

# Business Traveler

FEBRUARY 2018

\$4.95

**Positively Dubai**  
Tiny emirate, big plans

**Flights to Quality**  
New premium cabin designs

## THE QUEEN'S

*Farewell*

US airlines bid  
adieu to Boeing's  
iconic 747



**Business  
Traveler**  
*lifestyle*

Golfing Around Scotland  
Escape to Siem Reap  
Imaginative Pairings

## BOARDROOM | BEDROOM



### THE NEW SINGAPORE AIRLINES BUSINESS CLASS EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

**Space to work**  
in new levels of privacy,  
with the divider up

**Space to share**  
in a forward-facing double  
bed, with the divider down

**Space for more**  
with in-seat stowage  
for your cabin luggage

# Business Traveler

## ■ Inside February 2018

### On The Cover

#### 30 The Queen's Farewell

US aviation says adieu to the venerable Boeing 747 and *Business Traveler* is on board for the party

### Special Report

#### 12 Flights to Quality

The world's airlines roll out new front-of-the-plane cabin designs to stake out the competitive edge

### Destinations

#### 22 Bays of Plenty

Sanya is a tropical hotspot known as 'the Hawaii of China'

#### 26 Positively Dubai

This Gulf Coast emirate makes a dizzying reach for the stars

### Departments

#### 8 Upfront

One on One with Todd Neuman, South African Airways EVP for North America. DOT withdraws rulemaking on airline fees. Qatar takes a stake in Cathay Pacific.

#### 16 Loyalty Update

Airline and hotel rewards programs news and promotions

#### 18 Take Offs & Landings

Bumper Crop – Ten intriguing new international routes for 2018, plus airport news

#### 36 Tried & Tested

Millennium Hilton One UN Plaza New York  
Hotel Paracas, A Luxury Collection Resort  
Paracas, Peru





## Intermedia Travel Group

Eleven Ryerson Avenue, Suite 201,  
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444  
P: (973) 839-6200 F: (973) 839-4390  
www.businesstravelerusa.com

### Group Publisher

Jerry Allison – (973) 839-6200  
JAllison@businesstravelerusa.com

### Principal/Chief Content Officer

Ross Atkinson – (703) 395-7145  
RAtkinson@businesstravelerusa.com

### Subscriptions – (973) 839-0620

subscriptions@businesstravelerusa.com

### Advertising Sales – (973) 839-6200

advertising@businesstravelerusa.com  
Jim McGinley – (818) 712-0672  
Mike Shevlin – (847) 749-0168

### Editorial Director

Dan Booth – (336) 766-1961  
editorial@businesstravelerusa.com

### Editorial Assistant – Ralf Walters

### Contributors

Craig Bright  
Everen T. Brown  
Marisa Cannon  
Mark Caswell  
Tamsin Cocks  
Lark Gould  
Valerian Ho  
Olivia Palamountain  
Ramsey Qubein

### Designer & Art Director

Michele Cameron  
ML.Cameron@comcast.net

### Production

Marylee DeFerrari  
mdferrari@businesstravelerusa.com

Business Traveler® North America is published ten times a year at our address as above. The magazine is independent of commercial interest. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be accepted for publication. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers who cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of the text, photographs or illustrations without permission is prohibited.

# Business Traveler

*lifestyle*



48

## 40 Lifestyle News

JW Marriott welcomes wellness ambassador. Amazon introduces Alexa for Business. Turkish Airline customers enjoy exclusive drive. Marriott, Samsung & LeGrand create IoT hotel room. Air France upgrades app.

## 42 Well Being

Highland Highlights – A Scottish adventure in culture & golf

## 46 The Scene

We round up some top events in the upcoming months.

## 48 Escape To

Siem Reap – Appreciating the ancient ruins of Angkor Wat

## 52 Perfect Match

The rules for pairings are being rewritten

## 56 4 Hours In

Frankfurt

## 58 World Wise

Fatigue Intrigue – When there's not enough sleep to go around



52



“ I ARRIVE AS RECHARGED  
AS MY CELL PHONE.”



Imagine it more convenient, more efficient. The speed you expect and the experience you deserve. With 10 weekday departures between Boston and New York. The time for imagining is over.



Amtrak and Acela are registered service marks of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.

SEE WHERE THE TRAIN CAN TAKE YOU. [AMTRAK.COM](http://AMTRAK.COM)



# Show Stoppers

This year's Las Vegas CES may be remembered more for the darkness than the lights

The 51st edition of the World's Biggest Big-Kid Toy Shop, aka, the Consumer Electronics Show, has wrapped up, accompanied by the usual breathless headlines about how all the products shown there will change life as we know it forever – or something like that. Frankly all the hype has made some of us a little jaded; too often we've noted what's shown in Vegas stays in Vegas. Of the all new products trotted out by the nearly 4,000 CES exhibitors this year, history tells us relatively few will actually make it to market, and fewer still will have the profound impact their promoters promise.

Year after year, it seems to be getting harder for the show to wow us. Overwhelm us, yes; but truly wow us? Not so much. The TVs get bigger and brighter, the laptops get thinner and lighter, the processors get faster and faster. But they're still TVs and laptops and processors, doing essentially the same things our old devices at home do. Evolution can be slow and methodical – and less than wow-inducing.

So CES exhibitors are always careful to add a bit of bling: In addition to the usual tech, this year there were headsets that not only show you virtual reality but tell you how you really feel, mirrors that can tell you how beautiful you really are, smart fridges, showers, bathtubs and even toilets. And naturally there were lots of robots of all shapes, sizes and functions.

However this year's show did have its share of real drama, provided one could peer past the blinding glow of gigantic TVs. To start with, more far-reaching changes are coming down the road in the automotive sector, where Elon Musk's "sophisticated computer on wheels" draws ever closer to reality. Nvidia's new Xavier chip, which is set to show up in partnerships with the likes of VW, Audi, Bosch and Uber, promises to deliver the computing power required for truly autonomous vehicles.

But not everything was coming up roses in Las Vegas. In a week that's intended to celebrate the joy of tech, there were vexing

setbacks. The show began amid a flurry of news reports about potential widespread security flaws in Intel processors. Software patches were being issued, along with press releases, finger-pointing, denials and counter-denials.

Then came the rains. On Day Two, this desert city received over an inch of rain, a veritable deluge, which knocked out power to the Convention Center's central hall. Everything went dark; big screens, light shows, refrigerators, computers. Demonstrations stopped (except for the displays of battery-powered devices), and effectively technology was brought to its knees.

We are reminded of what happened in Atlanta in December, when the airport lost power for 12 hours, stranding planes and passengers. Then days before the lights went out in Vegas, a water main break in JFK's Terminal 4 caused the already weather-stricken airport to shut down international flights into the terminal.

There's no doubt – all this shiny new technology is fun. Smartphones are smarter, televisions are brighter, even toilets are, well, hipper. More and more we rely on these devices to power our travels, and our lives. But as incidents like Atlanta, Las Vegas and New York prove, all our advanced technology stands on the creaky legs of an infrastructure that may or may not bear up under the weight. So next time you flip a light switch, or turn on a tap, or power up your computer, don't take it for granted. Give some thought to the technology that underlies the technology, and what's being done to make *that* better.

It's too important to let it stop the show. **BT**

— Dan Booth  
Editorial Director

## Keep In Touch



**Stay Informed:** sign up for the Business Traveler weekly newsletter at [www.businesstravelerusa.com](http://www.businesstravelerusa.com)



MEETINGS & EVENT SERVICES

**CAREY**<sup>®</sup>  
MEETINGS & EVENT SERVICES



## You Manage the Event. Let Carey Manage the Transportation.

Carey's Meetings & Event Services Division is solely dedicated to managing the complex logistics uniquely associated with group transportation and large-scale travel programs.

Carey's knowledgeable team of experienced Meetings & Event Services Specialists orchestrate the planning process and coordinate exacting on-site service delivery for events of any size. Carey's world-class fleet of vehicles and highly trained chauffeurs assure the highest levels of safety, service and quality for both planners and passengers.

**CAREY**<sup>®</sup>  
MEETINGS & EVENT SERVICES

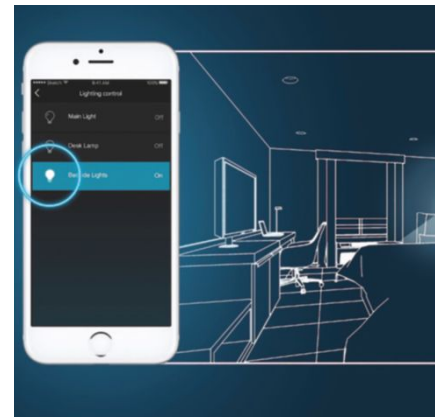
800.223.9817 | [carey.com](http://carey.com) | [events@carey.com](mailto:events@carey.com)



# ONE ONE ONE

## African Skies

Todd Neuman, South African Airways EVP for North America talks new aircraft, new destinations and bright prospects for Africa



**BT:** What developments can you tell us about South African Airways service in North America?

**NEUMAN:** Last year was the introduction of the new Airbus A330 on the Washington-Johannesburg route with several enhancements to the on-board product. Our premium business class cabin is a 1-2-1 configuration that allows direct aisle access from every seat. Business class has a new entertainment system with a larger screen, and still features 180-degree flat beds and gourmet cuisine. For both our business class and our economy class customers, we serve exclusively South African wines.

**BT:** Are you looking at adding any new routes?

**NEUMAN:** Currently we fly to six continents. We are looking at additional destinations in Asia and Europe. And of course, as North America is our largest international region, we are looking at other opportuni-

ties there as well. But any expansion into North America will most likely require us to serve those routes with a new airplane.

**BT:** Why is that?

**NEUMAN:** Since most of the international routes that we serve are anywhere from 12 to 16 hours long – for example Johannesburg-New York – we really need an aircraft designed for long-range missions. Plus our Johannesburg hub is such a high altitude. So the aircraft needs the capability to take off from a high-altitude airport and fly for 12 to 16 hours. There are very few aircraft on the market that have that capability.

**BT:** When it comes to investment in the airline's fleet renewal, what's the role of the South African government?

**NEUMAN:** The airline is still 100 percent owned by the South African government. But they recognize that in today's environment it's difficult for them to have sole responsibility for recapitalization of the airline. So as part of our five-year business plan, the government is looking at an equity partner for South African Airways.

**BT:** Are they considering a joint venture with another airline?

**NEUMAN:** They're looking at both options, whether it be a private firm or another airline. I think ideally the preference would be an equity partner in another airline because of the cost-savings that could be achieved. But it certainly needs to be the right partner with complementary route networks.

**BT:** What's the outlook for business travel to Africa these days?

**NEUMAN:** Among the top 10 emerging economies around the world, at least 50 percent are countries in Africa. South Africa

has always been an economic engine on the African continent. Nigeria has been very strong and within the last few years, Ethiopia has also emerged as a new area of economic growth. So the growth in business travel to Africa has really benefitted the airline, because more US companies are developing operations in sub-Saharan Africa.

**BT:** How is the airline positioning itself to be part of Africa's growth story?

**NEUMAN:** The government does still recognize the airline as a national asset. We are very much part of the national development agenda, fostering economic growth and business development, and particularly tourism, which is quickly surpassing the mining industry as the number one economic driver, both from leisure travelers and the meeting and incentive market. We're seeing some nice recovery in the incentive market in South Africa.

**BT:** What's most rewarding for you personally?

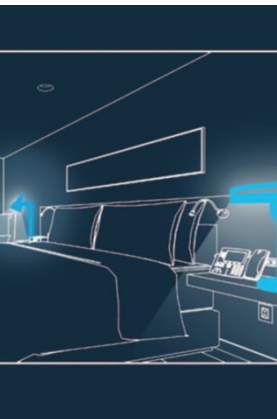
**NEUMAN:** For me, actually, one thing is not only are we selling the airline, but we also have the pleasure of selling a great destination. There's so much to see and do on the African continent; there's a lot of diversity in the landscape, the culture, the heritage. One thing that we most commonly hear from our customers who have visited Africa is, it was a life-changing experience. And that's always great to hear because I think it gives them a much different perspective on the continent itself.





### QATAR AIRWAYS TAKES A STAKE IN CATHAY PACIFIC

Qatar Airways has announced an agreement to purchase shares of Cathay Pacific Airways. Qatar will become a 9.61 percent owner of its oneworld alliance partner. "Qatar Airways is one of the world's premier airlines," said Cathay Pacific chief executive officer, Rupert Hogg. "We already work together closely as fellow members of the oneworld alliance and we look forward to a continued constructive relationship." For details visit [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com).



### Hilton Unveils The Connected Room

Hilton has introduced the Connected Room, a high-tech guest room that enables guests to personalize and control their stays from their own mobile devices. Currently in beta testing, Connected Room is live in one hotel and will begin to scale rapidly to hotels across the US in 2018. Guests who stay at Connected Room-enabled properties will be able to use the Hilton Honors app to manage most things they would traditionally do manually in a room, including controlling the temperature, the lighting, television and window coverings. Guests will also be able to personalize their rooms with technology that loads streaming media and other accounts to in-room TVs. In the longer term, Connected Room technology will support a range of connected devices, engagements and experiences. Visit [hilton.com](http://hilton.com) to learn more.



### NYC's First Modular Hotel The Pod Brooklyn Opens

The Pod Brooklyn is now open in Brooklyn's Williamsburg neighborhood. The modular hotel was built in Poland and shipped to New York City. The property offers 249 rooms in different configurations – including bunk beds and queen beds. Coming soon – the property will roll out food and beverage options and more. Private meeting and event spaces as well as retail space are also on their way. For details visit [thepodhotel.com](http://thepodhotel.com).



### Delta and WestJet Announce Joint Venture

Delta and WestJet have announced plans to strengthen their existing partnership by entering into a joint venture agreement. Subject to approvals by both carriers' boards and regulators, the arrangement will allow the airlines to coordinate flight schedules for new nonstop flights between the US and Canada, and expand their codeshare operations. The planned JV also enhances frequent flyer benefits including reciprocal benefits for top-tier members of both airlines. "This agreement will bring heightened competition and an enriched product offering to the transborder segment, both of which will benefit our guests," said Ed Sims, WestJet executive vice president, commercial. "We are delighted to be working with the premier US carrier, Delta Air Lines, in this joint venture." Visit [delta.com](http://delta.com) and [westjet.com](http://westjet.com) for details.



### Shangri-La Hotel Debuts in Xiamen

The 325-room Shangri-La Hotel Xiamen has opened within the city's newly developed financial zone, Guanyin Shan Business Center. It is a 10-minute drive from the Xiamen International Conference and Exhibition Center and 20 minutes from Xiamen International Airport. The hotel has two restaurants and a lobby lounge. Other amenities include a large fitness center and spa with an indoor heated pool and gym, a ballroom accommodating 1,000 and nine other event spaces for 30 to 400 guests. Visit [shangri-la.com](http://shangri-la.com) for details.

### PROPERTY PIPELINE AND OPENINGS

- **Waldorf Astoria Admiralty Arch Plans a 2022 Open in London** – Waldorf Astoria Hotels & Resorts has acquired a 250-year lease on the historic Admiralty Arch property, originally built in 1910. The property, which has 96 rooms and suites, will open in 2022 following renovations. Visit [hilton.com](http://hilton.com).
- **The Luxury Collection Heads to Tasmania** – The Luxury Collection Hotels & Resorts plans a 2018 opening of The Tasman in Tasmania's capital city, Hobart. The hotel's 128 rooms and suites occupy repurposed heritage buildings in Parliament Square, one of which was constructed in 1847. Visit [starwoodhotels.com](http://starwoodhotels.com).
- **Capella Bangkok Sets Q4 Open** – Capella Bangkok has announced its plans to open in the fourth quarter of 2018. The property which offers 101 suites and villas will be part of the new residential development Chao Phraya Estate on the River of Kings. Visit [capellahotels.com](http://capellahotels.com).
- **Curio Collection Coming to Chicago's Navy Pier** – Curio Collection by Hilton plans to open its newest property at the historic Navy Pier on Lake Michigan in Chicago. The 222 room property is set to open in the summer of 2019. Visit [hilton.com](http://hilton.com).
- **CIRC Hotel Sets March 1 Open in Hollywood, FL** – The CIRC Hotel, a 111-room modern boutique property is opening March 1 on Young Circle in downtown Hollywood, FL. The 12-story hotel is located at the \$200 million mixed-use Hollywood Circle development. Visit [circhotel.com](http://circhotel.com).





