Bridging the Gap
Five unique bridges of the world

Medical Tourism
The top five aesthetic tourism destinations today

Hotel Steffani,
St Moritz, Switzerland

June Festivals around the Globe

St Moritz, Switzerland
The playground of the affluent
It has been rightly said that travel is the biggest teacher. Traveling has enriched many peoples’ lives in innumerable ways. The things we learn by interacting with the locals cannot be learnt from browsing the internet. We have to go out there, explore and interact. Such learnings are permanent and more lasting.

During one of my recent travels, I got the opportunity to not only cross, but also admire a few magnificent bridges. These bridges have decades and centuries of history to reveal. Our cover story this month brings you just that – a few breathtaking bridges from around the world. The Alps always allure tourists to its mountain peaks and valleys. The beauty is unmatched. Every season is a treat for the wandering soul. Recently, we went to Switzerland’s hottest tourist destination St Moritz, Engadin. Head towards our city section of the e-zine to read more about our experiences and why you must visit this playground of the blessed.

The bikini season is here. The body beautiful people do not have to worry about it at all. But for the rest, it’s time to take care and work on how you look. This issue of the e-zine covers five of the most popular destination to go under the knife; especially for those who are extremely serious about their overall look.

There is more. A meeting with the owner of the hotel Steffanie in St Moritz let us know a lot about the hotel’s past, traditions and other interesting factoids. Read our Luxe Stays section to know more.

Not to forget the upcoming must-visit festivals. Read all about it in our regular section Happenings.

Thank you!

Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief
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Bridging the Gap

Five unique bridges of the world
The dictionary defines a bridge as, ‘A structure spanning and providing passage over a river, chasm, road or the like’. The meaning, though perfectly accurate, leaves a great deal unsaid. Imagine describing the lovely Golden Gate Bridge as a structure spanning and providing passage over the Golden Gate Strait! Of course it is factually correct but there is much more to this bridge
than its function. Describing it as one of the ‘most beautiful and graceful bridges in the world’ conveys a much more soul-satisfying picture.

Today let us take a look at some structures, which not only provide passage but also take our breaths away by the uniqueness and beauty of their design.
Magdeburg Water Bridge – The Highway for Boats

Location: Elbe River, Germany

A bridge over water made of water. The 918 m long Magdeburg water bridge is the world’s largest navigable aqueduct - a highway for ships. Built to facilitate the movement of cargo ships, it connects the Elbe – Havel Canal and Mittelland Canal. The construction was started in the 1930s, which had to be suspended due to World War II. The work resumed in 1997 and was completed in 2003 after almost 80 years.
River Elbe was at a lower level than both the canals over which cargo ships moved. Consequently, ships had to be lowered into the Elbe River at one side (by the Rothensee boat lift) and raised on the other side (by the Niegripp lock). The problem was compounded during low water-level times with ships having to off-load cargo to facilitate movement, thereby wasting a lot of time. The construction of the water bridge finally solved this problem.

**Wow factors:** The bridge took 6 years, $733 million, 24,000 tonnes of steel and 68,000 cubic metres of concrete to build. Today cargo ships travel freely from Berlin to the various ports along the River Rhine without the 12-km detour that they originally used to make.
Seoul’s Banpo Bridge – The Fountain Bridge

Location: River Han, Seoul

The Banpo Bridge does more than just connect the Seocho and Yongsan districts. It provides a dazzling display at night with the Moonlight Rainbow Fountain on it creating magic with water and multi-coloured lights. The rainbow-coloured lighting moves keeping synchronization with the music, creating a scintillating show. The bridge attracts tourists from all over the world. It holds
the Guinness Record as the longest fountain bridge in the world. The water is continuously recycled, being pumped into the fountain from the river, and released back into it. The Banpo Bridge is actually a ‘double-decker’ bridge; it is built on top of the Jamsu Bridge which gets regularly submerged during heavy rainfalls.

