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Korea

Kinetic

Mauritius

Nature & Wellness

Pakistan

Rich Tapestry

Malta

Magical

Austria

Feels Magical



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The winter season is here and the industry is fully geared up for the travel season. There are some geo-political issues which are causing issues in the robust and smooth growth. However, the industry is as always resilient and ready to work through all hurdles.

As always, we are ready to provide insight to our readers about the destinations and hotels from around the globe. Please read our informative and first-hand account about Malta and its magic. Read about the Enchanting Korea and the amazing Pakistan. The articles about winter in Austria and the magical Spas in Czech are not to be missed.

We have highlighted some amazing hotels and Resorts in this issue like Holiday International Sharjah. There are two must read articles on Coral Beach Resort Sharjah and Double Tree By Hilton, Pakistan.

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

So, have a good time reading...



Ken Chapman
Editor

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by Fouzia Sohail

Kindred and Kinetic Korea

Korea has paved its name amongst the cities that are the top in luxury travel in today's world. The deep cultural aspects offer century-old history, tradition and philosophy while its modern side is at par with its globally integrated practices, especially in the field of advanced technology and entertainment.

Korea does not stop to please its visitors – From the varied wellness centers, spas, resorts, heritage areas, ponds, trails (tree, cycling, walking), seaside/ beaches, forests, museums, embankments and parks to stays in hanok (Traditional Korean House) renovated guesthouses, costume rental shops, open air baths, caravans/ glamping (readymade tents or cabins offering varied amenities), auto camping resorts and even 'upcycled' rooms in some hotels (recycled materials used for furniture and amenities). The journey continues further with innumerable exciting offers of night markets, peaks, (formed after hydrovolcanic eruptions) with exhilarating sunset/ sunrise views, fireworks throughout the night over the ocean and heart touching wish balloons that are released in the hope of achieving spiritual and mental 'calmness' and 'relaxation' – These two aspects are held in very high regard in Korean hospitality and culture.

The blessings of the four seasons in Korea only enhance the country's varied scenic pleasures such as the enchanting 'Spring' (March - May) flower blooms festivals and butterfly/ insects festivals as well, cycling and trekking trails lead the visitor across the beautiful and colourful display of nature.

'Summer' (June- August) takes the visitors onto the many splendid beaches/ coasts – Boryeong Mud Festival is very popular during this season, as are the fireworks, concerts, surfing and water games. Summer ends with heavy rainfall.

Then 'Fall' (September – November) has clear skies and lower temperature bringing about the fall foliage as evident in the glorious red, yellow and orange forests. Trekking, jazz festivals and more fireworks are in store during this season.



Last but not least, 'Winter', these are quite cool and winter sports at the various ski- resorts become the theme under the breathtaking snow-capped mountains. Ice Festivals, which include ice fishing, mountain trekking and sightseeing only manifest the abundance of climate, scenery and vibrant colour schemes that Korea offers throughout the year.

Few of the truly lavish sites that offer extravagant experience are as follows:

1.The Forest Resom in Jecheon, Chungcheongbuk-do, is set in a forest with glamping villas and private decks. Since glamping is the modern form of exuberant camping, The Forest Room offers outdoor jacuzzis, forest trails, wellness programs and natural hot spring that enhances calmness and spa luxury.

2.Namhae Island has a coastal golf resort 'Ananti Namhae' that provides infinity pools facing the South Sea, hot spring baths, spa features and standalone penthouses. Here an extraordinary year-round indoor 'Water House' pool and Jjimjilbang (Public Bathhouse) style spas with an array of dining venues prevail. These are set across two peninsulas that are connected by a scenic footbridge leading visitors through lush hillsides to the ocean. A National Park (Hallyeohaesang), a Boryeong Temple and other attractions like a German Village (a cultural project born out of Korean- German history) and an Oktoberfest are seen. Namhae Island sits on a hillside with the sea on one side and the Windbreak Forest and coastal drive on its other side, inducing a European meets Korean landscape feature.

3.Jeju Island is a very popular destination too and is a short flight from Busan or Wonju. It raises attention by being a volcanic island and has UNESCO heritage status. The JW Marriott Jeju serves breathtaking ocean view suites, private yacht or island cruises, sunset





beach walks, horseback rides, private tea ceremony and renders a volcanic stone spa to further dwell into its geographical wonders (it contains Hallasan National Park, Geomunoreum Lava Tube System, Korea's highest peaks, craters, long coastline and elite golf courses.

4. Another UNESCO site is Gyeongju. Proudly hosting the Bulguksa Temple and the Seokguram Grotto (a stunning granite cave built in the 8th century housing the Seokgamon Buddha). This is a highly treasured Buddhist artwork and spiritual haven as well. Private guided cultural tours and ethnic hanok (old Korean house) dinners are available on request.

5. Jirisan in the southern part of Korea boasts of being the first national park, it reaches into three provinces, has the second highest peak in mainland Korea plus three sacred mountains, hermitage and historical temples and home to the famous Hwaeomsa Temple. The visitor is presented with forest healing, Zen meditation and organic dining in one of the most calm and stunning environments that include natural waterfalls, cherry blossoms in Spring, mists in Summer, forest foliage in Autumn and the captivating snow capped mountains during Winter.

With the rise of South Asian travel awareness and information, not to forget the best airport protocol facility offered i.e. Luxury / Business/ Medical/Family and Tailor- made Tours, Korea encompasses history, culture and nature added with spiritual wellness for those searching for an authentic travel destination adventure. Korea not only sets itself apart with world class dining and spectacular scenic settings based on its four-season climate, but its healing and wellness theme engulfs the definition of luxury service extended in the form of genuine, gracious gifts that are acknowledged worldwide.



Mauritius

Nature, wellness, adventure, culture and authentic local experiences

The beach may bring you to Mauritius.
What happens beyond it is what makes you stay.

We were fortunate enough to get an insight about the destination from Mr. Benoit Harter, Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority just ahead of the Arabian Travel Market 2026 in Dubai.

Mr. Harter answering the question that Mauritius is often associated with beaches and honeymoons said;
“The beach may bring you to Mauritius. What happens beyond it is what makes you stay.”

He further said “Our coastline and hospitality remain among our greatest strengths, but they are only part of the experience today. Mauritius is a destination where a traveller can wake up beside the Indian Ocean, explore waterfalls and mountain landscapes in the morning, discover local culture and gastronomy in the afternoon, and still return to a world-class resort by evening.

Nature, wellness, adventure, culture and authentic local experiences are increasingly part of how visitors experience the island.

