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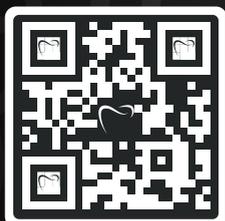


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With 2024 in full swing, we’re excited to announce our newest routes. You can now fly to the capital of Moldova, Chisinau, from London, Milan and Rome. Wizz Air has also increased the number of flights to Salzburg from London and Bucharest, as well as adding more seats between Budapest and Istanbul. These new flights will allow our passengers to catch up with loved ones for Easter and also give access to fine ski resorts and must-see cultural hotspots.

Almost 20 years since Wizz Air’s first ever flight – from Katowice to London Luton – we have now flown more than 100 million passengers from Poland. This spring, we will add an eighth aircraft at Gdansk airport, and a 12th will arrive in Warsaw. This expansion reinforces our commitment to offering Polish

passengers the best choice of low-fare travel opportunities around.

In January, we were delighted to be named one of the World’s Top 5 Safest Low-Cost Airlines in 2024 by AirlineRatings.com, the world’s only safety and product rating agency. This award underlines our mission to offer affordable and reliable travel opportunities to ever-more customers. Flying with Wizz Air is not only a fun experience but also the greenest choice. Our commitment to greater sustainability was underlined when we won the award for Global Environmental Sustainability Airline Group of the Year for the second consecutive time at the CAPA Asia Aviation Summit in November 2023.

No matter where you’re heading today, I and everybody at Wizz Air wish you a safe journey.

József Váradi
Chief Executive Officer

Wizz by numbers



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destinations
in 54 countries



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bases in
16 countries



840+
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Writer Tristan Kennedy hits the slopes in the 'Forest of Violins'

Editor's letter

The hills are alive with the sound of music in Italy. Thanks to a quirk of geography and climate, the trees that make up the dense forests in Predazzo (one of the villages in the ski resort of Val di Fiemme) make uniquely perfect sound boards for stringed instruments. Spruce from these forests has been coveted by instrument makers – including the legendary violin-maker Antonio Stradivari – for 900 years. On page 32 we send a writer to meet the next generation of luthiers – and, of course, hit the slopes too.

It's not our only snowy story this issue. Did you know that 2024 is set to be the best year to spot the Northern Lights for more than a decade? On page 41 we tell you how to best enjoy them in Norway – plus 14 other reasons to visit right now.

If you're ready to say goodbye to winter, we have you covered. How about a foodie tour of Cairo? On page 50 we meet the two trailblazing women showcasing Egypt's little-known cuisine to tourists. And on page 58 we head to Athens to meet the creative, sustainable artisans shaking things up by making beautiful keepsakes from waste and recycled materials. Sun or snow – wherever you're flying this month, we wish you a fantastic trip. Sit back, relax and enjoy this issue – and your flight.

Claire Köksal, Editor

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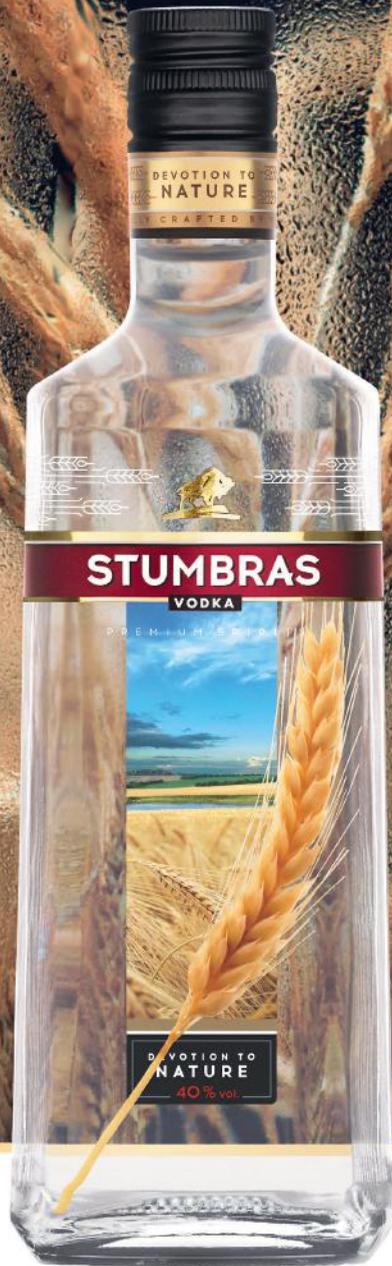
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in this **issue**



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Air travel gives us all the chance to admire the Earth from the sky, but we don't often get to see the kind of views that Edward Burtynsky reveals in his work. The world-renowned photographic artist has spent over 40 years travelling the globe documenting human industry and its impact - from salt flats (pictured) to oil bunkers and diamond mines. This year, London's Saatchi Gallery will stage the largest ever exhibition of his work, *BURTYNSKY: Extraction/Abstraction* (from 14 February), with photographs, multimedia presentations and an augmented reality (AR) experience, so visitors can fly off with a new perspective. saatchigallery.com

✈ Wizz Air flies to London

WORDS: SARAH WARWICK. PHOTO: © EDWARD BURTYNSKY, COURTESY FLOWERS GALLERY, LONDON

Immerse yourself in chocolate in Hamburg

OK, so we're not talking about literal immersion (and if you've seen the YouTube videos of Nutella baths, you'll know that's a good thing). This Valentine's Day, instead of boring old boxed chocs, you can surprise your sweet-toothed love with a trip to Hamburg's Chocoversum. New for early 2024, the chocolate museum's guided, over three-hour Chocolate Sides tour will introduce the history of cacao in the city, from the arrival of the beans at its docks to the latest confectioneries developed here today. You can even make your own bar in the museum's workshop at the end of the day, and enjoy plenty of truffles, treats and fountains of the good stuff along the way. chocoversum.de

✈️ [Wizz Air](https://wizzair.com) flies to Hamburg



Take a historic bath in Istanbul

One of Istanbul's Ottoman-era hamams is set to reopen as a bathhouse in March, bringing communal bathing back to its 500-year-old building. Bathhouses – or hamams – played a unique role during the Ottoman period, when most households didn't have running water, and Zeyrek Çinili Hamam is a particular jewel of the age. Its unique architecture was commissioned by Hayreddin Barbarossa, grand admiral of the Ottoman navy and designed by Ottoman chief architect Mimar Sinan. It rests on the site of 5th-century Byzantine baths.

When it reopens this spring, after a 13-year restoration, the hamam's staff will replicate traditional Ottoman bath-time rituals, complete with firm massages, steamy thumping and sweaty sprawls on göbek taşı, slabs of warmed marble. But, according to Koza Yazgan, the project's creative director, there will be one modern touch. "Usually in hamams, the design of the men's section is taller and more elaborate," she explains. "But we'll have rotating days for each [gendered] section, so everybody can enjoy each side." zeyreckinilhamam.com

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Dine out with Fido in Rome

They say when in Rome you should do as the locals do, and right now that means taking your pooch out for dinner. Fiuto – which roughly translates as ‘sniffing’ – is the first restaurant in Italy that serves pups as well as people. While their owners enjoy a three-course meal, doggos can chow down on poké-style bowls of meat and veg and bone-shaped desserts, while lapping mineral water. Human food is (thankfully) prepared in a separate kitchen, but it still sounds barking mad to us!

fiutoreastaurant.it

✈ Wizz Air flies to Rome



Get your chopsticks out in Copenhagen

If you thought Denmark’s food scene was all about locally sourced bilberries, seasonal seafood and Noma’s lemon-flavoured ants, think again. Twenty years on from the birth of New Nordic – which wowed the food world with its genre-breaking manifesto back in 2004 – the city’s famous movement

is beginning to take a back seat to its culinary newcomer, New Asian Wave.

In the past 18 months, no less than 10 restaurants have popped up in Copenhagen that are all part of this new craze for Asian flavours paired with New Nordic principles. Think seasonality and local sourcing of ingredients, like yuzu herring or Danish pork with kimchi. Opt for one of the restaurants below to try their specialities...

