Café & Boutique p99-126



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ILLUSTRATION: JILL DEHAAN



Editor's letter

I don't know about you, but I'm in the mood for a far-flung adventure. A journey to somewhere beautifully wild where I can gaze at the stars in solitude, camp (or better, glamp) in the desert and kayak in lush mangroves. And our hot tip for this bucket-list trip may just surprise you: Abu Dhabi. Better known for its gleaming skyscrapers and museums, the city is fast becoming one of the best places on Earth for an eco escape. Read more about it in our cover story on page 32.

The other stories this issue are full of adventures, too – just on a slightly smaller scale. We explore why London is the pawfect place (sorry) to hang out with your dog (page 40). Bosnian writer Ennis Ćehić takes us on a personal journey through his homeland (page 64). In Copenhagen, we discover trolls made from rubbish in the city's green forests (page 56). And on page 46, we round up the top 22 things to do in Italy for – yep, you guessed it – 2022. Wherever you're going to this winter, I hope you enjoy every second of your travels.

Claire Köksal, Editor

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November New Belodore shop, WEST 65 Shopping Mall, Belgrade, Serbia

in place



See art under the sea in Cyprus

Wearing a snorkel and flippers to an art exhibition feels a little OTT. But you'll need both to see British artist Jason deCaires Taylor's new underwater sculpture park, MUSAN, in Cyprus. All 93 sculptures sit on the sea floor 200m from the coastline of Ayia Napa, where they attract marine life. "The ocean is the most incredible exhibition space," says deCaires Taylor. "It has amazing lighting effects that change by the hour, explosions of sand and a procession of unique visitors." Nemo could hide quite happily here. **underwatersculpture.com**

Wizz Air flies to Larnaca

WORDS: JUDY COGAN AND CLAIRE KÖKSAL. PHOTO: © MUSAN / JASONDECAIRESTAYLOR / COSTAS CONSTANTINOU



PHOTOS: © YAYOI KUSAMA "INFINITY MIRROR ROOM – PHALLI'S FIELD" 1965 YAYOI KUSAMA. COURTESY: OTA FINE ARTS, VICTORIA MIRO & DAVID ZWIRNER. © YAYOI KUSAMA; YAYOI KUSAMA, SELBSTAUSLÖSCHUNG NR. 2, 1967, YURI PALMIN



Go dotty for Yayoi Kusama in Tel Aviv

With her bold red bob, iconic polka dots and immersive, light-scattered installations, Yayoi Kusama floods Instagram regularly. Get ready for the next deluge. This winter, the Tel Aviv Museum of Art is hosting a retrospective of the Japanese artist's work – the first major exhibition of her art in Israel. Expect a brand-new Infinity Mirror Room as well as early oil paintings and a collage of fake dollar bills. Fun fact: Kusama now boasts the highest auction prices of any living woman artist. The show runs until 23 April 2022. **tamuseum.org.il**

Wizz Air flies to Tel Aviv

Marvel at the new GES-2 museum in Moscow



What do you get when you cross a disused power plant near the Kremlin with a Russian billionaire? No, not the next Bond villain lair, but the V–A–C Foundation's new GES-2 House of Culture. This 41,000m² light-flooded contemporary arts centre in Moscow by architect Renzo Piano finally opens in December after several pandemic-tinged delays, and features a cinema, concert hall, library, shops, restaurant and café. The first major exhibition, *Santa Barbara – A Living Sculpture* by Icelandic artist Ragnar Kjartansson, throws a nod to the first Western soap opera aired in 1992 on Russian television. **v-a-c.org**

Wizz Air flies to Moscow

Prove you're a champion on the slopes near Geneva

There's no love lost between skiers and snowboarders, but which tribe is due unrivalled bragging rights on the snow? We put them to the test

Want to try it out? This season there's no better way than in Mürren, the Swiss ski resort, which celebrates 100 years since the first-ever slalom race on 21 January. Ready, set, race!

	SKI	SNOWBOARD
PRESTIGE	Skiing is *seriously* old, with ski artefacts found in Scandinavia dating back to 4,000BC. Whoah!	Snowboarding as a sport is still in nappies, invented only in the 60s by Sherman Poppen who made a snowboard as a toy for his daughter. It became a sport in the 80s.
COMFORT	Anyone who's walked on an icy bar floor carrying a tray of Aperol Spritzes will know: walking (and skiing!) in ski boots really hurts.	Snowboarding boots are softer and easy to walk in, plus jackets and trousers tend to be roomier, too. Win-win.
SPEED	At a top speed of 254km/h, skiers are fastest on the snow.	Sure, 203km/h is super quick, but just not enough for this race.
LEARNING	They say skiing is easier to learn, but harder to master. Which, after a week of non-stop snow ploughing, you'll definitely agree with.	Your first few lessons you'll fall – a lot – but you'll soon be tearing up the powder faster than your fellow newbie skiers.
FITNESS	This one's a tie! Skiers need thighs of steel. Squat like crazy and get on your bike before you go.	Boarders need core strength (dust off that ab-master), and beginners are likely to burn *loads* of calories.

Stroll along the world's longest treetop walkway in Switzerland



Got a head for heights? Well then, Senda dil Dragun (Way of the Dragon) is for you. This new 1.5km treetop walkway links together the villages of Laax Murschetg and Laax Dorf in southern Switzerland, allowing for extraordinary views of velvety-green scenery from above tree branches. Open year-round, there are four platforms with seating along the way, and displays describing the many different flora and fauna to be found in the forest. But the best bit? When you get to Murschetg there's a nifty spiral slide that takes you back to the forest floor. Yippee! **flimslaax.com**

✈ **Wizz Air flies to Friedrichshafen**





Drink everything but whisky in Scotland

Thought Scotland's national drinks start and stop with whisky and Irn-Bru? Strap in for some Highland booze to erase such misconceptions (and everything else) in one sip

Give peas a chance

Fruit-infused spirits we get, but pea vodka? Aye, it's a Scottish thing! The Arbikie Distillery has launched Nàdar Vodka (Gaelic for nature), made using garden peas. The peas create a sweet taste and help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 1.5kg per bottle. How green! **arbikie.com**

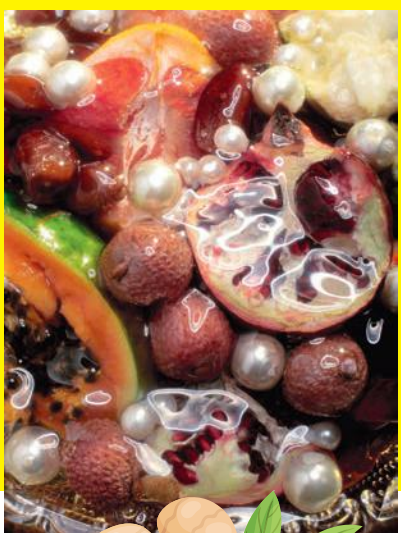


Taste the future

in Dubai

When we say futuristic food, what comes to mind? Plant-based chicken and lab-grown hamburgers? Well, what if we asked what food will look like waaaaay in the future, say in 300 years' time? It's the question dissected at a groundbreaking culinary experience at the Dubai Expo. Hosted by Willy Wonka-esque immersive design studio Bompas & Parr (the guys that created the world's first non-melting ice lolly and the world's first breathable cocktail bar), the Future of Food: Epochal Banquet transports diners to the year 2320. At a two-hour, AI-curated, multi-course exploratory menu you can savour light delicacies formed using the same technique that NASA uses to collect comet dust, edible creations that glow in the dark, flavour-changing desserts and extremely rare ingredients. It runs three times a day until the end of the Expo on 31 March 2022. *Bon appetit!* **expo2020dubai.com**

Wizz Air flies to Dubai





Rule of rum

The Matugga distillery in Livingston near Edinburgh was established by Jacine and Paul Rutasikwa, who produce delicious gold and spiced rums that draw inspiration from their Ugandan and Jamaican heritage. Flavour blends include black tea, ginger and vanilla. **matuggarum.com**

A wicked Scottish fairy

The Murmichan is Scotland's first and only absinthe made by Lost Loch Distillery. This potent spirit is named after a cheeky Scottish fairy and infuses traditional Swiss absinthe-making methods with Scotch botanicals, such as heather flower. **lostlochspirits.com**

Party on the slopes
in France



Winter is for skiing and summer is for music festivals, right? Wrong! Rise festival combines 220km of snow-covered pistes (including Europe's largest skiable glacier) with live music mayhem under blue skies. The party is held between 11-18 December at Les Deux Alpes resort, France – a cool 3,600m high. Ski-bunnies and snowboarders can enjoy quality beginner slopes, snow parks and death-defying black runs by day. By night, expect a high-octane après ski line-up including DJ ShyFX, Purple Disco Machine and Vice City. Rev up for after-parties, secret bars, sticky dance floors and live DJ sets until dawn. Rinse and then repeat. Sleeping is definitely cheating.

rise-festival.com

Wizz Air flies to Grenoble





See Baltic creativity
in Kaunas

From January, Kaunas in Lithuania is on the world radar as European Capital of Culture for 2022 with a roster of over 1,000 events. Highlights include: *Once Upon a Time*, an exhibition combining film, sculpture and spoken-word poetry; the surreal *UltraSocial Pop* exhibition by artist Filip Markiewicz; and *K-Totem* – big K sculptures around the city designed by local illustrators. "This year-long non-stop project is very co-creative and we will involve local communities and strengthen the cultural identity of Kaunas," says Anna Kočegarova-Maj, the programme director. **kaunas2022.eu**

Wizz Air flies to Kaunas

Do sky-high yoga
around the network

The latest fitness trend? Elevated yoga classes. Reach new heights with your downward dog at one of these classes

Urban escape

Say hello to London's only revolving yoga studio. This winter, lifestyle gurus Equinox have unveiled their new wellness spot set inside one of the London Eye's 32 pods, with daily yoga and meditation classes alongside uplifting views of the capital's iconic skyline. **equinox.com**

Mountain highs

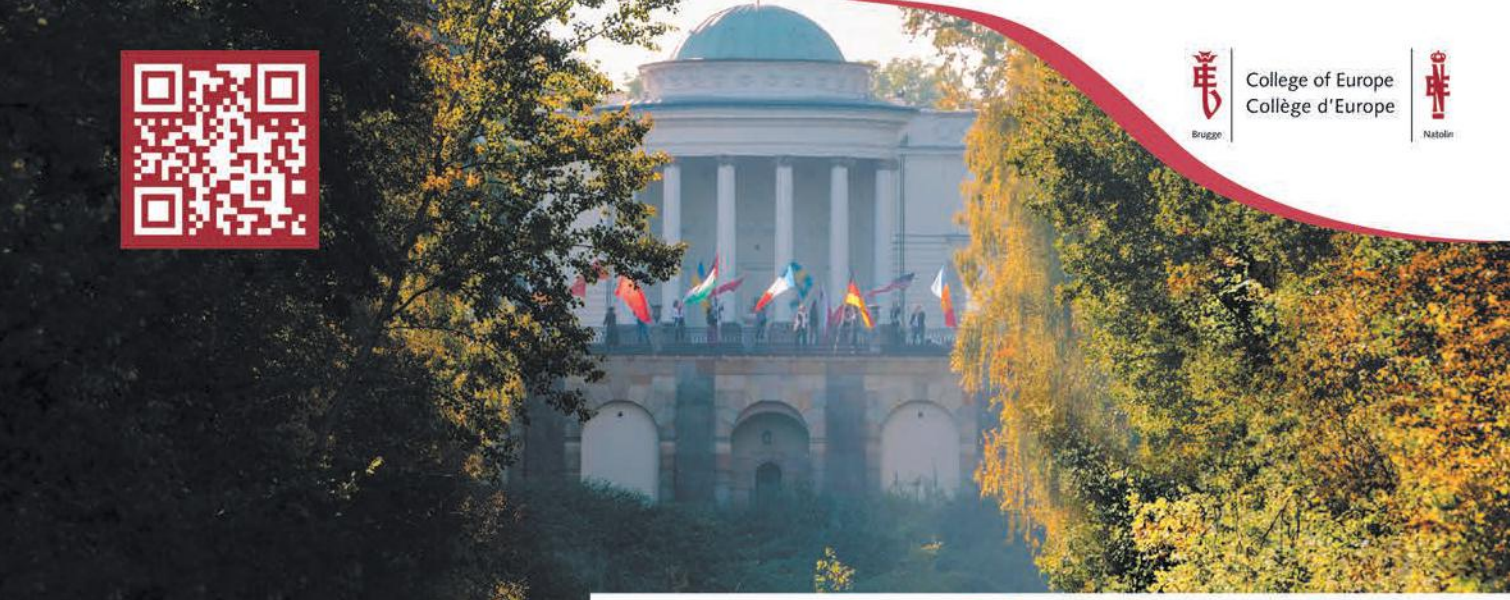
Move over hot yoga, it's cold yoga's time to shine. And we're talking *very* cold. Yoga In The Alps offers classes and meditative snowshoe walks in the idyllic and snowy surrounds of Sixt-Fer-à-Cheval in the French Alps. **yogainthealps.com**

Lava flow

The ultimate way to connect with nature? It could be practising yoga on a dormant volcano, facing the glittering Atlantic, surrounded by a beautiful forest. Find out for yourself with a yoga retreat in Lanzarote with Sandos Atlantic Gardens. **sandos.com**

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in person



Stepping back in time with railroad workers in Ukraine **p18**

Going the full monty at a disco in Paris **p22**

Chilling out at an ice music festival near Bergen **p26**

“Unfazed by the passing of trains and time, Ukraine’s railroad ladies are here to stay”

We meet Sasha Maslov, the photographer who travelled through Ukraine to shoot the country’s railroad ladies – the signal controllers who look like they’ve come from a bygone era

Words by Claire Köksal



When photographer Sasha Maslov was a child in the 1990s, travelling through Ukraine on a train always meant adventure. “When we would go to Crimea, the Carpathian Mountains or to visit relatives, we would travel on overnight sleeper trains,” he says. “I loved spending my time staring out the windows, and I was mesmerised by the little houses that were just sitting – often surrounded by nothing but the fields – along the railroad tracks. They were magical to me.”

These buildings are railroad crossing offices – pretty pastel-hued buildings that housed the traffic controllers of Ukraine’s railroads. And, unusually, this job still exists today. All over the world, as similarly traditional, manual jobs die out, in Ukraine the railroad traffic controller has proved themselves to be indispensable. “In a storm, it’s often hard to see the

PHOTOS: © SASHA MASLOV

lighthouse," says Sasha. "Ukraine's railroad workers are a kind of lighthouse: a symbol of how certain things in this country stand firm in the present as a defiant nod to the past. Unfazed by the passing of trains and time, they are here to stay." Even more unusually? About 80% of these workers are women. "I think it's a hangover from the Soviet era," he says – when the profession was considered a feminine role because it wasn't particularly physical.

From the 1970s right up until today, Ukraine's national railway company, Ukrzaliznytsia, has long been one of the largest and most prestigious employers in the country. But the trains and service have seen vast changes since the sleeper wagons with glass tea holders chugged along the tracks in the Soviet era. The trains today are modern and fuss-free. Conductors also play the role of onboard waiter. And they travel a lot faster.

But the level crossings spread all across Ukraine have stayed the same, and that's why there is still the need for the traffic controller. This captured Sasha's imagination, and he spent two years travelling up and down the country's railroads to photograph these female railroad workers. He wanted to explore exactly why this job still exists in the 21st century. And to shine a light on the people who live in the candy-



Opposite page
Svitlana Oleksiivna Yevstihnieieva has worked on the railroad for 24 years. She's based at Poltava-Pivdenna Station, 137 km crossing, Southern Railways
Left
Tetyana Grygorivna Dobronozhenko works at Smila Station, 208km crossing, Odessa Railways



Maria Oleksandrivna Senychuk is based at Tarasa Shevchenka Station, 214 km crossing, Odessa Railways

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These European train rides are on the right track

Cinque Terre, Italy
From: Levanto to La Spezia
20km | 40 minutes
Highlight: The colourful houses of Vernazza

Rauma Line, Norway
From: Dombås to Åndalsnes
114km | 90 minutes
Highlight: Crossing the imposing Kylling Bridge

Glacier Express, Switzerland
From: Zermatt to St. Moritz
290km | 7 1/2 hours
Highlight: Panoramic views from the Landwasser Viaduct

Orient Express, UK to Italy
From: London to Venice
1,636km | 24 hours
Highlight: Feeling like you're in an Agatha Christie novel

KEEP THE TICKET UNTIL THE END OF THE TRIP

coloured buildings that are rarely given a second thought by train travellers as they zip past.

The Ukrainian railroad controller's job is simple. As a train pulls in, they hold up their flag or lantern to alert the train's conductor to conditions on the track, while keeping an eye on any activity – pedestrians and drivers – nearby, before sending the train on its way. But much of this can be automated these days, so why has the role survived?

"Interestingly, a lot of their functions *can* be done automatically, and many *are* done automatically," Sasha says. "For example, years ago they would have closed the barriers themselves, but that is now done remotely. So, their main function now is as a watcher – sometimes people try to run in front of the train or try to drive around the barrier if no-one is watching. The railroad controllers maintain safety at the crossing area and make sure things run smoothly. Besides that? They tend to the houses themselves, decorate them, work on gardens around the houses, keep the area tidy."

These workers spend 12-hour shifts in their track-side homes. That's why you'll see houseplants and flowers, lace tablecloths and curtains, plus framed posters transforming what is essentially a small office building into a cosy home.

But the real threat to this job may not be technological, but gradual extinction. Workers tend to spend their whole lives employed by Ukrzaliznytsia, often staying in the same role. Which means the position of signal controller is seen as an older or middle-aged person's job by younger Ukrainians – and not something they want for themselves. Luckily, Sasha doesn't think the job will disappear anytime soon. "The railroads have already modernised a lot of intersections, but in my opinion the busiest ones will still have controllers for some time," he says. "I think the railroad ladies are here to stay for a long while yet."

