

TravelTrendz

International

July / August 2022

a travel lifestyle publication

Azerbaijan
Rich Biodiversity

AIUla
Summer Untold

Austria
Practice Mindfulness

Germany
Naturally Beautiful

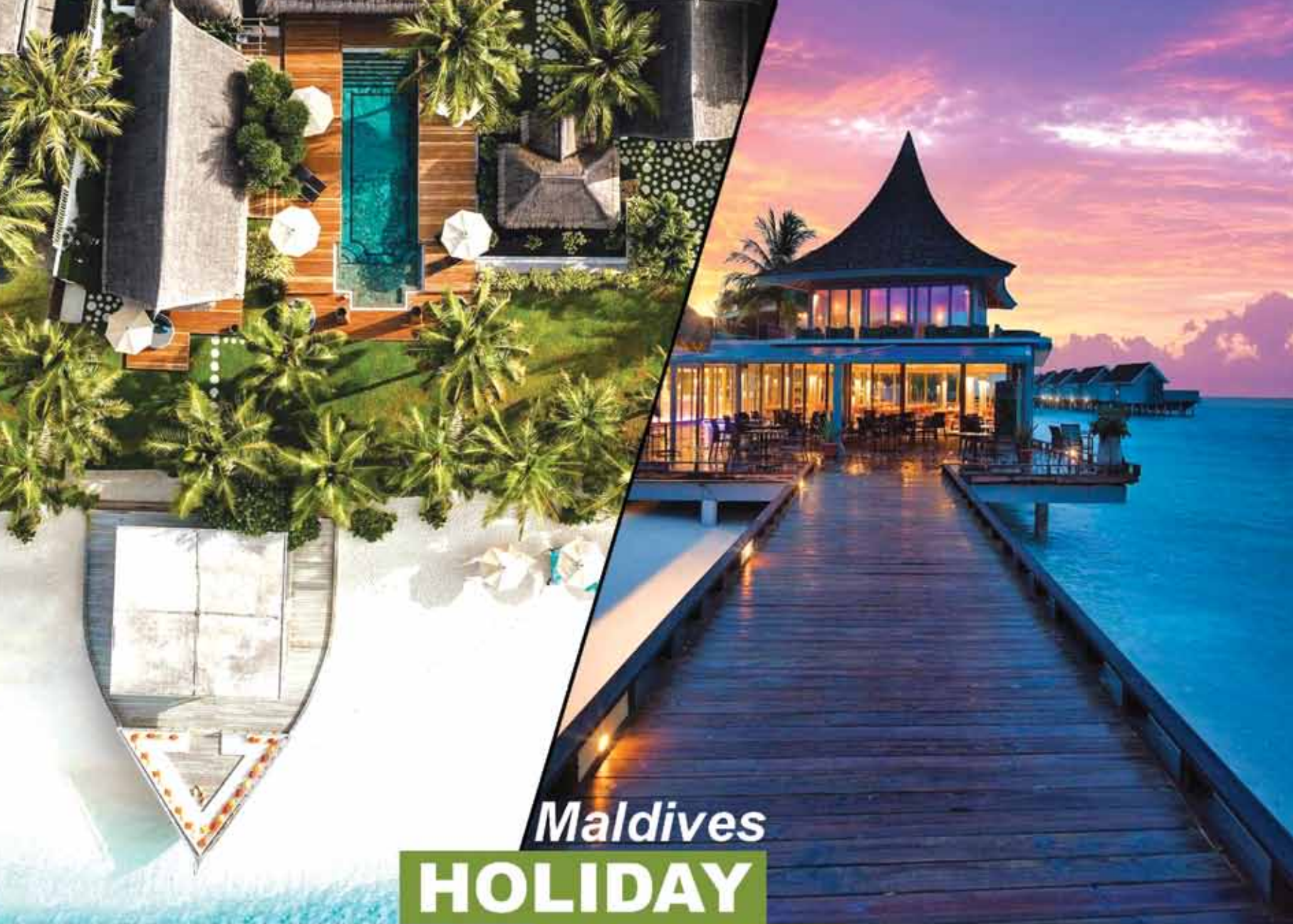


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UNTOLD

BONDS UNBROKEN



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The summer is here and this is the time for travel in big numbers. The pandemic is still here but quite mild with resurfacing in some places like China and India plus Europe but most of the borders are open. The entire industry is in trouble and travelling is not coming to the desired level with some geopolitical conflicts in Europe and high fuel cost plus shortage of staff for the airlines and airports.

In this issue as always, we as always offer new and exciting options to our readers. The top destinations and Hotels are being introduced as never before. Do miss the article Austria where one can practice mindfulness in true sense. Learn more about the amazing festivals of Pakistan in mesmerizing north. We have featured the amazing city of Vienna and the enchanting Brazil. The articles on naturally beautiful Germany and the culturally rich Georgia are truly informative. Do not miss our article on Azerbaijan, with its biodiversity. We have a very special article on AIUla helping you to learn about the untold summer.

We have covered the top notch hotels in this issue such as the Centara Mirage Beach Resort in Dubai. We have featured The Habtoor Polo Resort and Habtoor Grand Resort, two unique properties in Dubai. An interesting article on The Ritz Carlton Ras Al Khaimah Al Wadi is not to be missed.

As always, read about the news and views relating to the hospitality industry plus learn about what is happening in the Airlines and Aviation Industry.

So, have a good time reading...

Ken Chapman
Editor

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SEP. / OCT.
2022

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EXPERIENCE A RICH BIODIVERSITY IN AZERBAIJAN



Benefiting from a rich biodiversity, Azerbaijan is famous for its wide range of delicious food products, from fruits and vegetables to organically-made mountain honey. What is even more special about the country is the fact that travellers can observe how these products are produced first hand at family-run farms and businesses, surrounded by breath-taking natural beauties.

To start with, travellers finding themselves in the subtropical southern corner of the country will encounter a must-try experience in Lankaran and Astara. This town is quite well-known for its tea plantations since 1912 when first tea bushes were planted here. It is highly recommended to visit 'Yashil Chay' (eng. 'Green Tea') in the village of Istisu. Along with tea plantations extending as far as the eye can see, here you can find a Tea Museum, guest house and restaurant serving delicious dishes from local cuisine.

Travelling to the north-western part of the country, it is easy to find multiple spots to enjoy agritourism experiences. One such destination is Sheki where a peaceful village of Oryet is home to a bio garden. Here, huge range of organic fruits, nuts and flowering plants are grown in picturesque orchards with views of the Caucasus Mountains. Guided tours of these orchards are the best way to learn about what



local methods are used for cultivation methods and pick fruits to purchase. Of course, there is an onsite restaurant serving meals made from seasonal local ingredients.

About an hour drive from Sheki, you will find yourself in Gakh. This one is a perfect place to see ancient methods of beekeeping. Near the village of Ledit, there is a family business that keeps about 300 colonies of bees, producing various honey-based products. They also stage multiple workshops and a small open-air museum for those keen on learning more about apiculture and find out about an endangered local wild beekeeping tradition.

