

TravelTrendz

International

September / October 2021

a travel lifestyle publication

Azerbaijan
Pristine And Diverse

Pakistan
Heritage

Innsbruck
Alpine-Urban Diversity

Baden-Baden
Good-Good Life



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Image : Azerbaijan Tourism Board

Fujairah

The perfect
holiday
destination



Fujairah is situated on the east coast of the United Arab Emirates. Nestled between the Hajar Mountains and the Indian Ocean, this picturesque town is the perfect holiday destination.



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
GOVERNMENT OF FUJAIRAH
FUJAIRAH TOURISM & ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY

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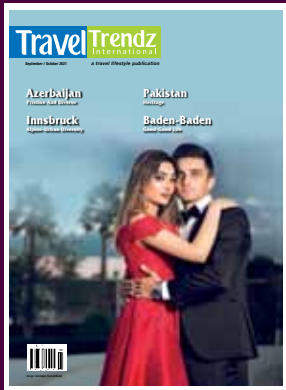
stunning views
timeless trails



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TAKE ANOTHER LOOK

azerbaijan.travel



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The pandemic is still there with no end in sight. The entire industry is in trouble and travelling is not coming to the pre-Covid levels with travel restriction. However, many destinations are opening up borders for vaccinated people. The vaccines are being used as the major tool but still huge global population is not vaccinated. The industry is still facing a huge challenge even bigger than ever. Individual countries are looking for ways and means to kick start the economies but the travel and tourism is the key to revival and with easing of travel restrictions innovative ways and means are being sought to revive the economy.

In this issue as always, we offer new and exciting options to our readers as destinations are gradually opening. The top destinations and Hotels are being introduced as never before. Do miss the article on Innsbruck, Austria with its alpine urban diversity. Learn more about the amazing heritage of Pakistan. We have featured the amazing wellness destination Thailand and the Health Resorts of Slovenia. Do not miss the article about Baden-Baden. Article on Azerbaijan which is pristine and very diverse is a good read. We have also featured Dominican Republic.

We have covered the top notch hotels and Resorts in this issue such as The Royal Hotel Sanremo in Italy and Hotel de Paris Monte Carlo. The articles on Conrad Maldives and the breezy Barracuda in UAE are worth reading.

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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AZERBAIJAN

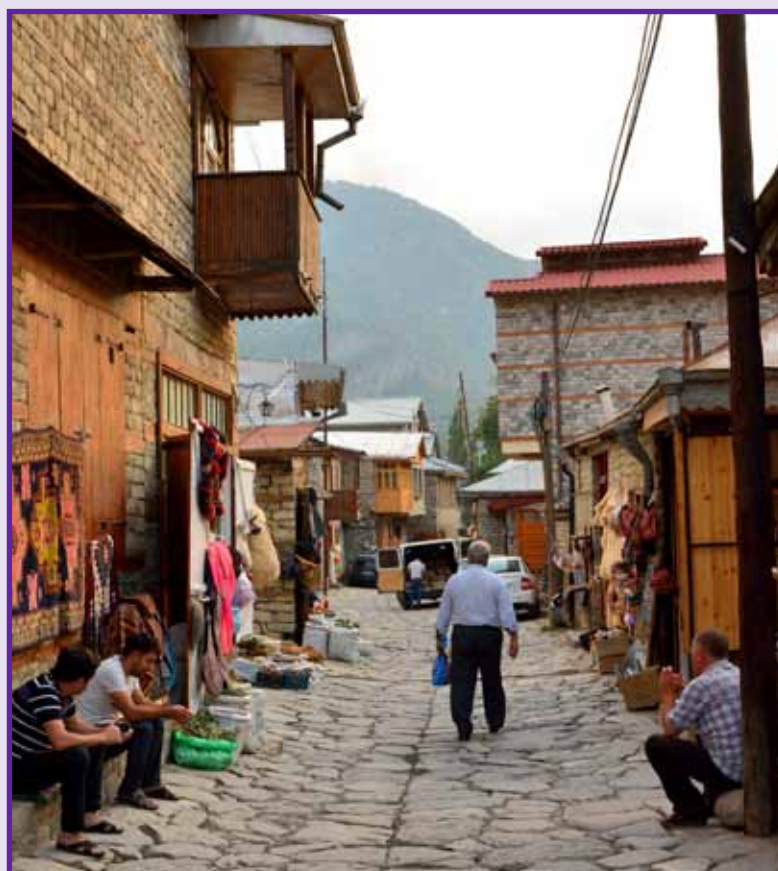
PRISTINE AND DIVERSE



There are multiple elements that urge us to explore a certain destination. It might be its cultural or historical background, breathtaking natural landscapes or local gastronomy. Azerbaijan is a country perfectly combining all these elements, reflecting a beautiful combination of eastern colours and a western outlook. There is no perfect time to travel to Azerbaijan as the country has the right landscape for every kind of holiday you can think of, from relaxing at a spa or beach to more energetic pursuits like skiing in the snowy mountains or hiking through lush forests.

The unique history and culture of Azerbaijan, home to some of the earliest civilisations, have been enriched by the constant stream of travellers passing through along the great Silk Road. One of the locations where their traces can be clearly seen is the Ateshgah Fire Temple, which was built around naturally burning fires previously worshipped by Zoroastrians. Adopted by Hindu merchants trading in nearby Baku, the temple was an important place of pilgrimage for fire worshippers until the 1880s. Another visible trace of the Silk Road is the city of Sheki, whose historic centre is Azerbaijan's latest UNESCO World Heritage Site. Thanks to its local traditions of craftsmanship, which date back centuries, Sheki is also part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Going further back in the history of Azerbaijan, the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape is a UNESCO-protected site that draws





visitors with an astonishing collection of 6,000 rock engravings, the oldest of which go back 40,000 years. Meanwhile, just a short drive from Gobustan travellers can find themselves in an astonishing moonlike landscape formed by one of the country's true natural wonders – mud volcanoes. Recently, construction of a Mud Volcanoes Tourism Complex began here as well, which will open with an exhibition hall, café and workshop soon.

As well as preserving the past, tourism destinations need to make sure they are well-prepared to overcome modern challenges too. With new travel patterns emerging during the pandemic, Azerbaijan was one of the first countries to launch a nationwide SAHMAN (Sanitation and Hygiene Methods and Norms) programme designed for local industry players to improve hygiene and sanitation across accommodation, F&B and touristic transportation providers. Until now, more than 20,000 monitoring sessions have been held, and solid progress is being observed thanks to this initiative.

