



Infrastructure of a location matters a lot to travellers. It often defines the quality of experience one would have while visiting the place. Never more did I realise this than while traveling to the Northeastern part of India. The infrastructure here is still very basic. Even accessing the internet feels like a herculean task. I wrote this on the move and found sending it to my team also a difficult 'task'. But the silver line is this part of India is also the most beautiful. Beautiful people, beautiful scenery and amazing food make it worth a visit. In most part of the world, autumn is just around the corner. But we are going south to enjoy spring. The World Luxury Travel Magazine tells you about the amazing spring in Australia in its Cover Story.

have travelled far and wide to bring you a list of the Most Colourful Cities of the World. Read all about it in our City Guide section.

WLT is going to talk about the amazing hotels around the world which exudes luxurious comfort. We will bring you one hotel at a time. This time we start our journey with the Trump International Hotel and Tower in New York.

We promise to bring you more such interesting reads in our following issues.

Thank you!

We

Manashree Prakash Editor-in-Chief

#### World Luxury Travel Magazine

■ Vol. 2 ■ Issue 2 ■ September, 2013

**Editor-in-Chief**: *Manashree* 

**Travel Writers:** *Prabha, Saurav* 

Contributing
Photographers:
Prakash, Marc
Sprengers

**Website Counsellor :**Pramathesh

**Designer**: Pranab

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# Head south to avoid the winter chill, it's spring down under

At a time when leaves are falling and trees getting bare in most parts of the world, in another part, spring flowers are nudging their way out of the earth and fresh green leaves are bursting forth. The place is Australia, the season is spring and the months are September to November. Australia is in the southern hemisphere and it is spring here now. So when it is autumn in most parts of the globe, it is peak spring in Australia – a great time to visit Down Under. The weather is generally fine and there is a fantastic line-up of flower festivals, spring activities and interesting events to catch.

#### What to expect

Australian spring, like anywhere in the world, is the best time to catch nature at her best. Beautiful flowers run riot everywhere. Parks attract more crowds and this is the time just before the peak tourist season. Spring in Australia is the precursor to the sweltering Australian





year. Tulips, irises, daffodils, daisies and hordes of other colourful blooms fill the atmosphere with their fragrance and beauty. Workshops, concerts, craft markets, food and fun make this an event to remember.

Other popular flower festivals are the Kings Park Festival (Perth), Tulip Time Festival (New South Wales), Wildflower Festival (Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne), Carnival of Flowers (Queensland) and the Tulip Festivals in Tasmania.



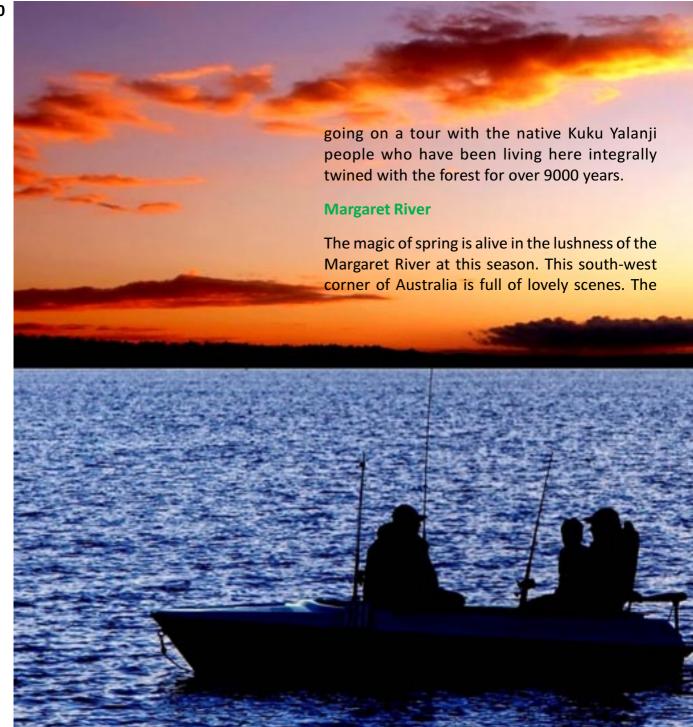
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#### **Melbourne Cup**

The Melbourne Cup is the highlight of the three-month long Spring Racing Carnival. Held on the first Tuesday in November every year, the event is described as the 'race that stops a nation'. A public holiday in Victoria where it is held, it is Australia's leading horse race with whopping prize money of 6 million Australian dollars. Associated with glamour, fashion and feverish betting, it is a day of high pitch excitement and festivities.

