

A vibrant underwater photograph serves as the background for the magazine cover. It depicts two divers in full scuba gear swimming through clear blue water. They are surrounded by a dense school of bright orange and red fish. To the left, a large, textured coral reef structure is visible. Bubbles from the divers' breathing apparatus rise towards the surface, adding a sense of movement to the scene.

World

Luxury Travel

Magazine

Vol. 3 ■ Issue 9 ■ April, 2015

Into the Blue

**Five personalised
underwater trips**

Flights of Fancy

**Five best paragliding
destinations of the world**

Italy

***The crown jewel
of Europe***

**May Festivals
around the Globe**



This issue WLT has decided not to be grounded for a change!

Be it for research, exploration or just fun, people started exploring the underwater world. With time, the underwater exploration has evolved with advanced vehicles and equipment. This issue of the magazine brings you five such spots where underwater travel has touched another level. These explorations are personalised and customised to suit your needs and expertise.

When some people were wondering about what's under the ocean, a few were striving to fly like a bird. Paragliding is the closest to flying like a bird for a human being. In this issue of the e-magazine, we are talking about the best spots around the world to go paragliding.

If there is one place I can't have enough of, it has to be Italy. Yes, it is Italy where people still eat with their families; where people greet each other with open arms and loud greetings;

where people are genuinely happy to have you as guest. The wine, food and scenic beauty make this place a perfect getaway. Read an interesting take on Italy in our country section of the e-zine.

Check out the regular section to keep tab of what's happening around you!

Thank you!



Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief

World
Luxury Travel
Magazine

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The crown jewel of Europe

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May Festivals around
the Globe

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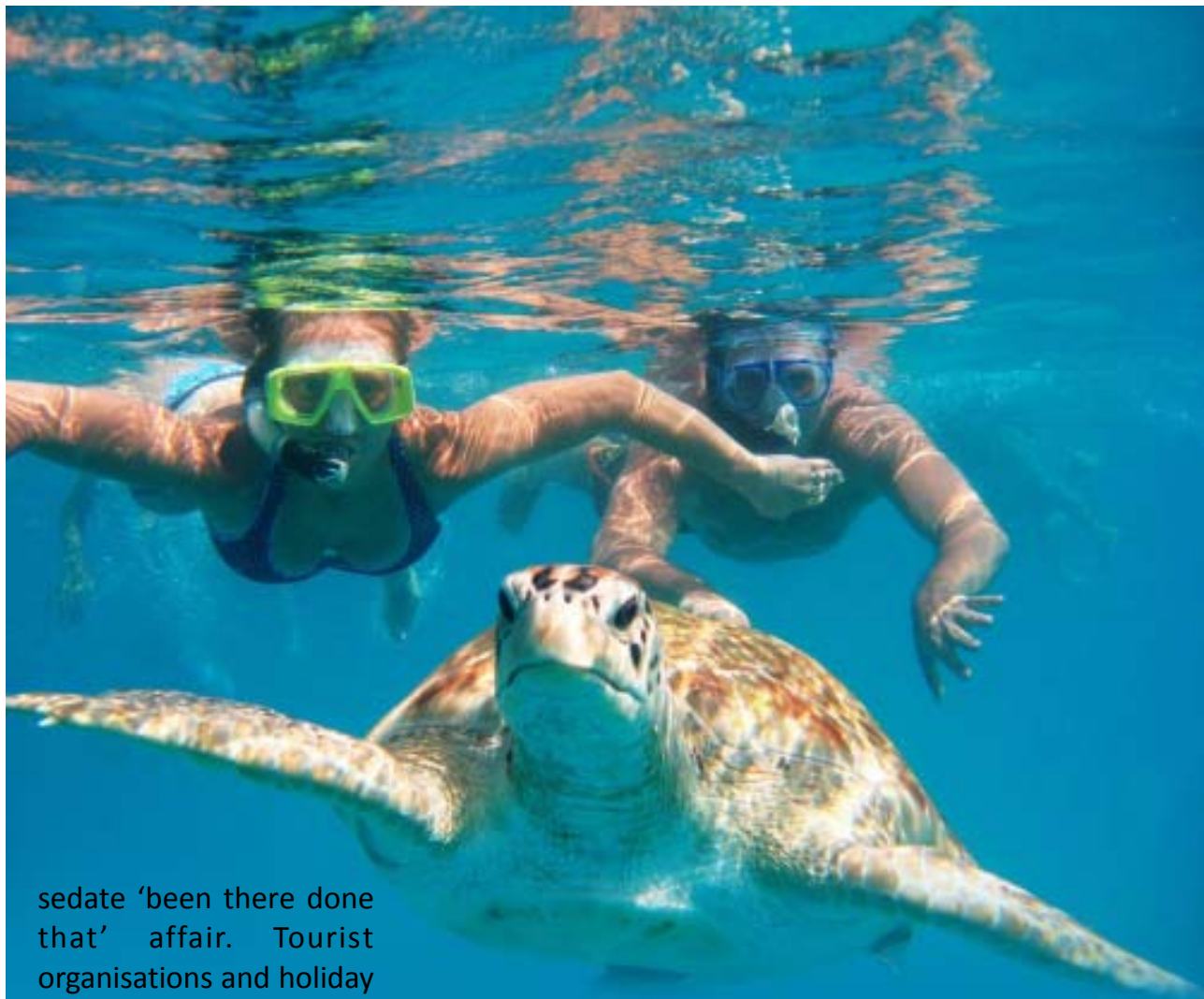
Into the Blue