✈ Wizz Air flies to Copenhagen



Kostbar
(expensive)



JATAK

Michelin-starred in 2022, after only six months, this Cantonese and Vietnamese delight from New Nordic royalty Jonathan Tam is still one of the hottest, hippest tickets in town, where seven-course set menus are paired with natural wines. jatakph.com



Goldfinch

Hidden away in Kongens Nytorv, Goldfinch offers free-ranged and organic ingredients, many jazzed up with spicy doubanjiang and XO sauces and paired with house cocktails. One for night owls as at weekends it serves sharing plates until midnight. goldfinch.dk



Jah Izakaya & Sake Bar

Izakaya roughly translates to ‘gastropub’, and this lively restaurant has brought Japanese soul food to the hip area of Vesterbro. Shareable street food with beers and sake make this a firm favourite with groups and for casual date nights. jahizakaya.dk



Juju

This modern casual Korean eatery in Østerbro slams together local ingredients and Asian flavours, serving up shareable plates of yuzu oysters, Korean-fried chicken, kimchi pork belly and yukhoe (Korean steak tartare), ‘family style’. jujucph.dk



Billige
(great value)

in place



Spot dragons around the network

How well do you know your dragons? To celebrate the Year of the Dragon (10 February), our quiz puts your knowledge to the test with fire-breathing creatures from around the Wizz Air network...



Which eastern European city does this terror that breathes actual flames live in?



This ceramic figurine is in the typical style of this city, the capital of Uzbekistan



In this city is a house by a famous Catalan architect, styled as a dragon and complete with a spine-like ridge



This statue of St George killing the dragon can be found on the roof of the former George Hotel in this Lithuanian city



There are 14 of these 'dragon boundary marks', indicating the historical borders, in this capital city



Carvings of dragons were used on 'stave churches' in this part of Scandinavia to represent evil

ANSWERS A, Krakow B, Tashkent C, Barcelona D, Vilnius E, London F, Oslo

Go 'set-jetting' in Malta

Why sit through all 2.5 hours of Ridley Scott's new historical epic *Napoleon*, when for only slightly more time sitting (on a plane...) you could experience the real thing? Fort Ricasoli in Kalkara – itself a real-life conquest of the French emperor – was used by Scott to stage the scene of Napoleon's first victory in the 1793 siege of Toulon. Malta has been a favourite location for the director ever since he shot *Gladiator* here in 1999 – and he returned last summer to shoot the sequel, *Gladiator II*, due out later this year.

While the replica Roman city at the studios in Kalkara is off limits, you can join the Malta Movies tour to spot sights from many other films on a wander around Valletta, which has represented, among other things, Israel in *World War Z*, Turkey in *Midnight Express*, and Peru in *Kon-Tiki*.

myislandtoursmalta.com

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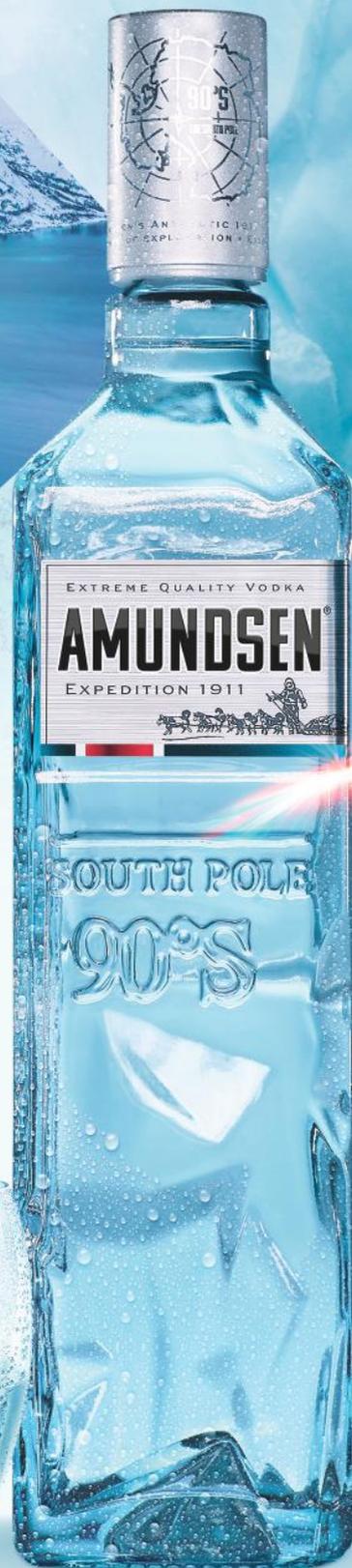
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DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Have a greener holiday in Madeira

As well as winning the World Travel Award for Best Island Destination last year, the Portuguese archipelago known as 'Europe's Hawaii' is also one of the most eco-focused places you can visit, according to a recent award from EarthCheck. In 2023, the sustainability-certifying body gave Madeira a silver award – the first step in qualifying as a leading sustainable tourist destination. We've planned an itinerary for those looking for a guilt-free spring break...

Stay

Perched on a cliff at Ponta da Oliveira, Galo Resort Hotel Galomar is proof that you don't have to sacrifice standards for eco-credentials. The resort is 100% energy self-sufficient from renewable sources, but the quality of the spa, restaurants and pools is absolutely up there with the world's very best. galoresort.com



Do

Magic Dolphin is a responsible wildlife-watching tour company, from their eco-friendly catamaran to their strict time constraints on lingering with the animals. See dolphins, porpoises and whales with the peace of mind that you're not harming or upsetting them. A three-hour boat trip costs €30 per person. magic-dolphin.com

Eat

We all know that eating vegetarian and vegan is better for our footprint, especially on islands where a lot of meat and dairy have to be imported. Luckily, Funchal has a number of vegan options such as Mundo Vegan, Bioforma and the old town's Santa Maria, which has vegan sushi and pizza.

✈️ [Wizz Air flies to Madeira](#)



Freewheel around the cornice in Dammam

Those who have had the chance to explore the Saudi Arabian coastal city of Dammam will know the Al-Khobar Corniche – a 22km strip of beachfront promenade that's *the* place to see and be seen. Cooled by ocean breezes and bathed in year-round sunshine, it's a popular place to walk, cycle, or just loaf, checking out the food trucks, sculptures and café culture. Get the most out of your visit by hiring a double bike from City Bikes and following the gentle cycle path along the cornice.

citybikesale.com

✈️ [Wizz Air flies to Dammam](#)



Explore a lifetime's work in Kuwait

When Lidia Al-Qattan's daughter broke a mirror back in the 1960s, the Italian-born Kuwaiti artist made the best of an unlucky situation by using the pieces to decorate a gift for her husband. It was a decision that would change her life forever. Now, more than half a century later, tourists come from around the world to Lidia's 'Mirror House', in which practically every surface, including the two-storey facade, has been mosaiced with shining fragments. Pay a visit to Kuwait City to see her life's work – 100 tonnes of white cement, 75 tonnes of mirror, and a unique artistic vision.

mirrorhouseq8.com

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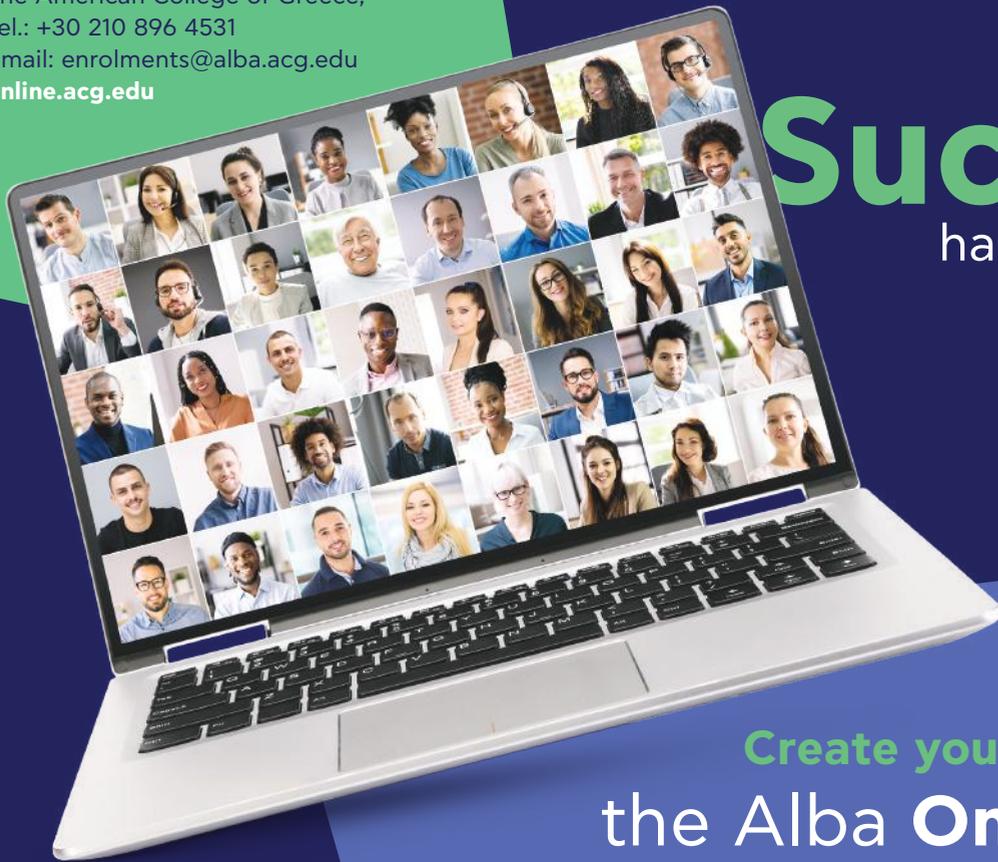
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Colourful characters from around the network

