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“This summer Wizz Air offers you close to 1000 routes”

Hello, and thank you for choosing to fly with Wizz Air today. It is my pleasure to welcome you on board.

We are delighted to start 2023 with the announcement of further expansions in Italy.

Wizz Air will be allocating three of its newest and most sustainable Airbus A321neo aircraft to its Italian bases: two to Rome Fiumicino and one to Milan Malpensa. This will allow us to launch four new routes, starting in summer 2023, as well as increase frequency for several destinations.

Passengers will now be able to fly with us from Rome to Funchal and Memmingen, while we will increase the frequency of flights to Barcelona, Paris, Dortmund and Prague. Milan Malpensa will receive one additional aircraft with two new routes to Abu Dhabi and Madrid, starting from July 2023. With the growth, we will operate a total of 37 routes from Milan Malpensa to 22 countries in Europe and the Middle East.

This expansion underpins our commitment to the Italian market by making travel affordable and allowing customers to explore new destinations.

The good news continues across our network. This summer Wizz Air offers you close to 1000 routes – and launches more than 50 new routes from Belgrade, Bucharest, Budapest, Kutaisi, Larnaca, Tirana, Vienna and Warsaw – to present an exciting lineup of holiday destinations.

Those searching for a sunny getaway can shake off the winter blues in Spain, hit the beach in Portugal, or explore souks in Morocco. From now on, passengers can also book direct flights to Istanbul, Antalya and Dalaman and explore Türkiye from Hungary, Romania, the UAE and the UK.

No matter where you are heading today, I and everybody at Wizz Air wish you a safe journey.

József Váradi
Chief Executive Officer

Our enhanced health and safety measures

- Passengers must wear face masks correctly on board our aircraft.
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Anaaka is a beauty brand based on natural ingredients.
Like an echo from elsewhere, Anaaka means “elegant” in Arabic. Behind this distant-sounding name, filled with sweetness and voluptuousness, its founder, now based in Slovakia, wishes to revolutionise the beauty market. Far from any religious consideration, the range of halal cosmetic care is part of a logic of beauty and anti-aging solution for all women. Resulting from several years of research, Anaaka products are alcohol-free, natural, pure and organic. The halal certification and the awards obtained by the brand reflect a trend and a preference of women around the world for natural, ethical, easy-to-use and complete products.

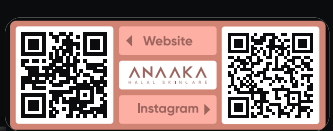
A complete anti-aging routine, based on natural and pure components, such as rose water, halal hyaluronic acid, helichrysum water or even peptides, the Anaaka anti-aging skincare product range is intended to be simple. Available in a set of complementary products, the treatments are available in four anti-aging solutions: a foaming cleanser, a firming serum, a moisturising day cream and a revitalising night cream. Used daily, these make it possible to fight effectively against the signs of aging of the skin, also protecting it against the harmful effects of the sun or pollution throughout the day. With beautiful, natural, simple and complimentary products, the Anaaka range offers your skin a solution against premature aging, by focusing on natural ingredients. From deep cleansing (thanks to the pure rose water foaming detergent) to the night conditioner that stimulates cell renewal, each product provides women’s skin with the active ingredients it needs to be cleaner, fresher, purer and more beautiful. Very quickly, fine lines and wrinkles fade, the complexion becomes fresher and signs of fatigue disappear...

Throughout the world, thousands of women are happy to have integrated Anaaka into their daily beauty routine.

All of the products in the Anaaka range are available for sale on the brand’s official website.
anaaka.com








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Editor's letter

For the past 100 years, Cyprus has been cultivating a classic car scene. Unbeknown to much of Europe, the olive and almond-tree-dotted landscape, and good quality, mountain and coastal roads are perfect for cruising in an iconic vehicle, which are rented out on the island by car collectors.

The creative team took a trip to bring you a selection of driving itineraries to try on the sunny Mediterranean isle (p40). Further north, a group of pioneering women are carving out their place in Scotland's legendary Highland Games and you can watch them toss the mighty caber this season (p68).

Meanwhile, on the boundaries of Europe and Asia, our writer goes on a culinary odyssey in one of the most overlooked foodie destinations in our network – Georgia. Read on for a taste tour of the nation's most salivating dishes (p54). Wherever you are travelling this spring, we hope you discover something new.

Jade Bremner, Acting Editor

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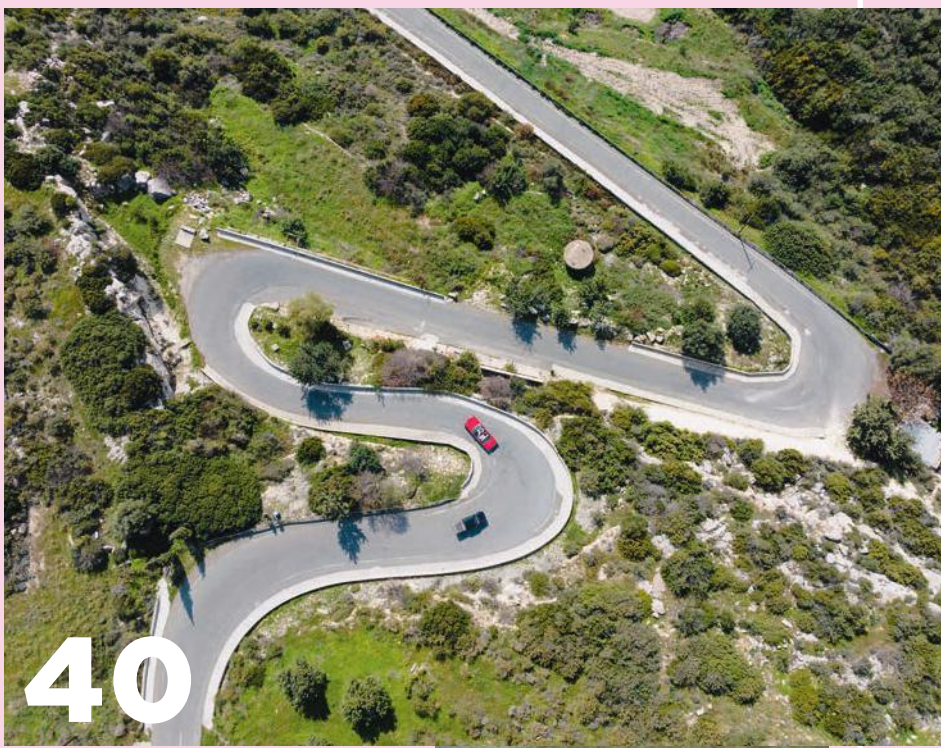
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PHOTO: BEN READ

in this issue



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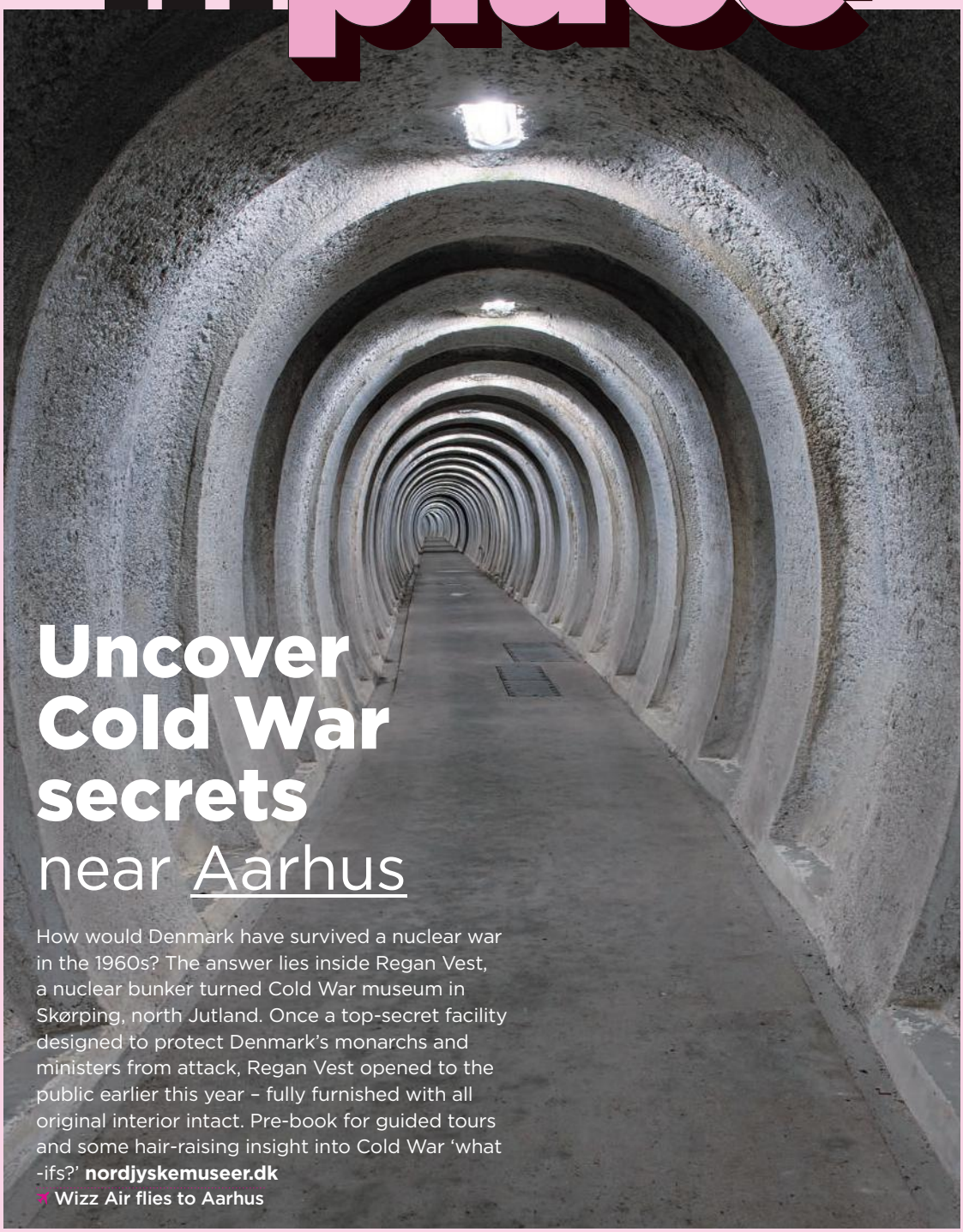
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Uncover Cold War secrets near Aarhus

How would Denmark have survived a nuclear war in the 1960s? The answer lies inside Regan Vest, a nuclear bunker turned Cold War museum in Skørping, north Jutland. Once a top-secret facility designed to protect Denmark's monarchs and ministers from attack, Regan Vest opened to the public earlier this year – fully furnished with all original interior intact. Pre-book for guided tours and some hair-raising insight into Cold War 'what -ifs?' **nordjyskemuseer.dk**

Wizz Air flies to Aarhus

WORDS: SARAH WARWICK PHOTO: LARS HORN AND NORDJYSKE MUSEER



Become a nomad
in Valencia

Spain's long-awaited 'digital nomad visa' is finally available – the Non-Lucrative Visa launched early this year, giving non-EU nationals (who aren't employed by Spanish companies) the chance to live and work in Spain for up to five years. Seize the day and book a coworking space in Valencia, Spain's up-and-coming tech centre. Contact Valencia Nomads for advice on networking your way around town. **valencianomads.com**

Wizz Air flies to Valencia



Get yourself some jellyfish lights
in Milan

Anyone who loves interiors knows that Milan Design Week (this year 17-23 April) is simply *il meglio*. Alongside the main event – furniture design fair Salon de Mobile – there is the fringe Fuorisalone, with up to 100 smaller shows and exhibits scattered around the city, featuring the work of around 1,300 designers. Whether you're actively in the market for a light that looks like a jellyfish (pictured), or if you're simply into looking at beautiful things, go! Use the interactive map on the Fuorisalone website. **fuorisalone.it**

Wizz Air flies to Milan



Bring a mask
to Montenegro

If you missed out on Brazil and Venice, there's still time to get your spring carnival on in Budva, Montenegro's most gorgeous seaside destination. Its annual festivities in late April/early May are relatively young – dating just from 2003 – but are pretty impressive, incorporating a main parade with participants from 12 different countries and a smaller one with more than 1,000 children. In the evening the town's squares turn into stages for bands, choirs and DJs, and everyone gets very merry underneath their masks. **budva.travel**

Wizz Air flies to Podgorica



Budva Carnival in numbers

2003
year it started

2,500
number of parade participants

PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK. FLOW LIGHTS BY NIKKI ALAGHA DESIGN. NIKKIALAGHA.COM. ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK.COM

See the ‘Battle of the Stallions’ in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Wildlife safaris sound like a gentle activity until you’ve seen wild stallions try to literally hoof each other. The Cincar Mountains in western Bosnia and Herzegovina are home to hundreds of wild horses – descended from farm animals let loose when tractors arrived in the region in the 1970s and stole their jobs.

Now completely free, they’re a beautiful sight to behold, making for some seriously great photographic subjects, although in spring, when they compete for mates, they are quite literally striking (each other).

You can find them on your own, but for safety we recommend a guide, such as Continental Adventures, which runs two trips a day from the city of Livno in the spring and summer.

continentaladventure.net/wildhorsesphotosafari.html

Wizz Air flies to Sarajevo

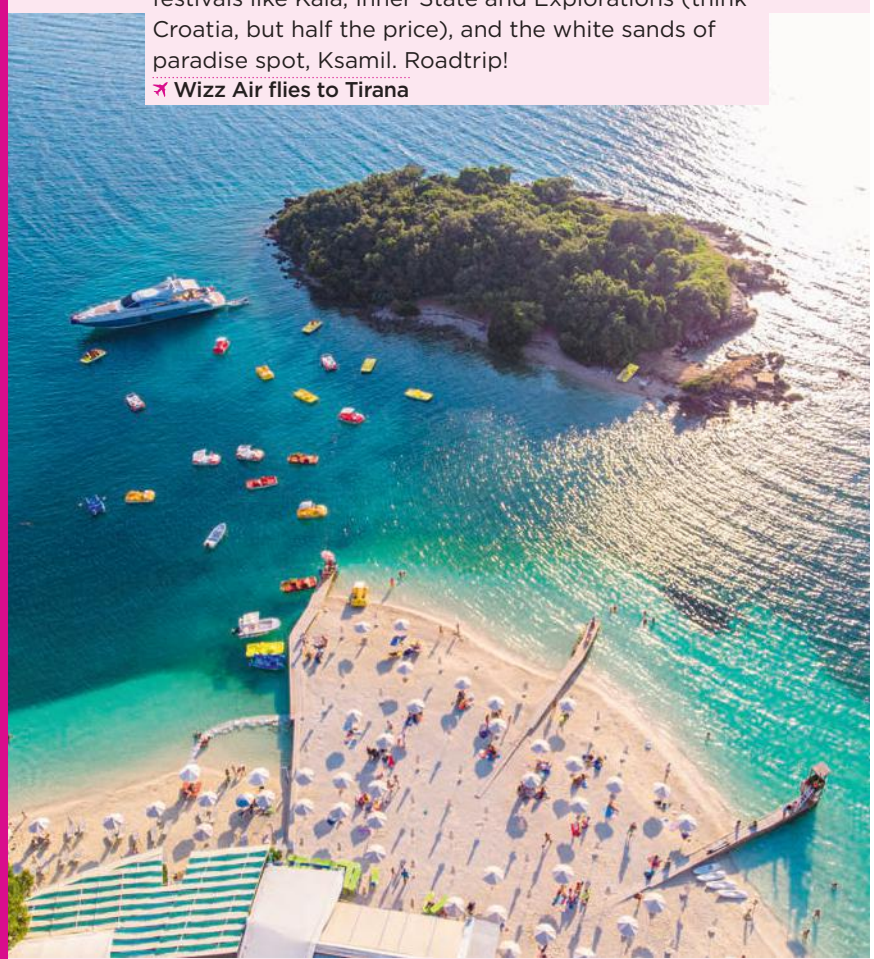


Set off for Europe's latest hotspot in Albania

It's not usually a place you talk about in the same breath as France or Spain, but Albania is having a serious tourism boom right now. Foreign arrivals hit a record high in 2022 – around 50% more than pre-pandemic. And why not indeed? The country has mountains, beaches, incredible medieval mosques, restaurant meals for under €5 and a pumping nightlife.

TikTokers are going wild about Albania too – follow @travelalbaniaa for itineraries. For a starting point, head to the capital Tirana, which constantly ranks among the cheapest of all European city breaks. Then there's the seaside town of Dhërmi, home to music festivals like Kala, Inner State and Explorations (think Croatia, but half the price), and the white sands of paradise spot, Ksamil. Roadtrip!

Wizz Air flies to Tirana





Play 50 sports at the same time in Belgium

OK, not literally at the same time, but from this spring you'll be able to play 50 sports in quick succession without leaving the same building.

The first Sparkx, Europe's biggest 'sportainment' centre, opening in Hasselt around an hour from Brussels airport, will unite dozens of disparate sports under one roof. Mostly using AR and VR equipment, visitors will be able to try everything from curling to basketball, F1 driving to clay pigeon shooting, and even the scary sounding 'free fall'.

The indoor theme park was founded on the vision of family fun for all ages and generations, and the equipment can be adjusted to let people with different abilities compete at the same level. If successful, the brand plans to expand around Belgium, France and the UK, so watch this space...

sparkx.com

Wizz Air flies to Brussels

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Watch a fire dragon in Kraków

Go hunting for some fiery beasts during your time in Poland. The city of Kraków has created a live-action game of sorts, placing six new statues of the city's symbol around town for visitors to find.

The new statues were commissioned to commemorate the 50th birthday of the original and much-loved dragon statue, which lurks at the bottom of Wawel Hill and actually breathes fire every five minutes. A new app has been launched in celebration too. 'Smok w Krakowie' (Dragon in Krakow) allows you to interact with an AR version of the mammoth creature.

Wizz Air flies to Kraków



Bake it till you make it in London

The *Great British Bake Off* might be in its 14th season this year but there's no sign that the UK's obsession with all things soggy bottomed is abating. Buy tickets now for a musical version of the show at London's Noël Coward Theatre (until 13 May), or pit your oven gloves against other keen bakers at the Big London Bake in two London venues. On your marks, get set, bake!

bakeoffthemusical.com; thebiglondonbake.com

Wizz Air flies to London



PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK, SCOTT MATHIESON

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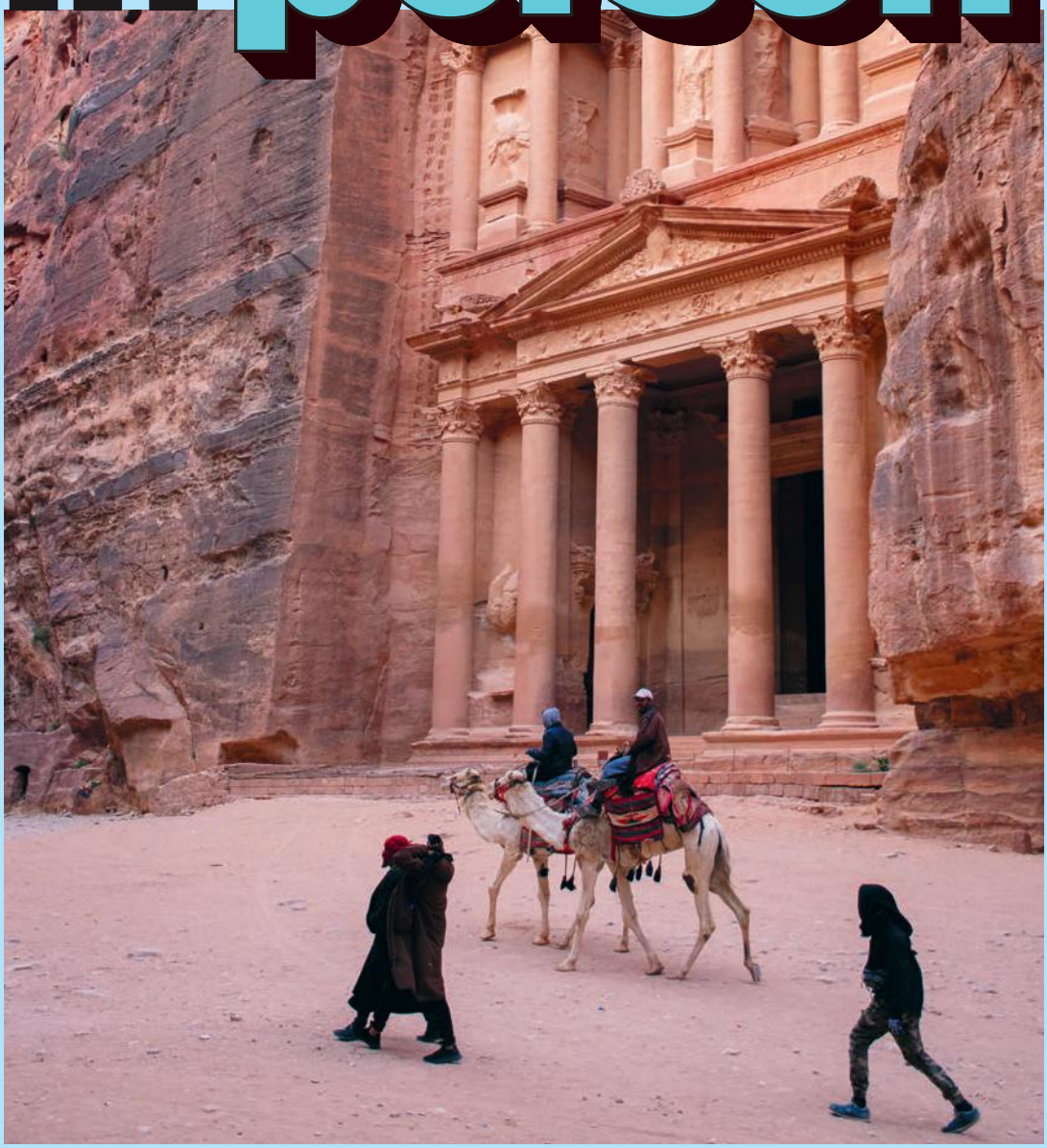
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in person



Canoe building in Estonia **p22**

Petra without the crowds in Jordan **p27**

A brand new watersport in Mallorca **p30**

Maze running in Denmark **p34**

“I find myself straddling a log while using an ancient curved-blade tool to hollow out a hull”

In Estonia's wilderness capital Soomaa, otherwise known as the ‘Land of the Bogs’, our writer tries her hand at traditional dugout canoe building

Words by Sarah Freeman

Illustrations by Jonathan Gibbs

As giant wood chips fly into the pine-scented air, I’m transported back to school craft, design and technology class, until the sweet sound of bird song and a babbling brook bring me back to reality.