#### **Daintree Rainforest**

The 135 million year old World Heritage Daintree Rainforest is a tropical rainforest near Daintree, Queensland. Home to 430 species of birds, it also has the largest range of animals and plants on the planet. Spring is a good time to visit this amazing forest. Here you can see the amazing 600 million year old zamia fern, spot colourful butterflies, crocodiles and visit the sacred waterfall with healing waters. Do not miss



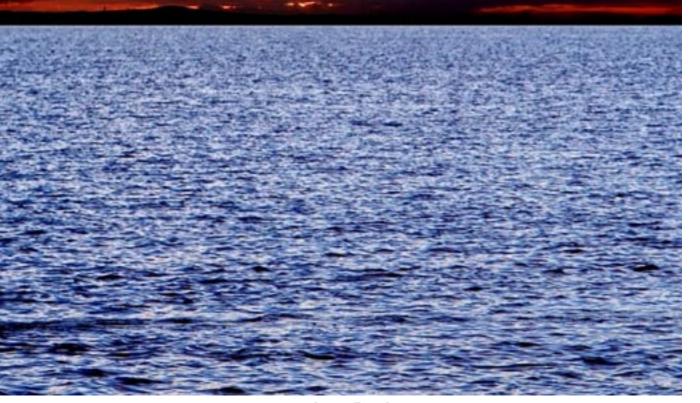
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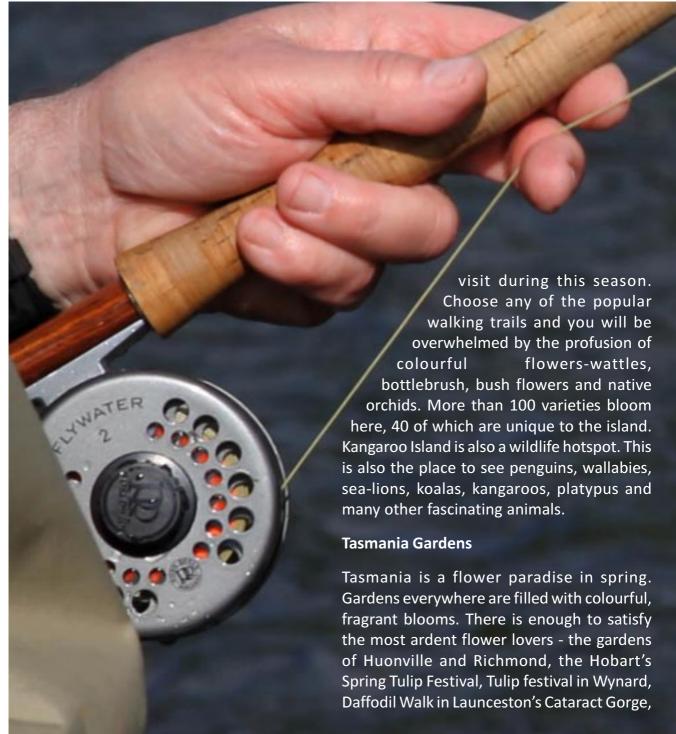
South West, Goldfields and lovely beaches are all popular with tourists. Visit Eagle Bay, snorkel in Bunker Bay and head to Geographe Bay for whale watching. Margaret River is a world class surfing destination; surf lovers can head to Surfers Point, Three Bears and Redgate. A walk through the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park will reveal lovely wildflowers in all their colours. While in the

park, do not miss the stunning Mammoth, Lake and Jewel Caves. Last but not the least, this is a wine region, so do not miss visiting the local wineries and delicious tastings.

#### **Kangaroo Island**

The colours of spring burst forth in the thousands of wildflowers, which bloom in Kangaroo Island making it a lovely place to





parks in Port Arthur, the world's largest lavender plantation in Nabowla and the 4000 roses of the Longford rose garden.

### Fishing in the Barra Build-up, Northern Territory

The build-up fishing season, lasting from October to December, is a great time to catch the famed barramundi fish. This fresh water fish is greatly prized for its large size and taste. During the build-up, a profusion of barramundis are to be found in the Darwin Harbour area, the billabongs and estuaries of the Top End. One can also fish for golden snapper, black jewfish, saratoga and tarpon.

The Mary River system is one of the hotspots for barra fishing; however one needs to be extremely wary of crocodiles here. Several fishing tournaments held here around this time. It might interest you to know that the Barramundi, on reaching 90 cm length, changes its sex and becomes a female! (A reason, anglers simply photograph the larger barramundis and release it.)

#### **Spring Events, Hunter Valley**

The Hunter Valley, two hours north of Sydney, is famous for its wineries. It has more than 150 wineries and wine tours are





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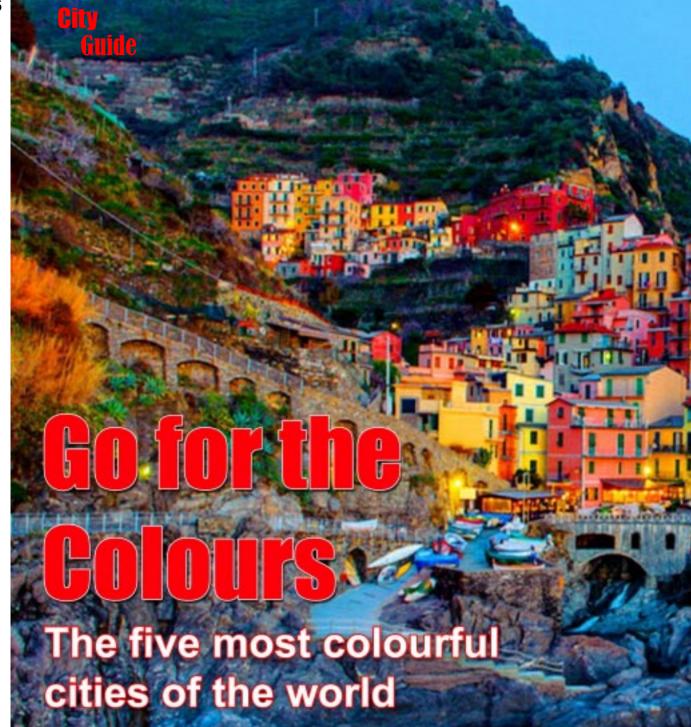
#### **Other Spring Activities**