Further to the north-west from Gakh, Zagatala Trout Fish Farm

has been operating since 1979. This farm now offers an eco tour, where professional fish breeders guide you through the entire process of trout breeding. After learning about the whole process, you can taste a great selection of fried and smoked trout at an onsite restaurant. With an early reservation, fishing and outdoor fish cooking are also available between May and September along with painting masterclasses.

Sheki-Zagatala route is also home to the unique Slow Food travel experience. This concept brings local producers and gastronomic communities in certain regions and multiple parts of the tourism value chain together while allowing travellers to enrich their experience through meetings with local farmers, cheesemakers, herders, winemakers, etc. to learn about different



types of food which have been produced since ancient times.

In addition to these examples of biodiversity in the regions, the capital city Baku has recently seen an opening of a unique bazaar after a major renovation. Sharg Bazaar (eng. Easter Bazaar) stands out as a magnificent manifestation of the Silk Road. Together with the separate bazaar sections selling fruit and vegetables, sweets, spices and dried fruits and souvenirs as well as a food court, there's also a traditional teahouse, contemporary cafes and a restaurant serving national dishes.

While you are here, you might as well visit Yashil Bazaar (eng.

Green Bazaar), located just up the road from Sharg Bazaar. This one is also full of the freshest produce from all around Azerbaijan. Fruits, dried fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meats, fish, herbs and tea are just some of the mouthwatering produce to taste and buy here. In particular, local specialties like pomegranates, honey, saffron, sturgeon and caviar are in abundance at this one too.

Having visited the above-mentioned corners and spots in Azerbaijan, you will not only be treated to delicious food varieties, but will also enjoy an interesting mix of cultural experiences and great hospitality too.





THREE BRAZIL DESTINATIONS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRAVEL

Four alternative destinations
worth exploring in Brazil

Brazil cultural diversity is wide since the colonization of the country, where influences from Africa and Europe combined with the native's culture. As a continental country, Brazilian culture is expressed in a unique way across regions.

Cultural tourism attracts international tourists who travel to discover the wide range of touristic offerings that are unique to the South American country. From the influence of the colonial past to beautiful landscapes and the joyful people, Brazil welcomes tourists from around the globe to have an amazing experience.

Carlos Brito, President of Embratur, Brazil's Tourism Board commented: "Brazil is incredibly diverse and offers travelers so many unique destinations within a destination. Through Embratur, we're encouraging tourists to explore the extensive options Brazil has to offer beyond Rio and Sao Paulo, from our colonial and historical towns to our paradisaical beaches.

"The four places we're highlighting here are of particular interest to visitors from the UAE who we know look to escape the heat and their fast-paced urban lives in search of culture, natural beauty, beautiful relaxing beaches, with the option to adventure too. We look forward to welcoming more travelers from Middle East over the summer season as they discover Brazil's distinctive destinations."

Florianópolis — for islandic nightlife

Adventurous travelers looking to experience island vibes alongside Brazilian nightlife should consider Florianópolis — one of Brazil's most beautiful islands. Wherever heads turn, visitors will either find beautiful beaches, parties or afternoon/night clubs. The Jurere Internacional — Florianópolis' beach-side neighbourhood — promises the best of beachside Brazilian day parties.

But there's more. To the south of the island is Praia do Campeche and Armação. Here, boats leave for Ilha do Campeche, an island of archaeological interest (thanks to its several rock engravings and paintings) with Caribbean-like seas. Alternatively, keen surfers can head to Praia do Matadeiro, another Southern popular spot.

Fernando de Noronha — for crystal clear waters

Visitors wondering what paradise on earth looks like must visit Fernando de Noronha, a UNESCO World Heritage Site boasting beautiful beaches and unique ecotourism activities. The volcanic archipelago is perfect for families, couples, and friends who want to enjoy hiking, boat trips, snorkelling, surfing, as well as down time.

Located within the heart of Fernando de Noronha is Baía do Sancho — one of the most beautiful beaches in the world with crystal clear waters, teeming with marine wildlife. Those interested in seeing several types of fish, turtles, and small sharks can also head to Praia do Sueste or Praia do Porto.

Based in Fernando de Noronha is Projeto Tamar, an organization that aims to protect and conserve a feeding and spawning area for rare sea turtle species. Tourists can embark on guided tours and lectures, learning from biologists about the life cycle of sea turtles and how to protect them. The island is a breeding area for green turtles and a feeding, growing, and resting area for juveniles of this species and the hawksbill turtle.

Minas Gerais — for historic, colonial architecture & art

The state of Minas Gerais is a great option for those who enjoy a combination of history, nature, and architecture.

The state has several countryside gems that are worth exploring at a slow pace. Ouro Preto, once the capital of Minas Gerais, is a colonial town in Serra do Espinhaço, known for its baroque architecture and for its steep, winding cobbled streets.

Elsewhere, admirers of architecture, nature, and culture can marvel at the baroque inspired, historic buildings, and secular churches of Diamantina. A city acting as a gateway to the waterfalls of Biribiri State Park.

A World Cultural Heritage Site, Congonhas is another city where visitors can explore the Bom Jesus de Matosinhos Sanctuary, an architectural, sculptural complex showcasing Christian art and expressive works. Congonhas is also home to one of Brazil's greatest artistic patrimonies – the works executed by António Francisco Lisboa, known as “Aleijadinho”.

Estrada Real — for gastronomy & culture

Technically not a destination but worthy of a mention is the Estrada Real, Brazil's largest 1,600km long tourist route. Recognized for its historic significance, Estrada Real comprises of a series of tourist routes offering gastronomic, cultural, religious and adventurous experiences.

Travelers will be delighted to find paths full of cosy inns, urban and rural. Local residents are also friendly enough to offer camping facilities or home stay for those who need it.

