

Business Traveller

APRIL 2022 £4.99

ISLAND IN THE SUN

*Madeira has created a village
for digital nomads*

CELLARS IN THE SKY

*Announcing the winning
airlines of the 2021 awards*

GASTRONOMIC DELIGHTS

*A selection of new eateries
around the world*

PLUS

*Chiang Rai • Paris
• Tried & Tested reviews*

DALLAS DOWNTOWN

*The Texan city
continues its
astonishing
transformation*

THE

MAJESTIC

TE
UN
CO



Fly direct to Austin, **Virgin Atlantic style**

From 25th May, we're flying direct to Austin four days a week. Onboard, you'll find everything you need to relax, recharge, or carry on working - from inflight WiFi, to lie-flat suites, we make business travel a pleasure.

Learn more at
virginatlantic.com



REGULARS

10 UPFRONT

The latest travel news from around the globe

23 INBOX

Your online forum posts

44 OPINION

What's the state of play with Anglo-Scottish rail services?

66 4 HOURS IN... PARIS

Exploring the city's buzzy Bastille district

82 BIG PICTURE

Imagery from The Underwater Photographer of the Year 2022

FEATURES

30 LIVING THE DREAM

The draw of remote working in Madeira

38 HIGH FLYERS

Announcing the winners of our annual Cellars in the Sky airline wine awards

50 THE CHARMS OF CHIANG RAI

The transformative power of Thailand's picturesque northern province

56 LET'S EAT OUT

Our choice of top-end eateries opening up in a post-pandemic world

ON THE COVER

DALLAS REVISITED

Exploring the rejuvenated Texan city – from world-class galleries and museums to symphonies and Tex Mex cuisine



24



38



50



THE REPORT

70 TRIED AND TESTED AIRLINES

Thai Airways B777-300ER Royal Silk (business class) Bangkok-London; Finnair A330 business class London-Helsinki

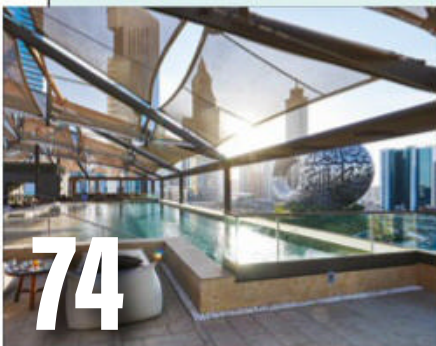


74 TRIED AND TESTED HOTELS

25 Hours Hotel Dubai One Central; The Peninsula Bangkok; Turing Locke, Cambridge; De Vere Beaumont Estate; Parkroyal Collection Marina Bay, Singapore

80 SMART TRAVELLER

Countries requiring a booster jab



WELCOME



Welcome to the April issue of *Business Traveller*. For a long time we've been looking forward to the time when Covid restrictions would be relaxed and travel could restart. That moment has finally come for many parts of the world, yet if we were looking for a bit of perspective with regards to the Covid crisis, we weren't expecting it to be in the even worse shape of the appalling tragedy of war in Europe.

We all hope that by the time this magazine appears the situation will have improved, but whatever happens, there is much we can do to help. While airlines for safety reasons avoided Ukraine, and Russian airspace was closed to foreign carriers, many airlines offered hundreds of thousands of free or massively discounted tickets to refugees once they had managed to escape to neighbouring countries. Hotel companies offered free hotel rooms, and donated to charities, while Airbnb is using its charitable arm (airbnb.org) to help house 100,000 refugees from Ukraine.

What can we do? Well donating to charities is an obvious move, as I'm sure many of us are already doing, but it is also possible to gift air miles and hotel points to charities through all major programmes, and also worth finding out which commercial organisations will match your donations to maximise their effect. And for those who think business travel – in fact, any travel, is somehow inappropriate at this time, it would be worth listening to the national tourist boards of countries across Europe. They are quite clear that tourism and business, including meetings, conferences and events, all support economies as they enter a third difficult year. Travel well, travel with thoughtfulness, but keep travelling.

Tom Otley Editorial director

IN THIS ISSUE



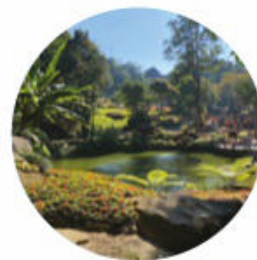
LIFE'S A BEACH

Digital nomads are flocking to the island of Madeira in the latest work-from-anywhere trend
(Page 30)



RAISE A GLASS

Celebrate the winners of the Cellars in the Sky 2021 awards for their outstanding wines
(Page 38)



CHARMING CHIANG RAI

Get off the tourist trail and explore the unique features of Thailand's northern province
(Page 50)



DINING DELIGHTS

Find your next favourite restaurant in our round-up of new dining outlets
(Page 56)

ILLUSTRATION: BENJAMIN SOUTHAN

The ASUS logo is located in the top left corner of the advertisement. It consists of the word "ASUS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

(B5302C)


ASUS ExpertBook B5

Portable power for business on the go

ASUS ExpertBook B5 is an ultraportable laptop as light as 1 kg and delivers up to 14-hour battery life, and built for business success in style. Powered by up to an 11th Gen Intel® Core™ processor for exceptional performance and optional OLED display for vivid visuals with unprecedented realism. ExpertBook B5 is your perfect portable, powerful partner for the corporate world.



* Specifications may vary
by model and region.

 **Windows 11**

ASUS recommends Windows 11 Pro for business

Windows 11 brings you closer to what you love

* Specifications may vary by model and region



ALEX MCWHIRTER

Alex has more than 50 years' experience in the business travel industry, including more than 40 years as *Business Traveller's* consumer champion. On page 44, Alex explores the Anglo-Scottish services available to travellers this year, and the ongoing competition within the rail industry.



ANNIE HARRIS

Business Traveller's art director Annie makes the magazine pop every month. Last month she travelled to Dubai to experience the newly opened 25 Hours Hotel, a 5-star hotel with design inspired by the ancient Bedouins. Did she find her creative match? Turn to page 74 to find out.



HANNAH BRANDLER

Our staff writer Hannah reports on all aspects of business travel for the magazine and website. This month she explores coffee and cultural attractions in the province of Chiang Rai in northern Thailand, see page 50, and spends four hours exploring Paris' historic Bastille neighbourhood; see page 66.



NIGEL TISDALL

Nigel is an award-winning travel writer who contributes frequently to titles including *The Telegraph*, the *Financial Times* and *Daily Mail*. He is the founder of *The Coconut Times*, an independent expert website devoted to the Caribbean. In this issue he considers the appeal of remote working from the island of Madeira; see page 30.

BENJAMIN SOUTHAN

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

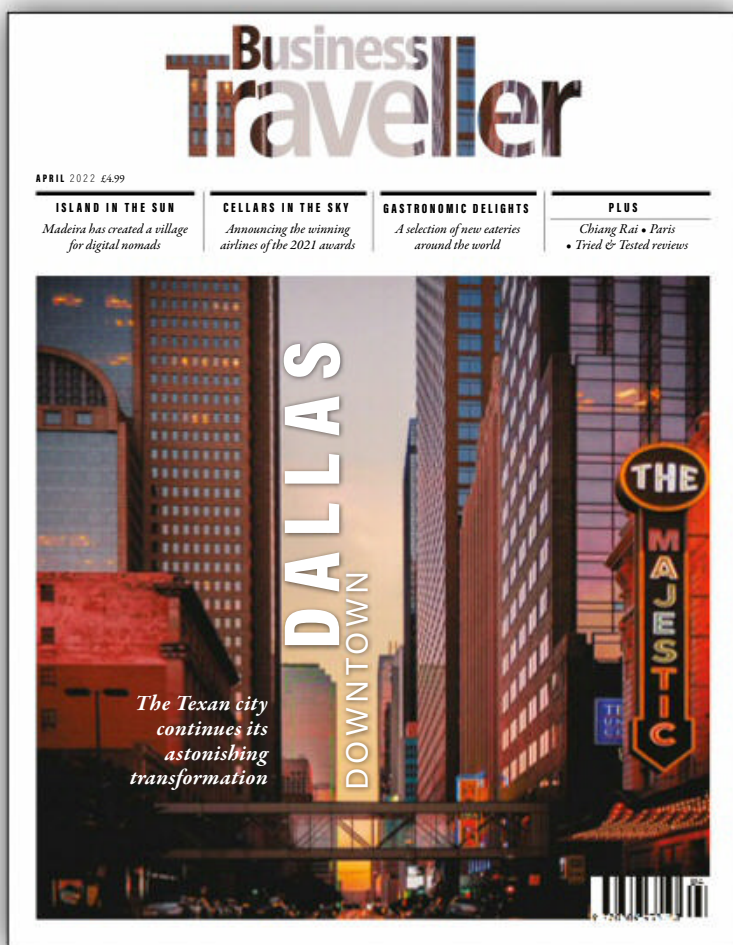
Connecting more countries than any other airline.



TURKISH AIRLINES

SPECIAL
OFFER

TRY 5 ISSUES FOR JUST £12.50!



Each issue delivered straight
to your door and free access to
the digital edition included

Visit:
businesstraveller.com/subscribe

Business Traveller

Managing director Julian Gregory
Group publisher Rania Apthorpe

EDITORIAL

Editorial director Tom Otley
Online editor Mark Caswell
Art director Annie Harris
Consumer editor Alex McWhirter
Staff writer Hannah Brandler
Contributing editor Mary Cooch
Contributor Nigel Tisdall

ADVERTISING

Head of sales Chris Davies
Sales manager UK and Europe Andy Gibson

ADMINISTRATION

Circulation and production manager Jamie Halling
Finance manager Vincent Murphy

CONTACT

Editorial tel +44 (0)20 7821 2700
Email editorial@businesstraveller.com
Twitter.com/@btuk
Facebook.com/businesstraveller
Instagram @businesstravelleruk
Advertising tel +44 (0)20 7821 2735
Email advertising@businesstraveller.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Tel +44 (0)844 477 0943
Email jhalling@businesstraveller.com

Annual subscriptions

Save 5% on a two-year subscription;
10% on a three-year subscription
UK and Republic of Ireland
One year, £42.95; two years, £81.60;
three years, £115.90
Continental Europe
One year, £65.65; two years, £124.70;
three years, £177.20
Middle East/Rest of World
One year, £78.75; two years, £149.65;
three years, £212.65

Business Traveller® is published ten times a year at our address (below). *Business Traveller*, the first magazine of its kind to be published in the UK, has the largest net sale of any publication in its field in the UK and Europe. Audited average circulation, per issue, January-December 2021: 64,847 copies. The magazine is independent of all commercial interests within the travel industry. Unsolicited manuscripts will not be accepted for publication. The opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the publishers, who cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.



Member Audit Bureau of Circulations

Business Traveller has the following international editions: Germany, Poland, Denmark, Hungary, Asia-Pacific, China, Africa, Russia, India, Netherlands, North America, Middle East.
For more information visit businesstraveller.com/our-websites
or email enquiries@businesstraveller.com

© 2022 Perry Publications Ltd – a subsidiary of Panacea Media Ltd, United Kingdom, ISSN 0309-9334

Perry Publications, 10 John Street, London WC1N 2EB
tel +44 (0)20 7821 2700
businesstraveller.com



Tools down Head down



Work away without the worry at over 800 locations

Find out more at premierinn.com/business

Premier Inn 
Rest easy



10

BRITISH AIRWAYS ADDS THIRD DAILY FLIGHT BETWEEN NEWARK AND HEATHROW

BRITISH AIRWAYS IS TO LAUNCH a new daylight service between New York's Newark airport and London Heathrow this summer.

Starting from June 6 the new service will depart Newark at 0755, arriving into London at 1955, with the US-bound leg departing Heathrow at 1910, landing into New York at 2200.

The flight will be operated by a B777-200 aircraft, fitted with BA's new Club Suite in business class.

The new Newark-Heathrow flight will join two existing overnight BA services from New York Newark – the carrier also recently resumed its daylight service from New York JFK, which departs at 0805.

BA said the additional Newark frequency meant that along with its joint business partner American Airlines it will offer “the most extensive network from the New York area to London with 15 daily departures this summer, including 11 daily flights from JFK to Heathrow and one daily flight from JFK to Gatwick”.

UPFRONT

UK AIRPORT NEWS

MANCHESTER

AIRPORT was scheduled to reopen its Terminal 3 at the end of March in preparation for Easter and to coincide with the start of the summer schedules. The terminal had been closed for large parts of the last two years as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The airport confirmed that Aurigny Airline, Blue Islands, British Airways, Eastern Airways, Loganair and Ryanair would all resume flights from Terminal 3 starting March 27.



GATWICK AIRPORT

was also set to resume operations from its South Terminal from March 27, after nearly two years of the facility lying dormant as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The reopening follows British Airways' decision to resume short-haul flying from Gatwick, along with Vueling and Wizz Air expanding their operations at the airport, and Easyjet planning to offer its busiest ever schedules from Gatwick this summer.



HEATHROW AIRPORT

plans to reopen its Terminal 4 by July this year, as part of a target to welcome 45.5 million passengers during 2022. The London hub saw just 19.4 million travellers pass through the airport last year – its lowest figure since 1972 – but said that “based on the strength of outbound leisure bookings being reported by airlines, peak days in the summer holidays could be very busy, at up to 85 per cent of pre-pandemic levels”.



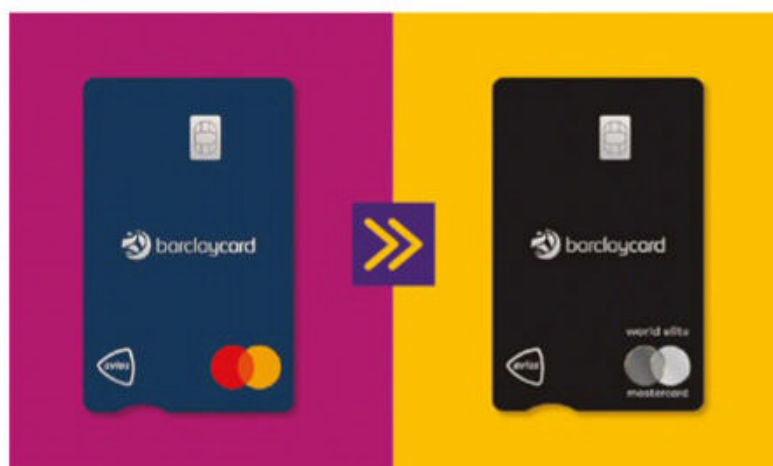
BARCLAYCARD LAUNCHES AVIOS CREDIT CARDS

BARCLAYCARD HAS LAUNCHED two new Mastercard credit cards in partnership with Avios.

The fee-free Barclaycard Avios card offers new customers 5,000 bonus Avios when they spend £1,000 in the first three months, plus one Avios for every £1 spent on the card. The Barclaycard Avios Plus card has a monthly fee of £20, and offers 25,000 welcome Avios when cardholders spend £3,000 in the first three months, plus 1.5 Avios for every £1 spent.

With the standard card, customers will receive a British Airways cabin upgrade voucher to use on an Avios Reward Flight booking when spending £20,000 on the card within 12 months, while with the Plus card this benefit will be received after £10,000 expenditure.

Holders of each card will also receive up to five months of Apple Music, Apple TV+, Apple News+ and Apple Arcade for free.



London's The Westbury to become St Regis property

MARRIOTT HAS CONFIRMED that The Westbury hotel in London's Mayfair is to become a St Regis property.

The hotel – which is located on the corner of Bond Street and Conduit Street – had been trading under Marriott's Luxury Collection brand, before closing for refurbishment last year and auctioning off its furniture and fittings.

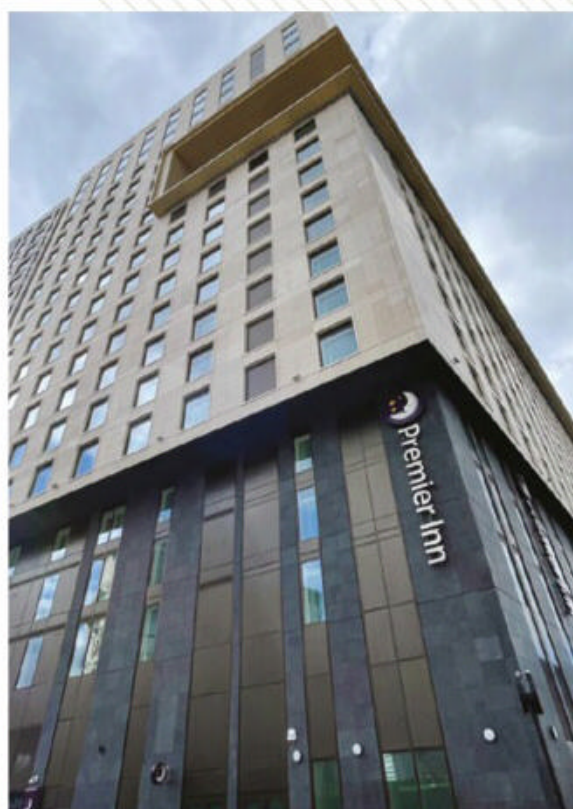
The hotel is expected to reopen in 2023 following a £90 million transformation, with an additional eighth floor being added to the existing property.

Features will include 196 rooms and suites designed by Peter Newman-Earp of Morrison Design, with interiors by Richmond International.

An extension to the rear of the property will create "enhanced public areas", and the building's facade and drop-off area will be renovated.

The Polo Bar will be retained, and there are plans for a signature restaurant, speakeasy jazz bar, fitness centre and spa.

11



Premier Inn opens 393-room Paddington hotel

PREMIER INN HAS UNVEILED its latest London property, located on North Wharf Road next to the A40, just north of Paddington Basin.

At 393 rooms the hotel is now the largest non-airport Premier Inn in Greater London, and features the group's newest Premier Plus rooms, as well as a Bar and Block restaurant.

Premier Inn London Paddington Basin is the first of three Premier Inn hotels set to open in London's Paddington/Marylebone districts in the next three years, which will add a total of over 1,000 rooms to the catchment area.

The others are Premier Inn Marylebone and a dual-branded Premier Inn and Hub by Premier Inn on Paddington's Eastbourne Terrace.

Feeling fresh



FRAGRANCE HOUSE Matière Première from master perfumier Aurélien Guichard is offering travel-sized 6ml bottles for those on the road. The perfumes can be purchased individually (£29) or you can try six different scents in the Discovery Set (£150). The bottles come with a screwable spray cap, and perfume for 100 sprays. Matière Première produces its own roses and tuberose in France's Grasse region; the perfumes are vegan, phthalate free and do not use colouring agents. Available at Selfridges.

ALEXIS JACQUIN

AMERICAN AIRLINES TO OPERATE MORE FLIGHTS FROM HEATHROW T5 THIS SUMMER

AMERICAN AIRLINES HAS OUTLINED plans to increase its presence at Heathrow Terminal 5 this summer, as part of its joint business agreement with British Airways.

The US carrier will co-locate up to 11 daily flights at Terminal 5 for the summer season, with services between Heathrow and Dallas-Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Miami and New York JFK arriving at and departing from T5.

Benefits for eligible customers will include access to BA's six lounges at T5.

The move follows the recent announcement of plans for British Airways to co-locate with American Airlines at New York JFK's Terminal 8 from December 1 this year.

AA's flights between London and Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Philadelphia, Phoenix and Raleigh-Durham will continue to arrive and depart from Heathrow T3.



12

MARRIOTT BONVOY MOVES TO FLEXIBLE POINT REDEMPTIONS



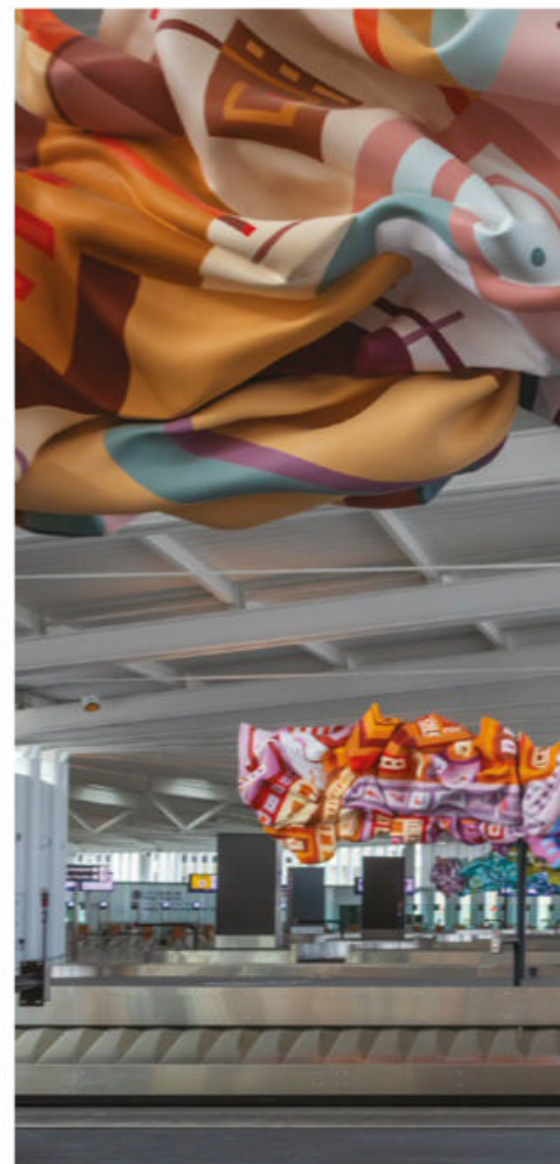
MARRIOTT HAS ADOPTED flexible point redemption rates for its Marriott Bonvoy loyalty programme.

Plans to move to dynamic redemption rates were outlined among a raft of updates to the programme announced last year, and in an update the group confirmed that the change would take effect from the end of March.

Marriott said: "Nightly redemption rates will move more closely in line with (not exactly with) hotel rates and availability, giving Marriott Bonvoy Members even more options to choose from than the current off-peak, standard, and peak rates."

Marriott added that during 2022 "nearly" all hotel redemption rates will fall within the same high low range of the current categories, although it admitted that for around 200 properties point redemption rate bounds will be between 5,000 and 30,000 points higher than they are currently.

Marriott also said: "Changes in rates for stays in 2023 above or below the high low range for stays in 2022 are planned to be incremental".



Gulf Air and Kuwait Airways to launch Manchester services

GULF AIR HAS ANNOUNCED plans to launch four new routes from Bahrain this summer, including a twice-weekly service to Manchester.

The carrier will offer flights to Manchester, Milan, Nice and Rome from June, with the Manchester route operating a B787-9 aircraft.

Meanwhile Kuwait Airways has announced 17 new routes for this summer, with Manchester gaining a thrice-weekly service (Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday) from May 1, served by the carrier's A320 neo aircraft, with 122 seats in economy and 12 in business class.