Five personalised
underwater trips



If wanderlust is in your blood the sky is the limit, and then there is the ocean too! The planet has an inexhaustible supply of wonders to be explored. The frontiers of travel are being pushed every day. It is not enough to trot across the surface of the earth. The skies, the insides of a volcano, the freezing spaces of the Arctic and the vast, mysterious depths of the ocean are all being explored by man in his quest for adventure. Travel is no more the





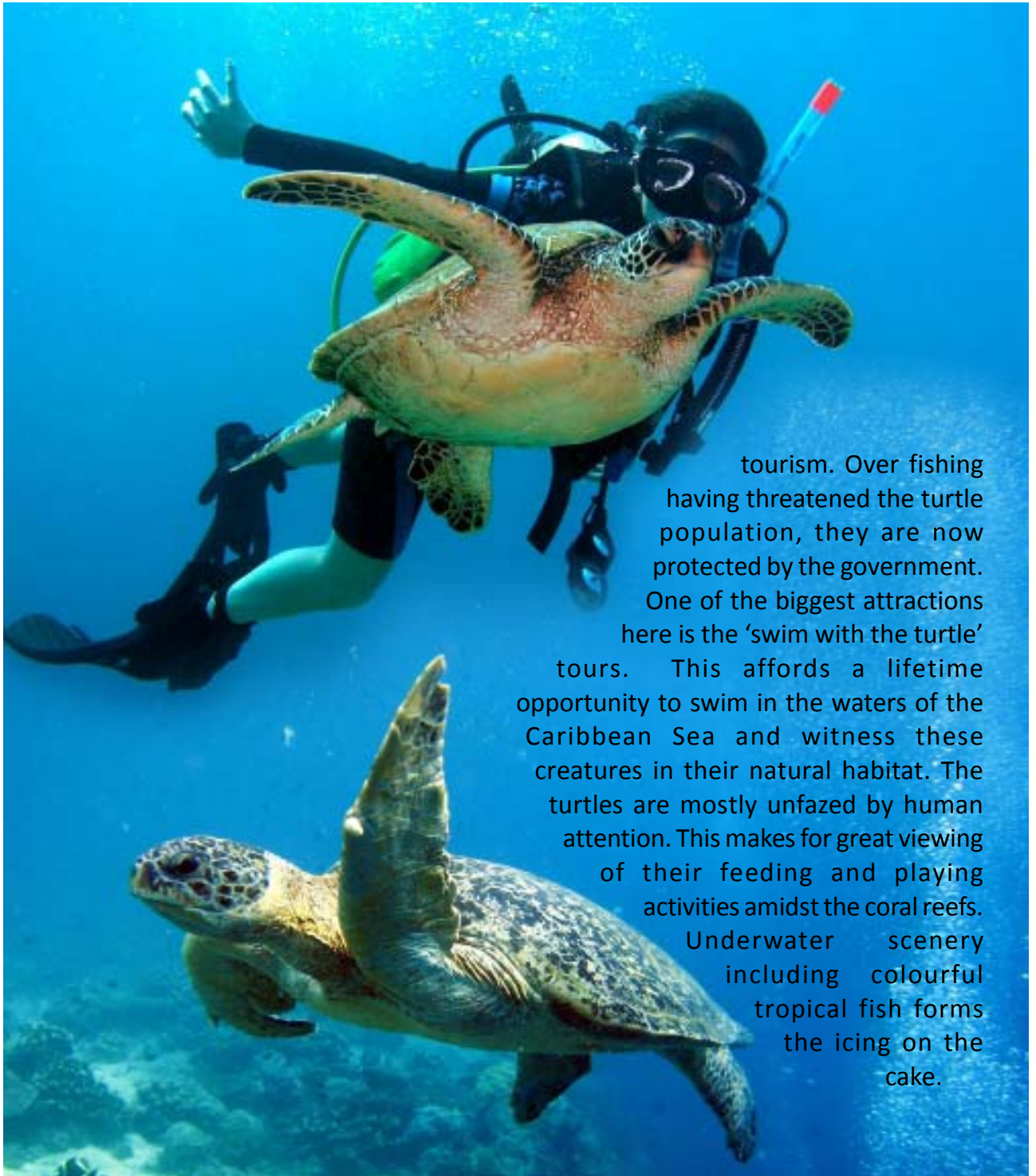
sedate 'been there done that' affair. Tourist organisations and holiday planners have realised this truth and offering a whole lot of 'offbeat tours'.

Today let us turn the spotlight on underwater trips! You will be surprised at the variety of underwater tour options

that are available for the adventurous and the not-so-adventurous too. Take a look!