Ukrainian Railroad Ladies (Osnovy Publishing, $39)

Wizz Air flies to Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa and Zaporizhzhya

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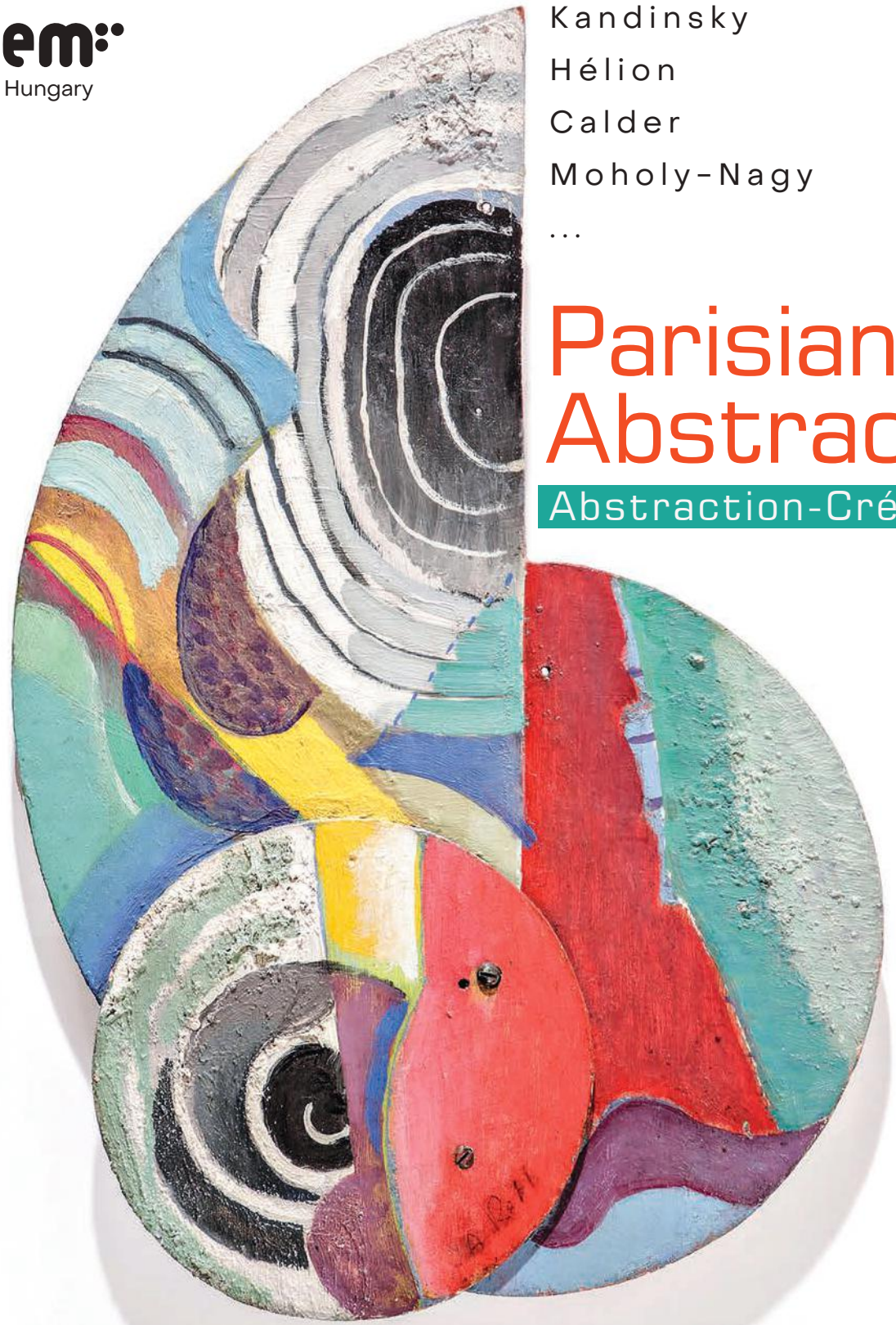
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Alfred Reth / Forme dans l'espace / c. 1935 © Galerie Berès

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“Standing alone, totally naked, I wonder what to do now”

Would you strip off on a night out? Our writer ditches her clothes and tries out nude clubbing in the French capital

Words by Judy Cogan Illustration by Lucy Kirk

It’s midnight on a Friday. I’m hovering nervously outside the doors of a Parisian nightclub, about to get completely naked at a nudist club night. Yes, that’s right. Naked. In a nightclub. Oh, and it was my idea. Although now I’m scanning my brain for reasons to head back to the comfort of my hotel. The bouncer pulls open the doors to Le Klub and, inhaling deeply, I go in.

To be clear, I’m not walking into some sort of salacious party. Tonight’s event, Beautiful Skin, is about de-eroticising the naked body. The organisers insist: “Behaviour of a sexual nature is strictly prohibited,” and pin signs inside the club to remind people to be respectful.

“It’s absurd to think being naked instantly has sexual connotations,” event co-founder Jérémie Lapeyre tells me when we chat the day before Beautiful Skin. “The philosophy of naturism is to reconnect with yourself and get rid of social barriers by not wearing clothes. No human body is perfect, but we are all beautiful.”

After spending months in lockdown, I am well and truly ready to reconnect with everything, from myself to dance floors and bar queues. I’m going to let it all hang loose – literally. And I’m not alone.

“Before COVID-19, a lot of people saw nudist parties as taboo or intimidating. But now we’re getting a lot of first-timers,” says Jérémie. “We’ve all lacked human contact and people are thinking: ‘Okay, now I want to do things I haven’t done before. I want to live more freely’.”

I was curious to know how nudity and clubs would gel, with flowing alcohol and nightlife’s tendency to attract sleazebags from the shadows. “The vibe is really sweet,” Jérémie reassures me. “It’s a very inclusive event – everyone feels vulnerable so they’re kinder to each other, and by the end it feels like a big Care Bear party!”

According to Jérémie, early events have had a majority of male attendees, but he’s hoping to strike a gender balance. “We’re trying to make the night even more all-encompassing and welcoming, which is why most of the staff are women and many of the DJs are female and trans,” he says. “Women tell us they’ve never felt so safe at a party. That’s what we want.”

Jérémie and Beautiful Skin co-creator Julien Claudé-Pénégry count themselves among the estimated 2.7 million people in France for whom social nudity is part of their lifestyle. In recent years Paris has embraced ‘urban naturism’ – a movement that reframes the classic image of naturism from rustic meadow-frolicking and skinny-dipping to a year-round, all-environments practice.

Parisian park Bois de Vincennes now has a designated nudist zone in summer, and the city’s nudist association organises activities such as



bowling, swimming and yoga. Now, nudist clubbing has been placed firmly on the list.

I descend a wide staircase and undress in a curved seating area in the belly of the club, next to a dance floor that's filling up with bare bodies gyrating under a rainbow glow of spinning disco lights. The ceilings are low and the air is hot with nervous energy. My clothes stuffed into a black bin bag, I make my way to the cloakroom. My eyes dart around; I'm so incredibly aware that everyone is naked. Except for compulsory shoes and socks, that is (and, in my case, a rule-bending bumbag).

I hand my clothes to the cloakroom attendant, who loops a neon band around my wrist. "No going back now," she says, with a warm smile. She's right. Standing alone, totally starkers, I wonder what to do. While the public nudity feels alien, the nightclub setting is familiar, so I head to the bar. Sipping on my beer, I privately toast myself for getting this far. It's not long before I realise I'm holding myself differently, with more poise and confidence. I feel stronger with every second and can sense myself relaxing.

In the spirit of the night, I boogie over to a body painting station in a brightly lit nook and grab a brush. The woman next to me has manufactured for herself what can only be described as a bodycon dress in a radioactive shade of green paint. I go slightly more subtle, sloshing yellow swirls across my stomach. It feels ice cold on my skin, but this is fun. Moments later I'm daubing orange stripes onto a stranger's back as he wriggles and yelps. He introduces himself as Yann, a naturist from Paris. This event is everything to him, he says. "We normally get banished to the countryside," he laughs. "It's so nice to find a naturist party with great DJs in the city!"

I walk along a narrow corridor to another room. Beyoncé's *Run the World (Girls)* is pounding and bodies of all shapes and sizes are bouncing to the beat. I lose count of all the smiles and thumbs-up gestures that fly at me like gifts from friendly strangers. In a normal nightclub this would be weird. But there's a shift here: an unspoken connection between us all. It feels refreshing, and I can see how much of our body hang-ups are just in our own heads.

I wade through the crowd to congratulate Jérémie, just as he finishes a DJ set as his alter ego Loki Starfish. He's really pulled off something special. "People seem really happy to have this safe space to reconnect with themselves and others," he says. I couldn't agree more – the feel-good vibes are through the roof. I notice some even have tears in their eyes. "Dancing and being joyful again together is so powerful," he adds.

It's 4am when I call it a night. I step out onto the street feeling like I've accomplished something deeply personal. I feel fuzzy inside, just like a Care Bear. I've spent a lot of lockdown shimmying around my apartment in the buff but it's just not the same as publicly throwing shapes stark naked. "Dancing and connection is a human need," says Jérémie. Then, laughing, he adds: "It's good to be back."

Wizz Air flies to Paris

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“The sound of ice is totally unique – and surprisingly warm”

Norwegian musician Terje Isungset is the brains behind a very unusual music festival, where everything – from the instruments to the venue – is made of ice

Words by Sarah Warwick



The sound of ice changed Terje Isungset’s life. Back in 1999, the jazz drummer and composer was going through an experimental period, working with alternative elements in his music, like Arctic birch, granite and slate, when he wondered what frozen music would sound like.

“It was like falling in love,” he says of the first time he improvised with ice instruments. “The sound of ice is unique. It’s surprisingly warm and gentle… so beautiful and so different from all the instruments I had ever tried.”

It was a sound that set Terje on the road to becoming the world’s first ice musician. Twenty years on and he is the undisputed leader of the unusual genre, performing more than 50 ice concerts worldwide each year and, since 2006, organising the Ice Music Festival, held every February – originally in his hometown of Geilo, before moving to Finse and now Bergsjøstølen in Ål, Hallingdal. “The festival came from the realisation that there must be so many options for creating something new with ice and snow,” Terje recalls. “I wanted to share ice music with as many people as possible, to get a lot of creative people together to see what we could do.”

It is, however, “much harder” to stage an ice music festival than a regular festival, he says. Especially when everything from instruments to the chairs that ticket holders sit on are essentially ice sculptures that could potentially melt at any point.

Preparations start early in January, when Terje and his team begin harvesting snow and ice. In the two





Previous page
Terje Isungset and vocalist Maria Skranes
This page
Terje performing at the Ice Music Festival

weeks before the festival opens, they have 15 people working "day and night" to build the main venue.

The latest Ice Music Festival will also feature several igloo venues, each of which will act as a hyper-intimate musical experience for just a single musician and audience member. "It'll be like going into someone's house for a concert," Terje explains.

Apart from the venues, there are all the instruments to make. The musicians arrive about a week ahead of the festival to work with instrument makers. Some – wind players, for example – will have to have new ones every time they practice or perform, as their breath melts the sculpture, "changing the sound of the music as it's playing".

As the organiser, it's Terje's job to coordinate everything that's being built, but also to persuade artists to take a chance on his frozen vision. "I need to find those people who are willing to take on this challenge, stay out in the cold, and make fantastic music," he says.

Some artists take a lot of convincing, even after they arrive at the festival. "Once we had some people from Guatemala who had never seen snow," Terje says. "They were frightened to get out of the car."

There are also always challenges to do with weather, which must be cold enough for the build and performances. Rain is the real enemy. In recent years there have been particular issues due to climate change, prompting the move higher up into the mountains to Bergsjøstølen, where it's colder. To limit the risk of melting the venues, only 500 guests can now attend.

This reliance on good, cold weather seems to have kept Terje grounded. After 16 years as a successful entrepreneur in live music, he remains humble, describing his role like that of a custodian rather than an innovator.

"Nature is generous to let us borrow the ice for some weeks. At the end we give everything back," he explains. "Humans have to realise that nature is always the boss."

Despite describing what he does as "99% hard work", Terje has no plans to ever give up. Apart from the Ice Festival, he performs at festivals from Oslo to Munich, and in 2021 gave a series of indoor concerts with the help of Saami and Inuit singers, bringing 'Arctic Ice Music' to the UK for the first time. He sees it as his ongoing mission to bring the life-changing sound of ice to as many people as possible. "It's not about earning a lot of money," he says. "It's about developing something new. It's my life's work."

terjeisungset.no, icemusicfestivalnorway.no

Wizz Air flies to Bergen

Keep it cool

Three of the best ice attractions around the network

Stay

Made each year out of 30,000 cubic metres of snow and ice, Sweden's Icehotel has 35 sub-zero rooms. Sweet dreams are out, but bragging rights are in. **icehotel.com**

Drink

At Paris' Ice Kube Bar, everything from the tables and chairs, glasses and artwork are made from the cold stuff. Entry comes with a warm coat and some vodka cocktails. **kubehotel-paris.com**

Do

London's Icebox will craft anything from a life-sized car to a life-like cat from ice – but they also host workshops if you'd like a go yourself. **theicebox.com**



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in depth



Green desert: eco adventures in Abu Dhabi **p32**

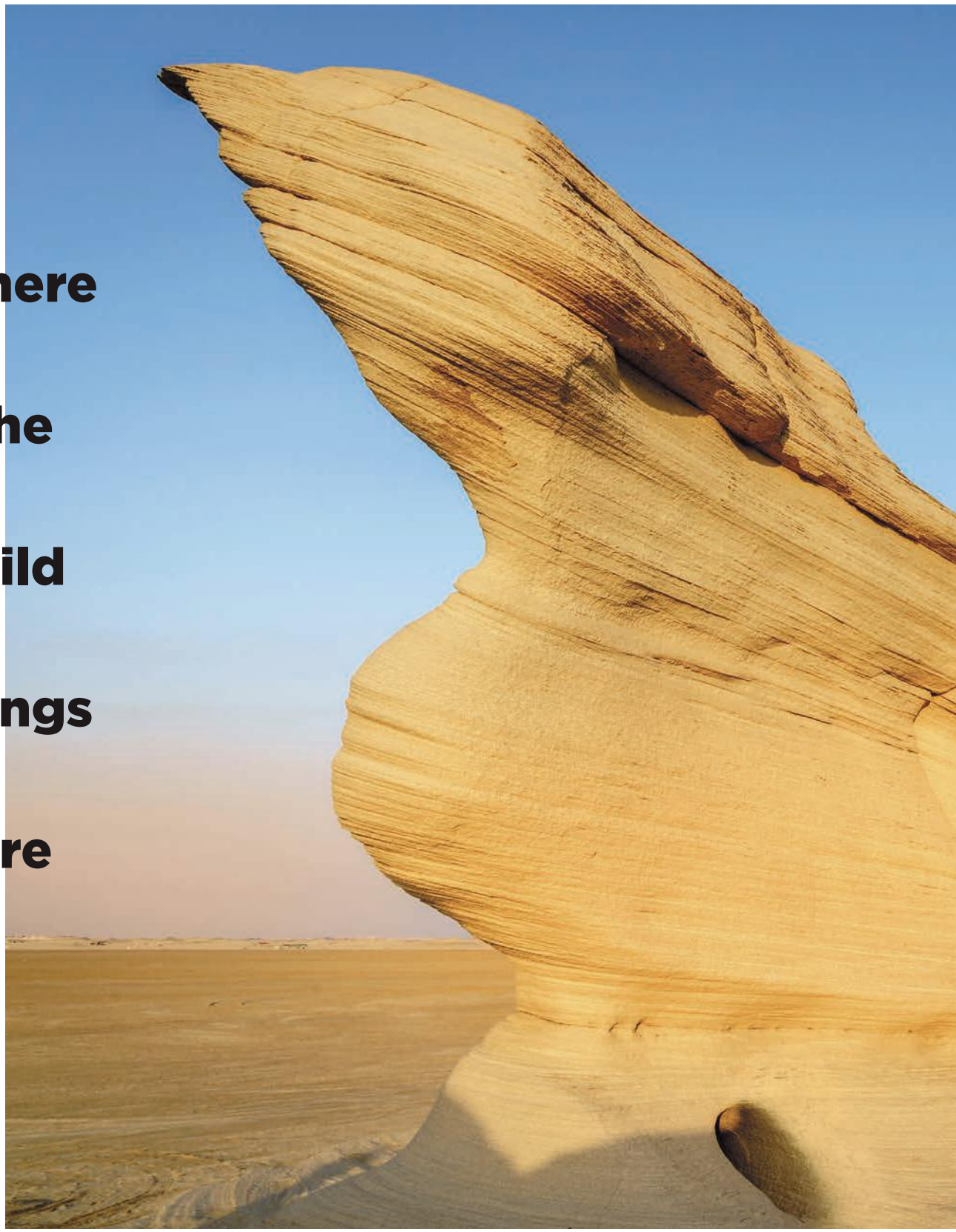
Woof! A dog lover's guide to London **p40**

22 amazing things to do right now in Italy **p46**

Meeting gentle giants in Copenhagen **p56**

Uncovering lost identities in Bosnia **p64**

Where the wild things are





Looking for an escape from reality? Abu Dhabi has reinvented itself as the ultimate eco adventure destination

Words by Nione Meakin

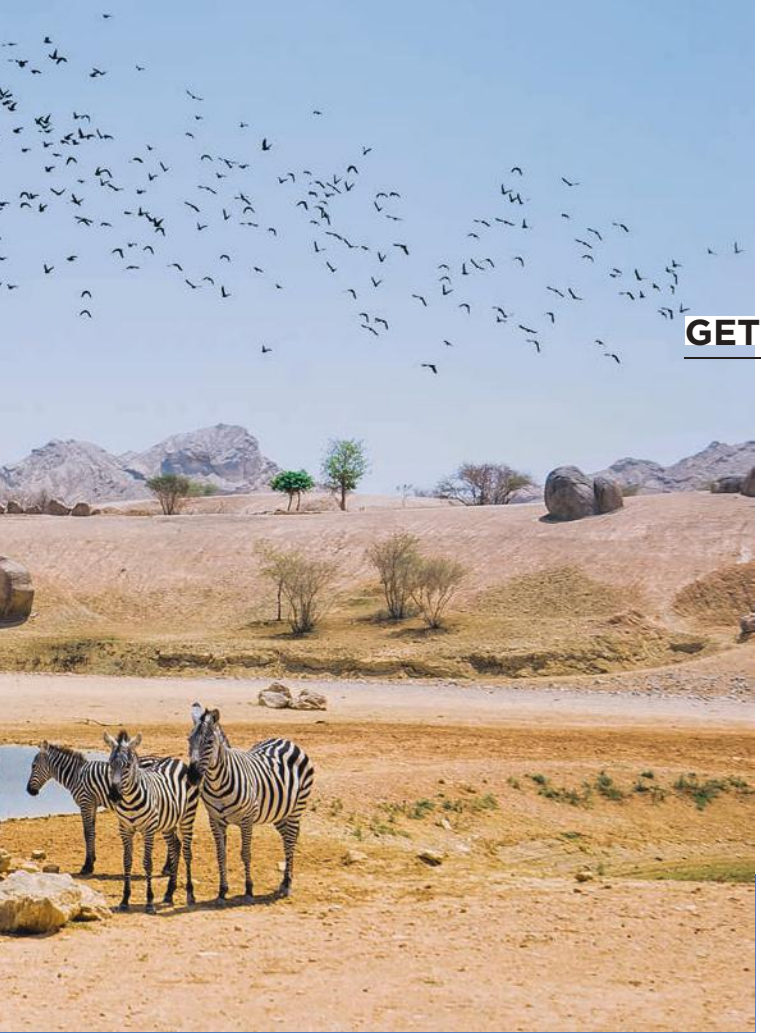






Abu Dhabi is no stranger to ambition. From its cloud-grazing skyscrapers to its sprawling mega malls, the UAE's capital is a city where everything is bigger, better and taller. But now it has its sights set on a more surprising goal – becoming greener. Since work started on urban development Masdar City in 2008, the government has been ploughing money into other eco-friendly initiatives, from the creation of new green spaces in the city, to promoting sustainability in its luxury hotels.

