



World

Luxury Travel

Vol. 2 ■ Issue 4 ■ November, 2013

Magazine

Fascinating
Crater Lakes
of the World

The Richest Cities
of
the World

**Great Walking
Tours of
New York**

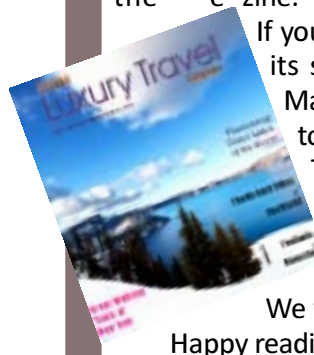
Festivals
in
November



Travel makes everything feel good. Even the initial mundane paperwork, the uncertainty of going to a new place, the butterflies in the stomach, all seem worthy when a breath-taking view of an unknown land makes go weak in your knees.

We at World Luxury Tourism have travelled far and wide, and the willingness to travel never ceases. Just before the winter chill surrounds you, let us take a round of some of the places that would thrill you. There are lakes, and there are crater lakes. However, when it comes to the story of their birth, crater lakes have a fascinating story to tell. Each crater lake is different from the other in so many aspects! This issue of the World Luxury Travel Magazine brings you some of the fascinating crater lakes from around the world. Just like their beauty, their stories are intriguing too!

Whose city is the richest? Find out in our City Guide section of the e-zine.



If you want to really explore a place, you must walk its streets. This issue of the World Luxury Travel Magazine brings you a few of the suggested walking tours in "The Big Apple" a.k.a. New York City.

The season of amazing concerts, events and festivals has already begun. Take a look at a few of the upcoming 'not-to-miss' happenings around the world.

We will wait for your feedback of our stories.

Happy reading!

Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief

World
Luxury Travel
Magazine

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Editor-in-Chief :
Manashree

Travel Writers :
Prabha, Saurav

Contributing Photographers :
Prakash, Marc Sprengers

Website Counsellor :
Pramathesh

Designer :
Pranab

Cover Photo :
123RF Stock Photo by
Jacek Nowak

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Fascinating Crater Lakes of the World



One of the most fascinating ways in which lakes are formed is due to volcanic activity. Volcanic mountains with pent up magma erupt with force throwing up lava, gas, pyroclastic rocks, ash and cinder. The top of the mountain cone is blown off due to force; sometimes it implodes collapsing within itself. Later the crater or caldera gets filled with

water forming a crater lake. Crater lakes can also be formed in impact craters, like the craters formed when a meteorite hits the earth's surface.

Let us find out more about some of the crater lakes on the planet and what incredible features they have which make them fascinating.



Lake Atitlan, Guatemala

Eighty four thousand years ago, a volcanic eruption gave birth to 'the most beautiful lake in the world'. Lake Atitlan, an endorheic lake in the Guatemalan Highlands, has been eulogised for its loveliness. Surrounded by three volcanic mountains, dotted with tiny Mayan villages and steep hills, the lake which is picturesque at any time of the year, is surreal in its beauty at dawn and sunset. It is the deepest lake in Central America, measuring 340 m. at its deepest points. An underground Mayan city, Samabaj, has been discovered 50 feet below the lake with ceremonial mounds and altars. Explorations are on by archaeologists and scientists to unearth the secrets of this site which appears to have been an important religious site. Today the lake attracts tourists from all over the world who are fascinated by its beauty, history and culture. The lake is a bio-diversity hotspot with 798 plants,





236 birds and 141 mammal species found here. Tourists can enjoy kayaking, hiking, swimming and mountain climbing too.

Tourist attractions: Hotel Atitlan Gardens, Atitlan Nature Reserve (Panajachel); Indian Nose, Volcan San Pedro (San Pedro La Laguna).

Ponder this: This lovely lake is facing threat from a dark brown scum which is covering the waters; the result of pollutants and sewage being emptied into the waters from the surrounding villages. Efforts are on to bring awareness and clean this beautiful lake. Why not get involved?

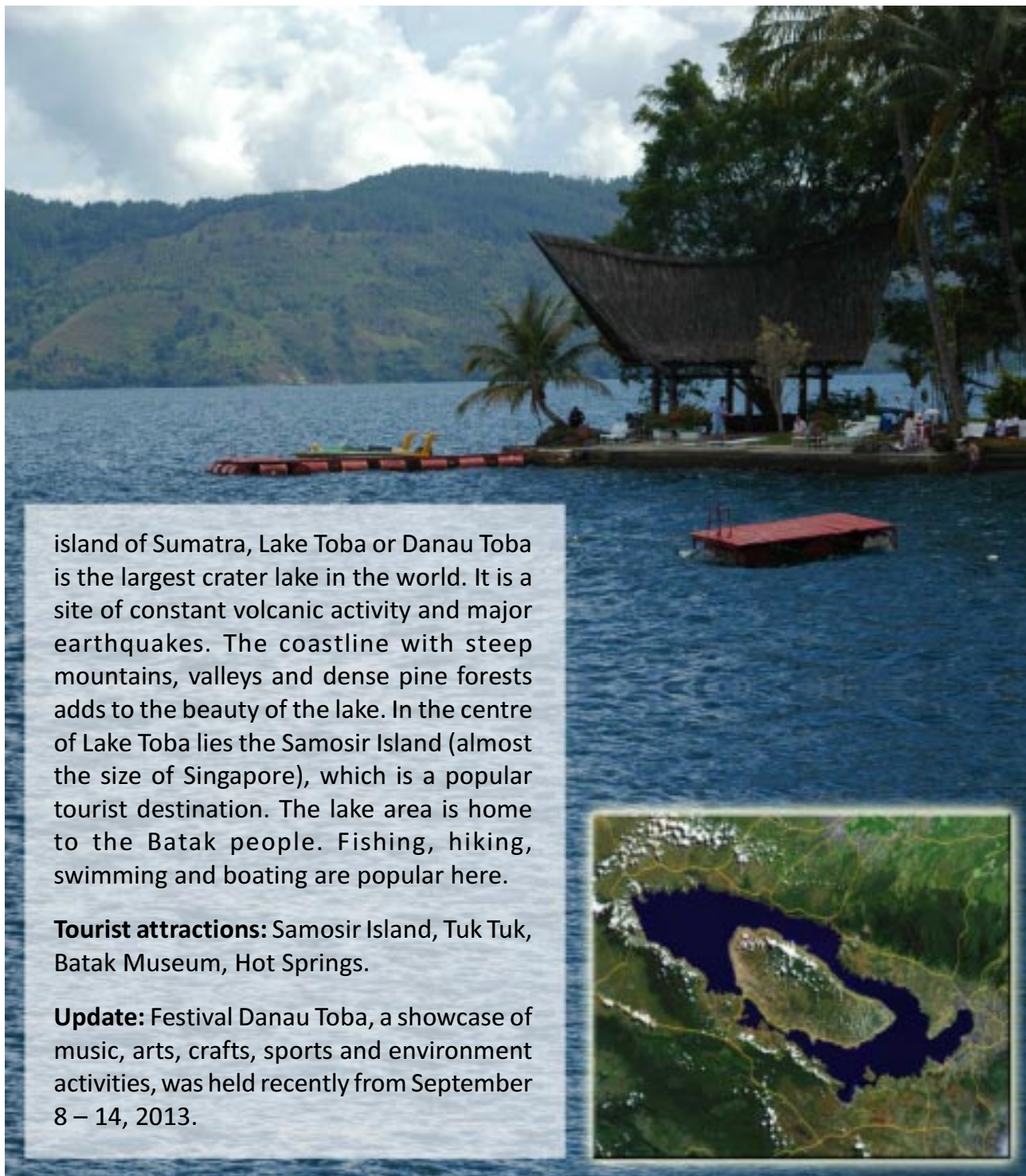




Lake Toba, Indonesia

Can you imagine an eruption so powerful that it blocked out the sun for a whole year? This is exactly what happened around 75,000 years ago during the Toba eruption. It was the biggest known explosion on planet Earth in the last 25 million years. Later the crater filled up with water resulting in a lake 100 km long, 30 km wide, 505 m. deep and 906 m. above sea-level. Located in the





island of Sumatra, Lake Toba or Danau Toba is the largest crater lake in the world. It is a site of constant volcanic activity and major earthquakes. The coastline with steep mountains, valleys and dense pine forests adds to the beauty of the lake. In the centre of Lake Toba lies the Samosir Island (almost the size of Singapore), which is a popular tourist destination. The lake area is home to the Batak people. Fishing, hiking, swimming and boating are popular here.

Tourist attractions: Samosir Island, Tuk Tuk, Batak Museum, Hot Springs.

Update: Festival Danau Toba, a showcase of music, arts, crafts, sports and environment activities, was held recently from September 8 – 14, 2013.

