awards event. "In Thai food you can find something nowhere else in the world, a combination of all the tastes found on the palate: salty, sweet, sour, bitter and umami are all mixed with different temperatures and textures."

Of course, foodies don't need a Michelin Guide to tell them how good Thai food is. However, the newly awarded one-star Thai restaurants alongside Jay Fai and

LEFT: Bangkok now boasts a host of newly minted Michelin-starred restaurants

ABOVE: Jay Fai is considered one of the city's best street-food cooks, winning a Michelin star for her open-air Banglamphu shophouse

Paste (which include Bo.Lan, Chim by Siam Wisdom, Nahm, Saneh Jaan and Sra Bua by Kiin Kiin) will likely be even busier in the future. As will Bib Gourmands such as Thip Samai, with its delicious pad thai, and Go-Ang Kaomunkai Pratunam, whose succulent chicken rice is a local favourite.

But it was French fine dining and progressive Indian that were the cuisines to scoop two stars. Go to Le Normandie at the Mandarin Oriental for elegant haute cuisine or to chef Ryuki Kawasaki's Mezzaluna on the 65th floor of the State Tower for organic and innovative dishes. Meanwhile, if you'd like to watch your dining companions eating with their hands and licking their plates, chef Gaggan Anand's progressive and irreverent Indian cuisine at Gaggan delivers entertaining surprises.

While international chefs are at the helm, it's mostly Thai chefs who work behind the scenes. "My first challenge, when I arrived more than five years ago, was to teach my Thai staff to cook French style," says French chef Arnaud Dunand-Sauthier. "Today is a victory for the restaurant, but more for my staff and the people of Thailand. We show that Thai people can cook anything."

The cross-cultural theme is pushed to its limit at Mezzaluna, where Japanese chef Ryuki cooks French food in the Thai capital. And as chef Gaggan said, "I think Michelin proves you can be a global citizen and win here. You can cook what you want to cook. If I can get a star then anyone can, nothing is

impossible in this city."

Case in point: several international chefs have specialised in Thai food in Bangkok. Michelin's Ellis called Danish chef Henrik Yde Andersen a pioneer for his innovation at the now one-starred Sra Bua by Kiin Kiin.

"Thailand adopted me," says Yde Andersen, humbly. "I was trained as a French chef, then came out here where there are no rules, and that's what I love about Thai cuisine – sugar in the main, salt in the dessert."

Similarly, the Australian patriarch of Thai cuisine David Thompson, who won his first Michelin star six months after opening Nahm at The Halkin, London, in 2001, picked up another star for his Bangkok restaurant, thanking the gathering in fluent Thai.

"There are some questions, some absences, as Michelin finds its feet," commented Thompson later. Scrolling through social media, 80/20, where chef Napol Jantrager and chef Andrew Martin mix Western dishes with Thai ingredients to high acclaim, as well as Le Du, where chef Thitid "Ton" Tassanakajohn reinvents Thai dishes, seemed two of the most missed.

"There is always passionate debate afterwards, which of course we welcome," says Ellis. "We have a point of view, we don't pretend to have the truth. The

"Chefs who want to be part of the Michelin universe are part athlete, part artist"



"Oh no they missed my favourite!" conversations are normal. We would be concerned if no one cared – we're pleased people are passionate about their food."

If Michelin's presence reflects the city's increasingly sophisticated gastronomic scene, the culinary landscape reflects the passion residents and visitors have for eating here.

"Bangkok is booming," say the Suhring brothers Thomas and Mathias, whose contemporary German cuisine riverside restaurant Suhring won a star after being open less than two years. "Ten years ago there wasn't such a variety of restaurants that would have deserved one or two stars."

Coming up next for Michelin will be guides to Guangzhou and Taipei. "We have a road map, literal and figurative, with cities of gastronomic interest," says Ellis. "The bottleneck for us is our ability to identify and recruit, train and deploy inspectors."