Meanwhile, it's also supporting projects that encourage both locals and visitors to get out of the built-up environment and into a natural one, whether that's hiking or glamping in Jebel Hafit Desert Park, which was opened to showcase the beauty of the emirate's highest peak in the lush garden city of Al Ain, or kayaking a network of once-private marine sites just opened to the public. With the arrival of a clutch of environmentally-friendly resorts – including Abu Dhabi's first eco-retreat earlier this year – this coastal city sandwiched between the Arabian Gulf and the Arabian Desert is fast becoming one of the world's hottest eco-destinations. Ready to lace up those hiking boots and get exploring? Here are the locations to visit.



GET YOUR GAME ON

You don't need to travel to Africa for a safari experience. If you want to get up close and personal with gazelles, giraffes and the once-endangered Arabian oryx, hop on board an open-air 4X4 for a game drive across the desert island of Sir Bani Yas. A 25-minute flight or three-hour drive from Abu Dhabi, this paradise in the Arabian Gulf was once the private retreat of late UAE founder Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. He launched a conservation programme to breed and relocate endangered species here – including the Arabian oryx. As a result, more than 10,000 oryx have since been released into the wild with 500 roaming freely on the island's Arabian Wildlife Park.

The reserve is also home to some 17,000 other curious animals, including sand gazelles, blackbuck antelope and barbary sheep. If you're a horse rider, head to the stables of Anantara's Desert Island Resort & Spa for a chance to gallop along the island's beaches and dunes on the back of an Arabian horse, a breed ridden by the Bedouins for centuries. It's an unforgettable wildlife adventure.



OUT OF THIS WORLD

Take a trip along the Al Ain Truck Road and you'll find yourself doing a double take. Yes, you are still on planet Earth, even though the otherworldly desert landscape of spiralling sand towers and ridged ledges suggests otherwise. These ancient fossil dunes, which film buffs may recognise from *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, are unique natural formations of sand, sediment and salt crystals, shaped by the wind. As the weather changes, so do the dunes, meaning there's always something different to see in this windswept alien art gallery. Also, pay a visit to the nearby Al Wathba Wetland Reserve where you'll find an equally cinematic sight – around 4,000 flamingos in the middle of a desert. Once a coastal salt flat, it was one of the first natural reserves to be established in Abu Dhabi and its collection of man-made and natural lakes are home to more than 250 species of birds and a wide range of aquatic life.

JUST ADD WATER

Take a short walk from the buzz of Abu Dhabi city centre and you'll find Jubail Mangrove Park. This serene spot opened last year to promote the important ecological value of mangroves – shrubs or trees that grow in saltwater and play an important role in supporting biodiversity, protecting the coastline and helping tackle climate change.

Take a stroll along 2km of wooden boardwalks that snake through one million square metres of verdant coastal forest and you'll be able to spot turtles, herons and other animal and marine life going about their business. Various viewing platforms and hides offer a peaceful place to switch off and observe. Or, for a different take, why not join one of the kayaking tours that run through the park? Pura – Abu Dhabi's first eco retreat – is a 10-minute buggy ride from the park. Stay in one of the well-appointed glamping pods and you can enjoy afternoon tea in the company of flamingos or eat grilled fish beneath the stars at its beach restaurant.



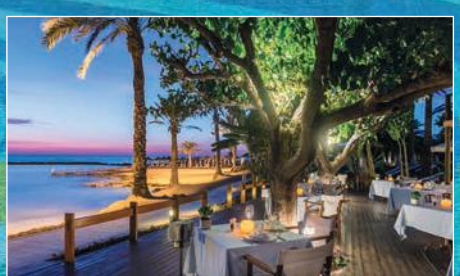


PALM SPRINGS

Step back in time to a green space that has fed and shaded inhabitants of Al Ain for thousands of years. Spread over 1,200 hectares in the heart of the city, the Al Ain Oasis is home to the ancient *falaj* irrigation system that has long supplied water to the many farms within the oasis – home to 150,000 date palms of 100 varieties, as well as crops and fruit trees like mango, orange, banana and fig. The country's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, an interactive visitor centre was added in 2016 (highlighting the measures being taken to preserve the oasis), along with a network of palm-shaded paths that allow visitors to explore this tranquil spot. Enter via the West Gate (off Sultan Bin Zayed the First Street) for a free map of the plantations, or to hire a bike. If that sounds like too much effort you can also arrange buggy tours of the oasis.

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SANDS OF TIME

You can lie in bed and gaze up at dawn breaking over Abu Dhabi's magnificent Jebel Hafit mountain when you stay in a luxury dome – or better still, one of five bubble tents that have popped up in the Desert Park at its base. The inflatable structures feature transparent roofs that offer unrivalled views of a stunning landscape that counts among the UNESCO World Heritage Sites within the city of Al Ain. Explore the extensive natural cave network that winds beneath the mountain or take a guided hike to learn more about the area's riches, which include 5,000-year-old Bronze Age beehive tombs, a diverse collection of bats, snakes and lizards and some of the UAE's rarest plants. As night falls, catch up with your fellow travellers around the campfire or check out the stars through your tent's telescope before retiring to the pod's luxurious four-poster bed – well, this is the UAE, after all.

Wizz Air flies to Abu Dhabi



PHOTOS: © DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND TOURISM - ABU DHABI

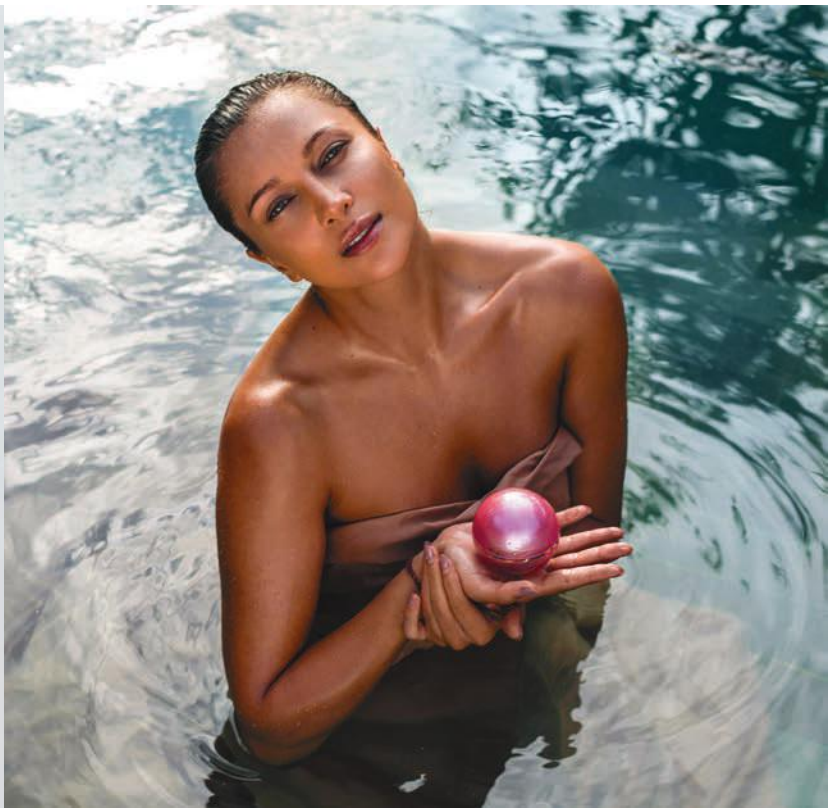
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PUPPY POWER

When it comes to which city is top dog for, well, dogs, London is the leader of the pack. With help from a new book, we look at why the capital is the best city in Europe for your four-legged friend

Words by Claire Köksal

Photography by Lesley Lau, Dunja Opalko and Ariana Ruth





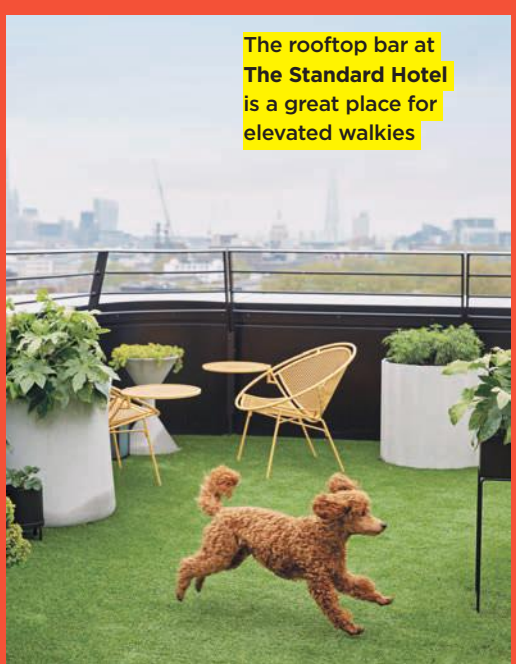


Contrary to these long faces, your dog will think they're in heaven after a stroll on Hampstead Heath, and then Sunday lunch leftover scraps at the **Bull and Last**

Sometimes stereotypes can be true. Us Brits – especially Londoners – have a reputation for being stony-faced and sometimes unfriendly at the best of times. And, honestly, we won't even try to deny it. We'll cross the road or even jump off the bus a mile before our stop to avoid so-called pleasant chit-chat with a stranger. Unless that stranger has a wagging tail, that is. Because when it comes to dogs, we'll all stop whatever we're doing and cheerfully bleet 'who's a good boy then?' in a baby voice over and over until we're blue in the face.

Londoners can barely go for a casual stroll in the capital without tripping over an extendable lead, getting muddy paw prints on our skinny jeans or a friendly wet nose nudging a ball in your direction. And we love it. So, it didn't surprise anyone when it was revealed that when it comes to caring for canines, London is the best. Yes, the capital was crowned Europe's most pet-friendly city by the experts at *money.co.uk* at the start of 2021.

And a brand-new book backs this up. According to *Dog-Friendly London (Hoxton Mini Press, £17.95)* there are 3,000 parks in London – that's 3,000



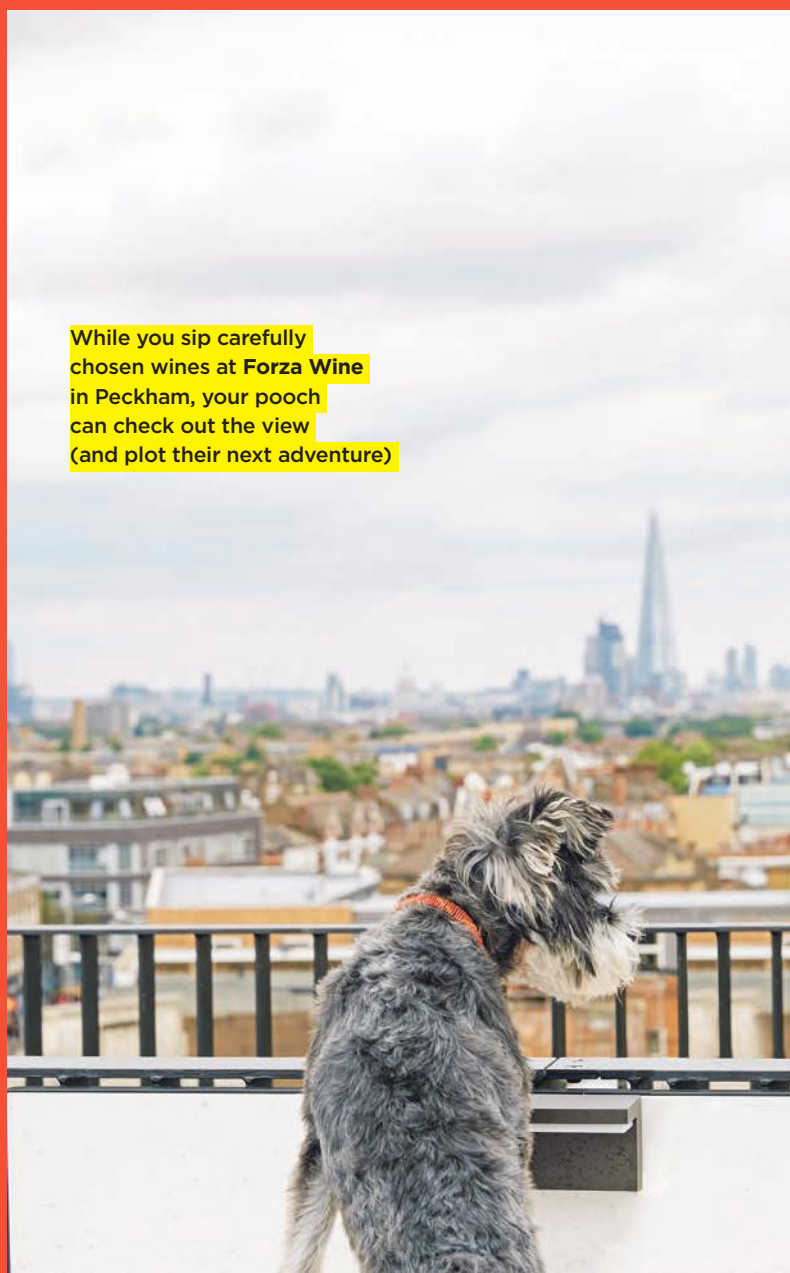
The rooftop bar at **The Standard Hotel** is a great place for elevated walkies



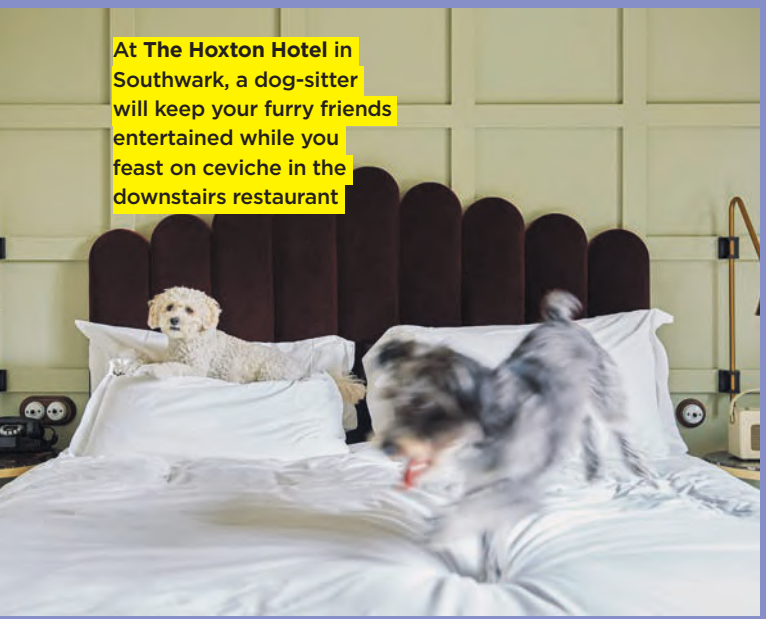
Time it right (i.e. when the tide is out) and your pup could have this beach on the Thames at **the Southbank** all to themselves



James Knappett and Sandia Chang with Paxo at their swanky restaurant **Kitchen Table**



While you sip carefully chosen wines at **Forza Wine** in Peckham, your pooch can check out the view (and plot their next adventure)



At **The Hoxton Hotel** in Southwark, a dog-sitter will keep your furry friends entertained while you feast on ceviche in the downstairs restaurant



Libreria in Spitalfields is a digital-free space, meaning you can dive into a book (and reconnect with your pooch)

secluded squares, wild marshes, glorious royal grounds and more where hounds can sniff, snooze in the sun or chase squirrels. You can choose from well-known green spaces such as Greenwich Park (get that perfect picture by posing with your pooch at the Royal Observatory on the Meridian line) and 350-acre Hyde Park (where the Household Cavalry horses prance about on their morning exercise on Rotten Row). Lesser-known locations include the eerie Abney Park Cemetery in Stoke Newington (with 2,500 plants and trees to nose around) and wild flower-filled Peckham Rye Common, where you're as likely to catch an impromptu steel band performance as a sports match.