Besides ensuring a safe travel experience in Azerbaijan, the country's existing resources have also been reinforced. Having 9 out of the 11 climate zones, Azerbaijan is blessed with pristine and diverse nature, from mountains and forests to extensive coastline and lowlands, which allows the country to offer unique opportunities for those seeking a natural getaway. From the subtropical south where lemons and tea are grown to the north dominated by the majestic Caucasus mountains, travellers can find themselves in very different landscapes within just a few hours' drive of the capital Baku. For example, you can easily go skiing at the Shahdag or Tufandag mountain resorts or select one of many recently marked hiking trails that together form a 150 km-long route through quaint villages, stunning forests, lakes and waterfalls. The country also has stunning habitats brimming with birdlife, including many rare and attractive species, making it a perfect place for birdwatchers. Azerbaijan is also famous for its traditional cuisine. Thanks to its unique geographical location and climatic advantages, a rich



variety of produce is grown organically here. It is interesting that every region in Azerbaijan is famous for a particular type of produce. For example, the best pomegranates come from Goychay, the best potatoes from Gadabay, the best tomatoes from near Baku on the Absheron Peninsula, the best hazelnuts from Khachmaz region, and so on. Azerbaijan's delicious local gastronomy has also been enhanced by its multiculturalism developed by the ancient Silk Road, as the diverse peoples that live in the country all add their own flavours to the tastiest dishes.

It is important to note that travellers can now enjoy the local produce of Azerbaijan not only in restaurants, but also along special Slow Food Travel routes. The Slow Food Travel concept has recently been introduced as part of the EU-funded project COVCHEG (Community-based Value Chain Enhancement in the Greater Caucasus Mountains Area). During trips to some of the best landscapes in the country, visitors will also be able to meet with

local farmers, shepherds, winemakers, butchers and bakers to learn more about local gastronomic traditions and enjoy immersive culinary experiences.

Overall, travelling to Azerbaijan promises truly unique experiences thanks to the country's rich culture, astonishing nature and delicious dishes.

INNS' BRUCK



© Innsbruck Tourismus/Christian Vorhofer

THE INNSBRUCK REGION

EXPERIENCE THE FREEDOM OF ITS ALPINE-URBAN DIVERSITY

One holiday and one thousand possibilities! That can only mean one thing: an “alpine-urban” holiday experience. In the Innsbruck region, the combination of nature and culture, enjoyment and challenge, city and countryside make for a really attractive complete package. Relaxation or activities? Pleasure or something more demanding? Everything’s possible in and around Innsbruck and in a completely natural way. This one location is the perfect starting point, giving you the freedom to make a new choice each day and experience tailor-made activities.

Summer is arriving at the Innsbruck region. The perfect period to escape from daily life and to discover the capital of the Alps from different angles. Now it is the time to make your way from the heart of the city straight into the great outdoors, or climb up to a

dizzy height and look down on the urban hustle and bustle from the Nordkette mountains. Or experience a leap in time between modern architecture and historical buildings. Or treat yourself to a gourmet meal and enjoy some retail therapy in the quaint alleys or against the backdrop of the majestic mountains. The Innsbruck region offers countless opportunities for recreation and relaxation at all sorts of altitudes. Which is just as it should be in a genuine major city surrounded by mountains. And that’s a good thing, because everyone has their own way of enjoying a bit of time-out. For some, it’s the feeling of freedom that they feel when they reach the summit and the reward of a hearty refreshment stop in a charming mountain hut. For others, it’s the feeling of relaxation in the hotel’s own organic sauna and then a refreshing dip in the natural pond, all the while marvelling at the awesome mountain



© Innsbruck Tourismus/Christof Lackner



© Innsbruck Tourismus/Christian Vorhofer



views. Some, on the other hand, feel at one with the world when they immerse themselves in the city's cultural offerings or discover the wide range of regional specialities. Whatever your heart's desire, whatever your definition of rest and relaxation, everyone will find their own personal freedom in the Innsbruck region: from pleasure to something more demanding.

Our recommendation: how to explore the region of Innsbruck as its best.

A)The Innsbruck Card: Innsbruck's all inclusive guest card

The Innsbruck Card is your perfect companion to discover Innsbruck by yourself within 24, 48 or 72 hours.

It is valid from the time the first service is used and can be purchased directly in Innsbruck or online. It includes a visit to 21 museums and sights in the Innsbruck region as well as admission to Hasegg Castle Mint Hall and Swarovski Crystal Worlds in Wattens, including the Crystal World shuttle. Furthermore, the Innsbruck Card gives you access to experience the TOP mountains close to

Innsbruck: one return trip with the Nordkettenbahnen and the Patscherkofelbahn is included.

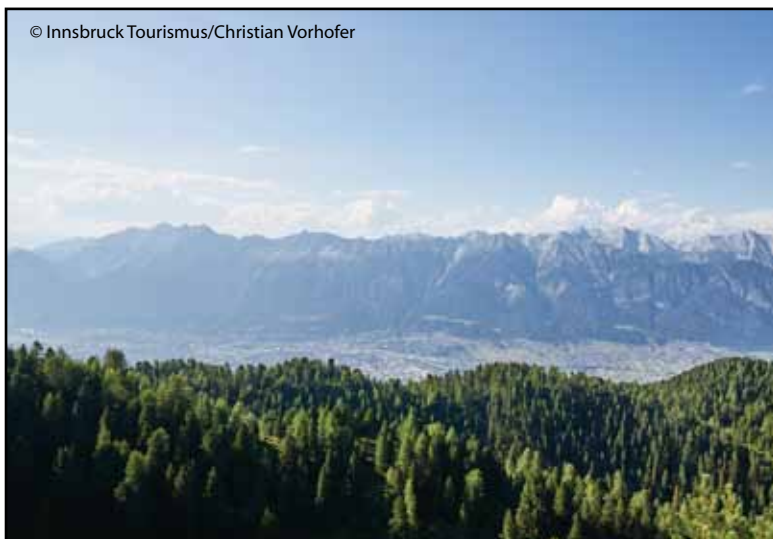
More information: <https://www.innsbruck.info/en/sightseeing/innsbruck-card>

B)The Welcome Card visitors' card: your ticket to holiday happiness

With the visitors' free Welcome Card, the Innsbruck region offers a wide range of options for stays of 2 nights or more so that you can enjoy even greater personal freedom. All public transport in the region is available free of charge. The card also includes use of selected lifts and cable cars, numerous discounts and lots of free offers for the family programme, swimming pools and bathing lakes.