in person



Why whale watching is big
in Tenerife

p20

Drinking in the wine scene
in Georgia

p23

Hiking remote landscapes
in Armenia

p26

“It’s not just about watching the whales, it’s about gaining an insight into their lives”

Tenerife is Europe’s first UNESCO World Heritage Site for cetacean conservation. We went to meet the experts spearheading a more ethical approach to marine safaris

 **Words by Nione Meakin**

The warm, clear waters that surround Tenerife’s coastline are one of its biggest attractions – and not just for the 5.8 million humans that visit the Spanish island annually. Year-round mild temperatures, coupled with depths of up to 3,000m that support a rich biodiversity, mean this stretch of the Atlantic Ocean is also ideal for marine mammals.

Indeed, more than 28 different types of whales and dolphins can be found in the waters off the archipelago, from resident species such as pilot whales and bottlenose dolphins to visitors including sperm whales and even the occasional orca.

One area is particularly special. The 2,000km² marine zone between the west coast of Tenerife and the island of La Gomera is home to such a huge number and variety of cetaceans that it was recently designated Europe’s first UNESCO World Heritage Site for cetacean conservation.

But while Tenerife’s whale and dolphin watching industry is one of the largest in the world, it is an activity that can be difficult to control. Despite government efforts, tour boats operating without a licence continue to be an issue in the Canaries. UNESCO’s designation is intended to not only showcase but protect the area’s impressive underwater population by uniting NGOs, government



Here Francis Perez
Right Mercedes Reyes



departments, scientists and whale-watching operators to ensure cetaceans are not exploited or negatively impacted by excessive tourism.

“It’s impossible to supervise every single boat, so the strongest tool we have is to educate whale-watching operators and tourists,” says Mercedes Reyes, a marine biologist who sits on the steering committee for the Tenerife-La Gomera Whale Heritage Site.

Born and raised on Tenerife, Mercedes’ passion for cetaceans began when she was just eight years old, when a dolphin swam up to the boat she was sailing on with her family. “That moment completely changed my life,” she says. “I immediately felt a sense of immense love, freedom, curiosity and intelligence.

PHOTO: FRANCIS PEREZ



I knew then I wanted to dedicate my life to learning about these incredible animals.”

Now managing director of WeWhale (wewhale.co), she’s leading the charge on responsible whale-watching with the world’s first noise- and emission-free fleet. Its silent e-boats ensure the ocean is not polluted with lubricants and animals are not disturbed while they are being observed.

Noise is especially problematic for whales and dolphins, who rely on sound to communicate and hunt. WeWhale’s small-scale group tours use a hydrophone – an underwater device that captures communication between marine animals – and a 360-degree camera to help everyone on board get the most out of the experience.

Education is crucial in building awareness, and WeWhale is keen to offer an experience that goes beyond sightseeing. “Our biologists are constantly observing the behaviour of the animals and explaining to passengers what they’re doing,” says Mercedes. “It’s not just about watching them, it’s about what we can do to help.”

Underwater photographer Francis Perez (francispez.es) has got closer than most to

Tenerife’s marine mammals. The Tenerife local, who also sits on the Whale Heritage steering committee, has been photographing life beneath the waves for more than 20 years. His close-up shots of pilot and sperm whales illustrate the fascination he has towards them. “I feel empathy for them because they are like us,” he says. “They are mammals, some with a social structure that can be as complex as ours, and I’m fascinated by their vital role within the ecosystem as top predators and fertilisers of the ocean.”

Since diving permits are strictly regulated in the Canaries, few other people will see the sights he has shot. But a reputable whale-watching tour may be the next best thing. Locals recommend November to February, when the widest variety of cetaceans can be spotted (although it’s possible to see species such as pilot whales and bottlenose dolphins all year round).

“Whales and dolphins are friendly, lovable beings that are curious about us,” says Mercedes. “If you respect them and approach them gently there’s a high probability that you’ll have a magical encounter that will imprint a beautiful memory forever.”

✈ **Wizz Air flies to Tenerife**

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**“No other country
has this unbroken
chain of 8,000 years
of winemaking”**

Considered one of the oldest wine regions in the world, Georgia has a buzzing natural vino scene. Tommo Williams, founder of Eat This! Food & Wine Tours, gives us the lowdown

 Words by Clodagh Kinsella



Clockwise from left Freshly picked grapes; the wine harvest in Sagarejo; small-batch, home-made wines; khinkali, Georgian dumplings; Tommo, founder of Eat This!



After a decade working on cruise ships and touring the world as bloggers, Englishman Tommo Williams and his Australian wife settled in Georgia. Launching wine-based tour company Eat This! in a country with one of the world's oldest winemaking traditions was a no-brainer. "No other country has this unbroken chain of 8,000 years of winemaking in the traditional method with qvevri," Tommo explains. "Go back to 6,000BC and they've found this ancient pottery stained with wine, which is the oldest wine in the world that we know about. The story here can never be replicated. That's one reason I was so drawn to it for wine tours."

Whereas commercial wineries tend to use stainless-steel tanks for fermentation, and chemicals to manipulate wines, Georgian winemakers continue to favour the near-mythical qvevri: oval-shaped clay vessels which sit underground. After initial fermentation, the qvevris are sealed, and gravity acts as a form of natural filtration.

"Everything is very close to what it would have been 8,000 years ago," says Tommo, approvingly. "It's really very simple. You let the season and the grapes lead your winemaking."

Much of the excitement around Georgian wines right now revolves around the trademark, cheek-puckering amber wines (also known as orange wines). "Most people are used to white wine with this light straw colour, which is classic European-style wine," says Tommo. "They don't use any skin contact, or just a few hours." With amber wine, the chacha (grape skins, stems and pips) are left in the mix during fermentation – sometimes for an impressive six months. "The reason you get the colour is because the skin is what contains the phenols and other chemical properties. They create more tannins and more colour, so you get these very rich, dark amber wines."

Georgia's two most famous grapes are Saperavi (red) and Rkatsiteli (white). In Soviet times, a focus on quantity over quality meant that a handful of such high-yield grape varieties were used exclusively. "Rkatsiteli is still the most famous because it's a huge percentage of the annual grape crop and you have so many different types. If you don't have skin contact you end up with Tsinandali, which is a super-popular European-style wine." But the same grape also fuels Tsarapi, a powerful, sherry-esque amber



RAISE A GLASS

Three of Tommo's must-visit Georgian wineries

Tsinandali Estate

Winemaker and poet Prince Alexander Chavchavadze's estate was where Georgian wine was first bottled, back in 1814. Today it boasts a stately mansion, luxury hotel and jaw-dropping wine cellar.

tsinandali.ge

Okro's Marani & Restaurant

A Sighnaghi-based pioneer of the modern natural wine scene. Enjoy a selection of wild, small-batch qvevri wines, plus stunning mountain views. 7a Chavchavadze Str., 4200 Sighnaghi

Sazano Wine Cellar & Hotel

An hour from Kutaisi, a riverside boutique hotel, restaurant and wine cellar run by a family that has been producing wine from rare local grapes for six generations.