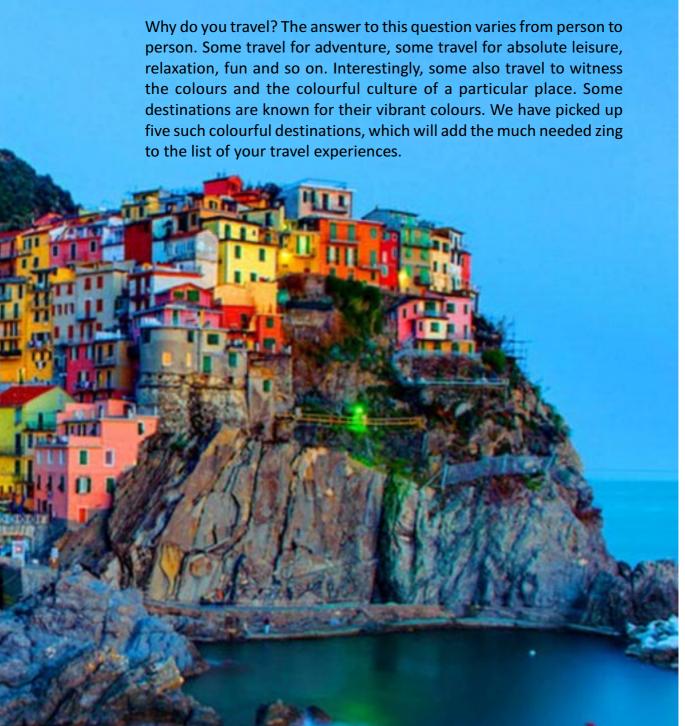
Sydney is a popular spring destination as it enjoys its driest months during spring. This is the best time to visit the famous Sydney beaches. You can enjoy surfing in Bells Beach, Manly, Byron Bay or the Gold Coast. Go on walking tours, visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, go fishing, hand-gliding or para-gliding. Spring in Australia is also the best time to go kayaking and canoeing. The meandering Blackwood River and the Coorong River waterways are

Australia in spring is fun. Keep in mind that though spring normally means good weather, the huge size of the country can mean variations in weather. The best tip for clothes packing is layering. Throw in some quick drying clothes, swim suit, good walking shoes and sunscreen. Now you are all set for whatever the weather brings. Do not forget to leave your worries at home to enjoy the delights of Australia in spring.