### American Tightens Rules on ‘Smart Bags’

Passengers with battery-powered “smart” luggage must be able to remove the battery to check the bag on an American Airlines flight. The airline said the policy was due to concerns about the hazards of placing lithium-ion battery power banks in the cargo hold of aircraft. Delta Air Lines and Alaska Airlines have rolled out similar rules, while United Airlines and Southwest Airlines say they are reviewing the issue.

Carriers which have instituted the policy say they will require customers to remove batteries from any smart bag they check and pack the batteries in a carry-on, in the same way passengers must carry spare batteries for other electronics in the cabin where crew members can more quickly respond to an overheating device. Passengers can leave batteries installed in carry-on smart bags but must still be able to remove them in case the bag needs to be checked at the gate or on a later flight.

More information is available at [aa.com](http://aa.com).



### US DOT Withdraws Proposed Rulemaking on Airline Fees

The US Department of Transportation has withdrawn two proposed rulemakings on airline ancillary revenues, saying they were “of limited public benefit.” The proposed measures had been generally supported by consumer groups who said the new rules were aimed at making baggage and other ancillary fees more transparent to travelers. Most airlines strongly opposed the proposals.

One of the proposed rules would have collected detailed revenue information regarding fees imposed by large airlines – including fees on checked bags, seat selection, alcoholic beverages and more. The other rule would have required that baggage fee information be disclosed at the same time as fare and schedule information.

### LATAM Adds Inflight WiFi in 2018

LATAM Airlines is adding WiFi to its fleet in 2018. The airline has partnered with Gogo to make the services available on domestic and regional routes in Brazil in the first half to 2018. The carrier says it will then expand the offering by the end of 2019 to include selected flights to other countries in Latin America.

“With inflight internet and LATAM Entertainment, our onboard entertainment system, passengers will have the freedom to choose how they want to enjoy their journeys on our aircraft,” said Claudia Sender, senior vice president of clients, LATAM Airlines Group.

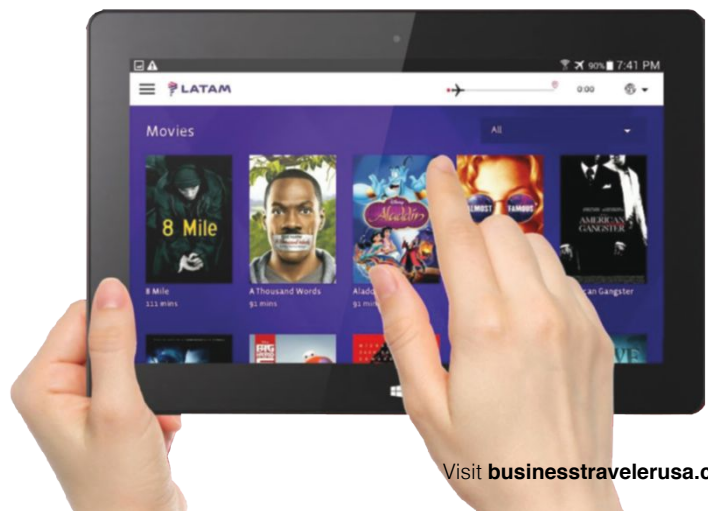
The service will be extended to additional markets after the completion of the initial rollout. For more information visit [latam.com](http://latam.com). **BT**

### Air Canada Offers Options for International Payment

Air Canada has expanded its website to accept many different forms of payment through their partnership with Adyen. Customers can now transact locally on the company’s website, [aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com), using iDeal in the Netherlands, Sofort and Giropay in Germany, Bancontact in Belgium, Poli in Australia, and Alipay and WeChat Pay in China.

“Air Canada now operates on six continents, so it is important to recognize local preferences for payment methods and make it easy for customers to interact with us through their preferred method,” said Duncan Bureau, vice president global sales, Air Canada.

Find out more at [aircanada.com](http://aircanada.com).







# Business Traveler TV

Now showing on British Airways,  
Iberia, Lufthansa and Swiss at  
[businessstraveller.com/tv](http://businessstraveller.com/tv)

# Flights to Quality

The world's airlines are rolling out new front-of-the-plane cabin designs to stake out the competitive edge

**By Dan Booth, Craig Bright & Mark Caswell**

It was a typical November day in Singapore, sticky and on-and-off rainy. Inside the Suntec Singapore Convention center, hundreds of us in the world's aviation press corps were queuing up alphabetically to receive our credentials. As more attendees poured in and journalist colleagues from around the globe greeted one another, the speculation – and the noise levels – rose.

We were all standing in line awaiting admission to what promised to be Singapore Airline's big show – the unveiling of their newest product line aboard the latest delivery of the carrier's flagship A380s. At the appointed time we were ushered into the main hall where a small stage stood in front of a massive backdrop. The giant screen came to life with an impressive video extolling the virtues of the airline, the aircraft and the new cabin interiors under the headline "Space Made Personal, Experience the Difference."

Following some brief remarks by Singapore Airlines' executive leadership, including CEO Goh Choon Phong, and an extensive Q&A exchange between the executives and the press, the moment had arrived. A chorus of Singapore Airlines employees took the stage with a Broadway-style musical number that heralded the curtain rising on the carefully arranged cabin interiors displayed beyond.

## The Suite Life

Clearly the star of the Singapore Airlines show was its new A380 first class Suites. The layout cuts the number of these exclusive private enclaves from 12 to six, and they've been relocated to the front of the plane on the upper deck. The move was inspired in part by a desire to make more living space for passengers, adding a

leather swivel chair that's separate from the bed, so both options can peacefully coexist simultaneously.

The six Suites are configured in three rows either side of the aisle. Sliding doors enclose the space and there's a sizeable compartment next to the door for carry-on luggage and hanging bags. The swivel chair is controlled by a touch panel that also operates the blinds and the 32-inch HD screen. Two sets of adjacent Suites – the ones that are not on the bulkhead – have a sliding divider that can be lowered making the individual suites into one room with a double bed.

The redesigned business class seats retain the off-center bed layout found in the current business class cabin. That means most seats have an alcove to the side where passengers can stretch out when the bed is laid out. The 1-2-1 seating arrangement gives every passenger access to an aisle.

At 25 inches the seats are narrower than some of SIA's other business class products with a pitch of 50 inches when the seat is upright. However the new space below the seat in front can stow both a laptop bag and a standard-sized carry-on bag. In addition to being more convenient, it also puts the overhead bins to the sides, keeping the center of the cabin open to create a more spacious feel similar to business class aboard the airline's new A350s.

At the front of the main deck, the premium economy class is laid out 2-4-2 while behind it, economy class is still ten-across. These seats are 18.5 inches wide and recline six inches, and are thinner than their predecessors, allowing additional legroom.

Throughout the aircraft passengers in all classes will see innovations to inflight technology. These include allowing Suites

customers to save their in-seat lighting preferences across different flights. Members of the airline's frequent-flyer program Krisflyer will also be able to curate playlists and continue watching a movie from where they left off on their next flight via the Singapore Airlines Companion app.

The first of the Airbus superjumbos sporting the new cabins made its debut on the Singapore Airlines' Singapore-Sydney route starting Dec. 18. The airline currently has four more of the newly-fitted A380s set for delivery. The remaining 14 will be retrofitted with these seat products by 2020.

## More Premium Products

All in all, Singapore Airlines' new product introduction was an impressive show. But lest you think all the pomp and circumstance was over the top, remember – practically every major carrier in the world is doing something more or less like it as they roll out their own versions of 'the best and the brightest' in new cabin products.

**Below and right:** Singapore Airlines first class Suite







As the airline industry worldwide has enjoyed a string of profitable years, much of that prosperity has been plowed back into the product; newer, more fuel-efficient fleets, new and remodeled terminals complete with gee-whiz passenger handling technology and hip lounges. And at the pointy end of the airplane, we're finding some of the most advanced seat designs and service innovations in aviation history.

The Singapore story is just one of the many changes taking off in the airline world. From United Airlines' Polaris initiative – which includes the premium inflight experience and new lounge designs – to Delta One's flat-bed transcontinental and international service, airlines the world over are going toe-to-toe in the front of their planes to woo the most profitable, and discriminating, segment of the flying public, the business traveler.

Here's a roundup of just a handful of the latest offerings.

#### EMIRATES

Emirates had previously unveiled details of its new 777 business class products in March, featuring a fairly unpopular 2-3-2 layout. But the airline's unveiling of its new fully enclosed first class suites provides rather more to write home about.

Each of the 1-1-1 configured suites has floor-to-ceiling sliding doors, providing an enclosed space of about 40 square feet. Among the most notable features of the new suites are a video-call system for communicating with cabin crew, and virtual

windows in the center suites that project the view from the outside of the plane using cameras.

#### FINNAIR

Less a new seat product and more a cosmetic overhaul, Finnair's new business class cabins will begin sporting a refreshed "Nordic" design with new seat textiles, seat covers, pillows, blankets and tableware.

Set to roll out this month, the white, gray and navy blue business class palette has been designed to mimic the interiors of Nordic homes as well as the Finnish landscape.

#### FLYDUBAI

The carrier recently unveiled its new business class cabin for its newest aircraft, the single-aisle 737 Max. The cabins have 10 business class seats, but while the first and last rows are configured 2-2, the middle row has just two throne seats on either side of the aisle.

All of the ten seats will, however, be fully flat and these throne seats will no doubt be in high demand. The airline has taken delivery of six Max 8 aircraft and begun service with a handful of destinations as far-flung as Bangkok and Prague. The airline has a total of 76 737 Max aircraft set to be received by 2023.

#### HAINAN AIRLINES

The Chinese carrier introduced its 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft featuring new fully-flat Super Diamond business class seats in

June last year. The Dreamliner features free WiFi and Panasonic's eX3 entertainment system. Business class passengers receive Bulgari amenity kits and Bose noise-canceling headphones.

The Super Diamond seat pitch on the 787-9 is 73-80 inches, while the IFE touchscreen is 16 inches.

#### HONG KONG AIRLINES

The carrier launched a new B/E Aerospace Super Diamond business class seat on its A350-900 aircraft, the first of which has begun operations between the airline's HKG hub and Los Angeles.

The seats recline fully flat, offer direct aisle access and feature three storage compartments. It has a generous 44-inch pitch while the "seat orientation paired with unique shell shape provides aisle privacy," the airline says.

#### LUFTHANSA

German carrier Lufthansa's newest business class seat product is still a way's away from entering service, namely because it will be reserved for use on the yet-to-launch Boeing 777-9 aircraft, which it expects to receive in 2020.

The layout of the cabin is particularly intriguing, with an alternating 1-2-1 and 1-1-1 configuration, meaning LH is another carrier offering throne seats. There is a trade-off here though – while all will be fully flat, only some will have the confirmed 78-inch bed length. Due to the additional desk space of the throne





**Below:** Qatar Airways Q Suite; Qantas' fully-flat Business Suite  
**Above:** Emirates fully enclosed first class suites

seats, these will have a shorter bed length, though Lufthansa has yet to announce just what that will be.

#### MALAYSIA AIRLINES

Malaysia's flag carrier took delivery of its first Airbus A350 late last year – its first of six that it will be leasing from Air Lease Corporation – and the only Airbus of its ilk to feature a first class cabin.

The seat design itself is not entirely new – they have been based heavily on Thompson Aero Seating's Vantage XL award-winning design with a few modifications – however it is the first of its kind used by Malaysian Airlines. The aircraft features four of the suites in total.

#### QANTAS

Qantas has launched Dreamliner service on its long-haul routes including Los Angeles and soon to come, London. Business class features the next-generation of Qantas' fully-flat Business Suite such as those on the carrier's A330 aircraft, and include an adjustable divider between each seat. The cabin is configured 1-2-1 with a total of 42 seats.

Premium economy boasts 20.5-inch seat width and 38-inch pitch with 9 inches of

recline and an "ergonomically designed" pillow for dozing on those long-hauls.

Meanwhile the all-new economy seat offers an extra inch of seat pitch compared to Qantas' A380 aircraft, as well as an updated version of the footnet which features on the A380s, and an HD screen which is five percent larger than previously.

#### QATAR AIRWAYS

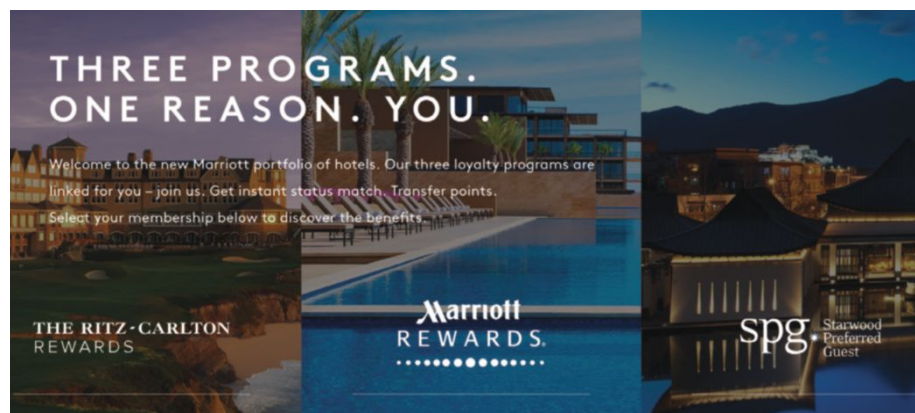
Last year, Qatar Airways introduced its new business class seat dubbed the Q Suite. The airline says it is the first business class seat that can be made into a double bed. Thanks to a privacy door that "completely encloses you," along with adjustable panels and movable TV monitors on the center four seats, passengers traveling together are able to create a private suite.

According to the carrier, the current fleet will be retrofitted with the new seats, but with exceptions. The new seat design will not fit in Dreamliners and A380s, so a similar seat will be developed to create a "uniform" product across the fleet.

The airline's Oryx One IFE platform has been redesigned to make it easier to surf content. Passengers can choose from 3,000 entertainment options, offering movies, music, news and games. **BT**







## Changes Are Coming to Marriott's Points Programs

Marriott's three loyalty programs – Marriott Rewards, The Ritz-Carlton Rewards and SPG – are to remain separate for the time being, but work is underway to combine the programs, according to the company.

However some changes have already been made. Rollover Nights and Status Buy Back are ending. Nights earned in excess of Elite requirements in 2017 will roll over to 2018 status, but in 2018 these nights will not roll into 2019. Among new features, Marriott is announcing new benefits with Hertz Rental Cars. Early next year, Platinum members can register to receive Hertz Gold Plus Rewards Five Star Status, and Platinum Premier members can register to receive Hertz Gold Plus Rewards President's Circle Status.

Visit [marriottrewards.com](http://marriottrewards.com) or [hertz.com](http://hertz.com) for details.



## IHG Rewards Teams with Open Table and Grubhub

InterContinental Hotels Group has announced two points-earning opportunities for IHG Rewards Club members – just for eating. The hotel company has partnered with Open Table and Grubhub to allow members to earn points for making reservations or ordering food via IHG's online and mobile channels, including the IHGApp, IHG website and IHGConnect, and on-property WiFi at IHG properties.

Members will earn 500 IHG Rewards Club points the first time they make a reservation with Open Table or place an order with Grubhub via IHG channels. Subsequent reservations on Open Table will earn 300 points each at an IHG hotel restaurant, or 150 points for any other restaurant. Each subsequent Grubhub order placed through IHG channels earn 250 IHG Rewards Club points. The integration is available for guests staying at properties in IHG's Holiday Inn Express, Staybridge Suites and Candlewood Suites brands.

Visit [ihg.com](http://ihg.com)

## HILTON HONORS REVAMPS EARNING OPTIONS

Hilton has announced a revamp of its Honors loyalty program, with the changes taking effect in April. The program is ditching the current points plus miles and points plus points earning options, in favor of a simpler system.

Under the new plan:

- All members will earn ten base points per \$1 spent (five at Home2 Suites by Hilton and Tru by Hilton properties)
- Silver tier members will earn a 20 percent bonus, Gold members an 80 percent bonus and Diamond members 100 percent
- Members will receive a bonus of 10,000 points on every tenth night stay, after they have reached at least 40 nights in a calendar year
- Diamond members will also earn a bonus of 30,000 points once they reach 60 nights in a year.

Other changes include rolling over excess qualifying nights for Silver, Gold and Diamond members. Additional new benefits also include complimentary Continental breakfast or a food and beverage credit for Gold and Diamond members at luxury properties.

Find out more at [hilton.com](http://hilton.com).



## Frequent Fliers Crave More than Miles

Airline loyalty rewards programs with benefits that extend beyond free tickets and fee waivers have significantly higher customer satisfaction levels compared with those that don't, according to the 2017 *Airline Loyalty Program Satisfaction Study* from J.D. Power.