Mt Katmai, Alaska, USA

A sapphire-blue caldera lake nestles in icy splendour, at a height of 2047 m., in the lap of Mount Katmai in Alaska. Geological history was created when the largest eruption (Novarupta) of the 20th century took place in 1912 in the



Alaskan peninsula for over 60 hours, causing the implosion of Mount Katmai. Three glaciers which were resting on the peak collapsed resulting in the formation of a

caldera lake. The Mount Katmai Lake measures 4.5 by 3 km. and is 800 feet deep. There is also a 300 feet waterfall flowing from the west side of the crater. It also



created the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, which presented an amazing sight with thousands of fumaroles venting smoke from fissures in the aftermath of the eruption. Today the lake atop is not only a thing of majestic beauty but also a reminder of one of the most amazing natural events of the modern world.

Tourist attractions: Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, Novarupta, Katmai National Park.

Interesting fact: The Katmai National Park, famed for its brown bears, has set up webcams in various parts of the park to provide live streaming of the bears activities; you can watch it too!





Crater Lake, Oregon, USA

The deepest lake of the USA, 592 m. at its deepest point, the Crater Lake is famed for its incredible blue colour and purity of water. This caldera lake was formed due to the explosion of Mount Mazama 7000 years ago which collapsed forming the caldera. The lake is enclosed by the



wilderness of the Crater Lake National Park. It is the seventh deepest lake in the world. The purity of the water is due to the fact that there is no drainage in or out of the lake; the lake is fed only by snow and rainfall. The mirror-like clarity of the lake and the beauty of the surroundings is not the only thing that has visitors spellbound. The lake is a sacred site for the Klamath Native American tribe and is associated with many legends and mysteries. A fascinating feature of the lake is the 'Old Man of the Lake', a giant hemlock tree stump, which has been bobbing around vertically for well over a hundred



years now! The lake has no indigenous fish and some species have been introduced from outside. A strange 6000 year old moss is the only native growth in the lake. The lake has been

a source of fascinating stories – mysterious lights, UFOs, Bigfoot (monster) sightings and unexplained human disappearances!

Tourist attractions: Rim Drive around the lake, fishing, hiking, camping, wildlife viewing.

Noteworthy: July and August are the best times to visit with 99 per cent lake visibility conditions. The West and East Rim Drive are both open during this time.



Lake Nemrut, Turkey

Lake Nemrut is located in the dormant volcanic mountain of the same name (not to be confused with the other Mount Nemrut, famous for its carved hillside statues). An amazing feature here is that the crater on top of the volcanic cone contains not one but two lakes, side by side! What is even more fascinating is that the lakes are unlike each other. One is a cold





water lake (Nemrut), 155 m. deep and 13 sq. km. wide; the other is a hot water lake (Ilik) with a temperature of 60 degree Celsius (in summer) and 100 m. deep. Situated at a height of 2247 m. above sea-level this phenomenon captures the attention of tourists and geologists alike. Surprisingly, deciduous trees can also be found growing in the lake region which is uncommon at that height. The lake is open for tourists from the south or east side in 4x4 vehicles from Tatvan town.

Tourist attractions: Lake Van; swimming, boating, thermal baths, fishing.

Latest news: A ski resort is under construction in Mount Nemrut for use during the five months of the year when it is snow covered.



Kelimutu Crater Lakes, Indonesia

The volcanic Mount Kelimutu in the Flores Island of Indonesia cradles in its peak, not one but three crater lakes. The most amazing feature of this natural wonder is that all the three lakes are of different colours. Over the years the lakes have

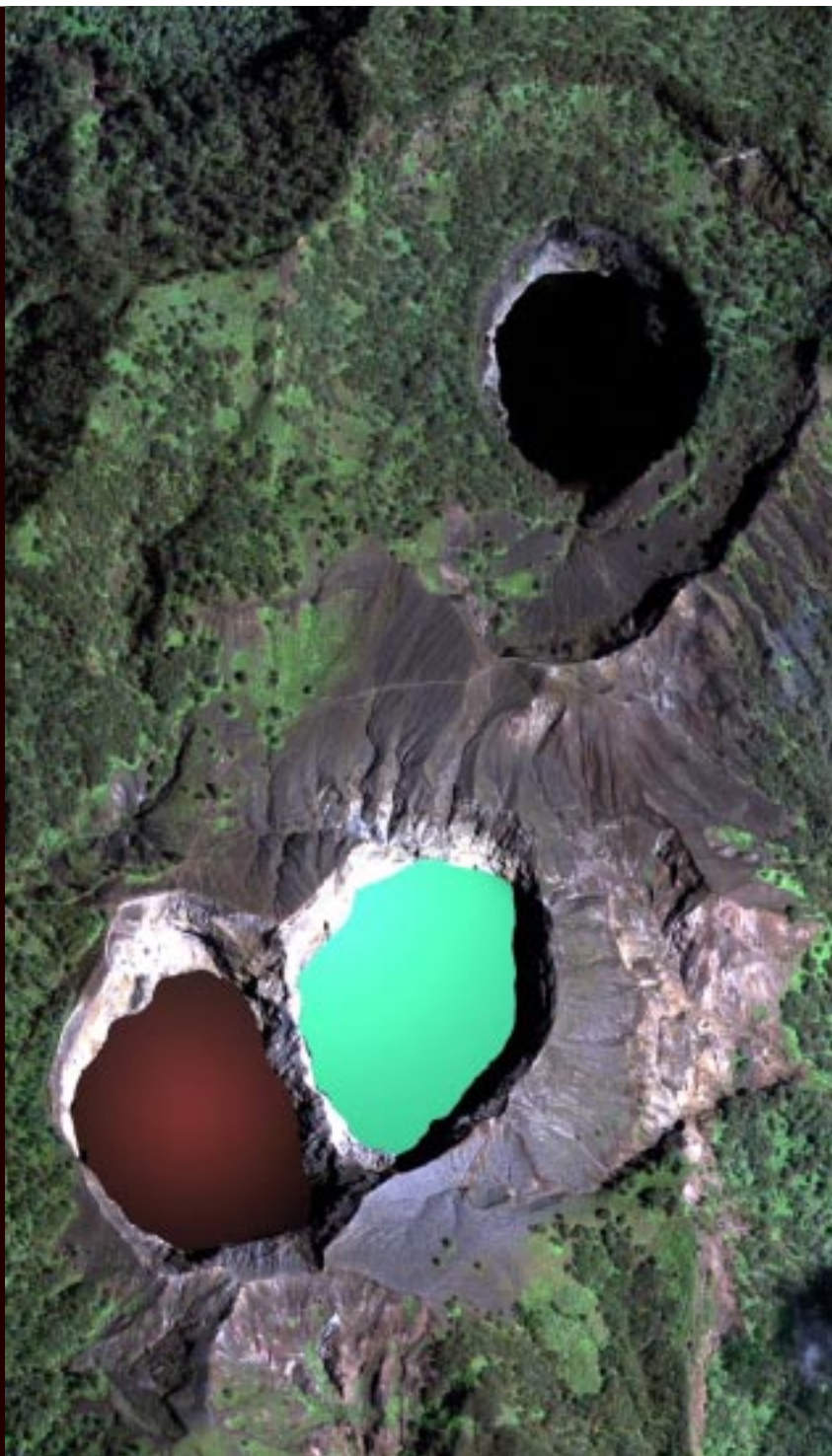
changed varying colours from blue, green, red to black-brown. Needless to say the changing colours of the lakes fascinates both geologists and tourists. It is believed that the varying colours may be due to changes in the mineral rich water caused by underground fumaroles. A more colourful



explanation is offered by the locals who have believed for ages that the lakes are the resting abodes of their ancestors and regard the site as sacred. The Lake of Old People (Tiwu Ata Mbupu), lying westernmost and somewhat apart, is generally blue in colour. Tiwu Nuwa Muri Koo Fai (Lake of Young Men and Maidens) and Tiwu Ata Polo (Enchanted Lake or Lake of Evil Spirits) share a common crater wall and are green and red respectively. It is not safe to walk around the rim on your own. Loose rocks and fumes from the lakes can make it fatal. Try to catch the sunrise here when the place looks magically beautiful.

Tourist attractions: Kelimutu National Park, Moni (base village), Steaming Mountain.

Latest update: Recent colour changes and sulphur smell in the lakes caused Volcanological Survey of Indonesia (VSI) to place a watch alert on the mountain but it has now reverted to normal.



Lake Nyos, Cameroon, Africa

Lake Nyos, perched atop an inactive volcano, was a thing of beauty and joy for the villagers who lived near it. The joy abruptly came to an end on the evening of August 21, 1986 when the lake suddenly expelled 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the air, killing over 1700 people and 3500 livestock in the nearby villages. Scientists researching the incident came to the conclusion that carbon dioxide leaked by volcanic vents was lying trapped under the lake, and probably a landslide of the lake wall, released it with devastating effects. Today degassing tubes have been installed to siphon off carbon dioxide safely from the lake.

