



World

# Luxury Travel

Magazine

Vol. 2 ■ Issue 3 ■ October, 2013

**World's Most  
Ambitious  
Amusement Parks**

**Happy  
Halloween**

Five Creepiest  
Lighthouses of the  
World

**Bangladesh  
International  
Tourism  
Fair 2013**

**November Festivals  
& Events Around  
the Globe**

**Hotels for the  
Health Conscious**



Welcome to another edition of the World Luxury Travel Magazine! This month, we are letting you feel the rush of adrenaline with our cover story on the most ambitious amusement parks in the world. Yes, we guarantee that you would feel the rush and thrill just by reading about the rides. Have fun!

Trick or treat? Yes, Halloween! To mark this hair raising and fun filled festival, we present to you, some of the creepiest light houses around the globe. Our writer Prabha said it gave her the creeps and sleepless nights writing this article!

A feature for the health conscious traveller! Do you constantly fret about food and maintaining your health regime while travelling? Don't! This issue features hotels that help you to 'not compromise' with your health care, exercise and diet regime. Head to our Luxe Stays section for details.

A round up of all the happenings of the coming month will be the perfect way to finish reading this issue of the e-zine.

Happy reading!

  
Manashree Prakash  
Editor-in-Chief

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**World**  
**Luxury Travel**  
**Magazine**

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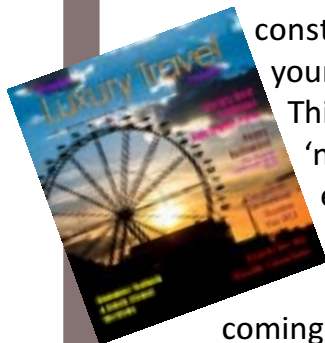
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# Contents

## World's Most Ambitious Amusement Parks



**5** || Cover Story

**Luxe Stay** || **24**



**Hotels for the  
Health Conscious**

**Feature** || **16**



## Happy Halloween

Five Creepiest Lighthouses of the World

**34** || Event Watch



**Bangladesh  
International  
Tourism Fair 2013**

**36**

**Happenings**

**November  
Festivals &  
Events  
Around the  
Globe**



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# World's Most Ambitious Amusement Parks



Walt Disney dreamt of a 'magical park' and the resulting Disneyland is the ultimate dream destination for children all over the world. Today there are hundreds of amusement parks in the world. They are fantastic fun-destinations, complete with thrilling rides, fascinating themes and an amazing variety of wonderful experiences. But have you ever wondered how it all began? The origin of the amusement parks can be traced to the quaint, medieval fairs and pleasure gardens in Europe. The world's oldest functional amusement park, Bakken was opened in Denmark in 1853. World fairs and exhibitions in the U.S. slowly gave rise to the development of amusement parks with fixed locations. Games, shows and food were all included to attract crowds. The World





Columbian Exposition, displaying the 'Ferris Wheel' for the first time, marked the true beginning of the modern amusement parks. The iconic 'Coney Island' attracted millions of visitors annually. World War II saw the closing of many amusement parks. In 1950 'Disneyland' was opened and with it, the amusement park rage truly began. Today amusement parks, especially theme parks (parks designed around a central theme) are hugely popular.

Modern amusement parks have come a long way from old-fashioned carnivals. They are ambitious projects with

dazzling rides, technological advancements and huge investments; everything about them is designed to be bigger and better and they keep inventing new attractions to keep the crowds coming. Step into this glittering, fascinating world and see what make it tick!



Photo by Erich Heidrich



### Walt Disney World, Florida

The most visited entertainment resort on planet earth, the Walt Disney World is spread over 30,080 acres and has 4 theme parks, 2 water parks (Typhoon Lagoon, Blizzard Beach) and 24 themed resorts. The dream child of Walt Disney, this resort is located in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Truly an enchanted land, the popular theme parks includes:



**M a g i c  
Kingdom** - This is a child's dream come alive. Popular Disney characters, lovely fireworks shows, musical parades and lands like fantasy land and adventure land will keep children spell-bound. Exciting boat rides, the thrilling Space Mountain ride and Cinderella's Castle are top attractions here.



**Epcot** - This fascinating 300-acre theme park features international pavilions and award-winning fireworks. Take a breath-taking journey to Mars with Mission Space, enjoy the International Food and Wine Festival or experience the best rides like the Test Track (a thrilling mile long race car ride) and Soarin' - a flight simulator lifting you 40 feet high for a 'hang-gliding' experience around an Imax dome for a spectacular, aerial, cinematic tour of Californian landmarks.



**Disney's Animal Kingdom** - The largest animal theme park in the world, this wonderful park houses more than 1700 animals covering over 250 species. A testimony to Walt Disney's commitment to conservation, it has exciting attractions

including Oasis and Camp Minnie-Mickey. The amazing attractions include the Kali River Rapids water ride, the

Maharajah Jungle Trek and the Festival of the Lion King. Disney's Animal Kingdom celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 22, this year.

**Disney's Hollywood Studios** - The magic of Hollywood comes alive through various exciting shows and rides. Popular attractions include the Star War Weekends, the thrilling Twilight Zone Tower of Terror ride and The American Idol Experience.



*Wows: Around 17.2 million visitors visit Magic Kingdom, 10.9 million visit Epcot, 9.7 million visit Hollywood Studios and 9.5 million visit Animal Kingdom every year!*



## Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio

Spread over 364 acres and having above 150 rides, shows and attractions, Cedar Point opened in 1870 and is still evolving. Located on a Lake Erie peninsula, it includes 3 parks - The Cedar Point Amusement Park, Soak City and Castaway Bay (water parks). Rightfully dubbed the roller coaster capital of the world, it is the only park in the world with 4 roller coasters above 200 feet. Top thrilling rides include the high-speed Top Thrill Dragster (420 feet), Millennium Force (320 feet) Maverick (95 degrees vertical drop) and Wicked Twister.

