World Luxury Trave

Vol. 2 | Issue 10 | May, 21

Magazine

Bridging the Gap

Five unique bridges of the world

Medical Tourism

The top five aesthetic tourism destinations today

Hotel Steffani

St Moritz, Switzerland

St Moritz **Switzerland**

The playground of the affluent

Jung Festivals

around the Globe



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!

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Luxury Travel Magazine

World

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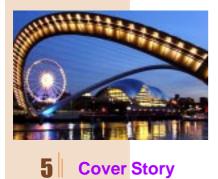
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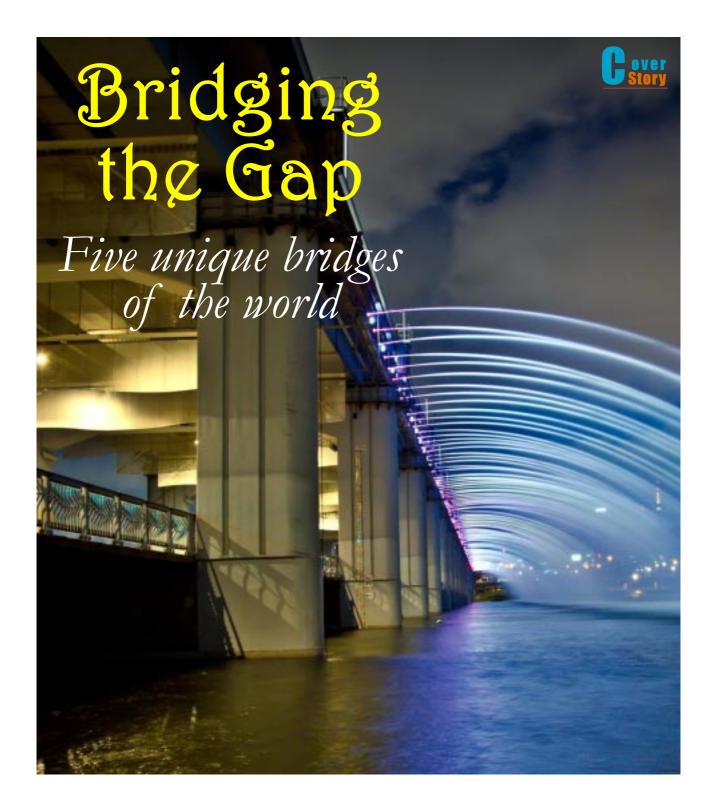
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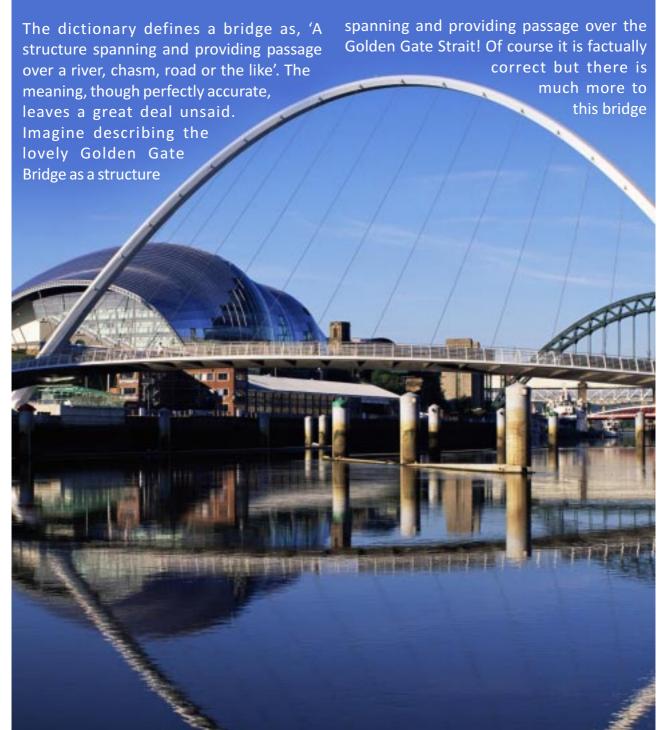
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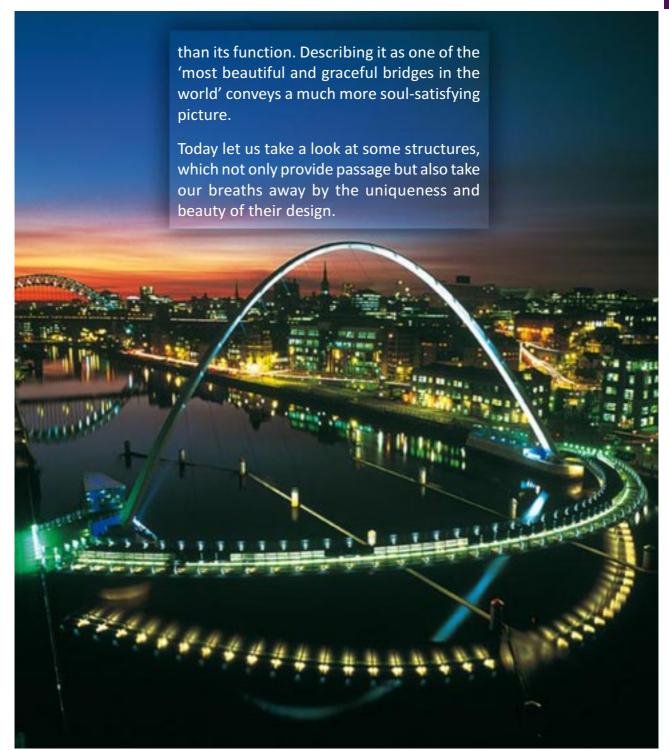