What makes Mauritius special is that all of this sits within one compact destination. Families, couples, luxury travellers and adventure seekers do not have to choose one type of holiday. They can experience several journeys within the same trip.”

“The GCC is growing, and connectivity is giving that growth room to continue.”

He informed us that the tourist arrivals from the Middle East increased by approximately 10.5% during January–July 2026 compared with the same period in 2025, which reflects the growing appeal of Mauritius among travellers from the region. Air access is an important part of that story. Emirates operates three daily services between Dubai and Mauritius, while Saudia operates three weekly services from Jeddah. This gives Mauritius strong access not only to the UAE and Saudi Arabia, but also to travellers connecting from across the wider GCC.

For us, connectivity is more than seat capacity. It gives families, couples and premium travellers the confidence and convenience to consider Mauritius more frequently — and allows us to build the market for the long term.

“For GCC travellers, Mauritius feels international without feeling unfamiliar.”

He further added “Mauritius is a genuinely multicultural society where different religions and communities have lived alongside one another for generations. Muslims represent approximately 18% of the population, with more than 150 mosques across the island, including the historic Jummah Mosque in Port Louis. Halal dining is widely available, while hotels and resorts are



Mr. Benoit Harter, Director of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority





very familiar with the expectations of Middle Eastern guests, particularly around family travel, privacy and personalised hospitality.

That cultural familiarity matters. Travellers can experience somewhere completely different while still finding many of the comforts and considerations they value at home. It is one of the reasons Mauritius works particularly well for GCC families and Muslim travellers."



"Mauritius becomes even more interesting the moment you step outside the resort."

Mr. Harter added that Families can visit Casela Nature Parks for wildlife encounters, safari-style experiences and outdoor activities, or explore Vallé Advenature Park for waterfalls, dramatic scenery, ziplining, quad biking and buggy rides.

There is also Chamarel and its extraordinary landscapes, the natural beauty of Black River Gorges, catamaran cruises, water sports and the cultural character of Port Louis.

The advantage is variety. A family can spend one day relaxing by the sea, another surrounded by nature, and the next enjoying adventure or discovering local culture.

We want visitors to enjoy our resorts — but we also want them to return home feeling that they have discovered Mauritius.

"Come for the Mauritius you already know. Stay for the Mauritius you did not expect."

While concluding Mr Harter passed on the message for GCC Travellers that Yes, we have beautiful beaches, exceptional resorts and the warm hospitality Mauritius is famous for. But beyond that is an island of mountains, waterfalls, wildlife, culture, adventure, gastronomy and communities waiting to be discovered.

For GCC travellers, Mauritius offers many of the things they value most — privacy, family-friendly experiences, luxury accommodation, diverse activities and a welcoming multicultural environment — within one easy-to-explore destination.

We want travellers to leave having done more than simply stayed in Mauritius. We want them to feel they experienced it.

Because the real character of Mauritius is not found in one beach or one resort. It is found in the people, landscapes, culture and experiences that connect the whole island.

Hotel Holiday International

Where Sharjah Hospitality Meets Timeless Comfort

A refined stay, a vibrant destination and memorable experiences come together at Hotel Holiday International.

In the heart of Sharjah, where culture, waterfront experiences and modern hospitality come together, Hotel Holiday International offers travelers a stay that feels both effortless and memorable.

Set along the picturesque Khalid Lagoon, the hotel combines a convenient city location with the comfort and warmth expected from a well-established hospitality destination. Whether visiting Sharjah for business, a family holiday or a special celebration, guests can enjoy an experience designed around convenience, relaxation and genuine hospitality.

From comfortable accommodation to dining and leisure experiences, every element is designed to make the stay enjoyable. Guests can begin their day with a relaxed breakfast, spend time unwinding by the pool, stay active at the fitness facilities or simply enjoy the views and atmosphere surrounding the property.

Its location also makes Hotel Holiday International an ideal base for discovering Sharjah. Guests can explore the city's cultural attractions, waterfront destinations, shopping experiences and family-friendly activities, while enjoying the convenience of returning to a comfortable hotel at the end of the day.



Beyond leisure, the hotel is also a destination for bringing people together. Al Dana Ballroom provides an elegant setting for weddings, engagements, graduations, corporate gatherings and other special occasions. With space for large celebrations, professional event support and catering options, the venue is designed to turn important moments into lasting memories.

What truly defines Hotel Holiday International, however, is the balance between location, comfort and experience. It offers travelers the opportunity to experience Sharjah while having everything they need for a comfortable stay close at hand.

Whether it is a weekend escape, a family holiday, a business trip or a celebration worth remembering, Hotel Holiday International invites guests to discover a different side of Sharjah, one where every stay has the potential to become a memorable experience.



Best Dinner Venue of the Year

Best Restaurant - QSR of the Year (Quick Service Restaurant)



Celebrating Excellence

A Landmark Achievement for Coral Beach Resort Sharjah and Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel

Recognition in hospitality is earned through passion, consistency and an unwavering commitment to creating memorable guest experiences. This commitment was recently celebrated as Coral Beach Resort Sharjah and Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel secured an impressive 13 awards at the Hospitality Group's Middle East Chef Excellence Awards, F&B Excellence Awards and Leaders Powerlist 2026.

These prestigious accolades recognize the outstanding talent, creativity and dedication of hospitality professionals who work tirelessly to elevate dining and service standards. For both properties, the awards are a reflection of a culture that values excellence, innovation and genuine hospitality.

Amongst the evening's most celebrated achievements was the recognition of two signature dining destinations. Dragon's Place Restaurant at Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel was named Best Dinner Venue of the Year, an award that highlights its distinctive culinary offerings, exceptional service and ability to deliver memorable dining experiences. The accolades further strengthen the restaurant's reputation as one of the region's premier dinner destinations.

Equally noteworthy was the success of Casa Samak Seafood Restaurant at Coral Beach Resort Sharjah, which was awarded Best Sunset Sport of the Year. Renowned for its picturesque beachfront overlooking the Arabic Gulf, Casa Samak has become a favourite among guests seeking fresh seafood, warm





hospitality, and breathtaking sunset views. The award recognizes the restaurant's unique ability to combine exceptional cuisine with an unforgettable ambiance.