There are several other attractions including carousels, water rides and children's areas. The park has been voted as the 'Best Amusement Park in the World'

by  
Amusement  
Today for the past 15  
years.

*Wow: In May 2013, Cedar Point will introduce the newest roller coaster, The Gatekeeper. It will be the longest wing roller coaster (4164 ft.) and the longest vertical drop (164 ft.) in the world!*





## Ferrari World, Yas Island, Abu Dhabi

With the gorgeous Ferrari car as its theme, this is the largest indoor theme park in the world, covering a roof area of 200,000 square meters. The spectacular roof carries the Ferrari logo and covers an area of 3000 sq. m. This amazing park has a range of Ferrari inspired rides and attractions. Foremost is the world's fastest roller coaster, the Formula Rossa with a mind-blowing speed of 240 km/h giving a first-hand feel of a Ferrari F1 car drive. Do not miss the 'Speed of Magic', a 4D fantasy ride featuring a 3D movie along jungles, ice caves and cliffs with real time changes in temperature, lighting and movements. Other popular attractions include Paddock,

Junior Grand Prix and G-Force. Shopping and dining are also popular here.

*Wows: 12,370 tons of steel were used to create the structure of Ferrari World (when you compare that with the 7000 tons needed for Eiffel Tower, you know we are talking big here!)*





## Ocean Park, Hong Kong

Imagine a marine-theme park which also features animal exhibits, has adrenaline pumping rides, shows and combines entertainment with education. Ocean Park does all that and thereby draws around six million visitors annually. The 210 acres of park land is divided by a mountain into The Summit (Headland) and The Waterfront (Lowland). The park is filled with fascinating attractions including the 225 m. long world's second largest outdoor escalator, the fantastic Ocean Express funicular train ride and the hair-raising Abyss Turbo Drop. Here you can see the Giant Panda Habitat, spectacular marine exhibits at the Grand Aquarium, enjoy thrilling rides at Thrill Mountain and even embark on a Polar Adventure! The Ocean Theatre with the endearing and fantastic performances of sea lions and dolphins is a great hit.

**Wows:** *Ocean Park is also an important centre for marine animal conservation, research and education and operates observatories, laboratories and a Whales and Dolphins Fund!*



## Universal Islands of Adventure, Orlando, Florida

This renowned 101-acre park has 'Live the Adventure' as its slogan and exciting journeys from a main port to six themed islands. In the course of the journey, all your childhood comic characters and stories will come alive through exciting rides and shows. Some of the best loved attractions here include The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, The Amazing Adventures of Spiderman, The Jurassic Park River Adventure and Popeye & Bluto's Bilge-Rat Barges (the last two rides will soak you to the skin, so carry spare clothes!) It also has more than 10 dining locations and attracts 7.6 million visitors annually.

**Wow:** *Steven Spielberg served as a creative consultant to help develop the park!*



**Six Flags Magic Mountain,  
Valencia, Santa Clarita, California**

This 260-acre theme park, known as a thrill ride haven, has no less than 17 thrilling roller coaster and over a 100 rides, games and attractions.

The park has the largest number of roller coasters found in any single location in the world with most inversions for





a single park with six looping coasters. The 'Xtreme' park is famous for its special thrills - Tatsu (the tallest, fastest and longest flying coaster in the world); X2 (the only 5<sup>th</sup> dimensional coaster in the world); Apocalypse - the super wooden coaster; the 'super-giant' coaster-Goliath; Superman, the Escape, (at a height of 415 m with a speed of 100 mph), Lex Luthor, Drop of Doom (the tallest vertical drop ride in the world, 400 feet high at 85 mph). Kids need not be disappointed, there are many rides specially designed for them too, like Magic Flyer and The Looney Tunes Lodge.

*Wows: Magic Mountain is introducing another super thrilling ride this*

*year- Full Throttle, the world's tallest, fastest looping roller coaster! Featuring a 160 feet tall loop, a 'top hat' feature and acceleration*







*of 70 mph, the triple-launch coaster will include two forward launches and one backward launch. The coaster will go into a special-effects underground tunnel and a ride over the top hat with a bird's eye view of the entire park just before a 180 degree turn and drop before finally touching base!*

### **World of Thrills**

Scream-provoking rides, jaw-dropping attractions, family fun, dining, shopping – amusement parks have it all. What began

as simple picnic spots or fairs for families to have a good time has evolved into a complex and highly sophisticated affair today. There is great competition and the parks are constantly re-inventing themselves and expanding with ambitious new rides and attractions. We have just brushed the tip of the iceberg here; there are many more fabulous and hugely popular amusement parks throughout the world. Choose one and get on the roller coaster ride of your life.



A large, leafy tree with a white house in the background. The tree is in the foreground, with its branches spreading out. The house is in the background, partially obscured by the tree. The house has a white porch and a white roof. The background is a lush green lawn.

**Feature**

# Happy Halloween

Five Creepiest  
Lighthouses of  
the World



It is said that the endless sea watches over seafarers sailing to its dreary connoisseurs. Souls lost in salty waters are guided by the sea to the shores of afterlife. None the less, these souls of the sea are rumoured to meander about their past dwellings. A Few have lived even to tell tales of their ghostly experiences. This reminds us that it is that time of the year again! It's Halloween! Perhaps this is the best time to take a tour of some of the most haunting spots by the sea! Presenting you the five creepiest lighthouses from around the world -

### ***St Augustine Lighthouse, Florida, USA***

People say smoking is injurious to health, but surely that is no binding for a spirit. You will meet a smoker ghost in this one of the spookiest lighthouses of America. The tall tower that rises 165 feet above sea level has always been a favourite amongst ghost hunters and television documentary makers. The cigar smoking ghost haunts the fuel house. But it is not the only spirit that haunts this place. Wisps of laughter of three children who died by drowning is heard in the tower and one of them even is seen in the blue dress she got drowned in. A sudden chill down the spine may be caused by the spirits of the pirates who were





**18** executed in the lighthouse and buried in the ground behind the tower. They say the ghost of the original owner of the lighthouse still haunts the tower late at night.