**Wow Factors:** The Moonlight Rainbow Fountain on the Banpo Bridge works with over 10,000 LED nozzles, placed along the 1,140 m long bridge; 380 water jets squirt out 190 tonnes of water per minute! Thirty eight powerful water pumps shoot water to a distance of as much as 43 horizontal meters.
Baluarte Bridge (Baluarte Bicentennial Bridge), Mexico – World’s Highest Cable Stayed Bridge

Location: River Baluarte, Mexico

If heights make you dizzy, this is one bridge you want to stay away from. It spans a river gorge in the Sierra Madre Occidental with a terrifying drop of 1280 ft. (the Eiffel tower can fit into it). The Baluarte Bridge is part of the $2.2 billion Durango-Mazatlán Highway project linking the Gulf of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean. The 140 mile-long highway has 115 bridges and 61 tunnels. The new bridge will replace a treacherously narrow road, aptly named the Devil’s Backbone. The four-lane bridge is expected to be used by 2000 vehicles daily. The Baluarte
Bicentennial Bridge (as it is officially called) was inaugurated in 2012 coinciding with the 200-year anniversary of Mexico. The bridge lies in the heart of states afflicted by drug-related violence. It is being hoped that the new highway will create an influx of tourism and wealth in these areas.

**Wow Factors:** The Baluarte Bridge is the highest cable stayed bridge in the world. It has the longest cable stayed central span (1,710 ft.) in North America. 152 steel suspenders and 12 piers support the 3688 ft. long bridge.
Gateshead Millennium Bridge – Only Tilting Bridge of the World

Location: River Tyne, England

This elegant pedestrian and cyclist bridge over the River Tyne connects the south bank of Gateshead’s Quays and the north bank of the Quayside of Newcastle. The bridge is basically composed of two steel arches, one serving as the deck for cyclists and pedestrians, and the other acting as a supporting base for it. Both the arches rotate as a single, firm unit to allow vessels to pass underneath. As the arch tilts, it is perfectly counterbalanced by the rising of the pathway. The arches rise in a parabolic curve, increasing the distance between the banks from 105 to 120 m, allowing for enough space for small vessels (up to 25 m high) to pass underneath. It takes around 4.5 minutes only for the entire 40 degree rotation from closed to open position. The closing and opening operation has inspired nicknames like the ‘Blinking Eye Bridge’
or the ‘Winking Eye Bridge’ etc. The entire motion is enabled by six hydraulic rams, each powered by a 55 kw electric motor. The architects Wilkinson Eyre have received several prestigious awards for this graceful construction including the 2002 Stirling Prize (the Royal Institute of British Architects) and the 2005 Outstanding Structure Award from International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering.

**Wow Factors:** The bridge which cost £22m to build has enough steel in it to make 64 double decker buses. Resting on 19,000 tonnes of concrete, it is strong enough to withstand the impact of a collision from a 4,000 tonne ship travelling at 4 knots. It has even featured on a postage stamp.
Henderson Waves Bridge – Tallest Pedestrian Bridge in Singapore

Poised like a metal river, frozen over the skyline, the Henderson Waves Bridge connects Mount Faber Park and Telok Blangah Hill Park. The 274 m long and 8 m wide bridge stretches 36 metres above the Henderson Road. Undulating waves of steel ‘ribs’ rise and fall under the deck of the bridge in a wave formation giving it a unique look. The curving of the ribs creates alcoves where people can relax on seats within. The deck of the bridge is made up of slats of yellow balau wood.
Carvings on the slats at various points indicate the height you are on. At night, it glows like a structure out of a futuristic movie with LED lighting that illuminates it.

**Wow Factors:** The bridge affords spectacular views of the Singapore skyline, treetops and lush greenery. It is designed in such a way that even the elderly and handicapped can easily climb the 20 m height.

‘Let every man praise the bridge that carries him over’ – English proverb

These unique bridges are all marvellous feats of engineering and testimony to the ingenuity of mankind. Not only do they fulfil the purpose for which they are built but they also add beauty to the skyline against which they stand. There are innumerable such bridges across the world. Do send us your favourite ones.
Medical Tourism

The top five aesthetic tourism destinations today
If you thought plastic surgery was a modern phenomenon you would be wrong. Reconstructive surgery was being performed in India way back in 800 BC. An ancient Egyptian medical text, dating back to around 3000 to 2500 BC also mentions cosmetic procedures. That being said, plastic surgery in its modern form developed around a century ago. Today it is a recognised medical specialty. Not only the movie stars (and criminals) are heading for a surgery but also the ‘common’ people who are keen to change some feature of their appearance.

Ever wondered where does the word ‘plastic’ of ‘plastic surgery’ come from? The word
derives its origin from the Greek word ‘plastikos’ meaning to give shape to something. Though the terms plastic surgery is often used to describe any aesthetic surgery, in reality it means reconstruction of body parts damaged by birth, disease or trauma. Cosmetic surgery, on the other hand, is elective. It is undertaken to improve the aesthetic appeal of some body part. The cosmetic surgery is booming today with an increasing number of people wanting to enhance their looks in some way or the other.

