

Footprints

MINOR HOTEL GROUP / ISSUE 8 / 2014

NORTHERN THAILAND

A DISCOVERY
OF EXOTIC DIVERSITY

MACKAY
QUEENSLAND'S VIBRANT CITY

SPA
YOUR UNIQUE BALANCE
WELLNESS EXPERIENCES

SAFARI
THE MAGNIFICENCE
OF NATURE

MINOR HOTEL GROUP

HOTELS AND RESORTS,
WORLD CLASS SPAS AND
AWARD-WINNING
HOSPITALITY



MINOR HOTEL GROUP PCL.

A HOTEL OWNER, OPERATOR AND INVESTOR
WITH A PORTFOLIO OF MORE THAN
110 HOTELS AND RESORTS UNDER
THE ANANTARA, AVANI, OAKS,
PER AQUUM, ELEWANA COLLECTION,
FOUR SEASONS, ST.REGIS, MARRIOTT, AND
MINOR INTERNATIONAL BRANDS. TODAY,
MINOR HOTEL GROUP OPERATES IN
19 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND, CAMBODIA, CHINA, INDONESIA,
KENYA, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MOZAMBIQUE,
QATAR, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, THAILAND,
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND VIETNAM.



PERAQUUM

Bold, imaginative and renowned for their trailblazing concepts such as the Maldivian underwater spa, a modern campsite dining experience or simply spectacular views of the Dubai city skyline from a boutique retreat set on a private polo estate.

PERAQUUM.COM



ANANTARA HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

Luxurious and heartfelt hospitality. Embark on a journey rich with discovery at these unique destinations. Be it a quick city break or an extravagant once in a lifetime experience, Anantara offers indigenous and exotic retreats that draw on the locale's heritage.

ANANTARA.COM



AVANI HOTELS & RESORTS

Contemporary, relaxed and imaginative. Be it a leisurely family break or romantic escape, AVANI hotels and resorts provide the right space for relaxed and inspired comfort. Discerning service, relaxed dining and engaging recreation facilities for all guests are a given.

AVANIHOTELS.COM



OAKS HOTELS & RESORTS

A unique blend of city hotels in central locations and resort style accommodation in tourist destinations across Asia Pacific and the Middle East. For both short and longer stays, families and groups enjoy friendly service, superior accommodation and quality onsite leisure facilities.

OAKSHOTELSRESORTS.COM



ELEWANA COLLECTION

Each of the camps, lodges and hotels within the Elewana Collection offers unique accommodations of exceptional comfort in Africa. Their iconic locations provide any discerning world-traveller one of the most rewarding experiences they could wish for; close access to all the drama and spectacle of African wildlife.

ELEWANACOLLECTION.COM



MSPA

MSpa International currently operates 56 spas in a diverse collection of exclusive worldwide properties. With current expansion projects underway in China, the Middle East, Africa and the Maldives, MSpa International has risen to become a leading international spa operator.

MSPA-INTERNATIONAL.COM



ANANTARA VACATION CLUB

A unique luxury vacation ownership product offering the opportunity for 5 Star holidays in choice destinations. The vacation lifestyle is yours to explore with Anantara and affiliated destinations, from one exotic locale to the next, for your family today and generations to come.

ANANTARAVACATIONCLUB.COM



MJETS

Convenience, flexibility and a more personalised service with Thailand's premier private jet service. Providing a full range of services to executive customers and their jets, a 2,000 sq ft. executive lounge offers a relaxing environment, luxurious services including shower facilities and business centre for passengers and pilots.

MJETS.COM



WELCOME

With the high season upon us we're drawing your attention to the majestic mountains and luxury resorts of Northern Thailand with our cover story. Rich in culture, with a mesmerising scenic beauty, it's the time of year when warm sunny days give way to cool crisp evenings, rendering the thick forested jungles just perfect for elephant trekking.

Staying on the theme of Thailand and elephants, we're still recovering from the excitement of the 13th King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament, held for the first time in Bangkok. The event was a thumping success, drawing huge crowds and raising considerable funds for projects that better the lives of Thailand's elephant population. The event, inaugurated in 2001 has become one of the most unique sporting occasions in Asia and, most importantly, has done much to draw attention to the plight of Thailand's national animal.

Far from the jungles and playing fields of Thailand, we've been strengthening our position in Africa through a partnership with Sun International. We're extremely proud to be able to expand into this magnificent continent with a stake in eight properties in five African countries including Botswana, Zambia, Namibia, Lesotho and

Swaziland. The majority of the properties will be reflagged to Minor Hotel Group's AVANI brand and takes our total number of properties in operation to 118 in 19 countries.

All this gallivanting around to exotic locations can become pretty exhausting, so we've also been focusing on creating new and enhanced treatments to help you unwind. Anantara's new balance wellness concept is designed to give you total flexibility over time as well as an unprecedented range of wellness elements to choose from on page six.

Last but not least, I'd like to say 'happy anniversary' to our friends, colleagues and guests at HuvaFen Fushi in the Maldives, celebrating a decade of hospitality in the dazzling waters of the Indian Ocean.

I wish you an enjoyable read and a delightful stay at our hotels and resorts. And please, do let our associates know if we can be of assistance to make your time as relaxing and memorable as we intend it to be. After all, that's what we are here for.

Dillip Rajakarier
CEO Minor Hotel Group



Blending riverside relaxation, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on its doorstep and beautiful beach life, a bicycle or boat ride away, Anantara Hoi An Resort is a boutique retreat along the Thu Bon River in the historic port town of Hoi An. Noel Cameron, General Manager of Anantara Hoi An Resort, reveals the most popular and unique experiences for guests to enjoy in Vietnam's central coastal region.

What signature resort experiences showcase the region's indigenous and ancient culture?

Hoi An is a richly artistic destination and our resort offers Vietnamese painting and lantern making lessons, as well as traditional cooking classes. For a leisurely taste of local life, guests can sip Vietnamese coffee at our Riverside Café and try Vietnam's famous baguettes at the Heritage Bar, either with a view of street life or in the colonial bar

where vintage photography portrays Hoi An's history. Combining indulgence with local culture, our spa offers indigenous therapies such as the Vietnamese Four Hands Massage in which two therapists apply pressure point and gentle chopping techniques in rhythmic tandem.

