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Globility Global Traveler

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SWEET STUFF:
Katie Skrzek, Kimberly Krol and Angelique Platas in the marshmallow pit at Candytopia

PHOTO: © KIMBERLY KROL

SUMMER SOCIAL

IT'S ALL FOR THE 'GRAM.

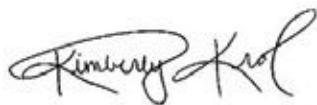
Instagram, that is. While not entirely true, we've seen a rash of pop-up museums and exhibits erupt across the country recently that offer ample opportunities to take a perfect photo for social media, from the Museum of Ice Cream to the new The Cado, a museum about avocado, debuting in San Diego this summer. Katie Skrzek, vice president/digital director; Angelique Platas, associate editor; and I took in Candytopia, an interactive pop-up dedicated to candy, on our trip to Los Angeles in May. As you can see, we had some

fun in the marshmallow ball pit. Entire sculptures made of candy were more like works of art, from a Sphinx to a shark. But I think we'd all agree our favorite part was the free candy samples placed throughout the exhibit.

Finding inspiration on social media or seeking experiences for social media is nothing new for travelers aged 18–35. In fact, research shows this age group is likely to seek travel advice from various social media outlets and friends. If you're looking for more on what these travelers consider noteworthy, turn to page 42, where we announce the winners of this year's The Trazees, the awards voted on by the readers of our sister publication, trazeetravel.com.

That's hardly all we cover in this issue. We're around the globe in Beijing, Dubai, San Antonio, Dublin, Manila, Moscow, PyeongChang, Kenya, Cabo San Lucas and Berlin. Megan Hill's examination of Airbnb versus hotels, on page 34, was perfectly timed for me, as I just booked my first Airbnb stay for September. I know I'm behind on the trend, but hotels are always my go-to accommodation option. However, a late-season wedding in Ocean City, N.J., affords me the opportunity to stay in an Airbnb and see for myself what all the fuss is about.

I hope you're thirsty next month for our August Wine Issue. We take an in-depth look at some of the world's best wine regions, and we determine which airlines serve the best wine in the sky. You won't want to miss it!



KIMBERLY KROL, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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WEEKEND AWAY:
Francis X. and Michele Gallagher enjoying the Sarasota sunset

PHOTO: © FRANCIS X. GALLAGHER

SWEET SUMMERTIME

SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING, and I am sure by now you have already taken some summer trips, not just for vacation but for business as well.

I started the summer with a visit to Atlanta to see some of our valuable clients and introduce Yasser Ogando (one of our newest employees) to one of the friendliest cities in the Union. I followed with a whirlwind trip for Father's Day in Sarasota, taking United's non-stop service from Newark. The new Polaris Lounge is open, and it proves a fantastic addition (find more information on globaltravelerusa.com). Please read this issue's One on One interview with Luc Bondar, who spearheads the continual improvements of the United MileagePlus program.

Right now I am grillin' and chillin' in the Outer Banks of North Carolina in Kitty Hawk for a couple of weeks of remote working while soaking up some sun and getting in a few rounds

of golf. It is a great annual Gallagher family gathering we all treasure.

I want to note a great added value for global business travelers at Turkish Airlines. As one who travels the world, I consider the Turkish Airlines Corporate Club membership a required tool, putting extra baggage, flexibility with flights, access to lounges, flight discounts and hotels at your fingertips. I cannot imagine what the new Turkish Airlines lounge will be like at the new Istanbul Grand Airport (due to open in October), as the current lounge is one of the best in the world.

Hong Kong Airlines is also seeing amazing growth. You likely read the interview with George Liu, chief marketing officer, in our May issue. Hong Kong Airlines, after launching service on the West Coast, will add a New York flight this year. As a frequent traveler to Asia and Hong Kong, I welcome some competition.

At the same time, Kenya Airways — now helmed by longtime industry friend and former LOT Polish Airlines CEO Sebastian Mikosz — will launch service to JFK Oct. 29. Although I have frequently traveled to South Africa, I have never been to Nairobi. Perhaps I can follow in the "hoof prints" of our senior vice president, Richard T. Evans, who had a glorious horseback safari some years ago. The safari experience is different in Kenya, and I look forward to trying it firsthand.

Many of the *Global Traveler* team will attend the annual Global Business Travel Association convention in San Diego this summer. On the night of Aug. 14 we will host a reception at the University Club Atop Symphony Towers, an exquisite private club opening its doors to our celebration. Not only will we celebrate the colossal growth of international travel but also our own growth and the announcement of this year's The Trazees awards winners (see page 42). The millennial market is vitally important to the travel industry, and trazeetravel.com successfully captures that niche. Please join us as we celebrate the industry and our key sponsors for the evening: Ontario International Airport, Chase United MileagePlus Explorer Card and Turkish Airlines Corporate Club.

Do not forget to vote for your favorites in the GT Tested Reader Survey. Find the ballot on page 33 in this issue and in the remaining summer issues, as well as online at globaltravelerusa.com/gt-tested-awards-ballot. This marks the 15th GT Tested Reader Survey awards, scheduled at The Peninsula Beverly Hills rooftop Dec. 12.

See you on board!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis X. Gallagher'.

FRANCIS X. GALLAGHER, PUBLISHER AND CEO

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MAY Q&A WITH ANGELIQUE PLATAS, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

In the May 2018 issue, associate editor Angelique Platas' mention of her celebratory trip to Boston for a bachelorette party and the recent celebration of GT's 200th issue inspired the question: What occasion calls for a commemorative trip? Where would you like to travel for your next big life milestone?

A few readers wrote in with a response.

Any excuse to travel is fine, but definitely for a wedding anniversary. Either revisiting the honeymoon location or choosing a new spot each year is a great way to celebrate.

REBECCA DAVIS, via email

I enjoy rewarding myself with a trip either to a spa or bucket-list destination. A vacation seems like reason enough to celebrate, and in my own way, I'm commemorating something.

ALLISON VASKINS, via email

APRIL Q&A CONTINUED...

In the April 2018 issue we asked: Have you taken a pet on an airplane? If so, do you have any tips on how to make it a smooth ride? A reader answered with preliminary steps taken but has since followed up with the outcome.

As promised, this is my follow-up letter to my first flight with a 10-week-old Havanese puppy



Q&A WITH KAITLIND EYDELLOTH, ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

With July here, I am in full summer mode, which takes me back to summer break from school and traveling with my family. Vacation is on my brain, and it's a time I reflect on past trips and nostalgic moments. Some of my fondest memories are road trips down the West Coast, beach vacations in the South and cruising around the Caribbean.

Daydreaming of long summers, warm nights and endless fun with friends and family always brings a huge smile to my face. When you think back to your childhood and your favorite trips, what destinations were most memorable to you, and why?

Email us: letters@globaltravelerusa.com



from Fort Lauderdale to LaGuardia.

After mentally crossing many horrible and messy scenarios, I can only say I found Delta Air Lines at FLL, on both journeys, and at LGA a total delight to work with.

I arrived at FLL with luggage, PC work bag, plus a puppy in a back pack. A Delta staff member rushed forward to help me and took me to the counter where check-in was swift and handled with just the right amount of friendliness — lots of puppy cuddles!

At the gate I boarded first, and on both journeys the team could

not have been nicer. At takeoff, Chip (my puppy) made his presence very known, so at this time I brought him out of his bag to sit on my lap (he is actually registered as a support animal). Again, everyone, including my fellow passengers, was patient with the situation. All in all, the journey[s] passed quickly and without any problems.

I can only say, "top marks" to Delta for not allowing my nightmares to become reality!

ADRIENNE SIMNOCK, Boca Raton, Fla.

CORRECTION

In the MICE Taipei article featured in the April 2018 issue, the following line should be quoted to Paul Ou: "One of the biggest things Taipei has going for it is that it has a bit of everything in terms of Asian culture and business amenities," notes Paul Ou,"

PUBLISHER'S LETTER

In a recent letter from the publisher, Francis X. Gallagher mentioned safety while traveling and remaining aware while traveling. This sparked a response from a few subscribers.

And people are interested in unusual events — especially when they're eyewitnesses to them. Of course, bad things can happen when folks are snapping pix instead of donning oxygen masks. But that's just the way we're built, so the wisdom expressed in this article is guaranteed to be ignored.

BERNIE WEISS, via email

When tragedy hits, you are 100 percent correct! I hope all share your letter and insight.

KAREN JOHNSON, via email

UNITED IN GOING GREEN

In our May 23 eFlyer USA newsletter,

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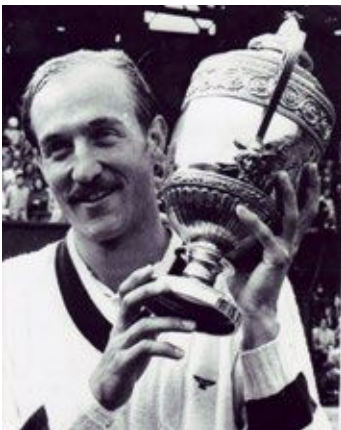
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AN UNFORGETTABLE KENTUCKY DERBY® & BOURBON TRAIL WEEKEND!

Cardmembers began their memorable weekend on Thursday with a welcome reception followed by the Taste of Derby™, a walk-around dinner and wine-tasting with celebrated chefs. On Friday, guests enjoyed a private tour and tasting at Buffalo Trace Distillery. Later in the evening all attended the Stitzel-Weller Affair presented by Blade and Bow Kentucky Straight Bourbon Whiskey at the Stitzel-Weller Distillery. Then, on Saturday, guests dressed for the fanfare at Churchill Downs and witnessed the world famous 144th Running of the Kentucky Derby® presented by Woodford Reserve. From covered seats at the first turn, all enjoyed a historic day at the races.



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MARRIOTT TESTS HOME SHARING PROGRAM

Marriott International collaborated with Hostmaker — a home rental management company in London — in an attempt to build its first home sharing service. The six-month pilot program currently underway in London features more than 200 properties hand-selected by the two companies.

To use the trial service, guests can browse rooms on Tribute Portfolio Homes' website, where they can peruse fully equipped home and apartment rentals. Upon arriving at these properties, guests will be welcomed in person and can rely on Marriott's around-the-clock customer service throughout their stay.

Stays at a Tribute Portfolio Homes property will be eligible for loyalty points for both Marriott Rewards and Starwood Preferred Guest programs, and as of May, loyalty program members are able to redeem accrued points for new stays as well.

Unlike other hospitality companies that ventured to launch their own home sharing services (such as AccorHotels and Hyatt), Marriott markets this new program under its own name rather than creating a new brand.

marriott.com

hostmaker.com

tributeportfoliohomes.com



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GT's independently run weekly travel email newsletter written for the Asian travel market.

Frontier's Recent Route Expansion

In late April Frontier Airlines announced a route expansion that will introduce two new destination cities and six new overall routes.

Starting in early July, seasonal routes will be available between Raleigh-Durham (RDU) and Detroit (DTW) three times per week, as well as between Raleigh-Durham and Minneapolis-St. Paul (MSP) four times per week. Also, in August a route from Las Vegas (LAS) to Sacramento (SMF) will debut and be available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Beginning in August, Frontier will operate twice-weekly flights between Austin (AUS) and Salt Lake City (SLC) and thrice-weekly flights between Denver (DEN) and Sacramento and Denver and Santa Barbara (SBA).

Introductory fares for these new routes will start at \$49 for a one-way flight. With the launch of these six new routes, Frontier continues to strive to bring affordable connections to less-served urban areas around the country.

flyfrontier.com



Qatar Airways Launches Super WiFi

Qatar Airways' Boeing 777 and Airbus A350 planes soon will be equipped with a high-speed WiFi service the airline is calling Super Wi-Fi. Qatar Airways will employ GX Aviation technology to install a broadband service on board these two models, allowing passengers access to free, high-speed connectivity for up to one hour. Passengers will be able to purchase additional time from various pricing models and for different lengths of time. With this new service, travelers can stream media or put in work hours. When the allotted time expires, travelers will still be able to access Oryx One, the airline's in-flight entertainment system.

This new onboard service makes Qatar Airways the first airline in the Middle East-North Africa region to invest in and offer the technology. The rollout was a joint effort between Qatar Airways and Inmarsat, a technology company that also worked with Qatar Airways on a satellite-powered flight tracking system, which the airline uses to track its flights and monitor speed and direction from the ground.

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has its rewards

The logo for ATL Rewards, featuring the letters "ATL" in a bold, red, sans-serif font, followed by the word "Rewards" in a white, elegant script font. A small, stylized Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium logo is positioned to the left of the "ATL" text.

[ATL.COM/REWARDS](https://atl.com/rewards)



Oceania Cruises' New Dining Menu

Oceania Cruises — a company that prides itself on its culinary prowess — introduces dinner menus for guests who visit the ship's Grand Dining Room. Each evening the menu will feature 24 unique dishes such as herb-crusted Cornish hen diavolo, Palermo-style grilled swordfish and Alaskan halibut Viennoise, as well as vegetarian options.

Passengers also can take part in wine and food pairings with a specialized menu of four courses, all with one perfectly paired wine by the glass. A Balanced Selection menu highlights four courses of lighter fare accompanied by calorie, fat and fiber counts.

oceaniacruises.com

United Airlines' New Pet Regulations

In the wake of recent controversy involving animals and air travel, United Airlines went back to the drawing board to reflect on its pet policy in an effort to ensure safety for all travelers, both two- and four-legged.

After temporarily suspending its allowance of pets on board in March, United held a discussion with American Humane to formulate a new set of pet-related rules that would let pets back on board but require specific restrictions regarding which pets.

As of mid-June, certain breeds are not allowed on United flights, including dogs whose snouts make it more difficult for them to breathe such as pugs, pit bulls, bull terriers, boxers and bull dogs. Four cat breeds are also banned from United flights: Burmese, exotic shorthair, Himalayan and Persian cats.

Emotional support animals will still be allowed to board with prior authorization, and small dogs are allowed so long as they can fit under the seat in front of the passenger.

united.com



High-Speed London–Bordeaux Train

As early as 2020, travelers may be able to move between London and Bordeaux in just four hours.

A collaboration of four transportation companies in England and France resulted in a hypothetical high-speed train that would connect London with the oft-visited wine region. Currently, the journey requires a stopover in Paris' Gare du Nord, followed by a transfer to the city's Gare Montparnasse, and can take up to six hours. But the new train would cut around Paris and take passengers directly to Bordeaux via a scenic route in every sense of the word.



Alaska Airlines to Roll Out Saver Fare

Among the bevy of new classes, fare and seat options slowly rolling out from the world's airlines, Alaska Airlines plans to initiate a new discount fare that will rival the basic economy tier of prices offered by its competitors.

Titled the Saver Fare, this new pricing level will mimic similar economy levels of other airlines, as it will include one seat in the plane's economy cabin but with the same in-flight services higher-paying passengers receive.

While other such pricing models offer not much beyond a seat on the plane, Saver Fare passengers can choose their seat rather than relying on assigned seating just after check-in. Saver Fare travelers also will be allowed one personal item plus one carry-on bag on board, while other airlines pare down in-flight bag allowances.

alaskaair.com



The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore

Singapore's Fullerton Bay Hotel offers a special room rate to all guests who book before Dec. 30: The prices of select rooms are discounted by 12 percent.

Perks for Fullerton guests include complimentary tickets to the National Gallery, a daily breakfast buffet and a dining credit. Guests will also have access to in-house spa facilities, shuttle service, daily tours and a Fullerton Merlion cocktail upon arrival.

Overlooking Marina Bay, the Fullerton Bay Hotel features 100 guestrooms, a rooftop pool and location in the center of Singapore's electric downtown.

Guests must book at least 30 days in advance.

fullertonhotels.com



Marriott Free-Stay Certificate

Marriott Rewards members who book and complete at least two stays in participating properties will receive a Marriott Free Night

Certificate after the completed stay.

To participate, rewards members need to register using a link via the hotel's website and complete two stays at any Marriott property around the world. The promotion only applies to properties that fall under Marriott categories 1 through 5, as well as The Ritz-Carlton. Once completed, guests receive an e-certificate in their Marriott member account.

Valid until Aug. 28, this promotion is an effort to acquire new members as Marriott prepares for its merge with the Starwood Preferred Guest program.

marriott.com/rewards

Elite Status Now More Achievable with Radisson

Radisson Rewards members now have a better chance of qualifying for elite status with the program, thanks to a few changes in the hotel group's pricing and points models.

To earn Silver status, guests previously had to complete 15 nights or 10 stays at select properties, but now they must complete stays of only nine nights, or six separate stays. Platinum status can be reached after 60 nights (or 30 stays), reduced from previous tier-reaching levels by 20 percent.

Radisson enacted swift changes to the program in March that included a revamped website, mobile app and credit card.

radissonrewards.com

Hilton Bonuses for Elite Members

As of early April, Hilton's elite members can now earn higher point bonuses, and super-elite members have increased incentives when earning points.

Diamond members who book stays directly with Hilton will earn increased points up to 100 percent, while Silver members can earn up to an additional 20 percent.

Once members stay 40 nights at a Hilton property, they are eligible for 10,000 bonus points for every 10 stays thereafter. Diamond members also will be able to share elite status with a friend or family member after 60 qualifying nights at Hilton properties.

In addition to the aforementioned changes to these two tiers of membership, Hilton plans to institute a new rollover program wherein members will be able to transfer unused hotel stays to the following year.

hiltonhonors3.hilton.com

INTERCONTINENTAL WASHINGTON, D.C. – THE WHARF

Reviewed by Kimberly Krol



Arrival/Check-In: Arriving around 10 p.m. on a rainy Friday evening after work, we were eager to valet the car and check in. Situated in Washington, D.C.'s newest district, The Wharf, opened October 2017, InterContinental Washington, D.C. – The Wharf offers a prime position in one of the buzziest spots in the city. While not as crowded that Friday evening, likely given the rain, we'd see just how popular the area was over the next two days of our stay which, thankfully, also brought sunnier weather. It was a bit confusing driving through The Wharf and finding the hotel valet — we sort of happily happened upon it. Thankful to stretch our legs after a three-hour trip, there was some slight confusion as we handed over the keys, but once inside, check-in was a breeze. Within 10 minutes of our arrival, we were headed to our 10th-floor guestroom.

Guest Quarters: The hotel opened a few months prior to my visit, and we could feel the newness of the property throughout, including a few thoughtful décor details. I especially like the design element when the elevator doors open to your floor — rather than coming face to face with a guestroom door or a blank wall with signs pointing in either direction, the elevators open on a wood-paneled divider, creating distinct spaces for the elevators and the hallway.

The large guestroom opened into a hallway with a long closet immediately to the right. Located on a corner, the space had two walls of floor-to-ceiling windows boasting different views of The Wharf.

In the bedroom area, nightstands with easy-to-access plugs flanked a king-sized bed. Along one set of windows sat a separate armchair and the desk and a chair, facing the view. Along the other windows and across from the bed was a dresser with the TV above and housing a minibar, a Nespresso machine and storage. A large bathroom offered both a rainfall shower and large soaking tub.

Services/Amenities: Not only are the hotel and its district buzzy but so is the on-site restaurant, Kith/Kin, serving Afro-Caribbean cuisine from Executive Chef Kwame Onwuachi. Kith/Kin serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and features a lounge and bar bites menu. The Brussels suya and jerk half chicken were standouts of our Saturday night dinner.

Future plans (coming this year) for the waterfront hotel include a 12th-floor lounge with views, contemporary fare and cocktails; a full-service spa; and a seasonal rooftop pool. A state-of-the-art fitness center is already open.

For events, the property offers 17,000 square feet of space, 11 meeting rooms and multiple ballrooms.

TOP TAKEAWAYS:

◆ As a frequent traveler, you notice small inconveniences in hotel guestrooms. Designers of the InterContinental Washington, D.C. – The Wharf must have noticed, too, and rectified a few in developing the guestrooms. A few standouts were in the shower: The controls are located on the wall opposite the showerhead to prevent cold blasts of water from hitting you when you turn on the shower; a small bar in one corner of the shower is perfect for resting your foot when shaving your leg; and the metal rack holding toiletries is larger and deeper than usual to prevent the small bottles from falling all over the place.

◆ You cannot beat the location of this hotel. Not only is The Wharf jam-packed with amenities and options, but also we were able to walk from the hotel to the many different areas of the city we visited — to museums, to restaurants and to the baseball stadium. We felt perfectly positioned for exploring the city.