Seascape Turtle Snorkel Tours, Barbados

Barbados is home to the second largest nesting population of the hawksbill turtles in the Caribbean. No less than 500 females nest here annually making it a haven for turtle



tourism. Over fishing having threatened the turtle population, they are now protected by the government. One of the biggest attractions here is the 'swim with the turtle' tours. This affords a lifetime opportunity to swim in the waters of the Caribbean Sea and witness these creatures in their natural habitat. The turtles are mostly unfazed by human attention. This makes for great viewing of their feeding and playing activities amidst the coral reefs. Underwater scenery including colourful tropical fish forms the icing on the cake.



Seascope offers private charter turtle trips. The personalised excursions are a far cry from the 'group experience' where pre-appointed timings and rules act spoilsport in the indulgence of your whims. Seascope offers private snorkelling training lessons by trained crew members. Snorkelling gear, optical masks are all provided (bring your own swimwear). The all-inclusive turtle tours include free, unlimited snacks and drinks. The customised 1-2-1 personalised service caters to any personal requests. Another major plus is free underwater photography. The fantastic reminders of your sojourn are mailed to you free of charge. Do not forget to order some of the world's most popular rums hailing from Barbados when you are there.



Aquarius Luxury Sail & Snorkel, Port Douglas

Port Douglas is the only place on earth which is home to two World Heritage sites – The Great Barrier Reef and the Daintree Rainforest. For lovers of underwater attractions, the Great Barrier Reef offers

2300 km of coral territory waiting to be explored. Composed of 2900 coral reefs, the entire reef system is a kaleidoscopic world of colourful fish, over 400 stunning coral formations, molluscs, dolphins and sea reptiles and plants. Tourists flock in droves to Port Douglas to experience the underwater marvels of this region.

Aquarius Sail and Snorkel offers day trips to the Great Barrier Reef and Low Isles. With a 23 passengers limit, Aquarius provides a higher crew to passenger ratio making the trip much more personalised than large passenger tours. The 62 ft. sailing catamaran is a dedicated snorkel only vessel. You can observe the stunning underwater world through guided glass bottom boat tour and snorkel tours. Parrotfish, green sea turtles and fusiliers can all be viewed. Snorkelling equipment, gourmet seafood buffet lunch, guided heritage island walks as well as transfers from Port Douglas are all provided by Aquarius.





Mauritius Attractions – Exclusive Submarine Underwater Trip

The lovely island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean is surrounded almost completely by a barrier coral reef. Here the reefs are unaffected by ocean warming and are not bleached. Gorgeously coloured fish and coral reefs, crystal clear waters and ship wrecks attract visitors from all over the world.

Damselfish, clownfish, boxfish, sponges, sea anemones and a variety of fascinating marine life and underwater flora are all on spectacular display here.



The exclusive submarine trips enable you to explore the mysteries of the deep with just two to five passengers of your choice. A speedboat transfer will take you to the submarine and you will be given a briefing before you start. The submarine will then sink 30-40 metres under sea allowing you to view the lovely marine life, coral reefs and the “Star Hope” wreck. Trained navigators, who are knowledgeable about the sea, provide a safe and interesting trip. The ‘standard’ package (for five) includes a choice of canapés and champagne. The ‘premium’ package (for two) begins with a personalised welcome. In the comfort of an air-conditioned fully transparent glass cabin you can enjoy an under-water lunch while watching the breathtaking marvels of the sea.



Underwater Tribe – Bali Bonanza

One of the world's most lovely islands, Bali is a haven for divers. It has an amazing variety of diving spots. Steep banks, coral ridges, volcanic outcrops, the world famous Liberty shipwreck, deep water trenches and sea grass beds make for incredible underwater hot spots. Mola mola, sunfish, sea horses, sponges, brightly coloured and huge gorgonian fans are all to be found in the sea here. Needless to say, the place is a photographer's delight.

Underwater Tribe offers a 7-night 'land safari' tour covering some of the best diving destinations of Bali – Menjangan Island, Tulamben and Amed. They specialise in organising small dive groups as per customised itineraries and



a highly personalised service. The trip covers 6 days' diving with up to 16 dives, all road transfers from airport to airport, breakfast and lunch and seven nights' accommodation. The beautiful underwater reef scenery, the Liberty and Japanese wrecks and the amazing marine life make for a fantastic trip.

**Grenada
Seafaris
Powerboat
Adventure –
Underwater
Sculpture Park**

Did you know that a magnificent statue of Christ, a circle of children holding hands, a life-size man on a cycle and a man working at his desk, all stand still in an underwater sculpture park?



The Molinere Underwater Sculpture Park, the work of Jason deCaires Taylor, is located in the Caribbean Sea off the west coast of Grenada. The sculptures, spread over 800 square meters, have been designed to act as a base for coral polyps to grow on and create new





reefs. They are also providing a sanctuary for a variety of marine life including parrot fish, flounders and branded coral shrimp. It now attracts snorkelers, scuba divers and tourists from all over the world.