Stories of ghosts of a prankish girl in the keeper's place and a tall man in the basement also do the rounds here. If you are visiting, do not forget the poltergeist in the gift shop. The tour guides report that they hear someone climbing the stairs but the footsteps have no human body!

### ***Owl's Head Lighthouse, Maine, USA***

Generally the ghosts are scary, evil, and even harmful. But a trip to Owl's Head might change your concept a little. Who you are going to meet here is a real dutiful and responsible spirit. The Owl's Head lighthouse has two ghosts. One of them is the spirit of a former keeper who still haunts his workplace and is bound to his duties. The mysterious keeper has been seen by others, the later keepers, but mostly through winks and





corners of the eye. His footsteps have been seen on the snow, outside. The spirit keeps lowering the thermostat and polishes the brass work of the lighthouse which is a very essential job. Once the 3 years old daughter of one of the keepers woke her parents up and asked them to ring the fog horn as it was going to be foggy. When questioned, she revealed she had got the information from her imaginary friend whose picture resembled an old sea captain.

The other spirit is known as “the little lady” and she is often seen in the kitchen. Doors have been slammed shut and the utensils rattled. The lighthouse and the keeper’s residence are part of the Owl’s Head Light State Park, though not accessible. The park provides beautiful views of Penobscot bay.





***Point Lookout Lighthouse,  
Maryland, USA***

The light was extinguished more than 45 years ago, and this realm of darkness has been a favourite abode for spirits ever since. The connoisseurs consider it as the most haunted lighthouse in America. The structure is modest by the outlook. Yet, without the beam, it appears very lonely and eerie. During the civil war a hospital and a prison camp for confederate soldiers were situated here. The darkness of the lighthouse still mourns those gallants.

Supernatural occurrences of this place can easily turn your blood cold. Male and female apparitions take form and then vanish in thin air leaving no trace behind. Doors open and slam shut without any earthly reason. Voices, footsteps and even snoring are heard but there are hardly any people who would brave to stay in these forlorn lands. Bet already there are several butterflies flying inside your stomach too! Don't worry! Apart from ghouls, a walk in the soothing state park by the shores is sure to calm your dreadful nerves.



## ***Souter Lighthouse, England***

Souter lighthouse is situated at the village of Marsden, in south Tyneside, Tyne and Wear, England. The lighthouse has been presently decommissioned but open to public. The lighthouse is now the property of the national trust. The engine room, light tower and keeper's quarters are all on display. There is an outdoor play area, club and indoor activities to attract the youth. Two of the keeper's cottages are used as national trust holiday cottages. The foghorns are still in good shape and are sounded on special occasions throughout the year.

Right, you are eager to know about the blood curling tales of ghosts associated with this place. This lighthouse has been featured on British Television's Most Haunted ghost hunting programme. So definitely the place is haunted, in fact one of the most haunted in



**22** United Kingdom. Much of the paranormal activities take place in the kitchen and living area. Staffs have reported spoons denying the rule of gravity. Cold spots and even the feeling of being physically grabbed by some unseen power have robbed witnesses of their senses. Strong odour of tobacco has been felt in the kitchen corridor and in the recreated keeper's cottage area. A waitress

also witnessed the apparition of a man in an old fashioned lighthouse keeper's uniform who disappeared in front of her own eyes.

The most prominent is the ghost of Isabella Darling, the niece of Grace Darling who is the most celebrated maritime heroine of all time. The spirit is seen near the engine room, people hear her cry and call them by their name.