Other new routes confirmed by Kuwait Airways include Malaga, Nice, Sarajevo, Sharm El Sheikh, Alexandria, Mykonos, Bodrum, Trabzon, Vienna, Madrid, Casablanca, Kathmandu and Kuala Lumpur.

The new flights add to a growing list of Middle East destinations served from Manchester, including Dubai (Emirates), Abu Dhabi (Etihad), Tel Aviv (Easyjet), Doha (Qatar Airways) and Jeddah (Saudia).



STYLISH BUBBLY

RENOWNED JAPANESE ARTIST

Yayoi Kusama has partnered with French Champagne house Veuve Clicquot to design a limited-edition bottle. The 750ml La Grande Dame 2012 is decorated in Kusama's signature polka dots, designed to resemble champagne bubbles, while the colourful case also features the artist's floral patterns. We'll cheers to that! Available at Selfridges for £160.



13

Seattle airport set to open new International Arrivals Facility

SEATTLE TACOMA INTERNATIONAL has unveiled images of its new International Arrivals Facility (IAF), ahead of the official opening this spring.

The IAF replaces the airport's current 50-year-old customs facility, with works having added a new Grand Hall, pedestrian walkway and secure corridor.

The facility will increase the airport's international-capable gates from 12 to 20, and more than double passenger capacity from 1,200 to 2,600 passengers per hour. The IAF will also reduce minimum passenger connection times at the airport from 90 to 75 minutes.

Design features include materials reflecting the blues of the sea and sky, and the greens and organic textures of mountains and forests, and 100,000 square feet of terrazzo floor sourced from local stone, which form a rock pattern "that evokes the colours and textures of a rocky Pacific Ocean beach".

There is also a courtyard with plants and trees, designed to "give a flash of our namesake Emerald green as you exit to the rest of the airport", and a five-piece sculpture by artist Marela Zacarias over the bag claim carousels, "inspired by the colours of the waterways and sunsets in the San Juan Islands".



PORT OF SEATTLE; JOZSEF SOOS/ISTOCK

HOT SEATS

The Official Aviation Guide (OAG) revealed the ten busiest international airline routes globally last month, based on seats.

DUBAI-RIYADH

(259,832)

CAIRO-JEDDAH

(231,161)

DUBAI-LONDON HEATHROW

(220,242)

NEW YORK JFK-LONDON HEATHROW

(174,937)

DUBAI-JEDDAH

(170,264)

KUALA LUMPUR-SINGAPORE CHANGI

(152,190)

ORLANDO-SAN JUAN

(149,394)

BAHRAIN-DUBAI

(145,868)

BANGKOK-SINGAPORE CHANGI

(144,528)

DUBAI-KUWAIT

(141,964)

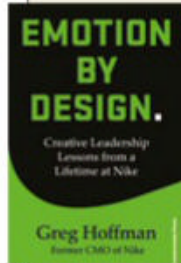
Source: OAG Schedules Analyser, data from the first week of March 2022

JAKE EASTHAM.

IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

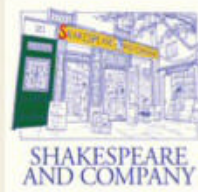
Our tips to make time fly by

READ: *Emotion by Design. Creative Leadership Lessons from a Life at Nike*, Greg Hoffman



Nike's former chief marketing officer gives away his secrets to creativity in this new book set for release on April 7.

Hoffman explains how he came up with the ideas for several of the ground-breaking brand's projects, including the London 2012 Olympics 'Find your Greatness' and the 2014 Fifa World Cup 'Risk Everything' campaigns. Perhaps after reading this book, you will find yourself inspired to start your own brand. Penguin; £20.



LISTEN: *Shakespeare and Company: Writers, Books and Paris*

This podcast features live recordings of conversations with internationally acclaimed authors, which take place in the charming English bookshop Shakespeare and Company in Paris. Hosted by the shop's literary director Adam Biles, episodes include chats with Scottish writer and director Armando Iannucci and Franco-Moroccan writer and journalist Leila Slimani, while subscribers get bonus content such as interviews from the shop's archive. Free to download.

WATCH: *The Dropout*

Amanda Seyfried stars as Elizabeth Holmes in this new miniseries based on the real-life story of the founder of blood testing company Theranos. Holmes claimed she had created a new type of blood test that would spark a revolution in diagnosing diseases, but the technology was faulty, and her career ended in a trial for corporate fraud. Elizabeth Merriweather's seven-part drama chronicles the world's youngest self-made billionaire's fall from grace. Available on Disney Plus.



COUNTRYSIDE CHARMS

THE RETREAT AT ELCOT PARK opens this month in West Berkshire, marking the second hotel from British hospitality brand The Signet Collection.

The 55-room hotel is located between Hungerford and Newbury in a Grade II-listed 18th century building, which was once home to poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. Interiors by London-based Taylor and Turner celebrate British design, with restored fittings and furnishings, Clarence House fabrics, antiques sourced by local dealers and a quote from one of Shelley's poems adorning the walls.

Rooms have been named after champion racehorses, famous jockeys, local attractions or British country pursuits, while suites pay homage to previous inhabitants.

Facilities include a ground-floor spa, Pan-Asian restaurant Yu and all-day dining brasserie 1772. The Orangery restaurant will also open at the end of the year.



Return in strength

As you return to flying, you want an airline with a regular schedule to an unrivalled hub, with the best service and award-winning seats

It is time to start flying again, and Singapore Airlines is ready to serve you. Enjoy a choice of three daily flights from London Heathrow to Singapore or fly from Manchester with three weekly services to both Singapore and Houston. From June 2, look forward to increased connectivity with services growing to four daily flights from London Heathrow. This is followed by an increase to Manchester services to four weekly flights from June 6.



Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Gold Coast, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. Best of all, customers can fly into one gateway and out of another with greater convenience. A partnership with Virgin Australia means passengers can connect onwards to 30+ domestic destinations.

Travel with Confidence

Singapore Airlines offers greater flexibility in times of uncertainty with its complimentary rebooking policy. Enjoy greater peace of mind knowing you can make unlimited changes to your booking on or before May 31, 2022. You will receive automatic updates on the status of your flight and booking on personal devices.

Singapore Airlines is committed to the safety and well-being of passengers and has implemented a suite of precautionary measures, such as enhanced cleaning, provision of care kits and more.

www.singaporeair.com



It also now has a new regional partner: Loganair, allowing customers to transfer onto Singapore Airlines' long-haul flights from Manchester airport and London Heathrow from their local airport, through a single booking. New connections include Aberdeen via Manchester to both Houston and Singapore; Inverness via Manchester to Singapore; the Isle of Man via Manchester to Singapore and Teesside via London Heathrow to Singapore.

From April 1, fully vaccinated travellers on all Singapore Airlines flights will enjoy quarantine-free entry into Singapore, without any on-arrival test. All travellers must still take a pre-departure test, meet prevailing visa requirements and have travel insurance to cover Covid-19 related medical costs. This opens up the entire Singapore Airlines network to eligible customers. For those looking to travel further across Asia, Singapore Airlines offers seamless connections at Singapore Changi Airport to an extensive network including Bangkok, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur.

Australia Reopening

Singapore Airlines has been connecting the UK to Australia via Singapore for more than 50 years and offers seamless connectivity across Australia with eight gateways: Adelaide,



SINGAPORE AIRLINES



SUSTAINABLE TRAVELLER



CUTTING AVIATION EMISSIONS

A NEW REPORT SAYS that a smarter approach to business travel will be needed if aviation is to succeed in cutting its carbon emissions.

Roadmap to Climate Neutral Aviation in Europe, published by NGO Transport and Environment, says that the industry needs to “act urgently to prevent a rapid increase in aviation emissions post-pandemic”.

It says: “The two pillars to such an approach are an end to airport expansion in Europe, which has driven much of the growth in emissions, and a reduction in corporate travel to 50 per cent of pre-Covid levels.”

Transport and Environment sees a 50 per cent reduction as possible because of “new ways to work”. It is asking governments to discourage corporate travel by limiting the use of frequent flyer programmes and / or mandating disclosure of total corporate travel emissions by companies.



BEYOND GREEN NILE SAFARI LODGE

BEYOND GREEN, the eco brand from Preferred Hotels which showcases its most sustainable hotels, has properties committed to preserving endangered species and large expanses of wilderness environments. Nestled on the southern bank of the Nile River, the family-owned Nile Safari Lodge (Murchison Falls, Uganda) is committed to preserving the surrounding natural landscapes and local wildlife. Guests support the lodge’s conservation efforts through tree planting and a “Snares-to-Wares” anti-poaching programme. This is a partnership with local artisans to create sculptures of wildlife using repurposed wire snares, all proceeds going back to the local community, directly contributing to the protection of the area’s wildlife. Each member of Beyond Green is required to adhere to more than 50 sustainability indicators that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

DELTA PLANT FOOD



DELTA IS INTRODUCING five new plant-based and vegetable dishes for Delta One and First Class customers on select flights 900 miles and longer. The items include The Impossible Burger, a green chilli spice-rubbed burger topped with caramelised onion chutney and Manchego cheese served on a brioche roll, Greek-inspired, plant-based ‘lamb meatballs’ served with spinach, rice and feta, and Cauliflower Cakes made with riced cauliflower, rapini and parmesan, served with creamy pesto orzo, roast tomatoes, and toasted hazelnuts.



**Our Journey to better.
For our planet, people & communities**

South Western
Railway



Be in control of your

Business Travel

SWR business direct allows you to book your business rail travel how you want to book your business rail travel

- No Fees
- Book Rail Travel Anywhere in Mainland UK
- E-Ticket options
- Book London Underground add-ons with ease
- Control Your Travel Policy
- Save Money
- Simple but in-depth reporting
- And More

Visit southwesternrailway.com/train-tickets/business-travel for more information



Business Direct

SUSTAINABLE TRAVELLER

L'Occitane boosts eco amenity range

THE REMOVAL OF single-use plastics isn't just coming from hotel brands. L'Occitane is launching new eco-designed amenity ranges for hotels. Three of its amenity collections are manufactured from 100 per cent recycled plastic bottles: Aromachology, Citrus Verbena and Shea Verbena, while its best-selling range, Verbena, is being relaunched for 2023 in this eco-designed packaging. The aim is to increase the number of recycled bottles used from 20 per cent in 2021 to 75 per cent in 2023, with the ultimate aim that by 2025 L'Occitane will use only recycled plastic bottles.

In addition, larger sized bottles such as its 300ml dispensers can be given a second life (or third) through the use of one litre eco-refills. This year the brand is launching a refillable dispenser made from durable stainless-steel and with a recycled and recyclable inner cartridge bottle.

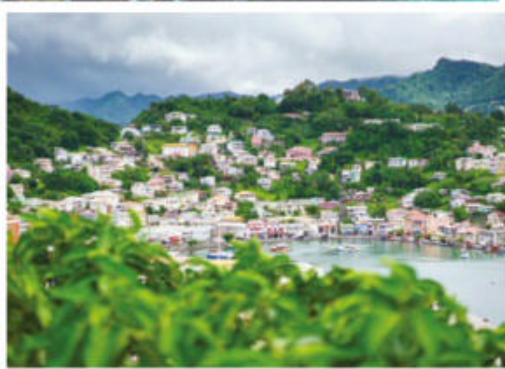
All of the hotel amenities are made at its own laboratory in Provence, in the South of France, with ingredients which are sustainably sourced.



HELPING HAND

IN A NEW INITIATIVE Grenada Tourism Authority has launched a Voluntourism programme that involves visitors engaging with the local community, culture and environment by volunteering across Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

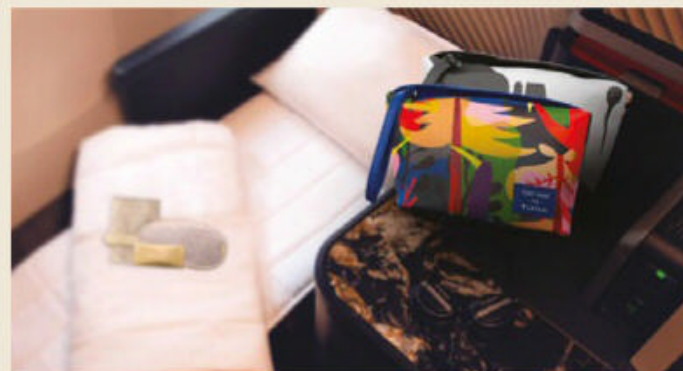
The programme includes a variety of volunteer programmes within multiple sectors across agriculture, environment, education, and health. Opportunities include helping to farm crops, tend horses and plant more flora on Myristic Mountain. Another task includes working on the Grand Anse Artificial Reef Project to build and place artificial reefs in Marine Protected Areas. Volunteers will help with underwater clean-ups, urchin and fish counts, and ID tag placement and cleaning. Alternatively, Get Swimming Grenada, a non-profit organisation that offers free swimming lessons, is seeking volunteers to offer swimming lessons to adults and children.



TRAVEL ECO KITS FROM LATAM

LATAM HAS LAUNCHED a new set of 'travel eco kits' for passengers travelling in its Premium Business cabins. The amenity kits feature designs by emerging Latin American artists and are reusable "with a very long lifespan". The bags are not wrapped in plastic as part of the airline's commitment to eliminate single-use plastic.

The kits contain a bamboo toothbrush with a sugar cane cap, earplugs wrapped in Kraft paper, and socks and eye masks made from recycled plastic. Products, including hand cream, lip balm and a towel, have been sourced from Feito Brasil – a B Corp brand specialising in vegan products. The first two amenity kits feature designs by Chilean illustrator Tomas Olivos and Brazilian artist Hamilton Aguiar, and will be available on the Santiago de Chile-Madrid and Sao Paulo/Guarulhos-Miami routes.



DELTA'S COMMITMENT TO A FUTURE OF NET-ZERO AVIATION.

Our commitment to sustainability is rooted in the idea that our customers shouldn't have to choose between seeing the world and saving the world.

We have joined the United Nations' Race to Zero campaign, the largest ever alliance committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Through partnerships like this, we are on our way to achieving a more sustainable future for flight.

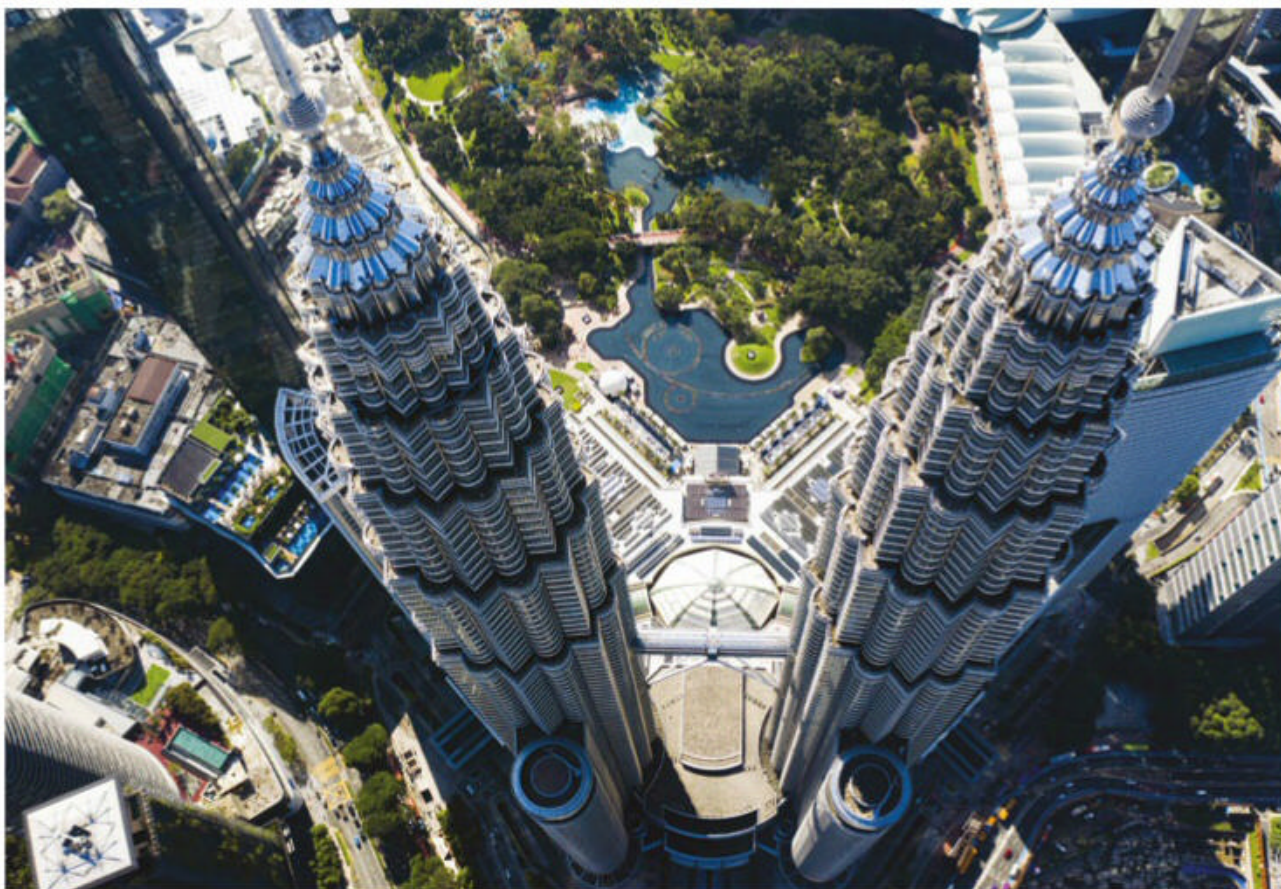
Scan to learn more:



KEEP CLIMBING



RELAUNCHED ROUTE: HEATHROW-KUALA-LUMPUR



MALAYSIA AIRLINES HAS announced plans to restore its double-daily service on the Heathrow-Kuala Lumpur route this summer.

The flag carrier moved to 11 flights per week operated by the A350-900 from March 27. The double-daily service starts from June 30, and will increase capacity on the route by more than 70,000 seats.

The move follows the announcement of the reopening of Malaysia's borders on April 1 following two years of travel restrictions. Fully vaccinated visitors will need to take a PCR test before departure and an antigen test upon arrival.

Malaysia Airlines said the frequency increase "coincides with other Southeast Asian destinations, such as Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam, that have all announced a relaxation of entry requirements for international travellers who have been fully vaccinated".

20



AIR MILES

LAIRD KAY is a Canadian photographer specialising in aviation, rail, automobiles and production lines.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO AVIATION PHOTOGRAPHY?

I had no idea it could be a career. I was geeking out at Toronto Pearson Airport, taking photos of planes overhead before they touched down. What fascinated

me were the pattern of rivets, the joinery detail of the wing to fuselage, and the wiring under the flaps and slats. After a couple years of putting the photos on social media, Lufthansa contacted me and asked if I'd work with them. It's turned into a fantastic career, and I've worked with airlines and airports globally.

WHAT'S A PERFECT SHOT?

An airplane is like a work of art – a flying sculpture, and that's how I like to photograph them. The perfect shot is a mix of graphic design, and photography, and an image that still inspires the wonderment of flight.

WHICH SHOOT LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION?

I did a shoot for Lufthansa's fleet of planes in the new livery just before the pandemic. To get some of the overhead shots, we were in a cherry picker 30m above the plane. I remember being very nervous about changing lenses at that height right above the nose of an A380.

HOW DO YOU TRAVEL WITH EQUIPMENT?

The idea of missing a shoot because of lost luggage terrifies me, so I have all my camera gear in a carry-on.

FAVOURITE AIRCRAFT?

The 747. It's the first plane I flew on, allowed people to easily travel around the globe, and is instantly recognisable from that top deck and nose. And I was fortunate to photograph the delivery flight of the Lufthansa retro livery 747 a few years ago, so it is close to my heart. It will always be The Queen of the Skies.

AND AIRPORT?

Singapore Changi airport. The futuristic architecture is jaw dropping. It has so many plants in the interiors, so when you disembark it really is a breath of fresh air inside the airport.

MOST REWARDING TRAVEL EXPERIENCE?

When I was young, I used my pocket money to buy my first

camera from Schiphol airport for a trip to South Africa. I remember the excitement of capturing moments, sights and landscapes, and the anticipation of getting film rolls developed. The cameras have changed over the years, but that thrill is a constant on every trip.

AND MOST CHALLENGING?

Language can sometimes be a challenge – but thank goodness for Google translate.

DREAM DESTINATION?

I'd love to ride and photograph the epic train journeys of the Orient-Express, Rovos Rail or The Royal Scotsman.

INDISPENSABLE TRAVEL GADGET?

My Air Canada amenity kit.

IFE PICK?

A window seat view is my happy place.

Visit [businesstraveller.com](https://www.businesstraveller.com) for the full interview.



Advertorial Feature

THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF THE LUGGAGE TAG IS HERE! retreev launches their SMART tags in 2022!

We've all experienced that horrible feeling when our luggage doesn't arrive on the carousel. Thankfully, over the past 18 months **Retreev** has been pushing forward to launch their range of SMART Luggage Tags! Retreev tags combine function and form to allow even the most discerning Business Traveller to make their Black or Blue suitcase unique as well as usher in new technology!

Retreev was designed to help people retrieve their luggage, and be the next evolution of luggage tag. With integrations into the airport tracing system (World Tracer) and a multi-language messaging system, Retreev helps people be contactable anywhere in the world whilst **Protecting their Identity** and to be part of the airport eco-system when their luggage is delayed or lost by an airline/ airport!



New Tech - The tag combines NFC and QR Code ID technology, which allows anyone that finds a tag (or bag) to simply tap or scan the tag. The finder is taken to the Retreev website to populate a simple Return Form. The owner receives a text and email that their tag / bag has been found – allowing them to **"Retreev"** their luggage!

Tracking vs Tracing - Tracking tags certainly meet a need when looking for a tv remote or keys lost in the couch. **But** when it comes to travel and your luggage, that's where Retreev ID Tracing Tags kick in to help you when your luggage lands up in a different city or even a different country.

The tracing tag allows anyone that handles or finds your luggage to capture the Unique ID on the tag onto the Airline/ Airport Tracing system (**World Tracer**) or complete the **Retreev Online Report** – the owner will then receive the message. You as the owner of the luggage can take it a step further by including the Unique ID on the Missing Baggage Report when reporting your lost bag to the airline. This allows for a more exact match and as a traveller more input into the process.

Simple to Setup - Over the past 18 months, NFC and QR Code usage have become the norm so the adoption of the tech is easy to see. The tags are easy to use and setup. Simply tap or scan the QR Code on the tag and fill out your Profile with your Contact Details. These can be updated at anytime by logging into your profile and you can have a secondary contact for those long-haul trips!