What will stay with you after your holiday? Countless images you won't be able to stop thinking about. And profound gratitude for having experienced your own little bit of freedom.

More information: www.innsbruck.info/en



© Innsbruck Tourismus/Christian Vorhofer



© Innsbruck Tourismus/Tom Bause

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Wellness



The concept of wellness or well-being comes as a response to the raising awareness on the importance of a life and practices that are beneficial for the body, mind and soul.

Dominican Republic thanks to its innate benefits, provides an ideal space to connect with natural sources that inspire welfare, but also to this is added a growing human practice that helps and puts into practice the impact on the improvement of the being, supported by a special gastronomy, spiritual practices, unforgettable lodging, and other forms that were created to encourage and rejuvenate whoever practices it.

Around the country we will find centers that host and promote different practices. The hotels also offer an excellent opportunity to keep the body in shape, through its gyms fully equipped with specialized machinery and a professional team of connoisseurs in the area.

A well-known saying is that as how we are inside, so we will be outside. And the most literal example of this idea, lies in what we eat. The gastronomic offer is also growing, paying special

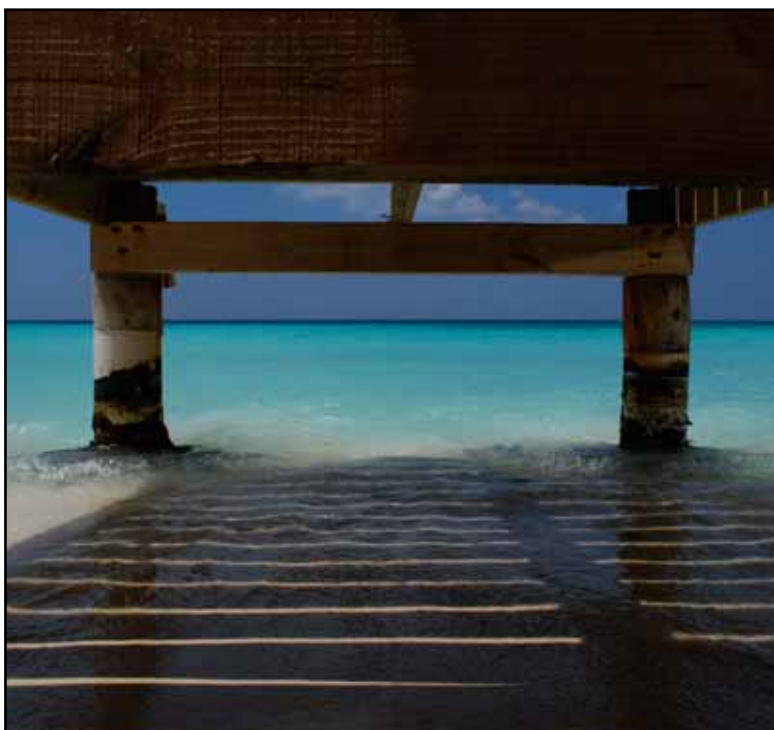
attention to this important point in order to be balanced.

Great Spas located throughout the country are recognized for giving the effect of recharging the energies of stress received on a daily basis

Apart from Spa centers the country offers a natural remedy. Historically we have obtained from nature all that we need to survive; in it there are healing effects that revitalize the being with very little effort.

These are some of the natural spaces that, due to their beauty and tranquility, can offer a complete healing experience.

- Bahía de las Águilas
- Dr. Rafael Moscoso Puello National Botanic Garden
- Ébano Verde Scientific Reserve
- Bávaro Lagoon
- Los Haitises National Park



The Royal Hotel Sanremo

Rich in history and tradition



The Royal Hotel Sanremo is an exclusive 5-star hotel rich in history and tradition, just the ideal choice for guests seeking luxury, intimacy and relaxation. Inaugurated in 1872, it been home to famous European royalty, high society, celebrities and discerning travellers worldwide and still is the place to stay on the charming Italian Riviera of Flowers blessed by a mild climate year-round.

Only 45 minutes from Nice International airport and 25 minutes from Monte-Carlo, it enjoys a unique location in its own subtropical park of 16,000 sq m with a scenic heated sea-water swimming-pool with splendid views of the Mediterranean Sea, only moments from the sandy beach and the centre of town with its Casino and shopping area.

It features 127 individually decorated rooms including exclusive suites, a spacious lobby with panoramic view, piano bar, smoking lounge,



three restaurants serving excellent regional, Mediterranean and international cuisine to enjoy a refined gastronomic experience.

The state-of-the art Royal Wellnes SPA pampers guests with high-end treatments, massage and no prescription wet zone with large hydromassage pool, emotional showers, Turkish bath, Vitarium and relaxation area, plus a fitness room to ensure a perfect remise en forme and to enjoy moments of absolute relax in a stylish atmosphere.

A wide range of sports, several outdoor activities including an 18-hole golf course and horse-riding grounds, a 24 Km cycling and jogging path just in front of the hotel; a wide choice of tailor made programs, cooking classes with local chefs; wine and olive oil tasting. Further to many options and leisure opportunities in the town and its fascinating surroundings or excursions to the glamorous French Riviera.

A unique and prestigious setting with a perfect blend of timeless elegance, modern comforts, warm hospitality and 147 years of tradition for an unforgettable stay.