The success extended beyond outlet awards, with several chefs and food beverage professionals receiving individual honours for their expertise, leadership, and dedication. Among the individual winners at Bahi are: Chef Leader Powerlist for Abdo Badra, Female Chef of the Year for Chue Thinzar Khine, Kitchen Manager of the Year for Ganesh Man Shrestha; Butcher Chef of the Year for Belal Farhan Alsayed, Banquet Chef of the Year for Sayed Kutubuddin, F&B Server of the Year for Heina Tablate and Restaurant Manager

of the Year Melynde Ernesto. While the winners at Coral Beach Resort Sharjah are Michael Fernandes on F&B Leader Powerlist, Tsering Tamang on Promising Chef of the Year (Judges Choice), Mahesh Chathuranga Ranathunga on Barista of the Year, Chef Raj Chaudhary on Banquet Champion of the Year (Judges Choice). Their achievement underscores the importance of nurturing talent and fostering a culture where excellence can thrive.

As the hospitality industry continues to evolve, both Coral Beach Resort Sharjah and Bahi Ajman Palace Hotel remain committed to delivering outstanding service, memorable dining experience and meaningful guest connections.



Capital Travel Maldives

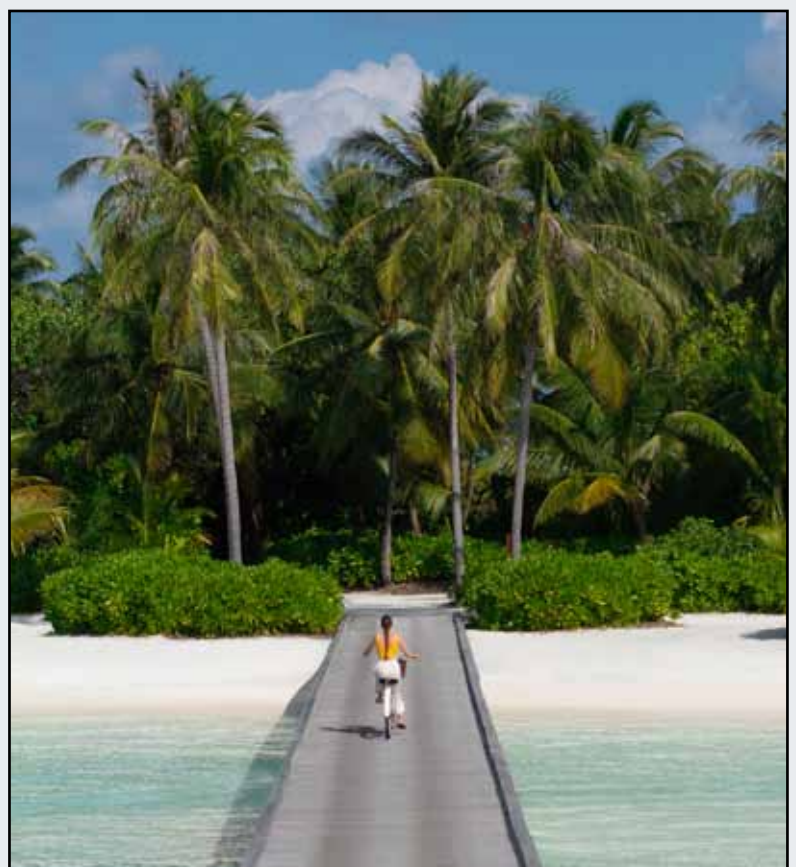
One of the most respected and trusted companies in the Maldives.



Established in 1990, Capital Travel Maldives has grown from a pioneering travel agency into one of the most respected and trusted companies in the Maldives. Over three decades of dedicated service, we have built strong partnerships across Asia, the Gulf, Europe, and beyond, positioning ourselves as a global player in the travel and hospitality industry.

From the very beginning, our mission has been to connect people, cultures, and opportunities. While travel remains at the heart of our operations, Capital Travel has diversified into multiple ventures that reflect our commitment to growth and innovation. These include developing trade activities, supporting small and medium enterprises, and even investing in hospitality projects such as boutique hotels. Each initiative has been carefully designed to meet the evolving needs of communities and businesses, ensuring that Capital Travel remains a reliable partner in progress.

Today, Capital Travel Maldives is recognized worldwide as a symbol of trust, quality, and excellence. Our reputation is built on transparency, professionalism, and a relentless drive to deliver value to our clients and partners. Whether facilitating international travel, supporting business ventures, or creating opportunities for collaboration, we continue to uphold the highest standards of service.





The company is proudly 100% owned by Mr. Yoosuf Riffath, a visionary leader whose dedication and entrepreneurial spirit have shaped Capital Travel into the establishment it is today. Under his guidance, the company has not only expanded its reach but also strengthened its role as a bridge between the Maldives and the world. His leadership emphasizes fairness, integrity, and innovation—values that remain at the core of our identity.

Looking ahead, Capital Travel Maldives is committed to sustaining its legacy while embracing new opportunities in tourism, trade, and global partnerships. With a proven track record and a clear vision for the future, we continue to serve as a trusted partner for individuals, businesses, and communities worldwide.





PAKISTAN

Exploring the Rich Tapestry

A Journey of Culture, History, and Natural Beauty

Pakistan offers an opportune moment to explore the country's rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and warm hospitality. For Turkish travelers, Pakistan presents a treasure trove of experiences that are as varied as they are enchanting. From the towering peaks of the Himalayas to the historical remnants of ancient civilizations, Pakistan is a land waiting to be discovered.

Majestic Mountains and Serene Valleys

Pakistan's geographical diversity is unparalleled. The northern regions boast some of the world's highest peaks, including K2, the second-highest mountain on earth. This area, known as Gilgit-Baltistan, is a paradise for adventure enthusiasts, offering trekking, mountaineering, and skiing opportunities. The serene valleys of Hunza and Swat are not only renowned for their breathtaking beauty but also for their rich cultural traditions and hospitality.

Moving towards the south, the lush green landscapes of Azad Jammu and Kashmir offer stunning natural beauty, with pristine lakes and rivers that invite tranquility and reflection. The Punjab region, with its fertile plains, is the heartland of Pakistan, known



for its vibrant culture, music, and cuisine. The city of Lahore, often referred to as the cultural capital of Pakistan, is a must-visit for its historical sites, including the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort, and the bustling bazaars of the old city.

The province of Sindh, home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, offers a glimpse into the rich history and cultural heritage of the region. The UNESCO World Heritage site of Mohenjo-Daro is a testament to one of the world's earliest urban settlements. The port city of Karachi, Pakistan's largest metropolis, offers a blend of modernity and tradition, with its bustling markets, beautiful beaches, and a vibrant arts scene.

In the west, the rugged terrain of Balochistan offers unique landscapes and a rich cultural tapestry. The province is home to the historic city of Quetta and the natural wonder of the Hingol National Park, which features the iconic Princess of Hope rock formation and the vibrant Hingol River.