However the natural dam walls of rock enclosing the lake are becoming weak and if a tremor causes a breach, there could be another disaster from water inundation and carbon dioxide release.

Tourist attractions:
Menchum Falls, Wum
(nearest town).

Ponder this: Lake Nyos is still dangerous with increasing levels of carbon dioxide. Scientists have also predicted the collapse of the lake by 2015 with devastating flooding right up to Nigeria.



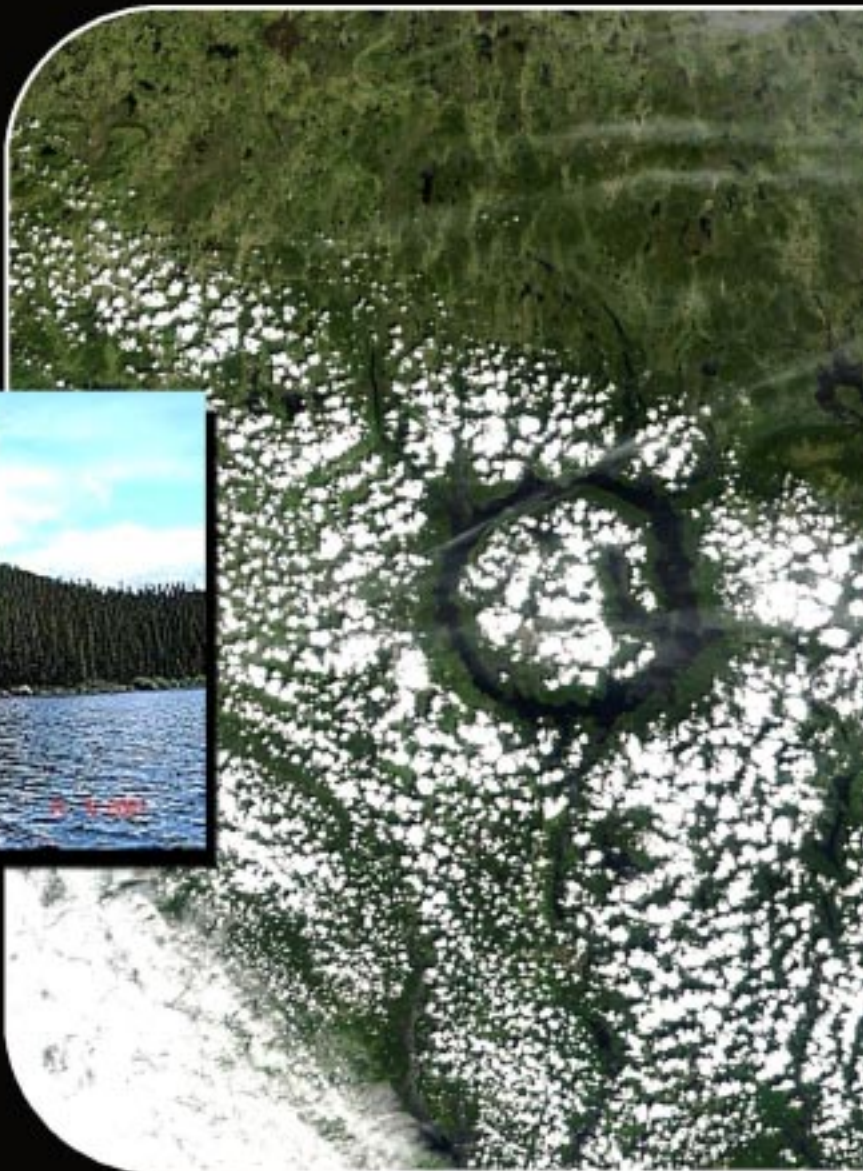


Lake Manicouagan, Quebec, Canada

Around 214 million years ago an asteroid hit the planet earth and the shattering impact created a crater 100 km. wide. The nature of the impact created a raised centre (rather than a depression) in the crater. In the depression surrounding the raised centre, there formed an almost perfectly ring-shaped lake giving birth to the Lake Manicouagan. It is one of the few lakes in the world that was actually formed by a meteorite's impact. The raised centre is known as the island of René-Levasseur today and the high point at the centre of the island is known as Mount Babel. Today



erosion has reduced the crater's diameter to around 70 km while the lake is 1942 sq. km. wide. The lake and the island can be seen from space and the unique shape is best described by its nickname – “Eye of Quebec”. The lake is a reservoir now from which hydro-electricity is generated for



the city of Quebec.

Tourist attractions:

Hunting, fishing, camping, Daniel Johnson Dam.

Interesting fact: The Daniel-Johnson Dam on the reservoir is the largest multiple-arch-and-buttress dam in the world!

Ojos del Salado Lake, Argentina

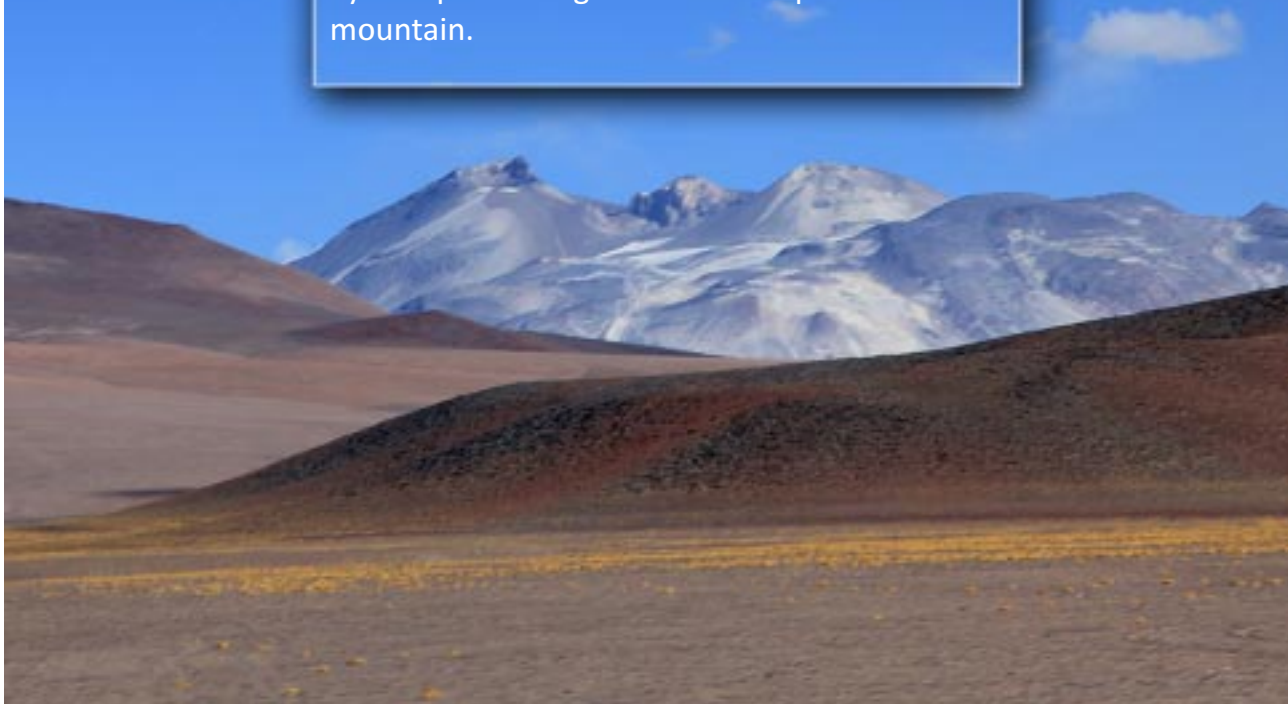
A lake with a diameter of 100 m. has nothing much to boast about. But if it is perched atop the world's highest active volcano at a height of 6,390 m., then it shoots to fame as the highest lake in the world. Ojos Del Salado is a crater lake on the eastern side of the active volcano



with the same name. It is located on the Chile-Argentina border. The lake is not very deep; it has not been explored but its estimated depth is around 5 to 10 m. In spite of the general dry weather conditions due to the proximity of the Atacama Desert, the crater lake is surprisingly permanent. This cannot be classed as a popular tourist destination due to its elevation and remoteness. The challenge presented by it is suitable for adventure sports though.

Tourist attractions: Cerro el Muerto, Cazadero.

Interesting fact: *Ojos del Salado*, translates to “eyes of salt” in Spanish, derived from the large eye-shaped salt lagoons on the slopes around the mountain.



Marvels of Nature

The wonders of Nature are too myriad to be counted. For the few crater lakes that we have just explored, there are many more which have not been listed. If you found the story of these lakes fascinating, please let us know. If you have your own favourite list of amazing lakes, please share it with us. We would love to explore those too!



The Richest Cities *of* the World

Which are the richest cities in the world? The question that arises here is how is 'richness' to be measured? A reliable way of doing it would be to compare the GDPs of the various cities in the world. GDP stands for Gross Domestic Production. It represents the total monetary value of the goods and services produced in a specific time period. It is the main indicator of how prosperous a country's economy is.