The study found overall satisfaction increases by 77 points when airline loyalty members earn rewards in restaurants. Rewards for product purchases bumped satisfaction up 68 points and car rentals resulted in an increase of 69 points. By contrast, earning airline flights only added 2 points to the plus column.

The poll of 3,387 rewards program members measures satisfaction based on four factors: Earning and redeeming rewards, program benefits, account management and member communication.

To learn more visit [jdpower.com](http://jdpower.com). **BT**



be rewarded. **be one.**



As a **oneworld**® traveler, wherever you go, your rewards follow. **oneworld** extends many of the exclusive benefits of your preferred **oneworld** airline's frequent flyer program. Emerald, Sapphire and Ruby **oneworld** tiers each offer specific benefits which align automatically with your preferred **oneworld** member airline benefits. Make a smart choice in traveling with any of our 13 airlines and take advantage of benefits you already have.

**Learn more at [oneworld.com](http://oneworld.com)**

**an alliance of the world's leading airlines working as one.**

American Airlines British Airways Cathay Pacific Finnair Iberia Japan Airlines LATAM  
Malaysia Airlines Qantas Qatar Airways Royal Jordanian S7 Airlines SriLankan Airlines



**oneworld** benefits are available only to passengers on scheduled flights that are both marketed and operated by a **oneworld** member airline (marketed means that there must be a **oneworld** member airline's flight number on your ticket). For information on **oneworld**, visit [www.oneworld.com](http://www.oneworld.com). American Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Finnair, Iberia, Japan Airlines, LATAM Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Qantas, Qatar Airways, Royal Jordanian, S7 Airlines, SriLankan Airlines and **oneworld** are trademarks of their respective companies. LATAM Airlines (Paraguay) is currently not a part of **oneworld**.





# Bumper Crop

Ten intriguing new international routes to look forward to this year

**By Craig Bright**

**W**ith a vigorous global economy and demand for air travel in high gear, airline route maps continue to blossom like flowers in springtime. The coming year is set to welcome some highly anticipated new international services as well as the return of a couple of old favorites connecting more dots on the globe than ever before.

**1** **UNITED AIRLINES**  
**Houston-Sydney**  
United is starting off 2018 with a bang, launching the second-longest non-stop route in its network on Jan. 18 between Houston and Sydney (its longest,



between Los Angeles and Singapore, launched in October). The route will be Australia's sole non-stop connection to the Texas city, and will be operated by United's Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner – note that these feature United's older business class cabins, with 48 fully flat seats in a 2-2-2 layout, and not the new Polaris seats currently available on the 777-300ER.

#### **San Francisco-Pape'ete, Tahiti**

United has also announced it will begin service between San Francisco and Pape'ete, the capital of Tahiti, the gateway to many of the islands in French Polynesia including Bora Bora, Moorea, the Marquesas and Raiatea. United is the only US car-

rier offering nonstop service to Tahiti from the mainland United States. The seasonal nonstop service will operate three times weekly aboard a 787 Dreamliner beginning Oct. 30, 2018, through March 28, 2019, subject to government approval.

Visit [united.com](http://united.com).

## **2 DELTA AIR LINES Atlanta-Shanghai**

Delta is expanding its Asia network with new daily service between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Shanghai Pudong International Airport starting in July 2018. The new Atlanta flight will be Delta's fourth US gateway to Shanghai, complementing

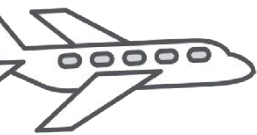
existing service from Detroit, Seattle and Los Angeles. The flights will be aboard the 291-seat Boeing 777-200LR aircraft featuring 37 lie-flat seats in Delta One, 36 seats in Delta Comfort-Plus and 218 seats in the main cabin. Every seat has WiFi, a personal inflight seatback entertainment screen as well as power ports. Complimentary meals, and beverages will also be provided in all cabins.

Visit [delta.com](http://delta.com).

#### **Indianapolis-Paris**

Delta, in cooperation with joint venture partner Air France KLM, is scheduled to begin nonstop service from Indianapolis





to Paris-Charles de Gaulle beginning May 24. The flights will be operated by Boeing 767-300ER aircraft, equipped with 25 fully lie-flat seats in Delta One, 29 seats Delta Comfort+ and 171 seats in the main cabin. Every seat has access to WiFi, free personal inflight seatback entertainment screens as well as power ports. Complimentary meals and beverages will also be provided in all cabins of service.

Visit [delta.com](http://delta.com).

**3 HONG KONG AIRLINES**  
**Hong Kong-San Francisco**  
 Hong Kong Airlines' North American expansion is in full swing, with the launch of its new Airbus A350 flights to Los Angeles in December. The airline is next set to fly to San Francisco starting March 25 this year. The A350 is due to take on this route as well, and will fly between the two cities four times a week.

Visit [hongkongairlines.com](http://hongkongairlines.com).

**4 AIR FRANCE**  
**Paris-Taipei**  
 It's been almost two decades since Air France served the Taiwan capital, but beginning April 16 the carrier will be reviving its non-stop flights between Paris and Taipei. Set to fly three times a week, the service will be flown with the airline's Boeing 777-200 outfitted with Air France's newest cabins, which in business class offers fully flat seats in a 1-2-1 configuration.

Visit [airfrance.us](http://airfrance.us).

**5 ASIANA AIRLINES**  
**Seoul-Venice**  
 Korean carrier Asiana Airlines has flown occasional charter flights to Venice since 2014, however on May 1 this

year the route is set to become a permanent scheduled addition to its network. Flying three times a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, the service will be operated by the airline's Boeing 777-200, featuring its newer, fully flat Business Smartium seat products. The Venice service will then be followed by a four-times-weekly service to Barcelona, which will take off on Aug. 30.

Visit [us.flyasiana.com](http://us.flyasiana.com).

**6 LOT POLISH AIRLINES**  
**Warsaw-Singapore**  
 Singapore will be getting its first non-stop connection to Poland on May 15 with LOT Polish Airlines set to fly to the Lion City from Warsaw, initially three times a week with a fourth weekly flight set to take off in July. Asia along with North America has been a focus for the Polish carrier, and this new route will be its first Southeast Asia air link. Travelers will fly on the airline's Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner, which has business, premium economy and economy class seating.

Visit [lot.com](http://lot.com).

**7 CATHAY PACIFIC**  
**Hong Kong-Washington DC**  
 Sept. 15 will see the launch of Cathay Pacific's longest route in its network – an 8,154-mile, 17-hour non-stop flight between Hong Kong and the US capital. Notably, the four-times-weekly route will be one of the first to see the airline's newest aircraft, the Airbus A350-1000, the first of which Cathay Pacific is set to receive this spring. The service will add to the Hong Kong carrier's current services to the US East Coast, including Boston and New York.

Visit [cathaypacific.com](http://cathaypacific.com).

**8 QANTAS**  
**Melbourne-San Francisco**  
 Much has been made of Qantas's relaunch of its "Kangaroo Route" that will directly link Perth and London, set to take off on March 25 this year, but this isn't the only interesting route Australia's flag carrier is launching in 2018. Following the beginning of its Melbourne-Los Angeles service last month, Qantas will begin flying between the Victorian capital and San Francisco late this year.

An exact start date as well as frequency have yet to be announced for the route – it appears the airline will be taking some of its Los Angeles frequency and passing it over to the San Francisco service – but Qantas has confirmed the flights will be flown using its newest aircraft, the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, which has an all-new cabin products.

Visit [qantas.com](http://qantas.com).

**9 NORWEGIAN**  
**Denver-Paris**  
 Among a half-dozen launches of new North America routes to European destinations this winter and spring, low cost carrier Norwegian has announced it will commence service from Denver International Airport to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport beginning April 9. The twice-weekly, year round flights will operate on Mondays and Fridays aboard the airline's Boeing 787 Dreamliners with two cabins, economy class and premium. Premium service includes a dedicated check-in counter, additional luggage allowance, fast track security, lounge access, priority boarding, sleeper seats, and meals and drinks.

Visit [norwegian.com](http://norwegian.com).

**10 LATAM AIRLINES**  
**São Paulo-Rome**  
 LATAM Airlines Brazil has announced new routes to Boston, Rome and Lisbon all departing from its São Paulo/Guarulhos hub. Flights to Rome will begin March 16 and will operate three times weekly, increasing to five weekly flights in July. The route will be operated aboard Boeing 767 aircraft, offering 191 seats in Economy and 30 seats in Premium Business. Rome will become the group's second destination in Italy after Milan.

LATAM flights from São Paulo to Boston and Libson are slated for mid-2018 and are awaiting regulatory approval.

Visit [latam.com](http://latam.com). **BT**

## AIRPORT REPORT

**■ Half of the World's Busiest Airports Are Smoke-Free** – Among the 50 busiest airports in the world, 23 have smoke-free indoor policies. This means air travelers and employees at 46 percent of the world's busiest airports are protected from exposure to secondhand smoke. The other 27 busiest airports allow smoking in designated rooms or ventilated indoor areas, restaurants, bars or airline clubs.

A smoke-free policy is defined as one that completely prohibits smoking in all indoor areas. The study, which assessed policies in 2017, found significant variations in smoke-free policy status by region. In North America, 14 of 18 busiest airports have a smoke-free policy; in Europe, 4 of 9; and in Asia, 4 of 22. All four of the Asian airports with a smoke-free policy are in China.

The report published in *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's first assessment of smoke-free policies in the world's airports. More than 2.7 billion passengers annually pass through the airports included in the study.

# Thank you for taking us to new heights.

Your votes have made us Best Airport in the World. It's your warm presence and patronage that motivate us to continue to deliver our very best. Thank you for giving us yet another reason to smile every day.

Rethink travel at [changiairport.com](http://changiairport.com)

Departure Hall  
Terminal 3

@ChangiAirport



  
**CHANGI**  
airport singapore

*the feeling is first class*



# Bays of plenty

At the tip of Hainan Island, visitors are discovering Sanya – a tropical hotspot known as ‘the Hawaii of China’

by Valerian Ho

Asia is blessed with a surfeit of tropical resort destinations, where sunshine, beaches and water sports provide the perfect holiday getaway. Compared to the likes of Bali or Phuket, China might not be the first place that springs to mind. However, travel south as far as you can go to the tip of Hainan Island, and you’ll find Sanya, a surprising vacation discovery that hosted more than 16 million holidaymakers last year.

Admittedly most of these were domestic tourists, but increasing numbers of foreign visitors are testing Sanya’s waters, drawn by attractively priced international five-star resorts, clean air, an average temperature of 77 degrees and cool sea breezes.

Russian tourists in particular are showing an appetite for the tropical Chinese destination, with direct flights now operating from places such as Yekaterinburg, Novosibirsk and Krasnoyarsk in addition to the country’s main cities.

The majority of international visitors stay in picturesque Yalong Bay, a five-mile arc of golden sand located just six miles to the east of the city, accessible by high-speed rail. Hotel development here began in 1996, as major hotel chains like Marriott, St Regis, Hilton and Ritz-Carlton saw huge potential. With direct access to the beach and a range of water activities from diving to parasailing, these resorts quickly became popular.

More and more resorts opened until the whole waterfront was packed, and hotels were forced to open in the land behind – though with no beachfront space they were at an immediate disadvantage.

## And the Beach Goes On

With demand continuing to grow, the search for prime land inevitably shifted north to the next crescent of sand: Haitang Bay. Located 17 miles east of Sanya’s city center and a smooth 45-minute drive from the airport on new, modern roads, Haitang

Bay is much larger than Yalong, its beach stretching an impressive 26 miles.

The first hotel, a Conrad, opened in 2010, and others soon followed. It cannot yet compare to the well-developed Yalong Bay – and in one specific aspect it never will, for the government has banned all water activities in Haitang Bay because of the rough seas.

This hasn’t put off the developers and hospitality groups, however. Though constrained by a lack of waterborne offerings, hotels and resorts opening in Haitang Bay have developed their own unique selling points in order to attract guests, focusing on distinctive facilities and attractions.

Understanding that a major portion of the market would be vacationing families, the Grand Hyatt Sanya built something special for kids. Three outdoor pools are each designed for different age groups and cover a total of 22,400 square feet, from the Fun Pool with slides and water sprays for younger guests, to the Family Pool featur-





ing more complex recreational activities and entertainment. Meanwhile, Camp Hyatt houses indoor and outdoor adventure playgrounds, an activity center and a junior chef's kitchen.

In December 2016 The Sanya Edition became the first of Marriott's Edition brand in Asia. A luxury lifestyle brand with an oceanfront setting, its signature facility is the spectacular 200,000-square-foot Private Ocean, surrounded by landscaped gardens and holding ten million gallons of seawater, which is pumped in from the sea and completely replaced every 30 hours or so. It's an impressive marquee attraction, and gives guests the chance to paddleboard, kayak, sail in sunfish dinghies, pedal a water bike, ride on water motorcycles, use sea scooters – or simply swim in a dedicated area overlooking the South China Sea. You don't have to get your feet wet to enjoy it either, with waterside cabanas and a floating deck available if you fancy dinner in the center of the "ocean."

Close by is the Haitang Bay International Shopping Complex, a paradise for shopaholics. A 750,000-square-foot retail and commercial complex, this ultra-modern building integrates duty-free shopping, restaurants, entertainment and cultural venues, and hundreds of premium-brand outlets from Gucci, Burberry and Chanel to Prada, Rolex and Armani. Said to be the most high-end duty-free shopping mall in China, its location in Sanya's Haitang Bay shows how much confidence there is in the regions' future.

Incredibly, it seems Haitang Bay is almost at its saturation point already. "The coastline will soon be filled up [with resorts]," says Xavi Gonzalez, general manager of The Sanya Edition. "The next developments will be behind the existing resorts, on a second [inland] line. You can already see the construction sites; some are empty, but they have already been assigned to different big brands. In total, 20 to 30 resorts will be opening in Haitang Bay."



**Main picture:** Yalong Bay's packed waterfront **Above:** One of Grand Hyatt Sanya's kid-friendly pools





One of the most dramatic and eagerly anticipated is Atlantis Sanya, a 153-acre integrated entertainment resort that's cost an estimated RMB11 billion (\$1.6 billion). A sister project to Atlantis Paradise Island in the Bahamas and Atlantis, the Palm in Dubai, this huge water-themed park will be complemented by Sanya's largest hotel, which will have 1,314 rooms in its first phase alone.

Atlantis Sanya is accepting bookings beginning this spring, and will boast all the facilities people expect of a mega-resort these days, from world-renowned chefs' restaurants to exotic bars and lounges. The highlight will be the Aquaventure Water-park, with its fresh and saltwater pools, lagoons, and extensive rides and slides. There will also be marine exhibits – presenting more than 2,600 marine species – including an open-air marine habitat and a dolphin interaction and education center. Despite its late entrance to the Sanya party, Haitang Bay looks set to shine, bumping up the destination's appeal for the hordes of sun, sea and sand worshippers to come. **BT**

**Top:** The Sanya Edition; and Haitang Bay International Shopping Complex **Bottom left and right:** Tianyahaijiao Rock and Luhuitou Peak Garden

#### AWAY FROM THE BEACHES

Many will be happy to remain within the confines of their luxurious resort, but if you want to explore outside the hotels, there are plenty of choices for adventure farther afield. Golf enthusiasts are well looked after at the Sun Valley Sanya Golf Resort, located beside Hongxia Mountain in the Yalong Bay National Resort. Covering nearly 5,000 acres, it boasts 27 holes designed and shaped by world-famous golf design company JMP. This includes the Lake View, Desert View and Mountain View courses, plus a tropical garden-style clubhouse situated at the top of the resort with full views of Yalong Bay.

For another stunning panorama, Luhuitou Peak Garden is perched atop a 900-foot-high hill presenting beautiful panoramas across Sanya. The park's winding paths lead past ancient banyan trees and painted rock faces to a statue of two lovers from the local Li ethnic group, and a deer. The story is the deer was chased by a young hunter for nine days, until he looked again and saw the deer had turned into a beautiful girl with whom he promptly fell in love. In fact, Sanya's nickname is "the City of Deer."

Tianyahaijiao ("Edge of Heaven, Corner of the Sea") is another scenic hotspot, located on the southern tip of the island. On the beach, huge boulders were inscribed with poems written by Qing dynasty officials, who lamented being banished to the "end of the earth." Having your photo taken there is a must, before going to explore the gardens, enjoy a boat ride in the bay, or hunt for tourist trinkets in the market nearby.