[@sazanowine](https://www.sazanowine.com)

wine made not far from the Tsinandali Estate. "For me that exemplifies the diversity of this one grape that's become the most popular in Georgia, because it can really do everything," Tommo says.

Georgian winemakers are now looking back to the past to expand beyond the popular varieties (the country has over 400 indigenous species of grapes). "There's this small subset of natural winemakers who are reclaiming the incredible history of Georgian grapes, and the diversity they actually have," says Tommo. "I've been tasting wines here for years and I'm still discovering new ones." Eat This! tours are in this spirit, focussing on small artisanal wineries and taking visitors into winemakers' homes.

"Georgia is about indulgence and connecting with people, and that can't happen in an hour," Tommo adds. "That's why we focus on full-day tours, with three or four wineries minimum." Where there's Georgian wine, there's also food: tours include lunch and dinner, invariably featuring moreish cheese-rich bread khachapuri. Join a harvest tour in autumn, meanwhile, and you'll get stuck in picking grapes. Either way, the tours are a heady experience. "The quantity of wine that the winemakers want you to

consume gets a bit crazy so for most people one day is enough and then they want a break!" says Tommo.

While easterly Kakheti, Georgia's winemaking hub, draws most tourists, Eat This! also covers the Imereti area south of Kutaisi. The latter is home to Usakhelauri, one of the world's rarest grapes, and its wineries are blissfully easy to visit: within 45 minutes of touching down in Kutaisi, you can be raising a toast in Baghdati, the key wine town. "Some people aren't quite sure about amber wine if they've not tried it before, but the wines here are lighter, so it's a great gateway to Georgian wine," Tommo says.

West Georgian wineries aren't really on tourists' maps yet, but one of the joys of Georgia's wine scene is that it remains so untapped. "I've been to wineries where they've said I'm the first ever guest who's a native English speaker," Tommo says. "That's such a crazy experience. In many countries, everything has been sold to tourists, whereas here we have this opportunity because it hasn't been. Visitors can feel like they've stepped into someone's life rather than an artificial tourist experience."

eatthis.com

✈ Wizz Air flies to Kutaisi

“I’ve seen no-one since setting off – four street dogs are my only companions”

There’s perfect solitude in the Caucasus Mountains, as our writer finds out on a walk along Armenia’s wild new Transcaucasian Trail

  Words and photography by Anna Richards

You'll have amazing scenery all to yourself on the 1,500km stretch of the Transcaucasian Trail

At the end of the first day, I think I must be mad. I've pitched my tent on an incline as upright as an airline seat, looking over a sea of mountains that seemed to stretch to the ends of the Earth. From my throne, above the town of Meghri in southern Armenia, Iran stretches in front of me, its mountains like jagged, arid teeth.

By the end of the third day, I know I'm mad. The Transcaucasian Trail, spanning 1,500km from Meghri to the Black Sea in Georgia, is brand new, and I – a willing if naive guinea pig – have set off to hike a month of it solo. That means off-trail navigation, days without water sources or civilisation. I've seen no-one since I set off, just four street dogs that have followed me from Meghri town and been my constant companions. I chat animatedly to them. Mad, mad, I've gone completely mad.

I should have known that my adventure was going to be this way. The hiking trail is a long-held dream of those in the Caucasus region – the idea is to create a 3,000km route through Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, eventually linking the Black and Caspian Seas, to celebrate the area and its peoples. But it takes time to build the route and the infrastructure of such a trail, never mind publicise it. By the time I set

off, only this 1,500km stretch, including the full north-south route through Armenia, has been completed, and fewer than 100 people have tackled a multi-day section. I knew I'd be quite literally off the beaten track, but I wasn't expecting to be quite so... lonely?

Then, luckily, something changes. In the days that follow, the mountains become green and interspersed with forests, and there is water to be found. There are also signs of people, like the 1,000-year-old monasteries that crown hilltops and rocky outcrops, whose cool confines give much needed respite from the stifling heat. There are beekeeper's houses, too, the rectangular hives stacked on top of each other like multicoloured LEGO. I'm struck with the beauty of the place: wandering through canyons such a startling red that they look otherworldly. Freshwater rivers cut through the landscape that seems as though it's been formed from molten lava

And, as I encounter villages, I also begin to experience the famous Armenian hospitality. As I arrive in a hamlet, I'm regarded with the level of curiosity akin to what I'd have got had I been a small bear in a duffle coat arriving at a London station. A double take, a circle back to get a better look at this oddity, and a flurry of questions. "What are you doing? Why are you alone? Aren't you scared?" and more often than not – "It's quicker if you drive to your destination, you know."

If hikers are scarce, solo female hikers are even scarcer, and since the Armenian part of the trail opened in 2022, you can count them on your fingers. Each one I speak to after doing the trail received the same hospitality. Sixty-one-year-old Ellen Loopstra, a Dutch woman, hiked around six weeks before me: "An invitation would start with coffee, which before you knew it would become lunch, and then, inevitably,

the challenge
ARMENIA



vodka,” she says. For Ellen, the best part of the trail was the thick carpets of alpine flowers amid views which she had all to herself.

In 2023, 50-year-old Dorota Szparaga from Poland became the first woman to complete the full Armenian and Georgian trails. “Armenia was my favourite, because it was so fresh, with no tourists,” she says. “People aren’t afraid of you if you’re a woman, so I was invited countless times to have coffee, lunch, or to stay the night.”

At the end of day five, descending from Vahanavank Monastery, I’m exhausted and barely able to drink in the beauty of the wood-covered mountains which become higher around me as I walk. As I search for a place to camp, a woman ushers me inside, saying: “There are bears, stay with my parents.” Inside this patchwork quilt of a home, an elderly couple, faces as wrinkled as scrunched balls of paper, look like Roald Dahl characters as they lay side by side in a bed too small for them, a homemade wooden

in person



Clockwise from here
Stunning Armenian countryside; locals open their hearts and homes; a musical interlude en route; writer Anna Richards makes a new friend



crutch propped against the frame. Then the banquet appears. Chicken, salads, lavash (a bread like a large tortilla wrap), tomatoes, fresh fruit, dried fruit, sweets, and inevitably, home-distilled vodka.

Warm water is sent down to their outdoor shower for me from their daughter’s house, and I enjoy the first hot water of the trip. The man and his wife make up a bed with every blanket they possess and prepare picnic meals for the next day.

Suddenly I don’t feel mad at all, but quite sane, because surely these are the sort of moments I’m looking for.

✈️ **Wizz Air flies to Yerevan**

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Getting to the heart of the story

in depth



Hit the ski slopes
in Italy

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Have a cool experience
in Norway

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Treat your tastebuds
in Cairo

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Hunt for eco art
in Athens

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Where

the

trees

play

music

**The forests of Val di
Fiemme - one of Italy's
most picturesque
ski resorts - guard
a secret. Their trees
make some of the
world's best stringed
instruments**

 Words by Tristan Kennedy

 Photography by Ben Read



From left to right
Paneveggio forest;
Elio Desilvestro; the
Travignolo gorge that
runs through the forest



It's snowing gently, the fat flakes fluttering down through the trees almost in slow motion, as Elio Desilvestro beckons me towards a stack of neatly cut logs. "Not this one, not this one," he mutters to himself in Italian, brushing the snow off each tree trunk. "Ah! Here it's very clear – the rings, you see? Very regular, and very close together." This, he explains, is what makes these trees magic. What allows them, in the hands of skilled craftspeople, to sing with some of the purest tones known to the human ear.

Spruce from the Paneveggio forest, which covers around 4,500 hectares in the upper reaches of Italy's Fiemme Valley, has been coveted by musical instrument makers for 900 years. Antonio Stradivari, the celebrated 17th century violin maker whose Stradivarius instruments have sold for as much as €14.5 million, famously sourced his wood from here. Among today's luthiers (as people who make lutes, guitars, violins and other stringed instruments are known) the tonal qualities of these trees are legendary.

"Genetically, they're no different to red spruce anywhere else," explains Elio, an officer of the Corpo Forestale dello Stato, the 'forest guardians' charged with managing the wood on behalf of the local community. "But the soil, the continental climate, the temperatures, cold in winter and not particularly hot in summer, the aspect of these slopes, which are quite shaded, the altitude, and the precipitation – all of these factors combine to make trees that grow very slowly, and very consistently." In most spruce forests, fewer than 1% of the trees might be useable for violins. Here it's around 10%.