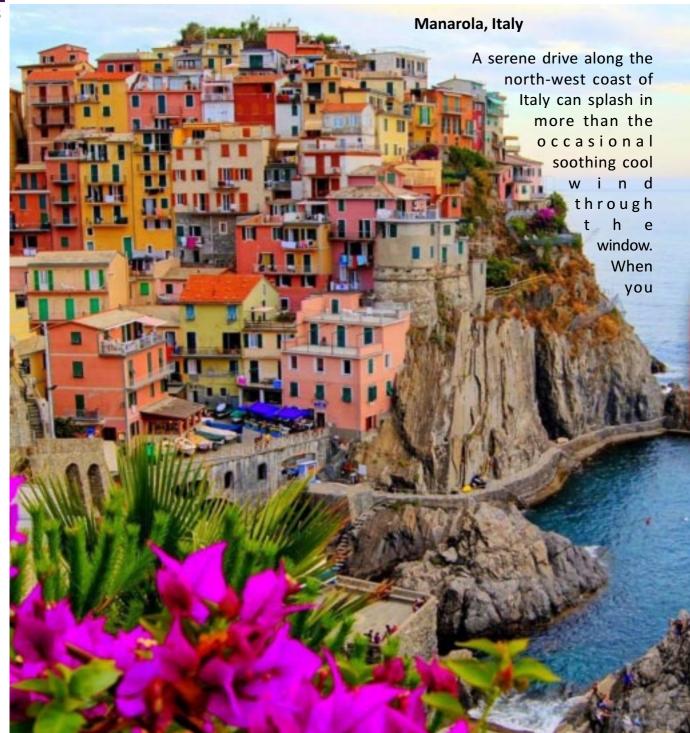


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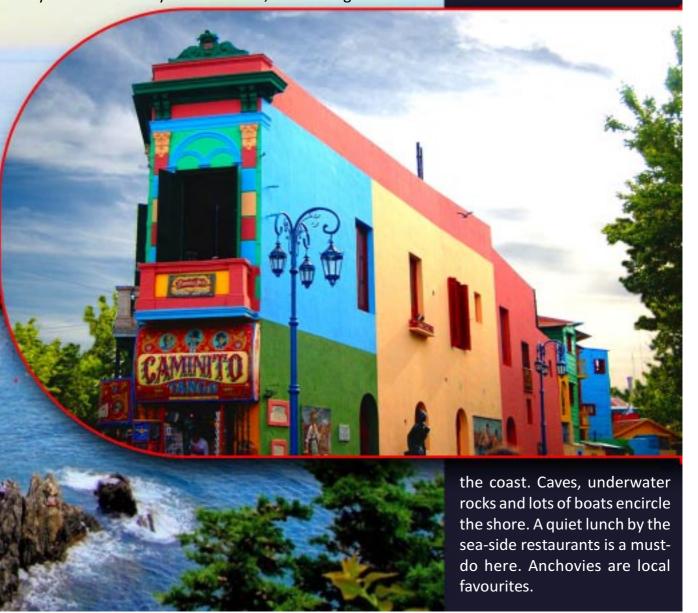
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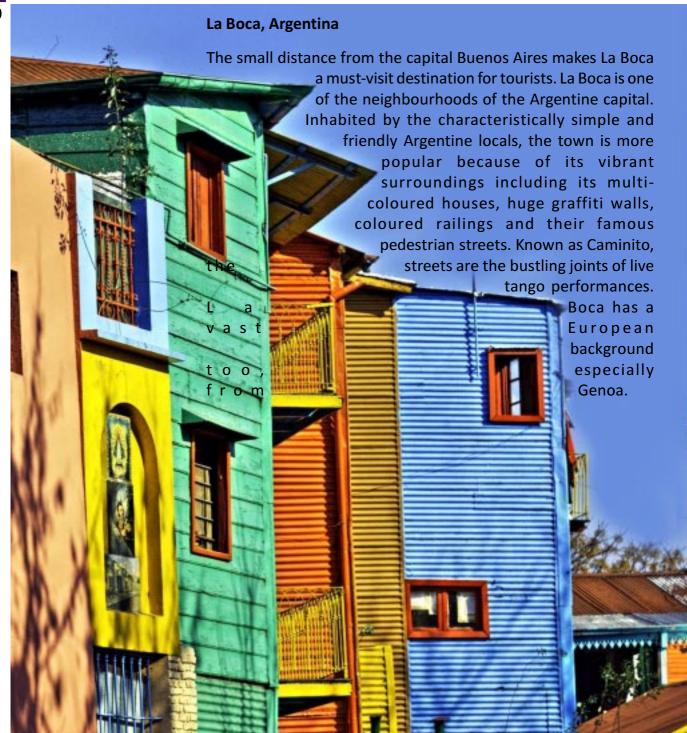
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look closely at the cliff around the bend of Cinque Terre, the colourful speck will turn out to be the town of Manarola. Established as an overnight refugee camp during the World War 2, the city is worth more than a glance. A few days' stay in the town of pink, blue, green, yellow houses may even fall short, considering the amount

of places that you can visit in and around the city. The picturesque St. Lorenzo's Church is perched atop while a swimmer's paradise lies along



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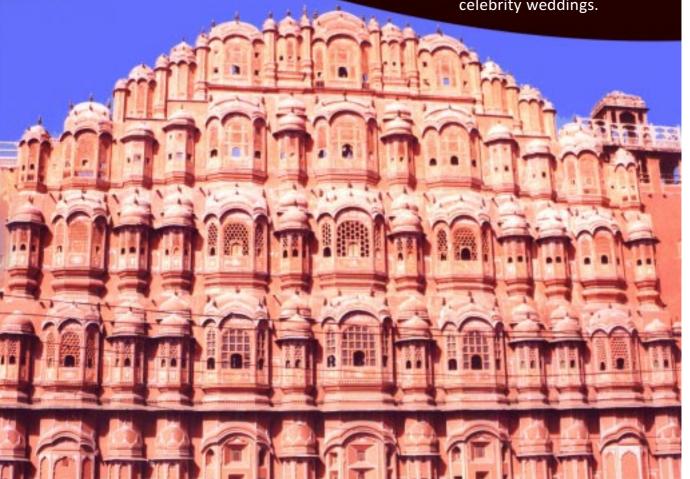


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#### Rajasthan, India

Proud of its colourful culture, the list of world's most colourful cities is incomplete without the mention of the cities in India's desert state Rajasthan. The capital city of Rajasthan, Jaipur is known as the Pink City of India because of its pink

coloured roofs of the houses. Similarly Jodhpur is known as the Blue City of India. Jaipur is more famous amongst tourists and only a few ventures the Blue City. Located closer to the desert patches, Jodhpur blossoms as the blue lily of Thar Desert. The Mehrangarh Fort forms the centre of the picturesque landscape and the small building structures painted in vivid blue completes the picture. Jodhpur's palaces and grandeur also serve as the venue of celebrity weddings.



#### Guanajuato, Mexico

Nobody knows which came first – the city or the frogs, yet they both co-exist in the "Place of Frogs" – Guanajuato. Frogs, incidentally, are the official pets of the city too. The city is carved out on the slopes of mountains and is proclaimed to be one of the "most beautiful cities in Mexico". The coloured dots by the mountain slopes on a

cloudy day are treats for the eye even for a morose spectator. The three aspects that make the city so unique are – architecture, Mummy Museum and Festival Internacional Cervatino.

