

World

Luxury Travel

Magazine

Vol. 2 ■ Issue 11 ■ June, 2014

Wanderlust

*Traveling through
the silver screen*

Monsoon Magic

Where to travel in
monsoon and why

New Zealand

A manuscript of Nature

July Festivals
around the Globe





Travel, for me, is one of the most relaxing and enriching things to do. At times, we do not get to travel the way we want to, to the place we wish. This is when travel movies come to the rescue. They satisfy our hunger of seeing a new place, experiencing new landscapes and more. Some movies have inspired me to travel. Read about some of these movies to know the reason 'why'.

The Southern Hemisphere has a different landscape, climate and culture compared to the Northern Hemisphere. The seasons are different too. Every visit to the Southern Hemisphere has inspired me to return to that side of the planet. Our visit to New Zealand made us confidently announce it as one of the most beautiful places on earth. Head to our Country Getaway section to know more.

While the Southern Hemisphere is enjoying its chilling winter, parts of the Northern Hemisphere are all set to welcome monsoon. The general belief is that monsoon is not a time to travel. But we think otherwise. If you want to make the most of your money, it is the best time to travel. Find out 'how' and 'why' in our feature story Monsoon Magic.

Don't forget to let us know your feelings on this issue's coverage.

Thank you!

Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief

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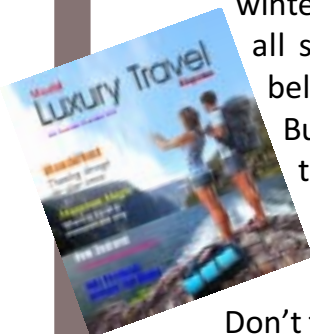
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Contents

Wanderlust
*Traveling through
the silver screen*



5 || Cover Story

Country Getaway || 24



New Zealand
A manuscript of Nature

36 || Happenings



Feature || 16



Monsoon Magic

Where to travel in
monsoon and why

July Festivals
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The top five
must-watch
Hollywood
travel movies

Movies have always been the cheapest and easiest form of a gateway, especially if a movie is made in an exotic location. From visiting extraordinary places to experiencing the sheer magic of being transported to a mystical world can only be witnessed well on the big screen. If you believe movies on travel can actually transport you to another world altogether, you have to watch the ones mentioned below.

A photograph of the Hollywood sign on a hill under a clear blue sky. The sign is white and made of large letters, set against a backdrop of dry, brownish vegetation and a clear blue sky. The hill is in the foreground, and the sign is in the middle ground.

HOLLYWOOD

Cover
Story

Wanderlust

Traveling through the silver screen

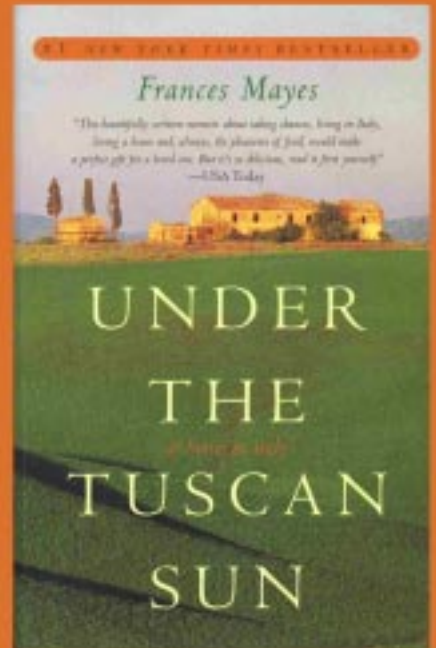


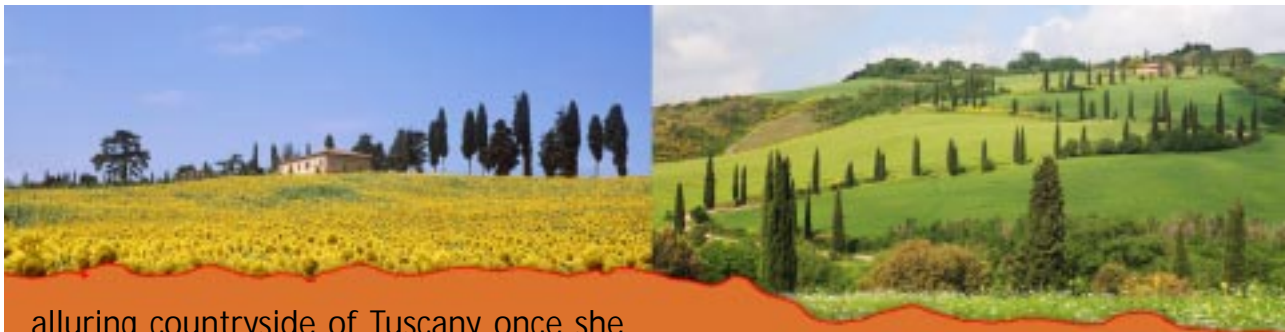
Under the Tuscan Sun

Based on the popular memoir of the same name – ‘Under the Tuscan Sun: At Home in Italy’ by Frances Mayes, the movie is about its author’s earnest quest to redeem her life when it goes for a toss. Mayes, a writer from San Francisco, goes on a trip to Tuscany after her marriage falls apart due to her husband’s philandering ways. In an attempt to put the pieces back and reconstruct her life, she bravely tries to shed her cocoon and embrace whatever life brings her way. In the movie, the protagonist was played by the ever charismatic Diane Lane.