As well as protecting the forest, Elio and his team are responsible for identifying these special trees, choosing a select few to harvest each season. "This one has the right characteristics," he explains as we walk along the snowy visitor trail. "It's probably 100 or

120 years old, very tall, with few branches, and very straight."

Dressed in his green uniform, with a beanie that rises to an impish peak, Elio has the air of a wise woodland elf. And while most of his work is science-based, there are elements which border on the mystical. "Tradition has it that if you cut the wood during a waning crescent moon, it sounds even better," he says. Although he's not personally convinced of this, luthiers will pay more for so-called 'moon spruce', he explains. "It's worth maybe €600 per m³ (cubic metre), compared to €80 or €90 for wood that can't be used for instruments."

While sales of this wood contribute to the upkeep of this forest, and the larger Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino Natural Park, Elio's job also includes managing a visitor centre, and answering questions from curious tourists. Because these days, the Fiemme Valley's main industry is not forestry, but tourism. And in winter, that means skiing.

There are no fewer than five ski areas in the valley, with over 110km of slopes between them – some of which run through the Paneveggio-Pale di San Martino park itself. Val di Fiemme (as the area is known in Italian) also forms part of the even-larger Dolomiti Superski zone. The full lift pass offers access

**“Apparently,
wood cut
during a
waning
crescent
moon sounds
even better”**



to an incredible 1,200km of runs. Before visiting the forest, we spent a day exploring a small corner of this vast ski area: the resort of Alpe Cermis, which can be reached by cable car directly from Cavalese, one of Val di Fiemme's largest towns.

The same cold, shady conditions that help the trees grow slowly and steadily in Paneveggio make for superb skiing further down the valley. Even days after the last snowfall, the slopes are in excellent shape. "They take a lot of pride in the pistes here," says Isabella Corradini, a Cavalese local who works for the Val di Fiemme tourist board. "It's a small resort, but they act like a family business. They care about the quality, not the quantity."

After lunch – a plate of ravioli in the newly built Lo Chalet slopeside restaurant, washed down with an excellent bottle of nosiola – I hike from the top chairlift to the peak of the Cimon del To della Trappola, 2,400m above sea level. Standing beneath the cross which marks the summit, I can see five of the nine areas that make up the Dolomites UNESCO World Heritage Site. With the sun setting fast, the late afternoon light plays on their red rock walls, running through an entire symphony of shades, from blood orange to deep purple.

The snow starts falling overnight, and by the following morning, the valley is shrouded in cloud and the visibility has closed right in. Less ideal conditions for skiing, perhaps, but perfect for visiting the Paneveggio forest. After seeing the living trees, cut trunks, and the rows of wedge-shaped, red spruce cross-sections waiting to be sold to luthiers from the park's xiloteca, or wood store, I'm intrigued by the next steps of the instrument-making process.

In Tesero, a small town in the middle of the Fiemme Valley, **Ciro Doliana** creates violins using the traditional Cremona method. "The one that Stradivari himself used." It's painstaking work, he explains. While he uses some tools that weren't available to the 17th-century maestro, each instrument is still made entirely by hand, taking him around 250 hours to complete. "These days, of course, there are computerised machines that can make violins in factories in China,"



“The resort acts like a family business. They care about quality not quantity”

Clockwise from here
Fiemme spruce at the xiloteca; writer Tristan tackles Alpe Cermis; luthier **Ciro Doliana**; Doliana's workshop



he says. "But they sculpt the spruce using spinning drill bits. If you do that, it tends to close the lines in the wood. If you work it with a hand plane, it opens them up. And that makes a difference to the sound."

Despite his obvious skill, **Ciro** is a hobbyist. The economics of it don't really add up, and so he builds instruments around his day job, selling them to friends, or giving them to his kids, who play violin and cello. But an hour south of the Fiemme Valley, we visit a second workshop, where a young luthier called **Luca Cairra** runs a different sort of operation. "Sometimes



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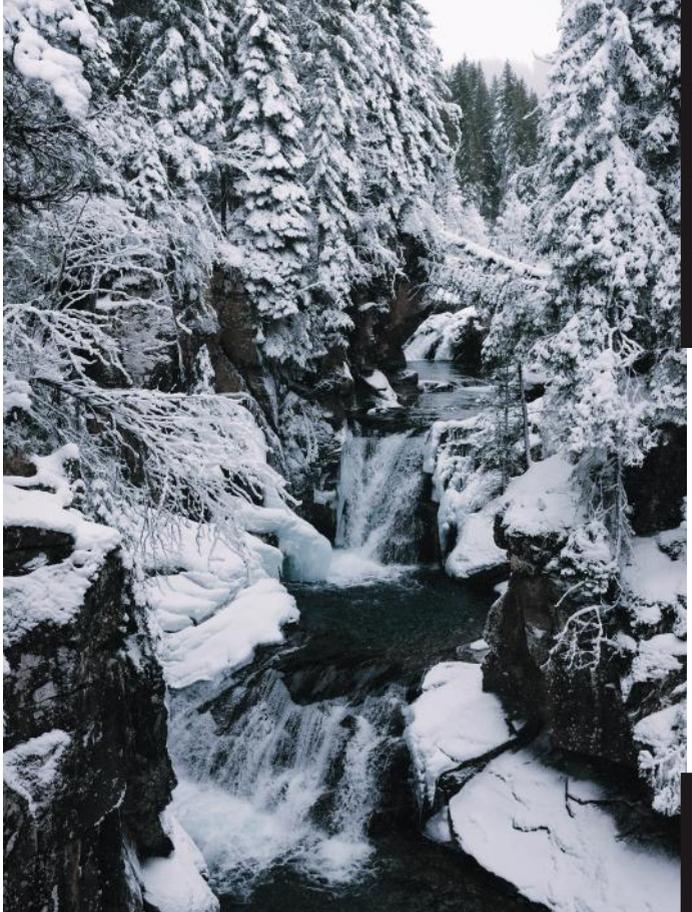
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Clockwise from here Luca Caira in his workshop; Fiemme Valley combines natural beauty with world-class slopes



“I get goosebumps when I look at a guitar like this and I think it’s just a piece of wood”



people come here with violins to repair,” Luca says, “but it’s not the same thing at all. It’s like going to a cardiologist if you need a radiologist.” Instead, he hand-builds classical guitars.

Originally from Naples, Luca came to this part of northern Italy after years living in Amsterdam, where he studied and taught English literature and philosophy. His workshop is named *Kairòs Luterie*, named after the Greek concept of qualitative time, and he takes a philosophical approach to the construction process. “When you step into the lab, the mind stops wandering,” he says. “You are there, in the moment.”

With his shaved head, thick beard and single crucifix earring, Luca is recognisably part of a new generation of craftspeople. He sells a lot of his guitars on Etsy, he says. When he picks up a recently completed instrument and idly strums a song – a gorgeous, full-bodied sound – it’s an Arctic Monkeys number. Yet most of the processes he uses have been around for centuries – from reading tea leaves spread over the soundboard to show where it vibrates, to painting the guitars with shellac, “a varnish made from literal insect poo”.

At the centre of it all, Luca says, is the wood, which he sources in person from the Fiemme Valley. “You can make a guitar with a cedar top, but that creates a darker sound,” he says. For the clearly defined



frequencies that classical guitarists value, nothing compares to Fiemme spruce. “I get goosebumps when I look at a guitar like this and I think it’s just a piece of wood, but because things are put together in the right way you have this amazing, miraculous sound.” Then his wizard-like fingers strum a couple more chords, and you can feel the full magic of the forest filling the workshop.

visitfiemme.it

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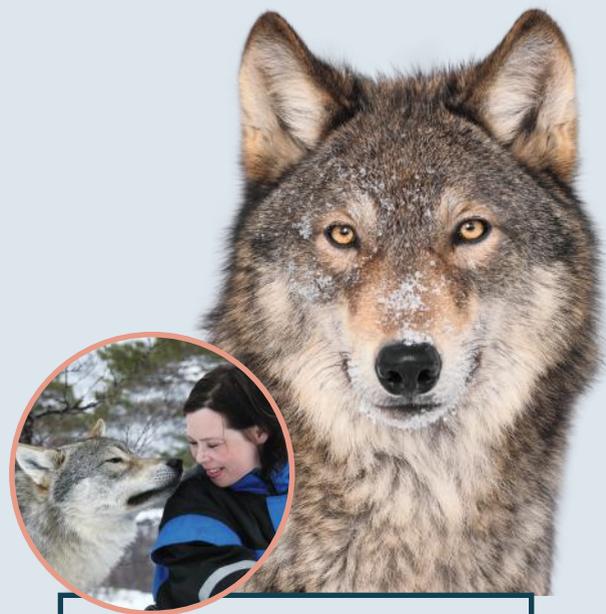
TRUE NORTH

With the Northern Lights brighter than ever, there has never been a better time to visit Norway than now. Here are 15 activities to make the most of one of the most beautiful countries on the planet

 Words by Sarah Warwick

With its incredible scenery illuminated by the aurora borealis in the winter and the midnight sun in the summer, Norway is on top of the world as a holiday destination in more ways than one. And now just happens to be the best time to visit this extraordinary country.

It's a bonanza year for the Northern Lights as the sun reaches its 'solar maximum' (the peak of its approximately 11-year activity cycle), and scientists are predicting the best displays in 20 years. Norway's coastal culture will also have its moment dazzling in the spotlight thanks to Bodø's turn as one of three cities hosting the European Capital of Culture 2024. Whatever your reason for finally booking that Norway holiday, we've put together a list of 15 world-beating activities to add to your itinerary.



Get up close with wolves

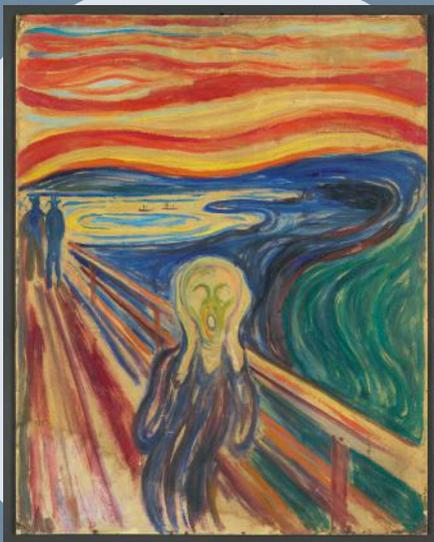
This might seem insane, but at Polar Park, an outdoor safari park near Tromsø dedicated to the animals of the Arctic, you can pay extra for time in the wolf enclosure where you can interact with and even hug these toothy hounds. Do think: this is an incredible experience. Don't think: what big teeth they have. polarpark.no

Take a sensational (and guilt-free) road trip

Norway has some of the most incredible panoramas in the world, full stop. And to capitalise on the amazing views, the country has designated 18 special Scenic Routes, which are driving-holiday fodder at its very best. Celebrating their 30th year this year, not only do these routes add up to 2,136km of high-octane bends and immaculate scenery, but the experience is elevated by viewpoints, art installations, and even toilet stops that have been designed by top artists and architects. Norway also comes top in the world for EV infrastructure, so you can tour the lot in an electric car and not have to worry about damaging the pristine environment – or where your next charge is coming from. visitnorway.com/plan-your-trip/travel-tips-a-z/norwegian-scenic-routes

See The Scream... and much more

Norway is home to one of three European Capitals of Culture this year, as Bodø and the surrounding Nordland county become the first in the Arctic Circle to hold the title. It's another feather in the cap for a country that has produced many a cultural highlight in recent years – from one of the world's best street-art capitals in Stavanger, to Oslo's new mega Munch museum, and two up-and-coming art zones in Hadeland and Kristiansand. While the former is home to the Kistefos museum and sculpture park, with its eye-opening new exhibition space The Twist, the latter will unveil the world's largest private collection of Nordic modern art at the Kunstsilo, a grain silo-turned-museum, in 2024.



PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK, ROGER JOHANSEN - @NORDBORGE.COM, EDVARD MUNCH, THE SCREAM 1910 © MUNCHMUSEET, ROBERT BYE UNSPLASH, CHRISTIAN KOTH, CHRISTENSEN - VISITNORWAY.COM



Chill with the Sámi

The Sámi are among some of the northernmost of the world's indigenous people, and have spent the last two-plus millennia inside the Arctic Circle. Find out how they have survived on an immersive tour with a family of Sámi guides. Take a sleigh ride along the icy coast, try some traditional snowshoeing and experience cuisine, storytelling and *joiking* (songs) around the campfire. Despite the freezing conditions, it's an unexpectedly warm encounter. [norwegian.travel/experiences](https://www.norwegian.travel/experiences)





Climb a landmark

While the Sydney Opera House is unquestionably the most famous of its kind, the Norwegian Opera and Ballet building might well be the most egalitarian. Even those without the funds or inclination to enjoy the events inside are welcome to climb its sloping exterior for free. Designed by local firm Snøhetta to be a landscape as much as a building, the roof is accessible all year round for fantastic views across the harbour (hold on tight!), while the 'keyless' lobby is open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week for meeting up, hanging out and a good old spot of people watching.

operaen.no

Eat caviar for breakfast

OK, so it's not the famous beluga kind; rather kaviar is a tube of creamed, smoked cod-roe spread that the Scandinavians will squeeze onto just about anything. But pair it with a couple of boiled eggs and you'll find its salty, umami quality is a definite gamechanger.

As you'd expect from a country with the world's second longest coastline (at 101,915km, it loses to Canada) the highlight of Norway's culinary scene is unquestionably the seafood. The country produces so much quality fish that it was the Norwegians who introduced salmon sushi to the Japanese back in the 1980s.

As well as the famous salmon, look out for king crab and other unique specialities like skrei (Arctic cod, only available in the early spring), tørrfisk (wind-dried cod) and klippfisk (dried and salted fish), a famous dish in Ålesund.



Get super fit

Low-impact and high-cardio, the national sport of cross-country or Nordic skiing burns up to 1,100 calories per hour, boosts cardiovascular endurance and is one of the best full-body workouts you can find. Plus, you can do it while floating over the powder through an idyllic snowy forest – much nicer than the gym. There are trails all over the country for you to practise, but beginners should always start with a couple of lessons.

oslo.skischool.shop

PHOTOS: DIDRICK STENERSEN, KVITTEGGA KRISTIN FOLSLAND OLSEN VISIT NORWAY, JOAKIM MANGEN HUNDERFOSSEN



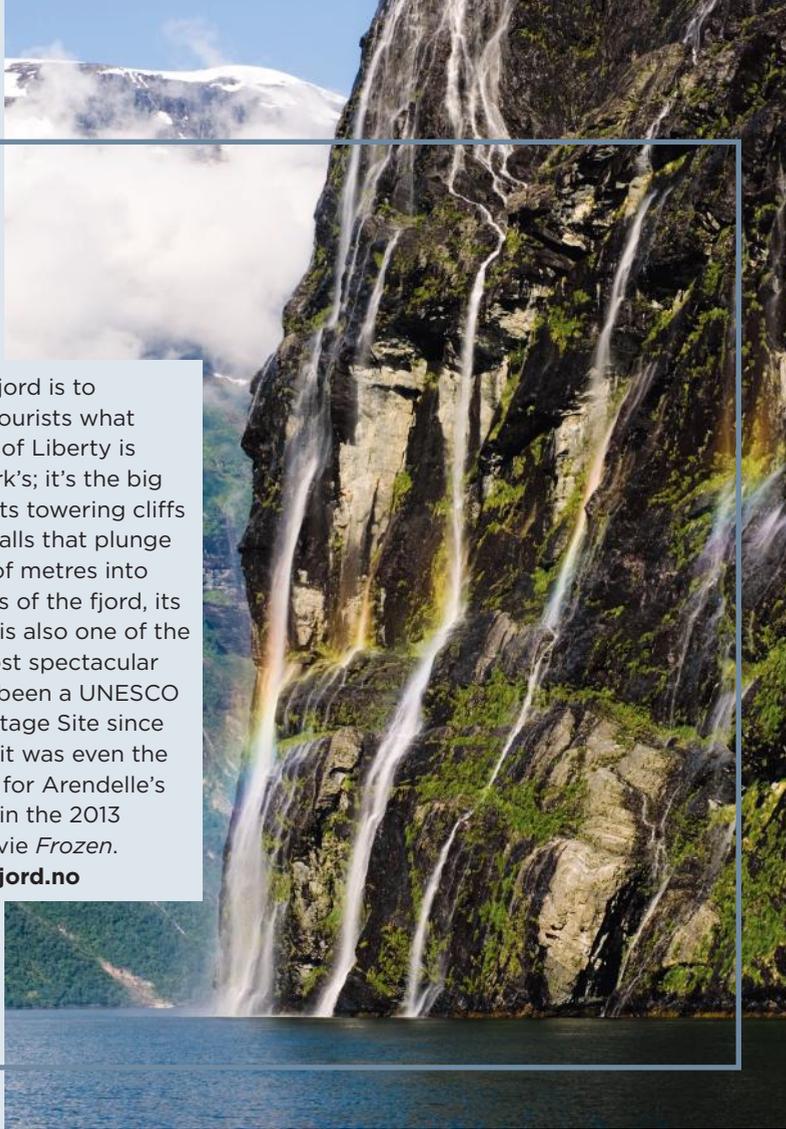
Go troll hunting

Norwegian folklore is dominated by the presence of magical trolls: three-headed, night-roaming giants that eat concrete and cover from sunlight. Strange happenings around the country will invariably be blamed on the trolls, and you can take various tours to learn more about their fantastic history. From June last year, you now can also visit Home of the Trolls in Rindal. Families will love using the AR 'troll detectors' to spot these craggy beasts, while others will adore the setting: sleep in a giant nest and kayak across the troll's very own lake.

homeofthetrolls.no

Cruise Arendelle

Geirangerfjord is to Norway's tourists what the Statue of Liberty is to New York's; it's the big one. With its towering cliffs and waterfalls that plunge hundreds of metres into the stillness of the fjord, its landscape is also one of the world's most spectacular sights. It's been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2005, and it was even the inspiration for Arendelle's landscape in the 2013 Disney movie *Frozen*.
geirangerfjord.no



Play golf all night

The swinging game is seeing a surge in Norway, thanks to homegrown talent Viktor Hovland, currently world number four – but you don't have to be a golfing superfan to enjoy the surreal pleasure of sport under the midnight sun. Tee off at the world's northernmost 18-hole golf course, 35 minutes from Tromsø, from May to July for a nighttime game, or take on the 24-hour, 100-hole challenge: if you can keep your eyes open.

tromsogolf.com



Try cold water surfing

Norway is developing an awesome surf scene, thanks to its long, clean coastline with plenty of hidden coves and great breaks. Hoddevik on the Stadlandet peninsula has great waves with few competing riders. For more extreme conditions, venture to the Lofoten Islands where you can surf with seals under the midnight sun, and then go skiing or snowboarding in the peaks during the day.



Brave the brown cheese

The most ubiquitous and unusual Norwegian flavour is probably the infamous brunost “brown cheese”. It might look and feel much like tan-coloured plasticine, but has a tangy, nutty, moreish quality that will stay with you long after your last Norwegian meal.





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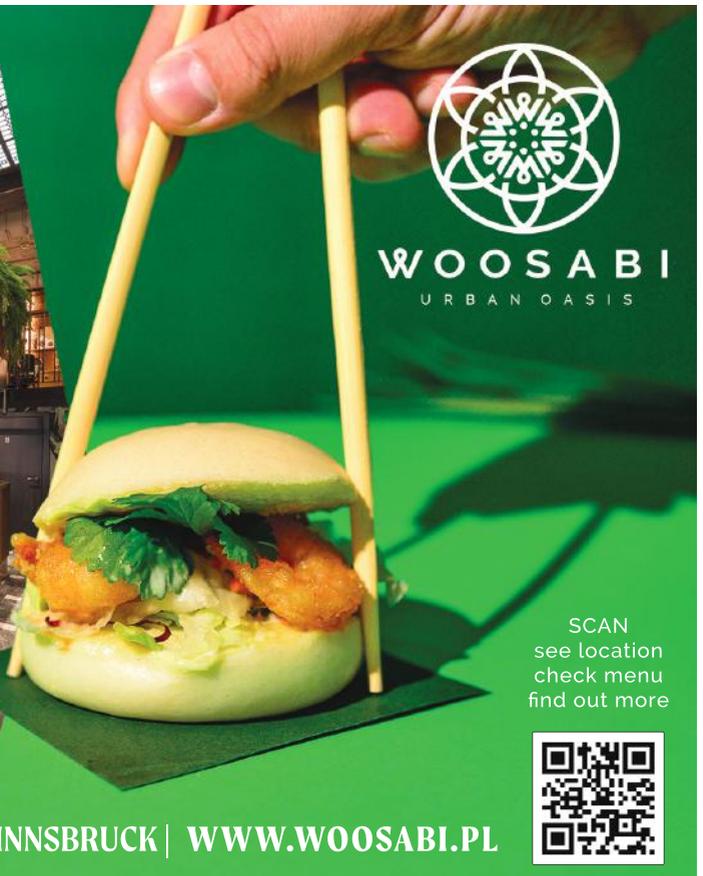
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Take the train

Norway has a fantastic rail network with frequent, clean and punctual trains that can take you all the way from Kristiansand in the south to Bodø, above the Arctic Circle. They include some of the best tracks in Europe, including the mountain-hugging Flåm and the dramatic Rauma which featured in the Harry Potter and Mission: Impossible films.

For the most romantic journey, opt for the Oslo-Bergen Railway, which runs across Hardangervidda, Europe's highest mountain plateau – and is regularly voted in the top five most beautiful train trips. The route has had an overhaul for 2024 with new long-distance hybrid-electric trains, called FLIRTNEX, replacing its tired engines, and a 'Norient Express' service – Norway's answer to the super-luxe train with luxury compartments, wellness options and fine dining.

PHOTOS: ANDALSNES SJ NORGE, HENRIK MOKNES, PASI AALTO, ADOBE STOCK

Commune with nature

We couldn't talk about Norway without mentioning friluftsliv. Literally 'free, air, life', the term encapsulates a love of nature and the outdoors and is practically a national religion. There's even a friluftsløven law in place that protects people's right to access natural spaces.

Many believe this mindful appreciation of nature has had a positive effect on the collective mental health of Norwegians – one of the reasons why the country is consistently ranked among the top 10 countries in the UN's World Happiness Report.

For a happier holiday, channel your inner Norwegian by going off-grid in a hytte (cabin), and seeking out opportunities for kos (simple pleasures enjoyed with family and friends). Remember, to truly make like a Norwegian you must take advantage of all the outdoor activities on offer, spend as much time in nature as possible and leave no trace.



The Bolder

These designer lodges, opened last year, hover high above the Lysefjord, just along from Pulpit Rock. thebolder.no

The Arctic Hideaway

This collection of carbon-neutral cabins on the Fleinvær archipelago is only accessible by an hour's boat trip – but all the better for full friluftsliv immersion. theartichideaway.com



Tretoppfytter

In the forest with views of Oslofjord, these 'nests' are in fact treetop cabins with spacious terraces. tretoppfytter-oslofjord.no

Shout from the pulpit

There's nothing religious about this kind of pulpit, unless you count blaspheming as you look upon what feels like your imminent death. We're talking about Pulpit Rock (Preikestolen), a popular hiking destination near Stavanger. Tourists climb up to a craggy lookout point to casually sit, picnic and take selfies beside a 600m drop. Terrifying, but it does make for great content. Book a bus or electric boat from Stavanger.

gofjords.com

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Eat like an

an Egyptian

It might not be the first foodie city you think of, but Cairo has a lot to offer the culinary tourist. We take the tour that's putting Egyptian street food on the map

 Words by Portia Jones

 Photography by Diana Jarvis



“Egyptians love food. It’s a huge part of every social experience”

A snaking queue has formed outside a chaotic street food stall in downtown Cairo. I automatically join the end of it, drawn in by the aromatic smell of warm, fresh bread and frying meat as well as the sound of sizzling spices – somehow audible over the horn-blasting cacophony of city traffic.

My foodie travels have taken me in search of street food in some of the greatest cities in the world – feasting on deep-fried rice balls in Rome and Bled cream cake on the pristine shoreline of Lake Bohinj in Slovenia – but somehow, standing here in one of the most ancient metropolises, this feels the most exotic.

I’m here because Cairo is having a street food moment. More and more tourists are braving the backstreets of the Egyptian capital in search of tasty dishes like ta’ameya (herby fava bean falafel), molokhia (a garlicky plant-based broth), and koshary (a spicy mixed grain and pasta dish).