A Melting Pot of Cultures

Pakistan's cultural diversity is as rich as its landscapes. The country is home to numerous ethnic groups, each with its own unique traditions, languages, and cuisines. From the Pashtun regions in the northwest to the Sindhi and Baloch cultures in the south, the diversity of the people is a testament to the country's rich cultural heritage.

Festivals such as Eid, Basant, and Nowruz are celebrated with great enthusiasm across the country, offering visitors a chance to experience the local culture firsthand. The traditional music and dance forms, such as Qawwali and Sufi dance, provide a deep connection to the spiritual and cultural roots of the region.

Hospitality That Warms the Heart

Pakistani hospitality is renowned worldwide. The concept of "Mehmaan Nawazi" (hospitality) is deeply ingrained in the culture, where guests are treated with utmost respect and generosity. Whether in the bustling cities or remote villages, visitors are often invited into homes and treated to traditional meals, offering a genuine taste of Pakistani culture.



DoubleTree by Hilton Nathiagali Hilton Debuts in Pakistan

Hilton today announces the opening of DoubleTree by Hilton Nathiagali, marking the company's first hotel in Pakistan. Nestled in the heart of the scenic Galiyat region – one of Pakistan's most iconic hill stations and just 85 kilometers from Islamabad – the newly opened property blends DoubleTree by Hilton's signature warm hospitality with the area's natural alpine landscapes, offering unforgettable stays for business and leisure travelers alike.

DoubleTree by Hilton Nathiagali is owned and managed by The Baron Pakistan (Pvt) Limited, a well-established hospitality company with properties in Kabul, Afghanistan, Karbala, Iraq, and Hunza, Gilgit Baltistan.

Ideally located just steps from Lalazar Park, DoubleTree by Hilton Nathiagali sets a new benchmark for hospitality in one of Pakistan's most cherished destinations. The hotel offers convenient access to some of the region's most iconic natural and cultural landmarks including Mushkpuri Top, Miranjani Peak, Ayubia National Park, Dunga Gali Pipeline Track, and the historic St. Matthew's Church – all within five kilometres – making it an ideal base for adventure seekers and cultural travellers.

Imtiaz Muslim, Managing Director, The Baron Pakistan (Pvt) Limited, said, "Bringing the award-winning DoubleTree by Hilton brand to Nathiagali marks a proud milestone in Pakistan's hospitality sector. Our partnership with Hilton reinforces our



commitment to boosting regional tourism while providing lasting value to guests and the local community. We look forward to welcoming guests coming from around the world."

DoubleTree by Hilton Nathiagali features 110 thoughtfully designed guest rooms, including 14 spacious suites with uninterrupted views of the surrounding Mushkpuri and Miranjani Hills. Perfect for families and those traveling with loved ones, each room offers comfortable accommodations, and the surrounding pine forests, rolling meadows, and snow-blanketed winter landscapes position the hotel as an elegant mountain retreat year-round.

Guests can enjoy a variety of dining experiences with stunning mountain views. The lobby-level Coffee Shop offers freshly brewed coffee and gourmet snacks, while Shogun presents a refined Pan-Asian menu featuring Thai, Chinese, and Japanese dishes. On the third floor, Zareen serves a globally inspired menu across breakfast, lunch, and dinner. At Lalazar Terrace Café, guests can savour gourmet snacks, specialty teas and coffees, and enjoy a memorable high tea or barbecue buffet under the sky.

For relaxation and wellness, the hotel offers a curated selection of facilities, including a spa with a wide range of treatments –

from soothing massages to holistic therapies – alongside a fully equipped fitness centre, and an indoor infinity pool with floor-to-ceiling panoramic views.

DoubleTree by Hilton Nathiagali will also soon unveil Pakistan's first-ever mountain padel court along with a dedicated lounge housing a private cinema, children's zone, and beauty salon services. In addition, an on-site helipad provides effortless arrivals and departures amid the breathtaking mountain landscape.

The hotel also houses flexible event spaces for all types of gatherings. Whether hosting an elegant banquet, a corporate meeting, or an intimate celebration, all event spaces are supported by a dedicated team, tailored catering options, complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, and in-house audiovisual support.

The property features two signature banquet halls – Mushkpuri and Miranjani – each accommodating up to 200 guests, making it ideal for weddings, receptions, conferences, and special events. Two smaller meeting rooms – Sohni and Nouri – are available for more intimate gatherings.

www.doubletree.com/nathiagali



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voco® Dubai The Palm



Welcome to a boutique-styled premium hotel at an iconic lifestyle destination by the beach. Ideally located on the trendy Palm West Beach, on the Palm Jumeirah, voco® Dubai The Palm offers contemporary-style hotel living with direct beach access, overlooking the stunning views of the Arabian Gulf and Ain Dubai. Combining traditional local hospitality with contemporary convenience. All the rooms are furnished with voco™ care, quality bed linens, and spacious and cosy rooms with the state of the art amenities.

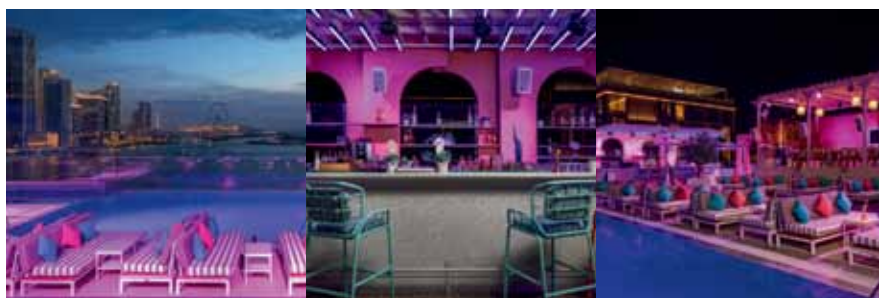
Memorable Meetings



Host meetings in our interactive high-tech meeting room with teams across the globe or in person. Choose to work with clients, teammates or independently within this private space. Experience premium coffee breaks that keep you going through the day.

The meeting room features state-of-the-art facilities, natural daylight, and versatile seating. Select from the DDR packages comprise business lunches at Maison Mathis, coffee breaks, and post-meeting drinks.