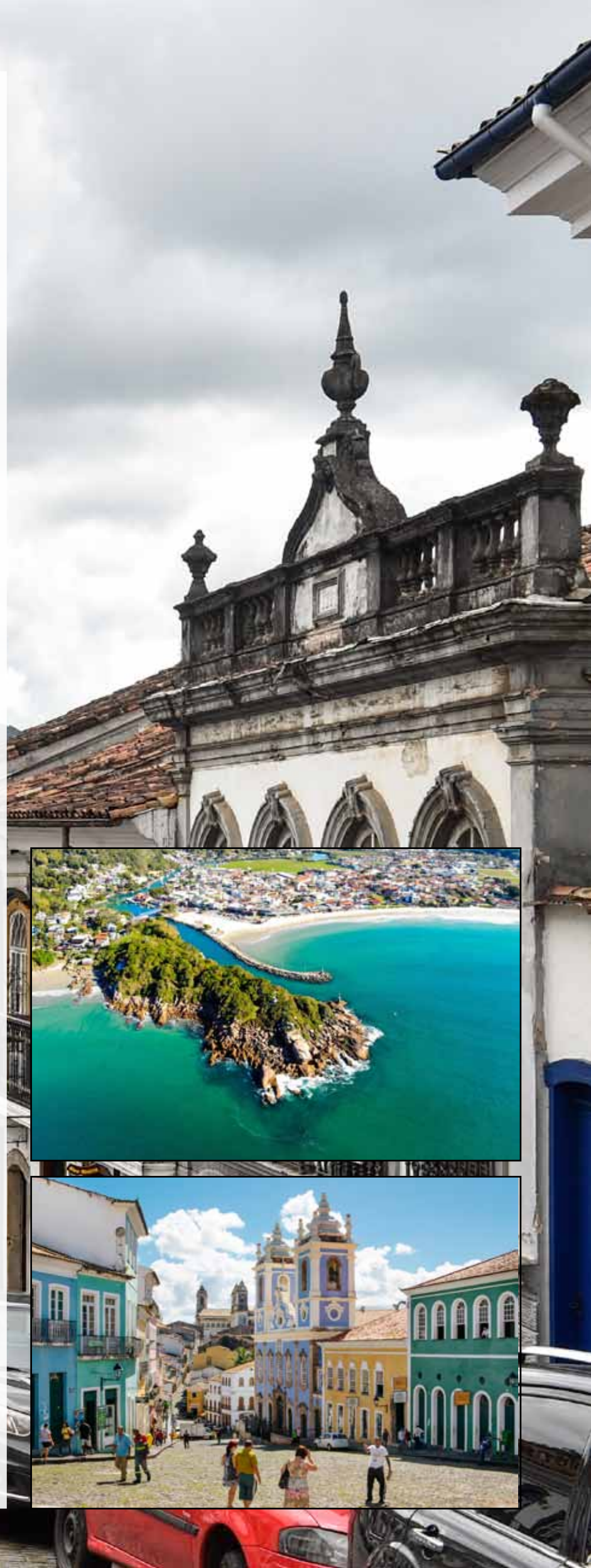
Some of the main routes include the Old Way, the New Way, the Diamond Way and the Sabarabuçu Way. Visitors are awarded a Certificate of Completion should they collect passport stamps along the entire Estrada Real route. To obtain the certificate, visitors need to acquire a minimum number of stamps, which varies according to the path taken.

Emirates flies directly to Sao Paulo International Airport in Brazil every week. From there, connecting flights can take you to your next desired, diverse Brazilian haven.

ABOUT EMBRATUR

The Brazilian Tourist Board is responsible for implementing National Tourism Policy in the areas of promotion, marketing, and marketing support for Brazilian tourist destinations, services and products in the international market. Embratur helps to generate social and economic development for the country by increasing the flow of international tourists to national destinations.

www.visitbrasil.com.br



5 Ways to Practice Mindfulness

AUSTRIA

Take a walk over fields and through forests, swim in crystal clear lakes, or see more stars than ever before under a brilliant night sky. Austria's landscapes offer gentle outdoor adventures which bring you back to your true self. Here are five ways to practice mindfulness in Austria's nature:

1. Sleep Under the Stars

A small, wooden house. One wall made of glass. A view of nothing but the lake and the stars. Spend a night in a bivouac on Lake Millstätter See in southern Austria and wake up completely refreshed.

Whether on the beach, in the luscious green of a forest glade, or high up above the pastures: a total of seven bivouacs make up this haven away from reality, a place for romantic togetherness. Made of larch and Swiss pine, the bivouacs are an authentic part of the landscape. Feel at one with nature, as you gaze through the large panorama windows at the stars sparkling in the night sky or the sun rising in the early morning. The approximate 15m² (160 sq-ft) hideaway offers space for a bed, a table with chairs plus cuddly sheepskin rugs, as well as a small washroom.



Museum Tyrolean Farms, Alpbachtal

Copyright © Alpbachtal Tourismus / Gabriele Griesenböck

Nearby hotels, a campsite, and a farm operate the little hideaways. In the mornings, you'll receive a breakfast basket, in the evenings a gourmet basket filled with local specialities. Simply enjoy the exquisite contents whilst sitting on the terrace with a view of the lake.

Find out more & book a bivouac

2. Hug a 500-Year-Old Tree

If you want to hug one of the biggest trees in the larch forest known as Zedlacher Paradise, you'll need at least four people. After all, these quiet giants have a diameter of up to seven metres. They had a long time to grow to their current size: The oldest specimens are 500 years old.

Here, an educational path meanders through the unspoilt wooded areas above Matrei in East Tirol. The larch trees radiate a pleasant calmness, and the air is heavy with the smell of moss and earth. At seven stations visitors become acquainted with the secrets of the region's sensitive ecosystem, and learn about its various inhabitants. The most beautiful time to experience this natural paradise is autumn, when the centuries-old larches have



Canna palustre

Copyright © Millstätter See Tourismus GmbH / Gert Perauer



turned golden yellow in colour.

Walk Among Giants

3. Swim with the Snails

Austria's southernmost province Carinthia is famous for its numerous, deliciously warm lakes. A short way away from the hustle and bustle of the busy lake lidos, you'll find untouched nature at Lake Hafnersee, surrounded by rich and diverse scenery. To the west lies an expansive moor, to the south characteristic reeds serve as a natural sanctuary for water snails, clams and numerous insects.

Discover the Land of Lakes

4. Travel Back in Time

When visiting the Alpbachtal region in Tirol, you can travel not just in space, but also in time: A stroll through the open-air Museum of Tyrolean Farmhouses reveals how farmers lived in bygone days.

14 farms and 23 auxiliary buildings have been uprooted from various countryside locations around the province and reconstructed on the museum's grounds. Scenes from the farmers' lives are projected onto the walls of seven farmhouses so visitors get a vivid impression of what the daily lives of the inhabitants were really like. When you stand in the little rough-

hewn rooms of the old houses, you instinctively feel the hand of history as you lose yourself in time.

Learn More About Country Living

5. Go to the Source, by Bike

Deep in the Karwendel mountains in Tirol, you'll witness a river being born.

The Isar river springs at an altitude of 1,162 metres, just a small mountain stream whose waters will merge into the mighty Danube and arrive in the Black Sea in just three days. But up here, everything is new and fresh. Take your bike to discover the area's numerous spots where the water springs from the ground and your daily routine might just start to seem miles and miles away. The best part? The cycle route from the village of Scharnitz to the river's origin winds its way through a completely car-free valley. Discover the Waters

Austrian National Tourist Office

Website: austria.info/ae

Twitter: @zooralnemsa

Instagram: @zooralnemsa

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/feelaustriaAE/>

LinkedIn: @Austrian National Tourist Office Middle East



Exploring nature in the forest, Öztal

Copyright © Austrian National Tourist Office / thecreatingclick.com



Bivouac under the stars

Copyright © Millstätter See Tourismus GmbH / Gert Perauer

The Ritz-Carlton Ras Al Khaimah, Al Wadi Desert



Inspired by Bedouin architecture with breathtaking desert views

Just north of Dubai, The Ritz-Carlton Ras Al Khaimah, Al Wadi Desert invites guests to connect with nature and culture amid the beauty of a 1,235-acre protected reserve. The resort's Experience Concierge can arrange a desert trek on camel- or horseback, a private archery lesson or an evening of stargazing. And luxury villas, inspired by Bedouin architecture, feature private outdoor pools and breathtaking desert views.