The coloured houses though feast the eyes; the actual work has literally gone underground. The roads of Guanajuato comprise of underground tunnels spreading



a network of miles under the rocky surface. The unique Mummy Museum (Museo de las Momias) is the other attraction here. In the year 1910, overcrowding of local graveyards made the then administration to exhume many graves. The bodies were discovered to be, somehow, mummified. Only adults are allowed to visit this Museum. The third and biggest attraction

of Guanajuato is the Festival Internacional Cervatino. Have your trip arranged for October and you will find all of Guanajuato in festival spirit with colours and music in its 49 plus venues across the city. The nights are jubilant the entire year.



#### **Bo Kaap, South Africa**

The heart of the Malay Quarter, the city of Bo Kaap is situated on the south western slopes of Signal Hill. Beautifully decorated and vibrantly coloured houses adorn the streets. Like a painting of colour

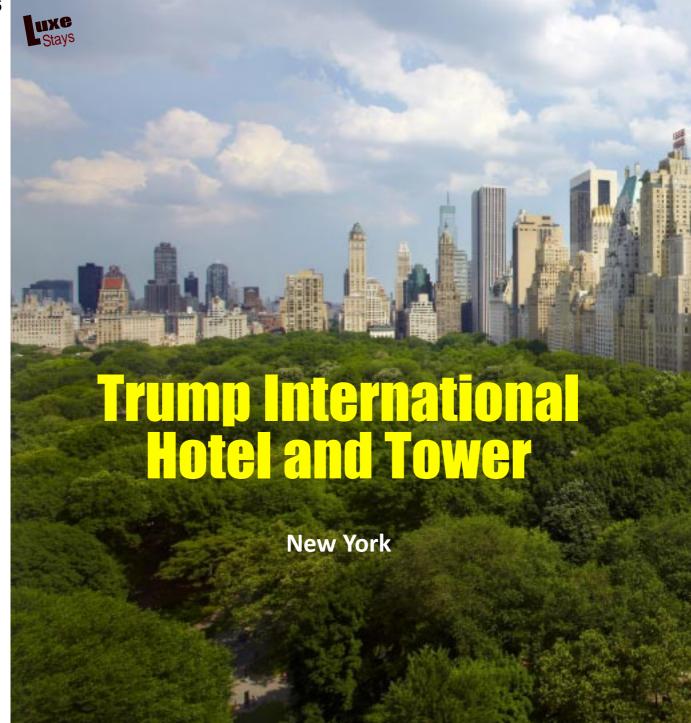
and culture, the town is frequently featured on silver screen. Mouth-watering delicacies would allure you while you stroll by the majestic cobblestone streets here.

There is no better place to concoct your spices than in the shop



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Diamond hotel awards.

blocks away from Lincoln Centre and



regal beauty to the interiors. Furnishings in rich velvets and silks with rosewood, mahogany, maple and walnut finish are set off to perfection with lovely Schonbek crystal chandeliers, purple velvet draperies and silk accent walls.

Burnished gold leaf, bronze, mirror and glass put the finishing touches to this elegant loveliness. Beautiful marble bathrooms and European style kitchens (in most rooms) add comfort to your stay. Perhaps the most favourite feature of the guests will be the 10-foot floor-to-ceiling windows with gorgeous views of the Central Park and Manhattan.



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#### **Fine Dining**

#### **Jean Georges**

The high point of any stay at the Trump International will undoubtedly be the superb food at the hotel's Forbes Five-Star, AAA Five-Diamond, Michelin Three-Star and *New York Times* Four-Star restaurant, Jean Georges. Award-winning chef Jean Georges (after whom the restaurant is

named) takes fine dining to new heights with his gastronomical artistry. The food, cooked in the signature Jean Georges' style, is a delicious blend of French, American and Asian influences.

The versatile menu, changing according to the seasons, uses fresh ingredients from local produce. A 3-course prix-fixe, two 6-course tasting menus and a 2-course lunch menu are the main offerings



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of the restaurant. Superb service and stunning floor-to-ceiling window views of the Central Park enhance the dining experience which is already delightful.

#### **Nougatine**

For a more casual meal, you can head to Nougatine which offers Jean Georges signature dishes as well as daily specials and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. In the warmer months you can enjoy the Nougatine menu on the Mistral terrace outside along with fantastic Central Park views.

The open kitchen uses only the finest and freshest ingredients. There is also a prix-fixe (fixed price) lunch menu available Monday to Saturday. Nougatine also has a lively bar scene at night.



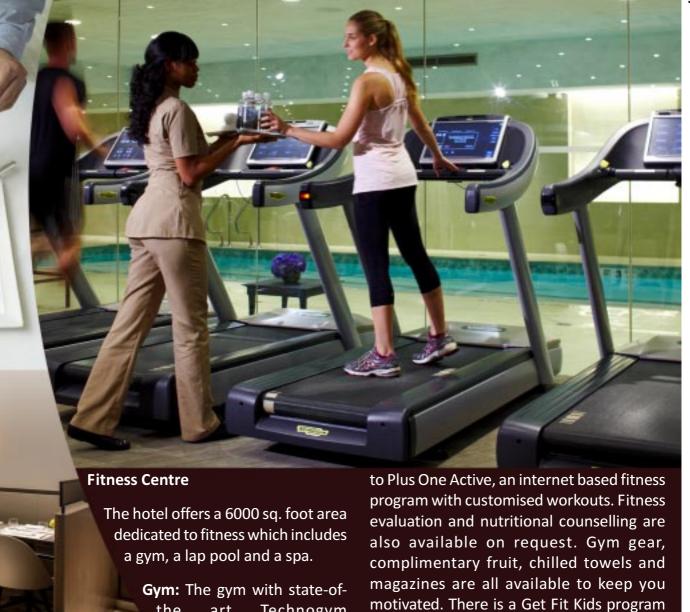
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#### **In Room Dining**

24-hour in-room dining option is available to guests at the Trump International. Guests can relax over delicious Jean Georges' dishes in the privacy of their own rooms, whether it is a gourmet meal or a light snack. If they give advance notice, they can also have an in-house chef serve them a gourmet course-by-course meal cooked in their own attached kitchen.