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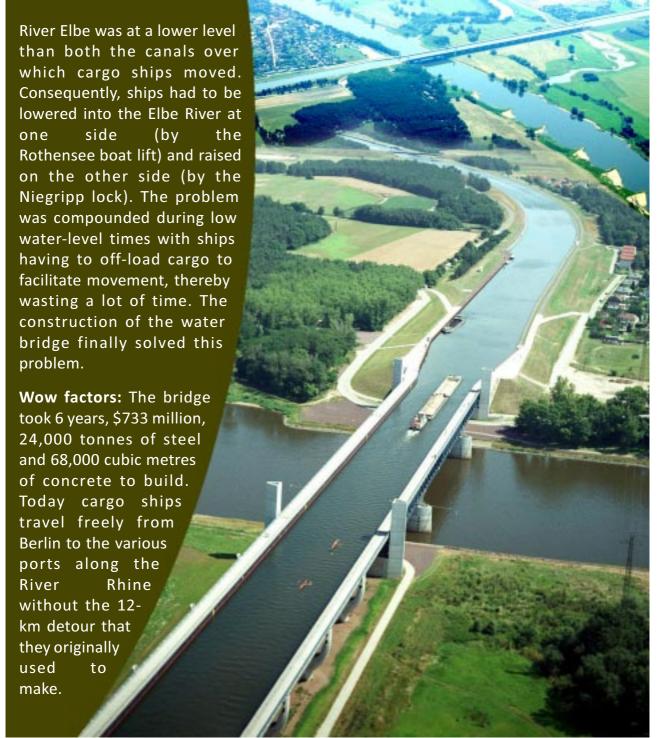
Magdeburg Water Bridge – The Highway for Boats

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.







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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 rainbowcoloured lighting moves keeping synchronization with the music, creating a scintillating show. The bridge attracts tourists from all over the world. It hold



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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.

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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



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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.



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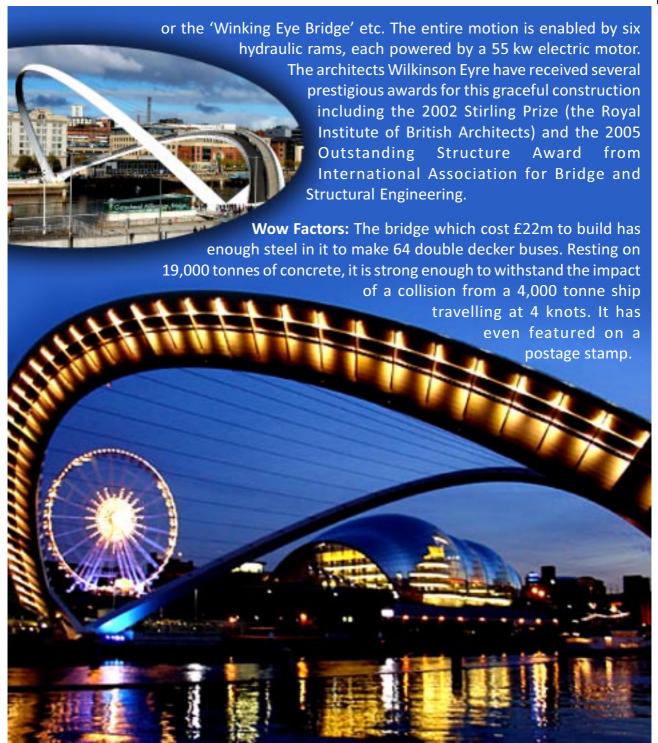