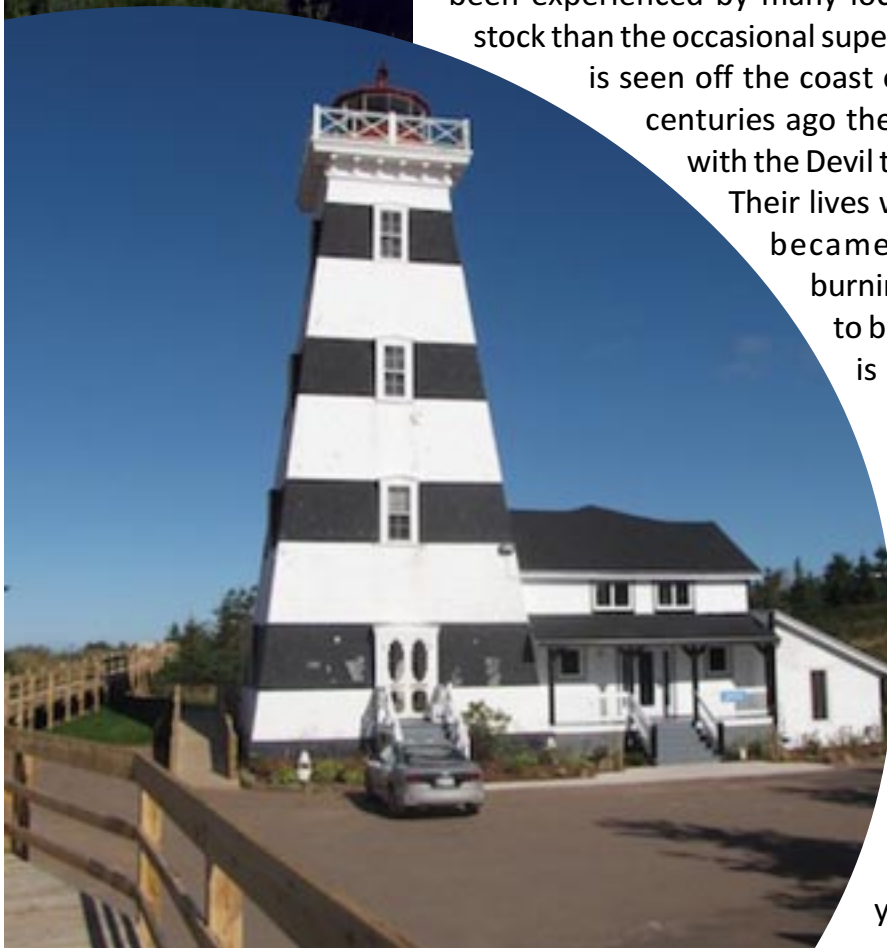




The lighthouse is located at the most recognizable habitation of the Prince Edward Island. It has an inn and a museum. Thirteen rooms of the inn provide you with breath-taking scenic beauty of Northumberland Strait from the shore of West Point, PEI. Eleven rooms provide walkout decks. The keeper's quarter and the Tower Room are in a private guest's section of the West Point Lighthouse Museum.

The friendly ghost of Willie, the first keeper haunts the West Point Lighthouse Inn. His apparition, voice and cold spots have been experienced by many locals. West Point has more in stock than the occasional supernatural event. A burning ship is seen off the coast of O' Leary. Legend says that centuries ago the crew of a ship made a deal with the Devil to save their ship from sinking. Their lives were saved that day but they became cursed for eternity. The burning ship of the coast is believed to be the same ship that the crew is burning on to this day.

We know fear is fun! How about taking fun to the next level this Halloween and get set to one of the nearest and most accessible lighthouses mentioned above? Just grab your crucifix and the bottle of holy water and follow the trail World Luxury Travel Magazine has set for you.

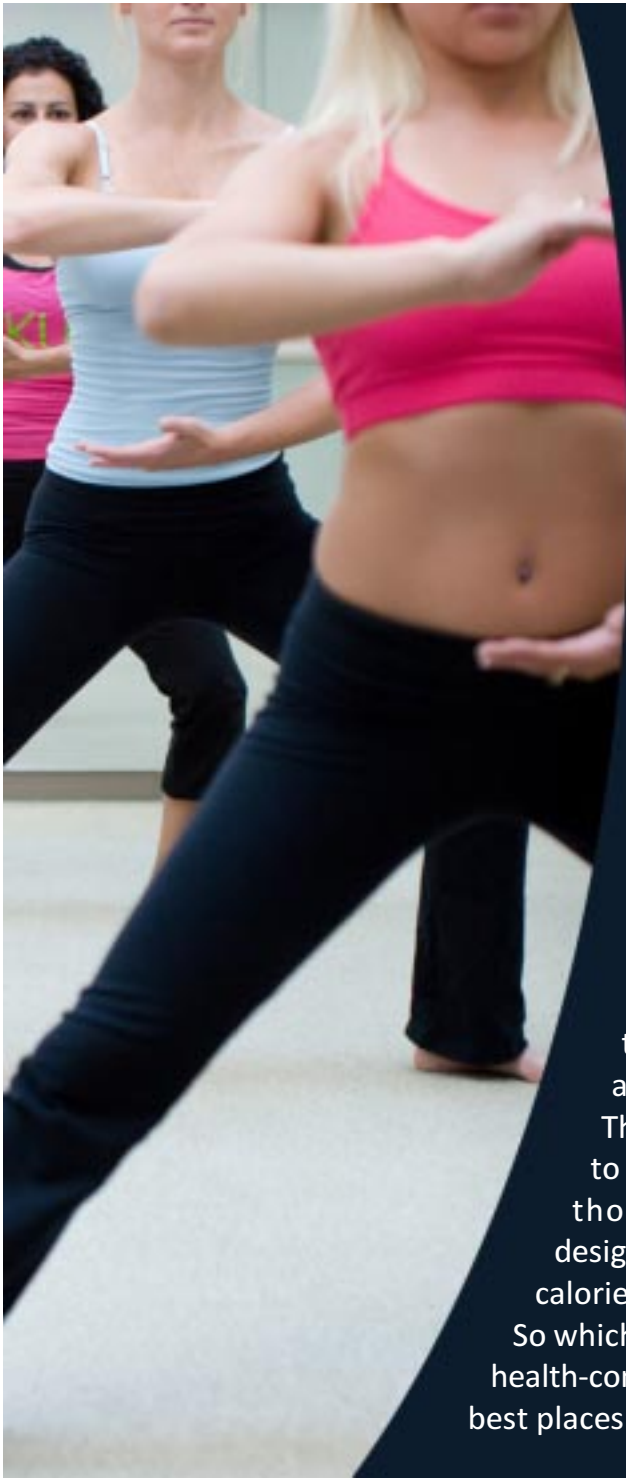


# *Hotels for the Health Conscious*

"When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest, strength cannot fight, wealth becomes useless, and intelligence cannot be applied." Herophilus pretty much summed up the importance of good health in that single line! Today travel is more than just getting away to a different and/or exotic place. Recently the number of international tourists has reached one billion. More and more







people are on the move either for business or pleasure. Traveling used to mean eating out and eating whatever was available. It also used to mean that your regular gym sessions were at halt during your travel days. However, the present scenario is changing. People are getting increasingly health-conscious. It is a big bonus to know that a fortnight's stint away from home will not mean sacrificing your workout or yoga routine or compromising on your health menu. The business travellers often are hard hit with frequent disruptions in the regular flow of their life. They always seek some ways to not let their healthy routine get disrupted. Hotels which cater to the needs of such travellers will obviously be preferred by them.