What experiences have guests raved about?

Hoi An has a fascinating merchant trading past and our guests are constantly delighted by a stroll around the town to see its colonial influences, as well as the beautiful arts and crafts. Such a romantic destination naturally attracts couples and our resort offers plenty of intimate experiences. The most raved about is our Dining by Design journeys with a choice of connoisseur menus enjoyed with butler service by the river, in a poolside pavilion or for a truly unique experience, in a beautiful rice paddy. While popular cruises on the Thu Bon River can be booked for breakfast, lunch or at sunset.

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TRAVEL TIPS

BOOK YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY ON ANANTARA.COM

It has never been easier to book your Anantara journey of discovery. Anantara Hotels & Resorts recently launched its itinerary booking functionality on anantara.com. Whether you are booking a few days in Bangkok followed by a weekend getaway in a private villa in Phuket or booking your desert hideaway at Qasr al Sarab before you journey on to Eastern Mangroves, it's all easily bookable with our new functionality.

GHA DISCOVERY

GHA Discovery is the Anantara, AVANI and Per AQUUM partnership with Global Hotel Alliance. With over 450 partner hotels globally, there's a hotel almost everywhere you need one offering great rewards and benefits. A world of possibilities is yours to explore across 26 member hotel chains in the alliance. Join GHA Discovery today by going to anantara.com/discovery and start seeing the rewards.





Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort

NORTHERN THAILAND A DISCOVERY OF EXOTIC DIVERSITY

RICH IN CULTURE, WITH MESMERISING SCENIC BEAUTY, THE MOUNTAINS AND LUSH TROPICAL JUNGLES OF NORTHERN THAILAND ARE THREADED WITH HISTORIC TRACKS, HILL TRIBE VILLAGES AND LUXURY RESORTS THAT OPEN OUT AND EMBRACE THE LANDSCAPE'S MYSTIQUE AND WONDER.

The mist shrouded mountains of Northern Thailand offer a world of discovery for the curious traveller with an urge to explore. Beyond the urban conurbations of the lowlands, rugged mountains peppered with hill tribe villages swallow up the horizon to overlap with Myanmar, China and Laos. For centuries, nomadic travellers from all corners of Asia have traversed these mountains in search of new homes; crossing borders, trading and exchanging skills to create a unique culture that lives on to this day.

As a traveller, you'll find living reminders of this region's fabled past in the textiles and jewellery found in the markets of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai; in traditional music kept alive by people determined to hold onto their heritage; in the temples and shrines that date back to the 7th century; in the legends and festivals celebrated for generations; in the food that explodes with flavour and, most importantly of all, in the warm hospitality that radiates from the locals.



Lanna temple



Ancient wall sculpture art

The scenic beauty of The North has been fairly well preserved and has more natural forest cover than any other region in Thailand. The mountains, threaded with majestic rivers stand at the heart of the Golden Triangle and are dotted with waterfalls and hidden hill tribe villages where people welcome tourists into their homes. Many travellers choose to hire a guide and trek through the forested mountains, stopping over in hill tribe villages and sailing down the rivers on bamboo rafts.

In Northern Thailand you can rummage through the sleepless markets of Chiang Mai and enjoy a night of fine dining and city nightlife. Discover one of the most beautiful Lanna temples in Lampang Province. Visit the fascinating Hall of Opium Museum and embark on a luminous journey through the history of opium. Hire a four wheel drive



and venture into the wild and stunning landscapes of Mae Hong Son Province, a popular choice for trekking, river and motorcycle trips. Or drive to the top of Doi Tung Mountain, explore the beautiful gardens of Mae Fah Luang and watch the mist below your feet thicken and fade as the sun slips away to the west.

Another highlight of this region is encountering the enchanting world of elephants at Asia's premier Elephant Camp, Anantara Golden Triangle.

Situated in lush jungle and boasting breathtaking panoramas of Myanmar and Laos, Anantara's hilltop Chiang Rai resort offers unforgettable adventures. You'll be invited to make friends with Thailand's gentle giants as you learn to drive your very own elephant and trek through vivid jungle landscapes. Watch the babies of the herd playing and witness the antics of river bathtime, and if you're feeling brave, jump in and experience the joy of bathing with an elephant.

Northern Thailand remains a region of simple pleasures shrouded in mystique and imbued with a rich cultural heritage all of its own.



Doi Inthanon National Park, Chiang Mai

TRAVEL GUIDE

WHEN TO GO

Northern Thailand is a year round destination. The cool season coincides with the high season and begins in late October and ends in February. December and January are the coolest winter months. The hot season runs between March and May. The average daily temperature in March is 27° C rising to 36° C in April. The Monsoon season starts in May and ends in September. This is a particularly misty time of year but you can expect some sunshine on most days as it generally only rains in the afternoon, evening and night time. Aside from the rain, the weather is lovely and mild with average temperatures hovering at around 25° C.

WHERE TO STAY

Minor Hotel Group has two stunning resorts under the Anantara brand in Northern Thailand. Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa overlooking the Mae Ping River is a luxurious sanctuary of striking contemporary style, accented by traditional Thai and colonial elements. The exciting city of Chiang Mai sits on the doorstep with a choice of great nightlife, shopping and historic sites. Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort is situated in the heart of the Golden Triangle and offers breathtaking panoramas of Myanmar and Laos.

EXCURSIONS

Northern Thailand offers a plethora of day trips to temples, historical sites and museums, excursions into the jungles where you can go river rafting, elephant trekking, rock climbing, mountain biking and more.

TRANSFERS

Transfers can be arranged to and from Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai airports. There are regular bus services from Bangkok to Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai and regular train services linking Chiang Mai with Bangkok.

CURRENCY

The Thai currency is the Thai Baht. ATMs are commonplace and all Visa Cards and Mastercards are accepted at Anantara Hotels & Resorts.

LOCAL LAWS & ETIQUETTE

When someone dips their head and holds the palms of their hands together in a prayer-like motion they are showing a form of respect called a 'wai', if you return this gesture with a smile you'll find yourself making friends very quickly.

Always dress modestly and take off your shoes when entering a temple or somebody's home.

Never sit with the heels of your feet pointing towards someone and try to avoid resting them on table tops.

Never tap someone on the head, even young people.