This bizarre situation (who wouldn't want to be a Michelin Guide inspector?) comes with some hard truths of just what it takes. "You have to be obsessed with food," emphasises Ellis. "It is a very technical job and we need →

LEFT: Known for its modern take on traditional Thai dishes, Nahm at COMO Metropolitan Bangkok uses robustly flavoured ingredients

ABOVE: Le Normandie at the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok, offers contemporary French cuisine

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people who have highly developed palates. You need the ability to taste and translate what is happening on your palate into words. Plus, awarding or taking away a star is a big responsibility. It comes after multiple meals and must be a unanimous decision on the part of the inspection team."

Ellis adds that the solo on-the-road lifestyle comes with personal sacrifices. "You're not there to have a good time." He acknowledges the sacrifices made by the chefs too. "Chefs who want to be part of the Michelin universe are part athlete, part artist," he believes.

Love it or loathe it, the Michelin Guide gives chefs meaningful worldwide recognition, welcoming them to an exclusive club that, for many, is worth the long hours and pressure. And talking about pressure, while some chefs have renounced their stars, chef Gaggan believes this to be irresponsible.

"It would be very selfish to my restaurant to give away my stars," he comments, saying they are as much for his team as for the city. "I have to give Michelin enough motivation to stay, so that other chefs are able to get recognition too. It's important for the future of Bangkok."

For a number of chefs the Michelin Guide is a life changer. Chef Chan in Singapore, for example, went from a one-star hawker market restaurant to opening new venues, while Tim Ho Wan in Hong Kong has expanded within Hong Kong and overseas. And, by all accounts, the queue for Jay Fai is currently over two hours.

As chef Gaggan humorously predicted at the award ceremony, "We should all go to Jay Fai tonight because after tonight you'll never be able to get in there again. You'll be able to book a table at Gaggan, but not at Jay Fai!"



"Thai cuisine can take its rightful place as one of the most diverse, intense cuisines in the world today"

ABOVE:
Caviar Osciètre
et Oursin is chef
Dunand-Sauthier's
signature dish at
Le Normandie

MICHELIN IN BANGKOK

★★ TWO STARS

Gaggan (Indian)

68/1 Soi Langsuan, Phloen Chit Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan; +66 2 652 1700; eatatgaggan.com

Le Normandie (French)

5/F Mandarin Oriental, 48 Oriental Avenue; Bang Rak; +66 2 659 9000; mandarinoriental.com

Mezzaluna (European)

65/F Tower Club at Lebua, State Tower, 1055 Si Lom Road, Bang Rak; +66 2 624 9555; lebua.com/mezzaluna

★ ONE STAR

Bo.Lan (Thai)

24 Soi Sukhumvit 53, Khlong Toei, Watthana; +66 2 260 2961; bolan.co.th

Chim by Siam Wisdom (Thai)

66 Soi Sukhumvit 31 Yaek 4, Khlong Toei, Watthana; +66 2 260 7811; siamwisdomcuisine.com

Elements (French)

25/F The Okura Prestige Bangkok, Park Ventures Ecoplex, 57 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan; +66 2 687 9000; okurabangkok.com

Ginza Sushi Ichi (Japanese)

LGF Erawan Bangkok Mall, 494 Phloen Chit Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan; +66 2 250 0014; ginza-sushiichi.jp/english

J'AIME by Jean-Michel Lorain

(French)2/F U Sathorn Bangkok, 105, 105/1 Soi Ngam Duphli, Sathorn; +66 2 119 4899; jaime-bangkok.com

Jay Fai (Thai)

327 Mahachai Road, Samranras, Phra Nakon; +66 2 223 9384

L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon (French)

5/F MahaNakhon CUBE, 96 Narathiwas Ratchanakharin Road, Silom, Bang Rak; +66 2 001 0698; robuchon-bangkok.com

Nahm (Thai)

G/F COMO Metropolitan Bangkok, 27 South Sathorn Road, Sathorn; +66 2 625 3388; comohotels.com