In keeping with these requirements, hotels are also adapting to the changing trends and needs of travellers. Most good hotels nowadays are equipped with a fitness centre complete with modern workout machines at the disposal of their guests. They also offer aerobics or yoga classes or programs for fitness. The hotel swimming pool is also a great place to work off those extra calories gained from those tempting desserts. Hotel menus are designed to be tasty as well as healthy with low-calorie options and customized diets platters.

So which are the top names in the hotel industry that health-conscious customers are choosing as some of the best places to stay in? Let us take a look.

### **EVEN (InterContinental Hotels Group)**

Even Hotels is the flagship property of InterContinental Hotel Group (IHG) and the first one will be launched in New York in 2014. The hotel is mainly targeted at the health-conscious travellers and it promises that the guests will not have to compromise on their exercise, food or sleep when they stay with them. Designed keeping wellness in mind, the hotel has a wide range of healthy eating and drinking options including vegan fare, a state-of-art fitness centre and in-room workout options like yoga mats, hand weights and weight benches. The fitness theme continues with coat hangers designed to double as a pull



up bar, a 'wellness wall' with fitness options regarding walking distance, equipment rental and free, personalized fitness advice and ideas to guests.

Meals in The Marketplace are designed for both nutrition and energy. Free coffee and shakes are available in the morning. The hypoallergenic linens in the rooms, powerful showerheads in bathrooms, natural lighting and LED dimmers and antibacterial wipes are sure to keep health enthusiasts happy. High speed Wi-Fi, multimedia ports, spacious desks and 'social space' in bars and lobbies are other highlight features.



## Stay Well (MGM GRAND)

How about a healthy sojourn at the Sin City, Las Vegas? In response to your quirked

eyebrows, let us introduce you to the wellness initiative of 'Stay Well' rooms introduced by MGM Grand. Enjoy 'the first of its kind in the world'



experience of 16 health amenities designed by experts. Forty-one rooms have special ventilation, which keeps both freshness

and moisture in adequate level and the rooms is cleaned with hypoallergenic products. Chlorine spoils hair and skin, so these rooms sport special vitamin C showerheads which





would work miracles for the hair and skin. With a few more extra mullahs, you can stay in a room with specially coated surface, which breaks down virus and bacteria. Special attention to the colour of light is given to these rooms. Red spectrum lights are installed in the room to induce good sleep; whereas the

bathrooms have the bluish tone lights to make guest alert and less groggy. The whole air in the room is made clean of pathogens and purified. To maintain a silent and noise free environment, the rooms are sound proofed. Special healthy menus created by top nutritionists of the Cleveland Clinic are available as are daily fresh fruit and vegetable juices. This is a combined effort

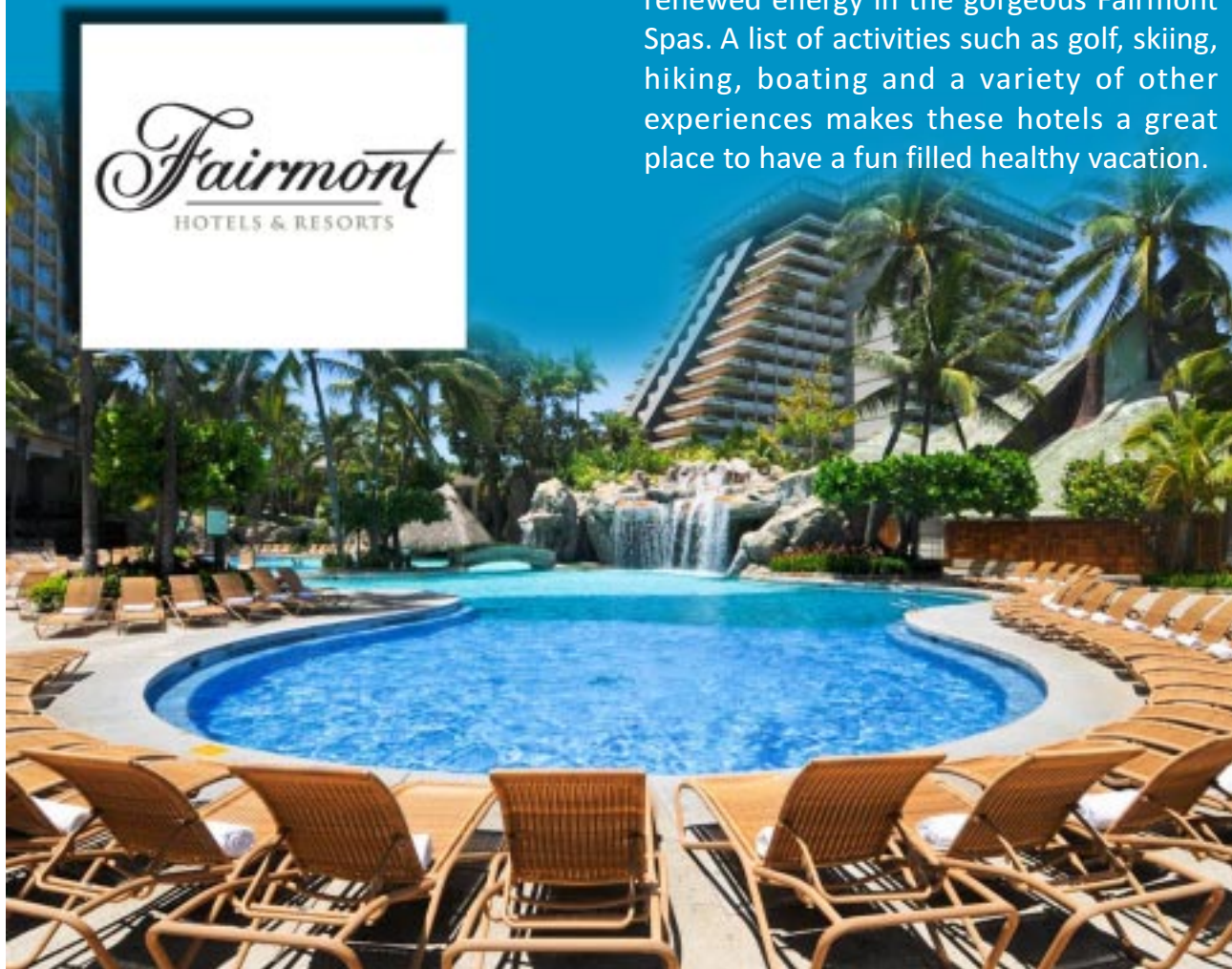
of organizations including Delos, Columbia University Medical Center and Cleveland Clinic who came up with this concept.