Gateshead Millennium Bridge - Only Tilting Bridge of the World

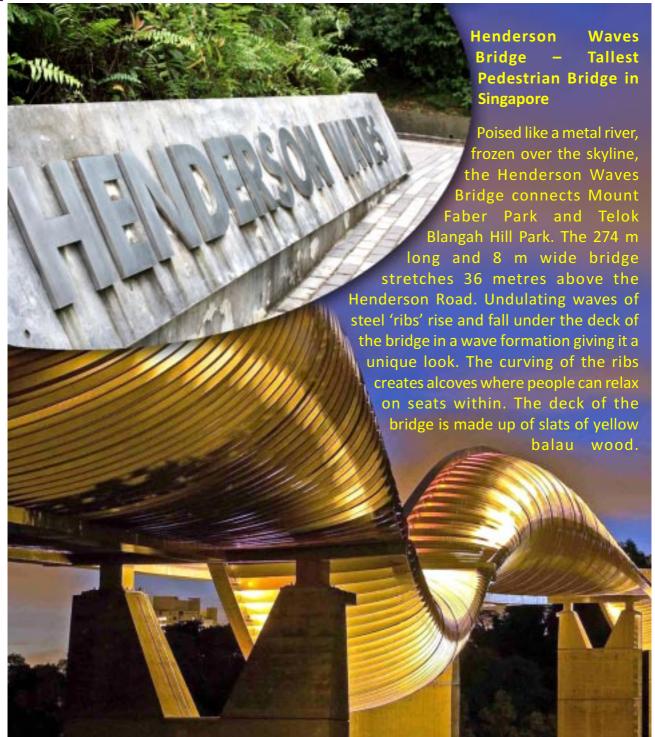
Location: River Tyne, England

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

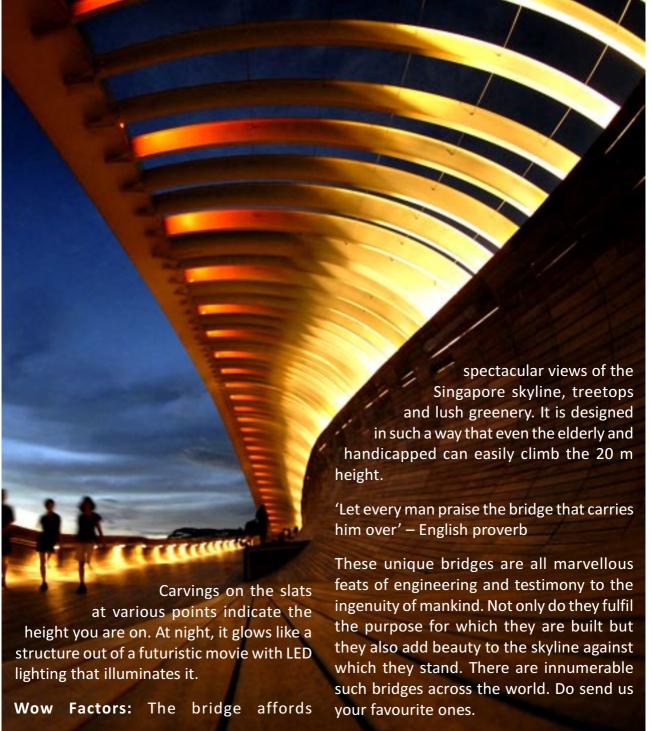
rotate as a single, firm unit to allow vessels to pass underneath. As the arch tilts, it is perfectly counterbalanced by the rising of the pathway. The arches rise in a parabolic curve, increasing the distance between the banks from 105 to 120 m, allowing for enough space for small vessels (up to 25 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'

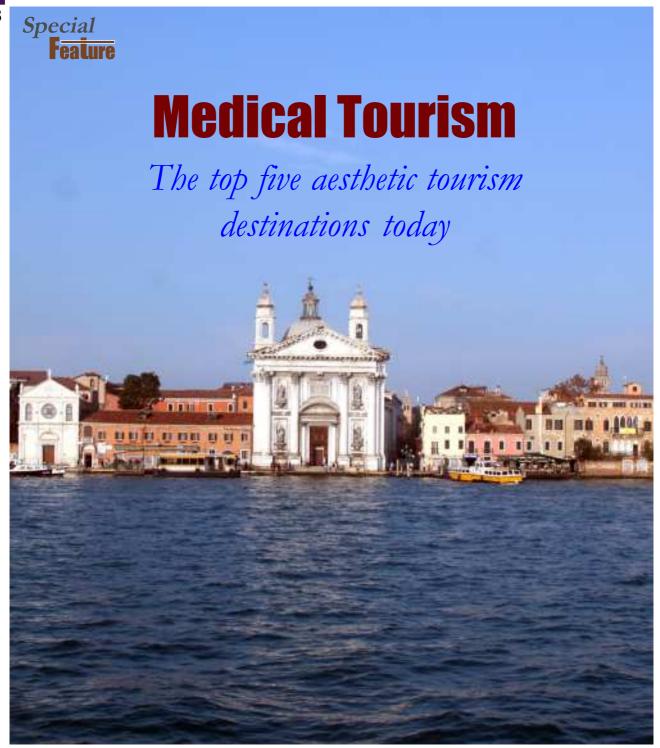


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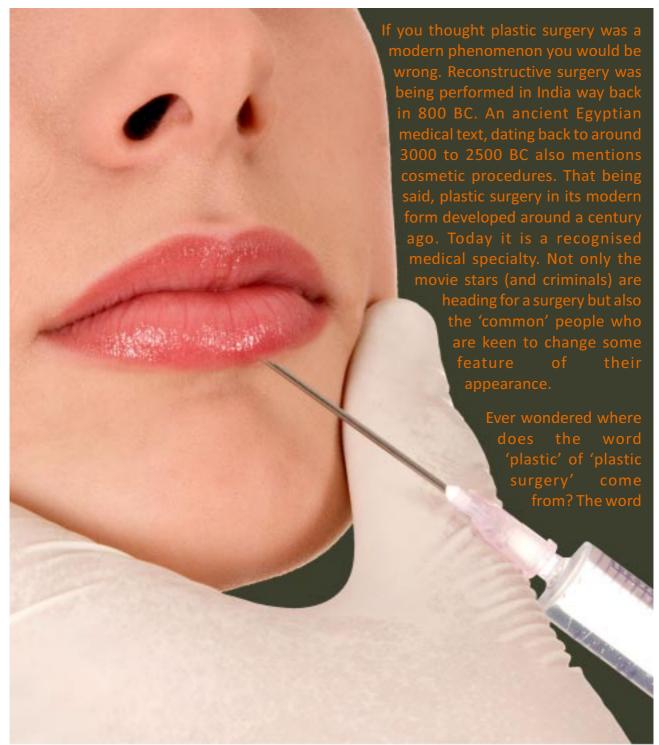


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its origin from the Greek word 'plastikos' meaning to give shape to something. Though the terms plastic surgery is often used to describe any aesthetic surgery, in reality it means reconstruction of body parts damaged by birth, disease or trauma. Cosmetic surgery, on the other hand, is elective. It is undertaken to improve the

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.