GET 25% OFF

Any tag/s as a Business Traveller reader at www.retreev.com.

Simply **Scan the QR Code** or use discount code:

BUSINESSTRAVEL at Check out!



* **Billboard your brand** – help your customers find their luggage and your brand in the process. Loyalty programs, tradeshow giveaways, gifts for clients, executives, employees, or for direct mail targeting Partner with Retreev – info@retreev.com

WHAT IS AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,
providing you various content:
brand new books, trending movies,
fresh magazines, hot games,
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



AVXLIVE:ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>

LOST IN TRANSLATION



Idioms from around the world that have us scratching our heads. This issue, it's a French expression.

Phrase: Les carottes sont cuites

Literally: The carrots are cooked

Meaning: It's no use crying over spilt milk

Origin: Supposedly began in the 18th century but became popular during the Second World War when the Free French Forces in London broadcast the saying on BBC radio as part of coded messages to the French Resistance that the Normandy landings were going to take place in June 1944.

TIME OUT

Our pick of events taking place around the world

DOMESTIC: THE BURRELL COLLECTION, SCOTLAND

The museum in Glasgow's Pollok Country Park reopened at the end of last month following a six-year £68 million refurbishment by architects John McAslan and Partners. The museum, which is home to almost 9,000 items collected by Sir William Burrell and his wife Constance, features artworks ranging from ancient prehistoric artefacts to Chinese pottery and porcelain, and paintings by Impressionists including Monet and Degas. The refurbishment has opened up over one-third more of the Grade A-listed building, allowing items which have not been seen for decades to go on display, with a total 225 displays across 24 galleries. The museum has also introduced digital elements such as video walls, and sustainable features. Free to visit.



SHORT HAUL: FLORALIEN, BELGIUM, APRIL 29 - MAY 8

The port city of Ghent is hosting the 36th edition of its floral festival, following a hiatus since 2016. This year's event is themed 'my paradise, a worldly garden' and draws inspiration from the Ghent Altarpiece by the Van Eyck brothers and a print of Ghent bishop Antoine Triest's garden. Workshops, pop-up events and installations will take place across the ICC buildings, the Floralien hall and the Kuipke velodrome, and visitors will also be able to discover the latest developments in trends, research and innovation in the horticultural and greenery sector. Tickets start from €27.



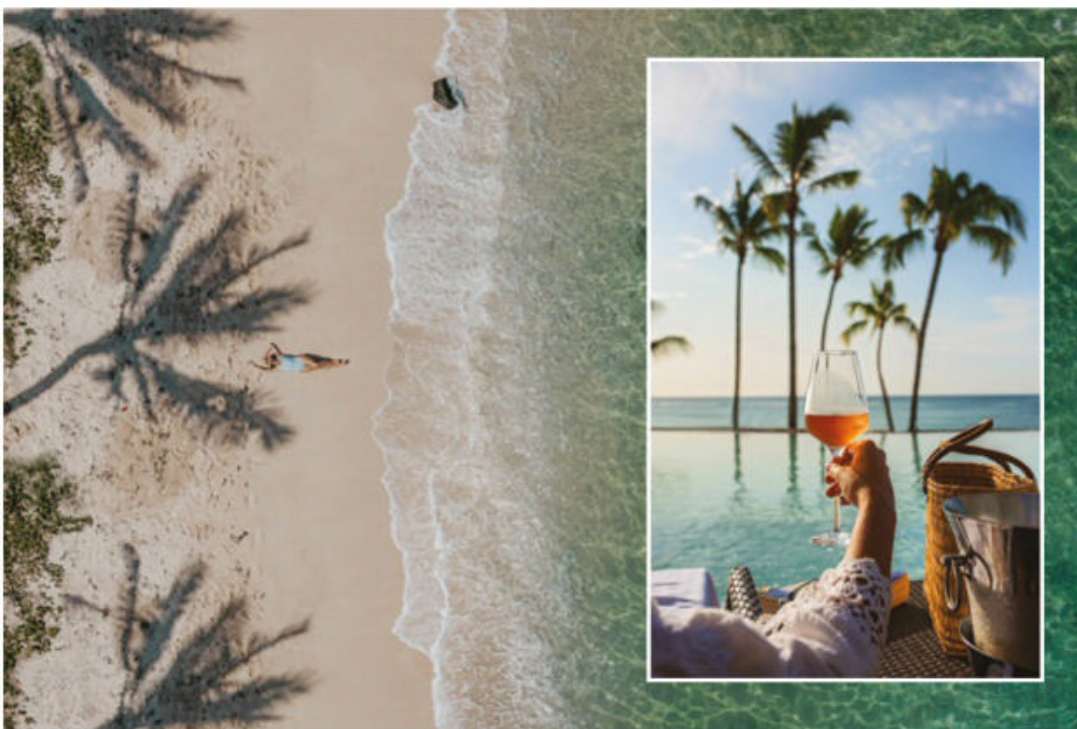
LONG HAUL: NEW ORLEANS JAZZ AND HERITAGE FESTIVAL, UNITED STATES, APRIL 29 - MAY 8

The 52nd edition of this annual festival, presented by Shell, continues to celebrate the culture of Louisiana over the course of two weekends at the Fair Grounds Race Course, ten minutes from the French Quarter. This year sees performances by The Who, Stevie Nicks, Foo Fighters and Lionel Richie, as well as booths celebrating Louisiana cuisine, and arts and crafts from both local and international artisans. Tickets from US\$80.



Business Traveller COMPETITION

WIN A THREE-NIGHT STAY AT LE MERIDIEN ILE MAURICE



BUSINESS TRAVELLER has teamed up with Le Méridien Ile Maurice on the northwest coast of Mauritius to offer one lucky reader and a guest a three-night stay in a deluxe room with breakfast. The hotel is located along 1km of sandy beach and all guests benefit from the breathtaking view over the Indian Ocean directly from their private balcony.

For the full terms and conditions and to enter, visit businesstraveller.com/competitions

Join the debate

READERS SHARE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCES AND IDEAS

BUSINESSSTRAVELLER.COM/FORUM

ETIQUETTE

→ ESSELLE

About to take my first long-haul flight for over two years, and currently sitting in the first class lounge of a famous airline. Half of the passengers are busy shouting into their phones at high volume. It didn't use to be like this, or have I become grumpier over the last two years?

→ FRDOUGAL

It's been like this long before the pandemic. Just that entitled bunch (I won't marginalise it to a specific generation as I've seen older people who should know better behaving with far less consideration for others) who feel it's acceptable to Facetime in public, use their tablets without headphones, etc.

→ _GLBETRKKR_

Even if they have headphones on, they're speaking in a high tone. You don't need to be shouting to make a point.

→ MARTYNSINCLAIR

Thank goodness VOIP calls are not allowed inflight... When there were telephones in aircraft seats (I think there still are) – they were never used.

→ NEVERECONOMY

Martyn – I was on an AA transatlantic night flight a couple of years ago where a passenger did conduct a very long VOIP call and the crew did nothing, so we are not totally safe from that. US flights have long had the "no volume control" issue, but with phones it is now everywhere. Ah for the days when people wore a suit and tie to fly and behaved like my dad. Now most of them behave like my dog.

→ GINANDTONIC

Are they sitting down, or pacing up and down the lounge as many do so everyone gets a chance to enjoy the disturbance?

→ TOMOTLEY

In the new Centurion Lounge at Heathrow T3 there's a special room for people who want to make phone calls. Of course it would rely on staff directing people into it, which seems unlikely.

I was in the Centurion Lounge in Dallas

recently, and the level of noise from some people (both on the phone and just talking with colleagues) was unbelievable – just no volume control at all.

→ ALANORTON1

I was on a domestic US flight a couple of days ago and the passenger behind me was watching a programme on his handheld device, not using headphones, volume up – which I only noticed as we came into land and I took my headphones off. Lack of

self-awareness or a gradual slide to 'I'll do as I please and I couldn't care less about anyone else'? Etiquette is certainly on the wane.

Boarded last as just had my laptop bag and there had been an altercation between passengers over overhead bin space.

I think this is more of a US issue as people like to bring the kitchen sink on board with them.

→ ACANADIANTRAVELLER

It's that increasingly prevalent mentality (and it's so terribly sad): 'Everyone has rights; nobody has responsibilities.' Be kind. Be considerate.

→ DAVIDSMITH2

Unless I am self-evidently going on holiday (eg, to Gran Canaria) I still wear a jacket and tie to travel. People may laugh but I do

find it helps. At smaller airports you get the eye of people quicker, which is particularly useful if you want to ask if there is a separate business class check-in. At check-in it could (occasionally) get you an extra couple of kilos on your luggage with no questions asked. At immigration, it creates a positive impression and generally I think people are more polite. All that, mainly for sake of a tie...

→ CWOODWARD

Surely it is the airline's responsibility to promote (and police) a congenial atmosphere in both cabins and lounges if they have any interest in their customer's comfort. Major airlines have been slow to understand that noise pollution from uncaring passengers has become an epidemic over the past five years or so. However now that this nuisance has become so prevalent there are, I believe, commercial opportunities in promoting a congenial atmosphere. Asian airlines make some effort. Japan Airlines, in particular, seems to promote a peaceful atmosphere but then again this may be more due to the politeness of the Japanese.

This is a very competitive business and carriers that make efforts to tackle this will be noted and will, I am sure, gain business from frequent flyers. Here in Hong Kong where we have many members clubs, the use of mobile phones is banned in most areas, including bars and restaurants (and strictly policed). In many years I have never seen any problem arise and visitors accept the policy without complaint – because the rules are clear and properly policed.

Airlines were forced into banning smoking in aircraft and lounges and now it is the norm – is this so different?

'Airlines were forced into banning smoking and now it is the norm – is this so different?'

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES
ON OUR FORUM
**BUSINESSSTRAVELLER.COM/
FORUM**

DESTINATION


DALLAS

revisited

24

APRIL 2022

[businesstraveller.com](https://www.businesstraveller.com)



Investment and redevelopment have transformed Dallas into a thriving city in which arts and culture abound, and there are fabulous places to eat at the end of a long day's fantastic sightseeing

THIS PAGE:
Downtown Dallas has been rejuvenated over the past 25 years into the flourishing district it is today

WORDS TOM OTLEY

Dallas comes with more preconceptions than most US cities, and most of them are wrong. It's a major conurbation, with the greater Dallas area home to well over seven million people and growing quickly, yet you could walk around Downtown all day and wonder where all the workers are. The regional offices of major financial institutions are present; there are new and refurbished hotels, bars and restaurants, yet the vanishingly small number of shops (apart from the beautiful original 1914 Neiman Marcus building on Main Street) shows that people come here to work and then leave in the evening, heading to the suburbs.

What makes it even more surprising is that pre-Covid, 27.7 million people visited Dallas annually for a total economic impact of US\$8.8 billion. In the last 25 years over US\$2.5 billion has been invested in Downtown Dallas and the population almost tripled between 2000 and 2010, and now stands at 13,000 people.

What's also unexpected is there so much to see and do in the centre of Dallas – shopping aside. Within walking distance of Downtown you have world class art galleries and museums, interesting architecture, successful urban regeneration and sites of real historical interest including, of course, Dealey Plaza and the Sixth Floor Museum located on the top of the infamous Book Depository from where JFK was thought to have been shot. You'll also get a warm welcome from Texans.

DINING IN STYLE

To dispel the last preconception, the only cowboy hats and boots we saw during our stay were on smartly dressed ladies out on a Friday night in the exclusive Monarch restaurant. This glamorous, deliberately over-the-top, wood-fired, modern Italian restaurant is on the 49th floor of the →

newly reopened and refurbished The National, formerly the First National Bank Tower. If you prefer Japanese cuisine, take the stairs to Kessaku on the 50th floor and walk around the entire building with unrivalled views of Dallas at night, seeing as far as Fort Worth on a clear evening.

The National Bank building was designed by architect George Dahl in the mid-1960s but had been empty since 2010 before undergoing a US\$460 million restoration. It now has 324 apartments, four restaurants and a 219-room hotel as well as some office space. However, walking around it the first impression is the nine-floor-high base to the building which has a dazzling façade of 17,000 pieces of marble from the same quarry as the Parthenon (nothing understated here). The skyscraper rises above this in dark glass with white detailing (apparently to resemble bankers' suits). It had lain empty for over a decade before refurbishment. On the ground floor there are several shops including Lucchese, where you can buy off-the-shelf Texan fashion as well as made-to-measure boots – they can take up to six months to make, though – and there's a flower shop, barber and small art gallery. At the moment the apartments are available for rent in the hope that people will then be tempted to buy, though with monthly rent starting at more than US\$2,500 per month, other districts might provide more affordable homes for young upwardly mobile urbanites. Meanwhile, Downtown needs to continue its regeneration.

Dallas was founded in the 1840s and owes its early development as a trading hub through the railroad network. The discovery of oil and gas in the early 20th century powered its growth, with the financing and associated wealth helping to create the city that is still in evidence today. For the visitor, the billions spent on the centre of Dallas in recent years means it is possible to enjoy buildings restored to their full glory. The Statler – originally The Statler Hilton when it opened in 1956 – has a fabulous mid-century glass and porcelain exterior with a lovely arc to the frontage. Its diner, Overeasy, is a good spot for breakfast. Next door is the 1953 Central Library, like the Statler and the National, designed by George Dahl, and now home to the *Dallas Morning News*.

It's not all history, though. A new addition to the centre is AT&T Discovery District. We sat there one warm February afternoon and watched the preparations for the NBA All-Star Game on the giant screen, sipping drinks

When finished, Downtown will have added 23 acres of green space over the past 15 years

BELOW: Central Library, now occupied by *Dallas Morning News*
BELOW RIGHT: The Statler hotel is a restored mid-20th century building



bought from one of the multiple outlets of the newly built Exchange on the Square. To one side is the 1931 Art Deco-style Dallas Power and Light Building, now home to Pegasus City Brewery's taproom (its original Brewery Tap House is still open in the nearby Design District). Then there is the Adolphus Hotel, originally built by the founder of the Anheuser-Busch brewery, Adolphus Busch, in Beaux Arts style, and now majestically restored and part of Marriott's Autograph Collection.

AN UPTOWN WHIRL

Downtown shades into Uptown as you walk towards the Arts District, where essential stops are the Dallas Museum of Art with a permanent collection of more than 25,000 pieces along with various visiting exhibitions, and the Renzo Piano-designed Nasher Sculpture Center. If you have time, visit the smaller Crow Museum of Asian Art to see its exquisite collection of lacquer and jade objects, and if you have a science bent, or better still have youngsters with you, the Perot Museum of Nature and Science is in a Brutalist-style building with a unique glass-sided escalator high up on one wall. The expansive space holds enough interactive exhibits, and dinosaur skeletons, to keep the most hyperactive child occupied for a morning. In the evenings, there is the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center where on a Saturday evening, we watched the Dallas Symphony Orchestra in a programme of Tchaikovsky and Bruch, while a Sunday matinée offered *Madame Butterfly* in the neighbouring Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House.

If that all sounds a little high brow, visit Deep Ellum, which takes its name from its main drag – Elm Street – that runs into Downtown. It is a low-rise neighbourhood



ABOVE LEFT:
Colourful artwork
in Deep Ellum
ABOVE RIGHT:
The Perot Museum of
Nature and Science
RIGHT: A live
performance
at the Crow Museum
of Asian Art



of bars, clubs, independent shops and boutiques, along with some great restaurants, including a few with extensive vegetarian and even vegan menus, which in Texas really is saying something. Although if you want excellent smoked meat, Pecan Lodge was doing great business when we walked past (no queue, but it was late-afternoon by then) and is famed for a 13-hour brisket.

Many of the immediate attractions of Dallas are easily walked and, in a piece of visionary city planning, Klyde Warren Park has been created over the Woodall Rodgers Freeway which means you can walk from Downtown to Uptown without noticing the freeway. On a Sunday morning we watched a friend take part in an annual 5km run starting in the park, which is being extended west towards Field Street to open an extra space that will be called The Jacobs Lawn (the plan also includes a three-level enclosed special events pavilion and an ice-skating rink).

FURTHER AFIELD

That evening we had margaritas outside under a warming gas burner at El Camino followed by a Tex Mex meal, while another day we used the same route to walk further and reach the beginning of the Katy Trail, a 5.6km stroll along the former Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad, commonly called the K-T and eventually the Katy. The trail takes you up to Knox, a superb example of urban regeneration connecting the parks north of Dallas and allowing you to look into backyards, people-watch and stop off at the Ice House, which is a beer garden, and burger and Tex Mex restaurant. The Katy Trail starts at its southern end at Harwood Park which is also undergoing

development; the last of eight parks being completed. When finished, Downtown will have added 23 acres of green space in the city's core over the past 15 years.

Visiting other districts close to Downtown is more challenging. In theory, the Dallas Area Rapid Transport (DART) system ought to be the means of exploring neighbouring districts. It connects the massive airline hub of Dallas Fort Worth (home to American Airlines), but we were warned off using it by locals for our first ride into town from the airport and instead got an Uber. Then when visiting local attractions and chatting with Texans (everyone is very friendly and helpful), they all indicated that we should not use the DART; advice that I assume is linked to the number of the city's homeless and vulnerable people who congregate at the stations. Watching the empty DART trains passing every few minutes over a five-day period, their smartly liveried but largely empty carriages gliding by on rails and negotiating the city centre streets, it seemed a missed opportunity. We were told at busy times pre-Covid some used it, but the idea of it being a mass transit system clearly hasn't been realised. The convenience of car travel, ease of parking and the ubiquitous freeways all undermine the case for it, as did its speed – it is slow over longer distances. For visitors to use the Go Pass app and so enjoy 'contactless' travel, you require a zip code, though we

HOTELS

Dallas has a total of 34,000 hotel rooms, with 15,000 in the Downtown core, and another 5,000 coming (Dallas is in fifth place nationally for the number of rooms under construction). Reviews of the Adolphus, an Autograph Collection Hotel, and The Thompson Dallas will be in *Business Traveller's* May edition. New hotels include:

HARWOOD HOTEL

This new 20-storey luxury hotel is in under construction in Uptown's Harwood District, close to the American Airlines Center and the Dallas Arts District. Architectural renderings show a sculptural white building with cantilevered upper floors, and a swimming pool and garden on the roof.

JW MARRIOTT

This new 15-storey hotel is scheduled to open in 2023 in the heart of Dallas' Downtown Arts District. The 283-room hotel is set to feature a 2,300 sqm grand ballroom and meeting space, spa, restaurant, lobby bar, fitness centre, and a rooftop pool deck and bar.

INTERCONTINENTAL DALLAS

The new hotel will be at Cityplace Tower, in Uptown, with panoramic views of the Dallas skyline. Plans include a rooftop infinity pool and lounge plus over 1,950 sqm of event space.

FOUR SEASONS

Coming in 2025, a Four Seasons 240-room, resort-style hotel in Dallas's Turtle Creek neighbourhood, close to the original Rosewood Hotel, situated between Uptown and Highland Park. This will be a US\$750 million high-rise with a rooftop pool and garden space.



TOP: A DART train
ABOVE: An exhibit at Dallas Art Museum

found a way around that by simply putting in our hotel's zip code, and I was told later through the help chat (after we had left Dallas) that you could simply enter '00000' into that to then use the app.

ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT

Instead, we used Uber a lot, and when it was sunny, walked back from Deep Ellum under the North Central Expressway which is several lanes of elevated freeway. It was a short and pleasant walk, but you certainly wouldn't do it at night. There are plans for John W Carpenter Park, which was just north of where we were, to be extended under the freeway and provide a more scenic way of connecting the two, and more generally, finding a way of making Dallas walkable. To the south of here, the area between Commerce, Main and Cesar Chavez has been renamed East Quarter and there is development and redevelopment taking place, including 300 Pearl with 18,600 sqm of office space, 2,322 sqm of retail space, and 336 luxury apartments, and 2200 Main, a former 1930s Cadillac manufacturing facility, which is available for lease.

The other emphasis should be on the airport, which though it has had significant investment still has some very long queues for visitors – 90 minutes for US immigration isn't unknown, but the airport wasn't busy, just badly organised and with only a couple of immigration booths open. Dozens of international travellers were missing their connections, yet there was just a shrug from those attendants who could have helped.

There's no doubt that there is both the determination – and the optimism – to fix a lot of these problems. The redevelopment of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center has been approved (it will remain open while this occurs), and with the Dallas Fort Worth population projected to reach 10 million people in the 2030s, ranking in size behind only New York City and Los Angeles, the prospects are bright. **BT**

DALLAS CITYPASS

The website citypass.com offers access to four sites for US\$49 per person – Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and Reunion Tower GeO-Deck, with a choice of two out of the following three: Dallas Zoo, George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, or Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum.

la Vie®

FUNCHAL
SHOPPING CENTER

WE ARE THE COLORS OF FUNCHAL

IN THE HEART OF MADEIRA ISLAND



flying tiger
copenhagen

SCALPERS

UNITED COLORS
OF BENETTON.

TOUS

Massimo Dutti

CORTEFIEL

Pepe Jeans
LONDON

SKECHERS



WORDS NIGEL TISDALL



REMOTE WORKING



31

Living the dream

The popularity of remote working has prompted the island of Madeira to create a village for digital nomads



The Covid-19 pandemic has been good news for digital nomadism, which is defined as working online without a fixed address. We have now all had a go at working from home, and the idea of abandoning office life to roam the world with laptop in hand no longer seems so far-fetched. So why not upgrade your kitchen table to a sunny island? Clock up the obligatory Teams calls, fire off your emails capitalising on any time difference, then hit the beach.

This is the live/work/move dream powering the world's first Digital Nomad Village which launched in February 2021 on the Portuguese island of Madeira. "The vision is to decentralise from big cities," explains Gonalo Hall, a consultant on the project, "and create small communities where we can have deep connections". He previously

worked on schemes to repopulate abandoned rural villages in Italy with remote workers, and believes the pandemic has merely accelerated what was a growing trend towards living and working in a much freer way.