Seeking a suitable answer to our first question of which are the richest cities in the world, we have based our list on the 2013 GDP of each city and came up with this list:





Tokyo, Japan

GDP: \$1,520 Billion

Tokyo, the capital of Japan, tops the list with a whopping \$1520 billion GDP. The city has overcome the ravages of World War II and



natural disasters to become the financial capital of Japan, contributing in a major way to the Japanese economy. One of the most densely



populated cities on earth, Tokyo is also one of the most expensive cities in the world to live in. It is home to 461,000 millionaires and 51 Fortune Global 500 companies, more than any other city in the world! The Tokyo Stock Exchange is the third largest in the world. Awarded the highest Michelin stars (of any city in the world) by the Michelin guide, the city has fascinating touring, dining and entertainment options for tourists to enjoy.

Trivia: Tokyo is one of the three world finance 'command centres', the other two being New York and London!



New York, USA

GDP: \$1,210 Billion

The second largest city economy in the world after Tokyo, New York city is home to Wall Street, the renowned financial centre and the largest stock exchanges in the world (New York



Stock Exchange and NASDAQ). It is also home to the largest number of billionaires in the world, with an estimated seventy living in the city. It is among the most densely populated cities of the world with a population of around nine million people. The economy is based mainly on financial, insurance, real





estate and health care industries. The iconic Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building are popular landmarks.

***Interesting:** If you divide their net worth by their ages, Carlos Slim (world's richest man) and Bill Gates have each gained more than \$100,000 in net worth for every hour that they have been alive!*



Los Angeles, USA

GDP: \$789.7

The third richest city in the world, Los Angeles has a relatively modest population of around four million. The City of Angels, as it is popularly known, is considered the

entertainment capital of the world. This is due to the presence of Hollywood and a multitude of movie studios, television networks and record labels. The 7500-acre port, the largest in the country, plays a major role in the economic growth of the city. Entertainment, aerospace, petroleum,





manufacturing and tourism are some of the major contributors to the economy. The city has a string of wealthy neighbourhoods including the famous Beverly Hills, Bel Air and Holmby Hills. Some of the top attractions of Los Angeles are Disneyland, Hollywood, Rodeo Drive and Venice Beach.

Fun Fact: *Potato chips weigh more in Los Angeles than in any other part of America! Even scientific research has not yet been able to discover the reason for this yet!*



Seoul, South Korea

GDP: \$779.3 Billion

The largest city and financial capital of South Korea, Seoul has a population of over 10 million people. Seoul contributes to 21 per cent of South Korea's GDP. Prominent industries of the South Korean economy include manufacturing, electronics and textiles. Top international banks like HSBC, JPMorgan Chase, and Barclays have branches in Seoul and many top companies are headquartered here.

There is a project underway which will provide free Wi-Fi access in parks and other public





places. The major attractions to which tourists flock include the Korean War Memorial, Changdeokgung Palace Namsan Park and the N Seoul Tower. The Yongsan Electronics Market in Seoul is the largest electronics market in Asia. The affluent Gangnam district houses the largest underground shopping centre in Asia, the COEX mall.

Wow Fact: *South Korea is the only country in the world that is broadband connected at 100 mbps!*





London, England

GDP: \$731.2 Billion

The historic city of London, on River Thames, is the world's fifth largest economy. A major hub for international business, it is considered one of the three



"command centres" of global economy. London has a population of over eight million people. Finance is the major industry here. Banking giants HSBC and Barclays, 100 major companies of Europe and four of the six of the world's largest law firms are all



headquartered in London. Manufacturing and construction are other major industries here. London has more multi-millionaires than any other city in the world; 4,224 'ultra-high net worth' people live in London. Upscale areas include Mayfair, Kensington and Knightsbridge. Buckingham Palace, London Eye, Tower

Bridge, the Big Ben clock tower are some of the world renowned landmarks of the city.

Trivia: *The Dome in London is the largest structure of its kind in the world - big enough to house the Great Pyramid of Giza or the Statue of Liberty!*

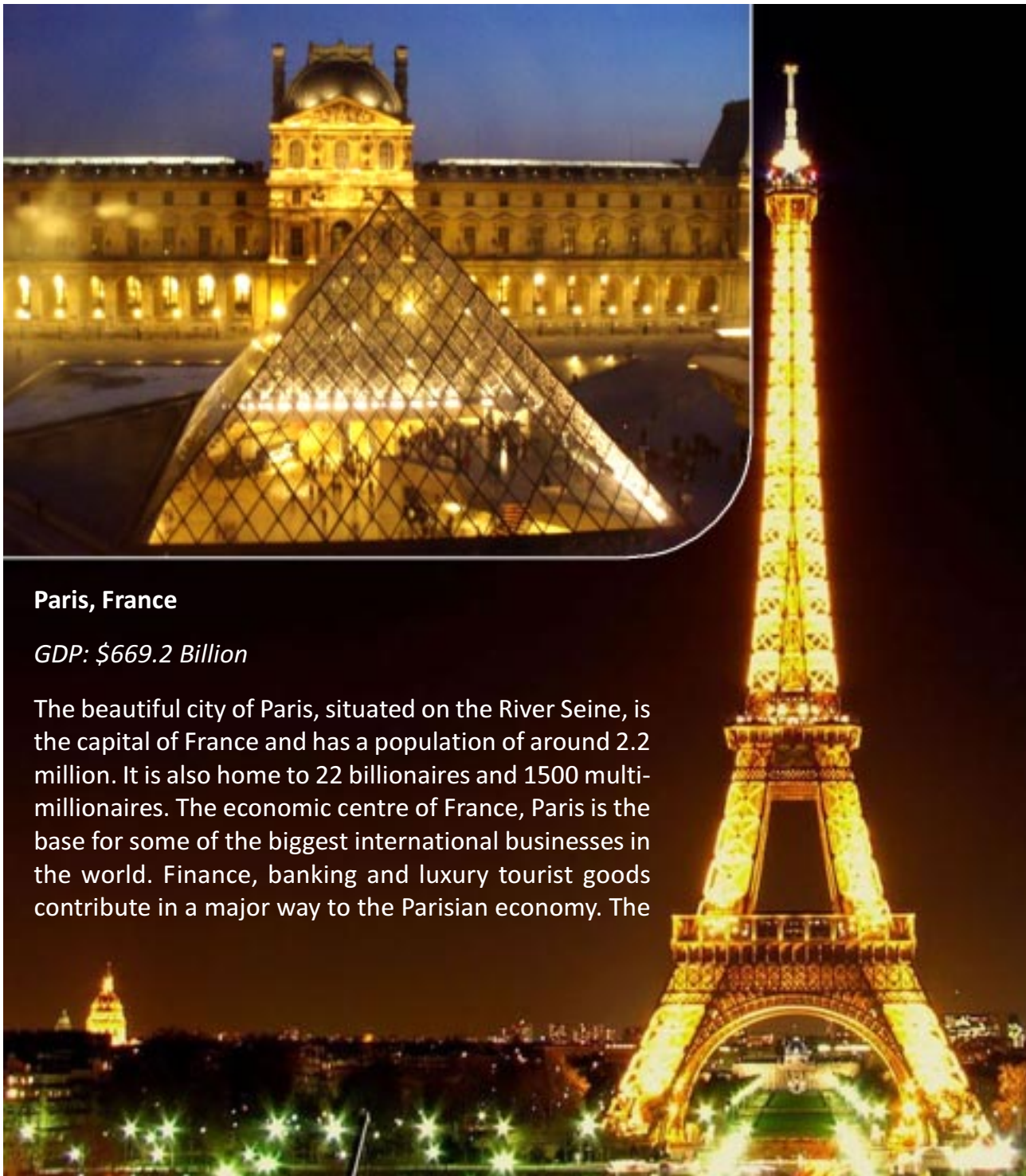




Paris, France

GDP: \$669.2 Billion

The beautiful city of Paris, situated on the River Seine, is the capital of France and has a population of around 2.2 million. It is also home to 22 billionaires and 1500 multi-millionaires. The economic centre of France, Paris is the base for some of the biggest international businesses in the world. Finance, banking and luxury tourist goods contribute in a major way to the Parisian economy. The



home of high-fashion, the Champs Elysees area houses several elite couturiers, parfumeurs and luxury goods which attract tourists from all over the world. A major tourist destination, Paris attracts 30 million visitors from all over the globe who are drawn by landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, Disneyland Paris Resort as well as the wonderful cuisines and wines for which it is so famous.

***Trivia:** The 'City of Lights' does not refer to illumination but to the intellectuals of art, literature, sculpture etc. who made the city a cultural centre!*



Osaka, Japan

*GDP: \$654.8
Billion*

Osaka is Japan's third largest city by population; it has a population of around 2.8 million. The major industries here are commerce, service and



manufacturing. It is home to major companies like Panasonic, Sanyo, Sharp as well as several other medium sized companies. One of the most expensive cities in the world, a three-bedroom apartment in





Osaka could set you back by \$2400 in rent! The Kansai International Airport, which services Osaka, is built completely on an artificial island. Osaka is a shoppers' delight with a huge range of wholesale and retail shops.