Experience tranquility, picturesque scenery and rich culture in the Bedouin-styled villas, which come with private pools and decks, lounge areas and breathtaking desert views. For the adventurous traveller, book a desert camel trek, a private archery lesson or bird-watching session, or just head out on a nature walk and soak in the surroundings. The desert resort boasts five dining venues including the newly opened Sonara Camp, farm-to-table Farmhouse, all-day dining at Kaheela, the open-sky Moon Bar and the relaxed Moorish lounge.



AIUla

Summer Untold

An exciting summer special getaway in AIUla awaits! With special deals, exhilarating adventures, breathtaking landscapes and rich heritage, book your summer trip now.

Summer in AIUla

AIUla's unequalled splendour, up to 5°C/10°F milder evening weather and low humidity throughout these summer months make it a unique destination in the Arabian Peninsula. During the day, our verdant oasis gives shade and becomes a place for respite and relaxation. At night, our clear skies allow you an unspoiled view of the stars above. From ancient heritage sites unfolding hidden histories to the unmatched thrills of adrenaline-pumping adventures, your summer is a story yet untold.



5 REASONS TO VISIT ALULA IN THE SUMMER

1. Escape the Humidity

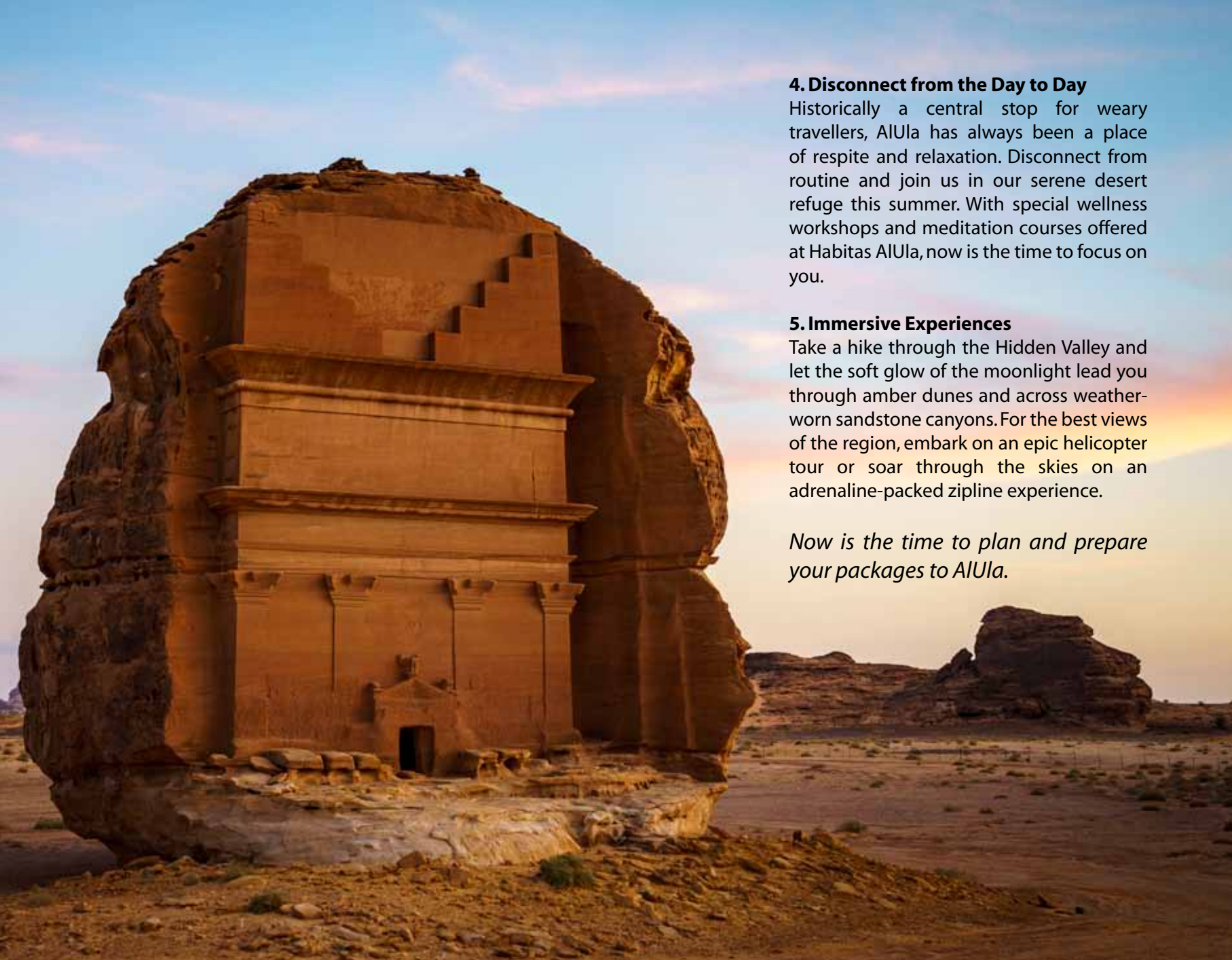
AlUla has been a haven for travellers across the peninsula for centuries. The magnificent mountains that form the AlUla valley give way to milder weather, allowing for outdoor dining in the evening and morning or night hikes and trails through stunning sceneries.

2. Summer Meteor Showers

With a 90% chance of clear skies in AlUla as opposed to other major Arabian cities, escape into the wild desert and get lost in AlUla's expansive open spaces. The ancient landscape is the perfect blank canvas for Mother Nature to paint twinkling stars across clear summer skies.

3. Skip the City Crowds

With packed malls in big cities across the Arabian Peninsula, summer in AlUla allows for a slower pace and more space to yourself. Find quiet contemplation in the AlUla Oasis or capture the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hegra in peace. Instagram vs Reality? Not in AlUla.



4. Disconnect from the Day to Day

Historically a central stop for weary travellers, AIUla has always been a place of respite and relaxation. Disconnect from routine and join us in our serene desert refuge this summer. With special wellness workshops and meditation courses offered at Habitas AIUla, now is the time to focus on you.

5. Immersive Experiences

Take a hike through the Hidden Valley and let the soft glow of the moonlight lead you through amber dunes and across weather-worn sandstone canyons. For the best views of the region, embark on an epic helicopter tour or soar through the skies on an adrenaline-packed zipline experience.