It certainly helps that this pioneering community is located in Ponta do Sol, one of the sunniest spots on this magnificently scenic island. Exploiting a gap in the cliffs, the tranquil, palm-shaded town borders a beach of grey volcanic pebbles with a smattering of small shops and restaurants gathered around the John Dos Passos Cultural Center. Here, up to 57 registered nomads can work for free in a modern building framed in attractive gardens, an airy space that boasts a robust 500Mb download/300Mb upload wifi connection. There are a few rules: one is that all calls must be taken outside so as not to disturb coworkers, and the centre is only open on weekdays from 9am to 6pm. →

DIGITAL NOMAD DESTINATIONS

BULGARIA

A ski resort in the Pirin Mountains is an established destination for digital nomads, thanks in part to Bulgaria's attractive income tax rate of 10 per cent. Co-founded in 2016 by German entrepreneur Matthias Zeitler, coworking Bankso is a community of more than 100 members who use workspaces varying from 'quiet' to 'social' along with a forest 'playground'. coworkingbankso.com

CANARY ISLANDS

Nomadcity helps remote workers get down to business

in several locations on Gran Canaria. Advice is backed up with case studies and invitations to join local nomad communities. nomadcity.org

CROATIA

Launched in October 2021, Digital Nomad Valley is based at a beachfront resort 30 minutes' walk from the centre of World Heritage-listed Zadar. There is self-catering accommodation from studios to three-bedroom units, plus a coworking space in the hotel and free gym access. workremotelycroatia.com

MADEIRA

Headquartered in Ponta do Sol, this government-backed scheme offers nomads support at five locations, including the sister island of Porto Santo. digitalnomads.startupmadeira.eu

PORTUGAL

Some 50km northwest of Lisbon, Ericiera is a surfing hotspot with a growing digital nomad scene. There are standalone coworking spaces, including Kelp Cowork (kelpcowork.com), and others with accommodation included, such as stylish Sunago House,

a 15-minute bike ride from the beach. sunagohouse.com

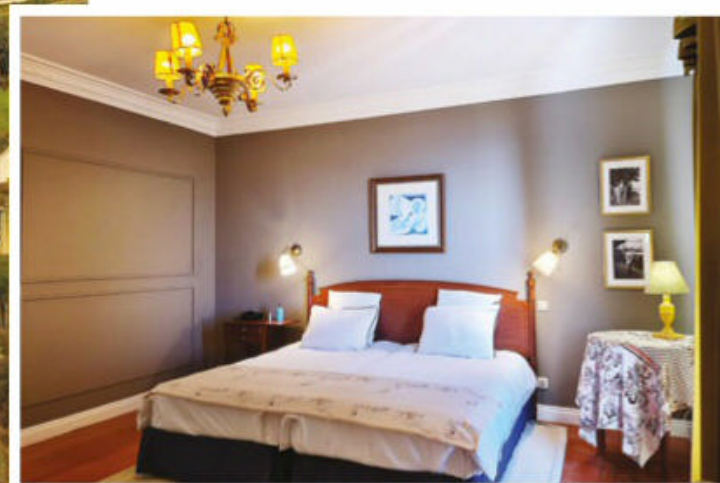
SPAIN

Close to Ourense in the north of the country, Sende is home to a rural coworking community started in 2013 that has been visited by 3,500 nomads from over 50 countries. Open from June to November it is "an experience, not a hotel" with a communal kitchen and accommodation in five village houses. A second location in Setubal, on the Portuguese coast near Lisbon, is in development. sende.co



PICTURED:
Ourense in
northern Spain

PAULOMACHADO/ISTOCK; PAMEL GAUL/ISTOCK; GAUDILAB/ISTOCK



Villa Alto
boutique hotel

villaaltoboutiquehotel.com
info@villaaltoboutiquehotel.com

Magical Madeira

City or countryside? What a burden it is, choosing between the two, right? We got you covered. Sé Boutique Hotel, in partnership with Villa Alto Boutique Hotel, gives you the chance of having both during your stay. SBH, right at the heart of Funchal, allows you to see everything the city has to offer, on foot! Villa Alto, a rural manor, in beautiful Ponta do Sol, puts you in touch with raw, unfiltered, Nature. It's the best of both worlds, really! Either way, you are guaranteed to have a good time with us. This is it, free yourself from the shackles of your daily routine and come have a blast on the Atlantic's most beautiful island.



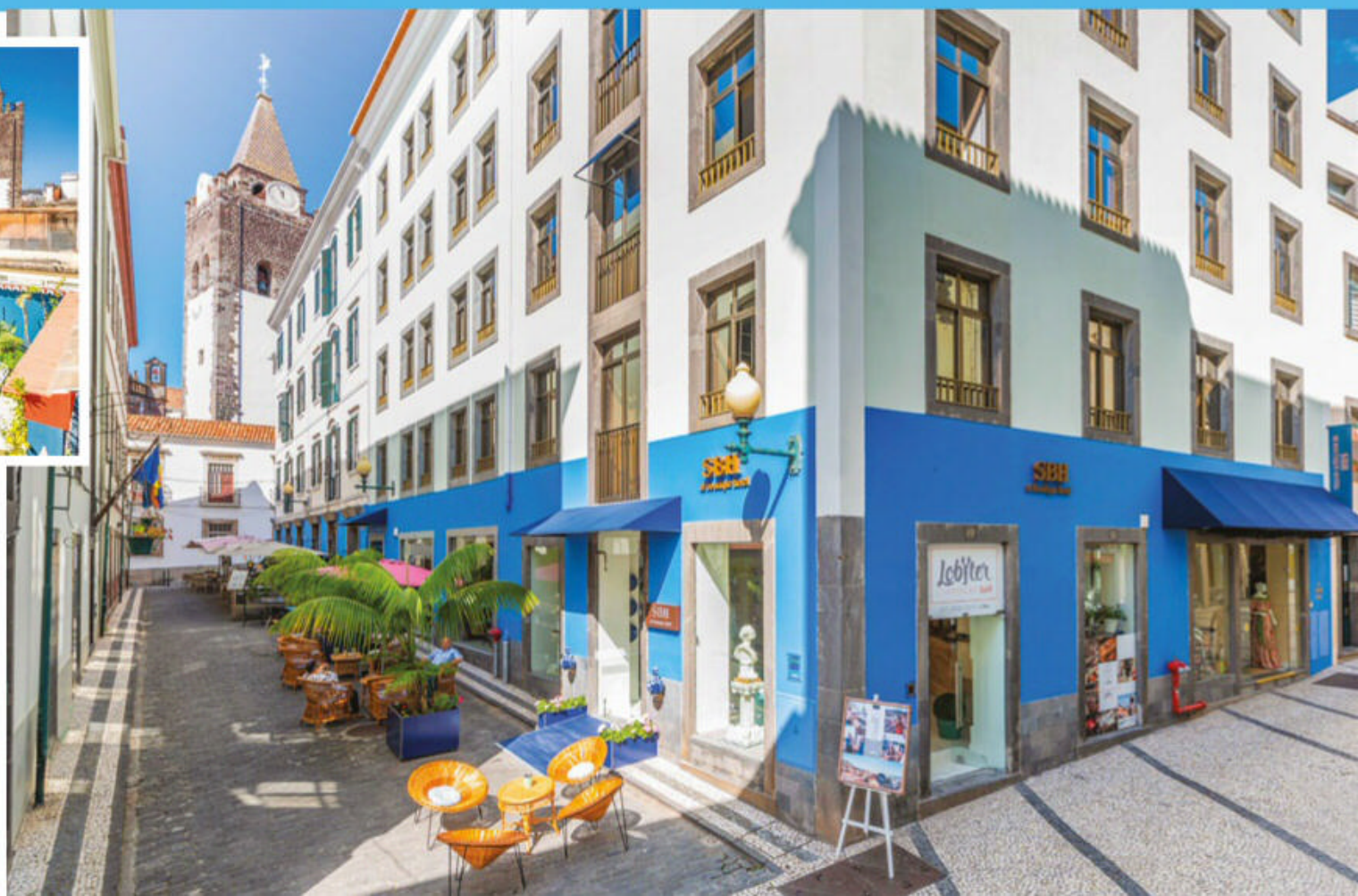
visit
Portugal

Get 15% booking Discount
Quote: BTM2022

For more information
00351 969 899 725



seboutiquehotel.com
email: reservas.sbh@seboutiquehotel.com
seboutiquehotel.com





‘The vision is to create small communities where we can have deep connections’

Despite the warm sun and radiant blue sky outside, the mood within is serious. Headphones on, noses to screens, tap-tap-tap... “We get lawyers, doctors, accountants, journalists, families, millionaires, employees of big companies – everyone!” enthuses Hall. By March this year 11,600 workers had registered, with the majority from the US, Brazil and UK. Of these, more than 5,200 have actually visited the island, with around half coming for their first taste of digital nomadism. Most stay a couple of months and, Hall insists, are “definitely not here to party”. There are lots of social activities, though, from jogging and skill-sharing sessions to a regular Friday night get-together.

“I’m working way more than I expected,” reflects 29 year-old Finn Cahill-Webb, a Berlin-based Londoner who is teaching himself video editing. “The nature here is gorgeous and you meet so many people.” Another fan is 30 year-old Pelin Duran from Copenhagen, who works as a translator and had never visited Portugal before. She

loves the warmth of the island and the chance to walk its celebrated levadas, a network of level footpaths following irrigation channels deep into its mountains and forests.

What does Madeira get out of this? “We estimate the benefits to the local economy to be around €1.5 million a month,” reports Micaela Vieira from Startup Madeira, the regional BIC (Business Innovation Center) behind the project. Nomads spend around €1,800 a month on accommodation, transport and meals, and the scheme has been so successful it is guaranteed to continue until at least 2024. Hall is working on a similar initiative in Cape Verde, and there is a hope that these two Atlantic archipelagos, along with the Azores and Canary Islands – which are collectively known as Macaronesia – will one day become a wired and welcoming region as vibrant and popular as the Caribbean.

With its local hosts, organised events and supportive Slack community, Madeira offers budding nomads the softest of introductions to this seductive lifestyle, but elsewhere the opportunities can be less structured. Some of the earliest nomad gathering points, such as Playa del Carmen in Mexico, Chiang Mai in Thailand and Canggu →

ABOVE:
The beach at
Ponta do Sol

SAVOY RESIDENCE

Monumentalis



Where the city lives between nature and ocean

More than a project, a new way of living.

- 1 to 4 bedroom apartments
- Commercial areas
- Private pools, terraces and gardens
- Common infinity pool and sundeck
- 3.500sqm of common landscaped areas for exercise and relaxation
- Public and private parking
- 24h doorman and concierge
- Exclusive access to Savoy Signature services (Savoy Resident Card)

www.savoyresidence.com

monumentalis@savoyresidence.com
+351 967 078 637



‘Digital nomadism has the potential to become much more than a smart way to reboot economies’



36

in Bali developed organically with the low cost of living a key factor. The pandemic has brought an element of focus and commercialism to this trend as hotels, resorts and accommodation platforms seek to fill rooms by offering deals and facilities to remote workers. Tourism boards have also jumped on the bandwagon, launching ‘desk in the sun’ visa schemes to attract laptop-carrying globetrotters, while go-ahead municipalities, such as the Italian mountain resort of Courmayeur Mont Blanc, have introduced ‘workation stations’ in the hope of attracting visitors who want to combine Zoom calls with zooming down the slopes.

For evangelists such as Hall, this is missing the point. Digital nomadism has the potential to become much more than a smart way to reboot tourism-dependent economies. It is about improving a worker’s personal wellbeing and by definition encourages international relationships. It relishes the stimulation travel brings and recognises that it is time to move on from the drudgery of commuting to the same office environment.

To the independent-minded, self-motivated travellers who have flocked to Ponta do Sol, working life seems full

ABOVE:
The balcony at an outdoor restaurant in Ponta do Sol

of possibilities. The mood in its seaside bars is buoyant as they gather to chat and catch the sunset over an after-work glass of poncha, a potent local drink made with Madeiran rum and fruit juice. As Gonalo Hall puts it with a smile, “once you get used to freedom, there is no way back”. **BT**

MORE INFORMATION

Start researching with the Work from Wherever Index compiled by online travel agency Kayak (kayak.co.uk/work-from-wherever/rank), which ranks countries to work from with a useful map that includes time zones.

Digital Nomads World publishes guides to more than 160 destinations from Anchorage to Wellington, including a ‘personal experience’ report from each place (digitalnomads.world).

Outsite, which charges a membership fee, provides a gateway to upscale co-living and working locations in sunshine destinations as varied as Hawaii, Costa Rica and Bali (outsite.co).

The Digital Nomad Handbook (Lonely Planet, £12.99) is a dedicated guide to living and working on the road.



Monthly stays made easy. No deposit required.

Book now with **BT2022** code and save 30% on the service fee.

[**www.flatio.com/madeira**](https://www.flatio.com/madeira)

Funchal - Ponta Do Sol - Machico - Caniço - Calheta

HIGH FLYERS

The winners of our in-flight wine awards have been announced. Despite a difficult year, airlines have continued to excel

38

WORDS TOM OTLEY



For many of us, if there ever was a year where we felt we deserved a decent glass of wine, it was 2021. Cellars in the Sky has been running since 1985 and despite it being another difficult year for airlines, we wanted to continue, not least because we know the effort that many airlines put into their choice of wines on-board.

For 2021, Singapore Airlines scooped six gold awards, including Best Overall Cellar, Best Business Class Cellar and Best First Class Cellar. In first class, other winners included Qatar Airways and Korean Air. In business class, winners were Eva Air, Latam, Jetblue, Singapore Airlines and TAP Air Portugal.

The judges were Masters of Wine Peter McCombie (head judge), John Worontschak, Sarah Abbott and winemaker Sam Caporn. Tastings were held at Haberdashers' Hall, in Smithfield, London, on December 8, and various logistical challenges, including socially distanced tastings, were overcome. It was worth the effort, according to McCombie. "This year the overall standard of wines submitted was very good," he says. "Airlines are trying especially hard to get passengers back on-board with well-chosen delicious wines."

Interestingly, on the matter of how much airlines are spending per bottle, McCombie says it is often hard to

tell, not least since he believes "airlines drive quite hard bargains" with producers.

HOW THE AWARDS WORK

The competition is open to any carrier that serves wine in business or first class on mid- or long-haul routes. Each airline is invited to enter two reds, two whites, a rosé, a sparkling, and a fortified or dessert wine from both cabins. They can compete in as many categories as they like but to be eligible for the Best Overall Cellar award, they must enter at least one red, white and sparkling. For 2021, 17 airlines entered.

All tasting is blind, with the branding of the bottles hidden beneath black bags labelled with a letter and two numbers – FC1, for instance, means the first flight of first class white wines, with the number differentiating each entry. The judges were unaware of the wine make or the airline that entered it, eliminating any unconscious bias. Each judge tasted every single entry individually – a silver lining of social distancing – before convening to review the wines and mark them out of 100.

McCombie says: "Blind tasting is hard work, but tasting good wines makes it pleasurable, too. One of the joys about the Cellars tasting is there is a small group of judges who know each other well, and we have fun."

‘The first class whites were interesting because Chardonnay sweeps the board’

The judges felt more expressive, fruity wines would perform better in the dryer atmosphere on-board. “White wines tend to fare better as reds are high in tannins, which aren’t well suited to the air,” says McCombie.

“In the reds there was a reasonable variety with a good mixture: Rhone style and Bordeaux and Italian, and the winning red wine in first class just blew us away [Clonakilla O’Riada Shiraz 2015, Canberra District, Australia]. Some might think Australian Shiraz is all big and heavy and alcoholic – this also benefited from having a bit of bottle age on.”

One of the main challenges faced by carriers is that first and business class flyers often expect to see a prestigious wine on board yet may be unaware that it doesn’t perform well in the air.

“The first class whites were interesting because Chardonnay sweeps the board, both from Burgundy and new-wave Australia,” says McCombie. “The world

might be surprised just how good Australian Chardonnay can be. It isn’t that over-oaked and over-strong cliché of old. It’s a fantastic drink and you can see that in the results from first class.”

In business class the judges were delighted to find even more variety and diversity. “Take the whites in business class. Chardonnay did well, but we had the Eroica Riesling from Columbia Valley in the US which is a really interesting wine and it’s good to see it being offered to people.

“Some people have a lingering prejudice about Riesling imagining it will be sweet, but this was both fruity and dry, which works well in the sky and will go well with food.”

INSET: John Worontschak
BELOW: Head judge Peter McCombie, Sarah Abbott and Sam Caporn

When it came to scoring, the judges tended to agree on their verdicts, trusting each other’s expertise. If there

was any dispute, they would amicably taste again and find reason to compromise. McCombie says: “An advantage of judging wines in this way is that everyone has biases when it comes to tasting; particular styles of wine you might prefer, and you have to understand that about yourself, but when we are together like this, we can pull each other back if we are over-enthusiastic or a bit dismissive.”

WHAT THE JUDGES LOOK FOR

This competition requires a different approach as our experts are tasked with discovering wines that perform well at 35,000 ft. For this reason, particular wines may not always receive the same adulation as they would in other contests, which often focus on the potential for them to develop and improve over time.

The judges have to ask themselves how much a wine is going to satisfy business and first class passengers. “First class Champagne is always a joy because it all tastes good, so it comes down to what stands out,” says McCombie.



WINNING REDS

BEST FIRST CLASS RED

Gold

Singapore Airlines

Clonakilla O' Riada Shiraz 2015, Canberra District, Australia

Judges said: Powerful wine aromas; spice, spruce and cinnamon, hints of bacon and blackberry, very fine.

Score: 96

Silver

Oman Air

Wolf Bass Gold label Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon 2014, Australia

Judges said: Seductive aromas of hedgerow and mint, structured and youthful but satisfying when come together.

Score: 93.5

Bronze

British Airways

Château Cap de Mourlin Grand Cru Classe Saint Emilion 2012, Bordeaux, France

Judges said: Aromatic, coal fires and hedgerows, fresh juicy firm tannins, long and succulent.

Score: 93

BEST BUSINESS CLASS RED

Gold

Latam Airlines Group S.A.

Pangea 2014, Apalta, Colchagua Valley, Chile

Judges said: Intense expressive aromas; blueberry, spice, good depth and focus, soft sweet rich palate.

Score: 96

Silver

Singapore Airlines

Lionheart of the Barossa 2017, Australia

Judges said: Aromas of cedar and spice, youthful oaky well-structured; impressive.

Score: 94

Bronze

Oman Air

Penfolds Max Shiraz Cabernet 2019, Australia

Judges said: Very youthful cedar with newness of polished fruit, rounded and fresh.

Score: 93



THE WINNERS

WINNING WHITES

BEST FIRST CLASS WHITE

Gold

Singapore Airlines

Domaine de Montille Puligny-Montrachet 1er Cru "Les Chalumeaux" 2017, France

Judges said: Restrained with smart use of oak, vibrant aromatics, elegant and delicious.

Score: 94

Silver

Qatar Airways

Grosset Piccadilly Chardonnay 2020, Adelaide Hills, Australia

Judges said: Nuanced ripeness and refined exotics; lovely focus and intensity opens out to fruit.

Score: 93.5

Bronze

Qatar Airways

Domaine Louis Latour Corton Charlemagne Grand Cru 2015, Burgundy, France

Judges said: Nuanced and intriguing, with delicate notes of struck flint, caraway, pâtisserie and white peach. Sleek and enlivening with refined texture and great length.

Score: 93

Highly Commended

Singapore Airlines

Benjamin Leroux Meursault 1er Cru "Genevrières" 2017, Burgundy, France

Judges said: Fresh fruity buttery, sleek and concentrated, nicely textured.

Score: 94.5

BEST BUSINESS CLASS WHITE

Gold

Singapore Airlines

Giant Steps Chardonnay 2018, Australia

Judges said: Struck match aromas, tangy, elegant, textured.

Score: 96

Silver

Cathay Pacific

Eroica Riesling 2017, Columbia Valley USA

Judges said: Deep assertive aromatics, lime and salt, rounded and succulent.

Score: 94

Bronze (joint)

Air Astana

L'Odalet Marsanne-Roussane pays d'oc 2020, Languedoc, France

Judges said: Aromas of citrus, cream and gooseberry fool, lively, zippy and textured with a nice long tone.

Jetblue

Presqu'île Santa Barbara County Chardonnay 2019, USA

Judges said: Creamy, rounded, smoky, nice acid, bold and assertive.

Score: 93



THE WINNERS





Image by @fastbreak_films

Dandelion Vineyards

wish you were here...



Crowned Bushing Monarchs

Winemaker and owners, Elena and Zar Brooks, have been crowned the Bushing Queen and King for Best Wine in Show, in the 48th McLaren Vale Wine Show.

The Dandelion Vineyards Wonder Room [cellar door] is located at Firehawk Farm, McLaren Vale. Firehawk Farm vineyard is Certified Biodynamic and a certified member of Sustainable Winegrowing Australia. Our vineyard is a 60-acre property, perched atop an ancient ridge overlooking McLaren Vale, the Willunga Escarpment, and the Gulf of St Vincent in South Australia.

Our wines represent decades of experience, blending the fruit of our vineyards with the finest traditions of artisan winemaking. Dandelion Vineyards is a combination of old vineyards, a young winemaker, and a couple of mates to help out in-between, which we believe makes for the ideal winery.

You can enjoy our wines on Business Class Singapore Airlines or reach out to Liberty Wines in the United Kingdom.



Dandelion Vineyards Wonder Room [cellar door]

191 Chaffey's Road, McLaren Vale, SA, Australia | Ph +61 8 8323 8979 | dandelionvineyards.com.au



WINNING SPARKLING

BEST FIRST CLASS SPARKLING

Gold

Korean Air

Champagne Perrier Jouet Belle Epoque 2012, France

Judges said: *Lovely rich freshness and balance, nice development, broad and attractive, sensuous and rich.*

Score: 96

Silver (joint)

Qatar Airways and Singapore Airlines

Champagne Krug, Vintage 2004, France

Judges said: *Malty, richly layered and complex. With some oak influence and fresh underlying acidity. Majestic and sumptuous with effortless concentration. Notes of dried mushroom and toast.*

Score: 94.5

Bronze

British Airways

Champagne Laurent Perrier Grand Siecle NV, France

Judges said: *Good development, nutty, some spice and oak; broad and rich.*

Score: 94

BEST BUSINESS CLASS SPARKLING

Gold

Eva Air

Champagne Castelnau Millésimé Brut 2006, France

Judges said: *Mature evolved aromatics, restrained yet marvellously complex.*

Score: 96

Silver

Oman Air and Cathay Pacific

Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Cuvée Brut NV, France

Judges said: *Finely textured, lovely acidity onto the palate, honeycomb notes.*

Score: 93.5

Bronze

Singapore Airlines

Champagne Piper-Heidsieck Brut 2012, France

Judges said: *Mature, evolved, aromatic. Rich and serious; savoury.*

Score: 93

Highly Commended:

Virgin Atlantic

Hambledon NV, England

Judges said: *Nice yeasty note, nutty, biscuity, apple aromas.*

Score: 92.5

WINNING ROSES

BEST FIRST CLASS ROSE

Gold

Qatar Airways

Domaines Ott Château Romassan Bandol 2020. Provence. Côtes De Provence, France

Judges said: *Pale pink colour, good depth, citrus with a hint of liquorice.*

Score: 91

No bronze or silver awarded

BEST BUSINESS CLASS ROSE

Gold

Jetblue

Triennes Rosé 2020, France

Judges said: *Lovely pale salmon colour, nicely textured, clean and dry, fresh.*

Score: 90

No bronze or silver awarded

WINNING FORTIFIED/DESSERT

BEST FIRST CLASS FORTIFIED/SWEET

Gold

Korean Air

Château Rieussec Sauternes 2013, Bordeaux, France

Judges said: *Alluring aromas of dried apricots, lemon and truffle. Rich and sweet in the mouth with pleasing, balancing zesty acidity and a long finish.*

Score: 94

Silver

Singapore Airlines

Graham's 20 year old Tawny Port NV, Douro, Portugal

Judges said: *Rich complex exotic spice, smooth caramel toffee.*

Score: 93.5

Bronze

Qatar Airways

Klein Constantia Vin de Constance 2015, South Africa

Judges said: *Fresh and refined, citrus and orange zest, good length, well balanced.*

Score: 93

BEST BUSINESS CLASS FORTIFIED/SWEET

Gold

TAP Air Portugal

Graham's 10 years old Tawny Port, Douro, Portugal

Judges said: *Nutty with attractive fruits; nose and palate nicely balanced.*

Score: 93.5

Silver (joint)

Cathay Pacific

Graham's LBV Port 2014, Douro, Portugal

Judges said: *Ripe fruits, good balance, intense deep red colour.*

Singapore Airlines

Morris Classic Liqueur Muscat NV, Australia

Judges said: *Really sweet and sticky flavours; burnt sugar, tobacco, prunes and raisin.*

Score: 93

No bronze awarded





THE WINNERS



THE WINNERS



WINNING CELLARS

BEST FIRST CLASS CELLAR

Gold	Singapore Airlines
Silver	Qatar Airways
Bronze	Korean Airways

BEST BUSINESS CLASS CELLAR

Gold	Singapore Airlines
Silver	Oman Air
Bronze	Cathay Pacific

OVERALL

BEST OVERALL CELLAR

Gold	Singapore Airlines
Silver	Qatar Airways
Bronze	British Airways <small>BT</small>

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Enjoy the perks of flying Executive

GOLD
BUSINESS CLASS
FORTIFIED OR
DESSERT WINE

We are proud of taking our unique Portuguese wines to you. Our wines are tasted on the ground and then again in the air, by our wine experts, so we can bring you the best wine experience.