I’m on a retired farmstead fringing Soomaa National Park, a protected wetland wilderness in south-western Estonia. This 390km² patchwork of alluvial forests, flooded meadows and ancient peat bogs is threaded by a tangle of waterways once plied by hundreds of dugout canoes.

“Boat building has always been connected to Soomaa,” axe-wielding agronomist-turned-wilderness tour guide Aivar Ruukel tells me while sizing up my boat-building skills.

Known as haabjas, Soomaa’s dugouts are named after the single aspen tree from which they are hewn. Aivar is one of only five haabja boat masters. With no archaeological remains and scant written records before the turn of the 19th century, their construction relies entirely on oral history – one that Aivar is hellbent on preserving.

The 55-year-old was behind the successful 2021 bid to inscribe haabja culture onto UNESCO’s Intangible Heritage list. “A hundred years ago, it was a boat that was really needed for living,” he says, explaining how haabjas were the main mode of transport for Soomaa’s inhabitants, ferrying families to church, children to school and conveying essential supplies like milk and grain. These canoes, along with their modern plastic counterparts, remain indispensable during the region’s fifth season (sandwiched between winter and spring), when natural floods of melted snow render Soomaa a surreal semi-drowned world.

Aivar’s revival of this ancient tradition – that’s believed to date back to the Bronze Age – inspired him to host haabja workshops from his family’s five-acre riverside home. Part hands-on class, part cultural immersion, the three-hour experience is capped with a peaceful paddle down the Navesti River. He normally has two or three canoes in the works in the summer. Apprentice boat builders may end up skinning a trunk with a giant vegetable peeler, smoothing down the hull with a hand plane, sealing the dugout’s exterior with hot pine sap, or a little bit of everything.

I quickly discover there’s no such thing as a 21st-century short cut to building a haabja. Most of the graft and craft happens in the great outdoors, where I find myself straddling a log while using an adze





(an ancient curved-blade tool) to hollow out a hull. The boat's exterior has already been sculpted into a cigar-like shape with the help of a chainsaw and axe. A brief downpour drives us into an old livestock barn, where canoes, not cattle, spend the winter drying out before spring's big reveal, when Aivar finds out whether they're river-worthy or not.

"The perfect log for the dugout canoe is a pencil, but that's not really a natural form in nature," he chortles as I crane my neck at a near-perfect specimen reaching for Soomaa's peerless blue skies, just metres from his workshop.

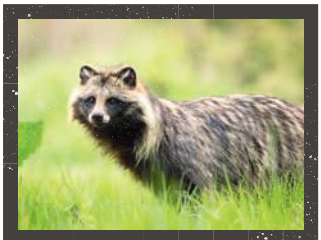
A 5-6m length of trunk, measuring half a metre in diameter, is typically taken from a half-century-old aspen, usually felled in January or February. Aivar's forefathers would have made the canoe in the very spot the tree was felled. Ancient lore dictated that the aspen was cut down in a waning moon and the haabja was hauled out of the forest by a mare.

Also steeped in superstition is the dugout's expansion, during which the phrase "the skin of a grey bull is stretching" was traditionally chanted, Aivar tells me. The most ritualistic part of the boat build involves lighting a bonfire along the length of the haabja to soften its warm water-filled hull. Naturally-bent fallen twigs are then wedged between the canoe's sides and left until the boat expands to double its original size.

"This is my 27th [dugout building] season," Aivar says while squatting alongside the aerial roots of a spruce tree from which the haabjas curving ribs take their form. Resting on the ribs are plank seats which promise boat builders a more comfortable ride along a 3km stretch of the Navesti River, painted chocolate brown by peat. Aivar's dugouts disgorge boat builders onto Navesti's tree-shaded bank, where a swampy pool – one of hundreds that have earned Soomaa its 'Land of the Bogs' moniker – beckons. The ground not yet turned to jelly, all hopes of strapping on a pair of bog shoes (racquet-shaped footwear) on today's forest gambol are dashed.

Back on terra firma, Aivar shows me his fleet of five dugouts, which bask like bloated fur seals on the riverbank. Running his hand along their alligator-like skin (resulting from layers of waterproofing tar), he tells me: "No one boat is the same." But therein lies their beauty. The future of this living tradition literally lies in the 50 or so pairs of hands that have hewn each haabja. **visitestonia.com/en/building-an-expanded-dugout-boat-at-saarisoo-farm**

Wizz Air flies to Tallinn



Birds and the beasts

Brown bears, lynx, wolves and raccoon dogs all stalk Soomaa's primeval forests. As for the national park's slender aspen trees, they're a hideout for large-eyed flying squirrels. Silently plying the Navesti River by motorless dugout is a prime opportunity to spot some of Soomaa's 185 bird species, which include lesser spotted eagles, woodpeckers and great snipe.

PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

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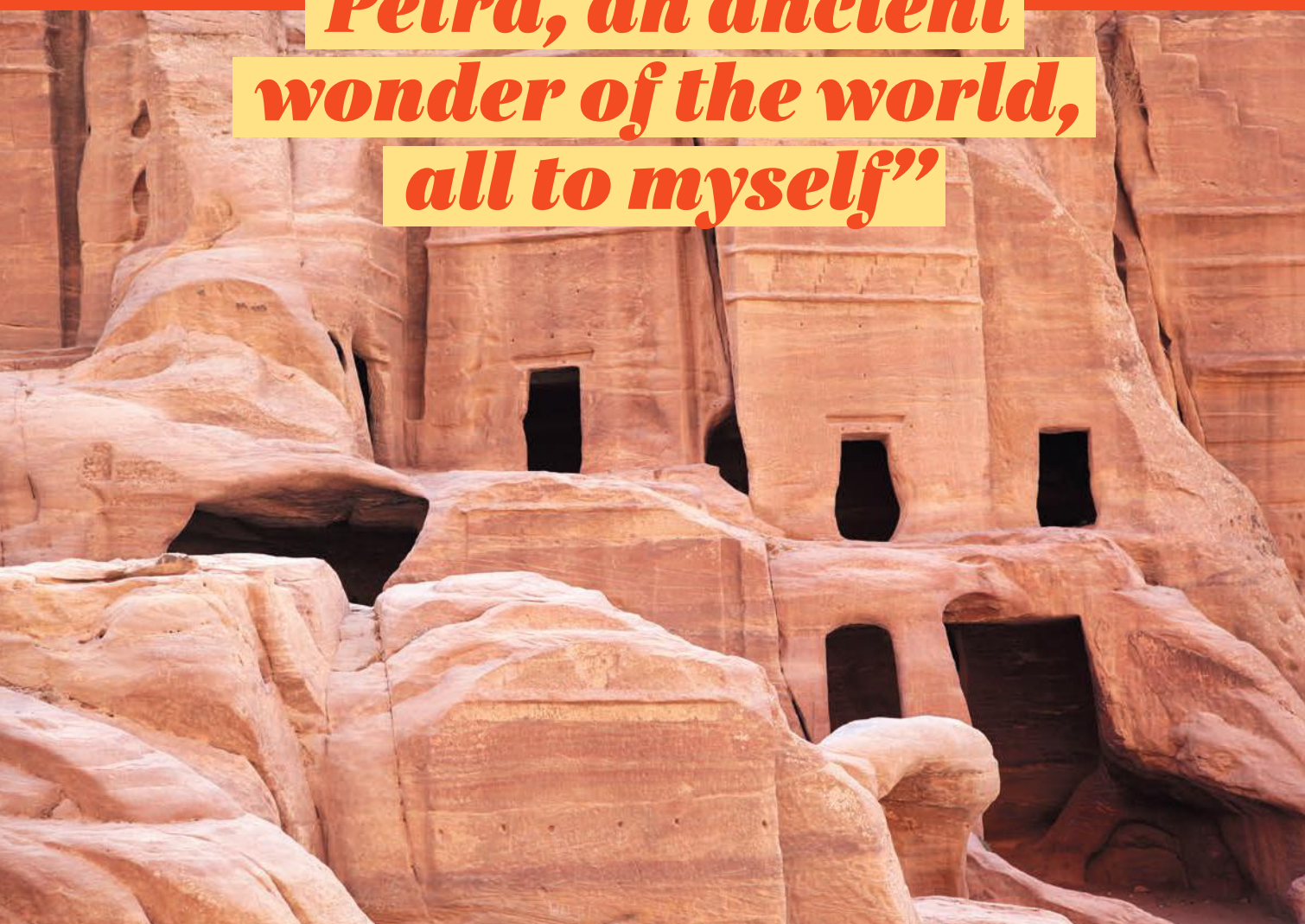
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"Reality sets in; I have Petra, an ancient wonder of the world, all to myself"



Why sleeping in a traditional Bedouin cave home is the best way to experience Petra, the ancient city of the Nabataeans

Words by Geena Truman



Gingerly, I inch across the crumbling wooden planks precariously perched over the dizzying pale pink-rock chasm. A troupe of calico goats jostles for space beside me, but with each step, I ascend the steep mountain trail to the skies above Petra. Peeking over my shoulder, I see the thin undulating line of visitors filing out of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. But my visit to Petra has just begun.

The sun rapidly sinking behind the behemoth rocks is beginning to cast long shadows in the rose-gold light of the now empty park. I choose my steps carefully on the dusty slopes of my descent. Here, I locate the soft sand trail sheltered by a handful of craggy red peaks to reach my traditional Bedouin cave, where I plan to spend the night inside the boundaries of Petra. Passing through a small gate, I enter the home of my host, Feras Alsamahin. He is a B'doul Bedouin and head of one of the 25 families residing in the 1,000-year-old traditional cave homes carved in these high desert hills. Easily recognised by their smoky kohl-rimmed eyes and scarf-wrapped hair, the Bedouin men often resemble desert pirates á la Captain Jack Sparrow. In attitude, as often as in physical appearance.

This nomadic tribe roamed the deserts of Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Egypt for centuries, long before the borders as we know them today were drawn in the sand. The B'doul tribe specifically, as Feras proudly claims shortly after greeting me at the imposing facade of the Treasury, are direct descendants of the Nabataeans – the very craftsmen of these intricate sandstone masterpieces that tourists flock to today. B'doul men offer tourist rides on lanky tan camels draped in red carpets or stout-but-sturdy grey donkeys (their transport method of choice); guided hikes up crumbling sandstone paths to infamous Instagram viewpoints, and now, overnight cave stays, giving visitors exclusive access to their culture and the archeological park.

My cave was booked through Coulture Trips (coulturetrips.com), whose owner, Natalie Snider, is now a semi-permanent cave resident herself. "Staying in the traditional home gives people a unique

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK, GEENA TRUMAN

perspective on the life of Bedouins and a view of Petra that is not commercialised," she explains. "You can go into Petra and see all the sights, but they are the same caves that a million other people walk through."

Sitting around a crackling fire near our cave, passing around a hookah filled with sweet apple-flavoured shisha alongside several Bedouins, I snuggle up beneath a thick blanket as the desert cools around us. Reality sets in; I have Petra, an ancient wonder of the world, all to myself. Beneath a spectacular quilt of stars, the quiet of the desert is like a vacuum, empty and dark, save for the flickering lights of numerous cave homes across the valley. The bottomless cup of hot sweet mint tea in my hand keeps me warm as I listen to Bedouin Mohammad explain why he'd never leave Petra for the nearby cities because, "here in the desert, I feel relaxed physically and mentally, free, and happy to celebrate a different life and culture". Bedouins have a saying, Mohammad continues: "Strong as the rock, soft like the sand, move as the wind, free forever." The cave lifestyle, where they live immersed in nature, is the place they belong.



Far left A quiet spot to take in the spectacular desert landscape **Below** Inside a Bedouin cave home **Bottom** Sweet mint tea is prepared on an open fire

I shuffle from the campfire to the kitchen area and sit on the floor. It's a single room meticulously hand-carved into the soft rose-hued rock, covered in vibrant woven tapestries and rugs. Instead of a bed piled with blankets, this room has a platter of fire-roasted chicken, vegetables and fresh-baked za'atar bread. Pot after pot of sweet mint tea is poured, and stories of desert misadventures are shared as we eat. Mohammad plays the oud, a snub-necked egg-shaped guitar-like instrument, and sings about life in Jordan. As midnight approaches, I slink into my warm bed.

Creaking open the metal cave door at dawn, while other tourists are stuck in a queue more than a mile from the Treasury, I set off on foot toward Petra's main attraction. I snap coveted photos of the intricately carved rockface, devoid of any onlookers. I savour my last sacred silent moments, soaking in the ancient history around me, before I hear the crunching footsteps of fellow tourists filtering into the narrow slickrock passage to the Treasury.

The serene calm of the desert turns to frenetic energy, and hundreds of photographers rush to get their crowd-free shots. I kneel in the sand and look at the park map. Feras has told me about a scenic ridge hike, a thigh-burning trek up the sand-strewn stairs of the Monastery to a "secret viewpoint" where I meet up with Mohammad for mint tea at sunset. I begin my journey on foot back to my home in the cave before saying my goodbyes. "Come as a guest, leave as a friend," Feras says.

Wizz Air flies to Aqaba



3 more Bedouin activities to try

Mule ride
Locals offer guided mule rides to the High Point of Sacrifice within Petra every day inside the archaeological park. Simply enquire for prices.

Camp
Swap a cave for canvas and further immerse yourself in the remote red desert of Wadi Rum.
bedouinlifestyle.com

Jeep tour
Take a day tour on a speeding 4x4 through the rolling dunes and flat alien landscape.
wadirumjeeptours.com

"When you experience your first 'flight' above the water, there's nothing like it"

Could eFoiling revolutionise the way we explore coastlines and lakes? Our writer tries this gravity-defying watersport off the coast of Mallorca

Words by Ben West

I'm crouching on this new-fangled motorised surfboard, struggling to maintain my balance. Invariably I plunge into the crystal clear blue sea in somewhat ungainly style – swallowing what seems to be half of Mallorca's quota of seawater in the process.

This isn't how I thought my first eFoiling lesson would go. I'd seen images and videos full of athletes weaving and flying over the waters as effortlessly as dolphins.

eFoils are the new big thing in watersports, and from a novice's point of view they look like glorified ironing boards with a propeller attached to them, but I'm told designs are changing frequently as this is such a new innovation. Roughly a cross between a jet ski and a surfboard, eFoils levitate over the sea using a device that could be straight out of a science fiction film – they might just be the ultimate water toy.

Short for 'electric hydrofoil surfboard', an eFoil is powered by a rechargeable lithium battery lasting around 90 minutes and uses Bluetooth technology, so the rider can operate the board with a handset. Foiling (rising above the water) occurs when the wing generates lift through water, as a plane wing does through air. Being able to cruise with this eco-vessel without the need for a boat or licence could revolutionise the way we explore coastlines and lakes – while having a lot of fun along the way.

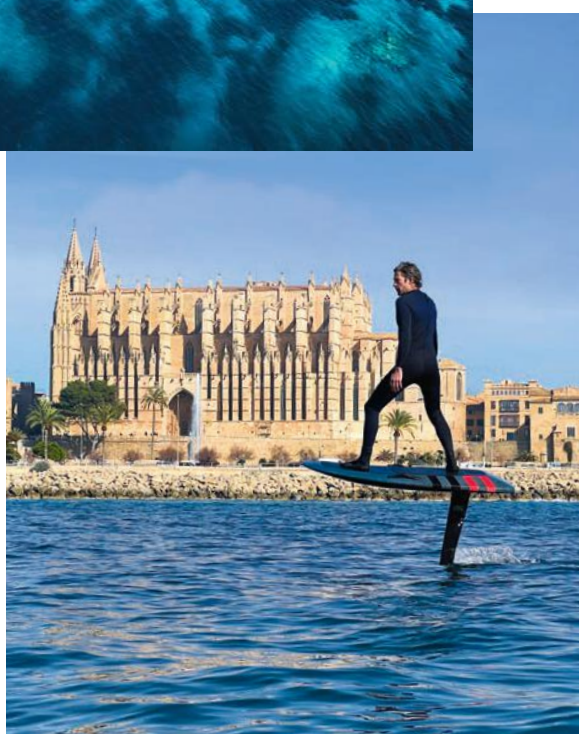
Although seasoned eFoilers make it look effortless, it's challenging for a beginner. Learning to eFoil typically takes one to two hours. For my lesson, I meet up with watersports fanatic Manuel Faust, owner of Mallorca watersports company Wave Lovers.

"Before Covid I bought my own eFoil, when they had only just emerged. Every time I used it people would stare and then ask where they could get one," says Manuel, who now sells the water toys globally and rents them to Mallorca travellers. We meet at Port Calanova, a tranquil little marina a 30-minute bus ride from Palma. "It's usually calm around here, ideal for eFoiling," says Manuel. "Mallorca has microclimates. Palma is windier, and better for kitesurfing."

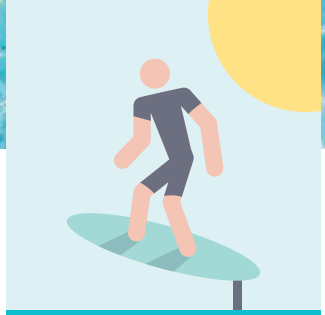
PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK







Clockwise from above
Our writer Ben tries eFoiling; the gorgeous bay of Illetas; Manuel of Wave Lovers shows how it's done



Three eFoiling tips

1 Keep your speed. If you suddenly stop you'll lose stability.

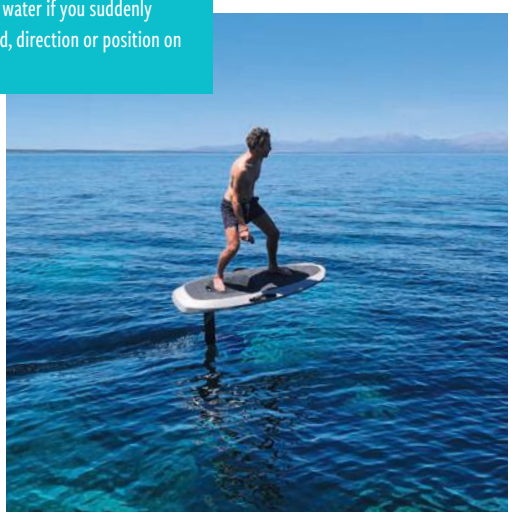
2 Use the speed limiter function. Riding at a constant speed means you don't need to keep adjusting how fast you go.

3 Make small movements. You're likely to fall in the water if you suddenly change speed, direction or position on the board.



A few minutes by boat and we're at a pretty little bay of Illetas, on Mallorca's southwestern coastline, with just a handful of boats and a few whitewashed villas on the gentle golden hills in the distance. The gorgeous white beaches tempt me to abandon the lesson and lounge about, something I'm an expert at. The sun is gloriously strong, the sky a deep blue, despite it being February. Seagulls circle overhead as Manuel starts to fly over the water making 'S' shapes on his eFoil, demonstrating the technique for me.

I pull myself from the water onto the board, and with my handset start the propeller going at a gentle 8km/h. I circle the boat a few times simply lying on the board, with Manuel bellowing encouragement. Even at this low centre of gravity I slide off the board a few times, as it tips up. My stability increases the more I ride it. I try kneeling on the board, but fail abysmally a number of times. I start feeling like I'm never going to progress. It's not helped by entering shallow waters and the propeller getting buried in sand, jolting me to an undignified stop.



As I'm about to tell Manuel to call the whole thing off, I manage to kneel and start weaving the eFoil from side to side. "I admire your persistence, and the fact you still have the energy," encourages Manuel after an hour. The key to success is getting into a zone where you learn to manage the tiniest adjustment of your weight on the board. Related skills like surfing and flexibility from yoga or Pilates help.

As I gain stability, the fin rises out of the water and I manage to stand up, albeit briefly. It's a triumph for someone like me with zero watersports experience. "It's difficult at first, but when you experience your first 'flight' above the water, there's nothing like it," says Mallorca local and eFoil enthusiast Sylvia Jessensky. "Cruising is super-exciting. And it's so quiet it doesn't scare off the wildlife. I've known one eFoiler who was followed by a dolphin."