INTERCONTINENTAL WASHINGTON, D.C. – THE WHARF
801 Wharf St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024
tel 202 800 0844
wharfintercontinentaldc.com

SIGNIEL SEOUL

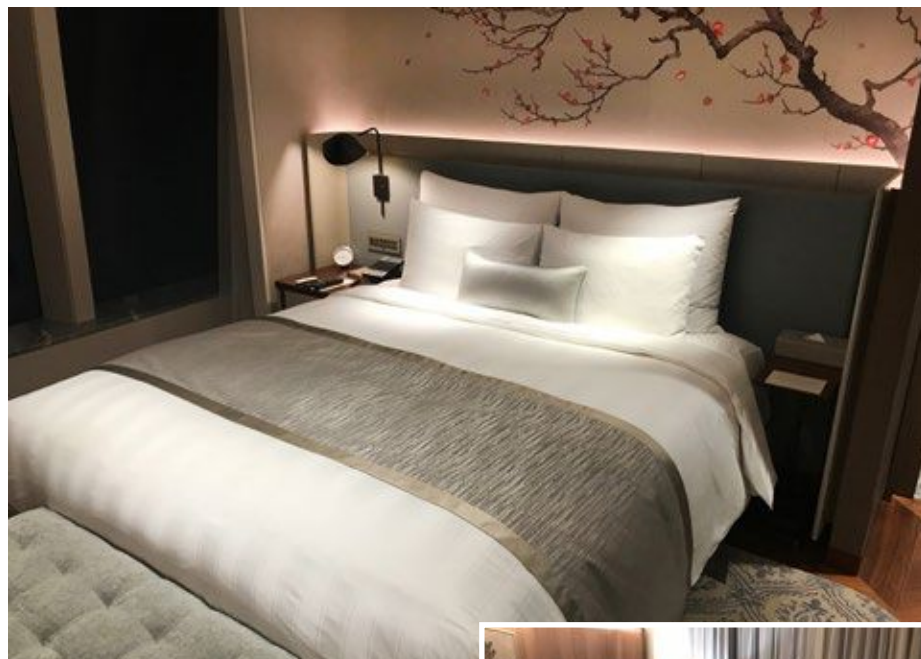
Reviewed by Francis X. Gallagher

Arrival/Check-In: I flew to Seoul from JFK on Asiana Airlines' flight 221, landing just after 5 p.m. at Incheon International Airport, helping you acclimate to the time change. Before checking into the SIGNIEL Seoul, I met my local colleague, Jeff Hwang, and his family at a local restaurant, along with Carly Allen, *GT's* executive vice president, who arrived in Seoul a day earlier. After dinner, Jeff drove me to the massive Lotte World Tower, where staff appeared to be waiting for me and greeted me by name. I was taken to the 79th-floor lobby and then to the 95th floor, where I checked into the hotel in my room, No. 9581. Shortly thereafter my luggage arrived, and I quickly settled in for the evening. The room still smelled new with a clean, fresh scent.

Guest Quarters: I was impressed with the hotel's understated Asian décor, clean and functional, using soft, muted colors and marble throughout. Near the entrance to the suite, a powder room on the left included a small sink; I find it nice to have that extra bathroom, especially when traveling with a guest. All the toilets were Japanese-inspired, offering all sorts of controls including sprays of various strengths and heated seats. Directly forward, the living area featured a built-in minibar (fully stocked) and a built-in sofa that followed the curvature of the exterior wall. A seating area with a tasteful marble coffee table held a nice welcome amenity of fresh fruit, nuts, chocolate and tea. A wall of windows central to the room offered beautiful views of the Han River. The righthand wall separated the room from the bedroom and held a built-in desk with a flat-screen TV hung above. In the bedroom the windows continued, and a king-sized bed included a control panel to operate nearly everything in the room (automatic draperies are a plus for those wanting to sleep late). Opposite the bed stood a flat-screen TV and entertainment area.

The bathroom was impressive, with dark marble and an open shower next to the tub. The shower and soaking tub afforded panoramic views of the city and the Han River below. I made a point of standing on the rim of the tub against the glass to gaze straight down 95 floors. The bathroom amenities for guests included shampoos and other accoutrements from the 34 Boulevard Saint Germain Diptyque brand.

Services/Amenities: Make a point to schedule time at the restaurants and bars at the hotel, as they are quite spectacular. Bar 81 is the Champagne-inspired bar on the 81st floor. I found it relaxing to have a drink and converse with the bartenders about their methods and signature drinks; one in particular has a brandy base and is delivered in a replica of the Eiffel Tower. The lobby-level lounge is always relaxing; enjoy French afternoon tea as well as casual cuisine and cocktails. On the 81st floor we had an amazing dinner prepared by Chef Elie Fis-



chmann at Stay, Modern Restaurant. Each course was more spectacular than the last, served with Champagne and topped off with the Pastry Library, a Stay signature — absolutely decadent yet not overpowering after a large meal.

Suite guests can secure a reservation at the exclusive hotel membership restaurant, Signiel Club, on the 107th floor. Options include private dining rooms, Chinese cuisine under star chef Kyungok Yeo, the nine-seat Sushi-Bar and the Boutique Bar. We savored a one-of-a-kind sushi experience at the Signiel Club that will not be forgotten. The sushi chef, with more than 30 years in the industry, created handcrafted sushi and sashimi to our delight.

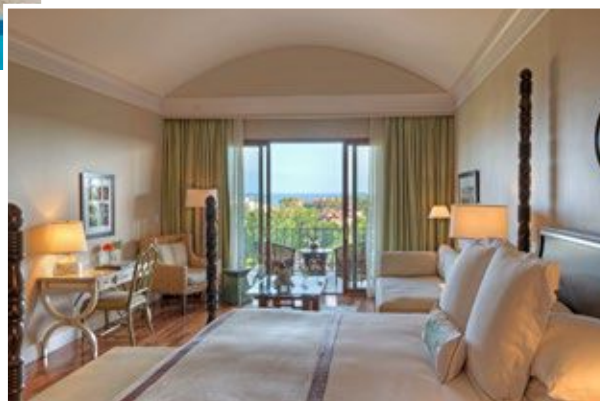
TOP TAKEAWAYS:

- ◆ The great bar on the 81st floor has a friendly and accommodating staff.
- ◆ Comfortable bedding follows in the footsteps of the Lotte brand.
- ◆ Enjoy VIP service at the Signiel Club.
- ◆ At a fine business lounge on the 79th floor, you can conduct a meeting and plan your day with your guests.

SIGNIEL SEOUL
LOTTE WORLD TOWER 76F-101F
300 Olympic-ro
Songpa-gu, Seoul
South Korea
tel 82 2 3213 1000
lottehotel.com

THE BUENAVENTURA GOLF & BEACH RESORT, AN AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION HOTEL

Reviewed by Kimberly Krol



Arrival/Check-In: It was quite a day getting to The Buenaventura Golf & Beach Resort, An Autograph Collection Hotel; but the instant I arrived, all the stresses of delayed flights, sprints through the airport, mechanical issues, traffic and rain melted away. It was after 7 p.m. but still muggy, so the cool welcome drink was a refreshing sight. Check-in was easy, with the attendant thoroughly explaining the property and its amenities before sending me on my way to enjoy a warm shower and a change of clothes before dinner.

Guest Quarters: With so much on offer at Buenaventura, you won't want to spend much time in your guestroom; but if you do, ample, comfortable accommodations await. Villas are also available.

My room opened into a hallway, with the bathroom to the left and closets to the right. Boasting both a shower and tub, the bathroom was a generous size. Shutters next to the bathtub can be opened or closed for added privacy.

With a king-sized bed, nightstands, a bench at the foot of the bed, a dresser, a desk, a couch and a coffee table, I had plenty of room to sprawl. Double doors led to a private patio overlooking the resort's pool area.

Services/Amenities: Where to start? If you start with on-site activities, there are bike rentals, five oceanfront swimming pools, a fitness trail, paddle boarding, horseback riding, Buenaventura Zoo, a biking trail, lagoon boat rides, jet skiing, kayaking, sailing, snorkeling, table tennis, tennis, volleyball, a supervised kids club and a 24-hour fitness center. I would be remiss not to mention the resort is a perfect choice for families — a thought that crossed my mind as I visited the zoo and spent time watching the rambunctious monkeys engage with

the guests.

The resort also boasts an 18-hole, par-72, Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course. Golf clinics can be arranged, including in the Cobra Performance Center, and equipment is available to rent. I didn't have a treatment, but I did stop by Corotu Spa to take a peek at the on-site sanctuary.

For dining at the property, the options seem endless. Criollo serves Panamanian cuisine and hosted me for breakfast each morning of my stay. Tai Kai Sushi & Martini Bar offers an authentic teppanyaki experience, and Asa'o & Pesca'o features beachfront dining with steaks and seafood. Caña Bar & Tapas boasts Iberian cuisine in a casual setting. Other bars and casual eateries are available.

At the on-site museum I took part in an interactive artisan workshop, crafting a bracelet (which now adorns my wrist and reminds me so vividly of my visit) with a Kuna woman from the indigenous tribe. This local experience brought alive a piece of the culture and added a sense of place to the resort, a unique opportunity I couldn't have replicated elsewhere.

Numerous indoor and outdoor venues can host your next function.

TOP TAKEAWAYS:

◆ Of the many dining outlets at Buenaventura, my favorite culinary experience was a beach barbecue at El Faro Beach Club. Among the many dishes served, my favorites were the paella, meats and corn.

◆ Make sure you try some of the expert-crafted cocktails served at Palapa Bar. I sampled a few, including an innovative take on a Manhattan that included a coffee-crust piece of chocolate and cotton candy.

◆ I also enjoyed dinner at Mansa, located within the Buenaventura beach community but not directly on property at the hotel. The hotel is surrounded by individually owned homes and condos, and Mansa is one of the amenities; I'd recommend a visit.

THE BUENAVENTURA GOLF & BEACH RESORT, AN AUTOGRAPH COLLECTION HOTEL
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Hato, Panama
tel 507 908 3333
thebuenaventurahotel.com

LUC BONDAR

President, MileagePlus Holdings; Vice President, Loyalty; United Airlines



Name: Luc Bondar

Title: President, MileagePlus Holdings; vice president, loyalty

Company, city: United Airlines; Chicago, Ill.

Number of employees: 90,000

Recent project: With Chase, we launched the new United Explorer Card, now the best \$95 travel card in the United States, allowing MileagePlus members to accelerate their earning power with 2x miles for hotel and dining purchases.

First job: Waiting tables and working bars in high school and university, I learned the value of hard work and the power of connecting with people.

Little-known fact about you: My first international flight was at 6 months old, on a Boeing 747 with my parents from Australia to San Francisco via Honolulu. When I joined United in 2017, I flew United's last 747 SFO-HNL flight. It felt like one travel chapter closing as a new one opened.

YOUR BUSINESS

What innovations/initiatives do you foresee in the industry over the next years? As the travel industry seeks to make journeys easier and simpler, industry winners will use digital, mobile and data platforms to tailor services to individual

travelers throughout the journey, from booking and planning to experiences at the airport, on the plane and at the destination. Loyalty programs and industry partnerships (like our global Rewards Plus relationship with Marriott) will play an increasingly important role, especially as regulations around data use and permissions tighten globally.

For loyalty programs and the broader travel industry, speculative uses are emerging for blockchain. A definitive application is yet to exist, but I'm confident this technology and the security and integrity it brings will unlock good ideas for customers and the industry alike.

Best career advice you've received: Stay curious and ask questions. Always tell the truth. Work with people you like.

What advice would you give someone starting out in the field? Find work you love and don't stop until you do. Life is too short to spend time doing something that doesn't excite, motivate and inspire you every day.

AS A TRAVELER

Favorite travel memory or story: I took a seven-day sail with my now-wife, Nicole, off the southern coast of Tasmania on a 38-foot Beneteau. Catch-

ing wild salmon, diving for abalone, dinners by campfire on secluded beaches surrounded by the bush — incredible. Now, with four young children, it feels like a long time before we'll have another trip like that.

One travel tip you cannot live without: Water — drink lots! Staying hydrated makes a huge difference, especially on long-haul flights.

Best advice for business travelers: That's easy! Join MileagePlus, fly United, sign up for the Explorer Card and fly our new Polaris product internationally. Also sign up for TSA PreCheck or Global Entry, always pack earplugs and a sleep mask, and work out while on the road.

ABOUT YOUR BRAND

You offered MileagePlus members the chance to dine on a recently retired fleet of iconic Boeing 747s. Tell us about other unique opportunities for MileagePlus members.

With our MileagePlus Exclusives program, members bid and redeem miles for exciting, uniquely United experiences, using miles to get the best in sports, food and wine, travel, and arts and entertainment. These are once-in-a-lifetime experiences money can't buy, like going inside a flight simulator used by United pilots or being the first to visit new United Polaris lounges.

The MileagePlus partnership with BP is the only one of its kind. What does the partnership offer, and what are the program's other partnerships?

BP Driver Rewards and MileagePlus members now have the option of earning and using miles on fuel purchases at participating BP U.S. retail locations. We have other partners for everyday purchases and at every step of the travel journey, from Hertz to Marriott. Through the MileagePlus X app, members earn up to five miles for every dollar spent on purchases at participating stores, restaurants and online retailers.

What is next for the program in 2019?

The best way to fly United is as a member of MileagePlus, and we are focused on creating a better day of travel with a flexible, transparent program that creates value through increased award availability and a breadth of earning and redemption opportunities.

SMART SOLUTIONS

Improve your quality of life with intelligent technology. BY JACK GUY



AFTERSHOKZ TREKZ AIR BONE-CONDUCTION HEADPHONES

Instead of isolating you from the world around you as other headphones do, bone-conduction technology means you can still hear traffic and other surrounding noises. The Trekz Air model makes a great choice for runners, cyclists and other sporty types who want to stay safe when they're out training or on the way to work. Completely water-resistant, lightweight and wireless, these bone-conduction headphones let you take music with you without compromising awareness. \$179.95.

aftershokz.com

AIRMEGA 400S AIR PURIFIER

The quality of the air we breathe is an increasingly important political issue. While we can't immediately affect air quality outside,



using an air purifier inside your home can make a big difference. The 400S works in properties of up to 1,560 square feet, keeping pollutant particles and odors at bay. Check the real-time air quality sensor and switch on the gadget using Amazon Alexa or the accompanying app to keep your home fresh. From \$690.

airmega.com



PRYNT POCKET

Smartphones turned all of us into photographers, but digital files are easy to forget about. The Prynt Pocket harks back to the days of Polaroid cameras, turning smartphone photos into prints you can enjoy physically. Snap your shot, do some editing and send it to the Prynt Pocket to make your photos shareable, old-school style. \$149.99. prynt.co

CASIO WSD-F20 PRO TREK SMARTWATCH

Smartwatches continue to grow in popularity, but most are aimed at city tech heads. If you're looking for something more rugged, check out this Android-powered smartwatch from Casio. The WSD-F20 Pro Trek is water-resistant to 50 meters; boasts military grade shock and dust resistance; and its smart features, including energy-efficient GPS and a full-color offline map, keep you on the trail for days. The WSD-F20 Pro Trek proves smart doesn't have to mean fragile. \$500.

casio.com



COMING OF AGE

Greece builds on a rich heritage of winemaking with local grapes. BY EUNICE FRIED



IT MAY BE ABLE TO TRACE ITS WINE HISTORY back some 6,000 years, perhaps longer than any country, but Greece looks forward, not backward, with the wine it produces today. While some wineries make Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and other wines from Western grapes, most make their best and most interesting wines from Greece's own original native varieties.

And the country has hundreds of native grapes. Among the most important are Agiorgitiko, a grape that produces dark-shaded, rich, velvety reds. The white Assyrtiko grape gives a good acidic edge to wines and is the most important grape on the island of Santorini. The aroma of the delicate white Athiri grape is reminiscent of nectarines and lemons. Malagousia, a fine white grape, creates rich, aromatic wines with a melon-like scent. Moscofilero presents intense aromas that remind one of roses and other flower blossoms. And the red Xinomavro, one of the most distinguished red grapes of northern Greece, fosters wine with a spicy nose, rich fruit and firm tannin.

From these grapes and many others come highly individual

wines. Most range \$20–40 in price. Among those I've tasted is the lovely Nykteri 2016 from the island of Santorini, made 95 percent from Assyrtiko. Pale yellow with a pure, dry taste, its acidity level gives it a clean, focused character, and it also offers a round body and medium-long aftertaste.

Also from Santorini comes the Venetsanos Winery's 2016 white wine, made 100 percent of Assyrtiko. This elegant wine boasts aromas rich in citrus fruits and flower scents, a whiff of peach and hints of herbs such as thyme.

From northern Greece I particularly enjoyed Biblia Chora's Biblinos Red 2012, produced from an unnamed local grape believed to have been brought to the region by the Phoenicians, which ancient Greeks began to cultivate. Its aroma encompasses cassis, pomegranate and a potpourri of herbs. It is an elegant, well-balanced wine with a long, satisfying finish.

One taste of a fine Greek wine and we can readily understand why ancient Greeks worshipped Dionysus, the god of wine.

Greece has more than 300 indigenous grape varieties.

ROBO VS. HUMAN

Learn the pros and cons before investing through robo-advisors.



PERHAPS YOU HEARD OF A ROBO-ADVISOR, or use one for your investments. Robo-advisors are technology platforms that provide automated investment services, ranging from trade execution only to those that employ algorithms to determine a client's asset allocation and risk tolerance. The typical robo-advisor uses a generic questionnaire to collect information from its clients. It then applies that information to determine the client's risk tolerance and an appropriate mix of investments, generally low-cost exchange-traded funds (ETFs) or other passive investments. This model completely eliminates human labor from the financial planning and investment process — hence the term “robo.” Several robo firms expanded this model to offer access to human financial professionals for an additional fee. Such access, however, is usually limited to electronic communication.

The use of technology and algorithms makes asset allocation and investing accessible to many individuals previously unable to work with a traditional advisor. The main disruption robo-advisors bring to the industry is pricing, offering a lower-cost alternative to traditional advisors. Robo-advisors typically charge a flat 0.2–0.5 percent assets management fee, compared to the 0.8–1 percent fees a human advisor charges for a small account.

Before robo-advisors, automated portfolio allocation software was only accessible through a professional financial advisor. An individual provided personal information — financial situation,

goals, expectations and so on — to an advisor who, in turn, input this information into the firm's proprietary software to determine an automated asset allocation. The financial advisor used knowledge about the client's emotional biases to tweak the asset allocation and overall financial plan to make it suitable to the individual. With the advent of the robo-advisor, this technology became directly available to the public. Many investors of modest means or without complicated situations are happy to forgo professional human advice.

Most traditional advisors have account minimums that render them inaccessible to certain investor groups such as small business owners whose net worth is tied up in illiquid assets or millennials just starting to accumulate assets. Robo-advisors usually have low (\$500) to no minimums to begin investing, making them indiscriminately accessed by all. To its credit, the success of the robo-advisor industry indicates there is a demand across all demographics for financial advice, including those previously underserved by the big banks and Wall Street.

As with any technology, robo-advisors present pros and cons. In an environment where interest rates are near all-time lows and equity returns are expected to be lower than historical averages, it is important to minimize fees, which can have a material effect on performance. One can argue, however, robos are actually expensive, since a portfolio of ETFs can be easily replicated for less than what robos charge.

And lower fees come with a cost. The robo-investor does not benefit from human experience and expertise. Often, a traditional advisor provides an investor the emotional support and fortitude to stick with the investment and financial plan; a computer cannot take into account the human element. Human financial advisors provide much more than automatic asset allocation. They often offer family planning and governance, asset protection, wealth transfer, risk management, tax strategies, business succession and exit planning.

The robo-advisor model does not allow for customization or special circumstances. All investors are segmented into risk buckets and invested accordingly in a pre-determined model without considering elements like unrealized capital gains in legacy positions, emotional attachments to certain stocks or specific investment needs. The entire portfolio is pushed into the robo model. The model may assume investors are aware of their risk tolerance. Traditional advisors often require several meetings with clients in order to ascertain their true tolerance for risk and volatility. Many younger investors using a robo-advisor have not experienced a so-called black swan event or significant market loss. Consequently, without human advice many investors may not stay the course that would help them achieve their financial goals.

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

Get a glimpse of the big picture on a helicopter tour of Kauai. BY KRISTY ALPERT

AS THE NORTHERNMOST of the Hawai'ian Islands, Kauai is the middle kid in terms of size, the oldest in terms of age and the poster child for natural beauty in Hawai'i. The island offers rainforests with rushing waterfalls, rivers that cut through stately rock formations and beaches where the sand is as white and soft as powder.

Kauai, often referred to as "The Garden Island," features dramatic emerald valleys and sharply jagged mountains which set the stage for a number of cinematic moments. Many an opening scene has begun with one of Kauai's stunning shorelines; the island's biggest credits include *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Jurassic Park* and *The Descendants*.

Kauai boasts a range of active tours in which visitors can hike through Koke'e State Park, kayak along the Wailua River, go tubing down historic plantation ditches or even snorkel in the waters off Poipu Beach. However, one of the best ways to get a full picture of the island is on one of Kauai's many scenic helicopter tours.

Many parts of the island are inaccessible by foot or road, so getting a full view of the island is only possible from the air. Helicopter tours offer the chance to glimpse down into Waimea Canyon, once called "The Grand Canyon of the South Pacific" by Mark Twain, and scout out the rare species of flora and fauna that call remote Alakai Swamp home.

Some tours, like the one offered by Niihau Helicopters, allow visitors to step out on pristine beaches to comb the shores for seashells and enjoy a private picnic before taking back to the skies for more aerial sightseeing. Glimpse unspoiled views of waterfalls on tours with Blue Hawaiian Helicopters, with the focus on the eco-initiatives of the island and environmentally sound travel as it takes guests high above Jurassic Park Falls, more commonly known as Manawaiopuna, inside the Hanapepe Valley.