## Fairmont Hotels & Resorts

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts is a chain of luxury hotels situated in sixty five of the most exotic places around the world. A wellness program, developed with Katya Baxter Nutrition is one of their specialties. Their Lifestyle Cuisine lays stress on using local produce and organic products. It also caters to individual dietary requirements. Are you diabetic, gluten-intolerant, a vegan

or have a high cholesterol level? Do not worry, the Lifestyle Cuisine program will take care of your special dietary needs. All the Fairmont chefs across the globe have menus representing the distinctive flavour, format and unique food products of the local area, giving it the variation and flavour equal to none. Other than culinary expertise in the health department, customers find this place a sanctuary to relax, have fun and get renewed energy in the gorgeous Fairmont Spas. A list of activities such as golf, skiing, hiking, boating and a variety of other experiences makes these hotels a great place to have a fun filled healthy vacation.

The logo for Fairmont Hotels & Resorts, featuring the word "Fairmont" in a large, elegant, cursive script font, with "HOTELS & RESORTS" in a smaller, clean, sans-serif font underneath.




### Westin Hotels

A group of two hundred hotels following a very healthy trend comes under the Westin Hotels chain. With focus on health and wellness, this hotel chain has signature features like the Heavenly Bed (emphasizing the importance of good sleep) and SuperFoods which are the staple of healthy menus at the hotel. There is a speciality health program which was published in a very popular book by SuperFoods Partners LLC. The menu of

this program was designed by nutrition specialist and prominent doctors. Top healthy foods are incorporated in the menu and meals are designed for maximum nutrition. The hotel management makes it sure that there is ample facility to rent gears for workouts and it also provides maps for fitness run. The New Balance fitness gears are at the guests' disposal, making their exercise session one of the bests, and giving them no excuse of not





having proper clothing or shoes to workout. That's not all, they even offer you a 'running concierge' to keep you company. There are customized workouts and group runs too. Guest are encouraged to be fit and happy in this hotel, so step in with a light foot and sweat out some calories.

## Hyatt

Hyatt is another top luxury hotel chain which has its eyes firmly set on good health. This hotel chain offers a host of healthy food options on its menus. Cage-free eggs, sustainable seafood and hormone-free beef are few of the inclusions in their kitchen. Hyatt has teamed up with Partnership for a Healthier America to come up with healthier yet delicious food menu for children to fight childhood obesity. Use of





organic foods, smaller-sized food portions and the StayFit@Hyatt programs are all designed with a view to make sure guests do not lose out on healthy food or exercise even when away from home. Every hotel in this chain is installed with state of art fitness equipment providing all guests the option for a rejuvenating workout session at their own convenient time.

### **Health is Wealth**

‘Live healthy’ wherever you are. Hotels like the ones mentioned above make it much easier to do so. Never before has it been so easy to maintain your exercise regime regularly and travel without fear of not having your special food-needs met. Wherever you travel, check into any of these hotels or others like them and have a ‘healthy’ sojourn.



# Bangladesh International Tourism Fair 2013

Bangladesh International Tourism Fair (BITF) 2013, organised by Bangladesh Foundation for Tourism Development (BFTD), is the biggest international travel and tourism event of Bangladesh. It is an opportunity for Bangladesh and overseas travel and tourism agencies/service providers to showcase their products, generate business leads, network and find new opportunities for both outbound and inbound tours.



BITF will also be a one-stop platform for all travel related products and services, visitors, buyers and sellers. It will be an ideal opportunity to interact with association leaders, government officials and private sectors of different countries to minimise information gap. BITF will also highlight culture and heritage of participating countries.

## Exhibitor's Profile

Bangladesh Foundation for Tourism Development (BFTD) is working for the development of local and regional tourism. The Directors of BFTD are experienced key government officials of national tourism organization including intellectuals and main stake

holders of tourism sector. The main

objectives of BFTD are to

promote

d e s t i n a t i o n s ,

educating people by

creating awareness,

establish friendly

relationship between

n e i g h b o u r i n g

countries, encourage

people to tour, preserve nature,

culture, heritage, archaeology,

socialization, assist government in

making tourism policy, conduct

research works, creating information

highways between main stake

holders of different countries etc.

## Visitors' Profile

Visitors belonging to different fields of tourism have confirmed their visit

to the event including travel trade members, corporate and business travel decision makers, leisure and holiday travellers (fit & groups), national and international representatives from hospitality industry, NTOs, travel planners, buyers, associations' heads, media personalities and general public.

## Exhibitors' Profile

The exhibitors of this event consist of travel agents, tour operators, national/regional tourist organizations, government tourism departments, hotels, resorts, adventure tourism, airlines, car rentals, railways, coach operators, cruise lines, maps, guides, travel accessories & equipment for camping, biking, photography, theme/ amusement parks, etc.

**World Luxury Tourism**  
([www.worldluxurytourism.com](http://www.worldluxurytourism.com))

is the overseas media partner of Bangladesh International Trade Fair and would be covering the event.