My 90-minute session is a workout; every muscle aches. I am surprised, given that I was mostly lying prone pressing a trigger on my magical flying carpet. Among the adrenaline, I'd not registered all the muscle work from balancing, swimming back to the board and hauling myself back onto it. Forget a runner's high, I have an eFoiling high, and can't wait to try it again.

wave-lovers.com

Wizz Air flies to Palma de Mallorca

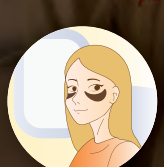
PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK, ILLUSTRATION: FREEPIK

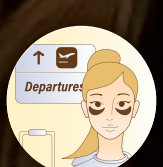
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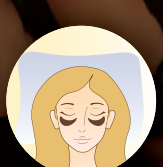

on the plane



at the airport


in the car


sport


sleep


housework

"This is not the manicured greenery of Hampton Court... it's utterly untamed rugged and wild"

Our writer goes maze running in Denmark, home to the largest tree labyrinth on Earth, which re-opens this April

Words by Sarah Rodrigues

Illustrations by Marcos Montiel





I look up through more than 50,000 towering evergreens and leafy beech trees as I enter Samsø Labyrinten, the Guinness-certified world's largest tree maze, located on the island of Samsø, an hour's ferry journey from Aarhus. The pale grey of a moody sky is just visible as manager Lone Appleby cheerfully hands me The International Challenge to complete: two pages of questions, each with two possible answers.

She instructs me to ignore any of the way markers I see to either side: only when I come to a T-junction and have a number directly in front of me must I look at the question on my sheet that corresponds to that number. If I choose the answer in the right-hand column, I turn right. If I choose that on the left, I turn left.

It's all going swimmingly for a while. From which city did The Beatles come – Leeds or Liverpool? Which famous artist lived in Malaga – Van Gogh or Picasso? How many squares are there on a chessboard – 64 or 72? With the trees absorbing all sound from beyond the maze, the rustle of insects and wildlife is amplified. When trees and leaves fall here, they aren't removed, becoming part of an ecosystem that actively fosters new life. Through the trees, I see glimpses of silhouettes – a wolf, a deer, a hare – all animals that are native to Denmark and have been crafted from iron to live in this forest, where 25 species of bird, including blackbirds, yellow sparrows, and pheasants, can also be found, with 15 of these using this 60,000m2 as a breeding ground.

Due to its central position, Samsø was an important meeting place during the Viking Age. Vikings loved a labyrinth, believing that navigating them correctly would bring good fortune and protection. Along my way, I encounter a stone circle marked with zodiac signs and a rather stern-looking wooden statue of Odin, complete with missing eye.

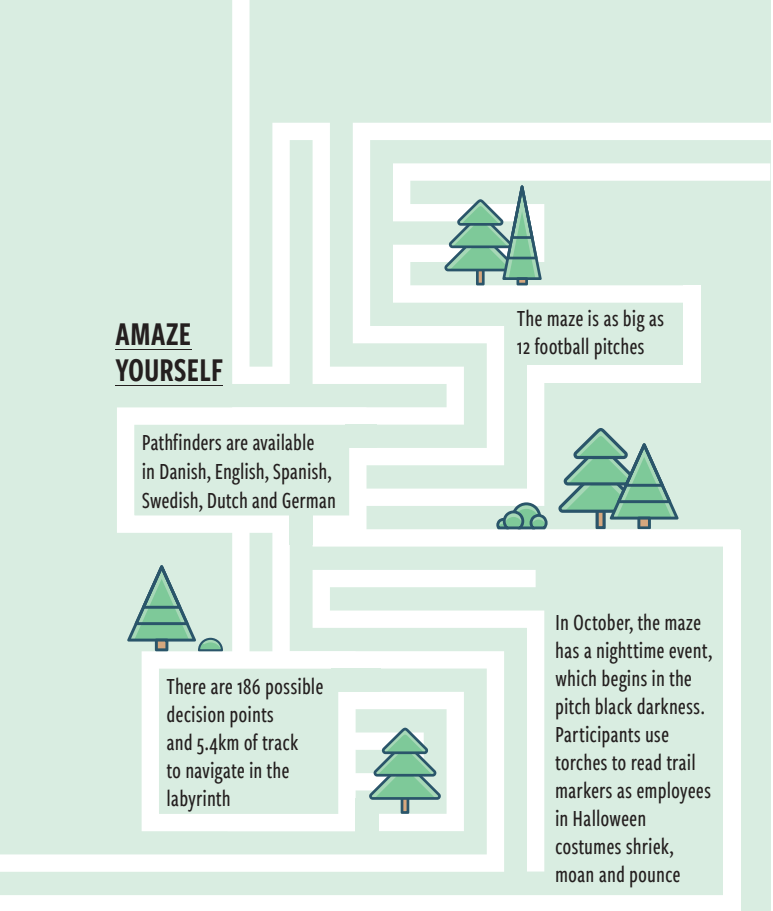
My goal, however, is The Place of Fairytales: a storytelling circle, presided over by a wooden sculpture of Hans Christian Andersen created in 2005 to mark the author's 200th birthday. By the entrance, I'd seen a similarly carved figure of a mermaid which, says Lone, has the most fondled breasts on the whole of the island. "She's not Disney, she's Danish, you know," she tells me proudly. I tell her I do know: the original story, with its dark ending, was a favourite of mine as a child and I've always been quite cross about Disney's schmaltzy take on it, much preferring the mermaid to dissolve, tragically, into seafoam.

Such misery is all very well when you're safely ensconced at home; it takes on a slightly different flavour when I hit way marker 66, look at my list and see that it holds no question with that number. This, or hitting a dead end, can only mean one thing: at some point, I've answered incorrectly and taken a wrong turn – and now I have no option but to retrace my steps and try to work out where I erred.

Adding to the slightly sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach is the fact that not only is the Labyrinth huge it's also completely unlike any maze I've ever tackled before. This is not the manicured greenery of Hampton Court, nor the smooth concrete of the Voz do Mar at Sagres Fortress in Portugal's Algarve: it's utterly untamed, rugged and wild. Established in 2000, Samsø

"Vikings loved a labyrinth, believing that navigating them correctly would bring good fortune and protection"





Labyrinten is completely carbon-neutral, the sheer density of the forest sucking up more CO2 than the humble snack shack at the entrance can possibly emit – something that fits perfectly with Samsø's proud claim to be the world's first sustainable island.

It's visited by up to 800 maze runners per day in high season but, as Lone points out (when I eventually find my way back), there are so many different pathfinder themes – for all ages, abilities and interests – from which to choose that it's perfectly possible to encounter hardly anyone else on your travels. Even locals make multiple visits, she says, since they can choose a different theme and path each time.

Back in Aarhus, I'm having a beer while I wait for my bus to the airport. Chatting with the bartender, I tell her I've just returned from Samsø.

"Did you do the Labyrinth?" she asks excitedly. "It seemed so huge when I was a kid; I bet that if I visited now it would seem tiny." I smile inwardly. "I don't think it would," I reply. **samsolabyrinten.com**

Wizz Air flies to Aarhus

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in depth



Driving classic cars in Cyprus **p40**

A taste odyssey in Georgia **p54**

The Highland Games in Scotland **p68**

Coast-to-coast walking in Italy **p76**





Cyprus Road Tripping

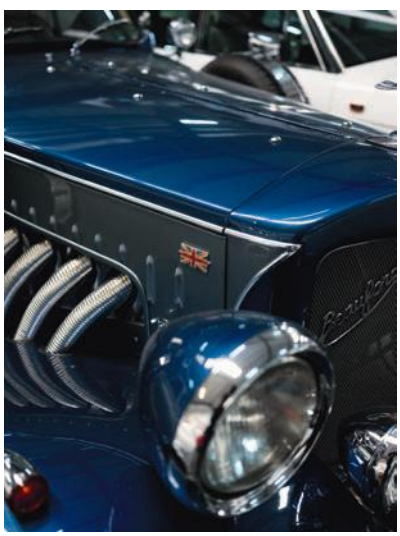
Why the Mediterranean island is a classic car-driving paradise, and the top routes to explore

Words by Jade Bremner
Photography by Ben Read





Clockwise from left
Extensive classic car collection at the Cyprus Motor Museum; Dimis on the first automobile ever made, the 1886 Karl Benz motorwagen; photos of Dimis' successful rally driving career



Our hot pink convertible Cadillac's engine hums along the meandering roads of Cyprus' sun-drenched central mountains, past lush almond and carob tree-scattered hillsides and dainty historic villages. There's no better way to explore Cyprus, says our driver Christopher Sofroniou. "You are not rushing in a classic car, you can enjoy the scenery and the whole road trip experience more." Christopher has been driving these roads in vintage vehicles for 20 years. "This is not work," he tells me, "it's freedom". Remarkably, this Mediterranean island has been a hub for car aficionados for almost a century.

The British brought iconic vehicles to Cyprus after it became a colony in 1925, and it turns out they were on to something. "This is a great place to own a classic car," says Christopher, "the sun is always shining, meaning vehicles stay preserved." The local passion for vintage cars remained after Cyprus gained independence in 1960, and a solid classic vehicle community has evolved, thanks to the relatively short driving distances (Cyprus is only 240km from east to west), good-quality roads and diverse landscapes. Dozens of car events take place annually from April onwards, including the Cyprus Historic and Classic Vehicles Club's 10th International Classic Challenge (on 7 May), and Paphos Classic Vehicle Club's show (on 21 May in Kennedy Square), plus the famous Cyprus Rally, taking place every Autumn on the snaking Troodos Mountains.

There are around 1,500 vintage car owners on the island, estimates Dimis Mavropoulos, Cyprus' most successful rally star, when we meet him on the south coast. Dimis went from being a tractor driver to smashing rally records and building a collection of more than 300 vintage cars. Visitors can view his truly remarkable lifelong collection at the Cyprus Motor Museum in Limassol, which is set to grow in size this year with a new facility, housing up to 1,500 vehicles. "I have so many more vehicles arriving," says the aficionado, who bids on cars in auctions around the globe and ships them to Cyprus.

Dimis has been car-obsessed since he can remember. "I used to clean the cars owned by the people visiting my father," he says. While his


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dad assumed he was being entrepreneurial, he had other ideas. “My idea was to drive around the neighbourhood with the cars,” he admits.

At eight years old, Dimis took his dad’s car and was followed by police. Instead of pulling over, he sped up, and a chase ensued. The police eventually caught up with him and he was taken to the station. “They called my father, but he told the police to keep me,” remembers Dimis. “I was in jail for four whole days. My mum secretly delivered Spam to me every day, so I had something to eat. I was a rebel when I was young,” smiles Dimis. “I still am.”

His remarkable hand-picked car collection, open to the public daily, reflects his personality. It includes the first automobile ever made – the mighty open-air 1886 Karl Benz motorwagen, created in Germany with a top speed of 16km/h.

Built at a time when horses were the common mode of transport, it was as radical as a flying car in today’s terms. Karl’s wife Bertha made a pioneering 106km journey from Mannheim to Pforzheim, without her husband’s permission, to prove that automobiles should be taken seriously as a mode of transport. Dimis’ collection also includes the last ever Mini to be made (before BMW acquired the marque) and the original *Titanic* car – a 1912 Renault Type CB Town Car, where Jack and Rose had a steamy love scene in the Oscar-winning movie.

Dimis also has a small political fleet, including Margaret Thatcher’s Rover P5B, as well as the heavily armoured Cadillac Fleetwood, gifted by the American government to Archbishop Makarios III, the first leader of Cyprus. The museum owner insists he isn’t interested in flashy modern cars like Ferraris; instead, each of his cars is “unique” or has a “history or a story to tell”. Dimis points to a small smart-style car. “They only made 150 of these,” he says of the peculiar Aston Martin – this 2009 Cygnet model is the newest car in his collection. It was marketed as the most luxurious urban commuter vehicle, before being discontinued after only two years of production.

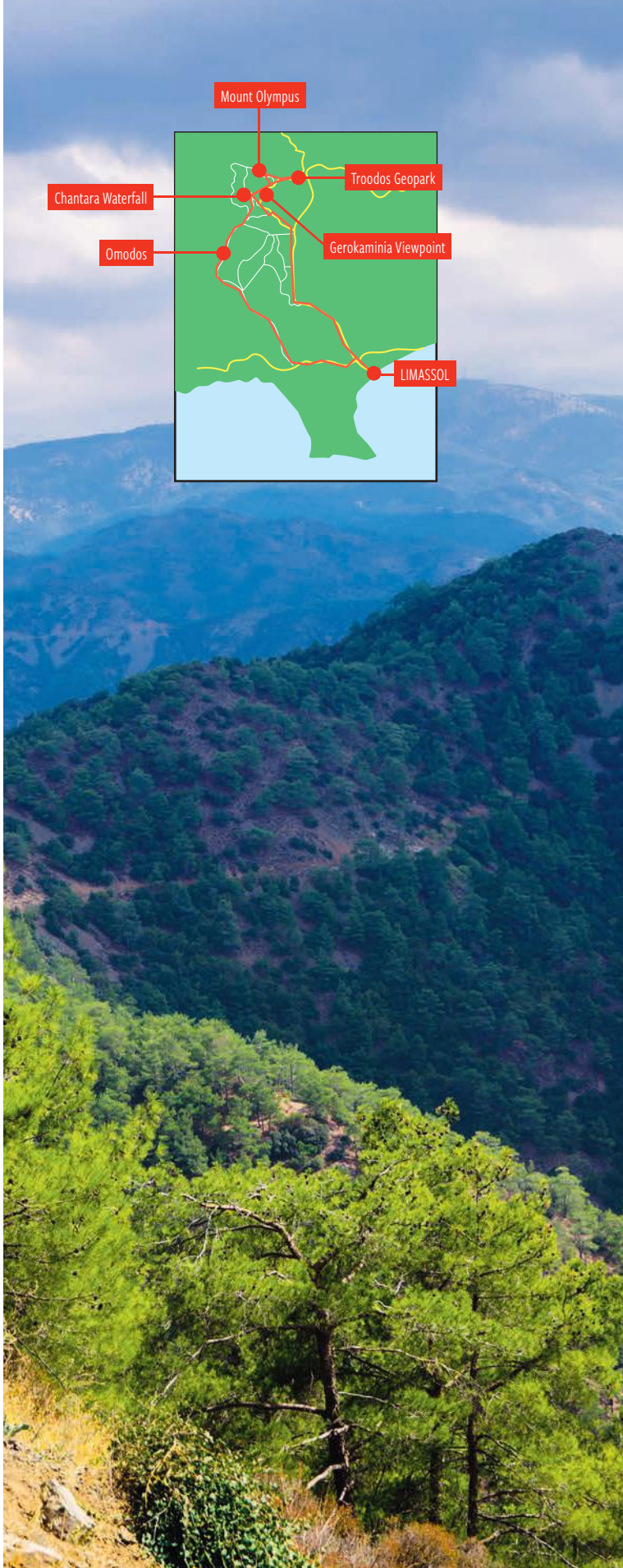
The Cyprus Motor Museum also holds a crowd-pleasing red double-decker London bus (the last thing visitors expect to see, and one of the more expensive vehicles to ship to the island) and a perfectly preserved Bedford Bus, used in Cyprus in the 1960 and 70s, when the roads were freshly paved. The first rows in the nostalgic vehicle were reserved for first-class passengers and women, while the back rows were for men. This and many more of Dimis’ cars can be rented with a chauffeur for a few hours’ drive or a multi-day road trip. But where to drive them? Read on for four of our favourite road trips around Cyprus...


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THE MOUNTAIN ROUTE

LENGTH: 100km
TIME NEEDED: 8 hours *(with plenty of time to explore)*

From Limassol, follow the A1 coastal road to the B8 mountain road, past soaring valleys and boulder-strewn landscapes and up twisting switchbacks before reaching **Mount Olympus** – the highest point in Cyprus, rising 2,917m. Its four main ski slopes are open between January and April, with six routes (ideal for beginners and intermediates) and some of the cheapest skiing in Europe – you can ride the lifts for just €15 in mid-week (cyprusski.com). To the east (8km from Mount Olympus on the B9) is a geologist's dreamscape – in the **Troodos Geopark** are pieces of oceanic plate that have been thrust up above sea level (some 90 million years ago these fragments sat at 8,000m below sea level). The Geopark is considered one of the most important mountain plant habitats in Europe – visit the **Botanical Gardens** to see the rare species growing here. Drive southwest down the mountain to the **Gerokaminia Viewpoint**, where drivers can pause for striking vistas over the evergreen valley of **Kryos Potamos** with a carpet of black pine trees. Only 10km from Mount Olympus (along the E804) is the **Chantara Waterfall** trailhead, where a 4.5km hike leads to the 8m-high cascade – it's at its fastest flow in spring and warmest for a paddle in the summer months. Return via the picturesque mountain village of **Omodos** (off the E601) with cobbled streets and an abundance of cafés in the shadow of the Troodos Mountains. Here **Timios Stavros Monastery** contains an original piece of the rope that the Romans tied Christ to the cross with, believed to be the only piece ever saved. Stop for a bite of gourmet food at the **Stou Kir-Yianni Taverna**, serving a 16-dish meze and Cyprus classics including herby lamb leg, with meat that falls off the bone. Chase it with a wine tour and tasting experience at the award-winning **Ktima Gerolemo Vini bar-Cafe**, which grows the extremely rare Cypriot grape variety Spourtiko, with white pepper, peach and smoky tones. Before you leave, pick up mandoles at **George's Bakery & Cafe**. These sweet nuts, prepared with local carob syrup, are the ultimate road trip snack.



CAR OF CHOICE



The **Jaguar E-Type** for winding up the verdant hillsides and through stone villages. Be aware that certain roads may be covered with snow in the winter – check the conditions before you set off (cyprusski.com/piste-road-conditions).

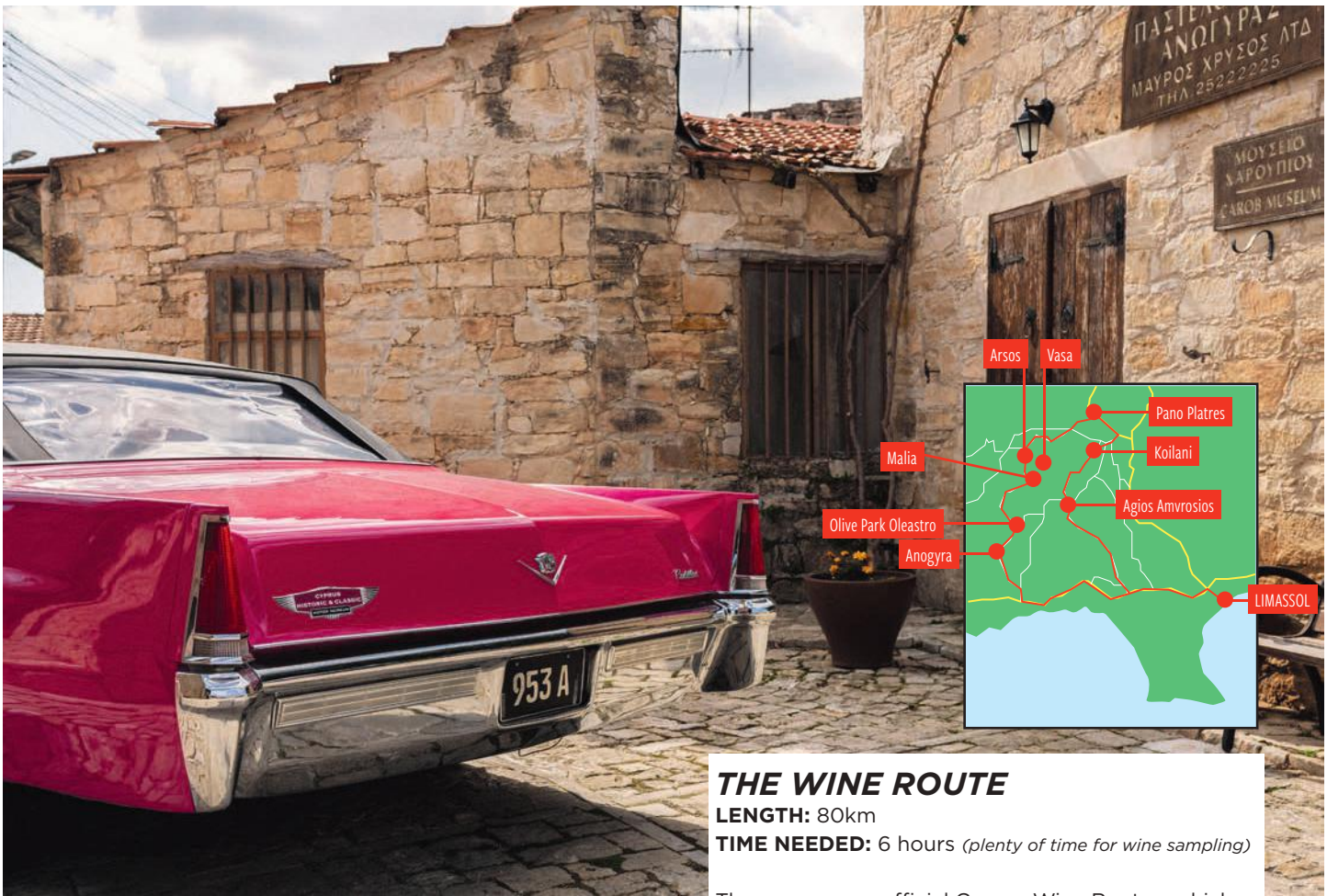


CONSTANTINOU BROS
ASIMINA SUITES HOTEL
PAFOS CYPRUS

CONSTANTINOU BROS
ATHENA BEACH HOTEL
PAFOS CYPRUS

CONSTANTINOU BROS
ATHENA ROYAL BEACH HOTEL
PAFOS CYPRUS

CONSTANTINOU BROS
PIONEER BEACH HOTEL
PAFOS CYPRUS



THE WINE ROUTE

LENGTH: 80km
TIME NEEDED: 6 hours *(plenty of time for wine sampling)*

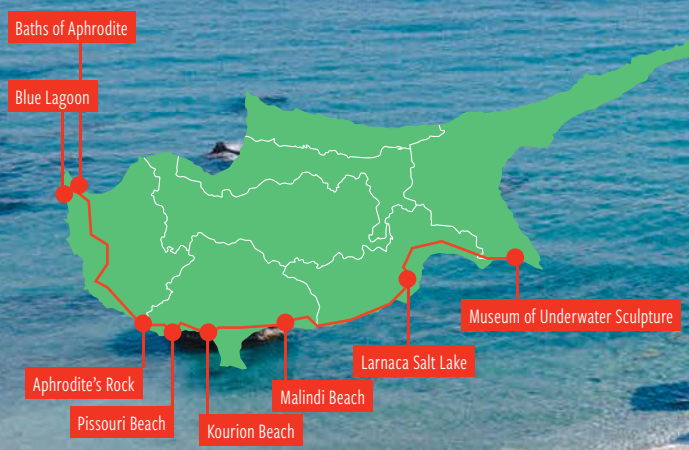
There are seven official Cyprus Wine Routes, which take in the main viticultural regions (with Controlled Appellation of Origin status). Our favourite traverses the south side of the Troodos mountain range. Route 4 is a countryside ramble through quaint Lemesos wine villages, which grow the indigenous Mavro and Xynisteri grape varieties – the former a smooth and well-balanced red with smoky undertones and earthiness, and the latter a dry white wine with tropical fruits and herby notes. Starting in Limassol, the route goes east along the coastal road (A6) with expansive sea views, before hitting winding roads (the F608, F614, E601) and passing 11 wineries going clockwise to the little town of **Anogyra**, up to **Malia**, **Arsos**, **Vasa**, **Pano Platres**, **Koilani** and on to **Agios Amvrosios**, before snaking back down to the coastal road. Along with plenty of tasting rooms, packed full of tipples to try (you will never be so grateful for your chauffeur!), there are lots of attractions to stop at, including olive oil tasting at **Olive Park Oleastro**, where you can learn the process of organic oil making in this region throughout history.