Now is the time to plan and prepare your packages to AIUla.



Al Habtoor Polo Resort

Summer Getaway like no other

Al Habtoor Polo Resort is thrilled to announce an exciting array of new offerings for guests to enjoy this summer. While polo season might be over – there is so much more to experience at Al Habtoor Polo Resort with the resort's many thrilling activities. Located in the picturesque Dubai Silicon Oasis, just a stone's throw away from the hustle and bustle of Dubai, Al Habtoor Polo Resort is an unexplored haven of serenity.

With a large variety of luxury deluxe rooms, exceptional suites, and stunning private pool villas, guests have a choice of where to stay for their revitalizing summer getaway. Boasting five sophisticated bars and restaurants specially designed to suit everyone's palate, valued guests will never want to leave the resort as all their needs are exquisitely catered for.

For those looking to add some excitement into their stay, Al Habtoor Polo Resort has a wide range of recreational activities to keep you busy from morning 'til night. With yoga, kickboxing, dance, and archery classes running weekly, paddle and tennis courts are also available to rent daily. The property also features a state-of-the-art fitness gym, swimming pool, polo academy, horse riding school





and golf driving range. These activities are the perfect way to work on your summer body, or simply to keep you occupied during the holidays. Cool off after a magnificent day of fun in the charming resort's pool, or in your own private pool if you choose to stay in one of the hotel's luxurious villas.

Guests are also invited to take a stroll around the stunning expansive grounds of the resort. Take in the spectacular landscape of the polo fields and greenery dotted around the whole resort as you walk around and soak in the peaceful ambience. The relaxing atmosphere is also heightened by the natural beauty that surrounds you with its soothing qualities.

To top off your stay, enjoy a relaxing massage or spa treatment at the tranquil in-house LVXE Spa. Treat yourself to a variety of rejuvenating treatments that are sure to leave you rested and relaxed, post-summer. After your delightful spa experience, partake in a time-honoured afternoon tea ritual, while you gaze out into the unparalleled views of the resort grounds. With so much on offer this summer, book your stay at Al Habtoor Polo Resort, and see for yourself how it is a resort like no other.



Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai

All-New Daycation Pass



Day passes for Dubai's favourite family-friendly resort are available for weekdays between till 30 September.

Daycation pass includes a Superior room, a buffet lunch and access to all the resort's fun facilities

Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai is inviting families and the young-at-heart to drop in for a day of fun and adventure – and the option of retreating to a room to relax in-between – with an all-new Daycation pass.

Available on weekdays till 30 September, the Daycation pass is a ticket to the playfully-themed property's much-loved water attractions, lush grounds and delicious dining options. There's family-friendly fun for all ages: take it slow and cruise the lazy river, splash about in the kids' fun water play area, zoom down water slides and brave the cliff jumping points. A rope climbing course will test the skills of little adventurers, and the Camp Safari Kids' Club and Ezone (for teens) will give parents a few hours of

much-needed rest and relaxation.

When it's time to break from the adventure, Daycation pass holders can head to a well-appointed Superior Room that they'll have exclusive access to from 9am – 5pm to shower off and freshen up for lunch.

Served between 12.30pm – 3pm at Suan Bua, a Thai restaurant overlooking a calm lotus pond, guests will enjoy a mouth-watering buffet of home-style specialties from four different regions of Thailand.

Packaged for 2 x adults and 2 x children, the Daycation prices start at AED350++, and any additional guest incurs a cost of AED100+.

Another two packages being offered this summer at the Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai will have residents and tourists flocking to the sandy shores of Deira Islands to snap up these deals:



The Me & Centara summer stay rates are further cementing the resort as Dubai's favourite family-friendly destination. Rates start from AED499 per night, and include complimentary WiFi, a delicious breakfast for two adults, and up to two children stay and dine for free from the tasty kids' menu.

The resort's Spa Cenvaree is offering a Family Package to allow families to enjoy meaningful moments together as they unwind and enjoy the best traditional Thai treatments. In keeping with the hotel's playful vibe, the re-worked menu includes playful innovations for younger clientele: watch out for the 90-minute Kid Candy experience, where masks and scrubs scented with playful flavours including bubble gum, toffee apple and blueberry candy will evoke their favourite treats. For an adults-only experience, parents in need of a little down time can leave their children in the care of the professional nannies at Centara's Kids Lounge.

www.centarahotelsresorts.com/centara/cdd.





Capital Group

The largest independent travel agent of Maldives

Capital Group has been setting the standard for travel business in the Maldives for over two decades. As the Maldives's largest independent travel agent Capital Travel specialises in providing good value, quality holidays alongside excellent customer service.

As an independent private company, the staff are able to offer impartial advice and an extensive range of holiday experiences. The company works with over 25,000 suppliers and travel agents to promote its partner resorts worldwide.

Today, we are proud to be able to take care of everything for our clients and partners including flights, hotel reservations and local transportation. Furthermore, we are proud to provide solutions for our customers on a personal basis for every aspect of their travel.

In 2002, the Capital Group ventured into Hotels Supply business with the formation of ASTRABON Hotel and Resort Supply





business. Today, we are one of the leading companies in this arena with the largest collection of kitchen utensils and equipment showcased in the ASTRABON Showroom in the heart of Male'.

We are working tirelessly with our partners to continue our businesses sustainably with great vision, care and confidence. We are a reputable Group that works continuously to improve our services and provide the best deals for our clientele and business partners in the Maldives and across the Globe.

Capital Group provide versatility and a choice of services to suit goals of investors with access to exclusive acquisition and development opportunities and assist throughout the investment lifecycle, from planning and executing new developments through to exit.

In the investment process, we guide;

- * Acquiring and leasing plots of land, private islands or an existing guest house or a resort.
- * Save money and time on consultations.
- * Designing your property. Make your property unique.
- * Finding credible builders. Build durable and high-quality property with no stress.
- * Promote your property through our global sales network of 25,000+ travel professionals.
- * Boost your brand exposure and strengthen your market presence in Europe through our upcoming London Sales & Marketing office.

From obtaining needed permits to logistics to impact assessments to concept development, a liaison office from Capital Group will be attached to assist for a smooth execution.

Also, we can create effective print and digital presentations for our clients, and launch impactful promotional campaigns across. Also, of our strong sales partners network, we can secure bookings in advance of opening the property.



GERMANY

Culturally Rich, Naturally Beautiful

German National Tourism Board is preparing for an influx of GCC visitors looking to enjoy the upcoming long weekend.

The recent announcement that visitors no longer require COVID-19 certificates to enter is expected to further encourage travel.

With Eid Al Adha just around the corner, GCC residents with a love for nature and looking for a perfect place to spend the holiday need look no further than Germany.