Another nine miles west is the Nanshan Cultural Tourism Zone, a huge complex of gardens, newly built temples and shopping streets offering a jumble of nature, spirituality and theme-park style attractions. On a man-made island just offshore stands a 125-foot-high statue of Guanyin, the goddess of compassion. Here the holiday mood is momentarily set aside as tourists make offerings of money, incense and prayer under the giant, benevolent gaze of the statue.

Other day tours include trips into the island's mountainous interior to visit ethnic Li and Miao villages (often tacky affairs aimed shamelessly at trapping the tourist dollar) or climb the 6,000-foot Wuzhi Mountain, Hainan's highest peak (more authentic Li villages can be found around the mountain base).

Ninety minutes up the eastern coast is Xilong Botanical Garden where you can sample the tea and coffee culture of the area, while farther inland there are hot springs and mountain retreats where monks built temples and monastic cave dwellings.





# Awarded The World's Best Airport Hotel

for the **10<sup>th</sup>** consecutive year (2008-2017)



**Best Airport Hotel in Asia-Pacific  
2001-2017 (17 years)**  
Voted by readers of Business Traveller Asia-Pacific Magazine



**World's Best Airport Hotel  
2008-2017 (10 years)**  
Voted by readers of Business Traveller UK Magazine



**World's Best Airport Hotel  
2013-2014 (2 years)**  
Voted by readers of Business Traveller US Magazine



**Best Airport Hotel in Asia-Pacific 2005-2014 (10 years)  
Travel Hall of Fame 2015-2017 (3 years)**  
Awarded by TTG Asia Media Pte Ltd



**World's Best Airport Hotel and  
Best Airport Hotel Asia 2011-2014 (4 years)  
Runner-Up 2015-2016 (2 years)**  
Awarded by Skytrax



**TRAVEL WEEKLY ASIA  
2017  
READERS' CHOICE  
AWARDS**  
**Best Airport Hotel – Asia Pacific 2017**  
Awarded by Travel Weekly Asia



**REGAL**

**AIRPORT HOTEL**  
MEETING & CONFERENCE CENTRE  
CHEK LAP KOK ■ HONG KONG

9 Cheong Tat Road, Hong Kong International Airport, Chek Lap Kok, Hong Kong.  
Tel: (852) 2286 8888 Fax: (852) 2286 8686 Email: info@airport.regalhotel.com

www.regalhotel.com |   



Hong Kong • Chengdu • Dezhou • Foshan • Jiangmen • Kunshan • Shanghai • Xi'an • Zhengzhou



Once a tiny Gulf Coast backwater, this emirate is making a dizzying reach for the stars

**By Lark Gould**

# POSITIVELY







**W**hat happens when the destination *is* the destination? We are all familiar with Las Vegas, an artifice of lights, water, action and wealth surrounded by an immense desert of scrub and sand.

Take away the gambling, however, and you get Dubai. The manufactured bauble of a city rising fast from the Arabian sands sees nothing but growth and innovation on the horizon, yet the glimmers from this mesmerizing specter are hardly a mirage.

By 2020, this tiny emirate on the Arabian Gulf plans to operate not only the largest international airport in the world, but also the planet's largest forward-designed city, an entire "land" devoted to imagining daily life on Mars.

Think: A metropolis infused with fleets of self-driving, sustainably run vehicles, a tag as the global center of medical tourism, and

# DUBAI

the epicenter of luxury hospitality. There isn't much you can't do in Dubai, easily the playground of the Middle East despite its Islamic roots and arid surroundings.

What happens in Dubai does not stay in Dubai. Rather, with its barrels full of petrodollars turned into tourism currency, Dubai's mission for the past two decades has been to show what is possible at the intersection of intelligent design, seemingly limitless corporate investment dollars, and a future-facing ruler at the helm keeping it all in check. Striving for all the "-ests" of the world takes effort and discipline, although restraint has yet to make its way into the destination's development lexicon.

Take these facts for starters:

- Expats in Dubai far outnumber their native Emirati counterparts by almost six to one. Rather, you will likely meet Indians, Bangladeshis, Pakistanis, Filipinos, and Europeans from Germany and the GCC.
- The cruising police force spurned the Fords for Ferraris, Bentleys, McLarens, Bugattis and Lamborghinis. After all, don't criminals drive fast cars? On the street, you will be hard-pressed to find a taxi without a Mercedes hood emblem.
- There may be criminals out there but they don't seem to lurk at the airport. In 2015, a passenger left AED146,000 (\$47,300) in

cash in a toilet cubicle in the Dubai Airport. The sum was found and promptly returned. In the first four months of 2016 some AED42,171 (\$12,100) in cash was returned and deposited in the airport's lost property bin. The same year, two diamond rings worth AED150,000 (\$45,000) were also handed in to the airport authorities. Later that year a taxi driver returned to the owner a gold ingot worth AED3.5million (\$1.05 million) that had been left in his cab.

- Dubai is a location full of youth and males. Because most of the expats are male workers, from construction workers to architects and engineers who have left their home countries and families for the expat life, the resulting demos show women comprising only 30 percent of the total 2.8 million souls. Nearly 60 percent of the population is in the 25 to 44 age range. Just 15 percent of Dubai's population is over the age of 44.
- You can buy gold out of a vending machine. At the "Gold to Go" ATM in Dubai Mall feel free to order up a 2.5-gram, 24-karat gold coin or go for the one-ounce gold bar at rates that match real-time price fluctuations. Credit cards accepted.
- And if you can't build an office building in a convenient neighborhood, at least now you can print one. Dubai recently 3D-printed an entire 2,700 square foot office building in a feat that took all of 17 days and a team of only 18 people. It was christened the Dubai Future Foundation, and put into service as an open-plan space for exhibitions, workshops and events.

## Astonish the World

The ruler of Dubai, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, believes the emirate is not just a good place to shop and do business, it's a smart place to see the future. In September, officials appointed what may be the world's first minister of artificial intelligence, building on a national strategy to lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution. His overstated purpose these days is to "astonish the world." And so far, he is on track to do just that.

Elon Musk's Hyperloop One is much on the agenda and with the money to make it happen, Dubai hopes to become a test destination for the tube-like prototype that could cut travel time between Abu Dhabi and Dubai (currently around two hours by car) down to 12 minutes.

Another plan in motion is the city-state's intention to introduce the world's first taxi drones. Dubai is working with German firm Volocopter toward a vision that will allow people to hail a flying cab from convenient "Voloports" within the next five years.







Robots, rather than people, will play an increasing role UAE's future, especially as first responders and security dispatches. Dubai intends to equip the police force with traffic-dissing hoverbikes and recently demoed a robotic policing prototype that could issue fines, monitor problems through onsite video feeds and ID criminals through facial recognition.

Similar solutions are in process for challenges faced by conventional fire departments in developing equipment that can tackle tough blazes in tall buildings.

Dubai is building its own talent for these tasks using a hefty budget for education and social development. In October, the country announced a "One Million Arab Coders" project to bring computer programming skills to young people across the Middle East.

### City of Cranes

Pulling it all back to earth, we learn Dubai welcomed 14.9 million overnight visitors in 2016, cementing its place as the fourth most visited city in the world – a number that is expected to reach 25 million by 2020, according to Dubai Tourism & Commerce Marketing. We also saw the emirate top 100,000 hotel rooms with an eye to offer an inventory of 160,000 rooms by 2020 and its much-heralded Expo 2020 opening.

Dubai is set to become the crane capital of the world, at various times harboring a quarter of the world supply. That is not expected to abate as the 2.5- by 11-mile site of Expo 2020 gets underway.

The impressive Expo site in South Dubai will be shaded by an intricate domed trellis evoking an ancient golden ring discovered at Saroug Al Hadeed archeological site. And once the fêtes are finished, the buildings and infrastructure will become the next "it" neighborhood for hotels, shopping, dining and business in Dubai. The location will be another stop on the Metro, which is fast expanding from its network of 72 trains along 50 miles of tracks.

Making sense of all this is not for sissies. However breaking from the hype and excitement of this "can do" city, the visitor is left with plenty to explore.

### Seven-Star Stays

Leisure visitors will want to stay along the gulf-facing resort strip of Jumeirah Beach, a white sand beach which also features a public



park for visitors. Dozens of resorts here – from the seven-star Burj al Arab to such three- and four-star family brands as Holiday Inn Express, Ramada, Rotana, Doubletree and Radisson Blu – spread out with all the beach, pool, spa, shopping and even theme park action one could crave. Everything is new here – Dubai only got started as a tourism destination in the 1990s.

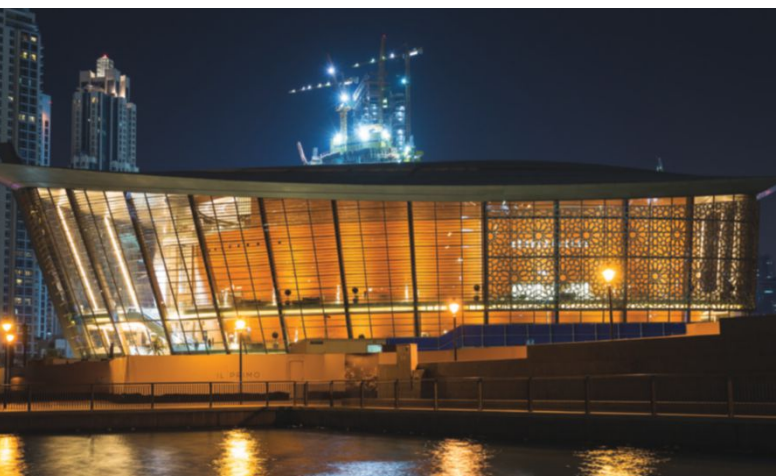
If there is an "old" city it is found along Dubai Creek in the area of the city called Deira. But what is old here is also new. The Gold Souk and Spice Souk were rebuilt to replicate what they once were – or at least might have been had there ever been much of a "there" there in this stretch of the desert along the Arabian Gulf.

Rather, Dubai was a quiet pearl diving village until the discovery of oil in these sands. But the oil boom was bound to bust and the ruling Maktoum family wisely found new gold in tourism.





**From top left:** Bastakiya; A skyline view Dubai Mall, Dubai Fountain and the Burj; restaurant at Burj al Arab; suite at Burj al Arab; Opra House; Gold Souk



Dubai became and still is a tax-free port for shipping and reassembly. From there, spokes of tourism, business, publishing, media, gold, luxury goods, hospitality and real estate began turning the wheel of growth into what has become a model city for the industry of reinvention.

So, a visitor can still walk the streets of Deira, especially in a neighborhood called Bastakiya, and get a sense of the real Dubai – whether in the glittering jewelry markets, aromatic spice shops or the refurbished houses that have only recently become art galleries, gift shops, tea houses and quaint B&Bs.

The truly curious can head to the Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding and spend an afternoon talking to a local (likely wealthier than a Hilton heir) about the ways of the desert, the ways

of the Beni Yas tribe and the ways of the desert falcon – a local lunch included.

Hotels on the city side come with the added advantages of walkability (everything in this area is somehow a shopping and dining mall) and easy access to the Metro, where rides run around \$3, but considerably less with day and multi-day passes.

It is not hard to find all the North American hospitality brands in Dubai – Hyatt, Sheraton, Marriott, Hilton, Fairmont, Four Seasons, Four Points, W, Westin, and onward. However, Dubai-based brands, such as Emirates and Jumeirah, should be considered for those who want added touches of luxury and ambience.

City stays can be counted on to be around 25 percent cheaper than beach stays and certainly seasonal discounts (peak summer temperatures average 105 degrees vs. 75 degrees in January) should be considered. A new five percent VAT tax took effect Jan. 1, affecting all non-essential goods and services, including gold. Gold is a bargain in Dubai and a tourism lure.

### The Buy of Dubai

Dubai, at present, counts no fewer than 72 malls, including the Dubai Mall (1,200 shops and largest mall in the world in area), that sits at the base of Burj Khalifa, which, at 2,761.5 feet, is currently the tallest building in the world.

The city is by all accounts a shopper's paradise with malls that cater to the imagination, such as the Ibn Battuta Mall that evokes Andalusia, Tunisia, Egypt, Persia, India, China in its designs. Malls here come with attractions – a Vegas-style fountain show, a ski slope and ice bar, an ice skating rink, even a full-sized aquarium. Deals can be had from designer duds to designer knock-offs – any hotel concierge can tell you where to look.

### The Do in Dubai

Beyond the mall, top attractions in Dubai can be found in views, in shows and at the race track. The most notable view spots in Dubai include the Skyview Bar at Burj al Arab (one of the only ways you can get into the hotel if you are not a guest, but the view is worth the cost of a cocktail).

Other top draws: At.Mosphere on the 122nd floor of Burj Khalifa, Prime68 at JW Marriott Marquis, Tomo at Raffles Dubai and Mint Leaf Dubai at the Emirates Financial Towers.

The city is famous for its thoroughbred horseracing titles, stemming from the Dubai World Cup held at the Meydan Racecourse. The site holds regular challenges and hosts a horse racing museum, gallery, five-star hotel and nine-hole golf course as well as a business and conference center.

Polo enthusiasts can head to the Al Habtoor Polo Resort & Club in South Dubai, anchored by the St. Regis. This is a great spot for meetings, especially bonding sessions for those who want to try their hand at the game riding the hump of a camel.

As for entertainment, the Opera House in downtown Dubai brings in talent and concerts in a variety of genres, from Giacomo Puccini to Jersey Boys. A Cirque du Soleil-style production by former show director Franco Dragone, called La Perle, has an ongoing engagement at Al Habtoor City, the location of recently opened Westin Hotel, W and St. Regis Dubai.

Finally, as the Dubai carrier Emirates expands in fleet and marketshare, those flying business class should remember the airline offers four complimentary transfers per trip – getting to the airport of departure, from Dubai International Airport to hotel or residence, and back again to airport and then home origin.

Town cars from the airport in Dubai can be ordered up on the spot at arrivals (similarly, you can order a hotel-to-airport transfer online). Other transfers must be confirmed many days in advance. Visas are offered on arrival for US and Canadian nationals. Phone chips with data can be purchased at the airport for around \$25.

For more information go to [visitdubai.com](http://visitdubai.com). **BT**



# The Queen's

# Farewell



In the 1960's the engineers at Boeing Aircraft Company were tasked with building the world's largest passenger jet. Having agreed to a seemingly impossible delivery schedule for launch customer Pan Am, Boeing was in an extreme hurry to meet the demand. Enter design engineer Joe Sutter to lead the team dubbed "The Incredibles," who produced this flying machine in a record 29 months.

The resulting design would become a worldwide icon. It coined the household word "jumbo jet." It would also be called the "Queen of the Skies." It was the "747."

As a child of the Sixties, I tried to wrap my mind around how something so big could fly. This double decked behemoth soon won the imagination of the world. It would change the way we fly.

The upper deck of a 747 is almost like a private plane. For the road weary business traveler these are the most coveted 747 seats, a sanctuary away from the masses.

Downstairs, first class is enviable as well, along with additional business class seats and lots of coach seats. The 747 was built for long haul travel and large numbers. In a single-class, high density configuration, it could hold over 660 passengers, bringing new meaning to the word "jumbo."

With its distinctive hump and immense size, even at a distance you know it's a 747. The Queen of the Skies still turns heads at airports the world over.

After 47 years, both United and Delta Air Lines, the remaining US air carriers operating the 747, decided to phase it out in favor of



GETTY IMAGES

US aviation says adieu to the venerable Boeing 747 and *Business Traveler* is on board for the party

By Everen T. Brown

**Inset:** The first Boeing 747 rolled out of the Boeing plant in Everett, Wash., in 1968.

newer and more fuel-efficient aircraft. Both promised to send the Queen off in style, each in their own special way. To be part of the big retirement party, my travels have taken me half way around the world. Join me on this globetrotting 747 Farewell Tour.

### The Farewell Begins

On the morning of Oct. 25, I left San Francisco onboard United Airlines flight 893 nonstop to Seoul's Incheon international Airport. This was the first of many "Farewell Flights" I would do in the next few months.

Oct. 29, 2017 – UA 892 would be the last regularly scheduled international flight on a United Airlines 747. Many United employees flew over just for this historic flight as well.

Departure was set for 4:55 PM. Signage was all around the departure area along with a large scale model of the 747. Passengers had plenty of time for photo ops before a short program featuring the flight and cabin crew. Captain Rodriguez said a few words along with United Airlines country manager David Ruch. Those few passengers who were unaware of the historic significance of this flight now knew what was taking place.

When it came time to board, despite the boarding zone numbers, everyone lined up at once. No one wanted to miss this majestic bird's historic flight and swan song. Once aboard we were given a small booklet outlining the history of United's 747s. Looking back 47 years ago, I would have never imagined I'd be here to participate in such an event.