Cinema buffs will love the tours with Jack Harter Helicopters as they board a Eurocopter AS350 AStar for the journey around the island. The aircraft is like a flying theater, with Bose noise-cancelling headsets, floor-to-ceiling Plexiglas windows and in-flight music to coordinate with the sights below. See the waterfall that appears in the opening credits of *Fantasy Island*, soar over Moloaa Bay to relive where Gilligan first met Ginger on the pilot episode of *Gilligan's Island*, imagine a world of dinosaurs in the remote outcroppings made famous in *Jurassic Park*, or hum along to "Bali Hai" as the aircraft circles the most iconic filming locations from *South Pacific*.

It's tempting to take photos during your helicopter tour, but resist. Many tour companies provide a video or photos of your flight so you can sit back and enjoy the experience.



ABOVE IT ALL:
Sightseeing chopper over Hanalei Bay

PHOTO: © SHUTTERBAS | DREAMSTIME.COM

SAFARI OASIS

Combine thrilling game drives with soothing spa treatments in South Africa. BY RICHARD NEWTON



TRANQUILITY
FOR TWO:

Couple's treatment

PHOTO: © TSWALU
KALAHARI RESERVE

THE RELAXATION STARTS NOW, in Johannesburg International Airport. Not many people can say that. The lines for security and boarding, the hubbub in and around the duty-free shops and the customer announcements — all seem distant. And they are. The main passenger terminals are out of sight on the other side of the airfield. Here we are in the exclusive Fireblade VIP Terminal, snacking and sipping Nederburg Sauvignon Blanc while our private plane awaits.

Our flight takes 90 minutes, heading southwest. We skirt the hazy sprawl of Johannesburg and fly across vast swaths of farmland. As we descend, the air is clear and the earth below is vividly red, speckled with trees and bushes and laced with game trails. We are arriving at Tswalu Kalahari, South Africa's largest privately owned game reserve.

We transfer by open Land Rover to the Motse, one of the re-

serve's two luxury camps. The camp consists of just nine thatched *legae*, the Tswana word for "home"; ours is on the camp's edge, with a veranda looking out onto the Kalahari wilderness. Birds flitter and trill in the nearby acacia trees. Two gemsbok — large, straight-horned antelope — amble through the brittle grass toward the camp's waterhole.

We arrived during the mid-afternoon lull. Guests lounge in their *legae*, where cold drinks and snacks are provided, or by the pool. As the ultimate capper to an unstressful journey, we opt for the spa.

In keeping with Tswalu's ethos, the spa is in harmony with its surroundings. The décor is stylishly rustic, with unhewn walls and reed ceilings. We wait initially in the lounge before transferring to the couple's room: two beds, a therapist each. I choose a hot stone massage while my wife selects the Signature Tswalu Touch

Experience. The treatments incorporate local ingredients including Kalahari red sand, white crystals from a desert salt pan and aloe fibers.

As the therapists knead the knots out of our muscles and exfoliate our skin, the African bush provides the soundtrack: the pulse of cicadas, the rhythmic call of a Cape turtle dove, the rustle of a nyala antelope browsing immediately outside.

At 4 p.m. we clamber into an open Land Rover for a game drive. As the day cools, the animals become active. Our goal is to see one of Africa's most elusive animals. In a lifetime of safaris, I've never seen one ... until now. Our tracker, Jackson, points at a pinkish shape moving across scrubland. Our guide, Nicole, pulls over, and we get out. We stalk away from the road and are soon rewarded with a clear view of an aardvark.

Shy and nocturnal, these bizarre-looking anteaters have become habituated to humans in Tswalu and are often seen at dusk. This is the only place in Africa in which aardvark sightings are almost guaranteed.

We stop for sundowner drinks, then drive on in darkness, with Jackson scanning the bush by spotlight. We see a jackal, an owl, a brown hyena. We return to the Motse for an abundant barbecue (or *braai*, as it's known in South Africa) in the outdoor dining area.

Before dawn the next morning, another game drive. Shortly into it, Nicole stills the engine. We listen. Lions roaring. She estimates they're about seven miles away. We go in search of them as the sun rises, and eventually find a pride resting in a clearing. Even at rest, they're formidable; the lions of the Kalahari are the largest lions in the world.

Back to camp and, after lunch, another spa session. We opt for a neck and shoulder massage, smoothing out the tension generated by gripping onto the Land Rover as it made numerous off-road excursions during our morning drive.

During our three days at Tswalu, we rack up numerous magical highlights. On the final morning, we spend unforgettable minutes with a group of meerkats as they emerge from their burrows and prepare to head off for a day's foraging. They stand sentry-like within touching distance, alert for predators. We're mostly ignored; they've come to view humans as honorary meerkats.

Prior to the meerkats, Nicole and Jackson had picked us up from the Malori sleep-out deck, a thatched wooden plat-



form in the middle of nowhere. We had been left there the previous evening, with a radio to contact the camp in case of emergencies. Otherwise we were completely on our own. We had been supplied with everything we needed for a delicious *braai* and a cooler amply stocked with drinks.

After dark, we rolled the bed out onto the deck and lay beneath the dazzling desert sky, just us and the nocturnal sounds of the Kalahari. The spa treatments soothed our bodies, but the experience of sleeping under the stars went deeper. It was a tonic for the soul.

INTO THE WILD:
Haley Newton on the Malori sleep-out deck (top), and an aardvark (bottom)
PHOTOS: © RICHARD NEWTON

Tswalu Kalahari Reserve
Farm Korranaberg 296
Van Zylrus, 8467, South Africa
tel 27 53 781 9331
tswalu.com

LOWCOUNTRY LEGEND

Play your best on the famous Player course in Myrtle Beach. BY FRANCIS X. GALLAGHER



UP AND DOWN:
Hole 9

PHOTO: © FRANCIS X.
GALLAGHER

I SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW, but it appears my annual 20-year-plus Myrtle Beach trip has not resulted in a review of the only Gary Player signature course on the Grand Strand — Blackmoor. The famous South African golfer is best known for his walk-through swing in which he begins walking forward before completing a normal swing. If you have never seen his swing, I recommend a quick internet search, as it is quite incredible. Player has become one of the best course designers, and at Blackmoor he built this Grand Strand beauty on Longwood Plantation and the Waccamaw River, once the home of a rice plantation. Those playing the course come across ancient graves that litter the sides of some holes.

In his design, Player heeded the undulating topography — possibly thinking of his home courses in South Africa — and used what nature offered to create a playable and challenging course. Player is known as one of the most traveled golfers, and he designed courses all over the world; some remain the most respected among golfers at all levels.

For me, Blackmoor was an afternoon round completing a day of 36 holes. I teed up with Mike Donahue (chairman, *GT* Advisory

Board), Jimmy Spratt (internationally renowned security expert specializing in canine surveillance) and John Ecklund (IBM executive).

We duly noted the brand-new cart paths on mostly the front nine and encourage this improvement to continue. The course was in fine shape and has some tricky holes, which I wish we had the opportunity to replay after a little “Player” knowledge.

HOLE 3 | 514 yards, par 5

I think we might have approached Hole 3 with not enough trepidation. Many are fooled by the playable yardage of this par 5, and it can take the best of you.

Jim played by the book with a spectacular albeit sneaky par on this hole. He did this by shutting out John’s thrashing and Mike’s and my dribbles to the green. Your drive must favor the left side of the fairway so your second shot can clear the all-absorbing marsh on the second shot. Some hitters lay off the driver for a 3- or 5-wood so they do not reach the marsh on the drive. Once you clear the marsh, it is smooth sailing to the green.

HOLE 9 | 372 yards, par 4

Nine is a nice front nine finishing hole and offered me the opportunity to card a par and a trio of bogeys for the rest of the foursome.

A well-placed drive is key, as water and bunkers run along the left side and the entire right side is out of bounds. I hit a near-hosel shot that luckily had enough power to launch me to the fairway dead center. The green features many contours, and landing it on your approach is important. Mike caught the large pot bunker near the green, with a tremendous out to the green to our cheers.

HOLE 10 | 411 yards, par 4

John and I decided we were not going to allow the only dogleg left at Blackmoor and the No. 1 handicapped hole to get the best of us. Course regulars know the two mounds at the turn of the dogleg make a good target from off the tee, and we nailed a couple of clean drives to position A.

The well-bunkered, oblong-shaped green is best approached from the right side. Somehow, both John and I got on in regulation, scoring par — quite an achievement on the 10th!

HOLE 14 | 390 yards, par 4

I am still in a tizzy over 14. At the tee box, the starter, Sammy, came over to chat and discuss the best strategies. He recommended this and that, and we fired away. He said my drive was less than 90 yards from the green; it was not. What Sammy was trying to tell me was this dogleg right offers some driving options. Hitters who can drive a ball more than 240 yards can try to cut the corner by going over the trees (which he thought I achieved). Go beyond this distance and you will likely blast through the fairway and reach the water. This is one hole I would have liked to replay afterward.

In Player style you are likely to see some alligators sunning on the banks here — yes, alligators, not South African crocodiles!

Although John and Jimmy made the hole appear easy, scoring a pair of pars, the same could not be said for me and Mike.

HOLE 16 | 413 yards, par 4

From the tee box there is no sight to the green; it is a completely blind shot. Drives pulled left are capable of catching the water that lies to the left side. Too far right and you can be out of play — or, like me, close to the hole but on a steep hill with no visual of the green. Mike and I placed our drives within a few yards of each other on the deep slope. Jimmy and John played the smart move, landing straight ahead and offering a direct approach to this dogleg right. The course management, noticing directional issues the hole causes (and to eliminate slow play), hung an arrow in a large tree behind the hole, pointing to the green. Brilliant, I thought, and although I swung wildly and at an angle, I could guesstimate the distance and direction and land on the green in regulation. I turned a lousy drive into a good play while the rest of the team carded a bogey and a pair of double bogeys. Par was a great win, considering!



THIS WAY AND THAT:
Hole 14 (above), and an
arrow pointing to the Hole
16 green (left)

PHOTO: © FRANCIS X. GALLAGHER

Blackmoor Golf Club
6100 Longwood Drive
Murrells Inlet, SC
29576
tel 843 650 5555
blackmoor.com

IN-FLIGHT FUSION

Lee Anne Wong steps up as Hawaiian Airlines' new executive chef. BY KIMBERLY KROL



HAWAIIAN AIRLINES RECENTLY appointed Lee Anne Wong of Honolulu's Koko Head Café its new executive chef. Chief among her responsibilities: leading the airline's ongoing Featured Chef Series. The Featured Chef Series is a collaboration with renowned chefs on trans-Pacific flights that highlights Hawai'i's vibrant culinary cultures and heightens its distinct onboard experience.

Under the direction of Wong, the following chefs will make an appearance on the Featured Chef Series, launched June 1, 2018: Mark Noguchi, cofounder/chef, Pili Group; Eric Oto, chef de cuisine, Hoku's; Wade Ueoka, co-owner/chef, MW Restaurant; and Chang-Wook Chung, owner/chef, Kumsan Restaurant.

Say "Aloha" to a truly exceptional onboard culinary experience with Hawaiian Airlines.

WHICH DESTINATIONS INSPIRED YOU, AND HOW HAS THAT INSPIRATION TRANSLATED INTO YOUR CULINARY CONCEPTS?

I've been so fortunate to travel all over the world, but I have a few destinations I return to time and time again, Japan being one of them. I've spent the last eight years traveling to Japan. I've staged at kaiseki restaurants in Kanazawa and Kyoto and most recently spent time working with Hawaiian Airlines' catering partners at Kansai, Narita, Haneda and Chitose airports while I was creating the menus for the inbound Japan route. Japanese cuisine thrives here in Hawai'i, and I love utilizing Japanese ingredients and flavors in unexpected ways — furikake chicken breast in a wakame-ginger beurre blanc, for example.

WHOM DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE YOUR CULINARY HERO?

André Soltner. I worked as the executive chef of events and continuing education at the French Culinary Institute (now the International Culinary Center), and one of my jobs was working with our culinary deans. Chef André, of the famed Lutece restaurant, is the dean of Classic Studies and did a live demonstration once a month in my kitchen showcasing some of his classic Alsatian recipes. I worked side by side with André, helping him get ready for his event, and just talked story with him all day. He regaled me with tales of when he was a young apprentice in the 1940s and how things worked in the kitchen before electric appliances

and all the luxuries we have today in a modern kitchen. Hence my motto, "What would André do?" Whenever something is going terribly wrong in the kitchen, I pause, take a breath and ask myself that question.

WHAT ONE PERSON MOST INFLUENCED YOUR COOKING STYLE?

Definitely Marcus Samuelsson and Nils Noren, executive chef and chef de cuisine at the time, respectively, of Aquavit. It was my first job, back in 2000, where they both mentored me and taught me how to create a dish and write a menu. While a Scandinavian restaurant, they both infused global ingredients and ideas into the menu in unexpected ways, from the flavors of Southeast Asia to the native spices of Samuelsson's Ethiopian heritage. That really led me to not only travel and discover more about these flavors but also continue to be bold in the kitchen, blending culture and technique.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD CITY?

Tokyo

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE NEXT BIG TREND ON THE FOOD SCENE WILL BE?

Vegetarian focus, if it isn't already happening.

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PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

A new yacht cruise line brings resort luxury to sea. BY J.D. BROWN AND MARGARET BACKENHEIMER

THE RITZ-CARLTON IS ON THE VERGE of becoming the first luxury hotel chain to launch its own cruise line, The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection, combining the experience of private yachting with the range and deluxe facilities of premium ocean cruising. The first of its three 298-passenger mega-yachts (yet unnamed) will set sail Feb. 1, 2020, from Fort Lauderdale, two nights before Super Bowl LIV kicks off in nearby Miami.

The idea for a The Ritz-Carlton cruise line has floated around for a dozen years and in serious planning for the last four, with the keel now laid for the first brand-new vessel. For The Ritz-Carlton hotel guests, it is designed to be a nearly seamless transition from land to sea, complete with a luxury yacht's more casual version of the hotel's signature "ladies and gentlemen serving ladies and gentlemen" approach.

As the first "anti-cruise ship" is readied, we receive more extensive reports of what The Ritz-Carlton will offer passengers hoping to fuse the luxury lifestyle of a resort with the freedom of a yachting vacation. There will be nearly as many crew members as guests aboard. Each ship will be equipped with a helicopter, speed boat and marina on the stern. Restaurants and bars will be open around the clock with no set dining times. No casinos or buffet lines, either, just a seagoing version of the renowned The Ritz-Carlton spa. The ship's five restaurants will be highlighted by Aqua, the same gourmet eatery under Chef Sven Elverfeld that garnered a 3-star Michelin rating at The Ritz-Carlton in Wolfsburg, Germany. All staterooms are suites featuring terraces and balconies.

In addition to meeting The Ritz-Carlton's high standards in service and dining, the yachts will deliver quite leisurely 7- to 12-day cruises with fewer ports of call than usual and a choice of exceptional shore excursions. Guests can expect the likes of a private museum tour in Montenegro, a swim with the turtles in the Tobago Clays, sea kayaking adventures in Iceland, a winery tour in Bordeaux and sunrise and sunset yoga sessions on wellness cruises in the Grenadines.

The Ritz-Carlton's inaugural cruises in the Caribbean will run February through March 2020, concluding with a 12-day trans-Atlantic crossing to Lisbon. The Ritz-Carlton mega-yacht will linger in the Mediterranean through July 5, then turn northward, exploring Northern Europe from London through Sept. 12. A second Atlantic crossing puts the ship in position to visit a

Catering to the top 1 percent of world travelers, The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection will soon conduct truly ritzy cruises.



MAKING WAVES: The Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection cruise ship (above), and the Grand Suites bedroom (left)

PHOTOS: © THE RITZ-CARLTON

series of Canadian and New England ports in the fall, ending with Boston. The Ritz-Carlton then returns to the Caribbean Oct. 27, completing its cycle of the Western Hemisphere.

Meanwhile, The Ritz-Carlton's second oceangoing yacht plans to cruise the Great Lakes region in the summer of 2021, while a third sister ship will extend The Ritz-Carlton's range to the Pacific beginning in 2022. Clearly for those without their own celebrity-style yacht, The Ritz-Carlton promises to provide the next best thing.

THE RITZ-CARLTON
YACHT COLLECTION
ritzcarlton.com/en/yachts



2018 GT Tested Reader Survey Awards Ballot

Please write in your personal favorites, based on your own experience, on the line next to each of the following categories.

AIRLINE BEST

Overall Best Airline in the World _____
 Airline Alliance _____
 Aircraft Type _____
 Airline Website _____
 Fastest-Growing Airline – Trans-Pacific _____
 Best Corporate Program for Business Travelers _____

Best Airline for . . .

Business Class _____
 International First Class _____
 Domestic First Class _____
 Onboard Service _____
 Lounges _____
 Flight Attendants _____
 Flight Attendant Uniforms _____
 Airline Cuisine _____
 Security _____
 First-Class Seat Design _____
 Business-Class Seat Design _____
 Best New Airline Service Launch _____

Best Frequent-Flyer Programs

Overall Best Frequent-Flyer Program _____
 Elite-Level Program _____
 Bonus Promotion _____
 Award Redemption _____
 Customer Service _____

BEST AIRLINE BY LOCATION

Best Airline in . . .

Africa _____
 Australia and New Zealand _____
 Central/South Asia and India _____
 China _____
 Eastern Europe _____
 Europe _____
 Mexico _____
 The Middle East _____
 North America _____
 North Asia (excluding China) _____
 The South Pacific _____
 To South America and Central America _____
 To Japan _____
 Trans-Atlantic Airline _____
 Trans-Pacific Airline _____

AIRPORT BEST

Overall Best Airport in the World _____
 Overall Best Duty-Free Shop in the World _____
 Airport Staff/Gate Agents _____
 Airport Dining _____
 Airport Shopping _____
 Fastest-Growing U.S. Airport _____

Duty-Free Shops in . . .

Asia _____
 Africa _____
 Europe _____
 The Middle East _____

Best Airport in . . .

Asia _____
 Africa _____
 Europe _____
 The Middle East _____
 North America _____
 South America _____

HOTEL BEST

International Hotel Chain _____
 Domestic Hotel Chain _____
 Lifestyle Hotel _____
 MICE Hotel _____
 (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, Exhibitions)
 Hotel Club Floor _____
 Hotel Website _____
 New Luxury Hotel in Asia _____

Best Frequent-Stay Programs

Best Hotel Rewards Program in the World _____
 Elite-Level Program _____
 Bonus Promotion _____
 Award Redemption _____
 Customer Service _____

HOTEL BEST BY LOCATION

Best Hotel in . . .

Asia _____
 Europe _____
 South Korea _____
 The Middle East _____
 The United States _____

Best Hotel Chain in . . .

Asia _____
 Europe _____
 Latin America _____
 Mexico _____
 The Middle East _____

OTHER BEST

Overseas Delivery Program _____
 Rental Car Company _____
 Tourism Destination _____
 MICE City _____
 (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions, Exhibitions)
 WiFi Service _____
 Noise-Canceling Headset Brand _____
 Luggage Brand _____
 Ride Share _____
 Hotel App _____
 Airline App _____

Credit Cards

Best Overall Credit Card _____
 Best Small-Business Credit Card _____
 Best Credit Card Special Events _____
 Credit Card Rewards Program _____
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 Promotions _____
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 Best Cruise Line Affinity Credit Card _____

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Staying Power

Guests weigh pros and cons as Airbnb and hotels vie for business. BY MEGAN HILL

ARE VACATION RENTALS LIKE AIRBNB the wave of the future? Hotels are certainly sounding the alarm. The short-term lodging company grew exponentially since its founding, and its soaring popularity seems to threaten the business models of even the most established hotels.

Airbnb allows hosts to rent out all or part of their home, while travelers can book through the website or mobile app. Users can filter search results by lodging type, date, location and price. The company charges both guests and hosts a small percentage fee.

Today Airbnb operates corporate offices in 20 cities around the world. The company's portfolio of lodgings reached 4 million in 65,000 cities and 191 countries. Some 260 million overnight stays have been facilitated via



PERSONAL TOUCH:
Airbnb host greets guest (top), and Business Travel Product (bottom)

PHOTOS: © AIRBNB



Airbnb's long-term goals involve becoming a one-stop shop for travel, much like Amazon is for shopping. In that spirit, the company may launch an airline, cofounder Brian Chesky revealed.

IN THE SWIM:
Some travelers prefer hotels for the pool.
PHOTO: © WANIDA PRAPAN |
DREAMSTIME.COM

Airbnb. Its growth continues, thanks to a number of factors that make it more attractive than hotel rentals to many travelers.

The sheer number and diversity of listings offers greater flexibility and a wider spectrum of prices to accommodate budget and luxury travelers alike. And many travelers prefer the experience of staying in a unique rental rather than a chain

hotel. They can interact with their hosts, enjoy a local neighborhood and escape the crowds. Because Airbnb is often cheaper than hotels, its entrance into the market forced hotels to lower their prices to stay competitive.

But the tug-of-war over travelers' pocketbooks is anything but decided. Hotels remain attractive to many travelers, and cities are beginning to regulate short-term rentals like Airbnbs, thus capping their growth.