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Pakistan

GLIMPSES OF HERITAGE

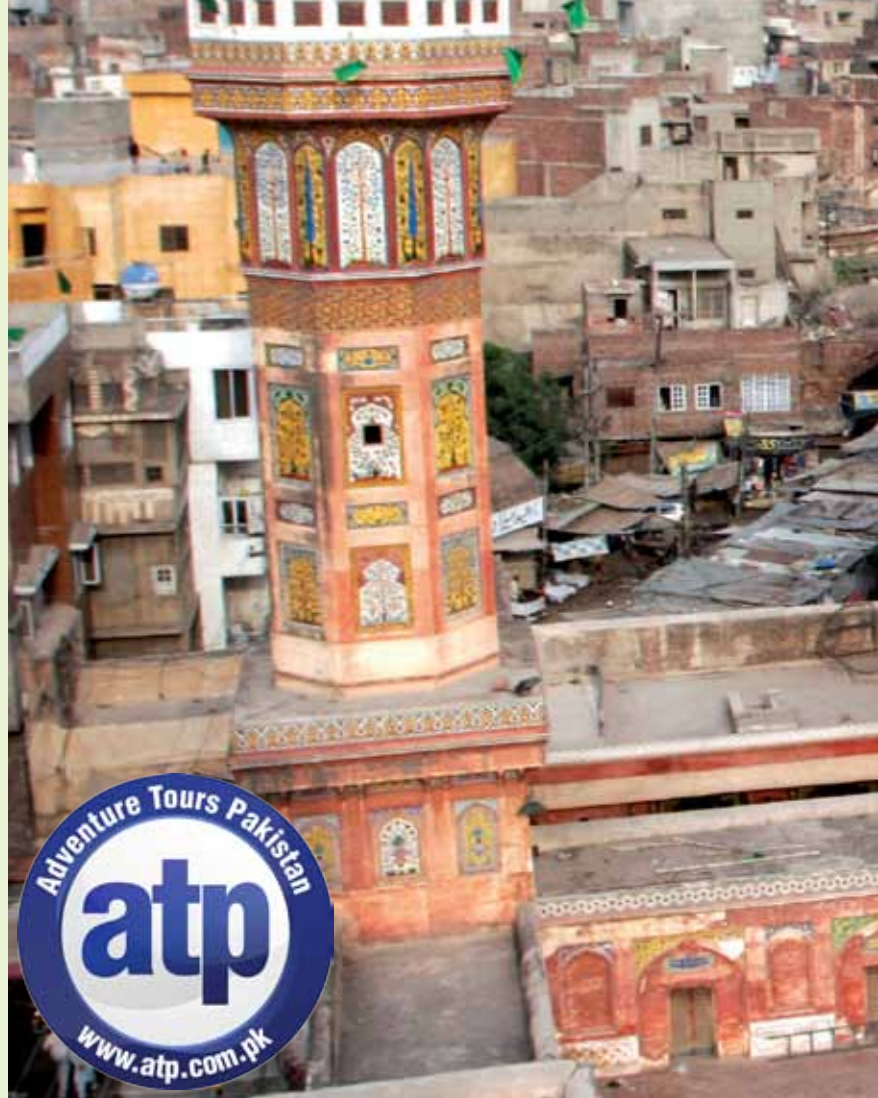
An insightful journey across Pakistan along its best kept secrets is an unforgettable experience.

The tour right from the beginning in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan till end in Karachi, Pakistan's financial capital will give you an understanding of how the magnificent ancient civilizations – Indus and Gandhara flourished along the Indus River, what made the invaders invade it, why Sufis made it their home, how the emperors established their huge empires right from Moghals of Persia to British in Europe.

Throughout the tour you will be mesmerized with its magnificent archeological sites like Taxila, Katas Temple, a Hindu temple and Khewra Salt Mines the second largest salt mine in the world. The rich stunning cultures in Lahore to feast our eyes with beautiful Badshahi Mosque, Badshahi Fort, Lahore Museum, Shahi Humam, Wazir Khan Mosque, Shalimar Gardens etc, Harappa another important archeological site of Indus civilization .

The elaborately decorated shrines of Sheikh Bahad-ud-din Zakriya, Shah Rukn-e-Alam in Multan, imposing Derawar Fort, the deserts of Cholistan, the high intense spirituality at Sufi Shrines like Uch Sahrif Shawan Sahrif are worth visiting.

Mohenjo Daro, an impressive and well preserved archeological site of Indus Valley Civilization which was worlds' well developed





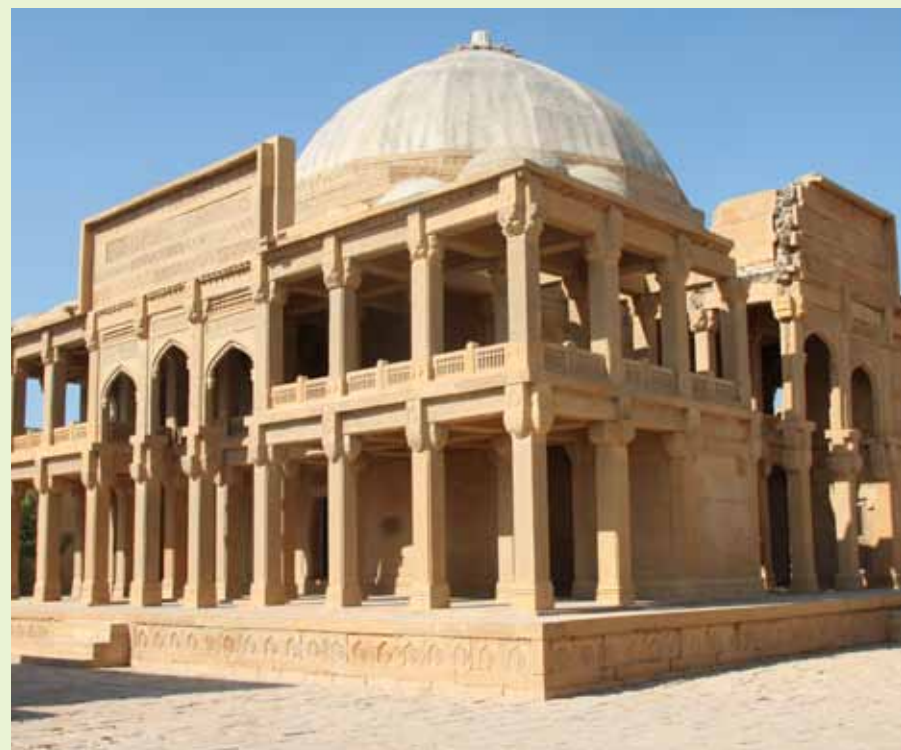
ancient culture. Makli Hills world's largest necropolis with over a million graves, Chaukhandi tombs form an early Islamic cemetery are remarkable for their elaborate sandstone carvings, tombs and mausoleums will make your trip worthwhile. In short every city, town and village throughout the tour that we will visit has a thrilling story of its own.

With a history of over thousands of years, the land has witnessed rise and fall of dynasties and it made invaders fought for the control of the land, our Pakistan Heritage is an absolutely spectacular journey along the history with breathtaking landscape.

ADVENTURE TOURS PAKISTAN

ATP is a leading destination management /tour operating company with a status of "Designated Tours Operators" approved by the Ministry of Interior Govt. of Pakistan. Our specialized trips/ services include.