Grenada Seafaris offers powerboat adventure tours for visitors. You can enjoy their West Coast Tour in light, swift powerboats that carry up to 12 passengers. The tour covers popular spots like Dragon Bay, Black

Bay, the Lagoon and the Carenage. A guide will enhance your knowledge about the island and the varied marine life which includes whales, dolphins and leatherback turtles. The Underwater Park is also on the list. A PADI certified crew briefs new snorkelers and a guide takes you on the amazing underwater snorkelling tour of the park. Private charter facilities are also available if you wish to travel with your own group with an itinerary suited to your needs.



Cast off your moorings

The ocean holds several marvels hidden in its depths. What is wonderful is that you don't need to be an adventurer or explorer to uncover these mysteries. An interest in exploring and a dash of spirit are all that you need. There are an amazing variety of tours available to choose from. Some options have been listed for you. Many have not been covered like the amazing Triton submarine trips, which are in the pipeline at the Poseidon Resorts or the DeepFlight Expeditions. Not every trip is suited for the casual underwater enthusiast but there are enough options for various levels of experiences. Find one that suits you and sail into the deep!

Flights of Fancy

**Five best paragliding
destinations of the world**

Starting from inventing an airplane, dangling in a hot air balloon to flying with a parachute, man's desire to surpass the ordinary has scaled new heights, quite literally. In other words, sky is truly the limit when it comes to fulfilling fantasies. What better way to touch the sky and float among the clouds than paragliding? Initially considered a dangerous sport meant for adrenaline junkies, it has now become a seamless, scintillating activity among travel buffs around the world. Not only does it offer the thrill of flying but also lets the gliders enjoy a wholesome panoramic view of the landscape below. Superior gliding gears, additional safety measures and mushrooming training centres for beginners have made the recreational sport immensely popular over the years.

Presenting here the five best paragliding destinations of the world, all of which are worth a visit:





The Alps, Europe

If there is any paragliding Mecca in the whole world, it has to be the spectacular Alps. One of the most famous and stunning mountain ranges of Europe and the entire globe, stretching approximately 1,200 kilometres across eight countries, it is a haven for free flying. Mont Blanc located on the French–Italian border is the highest mountain at 15,782 feet. Lofty snow-capped peaks, granite cliffs, lush green forests, splendid glaciers and picturesque valleys dotted with lovely villages are the attractions of this

mountain range. The scenery keeps changing every now and then as you cross one location after another. It is an experience of a lifetime. In fact paragliding as a sport is believed to have taken off from the French and Swiss Alps in the 1980s, both of which boast of abundant natural beauty. Pleasant temperatures, clean mountain air, high alpine pastures, captivating wild flowers and flocks of grazing sheep make exploring the Alps

a truly fulfilling pastime, especially during summer. Plenty of tour operators offer paragliding holiday packages for travellers. There are a number of training centres for individuals and groups as well as experienced pilots and tandem flights to ensure your safety. Some of the most visited spots include Bassano and Meduno in Italy, Annecy and St Andre les Alpes in France, Mayrhofen and Greifenburg in Austria among others.



Lima, Peru

Lima is a well acclaimed destination for paragliding activities and tourists from different countries list it as one of the most preferred locations ever. Apart from a great setting, it also provides ample opportunities to indulge in the air sport. The flying areas in Lima can be widely classified into 3 regions – Costa Verde, Pasamayo and Pachacamac. Costa Verde with its lovely cliffs lets you fly

within the city, sometimes up to 500 to 700 metres. There are plenty of landing spots and turbulence is pretty less making it an even better experience. Pasamayo is a sand dune of 400 metres which is located almost vertical to the seashore. It is a great area for practice and you can fly up to 800 metres above the sea. Pachacamac lies to the south of Lima and boasts of immense natural



beauty. The place comes alive in winters with a variety of chirping birds, painted pastures, flock of sheep and fascinating views. Lima allows travel enthusiasts to choose from a number of beaches, urban landscapes, coastal districts like that of Minaflores, the Ghandi Park and so on to undertake the flight of fancy. Pachacamac, Cusco, Ayacucho, Huancayo are ideal for those who love extreme adventures on their plate. So much is the popularity of the sport here that politicians also take up the activity while running election campaigns!





Ölüdeniz, Turkey

Ölüdeniz is touted to be one of the best places on Earth to paraglide due to its awe inspiring panoramic view and the Babadağ Mountain's exceptional height. Apart from being a hotspot for tourists to enjoy a relaxed beach vacation, it enables them to try out some enthralling adventure sports every now and then. It is also one of the most photographed beaches in the Mediterranean. It houses an isolated sandy bay on a blue lagoon at the mouth of Ölüdeniz. If you are flying from the Babadag Mountain in Turkey you can cross the Olüdeniz lagoon before landing on the beach. The weather is usually in favour of gliders. The Olüdeniz Air Games which include paragliding, skydiving, base-jumping, hand gliding, motor flights, remote controlled plane shows, acrobatic competitions etc. are held here every year.