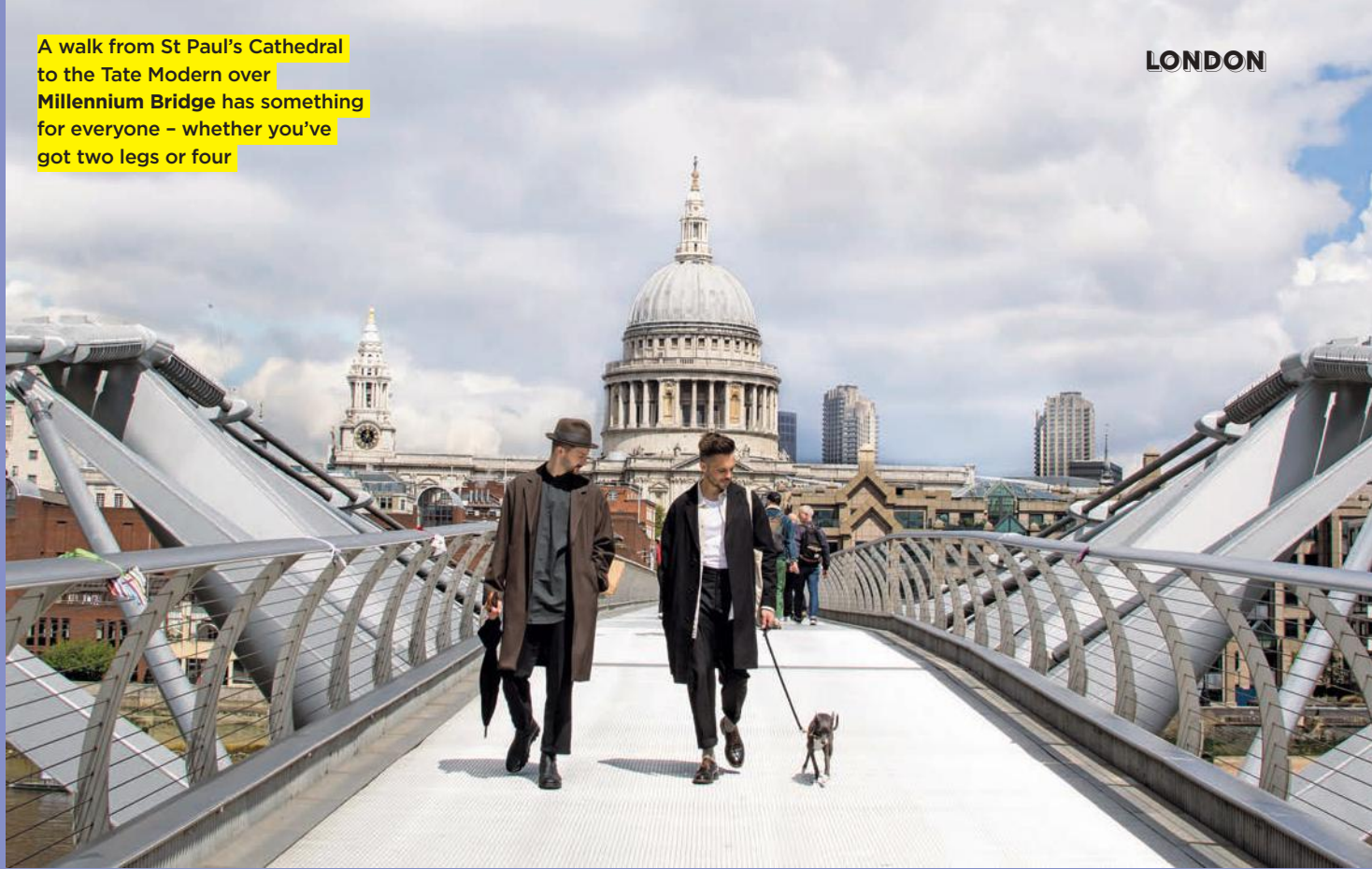
With more than 240 dog groomers, and 172 doggy day-care options, life is good for dogs and their owners in London. Our furry friends are welcome on the Underground, buses, trams and trains. And that's not a given in every city. In New York, for example, you have to carry your dog on the subway (good luck with *that* if you have a Great Dane...).

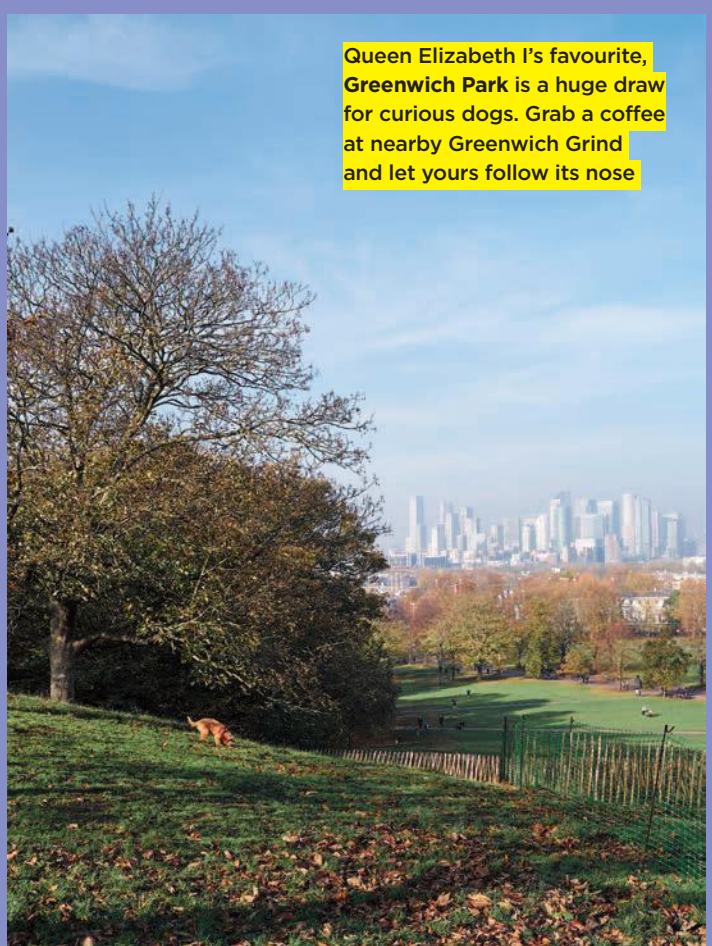
In *Dog Friendly London* we meet some of London's most devoted dog owners. James Knappett and Sandia Chang are the co-founders of Kitchen Table, a Michelin-starred restaurant in Fitzrovia's Charlotte Street. They found running a restaurant can be all-consuming, but having a dog has helped the pair find balance. "It's been a lifesaver for us," says Sandia. "Our whole life revolved around the restaurant, so getting a dog gave us an excuse to talk about something else or forced us to take 10



Although dogs aren't allowed in **Somerset House**, they are welcome to fool around in the water outside at the glorious Edmond J. Safra Fountain Court

A walk from St Paul's Cathedral to the Tate Modern over **Millennium Bridge** has something for everyone – whether you've got two legs or four





Queen Elizabeth I's favourite, Greenwich Park is a huge draw for curious dogs. Grab a coffee at nearby Greenwich Grind and let yours follow its nose

minutes out of our day to go for a walk." The couple live by Hampstead Heath, a dreamy doggy playground, and walk their pooch Paxo there. "One of the bonuses of dog-walking on Hampstead Heath is there are two of my favourite pubs there, which let dogs in (the Bull and Last and the Southampton Arms)," says James.

When it comes to restaurants In London, making a dog's dinner of it is a good thing. There are a bewildering number of eateries that roll out a red carpet for hungry hounds. M Victoria Street offers 'Pooch Parties', where a £35 brunch menu caters for both two- and four-legged guests. Smith and Whistle in Piccadilly has the capital's first 'dogtail' menu, where you can order your pup a Bubbly Bow Wow, made with dog-friendly Prosecco (yeah, that's a thing). The Kimpton Fitzroy hotel not only offers a canine-curated menu (the Bloomsbury Bark with beef, sweet potato, carrots, broccoli, kale and rosemary), but also a menu for cats, rabbits, hamsters and, um, hedgehogs.

Don't have your own dog? Don't panic. Like a Tinder for would-be pup parents, website *Borrow My Doggy* hooks up dog owners with dogless humans. It's a novel idea that underlines London's reputation as a real doggy nirvana.

Wizz Air flies to London Gatwick, Luton and Southend


PIZZA
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22
REASONS
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UNESCO
58
WORLD SITES



There's a reason why this country is often voted Europe's best-loved holiday destination. Here's our pick of the top 22 things to see and do in Italy for (you guessed it) 2022

Words by Maresa Manara & Claire Köksal **Illustration by Jill DeHaan**

1



Ski down Mount Etna

Nothing guarantees upping your downhill speed like skiing on an active volcano. From Linguaglossa, on the northern side of Sicily's Mount Etna, pop on your skis and zip past pine forests, lava streams and volcano craters – feeling hot and looking cool.

2

UNESCO 58 WORLD SITES

Visit one of Italy's 58 UNESCO World Heritage Sites - that's more than any other country!

3

Tackle one of the world's longest trails

Plans are afoot to extend Italy's 7,000km Sentiero Italia hiking trail by another 1,000km. The Sentiero dei Parchi (Path of Parks) will connect each of Italy's 25 national parks, including those on Sardinia and Sicily, when it's completed in 2033. Can't wait? Visit **sentieroitaliamappe.cai.it** and find your own corner of the trail to stomp on now.



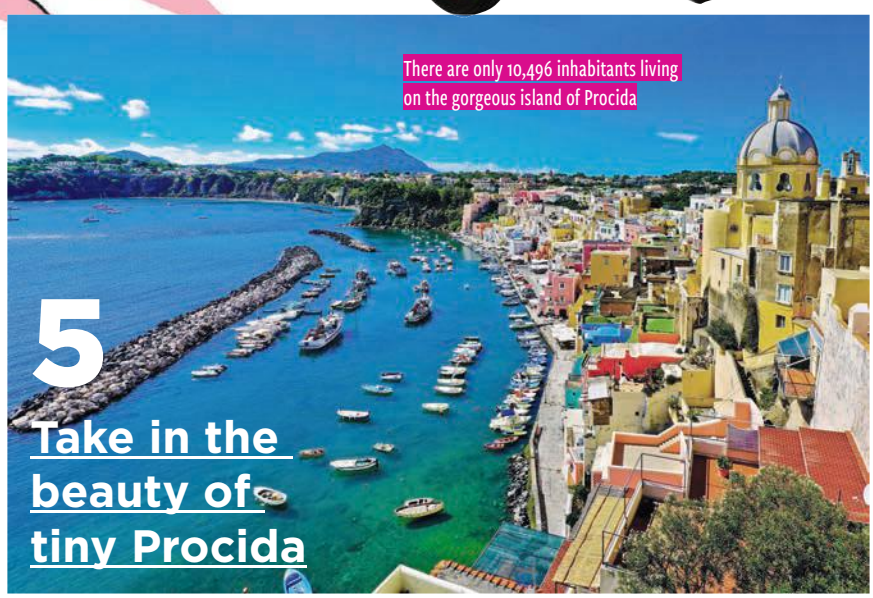
PHOTO: © FRANCOIS BERTHIER

4

Cycle in style on a vintage e-bike

It's easy to see why electric bikes are all the rage. After all, they offer all the thrills of cycling without getting sweaty on hills. The main drawback? E-bikes can be ugly and bulky. Not the Italian ones, of course. Case in point, Agnelli Milano Bici – gorgeous handcrafted bikes with 1950s engines and frames, courtesy of furniture restorer Luca Agnelli. **agnellimilanobici.com**





5

Take in the beauty of tiny Procida

Small but mighty (it's under 4km² total), Procida is Italy's Capital of Culture for 2022 – and the first island ever to be honoured with the title. Typically a stopping-off point for holidaymakers on their way to Ischia, you'll probably know it best as the backdrop for *The Talented Mr Ripley*. But, this year Procida is ready to be a star without the help of Hollywood, or its glitzy neighbours. "Procida is beautiful in its colours," says Agostino Riitano, who headed up the island's Capital of Culture application process. "Compared to Capri and Ischia, mass tourism hasn't yet arrived here. Procida is authentic." More than 40 creative events will run across 330 days. **visitprocida.com**

6

Fall in love with Stanley Tucci, again

Nothing got our stomachs rumbling over the last year quite like TV show *Stanley Tucci: Searching for Italy*. And the foodie flirt is set to charm us all over again in 2022 with a second helping. The first series saw him eating his way through Tuscany, Naples, Milan, Bologna and Sicily, but the new one is set to champion culinary delights in Italy's lesser-known cities. Chomping at the bit for Stan's return? Devour his food-focused memoir *Taste: My Life Through Food (£20, Fig Tree)*, out now.



7

Sign like an Italian

In Italy, a hand gesture can say more than 1,000 words – that's pretty useful if you can't speak the language. Although gestures in Italy have been around for centuries, last year they were given global representation – and an upgrade – in the form of a coveted emoji. For communicating in real life, try one of these three gestures:



What: *Mano a borsa* ('Purse hand')
Meaning: What do you want? What's your point? Use two hands and some oomph for extra emphasis.



What: *'E Corn* ('The horns')
Meaning: A superstitious gesture said to drive away bad luck. It's also an insult, so mind how you go.



What: *Buono* ('Yum')
Meaning: A casual way to say something is delicious. Not to be used in fancy restaurants, though.



This sleek leather dress inspired by cars from the 70s will set you back €3,200. Well, it *is* a Ferrari







8

Dress like a Ferrari (yes, really)

Now here's something to get your pulse racing: Ferrari has gone high fashion. At their first ever catwalk show in spring 2021, seatbelts doubled as belts and models wore silk shirts with race cars and socks embossed with Ferrari, while the yellow band usually on the seat of the Ferrari Monza was turned into a sleeve on a trench coat. "We think Ferrari – with its mastery of speed, craft, machine and performance – can express its values in a full lifestyle vision," says creative director Rocco Iannone. For more fast fashion, check out the flagship Ferrari boutique in Milan. **store.ferrari.com**

PHOTOS: FERRARI S.P.A. COPYRIGHT © 2021 - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



Officina Milano's Moscow Mule
50ml Premium Ketel One vodka
15ml lime juice
A spoon of homemade ginger honey
London Essence Ginger Beer

9

Try Italy's hottest cocktail (and it's not what you think...)

Nope, it's not a Negroni. Or an Aperol Spritz. The retro Moscow Mule is having a comeback in Italian cocktail bars. "We like to garnish it with a sage leaf – it makes it taste herbal and fresh, and it's also a nod to Italian cuisine [which often features sage]," says France Rainteau, head bartender at Officina Milano, a cocktail bar in Milan's Navigli district where you can try the quirky take on the New York classic. **officinamilano.eu**

10 Get cooking at Masseria Calderisi



Switch off and slow down at the new Masseria Calderisi, a 17th-century farmhouse that's been turned in a boutique hotel in Puglia. The big deal here? Food. And you get to make it yourself, with chef Pietro Sgaramella helping guests put together the best pizza they've ever tasted. It starts with picking fresh vegetables and herbs from the gardens, before you learn how to craft your pizza base from homemade dough. The finished product is best enjoyed by the private pool to the hum of cicadas in the nearby olive groves. **masseriacalderisi.com**

11. Take tea at the new Xing Cha

This beautiful Chinese tearoom in Milan's Brera neighbourhood, run by Shanghai native and tea enthusiast Yiyun Mao, opened last year as an antidote to Milan's hurried coffee bars. Browse the 40 different types of teas for sale and learn about their health benefits. Or leaf through art and poetry books at the communal table in the back, where Yiyun also hosts Chinese tea ceremonies, flower-arranging workshops and ceramic exhibitions. **xingcha.it**

12 Go ice-bathing at QC Termemilano

At Milan's most famous spa, former tram depot QC Termemilano in Porta Romana, you can strip off and sweat it out in a cleverly converted tram sauna. And that's not all – there are more than 30 spaces dedicated to water-based pampering here, from ice pools to waterfalls and hot springs. Take a rain bath, stop by the music therapy pool, or take a break in one of the silent meditation rooms. And relax... **qcterme.com**

13

Get ready to rock

Gracious winners of Euro 2020 and clinchers of both the men's 100m and 100m 4x4 relay at the Olympics, the summer of 2021 was all red, white and green. But more significant than all of that combined (probably), was Italy's barnstorming win at Eurovision. Supremely sexy rockers Måneskin showed that they were more than a flash in the pan (the same can't be said of many other Eurovision winners...) by topping Spotify charts in over 30 countries this summer, going viral on Tik Tok and counting celebs including Miley Cyrus among their fans. And for 2022? Well, grab your black eyeliner and your leather trousers as Måneskin are set for a wild ride. The winners will – of course – play at the next Eurovision contest in May (to be held in Turin). And, to keep Italian rock rolling, the band will start their nationwide tour in Bologna on 20 March, finishing in Verona on 23 April. **maneskin.it**



14

Get paid to move to Italy

Small Calabrian villages with elderly inhabitants are paying up to €28,000 for young people to relocate there. Get packing!



15

Wear a mask like a Venetian

Yes, yes, we've all been wearing masks for a while now. But at the Venice Carnival (19 February - 1 March) you can up your game with one of these beauties.



The Gnaga

This cat-inspired mask was traditionally worn with a kitten in a basket. Meow.



The Colombina

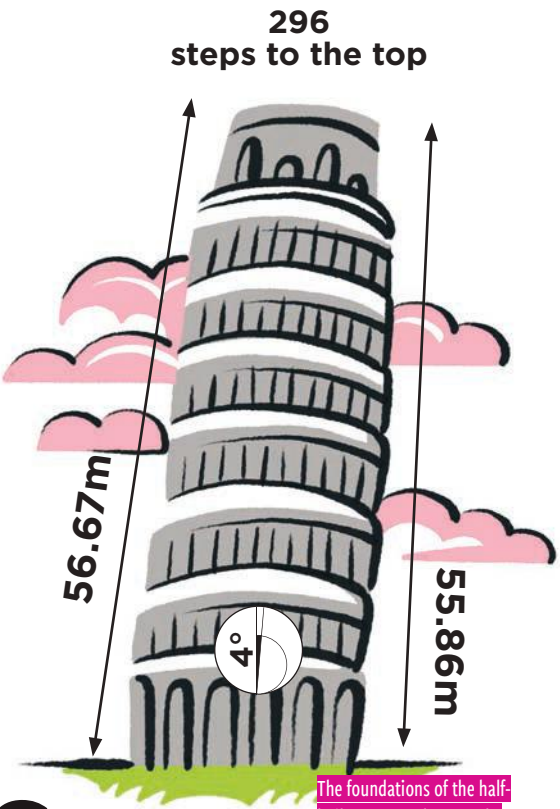
Worn by women and painted in gold or silver, this is an elegant, regal choice.



The Moretta

An unusual black mask that has no straps and is kept in place by clenching your teeth.

PHOTO: © FRANCIS DELACROIX

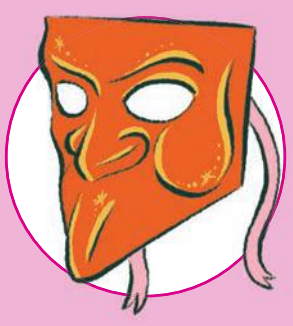


The foundations of the half-built tower sunk unevenly into ground made up of mud, sand and clay (i.e. not sturdy at all).

16

See the tower that wasn't meant to lean

Yup, you read that right – the world's best-known tipsy tower was the result of an architectural mess-up. Take in the Leaning Tower of Pisa with a new perspective (and the above facts).

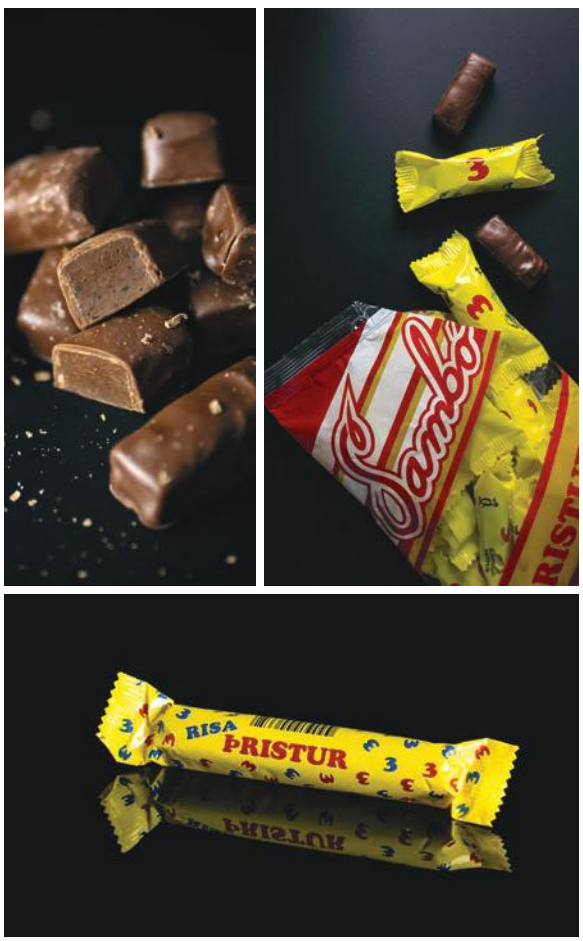


For the best masks to take home, visit iconic store Tragicomica. **tragicomica.it**

The Bauta

The sinister-looking Bauta was a favourite among the upper classes in the 16th century.

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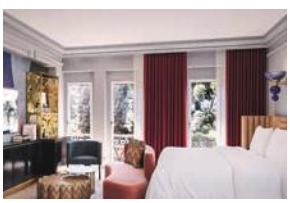
Check in to Rome

For a city steeped in history, some achingly hip hotel brands have just arrived in Rome. Say hello to some of the Eternal City's exciting new openings.



17. The Hoxton

UK brand The Hoxton keeps on expanding, with Rome its latest stop. Things don't get more hip than this, from the mid-century-inspired tables to quirky bedroom names like Shoebox and Cosy Up. **thehoxton.com**



18. The W Rome

The W Rome brings its signature modern style to two adjacent 19th-century buildings not far from the Spanish Steps. While the 162 guest rooms are a bold delight, it's the rooftop bar that's the showstopper with its amazing views of the Eternal City. **marriott.co.uk**



19. Soho House Rome

Soho House has chosen Rome for its first foray into Italy. We love the sleekly designed rooms, the groundfloor deli bar and the spacious lobby, which doubles as a meeting space. Art is a big focus here, with an on-site gallery space and a cinema room. **sohohouse.com**



PHOTO: © SIMONA PESARINI

20

Marvel at Italian industrial design

Italian industrial design has had such a great impact on the world that Milan has built a museum dedicated to it. The ADI Design Museum Compasso d'Oro is a mouthful to say – and a pleasure to visit. Whether you are seeing a show on modern Italian art and architecture (*Spoon and the City*) or stopping by an exhibition about how historic events have changed Italian cinema, fashion and even transport (*Design Enters History*), prepare to be impressed. There's an ever-rotating roster of temporary exhibitions, with tickets available for pre-purchase online. **adidesignmuseum.org**



The ADI Design Museum Compasso d'Oro is named after a prestigious Italian design award from 1954



21

Try pizza from a vending machine

Rome has debuted its first-ever dough-on-the-go – a pizza vending machine. At Mr Go Pizza, located near Policlinico metro station, buyers get to choose from four different pizzas before watching the machine knead the dough and add the toppings. The pie is cooked in a small oven with a glass window before being served, piping hot. OK, so maybe it's not *quite* how mamma would make it, but it's still pretty tasty.

Wizz Air flies to 24 Italian destinations

22

Drink coffee like an Italian

With 20-odd different types, you don't just go for 'a coffee' in Italy. Here's what to order and, crucially, when.

Buongiorno! The best way to start your day is with a **cappuccino** - equal parts espresso and steamed milk.



Caffè macchiato (espresso with a tiny dash of milk) is the only milky coffee acceptable past 11am.



Caffeine and booze? Hit us up. A **caffè corretto** (espresso and a glug of alcohol, usually grappa) is the perfect nightcap.



For a pure shot of liquid energy, an **espresso** is all you need. A ritual after every meal.



You *can* order **caffè americano** (watered down espresso) in Italy, but no self-respecting tourist should.



An **affogato** (strong espresso topped with ice-cream) is every coffee-lover's dream dessert.



Want to go caffeine-free but don't want to ask for decaf? **Caffè d'orzo** is a nutty drink made from barley.



And for a cooling pep-up that's not drowning in ice, a **caffè shakerato** is like an espresso martini without the vodka. Delicious!



Troll models

If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise. Especially if you're in Copenhagen, where giant trolls made of recycled scrap wood have kick-started a new eco trend

Words by Mike MacEacheran





What do you think is the most wonderfully weird thing you're likely to find in your nearest forest? A humongous fungus? A twisted, fairy tale-like tree? A dinosaur-shaped rock? A trail of breadcrumbs leading to a sugar-covered house...? Well, just maybe something supernatural or beyond the realms of possibility *is* lurking there without you knowing: an army of massive trolls in unexpectedly everyday poses.

If you do come across these gentle giants, don't panic. They are the creations of Danish recycling artist Thomas Dambo, who works from a self-built studio outside Copenhagen in the town of Roskilde. He's one of the world's leading recycle-art activists, and though these distinctive fairy-tale sculptures may sound like gimmicks, they are actually the forefront of a brand-new sustainability trend.

Many environmentally active artists seek inspiration from life and nature, but Thomas has made a point of tapping into his country's past and, in particular, its love of storytelling and Norse folklore. As the home of Hans Christian Andersen, the writer of *The Little Mermaid, The Snow Queen, The Ugly Duckling* and *Thumbelina*, Denmark calls itself the country of fairy and folk tales, and this is evident in film, literature and the country's deep-rooted storytelling tradition. And when you're out and about exploring turreted castles, palaces and swan-filled parklands, it's not hard to picture sprightly gnomes, princesses and ogres lurking somewhere in the dramatic landscape.

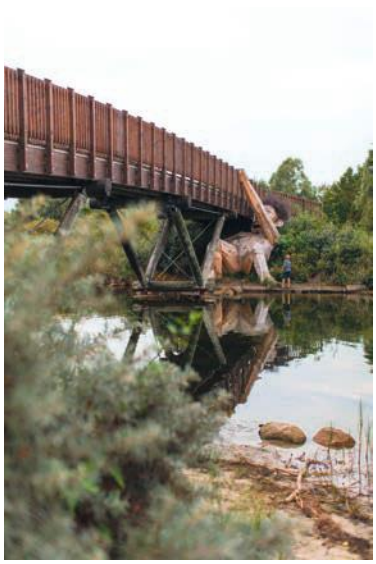
It's also not a stretch to imagine you've slipped into the pages of a fairy tale when first setting eyes upon one of Thomas's extraordinary giants. They stand tall – up to 6.5m – and gaze down at you with oversized eyes and a kind of benevolent look, with lips poised as if to say: "Don't worry, I'm not going to eat you."

Over the past seven years, Thomas has expanded from his workshop to create more









Previous page
Little Tilde peeks out from the trees at Vallensbæk Marsh
Clockwise from above
Runde Rie; Ivan Evigvar and Oscar Under the Bridge

Happily ever after

Three other fairy-tale experiences in Europe

Drive the German Fairy Tale Route
Winding from Hanau to Bremen, this imagination-firing trip centres on the Brothers Grimm stories, taking in the lands of Little Red Riding Hood and Bergfreiheit, aka the Snow White village.
Fly to Frankfurt

Find romance in the realm of Beauty and the Beast
Penned by Madame de Villeneuve, this classic fairy tale is set in storybook rural France. Step straight into the tale in the cobblestoned medieval towns of Colmar and Riquewihr in Alsace.
Fly to Basel-Mulhouse/Freiburg

Discover the fairest fairy-tale castle of them all
Sozopol in Bulgaria is home to the Castle of Ravadinovo, or by its more starry-eyed name, the 'Castle in Love with the Wind'. The story goes that its knightly owner Georgi Tumpalov came up with the idea for the castle from scratch, transforming his childhood fantasy into real life.
Fly to Bourgas



than 80 colossal wooden trolls and hide them in out-of-the-way locations. So, as well as tucked away in the Danish countryside, his trolls can now be spotted in Belgium, Germany, China and a host of spots in the USA. Some are hidden under bridges or deep in forests, and the only clue they are even there at all is an online troll-hunt map to help you on your way and to inspire a child-like imagination.

For an eco-campaigner like Thomas, this global presence sends a refreshing message that rubbish doesn't have to be negative. Indeed, by turning trash into trolls, the artist has set out to highlight environmental issues and encourage people to explore their own surroundings along the way. Or, as he tells me when I visit him in Copenhagen: "I'm driven to turn something unwanted and vilified into something beautiful."

But for Thomas, the project is deeply personal, and his interest in folkloric characters was first sparked as a child. The artist has created a personal history for each troll, and even wrote a 160-page book about all his characters and the stories that connect them. His newest sculptures have recently appeared in undisclosed locations in Italy and France, with his most recent already a personal favourite because it carries a treehouse backpack that children can climb into.

"This is such a fun project, but it's more important to put out the message that it's easy to recycle trash and scrap wood and make something magical," Thomas says. "Then it's about reminding people where they come from and helping them rediscover and reconnect with nature in their own way.

"That's why the trolls are hidden and you have to find them – to explore and open all your senses to the green spaces around you is part of the project."

For me, it was a bright sunlit morning when I first set off through a sun-dappled forest to seek out Little Tilde, one of Thomas's most famous woodland creations. It is hidden in Vallensbæk Marsh nature reserve, a little-known green lung outside Copenhagen. It really is like stepping into a scene from a Brothers Grimm book, as the forest congregates into oak thickets

Above
Suttetrolden Sanka, who lives at a playground in Copenhagen, was made out of a reclaimed garbage disposal unit



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Above
Bjarke Cirkelsten sits in the middle of a forest in Dragør, south of Copenhagen

and dark tunnels sheltering squirrels and woodland birds.

I first followed a trail around the interconnected lakeside until the shoreline surrendered to the heart of the forest. I began scanning the trees for an oversized body, a comical face, or a protruding nose. Above, wood pigeons circled, a wind whipped through the trees – but there was no sign of a wooden noggin or ugly character playing peekaboo.

Then, a stroke of luck. Out of nowhere a family came scarpering down a trail that twisted its way out of the woods and a silent nod between us confirmed they too were here to see Little Tilde.

Beyond the forest's shadow lines, I could just about see what I'd come for. At the end of the pathway stood the sculpture, hunched and peering out through the forest and across the mirror-calm water. Hauntingly beautiful, she was made of recycled scrap wood and – on closer inspection – fitted with secret birdhouses for songbirds to seek shelter during Denmark's icy winter. Few things feel as odd as taking a smartphone picture with a colossal troll lurching over your shoulder, but I promised Thomas I'd come back with proof.

This was my first troll encounter, but my journey didn't end there. Over two days, while burrowing deeper into Copenhagen's suburbs, I sought out others. There was Hilltop Trine, who reclines on a hillock in Hvidovre and where you can crawl into the palms of her hands. And Green George, hidden in the heart of downtown Copenhagen and built with trashed wood reclaimed from Oslo's garbage disposal unit. And, lastly, Suttetrolden Sanka, hidden in a children's playground in Denmark's capital and described by Thomas as "the happiest troll in the world". Troll hunting, I found, was strangely addictive.

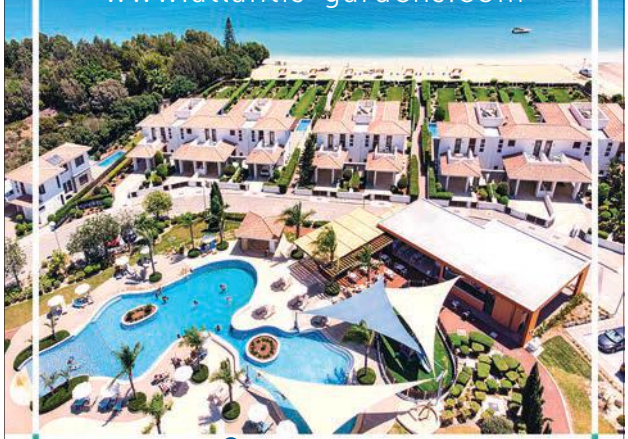
For the sustainably conscious visitor, there are dozens of others to look for in Denmark and beyond. Forest paths can be followed. Branches picked through. Bridges looked under. Rocky shorelines and tiny islands explored. Only then are the giant trolls ready to return to their shadow homes and secret places, to wait to be found all over again.

Find Thomas Dambo's trolls in Denmark and beyond at **trollmap.com**

thomasdambo.com

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The beating heart

of the Balkans

Ennis Ćehić goes in search of emblems – and a sense of belonging – on a personal and historical journey through his home country, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Photography by Shantanu Starick



France is Paris, the Eiffel Tower, cheese and the Louvre. The UK is Big Ben, red phone boxes and even Sherlock Holmes. The Statue of Liberty, Capitol Hill and McDonald's represents the USA. But, it's harder to think of the icons of lesser-known places. And some cities or nations are not associated with great accomplishments, architecture or art, but with incidents of misfortune. Say Chernobyl, for example, and you inevitably think of the 1986 nuclear disaster.

And for many, mentioning Bosnia and Herzegovina still conjures up images of war, despite it being a place with great natural beauty and a long, rich history. It's high time, then, to change the narrative – to seek out natural and historical icons and shine a light on everything that's good about the country. It's time to create new metonyms, things that better represent my homeland. With that in mind, I recently spent over a month travelling through Bosnia and Herzegovina exploring the places and symbols that make this heart-shaped land of the Balkans so extraordinary.

Down by the river

Let's start with Vrelo Bosne, a public park just outside Ilidža that's home to numerous springs of the Bosna River. The best way to get to this natural wonder is by tram from Sarajevo's Old Town. It takes 45 minutes to get there, and the tram passes, like all traffic, down the main thoroughfare of the city. Most of the trams are old, with windows free of advertising placards, providing the perfect opportunity to take in the expanse of the capital. As you get further away from the tightly built-up city centre, more of the distant, steep *mahalas* (neighbourhoods) become visible and are there to enjoy without the towering socialist buildings that usually block the view.

The tram's final destination is Ilidža. From there, catch a taxi to the foothills of Mount Igman, where you'll find Vrelo Bosne. Here the Bosna River veins itself through small wooden bridges, swan ponds, tiny creeks and waterfalls before it broadens, becoming the longest watercourse of the country, flowing like a purposeful artery. While traces of life and civilisation have been found here that date back to the Neolithic period, it was

Previous pages
One of Saravejo's cliffside mahalas
Above
The Monument to the Revolution (Spomenik Slobode) at Mrakovica
Right
The 600-year-old Sufi sanctuary of Blagaj Tekke







the Ottomans that first turned this area into a settlement. With an abundance of mineral and thermal waters, they built spas and hammams, naming it Ilıca, meaning thermal bath in Turkish.

For Bosnians, there's an almost obsessive association with this place. The River Bosna is the namesake of the country; it's Bosnia's purest metonym. So, reminiscent of a pilgrim's journey, Bosnians descend upon Vrelo Bosne. Here, the young and the old stroll meditatively before they continue through the park to the grand promenade that takes them past the famous, stately villas of Ilidža. In summer and spring, when they see the water ripple and shimmer, a kind of collective synergy occurs – they begin a ritual I have seen many times. They kneel down and dip their hands into the water. First, they splash it around their hands to feel the iciness. Then they rub the cold water over their necks, and their faces.

Bosnia is divided by seven rivers in total, and all of them gush around the land like slithering winds. But in summer, all across the country, their banks portray a different kind of image of Bosnia. Men and women lie, sunbaking on its shorelines, chit-chatting leisurely. Children and teenagers jump off make-shift rafts and boards, plunging laughing into the emerald waters.

It's the same sight everywhere – from the clay banks of the Vrbas River in Banja Luka, to the stone-huddled banks of the Neretva River in Konjic. But for me, this spectacle is most enchanting on the Una River in the north. In a town called Bosanska Otoka, there's a small landmass, a kind of island that the locals call Ada. Accessible



Far left
On the terracotta streets of Banja Luka
Left
Ada, the secret island in the Una River

only by raft, the island rests between low waterfalls and streams of the Una that runs serenely around it. It epitomises the Bosnian summer bliss. Every time I'm here I wonder: if I hadn't left my village just 35 minutes away as a child, would I have been here every summer, soaking up the view?

Divine beauty

In the small town of Blagaj, just outside Mostar, the early 16th-century Dervish Tekke (monastery) rests against the edge of a cave on the Buna River. It's an ancient landmark, but to me it's a new metonym of Bosnia.

Built by the Sufi people only a few decades after Bosnia came under Ottoman rule, this elegant lodge served as a holy place for Islamic teaching, philosophy and learning – and almost all of it has been preserved. As you descend down the stairs of the main lodge and come under the opening of the terrace that overlooks the pristine water, you'll see a marble plaque

with a phrase from the Holy Quran: “And we have made from water every living thing.”

I remember the first time I stared at this inscription, and it left me contemplative for the rest of the day. It’s a poetic remark but it felt like a symbol of gratitude to Bosnia’s relationship with water. Like many others that have trodden here over the years, the Sufis were mesmerised by its beauty – and especially its rivers.

The hills are alive

As the capital, Sarajevo draws many tourists – but this is also partly due to its well-documented siege. They want to see the valley where Serbs held the city hostage for four years from 1992-1996, and the Sarajevo Tunnel where food, water and aid was smuggled into the city. They want to take the Siege and War tours and snap countless photos beside the Sarajevo Roses. It’s a strand of dark tourism; and while it ensures that the siege isn’t forgotten, this can draw the visitors’ attention away from Sarajevo’s remarkable progress, its process of healing and re-inventing itself.

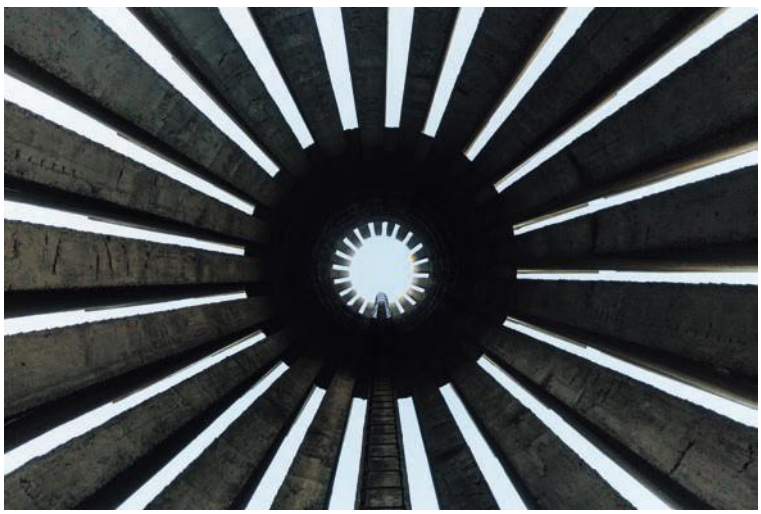
But most of all, it takes away from the city’s spontaneous urbanism; the mahalas that climb up the valley Sarajevo sits in. Their steep and narrow streets that ascend up the slopes of the surrounding hills are like some sort of living, architectural creatures. To me, to see Sarajevo at its greatest, a stroll through the mahalas of Mejtaš, Kovači, Ciglane or Bistrik will give you an unrivalled perspective.