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Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo

The world-renowned, iconic Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo is writing a new page in its history. In the centre of Monaco, the area around Place du Casino has undergone a huge transformation, giving rise to a new Monte-Carlo - with the Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo at its heart. A metamorphosis aimed at giving an even greater sense of definition to François Blanc's dream of "a hotel that surpasses everything created up to now" and of perpetuating the legend in the 21st century.

Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo was built in 1864 on the arid Plateau des Spélugues, when Monte-Carlo was barely taking shape. Thanks to support from Prince Charles III and Monte-Carlo Société des Bains de Mer et du Cercle des Etrangers, the billionaire François Blanc took a big gamble and decided to entirely change an area of the city covered in olive trees and lemon trees into a decadent venue of gaming and luxury – Casino de Monte-Carlo and Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo. For players travelling from all over Europe to discover the new face of the Principality, he had a hotel built on the model of the Grand Hôtel in Boulevard des Capucines in Paris. Affluence in all its splendour, the international elite rushed to stay - Kings, Princes, Heads of State, Ministers, the very best from governances, industry, science and the arts.

Hôtel de Paris Monte-Carlo continues to be admired by guests from all over the world and bears witness to a lifestyle that harmoniously combines tradition and contemporaneity. Now, it is writing a new page in its history, with the renovation of its interior spaces and bedrooms, the creation of two exceptional Suites and the launch of ÔMER- the new restaurant by Alain Ducasse. A multi-phase renovation (where the Rotunda





and Alice wings were completed between October 2014 to May 2017, Beaux-Arts wing, Casino wing, Lobby and Bar Américain from May 2017 to December 2018) has allowed the new features to be exclusively revealed prior to the full reopening in December 2018.

Monte-Carlo is being reinvented for the 21st century and a new chapter is beginning.

montecarlosbm.com

Escape the Summer Heat

Conrad Maldives

Rangali Island



Maldives Rangali Island is offering Middle East residents the chance to spend a few days unwinding in paradise with its 'Island Retreat Package' – the ideal escape from the daily grind and the summer heat.

Specially tailored to provide some much-needed respite from the soaring temperatures of the Gulf, the package has been designed to offer an idyllic getaway filled with the finest dining, contemporary accommodation and moments of rejuvenation set against an extraordinary backdrop.

Guests can stay in one of the resort's stunning Beach Villas. Set amongst the island's beautiful tropical flora and fauna, the Villas offer superb luxury and privacy.

In homage to the natural environment of the Maldives, each Beach Villa features a spacious living area illuminated with natural light that nurtures a sense of island living filled with peace and serenity. The Villas also boast distinctive features including a signature outdoor shower and private access to the resort's palm tree-fringed beach.

Designed as a celebration of Maldivian culture, Conrad Maldives Rangali Island is the perfect destination for couples and families who want to enjoy a blissful paradise break with thrill-seeking opportunities to swim with manta rays and whale sharks, local culture to be explored and soul-enriching discoveries designed with meaning and purpose.

The Island's pristine location makes it one of the best diving and snorkeling spots in the world, and the hotel regularly attracts keen divers from all over the globe.

A revolutionary concept that fully immerses diners in the pristine waters of the Indian Ocean, Ithaa is an extraordinary culinary experience that is perfect for guests who want to connect with the beauty of life under the sea.

A triumph of modern design and technology, THE MURAKA is the world's only underwater residence that takes guests on a transformative journey into the deep thanks to its stunning two-storey, three-bedroom accommodation that will amaze even the most sophisticated explorer with the chance to live above and below the crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean.

www.conradmaldives.com



Baden-Baden

Get to know “the good-good life”



Baden-Baden’s rich history blends seamlessly with a highly contemporary lifestyle. Over the centuries, Baden-Baden has evolved into an enchanting destination, offering a diverse range of opportunities for both relaxation and excitement. Located in the Black Forest, Baden-Baden is an oasis for wellbeing and shopping, but also a great destination for culture lovers and foodies.

Baden-Baden is known as the “green city of short distances”, where everything is an easy walk away. In the picturesque streets of the neo-baroque old town of Baden-Baden, exquisite boutiques invite visitors also on luxurious shopping trips. Shopping enthusiast will love Baden-Baden, as the numerous boutiques offer luxury-brand products, international labels and individual antiques, jewellery and presents. Guests will enjoy roaming through the shopping boulevard of Baden-Baden that glistens as an ensemble of most interesting and beautiful architecture of the Belle Époque.

In the green city numerous well-maintained parks and gardens can be found, where exotic varieties of flowering plants and old trees are growing. The car-free city centre as well as the “Lichtentaler Allee”, a 2 km long green oasis, invite for relaxing walks and horse carriage rides. As the home to Germany’s largest municipal forest, Baden-Baden is great for long walks and hiking tours. Baden-Baden is also the gateway to the Black Forest Panoramic Route which leads to the Black Forest National Park and impresses with a beautiful nature and breath-taking views over the mountains and the Rhine Valley. From Baden-Baden, many great places and attractions can be explored during day trips. For example, to the castle in Heidelberg or Germany’s biggest theme park, the Europa-Park, that guarantees fun for the entire family. The theme park can be reached in less than an hour from Baden-Baden.



There is no boredom in Baden-Baden: Throughout the whole year there is a variety of events in and around town. From international horse races to vintage car meetings, music and open-air festivals, castle concerts, culinary festivals and many more. Three times a year, when the turf elite meets for the International Gallop Race, Baden-Baden is the epitome of gallop and glamor.

For people seeking wellbeing, health and recreation, Baden-Baden is the ideal location. The city is home to a variety of wellness hotels offering exclusive and individual care with private spa areas. The luxury destination spa Villa Stéphanie offers a holistic approach focusing on beauty, detox & nutrition, emotional balance and medical care. Whether it is preventative or rehabilitation medicine or a medical check-up, the well-being of the whole person is at the forefront of every treatment in all clinics in Baden-Baden.

Apart from events, spa and nature, Baden-Baden stands for its rich cultural offer. The Festival Hall Baden-Baden, Europe's second largest opera and concert hall, hosts international opera, ballet and concerts at the highest level. Art lovers also enjoy visits to several museums and art galleries. Moreover, several of Baden-Baden's museums are situated in the town's biggest parks and gardens, the "Lichtentaler Allee".

Baden-Baden is a truly captivating town, offering a variety of cultural and culinary highlights, shopping and wellbeing, all in a spectacular natural setting. Discover Baden-Baden and experience the "good-good life"!