Norway

Norway is famous for its serene natural surroundings, secluded picturesque pockets, an undiluted ambience along with an idyllic setting that always win over all its visitors. The Norwegian Cup, the well-known paragliding acrobatic competition takes place in Voss, Norway. It is an immensely popular affair among international acro-pilots as well as tourists from all over the globe. Almost all parts of the land area are favourable for paragliding which offers a fantastic bird's eye view of the entire landscape. You can opt for a spectacular flight high up in the air or a gentle coastal soar depending on your preference. The mysterious midnight sun and the interplay of colours on the horizon transform this polar paradise into an intoxicating dreamland. You can experience the magic while floating in the air. The tandem season runs throughout the year and witnesses greater footfall from May to September owing to better conditions. A tandem flight is perfect for your first time with an experienced pilot by your side to look after your safety without compromising on the thrill.





Dune du Pyla, France

Dune du Pyla is renowned for being the largest sand dune in Europe. It is located on Atlantic shore just 80 kilometres from Bordeaux. The dune is around 500 metres wide, 3 kilometres long with a height of 329 feet. What more interesting is the fact that it continues to expand every year. It provides an ideal backdrop for paragliders and pilots. Flying here is not only fun and easy but greatly relaxing too. Its orientation and low altitude ensure favourable teaching conditions for beginners. Its pleasant





climatic setting makes it all the more coveted. When the weather is good, the ocean breeze gently grazes the dunes and makes it a truly awesome experience for those up above. The unique backdrop allures

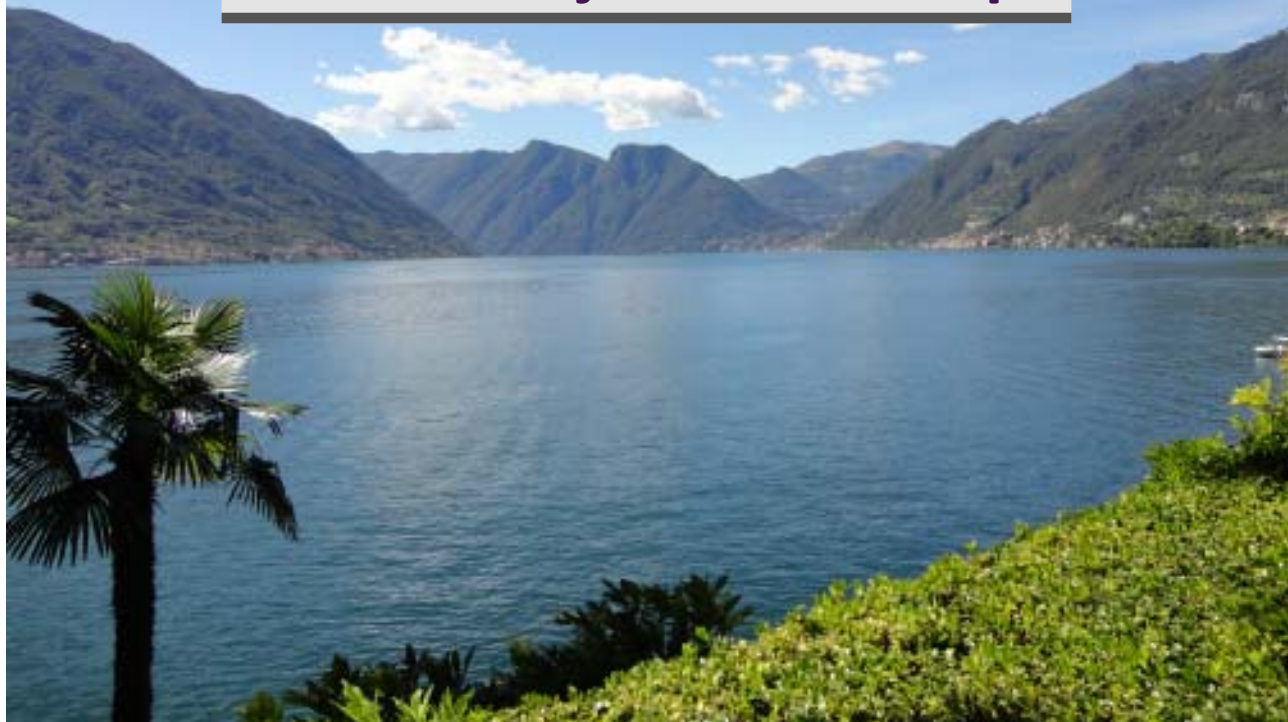
adventurers during the summer, fall and spring seasons.

Adrenaline rush is the best part of any paragliding expedition but make sure you never compromise on your safety measures. Taking proper assistance and abiding by the basic rules will ensure you a safe thrilling experience of a lifetime. Whether you choose a destination for its breath-taking views or the all-encompassing free fall from a high-altitude, you will surely have memories to cherish for years to come.



Italy

The crown jewel of Europe



Italy breaks the mould of the traditional world of beauty where appearances are nothing more than superficial. Once you get over the surrealism and the initial intoxication, you will unearth the intricate layers of its rich cultural heritage and ancient lineage. In short Italy not only paints a pretty picture but offers plenty of room for explorations and inspiration.

Officially known as the Italian Republic, the country is bordered by France, Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia. This parliamentary republic in Southern Europe overlooking the Mediterranean Sea is often called a living art gallery.