Airbnb was founded in 2007 by roommates Brian Chesky and Joe Gebbia, who decided to rent out an air mattress in their living room when they could not afford their own rent. Later, cofounder Nathan Blecharczyk came on board, and the trio named their venture AirBed & Breakfast. The first iteration of the website launched in 2008, and by March 2009 the brand



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BUSINESS AND PLEASURE:
Business traveler
PHOTO: © AIRBNB

evolved into Airbnb. The offerings expanded from air beds to include whole apartments, private rooms, boats, tree houses, tents and other properties.

The company continued to grow, raising money from numerous investors and further refining and expanding its brand. Airbnb became profitable in 2016, with its revenue growing more than 80 percent from 2015 to 2016. Earlier this year, Chesky announced the company's plans to start an airline, and the company added luxury listings called Beyond by Airbnb. It seems there's no end in sight for Airbnb's meteoric success.

But the company faced its share of headwinds. In October 2016 New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed a bill fining Airbnb for violating local housing laws. Other cities started forcing Airbnb to collect a transient occupancy tax and comply with other regulations. As a result, Airbnb published a list of regulations by city, but the list does not extend to cities located outside the United States.

Airbnb also faced backlash for its pricing structure, which displays a per-night fee that does not include add-ons like cleaning fees. The total price is not shown until after a customer initiates the booking process. In 2015 the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission took action, and now Airbnb's Australian

site shows the total price including all charges at the earliest stage of the search process.

Many cities struggle with Airbnb's impact on housing costs. Studies show Airbnb tends to drive up rental prices in many neighborhoods as landlords keep long-term rentals off the market in favor of short-term Airbnb offerings, making it hard for renters in already tight markets like San Francisco and Seattle.

A 2017 study showed increasing Airbnb listings in any neighborhood by 10 percent leads to a 0.42 percent increase in rents and a 0.76 percent increase in the housing process. Several cities implemented restrictions on short-term rentals, impacting Airbnb listings. And landlords and homeowners associations in many areas restricted the number of units that can be used for short-term rentals or banned the practice outright. These include San Francisco; Portland, Ore.; New York City; and Toronto.

The hotel industry says it is losing customers to cheaper Airbnb listings, and it's lobbied hard against the company. Hotels argue they've had to meet high safety standards and certifications, while Airbnb rentals skirted these rules. The American Hotel and Lodging Industry, which includes members like Marriott International, Hilton Worldwide and Hyatt Hotels, launched a concerted effort in 2016 to combat Airbnb's success.

Though hotel executives originally downplayed Airbnb's effects on their industry, the plan revealed a multifaceted attack was underway that aimed to limit Airbnb's impact on a local, state and national level. This included exposing the way Airbnb hosts skirt laws hotels must comply with — including rules related to antidiscrimination and tax collection — and funding anti-Airbnb research.

Hotels also respond by changing the way they do business. Many modernized their brands, offering homier room designs and adding partnerships with local businesses to better appeal to travelers craving a unique experience in a place rather than a generic, chain-generated stay. Others added new technology aspects like keyless entry and app-driven experiences.

Hotel owners may be able to place some faith in the millennial generation of travelers. A 2018 study called *Future of Millennial Travel Report* from Resonance Consultancy showed at least for U.S. travelers aged 20–36, hotels were the preferred lodging choice when they left home overnight.

The study reported half of these travelers regularly or occasional-

ly stay in an Airbnb or other home sharing setup, but fewer than one in four say it's their preferred lodging. Instead, they favor full-service hotels as their top pick, followed by staying with friends or family, then all-inclusive resorts and, finally, luxury hotels and resorts. They even prefer camping (33 percent) over short-term rentals (23 percent).

This is “contrary to the prevailing belief that hotels are in trouble with younger travelers who prefer homesharing,” said Chris Fair, president, Resonance Consultancy, which consults on topics of tourism, real estate and economic development.

Travelers are finding Airbnb rentals may lack the amenities millennial travelers crave, like free WiFi access, privacy and a swimming pool.

“If there's one benefit hotels currently have that homestays don't, it's the ability to fuel discovery by

bringing people together — either on a rooftop happy hour for guests only or at a WiFi-and-free-coffee-enabled morning work session,” the report said. “Strangers will rarely gather at a vacation rental. That ability to connect — to see and be seen — is significantly reduced in an apartment.” It seems there's hope for the hotel industry, after all.

‘If there's one benefit hotels currently have that homestays don't, it's the ability to fuel discovery by bringing people together — either on a rooftop happy hour for guests only or at a WiFi-and-free-coffee-enabled morning work session.’

— *Future of Millennial Travel Report*

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Up, Up and Away

Asiana Airlines celebrates 30 years of soaring success.

BY ELLEN CLARK

THE MERE THOUGHT OF STARTING a new airline is beyond daunting, never mind keeping it aloft and growing for 30 years. But though it hasn't always been easy, Asiana Airlines managed to do just that.

In 1988 Asiana Airlines, originally known as Seoul Air International, was created with the aim of diversifying the Korean airline industry, previously monopolized by Korean Air. While the airline has had its ups and downs, it managed to consistently win awards and stay on the Best Airlines lists ever since.

The Kumho Group founded Asiana Airlines as chiefly a domestic carrier. Since domestic fares were already low in Korea, the airline operated relatively new planes from the start,

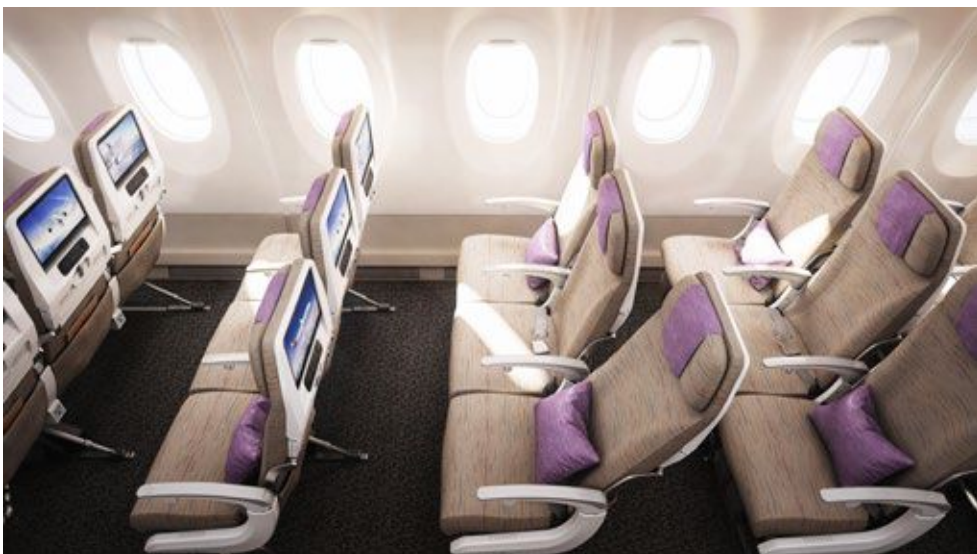


choosing to compete on its quality of service rather than ticket price. Beginning with routes based on hubs in Seoul and Cheju, within 18 months Asiana was also flying to four Japanese destinations.

In early 1991 Asiana's international network

FLYING FLEET:
*Asiana's Airbus A350 (top)
and A380 (bottom)*

PHOTOS: © ASIANA AIRLINES



spread to Taipei, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Singapore — all important commercial centers. That November the carrier launched an ambitious passenger/freight service to Los Angeles via Boeing 747. By the end of 1992, Asiana also added separate routes to San Francisco and New York.

No question the company had its struggles. In July 1993 Asiana experienced its first deadly crash when one of its Boeing 737s hit a mountain on the Korean coast. In the late 1990s Asiana and Korean Air both suffered during the Asian financial crisis. Asiana logged a loss of 53.6 billion Korean won on revenues of 684 billion for 1997. Both airlines began selling off planes to reduce their debt. But despite these and other financial setbacks, Asiana survived, continued to improve services and kept working to keep the airline running.

Where awards are concerned, throughout its 30 years in business Asiana has received its share. In 2009 Air Transport World awarded Asiana as Airline of the Year. In May 2010 Asiana Airlines was named the best airline in the world by Skytrax, recognized since 1990 as a global benchmark of airline standards around the world. Currently Asiana is rated a 5-Star Airline by Skytrax, which uses a quality scale from one star to the exclusive five stars, based on evaluation of product and service standards for both the onboard and airport environments, using a unified and consistent rating system.

No question 2017 was a particularly busy year for Asiana. In April Asiana Airlines and Hong Kong Airlines entered into a codeshare partnership. By placing their respective marketing codes on each other's flights between Hong Kong and Seoul, they hoped to bring more flight options to their passengers traveling on this route.

Also in 2017, Asiana Airlines received its first Airbus A350-900 aircraft, with more on order, making it the 12th carrier to take delivery of the Airbus A350-900 XWB. The A350-900, with 311 seats in a three-class configuration, also launched what the airline calls Economy Smartium. These 36 seats offer three to four inches of additional seat pitch as compared with its regular economy seats, while the width, recline and screen size all stay unchanged from standard economy. Other perks include a travelers' kit and larger overhead compartments. Economy passengers on flights with the Economy Smartium option can upgrade for \$150 per route.

SWEET SEATS:
Airbus A350 interior

PHOTOS: © ASIANA AIRLINES



PERSONAL SPACE:
Airbus A380 dressing room

PHOTO: © ASIANA AIRLINES

In July 2017 Asiana announced it would use Panasonic Avionics Corp.'s "industry-leading inflight entertainment and connectivity (IFEC) solution" in its first A350 aircraft. Not only does Panasonic's eX3 system promise to deliver a premium passenger experience through features including audio and video on demand and a massive content library, but also it claims to be the only broadband in-flight connectivity service operating in every country in the world today, enabling passengers to access the internet and send and receive calls and text messages.

Asiana boasts a 20-plus-year history as an environmentally friendly company. In 1995 it completely banned in-flight smoking. In 1996 the company was awarded first in class certification by the International Organization for Standardization. In 2001 the South Korean Ministry of Environment celebrated Asiana as the "first environmentally friendly company within the service industry." Other environmentally minded programs include an emissions measurement and reduction system, the reduction of pollution from ground facilities and a partnership with the Rainforest Alliance for coffee served on board.

In June 2017 Asiana Airlines selected Honeywell to supply

To celebrate its 30th anniversary, Asiana offers special promo fares to Korea, the United States and Europe throughout 2018.

the required power to start an aircraft's main engines and run air-conditioning while the plane is on the ground for a more comfortable boarding experience. With Honeywell's auxiliary power units, Asiana can also improve operational performance and lower maintenance costs over the life cycle of its fleet to achieve significant fuel savings year after year.

Things haven't slowed down at Asiana in 2018, either. In January gategroup, the leading global airline catering, retail onboard and equipment solutions provider, announced a 30-year joint venture agreement with Asiana. Gategroup, which deals with food and drink, retail and equipment, logistics and lounges, delivers innovative solutions for all airline types. Its aim is to work closely with its customers to discover points of differentiation and to co-design a full-service solution that takes a specific airline's passenger offerings to the next level. By staying at the forefront of the latest industry trends, gategroup anticipates the needs of passengers, both now and in the future. Boasting it is the largest global network in the aviation industry, gategroup currently serves more than 300 customers and 500 million passengers every year, from 200 units in 60 countries.

Kim Soo-Cheon, CEO, Asiana Airlines, says of the collaboration, "As the clear airline catering industry leader, gategroup is the perfect partner for us to deliver our customers an extraordinary travelling experience. We are very pleased to begin a long-term partnership that offers exciting opportunities to both companies."

In February Croatia Airlines and Asiana signed a codeshare agreement. By building a joint product, both companies expect even better positioning in a highly competitive passenger transport market between Croatia and South Korea. In May Asiana added Venice to the regular schedule and in August will add Barcelona. To further help raise profitability in the remaining short-distance operation, the airline will replace aircraft with fuel-efficient Airbus A321neo jets.

Looking further into the future, according to Kim Soo-Cheon, "We must be ready for the next 30 years with next-generation fleet and long-distance routes." Hence, Asiana plans to cut back on short-distance or Asian destinations, where Asiana is in competition with budget carriers, and make the most of its flights going beyond the continent.

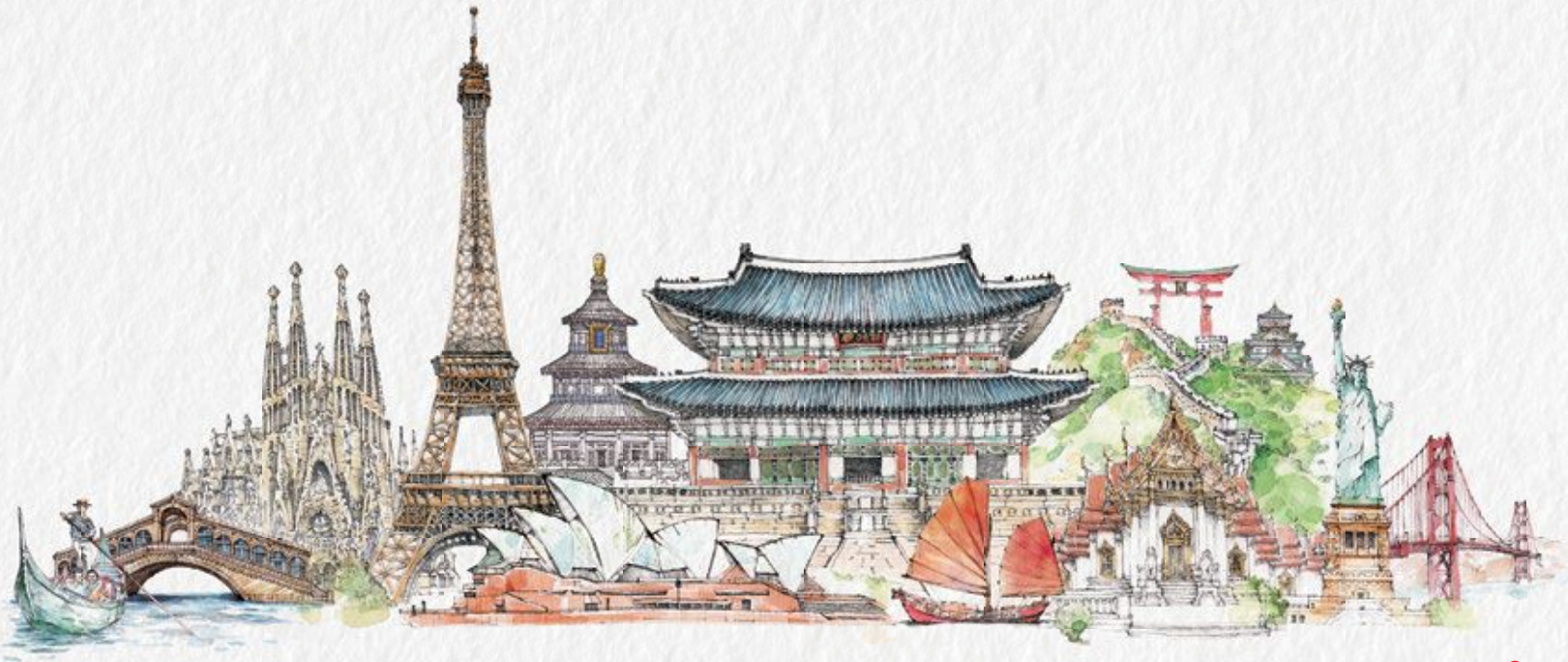
Starting with two A350 additions in 2018, the airline plans to secure 32 jumbo jets and expand long-distance routes to 19 by 2022. Kim Soo-Cheon says, "In the long term, long-distance destinations will make up more than 60 percent of our flights."

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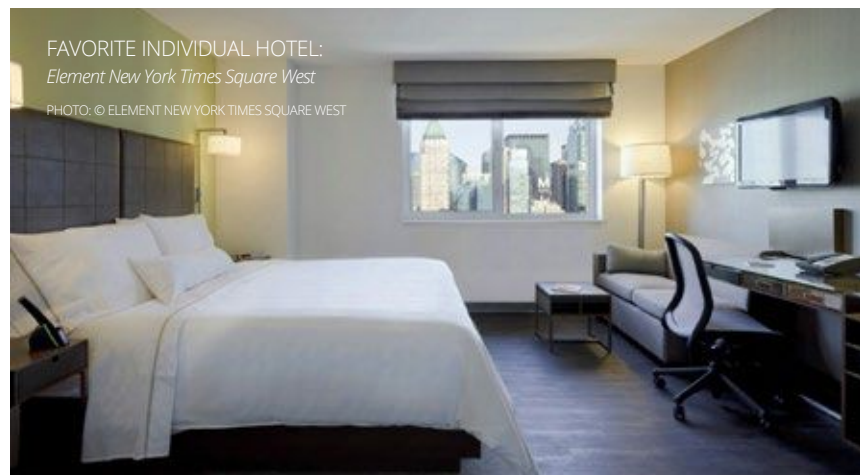


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THE TRAZEES AWARDS 2018

Global Traveler presents the best in the world of #millennial travel. BY KIMBERLY KROL

HOW DOES A TRAVEL PROVIDER make a splash among a generation so inundated with information they can have five more bucket list-worthy destinations literally at their fingertips with one refresh of their feed? That's the question we posed to the readers of *trazeetravel.com*, the sister web publication to *Global Traveler*, *globaltravelerusa.com* and *whereverfamily.com*. *Traze Travel* is a one-stop resource for millennial travelers with news, tips, reviews and more updated daily.

We know a few things about the travel habits of this group: They prioritize travel over buying a house or paying off debt. Travel forms an important part of how they see themselves. Hidden gems, active vacations and meeting new people are some hallmarks of their trips. They look for brands that are different, open-minded and socially engaged. So just what are those companies this generation deemed buzzworthy?

We asked; our readers answered. We now present to you the findings as we announce the fourth annual The Trazees, awards presented for and by millennials. Reader nominations were collected December 2017–March 2018.

Here's a closer look at those savvy, sophisticated and social media-friendly

companies deemed tops by 18- to 35-year-olds around the globe; congratulations!

Let's start with the airlines. Taking home the highest honors is American Airlines, nabbing the title of Favorite International Airline. In a world of ever-increasing digital mobility, AA also earns raves for an important aspect of the travel process, especially for this group, claiming top spot for Favorite Airline Website. American's airline alliance, oneworld, also keeps this age demographic happy, earning Favorite Airline Alliance status for the second consecutive year.

We're just warming up, as a plethora of other airlines would earn a like from these travelers. We have Alaska Airlines, Favorite Airline in North America for the third consecutive year and Favorite Green Airline; Norwegian Air, Favorite Budget Airline; Aerolineas Argentinas, Favorite Airline in South America, two years running; TAP Air Portugal, Favorite Airline in Europe; four-time winner South African Airways for Favorite Airline in Africa; Qatar Airways, for a third consecutive win as Favorite Airline in the Middle East; and EVA Air, Favorite Airline in Asia.



FAVORITE LIFESTYLE HOTEL CHAIN:

Moxy

PHOTO: © MOXY



FAVORITE INDIVIDUAL BOUTIQUE HOTEL:
ME Miami

PHOTO: © ME MIAMI



FAVORITE EVENT AROUND THE WORLD:

Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta

PHOTO: © KING HO YIM | DREAMSTIME.COM

Rounding out the airline category, trazeetravel.com readers also favored United MileagePlus, Favorite Frequent-Flyer Program, and the Airbus A380, Favorite Aircraft Type.

Next on the list of #winners is the airport favorites. We think it's safe to say those mentioned here have an equally long list of followers. Incheon Airport appears for the first time, with top billing as Favorite Overall Airport in the World and Favorite Airport in Asia. Breaking up the globe further, three airports garner votes as the favorites in their region: Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Favorite Airport in North America for the fourth consecutive year and two-time Favorite Airport Dining; Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, as both Favorite Airport in Europe and Favorite Airport Shopping; and Hamad International Airport, Favorite Airport in the Middle East. U.A.E. hub Dubai International Airport places as Favorite Duty-Free Shops and Favorite Duty-Free Shopping in the Middle East.

When it comes to stays, these hotels and hotel companies can definitely be considered influencers. Located in one of the most dynamic and Instagrammable settings, it's no wonder Element New York Times Square West earned top

honors as Favorite Individual Hotel. Element Hotels also claims its fourth consecutive win as Favorite Green Hotel.

Favorite Hotel Chain goes to Aloft Hotels, while the Favorite Boutique Hotel Chain is a title claimed by Tribute Portfolio Hotels & Resorts. Favorite Lifestyle Hotel Chain is Moxy Hotels. ME Miami wins its second consecutive nod as Favorite Individual Boutique Hotel.

Around the world, these chains are Insta-ready: Riu Hotels & Resorts, Favorite Hotel Chain in Latin America; Fiesta Americana, four-time Favorite Hotel Chain in Mexico; and Address Hotels + Resorts, Favorite Hotel Chain in the Middle East.

For the final hotel categories, andaz.hyatt.com is Favorite Hotel Website, and Radisson Rewards is Favorite Hotel Rewards Program in the World.

Take note, these are destinations you are definitely going to want to share with your followers. Ireland is named Favorite Country, while Seoul nabs the honor of Favorite Worldwide City. For the newly betrothed, Aruba reigns supreme as Favorite Honeymoon Destination.