Your way to Baden-Baden:

Baden-Baden is centrally located in southern Germany's Black Forest and boasts a climate with more hours of sunlight than anywhere else in Germany. The city is easily reachable for you





by plane via the airport Frankfurt (FRA), Munich (MUC) or Baden-Baden/Karlsruhe (FKB). You will reach Baden-Baden in 1.5 hours from Frankfurt airport and in 3.5 hours from Munich airport. Turkish Airlines offers flights via Istanbul directly to the airport Baden-Baden/Karlsruhe, which is a 20 minute drive from the Baden-Baden city center.

Your luxurious place to stay:

In Baden-Baden the modern luxury lifestyle hotel Roomers offers a dazzling fusion of architecture and design. Opened in 2016, it is the city's first luxury lifestyle hotel. It features a standalone gourmet Pan-Asian restaurant and is close to all key heritage sites in Baden-Baden. For guests who like it more classic, the Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa is the best place to stay. The five star superior hotel is centrally located in an urban oasis set in a private park, facing the "Lichtentaler Allee". You want to stay right in the city center? Therefore the five star hotel Dorint Maison Messmer suits perfectly for you. Situated next to the "Kurhaus" and the parks and gardens "Lichtentaler Allee" it offers newly furnished rooms and suites.

Your place to eat:

You can enjoy a vast selection of options to choose from in Baden-Baden. Its restaurants range from Michelin-starred restaurants to cosy little taverns, offering both international and traditional Baden cuisine. Moreover, the city offers a selection of Cafés which offer handmade cakes, pies, tarts and pralines. Our tip for you: try the traditional "Café König" or the confectionary "Rumpelmayer" in Baden-Baden.

Baden-Baden Tourism Board
info@baden-baden.com
www.baden-baden.de/en

BADEN BADEN



am HOTEL SOPHIENPARK

Tradition & Moderne in bester Citylage

Welcome to Home Welcome to Baden-Baden



In the 19th century, the Hotel am Sophienpark was one of the leading grandhotels in the city of Baden-Baden with an own private park in the back. Today inside the privately run 4 star hotel, one still finds the dignity and the charm of that era throughout. Its elegant rooms are full of character: each has its own individual style, many with balconies that overlook the park and the hotel's lovely garden. For longer stays and for families the Hotel am Sophienpark offers apartments with a beautiful view over the park. The apartments are separated from the other floors and families find the private atmosphere they need. In such calm and soothing surroundings, every day is a joy. On weekend evenings in July and August the French chef cook and his team offer delicious summer dishes on the park terrace.

The charming interiors of the hotel inspired many honorable

writers and musicians in history to accomplish their poetic lifework. There is still something left of this time and atmosphere when Baden-Baden was called the summer-capital of Europe. Visitors came to enjoy themselves in the casino, the thermal spas or at many cultural events like the horse races. Overall it did not change much, it just became a bit more modernized. A young journalist recently published in the Merian:

„Because Baden-Baden is not a city but a micro cosmos: at first, you think it is easy to grasp. Yet when you dip into it, you succumb to its fascination.“

The elegant and cultural town Baden-Baden is located on top of the smooth hills of the Black Forest and well known for its mild Mediterranean climate. In spring nature seems to explode





in overwhelming blossoms. The beautiful rose gardens are one of the major attractions from the beginning of May on and each year the rose of the year is nominated. The World Federation of Rose Societies presented "The Rose Society Garden" with the 'Award of Garden Excellence'. Just a few minutes away from the Hotel am Sophienpark begins the 350 years old Lichtentaler Allee, an oasis of peace and relaxation with another historical rose garden in the so called "Gönneranlage".

Embedded in this beauty the city center of Baden-Baden is characterized by exclusive shops with a stylish ambience and charming little shops at the Kurhaus colonnade. It is amazing how many boulevards and buildings are influenced by the style that swept over from Paris in the 18th century. A paradise for everyone who enjoys the finer things in life.

Families enjoy the numerous possibilities for day trips. The Europapark in Rust as the best amusement park of the world is definitely a highlight for all family members.

Getting to the hotel:

All of the hotel guests arrive at one of the nearby airports like Stuttgart or Frankfurt or directly at the Baden-Airpark, which is a 1 hours flight from London-Stansted and a 30 minutes-drive to the city-center of Baden-Baden.

Whenever you plan to visit Baden-Baden, you are warmly welcome to ask us for a reservation. Booking directly is a good way to save money and to be sure you get the room you want.

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www.hotel-am-sophienpark.de



Breezy Barracuda





by: Fouzia Sohail

The Barracuda Beach Resort in Umm Al Quwain (Khor Al Baida) is a surprise scene stealer.

Contained within a decent beach biome that is certain to be worth its view. This resort accommodates all the essential requirements of an inviting, self-sufficient and very comfortable retreat.

It's very scenic blue ocean waves against the earthy coloured sands almost give it a pastel painting effect.

Here the compact and cosy structure of the concaved villas built alongside the pools create a cosy nook, both facing the Arabian Sea, which is a stone throw away. Rooms are fairly sized with adequate bathrooms and comfortable beds. These villas lie on one side of the resorts property while the dining and reception occupy the other side near the entrance.

An Italian and Indian Restaurant cater to the menus served. The Aquaris (Indian) Restaurant's spicy meat, fish and chicken barbeques, delicious chutneys and fresh roti (bread) are a popular order given.

A patio outside the eating area leads straight onto the serene almost picturesque beach. Be sure to take a snap shot of the sunset or sunrise whist you happen to be there.

Recreational corners for kids, a petit basketball hoop, miniature golf patch, ample cabana area and an adjoining sandy play area(for cricket lovers) are all within the pool's vicinity, thus making the resort warm, enjoyable and very family friendly.

Reasonable prices, ample servings from the menu and an almost Zen like ambience are sure to soak into your skin.

Barracuda brings the simple pleasures of rustic desert beach scenes to be availed. Another popular fun treat nearby is the Dreamland Aqua Park.

This Resort definitely delivers and its most charming trait is its simple laid back atmosphere that really has a calming result on its visitor.

www.barracuda.ae

Capital Travel & Tours

Maldives

A visionary, a pioneer and a business leader who is willing to face the challenges of a changing global business environment.



Yoosuf Riffath is a dynamic entrepreneur who has successfully launched and managed new business concepts in the Maldives. He is a leading figure and a pioneer in the tourism industry. His strength lies in his pioneering spirit coupled with his organizational capacity, his capacity to network and engage with others, to bring in their participation, for the development of the industry.