Paste (Thai)

3/F, Gaysorn shopping mall, 999 Phloen Chit Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan; +66 2 656 1003; pastebangkok.com

Saneh Jaan (Thai)

Glasshouse at Sindhorn, 130 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan; +66 2 650 9880; glasshouseatsindhorn.com

Savelberg (French)

Oriental Residence Bangkok, 110 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathum Wan; +66 2 252 8001; savelbergth.com

Sra Bua by Kiin Kiin (Thai)

Siam Kempinski Hotel, 991/9 Rama 1 Road; +66 2 162 9000; srabuabykiinkiin.com

SUhring (European)

10 Soi Yen Akat 3, Chong Nonsi, Yan Nawa; +66 2 287 1799; restaurantsuhring.com

Upstairs at Mikkeller (American)

26 Ekkamai 10 Alley, Lane 2, Phra Khanong Nuay; +66 91 713 9034; upstairs-restaurant.com

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WORDS BECKY AMBURY



Belfast

Blessed with friendly inhabitants, handsome buildings and a lively nightlife, this small-scale city is both fun and fascinating

1 Titanic Quarter

Belfast was a powerhouse of the industrial revolution; a major producer of linen and the location of the world's biggest shipyard, Harland and Wolff. The site where the Titanic was built has undergone extensive regeneration and is home to the city's preeminent tourist attraction, Titanic Belfast, dedicated to the city's industrial history and telling the story of the ill-fated vessel, from the details of its construction to the personal stories of the passengers. While you're in this neck of the woods look out for one of the city's most famous landmarks, the striking yellow Samson and Goliath shipbuilding cranes. titanicbelfast.com

2 St George's Market

From the Titanic Quarter, walk along the waterfront or, if pressed for time, jump in a cab and head towards the heart of the city itself. Belfast has a burgeoning food scene and St George's Market is a great place to sample the fantastic produce for which Northern Ireland is becoming increasingly renowned. There are markets in this Victorian building Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with fresh fruit and vegetables, an overwhelming array of fishmongers and butchers, street food, breads and beverages. Organised tours are also available via Taste & Tour for those who want a really in-depth perspective of the Belfast food scene. tasteandtour.co.uk

3 City Hall

Continuing into the centre, make your way to the resplendent City Hall, with its distinctive green copper domes. Constructed from Portland stone, this Baroque Revival building was completed in 1906 and there are fascinating free guided tours available. By taking a tour, visitors can gain access to the parts of the building that are otherwise off limits to tourists. However, the grand interior, which includes stained glass, Italian marble, handsome wood panelling and statues and paintings of Belfast's good and not so good, is worth visiting whether on a tour or not. belfastcity.gov.uk

4 Belfast Black Cab Tour

While Belfast's troubled past can seem a world away, evidence of it is still dotted throughout the city in both its architecture and its murals. A trip to see the Falls and Shankill Roads, and the Peace Wall that divided Nationalist and Loyalist inhabitants, is an eye-opening experience and essential for getting a true understanding of the city. The best way to do this via a Black Cab Tour, which lasts around 90 minutes. The tours provide a human perspective of Belfast's history and the stories behind the murals. Most tours will tailor the route to suit and can pick you up and drop you at a convenient central location. belfastblackcabtours.co.uk

5 Cathedral Quarter

Pubs are a forte here, as a trip to the Cathedral Quarter will quickly assure you. This area is home to some of the best, all within easy proximity of each other. The cobbled streets are a delight to wander and, as evening falls, drinkers and the sounds of live music spill out of the doorways. For a different sort of mural, head to the Duke of York in the Half Bap area, with its softly lit, memorabilia-filled interior and street art on the walls outside. Restaurants abound, too, with Hadskis a local favourite set in an old iron foundry. The menu is a tempting selection of European dishes that showcases Northern Irish ingredients. hadskis.co.uk



CANCELLED FLIGHT

While I was on my business trip, one of my flights got cancelled. I experienced a lot of stress and I couldn't make it for an important meeting. Am I entitled to any compensation? It was my employer who paid for the ticket.