When seeking a little something extra, consider Taiwan, Favorite Adventure Destination, or hop over to Bangkok, Thailand, Favorite Nightlife Destination. Chow down in Asheville, N.C., Favorite Foodie City.

If it's a warm welcome you seek, Atlanta lands at the No. 1 spot for Friendliest City, for the second consecutive year. Find yourself at *the* event of the year at Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta, Favorite Event Around the Globe.

To wrap up this year's feed of winners, check out these trending topics: Sixt was voted Favorite Rental Car Company, while Samsonite rules as Favorite Luggage Brand and United MileagePlus Explorer Card from Chase is Favorite Credit Card. Make sure you follow Norwegian Cruise Line, Favorite Cruise Line, and Lyft, Favorite Ride Share.

With the secret out about this year's The Trazees winners, the chart-topping brands may just go viral. As we favorite all these companies, we also raise a glass and cheer congratulations to our 2018 winners!



WINNERS' CIRCLE

FAVORITE INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE

1. American Airlines
2. United Airlines
3. Asiana Airlines
4. Delta Air Lines
5. Qatar Airways

FAVORITE AIRLINE ALLIANCE

1. oneworld
2. Star Alliance
3. SkyTeam

FAVORITE AIRCRAFT TYPE

1. Airbus A380
2. Airbus A350
3. Boeing 777
4. Boeing 787
5. Airbus A330

FAVORITE AIRLINE WEBSITE

1. aa.com
2. united.com
3. delta.com
4. jetblue.com
5. southwest.com

FAVORITE FREQUENT-FLYER PROGRAM

1. United MileagePlus
2. American Airlines AAdvantage
3. Delta SkyMiles
4. Alaska Mileage Plan
5. JetBlue TrueBlue

FAVORITE AIRLINE IN NORTH AMERICA

1. Alaska Airlines
2. Delta Air Lines
3. United Airlines
4. American Airlines
5. JetBlue

FAVORITE BUDGET AIRLINE

1. Norwegian
2. WOW air
3. JetBlue
4. Southwest Airlines
5. Frontier

FAVORITE AIRLINE IN SOUTH AMERICA

1. Aerolineas Argentinas
2. LATAM Airlines
3. Avianca
4. Aeromexico
5. Copa Airlines



WINNERS' CIRCLE

FAVORITE AIRLINE IN EUROPE

1. TAP Air Portugal
2. Brussels Airlines
3. Austrian Airlines
4. Turkish Airlines
5. British Airways

FAVORITE AIRLINE IN AFRICA

1. South African Airways
2. Ethiopian Airlines
3. Air Seychelles
4. Kenya Airways
5. Air Namibia

FAVORITE AIRLINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Qatar Airways
2. Emirates
3. Royal Air Maroc
4. Saudi Arabian Airlines
5. EL AL Israel Airlines

FAVORITE AIRLINE IN ASIA

1. EVA Air
2. Asiana Airlines
3. China Airlines
4. Korean Air
5. Hong Kong Airlines

FAVORITE GREEN AIRLINE

1. Alaska Airlines
2. Lufthansa
3. TAP Air Portugal
4. American Airlines
5. Delta Air Lines

FAVORITE OVERALL AIRPORT IN THE WORLD

1. Incheon Airport
2. Munich Airport
3. Singapore Changi Airport
4. Hamad International Airport, Doha
5. San Francisco International Airport

FAVORITE AIRPORT IN NORTH AMERICA

1. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
2. Chicago O'Hare International Airport
3. Denver International Airport
4. San Francisco International Airport
5. George Bush Intercontinental Airport, Houston

FAVORITE AIRPORT IN ASIA

1. Incheon Airport
2. Singapore Changi Airport
3. Tokyo Haneda International Airport
4. Taipei Taoyuan International Airport, Taiwan
5. Osaka Kansai International Airport



FAVORITE HOTEL CHAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

Address Hotels + Resorts

PHOTO: © ADDRESS HOTELS + RESORTS

FAVORITE AIRPORT IN EUROPE

1. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol
2. Munich Airport
3. Vienna International Airport
4. Helsinki-Vantaa Airport
5. Rome Fiumicino Airport

FAVORITE AIRPORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Hamad International Airport, Doha
2. Dubai International Airport
3. Abu Dhabi International Airport
4. Bahrain International Airport
5. Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport, Medina

FAVORITE AIRPORT DINING

1. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
2. Singapore Changi Airport
3. Hamad International Airport, Doha
4. Chicago O'Hare International Airport
5. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol

FAVORITE AIRPORT SHOPPING

1. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol
2. Denver International Airport
3. Dubai International Airport
4. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
5. Hamad International Airport, Doha

FAVORITE DUTY-FREE SHOPS

1. Dubai Duty Free
2. Hamad International Airport, Doha
3. Incheon Airport
4. Amsterdam Airport Schiphol
5. Hong Kong International Airport

FAVORITE WORLDWIDE CITY:

Seoul

PHOTO: © LAZAR ADRIAN CATALIN | DREAMSTIME.COM



FAVORITE DUTY-FREE SHOPPING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Dubai Duty Free
2. Hamad International Airport, Doha
3. Abu Dhabi International Airport
4. Bahrain Duty Free
5. Amman Queen Alia International Airport, Jordan

FAVORITE INDIVIDUAL HOTEL

1. Element New York Times Square West
2. Hotel Zaza, Dallas
3. Moxy New Orleans
4. COQ, Paris
5. Aloft Brooklyn

FAVORITE HOTEL CHAIN

1. Aloft Hotels & Resorts
2. Kimpton Hotels
3. Canopy by Hilton
4. Hyatt Place
5. EVEN Hotels

FAVORITE INDIVIDUAL BOUTIQUE HOTEL

1. ME Miami
2. Moxy London Excel
3. INNSIDE New York NoMad
4. Kimpton Carlyle Hotel Dupont Circle
5. The Logan, Philadelphia



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FX Excursions offer a chance for a once-in-a-lifetime experience in a destination around the world. The unique itineraries, exclusively created by and for FXExpress Publications, Inc. and its partners, allow participants to go hands-on at a worldwide event or see an international city in a new way. All the planning and sightseeing is handled for attendees, from the flights and accommodations to the itinerary.

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WHEREVERFAMILY



WINNERS' CIRCLE

FAVORITE BOUTIQUE HOTEL CHAIN

1. Tribute Portfolio Hotels & Resorts
2. Canopy by Hilton
3. Curio by Hilton
4. Kimpton Hotels
5. EVEN Hotels

FAVORITE LIFESTYLE HOTEL CHAIN

1. Moxy
2. W Hotels
3. Indigo Hotels
4. Tribute Portfolio Hotels & Resorts
5. Canopy by Hilton

FAVORITE HOTEL WEBSITE

1. andaz.hyatt.com
2. intercontinental.com
3. marriott.com
4. westin.com
5. hilton.com

FAVORITE HOTEL REWARDS PROGRAM IN THE WORLD

1. Radisson Rewards
2. IHG Rewards Club
3. Hilton Honors
4. Starwood Preferred Guest
5. Marriott Rewards

FAVORITE HOTEL CHAIN IN LATIN AMERICA

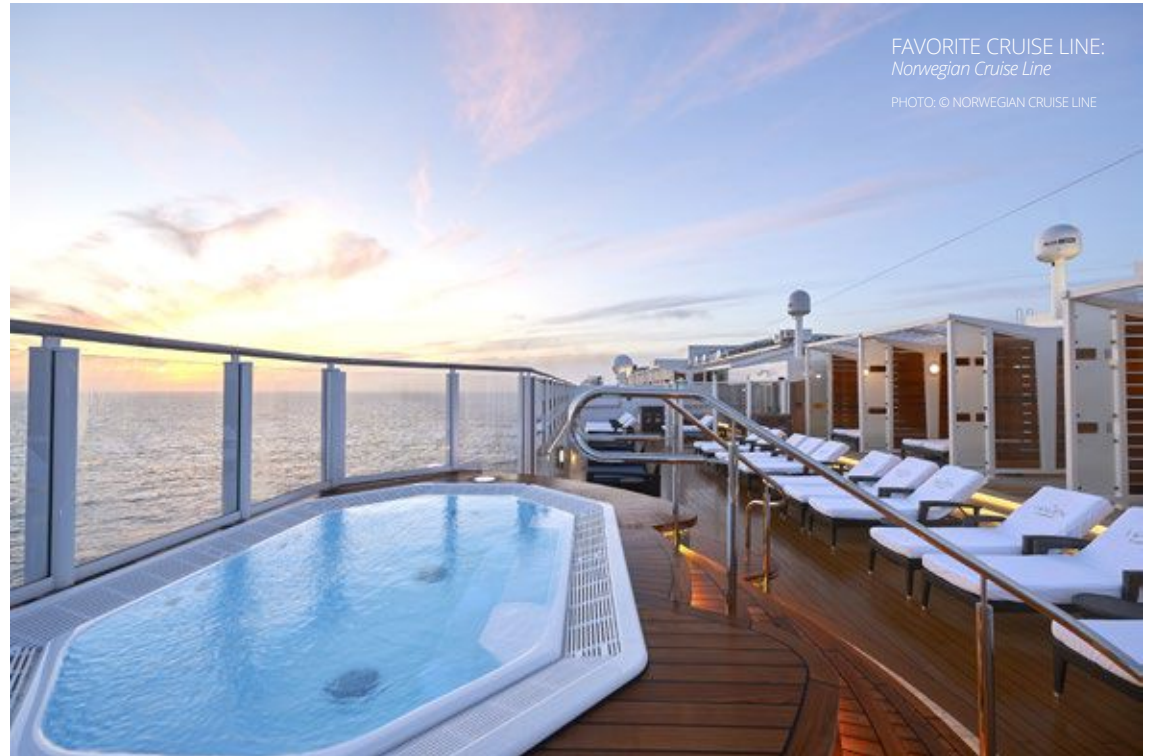
1. Riu Hotels & Resorts
2. Westin Hotels & Resorts
3. Sheraton Latin America
4. Sol Meliá
5. Barcelo Hotels & Resorts

FAVORITE HOTEL CHAIN IN MEXICO

1. Fiesta Americana
2. InterContinental Hotels & Resorts
3. Sheraton Hotels & Resorts
4. Westin Hotels & Resorts
5. W Hotels

FAVORITE HOTEL CHAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

1. Address Hotels + Resorts
2. The Ritz-Carlton
3. Marriott International
4. InterContinental Hotels & Resorts
5. Jumeirah International



FAVORITE CRUISE LINE:
Norwegian Cruise Line

PHOTO: © NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE

FAVORITE GREEN HOTEL

1. Element Hotels
2. Sofitel Hotels & Resorts
3. Hilton Hotels
4. Marriott International
5. Starwood Hotels & Resorts

FAVORITE COUNTRY

1. Ireland
2. Mexico
3. Spain
4. South Africa
5. United Kingdom

FAVORITE WORLDWIDE CITY

1. Seoul
2. Bangkok
3. Singapore
4. Dublin
5. Hong Kong

FAVORITE HONEYMOON DESTINATION

1. Aruba
2. Greece
3. Napa Valley, Calif.
4. Turks & Caicos
5. St. Lucia

FAVORITE ADVENTURE DESTINATION

1. Taiwan
2. India
3. Thailand
4. New Zealand
5. Austria

FAVORITE EVENT AROUND THE GLOBE

1. Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
Albuquerque, N.M.
2. Rio de Janeiro Carnival
3. Oktoberfest
4. Full Moon Parties
5. South by Southwest

FAVORITE NIGHTLIFE DESTINATION

1. Bangkok
2. Nashville, Tenn.
3. Barcelona
4. London
5. Las Vegas

FAVORITE FOODIE CITY

1. Asheville, N.C.
2. Chicago
3. Rome
4. Paris
5. New York City

FRIENDLIEST CITY

1. Atlanta
2. Copenhagen
3. Chicago
4. Nashville, Tenn.
5. Denver, Colo.

FAVORITE CAR RENTAL COMPANY

1. Sixt
2. Hertz
3. National Car Rental
4. Avis
5. Enterprise

FAVORITE LUGGAGE BRAND

1. Samsonite
2. Swiss Army
3. Tumi
4. Delsey
5. TravelPro

FAVORITE CREDIT CARD

1. United MileagePlus Explorer Card
by Chase
2. American Express Green
3. American Express Gold Delta
SkyMiles
4. Venture Card from Capital One
5. Chase Ink

FAVORITE CRUISE LINE

1. Norwegian Cruise Line
2. Royal Caribbean International
3. Carnival Cruises
4. U by Uniworld
5. Princess Cruises

FAVORITE RIDE SHARE

1. Lyft
2. Juno
3. Uber
4. Curb
5. Via



Fast Track

Beijing ramps up for international meetings and smart business. BY ILONA KAUREMSZKY

AS CHINA'S CAPITAL ACCELERATES FASTER

than a speeding bullet, all eyes turn to the country's biggest techno geeks and high-tech pioneers spinning their innovative digital wheels. The latest reports reveal artificial intelligence leads the charge.

A planned artificial intelligence development park is on the books for Beijing. The proposed \$2.12 billion site expected to house 400 enterprises in the mountainous Mentougou district is part of a bigger dream picture for Beijing to become a world leader in AI by 2025.

Meanwhile, hungry business travelers can get a taste of AI when they stop at a KFC location in Beijing's financial district. The U.S. fast food giant introduced the smart restaurant concept earlier last year. To boot, this past spring Beijing hosted Silicon Valley in an unprecedented meeting of the world's leading AI innovators. Dubbed the AI Conference,

exceptional global talents from an A-list of big data experts like Google, eBay, Alibaba and Amazon converged to rattle on about clouds and smart technology.

Not bad for an ancient metropolis once known for its private meetings by the biggest VIPs of the day in a place called the Forbidden City. Beijing is now a hotbed for international meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions.

As part of one of China's most rapidly developing cities, Beijing's MICE industry boasts excellent facilities, suppliers and an extensive network of management. In 2016 the Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development reported a 20 percent increase in conference bookings compared to the previous year.

For MICE, Beijing now ranks first in China and fourth in Asia. The capital boasts a total of 5,593 conference rooms, of which 194 offer a seating capacity of more than 500. For hotel room inventory — now topping 190,000 rooms — the capital offers a variety of accommodations to meet every budget, including 64 5-star hotels and 131 4-star hotels.

Beijing is one of the first cities in China to introduce MICE tourism policies to host and assist international conferences. Planners can apply to the Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development for services such as FAM trips and financial support.

The 28-story Beijing International Hotel Convention Center, located 19 miles southwest of Beijing Capital Airport and a short

HIGH STYLE:
NUO Hotel Beijing exterior
(left) and meeting room
(right)

PHOTOS: © NUO

To attract more international conferences, Beijing implemented a 72-hour Visa Free policy aimed at 51 countries and regions, making it easier for business travelers attending conferences in Beijing.



ELEGANT EVENTS:

Pan Pacific Beijing lobby (top left) and Amber Lounge (bottom left), and the Regent Beijing Lobby Lounge (right)

PHOTOS: © PAN PACIFIC BEIJING, © REGENT BEIJING

UNIQUE VENUES

Considered one of the finest opera houses, the National Centre for the Performing Arts is a bastion for all the performing arts. French architect Paul Andreu designed a titanium ellipsoid egg-shaped dome clad in glass to house a multipurpose venue. The structure houses a 2,416-seat opera house; a 2,017-seat concert hall; and a 1,040-seat theater as well as art and exhibition spaces. Book in advance to take your group on a private tour. en.chncpa.org

At the foot of the famed Western Hills lies the Imperial Summer Palace and Pleasure Garden, five times the size of the Forbidden City. Explore a collection of imperial landmarks built in the heyday of China's Qing Dynasty (18th and 19th centuries) centered around Longevity Hill and Kunming Lake. Dubbed the Versailles of the East and the Garden of Gardens, remnants of a bygone era now remain. The Hall of Jade Billows was the living quarters of the Qing emperors. The three-story Great Opera Hall, built in the Dehe Garden for the Empress Dowager Cixi, once was the cornerstone of Chinese opera. whc.unesco.org/en/list/880

drive from the China World Trade Center in the culture-rich Dongcheng district, recently hosted the AI Conference. Equipped with the latest technology, facilities include 30 function rooms of meeting space and a 21,500-square-foot Grand Hall overlooking the busy streetscape of Chang'an Avenue. City sights such as the Silk Market, the WangFujing shopping area or the Forbidden City and Beihai Park lie within easy walking distance.

Award-winning NUO Hotel Beijing snagged recognition such as Best MICE Hotel of the Year, including this year's TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award as one of the Top 25 Luxury Hotels in China. Located near the trendy 798 Art District and 751D Park, NUO embodies the Chinoiserie of yesterday with modern-day conveniences. The pillar-free Yongle Grand Room is named after a Ming Dynasty emperor who bore the moniker meaning "Perpetual Happiness." The décor accents high style, from the giant crystal chandeliers to the sumptuous, smooth, gray marble and plush carpets. The hotel's signature Yuan Tea House evokes a grand imperial courtyard. The bespoke setting serves premium teas in clay pots from one of China's famous potters. The hotel venue continually hosts meetings and events from press conferences to automotive product launches and fashion shows.

Within walking distance of Beijing's Financial

Street, the new luxury Pan Pacific Beijing hotel is the latest in a crop of the city's burgeoning hotel developments. Located on the west side of Tiananmen Square, the property is ideal for small- to medium-sized groups seeking personalized options; a meeting concierge provides bespoke service.

"Many people, when thinking of retreats, would probably look out of the city," says Cuili Ng, corporate communications manager, Pan Pacific Hotels Group, noting the hotel's new corporate programs can combine on-site meeting sessions with team-building exercises at nearby attractions like the Summer Palace or Beihai Park.

A mile from Tiananmen Square, the 500-room, renovated Regent Beijing hails top service and boasts an array of rooms with Forbidden City views. As of late, U.S. Ivy League universities with a penchant for MBAs and EMBA's regularly stay at this luxe spot, spending up to two weeks meeting various corporations and exploring city sights.

Revered as the best luxury hotel in the shopping district of Wangfujing, with its dizzying high-end retail therapy outlets such as Gucci and Chanel mixed with a Ferrari car dealership and a Tesla charging station, the Regent Beijing offers conventioners close proximity to landmark attractions, shopping opportunities and more than 20,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space.



Fine Dining in the Sky

Hainan Airlines collaborates with Michelin-starred chefs to offer elevated in-flight cuisine.

ENJOY ELEVATED CUISINE even above 30,000 feet with Hainan Airlines upgraded and highly acclaimed Hai Chef meals, crafted by some of the world's most respected Michelin-starred chefs. It's one more reason Hainan Airlines routinely ranks as a Skytrax five-star airline.

Prominent French chef Christophe Camacho joined Hainan Airlines last year and has helped the airline design its menus and meals based on four standards: seasonality and freshness, latest fashion, customization and original taste. Premium passengers can expect customized, original in-flight meals, featuring the best ingredients, following global trends and adopting popular cooking techniques and serving styles.

The Hai Chef program is a high-end private



catering service brought to business-class passengers by cabin crew who completed a special culinary training and are dedicated to providing more healthy meal combinations and recommendations. The Professional Hai Chef team serves all long-distance business-class passengers and continues to receive acclaim. While enjoying the in-flight delicacies and delights, passengers can engage in conversation with the professional Hai Chef team.

Hainan Airlines also established partnerships

with famed and Michelin-starred chefs from around the globe. Australian chef Brent Savage designed mouth-watering dishes for the airline, including pork belly with a garlic and yogurt puree and ocean trout mousse with pickled onions. In England, Michelin-starred Alyn Williams serves a succulent sand carrot soup with coriander and pan-seared sea bass with celeriac risotto, pickled golden raisins and toasted hazelnuts.