In 1981, Mr. Riffath was a young aspiring youth, working in the civil service, on the lookout for opportunities, the most appealing of which at the time was the budding tourism industry. His opportunity came when he saw a vacancy ad in the papers for a post in one of the largest resort operators in the country, Universal Enterprises. It was here he learnt the ropes of the industry working in various departments of the Company. After nine years in Universal and equipped with the experience gained, Riffath started his own company, Capital Travel & Tours. From its humble beginnings, the Company has become one of the most prominent travel agents and tour operators in the country. At a time when resorts were heavily leaning on the business of foreign tour operators, it was an uphill battle for small local firms. A number of travel agents were formed

during that time, but it was only a few that succeeded. It was Riffath's determination and his vision to succeed that enabled him to rise above the rest and gain the confidence of the resort operators in order to create one of the most successful local travel agencies during this period.

During his long career in the tourism industry Riffath has helped develop the industry especially the tour operators segment, making it a significant player that the industry has to engage with. In 2006 Riffath together with others founded MATATO, the Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators, a platform for local travel agents and tour operators to work together with the resort operators to gain their confidence and help build the sector by offering a unified front. MATATO currently has more than 50 members and is one of the most active organizations in the tourism industry.

Riffath is always in the forefront in his untiring efforts to develop and promote the industry. He is also a founding member of the Liveaboard Association of Maldives, established to promote the Liveaboard sector of the tourism industry. Furthermore, Riffath is also the founder and President of Association of Travel Agents founded in 2014.

While Capital Travel & Tours has membership of the most prominent international industry associations such as the International Coalition of Travel Partners, ICTP, Pacific Asia Travel Association, PATA American Society of Travel Agents, ASTA, Riffath has worked to develop greater engagement of the local industry with such international associations. Riffath has been serving as the Chapter President of ASTA since 1995. He has also served as a Director of the Board at the Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC), the state organization responsible for the promotion of tourism.

Riffath's vision is on the tourism industry, be it matters related to its operation or youth participation and employment in the industry. In 2002 he formed Astrabon Pvt. Ltd., yet another pioneering venture, dedicated to providing resorts with operational supplies of a quality befitting the upmarket tourism industry of the country. The Company is a tremendous success with a portfolio that includes the most respective brands of kitchenware and related products from around the world.

Getting people to take part in the tourism industry, connecting them with business partners, providing those with opportunities on which they can stand on, these are things that Riffath is passionate about. In his quest to get youth participation in the economy and to create a platform for young people to prepare for employment, in 2006, he formed the Employment bureau (Maldives) Pvt. Ltd. The broad objective was to complement



the national effort to strengthen the human resource base of the country, offering a variety of training opportunities. Riffath serves as the president of Employment Bureau Pvt. Ltd.

Riffath sees the development of small-scale local tourism as the next big frontier. He is already planning and implementing ways and means to provide a platform that can be used by local tourism agencies and guesthouses in the operation and marketing of their businesses. His vision is to implement ways to support the segment by offering comprehensive solutions

that will assist in the development of the sector.

Riffath is a visionary, a pioneer and a business leader who is willing to face the challenges of a changing global business environment. Capital Travel & Tours is one example which demonstrates his ability to evolve with changing times and changing global demand. He has the innate capacity to see the opportunities in the market and develop business models that fits perfectly into existing gaps. During his illustrious career in the industry, he has served to develop the industry and worked for the development of others in the industry.



Slovenia

Camping and Caravanning at Health Resorts

Enjoy the beneficial effects of thermal mineral water in Slovenian spas and wellness centres while staying in an eco-hotel, apartment, caravan or tent in the middle of a green fairy tale.

Enjoy the beneficial effects of thermal mineral water in Slovenian spas and wellness centres while staying in an eco-hotel, apartment, caravan or tent in the middle of a green fairy tale. The modern Ortenia eco-apartments are inviting you to Terme Olimia, while Son na hiša ("Sun House") boutique hotel awaits you in Banovci. The campsite at Terme Ptuj, which is open throughout the year, is located in the oldest Slovenian town with the oldest wine cellar, in eastern Slovenia, where traditional Prekmurska gibanica (layer cake), Terme 3000 and Terme Lendava await you.

Everyone who enjoys green travels and pampering in thermal mineral water is invited to camping sites, eco-hotels, and apartments near Slovenian natural spas. The resorts are offering numerous possibilities for active and relaxed vacation throughout the year. Experience excellent health programmes, water adventures, fresh air and peace at Terme Olimia in Pod etrtek. The resort is particularly attractive due to the innovative Orhidelia wellness centre with the largest world of saunas in Slovenia. It's home to a wide range of Finnish and steam saunas, themed rest areas, sauna programmes and swimming pools on a sunny patio. Somewhat more private pampering and the feeling of floating on the clouds is conjured up by the nearby Ortenia eco-apartments. Cleanse and pamper your body with herbal teas and take a bite of juicy autochthonous Kozjansko apples, which are always at one's fingertips in this region.

Terme Banovci welcomes you in the north-eastern Slovenia, near the Mura River. The resort is rich in the thermal water of the former Pannonian Sea, which originates from a depth of 1,700 m. It gives water to indoor and outdoor swimming pools, which are open until late evening hours. Can you imagine swimming and enjoying a water bubbles massage while overlooking a sky full of stars? Wake up energized in Sun House, a short walking distance away from the resort. You will forget all about everyday obligations and stress in the intimate boutique hotel. You will be served healthy meals and fine tastings of local specialities, presented with ideas for exploring the surrounding areas, and pampered in the wellness centre.

The Pannonian plains are hiding the riches of the black thermal mineral water and paraffin thermal water. Its energy and beneficial effects are pumped at Terme 3000 Moravske Toplice and at Terme Lendava. Discover the far north-east corner of the country while caravanning or camping. Stay at Camping Terme 3000 and Camping Terme Lendava, both of which offer access to all health resort and wellness services to its guests and are open throughout the year. Get to know the idyllic surroundings on a bike or enjoy a round of golf.



Thailand

Destination Wellness



Thailand, as a travel destination, is well-known for its pristine shores and clear blue waters. Featuring some of the world's most famous island getaways, endless boutique accommodations, luxury resorts, first-class hospitality and all the latest technologies – it's not hard to see why Thailand is at the top of the list when it comes to wellness escapes.

World-renowned wellness retreats and services can be found dotted across Thailand's vast landscape. From the spectacular mountains and lush valleys of Northern Thailand to the palm-fringed islands of Southern Thailand, there is something to suit every desire, making Thailand the ultimate destination for those seeking to improve their health and wellness.