Concrete castles

The Bosnian War took place immediately following the fall of communism. It was an era of transience – of not only a century, but of a millennium drawing to a close, and vast changes occurring in Europe and the rest of the world. Today, there’s a tendency to look back at this era with renewed







Far left
The Cathedral of Saint Bonaventure in Banja Luka
Left
The Monument to the Revolution (Spomenik Slobode)

enthusiasm. From fashion to literature, art and photography, politics and policies, the '90s prompt a reflective idealisation. Bosnia today still bears, albeit lightly, the presence of this nostalgia.

This curiosity has led to the rediscovery of Yugoslavia's Spomeniks. Scattered across every former Yugoslav country, they are abstract, Brutalist monuments, erected between the 1950s and the 1980s as memorials to the Second World War. In 1948, when Yugoslavia broke away from Stalin and the USSR and established a socialist society outside of the Soviet Bloc, Spomeniks were intended to convey this modern, progressive socialism – and to commemorate the victories and sacrifices of the Yugoslav people.

Today, they are largely recognised for their aesthetics, without much understanding of the historical and ideological context that inspired them. Two in particular stand out to me – The Battle of Sutjeska Memorial Monument in Tjentište and the Monument to the Revolution (Spomenik Slobode) in Mrakovica at the Kozara National Park.

Bosnia has always confounded me over the years – the further it distanced itself from me, the greater my curiosity grew. Distilling the country into a single representative image is impossible.

Bosnia is the pristine mountains and swimming banks next to crystal-clear rivers, the sculptural architectural monuments and timeless Balkan villages, the folkloric mahalas and ancient, stone-huddled Ottoman-era towns, and an incorrigible optimism despite centuries of suffering and oppression. It's all these things that make it so exceptional.

Read more in New Metonyms: Bosnia and Herzegovina (newmetonyms.com, €29) out now

Wizz Air flies to Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Tuzla

Sopron

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Budapest

Indulge yourself

Relive that giddy thrill of being a kid in a candy store

If you're in need of a sugar kick, make sure to stop by SUGAR!, a designer confectionery shop in Budapest that's a veritable paradise for candy fiends and chocoholics alike.

Visitors can indulge in a range of delicious cookies, pies and ice creams, as well as milkshakes and hot drinks. For those with one eye on their calorie intake, there's a wide selection of sugar-free, lactose-free and gluten-free products too. You can find SUGAR! at 1061 Bp Paulay Ede Street 48. **sugarshop.hu**





Warsaw

See the work of Italian master Caravaggio this winter

Don't miss this new exhibition at Warsaw's Royal Castle

Michelangelo Merisi, better known as Caravaggio, never ceases to enthral. One of the most innovative Baroque Italian artists and a paintbrush genius, he implemented his own distinctive way of controlling the light, based on sharp contrasts. It's little wonder he had so many followers in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. The new generation of painters inspired by him were called Caravaggionists, and you can see an exhibition of his – and their – work, *The Time of Caravaggio in the Collection of Roberto Longhi,* until 10 February 2022 at the Royal Castle in Warsaw.

There are 40 pieces on display, but the central artwork is by Caravaggio himself: *A Boy Bitten by a Lizard* (1596-1597). The canvas shows a young man who, while reaching for fruit, is bitten by a small reptile hidden between them. An unusual expression of pain and surprise appears on the boy's face, symbolising a loss of innocence and realisation of the duality of a world in which pleasure is inevitably met with suffering. **zamek-krolewski.pl**

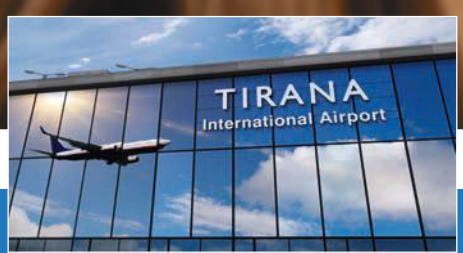


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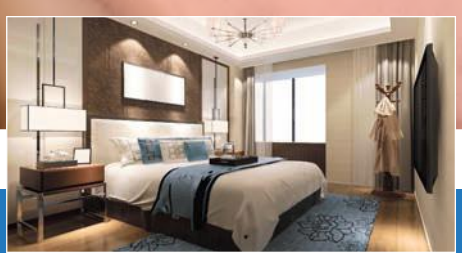
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Glaze of glory

T&D Glazing has enjoyed a remarkable rise in the capital

The sprawling Greenwich Peninsula, the all-new Battersea Power Station, Stratford Plaza, and multiple apartment towers across London – what do they all have in common? Well, most of the glazing and aluminium façades were fitted by T&D Glazing and Installation Ltd.

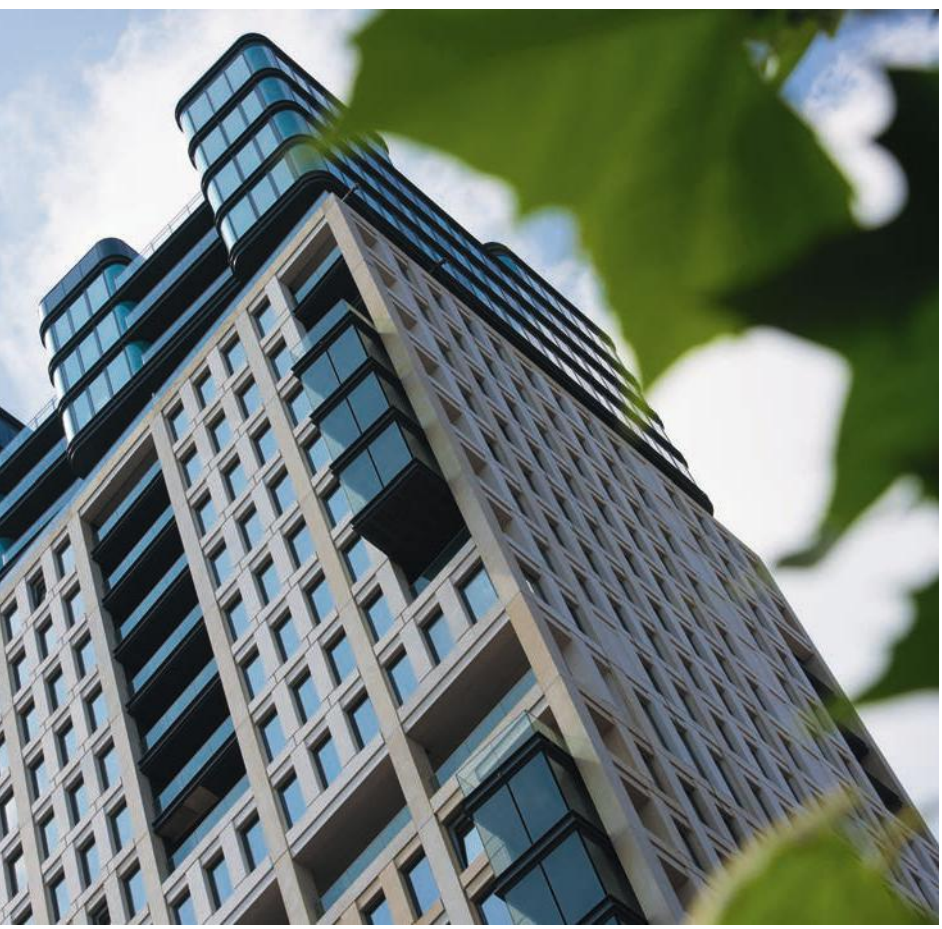
The Essex-based company has been providing façade solutions to projects across the UK for 16 years, and the company's owners and business directors, Toni and Daniel Timis, continue to install new-build, high-rise and whole-envelope contracts valued between £1m and £10m.

After beginning life as a small family business, T&D Glazing has grown to employ more than 300 fully trained operatives, from site managers and Level 2 NVQ Certificates in Curtain Wall Installation to NVQ Level 7 Managers. The company is now also certified and audited to ISO 9001, 45001 and 14001 standards to ensure quality, health and safety and environmental obligations are monitored, met and improved wherever - and whenever - possible.

According to Toni and Daniel, this training has been key to the company's success. Maintaining a highly trained and experienced workforce provides the expertise to install a wide range of façade products and elements to the highest possible quality in a safe and timely manner.

So next time you look at the London skyline, you'll know that T&D Glazing were part of the team that delivered such a view.

tndgi.co.uk



HIGHLIGHTS FROM T&D'S IMPRESSIVE LONDON PORTFOLIO

- **Wardian Project**
  T&D undertook the entire façade installation of two new apartment towers over a three-year period, which is due to be completed in February next year.
- **Greenwich Peninsula**
  This gargantuan Thames-side development is taking shape, with T&D installing the façades on four brand-new apartment buildings.
- **Battersea Power Station**
  T&D was assigned to install a number of different types of windows and doors for the iconic London site's new luxury high rises.

EXPERIENCE THE FANTASTIC HOME ATMOSPHERE OF THE BIGGEST FOOTBALL CLUB IN HUNGARY!

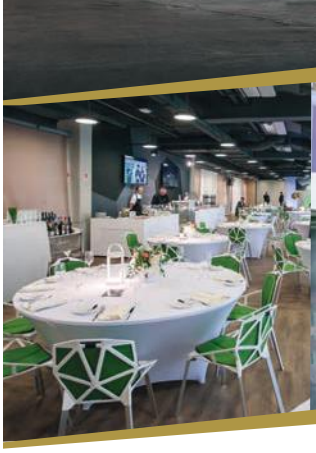
Ferencvárosi Torna Club, the most prestigious and successful club of Hungary, founded in 1899, has become a group participant in the Champions League and Europa League in the past three years. The 32-time Hungarian record champion has undoubtedly the biggest and most committed fan base in Hungary, who encourage the team with fantastic choreography, spectacles and chants. The home of the team, Groupama Arena with a capacity of 21.698 was built in 2014, and awakens passion, excitement and emotion. In addition to football matches, the stadium is also a venue for smaller and larger events and concerts, Robbie Williams and Depeche Mode have also performed there.





More info about Groupama Arena

Check out Ferencváros merchandise









Groupama Aréna

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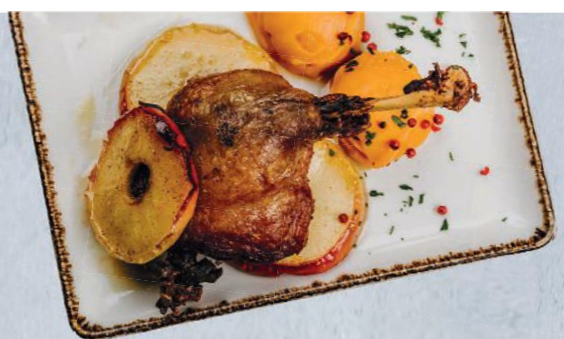




Opening hours:
10.30-23.00

Phone:
+36 1 787 8736

Address:
1052 Budapest,
Kígyó u. 4.













Felisa tapas bar

Opening hours: 10.30-23.00
Phone: +36 20 523 0181
Address: 1051 Budapest, Zrínyi u. 16.
Web: www.felisatapasbar.hu

The Felisa Tapas Bar has opened next to St. Stephen's Basilica, bringing a lively Latin vibe to life with sumptuous food, great Spanish drinks, and a Mediterranean atmosphere. You can sample all of the flavours of Spanish cuisine as well as some delicious Hungarian dishes.

in the know



The Eats
Where to have a good meal
p78

The Stays
Where to rest your head
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THE EATS

Where to go for a good meal across the WIZZ network



Javá Lisbon

Lisbon is one of the few cities that has escaped Soho House's march to global hipster domination. Just as well, really, as we think they would struggle to compete with Javá's nonchalant coolness and seriously covetable location.

This rooftop restaurant and meeting place opened up earlier this year, and is close to Time Out Market, overlooking the Jardim Dom Luis and the Tagus river. As you would expect, the city's skyline looks incredible from here – but you don't have to sit out on one of the blue-and-white cane chairs on the cacti-studded terrace to enjoy it. While the inside space has been created to maximise the views with large windows, the interior design is pretty special, with sapphire velvet banquettes and terracotta geometric-print sofas, walnut panelling and mosaic-tiled floors.

But enough of aesthetics. Javá's bold brunch menu features flame-cooked Mediterranean-inspired dishes (Turkish eggs with lamb and labneh, mezze platters) made with local ingredients served on large metal trays. Save room for the melted chocolate- and pistachio-topped pancakes, while Javá's decadent and creamy espresso martini is the ideal way to round off the meal, and perk you up for a day of exploring. **java.superbexperience.com**



The ARTIST

Bucharest

There's a revolution going on inside Romania's kitchens, and the team that kick-started the trend is at The ARTIST. Run by husband and wife Paul and Mihaela Oppenkamp, this restaurant set inside a 19th-century villa serves up the most eclectic fine-dining food in the capital. The menu features dishes such as sea bass with borsch and barley and chickpea fritters. **theartist.ro**



Meissl & Schadn

Vienna

We're not sure it's possible to visit Vienna without trying schnitzel. For the most authentic in the city, visit Meissl & Schadn, a light-filled space with chandeliers and tiled floors where the finest golden fried veal is created according to a traditional recipe, and served with a potato salad. **meisslundschadn.at**



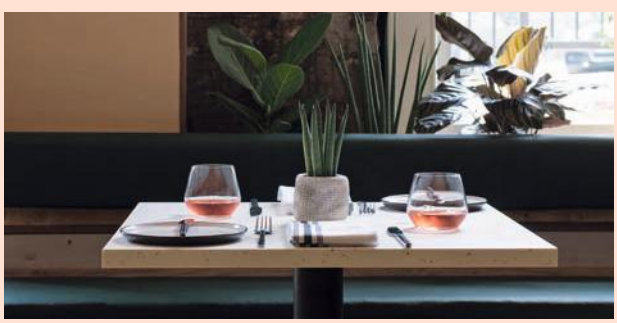


Five March
Glasgow

Yes, yes, it seems like almost every other restaurant extols the delights of small sharing plates these days. But do they do them quite as well as Glasgow's Five March? The menu at this buzzy restaurant, just a hop, skip and jump from Kelvingrove Park, has an undeniable touch of Ottolenghi influence with its Mediterranean-inspired dishes, but with locally sourced ingredients and a splash of Scottish swagger.

Case in point? A burnt cucumber, watermelon and burrata salad is given a real kick with an apple hot sauce. The bowl of mussels and chorizo is cooked in cider, and a simple salad of artichoke and hazelnut is topped with capers and a truffle mustard. Things have gone so well at Five March that they've opened up a pop-up called Go Sangshu where small plates blend bold, Asian flavours. Delicious!

fivemarch.co.uk



THE STAYS

The best places to rest your head across the WIZZ network



Pennyhill Park

London

It's no coincidence that Pennyhill Park looks a little like a smaller Hogwarts: there are plenty of mysteries hiding behind this hotel's 18th-century stone walls. First up? The accommodation. There are 124 bedrooms here, and all have quintessentially English country-inspired names (Foxglove, Lupin, Carisbrook), many with velvet winged armchairs, gilded artwork, wooden carved four-poster beds and roll-top baths.

But there are modern touches too – we loved the oversized, fuss-free chandelier in our room, plus the almost tie-dye purple-and-green printed curtains. The second surprise? The food. Mealtime is a spellbinding experience, with a Michelin-starred, six-course tasting menu at posh Latymer restaurant and elevated brasserie-style food at the new Hillfield.

And finally? Well, there's only one word for the spa here: magic. With an indoor and outdoor pool, three hot tubs, two steam rooms (salt-infused and herbal), two saunas, a plunge pool, two laconica, a snow room, tropical rain showers and a dazzling treatment list, relaxation here is a serious business.

To book any of these hotels, visit **wizzair.com** and find your best deal with our trusted partner

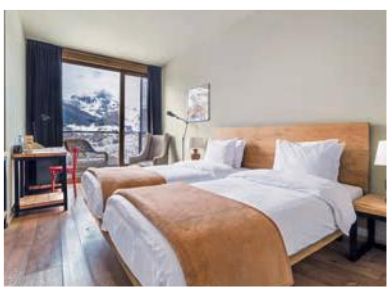
Booking.com

Rooms Hotel Kazbegi

Georgia

A former Soviet sanatorium might not sound like somewhere you want to spend the night, but stick with us for a moment here. Rooms Hotel Kazbegi in Stepantsminda, Georgia is actually a luxurious labyrinthine Bond villain-style lair surrounded by the snow-capped Caucasus peaks. And the brutalist, geometric architecture belies the comfort and creative flair inside.

All 155 rooms come with a view – mountain or forest – and are designed in a chic-yet-rustic style (we're talking wooden floors, low-slung lighting, delightfully battered leather chairs and kitsch vintage poster artwork). Creativity extends to the food and beverage options too, with dishes at the restaurant a playful twist on classic Georgian fare. And you'll struggle to stop at just one of the killer cocktails. But our favourite spot? The expansive heated pool surrounded by a glass-panelled wall that offers unforgettable mountain vistas. Bliss.







H15 Boutique Hotel

Warsaw

Set inside a spectacular neoclassical building, H15 manages to celebrate historical character and add an injection of fun, thanks to bold design elements such as the pop-culture art by Rita Zimmermann in each room. The sumptuous green-and-pink restaurant is where the city's elite like to while away an evening, so pull up a chair, order the dumplings and try to fit in.



The Barö

Helsinki

Hidden away on an archipelago in Finland, The Barö is a celebration of sustainable living. The hotel's 12 jet-black pine log cabins are set in gloriously rustic surroundings, while electricity is created from solar panels, there's a bio-waste facility and water comes from a well. From here you can explore the local islands – by canoe during the summer or skating over the ice in winter.

PHOTO: SAMULI MIETTINEN, THE BARÖ



WIZZ

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53 countries

190+ destinations

1,000+ routes

140+ aircraft

Check out our

new destinations

We never stop searching for new destinations – we fly to more than 190 places in 53 countries and counting – to add to your bucket list and make planning your next holiday a breeze.



DATA AS OF 1 OCTOBER 2021

news

Want to know where we're flying next, how to get the most out of your journey and what's new in the dynamic world of WIZZ? Then read on...



WIZZ seizes the moment

Say hello to Europe's fastest-growing airline. Despite the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the aviation industry in the past two years, Wizz Air has continued to show that agility and boldness are key to extraordinary expansion.

Over the past year we have launched 300 new routes and opened 18 new bases, growing our network in the UK, Italy and across Eastern Europe. We launched a new airline, Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, which allowed us to tap into a brand-new corner of the world.

We now have four aircraft based in this dynamic city, with two new A320NEOs joining us this December. But, if you think it's time for the team here at Wizz Air to take a little breather, we've got news for you. Our expansion plans for the next decade are off-the-scale – by 2030 Wizz Air will have 500 aircraft, we will add 20,000 employees (including 4,600 pilots) to our team, and we'll fly more than 1.6 billion flights a year. Overachievers, us? We don't know what you're talking about...

Flights with peace of mind

Today, convenient travel is more important than ever. Do you need an aircraft for a corporate or sports trip? Wizz Air has expanded its charter flight service to offer flights in our current markets, and beyond. We can carry groups of up to 239 passengers, with the route and schedule completely within your control. Ferencvárosi Torna Club are fans, so why not join them? Friendly Wizz Air customer service is included as standard, of course.



Wizz by numbers

- **140+** aircraft
- **190+** destinations in 53 countries
- **42** bases in 18 countries
- **1,000+** routes
- **5,000+** staff
- **40m** passengers carried*

*FIGURE FOR FY2020



New balance

Here at Wizz Air, we're proud to have staff from more than 50 different nations working across 18 base countries, and we strive for an even split of men and women among our staff. But we know there's one department where the gender balance is way off: in the flight deck. We're making it our mission to challenge outdated stereotypes and inspire talented women pilots to fly with us. That's why we have two very important programmes to encourage the new generation of female pilots. Women in WIZZ makes sure more women achieve representation in senior positions in the air and in the office, and the Cabin Crew to Captain initiative supports cabin crew members to develop their careers and obtain a pilot's license. Bravo!



Crew vaccinations

Ever since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, we've gone above and beyond to make sure both our passengers and staff are protected in the air. Which is why our latest step to look after the health of everyone on board our flights is so important. Wizz Air now requires all flight crew members be fully vaccinated (or to take regular PCR/antigen tests in special cases). And we are proud to be one of the first European airlines to enhance its onboard health and safety with this policy. "Here at Wizz Air, our number one priority is the health and safety of our passengers and employees," says József Váradi, CEO of Wizz Air Group. "We have a responsibility to protect crew and passengers on board by mitigating the risks of COVID-19, and vaccines play a vital role in this."

New routes

- **Abu Dhabi** – Manama (Bahrain), Moscow, Sarajevo, Tirana
- **Amman** – Rome Fiumicino, Milan Malpensa
- **Aqaba** – Bucharest, Rome, Vienna
- **Belgrade** – Barcelona, Billund, Frankfurt, Vaxjo
- **Bologna** – Casablanca
- **Brussels** – Debrecen, Suceava
- **Budapest** – Amman, Aqaba, Fuerteventura, Hurghada
- **Cluj-Napoca** – Billund
- **Gran Canaria** – Bucharest, Milan Malpensa, Rome, Vienna
- **Lanzarote** – Cardiff, Milan Malpensa, Rome Fiumicino, Wroclaw
- **Plovdiv** – Dortmund, London, Memmingen
- **Sarajevo** – Billund, Cologne, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Malmo, Oslo, Venice Treviso
- **Skopje** – Billund, Bologna, Turin
- **Tirana** – Barcelona, Billund, Cologne, Liverpool, Madrid, Oslo
- **Tuzla** – Milan Malpensa, Nuremberg
- **Vilnius** – Reykjavik, Yerevan

WIZZ cares

WIZZ is one of Europe's most sustainable airlines, operating at lower CO_2 emissions per passenger than our competitors*. Here's how we do it...

See you later, CO_2

WIZZ has the lowest CO_2 emissions per passenger/km in the industry. This is thanks to all the work we have put in since 2012 to improve flying speeds and optimise our network, saving nearly 100,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions each year.

Aircraft innovation

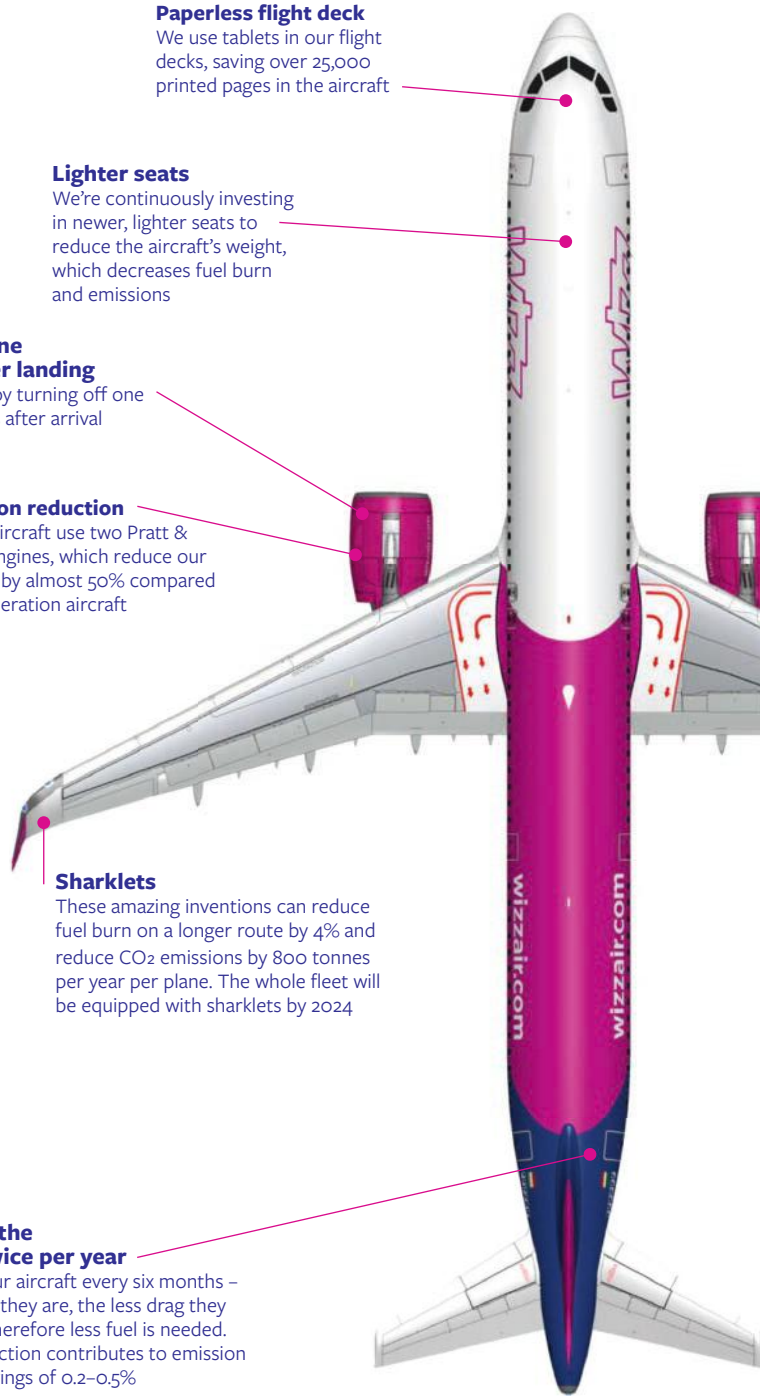
We've been adding super-efficient A321NEO aircraft to our fleet. The environmental benefits include 16% less fuel burn, 16% less CO_2 emissions and 20% increase in fuel efficiency per plane per year**. The average age of our fleet is five years, and continuously decreasing.

Our paper trail

The paper used to make this magazine is from sustainable sources, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The FSC is an NGO that helps take care of forests and the people and wildlife who call them home, ensuring they survive for generations to come.

To find out more go to wizzair.com/sustainability

*based on the latest available public reports
**compared to A320CEO



Paperless flight deck
We use tablets in our flight decks, saving over 25,000 printed pages in the aircraft

Lighter seats
We're continuously investing in newer, lighter seats to reduce the aircraft's weight, which decreases fuel burn and emissions

Single engine taxiing after landing
We save fuel by turning off one of the engines after arrival

Noise pollution reduction
Our A321NEO aircraft use two Pratt & Whitney GTF engines, which reduce our noise footprint by almost 50% compared to previous generation aircraft

Sharklets
These amazing inventions can reduce fuel burn on a longer route by 4% and reduce CO_2 emissions by 800 tonnes per year per plane. The whole fleet will be equipped with sharklets by 2024

Washing the planes twice per year
We wash our aircraft every six months – the cleaner they are, the less drag they have, and therefore less fuel is needed. This small action contributes to emission and fuel savings of 0.2–0.5%

Flying colours

Our colour-coded online travel map, updated daily, will keep you informed of the latest restrictions

We are now in a new chapter of the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccination efforts across Europe mean that travel is back on the agenda, and longed-for holidays or trips to see family in a different country are possible once again. But, if you're travelling this winter, some restrictions are still in place – and they're changing all the time.

Wizz Air wants to make your journey as seamless as possible in these complicated times. That's why we launched our online Travel Planning Map last year to help you navigate and understand all the up-to-date travel restrictions.

You can find our Travel Planning Map on the Wizz Air website. It is updated daily for all country combinations in the Wizz Air network. All you have to do is type in your departure point and then you'll see the countries on your route network highlighted in green (travel is possible with no restrictions), yellow (you can travel but quarantine is required on arrival) or red (travel is not possible, except in certain circumstances).

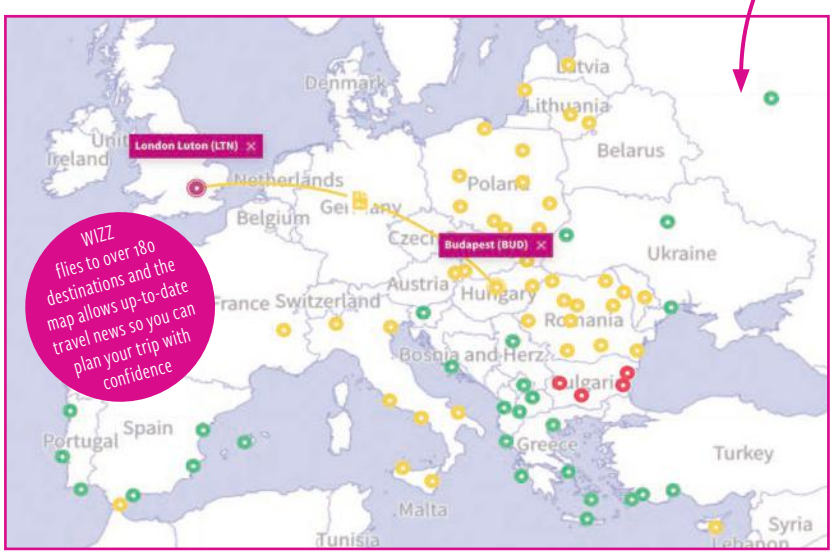
Click on the destination you'd like to fly to (and make sure to check the box if you're fully vaccinated), and you'll find more detailed information of the restrictions and what you need to travel (a negative PCR test or vaccination certificate, for example). You can also find links to official websites (such as government or national health authorities). Visit **wizzair.com/en-gb/flights/travel-planning-map** for all the latest details.

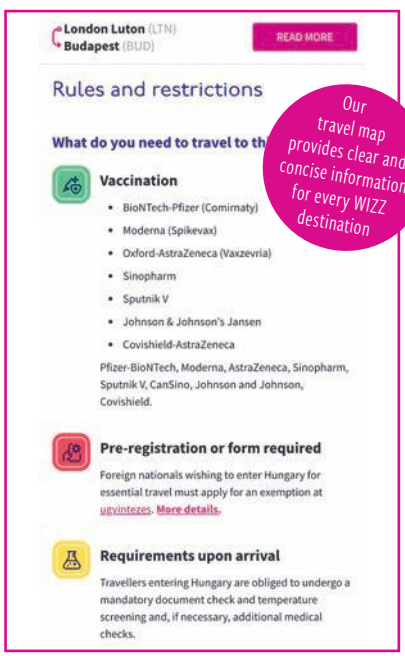
Traffic light system

Travelling to this destination is possible
There are either no travel restrictions or some COVID-19 documents are needed (a negative PCR test, vaccination certificate etc)

Travelling is possible, but quarantine is required upon arrival
Also includes info about any necessary COVID-19 documents needed

There is a flight ban to this destination
Only citizens/residents or people with special permits can travel here





“Ever since I can remember, I’ve always wanted to fly a plane”

What does it take to become a pilot? We talk to two former cadets about the Wizz Air Pilot Academy



Who wouldn’t want to be a pilot? Your office comes with extraordinary views, it’s exciting and glamorous – and you get to have breakfast in one country, and then lunch in another. But being a pilot is demanding, with hundreds of passengers putting their trust in you to get them safely to their destination, whatever the day might throw at you.

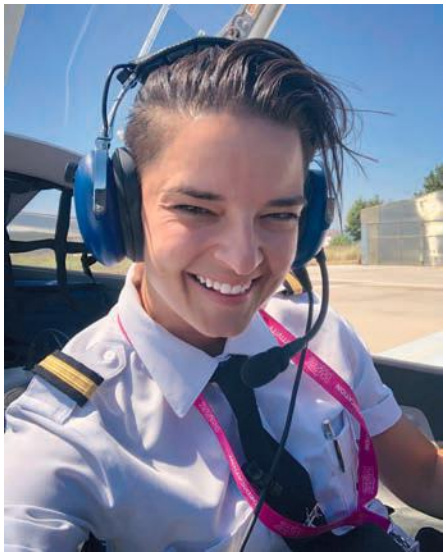
So, what does it take to be that person in the flight deck with the wings on their uniform? For Senior First Officer Krzysztof Jurga, originally from Poznan, it all started when he was a child. “Ever since I can remember, I’ve always wanted to fly a plane,” he says. “I liked the idea of being an astronaut, but decided on pilot as I knew there would be more flying involved with a plane rather than a shuttle!”

Krzysztof took his first flight aged 17 in a small Cessna, and flying quickly became his hobby. That’s all he thought it would ever be until, in 2018, he found out Wizz Air was recruiting for new pilots in his home city of Warsaw. After going through a three- to four-month application process, Krzysztof found himself one of the very first cadets at the new Wizz Air Pilot Academy. “I quit my job, stopped my studies and headed to the academy in Nyíregyháza, near Debrecen in Hungary,” he recalls.

Krzysztof was here for 15 months, covering the cost of the first five months of training himself. Then, a Wizz Air captain assessed the progress of the cadets. “He evaluated us and if we passed, Wizz Air gave us a loan for the rest of the training.”

Becoming a pilot is costly, but Wizz Air’s investment in the Wizz Air Pilot Academy means almost anyone can fulfil their dream of flying a plane, regardless of their means. Krzysztof graduated in 2019, and after type rating (obtaining a license to fly certain types of planes) and Airbus training, was soon soaring above the clouds in a Wizz Air aircraft.

“Wizz Air gives you a loan for your training, so anyone can fulfill their dreams of flying a plane”





From left to right
Krzysztof Jurga started his training on a light aircraft; Aleksandra Kachamakova takes to the skies

“Work hard and don’t listen to anyone saying that this is not a girl’s job”

Aleksandra Kachamakova started her journey at the Wizz Air Pilot Academy’s other campus, in Kavala, Greece. Inevitably she encountered some turbulence over the past two years – Aleksandra was due to finish in October 2020, but COVID-19 meant that everything was delayed by nine months. But not even a global pandemic could stop her becoming a pilot.

“My parents were both cabin crew, and from the moment I took my first flight aged three, I knew I just had to be in the air,” she says.

Aleksandra worked as cabin crew for 11 years, but in 2018 started to think about becoming a pilot. “I just knew I loved flying, but I didn’t think I could afford to be a pilot.” After two years in Greece preparing for exams (“there are 14 major exams, but we had some form of test almost every week”), Aleksandra graduated from the Wizz Air Pilot Academy.

She now has her commercial pilot’s license, and is finishing off her type rating so she can fly Airbus jets. Aleksandra hopes to be based in Milan by January, flying as a Wizz Air first officer.

Wizz Air is playing an important role in breaking down gender stereotypes by encouraging more women to step into the flight deck. “It’s more of a male perceived job – still,” Aleksandra points out. “But it doesn’t mean a woman can’t do it. It’s very demanding, but that has nothing to do with being a woman or a man.”

What advice does she give to aspiring Wizz Air pilots? “First of all, make sure you have the passion and motivation as you’ll need a lot of determination. And for the women – work hard, and don’t listen to anyone saying that this is not a girl’s job.”

Krzysztof echoes Aleksandra’s words. “You might have to sacrifice a lot – you will have to work hard, ask people to support you, get out of your comfort zone and move to a different country. But if it’s your dream, it’s worth any struggles and sacrifice. If you follow your passion and fulfil your dreams, you’ll never feel like you’re working ever again.”

#IAMWIZZCREW

Working as a pilot or cabin crew for Wizz Air could take your career to new heights

Here at Wizz Air we believe that affordable travel provides the opportunities that can change people and the world around us for the better. If you are looking to shake up your career, it’s time to think about joining our multi-national team. We are Europe’s fastest growing airline, and we’re looking to recruit more than 20,000 employees over the next 10 years. Do you have what it takes? We’re running recruitment drives over the next few years and we’d love to see you there. For more information visit

wizzair.com/career

World of WIZZ

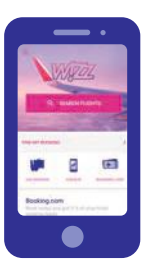
On **wizzair.com** you'll find the answers to all of your travel needs, from adding luggage and changing flights, to car rental, airport parking and much more

Where to go?

The Trip Planner tool

The Trip Planner tool suggests potential destinations for your holiday by asking you about the type of trip you want, your preferred departure airport and any other information you already know, such as date range and budget.

WIZZ then does all the hard work, searching our far-reaching network of more than 1,000 routes for destinations that match your requirements.



Download our app

Visit the App Store or Google Play to download the Wizz Air app.
Available in 19 languages.

Lowest fares

Find the right fare for you

WIZZ Basic
Free carry-on bag (40 x 30 x 20cm) to be placed under the seat.