CAR OF CHOICE



Get a bright red or pink **Cadillac De Ville**, which will really pop against the surrounding stone villages and green pastures.

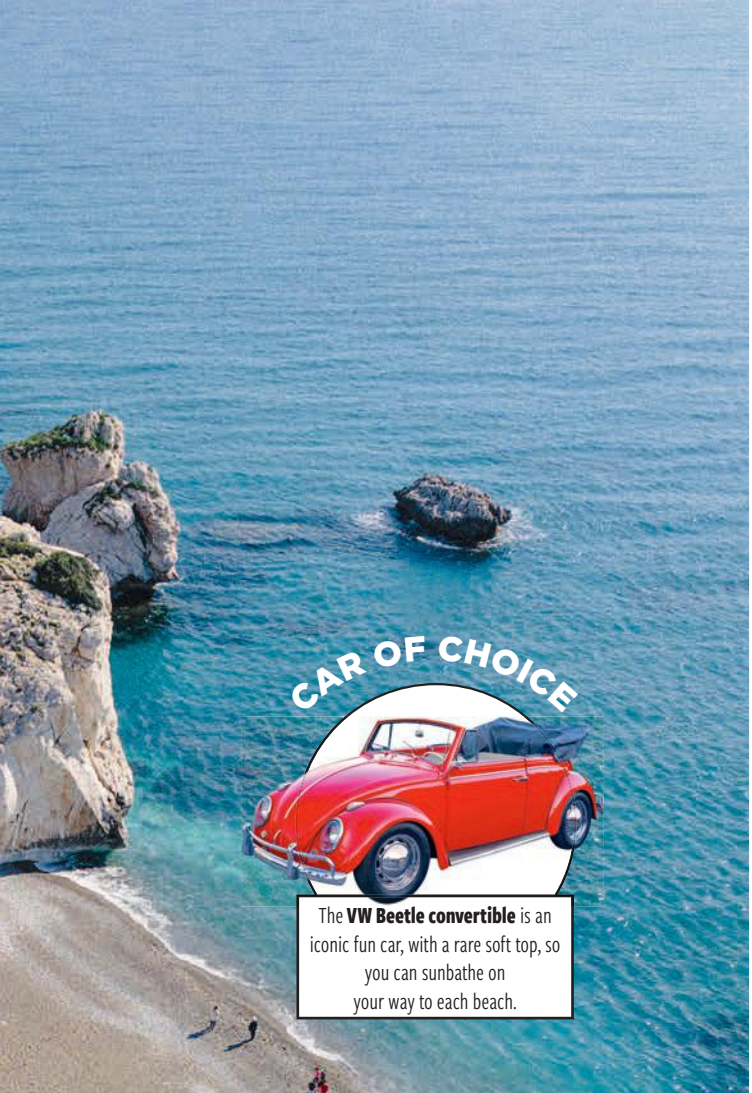




THE COASTAL ROUTE

LENGTH: 221km
TIME NEEDED: 8 hours *(with time on the beach)*

Start in Cyprus' party town of Ayia Napa – come not for the clubbing scene, but for its underwater forest, where more than 90 sculptures were created by artist Jason deCaires Taylor. The **Museum of Underwater Sculpture** sits 10m below the surface with underwater 'trees' acting as an artificial reef to promote marine life. Divers can tour the extraordinary submerged museum with Pissouri Bay Divers (pissouribaydivers.com/musan). Next drive 40km east along the A3 coastal road, with vast views of the Mediterranean sea, to **Larnaca Salt Lake** where pink flamingos graze and feed on small shrimp in their thousands between autumn and spring. Visit this important waterfowl habitat quietly, as the birds are skittish (keep your distance by bringing binoculars). Continue on the quiet coastal E405 route for flat pastures and soaring ocean views, where there are dozens of beaches to explore. Stop at the beautiful chalky white cliffs of **Governor's Beach** or stop for a dip at the Blue Flag waters of the marina-adjacent **Malindi Beach.** The ancient **Kourion Beach** (30km from Malindi), is an important archaeological site sitting below the Greco-Roman amphitheatre on the hillside. The most legendary beach in Cyprus is home to **Aphrodite's Rock** (36km west of Kourion Beach).



CAR OF CHOICE

The **VW Beetle convertible** is an iconic fun car, with a rare soft top, so you can sunbathe on your way to each beach.

These distinctive sea stacks surrounded by clear blue waters were the birthplace of the Goddess of Love, according to Greek mythology.

Visitors can walk right onto them or swim around the formations to appreciate their magnitude. An elevated nature trail (accessible from the parking lot) offers a different perspective of the sight and coastline as it snakes west through native vegetation and shrub habitats. Fill up at the nearby hidden seafood restaurant **Marios** positioned high up on the hill, for dining with endless sea views.

The beaches arguably get better the further west you drive along the smooth, curving tarmac along the B6 and A6. Watersports fans should make a beeline for **Pissouri Bay,** where Xenios Water Sports (xenios-water-sports.weebly.com) offers jet skiing, banana rides and kayaking excursions. Finish your drive at the **Blue Lagoon** on Cyprus's westernmost tip, for waters so clear they could be in the Caribbean. Then take a dip at the **Baths of Aphrodite**, where the goddess supposedly used to bathe in a natural grotto.



Radisson BLU SOPOT

NEW PLACE

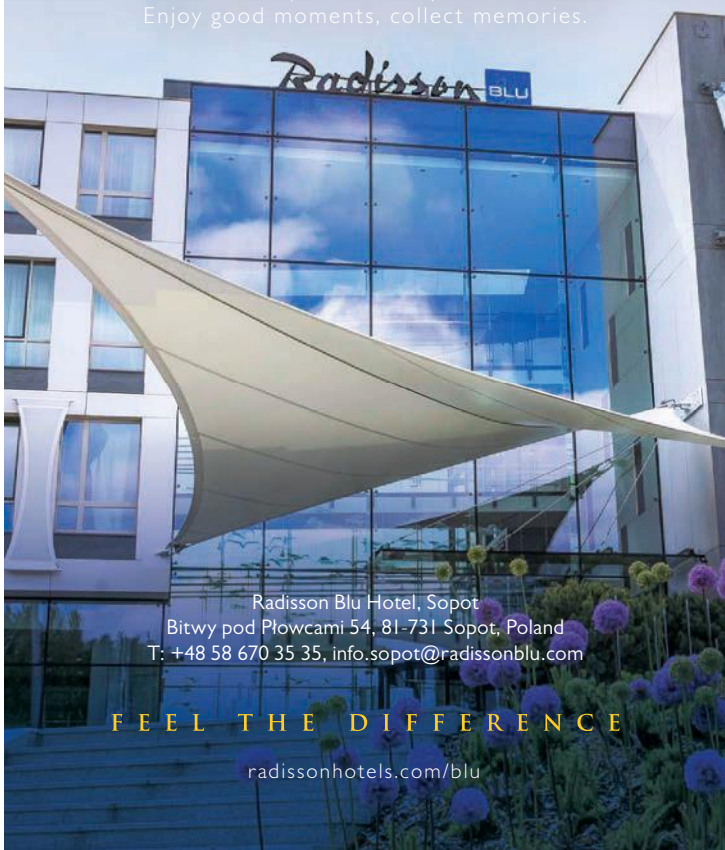
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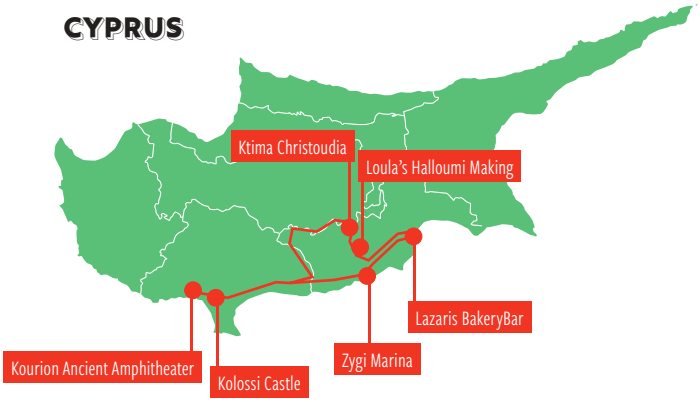
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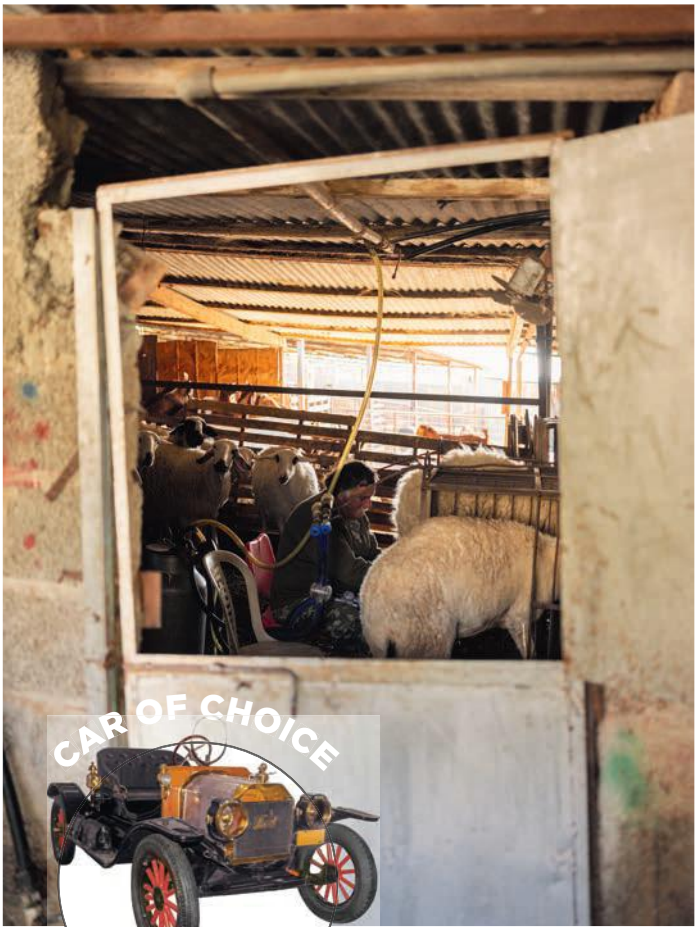


THE CULTURAL FOODIE TOUR

LENGTH: 160km
TIME NEEDED: 6 hours

Grab breakfast in the hip version of a classic Cyprus 'kafenio' at **Lazaris BakeryBar** near Saint Lazarus Church in Larnaca, serving hearty hot breakfasts using local produce. **Loula's Farm** (35km along the A5) is the place to see traditional halloumi making in action; pre-arranged tours (with Cyprus Taste Tours, cyprustastetours.com) will take you around the farm, into the farmhouse and explain the process of making the cheese, before you try perfectly white slabs of it straight from the source. Wash it down nearby at the hillside winery **Ktima Christoudia** with gorgeous views and very drinkable sweet wines. This is also the place to try soutzoukos, a traditional homemade Cypriot sweet made with boiled grape juice and local honey. Head 14km west of Limassol for a cultural fix at **Kolossi Castle**, a medieval fort that protected the island from attack, built at the beginning of the 13th century. Visitors can walk the stone ruins and over a drawbridge into the three-storey tower, with windows offering magnificent sea views. An original 15th-century fresco remains in one of the vaulted rooms. Only 6km away are the ruins of the bygone city of **Kourion** founded by the Argives – the ancient residents of Argos – in 11th century BCE, and likely abandoned after Alexander the Great occupied the island. The grand renovated amphitheatre is a sight to behold, and a tranquil place to sit and take in the views of the valley and sea in the distance. Atmospheric concerts for up to 2,000 spectators are also sporadically held in this dramatic setting, clasped by rolling green hills. If the smells of the sea are beckoning, head to **Captain's Table**, a fantastic fish taverna in **Zygi Marina**, just off the road back to Larnaca. Watch fishing boats haul in their catch of the day from the terrace, while tucking into fresh Cyprus-style seafood including lobster and oysters.

Wizz Air flies to Larnaca



CAR OF CHOICE

For a touch of vintage class, get the **Ford Model T**, a truly once-in-a-lifetime historic car introduced to the world in 1908.



All the vintage cars mentioned and more can be rented for private hire. Rentals start from €420 for four hours including a driver. Book via **cyprusmotormuseum.com.cy**







Welcome to Pafos – 2023 EU Capital of Smart Tourism

Why now is the time to visit this culturally rich, creative and off-the-beaten-path destination in southwest Cyprus

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Pafos is investing in the main pillars of SMART tourism – sustainability, digitalisation, accessibility, cultural heritage and creativity.

The coastal city in southwest Cyprus is utilising its new European Capital of Smart Tourism status to enhance its services in the industry.

In the last two years, the city has invested more than 25 million euros in smart infrastructure projects, and the Pafos Tourism Board has invested heavily in smart apps, digital content, smart signs, creative tourism, accessibility, and more. "The European Union's smart tourism initiative seeks to promote and strengthen relationships among European cities, while facilitating the exchange of best practices," says executive manager of Pafos Regional Board of Tourism, Nasos Hadjigeorgiou. "Furthermore, the title is expected to elevate the image of Pafos globally and provide the city with funding opportunities. Currently, a specific action plan is being implemented for a better, smarter Pafos.

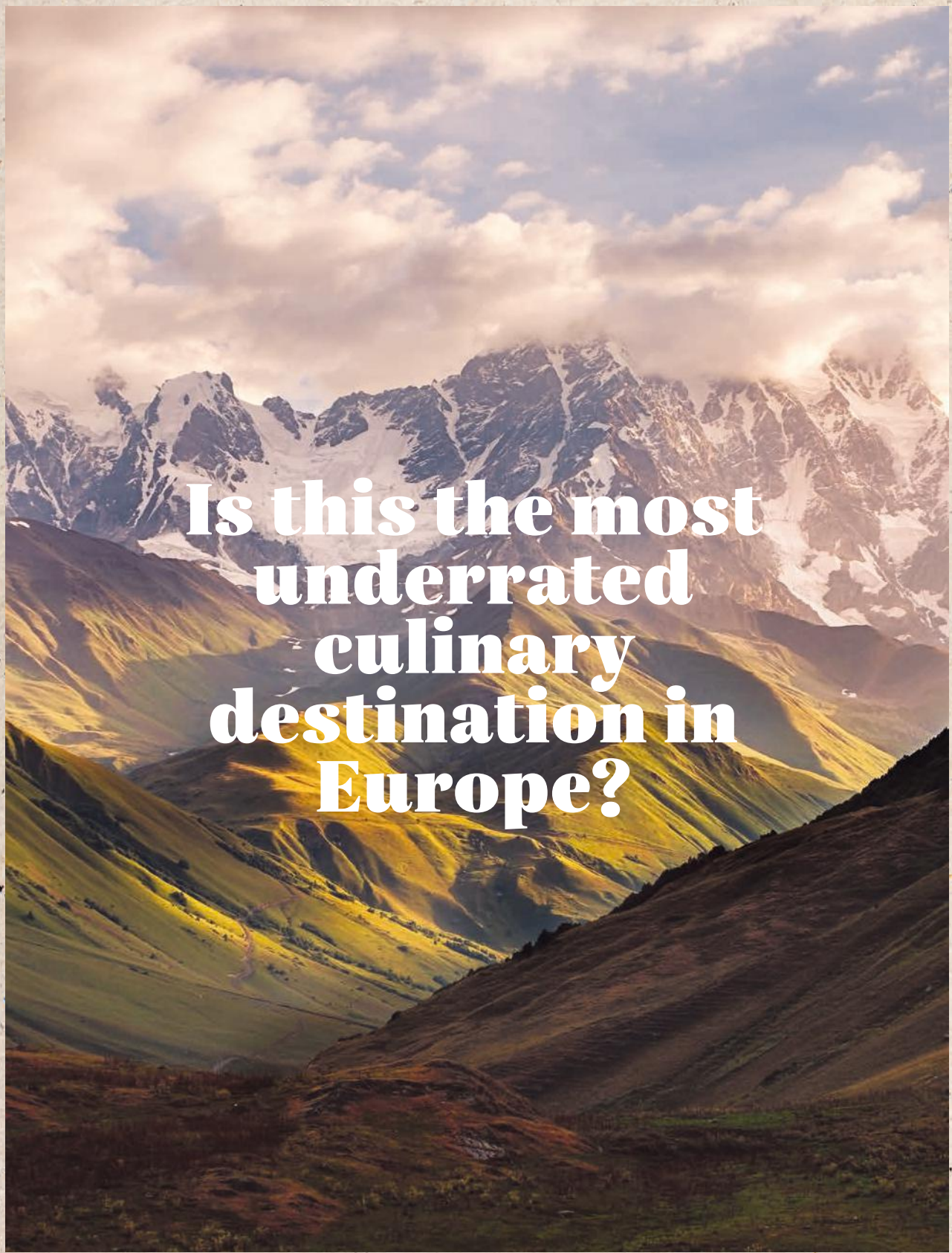
Pafos aims to become an even better holiday destination where visitors can enjoy a wide range of experiences, contributing to sustainable tourism development and safeguarding the region's natural environment and cultural heritage."

Creative tourism is also an important part of this goal, as it allows visitors to develop their creative holidays through active participation and learning experiences that are unique to Pafos.

Pafos is proud to be the EU Capital of Smart Tourism 2023 – come and share its experiences and culture this season. **visitpafos.org.cy**

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF SMART TOURISM

PAFOS 2023



Is this the most underrated culinary destination in Europe?



It's the place that the Michelin guide forgot, and one that many seasoned epicureans overlook, but Georgia is ripe for a taste discovery

Words and images by Emily Lush



Mountains of blue fenugreek, great wheels of ivory cheese, wreaths of dried marigold flowers and chains of parched persimmons – walking around a bazari in Georgia is a dizzying experience. The local market is a microcosm of food culture and as we hop between cities and towns, we discover that each one recites a slightly different symphony of colours and flavours.

Blessed with a dozen climatic zones, this is a country where kiwis, potatoes, tea and more than 500 indigenous varieties of grape coalesce. Travelling from high peaks to arid semi-deserts and the subtropical coast – sometimes all within the space of a single day – we learn that history and topography have hardened the invisible lines between some of Georgia's regions, allowing distinct food traditions to persist.

Georgian is a cuisine that Anthony Bourdain enticingly dubbed: "hauntingly familiar, yet utterly new and delicious". Still, this tiny nation in the South Caucasus remains something of a lost foodie paradise – a place the Michelin guide forgot, and that many seasoned epicureans overlook. Sitting at the spot where two continents collide, it's little wonder Georgia has forged one of Europe's most intriguing food scenes. In centuries past, this was a rendezvous for benevolent Silk Road traders and a target for hostile invaders, both of whom imparted influences from all four corners. Fiercely independent Sakartvelo (as the locals call their country) always puts its own spin on things, embracing, tweaking and often enhancing the various recipes and cooking techniques left on its doorstep.

Home of the supra, a gregarious feast where plates are stacked on the table three layers deep, and an 8,000-year-old heritage of making wine in clay vessels called qvevri, food and drink is part of the social fabric. Whether we're sitting in a fine dining restaurant or a private home, meals are always eaten family-style, accompanied by wine, chacha (an electrifying spirit distilled from grape pomace) and a copious number of impassioned toasts to guests.