# November Festivals

## &

# Events Around the Globe







## **Diwali or Deepawali**

**Place:** India

**Date:** November 3, 2013

Diwali, well known as the 'festival of lights', is celebrated by Hindus to commemorate the comeback of Lord Ram to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile and annihilation of the demon king Raavan. Diwali symbolizes

the victory of righteousness and eradication of darkness. The festival is celebrated by crackers bursting and fireworks displays. Diwali is certainly the brightest of all the Hindu festivals. People decorate their homes with colourful lights and rangolis (flower decorations). Religious rituals are performed at home as well. Everyone wears new clothes. Gift giving and eating sweets form an integral part of the festival.



**Trivia** – Goddess Kali, the dark goddess of strength, is worshiped during this festival in West Bengal. Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi are also worshiped in most Hindu homes on this day. For a detailed description of the festival, visit our blog: <http://blog.worldluxurytourism.com/2012/11/02/diwali-the-festival-of-lights.html>



## Giant Omelette Festival

**Place: Abbeville, Louisiana**

**Date: November 2 – 3, 2013**

Giant Omelette Festival is one of the strangest festivals one would ever encounter. On the first weekend of every November, thousands of people gather in Abbeville's Magdalen Square to celebrate the Giant Omelette Festival. This unusual festival is a two-day event offering live music, dancing, games and contests, art and antique shows, flavoursome local cuisine and much more.

The main event is held on Sunday – the cooking of the giant, 5000-egg Omelette. Every year one egg is added to the "5000

Egg Omelette". This year the number will reach to 5028. The legend of the Omelette dates back to the times of Napoleon. When he and his army were traveling through the south of France, they decided to rest for a night near the town of Bressieres. Napoleon dined on an Omelette that evening and he enjoyed so much that the next morning he ordered all the eggs in the village be rounded up for a giant Omelette for his troops to feast on. About 5,000 people show up every year for this free event.

**Trivia** – The giant Omelette is made up of 5,000 eggs (1 egg adding each year to the number), 50 pounds Chopped Onion, 75 Green Bell Peppers, 1 1/2 gallons pure Vegetable Oil, 52 pounds Butter, 6 1/4 gallons Milk, 4 gallons chopped Green Onion

Tops, 2 gallons finely chopped fresh Parsley, Tabasco Pepper Sauce (seasoned to taste), Crawfish Tails.







## **Pushkar Camel Fair**

**Place: Pushkar Town, Rajasthan, India**

**Date: November 9 – 17, 2013**

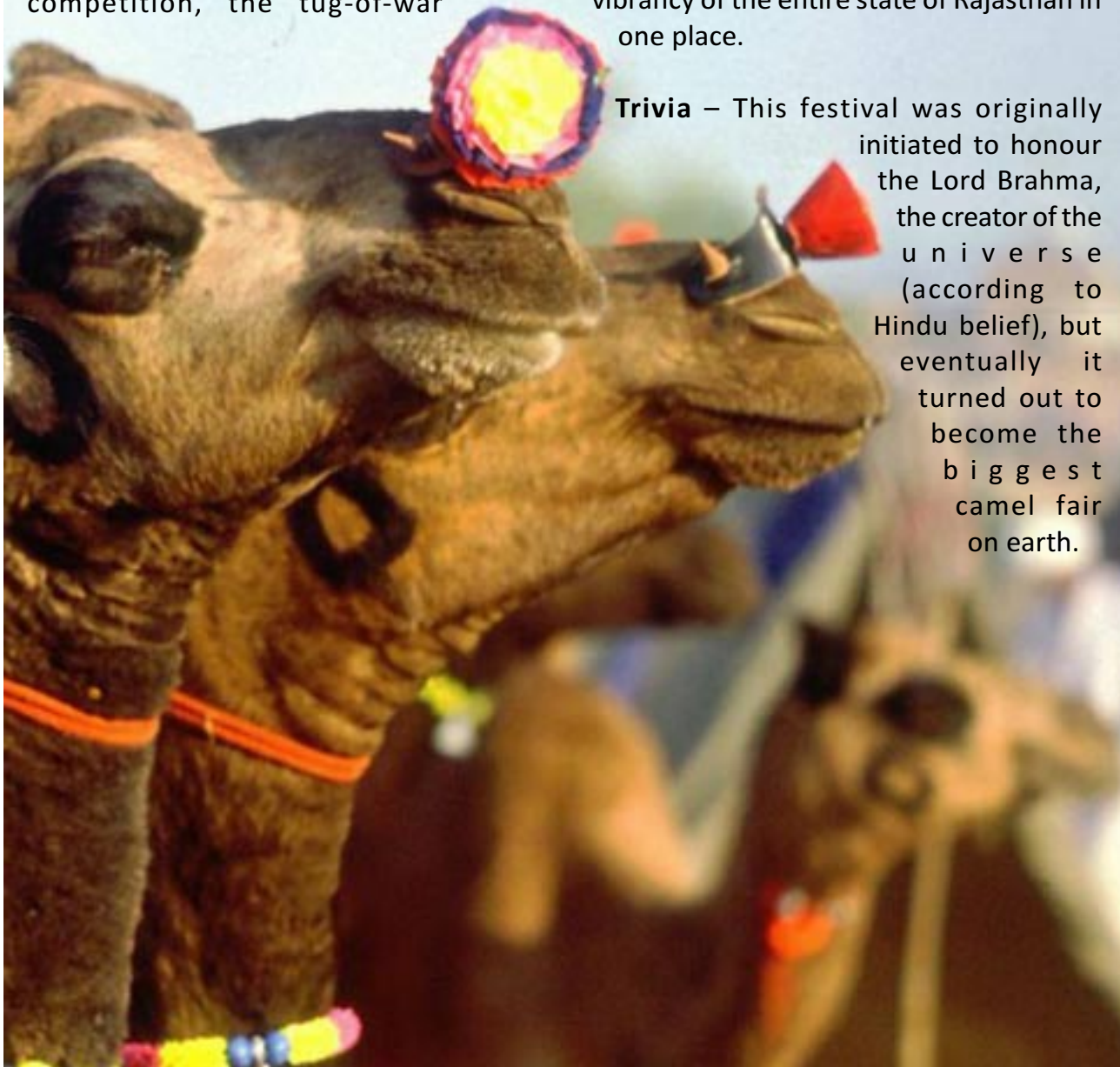
Held each November at the time of Kartik Purnima (Full Moon), Pushkar Camel Fair is one of India's most colourful experiences. During this time, the small township of Pushkar, on the bank of the Pushkar Lake comes alive with a riot of colours and exciting activities. This carnival attracts 300,000 visitors and up to 20,000 camels, cattle and horses. The camels are shaved, cleaned and adorned with bells, jewellery and traditional livery for this fair. People from all over Rajasthan gather