Maison Mathis at voco Dubai The Palm, West Beach, offers an unforgettable European dining experience. Enjoy freshly baked sourdough, stone-baked pizzas from an open kitchen, and flavorful dishes. Delight in a family-friendly Saturday Brunch with live music and kids' activities, a traditional Sunday Roast, or a Monday Ribs Feast. Don't miss their bar's extended happy hour from 12 PM to 8 PM, featuring great discounts on beers, spirits, and cocktails. Also, watch out for our festive season celebrations for the whole family. Website : www.maisonmathisvocopalm.com

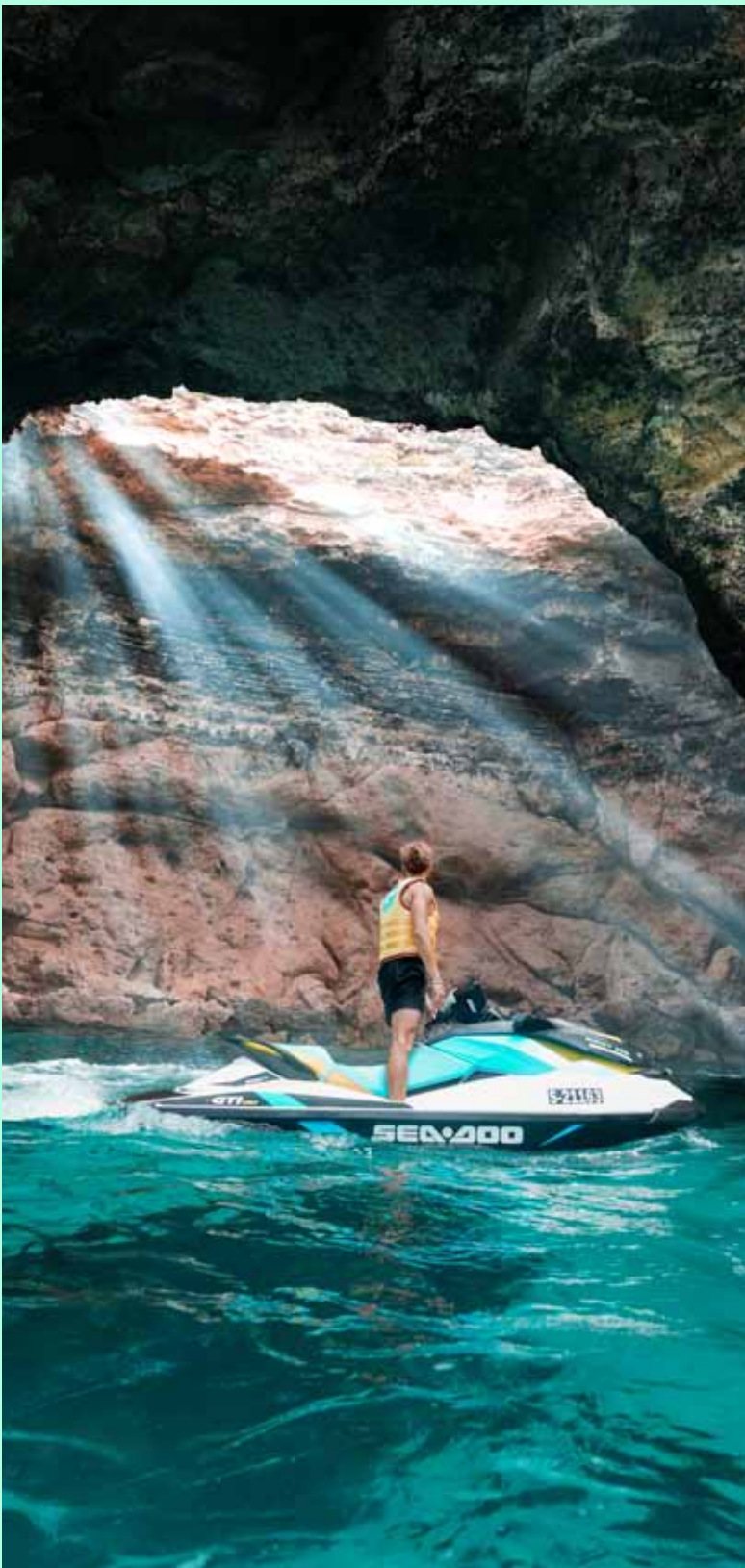


Head up to our rooftop bar, Frenia, right beside our fabulous infinity pool for a sundowner. Snack on some delicious Mediterranean tapas and unwind over refreshing Signature cocktails while you soak in the magical sunset over the stunning Dubai Marina skyline, the Ain Dubai, and the waters of the Arabian Gulf. Get ready for a magical New Year's Eve night with live entertainment and fireworks show.

Discover Magical, Marvellous Malta

A Boutique Island for the Refined Middle Eastern Traveller

by Fouzia Sohail



This mysterious and magnificent island in the Mediterranean Sea never asks for compliments. It knows that the value of its history and its diverse cultural nuances are sure to mark a special place in the visitors' hearts. Almost regal in its placement and heritage, Malta is a genuine case of good things that come in small packages. Situated south of Italy, this gem of an island contains not only exceptional blue beaches, wonderful warm weather, amazing architecture, but also a captivating culture that encompasses Arabic, Italian and British influences.

Malta's capital is Valletta; full of museums, palaces/fortresses and beautiful old streets.

Mdina - also known as the "Silent City", peaceful with medieval walls and traditional narrow streets.



Comino - blue lagoon vicinity, ideal for swimmers and beautiful crystal clear blue waters.

Gozo - a quieter island comprising beaches, boat trips, villages and the raw countryside.

St Julian's and Sliema - popular towns in Malta next to one another with traditional ferries and scenic rides.

Anchor Bay- built on cliffs and has the children's favourite amusement centre, Popeyes Village.

Bahar-ic-caghaq - Splash and Fun Water Park, located in close proximity to Saint Julian's.

Qawra - hosts the Malta National Aquarium and is part of St. Paul's Bay Area.

For those looking for an endearing travel experience from the

UAE, air flights to Malta are approximately 5 1/2 hours from Dubai. Short flights from the GCC are via Emirates, Qatar Airways, Etihad and Turkish Airlines. Those seeking VIP travel have the option of private jet operators like Vista.Jet, ExecuJet, and Luxwing. Malta awaits your arrival with personalised service and full privacy that are of utmost requirements for the likes of celebrities, royalty or any affluent party.

The Culinary Journey is an adventure of sorts, as this rich and diverse Maltese community has a Mediterranean soul that caters to the Middle Eastern and Italian palates and is a sure winner for those who enjoy healthy and hearty menus.

Malta proudly contains seven Michelin star restaurants, five Bib Gourmand and thirty Michelin recommended venues denoting its fast growing gourmet reputation.