Six hours gate-to-gate and with multiple daily flight routes direct from the GCC to cities such as Frankfurt, Munich, Hamburg and Düsseldorf, Germany has long been favoured by the GCC traveller. An increase in travellers is expected this summer in light of the relaxation of COVID-19 requirements. All travellers can now visit regardless of vaccination status and without the need for a negative test.

Germany's two summer campaigns, Embrace German Nature and German.Local.Culture, are aligned to GCC preferences after a regional study by D/A, the marketing and consumer consultancy identified natural attractions and cultural insights as the two top reasons holidaymakers from the Gulf look to travel.

"The GCC is a hugely important market for inbound travel to Germany, so taking notice of what residents are searching for is key," said Yamina Sofo, director of sales and marketing at the German National Tourist Office (GNTO), the regional office of





GNTB. "Having nature and culture as two of the prominent drivers is exciting given the abundance of relevant offerings that we have to offer. From meandering lakes and breath-taking mountains to traditional craftsmanship and Bavarian fare – Germany is the ideal place for explorers searching for an easily accessible destination with plenty to see and do."

Some of the incredible naturalistic elements of Germany that await visitors include the 66 Lakes Trail hike, which incorporates streams and rivers and runs past the Sanssouci Palace in the spa town of Potsdam, and the incredible landscapes that can be found at

Hiddensee, a stunning car-free island with sandy beaches and salt marshes.

Visitors looking to soak up culture around the country can also revel in the campaign's four touch points: Green, Craft, Flair, and Taste. Taste includes some of Leipzig's most popular delicacies, Green features the jaw-dropping wildlife in Munsterland, Flair sees creativity such as the inspirational Tegel Art Park in Berlin, and Craft includes the well-known cuckoo clocks of the Black Forest.

www.germany.travel





Pakistan

KAILASH FESTIVALS

A unique Kailash Valley, the remaining minority of approximately 3500 people living in three isolated but beautiful valleys known as Bumburet, Rambur, and Berir. The people of Kailash have a rich culture and are very strong footed about their identity. These people stand out from the remaining tribes, cultures, and communities due to their distinct traditions, religious practices, and festivals.

The people of Kailash celebrate many festivals during the year but notable festivals are three, the spring feast Chilam Joshi, in May, Uchal or Utchal, in August and Choimus, in winter. Chilam Joshi is one the most important festival, this four-day festival is celebrated across all three valleys of Bumburet, Rambur, and Berir. Chilam Joshi begins with "Milk day" which, Kailash people store from household to offer their libation on the day of the festival. They ask for the blessing of God and pray for a prosperous year of agriculture, health, and safety of their herds. The main purpose of this festival is that Kailash men and women can find a spouse for themselves to get married. The women wear traditional attire with lively colors whereas, men wear traditional Shalwar Kameez with a waistcoat made of wool.

Uchal or Utchal

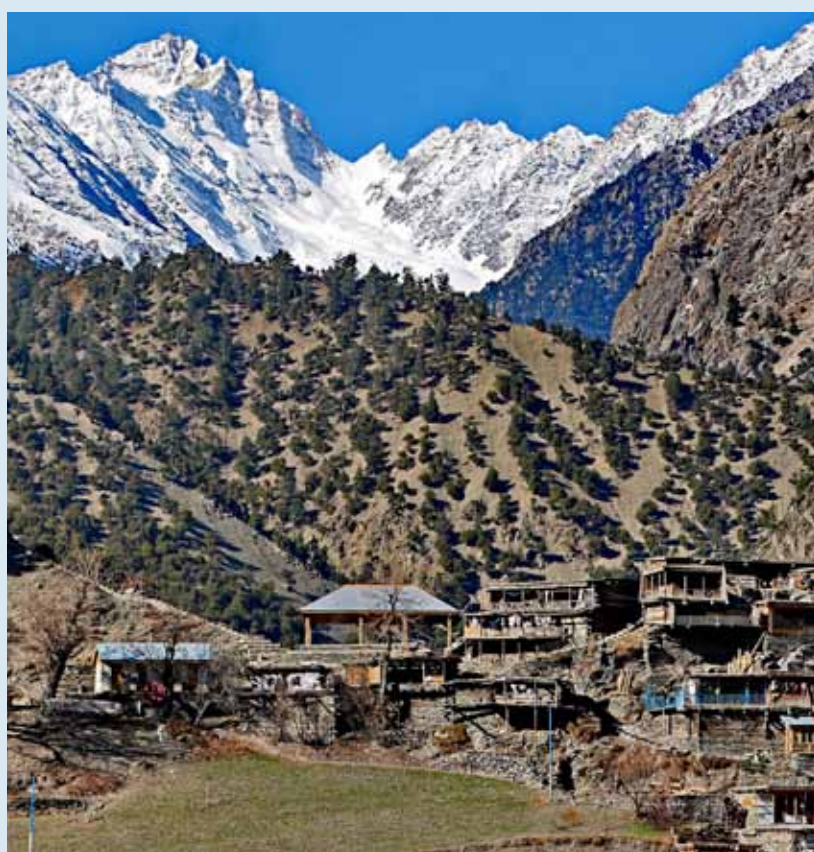
Uchal, also known as Utchal is a summer Kailash festival. During





The festival celebrated in annual harvesting with singing, dancing and paying homage to the nature for blessing them with good food and fruits. It is marked in the barley and wheat harvest season every year in August. Kailash people prepare cornbread, buttermilk, and cheese to celebrate the festival. They wear their traditional black robes, ornate cowries shelled headdresses and adorned with coloured necklaces and dance in a circle. During the festival, prayers and processions are held at a high plateau outside the village in Balangkuru, where the long night of dancing begins. The Uchal festival continues for several days and moving on to different locations within the valley.

Choimus is the winter festival, from 8-21 December, the most important celebration of the winter solstice and the return of the sun. Everyone wears new clothes, dance, feasts, and offer sacrifices. The first week of Choimus is for the Kailash people only. It is celebrated by feasting until the elders, who sit on a hilltop, watching the sun reaching the orbit, declare the beginning of the New Year. In the second week of Choimus, people show gratitude to their god with dance, music, and the sacrifice of goats. This part of a festival is public. It is dedicated to the god Balimain who is believed to visit from the mythical homeland of the Kailash, Tsyam, for the duration of the feast. Food sacrifices are offered at the clans' Jeshtak shrines, dedicated to the ancestors.



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Habtoor Grand Resort, Dubai

Autograph Collection

Karolina Paliszewska, General Manager of Habtoor Grand Resort, Dubai gave us time to and informed us about her background and hospitality experience in a short interview.

Karolina Paliszewska, General Manager of Habtoor Grand Resort, Dubai said having to have worked across the world in some of the most beautiful hotels, my journey has been no short of amazing! I joined the Poland Marriott Warsaw hotel in Poland. When I was Director of Events, I was responsible to have the entire conceptualization of the event along with creating unique outside catering department. I moved to JW Marriott Bucharest Grand Hotel as Director of Restaurants (opening, concepts etc.) and Later to the London Marriott West India hotel as a Director of Food & Beverages which further diversified my preview and vision to handle multiple restaurants in the hotel alongside shaping and conceptualizing individual identities of each outlet.