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which includes Wii sports with a trainer and

swimming lessons. In case you simply choose

to jog in Central Park, you can always get a

personal trainer to accompany you!

Technogym

the

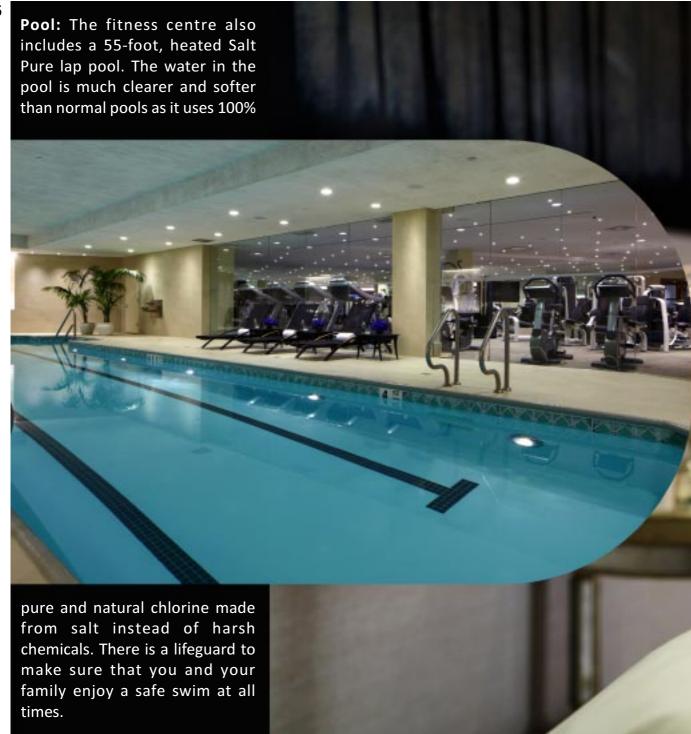
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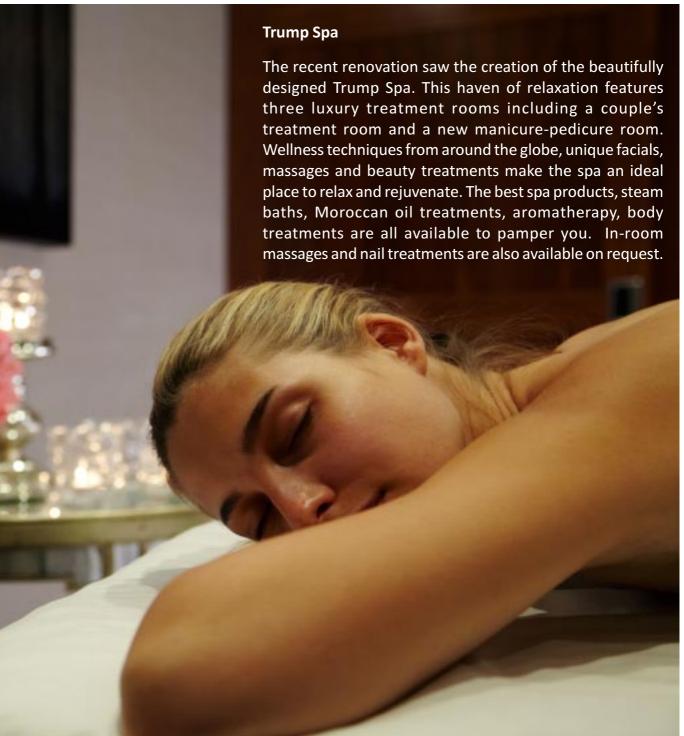
equipment helps you with