Some of the popular food items are Pastizzi (a crispy pastry filled with a ricotta or peas), Ftira (Maltese style sandwich bread),



Fenek (rabbit stew- a traditional favourite) and Bigilla (a bean dip eaten with bread).

A few of the recommended experiences in Malta are:
Dining at ION Harbour by Simon Rogan which has two Michelin stars and overlooks Valletta’s Grand Harbour.

Luxury yacht charters to explore Gozo and Comino’s hidden lagoons.
Wellness retreats and romantic escapes in boutique hotels overlooking the sea,catering to a health and luxury clientele.

Valletta's fortresses, Mdina’s medieval walls and the island's various festivals.

Ideal honeymoon, VIP leisure travel, family holidays that seek privacy and beauty.

Malta has seen a rise in Middle Eastern tourism as it not only offers raw beauty, peaceful vibes, exclusive privacy, proximal air distance, safety, cultural connection, premium hotels, world class gastronomy, but also what any traveller carries forward with them, which is the hospitality, heritage and last but not least, traces of Arabic culture that is bound to steal not only the Middle Eastern, but any sophisticated traveller’s gratitude.

Magical Malta's meandering mode motivates,makes merry,and a must do.
Let your next marvel trip be ‘Marvelous Malta’.

Czech spas and wellness resorts

Recharge your batteries

Ethereal scents from exotic plants, a wealth of natural resources, calming massage, relaxing baths, soothing wraps and all this to the sound of comforting music and the flicker of candles – welcome to the magical world of wellness, a world that blends a deep knowledge of human health with a feeling of relaxation and an escape from stress, fatigue and the problems of our overworked age. Come and take it easy at Czech wellness resorts, where in the wonderful setting of elegant spas, wellness hotels, ostentatious chateaux and rural farms you can leave the everyday hustle and bustle behind and restore your appetite for life.

Saunas, steam baths and massages are clearly a part of the modern style of life, but mental and physical relaxation and therapy has actually been helping people since time immemorial. The warm dry air warms and cleanses the body and soul while a massage loosens up tired muscles.

Although saunas and taking saunas does not have a many centuries-old tradition in the Czech Republic as in other European countries, in the last few decades, this method of relaxation and strengthening of health has found its way into almost all major hotels aimed at wellness and spa treatment. A few must visit places where you can find the best and most interesting saunas are as under;

Cedrus Spa - Sauna World

Let yourself be pampered in the unique concept of a sauna world near Pardubice in Eastern Bohemia, whose main motive is to return to the very roots of the sauna. There you will find private saunas, outdoor plunge pools, sauna bars, Russian banya saunas, which have a slightly lower temperature than Finnish saunas, but up to 40% more moisture, steam rooms, ice fountains and Kneipp walkways, which are formed through pebbles and alternating hot and cold water.

Hotel Horal in Velké Karlovice

The stylish mountain hotel Horal is situated above a typical Wallachian highland valley, surrounded by forests and meadows of Beskydy. It is focused on the total relaxation of a person with the help of wellness. You can find a number of thermal pools and a sauna world there, which are spread over two floors below the main terrace of the hotel Horal. Enjoy the Dome sauna, where interesting sauna rituals take place, along with an herbal sauna, herbal steam bath, tepidarium (dry relaxation sauna with a temperature of 38°C) and for your relaxation and immune system support the Kneipp walkway is prepared for you.

Spa Center in Aquapalace

You will find one of the biggest Czech wellness complexes in





Aquapalace near Prague. Treat your body to soothing natural treatments and let yourself be taken care of by top professionals in the field of body care. Sauna world, as the department's called, is very varied - classic Finnish saunas, Roman baths (which are Turkish baths with a lower temperatures and higher humidity), or northern outside cabins or earth banyas.

Sauna centre at the hotel STEP Prague

Hotel STEP in Prague district of Vysocany boasts a whole complex of saunas and wellness facilities. The saunas are located both in the building and outside on the roof of the hotel. In the wintertime you can enjoy the feeling that you can only experience while relaxing after a sauna in the frosty air. The operation of the wellness center is year-round from 9 am to 11 pm. There you will find a swimming pool, whirlpools, a steam bath with herbal

essences and salt, Finnish, tropical and honey saunas, an outdoor cabin sauna and a silent fireplace sauna designed for absolute relaxation.

Spa on a boat in Prague

It's not only unconventional types of sauna that provide an interesting experience, but also taking saunas in unusual places. During the winter season you can also take a sauna directly in the center of Prague in the Czech Republic on a boat overlooking Prague's Hradcany. In the Spa on a boat (Lázne na lodi), you can even jump right into the Vltava River after a sauna and do a few frozen temps with a view of Prague Castle. The sauna is small and usually full, so we recommend booking at least a few days in advance.

www.visitczechia.com/en



Austria

WHERE CHRISTMAS STILL FEELS MAGICAL



Few destinations capture the spirit of Christmas quite like Austria. Snow-covered Alpine villages, historic city centers, candlelit streets, traditional Christmas markets and the scent of cinnamon, roasted almonds and mulled wine create an atmosphere that feels both nostalgic and timeless.

From the lakes of the Salzkammergut to imperial Vienna and the glamorous ski resorts of Tyrol, Austria offers very different ways to experience the festive season. What connects them is a strong sense of tradition, hospitality, and authenticity.

At Wolfgangsee, Christmas feels particularly romantic. The lake is surrounded by snow-covered mountains and beautifully decorated villages, while traditional Advent markets bring the waterfront to life. Private boat trips, candlelight dinners by the lake, festive workshops and mountain hut experiences can turn a winter stay into an intimate and memorable Christmas escape.

Vienna offers a completely different atmosphere. The Austrian capital combines imperial architecture, grand palaces, classical music and some of Europe's most atmospheric Christmas markets. Visitors can discover Schönbrunn Palace, enjoy traditional Viennese coffeehouse culture, explore luxury shopping streets or experience the city by horse-drawn carriage. Private concerts, porcelain experiences and elegant candlelight dinners add a refined and distinctly Viennese touch.





For those looking for Alpine glamour, Kitzbühel is one of Austria's most iconic winter destinations. Surrounded by the Tyrolean Alps, it combines exclusive hotels and chalets with traditional mountain culture. Private ski experiences, horse-drawn carriage rides, secluded mountain hut dinners, winter picnics and wellness moments create the perfect balance between adventure and relaxation.

Beyond the Christmas markets themselves, Austria offers something increasingly valuable: space, privacy and experiences that can be completely personalised.