Some of the major tourist attractions of Osaka are the Umeda Sky Building, Osaka Castle and Universal Studios, Japan.

Fun Facts: *Takoyaki, Osaka's classic street food delicacy, consists of octopus pieces fried in ball-shaped batter!*

Chicago, USA

GDP: \$524.6 Billion

The 'Windy City' Chicago was founded in 1833 and grew rapidly to become a city in 1837. One of the major financial centres of the world today, it has around 110,000 millionaires and 15 billionaires. It is home to twelve Fortune 500 companies with manufacturing, printing, publishing and food processing being major contributors to the economy. The





O'Hare International Airport is one of the busiest airports in the world in terms of traffic movement. The elite neighbourhoods of Chicago include Gold Coast, Lincoln Park and Streeterville. The Buckingham Fountain, Sears Tower and the Adler Planetarium are some of the well-known tourist attractions of Chicago.

Wow Fact: *Chicago River is the only river in the world to flow backwards (the result of an engineering marvel)!*

Moscow, Russia

GDP: \$520.1 Billion

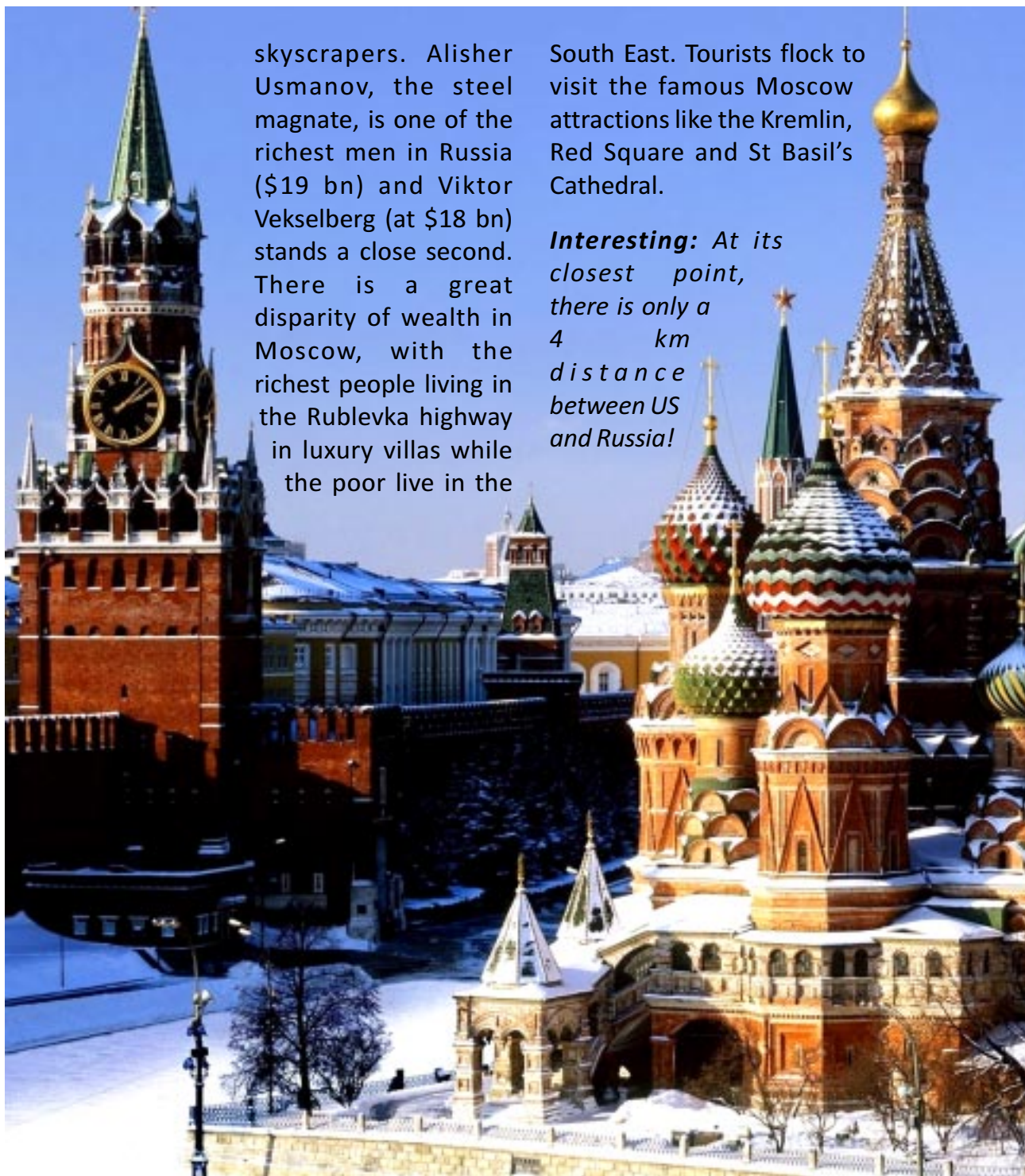
Moscow is the haunt of the billionaires in the world, second only to New York with 64 billionaires. Moscow, situated by the Moskva River, is the political and economic centre of Russia. The past blends beautifully with the present here with lovely onion-domed buildings rubbing shoulders with modern



skyscrapers. Alisher Usmanov, the steel magnate, is one of the richest men in Russia (\$19 bn) and Viktor Vekselberg (at \$18 bn) stands a close second. There is a great disparity of wealth in Moscow, with the richest people living in the Rublevka highway in luxury villas while the poor live in the

South East. Tourists flock to visit the famous Moscow attractions like the Kremlin, Red Square and St Basil's Cathedral.

Interesting: *At its closest point, there is only a 4 km distance between US and Russia!*



Shanghai, China

GDP: \$516.5 Billion

The story of Shanghai development is an amazing one; it is a city which has registered a double digit GDP

growth for more than 20 consecutive years! It has been nicknamed 'Paris of the East'. The iconic Bund, Shanghai's famous waterfront has evolved from a small narrow lane to the 'museum of international architecture' that it is today. Shanghai is the global financial centre of the country and it is predicted (by McKinsey Global Institute) that by 2025 its super-fast growth will make it the third richest metro in the world. Shanghai is home to 23 billionaires. Finance, retail and real estate are major contributors to the city's economy. It has the world's busiest container port and is poised to



be an international shipping centre in the future. The Bund, Oriental Pearl TV tower and the Shanghai Museum are some of the top attractions of Shanghai.

Trivia: *Shanghai has the largest bus system in the whole world!*

These are some of the richest cities in the world. Vibrant, pulsating, they have made a mark for themselves in the world platform. Certainly they are worth a visit!



A group of five women are walking along a paved path in a park, likely Central Park in New York City. The path is shaded by large, mature trees with lush green foliage. The women are dressed in casual summer attire. From left to right: the first woman wears a white tank top, pink shorts, and a red visor; the second woman wears a light green patterned short-sleeved dress, sunglasses, and a brown crossbody bag; the third woman wears a blue t-shirt and dark shorts; the fourth woman wears a camouflage tank top, dark shorts, sunglasses, and a black crossbody bag; the fifth woman wears a red strapless tube top, dark shorts, and a black crossbody bag. In the background, other park visitors and a black metal fence are visible.

Great Walking Tours of New York



Walking tours are a great way of exploring New York and learning more about its culture, art and history. New York is one of the most 'walkable' cities of the US and this is borne out by the different kinds of walking tours available for tourists. Walking leisurely through a chosen locality with your friendly guide regaling you with information and interesting anecdotes, is a memorable experience. During your walk, you will see the Big Apple with new eyes, gaining insights and absorbing local flavours like never before.

Here are some fascinating walking tours you can choose from to discover New York:



**Original Greenwich
Village Food and Culture Walking Tour
(Foods of New York Tours)**

The charming Greenwich Village, once a bohemian haunt, is famous world over today

for its restaurants and bars.

This gastronomic tour will fill you in on the rich culture and history of this area as well as tantalise your taste buds with delicious food samplings. The expert guide will take you around the quaint tree-lined streets,

restaurants, buildings giving you interesting insights and information about the area (and handy tips on popular spots of the area)! The tour includes lip-smacking fare from Murray's Cheese Shop, Rocco's, Joe's Pizza and Rafele among others. This popular tour takes place round the year. It is a good

idea to book beforehand.