your fitness regime. You

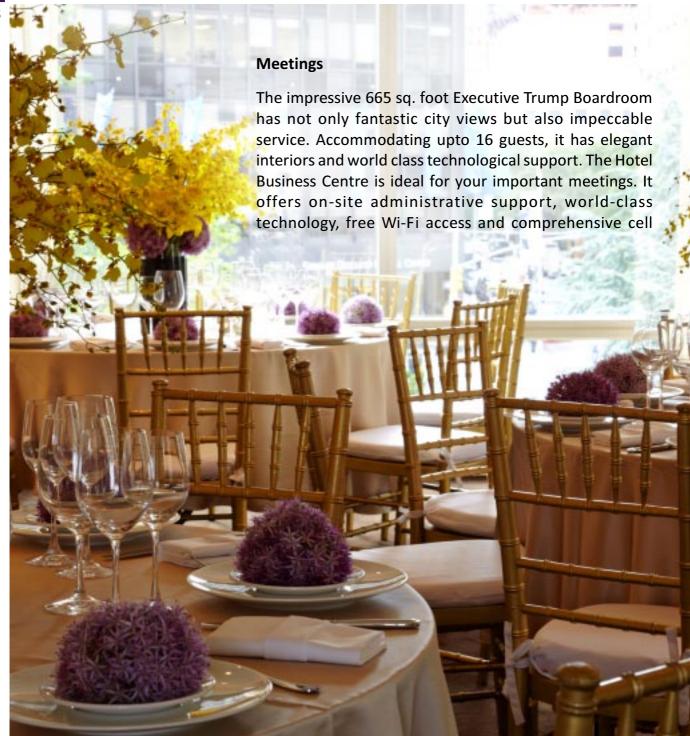
can opt for personal

training or access





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coverage. An attentive and well-trained staff is at hand for executing any special requests or needs. Complimentary business cards, stationery, in-room computers and printers are all available on request.

#### **Events**

You can celebrate special occasions like

weddings in an even more special way at the Trump Central Park! You can store the memories with photos of the occasion. Later you can head to the private dining room suitable for upto 32 guests. Food, floral arrangements can all be customised according to your needs. Finally the food by Jean Georges will be a part of the special memories you will carry forever.



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# **Trump Hotel Collection**

The Trump International Hotel & Tower is the flagship property of the Trump Hotel Collection, which is presided by Donald Trump and his children Donald Jr., Ivanka and Eric. With a list prestigious hotels in its bouquet, the Trump Hotel Collection has

of hospitality to new levels of excellence. The unwritten motto here is flawless service which makes a guest feel cherished; it is the same philosophy which is exemplified in the Trump International Hotel & Tower. This is one address where people would love to stay in every time they are visiting





### Oktoberfest

Place: Munich, Germany

**Dates:** September 21 – October 6, 2013

The world famous Oktoberfest, a 16-day festival, is a celebration of beer, good times and great food. It originated in 1810 as the marriage celebration of Prince Ludwig.



Today it is a world renowned event with over 6 million visitors from all over the world heading towards Germany to bask in beer and good spirits. The festival held in an area called Theresienwiese is officially opened with the traditional tapping of the first keg by the Mayor. The party begins and people flock to the beer tents where dirndl clad waitresses move around deftly carrying as many as 8 mugs of beer at a time! Parades, concerts, Ferris wheels are all part of the fun. Traditional dishes not to be missed are Sauerbraten, Blaukraut and Bratwurst. If you want to get the right look for the affair, don a Dirndl or lederhosen.

**Trivia:** In 2012, 6.4 million visitors drank 6.9 million litres of beer!





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Crave Sydney International Food Festival

Place: Sydney, Australia

**Dates:** October 1 – 31, 2013

The Crave Sydney Festival is a food-lover's dream come true. The month long festival is a gastronomical paradise which draws top chefs, gourmets and tourists from all over the world. It features the best of international cuisine, local produce and wines and over 600 events. The World Chef Showcase brings together the public and top chefs of the world in interactive cooking and tasting sessions. The highly

popular Night Noodle Markets in Hyde Park is the best time to gorge on delicious Asian fare- noodles, dumplings and desserts. Top it up with drinks from the bars and enjoy the lively scene. The Growers' Market at Pyrmont Bay Park sells herbs, spices, seafood and lots of food. Other popular events include Barbecue Madness and Breakfast on Bondi.

**Trivia:** The Crave Sydney Festival is presented by Citibank.



## **Dark Season Blues**

Place: Svalbard, Norway

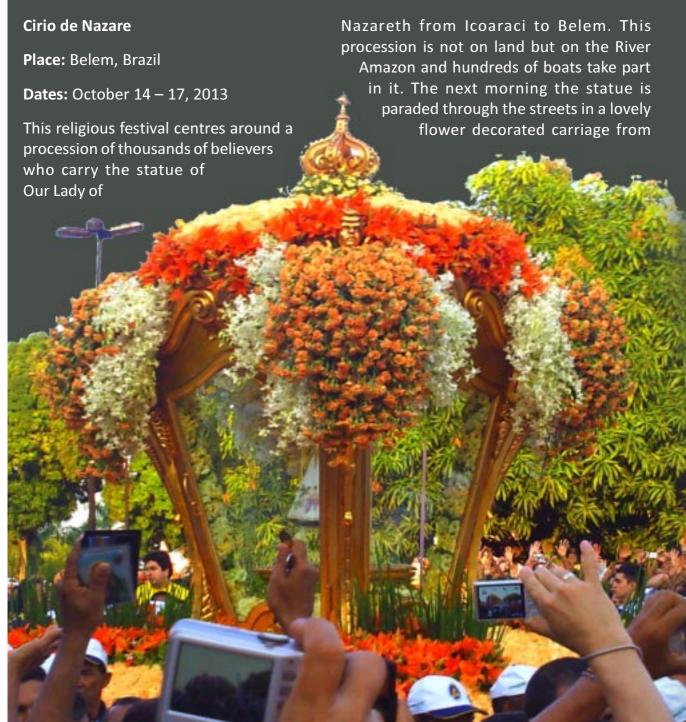
**Dates:** October 24 – 27, 2013

Every year at 78 degrees North in Longyearbyen, a blues festival is held to mark the advent of the dark season in Svalbard when the sun leaves for four dark winter months. This festival includes concerts, blues lunches and a formal blues dinner. Local and

international blues artists take part in the festival which features over 17 events and 30 concerts. A seven-hour marathon, non-stop music session on Saturday night is the highlight event of the festival. The surreal blue atmosphere during this time creates a unique setting for the entire festival.