Book now

flytap.com

No change fees

TAP AIRPORTUGAL

Between the lines

Anglo-Scottish rail services are now provided by a mix of privately owned Avanti, government managed LNER and open access Lumo



ALEX MCWHIRTER
CONSUMER CHAMPION AND RAIL EXPERT

In British Rail days there was little difference with regards to Anglo-Scottish services. From London, trains departed Euston for Glasgow and Kings Cross for Edinburgh and beyond. Fares and the onboard product were almost identical whether one chose the WCML (West Coast Mainline) from Euston or the ECML (East Coast Mainline) from Kings Cross.

Privatisation in the 1990s saw a reversal in rail decline. Starting from BEA's Shuttle in the mid-1970s and further spurred on by the arrival of low-cost airlines, air had become the main and fashionable route between London and Scotland, but the arrival of new rail operators in the 1990s started to revive rail's fortunes, and that has been further boosted recently by environmental considerations. Rail has a much lower environmental impact than either air or car. To take one statistic, admittedly from a rail company, LNER says the extra passengers it has wooed from air and car have saved 170,000 tonnes of carbon per annum.

WHAT DO WE HAVE NOW?

We have Avanti West Coast operating over the WCML from Euston and serving both Glasgow (Central) and Edinburgh. Yes, you can change in Glasgow for Scotrail trains further north, but note there will be a change of terminus from Central to Queen Street. Trains to Glasgow are hourly with the fastest taking 4.5 hours. The few which run directly to Edinburgh over the WCML take roughly 5.5 hours.

From Kings Cross, there is government-managed LNER operating faster trains over the ECML both to Edinburgh and beyond to Glasgow, Aberdeen and

Inverness. LNER wins on service frequency with trains operating every 30 mins. Most journeys take around 4.5 hrs (some a little less, some a little more). The fastest LNER service is the 0540 from Edinburgh taking exactly four hours to Kings Cross, although that's a one-off. LNER's trains to Aberdeen, Glasgow (Central) and Inverness take considerably longer, as they attract passenger joining en route. For example, Kings Cross to Glasgow takes almost six hours.

The fastest LNER service is the 0540 from Edinburgh taking exactly four hours to Kings Cross

WCML rolling stock is Alstom's Pendolino tilt trains whereas LNER operates the more conventional Hitachi Azuma. Both are modern trains (Azuma is newest) and both have pros and cons.

Avanti is shielded from competition (on the above routes) whereas LNER faces competition from open access Lumo. The rail regulator allowed Lumo to compete on what is probably our most prestigious

route by dint of its business model akin to a low-cost airline.

Lumo is not intended to compete in the business market. It's more for the leisure traveller or, perhaps, the business person paying his or her own fare. Lumo operates infrequently compared to LNER, although, having said that, its business model has been welcomed by customers (judging by its high load factors).

Lumo is one-class only and its fares may not be lower than those of LNER. As with low-cost airlines it depends on the loadings on any given day plus how far ahead one books.

On-board catering (with the two main operators) is complimentary and offered to first class passengers. It has been upgraded in recent months (catering was limited during much of the pandemic) and there's now a breakfast 'war' between operators. In January, *Business Traveller* reported that a hot breakfast offering had been launched on both Avanti and LNER ([businesstraveller.com/business-travel/2022/01/21/avanti-and-lner-spark-breakfast-war-with-relaunched-services](https://www.businesstraveller.com/business-travel/2022/01/21/avanti-and-lner-spark-breakfast-war-with-relaunched-services)).

Avanti West Coast offers a three-class configuration: first, standard premier (first class seating without first class catering), and standard. LNER offers conventional first and standard class while Lumo is standard only.

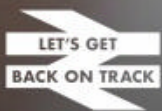
Fares vary between the operators. LNER tends to have the price advantage although much depends on when you book and travel. Avanti may experience competition from open access Grand Union which seeks permission to operate Stirling-London Euston via the WCML. A decision on this application is awaited from the regulator. **BT**



THE GREENER WAY TO TRAVEL

(Views and all)

Get to Leeds with four times less emissions than driving, because business is better together. Book through your travel management company.



LNER
LONDON NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

A nighttime city skyline featuring several prominent skyscrapers, including the Burj Khalifa on the right. The city lights are reflected in the glass facades of the buildings. In the foreground, there are light trails from traffic on a multi-lane highway. The sky is dark blue. A large, semi-transparent purple shape is overlaid on the left side of the image, partially obscuring the city view.

Get your business
moving again...

with Simplexity Travel

simplexity®
travel management

Tailored services to
suit any business

🌐 simplexitytravel.com

☎ 0203 535 9290

✉ corporate@simplexitytravel.com

100% PERSONISED SERVICE

24/7 SUPPORT TRAVEL





Sustainable luxury in rural Italian countryside



info@cipressoepietra.com

cipressoepietra.com

 [@cipressoepietra](https://www.instagram.com/cipressoepietra)

 [facebook.com/cipressoepietra](https://www.facebook.com/cipressoepietra)

 [linkedin.com/company/cipresso-e-pietra](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cipresso-e-pietra)


**CIPRESSO[®]
PIETRA**
Sustainable Luxury B&B, Tuscany

Cipresso e Pietra is an adults-only, luxury escape just outside the walls of Lucignano, a vibrant medieval village in southern Tuscany. The 18th century stone farmhouse has been transformed into a boutique B&B where original features are met with luxury interiors. They specialize in long evenings, relaxing mornings, and tailored experiences to help you uncover the hidden gems of Tuscany.

Business LEISURE Traveller

SPONSORED BY
FIVE

THE CHARMS OF CHIANG RAI

Discovering Thailand's
northernmost province

50-54

LET'S EAT OUT

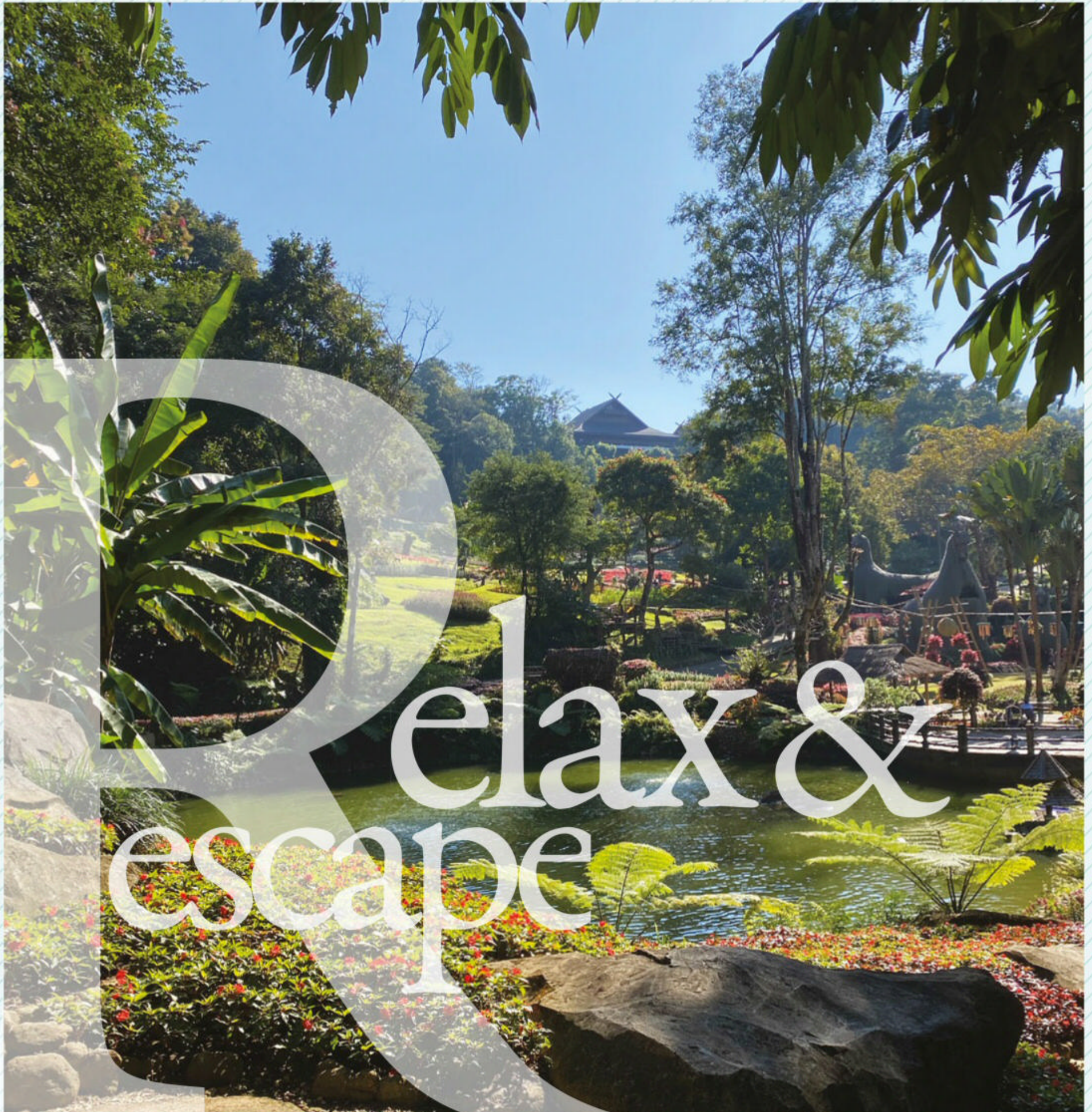
The latest gastronomic
delights opening up
around the world

56-64

4 HOURS... IN PARIS

Stroll around the city's
Bastille neighbourhood

66-67



WORDS HANNAH BRANDLER

The charms of Chiang Rai

Thailand's northernmost province surprises tourists with dramatic scenery, stunning cultural icons, and a shining example of social and sustainable development



Now a lush canopy, it's hard to imagine the hillsides as barren earth as they were 30 years ago



LEFT AND INSET:
A view of the lush greenery of Doi Nang Non; The Doi Tung Royal Villa

Views of the winding road emerged in brief flashes, illuminated by floral roadside sculptures, as we drove after dark from the airport to our hilltop accommodation.

It wasn't until morning, however, that we got the full panoramic view of the spectacular Doi Nang Non, a mountain range which stretches across the highlands of Thailand's Chiang Rai province. We were staying at Doi Tung Lodge, a peaceful retreat atop the range's highest peak at 1,630m.

The province of Chiang Rai, itself located at the northernmost tip of Thailand, has been largely overlooked by tourists in favour of the similar sounding Chiang Mai. Much of this has to do with its location in the Golden Triangle – a name given to the region where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet – and its history as a leading region for the production of opium. In recent years, however, it has become a shining example of social and sustainable development, with an industry based on alternative cash crops, namely coffee, and community-based tourism, thanks to efforts by the royal family, NGOs and the determination of the local people.

A troubled past

Doi Nang Non draws its name from its appearance – its peaks and troughs roughly resembling a reclining woman, with the mountain of Doi Tung corresponding to the belly. Now a lush canopy of greenery, it's hard to imagine the hillsides as barren red earth as they were just 30 years ago.

This was a by-product of opium cultivation in the region, with hill-dwelling ethnic minorities reliant on the illicit drug trade for their livelihood. Locals lived in poverty without basic

infrastructure or government support, and had few alternative opportunities for income, particularly as the area was controlled by an armed militia. With the opium trade came slash-and-burn agriculture, poverty, drug addiction, human and arms trafficking and HIV/AIDS.

Change came when the beloved late Princess Srinagarindra, the grandmother of Thailand's current king, visited the area in 1985. Guided by the notion that “no one wants to be bad, they just don't have the opportunity to be good”, she focused on “helping people to help themselves” via her non-profit organisation The Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage.

The Doi Tung Development Project (DTDP) was set up in 1988 as the flagship project of the foundation, covering an area of approximately 150 sq km and benefiting 11,000 people from six ethnic minorities in 29 villages. Reforestation projects, the provision of public amenities and healthcare, and education on the alternative uses of natural resources, proved key in the creation of legitimate livelihoods and the eradication of poverty. Opium workers were first transformed into reforestation workers, laying the foundations for the cultivation of economic crops to provide long-term stable incomes for the villagers – the most important of which was coffee.

Arabica coffee

The peaceful 784-hectare coffee plantation bears no trace of its former opium roots, the perennial trees now offering a great yield which is sold to buyers in Thailand – including Thai Airways – and exported to Japan. The DTDP rented coffee plots to villagers, with the sense of ownership incentivising them to look after their land and increasing productivity. Training in the art of coffee-growing, too, was pivotal, with team members even polishing their nails to the perfect cherry colour as a guide to harvesting well-ripened coffee berries. →



52



Farmers in the region sell their yield to the Doi Tung brand, a sustainable social enterprise set up in 2000 which comprises five businesses: café, handicrafts, processed food, agriculture and tourism. Part of the proceeds from Doi Tung products are sent directly to the villagers and the rest is invested in public health, education and the environment. The 2020 harvest season, for instance, generated a total income of US\$604,485 for villagers. Farmers are also offered support to create their own brands, which fosters entrepreneurship in the region.

The DTDP is continuing its work with the enterprise, collecting data to further develop strategies on the care and harvesting of coffee and macadamia plants, and looking at the economic potential of new crops, such as vanilla, cacao and mushrooms.



ABOVE: Villagers grow and process coffee beans in Doi Tung and Doi Pha Mee

Royal connections

Princess Srinagarindra's presence is felt throughout Doi Tung, with monuments dedicated to her life and a visible outpouring of emotion from locals when they speak of her work.

Many refer to her affectionately as Mae Fah Luang, 'Royal Mother from The Sky', who descended from the heavens to relieve their suffering.

Our visit in early December coincided with the eighth Colours of Doi Tung Festival, an annual celebration which takes place every weekend and on public holidays during December and January. The festival celebrates the culture of the six ethnic tribes in the area – Akha, Lahu, Tai Yai, Lue, Lawa and Chinese – and includes a street food market, and stalls selling traditional handmade crafts.

Aside from the festivities, there are ample tourist attractions in the area which offer an insight into the history

of Doi Tung. The Hall of Inspiration features a permanent exhibition on the principles and works of the Princess Mother and her family, while her former residence, the Doi Tung Royal Villa, is located high up on the hill.

Most impressive of all, however, is the Mae Fah Luang Garden on the slopes beneath the royal villa. The beautifully landscaped gardens lie at the centre of the former drug and weapon trafficking route and are a perfect visual manifestation of the social transformation of the area, with poppies replaced by various flower species planted amid streams and ponds. It's a masterclass in horticulture and, much like the coffee plantations in the region, was created to provide job opportunities for the local people who tend to the land. Many of the gardeners also now own flower nurseries through which they generate income.

As for the future of the DTDP, members of the team stressed that their



ultimate aim is to work themselves out of their jobs, leaving locals to run the projects and achieve financial sustainability. Indeed, the impact of the DTDP goes beyond Chiang Rai, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime recognising it as a model for Sustainable Alternative Livelihood Development (SALD) in 2003. There are now international outreach programmes in place in Myanmar, Indonesia and Afghanistan.

International prominence

If you're not familiar with Chiang Rai for its coffee or opium, it is highly likely that you were glued to the TV during the extraordinary two-week Tham Luang cave rescue operation in 2018. To remind you, a football team of 12 young boys and their assistant coach ended up trapped in the cave in the district of Mae Sai – a labyrinthine cave system which snakes for 10km beneath Doi Nang Non.

ABOVE: Mae Fah Luang Garden on the slopes beneath the Doi Tung Royal Villa

SIGHTS IN THE CITY OF CHIANG RAI

Wat Rong Khun

Thailand has more than 30,000 Buddhist temples across the country, but the so-called White Temple by Chiang Rai artist Chalermchai Kositpipat differs from many of the traditional designs. The sparkling white structure is full of symbolic nods to heaven and hell – from a daunting Bridge of the Cycle of Rebirth, surrounded by hundreds of outstretched hands, to the tranquil Gate of Heaven – along with modern twists such as murals of Superman and Mickey Mouse. Finish your visit with a trip to the ornately decorated bathrooms in the golden building. The temple opened in 1997 but works are ongoing and set to continue until 2070.



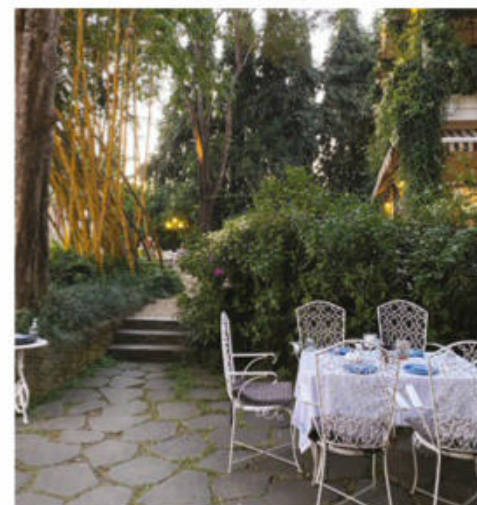
The Mae Fah Luang Art and Cultural Park

This 24-hectare oasis situated on former rice fields to the west of the city is peaceful and picturesque, set on a lake that reflects the beautiful architecture and indigenous plants from the region. The site houses the region's largest collection of artefacts from the Lanna Kingdom. The impressive Haw Kham (Golden Pavilion) is a real highlight, built from 32 old teak houses and presented as a gift to Princess Srinagarindra in 1984. The candle-lit interiors feature Lanna and Burmese-style Buddha images, with a wooden Buddha dating back to 1693 suspended at the centre.



Chivit Thamma Da

The family-run café and bistro Chivit Thamma Da is a beautiful setting with seating flowing from the vine-covered white house into the grounds on the banks of the Kok River. The restaurant sources the majority of its produce locally to support the community and offers a seasonally changing menu. Don't miss the aromatic *tom kha gai* (chicken coconut soup), fried rice served in a pineapple, the mixed Lanna platter and the detox mocktail made with fresh mint from the garden.





Travellers can take part in a traditional coffee dripping workshop before savouring a cup

The 'Great Cave of the Sleeping Lady' was a favourite haunt for the boys, but monsoon season meant that the cave began to flood, pushing them deeper inside until they were 5km from the entrance. The cave complex reopened as a museum and tourist attraction in 2019, located in the Khun Nam Nang Non national park. It's a fascinating experience, with the boys' bikes and belongings on show at the mouth of the cave, a museum with a mural dedicated to the brave team of international divers, and a sculpture in honour of the former Navy Seal diver Saman Gunan who died during the mission. Visitors can enter the cave – we brave souls ventured in – and there's a newly extended trail that includes access to the underground chamber used by divers during the rescue.

While it was busy during our visit, it seems that it is not yet on the global map. Tours are in Thai – we had a translator with us – and there doesn't seem to be a website. Nonetheless it's worth a visit to get a glimpse of the miraculous feat and pay homage to its heroes, especially ahead of the release of a Netflix series slated for this year.

Community-based tourism

We finished our tour of the Chiang Rai province with a visit to the village of Doi Pha Mee within the Mae Sai district, home to the Akha tribe. Like Doi Tung, the village has long been snubbed due to its history of opium farming but swapped poppy fields for



TOP: The site of the 2018 Tham Luang cave rescue operation. **ABOVE AND LEFT:** Phamee Coffee café in Doi Pha Mee

coffee plantations and community-based tourism following a visit by the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Srinagarindra's son, in the 1970s.

Villagers now rely on coffee, lychee and oranges for a stable income, and are eager for people to visit and experience the village's cultural highlights. Phamee Coffee, for instance, hosts a variety of cultural activities, including Akha dance recitals in traditional dress, orange-picking, cotton-weaving and handicraft workshops. Travellers can also take part in a traditional coffee dripping workshop before savouring a cup alongside exquisite local cuisine amid the emerald-green scenery. The food is even hero-worthy, with diver Vernon Unsworth coincidentally dining at the table opposite us.

We made our way to the airport, confident that Srinagarindra's mission to transform the area is being accomplished. It's now up to us to spread the word. I'm sure the Royal Mother from the Sky looks down on Chiang Rai with immense pride. **BT**

Thai Airways' Doi Tung packages

Thai Airways partnered with the Doi Tung brand earlier this year to create 'Black Silk Blend' drip coffee for its first class and business class cabins.

Thai International's Royal Orchid Holidays offers two- and three-day packages to Doi Tung from THB11,900 (£273) per person including a transfer to the airport, meals and accommodation. The airfare is not included.

BONNIE & WILD

SCOTTISH MARKETPLACE



Celebrating the best of Scottish food and drink

With eight food stalls, three bars, a bottleshop and a patisserie, Bonnie & Wild's Scottish Marketplace is a must-visit Food Hall for anyone with a love of beautiful, high-quality food and drink. Find us in Edinburgh's new St James Quarter.