Tour Info: \$49 per person; 3 hours; 16 people group





Central Park Movie Sites Walking Tour (On Location Tours)

This tour is sure to delight the movie buffs. The Central Park, the most filmed public park in the world, has seen over 200 movie shootings on its premises. The fun-filled tour covers over 40 popular movie and television filming sites as well as leading attractions of the bottom half of the park. You can feed



pigeons exactly where the young hero of Home Alone did; visit the Boathouse Café of When Harry Met Sally; and delight in seeing locations of Taxi Driver, Little Manhattan and Serendipity. You can also enjoy a ride in the famous Carousel (cost

included in tour fee) and visit highlight attractions like The Dairy, Bow Bridge and Cherry Hill. Locations are constantly updated to keep pace with changing trends. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Tour Info: \$25; 2 hours; Tue, Thurs-Sun at 12 pm



Rockefeller Center Walking Tour (Rockefeller Center)

The Rockefeller Center is one of the most famous landmarks of New York. This 22-acre, 19-building centre was the brainchild of John Rockefeller Jr. and is the largest privately owned complex of its kind in the world. New York's largest underground city lies under the Rockefeller Center—a vast

labyrinth of retail shops, restaurants and an ice rink. It is also a famous art deco centre where modern art and architecture can be viewed. Iconic attractions include the 15-foot statue of Atlas and the 30 Rockefeller Plazas. Many famous movies have been shot here including Home Alone 2 and Mad about You. Home to the NBC Studios, TV shows like Saturday Night Live and Late





Night with Conan O'Brien are also shot here. The legendary Christmas tree and ice skating rink are other major attractions. The observation deck on the 70th floor offers a breath-taking 360 degree view (a separate ticket needed for this). The eponymous walking tour covers the major attractions here. A personal headset with a closed circuit connection given to each member makes sure you enjoy the tour to the fullest.

Tour info: \$17; 7 days a week; 1 hour 15 minutes



Luxury Chocolate Walking Tour (New York Chocolate Tours)

This is one tour aimed at making chocolate lovers go weak on the knees! You'll get the feeling of being in Paris as you tour the upscale Manhattan area where sidewalk cafes and French bistros rub shoulders with the best international stores. Get high on chocolates with tastings of Grand Marnier Truffle, raspberry bonbon or a violet-infused chocolate square. Feast on other top cocoa offerings from five of the top chocolatiers in New York. The visits include 5th Avenue Chocolatiere, Michel Cluizel, Neuhaus



Chocolates, Jacques Torres, and La Maison du Chocolat, though changes can happen. You will marvel at how many different types of chocolates there are and it is more than likely that you will be tempted to buy some. Do remember that tickets must be purchased in advance.

Tour Info: \$59 per person; Thurs-Sun; 2 hours; 15 people group





The Shop Gotham Garment Center Tour (Shop Gotham)

Yes ladies, there is actually a walking-shopping tour exclusively for you. This 'insider' shopping tour gives you access to six exclusive designer showrooms, not open to the public. Here you can buy what the fashionistas shop for, at wholesale prices. There is a whopping discount of 60-70 per cent below retail on ladies designer clothes,





handbags, jewellery and accessories. If that was not enough, you also get to meet a couple of designers, hear interesting anecdotes and information from them. You can also see where the Project Runway contestants were housed and visit a Sample Sale should one be going on at the time.

You will be touring the Garment Center district so wear your most comfortable shoes (and eat a hearty breakfast too). Carry cash along with credit cards.

Tour Info: \$70; Wed & Fri; approx. 3 hours; 12 people group



Free Walking Tour of Grand Central Neighborhood with Justin Ferate

(Sponsored by Grand Central Partnership)

The Grand Central Terminal is an iconic landmark of New York. Built in 1913, it is the largest train station in the world with around 6 million commuters passing

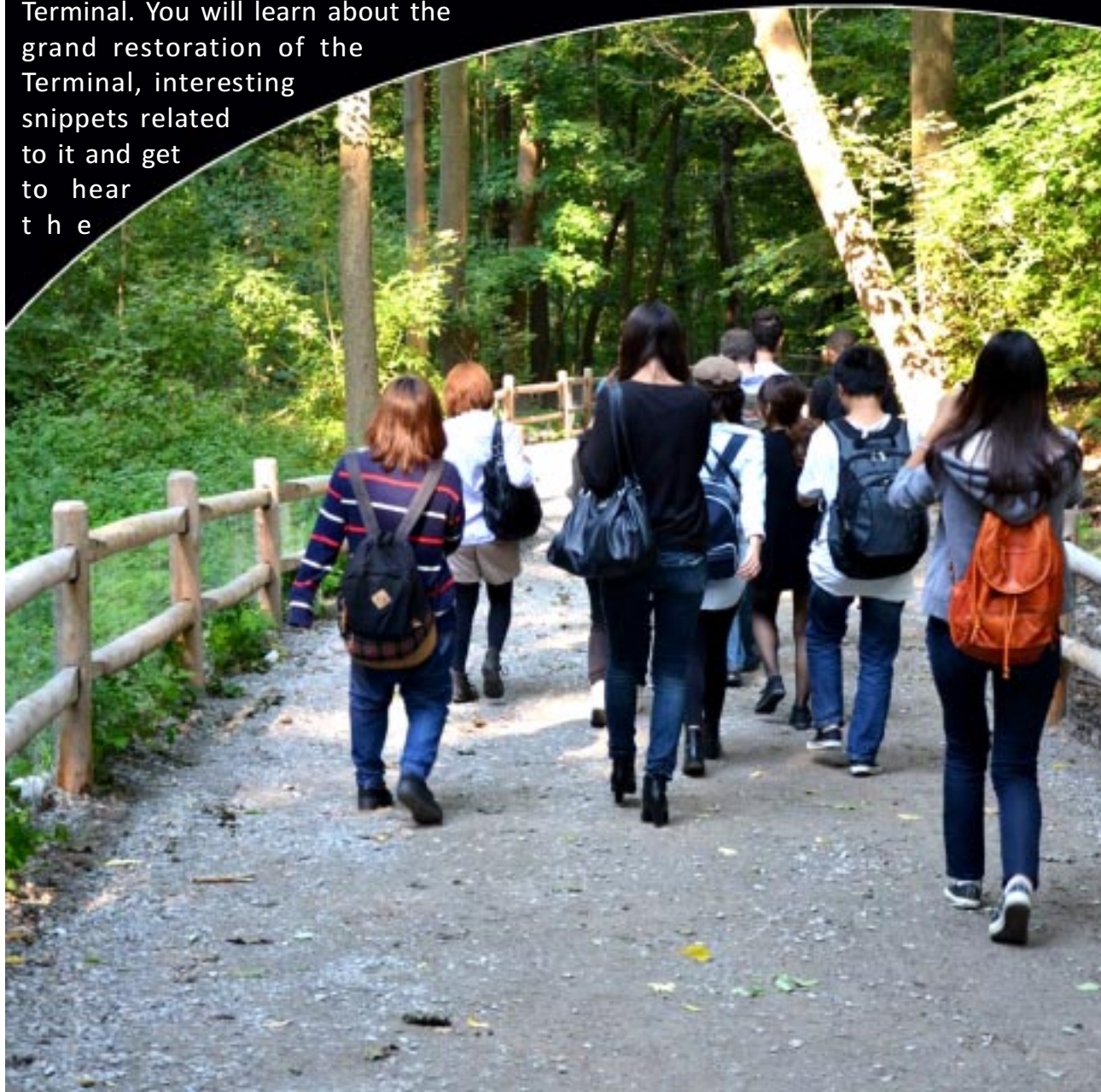
through this station every day. The Grand Central is full of amazing details and has a rich history. The tour with Justin Ferate is an excellent way of learning fascinating facts and about the history and architecture of this landmark and the surrounding areas. Justin Ferate, an



internationally renowned tour guide, brings to the tour, his vast knowledge and charming, energetic style. The tour covers the Lincoln Building and the Grand Central Terminal. You will learn about the grand restoration of the Terminal, interesting snippets related to it and get to hear t h e

surprising sound effects of the “whisper gallery” for yourself. No reservations are needed for this free tour.

Tour info: Every Friday; 2 hours




Greenwich Village Literary Pub Crawl

The Greenwich Village, famed for its bohemian culture, was home to some of the greatest poets, writers and artists in the United States. This interesting tour will take you around to some of the oldest and

greatest literary pubs in the area. The tour guides, many of whom are local actors, will help you discover the rich history and architecture of the area. You will be taken to various pubs visited by creative legends, see landmarks where famous writers lived and also have a drink (charged extra). The guides will bring nuggets of history alive with their fantastic dramatic readings of





the works written in the Greenwich Village. Some of the legendary names you will encounter on the tour include Dylan Thomas, Edgar Allan Poe, Bob Dylan and O'Henry. Bars in the tour include Chumley's, Kettle of Fish, Minetta Tavern and White Horse Tavern. A note of caution, keep a watch on those drinks, it is easy to get drunk by the end of the tour!