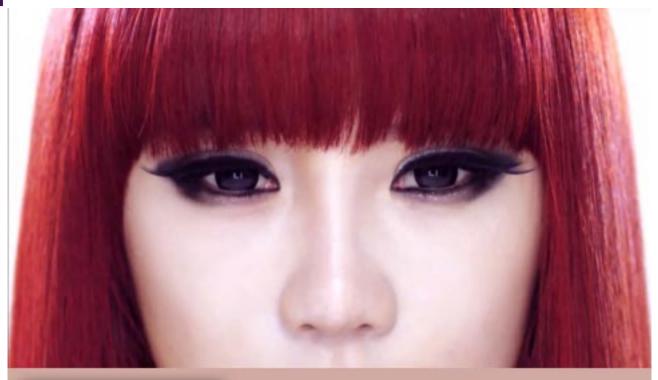
Let us take a look at some of the most popular places in the world for such surgeries.

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

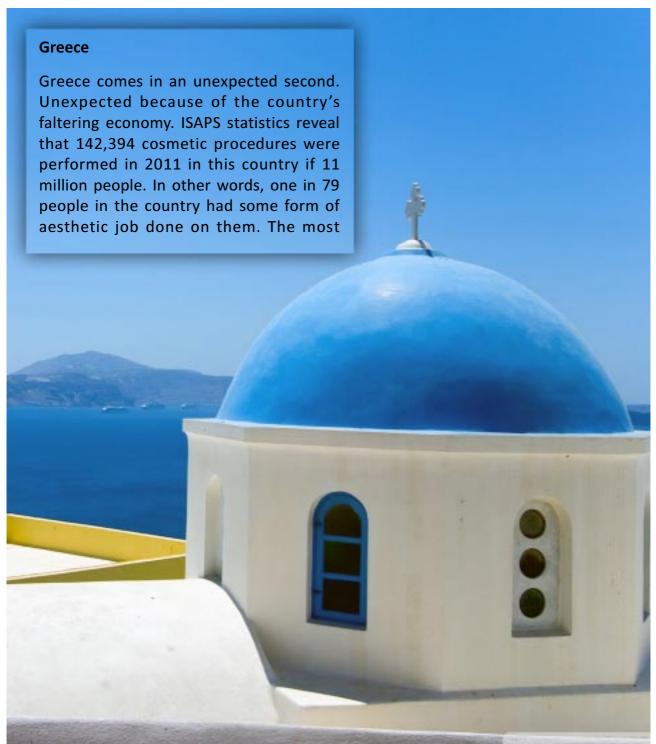
in the world. Twenty per cent of women (one in every five) in Seoul have had some aesthetic surgery done. Double eyelid surgery tops the list (removal of extra skin on upper eyelid to create bigger looking eyes) with more than 44,000 double eyelid





surgeries performed in 2010. An estimated total 649,938 cosmetic of 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.





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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.





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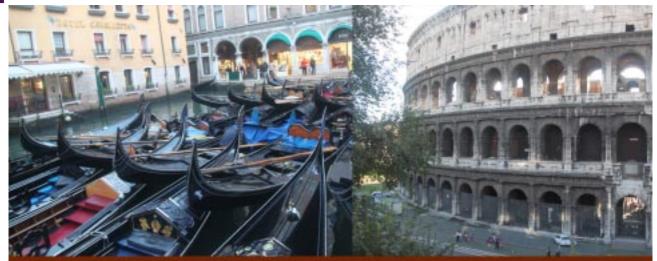
Italy

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





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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.



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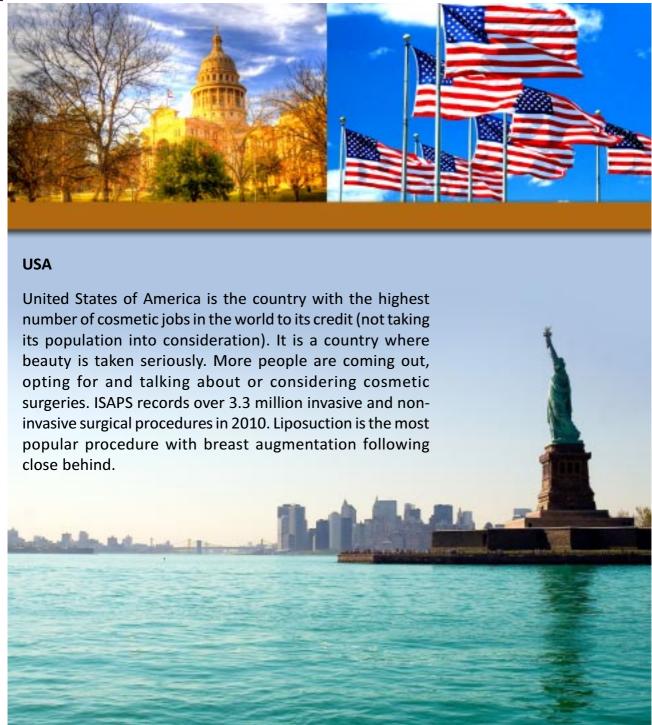


Brazil

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.



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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 post-operative proper precautions and procedures. Once all this is in place, go ahead and flaunt your latest look.