Let us take a look at some of the most popular places in the world for such surgeries.
South Korea

South Korea has become the world’s leading destination for cosmetic surgery. The International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery (ISAPS) estimates that 13 procedures are performed for every 1,000 people in the country, which is the highest in the world. Twenty per cent of women (one in every five) in Seoul have had some aesthetic surgery done. Double eyelid surgery tops the list (removal of extra skin on upper eyelid to create bigger looking eyes) with more than 44,000 double eyelid
surgeries performed in 2010. An estimated total of 649,938 cosmetic surgeries were performed in 2011. Also high on the popularity list are nose jobs and liposuction. Gangnam in Seoul is the hotspot with hundreds of clinics performing alterations. Major reasons for the ‘plastic’ boom are celebrity influence and work and social benefits accrued from the changes.
Greece

Greece comes in an unexpected second. Unexpected because of the country’s faltering economy. ISAPS statistics reveal that 142,394 cosmetic procedures were performed in 2011 in this country if 11 million people. In other words, one in 79 people in the country had some form of aesthetic job done on them. The most
popular procedure requested here is breast augmentation followed by penis enlargement. It could be that the economic crisis itself is responsible for people wanting to look good to feel better. The healthcare sector in Greece has seen a great decline in spending with surgeons charging 40 per cent lesser than usual. The high standards of cosmetic surgery, low costs and of course the beauty of the country makes this a popular destination for those wishing to go under the knife.
If you want to hide signs of aging, your destination for cosmetic surgery should be Italy. Italy ranks third in popularity and the keyword here is Botox. Botox (Botulinum Toxin) injections are widely used to smooth out wrinkles, eye circles, chin uplifts, cheeks and brows enhancements. Annually around 815,000
surgeries are performed in Italy. Liposuction is also a popular procedure performed in Italy with approximately 69,000 such surgeries taking place every year. Actors, entertainers, TV presenters are foremost among those seeking aesthetic procedures. Keep in mind that Italian law requires you to be at least 18 years old to opt for plastic surgery.
Brazil

It is hardly surprising that a country which has produced some of the world’s top supermodels should rank high on a list of aesthetic tourism destinations. People in Brazil can opt for guilt-free cosmetic procedures as the Brazilian government supports elective plastic surgery with several tax-deduction systems. What procedures are popular here? Breast implants and liposuctions top the list of aesthetic procedures. Getting cosmetic jobs done is considered a status symbol in Brazil.
USA

United States of America is the country with the highest number of cosmetic jobs in the world to its credit (not taking its population into consideration). It is a country where beauty is taken seriously. More people are coming out, opting for and talking about or considering cosmetic surgeries. ISAPS records over 3.3 million invasive and non-invasive surgical procedures in 2010. Liposuction is the most popular procedure with breast augmentation following close behind.
Look before you leap

Beauty clinics are literally increasing everywhere. The temptation to get a quick facelift is more tempting than before. However, doctors recommend caution before opting for any cosmetic procedure. Check the veracity of the clinic; there is a real danger of infections and be sure you are getting treated in the best places. Seek counselling so you can understand if you really need the surgery. Last but not the least, follow the proper post-operative precautions and procedures. Once all this is in place, go ahead and flaunt your latest look.
St Moritz, Switzerland
The playground of the affluent
Luxurious, flamboyant and chic, the Alpine Town of St Moritz in the Engadin Valley of Switzerland has always been an ever rolling merry-go-round of unadulterated fun. Located at 1,856 metres altitude on the southern side of the Alps, its legendary champagne climate and year round sunshine make this picturesque paradise a much coveted holiday destination. As the birthplace of winter tourism, St Moritz made its mark when some one hundred and
fifty years ago hotelier Johannes Badrutt made an impulsive bet with some of his summer guests. He promised them heaven on earth – including in winter and offered to pay for their expenses if he failed to deliver. The rest is all history but what remains unchanged till date is the intoxicating charm of this treasured hamlet that never fails to enrapture its visitors.
Tourist Attractions

Swiss National Park – As the largest nature reserve comprising of 66 square miles and boasting of a rich variety of flora and fauna in a mountainous habitat, the Swiss National Park, founded in 1914, is one of the best attractions of the country. It has various events lined up in 2014 to mark its upcoming centenary.
Museums – St Moritz is home to a number of museums. The Engadiner Museum, Segantini Museum, Berry Museum, Nietzsche House, Mili Weber House and Museum St. Moritz, the World’s Smallest Museum, together present a wonderful cultural escapade for those who love to browse through the pages of history.
Scenic Trains – If you love the idea of exploring the countryside in the lap of nature, consider travelling by the railways of Engadin and Graubunden that are dotted with scenic routes like Albula and Bernina, which were recognised as UNSECO World Heritage sites in 2008.