Determined to listen to her heart, she gets off from the tour bus at the quaint, rustic but nonetheless





alluring countryside of Tuscany once she sets her eyes upon a charming villa. Thereby she makes an impulsive purchase and starts living her fantasy. As she puts her best efforts to rebuild the crumbling villa and of course her life, she embarks on a memorable journey of self-discovery. At the end she is free from the shackles that bind her and looks forward to a hopeful, promising future.

Where does it take you: To the vibrant,

sunny countryside of Tuscany. The movie describes Tuscany with a painted backdrop, pleasurable sights and eccentric locals who add more colour and frolic to the adaptation.

Why watch: To fuel every kind of fantasy of a great, romantic getaway that is considered to be life changing. It offers a visual seduction of sorts and a surreal escapism that is hard to resist.





JULIA ROBERTS EAT PRAY LOVE

STORY BY JULIA GILBERT. SCREENPLAY BY NICKY KATZ. DIRECTED BY PHILIP MOY. CASTING BY JANE FORD. COSTUME DESIGNER JANE FORD. HAIR BY JANE FORD. MAKEUP BY JANE FORD. PRODUCTION DESIGNER JANE FORD. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JANE FORD. PRODUCED BY JANE FORD. WRITTEN BY JANE FORD. BASED ON THE BESTSELLING BOOK BY JULIA GILBERT. LET YOURSELF GO THIS AUGUST



Eat Pray Love

The Julia Roberts starrer based on Elizabeth Gilbert's bestseller of the same name reveals the unusual journey of a troubled woman across three far flung countries - Italy, India and Indonesia. The protagonist Elizabeth leaves behind her job and breaks free from her marriage to reinvent herself and get in touch with her lost soul. The narration is as complex as it is simple and effortlessly blends contrasting elements from different walks of life to create an original, unique compilation. From sumptuous meals in Italy accompanied by free flowing conversations, mirth and cheer, the film ventures to capture the essence of life in a quaint,

ancient ashram in India. Elizabeth tries to look for answers through meditation and selfless service before settling down amidst the green paddy fields, tranquil roads and serene lakes of Bali. What follows is an enlightening tale of love, wisdom, acceptance and peace.

Where does it take you:

To the charming streets of Italy, serene meditation halls and warm hospitality of India before letting you soak

up the teachings of the world in the surreal landscape of Bali.

Why watch: To reinvent and

re-evaluate yourself, get in touch with your core and find the real meaning behind your existence.



Before Sunrise

As a testimony to life being a never ending journey where we are all cosmic travellers, 'Before Sunrise' symbolically begins and ends with a train journey. As the credits roll, a young carefree American man meets a beautiful French woman on a train that leaves from Budapest. In an impulsive act to seize life and its every moment, they get off at Vienna to explore the city and of course each other during some precious, fleeting hours. As the camera romances the nooks, crannies, parks, by lanes and the celebrated sight-seeing spots of the city, you cannot help falling in love with the passionate, penniless lovers who meet to share

ethan hawke julie delpy

Can the greatest romance of your life
last only one night?

BEFORE SUNRISE

A Richard Linklater Film

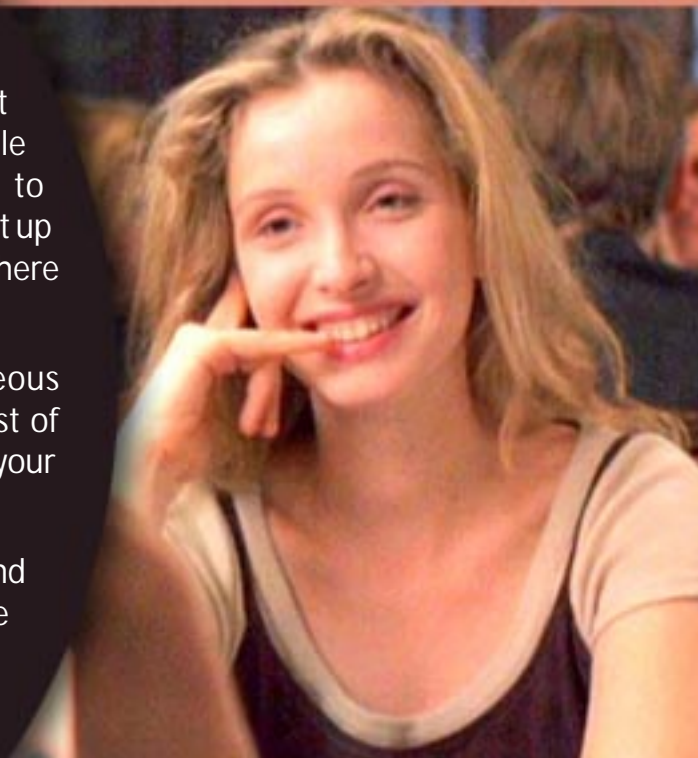




and cherish each other before being carried away in the rhythm of life. It ends on a hopeful note as the couple reluctantly bids goodbye yet refuse to exchange numbers and promise to meet up in six months' time to take off from where they left.