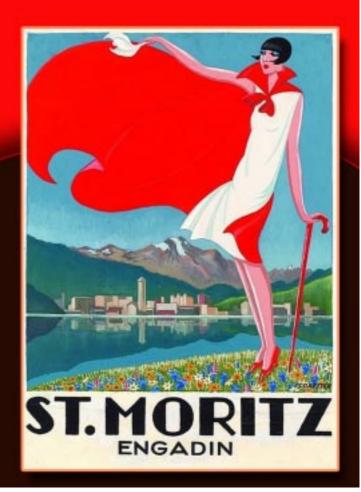


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City Guide

St Moritz, Switzerland

The playground of the affluent

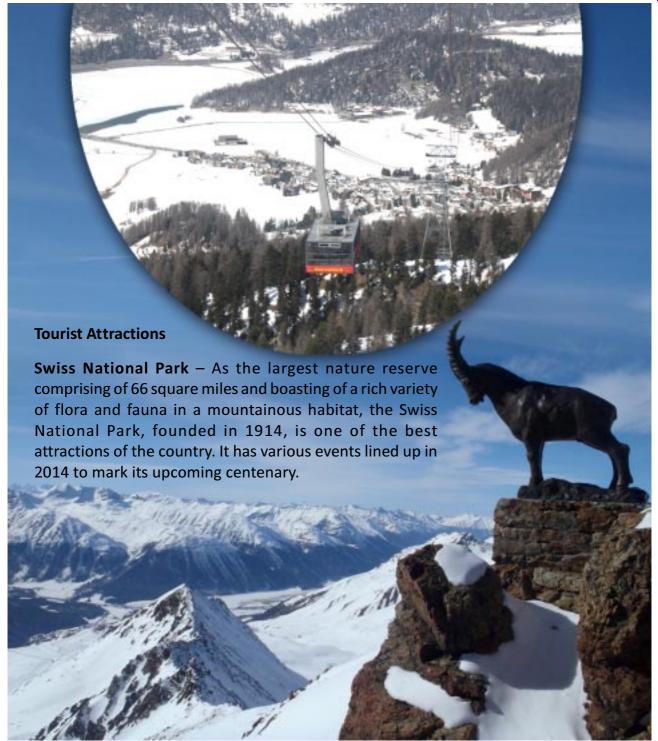


Luxurious, flamboyant and chic, the Alpine Town of St Moritz in the Engadin Valley of Switzerland has always been an ever rolling merry-go-round of unadulterated fun. Located at 1,856 metres altitude on the southern side of the Alps, its legendary champagne climate and year round sunshine make this picturesque paradise a much coveted holiday destination. As the birthplace of winter tourism, St Moritz made its mark when some one hundred and

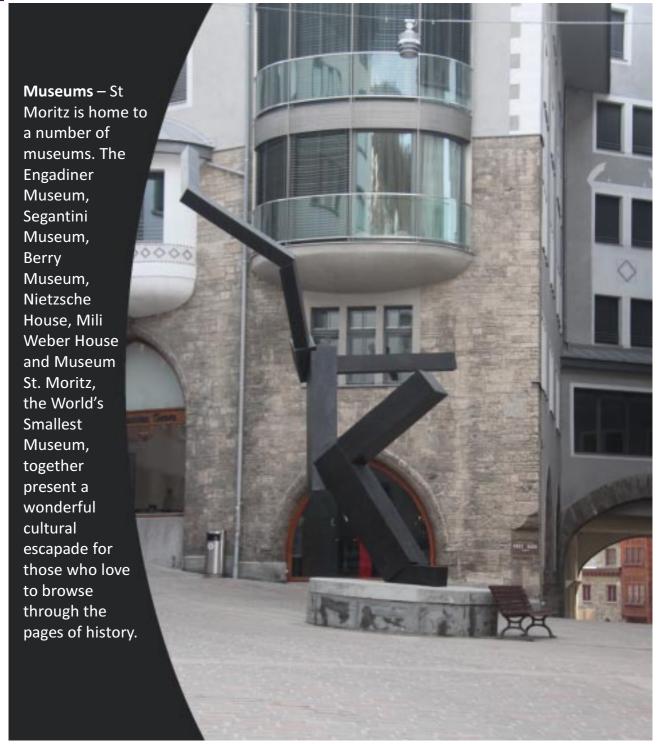
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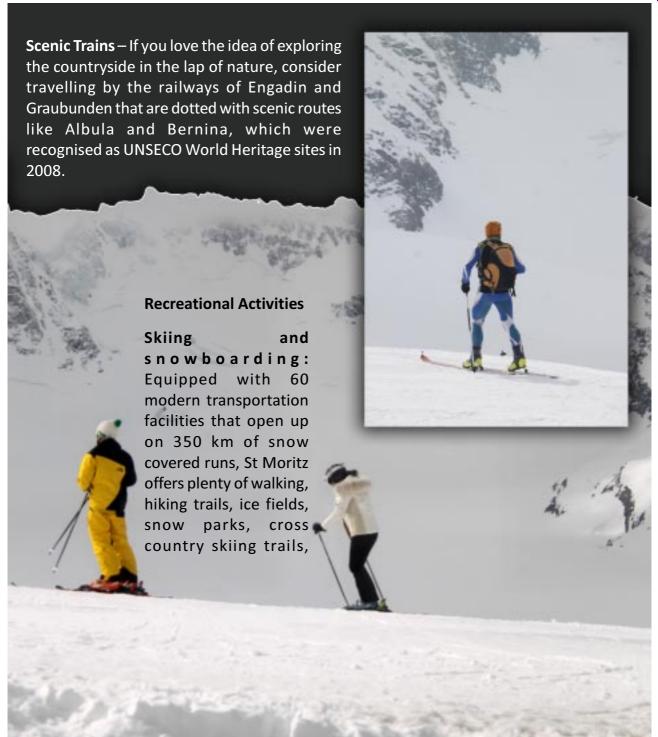
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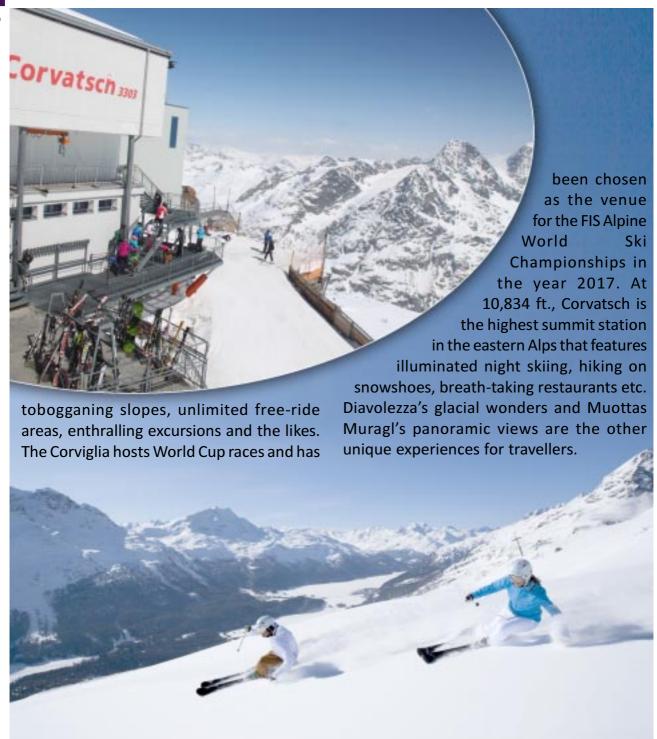


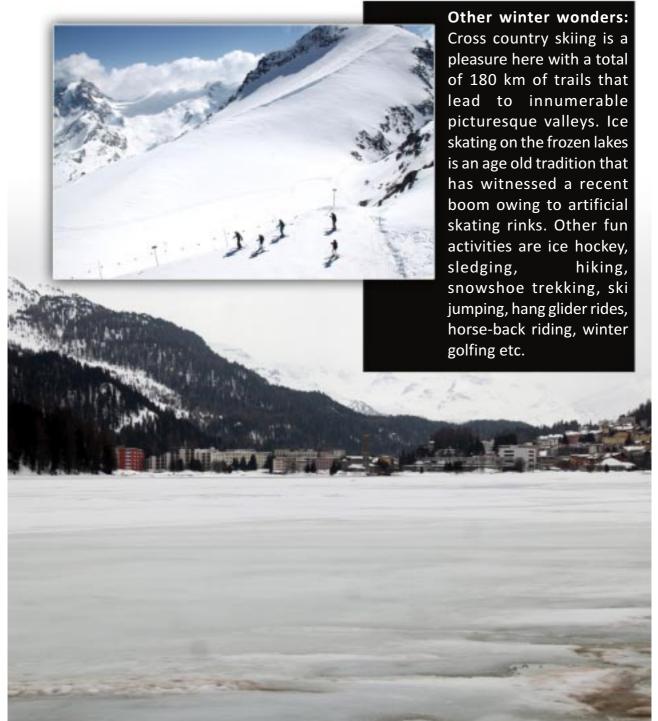
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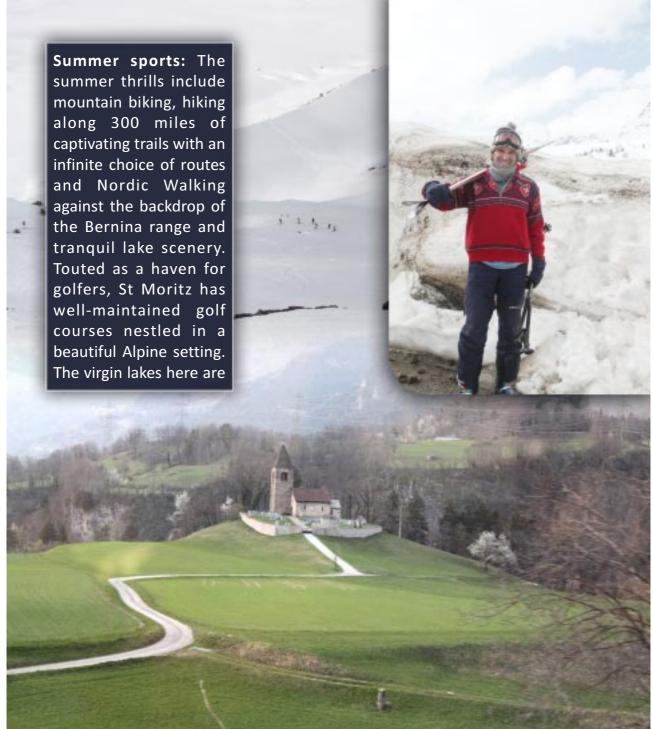
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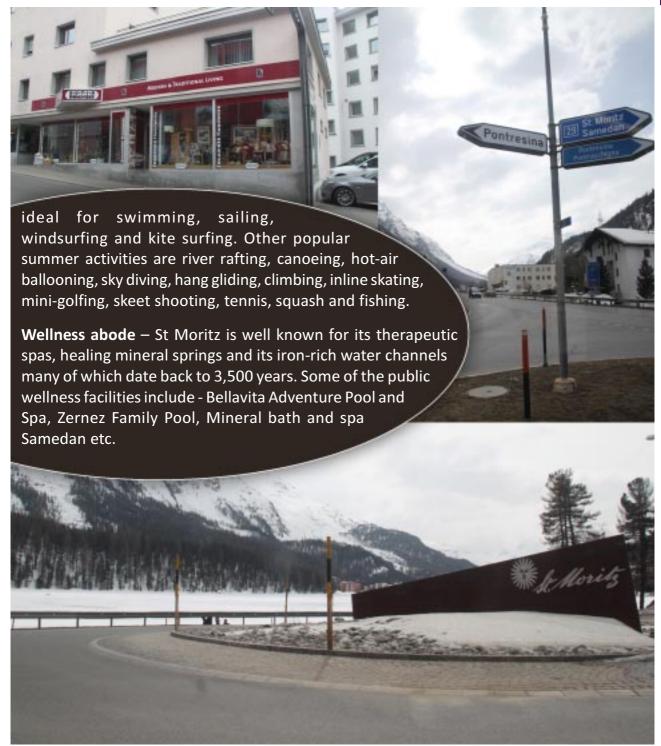




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Eating out

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.



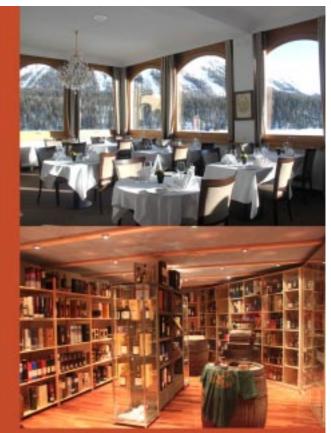
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Night out

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

visiting the Dracula
Club – your
possibilities are
practically limitless
when it comes to
enjoying a night of
fun and frolic in
the highland.

bar in Hotel Waldhaus to





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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.



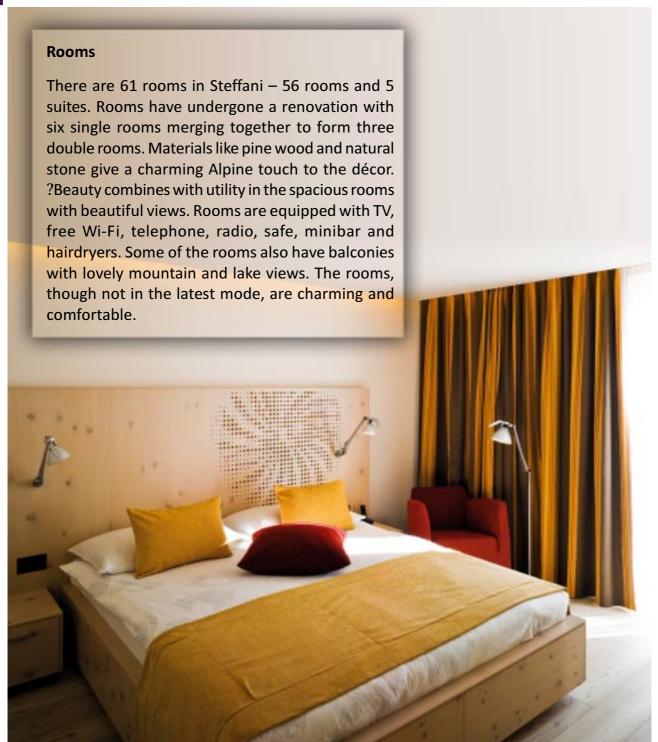




Set in the lovely Engadin Valley, Hotel Steffani is located right in the heart of St Moritz. Started as a small tea room originally, it has grown into a fantastic 4-star hotel. Hotel Steffani is the perfect launching pad for a holiday and/or a vacation filled with winter sports which St Moritz is famous 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.



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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



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.



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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.



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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.