Climate

Located in the temperate belt of the Mediterranean, Italy is as crowded, sunny and hot in the summers as it is severely cold and somewhat lonely during the winters. Some of its regions are humid in summers with mild temperatures during the rest of the year. The best time to visit is from April to June though hotel prices can be on the higher side with a steady influx of tourists. The north-south orientation of the peninsula and its surrounding mountains contribute to its variable climate. September often witnesses heavy rainfall. The first snow of the long winters usually occurs in November.



Must Carry

- ✓ An Italian to English dictionary
- ✓ A fully featured GPS since Italy has a lot of attractions you can explore on foot
- ✓ Good clothes and shoes for Italians love to dress well
- ✓ A backpack can be a good option since you will do a lot of sight seeing
- ✓ A hat, light linen, sunglass and a sunscreen are the must-haves in summers





Language and Culture

Majority of the population are Roman Catholics while the rest are Jews, Protestants and Muslims. Italian is the official language though French, German are also used in communications. Italians are warm, friendly and expressive people known for their hospitality. It is well known that Italians really know how to enjoy the simple pleasures of life and live life to the fullest. Apart from their love for art, architecture and creativity they are famous for their food, music and festivals. The family is the central part of the social structure and honour is an important part of the culture. Shorts and sleeveless tops are not preferred in churches and religious places. Lunch or pranzo is a big meal but Dinner or cena is the biggest meal of the



day. Seafood and desserts are irreplaceable here. Folk, classical music, opera, new age music and instrumentals along with dances like tarantella are popular.

To remember

- Do not over-pack and over-schedule during your trip
- Trains schedules can be disrupted and queues to attractions are usually very long
- Some museums and heritage sites discourage clicking pictures
- Time schedules are relaxed
- When exchanging gifts, quality matters over quantity and size
- Elegant dressing is preferred as opposed to skimpy outfits



- Credit cards may not be accepted everywhere
- Be careful with money and belongings in crowded tourist places
- Services at restaurants, hotels, public places often take longer but no one minds that in Italy

Trivia

- The name “Italy” is derived from Greek “italos”, which means calf

- The typewriter, piano, thermometer, optical glasses are all Italian inventions
- UNICEF ranked Italy as the best country for family and peer relationships in 2007
- The coins thrown in the famous Trevi Fountain are donated to a charitable organisation
- Italians first introduced ‘pizza’ for the world to feast on
- It has the highest number of hotel rooms in Europe



Places to see

Florence – Often mistaken as one big museum, Florence is the cradle of Renaissance. The Cathedral, the Baptistery, the Uffizi, the Bargello, Galleria dell'Accademia (Accademia Gallery), churches of Santa Maria Novella, Santa



Croce, library of San Lorenzo and numerous art galleries are among its artistic treasures. Michelangelo's architectural genius is the best part of the

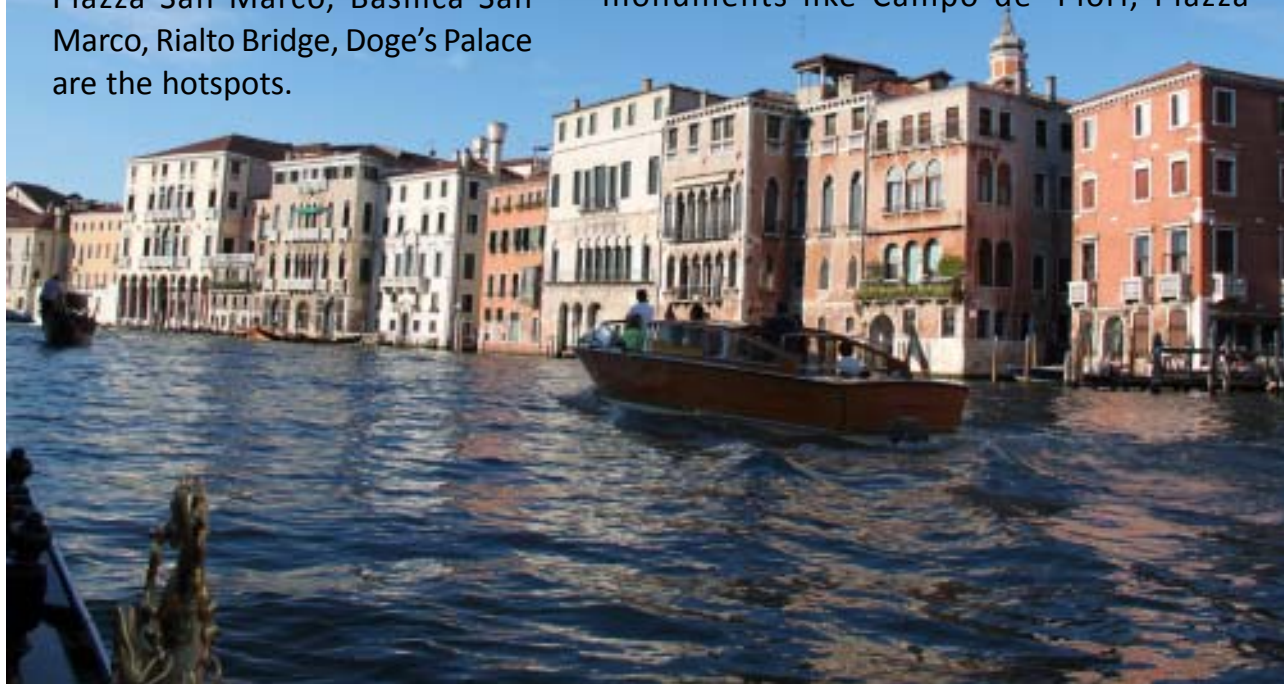
city. Some of the oldest streets near the Arno River are ideal to explore during your stay.