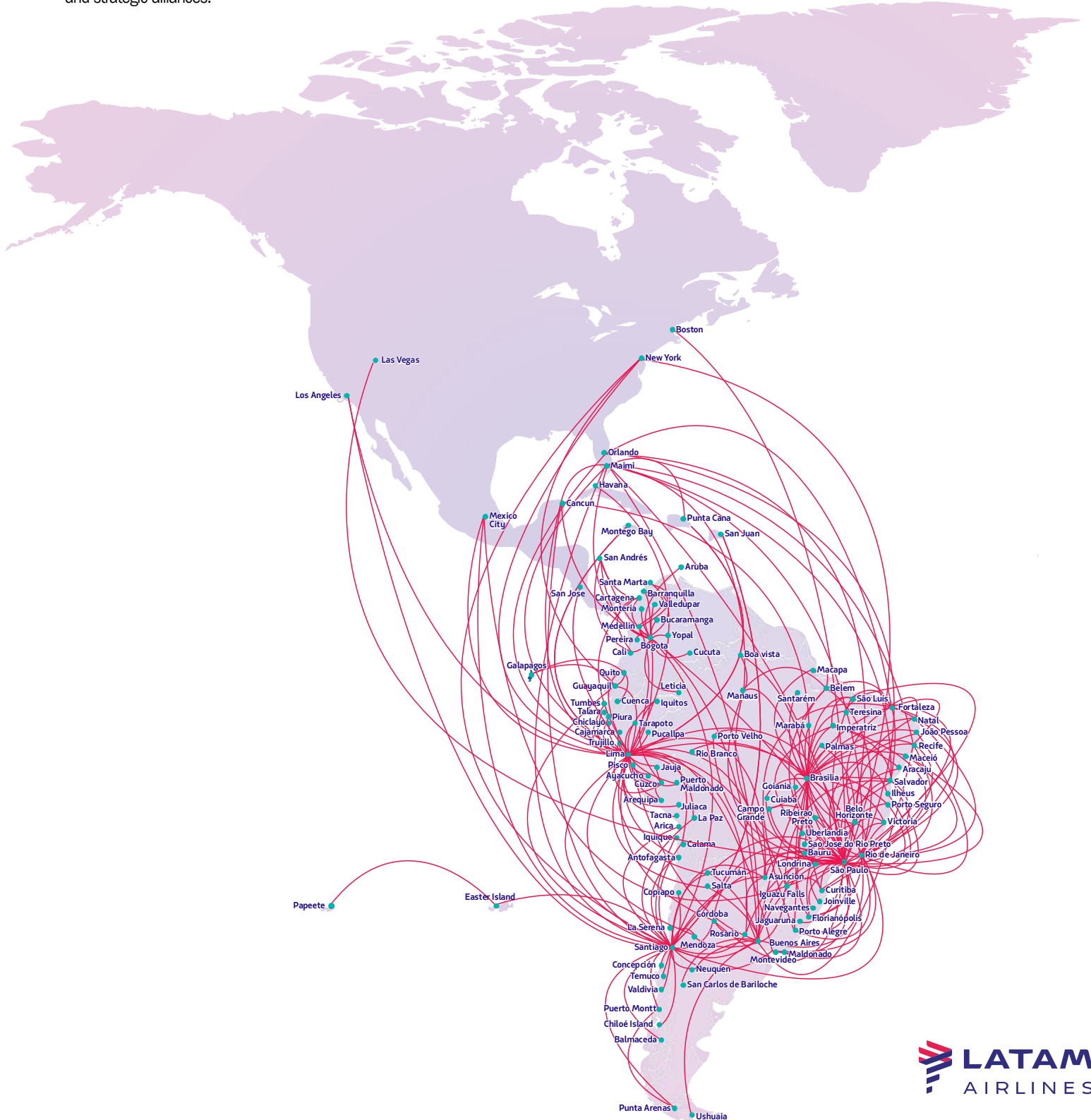
Partnerships are upcoming with two-starred chefs Mathieu Viannay and Christof Lang; one-star chefs Roman Paulus and Ugo Alciati; and the youngest three-starred Michelin chef, Jean Michel Lorain. In addition to the collaborations, Hainan Airlines regularly launches newly prepared in-flight meal and menus.

Also this year, Hainan Airlines debuted the first-ever direct service from Beijing to Mexico. Operated with a Boeing 787 Dreamliner three times a week, the route connects Tijuana to China in conjunction with Cross Border Xpress. The flight is also a convenient option for San Diegans and those in Southern California. This year marks the 10th anniversary of Hainan Airlines' entry into the North American market, currently operating the most non-stop routes between Mainland China and the continent.

To learn more or to book, visit hainanairlines.com.

Let LATAM Airlines Take You To ...

LATAM Airlines leads the world in travel to, from and within South America, offering an expansive network of destinations in the continent. The airline is committed to delivering the best connectivity in the region and constantly explores opportunities to offer more frequency, better travel options, new routes and strategic alliances.



Many Maasai tribes throughout Kenya welcome visitors to their villages to experience their culture, traditions and lifestyle.



PHOTOS: © ANNA OVI | DREAMSTIME.COM, © BEN FORTON

BUSINESS destinations

52

DUBAI

60

SAN ANTONIO

62

DUBLIN

64

MANILA



LEISURE destinations

65

MOSCOW

68

PYEONGCHANG

72

KENYA

76

CABO SAN LUCAS



Dubai Dreaming

The most modern Middle Eastern city blooms with entrepreneurial spirit. BY KARIN LEPERI

BIGGER AND BETTER:
*(Left to right) Burj Khalifa,
Burj Al Arab hotel and Palm
Jumeirah*

PHOTO: © OLGA SLOBODIANIUK |
DREAMSTIME.COM, © SUBBOTINA |
DREAMSTIME.COM, © PUREOLUTION |
DREAMSTIME.COM

IT USED TO BE A SMALL VILLAGE on the lower Persian Gulf, where diving for pearls provided the main income in the early 19th century. A later stint with colonialism provided the push for Dubai to ally with six surrounding states. In the process, they became the United Arab Emirates.

Today Dubai is considered a champion of superlatives, with architectural feats ranging from the world's highest building (Burj Khalifa), the world's tallest hotel (Gevora Hotel) and the world's largest artificial island (Palm Jumeirah)

to the world's biggest mall (Dubai Mall). Other champion records include the world's largest dancing fountain, largest indoor ski slope, largest natural flower garden (Miracle Garden) and the world's first self-proclaimed 7-star hotel (Burj Al Arab).

No city has seen such stellar growth in such a condensed period as Dubai. A monument to Arab enterprise and financed by oil money, Dubai intends to be the transportation hub and crossroads of the Middle East. In the process, it's become one of the most multicultural cities

COMING AND GOING

A U.S. citizen requires only a current and valid U.S. passport with at least six months remaining before expiration.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

Arabic, but English is widely spoken.



in the world, with cuisine and culture from more than 200 nationalities contributing to the mosaic. Expect extremes, from hellacious desert heat most of the year to beaches welcoming both bikinis and burkas. From ultra-modern skyscrapers and architecture that pushes engineering boundaries to sand dunes in the desert, ever-changing shapes with the winds of change, this is modern-day Dubai.

Agni Skafidas, entrepreneur and CEO, OLAM, offering human resources services for organizations in the U.A.E., describes it this way: “Dubai is a place of mystery. It’s not the traditional Arab city but a city where old traditions and the latest technology mingle. It’s a trading point like no other. Within four hours’ flying time, you cover a third of the world’s population and within eight hours, two-thirds.”

However, Skafidas warns business can require some time to take off, and forming relationships requires a lot of coffee. She adds, “Luckily, there are so many great coffee shops and restaurants to meet clients and customers. The city is fostering the entrepreneurial scene and is looking to open up the city for business expansion. Women, in particular local women, are supported to set up their own business with grants and mentors.”

LODGING

ONE&ONLY THE PALM DUBAI
Dubai’s most intimate seaside enclave offers luxurious beachfront accommodation on Palm Jumeirah’s peninsula. Enjoy panoramic views, a private beach and cuisine by Michelin-starred chef Yannick Alléno.
West Crescent, Palm Jumeirah
\$\$\$\$

RODA AL BUSTAN
Conveniently located near Dubai Airport, the 5-star property is enclosed by a mosque and museum. Modern comfort and Arabian charm mingle in the 279 rooms, suites and Executive Floor accom-

modations.
Casablanca Road, Al Garhoud
\$\$\$\$

WALDORF ASTORIA DUBAI PALM JUMEIRAH
Situated on world-famous Palm Jumeirah, the property features luxury rooms and suites with contemporary design and signature Waldorf Astoria beds, plus panoramic views of the Arabian Gulf with private beach.
Crescent Road, Palm Jumeirah
\$\$\$\$

PHOTO OP:
Outside the Dubai Mall, visitors photograph Burj Khalifa, the highest skyscraper in the world, and its fountain.

PHOTO: © DREAMSTIME AGENCY |
DREAMSTIME.COM

JUST THE FACTS

Time zone: GMT +4

Phone code: Country code: 971 City code: 4

Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham

Key industries:

Construction, oil and gas, financial services, real estate, health care, security, transportation, tourism and energy

INFO TO GO

Dubai International Airport, an aviation hub at the heart of the Middle East, ranks as one of the busiest airports in the world based on passenger traffic. The airport services more than 88 million people a year, flying them to more than 260 destinations across six continents on more than 140 scheduled airlines.

Government-run Dubai Transport provides airport taxi service, with metered cabs. Taxis are abundant and reasonably priced, with airport pickup just outside arrivals. There's an airport surcharge of about \$5.50, with final fare calculated based on destination. Taxi stands are also readily available at malls and hotels. The RTA airport bus runs every 30 minutes to Deira or Bur Dubai. Consider taking the Dubai Metro during rush hour; locate stations at terminals 1 and 3.



CHECKING IN WITH ANDREW MILLER

Startup marketer and consultant

You've worked with two of the largest startup exits in Dubai history. What makes Dubai a great destination for business travelers?

Besides having many amazing serviced apartments and affordable hotel options, Dubai is set up for business travelers because the business areas were developed by industry. This means all the media companies are in Media City, all the production companies are in Studio City and all the health-related businesses are in Healthcare City, which makes back-to-back meetings a breeze for a business traveler. Another reason is Dubai, like Las Vegas, is a city that never sleeps. So you can work until 8 p.m., go out for dinner and drinks and then carry on in your work clothes to a nightclub on the beach, all in one 24-hour work trip!

What's new in terms of development and foreign investment?

Dubai is bustling and real estate prices are high once again, so development is restarting, although there are still old development projects sitting gathering dust. There's always foreign investment; this isn't new.

Why is Dubai thriving, and why do people travel to the city?

The most stable city in the entire region, it's the most like the West and therefore the safest bet for investors and business owners in the Middle East. Besides incredible business opportunities, people visit Dubai en masse for leisure, shopping, partying and getting sun.

What is on the horizon for Dubai?

I think Dubai is still probably growing too fast, but the ruler and the people in charge are all ambitious and have plans to grow now based on projected growth. Dubai is a better place for investment now than ever before because it's shown how it can survive a recession if it ever happens again. Ten years ago, when I first moved there, we were all hesitant because it was new and had never seen a downturn.

Dubai wants to be the market link between East and West. Is that happening?

Absolutely. All the biggest tech, entertainment, media and communications businesses have offices in Dubai. It's the most modernized, safe, clean and Western city in the Middle East, hands down. I'm not sure I see a lot of foreign direct investment from the West coming in, but in the region it's a great place to invest.



DINING

AL HADHEERAH

Savor traditional Arabian cuisine with 14 live cooking stations at the Bab Al Shams Resort, a 60-minute drive from Dubai Airport. Belly dancers and sword-bearing horse riders provide entertainment during the buffet.

Bab Al Shams Desert Resort & Spa, Al Qudra Road
\$\$\$\$\$

JW'S STEAKHOUSE

The award-winning steakhouse — so popular reservations are a must — serves up an elegant atmosphere with juicy steaks, fresh

seafood and an array of great wines.

JW Marriott Hotel Dubai,
Abu Baker Al Siddique Road,
Deira
\$\$\$\$\$

SEVEN SANDS

Representing culinary and cultural delights from the seven emirates, Seven Sands serves authentic Emirati cuisine for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Located at The Beach opposite Jumeirah Beach Residence, also known as JBR.

Shop No. 5102, The Beach,
Jumeirah Beach Residence,
Dubai Marina
\$\$\$

DIVERSIONS

Soaring more than 160 stories in the air, the towering Burj Khalifa is the world's tallest building. As a global landmark, it dominates the Dubai skyline and is the iconic image travelers associate with the city. Book your ticket online for an exhilarating lift to the observation deck on level 124. If you have time, make your way up to At the Top SKY Lounge on the 148th floor — the world's highest outdoor observation deck. Then ride it again at night for a different, stellar view.

At ground level below, visit Dubai Mall and the Dubai Fountain.

Designed and constructed in the shape of a palm tree, Palm Jumeirah is one of the largest artificial islands in the world. It also contains some of the most expensive pieces of real estate, as it is home to a large number of 5-star hotels, including the Waldorf Astoria and One&Only. You can't go wrong with any of the 5-star luxury hotels that populate Palm Jumeirah and beyond. The most famous luxury hotel is the sail-shaped Burj Al Arab, a self-proclaimed 7-star hotel. You can stay at the Burj Al Arab for a price that matches its alleged 7-star status. The iconic

WATER DANCE:

Dubai Fountain as seen from Burj Khalifa

PHOTO: © TYPHOONSKI | DREAMSTIME.COM

Dubai's real estate development continues to grow at a rapid rate, with 24 percent of the world's construction cranes located in Dubai.



ICONIC DUBAI:
*Souk Madinat Jumeirah (top
 right), camel riding in the
 Arabian Desert, and Burj Al
 Arab*

PHOTOS: © OLEG ZHUKOV |
 DREAMSTIME.COM, © DARREN BAKER
 | DREAMSTIME.COM, © PRIGODA49 |
 DREAMSTIME.COM

sail-shaped architectural feat is dear to Dubai in the same fashion the Statue of Liberty is cherished by Americans.

Next door to the Burj Al Arab lies the Madinat Jumeirah complex, an area boasting three more high-end hotels and more than 50 restaurants, night-spots and lounges. Some equate it to a “mini Dubai” experience. Catch one of the traditional *abra* boats for a tour on the waterways and stop at the Madinat Jumeirah’s own souk.

A trip to Dubai isn’t complete unless you experience the Arabian Desert. No need to rough it, either. Less than an hour away discover the luxurious Al Maha Desert Resort & Spa, a desert palm oasis showcasing the architectural and cultural heritage of the Bedouins. Whether you indulge in a camel trek, desert safari, signature spa treatment with aromatherapy or a night under the stars, the shifting sands of the desert will give you a different perspective.



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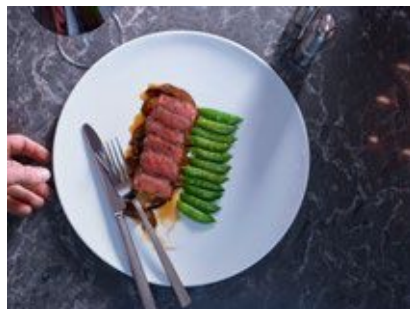
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Confluence of Cultures

San Antonio looks to its heritage to forge its future. BY EUGENIA LAZARIS

VERSATILE VENUE:
The Henry B. González Convention Center
PHOTO: © VISITSANTONIO.COM

The official SA300 App offers a great way to keep up with tricentennial celebrations going on all over the city.

IN THE MIDST OF ITS TRICENTENNIAL anniversary, San Antonio celebrates 300 years of progress and looks forward to 300 more. Not only are programs and events going on city-wide and year-round to commemorate this milestone, but also the city is undergoing a major overhaul to prepare for the next phase in its history.

At nearly every turn, a new project is either unveiling or getting underway to celebrate the city's rich heritage and big plans for the future. Bexar County, the city and the temporarily commissioned Tricentennial Office joined efforts to make San Antonio the place to be in 2018.

Officials have been hard at work to combine what Laura E. Mayes, public relations officer, the San Antonio Tricentennial Office, calls the guiding principles of the tricentennial — “inclusivity and creating a lasting impact” — with a long list of upgrades to the city's infrastructure that will drive an increase

in commerce and tourism.

Travelers arriving at San Antonio International Airport get to see some of the latest improvements immediately upon arrival. The brand-new, 1.8 million-square-foot Consolidated Rental Car Facility, located just steps from the terminals, offers convenient car rental service from 14 companies in one location. The CONRAC welcomes visitors with an expansive mural by local artists Suzy Gonzales and Michael Menchaca depicting the details of the aviation history of San Antonio.

The Henry B. González Convention Center recently experienced a major \$325 million overhaul, the largest in San Antonio history. With an eco-friendly and energy-efficient design, state-of-the-art technology, 70 meeting spaces and one of the biggest ballrooms in the country (54,000 square feet), the HBGCC is ready to host conferences and events of all sizes and is prepared to meet the needs of generations to come. The renovation, completed in 2016, incorporates into the 2018 tricentennial celebration with 20 new public art installations unveiled in February.

In addition to the artwork on display at the CONRAC and HBGCC, public art all over the city gets an upgrade. A visit to the Witte Museum on the banks of the San Antonio River proves a great way to unwind and enjoy some of the local culture, thanks to the \$100 million renovation and expansion project that includes numerous artistic, historic and health-related exhibitions. Ruby City, expected to conclude construction by the end of 2018 with a grand opening scheduled for early 2019, will offer 14,000 square feet of art exhibits on Camp Street with free admission for the public.

Nicknamed River City, San Antonio is ideally situated along the San Antonio River and home to River Walk, a winding path of hotels, businesses, shops and eateries along the beautifully landscaped riverbanks. With its centralized location, River Walk offers a convenient way for visitors to get to know the city's personality by enjoying lunch at a riverside café or by exploring the local nightlife. With many of the city's primary meeting centers and hotels located near or along River Walk, it will host many improvements and celebrations as the year goes on.

With more than 34 million visitors to San Antonio each year, there exists a growing need for quality hotel accommodations. The Thompson San Antonio Hotel and Arts Residences broke ground in December 2017 for a new \$116 million hotel-condominium project. Expected to open in early 2020, it will offer 167 luxury hotel rooms along River Walk along with 58 luxury, individually owned condos on top. The city hopes these latest projects will encourage additional development in the future.

Hotel Valencia, also along the picturesque River Walk, already re-opened for business after a \$10 million renovation that pays homage to San Antonio's Spanish colonial heritage. Other hotel additions in the near future include the Canopy by Hilton with more than 3,000 square feet of meeting space and due to open in 2019, and the 100-room Saint Hotel, slated to begin construction next year on its nine-story design.

The city's ongoing improvements embody the essence of San Antonio — a diverse population with a strong sense of history and culture that takes pride in its city. As the seventh-largest city in the nation, San Antonio's upgrades and improvements revolving around this tricentennial year leave it perfectly poised for an upsurge in business and tourism.

"We are a city that's really a snapshot of what the country's going to look like in the next few years,"



says Mayes. "San Antonio is a melting pot of a city, and in the spirit of the tricentennial, that's what we're celebrating — the confluence of all cultures coming together, thinking about the legacy of the past and what legacy we want to start for the future."

LOCAL FOCUS:

Witte Museum (top), and fireworks at HemisFair Park

PHOTOS: © VISITSANANTONIO.COM

SCENIC DRIVES

To get out of the city for a while, head into Hill Country for breathtaking scenic drives. If you are short on time, drive about an hour and a half north on U.S. Highway 87 to Fredericksburg and take State Road 16 toward Willow City. There you'll find the 13-mile Willow City Loop on Ranch Road 1323, a two-lane trail through rolling meadows of wildflowers, meandering creeks and rocky cliffs. The loop, open year-round, is best when visited in spring or fall. Take this trip during a weekday, as it gets crowded with tourists on the weekends.

If you've got more time for exploring, head deeper into Hill Country to view the Texas Swiss Alps in Leakey. From Bandera, about 50 miles out of San Antonio on State Road 16, this beautiful drive through verdant mountains and several Hill Country towns can run anywhere from 80 to 130 miles, depending on your route. The best path is south from Bandera to Hondo, then over to Concan before turning north to Leakey for some of the best vistas. From there head back to Bandera along Highway 337, and be sure to stop and enjoy the scenery along the way.



On Tap

Delve into Dublin's traditional and modern fare to impress clients. BY SUSAN B. BARNES

STREET SCENE:
Temple Bar

PHOTO: © VINCENT
MACNAMARA |
DREAMSTIME.COM

AS EARLY AS 1170, DUBLIN was an established town with a defined street pattern, a cathedral and even suburbs on the northern bank of the River Liffey. From 1171, Dublin became the capital of the English Lordship of Ireland and gained popularity at that time with English and Welsh settlers.

These days, travelers to Dublin likely arrive at Dublin Airport, about eight miles outside of the city center. Earlier this year, Aer Lingus launched its direct service into Dublin from Philadelphia International and Seattle-Tacoma International airports, and last month Air Canada began its summer route to Montréal-Pierre Elliott Trudeau

International Airport. Upon arrival, it is easy to get to Dublin's city center via bus. Dublin Bus, Airlink Express and AirCoach stop at various locations throughout the city, including rail stations; fares are about €6 (about \$7) one way. Taxis (about €30, or about \$35) and private cars (about €70, or about \$83) are also available, making travel from the airport to your first meeting of the day seamless. Once within the city center, the light rail, known as Luas, easily whisks you from one part of town to the other with an easy commute, while the Dublin Area Rapid Transit takes you farther afield.

You'll find plenty of options when it comes to a place to stay during your time in Dublin. Consider The Shelbourne, a 5-star, 200-year-old landmark hotel in the heart of the city; the Irish Constitution was drafted here in 1922. For a rock 'n' roll feel, check into The Clarence, the 50-bedroom luxury hotel owned by U2's Bono and The Edge, close to the River Liffey and Temple Bar. New on the block, near shopping on Grafton Street and the quiet of St. Stephen's Green, the Iveagh Garden Hotel — “designed for the professional sector” — features luxury accommodations and a versatile meeting space.

Choose from traditional or modern fare when it comes to a power breakfast in Dublin. Housed in a classic Victorian building, The Café at Delahunt's semi-private snug for up to eight colleagues offers a terrific spot to discuss business over a cup of coffee (chosen specifically for you by the barista) and pastries. For a heartier breakfast, dig into a Full Irish or Mini Irish (or opt for the Vegetarian Breakfast) in a pub

atmosphere at O'Neill's Pub & Kitchen on Suffolk Street.

After a full day of meetings, it is time to let loose, and you'll discover plenty of ways to do just that in Dublin. Head to Gravity Bar at the top of Guinness Storehouse and raise a pint of the Irish classic ale while taking in the 360-degree view of the city and beyond. If whiskey is more your cup of tea, take advantage of the premium whiskey tasting experience at Jameson Distillery, which first opened its doors to enthusiasts in 1780. For new twists on a classic, pay a visit to two new boutique distilleries opened in the city center: Teeling Whiskey and Dublin Liberties.

Of course, the traditional pubs with their live music and lively *craic* (or fun) found throughout the city always prove terrific spots to spend time with colleagues, old friends and newfound friends. A few that come highly recommended are O'Donoghues Bar and The Cobblestone, dubbed a "drinking pub with a music problem." Or you can always head back to O'Neill's Pub, where you may have had breakfast earlier in the day. And then there is Temple Bar, loaded with restaurants and pubs to enjoy well into the night.

For a different taste of the city, explore the Dublin Tasting Trail with Fab Food Trails, walking tours with experienced local guides who love food. Private walks are available, too, if you have a group with you.

Another way to truly experience Dublin in your downtime is through its sports scene. Gaelic games such as hurling and Gaelic football are played at nearby Croke Park, a stadium that serves as the headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association and also hosts international musical acts. And don't forget the world-class golf courses surrounding the city — for business and leisure — including Portmarnock Golf Club, Royal Dublin Golf Club, The Island Golf Club, The K Club and The European Club.

If you have time to venture outside the city when visiting for business, hop on the DART and take a ride to the heritage towns and seaside villages of Malahide (and its castle) to the north and Dalkey (and its two Norman castles) to the south. Within minutes you will be back in the city, revived by the fresh sea air and ready to tackle another day.

When it comes time to leave Dublin, travelers catching flights to the United States can take advantage of the U.S. Preclearance facilities at Dublin Airport. This means passengers will clear U.S. immigration and customs inspection prior to departing Dublin, making landing stateside and catching connecting flights smooth, quick and easy.



GREENS AND GUINNESS:
The K Club (above), and pint of beer and view from Gravity Bar (left)

PHOTOS: © THE K CLUB, © NICOLAZINO | DREAMSTIME.COM

Night Moods

Dance to your own tune in multifaceted Manila. BY CHADNER NAVARRO



NIGHT SCENE: *Makati palm trees (left), and Metro Manila's business and commercial district (below)*

PHOTOS: © JON BILOUS | DREAMSTIME.COM,
© ANTONIO OQUIAS | DREAMSTIME.COM



WHEN IT COMES TO NIGHTTIME indulgences, the Philippine capital has it all. Whether you're looking for an intimate speakeasy serving locally inspired libations, a massive all-night rager or a rousing evening belting karaoke classics, there's something to suit every taste in this thriving megalopolis.

Just as in every major city, a big cocktail moment is blossoming in Manila. Most of the best bars cluster in Makati, the country's main finance hub and where most business visitors typically stay. The Curator (in Makati's hip enclave, Legazpi Village) stays open all day, first as a cool café serving expertly prepared cups of Joe in a chic, minimally designed hangout. A nondescript door toward the back leads to a low-lit drinking den at night. The clever menu features illustrations measuring every beverage's flavor profile: The Beyond the Sea's combination of different types of rum plus tropical fruits is marked as sweet and boozy, while the Common Sense's mix of oleo saccharum, beer and lemon makes a great refreshing, tart choice.

In Bonifacio Global City, Bank Bar proves an elegant destination (dress up a bit) for a potent post-work Negroni. Later in the evening, prepare for a livelier atmosphere when a DJ sets the mood with a bit of ambient tunes, though never so loud you can't hear yourself speak. But if deafening bass hits are what you're after, head to Cove, inside Okada Manila located right in front of Manila Bay. This brand-new mega club features an indoor beach bar that attracts the world's

biggest names in music. Since opening in December 2017, the likes of Steve Aoki and Zedd performed at Cove.

The city of Malate used to be the center of gay nightlife in Metro Manila. Thankfully, the scene spread, and LGBTQ travelers can now find fun bars, clubs and lounges with gay-friendly clientele and programming all over. Nectar in Bonifacio Global City and O Bar in Ortigas (a veteran venue that's been around for more than a decade), for instance, are two of the most popular clubs in the region.

Filipinos love to sing, so naturally you'll find countless karaoke joints in every part of Metro Manila, from modest bars to more tricked-out clubs with private rooms and venues with a live band providing the music you'll sing along to. The following day, join locals recovering and refueling from a demanding night out at equally buzzy brunch hot spot Wild-flour, with several locations in the capital district. They'll most likely be chowing down traditional rice dishes or decadent baked goods by California-based chef Walter Manzke.

Russian Revolution

Inspired innovation marks Moscow's rebirth as a culinary capital.

BY KRISTY ALPERT

MY EXCITEMENT WANED as he approached, holding a straw and a bottle of what appeared to be Russian vodka. I had come to the White Rabbit restaurant specifically to uncover something unexpected about a rumored underground culinary scene supposedly growing in Moscow, and I held back my disappointment at the thought of such an expected Russian spirit landing on the table so early in the meal.

In just one breath my waiter simultaneously had me hold out my palm while he inserted the straw into the bottle and pressed his thumb to seal the liquid in the cylinder. "Polugar," he stated, pausing to let the strange word float about in the air, "was the original Russian spirit, pre-dating vodka and made from freshly harvested wheat."

Not another word was spoken as he placed one drop of the spirit on my palm, prompting me to rub my hands together vigorously until the liquid heated and disappeared. "Now please slowly place your open palms in front of your face and inhale through your nose." I did as he directed, and the scent of freshly baked bread soon overwhelmed my senses.

"Your first course, madame," he smiled as he bowed his head and returned to the kitchen to gather my next course.

Less than a decade ago, Moscow could have been described as an epicurean desert, the dust of state restaurants and imported goods still settling as the city began to stand on its own two feet. It wasn't until a government ban on European imports caused a number of chefs and farmers to rise up and take pride in the land that words like "creativity" and "self-expression" began to be heard once again on the streets of Moscow.

The city is now home to three restaurants on San Pellegrino's 100 Best Restaurants list. Chefs such as Vladimir Mukhin at White Rabbit and brothers Ivan and Sergey Berezutskiy at Twins Garden literally breathe flavor back into the city with their inventive cuisine and use of Russian ingredients like freshly foraged mushrooms, rustic birch bread and locally made cheeses. These are paired with wines from an amazing group of young Russian winemakers.

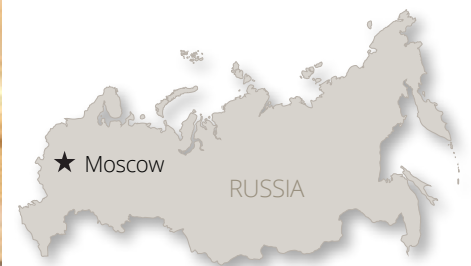
Once again the city blooms as a culinary capital fit for a czar — only this time vodka and caviar take a back seat to inspired ingredients and creative cooking.



CREATIVE CUISINE:

Dishes at White Rabbit (top and middle left) and Twins Garden (middle right and bottom)

PHOTOS: © KRISTY ALPERT



Gain a new perspective of the city at Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow's rooftop bar. Enjoy a stunning wine list and creative menu of light bites and sharable appetizers on a heated patio overlooking Moscow's main sights.



Long Bar by Raffles



Butterfly Garden



Movie Theater

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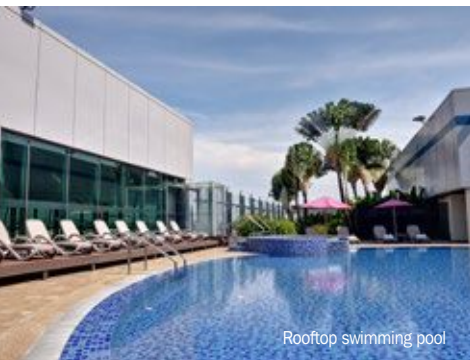
Singapore's Changi Airport is not your average airport — it continues to up the ante and exceed expectations. While transiting through the airport, take advantage of these unique amenities to sweeten your travel experience.

TASTE A SINGAPORE ICON

In Terminal 3's DFS, treat yourself with a free cocktail at Long Bar by Raffles, created in collaboration with The Raffles Hotel, which is one of Singapore's most historic hotels. Try the Long Bar's iconic Singapore Sling, complimentary, by presenting a valid boarding pass at the bar.

TAKE A DIP

Terminal 1 offers a truly unique rooftop swimming pool overlooking the runway. Swim, sunbathe or relax in the Jacuzzi. There's also a fitness center for travelers looking to squeeze in a workout between flights. These services are available at cost of SGD 17 per person, 6 a.m.–12 a.m. daily. Guests of Aerotel Airport Transit Hotel enjoy the services on a complimentary basis.



Rooftop swimming pool

WATCH A MOVIE

Never worry about a lack of entertainment at Changi Airport: Terminals 2 and 3 both boast movie theaters where transiting passengers can enjoy free of charge films of varying genres, updated frequently. Or, perhaps, seek out solace and rest at Changi's complimentary snooze lounges, located in Terminals 1, 2 (two facilities), 3 and 4.


BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY

Take a moment to savor some beauty at Terminal 2's Sunflower Garden, featuring several varieties of sunflowers grown in the airport's own nursery. Bask in the sun along with the 500 sunflowers while taking in the fantastic view of the runway.

INDULGE IN NATURE

Terminal 3's Butterfly Garden, a first of its kind in an airport, is a state-of-the-art landscaping design. As more than 1,000 butterflies flutter beautifully around you, enjoy the six-meter grotto waterfall and try spotting Singapore's national butterfly, the Common Rose Butterfly, which has red dots and white streaks on its wings.

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Beyond the Finish Line

PyeongChang's winning combination of cultural and recreational sites attracts all manner of visitors. BY ELYSE GLICKMAN

LONG VIEW:
Alpensia drop

PHOTO: © ELYSE
GLICKMAN

SINCE ITS 2011 SELECTION by the International Olympic Committee as the site for the 2018 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games, the world set its sights on PyeongChang, South Korea. While some viewers were spellbound by the superhuman feats of world-class athletes, others were intrigued with global politics and celebrity sightings. And through it all, millions had a glimpse of a South Korea different from Seoul.

PyeongChang, whose 43,000 residents work in agriculture, is dubbed the “Alps of Korea.” It is 80 percent mountains, with the average elevation at approximately 2,300 feet above sea level. Gangneung, whose seaside communities have a similar misty character to those of the U.K. and U.S. northeastern coasts, hugs PyeongChang.

Understandably, both were popular among South Koreans long before the extensive renovations, construction projects and infrastructure improvements came along with the

Olympic hosting bid. Businesspeople come for golf and retreats during warmer months. Families head to Alpensia for skiing and other winter sports and to Gangneung for summer beach holidays. Like the U.S. East Coast, the South Korean counterpart also draws “leaf peepers” during peak fall foliage.

With all the elements added up, the region proves the perfect antidote for Seoul’s urban intensity as well as a multitasking, year-round destination for business travelers, families with kids and those combining business and family time. In fact, many of the newer and larger resorts actively promote their MICE and family activity programs and amenities in equal measure.

Though things quieted down since the last medals were handed out, cultural and recreational sites revered by generations of Koreans are now primed for discovery by foreign visitors.



KOREAN CULTURE:
Korean Beef Village dining room (top left) and bulgogi (top right), Ojukheon (bottom left), and PyeongChang Olympic Center

PHOTOS: © ELYSE GLICKMAN



LODGING

THE INTERCONTINENTAL ALPENSIA PYEONGCHANG RESORT

In advance of the Winter Olympics, the North American-style lodge property upgraded its meeting rooms and family-oriented amenities. It was one of the go-to resorts for NBC and other international media covering the Games.

325 Solbong-ro, Daegwalnyeong-myeon, Pyeongchang-gun, Gangwon-do
 \$\$\$

LOTTE RESORT SOKCHO

Upscale South Korean hotelier Lotte entered the pre-Olympic hotel race with the opening of this contemporary beachfront resort featuring beautiful meeting spaces, nice dining options and a definitively Asian approach to family luxury travel.

186 Daepohang-gil, Sokcho-si, Gangwon-do
 \$\$\$

SEAMARQ HOTEL

One of the area's top-tier hotels boasts posh, airy suites and public areas and well-appointed meeting and family amenities. It is close to Heo Gyun and Heo Nanseolheon Memorial Park and other popular cultural spots.

2, 406 beon-gil, Haean-ro, Gangneung-si, Gangwon-do
 \$\$\$

Hiking, biking, golf and other activities amid lush temperate zone greenery are sure to reel in active travelers. Several stately temples, museums and heritage sites, meanwhile, will take non-Koreans on an exciting journey into a less familiar but fascinating sector of world history.

While a parent is in meetings or a conference, the rest of the family can enjoy a real East-meets-West exploration of science at the Charmsori Gramophone & Edison Science Museum. Exhibits show how Thomas Edison's ideas and inventions (850 on display) ushered the world into the modern era from a Korean perspective. The PyeongChang Olympic Promotion Hall, meanwhile, will continue operating free of charge. The action-packed space, enclosed in repurposed train containers, features virtual reality kiosks and a theater ride, an interactive hockey area and life-sized action figures flanked by comic book-inspired posters with behind-the-scenes details about Winter Olympics sports. Just outside, there's a playground with a stationary Korean bobsled. Animal lovers can visit the Daegwallyeong Sheep Farm, which features a hay-feeding experience with the sheep.

Kids — or adult corporate groups — who enjoy playing with their food can get an authentic taste of Korean culinary culture at the Jeonggangwon Korea Traditional Food Culture

Experience Center. The farmhouse-turned-museum and restaurant covers different Korean staple foods, agricultural items and kitchen tools. Cooking classes are available for 10 or more adults, as are luncheons where kids can prepare bibimbap. Chodang Dubu Village offers another all-ages food experience, expounding on the many uses of tofu made from locally sourced soybeans and water from the East Sea.

Visits to the region's historic palaces and temples require at least a full day so families can fully take in their beauty and history, and corporate groups can experience a truly meaningful retreat.

Ojukheon, one of Korea's oldest noble residences, was home to key historic figures Yulgok Yi-I (1536–1584) and his mother, Sin Saimdang, whose likenesses live on in South Korean currency. The main structure captures the splendor enjoyed by royals during the Joseon Dynasty (1392–1910), while its private museum showcases personal items, Buddhist artifacts and original artwork by some of the members of the Yulgok family who were talented artists. Seongyojang House, former domain of the Naebeon Lee (1703–1781) royal family, is another notable mansion, made up of several buildings, 12 gates, gardens and its own museum.

The Jeongseon Ararichon Folk Village preserves the

DINING

L BARBECUE

This hidden gem serves up a deliciously fun take on American roadside joint fare, from its aromatic smokehouse to abundant platters of brisket, pulled pork, baby back ribs and side dishes to Korean Coke cans and a funky assortment of memorabilia.

333 Hanam-Gil,
Gangneung, Gangwon-do
\$\$-\$\$\$

PYEONGCHANG HANU CENTER (Korean Beef Village)

Diners select Korean beef in its small butcher shop and head upstairs to a reserved table, where a server lights the table grill and guests cook their meat to perfection. Enjoy excellent *bulgogi* (thin-sliced beef) and interesting condiments.

15 Daehwa3-Gil,
Pyeongchang-gun,
Gangwon-do
\$\$\$

WOW DAEGWALLY-EONG HANWOO JINBU

This pick of discerning visitors during the Games ups the Korean barbecue experience with a Kobe beef-caliber selection of prime cuts. Its owner, Jean, a U.S. resident for several years, greets customers and is dedicated to serving local organic fare.

7 Kkachigol-gil, jinbu-myeon,
Pyeongchang-gun,
Gangwon-do
\$\$\$-\$\$\$\$



ways of common people living during the Joseon Dynasty. In addition to permanent exhibits, the regularly scheduled hands-on activities and performances provide deeper immersion and insight into pre-20th-century Korean culture. While the temples and grounds of Woljeongsa, Hyundeoksa and Bohyunsa are popular daytrip destinations with colorful gardens, hiking and walking trails, extended temple stays are offered as the ultimate spiritual retreat based on traditional Korean Buddhist culture dating back 1,700 years.

As some prospective visitors will still bask in the Olympic afterglow, they will be happy to know Alpensia Ski Resort and other slopes will be open next winter. During the off-season, visitors can get a competitive skiers' perspective on Alpensia's grounds and its landmark ski jump tower. Views are literally breathtaking, especially when taken in from the monorail or the outdoor observation deck's Plexiglas floor. Less daring souls can enjoy the sights from the tower's coffee shop and indoor viewing areas. Inside Alpensia Stadium, the Korean Ski History Museum displays a fascinating mix of alpine gear, photographs and biographical information about Korean winter athletes.

After the conference, temple retreat or busy days of outdoor fun, Anmok Beach is the perfect place for leisurely strolls and people-watching along the adjacent Gangneung Coffee Street. Competing cafés beckon with steaming cups from artisanal coffee roasters as well as hot chocolate, tea and desserts. The stretch is also home to percolating coffee-related attractions ranging from an October coffee festival to a coffee museum and roastery.

Whether a group prefers outdoor adventure, includes devoted history buffs or wants to do a little of everything, PyeongChang is indeed a winning choice. It hits all the marks as a unique Asian travel experience at once new for Western visitors and yet warm and familiar with its emphasis on nature and a slower pace of life.



SPIRITUAL RETREAT:
*Temple trails and park (above),
and Woljeongsa interior (left)*

PHOTOS: © ELYSE GLICKMAN

INFO TO GO

Most carriers coming from the United States, including Korean Air and Asiana Airlines, fly into Incheon Airport, 21 miles west of Seoul. The best way to travel to PyeongChang is to take ICN Express Train (adults, 9,000 won, or about \$8.50; children, 7,000 won, or about \$6.50) to Seoul's Central Station and then take KTX high-speed rail from Seoul to PyeongChang. Based on seat class, KTX adult fares range 16,700–27,600 won (about \$16–26) and children travel for 8,399–17,700 won (about \$8–17).

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Remote Possibilities

Visit Maasai villages while on a wildlife safari in Kenya. BY BECCA HENSLEY



ON SAFARI:

(Left to right) Lion in the grass, cheetah at Maasai Mara National Reserve, Maasai men jumping, and Maasai women in traditional garb

PHOTOS: © SERGEY NOVIKOV | DREAMSTIME.COM, © HOANG BAO NGUYEN | DREAMSTIME.COM, © DIBROVA | DREAMSTIME.COM, © BIRUTE VJJEIKIENE | DREAMSTIME.COM

IN MAASAI MARA, KENYA'S most storied game preserve, the animals have been playing hide and seek all morning. But it isn't long before we spy silhouettes amid the expanse, an awe-inspiring landscape of tall grass which unfurls like bolts of amber-colored cloth in every direction. A terrain of golden plains, graceful acacia trees and granite boulders beneath immense skies, the Mara plays second fiddle to its best-known residents, a diverse group of protected wildlife which includes not just the Big Five (lion, Cape buffalo, elephant, leopard and rhino) but an array of birds, reptiles and tiny mammals, too. Shared with its other official inhabitants, the ancient Maasai people, the park spreads out for some 580 square miles in Kenya, stretching eventually into neighboring Tanzania. Legendary warriors, nomads and cattle herders, the colorful Maasai named this land Mara — which in their language means “mottled.”

As I peer through binoculars from my safari vehicle, focused across a gorge, I understand what that means. At first the scenery appears almost mono-hued — solid as far as the eye can see. Suddenly, that sea of gold ripples with life, or “mottles” with movement in

the distance. From what might be a door in the thick vegetation, a male lion emerges to trudge purposefully across the hill before us. As if on cue, another appears, his mane even bushier than the first. Walking perhaps 30 feet apart, they follow the skyline in measured steps. Spectators, we pursue them, our guide guessing where they might go next. He thinks they're heading for water, so we speed toward a cliff nearby which overlooks a river bed. Some minutes later, the lions appear across the shore from us, descending to the river to drink. Even that is thrill enough. But the scene improves when four lionesses and their playful cubs join the party.

Later, at Sand River Maasai Mara, a 16-suite, luxury, tented camp set on a remote section of the preserve near the border of Tanzania, we meet Mamba, a Maasai warrior who works as an *askari* at the camp. *Askari*, essentially camp security in the Mara area, often wear classic Maasai garb — a bright red blanket called a *shuka* and leather sandals — and don brass and beaded jewelry and carry a staff-like weapon known as a *rungu*. Their instincts and affinity for the wilderness,

INFO TO GO

Most visits to the Maasai are organized by safari companies as part of a more extensive itinerary. Try Sky-Safari by Elewana Collection.



much of it passed down as Maasai lore for generations, make them ideal companions to walk us safely to our stand-alone tents after dark and to fetch us again at dawn before our game drives begin. Mamba comes in handy one early morning when a grumpy, massive Cape buffalo wanders into camp and blocks my neighbor's exit from her tent.