BALANCE

UNIQUE WELLNESS EXPERIENCES

ENJOY THE FLEXIBILITY OF BLENDING A WIDE RANGE OF WELLNESS EXPERIENCES OR TAILORED PROGRAMMES INTO A LUXURY HOLIDAY WITH OUR NEW WELLNESS CONCEPT.

People are becoming more savvy about their health and there is growing demand for professional guidance on how best to achieve the right balance. Yet for so many of us in the stressful modern world, holiday time is precious and the idea of spending a well-deserved vacation at a health retreat or boot camp often seems too restrictive.

Anantara's new Balance wellness concept is refreshingly different, offering total flexibility. As opposed to only creating regimented programmes, Balance offers a wide range of different wellness elements for you to choose from, supported by expert guidance and personalised programmes, as well as specialist retreat packages. This flexible approach allows you to split your time, perhaps choosing one day or week of wellness activities and the rest of the time free to relax and indulge.



Balance experiences can focus on weight loss and body toning, detoxing and anti-ageing, de-stressing or holistic healing, or simply the satisfaction of returning from holiday looking and feeling great. Wellness cuisine menus offer delicious nutrition. With freshly squeezed raw fruit and vegetable juices you can enjoy a one off energising boost or a tailored juice cleanse. Savour wellness meals by day, and then splurge on a steak and wine dinner at night. Balance cooking classes teach imaginative and healthier culinary skills to incorporate back home. Fitness classes help to burn off pounds and if you'd like to experience holistic exercise, book a yoga or tai chi class. Results driven Anantara Spa treatments deliver therapeutic pampering. Educational seminars create a deeper awareness of health and wellbeing to provide the knowledge and practical skills to create a more balanced lifestyle back home. While a "Masters of Wellness" visiting practitioner calendar offers holistic healing therapies by trusted experts to address imbalances, blockages or unhealthy patterns, with the option of booking just one session to see how you feel about it, or making good use of the space and time that a holiday affords by reserving a series for maximum results.

Anantara guests can look forward to finding their own personal balance in some of the world's most exotic destinations. Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara is the first Anantara resort to feature a dedicated wellness centre. Over the next 18 months, Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas worldwide will launch specialist one day and extended retreats that are crafted from the wide choice of Balance elements, beginning this September at four Thailand resorts. At Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa and Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort in Northern Thailand, as well as Anantara Phuket Layan Resort & Spa and Anantara Phuket Villas on the tropical island of Phuket, a Balance calendar of visiting practitioners will commence with a Thai Traditional Healing Wisdom programme, which focuses on rebalancing each person's natural composition of elements through traditional Thai treatments and herbal medicines, as well as diet and exercises for the body and mind.



THE MAGIC OF MACKAY QUEENSLAND'S VIBRANT CITY

FROM THE BEST FISHING, ISLAND ADVENTURES
AND NATIONAL PARK WILDLIFE, TO HISTORIC TOWNS
AND A MINING HERITAGE, ENJOY EVERYTHING MACKAY
HAS TO OFFER FROM OAKS RIVERMARQUE.

Airlie Beach in Mackay



Oaks Rivermarque

Sitting halfway between Brisbane and Cairns in Australia's populous 'Sunshine State', Mackay fuses a subtropical climate, sparkling sapphire waters and spectacular natural landscapes, offering travellers the chance to enjoy a wonderful range of land and sea activities.

For fishing, boating and water enthusiasts, a host of options to cast a line, swim and sail await. As the unique meeting point for fish species that populate both northern and southern waters, Mackay boasts some of the best fishing in Australia. From the thrill of deep sea game fishing to discovering the myriad of estuarial waterways on the mighty Pioneer River, Mackay has spots to suit all anglers.

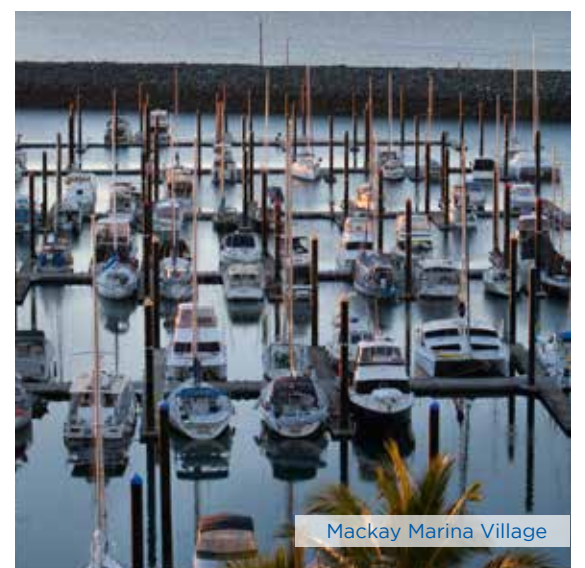
A collection of postcard perfect tropical islands also lie just off Mackay's coast at the southern tip of the Whitsunday Islands - part of the famous Great Barrier Reef. Brampton, Kewswick and Scawfell islands are all home to sheltered waters fringed by rainbow coloured reefs that are teeming with kaleidoscopic fish and marine life. While year round crystal clear warm waters offer perfect conditions for snorkelling and swimming.

For land lovers, the ancient rainforest of Eungella National Park, inland of Mackay, is also a must see, with over 20 kilometres of bush walking tracks to explore. Spectacular lookouts, idyllic picnic sites, freshwater swimming holes and over 860 plant species make up the park, which also boasts some of the best viewing platforms to see wallabies, possums, kookaburras and kangaroos, and to catch a glimpse of one of Australia's shiest and most intriguing indigenous animals - the platypus.

As the gateway to the Bowen Basin Coal Mining Reserves - the single largest in Australia - visitors can take a look at the export-orientated industry of Queensland's lucrative mining belt via various tours. Wide, beautiful landscapes meld with historic towns, mining communities and the inspiring ingenuity of man, inviting travellers to leave the city behind for a different perspective, including seeing the The Port of Hay Point which is home to one of the biggest and most efficient coal ports in the world.