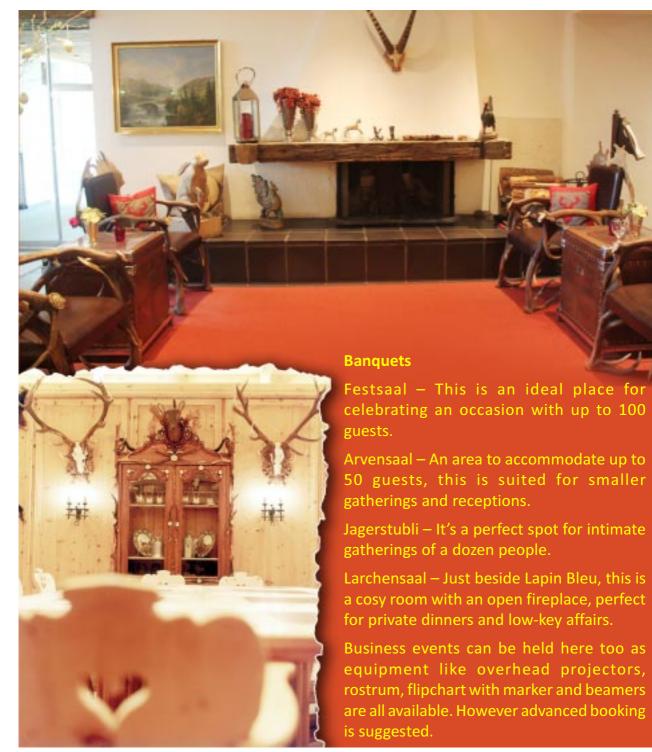
The Bars

Cava Bar

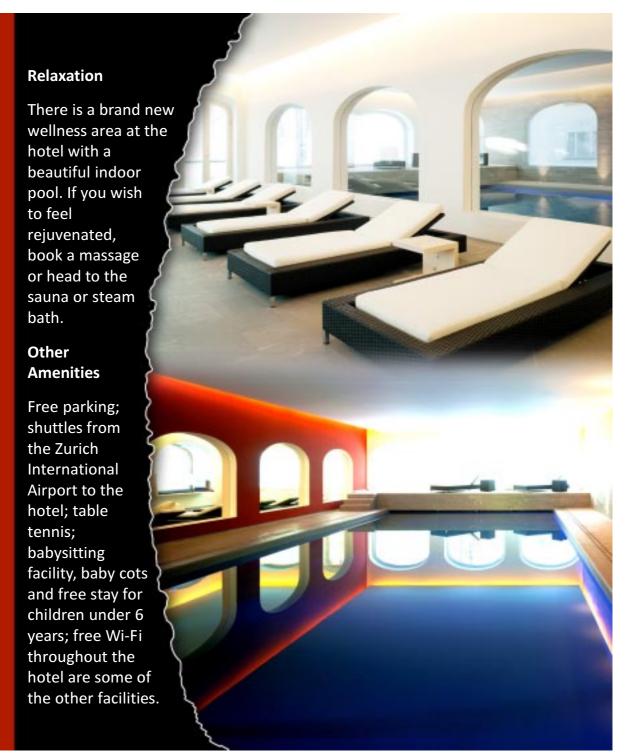
This après ski haunt is favoured mainly by the younger and livelier crowd. Located in the hotel's basement, the bar with its arched ceilings thick plaster column and wooden tables and panels, is the perfect place to relax with friends with a drink in hand.

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.



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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 sight-seeing around the lovely town.

A warm and welcoming atmosphere, friendly and helpful staff, personalized services, Engadin décor – everything about Hotel



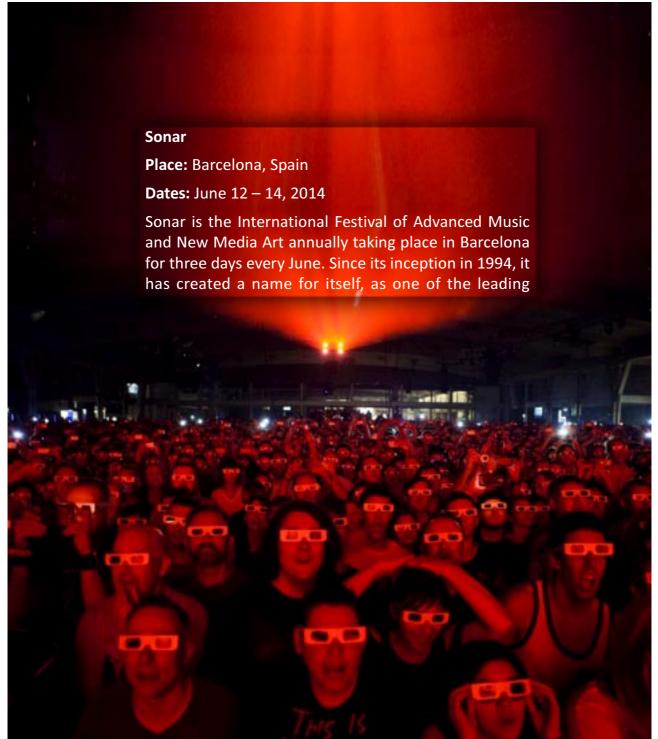
Steffani is inviting. If you are holidaying in St Moritz, this hotel is the perfect base for all the exciting and fun things on your itinerary. We recommend!



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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.

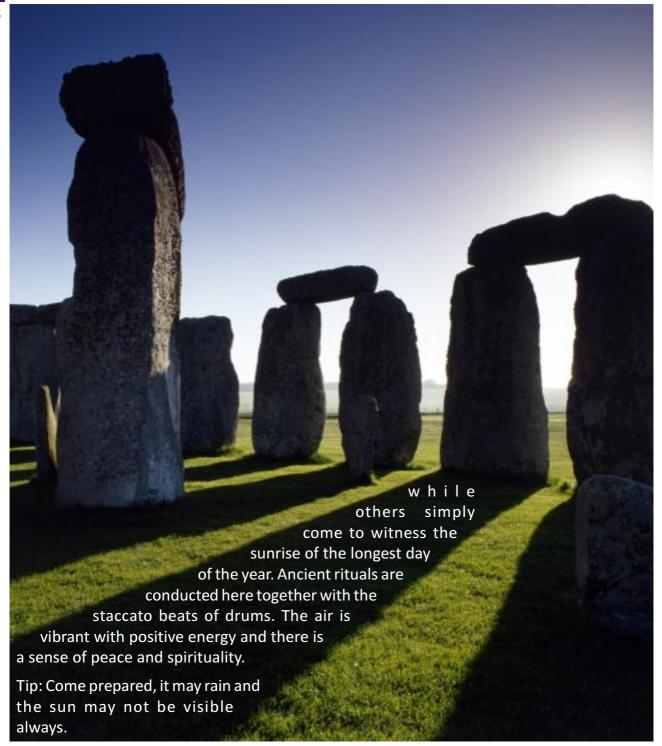
Tip: Put on your party caps for Sonar Night, it combines music with rave partying.







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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







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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.



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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.



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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.

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