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Kutaisi, Imereti

Best for fans of home cooking

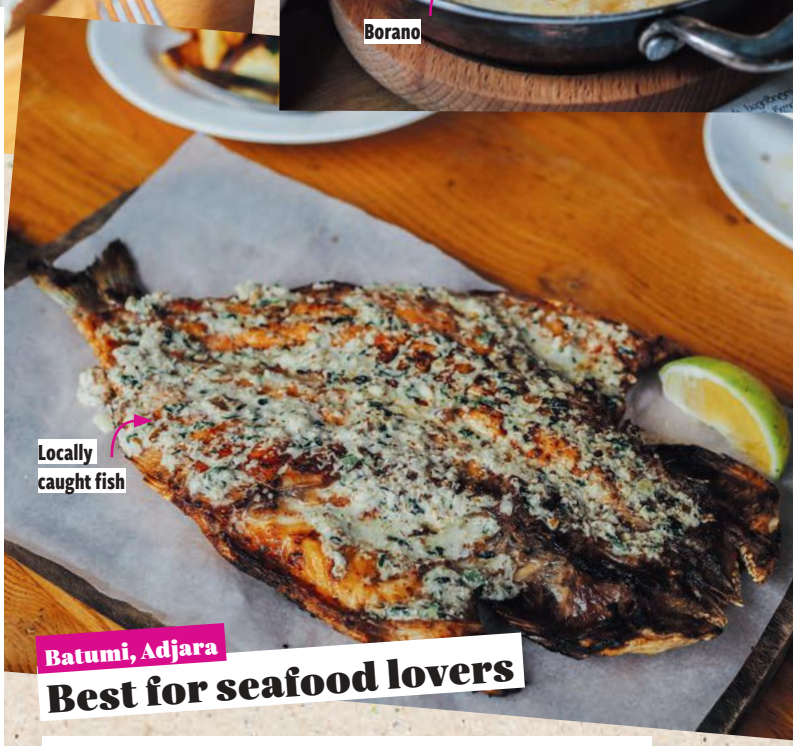
Kutaisi, Georgia's second city, is a perfect entrée to national cuisine. While every other region has an international border or touches the sea, Imereti is land-locked and somewhat insulated. Locals assure us this is the place for an unadulterated, authentic taste of Georgia.

Imeretian fare is humble and versatile, abundant in leafy vegetables and herbs. The name of Kutaisi's main market, the Green Bazaar, says it all. "Most dishes are built on locally available ingredients such as amaranth, wild cabbage, smilax, blackthorn and leek," Lile Maglapheridze explains as we sit down to a plate of pkhali at her restaurant, Lilestan. Native to Imereti, this vegan appetiser is sometimes described as 'Georgian pâté'. The colourful medley of spreads is prepared by blending spinach, beetroot and seasonal vegetables with finely crushed walnuts.

"We have a special tradition of cooking directly in the fire using ketsi, a shallow clay pan," Lile adds as we dive into an earthenware dish of cheesy mushrooms. This technique is also used for mchadi cornbread and Imeruli khachapuri, a soft and round 'cheese bread' that has infiltrated every last restaurant and bakery across Georgia thanks to its perfect simplicity.

Kutaisi cooks are known for combining poultry and fruit – village chicken in blackberry sauce and kuchmachi, chicken liver and heart that is fried with pomegranate.

Sit-down restaurants rule in this tight-knit city, and even young people prefer them over bars. "Conversation with a meal is part of Imeretian culture. We don't go out to drink – we go out to eat and drink," Giga Paghava, a 20-something-year-old Kutaisian, tells us. Many of the venues we come across recreate the experience of eating at home: Sisters is adorned with antiques from the siblings' ancestral village, and upon arriving at Toma's Wine Cellar we are escorted to the family's basement, transformed into an intimate dining room.



Batumi, Adjara

Best for seafood lovers

Our next stop is the semi-autonomous Adjara region, where the Lesser Caucasus tumble into the Black Sea. In Batumi, the biggest city on the coast, it is unsurprisingly all about the seafood.

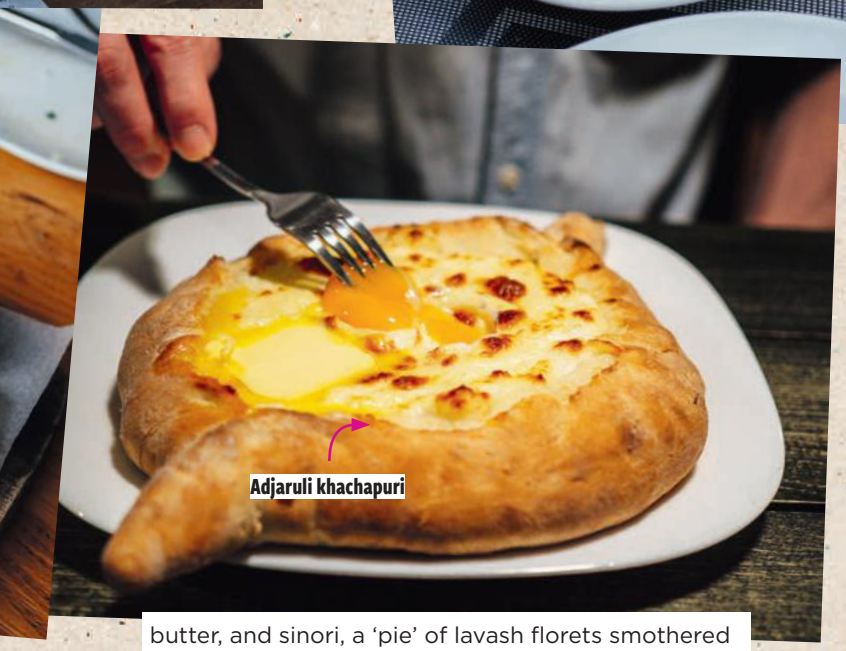
When he's not hiking in the Adjarian mountains, Pin Georgia founder George Megrelidze hosts food tours of Batumi. He takes us on a pilgrimage to the fish market, where we shop for fresh-caught dorado, sturgeon and red mullet, then hand it off to a small restaurant out the back to salt and grill on the spot. A hit of lemon, and it's ready to eat. "All this happens on the piers, with the sea breeze on your face," George reminisces of the summertime ritual.

The pastoral highlands above Batumi, meanwhile, yield rich delicacies. There's borano, a fondue-like dish made by drenching soft cheese in molten





Elarji



Adjaruli khachapuri

butter, and sinori, a 'pie' of lavash florets smothered in nadugi, Georgia's answer to ricotta. Back in town, we find both on the docket at BatuMarani.

Restaurants Retro, Laguna and Linville – which all vie for the title of Batumi's best Adjaruli khachapuri – remind us that the most iconic of Georgia's 50-odd renditions of its national dish hails from Batumi. This decadent version, aptly shaped like a boat, comes with cheese, butter and egg yolk and is devoured by tearing off the bready sides to mop up the filling. Feeling a little carb-conscious, we request 'tsom gamotslili', with less dough. Adjara was part of the Ottoman Empire for some 260 years, so when it comes to desserts "we have adopted a number of dishes from the East", George explains while handing over a souvenir box of pakhlava, a local take on the Turkish treat made with walnuts.

Zugdidi, Samegrelo

Best for spice-o-philes

There is never a dull meal in Samegrelo, the historic region west of Kutaisi, famed for its picante flavours. Stepping into the Zugdidi Farmers' Market, we're met with a sea of fiery red pastes and powders. This is ajika, an intense pepper-and-chilli-based spice that is a shared culinary tradition in Abkhazia.

"Mingrelian cuisine is definitely the spiciest in Georgia," Marika Todua confirms as we wander between the wooden oda houses at Sisatura Ethno Village. She founded this living museum outside Zugdidi to celebrate her ancestors' culture and culinary quirks. "Our food has been used for medicinal purposes for centuries. Malaria was a widespread disease in subtropical Samegrelo region, and we fought it with the help of spices."

Also known as suneli, ajika is omnipresent, often positioned in the centre of the table in lieu of salt. It can be used to flavour food during cooking – rubbed into meat or smothered over eggplants. "Almost every dish has a special suneli, and Mingrelian housewives always have ready-made ajika on hand," says Marika.

Another staple, kharcho, is a thick stew of beef or chicken that owes its creamy curry-esque texture to the use of walnuts. Its companion, elarji, is white cornmeal blended with cheese. The stretchier the better – when we order a plate at Diaroni, the waiter theatrically hoists it over his head before serving. We follow it with gebzhalia, softened cheese curds rolled with fresh mint and in a tart matsoni yoghurt sauce, to douse the ajika flames.





Telavi, Kakheti

Best for wine lovers

In Georgia, there is no food without wine, and certainly no wine without food. The biggest wine-producing region, Kakheti – specifically the main hub of Telavi – is our destination of choice for pairing lush Saperavi reds and earthy amber wines with eastern Georgian delicacies. Kakheti is a haven for carnivores. One vintner tells us that the combination of alcohol and barbecued pork arose in medieval times as a snub to the Christian kingdom of Kakheti's Persian and Ottoman overlords.

This custom lives on in mtsvadi, hunks of pork, veal or chicken marinated in red onion and pomegranate juice, unceremoniously skewered, and slung over an open fire. Other meat-centric Kakhetian classics include khashlama, beef boiled with bay leaves, peppercorns and garlic, and chakapuli, an ambrosial springtime stew of lamb or beef with white wine, tarragon and green plum.

The hardest part is deciding which gourmet farm-to-table restaurant near Telavi to try: Silver Lakes by celebrity chef Tekuna Gachechiladze, or Marleta's, where the menu revolves around house-made goat cheese. Doli on Cholokashvili Street catches our eye. It is named after the endemic variety of wheat the kitchen uses to make its shoti, Georgian bread fired in a tandoor-style clay oven.

Down the road at the Telavi Bazaar, we find some of the finest churchkhela, a high-calorie snack originally designed for soldiers on the battlefield. Made from walnuts or hazelnuts strung together in a naturally sweet fruit roux, it's produced in autumn following the rtveli grape harvest.







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Tbilisi

Best for omnivores

No gourmand's tour would be complete without a stop in Tbilisi. Georgia's cosmopolitan capital has forever been a meeting place for different cultures and creeds – and in foodie terms, this is where everything comes together.

"Tbilisi has many influences, I'd say mostly from Persia," explains foodie Irma Laghadze. Dicing onions in her home kitchen in Vake district, we are being initiated into yet another facet of this eclectic cuisine through one of her Georgian Flavors masterclasses. Irma has chosen one "typically Tbilisi" dish for us to prepare today: Ajapsandali, a medley of vegetables cooked into a vibrant ratatouille-like ragu. "Ajapsandali is a slang word that literally means 'a mess'. Perhaps that describes multicultural Tbilisi cuisine best," she laughs.

Tbilisi is the place to savour hearty mountain fare, especially khinkali, Irma instructs us. These fist-sized dumplings likely come from Mongolian origins, yet many alpine villages in eastern Georgia lay claim to the original recipe. In Tbilisi's hip gastropubs we encounter khinkali kalakuri, an urban recipe adapted for a city palate. It contains a lightly-spiced ground beef-pork mix, sometimes with chopped onion, coriander and parsley.

There are vegetarian versions too, stuffed with sautéed mushrooms, puréed potato or aged cheese. We compare the thickness of the dough and the soupiness of the filling at two local favourites, Cafe Daphna and Asi Khinkali. But it's at Shemomechama – a restaurant whose name roughly translates to 'I accidentally ate the whole thing' – that we find the most delicious dumplings.

Wizz Air flies to Kutaisi





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Prepare for a big summer this year with our picks of the best undiscovered destinations, summer music festivals, holiday resorts and more...





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Woosabi is an urban oasis in the heart of Gdańsk, on Spichrzow Island. It has an amazing interior filled with plants and a sunny outside garden with a great view of the city's famous Green Gate.

A must-try is the signature Asian-steamed bao bun burgers with a variety of different fillings. It also serves Asian-inspired curry, noodle and rice bowls, excellent breakfasts and great drinks. Come for good food and a great atmosphere.

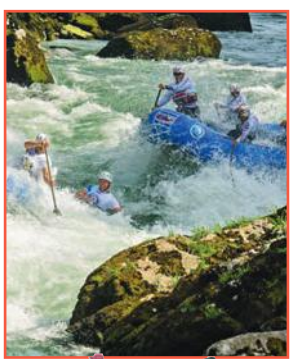
And if you're visiting Wrocław, there's more good news. You will find two more beautiful Woosabis in the city, with signature tasty dishes and good vibes.

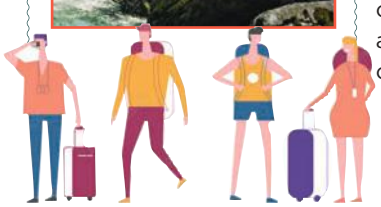
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Bored of big-ticket attractions but don't want the extra trip planning that comes with an emerging destination? Hop to the heart of Georgia with Karavanly's freestyle all-in-one travel passes. With all logistics taken care of, you can enjoy stunning landscapes, grandma's recipes, last-remaining crafts, plus fun activities that aren't as accessible on your own, while having a positive impact on rural communities.



UNTOLD Festival: The most unforgettable music party in the world



Save the date for the event of the summer in Transylvania, Romania, and enter a magical world

Romania's UNTOLD Festival, one of the world's largest music festivals, will open its gates this year from 3-6 August in Cluj-Napoca, Transylvania. The multi-Platinum, Grammy award-winning electro-rock-pop band Imagine Dragons will be headlining the mainstage. While some of the best DJs on the planet – Martin Garrix, David Guetta, Armin van Buuren, Boris Brejcha, Salvatore Ganacci, KSHMR, Alesso, Amelie Lens, Camelphat, Marco Carola, and many more – will play unique shows this summer at UNTOLD Festival.

More than 250 international and local artists will show their magic on the eight stages. 375,000 music and festival lovers are eagerly awaiting the UNTOLD Festival this summer, which will be four days and four nights of magic.

UNTOLD is a universe where the real world meets the fantasy world and dreams come true. The team behind this mega-festival is inspired by music and stories about love, unity, community, friendship, and courage. They know UNTOLD has the best crowd in the world and an amazing line-up, plus the most incredible activities and experiences.

Since its first edition in 2015, UNTOLD has won the Best Major Festival in Europe award. The Romanian festival was also placed in the global Top 5 Best Electronic Music Festivals in 2021 by Viberate and was listed in the Top 100 Festivals of 2022 by *DJ Mag*.

David Guetta, Martin Garrix, Avicii, Dimitri Vegas & Like Mike, Armin van Buuren, Kygo, Steve Aoki, Tiesto, Diplo, Hardwell, The Chainsmokers, Timmy Trumpet, Axwell, Ingrosso, Don Diablo, Marshmello, Solomun, Boris Brejcha, Paul Kalkbrenner, Robbie Williams, The Prodigy, Black Eyed Peas, Stormzy, Jason Derulo, Tinie Tempah, Ellie Goulding, Hurts, John Newman, James Arthur, Tyga are just a few names that have made history at UNTOLD Festival.

Be part of the magic this summer, save the dates 3-6 August, and live your life to the fullest! Details are available on **untold.com**





Budvanska Rivijera hotel group

Fly to Montenegro's coast and stay where the love is

The Budvanska Rivijera hotel group is the largest in Montenegro. It operates five hotels in the most attractive locations in Budva: Hotel Mogren, Slovenska Plaza Resort and Hotel Aleksandar. In Petrovac there is the Hotel Palas, the Hotel Palas Lux and Hotel Castellastva.

For many years, this hotel group has been recognised as a company that continuously invests in new quality, which results in a constant increase in the number of satisfied guests. Following the world trends of sustainable development in tourism, HG Budvanska Rivijera introduced an integrated management system by achieving three international ISO standards (ISO 9001, ISO 14000, ISO 22000).

The hotel group is also the holder of the Travelife Gold Certification – an international mark of quality for ecological and social principles, which shows the company is dedicated to achieving high client and employee satisfaction, reducing operating costs and respecting the principles of sustainable tourism, which increasingly takes priority in business.

Throughout the group's long and rich tradition of more than 50 years of business, the attractiveness of its hotel facilities and its hospitality and reliability – a combination of tradition and innovative facilities and guest care – are the reasons why it continues to attract new tourists, and regular guests return to the brands again and again.

BUDVANSKA RIVIJERA
HOTELSKA GRUPA

Slovenska Plaza Resort, for example, is characterised by its romantic appearance – sloping roofs, symmetrical design, outdoor balconies and terraces that amaze guests. This family nest is composed of 10 individual villas enriched with recognisable Mediterranean plants. The resort brings together everything you need for a vacation: *parking, restaurants, cafés, boutiques, galleries, travel agencies, dental and ambulatory care centers, beauty salons.* From accommodation and food to recreation and entertainment, Slovenska Plaza Resort combines all requirements to provide one perfect spot for family vacations.
hgbudvanskarivijera.com

Electric Castle 2023

Oh, the stories you'll tell when you'll be old...

Are you wondering how to squeeze the best concerts, historical heritage, arts, incredible sunsets and (future) best friends into one vacation? Then it's time to discover Electric Castle.

There are many reasons Electric Castle won The Best European Medium-Sized Festival award in 2019. For starters – its location. The festival takes place on the site of the iconic 15th-century Bánffy Castle in Bonțida, surrounded by the pristine nature of Transylvania.

For five days, this eclectic music festival offers a mix of a carefully curated music line-up, fun activities and experience-driven architecture. During the daytime, explore the area of over 40,000m², chill, and get inspired. Whether you attend one of the many talks and workshops, do some sports and wellness activities or get inspired by new fashion and art creators, there's always something to discover. When the sun sets, well... time to let yourself go and dance to the sunrise before calling it a day.

The good news is that the next day you'll do it all again after a good sleep in the EC Village. From tenting to glamping, the campsite offers the comfort required to get your party animal back on track.

The real challenge would be to keep up with the rhythms as the music never stops for five days. With more than 200 artists in the lineup, Electric Castle surprises with a mix of genres – alternative, metal, indie, drum and bass, house, tech, world music and jazz. Highlights of this year's edition include six-time Grammy-winning duo The Chemical Brothers, Iggy Pop, George Ezra, Pendulum, Peggy Gou, Sigur Ros, Nothing but Thieves, and many other highly anticipated performances. There are 10 stages to satisfy any music taste, so book your tickets for 19-23 July 2023.

A good piece of advice for first-timers – do not plan too much. It never works. Once you enter the Bánffy domain, you won't be able to resist the temptation of trying everything the festival has to offer. So, forget about worries, deadlines, and even your phone. There's nothing like a sense of freedom to create everlasting stories. More info on **electriccastle.com**

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BÁNFFY CASTLE
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A GIVES WHO



Meet the female powerhouses carving out their place in Scotland's legendary Highland Games this season

Words and Photography by Hannah Bailey

TOSS

Appearing to defy the rules of physics, Elizabeth Elliott and Rebecca Maeule grasp 15ft-long poles of larch wood, hug them tightly and toss them into the air above their heads, before they land with a thunderous thud on the grass. “There’s an art to it,” says Elizabeth of this legendary Highland activity known as ‘tossing the caber’, which dates back to the 16th century in Scotland.

I meet Elizabeth and Rebecca in the town of Dumbarton, home to the Marine Craft Gymnasium, a popular spot for strength training. Dressed in classic red, green, blue, yellow and black Royal Stewart and purple, blue and green Spirit of Scotland tartan they obligingly crouch and wrap their hands around 40kg cabers against the backdrop of the River Clyde and a dramatic rockface, where Dumbarton Castle perches. “This is not just a man’s sport,” says Elizabeth in Levengrove Park. The rules of the caber toss, which requires brute strength and skilful balance, are simple – toss the caber so it flips end-over-end, landing at 12 o’clock to the competitor. The straightest throw wins, not the furthest as you might expect.

These competitors are one of a handful of pioneering women changing the status quo in the Highland Games, which takes place this May in Blair Atholl, 90 minutes from Edinburgh. Until recently the caber toss, tug o’ war, shot put and hammer throw were games reserved for men in Scotland, but in the past decade, women have edged their way into these disciplines. It’s not been easy.

Approximately 10 years ago, the only chance Elizabeth had to throw was through crowd participation. Organisers would ask



“The audience was often surprised women were joining in, we would get a lot of cheers”

Above Rebecca Maeule prepares to toss the caber
Below left Elizabeth Elliott swings a ‘hammer’



someone to come up and lob a stone and Elizabeth would volunteer, throwing so well that she delighted the crowd. “The audience was often surprised women were joining in. We would get a lot of cheers,” says Elizabeth. While women’s events are in their infancy, their popularity is slowly growing in Scotland after a 2019 campaign for gender equality was brought to the governing bodies. There are currently more than 700 female participants in the Highland Games worldwide.

The Games first came about to showcase the abilities of clan members, but also to preserve local culture and strengthen bonds during difficult times. Some 60 competitions are still held annually across the nation, organised by the Royal Scottish

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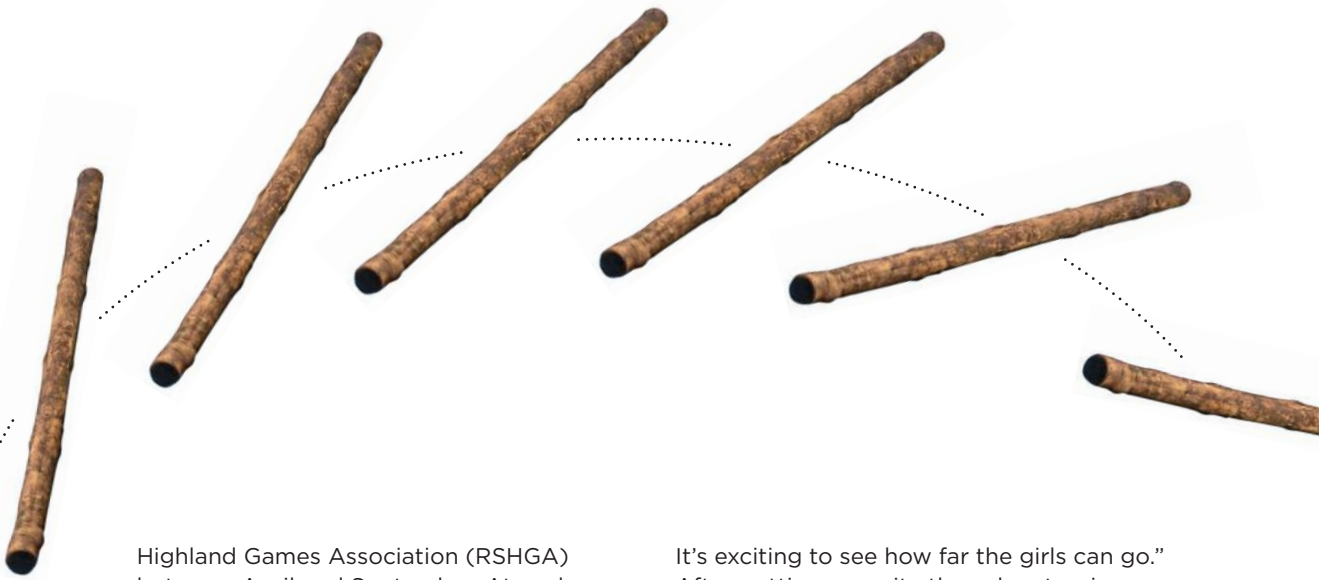
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“It’s becoming increasingly popular... it’s exciting to see how far the girls can go”





Highland Games Association (RSHGA) between April and September. At each event, packed-out international crowds revel in Celtic culture – from Highland dancing and traditional tartan to the melodic tones of the bagpipes, with a side of haggis and a wee dram (little whisky). But the recent addition of women to many of the Highland Games has added another dimension to the iconic event.