The ideal place to stay while visiting and exploring Mackay is the region's newest hotel development; the eight level Oaks Rivermarque, which offers a selection of stylishly appointed hotel rooms and studios, as well as spacious, open plan one and two bedroom apartments. The 4.5 star property features a range of deluxe onsite

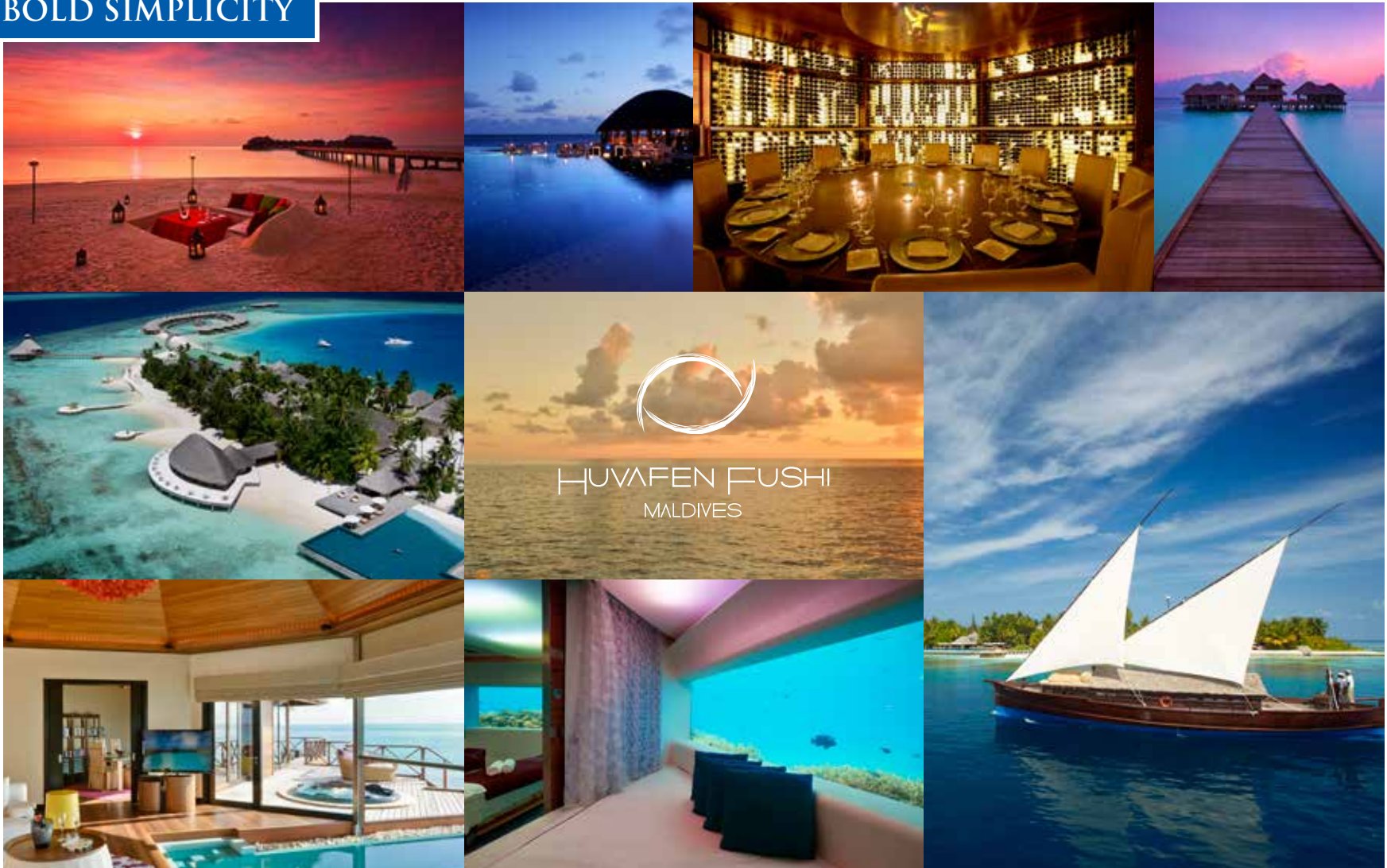
facilities, including a swimming pool, spa, well-equipped gymnasium, BBQ area and sundeck. Offering sweeping views over the Pioneer River and immediate access to some of Mackay's most popular local attractions, such as the Mackay Golf Club, Botanical Gardens and Mackay Marina Village, in addition to the legendary Bluewater Lagoon leisure facility and Bluewater Trail, Oaks Rivermarque is the ideal base to get well-acquainted with this exciting city and explore all the attractions that lie further afield too.



Mackay Marina Village

STAY:

Oaks Rivermarque
55-63 River Street, Mackay QLD 4740



A DECADE OF PURE DECADENCE

HUVAFEN FUSHI CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF POETIC ISLAND STYLE

OFFERING MALDIVIAN ISLAND VOGUE EXPERIENCES, HUVAFEN FUSHI CONTINUES TO INSPIRE GUESTS TO FOLLOW THEIR PASSION AND LIVE THE DREAM LIKE NEVER BEFORE.

The popularity of the Maldives as a discerning choice for savvy travellers has been on the rise since 2004 and HuvaFen Fushi has become renowned as the epitome of indulgent island retreats. Within the island nation’s small cadre of trend-setting establishments, no retreat embodies the spirit of beach chic as much as HuvaFen Fushi, which is celebrating 10 years of visionary experiences and making dreams come true amidst the white beaches and dazzling turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean.

The enviable balconies of over water villas to drink in the ocean views and the ambiance of the beach pavilions bring a suave finesse to a destination. The timely architecture is one of the reasons HuvaFen Fushi regularly makes best-of and must-visit lists from such travel authorities as Condé Nast’s UK and US Hot Lists.

Over the course of its first decade, HuvaFen Fushi’s reputation for style and pioneering concepts has been honed through partnerships with world-famous DJs such as Ravin, and luxury brands, as well as globe-trotting icons such as Irma, the creative expression of German artist Jasmin Khezri, and the transcendent approach to world-firsts, such as the reinvention of relaxation with the world’s first underwater spa.

Marking the resort’s 10th anniversary, 10 days of events are planned at HuvaFen Fushi from 29 November – 9 December with Ravin as a returning guest DJ and a debut appearance by internationally renowned chef Ian Kittichai. General Manager Marc Gussing says, “We have created five Anniversary Glory Days packages for guests to follow their dreams with us over the 10-day period, offering a total of 50 unique experiences. Whether your passion is for wine, food, spa, water sports, music or the destination itself, this is a one-time chance to experience the ultimate indulgence in such a unique, avant-garde setting and awake the urge to follow that Maldivian dream in ways no other retreat can offer.”

5 DREAMS TO CELEBRATE

Choose your 10-day dream holiday from 29 November – 9 December 2014

WINE

Join us in VINUM for a fine wine pilgrimage like no other, 10 nights in a row.

DINE

Pair your greatest dining expectations with 10 unique destinations on and around the island.

CHAMPAGNE

Breakfast with bubbles; start your day with one of 10 coveted varieties.

SPA

10 LIME experiences to bring you out of your shell and into the limelight.

FLOAT

Bring out your inner-Maldivian adventurer with 10 ways to enjoy the Indian Ocean.

Each anniversary package also includes a classic movie screening every night at a beachside FLOAT venue, a DJ jam session with world renowned DJ Ravin and a cooking class with celebrity chef Ian Kittichai.

SPICE SPOONS

A MALDIVIAN CULINARY JOURNEY

RECREATE THE SUBLIMINAL DELIGHTS OF MALDIVIAN CUISINE USING ANANTARA'S SPICE SPOONS AS YOUR GUIDE.



SPICE SPOONS

Following the popularity and success of our Thai, Arabian, Vietnamese and Indonesian Culinary Journeys, Anantara's Spice Spoons Cooking School is proud to introduce a Maldivian Culinary Journey, providing guests in the Maldives with the opportunity to master authentic island cooking skills.

Immersing culinary enthusiasts in the heart and soul of indigenous cuisine, Anantara's experienced Maldivian chefs share their tips and expert secrets in a step by step cooking class, so that guests leave not only with new skills to impress family and friends back home, but also a deep appreciation for the Maldives' unique culinary culture.

Maldivian cuisine reflects the pure simplicity of island life. Waters teeming with fish encapsulate 26 island atolls,

where coconuts grow in abundance. It therefore comes as no surprise that seafood, coconut milk, fresh fruit and imported rice form the staples of local recipes. Centuries of trade with the Indian sub-continent, Africa, Arabia and the Far East has enriched the offering with an exciting blend of herbs and spices, like turmeric, coriander, curry leaves, chilli and cumin.



In the Maldives, snacks called hedhikaa are served in homes and teashops, comprising of finger food placed on the table and enjoyed communally like tapas. Amongst the most popular are bite-sized crab cakes made with coconut milk, fish pieces with a chillicoating and curried tuna rolls. For sweet-tooths, desserts include coloured coils of sugared fried batter known as zileybee, tiny bananas and rice pudding. Traditionally, Maldivians will conclude a meal with a thinly sliced areca nut blended with cloves and lime juice, wrapped in an areca leaf, a piquant punch for an acquired taste!

When visiting Anantara Kihavah Villas, Anantara Dhigu Resort & Spa and Anantara Veli Resort & Spa in the Maldives, take time away from the beach for a Spice Spoons Maldivian Culinary Journey. Just make sure that your local market is well-stocked with seafood and coconut milk so you can recreate your favourite recipes at home!



Cooking School at Anantara Dhigu Resort & Spa

POPULAR MALDIVIAN DISHES

Maldivian Raih Kakuni Cakes - Potato and Crab Cakes (Starter)

A simple crab cake flavoured with cumin, curry leaves and ginger that carries the taste of the east, and is best enjoyed Maldivian style with afternoon tea.

Aluvi Kiru Garudhiya - Curried Potato Soup (Main)

Potatoes made their way to the Maldives via India and Sri Lanka. Enriched with a creamy vegetable broth, curry powder and caraway seed, this filling and homely soup is a firm favourite with Maldivians of all generations.

En'di Kaashi Kiru - Coconut Crème Brûlée (Dessert)

A perfect sweet snack for every occasion, and according to Maldivian tradition, shared with the island community when a new born baby is named after seven days.



SERENGETI MIGRATION CAMP

EXPERIENCE THE MAGNIFICENCE OF NATURE

FLANKING THE FAMOUS GRUMETI RIVER AND ITS RESIDENT HIPPOS, THE SERENGETI MIGRATION CAMP OFFERS INCREDIBLE GAME VIEWING IN A LANDSCAPE UNTOUCHED SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME.

The Serengeti Migration Camp is part of the Elewana Collection's ultimate African experience, comprising lodges, camps and hotels offering unique accommodations in iconic settings. Travellers with a sense of adventure can watch the drama of Africa's mesmerising wildlife unfold from exceptional comfort, combined with a paradise beach escape in sought after coastal locations, for the best of both breathtaking worlds.

Hidden among rocky outcrops, the Serengeti Migration Camp is located at the starting point of the annual Great Migration. 20 luxurious elevated tents, each with spacious and richly furnished bedrooms, blend seamlessly into the environment and feature a 360 degree veranda deck, treating guests to the ever-present sounds of the bush and constant game sightings.

The camp's main tent has a split level lounge, swimming pool, restaurant and viewing platforms with outlooks across the river and rugged landscape beyond. Yet it is the incredible proximity of the wild which takes the experience of this camp to an altogether higher level.



Internationally renowned for the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth, Serengeti National Park is Tanzania's oldest and most popular national park, a world heritage site and recently proclaimed Wonder of the World. Famed for its annual migration, which sees some six million hooves pound the open plains as more than 200,000 zebras and 300,000 gazelles join the wildebeests' trek for fresh grazing, authors and filmmakers flock from across the globe to document this amazing event. However there is still only one way to truly understand and experience the true magnificence of this natural phenomenon, and that is to be a part of it.



CLUB OWNERS

SHARE THEIR TRAVEL STORIES

LIFESTYLE

READ REAL REVIEWS BY CLUB OWNERS WHO HAVE EXPLORED TANZANIA
WITH A SKYSAFARI ADVENTURE, AND SOAKED UP THE TRANQUILLITY
AND CONVENIENCE OF AN ESCAPE TO ANANTARA VACATION CLUB KOH SAMUI.

Launched in 2010, Anantara Vacation Club is a unique luxury shared ownership concept which offers a points-based, multiple destination, and flexible shared holiday ownership options for discerning consumers wishing to travel throughout Asia and beyond.

In this issue, Anantara Vacation Club Owners share some of their recent travel experiences to destinations such as the tropical serenity of Koh Samui, Thailand; and on a multiple-family safari to the African Serengeti.



In July, two Anantara Vacation Club Owner families embarked together on an 8 day/7 night SkySafari in Tanzania- a bespoke blend of incomparable game viewing opportunities, luxurious accommodations in partnership with Elewana Collection, and an array of unsurpassable lifelong memories. Here, they share the tale of their recent adventure:

"Joining Anantara Vacation Club's African Safari was the trip of a lifetime for our family; a truly amazing experience. Between the magical tree houses and lodges, the knowledgeable guides, and exquisite dining, our entire family was in paradise. It was an unforgettable trip."

- JIELIN ZHANG, OWNER SINCE AUGUST 2013

"Earlier this summer we joined an African wildlife expedition, arranged by Anantara Vacation Club through their Royal Adventures programme. Our family was greeted at every hotel and lodge with unique cultural welcome ceremonies, followed by exceptional service and seemingly endless choices of food. We were struck by how lavish and comfortable the facilities were at every stop, despite the fact that we were staying in such remote locations. By the time we went home, our family agreed that it was the best vacation we had ever taken, one we would highly recommend any owner to join, and a true reflection of the high standards of Anantara Vacation Club Ownership."

- GUOQIANG MAI, OWNER SINCE AUGUST 2013



All too often in life, we return home from family vacations feeling worn out, yearning for a few days of rest before we resume our normal lives. Many families get so immersed in vacation stress, including trip planning, anxiety over budgeting, fighting with lines and crowds, and finding child-friendly activities, that the holiday itself becomes overshadowed. That's why a growing number of families are now choosing stress-free vacation alternatives, offering comfort, serenity and family connection so that they return home feeling rested and rejuvenated. Club Owner Cheng Lei shares such an experience with us:

"Joining Anantara Vacation Club has changed our travel habits forever. We no longer rush from place to place taking pictures or queuing up for shopping and tax refunds. Now, we stay far from the crowds, eating fresh healthy food, living comfortably and enjoying beautiful scenery. While this may sound too good to be true, we found our piece of paradise at Anantara Vacation Club Koh Samui Resort."

During our stay we breathed in fresh air, practiced Thai boxing, sat on the beach looking out at the deep blue sea, and released our body's tension at Anantara Spa. After a couple of days of complete relaxation, my sleeping improved and even my annoying neck pain was gone. Every day we explored new places and discovered Thailand, including some basic Thai cooking and a few Thai phrases. Being surrounded by fresh air and singing birds we did not miss the busy rush of the city. Recovering from tiredness and waking up all our senses with a renewed inner energy, we reconnected as a family.

Koh Samui is a magical island. It reminds me of the book The Art of Life, which teaches how to live a happy and full life through a tranquil, peaceful lifestyle. At Anantara Vacation Club Koh Samui we experienced the joy of that simplicity and what life is really about."

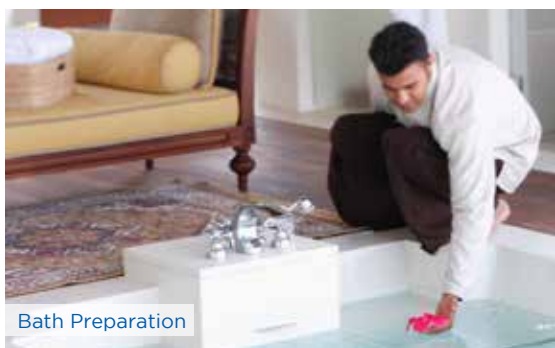
- CHENG LEI, OWNER SINCE DECEMBER 2013



Naladhu beach and Riyaa Dhoni

THE BUTLER DID IT!

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE IN WASHINGTON D.C. TO THE WHITE SANDS OF THE MALDIVES, ENGLISH TRAINED BUTLERS ARE THE BEST.



Bath Preparation

For the new super-rich, an English trained butler is a status symbol equivalent to the Swiss banker, French chef and German car manufacturer. In the film *The Butler*, Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker), James Holloway (Lenny Kravitz) and Carter Wilson (Cuba Gooding Jr.) make the demanding work of servitude look effortless. "It comes down to the art of being invisible and yet delivering everything" says Steven Ferry, Chairman of The International Institute of Modern Butlers and trainer of the acclaimed actor Forest Whitaker for his role in the movie *The Butler*.

British born Steven Ferry recently took his training from the White House in Washington D.C. with Forest Whitaker to the white sands of Anantara and Naladhu resorts in the Maldives. Here the butlers, known as Villas Hosts and House Masters, unpack and pack luggage, arrange day trips, source information requested by guests and serve room service food so that dining feels more like a fine restaurant experience. They greet guests by name, track down

lost luggage and act as a personal assistant; from the moment the guests step onto the island to the moment they board the plane to go home.

"We are ahead of our guests' needs. We like to be there before they ask, so the knowledge we have gained from Steven Ferry's training is something we apply every day to offer a better service", concludes Bibin, a Maldivian House Master at Naladhu Maldives.

Second guessing the guest not only on what they want, but when, how and where, is honed to a fine art with Steven Ferry's butler training. Resort butlers are tasked to do this in a matter of hours, or minutes in some cases, and yet still deliver the two most desirable qualities of a good butler; loyalty and discretion.

"One of the most enlightening aspects I learnt from Steven was that in the corporate world you strive for recognition; in the world of a butler, your goal is invisibility", says Torsten Richter, Cluster General Manager of Anantara Dhigu, Anantara Veli and Naladhu Maldives resorts in the South Male Atoll. "When things are going very, very smoothly and the guest doesn't notice the butler, then they're successful."

Once you try it you'll wonder if a holiday ever existed without it, and when your friends ask how you managed to have such a relaxing time away and yet do so much in the Maldives, just give a discreet nod and tell them "The butler did it!"



Living room area in the Naladhu Residence



House Master service at Naladhu

UNIQUE PRIVATE DINING LOCAL EXPERIENCES

GHA Discovery is a loyalty programme like no other and believes that rewarding members with authentic, memorable experiences is much more valuable than collecting points. With this in mind, Platinum and Black members receive unforgettable Local Experiences that are designed by our local experts and comprise a large selection of adventures not easily available to the general public.

Dining by Design is one of many Local Experiences that Anantara offers. Unique to each property, Anantara's signature private dining concept is utterly bespoke, with a choice of connoisseur menus and idyllic settings enhanced by the services of a personal chef and butler.

ANANTARA BAZARUTO ISLAND RESORT & SPA

Fulfilling escapist dreams on a paradise private island in a jewel-like archipelago off the coast of Mozambique, Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort & Spa epitomises romantic seclusion with its unique Dining by Design experiences. Select the ideal five course menu, including seafood plucked fresh from the Indian Ocean to be marinated and flame grilled to perfection by your personal chef. Dine in a world that feels like yours alone. Savour the privacy of your private beach villa or a cliff top pool sala. Travel to a nearby tropical island that is reserved exclusively for you, or a deserted bank surrounded by azure ocean. Celebrate with a bottle of sparkling wine included in the menu and a personal butler's attentive yet unobtrusive service.

GHA – YOUR PASSPORT TO PRIVILEGED JOURNEYS

Anantara, AVANI and Per AQUUM are a part of the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA) - the world's leading alliance of independent hotel brands. With a collection of 26 upscale and luxury regional hotel brands in 62 countries offering more than 450 hotels, palaces and resorts, as well as partnership benefits with the world's leading airline and car rental agencies, GHA's 4.7 million members reap exceptional advantages through the GHA Discovery Programme, and they didn't pay a penny to sign up. Open to anyone and everyone, membership is free and offers an increasingly valuable passport to journeys with a difference. Visit our website to find out about the incredible Local Experiences available, and make your stay with us even more amazing.



Destination Dining at Huvaflen Fushi

OTHER DINING LOCAL EXPERIENCES OFFERED BY OUR BRANDS:

HUVAFEN FUSHI, MALDIVES

Fruits of the Sea Dinner for Two

Offering a gourmet feast of freshly caught ocean treasures, savour a fish, lobster and shellfish dinner under the stars beside an infinity pool on the edge of the Indian Ocean, indulging in a private paradise just for two.

AVANI QUY NHON RESORT & SPA, VIETNAM

Traditional Cruise with Island Cocktails and Sunset Beach Dinner

Cruise in a traditional fisherman's boat, sipping cocktails on AVANI's very own private island. Return to the resort at sunset for a sumptuous beach dinner of traditional Vietnamese or international cuisine, with torches and a bonfire creating a magical ambience.

TRAVEL TIPS

TURNING EXPECTATIONS INTO MEMORIES OF QUALITY SERVICE AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES.
OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM AT EACH OF THE LOCATIONS IS READY TO ASSIST
IN ANY WAY TO MAKE YOUR STAY WITH US AS MEMORABLE AS POSSIBLE.



DREAM BEACH WEDDINGS AT ANANTARA DUBAI THE PALM

For couples planning an exclusive beach wedding, Anantara Dubai The Palm Resort & Spa on Dubai's prestigious Palm Jumeirah, offers a truly iconic setting, with a private beach overlooking Arabian waters. Tailoring every wedding to each couple's specific desires, special all-inclusive wedding packages come with a choice of idyllic locations. Customised décor, menus and entertainment allow you to create the ideal ambience. With the possibilities limited only by your imagination, a personal wedding co-ordinator ensures that every detail unfolds precisely as you envisage.

Say "I do" on a stretch of golden shore that is yours alone, under a floral arch framing the sunset's majestic tapestry. Your wedding party then moves on to a beachside terrace for champagne toasts, surrounded by crystal clear waters lapping from the infinity pool and exotic Thai-inspired grounds. With natural light and four splendid chandeliers suspended from a high ceiling, the grand ballroom is perfect for a lavish banquet and unforgettable evening celebrations. Plan your dream wedding at anantara.com/weddings



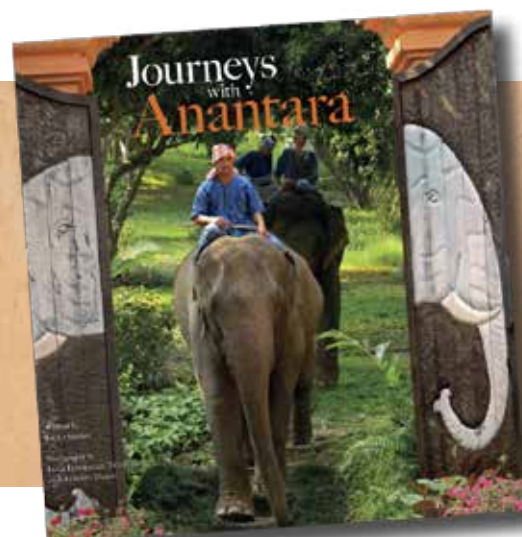
NEW LOOK FOR OAKS OASIS IN CALOUNDRA

The iconic Caloundra resort Oaks Oasis on Queensland's Sunshine Coast has unveiled a fresh new look. The comprehensive refurbishment has seen the property transformed in its entirety, including its two accommodation wings, common areas, conferencing venues, Reflections Restaurant & Bar and leisure facilities, complete with modern facilities and a calm, coastal ambience that is ideal for singles, couples and small families.

The 180 guest rooms are set amongst 10 acres of manicured gardens, nestled in the resort's lush surrounds, while a central water play park presents guests with a unique leisure facility to enjoy, with grassy relaxation areas and sun loungers on an expansive timber sun deck, a children's playground, miniature putting green and floodlit tennis court, culminate in a well-rounded host of holiday pleasures.

JOURNEYS WITH ANANTARA

Browse the breathtaking horizons of "Journeys with Anantara" - a glossy 220-page travel lifestyle coffee table book that stimulates the senses. Thought-provoking writing by Joe Cummings and inspirational photography by Alberto Cassio and Luca Tettoni illustrates the distinctive elements of each incredible Anantara locale. Explore six countries and 23 destinations on a voyage of discovery, from lush jungles to endless desert dunes, urban metropolises and paradise shores. Designed for travellers who seek authentic experiences, Anantara Journeys is available to purchase at all Anantara hotels and resorts for USD 45.