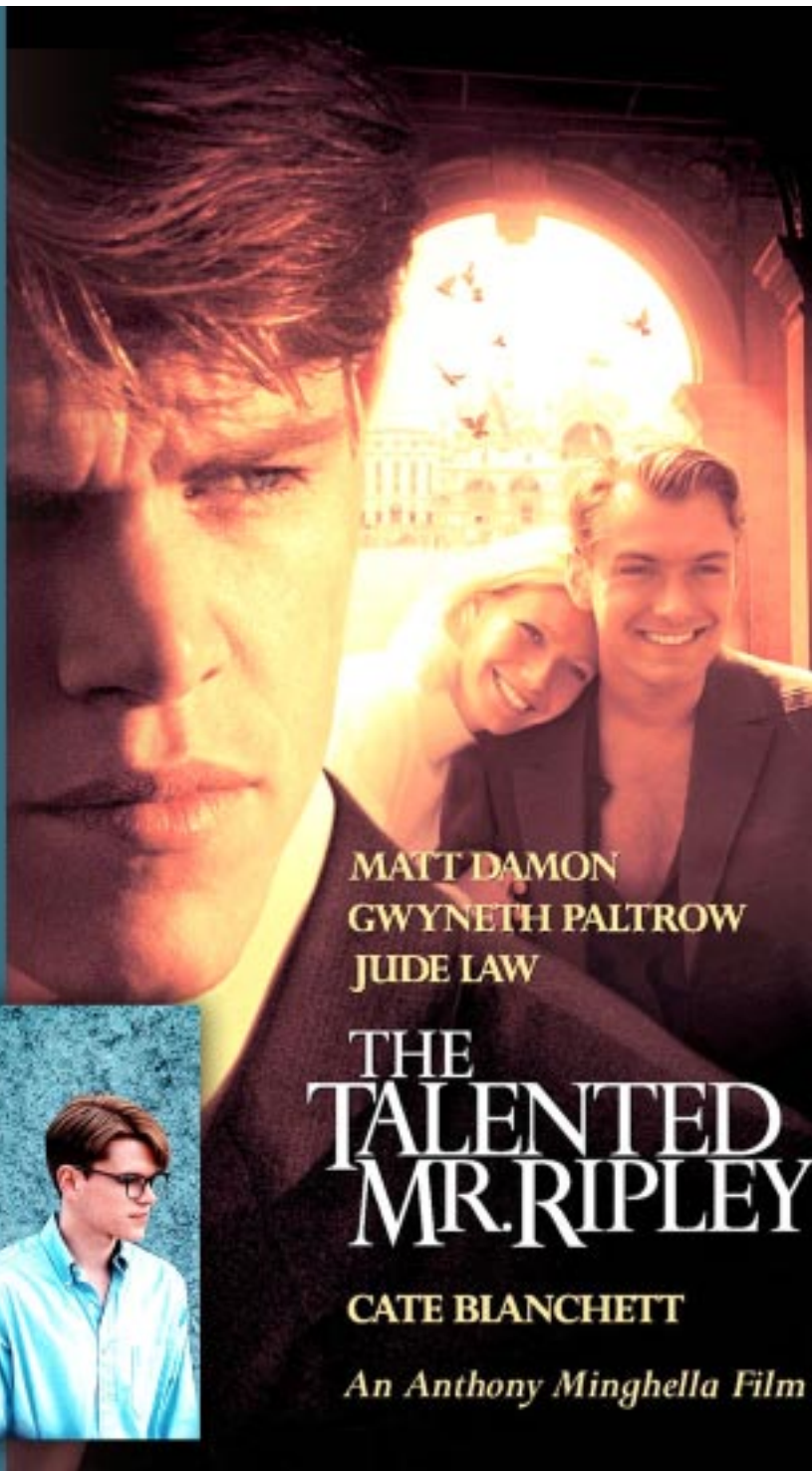
Where it takes you: To a spontaneous sightseeing tour of Vienna in the midst of nature and poetry where you can be your whimsical best.

Why watch: To fall in love with life and all its journeys, to learn to let go in the hope that the universe returns to you what you treasure most.



The Talented Mr Ripley

Matt Damon as the young, complicated and downright creepy Mr Ripley goes to Europe to back a philandering playboy named Dickie essayed by Jude Law from his luxurious sojourn. Dickie's flamboyant escapades to the sun kissed beaches of Italy, late night bashes, extravagant villas, glamorous parties and sailing trips make life seem like one long, intoxicating holiday. The movie brings to forefront the laidback Italian lifestyle and hobnobs with the party circuit in the



THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY



breath-taking surroundings of the country. As the events unfold Ripley ends up murdering and impersonating Dickie thereby getting trapped in a roller coaster cat and mouse game with the police.

Where does it take you: To a bewitching Italian voyage complete with all the affluence of a good life.

Why watch: To unravel an entertaining travelogue that takes a detour in the later half and turns into a gripping dark mystery.