Looking for state-of-the-art medical treatment? Bangkok should be number one on the list. Offering a wide array of procedures, treatments and services, including programmes, operations, dental, fertility treatments, as well as surgical procedures such as laser, cosmetic and cardiovascular. Popular treatments range from simple treatments including laser teeth whitening and bodytite liposuction, to more complex treatments such as

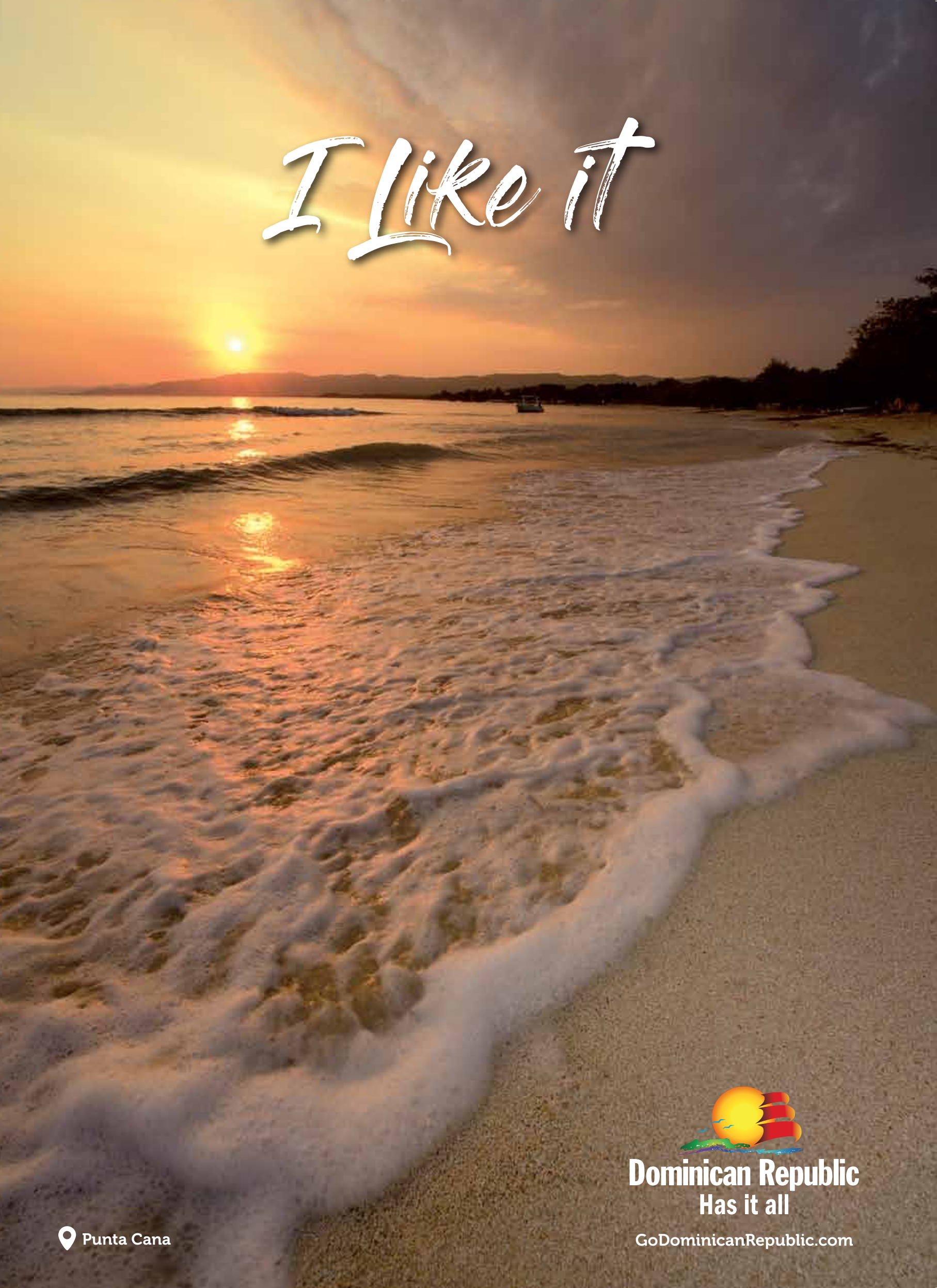
hip replacements, heart surgery and hair restoration. Whatever the desire, Thailand is fully equipped with highly experienced Doctors with international expertise, extensively reduced prices and shorter waiting times.

Thailand is also famous for its array of holistic wellness and healing offerings, resulting in a burgeoning rise of tourism solely for wellness purposes. Thailand provides a multitude of offerings, with many packages being able to be tailored personally to meet individual needs and desires. Thailand's wellness destinations, whether located in the hustle and bustle of Bangkok or on a remote private island, provide guests with services, amenities and treatments that help relax, rejuvenate and refresh the mind, body and soul. Thailand offers a range of holistic therapies from Eastern and Western traditions all aiming to promote wellness while focusing on the mind, body and spirit. Yoga, meditation, acupuncture, naturopathy, colon hydrotherapy, infrared sauna treatments and Reiki are just some of the offerings available at Thailand's specialized retreats and resorts.

In addition, Thailand is also fully equipped with a range of health and fitness retreats for those seeking a body overhaul and interested in learning the tricks to becoming the best version of themselves. Whether it be a boot camp with a view, a Muay Thai Camp with the highest caliber of trainers, or a week of clean eating or detoxing, Thailand has something for the beginners, the intermediates and the professionals alike.


Thailand, a land blessed by nature, year-round sunshine and smiling hospitality, is undoubtedly the ideal destination for those seeking to improve their health, both physically and mentally. Whether travelling alone or with a family, whether on a budget or looking to splurge, an endless array of health and wellness options awaits in the Land of Smiles.

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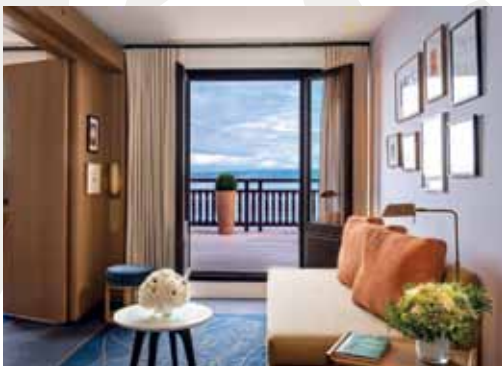
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