Venice – An engineering gem and a lover's dream come true, Venice is the city of waters and canals. Its quintessential canals, the glorious Grand Canal and the surrounding architectural marvels, churches, palaces make it a much sought after city. Wine, paintings, music, romance and fashion dominate the scene. Art and inspiration can be found in every nook and corner. Piazza San Marco, Basilica San Marco, Rialto Bridge, Doge's Palace are the hotspots.



Rome – Rome is as much about art and architecture as it is about history and culture. An artistic heritage dating back to Etruscan times, the Eternal City is a masterpiece in every way. Liberally sprinkled with sights that will leave you spellbound, Rome is famous for palaces, ancient churches and basilicas, monuments like Campo de' Fiori, Piazza





Navona, Castel Sant'Angelo, Roman Forum, Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, Vatican Museums, Pantheon, St. Peter's Basilica, Colosseum etc.

Pompeii – Pompeii is the town that

got buried under the ashes and lava when the volcano Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD. Every part of its ruins from its people, houses, markets, temples, streets, amphitheatre and paintings seems to have frozen here. The ancient town has been preserved so extraordinarily that it is a delight to explore and get mesmerized. It is a favourite among tourists.





Amalfi Coast – A UNESCO World Heritage Site and a breathtakingly picturesque location to say the least, the Amalfi Coast is a potpourri of scenic beauty, history and culture. Stretching along the southern side of Italy's Sorrentine Peninsula, the Amalfi coast is complete with quaint hillside villages, wonderful cliffs and shimmering bays. The Cathedral of Amalfi, villas in Ravello, ancient churches, Galli's islands, the Emerald Grotto, the reserves of Ferriera and Punta Campanella are the sights worth visiting.





Things to do

- ❖ Take a romantic gondola ride along any of the 150 interconnected canals of Venice
- ❖ Visit the biggest and ancient amphitheatre of the Romans in the Colosseum that once welcomed more than 50,000 spectators
- ❖ Enjoy a spectacular view from the well-known Leaning Tower of Pisa
- ❖ Bask in serenity in Lake Como, surrounded by mountains, villas, gardens, lovely towns and an 11th century abbey
- ❖ Explore St. Peter's Basilica which dates back to 1506
- ❖ Take a tour of the Pantheon, the best preserved Roman building of 126 AD
- ❖ If you want to return to Rome, drop a coin in the Trevi Fountain – it's the Baroque fountain with a mythological sculptural composition of Neptune flanked by two Tritons
- ❖ Visit the Piazza del Campo, the grand public space of the historic centre of Siena, Tuscany
- ❖ Admire the most famous cathedral of Florence, Santa Maria del Fiore
- ❖ Explore the various museums, galleries and churches
- ❖ Opt for a culinary adventure and a shopping rendezvous
- ❖ Attend an opera show or a concert

Getting there

Depending on the origin of travel you can take a flight, cruise, train or bus to reach Italy. Regular flights are available from all the major destinations. Train travel from Europe is both preferred and delightful by the scenic Euro rail. Trenitalia is the primary train operator in Italy. Eurolines operates from a number of places like Great Britain, Belgium, France,

Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scandinavia, Spain, Switzerland etc. Ferries are another great way to travel from Greece, Turkey, Tunisia, Malta, Croatia, Albania, Egypt and Spain. Car transfers are also popular from nearby places of France or Austria.





Getting around

The state owned railway system is inexpensive and the most common way to travel. Buses connect the areas which are not accessible by trains. Car transfers are available, though driving is not always viable for tourists. Boats and ferries are a relaxed and beautiful way to experience the country.

The crown jewel of renaissance is a powerhouse of imagination and resplendent with unique attractions. However its old world charm never gets in the way of its mesmerizing discoveries and its roots never pose a threat to its free flowing expression of art and innovation. Italy is as captivating on your first visit as it is after a countless more.



May Festivals around the Globe



AfrikaBurn

Place: Tankwa, SA

Dates: April 27 – May 3, 2015

Travel to the isolated Stonehenge farm near the Tankwa Karoo National Park (Northern Cape Province) to participate in the fantastic AfrikaBurn Festival. AfrikaBurn, a regional version of Burning Man, is an art event by volunteers who actively participate with music, artistic and creative offerings. Theme camps, costumes, performances, music, art, burning structures form the key components of the festival. You can only attend the festival as a participant not as a spectator. What makes the festival so exhilarating is community spirit, the sheer creativity and the spirit of volunteering and giving that motivate the event. The surreal desert atmosphere, the sense of freedom, the complete lack of commercialization all add to the magic of this unique experience. Despite the harsh environment and the self-reliance testing conditions, thousands of people are drawn to this festival from all over the world every year.