*Tour Info: \$21(adults)
\$ 1 6 (s t u d e n t s) ;
Saturdays 2pm; 3hours*



New York City PhotoTrek Walking Tour (PhotoTrek Tours)

This is the perfect tour for the camera happy tourist. You can choose from the Best of New York, Central Park and New York Neighbourhoods or any of the customised tours which are offered. You can discover the beauty of New York, its major attractions along with your tour guide and a personal photographer. Some of the attractions in the itinerary include Times

Square and the Theatre District, Central Park, Midtown and Downtown Manhattan and The Brooklyn Bridge. Along with information about the places, your guide will give you several useful tips for your visit. Included in the cost are the beautiful, professional photographs taken during the tour. Photographs will be delivered within 48 hours in a CD or you will be mailed a gallery and zip file within 24 hours. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended (and maybe an extra shirt,



scarf or hat to give a change to your outfit). Do book tickets in advance.

Tour info: \$125; 2 hours; 2 persons/ \$175 (3 hrs.); \$100 (2hrs), \$150 (3hrs), 3-8 people

All these walks offer a distinct feel of a particular facet or neighbourhood of the city. These walking trips will often result in amazing 'personalised' experiences and unforgettable moments. Choose a tour according to your taste, dress according to the weather, wear good walking shoes and get ready to enjoy New York in a more in-depth way than the average tourist does.



Festivals *in* November

Happenings

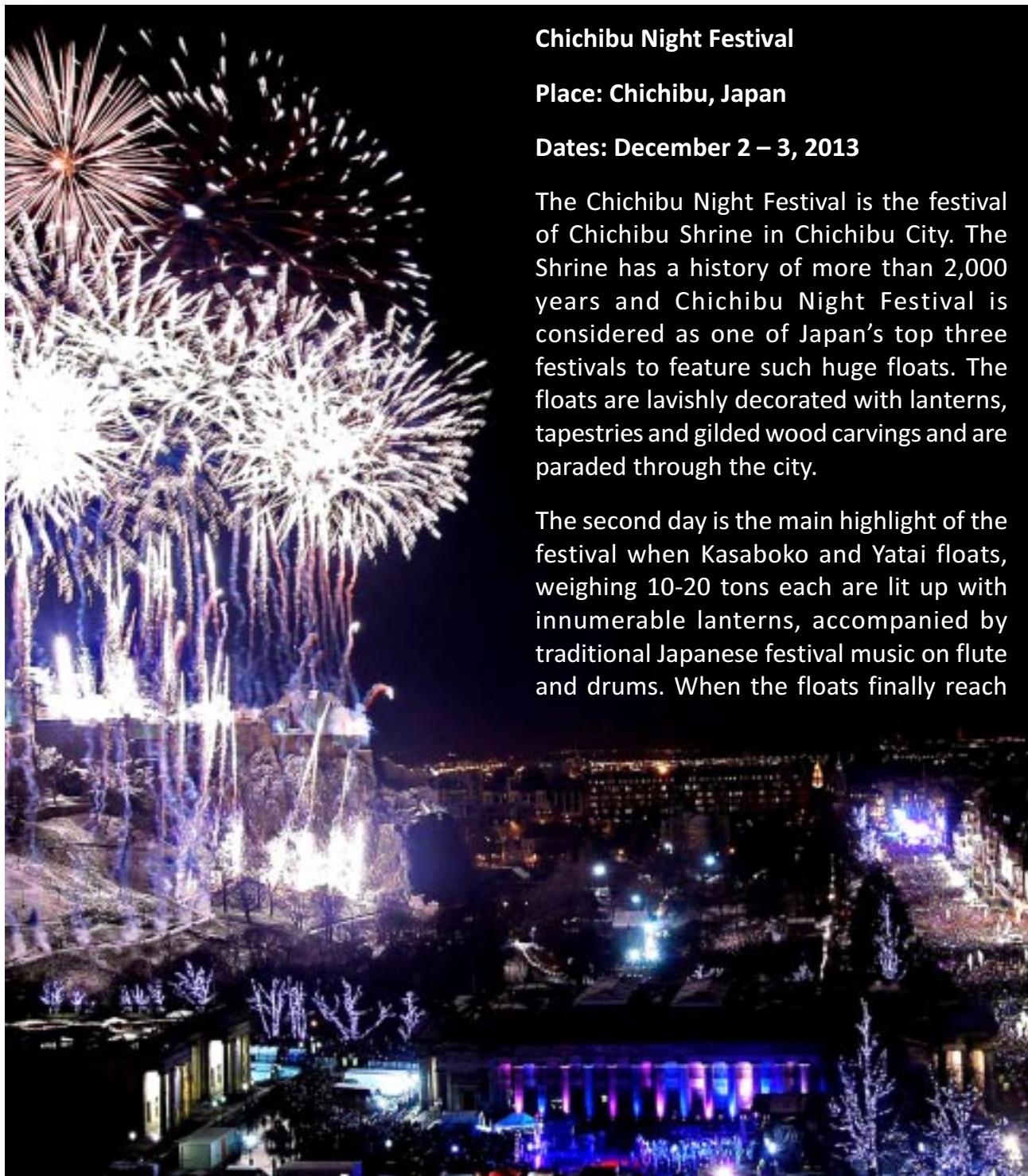
Chichibu Night Festival

Place: Chichibu, Japan

Dates: December 2 – 3, 2013

The Chichibu Night Festival is the festival of Chichibu Shrine in Chichibu City. The Shrine has a history of more than 2,000 years and Chichibu Night Festival is considered as one of Japan's top three festivals to feature such huge floats. The floats are lavishly decorated with lanterns, tapestries and gilded wood carvings and are paraded through the city.

The second day is the main highlight of the festival when Kasaboko and Yatai floats, weighing 10-20 tons each are lit up with innumerable lanterns, accompanied by traditional Japanese festival music on flute and drums. When the floats finally reach

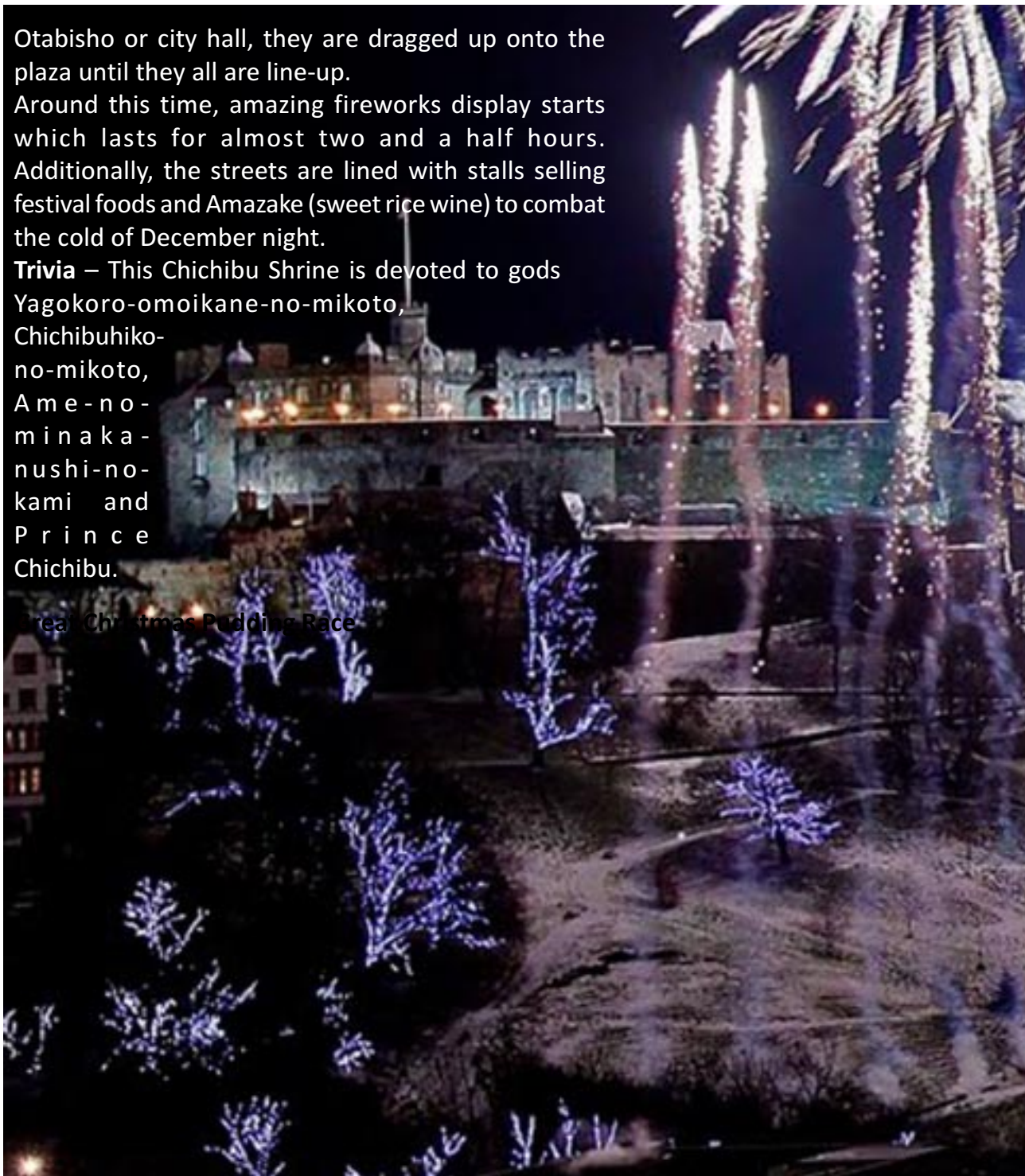


Otabisho or city hall, they are dragged up onto the plaza until they all are line-up.

Around this time, amazing fireworks display starts which lasts for almost two and a half hours. Additionally, the streets are lined with stalls selling festival foods and Amazake (sweet rice wine) to combat the cold of December night.

Trivia – This Chichibu Shrine is devoted to gods Yagokoro-omoikane-no-mikoto, Chichibuhiko-no-mikoto, Ame-no-minakanaushi-no-kami and Prince Chichibu.

Area Christmas Pudding Race



Place: Covent
Garden Piazza,
London

Date: December 7,
2013

You must have heard of Spoon Race, but have you ever heard of a Pudding Race? If not, the Great Christmas Pudding Race is a perfect place to experience the fun.

During the event, Covent Garden Piazza swells with thousands of spectators and about 150 contestants. The team of six wears fancy dress and race around the race course scattered with flour-filled balloons, foam jets and other obstacles - all while trying to





balance a Christmas pudding on a fragile plate! The race started in 1980 and this year it will celebrate its 33rd year. The money raised in this event goes towards Cancer Research in UK. A fun day out is guaranteed with entertainment at this event.

The event is organized by CRAC on behalf of Cancer Research UK and supported by Matthew Walker and Covent Garden Market.

Trivia - CRAC has been hosting this event for 31 years during which it has raised more than \$1.5 million for cancer research.

Santa Run

Place: Las Vegas

Date: December 7

The Las Vegas Great Santa Run is one of Opportunity Village's largest fundraising events and is considered as the world's

largest Santa gathering. Opportunity Village is a not-for-profit organization that serves people with intellectual disabilities and helps them to enrich their lives and the lives of the families. During this time, thousands of Santas not only arrive in the city, but also run around. The reach of the Santa Run is

The Las Vegas Great Santa Run



no more limited within Las Vegas rather it has extended far and beyond. Countless participants from all around the globe plan their yearly getaways around the Santa Run.

Numerous local celebrities are expected to make appearance at the event to support the cause this year as well. According to Opportunity Village, 9,712 Santas showed up for the “World Santa Challenge” in 2012 which was nearly 2,000 more than 2011.

Trivia - It officially regained the title of being the winner of the World Santa Challenge with 8,123 Santas in 2011.





Christmas

Place: All over the world

Date: December 25, 2013

Christmas is an annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus Christ and is celebrated on December 25 by millions of people around the world. On this auspicious day people exchange gifts with their loved

ones, decorate Christmas trees, attend church with friends and families, organize a special meal and of course, eagerly wait for Santa Claus to arrive with loads of gifts, love and wishes. Christmas is celebrated with euphoric enthusiasm, joy and festivities by the Christians.



Sunburn Festival Goa

Place: Goa, India

Dates: December 27 – 29, 2013

Sunburn Goa Festival is back for its 7th year celebrations. Asia's grooviest and the biggest electronic dance music event is

gearing up once again in December at Candolim Beach in Goa. Sunburn has got a pretty good start with a Sunburn Arena tour featuring Hardwell, and the recently concluded Sunburn Noida, India.

Sunburn is much more than just a music festival. It promises to bring people together



to celebrate, regardless of where they live or what language they speak. The festival also comes loaded with a variety of dance, music and entertainment. Axwell, a Swedish DJ will be making a much-anticipated return this year on December

29, 2013 to headline the 35,000 event attendees.

Trivia – Sunburn Goa, an electronic dance music festival was ranked by CNN in 2009 as the 9th best music festival in the world.



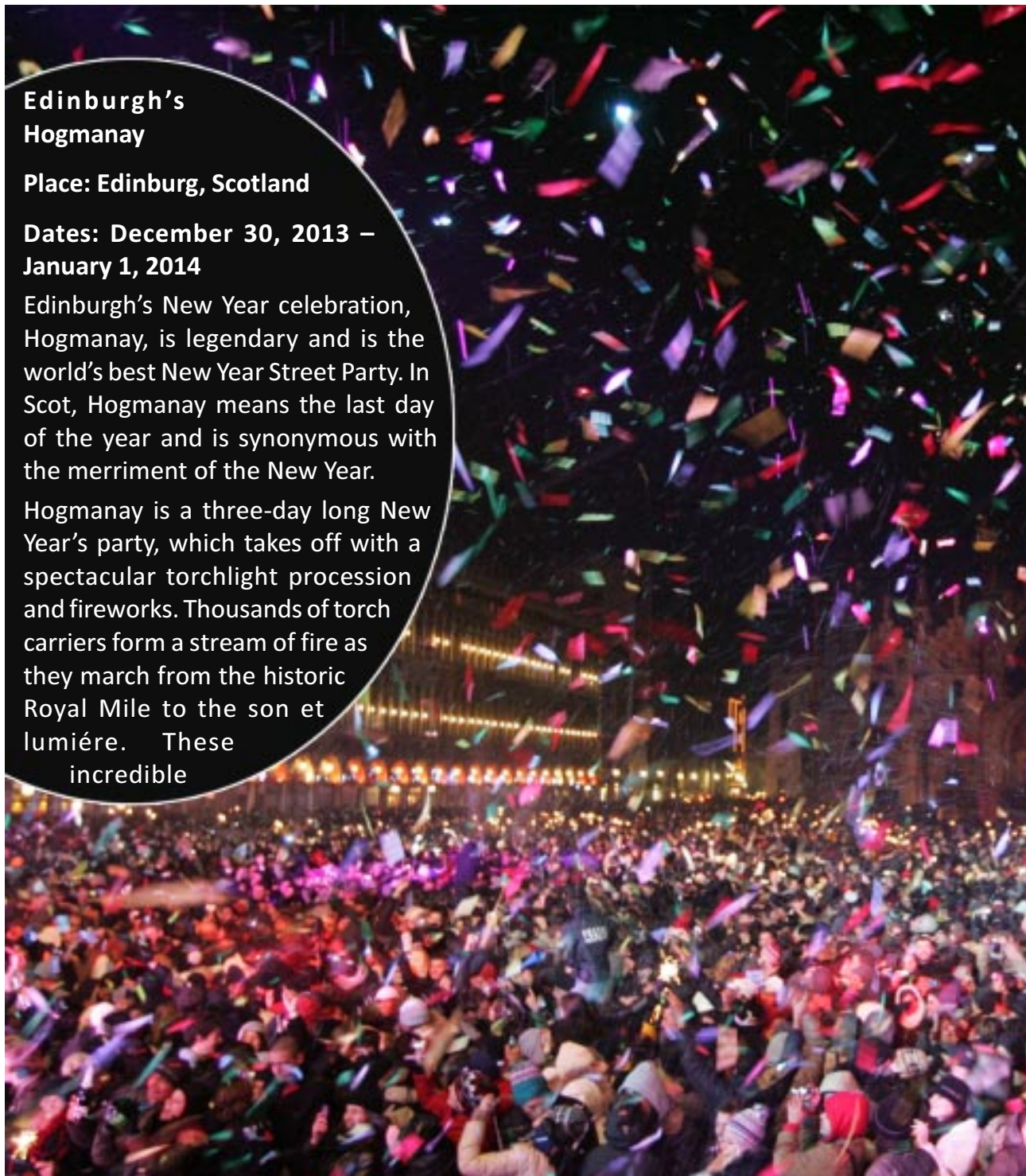
Edinburgh's Hogmanay

Place: Edinburg, Scotland

Dates: December 30, 2013 – January 1, 2014

Edinburgh's New Year celebration, Hogmanay, is legendary and is the world's best New Year Street Party. In Scot, Hogmanay means the last day of the year and is synonymous with the merriment of the New Year.

Hogmanay is a three-day long New Year's party, which takes off with a spectacular torchlight procession and fireworks. Thousands of torch carriers form a stream of fire as they march from the historic Royal Mile to the son et lumière. These incredible





days remain packed up with the cultural highlights like theatre, music, dance and street extravaganzas. Thousands of people gathers at the old streets of central Edinburgh to witness one of the world's biggest fireworks displays with famous Edinburgh castle as a backdrop. This massive party boasts to attract huge crowds from across the globe. Around 100,000 revellers are expected to gather to welcome the year 2014 in style.

Trivia – Nearly 80,000 revellers sing the world's largest Auld Lang Syne (a Scots poem) at Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party on New Year's Eve.



W L T

World Luxury Tourism