Elizabeth is lucky to have one of the best teachers in the industry. She’s married to Neil Elliott – arguably the best caber tosser in the world, with a 37-year Highland Games career. Neil has seen the sport evolve, and has witnessed an uptick in the number of people asking how women can get involved. “It’s becoming increasingly popular,” he says of female participation, “especially in North America, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. It’s exciting to see how far the girls can go.” After putting on quite the caber-tossing show, stopping park-goers, dog walkers and joggers in their tracks, Elizabeth gets an 8kg metal ball on the end of a stick from her car. The ‘hammer’ resembles a medieval bommy knocker contraption (minus the spikes). In competition, it’s swung three times around the participant’s head, as they carefully avoid hitting themselves in the face before letting it go in an assigned direction. The furthest distance wins. As the women practise, Neil produces some custom-made kit – hiking boots with spikes on them. “These are used to dig into the ground for stability, during a throw,” he explains.

Rebecca then clutches a 4kg metal shot put (a ball without the stick). Originally this was a ‘stone put’, and dubbed ‘the stain’ – and competitors used heavy stones from

Where to watch women at the Highland Games



CERES GAMES, FIFE
24 June, 2023
Founded in 1314 by Robert the Bruce, these legendary Games are the oldest running.

BUTE HIGHLAND GAMES, ROTHESAY
12 August, 2023
Tucked away on the west coast, watch The Games on a beautifully atmospheric Scottish island.
butehighlandgames.org

NORTH BERWICK HIGHLAND GAMES
12 August, 2023
Staring out to the east coast, this event takes place in the picturesque town of North Berwick, 45 minutes from Edinburgh.
northberwickhighlandgames.org





“If women see women compete... more games will be made available for us”



Where to try the games

Fancy giving the activities a go? In Your Element runs Highland Games taster sessions with caber-tossing, shot put, haggis hurling and more at various locations around Scotland. Find out more and enquire on their website. **iye.scot**

Check out the events calendar and reach out to the Royal Scottish Highland Games Association if you would like to join the growing number of athletes taking part in Highland Games. **rshga.org**

the riverbed. Rebecca lifts the weight, puts it to her neck, then twists and pushes the sphere into the sky. It lands with a solid thud more than 10ft away. Scotland-based athlete Trish Lawson holds the women’s shot put record with a 16ft 2-inch throw at the Stirling Highland Games.

The enthusiasm of Elizabeth, Rebecca and Neil for the Highland Games and for women’s participation is contagious. The old adage, ‘if you can see it you can be it’, rings true. Visibility is key, says Rebecca: “If women see women compete at Highland Games, they may be thinking: ‘I want a shot, I want to throw a stone, I want to throw a hammer, I want to toss a caber,’” she explains. “And more games will be made available for us.” The future of the Highland Games is strong.

Wizz Air flies to Edinburgh



Left Rebecca heaves a 4kg metal ball as she trains for the shot put



Biodiverse and innovative Tallinn

This year the Estonian city will showcase its flora and fauna, sustainability governance and eco-innovation as the European Green Capital 2023

Tallinn is a well-known hub of information technology and home to several of Estonia's unicorns. The city is set to host Greentech Week, with a series of international events promoting eco-innovation in November. The event will include the Cleantech Forum Europe, Greentech Expo, Green Tiger Conference, and the Smart City Convention.

"Tallinn is very proud to hold the title of European Green Capital 2023. Solving urban challenges is crucial to reaching global climate goals and cities have a key role to play in the transition to a low-carbon economy. We invite anyone around the world to come and build or try out their ground-breaking new ideas, prototypes, or products in our city," said Mayor of Tallinn, Mihhail Kõlvart.

Tallinn invites companies to test their smart solutions as part of Test in Tallinn projects. The main test areas are urban mobility and energy efficiency as they have the greatest impact and legislative readiness. Tallinn already has self-driving vehicles, including Clevon and Starship robots and self-driving AuveTech buses on its streets.

Tallinn is a biodiverse city with diverse biota and landscapes with more than 2,100 hectares of protected areas. The city has parks, forests, rivers, meadows, bogs, and even its own island.

During its year as green capital, Tallinn will focus on restoring and protecting its biodiversity, including restoring a favourite hiking area, the Pääsküla bog trail, plus designing the Pollinator Highway – a vibrant 14km long linear park that will stretch along an old railway dam and electric powerlines corridor.

The Green Tracks programme will create innovative pop-up solutions to increase Tallinn's biodiversity as well as create a safe and pleasant urban space for everyone. Several areas in Tallinn will get a green makeover – the medieval Town Hall Square, for example, will be transformed into a temporary park.

European Green Capital 2023 events in Tallinn

9 May: Biodiverse European Day
10-14 May: Tallinn Music Week
1–16 June: Tallinn's Urban Space festival
2–4 June: Tallinn's Old Town Days and the special green old town programme
30 June–2 July: Environmentally-friendly Youth Song and Dance Festival
31 August–17 September: World Clean Up Day, a regional campaign to clean the Baltic Sea
14-17 November: Greentech Week

Find the full program and more information at **greentallinn.eu**

PHOTO: KAUPO KALDA

TRAILBL



Words by Jade Bremner

Photography by Ben Read

LAZING SOUTHERN ITALY

Walking back in time with the creators of a new crowd-free coast-to-coast hiking trail on the Cammino Materano




CAPACCIO SCALO
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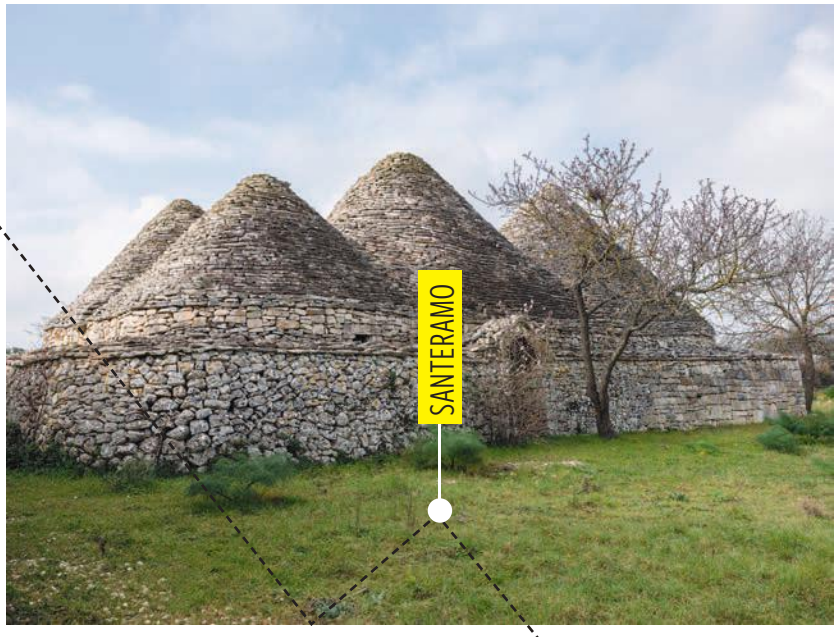
"People cry when they see Matera for the first time after hiking the Cammino Materano," says Claudio Focarazzo, the co-creator of six long-distance walking routes (totalling more than 1,700km) centring around the ancient cave town. "You can't help but feel great emotion when you first see Matera, where nature and human beings have always lived together in harmony," he adds, talking about the ancient dwellings – a piled-up labyrinth of grottos etched into a sandstone hillside.

People have lived in these concave sassi (translated as 'stone') homes on the side of a deep ravine since the Paleolithic era, but the staggeringly beautiful place is having a moment after being named European Capital of Culture in 2019, and appearing in the action-packed opening scene of the newest James Bond movie *No Time To Die*, where 007 speeds through Matera's tight alleys in an Aston Martin DB5.

Our hike has been a lot slower and quieter than a pedal-to-the-metal chase scene, however. We've been gently meandering under the warm Puglia sun along a section of the 170km Via Peuceta, which runs between the coastal city of Bari and this ancient town, the only interruptions on our route being the dulcet tones of birdsong and the clinking of cow bells from distant dairy farms. This route is typically a slow seven-day walk along wide pathways, very little elevation change, with diverse scenery at every stage – including rugged boulder-scattered terrain, pretty farmlands, forests and medieval ruins.

"I love its beauty, because the landscape changes every day you walk," says trail co-creator Lorenzo Lozito who, with Claudio and Angelofabio Attolico, is currently building an adjacent route – the Via Lucana, which will go a further 400km west from





Matera to Paestum. Combined with the Via Peuceta from Bari it will span the entire breadth of Italy (around 570km in total). The trailblazing trio has just opened six new stages of this particular route (through the pretty towns of Montescaglioso, Miglionico, Grottole, Grassano and Tricarico). Lorenzo joins us on part of our Via Peuceta hike. "One day you are in the forests, the next day you are in rich green fields, the next day you are walking between rocks or towns from the Middle Ages," he says. "It's amazing."

The trail begins in Bari's high-walled old town, at the Basilica of San Nicola di Bari, but before we start, we load up on street food. Specifically, the tasty panzerotti from Rosticceria Dirello; these small calzone-like parcels are filled with a choice of more than a dozen cheese-infused flavours – such as local mushroom or spicy 'nduja pork sausage – before being fried until the fillings are molten hot. Ideal hiking snacks.

Crossing the former territory of Peucetia, once inhabited by the Peuceti tribe, living between the 7th and 4th century BCE, the pathway is dotted with reminders of the past. In Santeramo in Colle, inside the Alta Murgia National Park, we pause at the Sant'Angelo in Criptis, a centuries-old abandoned underground cave church, with original inscriptions and frescos on the walls. Nearby are hand-stacked trulli – Southern Italy's distinctive dry stone huts with conical roofs – and fields separated by lichen and moss-dotted ancient farm walls.

Each part of the route has green and yellow striped markings (which appear on lampposts throughout the towns and on wooden signs and stone in the countryside) created by a team of volunteers along the pathways. Volunteer coordinator Giuseppe di Fonzo gives up his time to maintain this section of the route and joins us for the Santeramo stage of the journey. The signs are "green for the fields and yellow for the wheat grown in the area," says Giuseppe, an avid walker, who hopes the project will encourage more people into the outdoors.

Despite its dazzling good looks, Italy doesn't have the established hiking scenes found in other European countries, but there's been an uptick in walkers since the pandemic, says Claudio. "More than 4,000 people walked this route last year, making it the fourth most popular hike in the country." Quite the feat, given that the first stages of the non-profit route only opened in 2017. Now hikers as far as New Zealand and Korea are catching on. "The Cammino Materano is the best way to discover the authentic soul of the South of Italy. This is an impressive journey through centuries of history, the beauty of the hidden landscapes, the hospitality of its people and the flavours of its gastronomy," says Claudio.

Through walking, route creator Lorenzo is able to indulge in one of his biggest passions – foraging. He picks fresh oregano for us to smell along the herb-perfumed path and points out endemic plants, olive trees, bright pink almond trees in bloom and rare orchids, including a new kind he discovered himself – the Ophrys peucetiae.



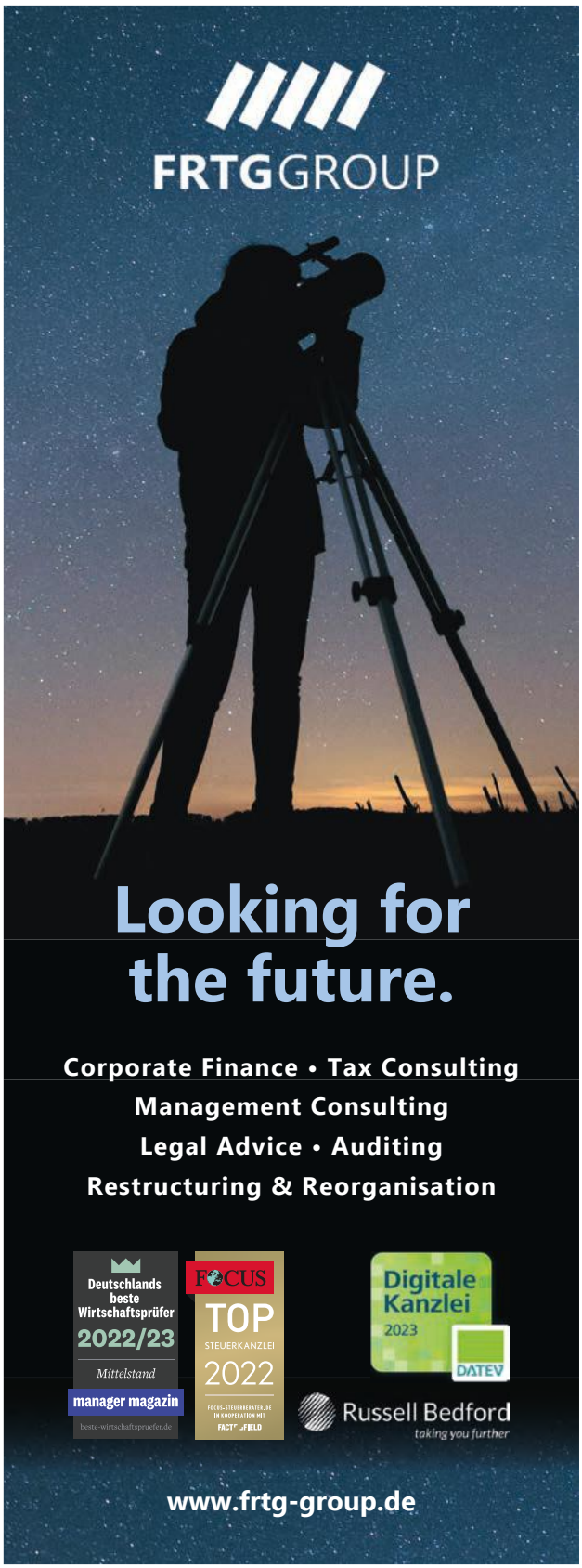
Clockwise from top left
Yellow and green markings show the way on the Cammino Materano; dry stone trulli huts; Claudio's walking pole

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Then, another curious plant. "This is nature's toilet paper," Lorenzo jokes pointing to a common mullein, as we stop to feel its Kleenex-like soft furry leaves.

We watch harrier eagles and red kites soar overhead while pausing for a flask of Italian coffee. Later we take a longer stop to fill our bellies at a local farm. Vito Scalera hand-makes gooey mozzarella at Masseria Scalera. Guests salivate as he molds the elasticated fresh cheese into knots, then hands them out for us hungry hikers to taste. His daughter Mariantonietta introduces our group to a calf born the same morning, before preparing a local healthy lunch – zuppa di cicerchie (grass pea soup, with cicerchie, tomato and garlic). A few glasses of the farm's excellent wine and a digestivo of homebrewed Padre Peppe walnut liquor later, we set off to the steppes of Alta Murgia. Cripta di Sant'Angelo di Fornello (6km outside Altamura) is home to a series of underground caves. Hollowed out for habitats and used to shelter animals in medieval times, walkers can explore the eerie spaces below ground level. Nearby, around 20,000 dinosaur footprints were discovered. The Cava Pontrelli (Dinosaur Quarry of Altamura) is currently being renovated and will open as a museum soon.

The trail continues right through the fortified old town of Altamura, inhabited since the 5-4th century BC and home to a striking Romanesque cathedral, commissioned by Holy Roman Emperor King of Sicily Frederick II in 1232. In a hidden nook between historic lanes, we stop at the old bakery of Antico Forno Santa Chiara, which has been kneading dough for 600 years (opening here in 1423). It's famous for Pane di Altamura (leavened sourdough style bread made from re-milled local durum wheat) – and its warm focaccia with tomatoes and herbs melts in the mouth.







ALTAMURA

Hikers can sleep overnight at hostels and bed and breakfasts at every town on the route, including Hostel Casa Xenia in Altamura, whose owners were the first volunteers on the Cammino Materano. Our shelter for the night is La Tana Della Volpe (The Fox's Den), a new hiker hostel for up to six people in a traditional Gravina lane house with vaulted stone ceilings. It was owner Rosa Grassi's family home. "My ancestors used to keep animals below the floors to help heat the space," she says. Now it has a roaring log-burning fire for walkers in the cooler months. Nearby is the town's main attraction, the 37-metre-high Ponte Acquedotto sul torrente Gravina (Aqueduct

Clockwise from above
Ancient stone walls near the Cripta di Sant'Angelo di Fornello; Vito Scalera with his farm-fresh cheese



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Bridge), which connects the town centre of Gravina with the historic sites on the eastern side of the canyon, including rock-cut churches and thousands of 6th-century tombs, where the Roman city of Sidion buried its ancestors. More recently, the Ponte Acquedotto was immortalised by *No Time To Die*, in a scene where James Bond is chased by a villain on a motorbike before jumping off the bridge. Walking across it is an atmospheric start to the final stretches of the Via Peuceta – the longest two sections of the route (30km each day) and arguably most beautiful. The trail romps through the rich wood complex of Bosco Difesa Grande and the verdant Puglia fields, with lush green rolling hills that appear like waves on the horizon. The path climbs up the hill of Picciano to a Benedictine sanctuary before descending to Fossa Bradanica's yellower pastures and rock-strewn landscapes and finally onto the humbling sight of Matera.

Once described as the "shame of Italy" the 20,000-strong population of Matera was desperately poor. The Italian government deemed the cave conditions, and their lack of plumbing, unsuitable for habitation in the 1950s, and an official scheme was created to evacuate its residents into newer housing. Some locals resisted and, although forced to move out, refused to sell their houses. After numerous renovations and infrastructure improvements, those who kept their properties were able to move back in, and the town received UNESCO status in 1993. Roughly 1,000 people now live in Matera's old town, many of whom run renovated bed and breakfasts or restaurants inside refurbished cave dwellings.

"This was one of the first vegetarian towns in the world," says Nicola Logallovangelo, owner of B&B Fiorentini, which used to be his family home. "People were so poor here they could only afford meat a couple of times a year," he says. His bed and



The Ponte Acquedotto links Gravina with a host of historic sites





Here Matera has left its troubled past behind to become a magical destination
Far right Trailblazer Claudio in Italy's rich green pastures





breakfast honours the old ways. Guests can sleep in cave rooms, and traditional details include vintage radios, original fireplaces, a phonograph, a Victorian laundry basket and historic photos. His family cooks breakfasts for guests using traditional methods – hand-pressed olive oil, freshly-baked plaited bread and Matera-made herby focaccia.

Upscale restaurants have popped up all over Matera too, like the sleek Oi Marì, which serves delicately presented four-course tasting menus (including dishes like sausage and fennel and sweet port focaccia). Despite all its recent attention, off-season spring hikers will find the town peaceful, quiet, and calm, with empty streets, idyllically illuminated at night like a fairytale kingdom.

The following day, despite our main hike coming to an end, we spy a path over the ravine, connected by a suspension bridge on steel cables above the river – it's too tempting to ignore. We follow it up the opposite hillside through the protected Murgia Materana Park, to a series of abandoned Neolithic cave dwellings. The park contains 923 species of flowers, around one-sixth of the nation's flora species. We've completed a section of the Cammino Materano, but there's much more in the area to explore, and we vow to return once the whole coast-to-coast trail (the Via Lucana) is complete to discover more of Italy's lost treasures. **camminomaterano.it**

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Have a unique bachelor party at the home of Ferencváros

Book an unforgettable pre-wedding celebration like John from Liverpool, at the home of Ferencvárosi TC – Hungary's most successful football team

I first met my friends at a Premier League Manchester derby, which also happened to be the first-ever football game I'd ever watched live at Old Trafford.

Some 15 years after that day, I proposed to the most beautiful woman in the world. For the party before the big day, my friend and I chose the coolest nightlife destination in Europe, Budapest.

On the journey from the airport to the hotel we passed an impressive stadium, all lit up in green and white colors. We asked our driver which football team played there, and he told us it was the Groupama Arena, home of Ferencváros TC. We found out that, on a national and international level, Ferencváros (Fradi) is the most popular and successful Hungarian football team of all time. They are record holders in cup titles and league titles, having won the league 33 times and the cup on 24 occasions.

It also turned out that our driver is a big fan of the team. During the taxi drive he told us the history of the club.

After we got out of the car we all agreed that we must watch a match at Groupama Arena.
We were quite lucky because during our five-day trip the most passionate football match – the derby between the two big rival teams, Ferencváros and Újpest – was being held.

If you come to a Ferencváros match from a foreign country the first thing you have to do is to get a Ferencváros card to be able to buy tickets for the match, but if you go to the VIP sector then you can skip purchasing the card. So we didn't waste a minute and immediately booked our VIP tickets to the Hungarian derby on the website (groupamaarena.com).