WIZZ Go
Trolley bag (55 x 40 x 23cm) guaranteed in cabin / 20kg checked-in bag / Seat selection / Free airport and online check-in / Plus, one carry-on bag (40 x 30 x 20cm).

WIZZ Plus
Everything you get with WIZZ Go, plus: 12kg more in the checked-in bag / Premium seat selection / WIZZ Flex / Refund to WIZZ account / Flight info on your phone.

Baggage guide

Carry-on bag
Max 10kg, 40 x 30 x 20cm
• Must go under the seat

Trolley bag (WIZZ Priority)
Max 10kg, 55 x 40 x 23cm
• Must go into the overhead compartment

Check-in bag (max six bags)
Max 10kg, 20kg OR 32kg, 149 x 119 x 171cm

Sports kit
Bring your sports kit with you

Learn more about the details and terms and conditions of our services at **wizzair.com**

Flexible travel

Need to change your flight?

No problem! With WIZZ Flex you can modify your booking for free.

Fare Lock

You can secure the fare of your selected tickets for 48 hours before you complete your booking – for bookings made more than seven days prior to the outbound flight's departure date.

WIZZ Flex

You can modify your tickets without paying a flight-change fee, or cancel your flight and request a full refund (additional services will not be refunded) to your WIZZ account, which can be used for 90 days to purchase new tickets.

Flexible Travel Partner

Create a new reservation without providing each passenger's name at the time of booking.

New! Travel Insurance Coverage for COVID-19

Our travel insurance now includes medical expenses and cancellation cover following COVID-19 infection. Just add the insurance to your basket together with your flights.

For further information and conditions of using WIZZ Flex, please visit **wizzair.com**

Seating

Choose your seat

For a more relaxing journey, choose front-row or extra-legroom seats – included in our WIZZ Plus bundles.

! Please always follow the instructions of your cabin crew when seated in these rows.

On the ground...

Car rental
Book your flights and car rental in one easy step – just add your car rental to your basket together with your flights. Get attractive discounts and enjoy our WIZZ credit-back promotions.

Airport parking
Our long-standing partner ParkVia offers great prices and availability for airport parking across Europe, with fast and easy booking and significant savings – whether you're going on holiday or travelling on business. Book online at **wizzparking.com**.

WIZZ Ride
Book your private transport in one easy step from your WIZZ App. You can benefit from great discounts for your private transfer, even upon arrival, to your destination with our partner Cartrawler.

WIZZ DISCOUNT CLUB

Fly with us for less

Our WIZZ Discount Club offers a wide range of discounts on travel and related services. You'll get a guaranteed discount of €10 on ticket fares*, and members can enjoy a further €5 saving on each bag purchased online. There are two types of membership available:

Standard membership

€29.99

Suitable if you usually travel solo or with one companion, as they'll also enjoy the discount.



Member + one companion



€10 ticket discount



€5 saving on each bag booked online

Group membership

€69.99

Suitable for those who fly with families and friends, as you'll get the discount for up to five other passengers.



Member + up to five companions



€10 ticket discount



€5 saving on each bag booked online

Italy Discount Club

If you have our Italy Discount Club membership, you can enjoy premium discounts on domestic flights during your membership.

Standard membership

Member + one companion

€19.99

Group membership

Member + up to five companions

€34.99

Benefits include:



€5-€10 ticket discount**



€2 on WIZZ Priority

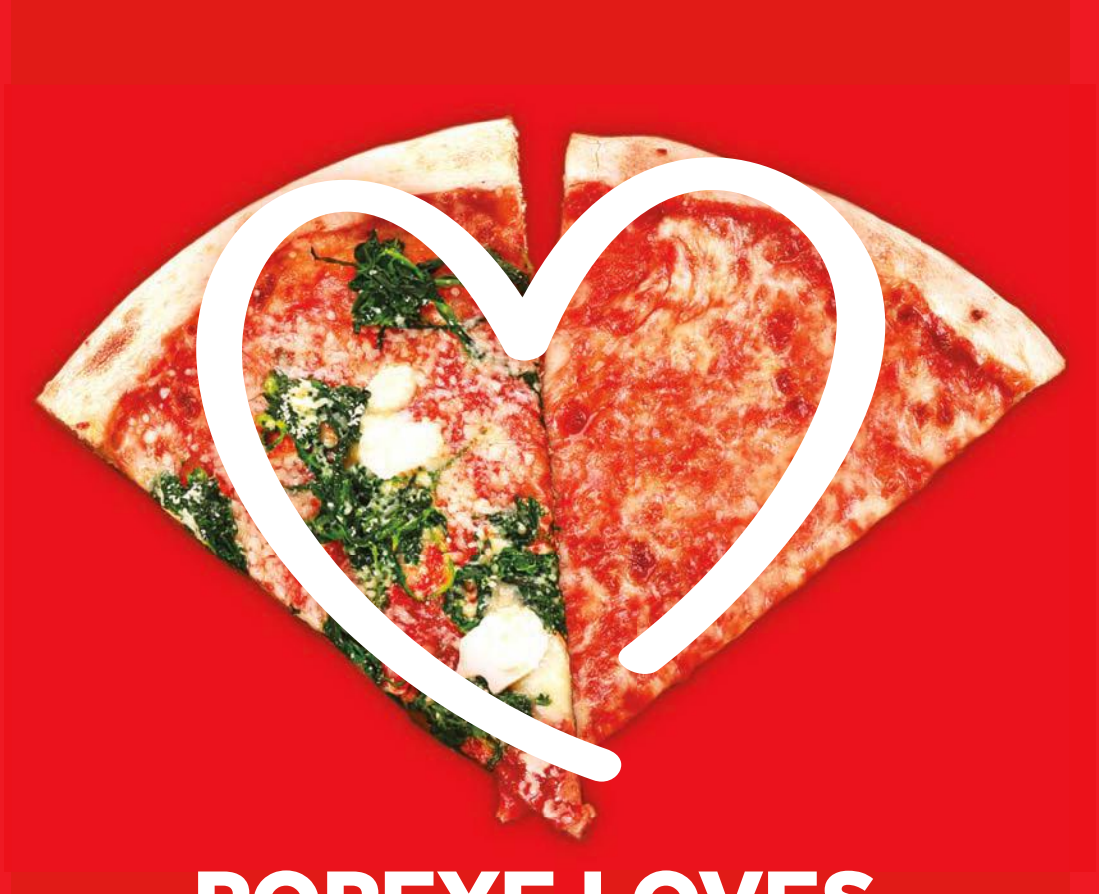
Shop, collect and spend

Did you know you can apply for a Wizz Air co-branded credit card and collect points on your purchases? We have partner banks in Bulgaria (DSK Bank) and Hungary (Erste Bank), and you can redeem your points on **wizzair.com** for Wizz Air flights and services. You'll even get a free one-year WIZZ Discount Club membership.

Find out more at **wizzair.com**



*ON ALL FARES EXCEEDING €19.99 WHICH INCLUDE ADMINISTRATION FEE, TAXES AND NON-OPTIONAL CHARGES. THIS EXCLUDES DOMESTIC ROUTES AND SPECIAL FLIGHTS.
** FOR TICKET PRICES OVER €14.99. THE ITALY DISCOUNT CLUB MEMBER MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SAME BOOKING FOR HIS/HER COMPANION(S) TO ALSO RECEIVE THE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS.



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TERRAN
AT HOME IN THE FUTURE

See us on the web at
terran-generon.com

Our fleet

Younger, greener and growing

Wizz Air has a single-type fleet of 146 aircraft from the Airbus A320 Family. It's among the youngest and most efficient in Europe – and the safest. Our planes have the most sophisticated safety equipment already and, by 2027, we're planning on bringing on board the latest technology with the addition of 230 A320/A321NEO and A321XLR aircraft. We're also one of the most sustainable airlines in Europe – our NEO airliners feature advanced systems and engines that reduce our carbon footprint, as well as noise and cost, helping us keep fares low and accessible so everyone can fly with one of Europe's safest and greenest airlines.

Airbus A320CEO

Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h

Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)

Number of aircraft* 59

Seat capacity 180/186
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 4

Range 6,200km



Airbus A321CEO

Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h

Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)

Number of aircraft* 41

Seat capacity 230
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 5

Range 5,950km



Airbus A320NEO

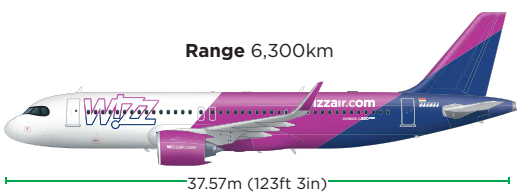
Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h

Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)

Number of aircraft* 6

Seat capacity 186
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 4

Range 6,300km



Airbus A321NEO

Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h

Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)

Number of aircraft* 40

Seat capacity 239
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 5

Range 7,400km



Top marks for safety

Wizz Air is registered under the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Operational Safety Audit (IOSA), the global benchmark in airline safety recognition. Wizz Air has also been awarded the **highest seven-star safety ranking** from the world's only one-stop airline safety and product rating agency, **AirlineRatings.com**

*DATA AS OF 1 OCTOBER 2021

Your onboard safety

Please show consideration for fellow passengers and pay attention to the following information. Remember that by purchasing your Wizz Air ticket, you have accepted the Wizz Air General Conditions of Carriage (available in full at **wizzair.com**)

Safe handling of hand luggage
Ensure hand luggage remains safely stowed in the locker or under the seat in front of you for takeoff, landing, and at any time as instructed by the crew. Passengers seated in the emergency rows and first row must store their cabin bags in the overhead lockers. Take care when opening lockers, as falling items may injure fellow passengers.

In case of evacuation all baggage must be left on board and the instructions of the cabin crew must be strictly followed.

Safety equipment
It is an offence to tamper with or remove safety equipment, including adult and infant life vests, infant safety belts or extension belts. You are not allowed to remove or damage any onboard informative placards.

Sharp items
To dispose of any sharp items (e.g. hypodermic needles), please contact a cabin crew member. Do not leave your needle or syringe behind.

Turbulence management
Turbulence can occur unexpectedly. Whenever seatbelt signs are switched on, remain seated, keep seatbelts fastened, and stow away large electronic devices.

Safety of infants on board
Wizz Air has a clear procedure for infant (a child under two) restraint systems. You can only use the single hook infant seatbelt – vests/slings cannot be used with the infant seatbelt. Wizz Air only accepts aft-facing car seats when an extra seat is purchased. **However, during take-off and landing, and whenever the seatbelt sign is switched on, infants should sit on an adult's lap with the seatbelt fastened.** Life vests for infants are available and are provided whenever flying over water. All lavatories are equipped with a changing table. Do not leave children unattended in the cabin.

Lithium batteries
Portable electronic devices (PED) such as phones, laptops and tablets can contain lithium batteries. When damaged, faulty or overheated, these batteries can catch fire and explode. **If you recognise any issues with your device, inform the cabin crew immediately.**

Charging electronic devices on board using a portable battery charger is forbidden.

Electronic devices
Some electronic devices can be used during the flight **with WLAN/Wi-Fi/Bluetooth turned off.**

Larger electronic devices that cannot be held comfortably in one hand, exceed ca. 1kg in weight and do not qualify as handheld devices (e.g. laptops, notebooks etc.) must be stowed in the overhead stowage compartments for takeoff, landing and whenever required by the cabin crew.
If in doubt, please ask your cabin crew.

Inflight health tips

Read these tips on how to stay fit when travelling.

Before your air travel
Consult your doctor before travelling if you have any medical concerns. Pregnant women and those with heart or respiratory problems, blood diseases or ear, nose and sinus infections should seek medical advice before flying. **Crew members are entitled to call for medical assistance pre-flight if they deem it necessary and are in doubt about your fitness for the flight.**

Medical supplies on board
Keep any medication you may need in your hand luggage and in its original packaging. **Inform cabin crew of allergies or illnesses.** If you are seriously ill or travelling post-surgery, you will need a medical certificate confirming that you are fit to fly. If you have limited mobility, are hearing- or sight-impaired, pregnant, or unable to understand/react to safety instructions, you will be unable to sit in the emergency exit rows or the front row.

Nut allergy
During our WIZZ Café service we offer peanuts and some snacks containing peanuts/nuts traces. **We strongly encourage those with allergies to take all necessary medical precautions before flying and inform the cabin crew during boarding about your allergy.**

If you start to feel unwell during the flight, do not hesitate to talk to the cabin crew.

Exercise Be as active as possible. Try the following routine every 30 minutes:



Your security

...is one of our top priorities. To ensure a smooth and pleasant flight, please read the following rules of conduct

Please do...

- Always follow crew instructions
- Respect the crew and other passengers
- Behave in an appropriate manner
- Stay calm and cooperative
- Wear your face mask properly (covering your nose and mouth) on board

...so you can:

- Travel in a nice, pleasant and peaceful atmosphere
- Relax on board
- Get to your destination as soon as possible

Do not...

- Smoke on board (including classic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, pipes, vapers)
- Put e-cigarettes in your checked-in bags or charge them on board
- Breach, or refuse to follow, crew instructions
- Harass in any way fellow passengers and/or crew members (including sexual harassment)
- Threaten or be aggressive towards fellow passengers and/or crew members
- Be violent or behave in a hostile, erratic manner
- Damage the aircraft or onboard equipment
- Waste, pollute or contaminate the cabin in any way
- Endanger the safety of the flight by any means
- Consume alcohol that was not purchased on board. Alcohol is served at the crew's discretion to passengers of legal drinking age. The crew reserves the right to stop serving alcohol to any passenger who is, or appears to be, intoxicated
- Be under the influence of drugs or medical substances that may affect your behaviour or self-control
- Film or photograph the cabin crew without their permission

...or face the consequences:

- You are fully responsible and accountable for your behaviour. Unruly or disruptive behaviour on board and before boarding will not be tolerated and will be reported to the authorities. You will be held legally and financially responsible in all cases.

The following consequences* will occur for such misconduct:

- Denied boarding
- Penalty/fine or arrest by local police:
  - Smoking on board, including lavatory: up to €3,000*
  - Unruly behaviour due to intoxication: up to €5,000 and two years in prison*
  - Endangering the safety of an aircraft: up to five years in prison*
- Diversion of flight and arrest
- Reimbursement of cost of diversion: €10,000–€80,000*
- Criminal procedure and court litigation*
- Cancellation of all of your existing Wizz Air flight bookings
- A ban from Wizz Air flights in the future

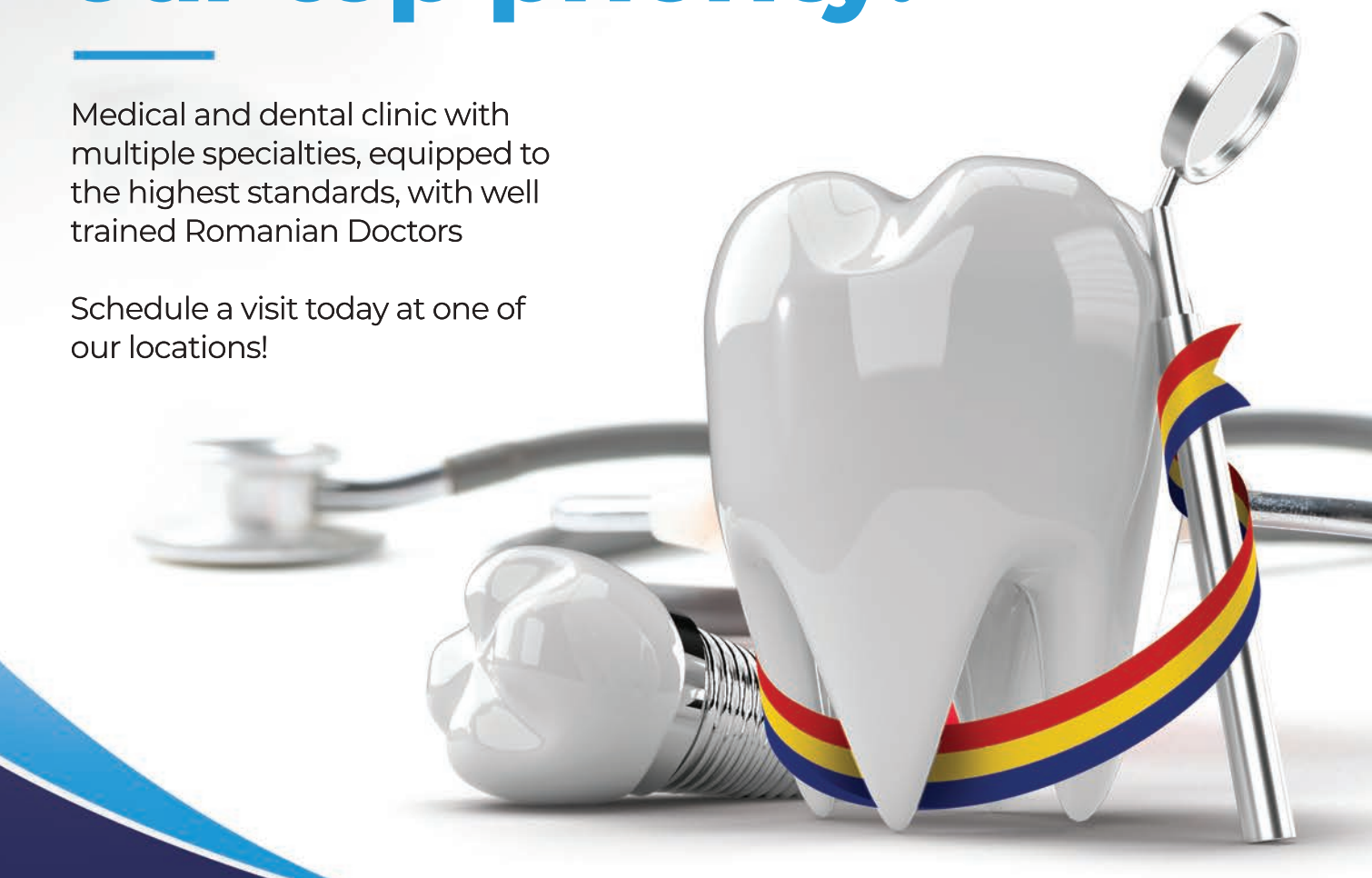
*Subject to applicable jurisdiction

For more information, please refer to the General Conditions of Carriage on wizzair.com

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Medical and dental clinic with multiple specialties, equipped to the highest standards, with well trained Romanian Doctors

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E-mail: office@egodent.co.uk
Web: egodent.co.uk

EGODENT STANMORE
Dental & Medical Clinic

22A Lowther Road,
Stanmore, HA7 1ER

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UPGRADE TO AIRTOX

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