Javier Bardem Penélope Cruz Scarlett Johansson



Patricia Clarkson Kevin Dunn Rebecca Hall Chris Messina

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

Both and Roger
Woody Allen

WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS A WOODY ALLEN FILM "VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA" CASTING BY JANE FOSKETT COSTUME DESIGNER JANE FOSKETT MUSIC BY JOHN WILLIAMS EDITOR JANE FOSKETT PRODUCTION DESIGNER JANE FOSKETT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JANE FOSKETT PRODUCED BY JANE FOSKETT WRITTEN BY JANE FOSKETT DIRECTED BY WOODY ALLEN

Vicky Cristina Barcelona

Woody Allen successfully manoeuvres 'Vicky Cristina Barcelona' into a memorable travel film that immediately strikes a chord with its apparent simplicity. As you delve deeper it evolves from being a breezy chick flick about two girls on a summer break to a montage juxtaposed with contrasting stereotypes. The quintessential Spanish flavour of the entertaining movie coupled with its lingering acoustic guitar scores take you on a dreamy, seductive flight right across the Gothic architecture and lush vineyards sprawling around Barcelona. As you take in the heady





mix of art, gastronomy, wine and the sea that land of no return offers – its wild, unpredictable cravings and youthful effervescence begin to rub off on you. Served fresh and sensationally garnished with romance, passion and drama - Vicky Cristina Barcelona has all the ingredients to make an interesting travel saga.

Where does it take you: To an enticing holiday in the heart of Barcelona where you can enjoy blissful serenity away from the maddening crowd.

Why watch: To be enchanted and swept off your feet with captivating visuals, soothing music and a story that flawlessly translates into an impressive rhapsody on screen.

While the list goes on, few other praiseworthy flicks that deserve mention are – The Way, In July, Lost in Translation, Motorcycle Diaries, Seven Years in Tibet, Encounters at the End of the World, Outsourced, Midnight in Paris, Roman Holiday, Cairo Time, Sideways etc. You may not be able to backpack your way to answer the call of the wild but you can always don the explorer's hat and discover the world at large. Whether it is promoting destinations that few have heard of, boosting the tourism industry or indulging those flights of fancy – travel films go a long way to fulfil every bit of a seeker's delight.



Anyone who has experienced a tropical summer will be able to tell you the value of monsoon showers. In the northern hemisphere, summer is followed by monsoon. After the torrid heat, monsoon rains fall like manna from the heavens. At the first sign of the monsoon clouds, people start rejoicing. There is joy on everyone's face when the cooling showers descend, providing water for the parched earth. Nature herself seems to revive with trees and leaves shrugging off the dust and glistening afresh in the rain water.

Monsoon Magic

Where to travel in monsoon and why

You may have taken many vacations in your life but have you ever taken a monsoon break? Have you ever experienced monsoon magic? You may have crossed a café a hundred times daily. If the rains send you scurrying for shelter, you can never forget how good the hot cup of tea tasted in the café that day! Or how magical it was to sit under an umbrella with someone special and watch the rain drops falling on the leaves. The rains transform the mundane into the romantic.

If you are shrugging in surprise at the thought of taking a holiday during rainy season, let us tell you the reasons why it is not such a bad idea. It is true that there are several discomforts to travel during the monsoons. However, a little planning can help you enjoy the best of the rainy weather while enjoying its pitfalls. A thing to keep in mind here is that not every place has monsoon rains at the same time. So you can choose destinations depending on the amount of rainfall you fancy.



First, some facts to begin with:

Monsoon

The monsoon or the rainy season is basically a change in the direction of the wind due to uneven heating of land and water. Winds rush from the ocean to fill the low pressure caused by the rising of the heated air over land. The air is saturated with moisture; clouds are formed resulting in heavy rainfall.

Generally the months starting from June till September are regarded as the time for monsoon.

Monsoon Destinations

The followings are some of the monsoon destinations in Asia:

India – Rajasthan, Goa, Kerala,

Indonesia – Bali, Jakarta, Sumatra, Java

Thailand – Koh Samui, Koh Phangan, Phuket, Bangkok

Malaysia – Redang, Perhentian islands, Cameron Highlands, Borneo, Kuala Lumpur



Top reasons for holidaying in monsoon:

Great discounts

Monsoons season is a great time to avail of terrific discounts. Almost all hotels and resorts offer fantastic off-season discounts, some slashing their rates by as much as 50 per cent. It is also easier to get the best rooms in the hotel and better, personalised services. Restaurants are also cheaper during this

time. Airfares are also less and on the whole, you can holiday at almost half the budget you would need for peak season.

Fewer crowds

There is a great deal to be said for this. Jostling crowds, elbows getting knocked, searching for space to put down your beach towel, none of this restricts your enjoyment in the off season. You can watch a sunset in peace or take





photographs of monuments without a whole lot of people in the background. Best of all, you can enjoy the feeling of space and privacy. You can catch the attention of the waiter faster too!

Natural beauty

The earth literally bursts forth in fresh green

when the rains start. At every turn, fresh verdant landscapes meet your eyes. If you have an eye for beauty, the rainy season is full of visual delights. Sparkling raindrops on leaves, masses of artistic clouds, lush green fields - the list of beautiful monsoon sights can go on. This is the best time for photography enthusiasts to get any number of unusual and lovely shots.



Indoor activities

The monsoons are the best time to catch up on a whole lot of things which can be done indoors. You can read that book you always meant to, play chess, learn cooking or attend the local workshops.

This is a great time to visit the local museums and catch up on

culture,
history or science.

You can also catch up with attractions like the Mulu Caves (Borneo) or go shopping in the best malls in the city or simply be with your family without chores on the back of your mind.