Recreational Activities

Skiing and snowboarding:
Equipped with 60 modern transportation facilities that open up on 350 km of snow covered runs, St Moritz offers plenty of walking, hiking trails, ice fields, snow parks, cross country skiing trails,
been chosen as the venue for the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships in the year 2017. At 10,834 ft., Corvatsch is the highest summit station in the eastern Alps that features illuminated night skiing, hiking on snowshoes, breath-taking restaurants etc. Diavolezza’s glacial wonders and Muottas Muragl’s panoramic views are the other unique experiences for travellers.

The Corviglia hosts World Cup races and has toboggan slopes, unlimited free-ride areas, enthralling excursions and the likes.
Other winter wonders: Cross country skiing is a pleasure here with a total of 180 km of trails that lead to innumerable picturesque valleys. Ice skating on the frozen lakes is an age old tradition that has witnessed a recent boom owing to artificial skating rinks. Other fun activities are ice hockey, sledging, hiking, snowshoe trekking, ski jumping, hang glider rides, horse-back riding, winter golfing etc.
**Summer sports:** The summer thrills include mountain biking, hiking along 300 miles of captivating trails with an infinite choice of routes and Nordic Walking against the backdrop of the Bernina range and tranquil lake scenery. Touted as a haven for golfers, St Moritz has well-maintained golf courses nestled in a beautiful Alpine setting. The virgin lakes here are
ideal for swimming, sailing, windsurfing and kite surfing. Other popular summer activities are river rafting, canoeing, hot-air ballooning, sky diving, hang gliding, climbing, inline skating, mini-golfing, skeet shooting, tennis, squash and fishing.

**Wellness abode** – St Moritz is well known for its therapeutic spas, healing mineral springs and its iron-rich water channels many of which date back to 3,500 years. Some of the public wellness facilities include - Bellavita Adventure Pool and Spa, Zernez Family Pool, Mineral bath and spa Samedan etc.
Eating out

The gastronomic delights of this town are too many to count. It is home to around 300 well acclaimed restaurants, most of which offer sweeping views of the valley. Walnut cake and venison sausage rule the roost while other popular local delicacies include capuns, maluns, pizzoccheri, panini etc. The St. Moritz Gourmet Festival is a much sought after event. Ecco on Snow, Badrutt’s Palace Hotel Restaurant, Restaurant Salastrains are few famous eateries here.
Night out

Classic bars, lounges, exclusive clubs, casinos, trendy pubs and plush discotheques are part of the thriving nightlife. More than 69 bars operate during winters and close to 65 in summers whereas the number of snow bars is around 11 in the region. From dropping in at the world’s largest whisky bar in Hotel Waldhaus to visiting the Dracula Club – your possibilities are practically limitless when it comes to enjoying a night of fun and frolic in the highland.
**Fast Facts**

Time zone: Central European Time (GMT +1 hour)

Area: 998 sq. km.

Climate: Very pleasant climate due to its dry air and sunshine

Currency: Swiss Francs

Population: 5,147 (Dec 2012)

**Getting there**

**By air** - The Zürich airport is 125 miles from St Moritz. The Engadin Airport provides regular flights to international destinations.

**By rail** - The Glacier Express connects St Moritz to Zermatt via the 2033 m Oberalp Pass. Regular trains run from Zürich to St Moritz every 30 minutes.

**By car** – Car transfers are easily available from Zurich, Milan, Munich and Basel.
Getting around

Switzerland is known for its well-connected public transportation network. The Engadin bus will take you anywhere in the valley. The Rhaetian Railway (Rhb) is another popular mode of transport. That apart you can book taxis and private cars to take you around. You may also explore on foot.