Trivia: *The festival theme this year is 'The Gift'.*





Festival of the Snakes

Place: Italy

Dates: May 1, 2015

The residents of the tiny village of Cocullo in Italy honour their patron St. Domenico in a rather strange festival. St. Domenico is believed to ward off tooth aches and snake bites. The morning of the festival dawns with fireworks. A bell-ringing ceremony at the church is done by people pulling the rope with their teeth. The highlight of the festival is the procession of the saint's statue at noon. The



statue is taken from the church and paraded through the streets. The statue is covered with currency notes, jewels, and snakes. Snake charmers and live bands are part of the procession. The snakes act as soothsayers of sorts. If they stay put around the statue it foretells a good harvest, if they fall off, it is believed to denote bad luck. Local sweet treats are distributed to the crowd by girls in traditional costumes. A firework display at the end marks the closing of the festival when the saint's statue is returned to the church.

Trivia: *The snakes are collected in advance and their fangs removed before the festival!*





FESTIVAL DE CANNES

Cannes International Film Festival

Place: Cannes, France

Dates: May 13 – 24, 2015

Every year, Cannes hosts one of the world's most prestigious film festivals. The festival, founded in 1939, serves as a platform for showcasing works of top directors as well as new filmmakers.

The Palais des Festivals is the main venue, however screenings are

held all over the town at

various other

places too. More

than 30,000





FESTIVAL DE CANNES



directors, producers, actors and distributors view, buy or sell over 2000 films at the festival. The awards are given in various categories including best film, best director and best actor. The awards given include the iconic Palme d' Or (Golden Palm), Grand Prix (Grand Prize of the festival) and Prix du Jury (Jury Prize). Though not

open for the general public, being an invitation-only event, the festival draws huge crowds who come to gaze at the glittering stars.

Trivia: Out of the thousands of films that are submitted, only around 50 feature films and 30 short films are included in the official selection!



Corsa Dei Ceri (Candle Race)

Place: Gubbio, Italy

Dates: May 15, 2015

If you thought the festival involved some sort of candle race, you would be mistaken. The candle in question refers to long wooden pillars and is known as 'ceris'. The Corsa Dei Ceri (Candle Race) is a religious festival held in honour

of St Ubaldo, the patron saint of Gubbio. In a test of strength, the faithful carry the 4 m long ceris bearing statues of St Ubaldo, St Anthony and St George. What actually takes place is a race between three teams carrying a



ceri and racing through the streets and up the slopes of the Monte Ingino to the Basilica situated 300 m above. The saints are represented by their colours which their teams wear; yellow for St Ubaldo and blue for St George and black for St Anthony. As a rule, St Ubaldo always arrives first at the Basilica. The races are filled with excitement and fun. Food and revelry marks the festival.

Trivia: *The ceris weigh 400 kg each!*

Hay on Wye Festival

Place: Hay-on-Wye, UK

Dates: May 21-31, 2015

The 'town of books', Hay-on-Wye plays host every year to the largest philosophy and music festival in the world, organised by the Institute of Art and Ideas. The festival is a celebration of literature in all its forms – reading, writing, story-telling, discussions and the subject can be anything from novels to poems or plays to essays. It is a hub of activity with 650 events, 270 acts, 9 stages, 200 speakers and all in 11 days! Speakers from a wide spectrum of life attend the festival including novelists, actors, artistes,



politicians and scientists. There is not only highbrow literary stuff happening. There are events for families and children too. A variety of workshops, book signings and other activities make the event fun and interesting.

Trivia: *The festival is best summed up in the words of Bill Clinton who dubbed it as, 'The Woodstock of the mind'!*



White Nights Festival

Place: St Petersburg, Russia

Dates: May 23 – July 10, 2015

What if the sun never set and you had months of continuous daylight? This is what happens in the world's northernmost city of St Petersburg. Due to the high altitude at which it is located, the sun never sinks below the horizon. The result is a peculiar night with enough light to make it seem almost like day. This beautiful luminous light is celebrated by a series of festivals, concerts and parties. The White Nights Festival, an international arts festival, highlights the best of Russian culture including operas, ballets and musical performances. The 'Stars of the White Nights', at the iconic Mariinsky Theatre, marks the



opening of the show. The festival concludes with the Scarlet Sails which features a grand fireworks show and a water show with boats.

Trivia: *White Nights is not really one festival but a series of cultural events taking place during the summer months!*





Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling

Place: Brockworth, England

Dates: May 25, 2015

Chasing a huge ball of cheese down a steep hill may not seem like your idea of fun, but thousands of people turn to Cooper's Hill to do exactly that. The event is free-for-all with only one rule. A huge seven pound ball of cheese is rolled down the steep hill and you go chasing after it. Needless to say, injuries, bruises and broken bones are plenty. So much so, that the event is held

only unofficially. The entire chase includes five downhill and four uphill races. The winner, the one who reaches the ball first, takes the cheese ball home. In recent times, the cheese ball has been replaced by a plastic one, but the winner still gets to take home a cheese ball.

Trivia: *The gradient of the slope is 2:1 or 295 feet!*





World Luxury Tourism