Festivals

There are several festivals celebrated during the monsoon season in Asia. A visit during this time is the best way to enjoy such festivals. This is the best time to witness the world famous Rath Yatra at Puri, Teej in Rajasthan or the colourful Hemis festival in Ladakh.

What to do where:

Get an Ayurvedic massage in **Kerala, India.**

Forget the world in the Marari Beach Resort in **Aleppey, Kerala, India.**

Gasp at the Dudhsagar Falls or enjoy a romantic getaway in **Goa, India.**

Stay at the Leela Palace in **Udaipur, Rajasthan**

and enjoy the beauty of the Lake Pichola in the rains.

Go surfing, play beach football or just bask in the sun at the **Legian Beach, Bali.**

Visit the National Museum in **Jakarta** and the Bunaken Marine Park in **Sulawesi.**

Visit the **Patong Beach**, shop at Central World and explore the Ang Thong National Marine Park in **Thailand.**

Go snorkelling in **Redang**, marvel at the

coral reefs in the **Tioman Islands** and visit the Gunung Gading National Park in **Sarawak** - all of these in **Malaysia.**

Visit the amazing Sentosa Island, the Singapore Zoo and Botanical Gardens and the Underwater World & Dolphin Lagoon in **Singapore.**



- Take no chances with the food you eat and the water you drink, remember monsoon is the breeding time for germs and diseases.
- Pack quick drying clothes, mosquito repellents, rain gear, good rain shoes, flashlights, first aid materials and water-proof bags for cameras and mobile hand-sets etc.
- Consult the local weather conditions before planning an outing. Check if the roads are clear, safety warnings in beaches or mountain routes. Check for changes in bus,



train or plane timings. Be prepared for delays or cancellations.

- Keep your itinerary flexible in case of unexpected weather changes; have alternate plans in case you cannot go out.

"Anyone who thinks that sunshine is pure happiness has never danced in the rain."
Anonymous

With monsoon season just around the corner, we hope these ideas have sparked your imagination. Put in some planning, throw in some raingear, get all the information you need and get ready for a monsoon holiday. Remember to keep a lot of spontaneity handy, you never know when a sudden shower will have you bursting into song and dance. The rains have a way of bringing out the child in every one of us.



New Zealand

*A
manuscript
of
Nature*



New Zealand is a reserve of biodiversity, spectacular landscapes and a variety of natural attractions that make it one of the most beautiful countries in the world. It consists of two main landmasses the North Island and the South Island along with a number of small islands. It was one of the last island countries to be inhabited owing to its remoteness, which led to the development of its unique biodiversity and culture.

Climate

New Zealand enjoys a



temperate climate with moderate rainfall and year round sunshine. The average temperature decreases as you travel south. January and February are the warmest months while July is the coldest month of the year. November to April is perfect for outdoor explorations while December to February will let you enjoy various food and wine festivals, concerts and events.

Must-carry items

- A hat
- Sunglass
- Sunscreen
- Comfortable footwear

Language and culture

The indigenous Māori culture is an integral part of Kiwi life. Today Māori make up 14 per cent of the country's population and their history, language, traditions along with arts like carving, weaving and tattooing are all of great significance. Majority of the country's population is of European descent. English, Māori and New Zealand Sign Language are the official languages, and English is widely spoken. Much of New Zealand's culture has been influenced by Māori and early British settlers. Christianity is the popular religion. New Zealand is one of the most secular countries in the world.





To remember

The key to comfort lies in dressing up in layers at all times. This will enable you to take off or add to your clothing depending on the weather, which often changes suddenly.

If you are visiting a Maori meeting house, get prior permission before you enter or click photos. Be respectful to their traditions and customs. Expect to be greeted with a hongi – a traditional Maori welcome by touch of the noses.

Trivia

- New Zealand is the first place on earth to receive the first ray of light
- Sheep outnumber humans by a ratio of about 10:1
- The first commercial bungee jump in the world took place in Queenstown
- It was the first nation in the world to grant women the right to vote
- It has the highest number of golf courses
- The smallest marine dolphin and rarest sea lion can be found here





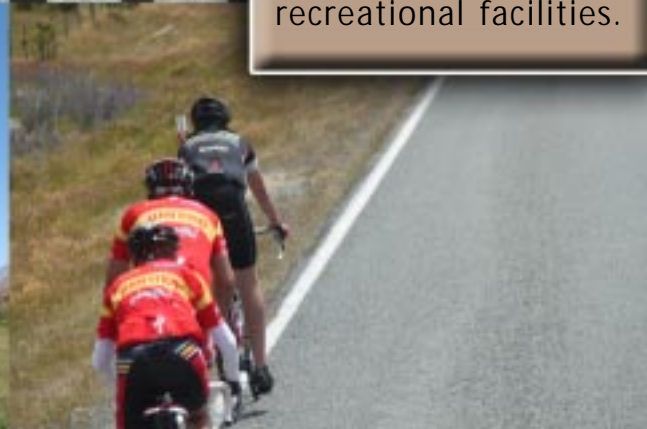
Places to see

Queenstown – Situated around the inlet called Queenstown Bay in Lake Wakatipu, the resort town of Queenstown witnesses a beeline of tourists from all over the world. There is a long thin-Z-shaped lake formed by glacial activities that offers fascinating views of the surrounding mountains. It is a popular spot for a