For travellers seeking a more exclusive way to discover Austria during the festive season, Noor Alps can arrange bespoke private Christmas journeys in Wolfgangsee, Vienna and Kitzbühel.

The itineraries can include luxury accommodation, private transfers, personal concierge services, candlelight dining, wellness, private guides and exclusive experiences — all individually tailored to each guest.

Christmas in Austria can be traditional, luxurious and deeply personal — all at the same time.



Northern California

Discover Waterfall Trekking in Siskiyou

Take a hike in Siskiyou County in California's north and you'll often find a mesmerizing waterfall just waiting for you. Nestled between towering peaks and verdant valleys, Siskiyou pairs nature's grandeur with intimate boutique lodges and cosy mountain cabins—welcoming havens that offer warm hospitality and seamless access to the great outdoors. For discerning travelers seeking family-oriented escapes, Siskiyou's cool summer climate promises the perfect retreat. There's nothing more invigorating for trepid explorers than turning the corner to encounter magical water flows.

Five favorite waterfalls in Siskiyou, California that are easily accessible for all fitness types

Faery Falls

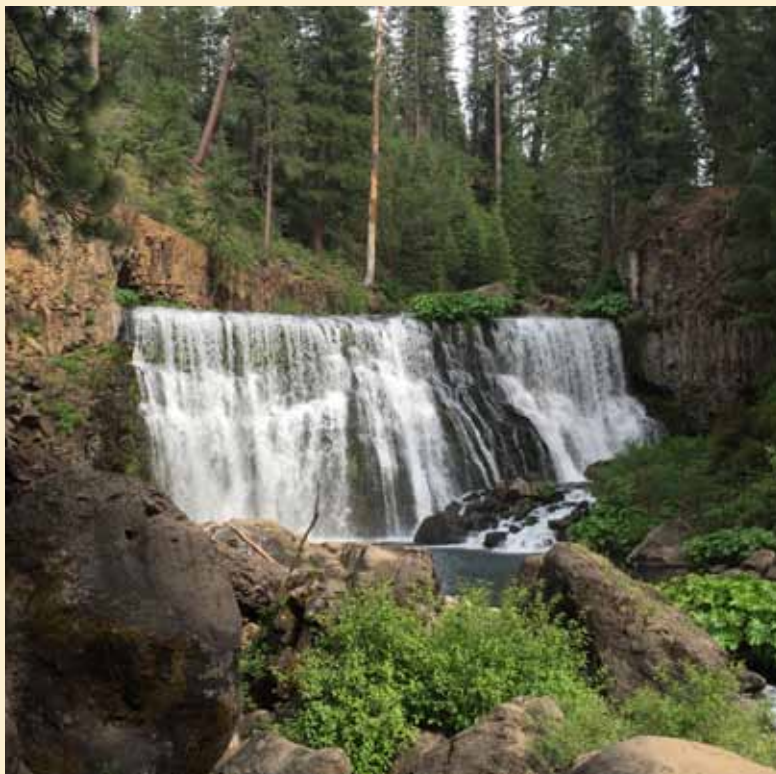
Hidden within the enchanting forests near Mount Shasta, Faery Falls feels like a secret sanctuary. This 50-foot cascade, framed by lush greenery, creates a fairytale backdrop ideal for quiet reflection, family portraits, or simply soaking in nature's tranquility.

McCloud Falls

McCloud Falls is a three-tiered masterpiece that promises adventure and tranquility in equal measure. The Middle Falls steals the show with its sweeping cascades and dramatic viewpoints, perfect for capturing breathtaking photos. Below, the Lower Falls beckons families with its deep swimming hole—an ideal spot for picnics and sunny afternoons.

Hedge Creek Falls

Just a short stroll from the road, Hedge Creek Falls is a hidden gem that delights visitors with its unexpected charm. A secret trail leads behind the 35-foot cascade, offering a magical, walk-behind-the-waterfall experience perfect for memorable photos. Shaded and serene, with nearby river views, it's an ideal stop for families seeking a little adventure or couples looking for a peaceful retreat.

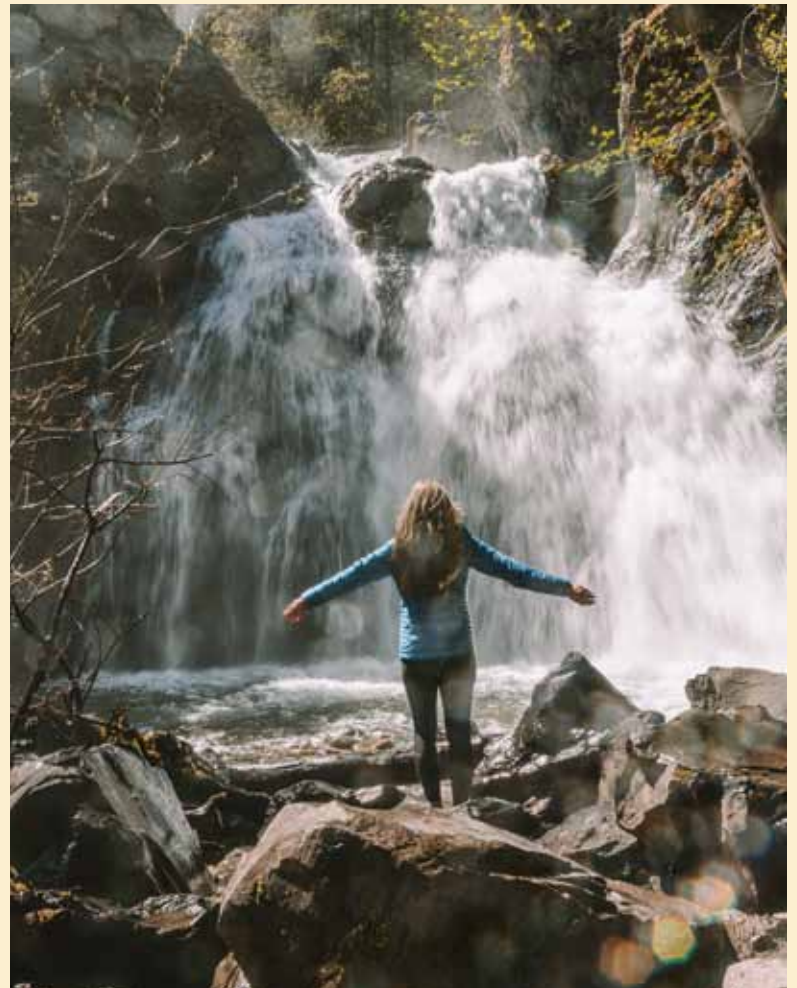


Ukonom Falls

Tucked away in the heart of Klamath National Forest, Ukonom Falls is a secluded treasure for those seeking a deeper connection with nature. This dramatic, multi-tiered cascade rewards adventurous souls with breathtaking scenery, tranquil rock pools, and the soothing soundtrack of rushing water.