While the Maasai people we meet at Sand River don't hesitate to share details about their culture when asked, we find out much more with an afternoon visit to an actual Maasai village, located across the preserve. We've seen some villages from the air already. From the bush plane's bird's-eye view, the villages look like mystical circles irregularly spotting the grassy plain. Up close, we discover them to be small compounds, built to keep their cattle safe. A thorn and tree fence encircles a large, empty tract in the middle, which acts as both corral and main street. Occupying the perimeter, small houses, hand-built from twig and dung, have low ceilings and dark, tiny rooms inside. Beds are made from woven branches, then cushioned by animal skins and piles of grass. In one room, a makeshift kitchen's hole in the roof releases the smoke that gathers when they cook.

Our visit lasts about an hour. It begins with a greeting from

the chief, then continues with a performance by the women of the village. With plaited hair, and smudged with ochre and adorned with abundant jewelry, their haunting beauty matches their otherworldly, lullaby-like songs. When the men step up to strut their stuff, they demonstrate their vertical jumping, a feat many visitors have heard about before they've come. Taking turns, each "warrior" propels himself into the air. We are told they can continue jumping for hours in a trance-like state. Later, they show us how they make fire, rubbing two sticks together Boy Scout-style — but actually succeeding with a roaring flame. They talk to us honestly about the old days, when hunting lions and other animals was part of their way of life. They explain their polygamy and relate that a man's worth comes from how many cattle he owns. When the tour ends, they lead us to tables brimming with beaded jewelry, carved figurines and woven *shukas* for sale.

As we leave, now wearing as many bracelets as the Maasai themselves, we marvel at their commitment to their centuries-old way of life. I've read the Maasai descended from the Nile Valley. They're mentioned in the Bible as gatekeepers and fierce warriors. Today, though some keep cellphones tucked in their *shukas*, their timelessness gives a glimpse deep into Africa's history.

SkySafari by Elewana Collection, a private plane safari taking guests to camps in Kenya or Tanzania actively supports local communities and is deeply committed to eco-conscious travel and the environment.



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Fiesta Americana Puerto Vallarta All Inclusive & Spa



Fiesta Americana Villas Acapulco



Fiesta Americana Villas Cancun



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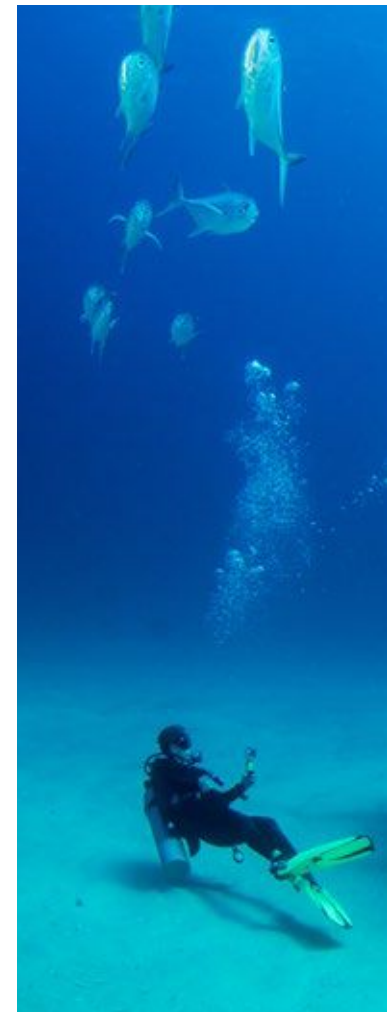
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Quintessential Cabo

Bask in a Baja blend of sun, sea and fantastic food. BY BRANDON SCHULTZ

SEA ADVENTURES:
(Left to right) Cabo San Lucas Marina, diver with a school of fish in the Sea of Cortez, Cabo San Lucas surfers

PHOTOS: © LOS CABOS TOURISM, © HOATZINEXP | DREAMSTIME.COM, © LOS CABOS TOURISM

TUCKED AWAY AT THE DISTANT tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula, barely accessible amid a dreamscape of towering rock soaring skyward from azure waters, a nondescript fishing village once toddled timidly through time. It doesn't now. It's not that the skyscraping formations crumbled or the fishermen abandoned the hypnotizing seas — they're all still there — but the once small village exploded into a rollicking hotbed of adventure sports and luxurious resorts. You know it as Cabo.

The seductive waters of Cabo San Lucas hit the map in the mid-20th century when American fishermen took note of the town's bountiful marlin supply and slowly popularized the region for affluent travelers with the private planes and yachts needed to reach the undeveloped paradise. Since then, serious advances in infrastructure paved the way to a booming tourism industry for Cabo San Lucas ("Cabo"), nearby San José del Cabo (together, "Los Cabos") and the 23-mile stretch of connecting Transpeninsular Highway (better known as "the hotel corridor"), where many of the region's most desirable resorts take advantage of pristine beaches and unrivaled vistas.

INFO TO GO

Los Cabos International Airport services 21 airlines with 500 weekly connections from more than 40 destinations, and more are scheduled to launch in 2018. A 40-minute shuttle along the hotel corridor to Cabo San Lucas costs around \$35 roundtrip, providing shimmering sea views along the way. Arrange transfers at the airport or through most hotels in advance. Car rentals are also available.



Today Cabo resembles little of its sleepy fishing village days. Though scrumptious seafood from the impossibly blue-green waters where the Sea of Cortez meets the Pacific Ocean is still king in Cabo, the modern focus of this resort town is more celebration than serenity. Still, for those seeking the romance of a more exclusive and enigmatic era, simple elegance and wonder remain in curated pockets, especially during those sunshine hours separating the raucous nights for which Cabo San Lucas is infamous.

Boasting more than 300 days of annual sun and an average daily temperature hovering around 80 degrees, beach life remains a popular draw for Cabo, but more for the scenery and wildlife than for swimming. Cabo's Pacific beaches have tremendous undercurrents and are too dangerous for swimming — it's just not allowed — and while the Sea of Cortez is much calmer, it's what's under the water that attracts the crowds. Once called the "aquarium of the world" by Jacques Cousteau, the abundant marine life ranges from colorful fish and charming sea turtles to noisy seal and sea lion colonies and behemoth humpback whales (not to mention blue whales, gray whales and the occasional orca). December through April is prime whale-watching season as countless pods travel 6,000 miles from the icy north to breed and raise their calves in the same waters that enticed a record 1.8 million travelers in 2017. Late summer sees the height of another mass migration as five species of sea turtle return to their birthplace to nest along the Baja Peninsula, but not all of Cabo's wildlife is simply observed.

Marlin fishing is serious sport in Cabo, home to the world's highest-paying tourna-

LODGING

HACIENDA ENCANTADA
Margaritas by the fire with spectacular views of the iconic El Arco at Land's End provide the quintessential Cabo experience.

Carretera
Transpeninsular
Km. 7.3
\$\$\$\$\$

GRAND SOLMAR AT RANCHO SAN LUCAS
For a truly elevated experience that leaves the buzz of Cabo behind, try the waterfront spa. The treatment rooms are a network of

interconnected beach huts on stilts.

Carreterra Todos Santos Km. 120
\$\$\$\$\$

THE TOWERS AT PACIFICA GOLF & SPA RESORT
The most exclusive suites in the Pueblo Bonito resort at Quivira Los Cabos, The Towers offer the ultimate in pampering with hyper-personalized service.

Previo Paraiso Escondido
\$\$\$\$\$



ON THE ROCKS:
El Arco and Land's End

PHOTOS: © BEN HORTON

DINING

MANTA
Combining Peruvian and Japanese influences with Mexican cuisine, Chef Enrique Olvera focuses on comfort and quality in this upscale setting overlooking the beach.

The Cape, A Thompson Hotel, Carretera Transpeninsular Km. 5
\$\$\$\$

SUNSET MONALISA
Freshly caught seafood complements rich pasta dishes at this most coveted spot for all things romantic in Cabo San Lucas. Cliff-top tables overlooking Land's End are especially popular at sunset. Reservations are a must.

Carretera Transpeninsular Km. 6.5
\$\$\$\$

LOS TRES GALLOS
Serving authentic Mexican cuisine in a courtyard setting dotted with fruit trees, all the flavor and charm of traditional Mexico come together at this Cabo favorite. The mole dishes are particularly beloved.

Calle 20 de Noviembre
\$\$\$

ment, Bisbee's Black & Blue, among several others. For other adventure sport aficionados, these famed waters host the Los Cabos Open to Surf pro surf and music festival and, since 2017, the grand finale of the Extreme Sailing Series. Enjoying Cabo San Lucas by sea doesn't require an athletic spirit, though. The stunning sunsets of the Pacific, especially as viewed through El Arco, the three-story natural rock arch at the tip of the peninsula known as Land's End, draw daily devotees on all manner of craft from the most intimate private sailboats to the largest cruise ships, offering everything from romantic Champagne sails to thumping pirate parties. Most evening sails depart from the Cabo San Lucas Marina before traveling the coastline toward Land's End and rounding El Arco to cross from the Sea of Cortez to the Pacific Ocean. The tiny sliver of sand between the two creates a double beach with the opportunity to enjoy both the calm, swimmable waters of Lover's Beach facing one direction and the crashing, impenetrable waves of Divorce Beach facing the other. By day, inexpensive boat transfers provide access to this unique beach combo and the captivating cave formations surrounding them.

The Cabo culinary game is strong, and anyone could guess seafood is a major draw (seafood tacos and Baja chocolate clams rank high on the list of musts), but fewer are aware of the region's burgeoning farm-to-table scene. Not far along the hotel corridor from Cabo San Lucas, restaurants like Flora Farms, Huerta Los Tamarindos and Acre launched Los Cabos to destination-level status among organic foodies, and these hot spots aren't just dishing out hyper-local meals. Acre,

constructed almost exclusively from materials found on the property, recently opened tree house accommodations on site, while Flora Farms takes natural relaxation to the next level with its new Farm Spa. Eclectic cocktails and cooking classes are available at all three. Nearby Todos Santos, just an hour's drive from Cabo San Lucas and well worth a daytrip for its art scene and old village feel, takes note of Cabo's farm-to-table success and adds to the region's offerings with two popular restaurants of its own: Hierbabuena and Jazamango.

What truly separates Cabo San Lucas from its sister city, San José del Cabo, is its vivacious vibe. While San José stays intentionally sleepy, Cabo San Lucas is wide awake, especially at night. Nightclubs and boisterous bars populate most of downtown Cabo, where the party gets going as early as 10 p.m. and lasts until 4 a.m. While options are seemingly endless, some of the most popular clubs include the three-story El Squid Roe for tequila tanks and table dancing; Sammy Hagar's Cabo Wabo Cantina for the best lineup of live music (though live entertainment can be found across Cabo nightly); and the waterfront Nowhere Bar, nearly as popular with locals as it is with travelers. For a classy cocktail in a more refined setting devoid of deafening bass and neon lights, go up. Rooftop hotel bars, particularly along the marina with views of twinkling lights reflecting on rippling water, offer optimal spots to sample the city's tequila and mezcal scenes in style. This is where Cabo's storied spirit of quiet elegance remains, where you can still glimpse that serene sophistication found by early visitors, high above the modern commotion but still deep in the heart of Cabo San Lucas.

Summer in the City

Berlin celebrates its rainbow colors.

BY MARK CHESNUT

BERLIN HAS BEEN AN LGBTQ cultural and social hub for decades — or even centuries, if you consider Magnus Hirschfeld founded what’s described as the world’s first “homosexual advocacy group,” the Scientific Humanitarian Committee, in Berlin in 1897.

In more recent years, Germany’s capital has continued to carve out a decidedly queer-positive identity and today is one of the top destinations for LGBTQ travelers in Europe.

The reasons for the city’s appeal with LGBTQ travelers are many, according to Christian Tanzler, spokesperson, visitBerlin, the city’s tourism organization. “It’s the special ‘Berlin spirit’ you can feel in our city: the spirit of freedom and creativity, adrenaline and ‘chill out,’” he said. “The second reason that makes Berlin so interesting are the special offerings for the LGBT traveler, which are perfectly shown in the Pink Pillow initiative.”

Indeed, the Pink Pillow Berlin Collection proves an excellent example of the city’s LGBTQ-friendliness. Organized by visitBerlin, the program showcases nearly 60 hotels that welcome all travelers. The collection includes a variety of hotel types and price points, including international brands like the Crowne Plaza Berlin City Centre, Sheraton Berlin Grand Hotel Esplanade, InterContinental Berlin and Best Western Hotel Kantstrasse.

Tanzler’s advice for first-time visitors: “Come in the summer and enjoy life outside in the city, especially in the Schöneberg neighborhood.” Schöneberg, in fact, has been a mecca for gay life since the 1920s. Gay-owned businesses here include boutiques, restaurants and bookstores, and classic gay bars and pubs abound — including Café Berio, featuring tables on the sidewalk, and HarDie’s Kneipe, boasting a popular happy hour.

The younger set often heads to Kreuzberg, home to the eclectic Bergmannkiez, and Neukölln, a countercultural hot spot where cafés and bars are among the draws. But LGBTQ residents and visitors alike can easily find plenty of activities in many neighborhoods, depending on their style and taste.

July is the biggest month on the LGBTQ calendar in Berlin. The city’s Pride Weeks span the entire month, with more than 200 cultural, political and sporting events including the Christopher Street Day Parade, Gay Night at the Zoo and the Lesbian and Gay City Festival.



CELEBRATION:
(Top to bottom)
Christopher Street
Day Parade
participant,
Christopher Street
Day Parade, couple
in Nollendorfplatz

PHOTOS: © VISITBERLIN,
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MATHESIU

Making Connections

Philadelphia International Airport commits to growth and city culture. BY ALLIE MENZIONE

PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

is the only major airport serving the nation's seventh-largest metropolitan area. It transits 30 million passengers annually, with 25 airlines, including all major domestic carriers, offering nearly 500 daily departures to nearly 130 destinations worldwide. The airport's location just seven miles from downtown Philadelphia affords convenient access to tourist sites, business centers and cultural hubs.

The airport is also self-sustaining and uses no local tax dollars to operate. As one of the region's largest economic engines, it generates \$15.4 billion and accounts for 96,300 full-time jobs annually.

PHL boasts 3.25 million square feet of terminal space encompassing seven terminal buildings with 124 boarding gates. Its top airlines include American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines and United Airlines. Among U.S. airports, PHL ranks 19th for total passengers and 16th for total movements.

PHL implements a steady progression of projects to improve the customer experience and lay the groundwork for future development. In 2010 it invested \$45 million in an expansion of Terminal E, featuring seven new gates, a 500-seat waiting area, a mini food court and new permanent artwork.

The redesigned Terminal F Hub opened in 2013, with 20 new food, beverage and retail shops; a 300-seat food court; more permanent artwork; and an enhanced bus shelter. In 2015 the E-F Secure Connector opened, allowing passengers to access all terminals and gates from the post-security side. In 2016 the new Terminal F baggage claim building opened, completing the \$127 million Terminal F renovation and expansion. The \$25 million baggage claim facility is the first LEED Gold project at the airport.

As of 2017, PHL and carrier American Airlines announced a \$900 million commitment to continue critical improvements and develop new infrastructure at PHL and Philadelphia Northeast Airport (PNE) over the next five to seven years. The projects will generate almost \$4 billion in regional economic output over a five-year period, equating to about 5,100 ongoing jobs in the same timeframe.



Part of the \$900 million investment includes a \$32.8 million redesign of Terminal B, bringing 1,100 iPads and eight new restaurants and retail offerings inside the security perimeter. Travelers can order food via iPad from surrounding eateries; the first to open will be a French pastry shop, a German beer garden and an Italian restaurant.

Philadelphia is a longstanding hub for arts, culture, history and tradition. In 2011 the dedication of the *How Philly Moves* mural by the airport and Mural Arts Philadelphia became the largest mural in the United States, occupying the greatest square footage of any project completed by the mural program. The artwork celebrates Philadelphia's dance traditions with images of 26 dancers representing a variety of dance styles on the façades of the airport's parking garages.

Philadelphia continues to welcome new carriers and routes. Between 2012 and 2017 Alaska Airlines, Spirit Airlines and JetBlue began daily and seasonal flights at PHL. In 2014 Qatar Airways became the first foreign flag carrier in more than a decade to debut here when it launched daily non-stop service to Doha (DOH). Icelandair launched seasonal service in May 2017, and Aer Lingus began non-stop flights to Dublin (DUB) in March. As of December 2017, PHL offers 122 non-stop flights to 89 domestic and 33 international destinations.

DINE AND SHOP:
*Inside Terminal
C at Philadelphia
International Airport*

PHOTO: © EQ ROY |
DREAMSTIME.COM

PHILADELPHIA
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT
phl.org

Avoid Going Viral

Protect yourself and others from enterovirus infection. BY MARY B. GALLAGHER, RN, MSN, CCRN

ENTEROVIRUSES ARE VIRUSES that enter the body through the gastrointestinal tract and live there, often moving on to attack the nervous system. These viruses are small, made up of ribonucleic acid and protein. The polioviruses are enteroviruses. In addition to the three different polio viruses, there are non-polio enteroviruses that can cause disease in humans, including coxsackieviruses and echoviruses.

Enterovirus infections are common in the United States during summer and fall. Non-polio enteroviruses are common, causing 10–15 million infections and tens of thousands of hospitalizations each year. Most infected people do not get sick or have mild illness, like the common cold. But some people experience serious complications, especially infants and people with weakened immune systems.

Infants, children and teenagers are more likely than adults to get infected and become sick because they do not yet have immunity from previous exposure to the viruses. Adults can get infected, too, but are less likely to have symptoms, or their symptoms may be milder. Symptoms of mild illness include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, skin rash, mouth blisters and body and muscle aches.

Some non-polio enterovirus infections can cause viral conjunctivitis; hand, foot and mouth disease; viral meningitis (infection of the covering of the spinal cord or brain); viral encephalitis (infection of the brain); myocarditis (infection of the heart); pericarditis (infection of the sac around the heart); acute flaccid paralysis (a sudden onset of weakness in one or more arms or legs); and inflammatory muscle disease (slow, progressive muscle weakness). Infants and people with weakened immune systems have a greater chance of experiencing these complications.

People who develop myocarditis may have heart failure and require long-term care. Some people who develop encephalitis or paralysis may

not fully recover. Newborns infected with a non-polio enterovirus may develop sepsis (the body's overwhelming response to infection, which can lead to tissue damage, organ failure and death), but this is rare. Non-polio enterovirus infections may play a role in the development of type 1 diabetes in children.

Non-polio enteroviruses can be found in an infected person's feces; eye, nose and mouth secretions such as saliva, nasal mucus or sputum; and blister fluid. You may be exposed to the virus through close contact — such as touching or shaking hands — with an infected person; touching objects containing the virus then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands; changing diapers of an infected person; and drinking water contaminated with the virus.

Pregnant women infected with a non-polio enterovirus shortly before delivery can pass the virus to their babies. Mothers who are breastfeeding should talk with their doctor if they are sick or think they have an infection.

If you become infected, you can shed the virus in your stool for several weeks or longer. You can shed the virus from your respiratory tract, such as through coughing or sneezing, for one to three weeks or less. Many people infected with non-polio enteroviruses do not have symptoms but can still spread the virus to other people. The best way to protect yourself and others is to wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using the toilet and changing diapers; avoid close contact such as touching people who are sick; and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend the following hand-washing method: Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap and apply soap. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap, including the backs of your

hands, between your fingers and under your nails. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds (hum the “Happy Birthday” song twice). Rinse your hands well under clean, running water. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air-dry them.

If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol. Alcohol-based sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations but do not eliminate all types of germs and might not remove harmful chemicals. Hand sanitizers are not as effective when hands are visibly dirty or greasy. Apply the product to the palm of one hand (read the label for the correct amount), rub your hands together and rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

There is no vaccine to protect you from non-polio enterovirus infection, nor is there specific treatment. People with mild illness caused by non-polio enterovirus infection typically only need supportive treatment for symptoms. Drink enough water to stay hydrated and take over-the-counter cold medications as needed. Most people recover completely. However, some illnesses caused by non-polio enteroviruses are severe enough to require hospitalization.

If you are concerned about your symptoms, contact your health care provider, who will assess your condition. You will be asked about your recent health history and symptoms. Non-polio enteroviruses can be detected in stool or rectal swabs and respiratory specimens. Depending on symptoms, other specimen types such as cerebrospinal fluid, blister fluid and blood can be tested. A positive laboratory test for non-polio enteroviruses from certain specimens, such as rectal or respiratory swab, does not necessarily mean the virus is the cause of infection, as the viruses can be shed for an extended time after symptoms resolve.

The content of this article is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment.

Always seek the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider with any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.



Iberia

Flying since 1927, Iberia's initial flight to New York, its first U.S. mainland destination, launched in August 1954 with the Super Constellation aircraft. From August this year, the Spanish airline will operate its New York–Madrid route with its brand-new Airbus A350-900 aircraft.

Photos: Iberia's Super Constellation (top left), interior of the Super Constellation 1954–1966 (top right), Iberia's Airbus A350-900 starting its first flight from the Toulouse factory (bottom left), and the business-class seat on long-haul flights (bottom right)

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