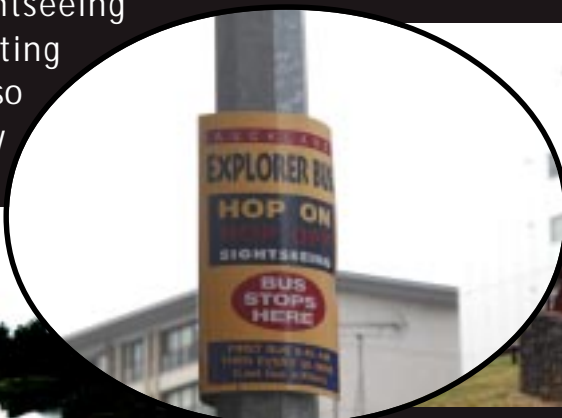
number of adventure sports like bungee jumping, white water rafting, hiking, cycling etc. Not only it's one of the most beautiful parts of New Zealand but it also has a variety of options for every tourist.

Christchurch – The second largest city and a well-known business centre, Christchurch offers an array of recreational facilities.



Other than world class entertainment options, it is famous for its cathedral, botanical gardens and the beautiful Canterbury area. A number of beaches and mountains are accessible from here.

Auckland – This thriving metropolis enthralls visitors with its lovely restaurants, shopping centres, sightseeing tours, exciting activities and so on. Many



tourists find its multicultural ambience highly appealing and return to the city time and again.

Rotorua – Cultural tours and friendly locals are the high points of Rotorua. The ancient, intriguing Maori culture of the region and the artistic skills of the locals never fail to impress travellers. It offers amazing attractions including natural geo thermal enclaves and erupting steaming mineral geysers.



Moreover, New Zealand has many other tourist hubs including the World Heritage Site of Tongariro National Park, Coromandel Peninsula with its underground hot springs, Fiord land National Park with glacier carved deep fiords, Bay of Islands (144

Things to do

Aquatic Wonders – Innumerable lakes, rivers, healing thermal springs, inland waterways, harbours, a long coastline and pristine beaches of New Zealand will offer you endless possibilities. Opt for sailing, surfing, kayaking, rowing, scuba diving, snorkelling, kite surfing, fishing, cruise trips, jet boat rides etc. Swim with the dolphins, admire the marine wonders, watch the whales at play or simply enjoy the tranquillity around.



islands), marine life and stunning beaches, the thermal volcanic areas of Taupo, the hunting areas of Westland Tai Poutini National Park and of course the Waitomo Glow Worm Caves.



Nature & Wildlife – Brimming with mountain vistas, lush green forests, volcanic landscapes, botanical gardens, national parks, picturesque trails, stunning glaciers and serene valleys, New Zealand is the Mecca for nature lovers. Bird watching, penguin watching, forest tours, wild safaris, Kiwi expeditions, mountaineering, backpacking, cycling, hiking, camping etc. are preferred by visitors. Stargazing is another popular activity. New Zealand has unique celestial features, a pollution free environment and quite a few observatories. In fact 4,300 square kilometres of New Zealand's South Island has been recognised as an International Dark Sky Reserve.



Gastronomic

Tours – It is a good idea to indulge in local cuisines and of course the world class wines produced by some of the best wineries here. Food and wine festivals

and wine tasting events are common here. Take your pick among the 120 vineyards if you choose to drive by the Classic New Zealand Wine Trail. Bicycle driven wine tours are also available. Popular cuisine includes the classic fish and chips, seafood delicacies like lobsters,



oysters, mussels, and some of the best cheese in the world.

Skiing – An international skiing destination, the country has plenty of

options for beginners and experts alike. June to October is the skiing season. The open areas, gentle slopes and splendid scenery woo tourists every time. If you cannot get enough of adventure, heli-skiing will be your best bet!



Sports – New Zealand is known for its love for sports. You can choose from golf, rugby as well as popular adventure sports. Its picturesque gold courses are quite a sight. Horse riding, mountain biking, hot air ballooning, bungee jumping, diving and trekking are the other passions. It has also been chosen as the venue for the 2015 cricket world cup.



Getting there

Air - Flights to New Zealand are available from various international destinations. There are three well maintained international airports at Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch along with many other smaller ones.





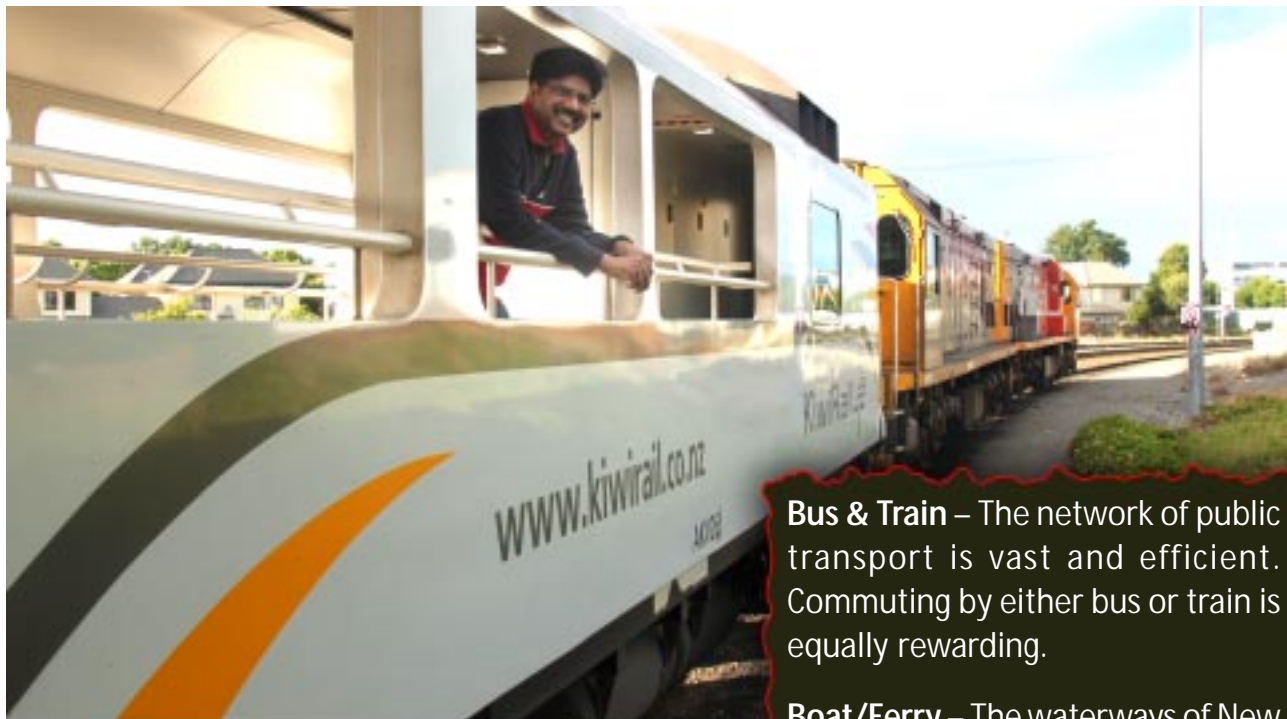
Sea – You can book a yacht, cruise liner or a commercial ship/tanker depending on your place of departure. A number of cruise liners operate from majority of nearby destinations.

Getting around

Foot – Walking and hiking are the best ways to explore the splendid landscapes of the country.

Cycle & Motorbike – The country is a paradise for cyclists with well-maintained roads and great views.

Car – Cars are easily available for hire and there are a number of scenic routes to drive and explore.



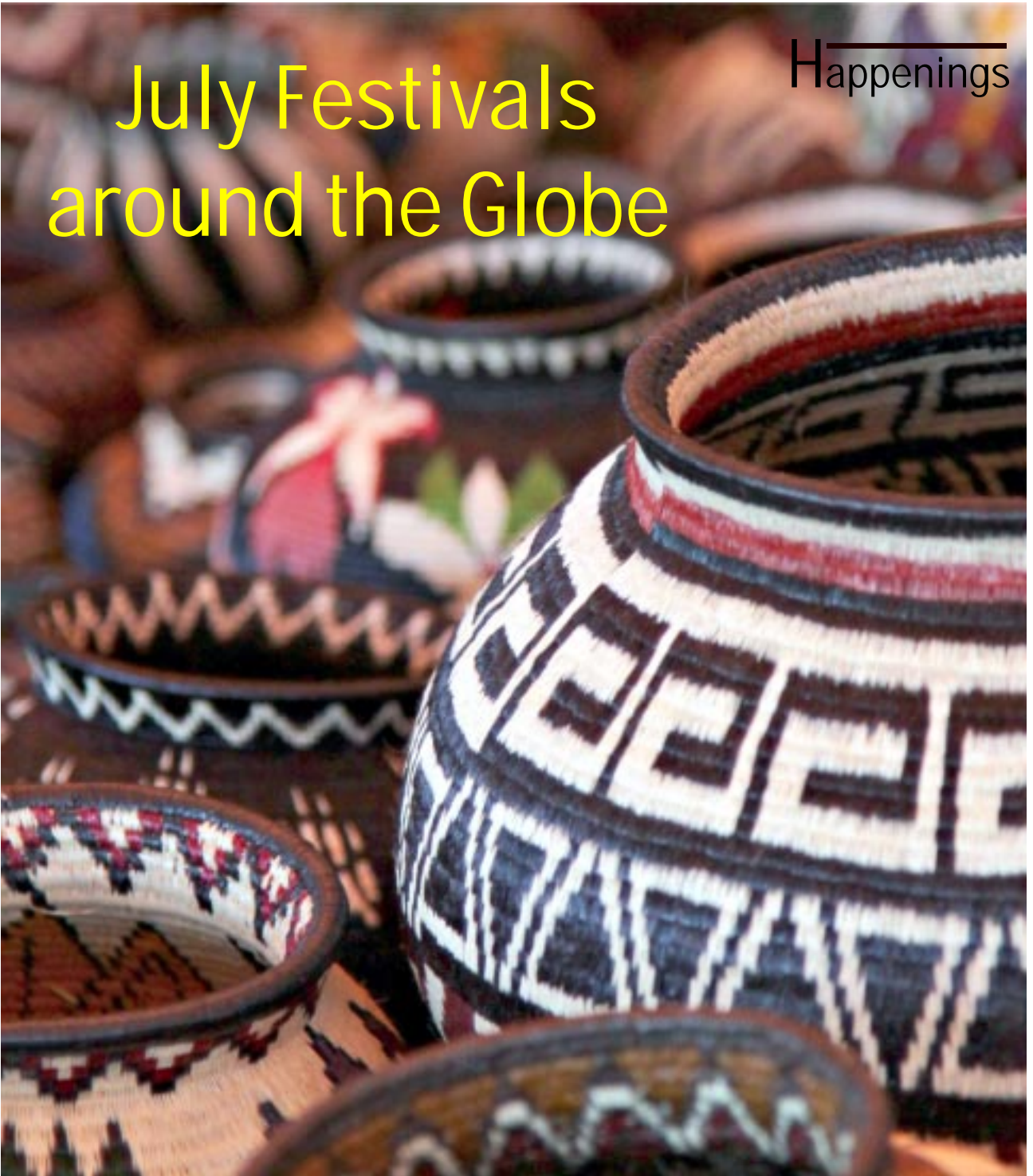
Bus & Train – The network of public transport is vast and efficient. Commuting by either bus or train is equally rewarding.

Boat/Ferry – The waterways of New Zealand are really stunning and boat rides are immensely popular among tourists.

The distinct topography of the land and its volcanic peaks, alpine vegetation, springs, glaciers, water bodies, mountains, parks and valleys always leave visitors spoilt for choice. If the idea of escaping the crowds and being surrounded by serenity in the lap of nature appeals to you, New Zealand will surely be your ideal holiday destination.



July Festivals around the Globe





Henley Royal Regatta

Place: Henley on Thames, England

Dates: July 2 – 6, 2014

Popularly known as 'The Royal', the Henley Royal Regatta is an international rowing event. It was started in 1839 and is an

annual 5-day event now. Twenty events and around 200 races with participants from all over the world make this an exciting event. The knock-out competitions take place along the river on a 2,112 m long course. Entries for the races have to be submitted two weeks prior to the Regatta.



The Royal is an important part of the English social season. Strict dress codes exist in certain enclosures and champagne, gorgeous hats and British sophistication are an integral part of the event.

Trivia: The Grand Challenge Cup for Men's Eights is the most prestigious event of the Regatta.



Mwaka Kogwa

Place: Makunduchi, Zanzibar

Dates: Mid July, 2014

Have you heard of starting the New Year by 'beating' one another? This is exactly what they do in Zanzibar at the start of the 'Nairuz' (Shirazi New Year). The day begins with a ritualistic physical combat between two teams. The weapon of choice is banana stems. While the men fight, the women sing songs on love and life. After the fight, a thatched hut is traditionally burnt to ward off danger from fire. Later everyone dresses in their best and there is a traditional banquet held in the open. Celebrations continue till dawn.

Trivia: *It is believed that all old grudges are purged in the fight and the New Year starts in harmony.*





Heiva

Place: Tahiti

Dates: July 3 – 19, 2014

Heiva is a celebration of the Polynesian culture and traditions. Music, singing, dancing and drama are all integral parts of this lively festival. The dances depict ancient legends and the history of the people. Dancers train for six months for the events. Live bands with traditional

instruments (made from bamboo and shells) accompany the dancers. The swaying dances throb in time with the drum beats and music. Traditional singing, sports and games like javelin throwing, canoe races and stone lifting are all part of the celebration.

***Trivia:** The dance and singing convey powerful emotions and are spell-binding.*



Beer Can Regatta

Place: Darwin, Australia

Dates: July 6, 2014

Imagine a regatta where the boats are made of empty beer cans. Witness this spectacle in Darwin every year in July. The 'Can-oes' are ingenious constructions. Time reveals if they are float-worthy or go under the water in ignominy. Over

65 rafts from different countries feature in the event. Some rafts use over 1500 cans to keep floating. Contests include hunting for hidden objects (Battle of Mindil) or racing to be the fastest boat (Can Boat Challenge). There is even a contest for cola-can boats.

***Trivia:** The beer-can boats are on display in the Australian National Maritime Museum.*



International Folk Art Market

Place: Santa Fe, USA

Dates: July 11 – 13, 2014

Santa Fe plays host to the largest folk art festival of the US. Started in 2003, the International Folk Art Market showcases the work of 150 artistes from 60 countries. An amazing array of hand-made crafts can be found here including pottery, weavings, wood-work and more. A stiff selection

process ensures that only the most creative works and quality works reach the festival. Many artists from backward and poor communities are sponsored by NGOs. You can participate not only by visiting, but also by sponsoring an artist or making a donation.

Trivia: In 2013, the average sales were \$18,916 and the artists took home 90 per cent of these sales.



Boryeong Mud Festival

Place: Boryeong, South Korea

Dates: July 18 – 27, 2014

If you want to relive the childhood joy of wallowing in mud, head to the amazing mud festival of Boryeong. The festival literally celebrates mud - the mineral rich local mud with all its healing benefits. Absorb its goodness by taking part in mud slides, mud wrestling, mud body painting, mud races and every kind of mud activity imaginable. After the exhilarating fun, you can simply wash off in the ocean or under any of the several showers provided. If getting dirty is not your style, indulge in buying cosmetics made from the mud, get mud facials or opt for other moderate activities.

***Trivia:** The event experience gets enriched by live music performances and shows featuring international names.*





World Luxury Tourism