Shackleford Falls

Set amidst alpine meadows and framed by sweeping mountain vistas, Shackleford Falls is a serene hideaway perfect for families. Its gentle 14-foot cascade feeds a tranquil pool, inviting quiet moments of relaxation, playful exploration for children, and the soothing sounds of water carried on a crisp mountain breeze. Less frequented than other spots, it offers a sense of seclusion and natural elegance—an ideal setting to unwind and reconnect in Northern California's high country.





Places to stay

Basecamp Lodge - Mount Shasta

A family favorite, Basecamp Lodge, blends rustic elegance and adventure in a setting as breathtaking as the region itself. Each cabin features vaulted cedar ceilings, panoramic windows, fully equipped kitchens, and inviting living spaces with fireplaces and smart TVs. Private decks, hammocks, and a shared backyard set the stage for outdoor dining and cherished family moments.

Mount Shasta Resort – Mount Shasta

The chalets at Mount Shasta Resort provide a luxurious escape nestled in the forest near Lake Siskiyou. Designed in a warm Craftsman style with filtered lake views, the resort also boasts a full-service spa, an 18-hole golf course, and access to year-round outdoor activities.

Cave Springs Resort – Dunsmuir

Blending modern comfort, natural beauty, and thoughtful design, Cave Springs Resort is tucked along the Sacramento River and just off Interstate 5. The resort boasts a tranquil setting ideal for relaxation or adventure and offers a selection of unique accommodations including Airstreams, tiny homes, and mid-century hotel give the property a boutique, high-end experience that feels both private and upscale.

For GCC travelers seeking privacy, curated outdoor experiences, and family-friendly comfort, Siskiyou is a rare gem where every moment feels effortlessly elevated.

Visit: Discover Siskiyou





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Carinthia, AUSTRIA

A Wellness Escape Between Mountains, Lakes and Myth

by Tehzeeb Huda



Sometimes, the best kind of escape is the one where nature, wellness, and legend collide. I traded the sweltering heat of Dubai for the lush, alpine calm of Carinthia, Austria's southernmost state, and what awaited was a soul-refreshing week of healing waters, mythical stories, and scenic landscapes painted in lake blues and mountain greens.

Carinthia's prime location lets travellers explore Austria, Italy, and Slovenia in one trip, just minutes from each border. Carinthia is home to over 1,200 lakes and rolling mountain ranges, many of which transform into ski havens by winter. But in summer, the region glows even brighter, offering breezy weather, crystal-clear waters, and endless nature trails. The kind of place where you can swim in a lake so clear and pure, its waters are drinkable!

We landed in Ljubljana, Slovenia on a 6-hour Fly Dubai flight, and took a scenic drive into Klagenfurt, Carinthia's capital, where cobbled streets, charming cafes, and centuries-old legends await. At the heart of town stands the Lindwurm Fountain, a monumental dragon carved from slate in 1583. The locals believe this mythical creature once roamed the marshes until slain by knights who lured it with a booby-trapped bull. Klagenfurt, derived from "wailing crossing," was said to be built in its wake.

Other local legends are just as captivating. In the town centre, we found the Wörtherseemandl, a bronze figure of a little man with his finger raised in warning. According to lore, this little man flooded a wealthy, arrogant city that refused to attend Christmas mass, creating today's Lake Wörthersee, the largest and clearest in the region.

At Lake Wörthersee, we dined at Maria Loretto, watching the sun melt into turquoise waters. The next morning, we boarded a nostalgia bus to the ferry and glided across the lake to Maria Wörth, a quaint village framed by mountains and wildflower meadows. The panoramic views of Carinthia from Pyramidenkogel, the world's tallest wooden lookout tower, was breathtaking, and for thrill-seekers like me, you can opt to slide down the tower instead of taking the elevator!





Lunch at Linde restaurant was an absolute treat with lakefront views, and the freshest seafood. We then drove to Velden, Carinthia's shopping and casino capital, where tradition and glamour coexist with ease, and had a tea-party by the lake at the elegant Schlosshotel.

From here, we shifted into full wellness mode at the luxurious Hotel Warmbaderhof in Warmbad-Villach. For over 200 years, this 5-star spa resort has been a sanctuary for wellness seekers. My room overlooked lush gardens and came with a scent of lavender and fresh fruit, an invitation to slow down.

Each morning, I soaked in the hotel's Healing Thermal Water Pool, which sits directly above a natural thermal spring. Said to alleviate pain, improve circulation, and reduce inflammation, this healing water replenishes itself every three hours. It's no wonder Warmbaderhof has a loyal international following.

The spa's VIBE facial introduced me to a skincare line inspired by the goddess of thermal springs. But the boldest moment came in the -110°C Cryo Suite. For three icy minutes, I stood in a freezing chamber, and emerged recharged. Cryotherapy has benefits ranging from pain relief and muscle recovery to better circulation and boosted mood.

Wellness in Carinthia isn't limited to spas. We hiked through Monkey Affenberg (Monkey Mountain), an outdoor enclosure where we





encountered adorable Japanese macaques with a trained guide and got a glimpse of their daily antics and wittiness in their natural habitat.

Another highlight was the drive through Nockberge Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO-listed haven of biodiversity. Along the way, we explored a museum dedicated to trees and wood sustainability and even sipped on local schnapps made from tree saplings. For lunch, we dined at a local restaurant, and feasted on traditional homemade Austrian ricotta dumplings, an absolute treat!

For those dreaming of an alpine escape with rustic charm, Carinthia doesn't disappoint. Gipfelhaus Magdalensberg offers panoramic views, regional cuisine, and cozy lodge-style comfort over 1,000 meters above sea level, perfect for hikers and history lovers alike. Meanwhile, Trattler's Hofchalets in Bad Kleinkirchheim combine luxury with nature: think private saunas, fireplaces, and direct access to ski slopes and hiking trails.

I headed home with a glowing body, mind, and spirit. Carinthia's healing waters, crisp air, and charming folklore had worked their magic. The weather in late spring was just right: warm sun, cool breeze, and food so fresh it tastes like summer. I am already dreaming of going back with a few friends in tow to swim in its crystal-clear lakes and soak up the lush, vivid beauty all over again.



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