**Above:** A United 747 from 1970 **Below:** Crew, passengers and CEO Oscar Munoz celebrate the Farewell flight

seemed to mind. It meant more time on this iconic aircraft. Soon we were airborne, flying over San Francisco with a strategic nod to the Golden Gate Bridge. It was a clear day and the views were fantastic.

At cruising altitude, it was time for a champagne toast to the Queen of the Skies. Many passengers stood for this poignant moment. Afterwards, they swapped “747” stories; memories of flying on the 747 as children, businessmen who commuted on it, like United’s 18 million miler Tom Stuker, and lots of career United employees. Retro menus featured Trader Vic’s-inspired selections from the 1970’s (including 70’s-sized portions).

After the meal passengers had a chance to tour the upper deck. Flight attendants in 70’s uniforms were on hand to pose for photos.

All too soon the classic “prepare the cabin for landing” announcement was made, and it was time for our descent through rainy and cloudy Hawaiian skies. As we touched down in Honolulu applause broke out for this final flight. When we parked at the gate, no one was in a hurry to deplane as they wanted to savor this aircraft and this moment for as long they could.

At my seat I found an elegant card which featured a color photo of the 747 and a certificate, suitable for framing – in fact, if you were in business class, yours was framed already. In part the certificate read: “Congratulations. You are now part of United’s history.”

My seatmates for this journey included a pilot for Atlas Airlines who one day wants to fly 747s and a United Airlines flight attendant who started her career with Pan Am. We all swapped stories of our love of travel and some of our favorite 747 memories. It made the flight go quicker, especially in coach.

Before landing, the flight crew got nostalgic and shared stories of the 747. The purser’s voice broke as she made the final announcement upon arrival in San Francisco. Passengers began to deplane knowing we had shared a special moment in time.

These flights are not just about the 747 – but how it has affected so many people. Some began careers in aviation because of this plane. Others hold it dear for the travel memories it brought them; in days past they even dressed up for the experience. Over the years, the 747 was a plane that made the journey special.

This was the last United Airlines 747 International flight. I had two more “Farewell flights” to go...

### Retracing the Path to Honolulu

A week later, it was time for the last domestic and final United 747 passenger flight – UA747. Retracing the first United 747 flight, it would follow the same route from San Francisco to Honolulu. Seats sold out in less than two hours – \$551.00 coach and \$1958.00 for business class if you were lucky enough to reserve one.

Departure was set for the morning of Nov. 7, and United would send it off in style – retro 1970’s style. Passengers were invited to wear their retro best for this non-stop party flight and many appeared in hip costumes of the times.

The party began at the gate. An entire wall was decorated with giant graphics featuring a timeline history of the 747, plus clever backdrops for photo ops and a giant tribute card ready for passenger’s comments and signatures. Speeches ensued from the captain of the flight and United’s CEO Oscar Munoz. Once briefed by Captain David Smith, passengers boarded the flight to find a goodie bag at their seat. Take-off was delayed a bit, but no one



# BEST IN THE BIZ. LITERALLY.

We're honored to be named Best Airline for North American Travel by Business Traveler two years in a row! Thank you – we couldn't have done it without you!

To learn about our corporate travel programs, visit [jetblue.com/business-travel](http://jetblue.com/business-travel) or email us at [salesteam@jetblue.com](mailto:salesteam@jetblue.com)

jetBlue®







**Above:** Delta's first 747 in Oct. 1970; **Below:** Signatures on the 747 body; Delta couple marries on final 747 flight

A traditional Hawaiian lei greeting awaited not only passengers but our 747 as well. United's Hawaii based employees created a giant orange lei that was promptly hoisted over the top of aircraft, creating a fabulous farewell photo. A speech by Hawaii's Governor David Ige reminded us that the 747 brought many tourists to Hawaii and shaped the economy over the last several decades. It was a destination where the 747 made a difference.

A few days later this 747 was ferried to the boneyard, ending United Airlines' 747 operations.

### All Hail the Queen

Delta Air Lines began flying the 747 in 1970 and operated a handful of them until they were retired in 1977. In 2008, Delta acquired Northwest Airlines and they were back flying the Queen, primarily on international routes until 2017. This second and final retirement took the form of a cross country extravaganza, dubbed "All Hail the Queen – The Farewell Tour." Though a series of parties and flights, Delta and its employees would say goodbye in their own special way.

To qualify for one of these farewell flights, employees entered an essay contest describing their memories of the 747. For the public, a limited number of tickets were up for grabs in a special Delta SkyMiles Auction. The competition was fierce; bidding for the last farewell flight leg ATL-MSP-ATL topped out at 920,000 SkyMiles.

My Delta 747 farewell journey began the day before the flight in the giant Delta Tech Ops Atlanta hangar. A 747 sat in the center, lit up from both sides. A rear stairway funneled guests through a tour of this working 747. A pop-up shop offered Delta 747 Farewell Tour merchandise, including key tags made from the metal skin of a previously retired 747.

A program featured current and past Delta pilots and flight crews sharing their history with the 747, and a speech from Delta's CEO Ed Bastian. My personal favorite part of the evening was the opportunity to for guests to autograph this 747.

The next morning, I checked in for flight DL 9771, a day trip from Atlanta to Minneapolis-St. Paul. Greeted at the gate by Capt. Stephen Hanlon, Delta's chief 747 pilot, passengers were briefed about the flight then welcomed aboard. As we taxied out to the runway, the Atlanta airport fire department gave us a water cannon salute. Take-off was quick and was met with applause from the passengers.

Once airborne, the cabin crew started meal service. Passengers then had a chance to mingle. I met several former 747 pilots, cabin crew and support personnel; it was an emotional goodbye for many.

As we neared the Twin cities, Captain Hanlon announced we would circle the city and then do a low-level fly-by or "missed approach" at the MSP airport. The views were amazing as he pulled the plane up and around to bring it in for landing. Once at the gate



### LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

Getting nostalgic for the 747? Delta employees have undertaken the preservation of the 747 with their cleverly named "Airloom" Project. At the Delta Air Lines Flight Museum in Atlanta, the 747 Experience is an employee driven project that has turned Ship 6301 into an amazing exhibit.

Learn more at [theairloomproject.com](http://theairloomproject.com).

If you crave some actual flight time, several international airlines still operate the 747, British Airways, Lufthansa, KLM, Korean Air, and China Airlines, to name a few. You can even fly it from some US gateway cities.

Or you can get elected President of the United States and fly what is arguably the most tricked-out 747 on the planet – Air Force One.

we slowly filed out of our beloved bird and into the airport to be greeted by cameras and media.

Another party took place at the Delta MSP hangar. As we entered I saw another 747 already parked there. Walking around the base I saw my signature – it was the same 747 I had signed the night

before in Atlanta. Wow! Delta had flown this 747 to MSP ahead of our flight to greet us today.

More food and one last chance to buy farewell tour souvenirs and then back to MSP airport to board our 747 for the final flight. As we taxied out for take-off, it was too cold for a water cannon salute; we had to make do with de-icing instead. After takeoff for the return to Atlanta, I realized this was the most historic part of the farewell tour, the last flight. The hoopla subsided, and the plane grew silent for this last leg.

As we touched down in Atlanta we were treated to one of the smoothest landings I have experienced. Applause broke out all through this 747 and with that, Delta's "747 Farewell Tour – All Hail the Queen" had come to an end, bringing to a close a remarkable chapter in US aviation history. **BT**



# Avianca

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER  

FLYING WITH AVIANCA IS LIVING A 5-STAR EXPERIENCE, IS FEELING THE CONFORT TAKING CARE OF EVERY LITTLE DETAIL TO ALWAYS GIVE YOU A WORLD CLASS EXPERIENCE.

And today, thanks to you, we've been awarded as Best Airline in South and Latin America by Business Traveler, and certified as a 5-star airline by APEX (Airline Passenger Experience).

Thank you for your continuing support.



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

LifeMiles 



# Millennium Hilton One UN Plaza

## New York

**BACKGROUND:** The UN Plaza Hotel opened in the 1970s as part of the United Nations Plaza complex built by the city of New York a block from the UN headquarters on the East Side of Manhattan. Extensive renovations have been done by current owners Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, with management of the property handed over to Hilton 2017.

**WHERE IS IT?** Nothing in Midtown Manhattan is very far from anything else, so the hotel's location on 44th Street and 1st Avenue is convenient to just about everything. It's still a pretty good hike to landmarks like Times Square and the Empire State Building, but there's plenty on this side of town to keep visitors occupied, and it provides fairly quick access to JFK and LaGuardia.

**WHAT'S IT LIKE?** Originally housed in a single 40-story skyscraper, the property was expanded in the 1980s to add a second matching tower – thus the appellation One UN Plaza and Two UN Plaza. The two towers share a common lobby and access to the Ambassador Grill restaurant below. Decked out in dark marble, mirrors and sparkling lights, the original interior design of the lobby and restaurant, which hasn't been touched



since the hotel opened, has been variously characterized as “spectacular” and “luxurious” or post-modern juke box “glitz rather than glamour.” Whatever you think of them, the 1975 interiors by Kevin Roche and John Dinkeloo will be around for a while; in 2017, they were assigned New York City Landmark status.

**ROOM FACILITIES:** It had been years since I'd last stayed at the UN Plaza Hotel, so to say I was pleasantly surprised by the upgrades to the rooms is something of an understatement. In fact, the recent renovations have elevated both the style and the quality of the accommodations, giving them a high-design feel. My two-room suite was truly expansive by New York standards, with a super comfortable king size Serenity Bed and a sleek, roomy bath stocked with Peter Thomas Roth toiletries. Most of all, there was the stunning

view across the United Nations complex and the East River.

### RESTAURANTS AND BARS:

The Ambassador Grill is rather a jewel among East Side restaurants – or at least feels like one thanks to its Landmark status marble-and-mirror décor. The menu seemed to be a bit limited with fewer international dishes than I'd expected, given the restaurant's proximity to the UN. But my food was excellent and the service was swift and congenial. For casual eats throughout the day, the UN Café offers snacks, salads and sandwiches.

**LEISURE FACILITIES:** The view out the windows of the 24-hour fitness facility is enough to make even the most committed couch potatoes among us want to get in a workout. The facility is well equipped with a variety of machines and free weights. The hotel also features an indoor lighted tennis court. Unfortunately when we were there, the pool had been closed for repairs and no date had been set for reopening.

### BUSINESS AND MEETING FACILITIES:

This is first and foremost a business hotel, so it offers an array of meeting and event services. There are a total of six meeting rooms ranging in size up to 2,000 square feet, two of which

### TESTED BY

Dan Booth

### HOW MANY ROOMS?

439 rooms and suites

### PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dramatic Manhattan views, upgraded rooms and a one-of-a-kind landmark lobby

### PRICE

Internet rates for a king room start at \$269

### CONTACT

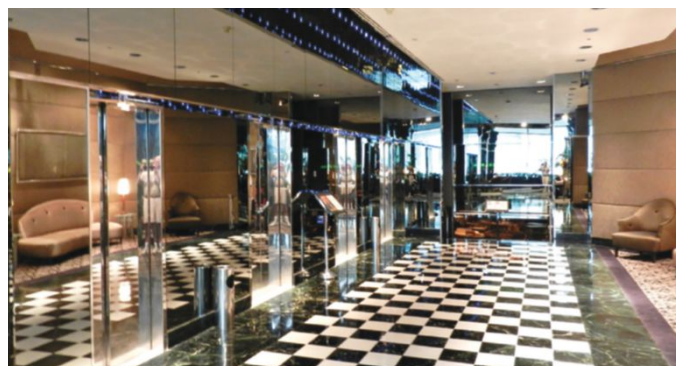
Millennium Hilton One UN Plaza, One UN Plaza, New York, NY, 10017, Tel +1-212-758-1234 hilton.com

### FACILITIES

- ✓ iPods and iPads
- ✓ WI FI
- ✓ MINI BAR
- ✓ 24hr CONCIERGE
- ✓ MEETING ROOM
- ✓ EXECUTIVE FLOOR
- ✓ RESTAURANT
- ✓ BAR
- SPA
- POOL
- ✓ GYM

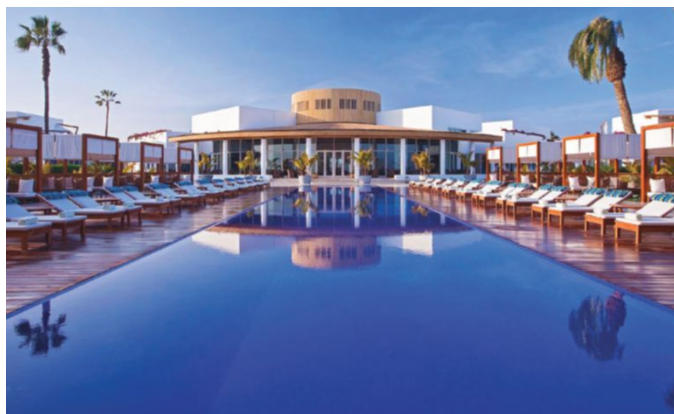
can be divided. Internet access is available throughout the hotel and the meetings facilities come with state-of-the-art audio visual and business center support services.

**VERDICT:** Walking into the lobby of the UN Plaza Hotel was a total blast from the past for me. But beyond that I found a thoroughly modern property that gets high marks for Midtown convenience, accommodating service and stylish comfort. **BT**



# Hotel Paracas, A Luxury Collection Resort

## Paracas, Peru



**BACKGROUND:** This Luxury Collection resort sees a good mix of North Americans and regional travelers. Whether it's an escape from bustling Lima or an alternative activity after hiking Machu Picchu, Paracas is a must-see part of the country that deserves more attention.

**WHERE IS IT?** The drive south from Lima takes about three hours, making this a great weekend getaway for Lima residents. Tourists flock here to relax by the pool, take aerial tours of the mysterious Nazca Lines (Pisco airport is just 15 minutes away), and go sand duning through the desert. The resort's activities desk can organize a variety of tours unique to the region.

**WHAT'S IT LIKE?** Laid out in three rows of individual villa buildings with two floors, this resort offers plenty of privacy. All come with outdoor patios to enjoy the tranquil gardens, and the pools are a pleasant place to nap to the tune of chirping birds. The main lobby building houses the reception desk and a welcome station with all-day Peruvian coffee and herbal teas.

**ROOM FACILITIES:** Guest rooms feature tile floors, oversized king or queen beds, flat-screen cable TVs and work desks with plentiful power outlets and task lighting. The furnished balconies provide great views of the gardens, pools or the ocean. Sliding doors roll back to reveal huge

bathrooms with glass shower stalls, deep soaking tubs and wide vanities stocked with Gilchrist & Soames toiletries. The resort is both quiet and picturesque with its white-washed buildings, blossoming flowers and trees that line the meandering pathways.

**RESTAURANTS AND BARS:** Ballestas serves three meals a day beginning with a lovely breakfast buffet that includes everything from freshly prepared eggs to a gluten-free and healthy station. Most popular are the traditional Peruvian dishes, and on week-ends, a carving station makes an appearance. The a la carte menu can be enjoyed in the dining room, on the terrace or poolside, too. One of the most popular spots is the lunchtime ceviche bar, Chalana, located at the end of the pier. Here, the freshest seafood is served in the seaside breeze.

**LEISURE FACILITIES:** The central swimming pool is an adults-only venue ringed on either side with shaded cabanas and lounge chairs. It has bar service from nearby servers. The resort has a signature gin experience, delivered by an elaborate cart where craft cocktails are made tableside. A second pool is larger and closer to the beach. Watersport activities can be rented nearby. The rooms that front the pool offer easy access between them; a children's playground is tucked around the corner. The spa provides numerous treatment rooms, and a glass-lined gym.

**BUSINESS AND MEETING FACILITIES:** A separate convention facility sits on the property's edge with air conditioned meeting areas and multifunction ballrooms, free wireless Internet and the

### TESTED BY

Ramsey Qubein

### HOW MANY ROOMS?

136 rooms and suites

### PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

A stunning waterfront, fantastic seafood and a convenient home base for off-the-beaten-track exploration

### PRICE

Internet rates for a traditional room start at \$195

### CONTACT

Hotel Paracas, A Luxury Collection Resort, Av. Paracas S/N Paracas, Peru, tel 51-56-581333, [hotelparacasresort.com](http://hotelparacasresort.com).

### FACILITIES

- iPods and iPads
- ✓ WI FI
- ✓ MINI BAR
- ✓ 24hr CONCIERGE
- ✓ MEETING ROOM
- EXECUTIVE FLOOR
- ✓ RESTAURANT
- ✓ BAR
- ✓ SPA
- ✓ POOL
- ✓ GYM

latest audiovisual equipment. The garden terrace fronting the beach attracts social functions like weddings and receptions.