From inspiring artists and story tellers to fascinating painters and travel buffs, St Moritz inspires everyone. Scoring high on glitz and glamour, it can blow you out of your mind as effortlessly as it introduces you to the dormant charms of Mother Nature. Enviously bewitching yet soothingly surreal – St Moritz can be as simple as your childhood fantasy or as mysterious as the unexplored cravings of your soul.
Hotel Steffani,
St Moritz, Switzerland
Set in the lovely Engadin Valley, Hotel Steffani is located right in the heart of St Moritz. Started as a small tea room originally, it has grown into a fantastic 4-star hotel. Hotel Steffani is the perfect launching pad for a holiday and/or a vacation filled with winter sports which St Moritz is famous for. It is just minutes away from the funicular and the lake of St Moritz. This traditional, family run hotel is now under the capable hands of the third generation of owners – Brigitte and Peter Märky. Unlike some hotels which open only for the tourist season, Hotel Steffani is open throughout the year.
Rooms

There are 61 rooms in Steffani – 56 rooms and 5 suites. Rooms have undergone a renovation with six single rooms merging together to form three double rooms. Materials like pine wood and natural stone give a charming Alpine touch to the décor. Beauty combines with utility in the spacious rooms with beautiful views. Rooms are equipped with TV, free Wi-Fi, telephone, radio, safe, minibar and hairdryers. Some of the rooms also have balconies with lovely mountain and lake views. The rooms, though not in the latest mode, are charming and comfortable.
Restaurants

There are three restaurants to choose from.

Le Mandarin

If you fancy Chinese food, then head to Le Mandarin, the first and only restaurant in St Moritz serving traditional Cantonese fare. Chef Lu Kwok Ching uses a whole lot of fresh produce (imported from China) to create his culinary delights. Soup with dim sum dumplings and hot and sour soup are just some of the popular Chinese dishes on the list here.
Le Lapin Bleu

If local food is your pick, then Lapin Bleu is the restaurant you should eat in. Traditional Swiss and Italian cuisine is on the offering here. You can delight in the classics like Chateaubriand, Baden-Baden, beef tartar and risotto, and indulge your taste buds with the Swiss national dish, the fondue. The game menu is delicious and interesting too. Seasonal specialties, coming from the local hunt, include marinated venison, saddle of venison as well as venison medallions. There is even a separate table reserved for hunters. Needless to say, the place is popular with locals and tourists alike.
Stuva Grill

Here you can enjoy the daily breakfast buffet while gazing on fantastic mountain scenery. In winter, it also serves as the third restaurant of the hotel. The wooden furnishings add a touch of cosiness to the setting. Featured on the menu are beef, lamb and fish grills. The a la carte menu has many delicious dishes on offer too. The breakfast buffet is open from 7 to 10:30 am.
The Bars

Cava Bar

This après ski haunt is favoured mainly by the younger and livelier crowd. Located in the hotel’s basement, the bar with its arched ceilings, thick plaster column, and wooden tables and panels, is the perfect place to relax with friends with a drink in hand.

Cresta Bar

Popular with tourists and locals alike, people come here for a cocktail or a nightcap. The warm, intimate atmosphere is perfect to unwind. Pick a cigar or a drink and catch up on all the latest gossips with friends.

Stubli Bar

The Cresta Bar is something of a misnomer, the real Cresta riders are actually to be found in the Stubli bar. This is the place to catch the stories of their adventurous feats. This St Moritz hotspot is open from 8 pm to 3 am.
Banquets

Festsaal – This is an ideal place for celebrating an occasion with up to 100 guests.

Arvensaal – An area to accommodate up to 50 guests, this is suited for smaller gatherings and receptions.

Jagerstubli – It’s a perfect spot for intimate gatherings of a dozen people.

Larchensaal – Just beside Lapin Bleu, this is a cosy room with an open fireplace, perfect for private dinners and low-key affairs.

Business events can be held here too as equipment like overhead projectors, rostrum, flipchart with marker and beamers are all available. However advanced booking is suggested.
Relaxation

There is a brand new wellness area at the hotel with a beautiful indoor pool. If you wish to feel rejuvenated, book a massage or head to the sauna or steam bath.

Other Amenities

Free parking; shuttles from the Zurich International Airport to the hotel; table tennis; babysitting facility, baby cots and free stay for children under 6 years; free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel are some of the other facilities.
St Moritz Attractions

Within easy reach from the hotel are ski lifts and a host of winter sports activities. Not to be missed are the Cresta Run (toboggan), the famous White Turf (horse racing), the Segantini Museum, shopping and sightseeing around the lovely town.