**OPEN DAILY -
9AM UNTIL MIDNIGHT**

bonnieandwildmarket.com
St James Quarter, Edinburgh





Let's eat out

57

After mastering the art of banana bread and sourdough starter during the pandemic, the appetite is certainly back for dining out. Here we round up the foodie destinations to aim for this year, with exciting openings and events celebrating their gastronomy scene

MENORCA, SPAIN

The Mediterranean island has been selected as this year's European Destination for Gastronomy by the International Institute of Gastronomy, Culture, Arts and Tourism (IGCAT) thanks to its rich gastronomy, local ingredients and focus on sustainability – the island was designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1993, after all. To celebrate, it is holding more than 50 foodie events this year, including wine fairs, visits to tourist attractions in Alaior paired with traditional Menorcan cuisine, and a series of guided tours to the Finca Sa Bassa farm. Whatever you do, don't miss Menorcan specialities *arroz moro* (Moorish rice) or *caldereta*, a lobster stew invented by fishermen and later jazzed up by local chefs. If you're feeling homesick, you can even savour Gin de Menorca – a legacy of British rule in the 18th century – produced traditionally in old copper stills heated over wood fires. The Experimental group's outpost on the Balearic Island is also worth visiting, offering fresh and seasonal produce from its on-site garden and bespoke cocktails made exclusively with local ingredients.

LEFT:
Menorca
Experimental
offers fresh and
seasonal produce
accompanied by
bespoke cocktails





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: World of Wine, Vila Nova de Gaia; Speilsalen, Britannia Hotel, Trondheim; Credo's fine dining; Credo is based in a former tank factory; Vegetable spring rolls at Cok Cok, Istanbul; Sait at Galataport Istanbul

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The Turkish capital showcases flavours from across the country as well as cuisine from the East and West. New additions to the city include Thai restaurant and bar Cok Cok, situated within the Soho House Istanbul complex and former location of the American consulate in the Beyoglu district. Adventure into the past with a visit to its bar and dining room, respectively named after Ernest Hemingway and Agatha Christie, and dine amid illustrations of tropical botanicals from the golden age of travel. The city's new Galataport Istanbul destination in the port area also boasts 20,800 sqm of food and beverage venues – travellers can enjoy *dolma*, *boregi* and *kofte* at Bodrum-based restaurant Sait, or opt for the entertainment value of the gold-encrusted fare at Salt Bae Burger (an offshoot of the famous Nusr-Et Steakhouse). The district's Post Office Fashion Galleria, formerly used as a passenger terminal, also offers the chance to purchase *baklava*, Turkish coffees and Turkish Delight.

PORTO, PORTUGAL

This northern Portuguese city in the Douro region is brimming with riverside eateries and opportunities to taste its famed export and namesake. The latest addition to the Porto district is the £100 million World of Wine (WOW) attraction in the historic centre of Vila Nova de Gaia. Built from the area's old Port wine cellars, it has expanded to 55,000 sqm since its debut in 2020 to include seven museums – the latest dedicated to rosé – 12 restaurants, bars and cafés, and a wine school with regular tastings and workshops. Follow up your visit with a *pasteis de nata* (custard tart) and a traditional hearty *francesinha* sandwich – the “little Frenchie” is the country's take on the croque monsieur, with fillings of ham, sausage and steak, all topped with a fried egg and a cheese sauce (plus fries, of course). For a more gourmet experience, the recently reopened two Michelin-starred The Yeatman Gastronomic Restaurant serves up creative twists on traditional Portuguese flavours, or enjoy Vila Foz, a new addition to the Michelin guide, located in a 19th century mansion overlooking the Atlantic.

TRONDHEIM AND TRONDELAG, NORWAY

Along with Menorca, the region of Trondheim and Trondelag has been named European Region of Gastronomy 2022, marking Norway's debut in the listing. With a landscape spanning mountains, oceans, fjords and forests, the region is filled with farm shops along with three Michelin-starred restaurants. Fagn offers both fine dining and bistro-quality food, with 10- and 20-course tasting menus on the first floor, and more reasonably priced and simple fare on the second floor. Credo, meanwhile, serves 20-25 courses from chef Heidi Bjerkan in a former tank factory amid trendy graffiti interiors. Speilsalen, meaning Mirror Hall, from chef Christopher Davidsen is located at the Britannia Hotel and features more traditionally posh interiors, reminiscent of a palace ballroom, and the Nordic region's only caviar bar. Keep an eye out for the Trondelag Food Festival from July 28-30 which will include more than 200 local food producers and cooking classes at the Britannia Hotel.

LONDON, ENGLAND

The English capital had a promising start to the year, with the Michelin Guide announcing seven new one-star restaurants in London, along with additional stars for modern British restaurant The Clove Club in Shoreditch, and West African restaurant Ikoyi in St James's. Plus, the city saw the return of Notting Hill establishment The Ledbury, the two-Michelin-starred site which closed during the pandemic. On the hotel side, modern British restaurant Penny Squares debuted at Canopy by Hilton London City last month. It offers a sharing-style menu featuring sustainably sourced produce, such as madras octopus and larger plates including a crusted rack of lamb with ras el hanout spices. Exciting developments this year include chef Bjorn Frantzen's first UK outpost within the prestigious Harrods store and sustainable zero-waste cooking at Apricity in Mayfair from Chantelle Nicholson, while the revamped Grade II-listed Battersea Power Station will welcome the likes of posh kebab joint Le Bab and Gordon Ramsay's Bread Street Kitchen, along with a 1,858 sqm food hall in the former boiler room.

PARIS, FRANCE

The land of wine and cheese does not disappoint with its culinary delights across the capital – from Michelin-starred eateries to food halls and bijou bars. Casual eateries include the bustling covered market Marché des Enfants Rouges in the upper Marais district, which dates back to 1628, and the immense 4,500 sqm La Felicita food hall from the Big Mamma Group within the Station F complex in the 13th arrondissement – think Italian cuisine amid Instagrammable backdrops. If you're feeling a bit more extravagant, make your way to Le Train Bleu – a glamorous brasserie within the hall of the Gare de Lyon railway station, decked out with frescoed ceilings, chandeliers, and gold accents. Or gaze at the city from a window table at the Michelin-starred Le Jules Verne restaurant on the second floor of the Eiffel Tower, located 125m above the ground. Meanwhile, the newly relaunched La Samaritaine department store devotes its entire fifth floor to food, with ten outlets including a private dining room from Krug Champagne. Savour the city's best offerings at the forthcoming Taste of Paris event at the Grand Palais Ephémère from May 12-15.

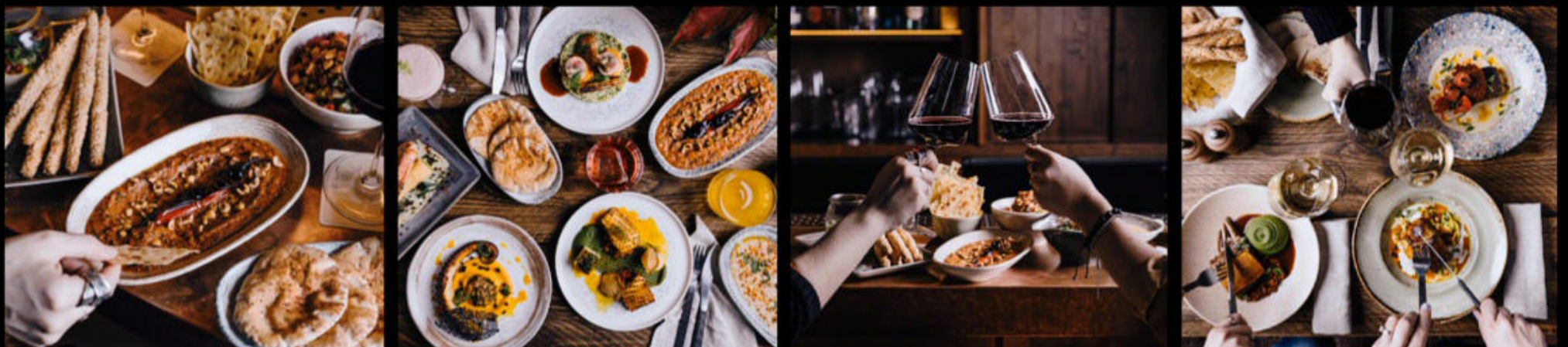


TOP: Dishes at Penny Squares restaurant at Canopy by Hilton London City
ABOVE: Le Train Bleu, a brasserie at Gare de Lyon railway station
RIGHT: Food hall La Felicita



canopy™

LONDON | CITY



Experience the new Penny Squares Restaurant at Canopy by Hilton London City. Just a short walk away from the world-famous Tower Bridge and the capital's best markets, historic landmarks and museums, Canopy London City is ideally situated for guests looking to soak up the east end's greatest fashion, arts and culture. Visitors can now enjoy a taste of the local neighbourhood at Canopy's new destination restaurant, Penny Squares, which offers a modern menu of British dishes inspired by the international flavours of east London.

11-15 MINORIES LONDON, U.K. EC3N 1AX
CANOPYLONDONCITY-RESERVATIONS@HILTON.COM
+44 (0)20 3988 7480
LONDONCITY.CANOPYBYHILTON.COM

DUBAI, UAE

As the city's 2020 World Expo draws to a close, there's still plenty to enjoy in the Emirate – home to around 12,000 restaurants and cafés with cuisines representing 200 different nationalities. The city started the year off on a high, with the contemporary Asian eatery 3 Fils at the Jumeirah Fishing Harbour securing the top prize in the inaugural edition of Middle East and North Africa's 50 Best Restaurants awards, with a further six restaurants in the city making the top ten list. Meat-lovers will also be happy to hear that the Monte Carlo-founded steakhouse group Beefbar has returned with a new home in Jumeirah Al Naseem. For street food and a buzzy nightlife scene, head to Soul St at Five Jumeirah Village Hotel, which serves up cuisine from Latin America, India, Levant, Europe and Asia alongside live music and graffiti-clad walls by international street artists. If you're finding it impossible to pick, the Dubai Food Festival from May 2-15 will showcase the lively dining scene across various venues, with renowned chefs inviting the public to taste a selection of their signature dishes. For a more theatrical setting, keep an eye out for the forthcoming fine dining Italian restaurant Belcanto at Dubai Opera, lavishly fitted with plush red carpets, gold accents and a grand piano.

NEW YORK, US

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the biannual NYC Restaurant Week, a four week-long event in July featuring prix-fixe menus at around 400 restaurants across all five boroughs. Aside from this, the Big Apple has seen an array of new fixtures, including ten-seat counter sushi spot Matsunori on the Lower East Side, Indian fried chicken spot Rowdy Rooster in the East Village, and the arrival of the first permanent restaurant from the city's Ethiopian-Eritrean mobile restaurant Makina Café in Queens this month. The city is also adding to its roster of over 30 food halls. Renowned chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten is set to open a 4,900 sqm marketplace in the Tin Building at Pier 17, featuring Chinese venue The House of Red Pearl and French fare from T. Brasserie, while a Singaporean food hall with 18 stalls is slated for spring. Pier 57 in Chelsea will also welcome a 1,486 sqm venue curated by the James Beard Foundation this coming autumn, with 17 stalls for local small businesses and food entrepreneurs. On the luxury end of the scale, French favourite Le Coucou in SoHo has recently reopened, and Eleven Madison Park has pivoted to a plant-based menu. →



TOP: 3 Fils in Dubai
ABOVE: Soul St at Five Jumeirah Village Hotel; Beefbar has returned to Dubai with a new home at Jumeirah Al Naseem
RIGHT: Le Coucou has recently reopened in New York's SoHo






SOUL.ST

THE ART OF GLOBAL STREET FOOD

OPENS 1ST JULY 2022
AT FIVE ZURICH

STAY TUNED

 soulstreetdubai

 soulstreetzurich

SINGAPORE

The city-state's strict travel restrictions meant that few foreigners got to experience its gastronomic scene during the pandemic. Thankfully Singapore has now reopened to foreign visitors, and its flurry of new foodie openings proves that it was well worth the wait. London-based private member's wine club 67 Pall Mall has opened its first Asian outpost in the 1,400 sqm Shaw Centre penthouse on Orchard Road, offering 5,000 labels of wine, East-meet-West cuisine from chef Alex Zhu and a 35-seater Whisky Bar on the 28th floor. The London-born Burger and Lobster brand also has two sites in the city, serving its Nebraskan family-farmed beef and Atlantic lobsters amid old-school opulence at the renovated Raffles Hotel as well as on the top floor of the magnificent Jewel Changi airport, with views overlooking the world's tallest waterfall The Rain Vortex. Meanwhile, chef Julien Royer of the city's three-Michelin-starred Odette has opened neighbourhood French haunt Claudine in an old colonial chapel atop Dempsey Hill. For a taste of the future, check out the newly permanent Magic Square eatery which champions emerging young talent, with chefs showcasing nine-course menus on a rotational basis. And don't miss affordable fare and a community atmosphere at the city's famous hawker centres.

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Australia's culture capital is home to barista brews, artisan brunches and diverse cuisines for every palate, including plenty of farm-to-table fare. The end of last year saw the opening of Farmer's Daughters in the Central Business District, which sources its ingredients directly from farms in the Gippsland region of Victoria – with plans to showcase the rest of the state at a new outpost in Federation Square this autumn. Federation Square has also recently welcomed all-day bar and kitchen Big Esso (meaning 'the biggest thank you' in the Torres Strait), which celebrates contemporary Indigenous culture through its menu, soundtrack and design with major artworks by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists. To fully appreciate the scenery, head to the city's new highest rooftop cocktail bar Fables, which is set 14 storeys up in Melbourne's Greek precinct, or experience it from the Yarra River aboard the floating bar and restaurant Arbory Afloat. The latter is open until June and aims to transport you to Turkey's Turquoise Coast with a menu of *gyros*, *mezze* and *kofte* alongside Turkish-inspired cocktails. **BT**



TOP: Main Club Room of newly opened 67 Pall Mall at the Shaw Centre
RIGHT: Burger and Lobster at Raffles Hotel
BELOW: Bar and restaurant Arbory Afloat is situated on a boat on the Yarra River in Melbourne
BOTTOM: Farmer's Daughters offers farm-to-table produce in Melbourne





Burger & Lobster

AN EXTRAORDINARY UNION

NOW SERVING SINGAPORE:

• RAFFLES ARCADE • JEWEL CHANGI AIRPORT •

www.burgerandlobster.com



@burgerandlobstersg

WORDS HANNAH BRANDLER

PARIS

Bastille

66

The Bastille district is easy to walk around and offers opera, bijou cafés, and a street market full of bargains

1 PLACE DE LA BASTILLE

The brash busy square might not be that aesthetically pleasing, but its gritty history is key to the France we know today – and the reason behind the neighbourhood's name. The Place de la Bastille was the site of the storming of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789, which signalled the start of the French Revolution and fall of the Ancien Régime. The Colonne de Juillet stands 52m high at the centre of the square, topped with the gold winged Génie de la Liberté (Spirit of Freedom), and commemorates the subsequent revolution of 1830 (the basis of Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables*). Tourists can discover the lower parts of the column during guided tours on weekends (from €13). From the Place de la Bastille, you can head into the namesake Bastille neighbourhood to

the east, along the Rue du Faubourg Saint-Antoine, or the quaint Marais district to the west.

2 OPÉRA BASTILLE

While you might be more familiar with the glitzy Palais Garnier in the ninth arrondissement, the Opéra Bastille at the intersection of the roundabout also has plenty to offer – and more capacity, with 2,745 seats in total. The postmodern theatre was designed by Canadian-Uruguayan architect Carlos Ott and inaugurated in 1989 – the bicentenary of the French Revolution – with a façade that combines transparent and metallic panels. This month, it is putting on Jules Massenet's *Cendrillon*, an opera based on Charles Perrault's 1698 version of the Cinderella fairy tale, with surtitles in

both French and English. Directed by Mariame Clément, the 160-minute performance (including an interval) runs until April 28 and tickets start at €45. For a peek behind the scenes, join a 90-minute guided tour of the building from €17. operadeparis.fr

3 DINING OUT

The neighbourhood is filled with delicious eateries, occupying small buildings on cobbled pavements and larger avenues. Mokonuts on Rue Saint-Bernard is a bijou café and bakery run by Japanese-Lebanese couple Moko Hirayama and Omar Koreitem, with a menu that reads as a blend of Middle Eastern, Japanese and French flavours. Don't miss Moko's famous miso-sesame cookies, or Omar's dishes with lashings of *za'atar* and *labneh*. The area is also home to



**SEOUL
MAMA**
Korean canteen

**MODERN
KOREAN
BISTRO
IN PARIS**





the highly popular Septime on Rue de Charonne, a modern bistro which offers imaginative tasting menus with wine pairings from chef Bertrand Grébaut. Septime boasts a Michelin star for its high-end cooking, as well as a Michelin green star for its sustainable credentials, so book well in advance to secure a table. mokonuts.com; septime-charonne.fr

4 LA COULÉE VERTE

Fuelled for further exploration of the area, head to Avenue Daumesnil and climb one of the staircases to reach La Coulée Verte René-Dumont – an elevated park which also goes by the name of Promenade Plantée. The lush 4.5 km stretch was built on the disused tracks of the 19th-century Vincennes railway line in 1988 by architects Philippe Mathieux and

Jacques Vergely, and opened to the public in 1993. The landscaped walkway begins behind the Opéra Bastille and runs all the way to the Bois de Vincennes. Stroll amid lime and hazelnut trees, rosebushes and climbing plants, and admire Paris' Haussmann architecture from a more tranquil (and high-rise) perspective. It's also worth visiting Le Viaduc des Arts on Avenue Daumesnil, which houses a collection of 37 upmarket glass-fronted boutiques, workshops and galleries within arched vaults. La Coulée Verte is free to visit and open daily – plus the flora changes with the seasons so it's never boring.

5 MARCHÉ D'ALIGRE

This famous street market is cheap and cheerful, popular among locals and tourists alike. Located between

the Place de la Bastille and the Place de la Nation, the colourful market is one of the city's oldest and is open six days a week, year-round (closed on Mondays). It's divided into two sections – the covered food hall, Marché Beauvau, houses permanent (and slightly pricier) food stalls displaying everything from vegetarian meat to French cheese, artisan coffee, herbs and spices, while an outdoor market offers antiques, bric-a-brac and more food. Prepare for a hectic but thrilling experience and leave with your shopping bags full and wallets largely unchanged. The covered market is open 9am-1pm and 4pm-7.30pm weekdays, 9am-1pm Saturday, and 9am-1.30pm Sunday; the outdoor market is open from 7.30am-1.30pm weekdays, and until 2.30pm on weekends. **BT**


PARIS TOURIST OFFICE/CHRISTIAN LEBER; LEMBI BUCHANAN/STOCK;
SCORDIA NICHOLAS; OLIVIER DIJANNU/ISTOCK

SEOUL MAMA La Motte Picquet Grenelle
33 Rue Violet, 75015 Paris
tel: 09 51 45 37 38

@seoulmamaparis

SEOUL MAMA Luxembourg
245 Bis Rue Saint Jacques,
75005 Paris
tel: 09 73 88 24 68
seoulmama.fr





We need your **help**

Photo © Arie Kievit / The Netherlands Red Cross

Millions of people have no safe place to call home, because of ongoing violence in Ukraine.

Families are trapped underground; hundreds of thousands of people still have no food, no water, no medical care, and no heat or electricity.

Your donation means we can keep getting critical help to those who urgently need it, in Ukraine and its bordering countries.

Please give to our Ukraine Crisis Appeal today.

Visit **redcross.org.uk/meal**

or text **MEAL** to **70141** to make a £10 donation.

By texting, you consent to future telephone and SMS marketing contact from British Red Cross. Text **MEAL NO** to **70141** to give £10 without consenting to calls and texts.*

Keeping in touch Your support makes a life-changing difference to people in crisis. We write to our supporters to update you about the work of the British Red Cross, and how you can help and donate in other ways. You can change the way we contact you at any time by visiting redcross.org.uk/keepingintouch or calling Freephone 0800 2800 491.

Privacy statement The British Red Cross is committed to privacy and will use personal data for the purpose it was collected or other legitimate purposes we tell you about: for example, to provide goods, services or information you have requested or to administer donations or services we provide. We may also analyse data we collect to better understand the people who support us or those who use or deliver our services. Sometimes this means us combining that data with information from reliable public sources. Our research allows us to tailor communications and services in a more focused and cost-effective way, as well as better meeting your needs and the needs of others like you. However, we will never do this in a way that intrudes on personal privacy and will not use your data for a purpose that conflicts with previously expressed privacy preferences. For full details about how we use personal data, our legal basis for doing so and your privacy rights, please see our privacy notice online at redcross.org.uk/privacy.

The Ukraine Crisis Appeal will support people in areas currently affected and those potentially affected in the future by the crisis. In the event that we raise more money than can be reasonably and efficiently spent, any surplus funds will be used to help us prepare for and respond to other humanitarian disasters anywhere in the world. For more information visit <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/disaster-fund>

*Texts cost £10 +1 standard message (we receive 100%). For full T&Cs visit redcross.org.uk/mobile, must be 16+.

The British Red Cross Society, incorporated by Royal Charter 1908, is a charity registered in England and Wales (220949), Scotland (SC037738), Isle of Man (0752) and Jersey (430).

Business
Traveller

the report

69

TRIED AND TESTED AIRLINES

Thai Airways B777-300ER **70-71**
Royal Silk (business class)
Bangkok-London

Finnair A330 business class **72-73**
London-Helsinki

TRIED AND TESTED HOTELS

25 Hours Hotel Dubai **74**
One Central

The Peninsula Bangkok **75**

Turing Locke, **76**
Cambridge

De Vere Beaumont **77**
Estate, Windsor

Parkroyal **78**
Collection Marina
Bay, Singapore

SMART TRAVELLER

Which countries
require a Covid-19
booster jab?

80

Thai Airways B777-300ER

Royal Silk (business class)

BANGKOK-LONDON



BACKGROUND We flew on the 0015 night flight service from Bangkok Suvarnabhumi airport to London Heathrow Terminal 2 – a 13-hour flight to London arriving at 0620.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS I arrived at Bangkok airport at 2207, following a very smooth domestic flight from Chiang Rai with the airline's subsidiary Thai Smile. It was not a connecting flight, so I had to go through customs, collect my luggage and check-in again at the Thai Airways desks on the fourth floor at international departures.

I reached the desks at approximately 2230 and the queue for business class was speedy. I had to show a negative PCR test result taken within two days of departure (a requirement at the time to enter the UK) along with proof of vaccination and my passenger locator form.

I used the fast-track security area, which lived up to its name, but the same could not be said of the priority immigration queue which went quite slowly.