**VERDICT:** What seems like a southern California resort is actually one of the most celebrated hotels in this part of Peru. For those who have done Machu Picchu and are looking to delve into another facet of Peru's varied activities, this is a great home base. **BT**



A photograph of two women walking through a busy street in Hong Kong. The woman in the foreground is wearing an orange sleeveless top and yellow pants, holding a shopping bag. The woman behind her is wearing a red top and also holding a shopping bag. They are both smiling and looking towards the right. The background shows a blurred street scene with buildings and other people.

# HONG KONG

IF YOU HAD 1/3/5 HOURS  
TO EXPLORE HONG KONG  
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Discover authentic experiences at [StayInspired.com](https://www.StayInspired.com).  
Book now at [ConradHongKong.com](https://www.ConradHongKong.com) to enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi, digital check-in and more.

CONRAD<sup>®</sup>  
HONG KONG

NEVER JUST STAY. STAY INSPIRED.

ASIA EUROPE AFRICA MIDDLE EAST AMERICAS  
[CONRADHOTELS.COM](https://www.CONRADHOTELS.COM) #STAYINSPIRED



# Business Traveler

*lifestyle*

40 News

42 Highland Highlights



46 What's On

48 Appreciating Angkor



52 Perfect Match



56 4 Hours Frankfurt



58 Fatigue Intrigue



42



52

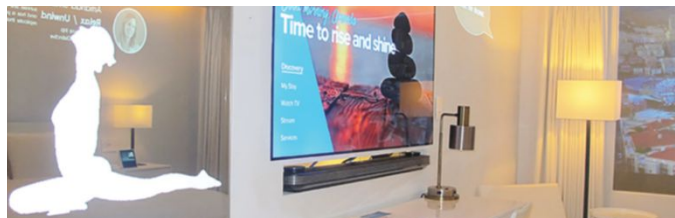


## JW Marriott Welcomes Wellness Ambassador

JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts has announced a partnership with Nora Tobin as the brand's wellness ambassador. The collaboration, which will roll out in 2018, offers guests tailored health and wellness experiences.

Guests will be able to enjoy Fitness Videos on FitnessOnDemand through the in-room entertainment system and will have access to juice and smoothie in-room menus. In addition healthy meals and breaks based on recommended healthy items will be available for meetings and events in 2018.

Find out more at [marriott.com](http://marriott.com).



## Marriott, Samsung and Legrand Create IoT Hotel Room

Marriott International has teamed with technology powerhouses Samsung and Legrand to develop an Internet of Things hotel room. At Marriott's IoT Guestroom Lab, this "smart" hotel room allows multiple responsive IoT systems, devices and applications to communicate with one another to serve guests and optimize hotel operations.

The technology would allow customers to enjoy an integrated experience with access to their own data and information, as well as accessible voice and mobile-optimized controls. Such systems would also benefit hotel operations and improve personalized service. Consumers should start to see elements of the technology in hotel rooms within the next five years.

Visit [marriott.com](http://marriott.com) for more information.



## Amazon Introduces Alexa for Business

Amazon has introduced Alexa for Business, a set of tools for using the Alexa voice-activated virtual assistant at work. Alexa for Business will be able to place meeting calls with Cisco, Polycom, Zoom, and other communication companies that can respond when you say "Alexa, join my meeting." The platform will also include Salesforce to answer questions about business performance, Concur to share business travel itinerary information, RingCentral for voicemail readings, SAP SuccessFactors for HR, and other third-party voice functions for business services.

A series of features added to Alexa this year make the AI assistant better equipped to enter the workplace, according to Amazon. Applications include the ability to make phone and video calls, plus the incorporation of calendars from Office 365 and Google's G Suite.

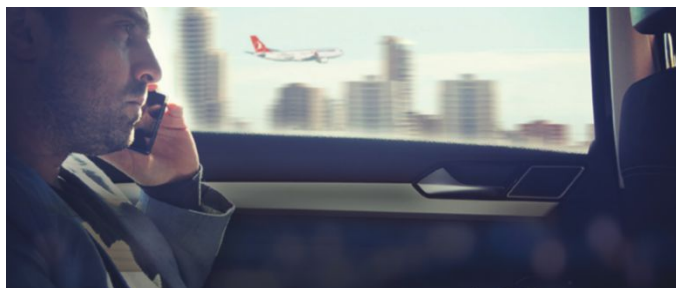
Learn more at [aws.amazon.com](http://aws.amazon.com).

## Turkish Airlines Business Class Customers Enjoy Exclusive Drive

Exclusive Drive, a private, luxury transfer service, is now available to Business Class passengers on Turkish Airlines who purchase flexible return tickets between select markets.

The service, which is free for the first 35 miles, is currently available to passengers flying from Abu Dhabi, Beirut, Dhaka, Doha, Dubai, Cairo, Karachi, Kuwait City, Lahore, Islamabad, Mumbai, Tehran, and Tel Aviv to the US and Canada, or the return itinerary. Tickets need to be purchased more than 24 hours before the flights.

Visit [turkishairlines.com](http://turkishairlines.com) for details.

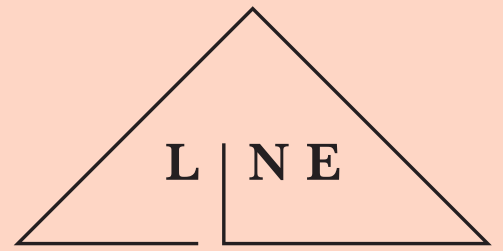


## Air France App Upgrades Passengers' Entertainment

Air France's newest app – Air France Play – offers passengers more entertainment options on their smart device. The content is available to passengers 30 hours before take off.

To set up devices, customers need to download the app via the App Store or Google Play. There are two new options – Air France Play and Air France Music – in addition to the well-known Air France App. Log into the app with your booking reference number or Flying Blue card. Then download the content to your device and it will remain available before, during and after the flight.

For more information visit [airfrance.com](http://airfrance.com). **BT**



IN WINTER 2017 THE  
LINE HOTEL OPENS IN  
A HISTORIC CHURCH  
IN ADAMS MORGAN, DC

1770 EUCLID STREET NW  
WASHINGTON DC 20009

[THELINEHOTEL.COM/DC](http://THELINEHOTEL.COM/DC)

FINALLY A  
DC HOTEL TO  
MATCH ITS  
BUZZY FOOD  
SCENE

—

CONDÉ NAST  
TRAVELER





# HIGHLAND HIGHLIGHTS

Our intrepid foursome discover Scotland on a golf trip, a road trip and a cultural adventure all rolled into one

By Jerry Allison

**W**hat do a couple of colleagues who share a passion for golf, adventure and Scotland do to unwind and recharge from the hectic pace of professional life? Why, we head out for a Scottish golf adventure of course!

So, we set out to play great courses, see Scotland, and experience the rich culture and gracious people.

## The Long and Winding Road

Once we clear customs in Glasgow, we pack our gear into our Enterprise 7-passenger van, sans the third-row seat to neatly fit our foursome's gear. We head due north as we escape the city, winding our way up to the wondrous Loch Lomond area.

From there we head west and then south, twisting and turning around the lochs, on what is literally the "Long and Winding Road" – the one made famous by The Beatles tune. Later we learn that Paul McCartney still owns several contiguous farms in the area and spends a good deal of time here on the Mull of Kintyre – not surprisingly, another McCartney number.

We arrive at the Ugadale Lodge in time for dinner in the pub and a good night's sleep. As we settle in for the evening, exhausted from a full day's travel from the States, our talk turns to the adventures to come.

## Round One: Machrihanish Dunes

What do you get when you cross rugged windswept hills and

Scottish links? Machrihanish Dunes! Nestled along the northern shore of Kintyre, running along the coast, with dramatic views of the Atlantic, the only dirt they moved was to make way for the tee boxes and the greens.

The rest of the course was left as Mother Nature intended, with the fairways rolled but not flattened. Off the fairways was the fescue, and I mean real fescue. Somehow the caddies knew exactly where to find our errant shots, even though the grass was thick as a brick and knee deep too. With the wind whipping off the sea, my trusty 3-wood kept me in the fairway – most of the time.

So remote, but accessible was this remarkable course, that as we were leaving, we actually got stuck behind a herd of cattle on a single lane road, as the neighboring farmer and his trusty dog worked them from one field to another. This was truly the antidote for too much civilization.

## Round Two: (Old) Machrihanish

What a classic! Old Tom Morris designed and built this links course back in the 1870s, when golf was expanding to the west of Scotland.

It has quite the history, going back to a time when ladies weren't permitted. But, we were told, they would sneak on to the course when the men weren't looking. Hole number one claims to be the "Best Opening Hole of Golf in the World," and it probably was in its day, as the tee shot needs to carry the inlet on this dog leg left. Unlike the Dunes, the fairways were wider and flatter, a bit more forgiving.





**Opposite page:** Machrihanish Dunes **Above:** Trump International - Aberdeenshire; MacLeod House; Whiskey at the MacLeod House





But here were plenty of blind shots, offering plenty of opportunity for our caddies to save the day. Hearing their stories as we played this simple, yet historic course took us back to a time of ancient golf, when sheep kept the fairways closely cut. This course broadened our historic perspective, and our golf experience.

#### Across Scotland

As we depart Campbeltown, we're heading north and east, cutting across the center of Scotland up to Aberdeen. This was easy driving and sightseeing all in one. Up around Loch Lomond, through the Trossachs and Cairngorms National Parks. There were breathtaking scenic views: Hills and valleys, sheep dotting the slopes, highland cows grazing, and lochs at every turn.

#### Round Three: Trump International

A long and winding driveway culminates at MacLeod House. This castle-like structure is a former royal hunting lodge that's been renovated and appointed for modern day royalty. From the moment we arrived, the staff went above and beyond. With only 16 rooms, the five-star lodging was indeed a first-class boutique experience that exceeded every imaginable expectation.

The course was majestic. Nestled among the mountainous dunes along the dramatic North Sea shore, you feel like you're playing in the land of giants. Each hole seemed to be in its own valley, with inspiring vistas and no two holes alike. The caddies were excellent; they knew the course and gave great counsel. We all agreed, hands down, this was the most exciting course we had played.

Finishing off on the par-five 18th hole, high-fiving each other on an exciting round of golf, and behold! There he was – a tuxedo-clad waiter, silver tray in hand with four drams of highland single malt. What a way to finish, toasting each other on our magnificent experience, with a superb local whisky.

### What better way to experience Scotland's history, culture and night life than the Royal Mile in Edinburgh

Speaking of whisky, that evening after dinner, we ventured into the Clavis Whisky Bar inside MacLeod House, with its amiable atmosphere and more than 200 single malts on hand. As we sat sipping our whisky, the bartender shared the history of many of the whiskies we'd never heard of before, each one with its own story.

#### Off to St. Andrews

No, we didn't get to play the Old Course, but we did walk around No. 1 and 18, and crossed that iconic stone bridge. We stopped and pondered it all; the ancient and royal course, the history, the lore – and here we were, where it all had started.

#### Round 4: Fairmont St. Andrews

Just a few miles south, along the sweeping shoreline is The Torrance Course. The cloudless sky, great vistas of the sea – and gusting winds of 30 and 40 mph – made for quite the adventure. Left to right, and right to left winds, every shot requiring adjustments. The sun was out in all its glory, and so were we.

Re-opened in July 2009 following an extensive refurbishment, the championship course offered tons of risk/reward opportunities. With deep revetted bunkers (I can attest to that!) and undulating greens, it was both beautiful and dramatic. And the wind was definitely a big factor that enhanced the drama.

#### Sterling Castle and Braveheart

As we departed St. Andrews on our way to Edinburgh, we couldn't resist a brief visit at Sterling. This classic castle overlooks the River Forth and the battlefield that made William Wallace famous. Across the field in the distance stands his Braveheart Monument. As we pondered his fight for independence, we were reminded of our own patriotism, of our Ulster-Scot ancestors and their enduring passion for freedom they brought to America.

#### The Royal Mile

In addition to golf and sightseeing, we wanted to experience Scotland, its history, and culture – and night life. What better way

Above from left: Fairmont St. Andrews - The Torrance; Gleneagles - the Queen's Course



than the Royal Mile in Edinburgh: The Castle, St. Giles Cathedral, cobblestone streets and bagpipes, pubs and restaurants of every kind, and the people.

We were now ensconced in the Radisson Blu, right in the center of everything. This was our home base for the next four days of adventure, driving out in the mornings, returning late in the day.

### Round 5: Gleneagles

A glorious playground set in an iconic country estate beneath the beautiful Ochil Hills. In addition to three top courses, the PGA, the Kings and the Queens course, Gleneagles features a superb complex of hotels, meeting and conference facilities capable of handling a wide range of events from small groups to large gatherings.

Originally, we were going to play the PGA course, but after some friendly advice we determined that it was a bit over our heads. Not quite the course for us bogey golfers. The Kings course closed for maintenance, so we settled on the Queens course. Of all the rounds we played, this course reminded more of the courses back home: Wider tree-lined fairways, not much fescue, bunkers here and there. And no two holes alike.

Just as we finished 14, the threatening rain finally arrived – and this was the only rain of our entire trip. However we became inspired, and decided that to march on in the rain was indeed the Scottish thing to do. This wasn't a drizzle; it was real rain. But we proudly carried on, as did our caddies, who were game – if we were. After finishing on 18, the rain stopped, and we retreated to the large and finely appointed clubhouse to enjoy the warmth of a whisky and a real meal.

### The Highland Games

It was Saturday, and we decided to skip golf that day. Instead, we headed to the highland games at Ceres, just shy of St. Andrews. We drove north to Ceres, to the oldest running “free” highland games in Scotland. Free, as in no charge. Oldest, as in running every year since 1317, (except in time of war, of course). These games

This trip was about the surprises, the serendipity, the joy of the journey on the road less traveled

commemorate Scottish independence earned by Robert the Bruce.

Ceres turns out to be this little hamlet surrounded by fields and pastures. The games were held in the village center with a large stream running by it. The whole field was no larger than a football field, with a chalked lined running and

biking track within it. There was no technology or infrastructure here to speak of.

No more than a couple thousand spectators looked on, some sitting on the grass, some on lawn chairs, many standing. No bleachers here. You could see this wonderful community coming together, year after year, celebrating 700 years of history.

There were several events going on at once. Caber toss or wrestling over there, highland dance over there, a bicycle race circling everything – all simultaneously. Everything was open to all comers, men and women and kids, and the competitors always exhibited the highest level of sportsmanship, graciously congratulating each other's effort.

Small food trucks, ale tents, rides for the kids – this was a community event and we felt right at home.

### The Trip of a Lifetime

We spent our last evening together back in Edinburgh, enjoying one more great meal and a couple whiskies too. We had covered nearly 890 miles, driving ourselves around Scotland. Sure, we could have gone on a traditional golf tour, leaving the driving to others.

But, for us this trip was about an adventure, one that allowed us to take advantage of the surprises, the serendipity, and the joy of the journey on the road less traveled.

All four of us agreed, that indeed, this was the trip of a lifetime. We escaped the hectic day in and day out of business responsibilities. We enjoyed each other's company as we traveled from here to there, played great rounds of golf, enjoyed splendid weather and unique cultural experiences. The people were marvelous and they all shared their wonderful spirit of hospitality and graciousness.

The best of golf, and an adventure of a lifetime too! **BT**



# What's On Around The World

We round up some of the top events in the months ahead from all over

## Winterlude

**Ottawa  
February 2 – 19**

Canada's capital city celebrates winter with a unique festival that includes the world's largest ice rink, the continent's biggest snow playground, and downhill skiing, plus live entertainment and the work of ice carvers from around the world.

Visit [canada.ca/en](http://canada.ca/en).



## Tremains Art Deco Festival

**Napier, New Zealand  
February 14 -18**

Napier was rebuilt in 1931 after a devastating earthquake and became home to an exceptional collection of Art Deco architecture. Now in its 30th year, the festival boasts a vintage car parade, Gatsby Picnic and musical attractions.

Visit [artedconapier.com](http://artedconapier.com).

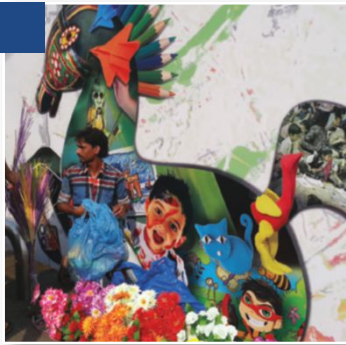


## Kala Ghoda Arts Festival

**Mumbai  
February 3 – 11**

This event is India's largest multicultural festival, open to everyone, and often attracting well-known celebrities. There are dance performances, music concerts, plays, art displays, food stalls and more during this eight-day celebration.