Jacek

Dear Jacek,

Of course, you can claim compensation for a cancelled or a delayed flight when you travel for business. The money will be transferred to your private account, even if the flight was paid for by your employer. However, in order to obtain compensation for a disrupted flight, there are several conditions that need to be met. Compensation is due if the cancellation occurred less than 14 days before the scheduled departure. Additionally, in such situations the passenger is also entitled to other forms of compensation, such as meal and drink vouchers or hotel accommodation with free transfer to and from the airport. Note that the maximum amount of compensation for a cancelled flight is up to €600, depending on the distance travelled, route of the flight and the operating carrier. You are entitled to a reimbursement of €250 for flights of up to 1,500 kilometers, €400 euros for all flights within the EU that exceed 1,500 kilometers, as well as all other flights between 1,500 and 3,500 kilometers. If the route of your flight is of more than 3,500 kilometers, you can get up to €600 of reimbursement.

You are only entitled to compensation if your flight is either; within the EU and operated by an EU or non-EU carrier, arrives in the EU from outside the intra-Community and is operated by an EU airline, or departs from the EU to a non-EU country operated by an EU or non-EU airline. In extraordinary circumstances including adverse weather conditions, political instability occurring within the departure or destination country, as well as unexpected strikes or, as it happened several years ago - a volcano eruption, the air carrier cannot be made responsible for the payment of compensation.

Complaints can be sent by a registered post letter with acknowledgment of receipt to the air carrier or electronically to the airline's e-mail address via a web form that can be found on the carrier's website.

Alternatively, you can use the services of a company like GIVT, which specializes in obtaining reimbursement from airlines, and in case of no win, charges no commission. The legal basis for compensation claims is the Regulation of the Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2004 establishing common rules on compensation and assistance to passengers in the event of denied boarding and of cancellation or long delay of flights, and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 295/91

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.



WORK AND MILES

My new job means travelling a lot on business. Both the headquarters of my company and our customers are based in Germany, so I will fly with Lufthansa and LOT Polish Airlines. What privileges can I get if I travel frequently? So far I have travelled only with no-frills airlines, which don't offer any loyalty programmes. Is it possible to obtain a gold card in the scheme?

Tadeusz

Dear Tadeusz,

Some low-cost lines have their own loyalty programmes, but usually those offer very basic benefits. Traditional airlines have more advanced offers.

In your case it's the best idea to join the Miles & More, the most convenient programme for passengers using services of Star Alliance member airlines (LOT, Lufthansa, Austrian, SWISS). The rules are quite simple: points can be collected not only for flights, but also for hotel and car reservations, credit card payments, magazine subscriptions or shopping in selected stores.

You can also earn status miles for your flights, which allow you to get a higher status in the programme. Once you have collected 100,000 miles, you will reach the Senator level and benefit from additional privileges: retaining earned points after three years, additional miles for flights, upgrade coupons, guaranteed seat availability, priority on waiting list, higher baggage allowance, access to Business Class lounges, increased seat pool for flight awards, etc.

When you sign up for the programme, you will receive a welcome bonus. Points can also be credited retrospectively for flights done in the last six months. Miles and More differentiates the number of points awarded depending on the ticket price - the higher the fare, the more points will be credited to your account. More details can be found on the website of the programme. Accrued points can be redeemed for flights, hotel and car reservations, shopping, as well as upgrades. It's a good idea to check regularly the ongoing mileage promotions. Prize tickets can be also booked for another person.

You may also want to sign up to other loyalty schemes offered by member airlines of Oneworld or Skyteam alliances.

Delayed or cancelled business flight?

It is the passenger who is entitled to the compensation

get up to
600€!



We guarantee:

- ✓ free claim verification
- ✓ no win – no commission
- ✓ high quality service



givt.com

Nowości
na Święta,
aby było
więcej Radości.