A warm and welcoming atmosphere, friendly and helpful staff, personalized services, Engadin décor – everything about Hotel Steffani is inviting. If you are holidaying in St Moritz, this hotel is the perfect base for all the exciting and fun things on your itinerary. We recommend!
June Festivals
around the Globe
Sonar

Place: Barcelona, Spain

Dates: June 12 – 14, 2014

Sonar is the International Festival of Advanced Music and New Media Art annually taking place in Barcelona for three days every June. Since its inception in 1994, it has created a name for itself, as one of the leading
international festivals. It has a firm grip on the latest trends in the electronic music scene. The festival has two parts – Sonar Day and Sonar Night. The festival combines music with technology. There are audio visual displays, conferences and music shows. Showcasing some of the most famous names in the music world, the festival attracts 80,000 visitors from all over the world.

Tip: Put on your party caps for Sonar Night, it combines music with rave partying.
Stonehenge Summer Solstice

**Place:** Stonehenge, UK

**Dates:** June 21, 2014

The ancient and sacred site of Stonehenge, home to the baffling and massive monoliths, attracts over 20,000 visitors each year. Neo-druids, Neo-pagans and Wiccans come to worship the sun.
while others simply come to witness the sunrise of the longest day of the year. Ancient rituals are conducted here together with the staccato beats of drums. The air is vibrant with positive energy and there is a sense of peace and spirituality.

Tip: Come prepared, it may rain and the sun may not be visible always.
Queenstown Winter Festival

**Place:** Queenstown, New Zealand

**Dates:** June 20 – 29, 2014

The Queenstown Winter Festival was born in 1975. It started as a fun-event to celebrate the onset of winter, which later evolved into a full-blown festival. The ten-day event is a celebration of the city’s culture. There are a host of
events including street parties, shows, comedy, family fun and fireworks. There are plenty of actions in the form of winter sports and mountain races too. You can also choose from a myriad of sports activities including skating, skiing, snowboarding, bungee jumping, rafting, skydiving and more.

Tip: Take out time for visiting attractions like Lake Wakatipu, Milford Sound, Southern Lakes area and the local vineyards.
Battle of Wines (Haro Wine Festivals)

Place: Haro, Spain

Dates: June 27 – 29, 2014

Tomatoes are not the only missiles used in festival fights in Spain. The town of Haro, in the La Rioja region, holds a celebratory wine-battle on the day of its patron saint San Pedro (Saint Peter). After the ceremonial Mass at the Hermitage of San Felices de Bilibio in the morning, it is time for wine-madness. The traditional bota
bags, water pistols, buckets—everything that can be used as a missile for squirting and soaking your opponent dripping and wine-wet, is pressed into service. In seconds the white shirts (traditionally worn with red scarves) turn purple. Wine flows freely and there are kissing, feasting and revelry. Bull-fighting in the evening adds to the day’s entertainment.

Tip: Remember to carry a towel and change of clothes.
World Bodypainting Festival

Place: Pörtschach am Wörthersee, Austria

Dates: June 29 – July 6, 2014

The World Bodypainting Festival is held in Pörtschach at Lake Wörthersee every year. It is hard to beat this festival for its sheer creativity. Spectacular body art is on display at every turn with body-painting artists from 40 countries vying with each other for the coveted
awards. The various competing categories include brush and sponge, airbrush and special effects. Thousands of visitors including models and photographers come for this event every year. There are workshops, kids’ events, music bands, DJs and a host of other events.

Trivia: ‘Body Circus’ held in Moosburg castle is the highlight attraction. It is the event to turn up to in fantasy costumes coupled with body-painting, masks and extreme make-up.
Los Diablos Danzantes
(Dancing Devils)

Place: San Francisco de Yare, Venezuela

Dates: June 19, 2014

Corpus Christi is celebrated in Yare in an interesting way. Townsfolk dress up as devils, wearing fearsome and grotesque masks and red coloured dresses. They dance around the main square of the town. Holding accessories like rosaries, crosses, maracas and whips, the ‘devils’ dance to the beats of drums and other stringed instruments. After the dance, they proceed to the San Francisco Catholic church where they are blessed by a priest and surrender to the Sacrament. The festival is symbolic of the triumph of good over evil. Celebrations last till late afternoon.

Trivia: Diablos Danzantes has found a place on UNESCO’s List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding.