

World

Luxury Travel

Magazine

Vol. 3 ■ Issue 3 ■ October, 2014

Five Exclusive Safaris of the World

Dubai

**A seesaw of premium
luxuries and quaint pleasures**

**November
Festivals
around the Globe**

**Five Heritage Hotels
to Experience**





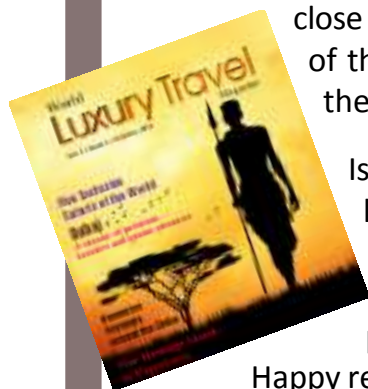
The World Luxury Tourism travelled extensively in Europe recently. Our experiences, including the lovely cuisine, will all be covered in the coming issues of the e-magazine. This month, we are talking about the Exclusive Safaris around the world that you must visit for the experience. Flip through our cover story for details.

Gold ATM and snowboarding in the hot desert city of Dubai caught our attention. Know about more such attractions of Dubai in our CityGuide section of the e-zine.

Ever wondered how it would feel to be a king in a palace? You can actually experience something close to it in one of the many heritage hotels of the world today. Find out our picks in the Luxe Stays section here.

Is there anything you would particularly like to know more about? Send us a mail or mention or a message and we would bring you all the information possible.

Happy reading!



Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief

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November Festivals around the Globe

Due to technical difficulties, the October issue of the e-zine was delayed. The issue has been resolved and it's all fine now.
Thank you!

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Five Exclusive Safaris of the World

A safari is basically a trip undertaken to observe animals in their natural habitats. Usually the word 'safari' triggers images of Africa – vast expanses of grasslands, stunted trees, giraffes with gently swaying necks, menacing lions poised for the kill and a huge, orange sun dipping below the horizon. The vast continent of Africa, home to the 'Big Five' (leopard, lion, rhinoceros, buffalo and elephant), has traditionally been the safari destination of the world. It still ranks foremost among the safari destinations of the world. However, if you thought safaris begin and end with Africa, think again. Take a look at some of the different safaris you can experience in different parts of the world. Here are five exclusive safaris of the world, each a fantastic experience in its own way.

Incidentally, the word 'safari' derives its roots from the Swahili and Arabic words 'safara' meaning 'journey'.

Let us begin our 'safar' – our journey of discovery.



Micato Safaris – Micato Grand Safari

Destination: Kenya, Africa

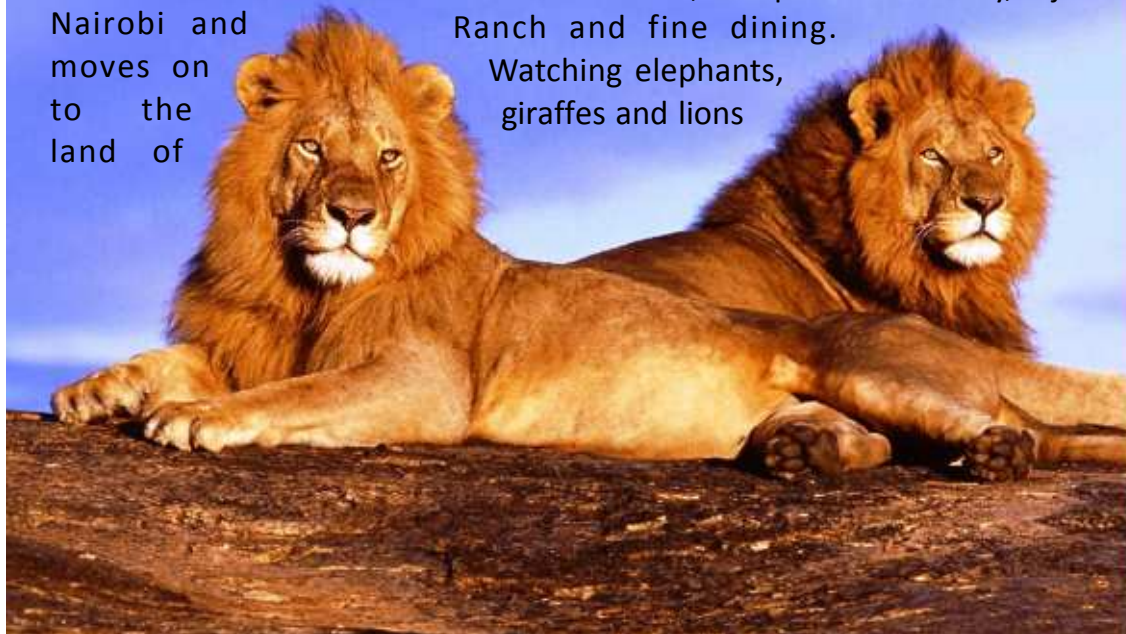
Duration: 15 days

Micato, named “World’s Best Tour Operator and Safari Outfitter” for nine consecutive years by Travel+Leisure, conducts the top-luxury Micato Grand Safari. Stay is arranged at high-end luxury resorts coupled with some of the best sights and experiences you can have in Africa. The 15-day trip starts at Nairobi and moves on to the land of



big game, Maasai tribe and Amboseli. With the luxurious Mount Kenya Safari Club as base, enjoy the beauty of the towering Mt Kenya, visits to the Rhino Reserve, Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Pejeta Ranch and fine dining.

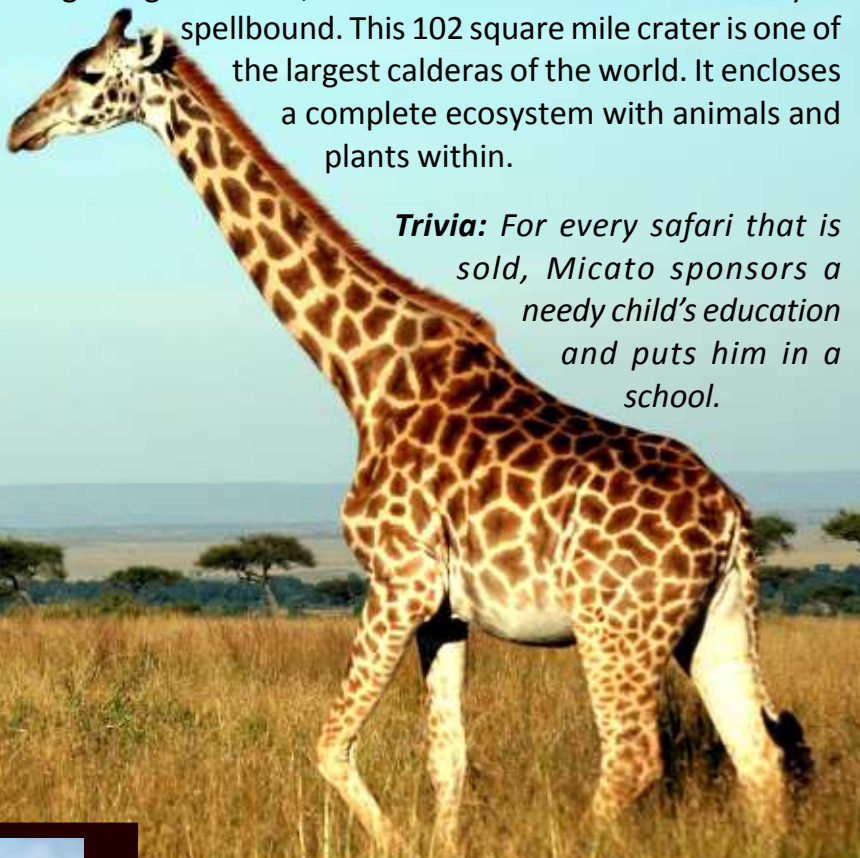
Watching elephants, giraffes and lions



gathering around a water hole is an unforgettable experience. Stalking and hunting, scenes straight out of television come alive under your nose. The next day takes you to Serengeti land with forests, grasslands, hippos, lions and crocodiles to marvel at. Equally fantastic is the cultural experience of interacting with the Maasai people. An early morning hot air balloon ride over Maasai Mara is a magical

experience. A visit to the Serengeti National Park will enthrall you with the diversity of the landscape and wildlife. By the time this visit is over, you will probably have seen more animals in the two days than you would have ever seen before. The last leg of the safari takes you to the marvellous Ngorongoro Crater, a natural wonder that will leave you spellbound. This 102 square mile crater is one of the largest calderas of the world. It encloses a complete ecosystem with animals and plants within.

Trivia: For every safari that is sold, Micato sponsors a needy child's education and puts him in a school.



Wayoutback Australian Safaris - Jabiru Dreaming Top End 4WD Safari

Destination: Australia

Duration: 5day/4Night

This small-group safari in the Top End region of Australia is an exploration of some of the greatest natural parks and indigenous cultures. Camping, cooking over campfires, hiking, paddling, swimming, all form part of this interesting trip. The safari begins at the Kakadu National Park. The first stop is at the Mary River Wetlands where over 250 species of birds can be found. The area is also renowned for saltwater crocodiles. Further on, there is great bird-watching opportunities at the waterhole





in Mamukala Wetlands. Move on to Ubbir in the East Alligator Region, encounter aboriginal rock art and view the floodplains and distant Arnhem land from the Nadab lookout. Enjoy the scenery and some swimming at lovely waterfalls of Twin, Jim Jim and Edith Falls. The Nitmiluk (Katherine Gorge) is the hotspot of the Jawoyn tribe. It is also crocodile land as well as the place to spot birds like ospreys, red-tailed black

cockatoos and the endangered Gouldian Finches. Finally the trip moves to Litchfield National Park where native animals like kangaroos, wallabies, sugar glider and the rare orange leaf-nosed bat are to be found. Finally the safari in an air-conditioned 4WD vehicle comes to an end in Darwin.

Trivia: *Aborigine tribes are 40,000 years old and their history is recorded through rock art and stories!*

Arctic Cruise Adventure: Polar Bear Country - Abercrombie & Kent

Destination: Arctic Islands

Duration: 15 days

This is a safari unlike any other. It offers the opportunity to travel to the remote arctic regions with its pristine snow cover, aurora borealis and native fauna. The trip starts

from Oslo and moves to one of the remotest archipelagos in the world – the Spitsbergen Island. Here, you go aboard the 'Le Boreal', the luxury cruise vessel in which the trip is organised. In the glacier covered islands of Svalbard, have your breath taken away by sightings of polar bears, walrus, musk oxen and the native flora that bursts into life during the midnight sun of July. The cruise moves along Greenland Sea to Greenland.



You will be enchanted by the sight of the fiords and reindeers. At the Denmark Strait watch out for seabirds and whales and enjoy the captain's farewell dinner. The next day, visit the Husavik Whale Museum in the famous whale watching town of Husavik. The cruise now heads to the Western fiords with

its sparkling glaciers and waterfalls. Catch the fascinating tour of the Snaefellsnes Peninsula before the trip comes to an end at Reykjavik.

Trivia: *Norilsk, Russia, is the northern-most city in the world; the average temperature here is minus 20 degrees!*



Baghvan Safari

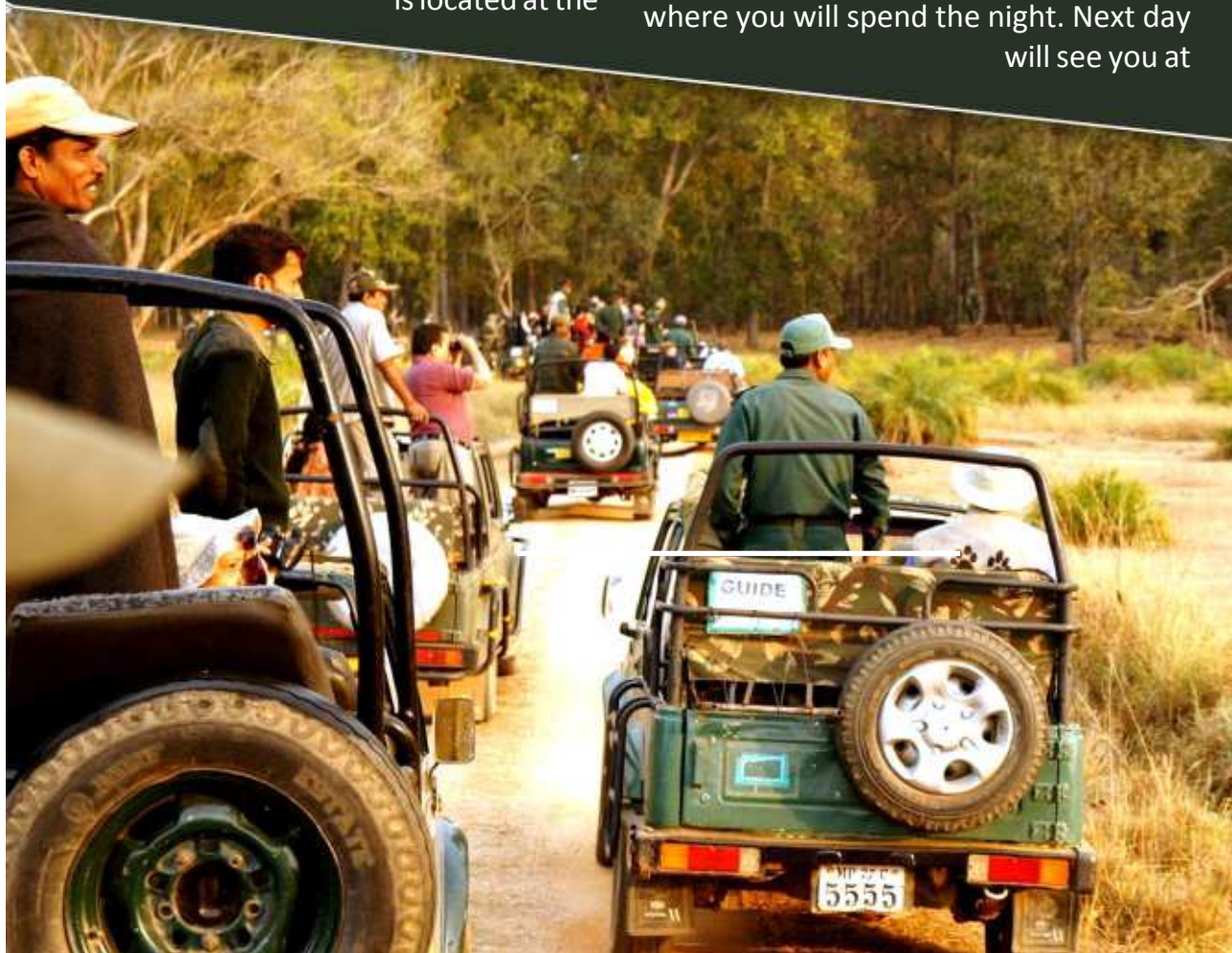
Bliss, Pench National Park – Taj Safaris

Destination: India

Duration: 6 days

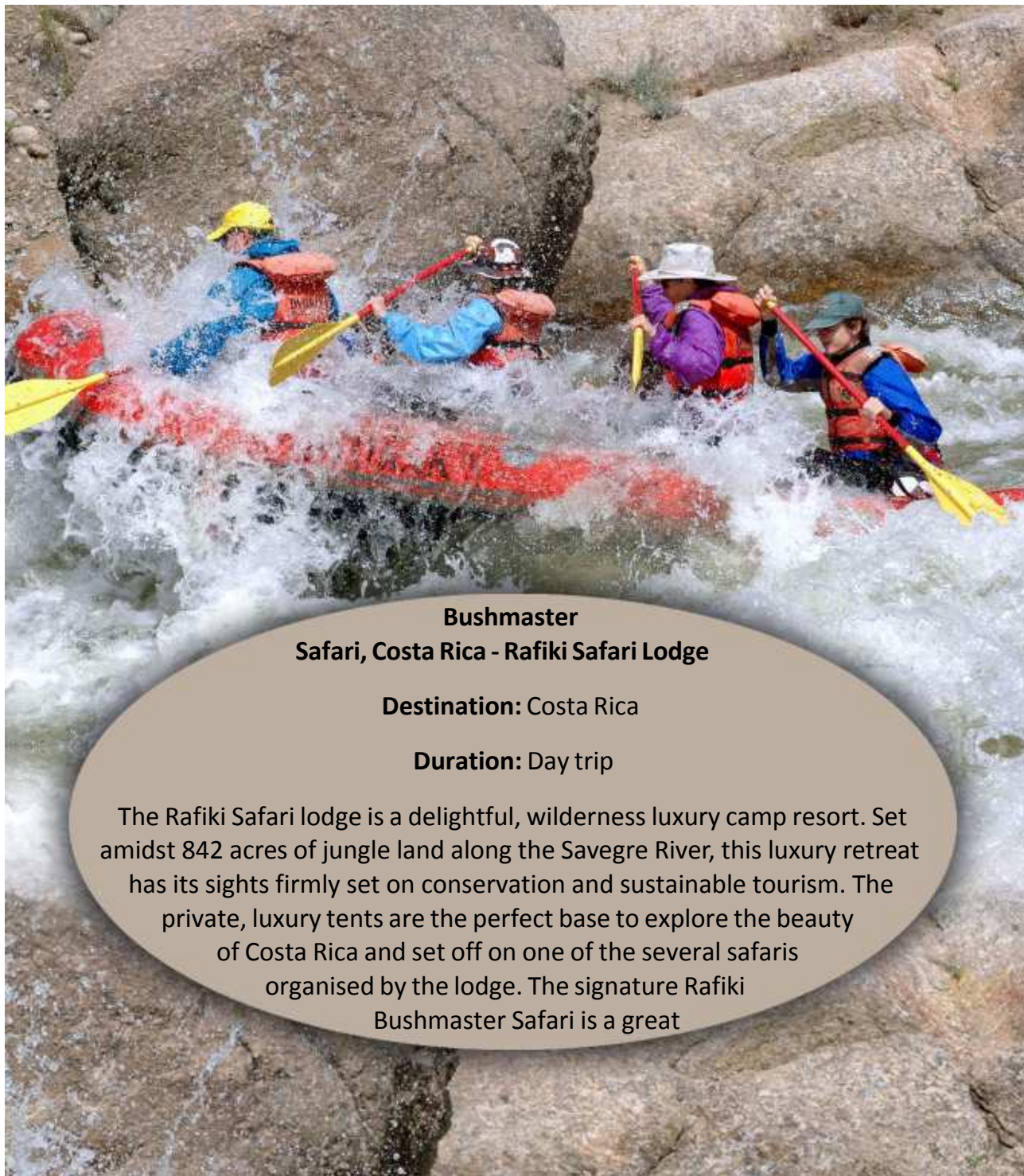
Baghvan, the name itself stands for India's pride – the Bengal tiger; 'bagh' meaning tiger and 'van' (pronounced like 'one') meaning forest. This charming luxury lodge is located at the

outskirts of the Pench National Park in the state of Madhya Pradesh. The Pench River runs right through the middle of this teak jungle which is home to a rich variety of wildlife. Tiger, leopard, sambar, chital, gaur, nilgai and varieties of birds are to be found here. You will start your journey at the top luxury Taj Mahal Palace and Towers hotel where you will spend the night. Next day will see you at



Baghvan where you will enjoy delicious Indian food and hospitality. An expert &Beyond naturalist will brief you regarding the safari in an open jeep. Twice daily, jeep rides will take you to the jungle where you can see the wildlife in their natural habitats. Yes, there will be expeditions on elephant backs too from where you can look down on tigers.

Trivia: *Pench National Park was immortalised by Rudyard Kipling in his classic "The Jungle Book"!*



**Bushmaster
Safari, Costa Rica - Rafiki Safari Lodge**

Destination: Costa Rica

Duration: Day trip

The Rafiki Safari lodge is a delightful, wilderness luxury camp resort. Set amidst 842 acres of jungle land along the Savegre River, this luxury retreat has its sights firmly set on conservation and sustainable tourism. The private, luxury tents are the perfect base to explore the beauty of Costa Rica and set off on one of the several safaris organised by the lodge. The signature Rafiki Bushmaster Safari is a great

way to explore the country's most pristine river and the spectacular scenery. Hike to the top of a mountain from where you can get a dazzling view of the Savegre Valley and the Pacific Ocean. The hike will require you to be in good form and in good shoes. Stop for a delightful brunch at "el Albino's" charming house. Later, prepare to descend via rafts on a white-water trip. The Class IV and Class III rafting down the upper Savegre is pure adrenaline rush. This trip can be undertaken from April to August and December to March. The area is home to tapirs, jaguars, fish and a breath-taking variety of birds including toucans, kingfishers and egrets.

Trivia: More than 850 species of birds, more than in all of North America, is to be found in Costa Rica!





“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” – Mark Twain. Go beyond the usual holidays, the cities and the landmarks. Choose a safari and discover the wonders of nature and wildlife, which are often missed for the more noisy pleasures of life.



Dubai

*A seesaw of premium
luxuries and quaint pleasures*



Dubai's humble rise from a pearl-diving centre and an exchange harbour to a leading tourist and business hub is much like the rags-to-riches story. Wedged between Europe and Asia, it is a shining gem among all the emirates that constitute the United Arab Emirates.

Home to more than two million people from 200 nationalities, this cosmopolitan hub boasts of the

world's tallest high-rises, innovative and futuristic architecture, iconic buildings, innumerable shopping malls and the best of entertainment and recreational facilities. Meticulous planning, spectacular infrastructure and ambitious ventures have made this thriving metropolis and oil giant a world class leisure and business destination in the recent times.



Climate

Dubai has a tropical desert climate with extremely hot, humid and very dry summers. The average temperature ranges from 40 degree Celsius (during day time) to 30 degree Celsius (at night). The highest recorded temperature in Dubai is 60.5 degree Celsius in 2012. Rainfall is scarce, irregular and occurs between March to April. Winters are warm and short.

It goes without saying that the best time to visit Dubai is during winter, which start from November and continues till April. January and February are the busiest months due to the ever popular Dubai Shopping Festival.



Tourist attractions

The Dubai Fountains – The world's largest dancing fountain located at the base of the world's tallest tower is undoubtedly one of the best attractions of the city. Located on the 30-acre Burj Khalifa Lake, the 900 feet long fountain shoots water jets as high as 500 feet, almost the height of a 50-storey building. There are five circles of varying sizes and two central arcs. Over 6,600 WET superlights and 25 colour projectors bring to life a visual spectrum of over 1,000 abstract mosaics. The beam of light



shining upward from the fountain is easily the brightest spot in the Middle East.

Palm Jumeirah - Palm Jumeirah is luxury personified and promises a serious pampering session. It has everything you could possibly ask for – reputed hotels, mind-blowing tourist attractions, opulent shopping malls, exquisite fine dining restaurants, amusement parks, spas, beaches, pools, gardens, theme parks, water sports etc. It is the ultimate destination for entertainment and recreation of all sorts.



Ski Dubai - This first indoor ski resort in the Middle East is a miracle in itself where it snows right in the middle of the soaring desert temperatures. You can enjoy skiing, snowboarding and tobogganing throughout the year. All skiing attires and gears are readily available.



Wild Wadi - Located in front of the Burj Al Arab, Wild Wadi is a very popular amusement park. Themed around the tale of Juha from the Arabian folklore, it offers entertainment for tourists of all ages.



Dubai Marina – A comparatively new addition set in the backdrop of the amazing buildings of JBR, Dubai Marina is a district known for its panoramic views, walkways, landscaped waterways and scenic boat rides. Located in the heart of the city and touted as ‘New Dubai’, it is both well planned and highly sought after. It boasts of several fine dining venues, splendid skyscrapers, glitzy malls, the Dubai Marina Yacht Club and so on.



Must dos:

- ***Visit a gold ATM*** – Believe it or not Dubai actually has few gold ATMs from where you can collect gold bars and gold coins.
- ***Play polo on a camel.***
- ***Take a tour of Dubai's best – The gold souk and spice souk.***
- ***Enjoy a belly dancing performance and sunset barbeque right in the middle of the desert.***
- ***Visit Burj Khalifa*** – The tallest building in the world surrounded by hotels, shopping destinations and a world of entertainment offers spectacular views and is a must visit attraction.



Indulge in seven star luxuries –

Pamper yourself at the fourth tallest hotel and the most iconic building of the world, a tourist attraction in itself, the Burj al Arab. It is the only seven star hotel in the world.



Play golf amidst the dunes.

Skydive over the Palm Jumeirah or over the desert.

Enjoy the wonders of air conditioning – From air

conditioned footbridges for tram users, air conditioned bus stations, walkways, crossings, subways to air conditioned predestination network and green roofs for buildings, Dubai leaves no stones unturned. The Palazzo Versace Hotel will introduce the world's first beach with refrigerated sand when it opens its doors.

Take an Abra or a small wooden boat across the Creek.



- ***Watch brilliant theatrical performances 43 stories up at The Act Dubai.***

- ***Have a desert adventure –***

Take your pick from dune bashing, camel safari, camping under the stars, visiting a camel farm, opting for desert safari, sand boarding, swimming with the dolphins, outdoor excursions,

helicopter flights, wildlife tours, sand skiing, hot air ballooning, bungee jumping, water sports, skydiving, mountain biking, kite surfing, reef diving, climbing, kayaking etc.

- ***Visit the authentic Arab mud brick houses at Al Bastakiya and the Old Fort.***

- ***Try retail therapy, wellness wonders and gourmet delights.***

Shopping

Dubai – ‘Do Buy’ all the pleasures money can afford

Shopping is an art in Dubai. Teeming with some of the best shopping malls in the world, it is the hub of retail therapy. Innovative architecture, elite boutiques, top brands, haute couture, latest gadgets and unlimited dining and entertainment options define the malls. The Dubai Mall is the world's largest. Other eminent ones include Mall of the Emirates, Deira City Centre, Jumeirah Plaza, Wafi Shopping Mall etc. The Dubai Shopping

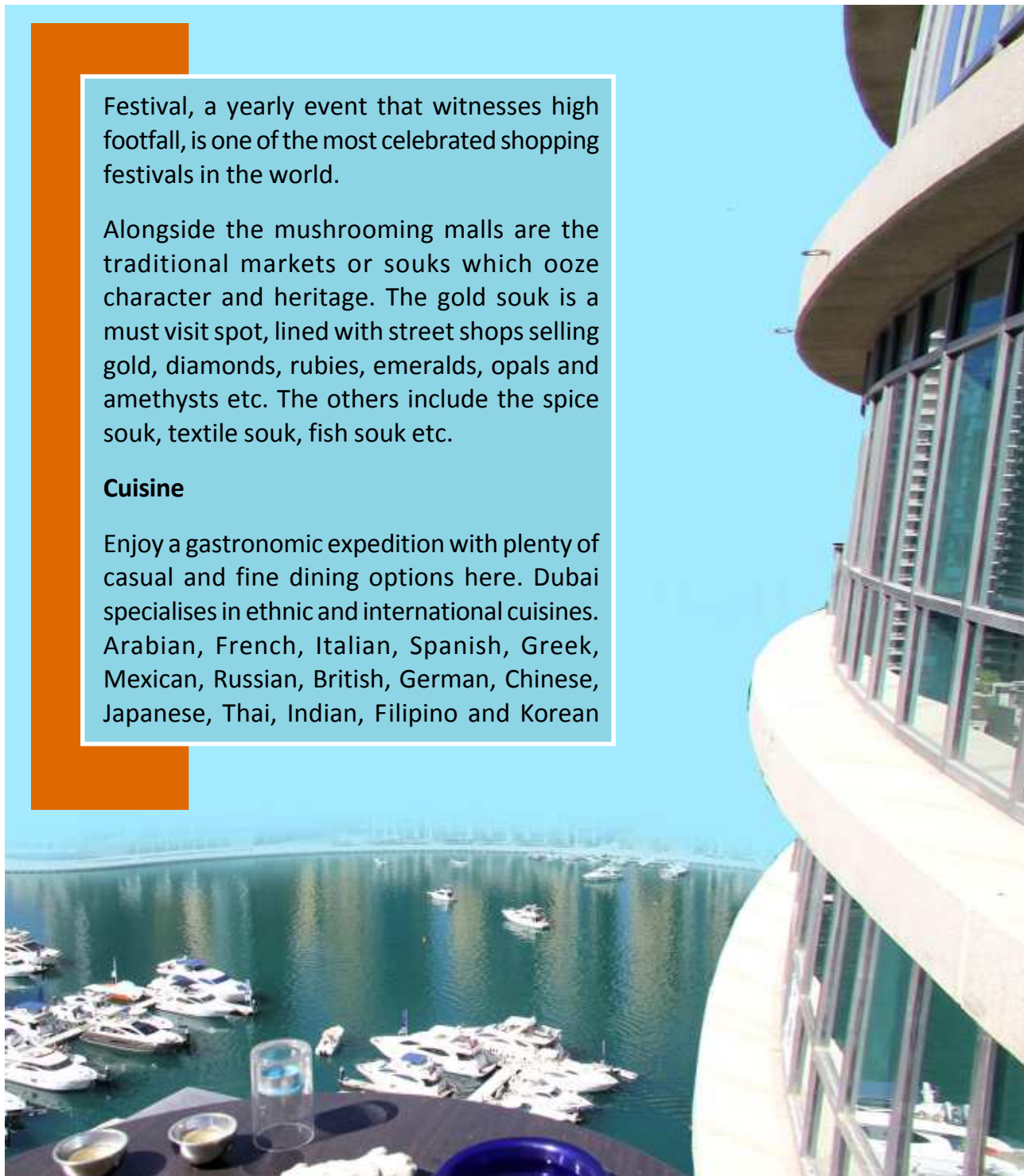


Festival, a yearly event that witnesses high footfall, is one of the most celebrated shopping festivals in the world.

Alongside the mushrooming malls are the traditional markets or souks which ooze character and heritage. The gold souk is a must visit spot, lined with street shops selling gold, diamonds, rubies, emeralds, opals and amethysts etc. The others include the spice souk, textile souk, fish souk etc.

Cuisine

Enjoy a gastronomic expedition with plenty of casual and fine dining options here. Dubai specialises in ethnic and international cuisines. Arabian, French, Italian, Spanish, Greek, Mexican, Russian, British, German, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Indian, Filipino and Korean





cuisine are popular here. Characteristic spices in the local cuisine include cinnamon, saffron, turmeric, almonds, pistachios, limes and dried fruits.

Must carry:

- Sunscreen lotion with a high sun protection factor
- Moisturizer and lip balm (during the dry season)
- A straw hat or cap
- Sunglasses
- Light jacket and heavier ones during winters
- Comfortable shoes
- Loose garments
- Stole



Getting there:

Air – More than 120 airlines worldwide fly to Dubai. The world renowned Emirates - Dubai's national airline is the most popular one. The Dubai International Airport and nearby Sharjah International Airport are both modern, well maintained and world class.

Bus/Car – You can reach Dubai by bus from Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Al Ain and Muscat.

Diverse and unique, Dubai has an old world charm that is hard to miss. Exotic pleasures, unthinkable luxuries and innovative offerings make this opulent enclave a miracle in itself. Cloaked in heritage yet progressive as ever, Dubai has its roots firmly sealed in the past while it marches ahead with zealous strides towards an even bright and promising future.



Five Heritage Hotels to Experience





The confluence of the regal and contemporary

Imagine the excitement of walking through the empty corridors of a former castle, residing in the royal bedrooms dating back to thousands of years or sitting at the dinner table once occupied by the kings and queens! The ancient forts and palaces hold the key to various fascinating mysteries and open doors to myths, half-truths and tales

of make believe. Only a handful is accessible to the world but luckily some of these landmarks have been converted into hotels in the later years for guests to stay. Agreed, heritage hotels are hard to come by so make sure you visit one whenever you get an opportunity. After all, the treasured secrets are only revealed to those who seek.

Take a look at our chosen retreats and tell us which one you would like to visit:

Hôtel de la Cité, Carcassonne, France

The fairy-tale city of Carcassonne oozes romance and history like no other. Hôtel de la Cité, a magnificent castle set inside the ramparts of the UNESCO World Heritage site is the only retreat in the region that enjoys such a unique backdrop. The amazing gardens and the cobblestone paths welcome you to the land of fantasy. The medieval citadel in the heart of Carcassonne is in the vicinity of all the major attractions of the region that you can explore during the day. As the sun sets, it casts a magical glow on the castle that looks like it has been lifted off from the pages of history. The Michelin-starred restaurant has a scrumptious spread for guests. Sip on a glass of wine under the towering trees in the evening as you take in the medieval appeal of the place.



Fenton Tower, North Berwick, Scotland

This glorious fortified 16th century Fenton Tower is located 18 miles east of Edinburgh near the coastal town of North Berwick. It is well known for being the refuge of King James VI of Scotland when he was escaping from a rebel army. Later converted into an exclusive accommodation for



around 12 visitors, it overlooks the fertile farmland of East Lothian along with scenic views over the Firth of Forth. It opened for public in 2002 after a dedicated





restoration. The ever fascinating, rolling countryside of Scotland surround this five star heritage property that spans over 20 acres. The famous golf courses adjacent to the tower are also a major draw. The walls of this private hideout are two metres thick. Guests can indulge in various country, sporting and recreational activities like horse riding, archery, fly fishing and so on. An efficient hospitality team will ensure you have a pleasant stay here.



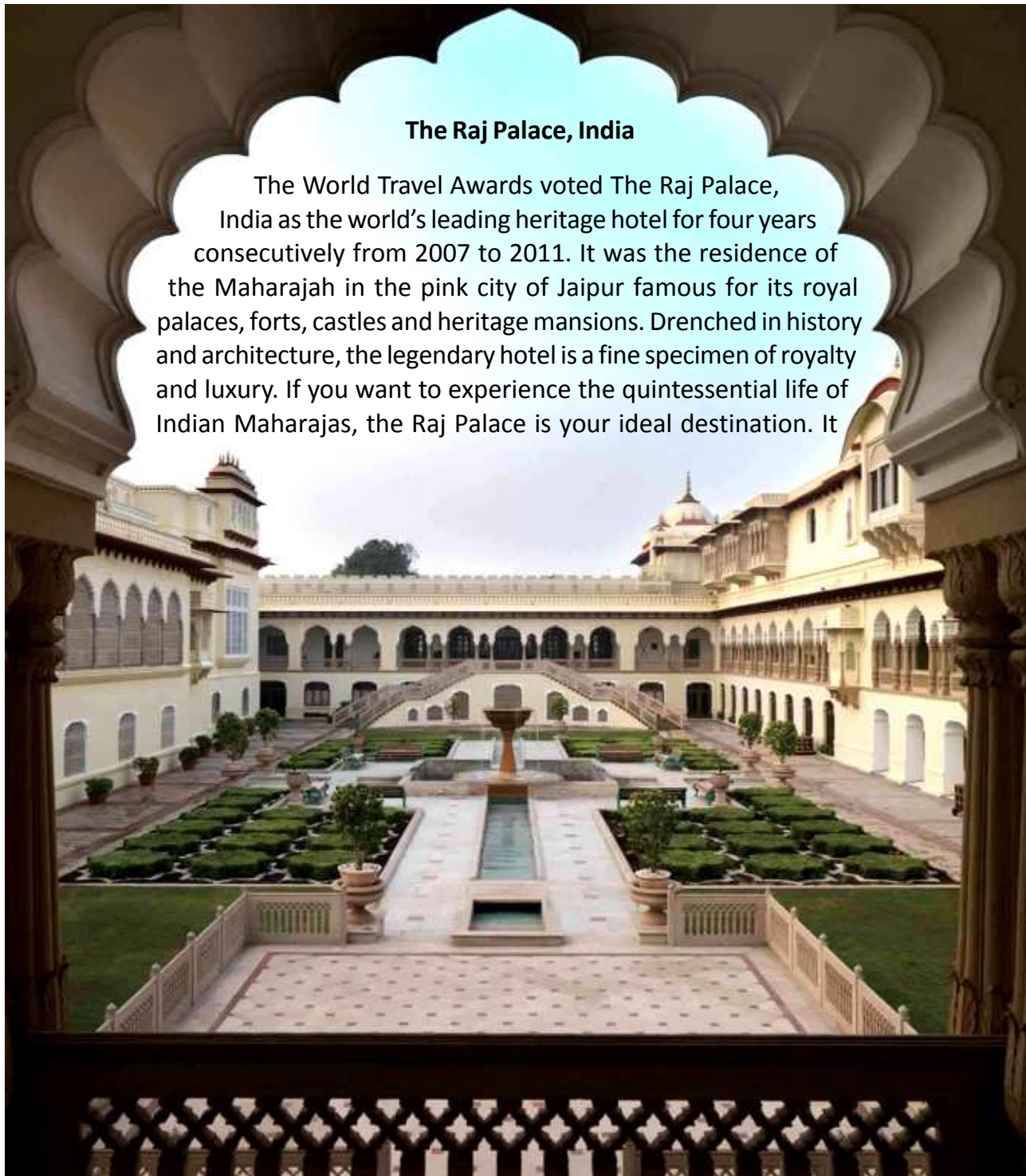
Amberley Castle, West Sussex, England

Hidden away for 900 years in the secluded village of Amberley in the bucolic South Downs countryside, the Amberley Castle is a dream-come-true for heritage lovers. Vibrant landscaped gardens, highly guarded thick walls (18-metres) and grand medieval architecture define this enchanting castle. There are nineteen elegantly appointed rooms, complete with four-poster beds and whirlpool bathrooms where you will be treated like royalty. The wonderful gardens, tennis courts, lush green lawns are all cloaked in an ambience of rare tranquillity. Luxurious facilities and impeccable service are the highlights of the hotel.



The Raj Palace, India

The World Travel Awards voted The Raj Palace, India as the world's leading heritage hotel for four years consecutively from 2007 to 2011. It was the residence of the Maharajah in the pink city of Jaipur famous for its royal palaces, forts, castles and heritage mansions. Drenched in history and architecture, the legendary hotel is a fine specimen of royalty and luxury. If you want to experience the quintessential life of Indian Maharajas, the Raj Palace is your ideal destination. It





features elaborate suites with every possible facility and aristocratic grandeur. The hotel has a number of highly acclaimed multi-cuisine restaurants, one of which displays the biggest crystal chandelier of India. The antique crockery museum has a



collection of around 200 year old ornate crockery used by the royal family. The spa offers Ayurvedic Massages, Kerala Massages as well as various herbal treatments to rejuvenate your body and mind. There is a provision of sightseeing by elephant and camel safaris. The world class facilities and dedicated services along with the unique architecture make Raj Palace an eternal historical saga, waiting to be explored.



The Majestic Malacca, Malaysia

The Majestic Malacca dates back to the 1920s but was later renovated extensively. Now the modern building mirrors the original architecture of the heritage mansion. Located on a lovely riverbank, the Majestic Malacca unfolds the tale of a majestic empire. The ancient estate lies at the heart of the reconstructed complex. There are 54 opulent rooms and suites for visitors. It is a perfect confluence of the old and new, the modern and historic. Guests



are up for a truly authentic experience here. Exquisite porcelain flooring, teakwood fittings, intricate artwork and antiques showcase the essence of a bygone era.

There is a certain thrill in unravelling the fantasy of the yesteryears, delving deep into the glory of the past and attempting to relive and revive the charm of a by-gone era.

While some like to toy with the facts and figures of ancient ruins at a heritage site others love to be transported into the land of surreal fairy-tales, miles away from the monotony of daily life.

Take a trip to a heritage hotel during your next vacation to cherish an experience of a different kind. These age old abodes, resplendent with lavish luxuries, have stood the test of time to offer the best of the traditional and the modern world to those who come to discover.



November Festivals around the Globe





Pirate Week Festival

Place: George Town, Cayman Islands

Dates: November 6 – 16, 2014

For all the fans of Pirates of the Caribbean, if you want to see the movie come alive, visit Cayman Islands in November. This is a fun-filled family event stretching over 11 days. Mock pirate invasions, treasure hunts, fancy dress and a host of lively events take place during this time. Amazing fireworks open the show followed by



dancing and parades. Everywhere you will rub shoulders with patch-eyed, tattoo-sporting, hooked-armed 'pirates'. There is something for everyone including events for kids and teenagers. Swimming contests, food fairs, live music and sporting competitions are all part of the festival.

Trivia: Do not miss the fascinating Cardboard Boat Race!

choosing the Festival Queen, Street Dance and Food Festival. The opening weekend is marked by a pirate invasion. Costumed pirates land from old time sailing ships in a surprise invasion and a lot of good-natured fun follows. The pirate theme is played out in fancy dresses, singing,





Surin Elephant Roundup

Place: Surin, Thailand

Dates: November 3rd week, 2014

Elephants are the stars of the show in this amazing festival. Every year in Surin (the Land of the Elephants), around three hundred elephants and their mahouts showcase their amazing skills. The festival begins with an elephant parade. It is followed by the Elephant Breakfast Show where elephants move towards the city carrying visitors and mahouts in authentic Thai war

outfits. The elephants are offered feasts of fruits and other delicacies to their tastes. There is a fascinating elephant show and elephant soccer game. Later, at the Srinarong open-air stadium, past century battles will be re-enacted. Traditional music and dance form part of the show.

Trivia: The festival showcases the importance of elephants in Thai culture and history.



Thanksgiving

Place: USA

Dates: November 27, 2014

One of the most important festivals cum tradition in the U.S. Thanksgiving was a harvest celebration by the English settlers in America. The first settlers, known as the Pilgrim Fathers, set aside a day to thank God for their first harvest and invited the helpful native Indians to their feast. The tradition continues



in honour of the pilgrims. In the present times, it is a time to get together with the family, give thanks and feast together. There is a spirit of joy and festivity and this is the time for giving gifts. Flowers, jewellery, cakes, chocolates are all given as gifts of appreciation to family and friends. Traditionally dishes like roast turkeys, pumpkin pies, corn and cranberry sauce are part of the Thanksgiving feasts.

Trivia: *The holiday season in the U.S begins with Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving.*





World Luxury Tourism