KING’S CUP ELEPHANT POLO HIGHLIGHTS

Culminating in four days of nail biting action and exclusive experiences, the 13th annual King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament took place in Bangkok for the very first time this year with great success. 16 teams of players from around the world competed for the coveted trophy, and the final saw King Power Duty Free and Audemars Piguet going head to head in a penalty shoot out, with a thrilling 'sudden death' play off finally clinching the win for King Power.

With free admission the event offered something for everyone, from a spectacular opening parade overseen by Thailand’s last ‘elephant spirit men’ (Kru Ba Yai), to a fun educational Children’s Day and glamorous Ladies Day, as well as daily trunk-to-trunk action and stunning entertainment such as Thai bands and the world-renowned Tiffany cabaret show.

Since the tournament began in 2001 it has grown into one of Thailand’s biggest charitable events, raising funds for projects that help all of Thailand’s elephants. Indeed this year’s gala dinner at Anantara Bangkok Riverside Resort & Spa raised THB 4.5 million, taking the total raised to date by the tournament to an impressive THB 28.7 million.



AN ISLAND PARADISE OF NATURAL EXCLUSIVITY

Basked in year round sunshine, Qatar’s spectacular natural landmarks beckon exploration, from the intriguing Dal Al Misfir cave and intricate crystal desert roses, to the mysterious singing sand dunes. While a rich tapestry of colour and culture comes to life in the capital’s Souq Waqif, featuring a vibrant, indigenous mix of traditional architecture, local handicrafts, garments and art galleries, along with the aroma of spices, perfumes and exotic regional cuisine.

20 minutes from the heart of Qatar’s capital, a luxury catamaran crosses crystal clear water to reach a breathtaking island that feels a world away, and a private helicopter pad offers an exclusive arrival with a bird’s eye coastal view. Welcome to Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara – a paradise sanctuary on the shores of Doha in the Arabian Gulf, that is the first of its kind in Qatar. Intertwining Thai and Qatari hospitality, the resort offers world class facilities and limitless activities, both above and below the water, providing relaxation and adventure, wellness and pure indulgence.



CELEBRATE THAILAND’S LOY KRATHONG FESTIVAL

Thailand is renowned for its vivacious festivals which are celebrated with meaningful rituals and heartfelt intentions, as well as spirited traditions that showcase the myths, legends and heritage of ancient Thai culture. One of the most visually spectacular is the Loy Krathong full moon festival, which symbolises new beginnings. Held on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month, Loy Krathong is a time to pay respect to Buddha and thank the Goddess of Water, Phra Mae Khongkha. The festival’s name translates as ‘floating basket’ and each year thousands of krathong floats are released along Thailand’s rivers, canals and streams, adorned with candles, incense and money. Wishes are made and as the krathongs drift away, this represents letting go of grievances and starting afresh. Thais believe that the longer the candle burns, the better the next year will be.

Start your journey and experience the magic of Loy Krathong at one of Anantara’s 12 luxury hideaways across Thailand at anantara.com

CONCIERGE

WHERE IS YOUR NEXT DESTINATION?

MINOR HOTEL GROUP IS OPENING NEW HORIZONS IN EXCITING AND DEVELOPING DESTINATIONS IN 2014. HERE IS A SNEAK PREVIEW OF TRAVEL EXPERIENCES TO START PLANNING.



1 | Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara

Opening late 2014

Located just 11 km from Doha and 20 minutes by boat from Doha International Airport on an exclusive 13 hectare island with its own marina and reefs, the resort offers 141 rooms, suites, pool villas and over water villas. Entertainment options include four swimming pools, an Anantara spa and fitness centre, water sports, a nine hole putting course, a cinema, children's club and dedicated family beach.

ANANTARA.COM



2 | AVANI Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa

Opening late 2014

AVANI Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa is within easy reach of Barbarons Beach and Grand Anse Beach, with a great location providing plenty of inspiration. Guests can explore nature trails full of exotic plants and wildlife, and head to the vantage point of historic Mission Lodge for the best views. A paradise for scuba diving and sailing the Seychelles Inner Islands, romantics and culture lovers are wowed by Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve – a remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site and natural wonder.

AVANIHOTELS.COM



3 | AVANI Atrium Bangkok

Opening late 2014

In central Bangkok on New Petchuburi Road, just minutes by subway from Bangkok's business district and shopping centres, AVANI Atrium Bangkok revels in the dynamic personality of Bangkok. This 568 room hotel is ideally situated for expressway access to and from both Suvarnabhumi and Don Muang airports. Prime shopping and business districts, including Sukhumvit, Silom and Siam Square, are within easy distance from the hotel by subway.

AVANIHOTELS.COM



4 | Anantara Guiyang Resort & Spa

Opening mid 2015

Located in Southwest China's Guizhou province, on the east of the Yunnan-Guizhou Plateau, Anantara Guiyang Resort & Spa will be conveniently situated 15 km from Guiyang city, just a 15 minute drive from Guiyang Longdongbao International Airport and the train station, as well as being easily accessible by road. This forest city offers a perfect summer vacation to escape from the heat and experience vibrant nature. Guests will be able to enjoy stunning landscapes, hot springs, Huangguoshu waterfall and scenic golf courses, alongside the rich heritage of minority Xijiang Miao culture town and the ancient town of Zhengyuan.

ANANTARA.COM



5 | AVANI Bangkok Riverside

Opening mid 2015

Overlooking Bangkok's bustling Chao Phraya River, AVANI Bangkok Riverside is perfectly located to offer the best in shopping, entertainment and leisure activities. This 26-floor hotel tower seamlessly blends modern warmth with lifestyle essentials and is just right for any kind of visit - from a leisurely family break to an important business trip. Shuttle boat services to the BTS Skytrain and the central Saphan Taksin boat pier make connecting to the city's major commercial and entertainment districts comfortably effortless.

AVANIHOTELS.COM



CENTRAL RESERVATIONS OFFICE

With the rapid expansion of Minor Hotel Group, we are pleased to announce the extension of the Central Reservations Office in Thailand. With one number you can now book any Minor Hotel Group hotel or resort. The Central Reservations Office operates from 8:00 am – 10:00 pm (Bangkok Time) seven days a week for reservations in English, Mandarin and Thai.

Book your next vacation with one of our experienced reservations agents.

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