After two crazy party days in the beautiful capital, derby day finally came. As we arrived at Groupama Arena, we saw a huge eagle statue – the number one symbol of the team.







We took some pictures outside and, with a couple of hours before kickoff, we decided to explore the official shop of Ferencváros. The shop was a pleasantly surprise – it held a wide selection of premium products. For less than 4500 HUF (€12) we bought Fradi fan scarves, which turned out to be a good choice for the match.

After shopping, it was time to explore Groupama Arena on the inside. Our seat was located in the Telekom VIP sector, which opens two hours before the match and can be reached through a private entrance.

For just 22,000 HUF (€58) we could enjoy the services and benefits of modern stadiums in a themed and redesigned fan zone. There's an all-inclusive buffet with a first-class selection of foods and drinks. So we grabbed some cups of beer and took our seats on the edges of the grandstand. The stand of the ultras, the Green Monsters, was next to us, just a few metres behind the goal. We found a passionate group of supporters who come out in force for every home game and created an absolutely amazing atmosphere during the whole football match.

Derby tickets are always sold out, and more than 20,000 spectators filled the stadium. Hearts were beating as the capo of the ultras led the supporters on a megaphone.

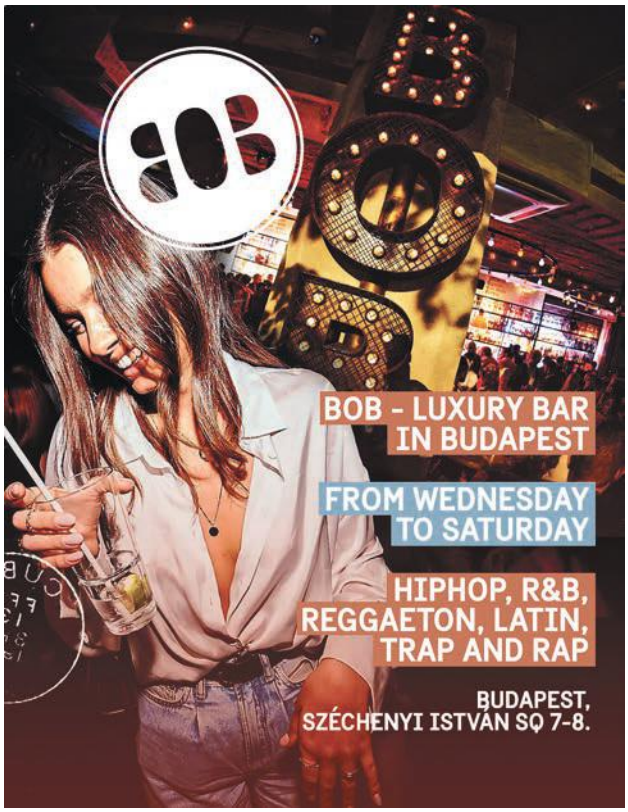
We were lost for words during the magical moment when the players came onto to the pitch and the whole stadium was singing the anthem of Ferencváros. It was time for the derby to begin!

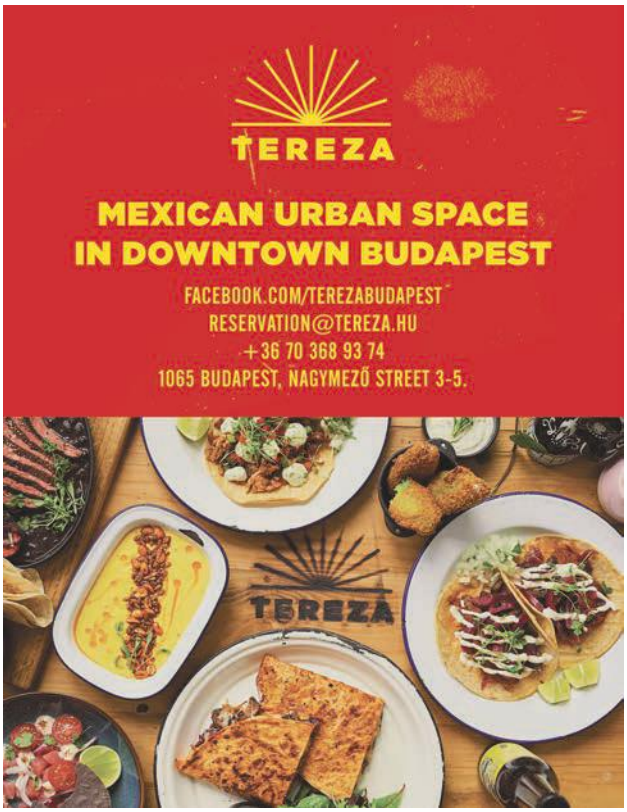
Fradi won the first half playing a high quality game and lead by one goal at the break. At half-time we went back indoors to grab some beer and enjoy our meals.

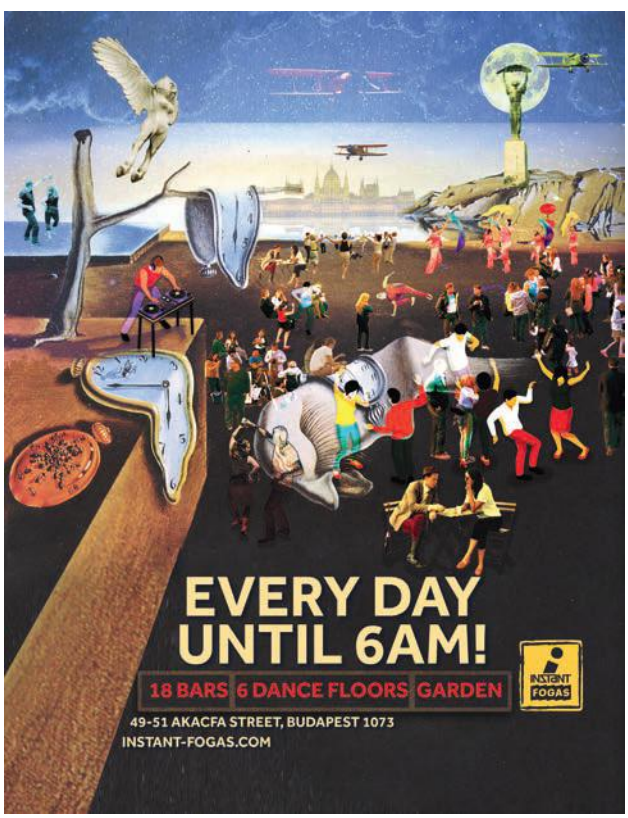
We shared our table with some fanatic Hungarian Fradi fans. We were told about Ferencváros leading the Hungarian Championship by a lot of points and approaching its 34th championship title. If Fradi becomes champions after the last home match (at the end of May 2023) fans and players will have a huge party in the Groupama Arena following the game.

Watching the derby, which Fradi won 3-1, none of us could get the idea out of our heads to return to the stadium in May for the championship celebration.

fradi.hu


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Three good-value (for Iceland) set menus – meat, fish, veggie – each include two starters and sticky toffee pudding or skyr mousse to finish. All in all, an impressive introduction to Icelandic dining.
forrettabarinn.is



Tirza

Tel Aviv

This 2022 opening in the ultra-cool Florentin neighbourhood is the casual little sister to OCD, one of the best restaurants in town. The latter's chef, Raz Rahav, has elevated a simple 'wine and bread' concept here, with small plates that take house-baked goods, local raw ingredients and a riot of Israeli flavours to celestial heights.
tirzatlv.com



Lyst

Billund

Most people fly into the Danish city of Billund for Legoland, but maybe they should be coming for the food. The town of Vejle (pronounced Vilah), just 25 minutes from the airport, now has two Michelin-starred restaurants. This one would be our pick (although we wouldn't say no to a table at either) – for its Olafur Eliasson-designed Fjordenhus building, which is located right in the sea, and its ethos of sourcing produce from within a 100-mile radius. **restaurantlyst.com**

PHOTO: NICOLAJ DIDRIKSEN







Saltie Girl
London

Attention, fish lovers! London's latest seafood-first opening is here and it's a veritable temple to the sea gods.

The third incarnation of the Saltie Girl chain (a proven hit in LA and Boston already), its concept is a nod to the founder's childhood in New England, while her love for travelling inspired the menu. Sustainable fish and shellfish dishes from around the world include Brittany snails and Italian gnocchi with caviar, New York-style pastrami-smoked salmon and classic Maine lobster roll.

For a novel starter, there are fun and unstuffy additions such as dozens of flavours of tinned fish, or go with a classic shrimp cocktail and a platter of oysters, then demolish one of the trademark Seafood Towers. Either way, bring a sailor's appetite. **saltiegirl.com**

THE STAYS

The best places to rest your head across the WIZZ network



Gran Cruz House

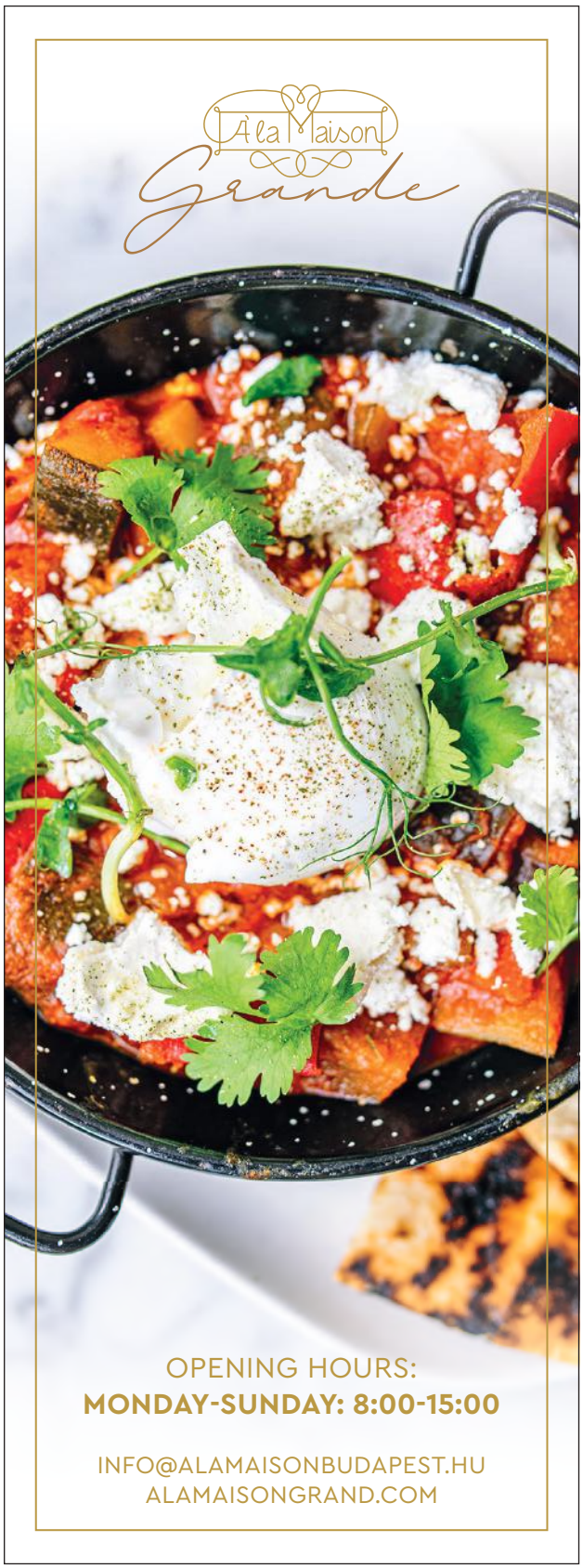
Porto

It would be hard to find a place to stay in Porto that more perfectly encapsulates the best bits of the city. Not only does it sit right in the middle of the bustling Cidade Velha, the historic centre of Ribeira Grande and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but its grand pink building is a piece of the city's history in its own right. Belonging to the port wine house of Gran Cruz, it dates back to the 1600s and feels like a suitably grand address for your stay in Portugal's second city.

All seven rooms are named after different types of port, from Ruby to Tawny, and decorated on that theme by local artists. They all come with a bottle of Porto Gran Cruz and river views too, so you can simply pour a glass, throw open a window and let the sound of live music waft in pleasantly as the sun starts to set.

The hotel restaurant Casario gives a modern take on traditional Portuguese cuisine that's well worth leaving your room for. Go for the squid and shrimp lollipop followed by sea bass rice with saffron and lemon, and wash it down with a seriously spicy margarita cocktail.

PHOTO: LUIS FERRAZ


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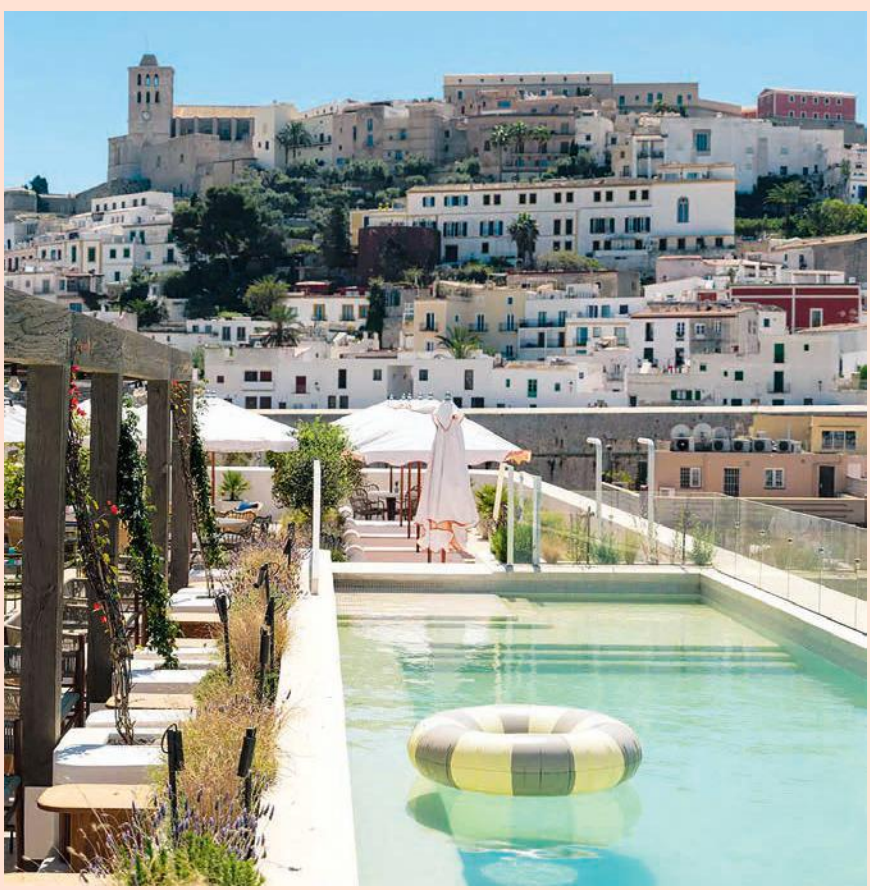
To book any of these hotels, visit **wizzair.com** and find your best deal with our trusted partner Booking.com

The Standard
Ibiza

The British party hotel brand is now a fixture on the Med's top party island, and what a partnership it is. The boutique hotel in the Old Town is all clean architectural lines and cool white decor – as befits the White Isle – and, in the wee small hours, is filled with a sophisticated craft-cocktail crowd.

The rooms are slick, with minimalist woods and whites, and the ground-floor restaurant Jara hums in winter. During peak season the undisputed highlight is up: the hotel's rooftop complex with day-to-night bar and a gorgeous slim lap pool.

If you prefer to sleep in the night rather than during the day, you can opt for a suite down the block in the Casa Privada, which has access to its own private lounge as well as all the hotel's perks. Either way, The Standard feels like a city break hotel on the party island – and is a laid-back grown-up way to do Ibiza.





Park Hyatt Marrakech

Marrakech

Opening in April, this big-name hotel is a great way to explore the flutter and fuss of Marrakech without being jammed into the Medina. Its resort facilities include five restaurants, three pools, a kids club and an 18-hole golf course inspired by Moroccan garden design. Spend the day seeing the sights, then come back for some R&R with sensational views of the Atlas mountains.



Hoxton Brussels

Brussels

The hip Hoxton chain is on a roll. Last year saw it open a fourth London outpost as well as one in Barcelona, and this Belgian branch is one of six slated for this year.

Opening in April, this one has super-cool 1970s-style decor, a viewtastic rooftop terrace and the short-rent office space Working From_. We feel some remote working coming on.

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Taste of Timișoara

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M Bistro: Set out for new discoveries

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Locanda Del Corso: Upscale Italian dining

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Suceava St. no. 10, Timișoara +40256.283.283 www.argentinian.ro

THE DRINKS

Where to go for a strong cocktail across the WIZZ network



Butler at Bellboy Bar

Berlin

What is a cocktail bar in 2023 if it doesn't have a speakeasy hidden within it, like a gorgeous alcoholic Matryoshka doll? Where one of the world's best bars, Barcelona's Sips, has Essencia, Berlin's Bellboy Bar has Butler.

Its classic cocktail list has none of the craft concoctions that have made Bellboy a local favourite since its 2021 opening. But just because many of its tipples date back to the 19th century, doesn't mean they're boring. Just try a peppermint Stinger, punchy Corpse Reviver or one of its absinthe-loaded Monkey Glands.

It's not exactly hard to find this speakeasy – just book your table online and then ask at the front desk on arrival – but otherwise it feels every inch the atmospheric prohibition drinking den.
bellboybar.com



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Artesian
London

The romantic art deco interiors, medieval-style chandeliers and purple leather chairs have remained the same since The Langham's iconic cocktail lounge was named Best Bar in the World for four consecutive years from 2012-2015. But its creative mixology has continually pushed forward. The stunning new Duality menu, envisioned by head bartender Giulia Cuccurullo and bar manager Lorenza Pezzetta, is a taste adventure, with 14 artistically presented cocktails containing two opposite parts, such as 'good and evil' or 'past and future'.

'Future' combines Suntory Roku gin, Cocchi extra-dry vermouth, olive oil and mint extract and is served in a slender test tube in a rock, with an enoki mushroom garnish. 'Evil' is a bitter, sharp blend served in a glass sideways, with a 12-year-old Singleton of Dufftown whisky, Grand Marnier, Chambord and passion fruit husks. This team sure knows how to get the attention of the judges. **artesian-bar.co.uk**







Port of Leith Distillery Bar
Edinburgh
Three years and £12m in the making, this top-floor whisky bar will form the penthouse to the skyscraping Port of Leith Distillery when it opens in Edinburgh this summer. It will be Scotland's first-ever vertical distillery, with fantastic views over the bay. Sample the distillery's own product, made using barley from a single farm on the outskirts of the city, and other top Scottish drops. **leithdistillery.com**



Above Eleven
Dubai
One of 10 new restaurants and bars at the Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah, Above Eleven is a sister to the famous Bangkok rooftop bar. As at the Thai venue, it serves delicious Nikkei (Peruvian-Japanese) small plates and craft cocktails to an upmarket set, on a rooftop terrace. Pricey but... nicey. **marriott.co.uk**

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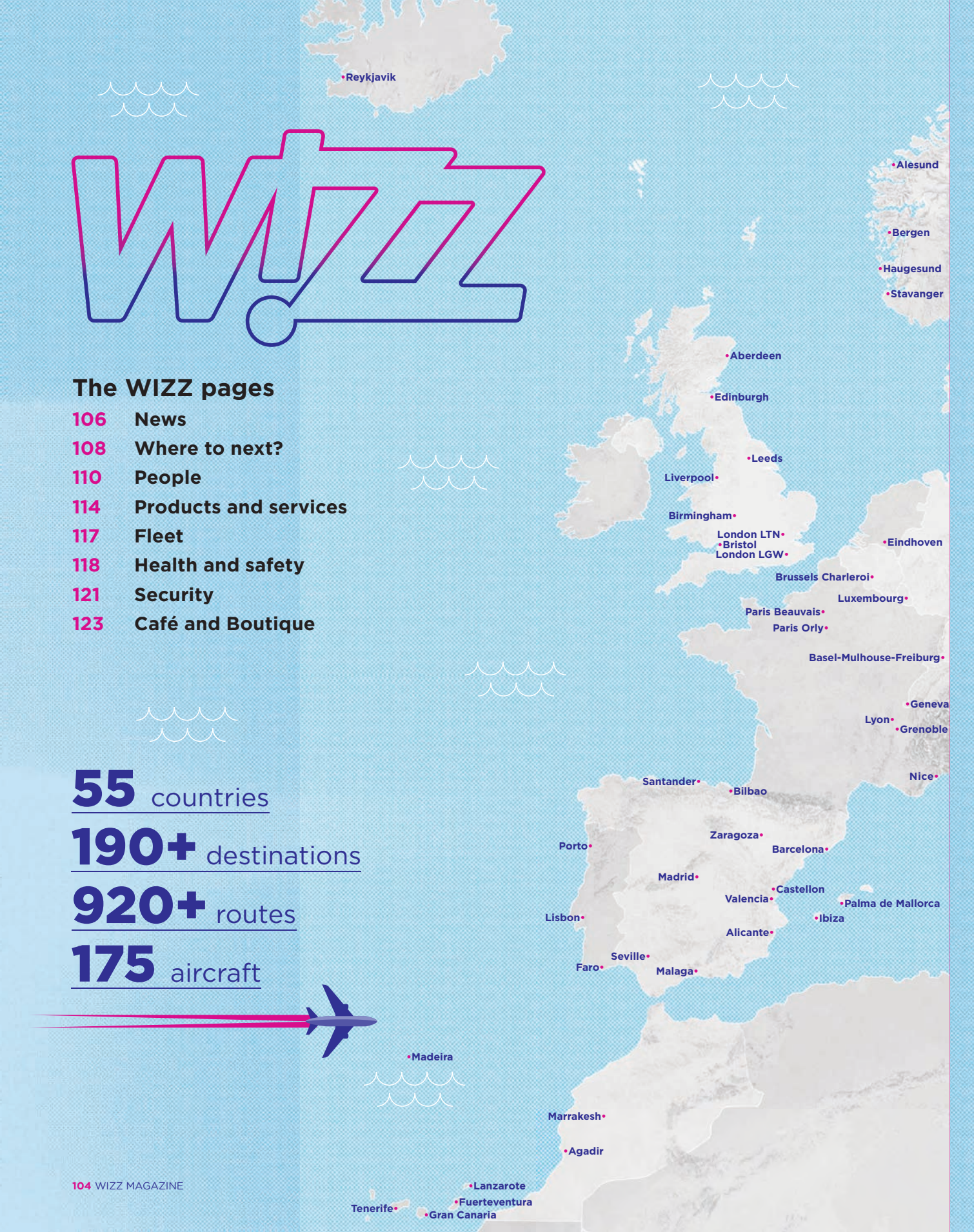


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WIZZ

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920+ routes

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Check out our

new destinations

We never stop searching for new destinations – we fly to more than 190 places in 55 countries and counting – to add to your bucket list and make planning your next holiday a breeze.