**Trivia:** The festival began in 2003 and has featured several popular names including Jace Everett, Victor Wainwright and Bobby Jones.



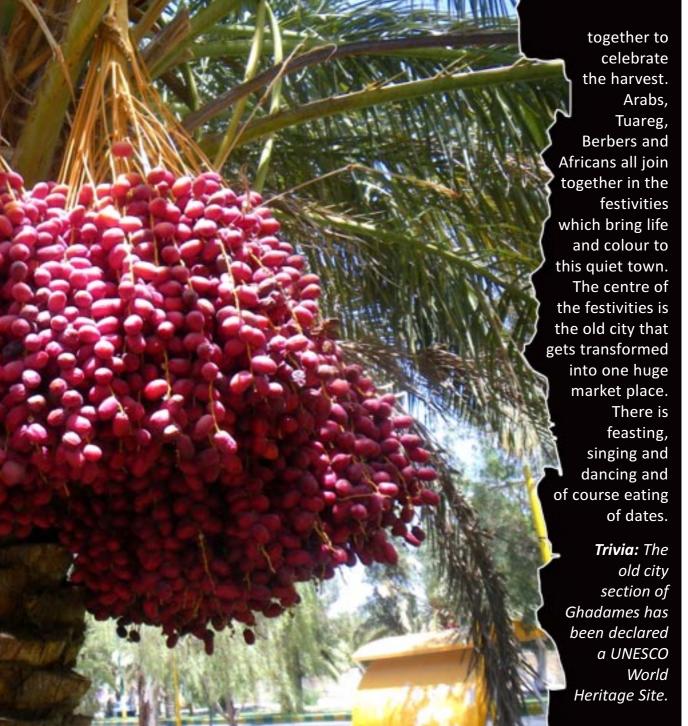


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## **Boat Racing Festival**

Place: Vientiane, Laos

Dates: October 20, 2013

The Boat Racing festival on the River Mekong in Laos marks the end of the Buddhist Lent (Awk Phansa). Participants from all over the

country come to Vientiane to take part in the races. The races starting in the morning with the women's boat racing event, carry on till afternoon which is devoted to the men's event. Two boats at a time participate in the race with eliminations leading to the final race between the best teams. The waterfront is lined with stalls selling lip-smacking local fare like grilled



chicken, sticky rice, fruits and drinks and other goods.

Thousands of people line the river to watch the proceedings and to cheer their teams. Music, drumming and the excitement of the people adds to the festive atmosphere. Winners are awarded a trophy, silver cup and cash though their real reward lies in the spirit of the competition.

**Trivia:** The Boat Racing Festival is actually held in honour of the Nagas, the water gods!





Place: Kyoto, Japan

Dates: October 22, 2013

If you want to see history walk out of books and come alive in front of your eyes, do not miss the spectacular Jidai Matsuri

festival.

One of the most important Japanese festivals, it is a celebration of Kyoto's history and culture. It involves a huge and colourful procession that travels from the Imperial Palace to the Heian Shrine.

Around 2000 participants represent



costumes from different periods of Japanese history and renowned historical figures. Around 20 themes from various historical eras covering the Meiji Restoration in 1868 to Heian Period in 781 are represented in reverse order. Important officials, warriors

shrines are all part of the festival.
The period costumes complete with headgear and weapons will have you enthralled.

**Trivia:** The mikoshi or portable shrines are believed to represent the spirits of the first and last Kyoto emperors.

## **Cork Jazz Festival**

Place: Cork, Ireland

**Dates:** October 25 – 28, 2013

festivals. The festival

by

On the last weekend of October, Cork turns into a Jazz devotees' destination. Pubs and hotels overflow with Jazz fans and artistes to enjoy one of Europe's best Jazz

Mountjoy to coincide with the October Bank Holiday and attract customers to the hotel for which he worked. The festival was a huge success and Mountjoy later went on to become the festival director in which position he worked for almost a decade. Today the festival attracts over 40,000 visitors from all over the world.

**Trivia:** The 2013 line-up includes Jazzie B and the Soul 11 Soul Sound System and Bilal and his band.



#### Halloween

Place: New York, USA

Dates: October 31, 2013

The festival of Halloween celebrates all things spooky. It has its origins in Pagan Harvest festivals and in festivals honouring the dead ancestors. The quintessential symbols of Halloween include eerily grinning pumpkin lanterns, costume parties, apple bobbing, horror movies, playing scary pranks and children going 'trick or treating'. In New York, a huge parade is held with over two million people dressed in every imaginable costume. Giant puppets, live bands, huge floats, music and dancing are all part of the parade.

**Trivia:** Around 2 billion dollars' worth of Halloween candy is sold annually in the

United States.