She said that I stepped into the Middle East in 2010, I came here as a Director of F&B with the Sofitel JBR and moved along in senior roles in Poland, before coming back, being appointed as a Hotel Manager with Hilton Al Habtoor City Complex. UAE and especially Dubai feels like home to refined hospitality professionals and I am extremely enjoying this journey. I joined the beautiful beachfront resort Habtoor Grand Resort, Autograph Collection as a General



Manager in October 2020, which has been an exhilarating experience. I look forward to further developing the resort that our guests can enjoy and experience in this paradise located in JBR.

Karolina told us that The Habtoor Grand Resort, Autograph Collection located in one of the most prominent address in Dubai – JBR secondly the resort has a private beach which is ideal for a short and a long escape. Being a family resort, we have extensive activities that families and couples can enjoy together. Our activities include Water Zumba, scuba diving in the pool, tennis & squash courts, beach sports activities and a unique kids experience at the pool. We are one of the few properties that boast a fully functional Kids water slides and kids club with trained attendants. In order to remain competitive in the market, the management had brought in key personnel in F&B, culinary and operations team to further improve and improvise our offerings by fully taking advantage of the vast lawn with garden brunch and more recently, Iftar at the gardens.

Karolina elaborated about the future of UAE hospitality scenario especially Dubai after Expo 2020 said that UAE and especially Dubai is known for its hotels, restaurants and its warm hospitality. The UAE brings the world together as different cultures work

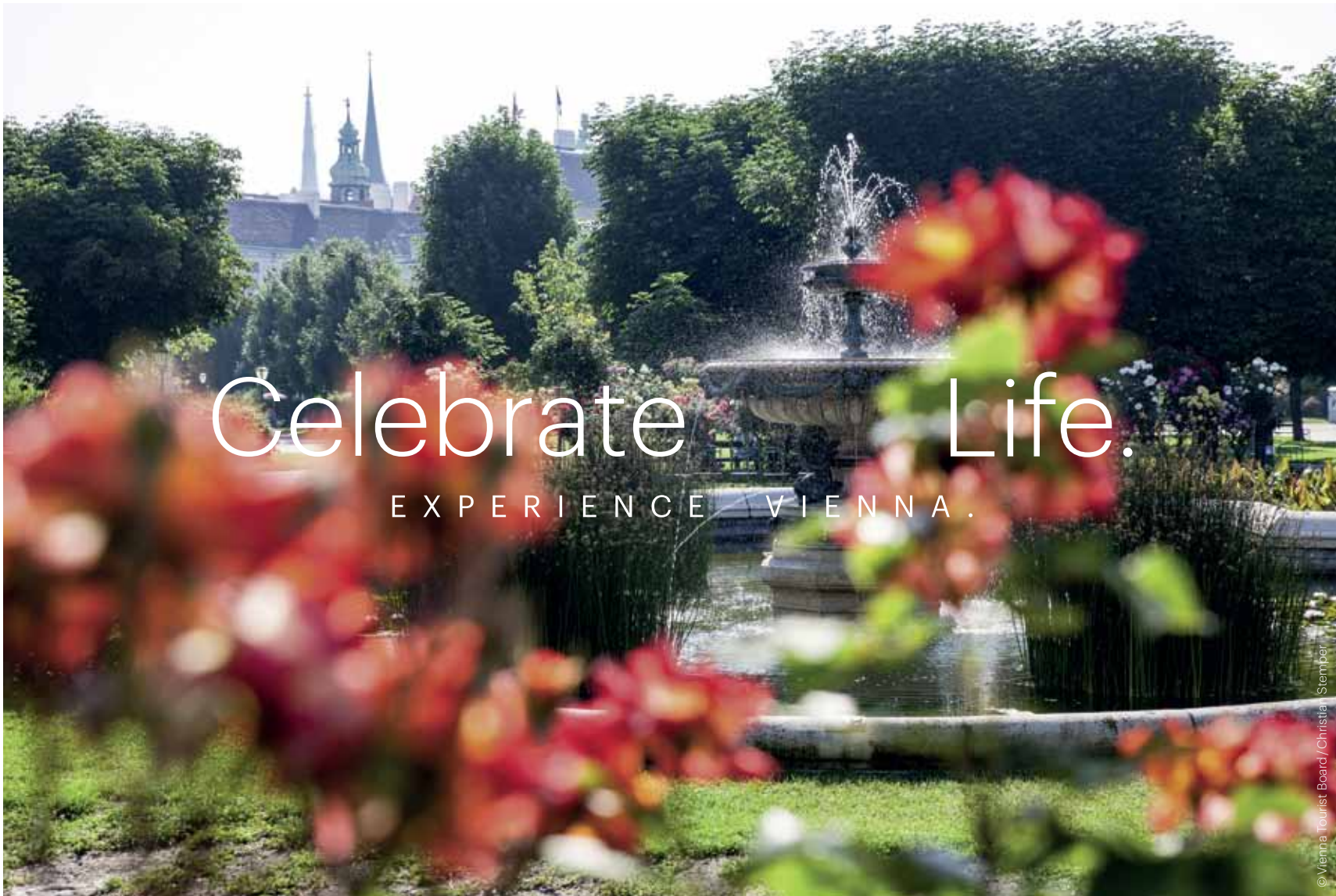
together to deliver a seamless hospitality experience. More hotel openings, only show the demand for the region to be able to accommodate more tourists, thereby elevating the hospitality industry further. Dubai is one of the most popular destination for tourists and business, it always amazes us with creating new opportunities to visit and explore the Emirate. After the success of Expo 2020, I strongly believe that the demand for tourists will be high as the FiFa world cup is soon approaching and bookings are already flowing in to the hotels in Dubai as people want to enjoy what Dubai has to offer while they experience the season here or take up flights to Qatar and come back.

New attractions like the Museum of the future has opened its doors to the public, which has already a huge talk of the town locally and internationally.

Furthermore, she informed us that the hotel's core focus markets has been UK, Germany and CIS countries and these will continue to grow. This year, the property will also focus on emerging markets such as Eastern Europe and Africa as substantial demand from these the markets are evident.

www.habtoorgrandresortdubai.com





Celebrate Life.

EXPERIENCE VIENNA.

© Vienna Tourist Board/Christina Stember

Celebrate Life. Experience Vienna.

Vienna is celebrating its big comeback in 2022: the capital is showing just how much it has to offer as it celebrates life, art, enjoyment and every unusual aspect of the city in all its rich glory.



© Vienna Tourist Board/Paul Bauer

Vienna is back in all its finery. The Austrian capital is even more full of life, even more modern and even more spectacular than ever. With no end of reasons – new and old – to celebrate life here again. Vienna has been working tirelessly on its future. As expected of a world capital of its caliber. Behind the city's imperial backdrop, new attractions are coming to light all the time. For centuries, art and culture, science, diversity, cultural exchange, architecture and enjoyment have shaped the soul of this unique city.

CELEBRATE THE SUMMER

Vienna is the capital and largest city in Austria, yet half of its urban

area is covered in green spaces such as parks and forests – one of the factors why Vienna has been voted to be the most livable city ten times in a row! These recreational areas offer a quick escape from the bustling city life and make it easy to explore and connect with nature. Baroque parks in the city center such as Burggarten and Volksgarten invite visitors to take some time and smell the magnificent roses, while the imperial gardens of Schönbrunn and Belvedere palace with their wide alleys and artfully trimmed hedges leave an unforgettable impression.

If you are looking to relax in the sun, enjoy the lush green of the

parks and forests and combine it with fun activities, here are two spots that should not be missed on a trip to Vienna: the Old Danube and the Wiener Prater.

The leisurely oasis of the Old Danube is a centrally located recreational paradise and a calm body of water that has something to offer for every taste. Visitors are particularly enchanted by the romantic events in spring and summer. There are all sorts of possibilities for the perfect break and unforgettable moments on the water, such as a romantic full-moon ride or the popular Light Festival!

The Green Prater, which according to the magazine "Focus" is one of the ten best city parks in the world, covers an area of six million square meters. Although it is located only three linear kilometers from St. Stephen's Cathedral, nature is thriving in this area. Its vast lawns, woods, and water areas offer an ideal environment for relaxing strolls, brisk hikes, extended jogging tours, bicycle and skating trips, and much more.

CELEBRATE THE EXTRAORDINARY

It's not just down to fantastic food: no other European country has a capital city with its own cuisine named after it (Viennese Cuisine)

or can serve up anything like Vienna's inimitable coffeehouse culture. Thanks to the city's unrivalled reputation for cakes and pastries, all of its cafés offer up a rich slice of Viennese indulgence – with a sugar rush thrown in for good measure.

But that's not it for astounding achievements in Vienna: a proud centuries-old tradition of hand-craftsmanship and design is constantly evolving. Because manufacturers such as Augarten Porzellan – which dates back to the days of the empire – have always kept their finger on the pulse, we can continue to celebrate their exceptional quality and contemporary designs to this day.

LET'S CELEBRATE

There are plenty of reasons to celebrate in – and with – Vienna this year. Visitors will not only leave happier than when they arrived: the impressions they take away with them will live on for a very long time to come. And it goes without saying that Vienna won't be standing still in future, either. It is firmly on the path to becoming a sustainable smart city. Quality of life will continue to rise. The Vienna of the future arrived a long time ago. And that is more than enough reason to celebrate in 2022.



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SPECIAL TIP: VIENNA CITY CARD

USE THE VIENNA CITY CARD TO MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT!

Available for 24h, 48h and 72h it allows you to enjoy numerous benefits such as free use of all public transport by Wiener Linien and discounts for museums, restaurants and shops. Especially as a family you can use the Vienna City Card to its fullest potential, as it allows one child up to the age of 16 to travel free with each card holder.



© Vienna Tourist Board / Paul Bauer



© Vienna Tourist Board / Christian Stemper

Batumi Adjara

GEORGIA



We were fortunate enough to meet and gain information about the region from Tinatin Zoidze, Head of Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara A. R.

Tinatin Zoidze got her education from Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University, Georgia, Business Administration, Faculty of Economics and Business, Ph.D. has a vast experience with Department of Tourism and Resorts of Ajara A. R.

She is the Director, Agency for the Development of Tourism Products since 2015 and heading the Tourism Department, Batumi Tourist Agency since 2011.

Tinatin Zoidze informed us the unique feature Georgia is the people who are immensely hospitable and around 65% of the repeat visitors are because of its diversity in terms of Nature, Culture and Traditions. The destination offers all four seasons with average summer temperature around 30c and in winter at 12c to 15c.

Tinatin Zoidze told us that the exceptional hospitality and the goodwill of the Georgian people make every trip to Georgia very special. A traditional Georgian feast is a superb display of the diversity of Georgian cuisine, cooking techniques, table-setting traditions and other accompanying rituals. Adjarian cuisine is an inseparable aspect of Georgian cuisine. In mountainous Adjara, dairy products are common ingredients in many dishes.

Furthermore she informed us that Batumi is an attractive destination not only during the summer season but also in spring and autumn. Visitors can sunbathe or swim as early as the beginning of May. The sea becomes even more pleasant during September and October, given Batumi's long Indian summers. Winters are warm and summers are hot in Batumi. In addition to the seaside, visitors can also trek to the amazing mountainous regions of Adjara. Just a few hours away from the seaside.





Tinatin told us that Batumi is one of the oldest cities in Georgia founded as before the Common Era. The initial settlement "Batus" is mentioned in sources from the 4th century BCE. The city's unique history has contributed to the city's vast architectural diversity. In the 19th century, during the "Porto Franco" period, European architects completed a number of interesting architectural projects.

She informed us that the GCC visitors are very important and the destination hopes to reach the 2019 figures as the interest is very high from this market.

gobatumi.com



TURKISH AIRLINES

Once again opens the widest
airline network to Saudi nationals



Saudi citizens and residents are now able to travel to or transit through Türkiye again with the airline flying to more countries than any other

Turkish Airlines are pleased to announce that as of June 20, 2022 the restrictions set by Türkiye due to COVID-19 has been lifted. The flights to Saudi Arabia have resumed to pre-pandemic conditions and Saudi citizens are able to travel to or transit through Türkiye again.

Turkish Airlines flies from Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Medina by connecting travellers from KSA to 335 cities in 128 countries, including 51 cities in Türkiye. Passengers are able to

fly to Türkiye without a PCR test or vaccination card and masks are not mandatory in the aircrafts.

With the resumption of Touristanbul, Turkish Airlines passengers with connecting flights in Istanbul Airport with 6-24 hours of between their flights will have the option to discover Istanbul and its cultural and historical wonders.

Turkish Airlines connects Saudi Arabia and Istanbul with flights from four major Saudi cities: Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Medina.

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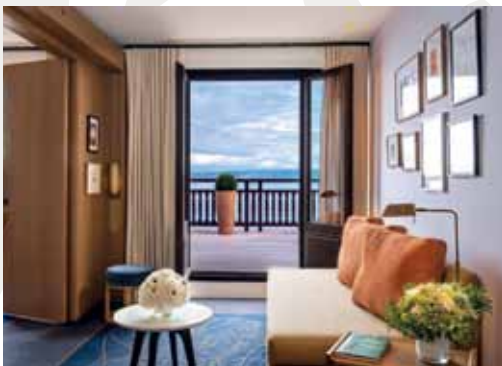
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