THE LOUNGE I briefly visited The Royal Orchid Prestige Lounge, which is in the concourse D area on level 3; open 0500-0200 daily to business class customers, Royal Orchid Plus Platinum and Gold members, and Star Alliance Gold members.

The expansive lounge spans the length of the D gates, with floor-to-ceiling glass windows. Staff are friendly and give you a wifi code on a piece of paper at check-in. It's a great facility covering 2,089 sqm, with a range of seating areas able to accommodate

463 passengers. The colour scheme fits the airline's branding, with purple and beige-hued seats, and lush green walls.

The buffet area features hot individually packaged items, such as bite-sized spinach quiches and green curry chicken pie, and cold sweet pastries. There is a hot buffet which included stir-fried cabbage with sesame seeds, chicken panang, dumplings and western dishes, such as spaghetti with tomato sauce. Gloves are provided for guests to use when handling the food.

The bar area offers hot drinks and a fridge with soft drinks and beers. It's a great lounge for working and relaxing.

BOARDING Aware that Gate C was a ten-minute walk from the lounge, I allowed time to get there. Boarding was scheduled for 2335, but it was still not announced at 2340. My ticket was scanned upon entry to the departure room, which was already

The B777-300ER features 42 business class seats configured in a 1-2-1 layout

very full. At 2352 there was a pre-boarding announcement for priority passengers, business class passengers or those holding Royal Orchid membership.

Boarding began at midnight. I was at my seat by 0010 and immediately offered a sanitiser wipe and a drink. Unlike my outbound journey (which you can read at businessstraveller.com/tried-and-tested/), the service was great from the start of the flight.

THE SEAT The B777-300 features 306 seats in economy and 42 in business class (Royal Silk) configured in a 1-2-1 layout. Business is set across two cabins, one to the left of the entrance (with 24 seats in rows 11-17) and another to the right (with 18 seats in rows 18-22).

A bathroom is located on either aisle between the two business class cabins,

and these were cleaned throughout the flight and featured soap, moisturiser and air freshener spray.

All business class seats extend into fully lie-flat beds, with a width of 20 inches.

I was in the cabin to the left of entrance, which feels a little more private and exclusive than the latter. My seat was 14J, a window seat about halfway down the right-hand side of the cabin.

The seat has a footrest under the IFE screen, with a compartment below that too. There's a table with a cupholder by the window, meaning you are closer to the aisle than the window, and the tray table folds out from the back of the seat in front.

The seat had a blanket, cushion, slippers and an amenity kit by Italian luggage-maker Mandarin Duck, which included a hairbrush, toothbrush with toothpaste and mouthwash, lip balm and moisturiser.

The IFE remote and seat controls are located to the right of the seat and are easy to use with pre-set buttons including 'relax', 'upright', 'bed' and 'massage'. There is a plug socket on the lower right-hand side by your feet, and a reading light to the top right.

There's not much storage space, other than a slim section for magazines by the table, a small pocket to the right of the seat, and the well in front which you're not allowed to use during take-off or landing. For this reason, I had to keep my belongings on my lap or in the overhead locker.

BEST SEAT While I enjoyed my seat, I would have preferred a window seat with the table beside the aisle as it provides a bit more privacy. These are seats A and K on rows 12, 15, 17, 19, and 21.

In the first cabin, I would avoid row 17 as it is very close to the galley and toilets. Row





11 at the front of the cabin may have more legroom, but it is last to disembark the plane.

In the second cabin, the bulkhead row 19 is very private and close to the exit. Row 18 only has middle seats, and these are very close to the galley.

The middle seats alternate from side-to-side EF on row 11 to aisle seats D and G on row 12. The former would be good for those travelling together, while the latter are more distanced due to the side tables (but they are closer to the aisle).

THE FLIGHT We took off late at 0042 but this did not extend our journey time. After my welcome drink, a flight attendant asked what I would like to eat for dinner. I had already eaten and wanted to maximise my sleeping time, so instead I just ordered breakfast for the morning.

I used the remote control to request help from a flight attendant to set up the bed,

and they arrived within seconds and made up the bed quickly. It was comfortable and I slept on and off for much of the flight.

At 0400 UK time, a sanitiser wipe was offered to passengers, and breakfast was served at 0410. I felt quite well-rested and watched half of a film before an announcement was made that we would soon be landing in London. I could hardly believe it as the journey felt so quick.

The IFE includes a rather small 15-inch LCD screen but is still lacking a wide selection of content. The airline has said

I really enjoyed the prawn-fried rice for breakfast, as well as the accompaniments

that it is working on improving this. A pair of noise-cancelling headphones was provided, which were not superb quality. The flight did not have wifi.

FOOD AND DRINK For dinner, business class passengers were offered a choice of stir-fried minced chicken with Thai basil and jasmine rice, or braised beef cheek with roast potatoes. Business class customers departing Bangkok can pre-select their meal online. Vegetarian options must be ordered with 48 hours' notice.

Breakfast was a choice between a chicken omelette or prawn-fried rice, both

of which were accompanied by a croissant, a bread roll with butter and jam, some delicious fruit and a yoghurt.

I had the latter and really enjoyed it. Tea and coffee were brought around at the same time, and service was prompt and very friendly.

ARRIVAL We began the descent into London at 0552 local time, and it was a smooth landing at 0618. The only issue was that my blanket, cushion and bedding were not collected, and remained in the well area.

We disembarked ten minutes later. It was a ten-minute walk to immigration, where I proceeded within minutes through the e-gates, arriving at baggage claim at 0640. My bag arrived 15 minutes later.

VERDICT I enjoyed this flight. It could have been stressful as my Thai Smile flight was not a connecting one, but the experience was smooth – from a short stint at the well-designed lounge to great service on board. The food was better than on the way out and I managed to sleep, which is not always easy. As a result, it felt like a short-haul trip despite it being a 12 hour 30 minute journey.

Hannah Brandler

BEST FOR

Friendly cabin crew; comfortable bed

CONFIGURATION

1-2-1

SEAT WIDTH AND PITCH

20 inches / 61 inches

SEAT RECLINE

180 degrees

BED LENGTH

70 inches

FLIGHT DURATION

12.5 hours

PRICE

Internet rates for a return business class flight from Bangkok to London in May start at £2,880.

CONTACT

thaiairways.com

Finnair A330 business class

LONDON-HELSINKI

BACKGROUND Finnair launched this new long-haul business class seat in February with the Helsinki-Singapore route set to begin in May. Flights on short-haul routes began in March. The new seats will be retrofitted on existing A330 and A350 aircraft, and come 'line-fit' on the few remaining orders of A350s from Airbus. Note that the photos here are from the A350 (Finnair does not have photos of the A330 fitted). To see the A330 seat go to *Business Traveller's* Youtube channel.

CHECK-IN Finnair check-in is located in Zone B at Terminal 3 London Heathrow. I arrived at 0815 for my 1020 departure on AY1332. There was no queue at the priority check-in and, having collected my boarding card, I made my way up to Fast Track Security. There was a queue so we were advised to use the normal security, which took around ten minutes.

THE LOUNGE Finnair does not have its own lounge at London Heathrow so business class flyers have the choice of the Oneworld lounges. I chose the Cathay Pacific Lounge, which was, as always, excellent, though very busy, mainly with passengers waiting for their American Airlines flights.

BOARDING The flight boarded from Gate 26. Priority boarding was seamless and we were onboard by 0940.

THE SEAT The new seat is a completely different concept from Finnair's previous two business class seats, which were adapted 'off the shelf' seats, firstly from Thompson Aero (the Contour Vantage seat) and then the current Zodiac Cirrus III (Aries) seat – first introduced in 2015 (you can read a review of it on [businesstraveller.com](https://www.businesstraveller.com)).

The new seat is called Airlounge and will roll out across the carriers' long-haul fleet of A330 and A350 aircraft in Finnair's €200-€300 million investment programme which also includes a new premium class seat and improvements to economy class. This new business class seat was originally designed by London-based studio Priestman Goode and was further developed by Collins Aerospace, with customisation and final design execution by Finnair and its design partner, Tangerine.

First impressions when approaching from the galley into the business class cabin

This business class seat does not recline, but it is easily converted into a fully-flat bed

is that of the back shell of each seat with its curve, and the rounded edges of just about every element of the seat certainly make it friendly both to look at and to use. When I first saw the design in a hanger in February, David Kondo, Finnair's head of customer experience product design, told me that Finnair wanted "to rethink business class and create more of a residential environment, emulating the comfort you would expect at home".

The colour scheme is different from the current business class seating with a darker blue. The airline's relationship with Finnish brand Marimekko continues with the pillows and a duvet, though this was not present on this short-haul flight. The pillow still has a distinctive Maija Isola design print.

The most surprising aspect of the business class seat is that it does not recline, though this does not prevent it being easily converted into a fully-flat bed. There are a range of sitting and sleeping positions, but these are created by altering the footrest and leg rest. When you want to sleep you raise both the footrest and leg rest (what the airline calls 'infill panels') to create a fully-flat bed.

When you want to stretch out, a couple of levers 'fill in' the gap between the seat cushion and the foot cushion and your leg room for this is in the alcove created by the side table of the seat in front. This is very spacious, and you would have no trouble sleeping on your side and then turning over with either knee room or leg room.

The seat feels roomy and at its widest is over 39 inches wide – you can sit cross-legged when you get bored. Unlike several



of the new generation business class seats it does not have doors, and so instead of terming itself a 'suite' has gone for 'lounge.' Finnair says that the seat "takes inspiration from lounge furniture and is designed to maximise customer comfort, space, and freedom to move during a long-haul flight". What it manages to do well is give a real sense of privacy without feeling claustrophobic. The way the seats are arranged, with the high shells, allows for a lot of privacy unless you are in the centre seats and lower the central divider.

The spaciousness of the seat hasn't meant losing storage, which includes space for personal items and a laptop, which was convenient because it meant I could keep working up until the last moment before we started taxiing for take-off, and then continue once we were fully airborne.

This was a short-haul flight, so rather than sleeping I was more interested in working. While I did so, the side pine-topped table had wireless charging for a phone, though it didn't work particularly well on my table. Instead, I used my neighbour's to charge my phone (I did ask, first) and then used the USB charging in the storage area where the noise-cancelling headphones are stowed (there is both USB A and USB C, as well as a PC Power closet on the floor to charge your laptop).

The seat also has a certification for pillows and blankets to remain in the footwell area for take-off and landing, as well as shoes under the footrest. There is a smaller table than some business class seats, though it can be manoeuvred into several positions.

All the long-haul aircraft are equipped

with internet connectivity, so the carrier's 'Nordic Sky' wifi continues, and the IFE has been improved in terms of both content and to include "a more user-friendly, customised interface" with a wider 18-inch screen.

One slight oddity is the absence of a headrest. A fellow passenger told me later that he used the lamp, which doubles as a reading light and is set into the back wall of the seat, as an impromptu headrest. The controls for the seat allow raising and lowering the leg rest, releasing the side table for dining or work and also pressing a 'Do not disturb' light which turns the seat designator a glowing red on the outside of the seat shell. The new cabin mood lighting has been designed in partnership with Jetlite to combat the effects of jetlag.

The centre seats are perfect for when you are travelling with a companion

BEST SEAT All these seats are excellent. On the A330 there is one business class cabin, running from row 1 through to 7 (so 28 seats) in an A-DH-L configuration. There is a small galley at the front and a large one to the rear and then the new premium economy. If leg room is important, the front seats provide that. The centre seats are perfect if you are travelling with a companion – if not the divider is easy to raise and can stay up for take off and landing.

THE FLIGHT As this was a short-haul flight, the new service elements were not present – new chinaware from Finnish design house Iittala, with the Kuulas dining collection designed by Harri Koskinen. This new tableware is almost 20 per cent lighter than the previous set. There will also be a new food and drinks service including "an up to six-course meal in modern bistro-style and another lighter meal". Post-Covid, on the A350 between meals there's a new



refreshment area in the galley between that aircraft's two business class cabins.

I did some work and used the free wifi by connecting to the Nordic Sky portal. This gives you access to Finnair services, such as destination information, customer care and pre-order shopping. You can buy full access, but business class and Finnair Plus Gold members get 30 minutes free on short-haul flights and 60 minutes on long-haul flights.

ARRIVAL We arrived on time at Helsinki and were quickly off the aircraft and into the impressive new Terminal 2 building.

VERDICT This is a superb seat for sitting, working or sleeping. It is spacious, private and very comfortable. *Tom Otley*

BEST FOR

Privacy and a real Finnish sense of design, with excellent service.

FLIGHT TIME

2 hours and 55 minutes

CONFIGURATION

1-2-1

SEAT WIDTH AND PITCH

39 inches at its widest point; Pitch 48 inches on the A330; 45 inches on the A350.

BED LENGTH

78 inches

SEAT RECLINE

No recline but converts to fully-flat

PRICE

Internet rates for a return business class flight from London to Helsinki in May start at £280.

CONTACT

finnair.com



25 Hours Hotel Dubai One Central

BACKGROUND 25 Hours Hotels is part of Ennismore, a joint venture with Accor formed in 2021. With 13 hotels in the brand, it's the first outside Europe and opened in December last year.

WHERE IS IT? Next to the Dubai World Trade Centre, overlooking the Museum of the Future and close to Dubai Finance Centre. It's a 20-minute drive from the airport or you can take the Dubai metro red line direct to the World Trade Centre and then it's a ten-minute walk to the hotel.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The look, created by interior designer Woods Bagot, is modern-day urban nomad and celebrates ancient Bedouin traditions of the region. Its 434 rooms and suites draw on local influences to create the playful feel of a nomad's oasis.

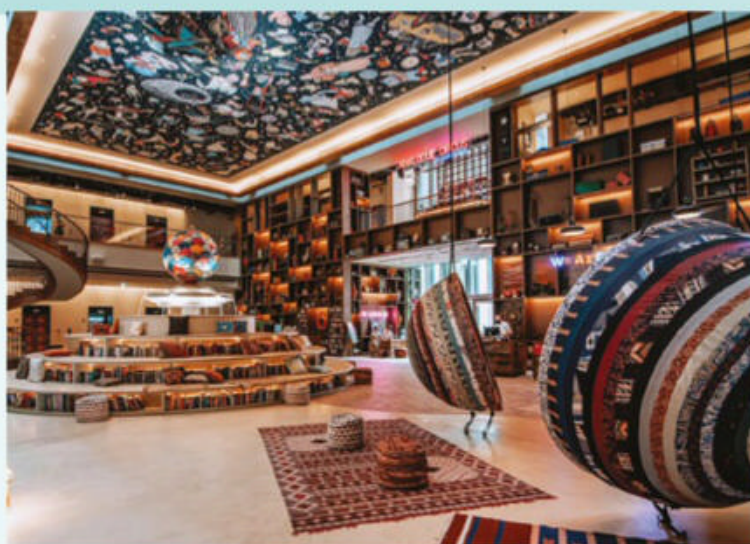
The lobby is a buzzy area dominated by the eye-catching 'Fountain of Tales', a large, tiered, circular structure combining seating and more than 2,500 books. There are huge,

This is a relaxed and informal hotel with the facilities and service of a 5-star property

hanging, egg-style seats, colourful Kilim rugs and shelves of vintage memorabilia. Over 6,000 artworks are displayed around the hotel, including quirky Dioramas in the lifts. There is a large co-working table, which is a popular meeting point, the Nomad café and more seating in the courtyard. This is all topped by an extraordinarily ornate ceiling.

ROOMS The rooms range in size from 30 sqm to a whopping 228 sqm plus a 52 sqm balcony for the largest suite.

My room was an entry level Medium Bedouin. A glass-cube rain shower dominated the middle of the room with a very comfortable king-size bed next to it, with rattan-fronted bedside tables, power points and a telephone. A heavy, colourful curtain can be pulled around the shower



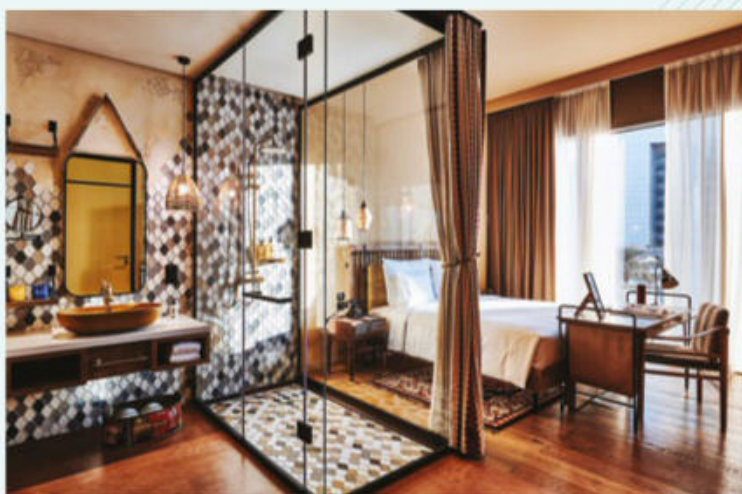
for privacy. The room had a refreshingly easy-to-use lighting system.

A hanging seat by the window overlooked the central courtyard, alongside a large desk with plenty of power points and USB ports, free wifi and a UE Boom Bluetooth speaker. Behind the desk was a smart TV with an open shelving unit, safe, and free minibar (no alcohol, but water, soft drinks and chocolate; refilled every three days). Also provided, tea and plastic-free filter coffee, a kettle and glass bottles of water. The open wardrobe had plenty of shelving and drawers plus complimentary slippers but, unusually, no bath robe.

The bathroom's stone sink had distressed copper fittings and the amenity kit came in paper eco packaging. Large containers of shower gel, shampoo and conditioner had a bold reminder to use water sparingly. It's easy to forget you are in a desert.

FOOD AND DRINK The hotel has three dining venues and a bar. The Nomad café is an all-day bar and café serving Nightjar, a local brand of sustainably sourced coffee, (try the delicious cold brew) and light meals, cakes and pastries.

Tandoor Tina is the sister restaurant of London's Tandoor Chop House where Northern Indian meets British cuisine. The tandoori is exceptional, and the sharing Thali is a great way to sample everything.



The service was attentive and quick. There is a good selection of wines, a gin-and-tonic menu, and Tina's cocktails with an Indian twist. Try the Coconut Negroni;

it's surprisingly good.

A buffet breakfast is served in the same venue, offering local cuisine and egg dishes from eggs benedict to Shakshuka.

The Monkey Bar is on the sixth floor with impressive views. It offers a variety of drinks and a Latin American-inspired menu. Its nightly DJ sets make this a popular venue, especially on Friday. Booking is essential.

Ernst Biergarten and Wirtshaus was due to open just after my stay in March. A 400-seat Bavarian beer garden, it will offer draught German beers, home-baked Pretzels, pork dishes and traditional sausages.

MEETINGS There are three meeting rooms with large central tables, polished concrete floors and break-out Bedouin tents outside the rooms.

LEISURE A well-equipped gym is on the sixth floor, including an outdoor exercise space and rooftop pool, bar and plenty of sunbed space. There's a spa and hair salon and Dubai's first mixed-use sauna.

VERDICT This is a fun and creative blend of cultures combined with all the style and service expected of a 5-star hotel.

Annie Harris

BEST FOR

A hip and trendy vibe, quirky décor with lots of hidden spaces to discover

DON'T MISS

A Champagne Pina Colada in the Monkey Bar admiring the view

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in May started from £258 for a Medium Bedouin room

CONTACT

Trade Center Street, Dubai, UAE
+971 4 210 2525; 25hours-hotels.com

The Peninsula Bangkok

BACKGROUND Luxury Asian hotel group Peninsula Hotels has six hotels across Asia, and properties in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Paris. New hotels are also planned for London, Istanbul and Yangon. The Peninsula Bangkok opened in 1998 and occupies a skyscraper on the banks of the Chao Phraya River.

It's a SHA Extra Plus hotel, meaning it can be used as accommodation under the government's Test and Go programme, with its own clinic offering PCR and antigen tests. The hotel's Test and Go package includes accommodation, THB2,000 (£46) resort credit, breakfast, a PCR test and a transfer from the airport.

WHERE IS IT? It's situated on a stretch of the west side of the Chao Phraya River populated by luxury hotels. It neighbours the Iconsiam development, which includes one of Asia's largest shopping malls. The hotel has its own pier with complimentary riverboats that ferry you to the Skytrain station, bespoke green Tuk Tuks, and a rooftop helipad if you need it.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? While its river-facing façade is more recognisable, its entrance on Charoen Nakorn Road is also spectacular. A driveway through lush tropical greenery offers an immediate sanctuary from the city.

The 40-storey hotel was inspired by a wave – a geometric design of two protruding towers and an indented central section. It glistens at night, reflected across the river.

The lobby is a grand space, with a water droplet-like chandelier overhead, tropical



plants, live jazzy piano and windows which overlook the grounds and river beyond.

I was taken straight to the on-site clinic by a staff member and then accompanied to my room, advised that I would get a keycard when I tested negative. I received a call five hours later with the good news, and a member of the team dropped off my keycard along with a copy of my results.

Service during my stay was brilliant, with staff attentive but not intrusive.

The hotel has its own pier, complimentary riverboats and bespoke green Tuk Tuks

ROOMS The hotel has 370 rooms and suites from 45-47 sqm Deluxe rooms, some with balconies, to the 364 sqm Peninsula suite. My 74 sqm Deluxe Suite featured an open-plan living room, a bedroom, luxurious bathroom and walk-in wardrobe with a luggage bench. Because of the angular shape of the building, each floor-to-ceiling window offers a slightly different view of the ever-changing skyline.

In the living room there's a dining table, sofa, plush armchairs, a coffee table and TV, and a desk with USB and plug points. There's a Nespresso coffee machine, a safe, complimentary drinking water, and a fully stocked minibar.

The huge bedroom features a large, very comfortable bed. On either side are telephones and a panel to control lighting,

curtains, the TV, aircon and heating. It's simple to use but unattractive and at odds with the immaculate room. There is also a phone/tablet charger in the bedside table, with five USB cords and an iPhone charger.

The sumptuous marble bathroom is a highlight, with an inviting bathtub, separate rainfall shower stall and toilet cubicle. There are sustainable Prin Lomros amenities, slippers and bathrobes. The suite has an additional toilet cubicle in the main space.

FOOD AND DRINK Dining venues include waterfront Thiptara for Thai cuisine; Cantonese fine dining restaurant Mei Jiang in the main building; all-day dining in the lobby bar, including the brand's signature afternoon tea; and a pool bar. All venues offer vegan options.

I had all my meals at the alfresco River Café Terrace and Bar, a shaded waterside restaurant. The buffet breakfast offers both Western and Asian cuisine.

LEISURE A Thai colonial-style building houses the spa, a sauna, steam room and plunge pools. There is also a large fitness centre, a three-tiered outdoor swimming pool and free-to-use tennis courts.

MEETINGS There are seven event spaces ranging from the 38 sqm Paribatra on the 37th floor for up to 50 guests, to the 520 sqm Sakuntala Ballroom which accommodates 800 guests.

VERDICT This luxury hotel lives up to its high reputation. *Hannah Brandler*

BEST FOR

A peaceful stay with exquisite dining venues and luxurious facilities

DON'T MISS

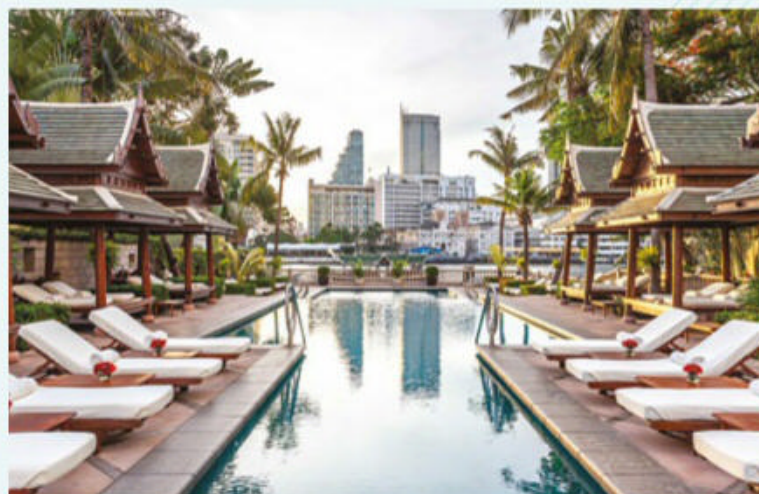
A nightcap at the River Café and Bar

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in May started from THB10,828 (£246.70) for a Deluxe Room, including taxes and fees. The Test and Go package starts from THB7,000 (£161)

CONTACT

333 Charoen Nakorn Road, Klongsan, Bangkok 10600; +66 2 020 2888; peninsula.com



Turing Locke, Cambridge

BACKGROUND Open since October, this is the 12th outpost for the design-focused aparthotel brand Locke, which has properties in the UK, Ireland and Germany. It is part of the Edyn group, which also includes Saco serviced apartments.

WHERE IS IT? North-west of Cambridge city centre in Eddington, a 150-hectare sustainable district developed by the University of Cambridge and named after alumnus Sir Arthur Eddington. The toy town-like area is full of new builds providing accommodation for staff and students, as well as learning facilities and green spaces.

Eddington is a 15-minute bike ride to the city centre, or a ten-minute bus journey with the 'U' bus. There is an underground car park, with spaces costing £15 per night. It is 3.9 miles from Cambridge railway station.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The rectangular new-build surrounds a leafy central courtyard space, and comprises both the 180-unit Turing Locke and the 150-room Hyatt Centric Cambridge – separated on the ground floor by a covered patio. The properties share guestroom floors, outdoor space and all public areas including restaurant Kota (on the ground floor of the Hyatt section) and cocktail bar Dutch (beyond Locke's reception).

Turing Locke has a stylish, modernist design. The ground floor has a small reception desk as well as an automatic check-in area with two machines. To check out, you hand your keycard to reception by

1100. The keycard gives 24-hour access to the building; the desk is manned at all times.

The ground floor is home to an open-plan coworking space for both guests and locals, with long tables, comfy sofas and natural light through floor-to-ceiling windows.

The guestroom floors are split in half, with different colour schemes to distinguish Locke from Hyatt Centric. Locke is soft green, pink and teal while Hyatt has dark saturated colours. On the sustainability side, the property uses renewable energy sources; furniture and lighting are from responsible suppliers, and there are 200 bike spaces and 20 electric vehicle charging spots.

ROOMS The 180 apartments range from 27 to 74 sqm on floors 1-3, all of which include fully-fitted kitchens, living and dining space. Amenities include tea and coffee-making facilities, a safe, hairdryer, iron and ironing board, a yoga mat, and Kinsey Apothecary toiletries in the bathroom. The 11 Terrace Suites (31 sqm) on the first floor are a

We had a good night's sleep thanks to effective blackout curtains and soundproofing

highlight, with a terrace overlooking the courtyard and a bed of wildflowers and Chinese gooseberry trees.

My Terrace Suite had arched doorways leading from the entrance into the lounge. The stylish terrazzo-tiled bathroom had an easy-to-use rainfall shower.

For this property AvroKO reduced the size of the bedroom and prioritised living space. The small bedroom, separated by wooden sliding doors, has plenty of wardrobe space and a comfortable king-size bed. We had a great night's sleep thanks to effective blackout curtains and good soundproofing.

The lounge area is light and airy, with a comfortable sofa, a small dining table and a fully-equipped kitchen. Wifi is fast and free; there are USB and plug sockets throughout.

Cleaning takes place every seven days. Guests can pick up fresh linen, cleaning products and essentials at the front desk.

FOOD AND DRINK Dutch is a great drinks spot, with dim lighting and cosy tables nestled around a teal-tiled bar. It offers an expansive cocktail list and a menu of locally sourced platters of cheeses and cured meats, plus tapas-style small plates.

Street-level restaurant Kota has a mixture of booth-style seating and window-side tables. The Finnish-inspired restaurant specialises in wood-fired cooking – notable were the grilled red mullet with lentil dahl and naan (£22) and a dry-aged Denver steak with roast Portobello mushroom, crispy onions and chunky chips (£26).

Breakfast is also served at Kota, including brunch-style fare (with plant-based options), fresh pastries and excellent coffee.

MEETINGS There are two private rooms on the ground floor, each seating 14, which can be joined to create 68 sqm of space. The restaurant, co-working area, courtyard and roof terrace can also be hired.

LEISURE There is a small gym.

VERDICT Turing Locke Cambridge offers comfortable apartments, beautiful interior design, light-filled public spaces and very good food and drink venues. The Terrace Suites are recommended. *Hannah Brandler*

BEST FOR

Trendy apartments in Cambridge's new Eddington neighbourhood

DON'T MISS

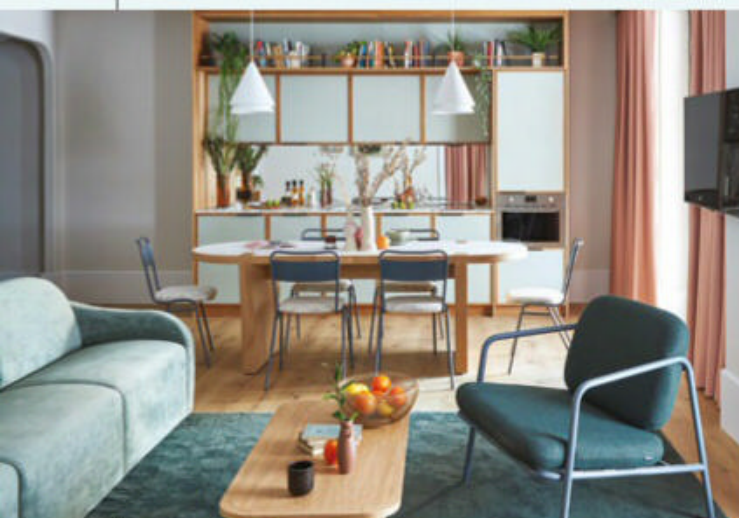
Mezcal margaritas at Dutch followed by Scandi-style fare at Kota (or vice-versa)

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in May started from £139 for a Locke Studio

CONTACT

47 Eddington Avenue, Cambridge
CB3 1SE; +44 (0)330 174 4221;
lockeliving.com



De Vere Beaumont Estate

BACKGROUND De Vere is a collection of historic country estates and houses comprising over 260 meeting rooms and more than 1,800 bedrooms around London, south-east England and the Cotswolds.

The Beaumont Estate in Old Windsor is made up of 44 acres of grounds, an 18th century mansion and a Georgian mansion house (The White House). It was a boys' boarding school from 1854-1967. It is primarily designed for the MICE market and has 45 event spaces.

The property underwent the first phase of a £12 million refurbishment in 2018, and at the start of this year unveiled The White House, which includes six meeting and events spaces, and 26 bedrooms and suites. The hotel's final 28 duplex bedrooms and swimming pool are being refurbished.

WHERE IS IT? Just off Burfield Road in Old Windsor, three miles from Windsor. It's easily accessible by car, close to the M3, M4 and M25, and a convenient 15-minute drive from Heathrow airport.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The estate is well sign-posted if arriving by car. There are four car parks in the extensive grounds.

The lobby is large and modern. I was handed a map of the estate and given directions to my room during check-in. Guests can drop off their keys in a box in reception when checking out.

The décor is quite literally old-school, with replica typewriters, academia-inspired artworks, and even a pair of spectacles

found during the renovation. The property also references Windsor's ties to royalty.

The corridors in the main building feel quite cold, but this changes when you reach The White House, which is like a boutique hotel with its deluxe bedrooms and suites. It has a more luxurious feel.

A winding staircase, lit by a glistening chandelier, leads to the accommodations, while The Parlour on the ground floor is a light-filled lounge with plush armchairs.

ROOMS The property is a bit of a maze; rooms can be some distance from check-in. Rooms range from entry-level Academy Guest rooms (26-33 sqm) to open-plan 53 sqm suites. My suite in the White House was very spacious and featured tartan accents and tan leather furnishings. The huge bed is the focus of the room. However, the estate is under the Heathrow flight path so you will hear air traffic if you're a light sleeper.

The White House is like a boutique hotel with its deluxe bedrooms and suites

There are USB ports, sockets and lamps either side of the bed, and a classic Roberts radio, a retro telephone and a Dyson fan. Wifi is very fast, and the hotel has an online system to request free services, such as towels, or to report a fault.

The suite has a large wardrobe, a minibar, a safe, iron and ironing board. Also provided, a bag of miniature H2K Harrogate toiletries (with full-size versions in the bathroom), a small TV, robe, slippers, a Nespresso machine and tea-making facilities.

The bathroom is sleek with a separate toilet, his-and-her sinks, an inviting roll-top bath and powerful walk-in shower.

FOOD AND DRINK The hotel has two dining venues, 1705 Restaurant and Bar and The Beaumont Restaurant, both of which offer local, seasonal menus.

The redesigned 1705 Restaurant and Bar features a casual bar area with a separate well-lit dining space. While it has a modern décor, a whitewashed brick wall chronicles the former school's rowing achievements. The outdoor courtyard (the 'school yard') strewn with fairy lights is a great addition.

Our starters were a bit hit and miss – a delicious tomato and red pepper hummus



with feta, pumpkin seeds and pitta bread (£5), but a bland vegetable mezze platter (£6.50). Mains were pub-style quality – roast salmon with kale and a chorizo and chickpea cassoulet (£20), and Kilhorne Bay breaded scampi with parmesan and truffle oil chips, mushy peas and tartare sauce (£15.50). The dessert was an indulgent sticky toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream (£8).

MEETINGS The Hanover Suite in the main house has capacity for 700 guests. The spectacular Grade-II listed 19th century chapel can entertain up to 200. Each space includes smart technology and fast wifi.

LEISURE There's a large gym; the swimming pool will reopen this summer.

VERDICT This is a great venue for MICE. The outdoor space is ideal for team-building activities. Rooms in The White House are recommended. *Hannah Brandler*

BEST FOR

Ample meetings and events spaces

DON'T MISS

Alfresco teambuilding followed by a celebratory dinner at The Chapel event space

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in May started from £170 for an Academy Guest room

CONTACT

Burfield Road SL4 2JJ; 01753 640000; devere.co.uk



Parkroyal Collection Marina Bay, Singapore



BACKGROUND Acquired by Pan Pacific Group, the hotel reopened on December 1, 2020 after a SG\$45 million (£24.45 million) refurbishment. The hotel is one of four original John Portman hotels, built in 1987, and until recently the Marina Mandarin. It is now part of the Parkroyal Collection brand which has a focus on sustainability.

WHERE IS IT? It's located in the Marina Bay area with access to the Marina Square Shopping Centre and links to the Suntec Convention Centre. The airport is 20 minutes by car; an MRT station is a few minutes' walk away. It is close to attractions, including Gardens by the Bay and the Singapore Flyer.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? It's eco-friendly, with no single-use plastics, solar panels on the roof and an eco-digester for food waste. Expect lots of greenery – there's a garden within the hotel, a 13m green wall and songbirds in the huge 21-storey atrium.

ROOMS In total there are 583 rooms and suites with ten types to choose from. All rooms have balconies with views of the city or Marina Bay and every bathroom has both a bathtub and walk-in shower. The Urban Deluxe Room is entry level and a generous 31-33 sqm. All rooms are styled in creams, browns and beige, with wood effect, marble and mirrors. I was in a Signature Marina Bay Suite at 63 sqm which comes with Collection Club benefits. My room had a living area with a sofa, comfy chair, coffee table and a round dining room table with four chairs. There was a cupboard with a minibar, a Nespresso coffee machine, kettle and choice of TWG Teas. There was a large LG TV on the wall with a wide selection of

It has a garden within the hotel; expect greenery and songbirds in the huge atrium

channels. For work there was a good size desk with an adjustable ergonomic chair and light. There was only one plug socket by the desk, although by the comfortable bed there was a plug and a USB charger as well as reading lights. The bedroom had a second large LG TV, comfy chair and coffee table, with sliding doors to separate it from the living room. There is also a vanity area with a large lit mirror and Dyson hairdryer.

The Collection Club is located in a new building next to the pool. It's spacious with plenty of seating. It offers a buffet breakfast, afternoon snacks and evening canapés.

Those eligible are entitled to free local calls, complimentary laundry or pressing of two items per day and late check out. Breakfast included a good selection of Western, Chinese and Asian choices along with fruit, cereal, pastries and meat. Service was very attentive.

FOOD AND DRINK Peppermint is the all-day dining restaurant with open kitchens and various cuisines. Portman's Bar, open 1030-2230, is in the huge atrium where there is a daily light show at 1900, 2000 and 2100. It offers over 90 whiskies and an extensive cocktail list. Peach Blossoms serves up a huge choice of Cantonese food. The Skyline Bar is a pool bar with a menu of Western and Asian dishes; open 1030-2000. Sushi Jiro is a well-regarded Japanese restaurant with a varied menu offering lunch and dinner. Ruth's Chris Steak House is open for lunch and dinner.

MEETINGS There are two ballrooms with a built-in LED screen and stage, 12 smaller meeting rooms, plus an outside meeting space next to the pool.

LEISURE On the fifth floor there is a good size gym with Technogym equipment, open 0700-2200. There is a spinning room and a studio, plus St Gregory's Spa. Outside is a 25m mineral water pool (0700-2230 daily). There is a yoga area; mats are available.

VERDICT A stylish comfortable hotel in a great location for business or leisure, topped off by great service. *Julian Gregory*

BEST FOR

Large rooms, with lots of light and great views of the Bay

DON'T MISS

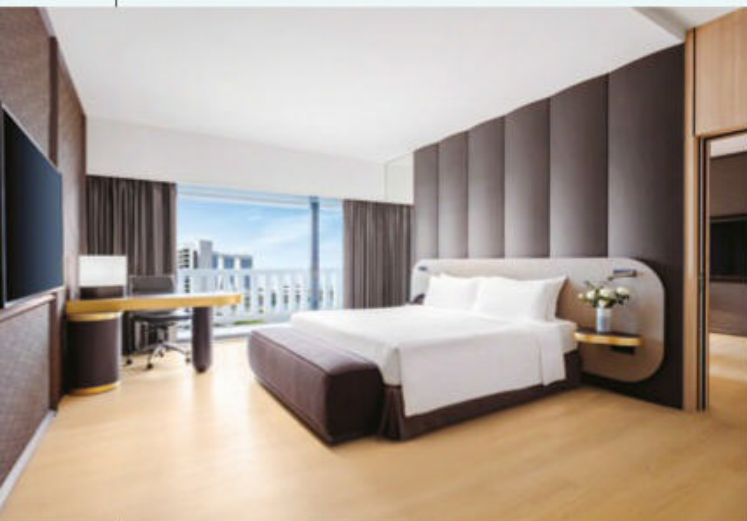
Evening drinks by the twinkling pool with views of the Singapore skyline

PRICE

Internet rates for a flexible midweek stay in May started from SG\$320 (£179) for an Urban Deluxe Room

CONTACT

6 Raffles Boulevard, Marina Square, Singapore, 039594; +65 6845 1000; panpacific.com



Keeping travellers safe since 2006

- ◆ **Travel Vaccinations**
- ◆ **Nationwide Clinics**
- ◆ **Same day appointments**
- ◆ **Corporate Opportunities**



CityDoc

citydoc.org.uk
0333 006 9976

Our guide to...

Which countries require a Covid-19 booster jab?

Several countries require travellers to show proof of a Covid-19 booster jab due to the fear of spreading Covid-19 variants. Last year the European Commission proposed a nine-month time limit on vaccination certificates for travel to and within the European Union.

The definition of 'fully vaccinated' differs depending on the country, with some putting time limits on the initial two doses of the vaccine. This may not restrict entry to the country but might prevent you from accessing certain venues and services upon arrival.

Travellers from the UK can show proof of a booster vaccination within the NHS Covid Pass for international travel. Here we round up the countries that require boosters or third doses either for entry or for domestic activities. Note that the rules are always subject to change and correct at the time of going to press.

AUSTRIA

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot no more than 270 days ago.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival in the country or an antigen test no more than 24 hours before entry. Without a negative PCR test or proof of a booster at the time of entry, travellers must fill in a pre-travel clearance form and enter a ten-day quarantine.

Domestic rules: Two-dose vaccinations are valid for 180 days; a booster is valid for 270 days.

BELGIUM

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test, and for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival or an antigen test no more than 24 hours before entry.

BULGARIA

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival in the country or an antigen test no more than 48 hours before entry.

CROATIA

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival in the country or an antigen test no more than 24 hours before entry.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers can provide a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days). Those who have not been fully vaccinated or previously had Covid-19 can only enter for essential reasons.

DENMARK

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no

more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers can provide a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days). Those who have not been fully vaccinated or previously had Covid-19 will need to take a test within 24 hours of arrival in Denmark, and undergo a ten-day isolation (which can be ended after four days with a negative PCR test).

ESTONIA

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers can provide a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days). Those who have not been fully vaccinated or previously had Covid-19 will have to undergo a seven-day isolation.

FRANCE

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Those who have not been fully vaccinated will have to provide a reason for essential travel, a negative PCR test result taken within 72 hours, or an antigen test result taken within 48 hours before departure, and a sworn statement.

Domestic rules: Travellers will need to download the country's *pass vaccinal* (vaccine pass) app to access services and venues in the country. A vaccine pass is accessible to those who are fully vaccinated (but with a booster vaccine within four months of their second dose), or have proof of recovery from Covid-19 (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of four months). Alternatively, a traveller must be able to provide proof of a medical exemption from vaccination.



GREECE

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Those who have not been fully vaccinated or previously had Covid-19 will have to provide a negative PCR test result taken within 72 hours, or an antigen test result taken within 24 hours, before arrival in Greece.

Domestic rules: Two-dose vaccinations are only valid for seven months, but the booster does not have a time limit. If it has expired, travellers have to present proof of a negative rapid test, taken up to 48 hours before entry, to visit public spaces.

ITALY

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival in the country or an antigen test no more than 48 hours before entry.

Domestic rules: Two-dose vaccinations are valid for 180 days; the booster does not have a time limit. If expired, travellers will have to present proof of a negative rapid test (valid for 48 hours) or PCR test (valid for 72 hours).

ISRAEL

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 180 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot. Travellers must also take a PCR test no more than 72 hours before departure or an antigen test no more than 24 hours before departure. Another PCR test must be taken upon arrival with a 24-hour isolation.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide a recovery certificate (valid from eight days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days). Those who have not been fully vaccinated or previously had Covid-19 will need to provide a specific exemption.

LATVIA

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test, for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival or an antigen test no more than 48 hours before entry.

MONTENEGRO

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 180 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from ten days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival in the country or an antigen test no more than 48 hours before entry.

THE NETHERLANDS

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have had the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot. Travellers are advised to take a self-test after arriving.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days). Those who have not been fully vaccinated or previously had Covid-19 will need an exemption.

PORTUGAL

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have had the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry, or had a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers will need to provide either a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days), a PCR test no more than 72 hours before arrival in the country or an antigen test no more than 24 hours before entry.

SINGAPORE

Criteria for entry: Travellers can enter via the Vaccinated Travel Lane programme if they have received two doses of the vaccine at least two weeks before arrival.

Domestic rules: Two-dose vaccinations are only valid for 270 days. The booster has no time limit. Visitors must download the TraceTogether app to access services and venues.

SPAIN

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Travellers need to provide a recovery certificate (valid from 11 days after a positive test date, and for a period of 180 days). Those who have not been fully vaccinated or previously had Covid-19 need to provide a specific exemption.

SWITZERLAND

Criteria for entry: Travellers must have received the second dose of the vaccine no more than 270 days before entry into the country, or received a booster shot.

Alternative: Those who have not been fully vaccinated will need to provide an exemption.

THE BIG PICTURE



MARTIN STEVENS/UPY 2022

Star of the show

The Underwater Photographer of the Year 2022 competition celebrated marine life with 4,200 submissions from 71 countries. British photographer Martin Stevens won in the 'British Waters Compact' category for this photo, titled 'Rock pool star', taken during low spring tides in Falmouth, Cornwall, with a fisheye wet lens. Judge Tobias Friedrich said it was an "excellent example of what can be done in your backyard with least effort. Very nice composition and good catch to see the opportunity in this situation." See the winning shots at underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com



Independent minds carve out their own journey.

Keemala, Phuket - one of over 500 unforgettable hotels in more than 80 countries at [SLH.com](https://slh.com)

SMALL
LUXURY
HOTELS
OF THE WORLD™

Independently minded



At the heart of life

Rotana

At Rotana, we believe time well spent, is a life well lived. This enduring thought is at the heart of every experience we promise when you stay with us.

Our distinct collection of brands include Rotana Hotels & Resorts, Arjaan Hotel Apartments by Rotana, Centro Hotels, Resorts and Hotel Apartments by Rotana, Rayhaan Hotels & Resorts by Rotana and The Residences by Rotana.

Transform moments into memorable experiences as we present a selection of diverse destinations, ideal for every journey.

To find out more, visit **rotana.com**

Treasured time. Our promise to you.

Rotana
Hotels & Resorts

Arjaan
Hotel Apartments

CENTRO

Rayhaan
Hotels & Resorts

**The
Residences**

P.O. Box 95100, Abu Dhabi, UAE. T: +971 (0) 2 699 4444 F: +971 (0) 2 699 4445, head.office@rotana.com

rotana.com