in Pushkar to witness one of the biggest livestock trading event.

The Camel Festival begins with a colourful procession of festooned camels near Junagarh Fort followed by the best breed competition, the tug-of-war

contest, camel dance, acrobatics etc. The camels display incredible footwork, dancing elegantly to the direction of their trainers. For every visitor, this fair is an unparalleled and unforgettable experience to capture the vibrancy of the entire state of Rajasthan in one place.

**Trivia** – This festival was originally initiated to honour the Lord Brahma, the creator of the universe (according to Hindu belief), but eventually it turned out to become the biggest camel fair on earth.





## Bon Om Touk festival

**Place: Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

**Date: November 16 – 18, 2013**

The Bon Om Touk festival also famous as the Khmer Water Festival celebrates the commencement of the dry season. Bon Om Touk also marks a reversal of the flow of the

Sap River.

Rain in the previous months increase the volume of Mekong River which forces the Sap River to inverse its course, flowing northwards to flood the Tonlé Sap with vast quantities of fresh water and rich sediments. Then, in mid-October, as the cool, dry wind begins to blow from the north and the level of the Mekong reduces, the flow of the Sap is again reversed, carrying the surplus waters



of the Tonlé Sap southwards to the Mekong and Bassac deltas. The annual flooding of the Tonlé Sap makes the lake an extremely rich source of fish while the farmland around it also gets benefitted due to the rich sediments.

During the three day festival, nearly 250,000 revellers join in to take part in long boat races, music, dancing, fireworks and a great deal of eating

and drinking. Workers from every province join with the city's residents to celebrate by the river.

**Trivia** – During this festival, boat races are held in Phnom Penh and at Angkor where monks from many temples row the ceremonial boats. These long boats are gaudily decorated and rowed by nearly forty participants.



## Monkey Buffet Festival

**Place:** Lopburi, Thailand

**Date:** November 25, 2013

The Monkey Buffet Festival is a unique festival in Thailand, which is held annually

to promote tourism in the country. Set up in the Prang Sam Yot temple in Lopburi, the Monkey Buffet Festival is held to treat the monkeys with more than 4000 kilograms of fruits, vegetables, cakes and candies. The foods are set down in front of temples on





tables, in pyramid or just on a simple mat for the 3000 monkeys living in the area to feast on.

**Trivia** - The Festival was started in 1989 by a local business man in order to boost tourism in the Lopburi province. The buffet is the city's way of thanking the monkeys for drawing thousands of tourists to the town every year.



## The Winter Festival of Lights

**Place:** Niagara, Canada

**Date:** November 9, 2013 – January 31, 2014

Canada's largest illumination festival, 'The Winter Festival of Lights' began in 1983. This illumination festival attracts over 1.5 million visitors and hundreds of motor coaches annually. A wintertime visit to Niagara Falls during the Winter Festival of Lights has become a practice for millions of people from around the globe. During this festival, the visitors enjoy beautiful fireworks displays over the





mighty waterfall. Enjoy the display while ice skating at the TD RINK at the Brink.

Winter Festival of Lights in Niagara Falls includes over 125 animated lighting displays and 3 million tree and ground lights which can be seen within the Niagara Parks Winter Wonderland. Among the premier spectacles at the Winter Festival of Lights are the Enchantment of Disney displays at Queen Victoria Park and the Great Canadian Outdoors displays in the Dufferin Islands. The other grand illuminations include the world's largest Canadian-American Flag, Niagara's iconic Skylon Tower, the two-story Zimmerman Fountain, and Religions of the World displays.

**Trivia** - Lighting the waterfall was initially conceptualized to allow the visitors to enjoy the beauty of the mighty Niagara even at night. It was first attempted more than 140 years ago.



# WINTER FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



## Surin Elephant Festival/ Elephant Round-up

**Place:** Surin, Thailand

**Dates:** November 15 – 18, 2013

Surin in northwest Thailand celebrates a colourful festival dedicated to elephants. The Thai people have

great esteem for these giant animals. The Surin Elephant Festival is held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of November every year. The first day commences with magnificent parade of more than 200 elephants followed by The Elephant Breakfast where they are fed



with vegetables and fruits. Elephant races, demonstrations of old-styles elephant hunts, football games are organised to displaying the strength and skill of this giant animal.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, the festival recreates battle scenes of yesteryears. A game of tug-of-war between an elephant and some seventy muscular members of the Royal Thai Army is a must watch. The show also includes elephant talent competitions, demonstration of the several techniques which were used to capture and train elephants in ancient times.

**Trivia** - In Surin, growing and taming Elephants as working animal is an age old tradition but with decreasing economic significance of Elephant as a working animal, mahouts now use elephants as entertainers to make a living.





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