Visit [kalaghodaassociation.com](http://kalaghodaassociation.com)

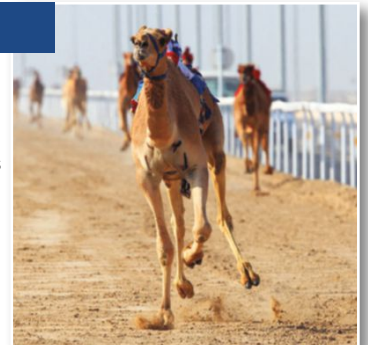


## Dubai Camel Races

**Dubai  
February 16 – 17**

Saddle up for a fun family day out at one of the premiere events of professional camel racing across the Middle East. The tournament attracts thousands of highly trained competitors competing for coveted titles and generous prizes.

Find details at [visitdubai.com](http://visitdubai.com).

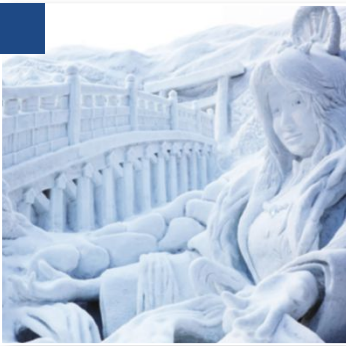


## Sapporo Snow Festival

**Sapporo, Japan  
February 5 – 12**

This annual event began in 1950 with six snow sculptures made by students. Today it attracts millions of visitors to appreciate the art in snow and ice. There are also contests and fun activities in the frozen wonderland.

Visit [sapporo.travel](http://sapporo.travel).



## Sedona International Film Festival

**Sedona, AZ  
February 24 – March 4**

The 24th annual Sedona International Film Festival runs for nine days in this scenic Arizona town. Over 160 films will be screened, including features, shorts, foreign films, documentaries, animation, student films and more.

Visit [sedonafilmfestival.org](http://sedonafilmfestival.org).



## White Turf

**St. Moritz, Switzerland  
February 4, 11 and 18**

Thoroughbreds and jockeys race on the frozen Lake of St Moritz for a chance to win big prize money. They'll be galloping, cantering or *skikjöring*, where contestants are pulled across the frozen lake by unsaddled horses at speeds of up to 30 mph.

Visit [whiteturf.ch](http://whiteturf.ch).

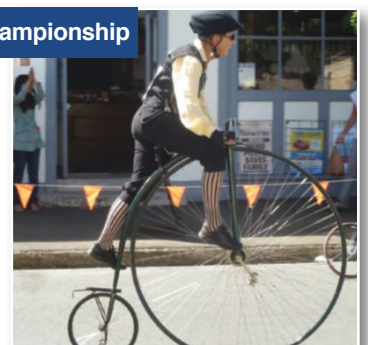


## National Penny Farthing Championship

**Evansdale, Tasmania, Australia  
February 24**

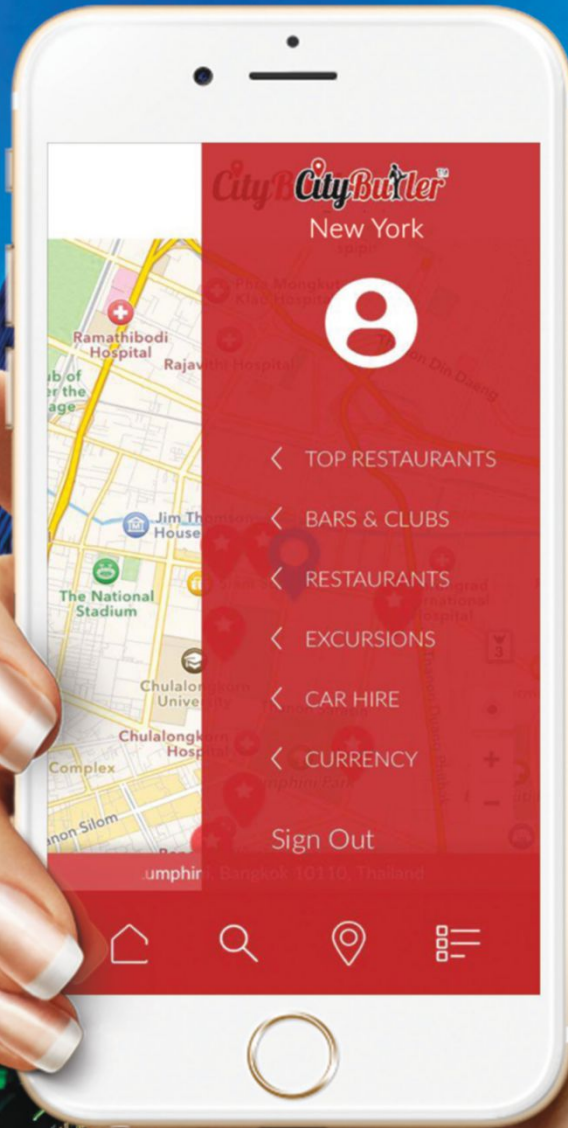
Since 1983 this festival has drawn penny farthing buffs from all over to race their high-wheel bicycles around the center of Evandale Village, which is lined with market stalls, creating the ambience of a country fair.

For more information visit [evandalevillagefair.com](http://evandalevillagefair.com). **BT**





# CityButler



The ultimate travel companion  
Find and book the best a city has to offer



[www.citybutler.co](http://www.citybutler.co)









# APPRECIATING ANGKOR

Temple tours and beyond in Siem Reap

By Tamsin Cocks



Catching the sunrise at Angkor Wat is one of those rare bucket-list activities that truly deserves the hype. The mystical experience began with a 4:30 AM wake-up call and a short trek through pitch-black jungle. As dawn filtered into the night sky, a trio of soaring monolithic structures emerged from the darkness. The sheer size of the ancient towers was way beyond my expectations: more than 650 feet of intricately carved sandstone.

Entering the 500-acre complex from the deserted Ta Kou east entrance (most people arrive from the west gate) afforded me a rare tourist-free moment to absorb the magnitude of the thousand-year-old site – a faint chorus of chanting from Buddhist monks providing the perfect ethereal soundtrack. I arrived at the western entrance where a group of bleary-eyed tourists were gathered, cameras at the ready, to capture the majestic sight of Angkor Wat reflected in the lake as the sunrise flecked the sky with a kaleidoscope of reds, oranges and purples.

The awe-inspiring temple is one of the largest religious sites in the world, built as a Hindu temple whose masterful architecture replicates elements of the universe – the surrounding moat a symbol of the oceans, the soaring temples stretching to heaven. Having a guide provided invaluable insight into the various features and secrets of the remarkably well-preserved complex: The square holes that were once sacred pools; the mysterious doorway that only echoes when a person beats their chest; the 3,000 unique *apsaras* (celestial nymphs) carved into the walls; the numerous decapitated Buddhas, whose heads were plundered to sell on the black market.

At 7:30 AM I joined the opening queue to climb the hundred-odd seriously steep steps to Bakan, the sacred summit of the central tower – there’s a strict limit on numbers, so it’s best to go early to avoid the lines. From the lofty height of Bakan you can look over the grounds of Angkor Wat, and beyond. Though it is mostly hidden under jungle canopy, the sprawling 150-square-mile UNESCO World Heritage-listed archaeological site contains scores of ancient temples from the old Khmer Empire.

Bayon was next on our hit list, a short drive away. The entrance is guarded by two snaking lines of fearsome stone warriors holding *nagas* (mythological serpents) in front of a large archway topped with a four-sided face.

The Buddhist temple of Bayon is a maze of galleries, towers and more steep steps, but is most famous for the hundreds of giant, smiling stone faces carved into the walls and towers. There are also some incredibly detailed stone bas-reliefs carved into the walls depicting everyday life. From childbirth and cooking to gambling and war, the nationalities, dress and expressions are clearly visible in the fascinating historical narrative.

The final stop of my tour was Ta Prohm – famous the world over thanks to its Hollywood debut in *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*. The iconic silk cotton and fig tree roots creeping over the temple doorways, and stone walls covered in vivid green moss, are incredibly photogenic. Again, visitors have free reign to explore and soak up the atmosphere, and – of course – pose for iconic “tomb-raider” shots.

### Chic Retreat

By the time I’d explored these three magnificent ruins, it was around 1 PM. Hardcore temple hunters can continue on to many more sites, but for me, some food and a nap were in order. I retreated to the beautiful Shinta Mani Angkor boutique resort (adjoining the Shinta Mani Shack resort), a short tuk-tuk ride or walk from the center of town.



The collection of 37 rooms was designed by renowned architect Bill Bensley, whose distinctive fingerprint is everywhere – from the optical illusion pool floor to the Khmer-inspired modern artwork. Favorite features of my beautiful Deluxe Poolview Suite included the artwork depicting scenes from Angkor, in particular the fresco directly above the bed that greeted me first thing in the morning, the spacious Terrazzo bathroom and rainshower, and the private balcony overlooking the pool.

In addition to international dishes, the hotel’s on-site Kroya restaurant features a dazzling array of Khmer cuisine, which is all about contrasts. The seven-course tasting menu features fine-dining delights such as sun-dried fish with watermelon, beef *lok lak* and crispy fermented pork with roasted eggplant and papaya slaw.

After dinner, we headed up to the relaxed Bill Bensley bar for some modern cocktails and booked a rejuvenating treatment at the on-site spa (top tip: try the popular Khmer Coffee Scrub for a local twist, which combines white clay and organic Cambodian coffee beans from the hill tribes of Ratanakiri province).

In December the hotel launched a super-luxe collection of ten private villas. The exquisite two-story villas feature lush gardens, spacious accommodation, private pools and butler service, plus service add-ons in the form of fast-track immigration at the airport ([shintamani.com](http://shintamani.com)).

### On the Town

If not for the temples at Angkor, Siem Reap would likely have remained a small, unknown Cambodian village. However, the treasured heritage site has seen the town blossom since the end of the political troubles. While once there was little to do apart from temple tours, Siem Reap is developing its tourist appeal fast, with a raft of new hotels, fine-dining establishments, cultural activities and entertainment on offer in recent years.

The heart of Siem Reap’s nightlife emanates from the lively Pub Street – a collection of bars, restaurants and live music that merge happily with the customary Southeast Asian night market. One more distinctive addition – not for the faint-hearted – is the presence of food stalls selling genuine local snacks... in the form of scorpions, snakes, crickets and fried tarantulas.

If, like me, the latter is the stuff of nightmares, bragging rights can still be gained by posing for a photograph for a very reasonable 50 cents US. For a more upmarket serving of such critters, visitors can head to the Bug Café for some insect tapas or perhaps a scorpion salad? The café is open from 5:00 PM ‘til late ([bugs-cafe.e-monsite.com](http://bugs-cafe.e-monsite.com)).

Alternatively, try ducking down one of the quieter streets to find more high-end options. The vivid red interiors of Miss Wong,







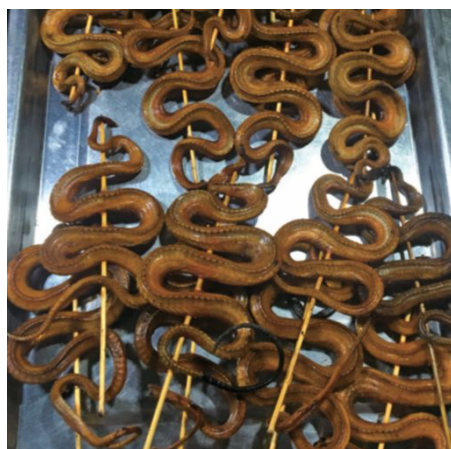
located on The Lane, beckon to those looking for an atmospheric cocktail lounge, with a modern drinks list and selection of food ([misswong.net](http://misswong.net)). If you want a more formal experience, fine-dining establishments can also be found in the center of town: The Steakhouse, again tucked away just off Pub Street, offers a refined setting with prime cuts of meat and a great wine list.

These days adrenaline junkies can find an array of options to satisfy them, from quad biking or horse riding through the countryside, to ultra-light flights over the temples and Tonlé Sap lake. Zip lining through the “Great Strangler” trees and trekking to little-visited waterfalls are also on the itinerary for those seeking adventure. Anantara Angkor Resort has recently launched a range of 45 curated activities to help visitors extend their visit beyond the typical 48 hours ([angkor.anantara.com](http://angkor.anantara.com)).

More cultural tastes can also be satisfied. A slew of ecotourism ventures have opened up, helping guests give back to the community while immersing themselves in traditional life. Become a farmer for the day, try your hand at a cooking class or join a homestay and interact with a local family.

Ecotourism initiatives have also merged with mainstream to help employ locals and generate profits to give back to the community. Phare, the Cambodian circus, is one such initiative, offering audiences a fire-dancing, acrobatic, aerial flying extravaganza in a modern retelling of classic Cambodian stories. Launched in 2013, it has become one of the hottest nights out in Siem Reap, with nightly performances at 8:00 PM ([pharecircus.org](http://pharecircus.org)).

To satisfy shopping habits, walk across Siem Reap River to the newer Art Centre Night Market, which is filled with a mixture of



**Clockwise from left:** Sunrise at Angkor Wat; the many faces of Bayon temple; snake snacks in Siem Reap; Shinta Mani Angkor's main entrance

craftwork ranging from textiles to paintings. Many of the artworks pay tribute to the temples of Angkor, along with carved ornaments, lacquerware, textiles and other trinkets that make for charming souvenirs.

For an even more modern take on traditional handicrafts and foodstuffs, head to Kandal Village – a cool, hipster enclave that wouldn't be out of place in any major city. Here you'll find an eclectic mishmash of cafés, bars and boutique shops offering high-quality alternatives to the usual tourist tat.

There's Trunkh, with its collection of high-quality goods, souvenirs and knick-knacks; Louise Loubatieres featuring lacquerwork, homeware, ceramic vases and textiles; and Saarti's with an array of gorgeous-smelling ecofriendly candles. The huge array of lovely products and decorations are perfect to take home as keepsakes, but for me, the ultimate souvenir is the unforgettable memory of Angkor Wat at sunrise – a truly amazing experience. **BT**





# Perfect match

Forget traditional wine-paired meals, the rule book is being rewritten with new partnerships – from whisky and chocolate to cheese and beer

**By Marisa Cannon**





It all used to be so simple. When pairing food and wine, everyone knew that red was served with meat and white with fish.

There were a few other specific combinations regarded as sacrosanct – champagne with caviar, port with Stilton, sauternes with Roquefort, and so on. But beyond these conventions, for most people “pairing” meant choosing food you liked and wine you liked and ordering them at the same time.

No longer. The old shibboleths are now not just disregarded but ridiculed. An industry has grown up in prescribing new and sometimes improbable-sounding matches between food and wine – and recently also other alcoholic drinks, including beer, spirits, rice wines and even cocktails.

Chefs, sommeliers, bartenders and food critics have all weighed in on sometimes-heated debates about what goes best with what, and why. Some are keen to replace old orthodoxies with new. Others believe that there are no rules.

Dom Perignon’s chef de cave Richard Geoffroy is among the latter. The head of the winemaking team is prepared to try anything and has already matched Dom Perignon with menus from such culinary luminaries as Ferran Adria, Heston Blumenthal, Yannick Alleno and Tetsuya Wakuda. The most recent collaboration came with long-term friend and associate Alain Ducasse, who recently opened his new restaurant Rech at the Intercontinental Hong Kong.

Geoffroy visited Hong Kong on July 10 for a special dinner to launch Dom Perignon 2000 P2 – a late-release vintage, given extra time to mature. The wine has reached a stage in its evolution which Geoffroy calls a “Plenitude.” P2 stands for “Plenitude Deuxieme” – the second of three life cycles that will come from the vintage.

“We want to create a moment of extreme harmony,” said Ducasse before the dinner. “It’s about the right combination for where you are. We had a recent collaboration at Versailles, but we don’t want to re-create that because it wouldn’t be right for Hong Kong – just as this evening wouldn’t be right for Versailles.”

The 14-course menu was heavily influenced by Cantonese cuisine, with Ducasse’s interpretations of such local specialties as crispy suckling pig, har gao (dumplings) and fried rice, and was paired exclusively with the P2.

Some dishes certainly came closer to “extreme harmony” than others, but for Geoffroy, the experience was less about Ducasse’s sublime moments of communion between the wine and a particular dish, and more about the different light that each dish cast on the wine.

“More and more I like the idea of a single vintage of Dom Perignon throughout a meal,” he said. “It’s something I’ve been figuring out in Japan with the kaiseki (traditional multicourse dinner) that has one wine from start to finish. With one dish it might not go so great; with the next, it can be terrific. In the end, you look at the ensemble and most of the time it’s harmonious enough because there are so many sensations. It’s practical and sensible.”

This singular approach to wine pairing is the polar opposite to the prevailing trend of matching a different glass to each dish – an idea introduced in 1985 by influential French chef Alain Senderens.

So with traditional wisdom on matching food and wine in doubt, how do we go about finding successful new combinations?

The short answer, according to Geoffroy, is trial and error, and not being too worried about the occasional misstep; an apparently obvious combination may disappoint while an improbable one may turn out to be a triumph.

In pairing food and wine the objective is usually to find either the harmony of which Ducasse spoke – in aroma, flavor, and texture – or a contrast, sweetness to balance saltiness for example, or acidity to cut through fat.

### Brewing New Ideas

But a question increasingly being asked is whether wine is the right choice of partner for some produce at all.

“Cheese has long been associated with wine, but usually, really pairs better with beer,” advises Ray Daniels, founder and director of the Cicerone Certification Program – the beer world’s equivalent to a sommelier qualification. “Its roots lie in grasses that feed the cows and goats – similar to the barley and wheat used to make beer. So there’s a natural companionship there,” Daniels says.

“But beer is also better able to balance the richness of cheese both with carbonation and with varying levels of bitterness. And perhaps best of all, the wide range of flavor intensities available from beer allow us to pick a good partner for any cheese. Try a Hefeweizen or Witbier with a burrata, an IPA with an aged cheddar, or a stronger stout with a blue cheese.”

A growing interest in food and beer pairing partly stems from the success of the craft beer movement, and the growing number of interesting flavor profiles.

The Dickens Bar at Hong Kong’s Excelsior Hotel, surrounded by Causeway Bay, recently introduced a new beer pairing menu, featuring dishes such as Guinness beef ribs cooked with Sichuan



spices, paired, unsurprisingly, with Guinness; and crispy pork knuckle paired with Erdinger Dunkel.

According to executive sous chef Julian Man, Guinness has a bittersweet maltiness, which can enhance the flavor of beef, but he counsels against pairing it with the more assertive flavor of lamb. The pork knuckle he considers a natural match for a wheat beer.

"We picked Erdinger Dunkel for its delicate roasting aroma which balances the flavor of this hearty favorite of many. The full-bodied, strong character of this German beer does not cover the meat itself, but rather, brings out the equally strong aroma of the veggie-stock-braised knuckle. All in all, it's about balancing the flavor of the drink and the dish," says Man.

### Spirited Debate

Growing interest in fine whiskies and boutique artisanal spirits has also led to some interesting pairing experiments, with a particular affinity being discovered between single malt or deluxe blended scotch and chocolate.

According to whisky and food pairing consultant Ewan Henderson, whisky will also generally partner food that has been subject to the "Maillard reaction," a chemical change in food subjected to high-temperature cooking, so grilled meats such as steaks and yakitori chicken.

"BBQ flavors work very well with things that have been in charred casks," says Henderson. "From heavily charred bourbon casks there are lactones [chemical compounds that contribute to the flavor in whisky] and there are lactones in foods."

Whisky also partners well with many cheeses, and the salty tang of an Islay single malt pairs beautifully with oysters.

### Against the Grain

Asia of course has a longstanding tradition of matching cuisine to rice wines and spirits. In Japan, even wine connoisseurs tend to prefer sake with Japanese food – partly perhaps because chefs cook with it, and alcohol that has been used in the preparation of food is often the best accompaniment.

According to Su-Zie Chew, director of food and beverage at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort & Spa, sake pairing is also increasingly fashionable in Singapore, and recently debuted at the hotel's Casserole restaurant.

"With our new Japanese chef de cuisine Seki Takuma and an increased interest in sake among Singaporeans, we thought what a wonderful opportunity to introduce a sake pairing menu, using ingredients and sake from chef's hometown, Niigata," she says.

Outside China baijiu has historically been less highly regarded than sake, but it is beginning to emerge as a product for export. Hong Kong Elite Concepts' Deng G pairs Sichuan food with baijiu from a list organized according to fragrance, and also offers baijiu cocktails to pair with snacks in its bar.

### New World Wines

Even traditional wine pairing is also starting to chart new territory, moving into areas where beer has been a traditional choice – spicy Indian and Thai cuisine for example.

"Indian cuisine comes with a complex flavor profile primarily due to the diverse spice elements being used. This makes it an exciting challenge when pairing with wines," says sommelier Inthran Ramasamy of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Singapore.

From top: Yuzu with foie gras at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort; Mandarin Oriental Singapore's sommelier Inthran Ramasamy; Dickens Bar crispy pork knuckle with beer



Ramasamy recommends looking at wines such as Gewurztraminer with a sweetness to balance the spice, or pinot noirs with silky tannins.

Now that several Asian countries are emerging as producers of wine there is also a natural interest in matching those to local cuisine. "In our Thai restaurant, Thiptara, we offer Thai wines paired with a set dinner," says Patty Lerdwittayaskul, director of public relations at the Peninsula Bangkok.

"Every month, the hotel organizes 'Vine & Dine – a communal table,' which is a wine dinner, but at one long table offering diners an opportunity to share their feedback and passion with other diners."

For those interested in learning more about wine pairing, the sommeliers of triple-Michelin-starred Caprice at the Four Seasons Hong Kong are holding monthly cheese and wine pairing classes, priced from HK\$935 (\$120; [fourseasons.com](http://fourseasons.com)).

But remember, if at first you don't succeed, it doesn't matter. Food and drink pairing is, as Richard Geoffroy points out, more a matter of traveling hopefully than of arriving at a destination; it's about being willing to test parameters.

"I believe in positive productive tensions," he says. "Harmony is the fruit of tensions. Harmony is not static. It is the opposite. It is duality, yin yang, and it keeps moving." **BT**



# Freehand CHICAGO

Freehand Chicago offers comfortable hotel accommodations to welcome you after a long flight, a gourmet espresso cafe to get your day started and the award-winning Broken Shaker cocktail bar to wind down after the meetings. The Penthouse suites are also a perfect setting for a small meeting or breakout.



Freehand

MIAMI

CHICAGO

LOS ANGELES

NEW YORK

S<sub>G</sub>



# Frankfurt

Discover experimental art, subterranean speakeasies and hearty cuisine in Germany's financial capital

By Olivia Palamountain

## 1 BAHNHOFSVIERTEL

Start in the infamous Bahnhofsviertel, the red light district, which is neatly situated on the doorstep of the Hauptbahnhof station. Lined with sex shops, budget stores, kebab joints and the odd brothel, it's certainly got character – but why bother visiting? Because the “train station quarter” is the city's hottest district, full of edgy coffee shops, clubs and bright young things.

For a taste of the scene, check out Amp (Gallusanlage 2; [ampyourself.de](http://ampyourself.de)), which pumps out caffeine by day and tunes by night, studio-cum-café and bar Plank (Elbestrasse 15; [barplank.de](http://barplank.de)), and Maxie Eisen (Munchener Strasse 18; [maxieeisen.com](http://maxieeisen.com)), a deli and cocktail bar named after Maxie Eisen, a 1920s German-Jewish gangster from Chicago. In true speakeasy style, many of the hippest hangouts are not easy to find. Underground supper haunt Club Michel lies above a thrift and luggage

store at 12 Munchener Strasse and is well worth a visit.

If you're lucky, you may also catch the Taunusstrasse Arts and Bites festival ([tabffm.de](http://tabffm.de)), a monthly art market in the 1970s Kaiserpassage.

## 2 LOHNINGER

Hungry? Head towards the Untermainbrücke, past Willy Brandt Platz and over the bridge to the south bank, and you'll find Lohninger, one of Frankfurt's best-kept lunchtime secrets. This family-run restaurant offers well-heeled locals a concise menu of classic Austrian cuisine, including the best wiener schnitzel in town and a fluffy, caramelized kaiserschmarrn that will make you question everything you thought you knew about pancakes.

The “Radetzky menu,” so called after Strauss's double-quick march, is the best bet if you're tight for time or get

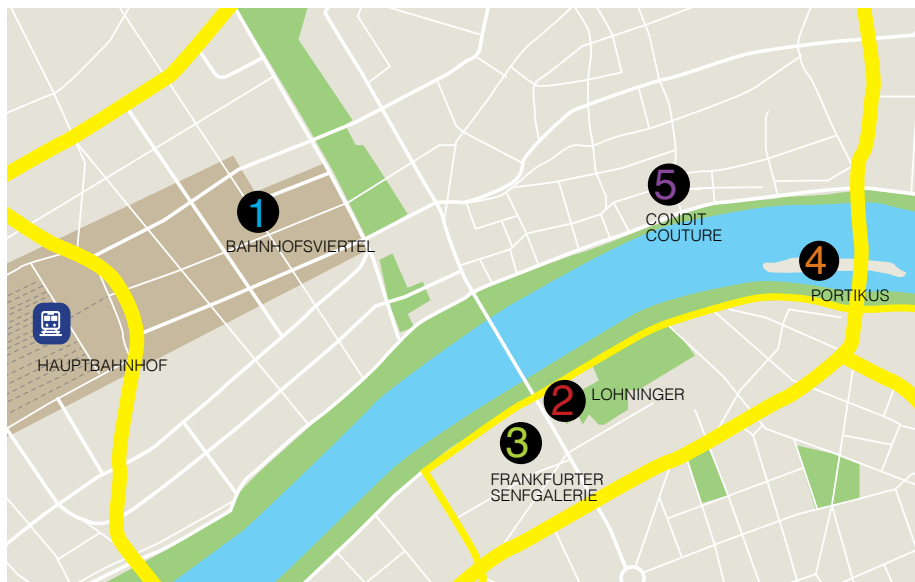
stuck into a simple but effective pastrami sandwich with pickles. Schweizer Strasse 1; [lohnninger.de](http://lohnninger.de).

## 3 FRANKFURTER SENFGALERIE

Continue south on Schweizer Strasse for a couple of minutes and you will arrive at Frankfurter Senfgalerie. An homage to mustard, this tidy shop sells more than 150 varieties of the stuff, along with salts, spices, vinegars, oils and chutneys. All products are of the finest quality and predominantly produced in Germany, with many mustards still made in historic mills around the country.

Local specialties include an apple wine mustard, with added oomph from the city's famous tippel, and herby green sauce mustard made from parsley, chives, chervil, cress and sorrel, produced exclusively for the shop. Splash out and glitz your next sausage with the perfect Frankfurt souvenir. [frankfurter-senfgalerie.de](http://frankfurter-senfgalerie.de).





**4 PORTIKUS**  
 A 12-minute walk along Schaumainkai and north over Frankfurt's oldest bridge, the Alte Brücke, will lead you to the island home of Portikus. First conceived in 1987 and associated with the renowned art academy Stadschule, the current space was designed by Christoph Mackler in 2006 and enjoys a reputation as one of the world's leading centers for experimental art, dedicated to exhibiting publishing and discussing both emerging and established avant-garde artists.

This year, Portikus is celebrating its 30th birthday with a special program of exhibitions. Anniversary project Portikus XXX is an evolving show that aims to connect Frankfurt to the gallery with new works presented in urban spaces

throughout the city. Don't miss the unique atmosphere of Portikus. Open Tues, Thurs-Sun 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Wed 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM; free entry. [portikus.de/en](http://portikus.de/en).

**5 CONDIT COUTURE**  
 Continue north over the bridge, take a left on Mainkai and a right on Fahrtor. It's only about an eight-minute stroll but should be enough to warrant a cheeky pick-me-up at at Condit Couture. This confectioners and bakery creates sweet sensations at haute couture level, fusing traditional French techniques with 21st-century imagination and flair. There's everything from black forest pies and sachertorte to unicorn meringues and lemon and rosemary gateaux. Warm apple strudel and a creamy hot chocolate is a must. [conditcouture.com](http://conditcouture.com). **BT**







# Fatigue Intrigue

“I can sleep when I’m dead”  
are not words to live by

**A**s we look at the calendar, we understand the holidays are behind us. But for some of us, when we step on the scales, we know all the overindulgences of the season are still with us – and probably will be for some time. Because after all, what’s a holiday without tables groaning with food?

Typically the star of many of these feasts is a turkey (or two or three, depending on the size of the gathering). We binge on the bird, along with everything else on the menu, then collapse in front of the television and promptly doze off for an hour (or two or three, depending on the size of the helpings).

And of course, we blame – the turkey.

More precisely, we blame the tryptophan in the turkey, an amino acid found in many foods that the body uses to produce, among other things, serotonin and melatonin – the latter a hormone that regulates sleep and wakefulness. As a consequence the bird at the center of many holiday tables has been the subject of a smear campaign. The popular myth is that turkey meat must contain inordinately high levels of tryptophan which is responsible for that post-feast nationwide stupor.

In reality, other foods – for example, milk, sunflower seeds, even a pork chop – have higher concentrations of tryptophan than turkey. Nutritionists tell us it’s not the turkey, but the rest of the feast, particularly the foods high in carbohydrates, that allows more tryptophan to make it to our brains which in turn means we crank out more melatonin. The result is what the brain-chemistry guys call *postprandial somnolence*, aka, the after-dinner crash.

But there may be another cause: Could it be that given our overloaded schedules with their long hours and short nights, a day off work and a big meal are just the perfect excuse to catch up on some much-needed sleep?

Sleep – or rather the lack of it – is getting a lot of attention these days. For gung-ho business types foregoing the requisite eight hours seems to be the typical modus operandi. “I can sleep when I’m dead” is their mantra. But that could be a killer attitude, as study after study makes the connection between sleep deprivation and poor health, inefficient workplace performance and risky behavior.

According to the National Safety Council and the Brigham Health Sleep Matters Initiative, a typical US employer with 1,000 workers may lose about \$1.4 million each year in absenteeism, diminished productivity and added healthcare costs because of exhausted employees. The study found the costs of fatigue in an average-sized Fortune 500 company climbs to about \$80 million annually.

“Many of us have been conditioned to just power through our fatigue, but worker health and safety on the job are compromised when we don’t get the sleep we need,” says Deborah A.P. Hersman, president and CEO of the National Safety Council. “Doing nothing to address fatigue costs employers a lot more than they think.”

Which brings us to the issue of business travel. Given long hours in the air, time zone changes, stress and lots of other factors, we frequent travelers seem to be more likely than the average Joe or Jane back at the office to suffer sleep disruption and fatigue, along with the associated health issues.

For the sake of improving our quality of life, our productivity and ultimately our health and safety, perhaps the new year is a good time to step back and consider the real costs of our overburdened schedules. A fatigued traveler, either on the road or returning from an exhausting trip, is a prime candidate for trouble.

So let’s cut ourselves a little slack when we’re out there. Let’s make a New Year’s travel resolution: Ease off on the stress, eat healthier, keep up with our exercise regimens.

And, most of all, get some sleep. **BT**



# Discover our Business class.

Aerolíneas Argentinas offer more services and benefits for all our passengers at great prices.



## **CLUB CÓNDOR**

Our long-haul, international business class. The seats recline 170 degrees, and have an “on demand” audio/visual entertainment system with a touchscreen, noise canceling headphones. Equipped with special mood-lighting.

## **CLUB ECONOMY**

Our premium economy class which is offer on all domestic and regional flights, with business class benefits. There are only 8 seats with 38 inches between them.

## **SALÓN CÓNDOR**

Strategically located in Terminal C at Ezeiza, our VIP lounge provide and ideal atmosphere where our passengers can relax. Our Salon Condor can be used by Club Condor (Business class) and Club Economy passengers as well as Aerolíneas plus Platinum, Aerolíneas Gold members and Sky Team Elite Plus members.

More than 10.000 square feet, business center, free WIFI, rest areas allows our passenger be relaxed and enjoying light menu and drinks.





# THANK YOU CONTROL ENTHUSIASTS.

NATIONAL HAS AGAIN BEEN NAMED  
“BEST CAR RENTAL COMPANY IN NORTH AMERICA.”



AT NATIONAL, YOU'RE THE BOSS OF YOU.

You like control. And we like giving it to you. That's why National lets you bypass the counter, choose any car in the Aisle and go. We work hard to serve the needs of the business traveler. And we can't thank you enough for your vote.



GO NATIONAL. GO LIKE A PRO.

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

\*At participating locations and subject to availability and other restrictions. Requires enrollment in the complimentary Emerald Club.  
©2016 National Car Rental. All other marks are property of their respective owners. H02259 11.16