DATA AS OF 1 MARCH 2023

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...



A welcome return

After seven long years, Wizz Air has returned to the incomparable city of Istanbul.

WIZZ started direct flights to Istanbul at the start of March, connecting Türkiye with Hungary, Romania, the UAE and the UK. With these services Wizz Air is the first ultra-low cost carrier flying from Istanbul airport, providing over 400,000 high quality, but low fare seats to cities around Europe. Wizz Air's industry-leading low emission operations will help the airport reach its sustainability goals by operating the modern Airbus A321neo.

WIZZ has also launched seasonal flights to Dalaman and Antalya, supporting the ramp-up of local tourism. "We are confident that our new routes will be loved by our customers and they will experience the outstanding Turkish hospitality and the beauty of both Istanbul and the seaside resorts," said Evelin Jeckel, Network Officer of Wizz Air.

Doing an Italian job

Wizz Air will expand its operations in Italy this summer. Two new Airbus A321neos will be allocated to Rome, allowing passengers to fly to Funchal and Memmingen, while more flights will also be added to Barcelona, Paris, Dortmund and Prague. Another A321neo will be sent to Milan Malpensa from where passengers will be able to fly to Abu Dhabi, Cairo and Madrid. Additionally, Wizz Air will launch a new route from Rome to Vilnius.



WIZZ by numbers

- **175** aircraft
- **190+** destinations in 55 countries
- **35** bases in 17 countries
- **920+** routes
- **7,000+** staff
- **45m** passengers carried*

*FIGURE FOR F2022

Leading by example



Wizz Air's status as the most environmentally sustainable airline in the world has been underlined with news that it has achieved its lowest ever annual carbon intensity results.

Reporting has shown Wizz Air's average carbon emissions for 2022 amounted to 55.2 grams per passenger/km, 15.4% lower than in 2021. This represents a record low for the airline in a calendar year.

Wizz Air operates the lowest carbon emissions per passenger/km amongst all competitor airlines and is committed to further reducing its carbon emissions intensity by 25% by 2030.

An integral element of Wizz Air's sustainability strategy is the renewal of its fleet, with the airline growing the number of aircraft and replacing older ones with the modern Airbus A321neo, which offers significant carbon and noise reduction and is more sustainable. The average age of Wizz Air's fleet is below five years, which has also earned the airline the ch-aviation World's 2nd Youngest Aircraft Fleet Award 2023 in the category for airlines with 100+ aircraft.



PHOTO: ADOBE STOCK

Take to the skies with Wizz Air

Whether you're an experienced pilot or just dreaming of flying, Wizz Air has the training programme for you. The Direct Entry Captain Programme is designed for Airbus-experienced pilots to join WIZZ directly and undergo an extensive Command Upgrade Programme before working across our network. Meanwhile, the Pilot Academy Programme gives pilots with little to no previous aviation experience the opportunity to obtain a Commercial Pilot Licence. **careers.wizzair.com**

New routes

Abu Dhabi – Bishkek, Larnaca

Antalya – Abu Dhabi, Bucharest, Budapest, Cluj-Napoca, Debrecen, London Gatwick

Belgrade – Berlin, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Milan Bergamo, Zakynthos

Bucharest – Luxembourg, Skiathos

Catania – Milan Linate

Istanbul – Budapest, Iasi, London Luton

Leeds – Bucharest, Cluj-Napoca, Gdansk, Katowice, Kraków, Warsaw, Wroclaw

London Luton – Grenoble, Podgorica

London Gatwick – Dalaman, Faro, Istanbul, Palma de Mallorca

Milan Malpensa – Abu Dhabi, Cairo, Madrid

Rome Fiumicino – Madeira, Memmingen, Vilnius, Rzeszów

Timisoara – Zakynthos

Yerevan – Dortmund, Katowice, Prague, Sofia

Vienna – Hurghada

Vilnius – Malaga

Where to next?

From imperious buildings to sandy white beaches and hidden-away treasures, there's no place like Türkiye

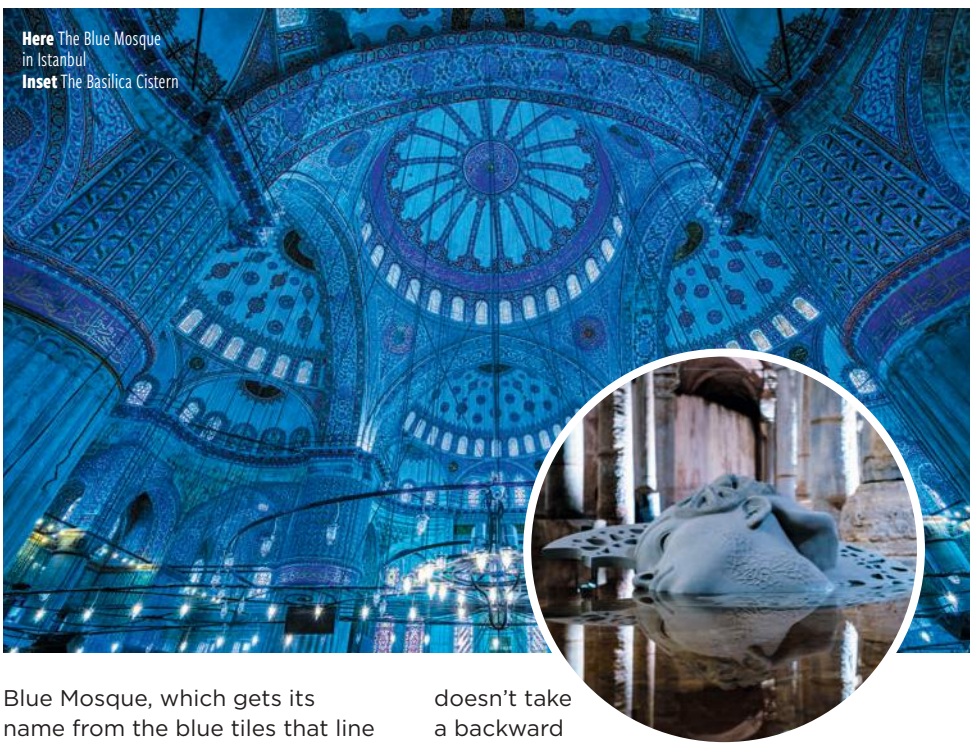
Whether it's a rich history, long stretches of sandy beaches, scrumptious food or the odd touch of magic like a fairy tower carved out of rock, Türkiye has absolutely everything you need for the most unforgettable of holidays.

Wizz Air is doing its part to boost tourism in this fascinating country, recently launching direct flights to Istanbul, connecting Türkiye with Hungary, Romania, the UAE and the UK. WIZZ also flies to Ankara and has seasonal flights to Dalaman and Antalya. Each of the four destinations comes with its own unique charm.

Straddling Europe and Asia, **Istanbul** is the only city to play host to consecutive Christian and Islamic empires – a distinction that gives it an extraordinary array of iconic structures. Start your trip at the cavernous Hagia Sophia, which started off in 360AD as a Greek Orthodox Church before becoming a mosque, a museum, and recently a mosque again.

Make sure to stop by the 'wishing column' where you can stick a thumb into a hole and attempt to rotate it in a perfect circle. According to legend, if your finger gets wet, your wish will be fulfilled or any ailment you have will be cured.

From there, stroll over to two Ottoman-era gems: the beautiful



Here The Blue Mosque in Istanbul
Inset The Basilica Cistern

Blue Mosque, which gets its name from the blue tiles that line the interior walls, and Topkapi Palace with its bejewelled thrones, Harem and 86-carat pear-shaped Spoonmaker's Diamond.

For something a tad less fancy, go on a shopping spree at Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, hop on board a boat and cruise down the Bosphorus Strait, or visit the Basilica Cistern and get a selfie with some enormous upside-down Medusa heads.

While it might not attract as many visitors as Istanbul, Türkiye's cosmopolitan capital **Ankara** doesn't take a backward step when it comes to memorable experiences. Ankara Castle with its 42 pentagonal towers offers an interesting look back at Ottoman times as well as panoramic views over the city. Anıtkabir – the mausoleum of Atatürk, founder and first President of the Republic of Türkiye – is equally impressive. as is Atakule, a microphone-shaped observation tower with an in-house café that rotates 360 degrees while you tuck into some local delicacies.

If sea and sand are more your speed, head down to Türkiye's southwestern coast – known for its unspoilt beaches and azure waters. Nothing sums up the region's eye-popping appeal better than the Blue Lagoon in the resort village of Ölüdeniz, a short distance from **Dalaman**. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the lagoon has a tree-lined mountainous backdrop and is separated from the main beach by a sandbank, allowing bathers to swim in the sheltered waters.

In between cooling dips, give yourself a different kind of chill at the ghost town of Kayaköy. Clinging to the lush slopes of the Taurus mountains, the village, built in the 1700s, was once a thriving community of 20,000 people before the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and natural disaster led to it being abandoned. Today only about 500 overgrown structures remain, including old churches, cafés and a 17th-century fountain, while there's also a museum chronicling Kayaköy's spooky history.

And, of course, you can't leave the Dalaman district without getting a bit dirty. One of the biggest attractions in southwest Türkiye is the Sultaniye Spa, where you can detox in a mudbath and rejuvenate in a sulphur pool.

You'll find plenty other relaxing sights in **Antalya**, which sits on the aptly named Turquoise Coast. There are some 640km of beaches to explore, including the lesser-known Mermerli, the perfect spot for some snorkelling, and the family-friendly Lara Beach.

In Antalya's city centre, you can marvel at the extremely well-preserved Hadrian's Gate, built in 130AD to commemorate a visit by the Roman emperor Hadrian. Once part of the city's outer wall, the three arches became an important gateway and are flanked by two towers from different periods – the southern tower is from the Roman era, while the northern tower dates back to the 13th century. End your Antalyan adventure with a trip to the Düden Waterfalls 12 km northeast of the city, which cascade spectacularly off a rocky cliff directly into the Mediterranean Sea.







Clockwise from above
Antalya harbour; the Kayaköy haunted village; the Taurus mountains

“Ground Operations is like a big theatre production”

Meet two of the Wizz Air employees who keep everything running smoothly at the airports that we fly to

When most passengers pass through an airport they give little thought to the enormous work that goes in behind the scenes to make everything run smoothly. Tasked with getting Wizz Air customers onto planes quickly, efficiently and safely – from check-in and security control to baggage loading and de-icing aircraft – is Ground Operations, which has headquarters in the UK, Hungary, Malta and Abu Dhabi and teams across the airline’s vast network.

“The four Ground Ops departments are a close-knit family,” says Eszter Rózsahegyi, Senior Ground Operations Manager at Wizz Air UK. “We cooperate on a daily basis and share responsibility in overseeing the Wizz Air Group’s operations in all the 54 countries and 194 airports we operate to.”

All the activities that fall under the four departments are actually outsourced and done by third-party “ground handlers”. That means one of the main jobs of Ground Operations is to ensure these companies match the high standards set by Wizz Air. When obstacles do arise, Ground Operations has to get everything back on track.

“We have to make sure that during disruptions passengers are booked to other flights, transportation is organised and hotels are booked,” says Dániel Buss, Head of Ground Operations in Hungary. “In winter, we have to make sure that de-icing of the aircraft is done soonest and in an expert manner. Bags have to be loaded into the airplane and the right person has to be sitting on the right flight. Behind the scenes everybody in the

“Everyone is working towards the safety of our customers”



Ground Operations department is working toward the comfort, safety and flawless experience of our customers. We take this very seriously.”

If Ground Operations seems like a dizzyingly difficult job, that’s because it is. It’s a part of aviation where good teamwork is absolutely essential.

“My team are the real heroes making sure everyone can depart safely and on time,” says Eszter. “Aircraft and passenger handling is an incredibly complex process, considering how many

Below left Eszter Rózsahegyi is based in the UK **Below** Dániel Buss runs Ground Operations in Hungary



simultaneous activities have to be carried out at the same time in synchronisation, as well as having to cooperate with the crew, Operations Control Centre, Air Traffic Control, and that you have many other airlines operating from the same airport at a given time. It's kind of like a big theatre production – there is a lot more going on behind the scenes than passengers could imagine."

Before heading their Ground Operations departments, Eszter and Dániel both held several positions at Wizz Air, learning the business as they've moved up in the company. Eszter started as a Crew Dispatcher before becoming an Airport Development Manager and Senior Purchasing Manager. Dániel started as a Purchasing Manager before becoming Head of Purchasing and then Head of Airport Development.

"Wizz Air is a place where you can do anything and be anyone if you're willing to work for it," says Eszter. "Over the past eight years I have been given amazing opportunities all over our airline group which allowed me to stretch my limits and learn new things about myself, especially that you can accomplish anything."

For both Eszter and Dániel the most rewarding part of their job is ensuring passengers have a trouble-free journey. "When the on-time performance and utilisation is achieved, it's always a great accomplishment and feeling," says Dániel. "Then we know that we delivered what we promised to the customers and for the company."

Eszter adds: "If everyone on the team does their part, we provide passengers with safe, affordable, and convenient travel options while being the most sustainable airline in Europe. We continuously strive to be better, digitalise and revolutionise, as we did when we started offering affordable air travel to passengers in Eastern Europe 19 years ago. The hard work and dedication of the WIZZ team has landed us where we are now and the only way is up."

Running with WIZZ

Whether you're a beginner or a professional athlete, the WIZZ marathons and half-marathons are both challenging and fun. In 2022, more than 53,500 runners from 50 countries joined us for these events. This year, Wizz Air will sponsor eight running meets in six countries across the network. These unique adventures demonstrate our commitment to inclusive sports tourism and promoting an active lifestyle. For more information, visit **wizzair.com**



FLY THE GREENEST

More about sustainability at Wizz Air:

How we fly in the most environmentally sustainable way*

We launched Wizz Air with the strong belief that air travel should not be a privilege. That we will create a world of opportunity for all through affordable travel. And we are delivering on that promise.

And while we gave the freedom to travel to more and more people, we have also proven that growth and sustainability can be achieved hand in hand. While breaking down barriers between people and air travel, we've also shown a whole industry how aviation can be more sustainable.

Crucial business model and design decisions, from pricing to seat density, make sure we fly with high-load factors. We've never even thought about business-class seats. Or a hub-and-spoke model. Or substituting short train rides for flights. We've instead focused on flying with the youngest, most efficient fleet and the most modern engines possible, to consume less fuel.

This all delivers the lowest CO_2 emissions per passenger kilometre in the industry, beating not just legacy carriers, but also low-cost airlines operating in a similar way to us.

A plane will never be greener than a train or an electric vehicle.

But we are and will be the greenest choice of flying. Because when it comes to a crucial issue like sustainability, we believe in the facts of today. Not promises of the future.

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

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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 by 2% and CO2 emissions by 540 tonnes per year per plane. The whole fleet will be equipped by 2024

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We wash every engine around ten times per year – the cleaner they are, the smoother they run, and therefore less fuel is needed

Did you know?

55.2 grams

was Wizz Air's CO2 intensity in 2022, which is our lowest ever recorded annual result. This is also the lowest CO2 intensity among our major competitors.

** Wizz Air was named Global Environmental Sustainability Airline Group of the Year by the Centre for Aviation (CAPA) at its Awards for Excellence 2022*

BULGARIA – SOFIA

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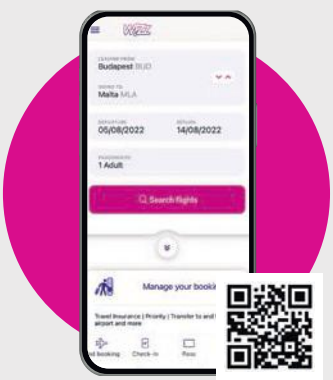


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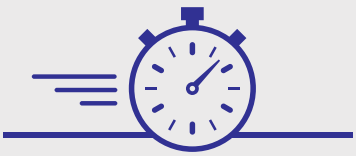


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Ticket discount

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*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 €1499, THE ITALY DISCOUNT CLUB MEMBER MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE SAME BOOKING FOR HIS/HER COMPANION(S) TO ALSO RECEIVE THE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS.



Flexible travel

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 (including passenger name) 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.

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.

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



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 travelling for business or pleasure. Book online at **wizzparking.com**.

WIZZ Ride
Book your taxi 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.

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



Ticket discount



Save 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 €19.99
Group membership €34.99

Benefits include:



Ticket discount**



WIZZ Priority





Discover the magic of Craiova in spring

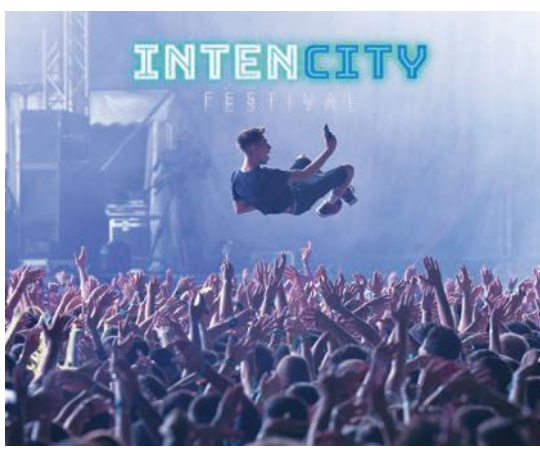
The picturesque Romanian city has gorgeous parks, markets and outdoor art and more to discover this season

If you are looking for a blossoming city this spring, choose Craiova – which has hundreds of thousands of beautiful flowers. Craiova is the perfect place to have a fairytale Easter holiday or if you want to... fall in love.

Nicolae Romanescu Park is the largest natural park in central Europe. Designed by the French architect Édouard Redont, the park received the gold medal at the Universal Exhibition in Paris. Here you will find a charming castle, a suspended bridge, zoo, lakes, boat trips, waterfalls, karting for children and the most beautiful Easter market in Europe, with unique painted cottages, a surprising Alice in Wonderland-style setting, oversized hats and painted eggs, concerts, traditional food and drinks.

Craiova is a relaxing and charming place, and the best choice for an Easter break between 1 April - 1 May. Just book a flight to Craiova and see it for yourself.
If you are a summer dance lover, get a ticket to IntenCity – the festival, which brings together the music from yesterday, today and tomorrow. It's a festival for those who know how to set the right rhythm for the summer, taking place between 30 June and 2 July. Take your friends and family to Craiova, where people live intensely.

Craiova is a city of generous people, with amazing old buildings and green spaces, a good vibe and fascinating traditions and gastronomy. It is the place where local artists give colour to urban



spaces, where you can take your perfect selfie.

Situated 227km from Bucharest, the capital of Romania, Craiova has an international airport. Its regional location grants very good connectivity to the Carpathian Mountains, the Danube and other European connections.

facebook.com/PMCraiova
facebook.com/CraiovaIntenCity

Our fleet

Younger, greener and growing

Wizz Air has a single-type fleet of 175 aircraft from the Airbus A320 family. It's among the youngest and most efficient in the world – and the safest. The average age of our aircraft is 4.4 years, well below the average fleet age of our major competitors, which is around 10 years. Our planes already have the most sophisticated safety equipment and, by 2030, we will have 500 aircraft. Our neo aircraft feature advanced systems and engines that reduce our carbon footprint, as well as noise and cost, helping us keep fares low and accessible and provide the most responsible choice of air travel available. Wizz Air is currently the largest operator of the most sustainable Airbus A321neo aircraft in Europe.

Airbus A320ceo

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

Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)

Number of aircraft* 46

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



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



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



Airbus A321neo

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

Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)

Number of aircraft* 82

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



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 APRIL 2023

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:





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- Treatments made only by qualified specialists in the field +10 years experience



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- Cutting-edge technology and procedures that meet international standard

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ISO 9001:2015

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ISO 9001

NO 1 CLINIC IN ROMANIA ACCORDING TO GCR

MC Management Certification
Nr. certificat : 4244
ISO 14001:2015

QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ISO 14001



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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
- Consider wearing a face mask, ensuring it covers your nose and mouth while 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

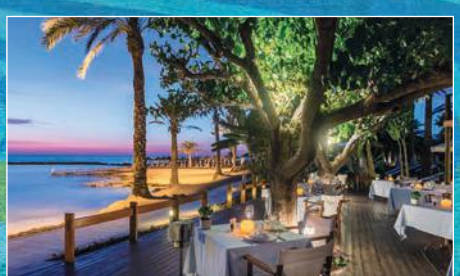
*Subject to applicable jurisdiction

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


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