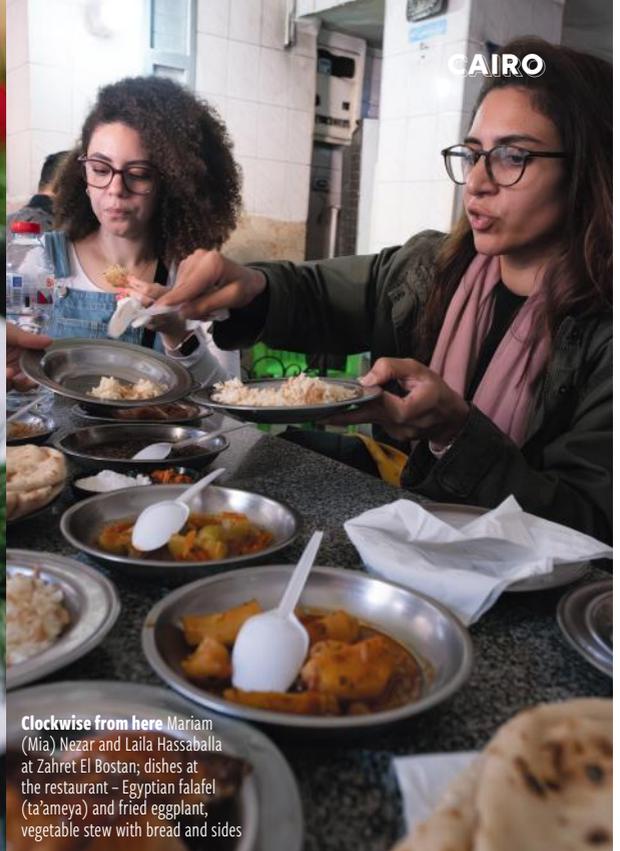
The city, which is better known for its pyramids than its pastries, has been gaining a reputation for authentic cuisine that’s delicious, filling and well worth swerving tourist-trap restaurants for. Playing its part in

this movement is Bellies En-Route – Cairo’s first female-founded food tour company.

Until comparatively recently, Cairo’s street food stalls and cafés often seemed intimidating to visitors, many of them housed off the tourist trail, in nondescript buildings with Arabic menus and signs that are difficult for travellers to decipher.

“We often hear from people on the tour that they would never have walked into these restaurants or tried these foods,” says Laila Hassaballa, one of the company’s co-founders. “Most people who come on our food tours don’t know what Egyptian food is,” she continues. “We find it sad because Egyptians love food. It’s a huge part of every social experience.”

I’ve met Laila and her university pal turned business partner Mariam ‘Mia’ Nezar at Borai, a hole-in-the-wall spot, first on Bellies En-Route’s multi-stop Cairo food tour. The idea for their company came in 2016 when the pair realised that while other North African and Middle Eastern cuisines – think Moroccan and Lebanese – have gained widespread recognition, Egypt’s was much less well known, even among those who had been to their country.



Clockwise from here Mariam (Mia) Nezar and Laila Hassaballa at Zahret El Bostan; dishes at the restaurant - Egyptian falafel (ta'ameya) and fried eggplant, vegetable stew with bread and sides

“Everything here gets overshadowed by the ancient Egyptian history,” says Mia. “Tourists think Egypt, and it’s all, ‘Ah yes, magical pharaohs and pyramids’, but no one thinks of modern-day Egypt. No one thinks food.”

“People will come here and eat at their hotels or McDonald’s,” adds Laila. “They wouldn’t know anything about Egyptian cuisine, except that people tell them, ‘Oh, be careful on the street because the food won’t be clean, and you might get sick,’ and we dislike having that reputation.”

Since setting up their company, the pair have been slowly disseminating an understanding of what Egyptian cuisine is, and separating it from the broader, and frankly lazy, umbrella of ‘Middle Eastern food’. While there are similarities – use of ingredients like beans, dates, honey and nuts, for example – there are many key differences. “People don’t know that falafel is called ta’ameya in Cairo and that we make them with fava beans, not chickpeas,” explains Laila.

Indeed, Egypt has its own long, rich history of culinary excellence that dates back to the Pharaonic era, when tomb walls were often



Here A chef prepares ful at Borai in downtown Cairo
Below The dish is a staple ingredient in Egyptian cuisine and provides a protein-packed start to the day

“Egyptians eat these for breakfast or lunch”



Try these dishes

Ta’ameya

Think falafel but made with mashed fava beans and parsley – and in disc shapes rather than balls.



Hamam mahshi

Pigeon stuffed with seasoned rice or bulgur wheat before being grilled or baked is a popular and unusual meat dish.



Mahalabiya

Light and delicate, this dessert is made from rosewater-flavoured ground rice topped with toasted nuts and cinnamon.



adorned with depictions of lavish food and drink offerings. Many of these dishes can still be found here today alongside freshly squeezed sugarcane juice, orange blossom-infused semolina cake, lightly roasted Arabic coffee and Mediterranean dishes like baba ghanoush – a creamy eggplant dip – and a version of moussaka.

There are distinct Egyptian flavour profiles. Slurping a bowl of vitamin-rich molokhia, for example, is an entirely new culinary and textural experience. This bright-green garlicky soup is made from jute mallow leaves and has a strangely satisfying, almost slippery feel.

We head on to our next stop, walking past bustling pavement cafés and juice bars with gleaming towers of fresh fruit in search of another classic dish and street food staple, ful medames. Mia hands me a warm flatbread filled with a subtly spiced, silky paste packed with pungent, earthy flavours. “Egyptians eat these for breakfast or lunch,” she says, gesturing to the aish baladi (‘of the people’ or ‘local’) bread filled with a creamy mash of fava beans – slow-simmered and flavoured with cumin, chilli, tahini and lime juice.

It’s a crunchy, citrusy treat that combines layers of flavours and textures to pack an unexpected punch to the tastebuds. This – I gradually understand from my day of grazing – is typical of Egyptian food.

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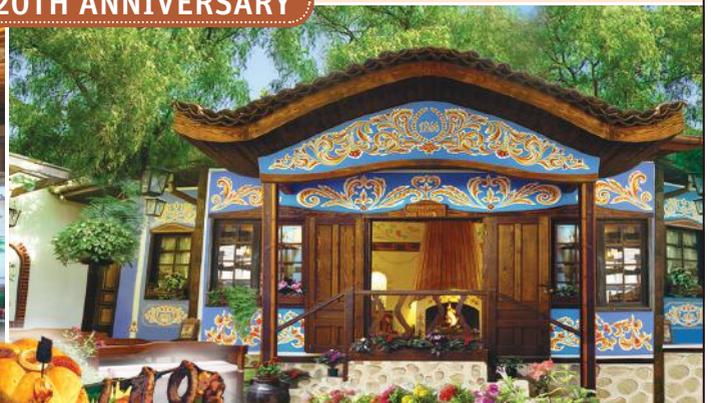
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Hadjidragans restaurants take you on a culinary journey through time without leaving the capital. Two restaurants in the heart of Sofia function as museums, with original exhibits donated by old Bulgarian families. Thousands of household items from ancient Bulgarian villages will be brought to life before your eyes, together with stunning

costumes, painted carts, a weaving loom, and more. Come and sample some traditional Bulgarian dishes including oven roasted lamb, chicken in an egg, banitsa and shopska salad. Choose one of the two restaurants, relax, savour your meal, and take comfort in the knowledge that you have just passed by a number of Bulgaria's most exciting sights.

pastries, even the dishes that look like they were conjured by a hungover student can have sophisticated flavour combinations. Koshary, for example, a carb-tastic combination of grains, legumes, and pasta topped with tomato sauce, has a pleasing multitude of textures with warming spices and a satisfying crunch.

Once Mia and Laila began to introduce visitors to these flavours, the tours have practically sold themselves – with 99% five-star Tripadvisor reviews and overwhelmingly positive foreign press coverage doing their marketing for them.

The harder sell has actually been setting up a female-run business in a male-dominated tourism industry. “One of the biggest challenges as a female start-up, with zero tourism experience, is that we’re the first to be doing what we’re doing,” says Mia.

The pair had to work hard to win over what they call the “men in suits sitting in big offices in Cairo” and build relationships and trust with the community and foodie businesses they wanted to work with. “Once

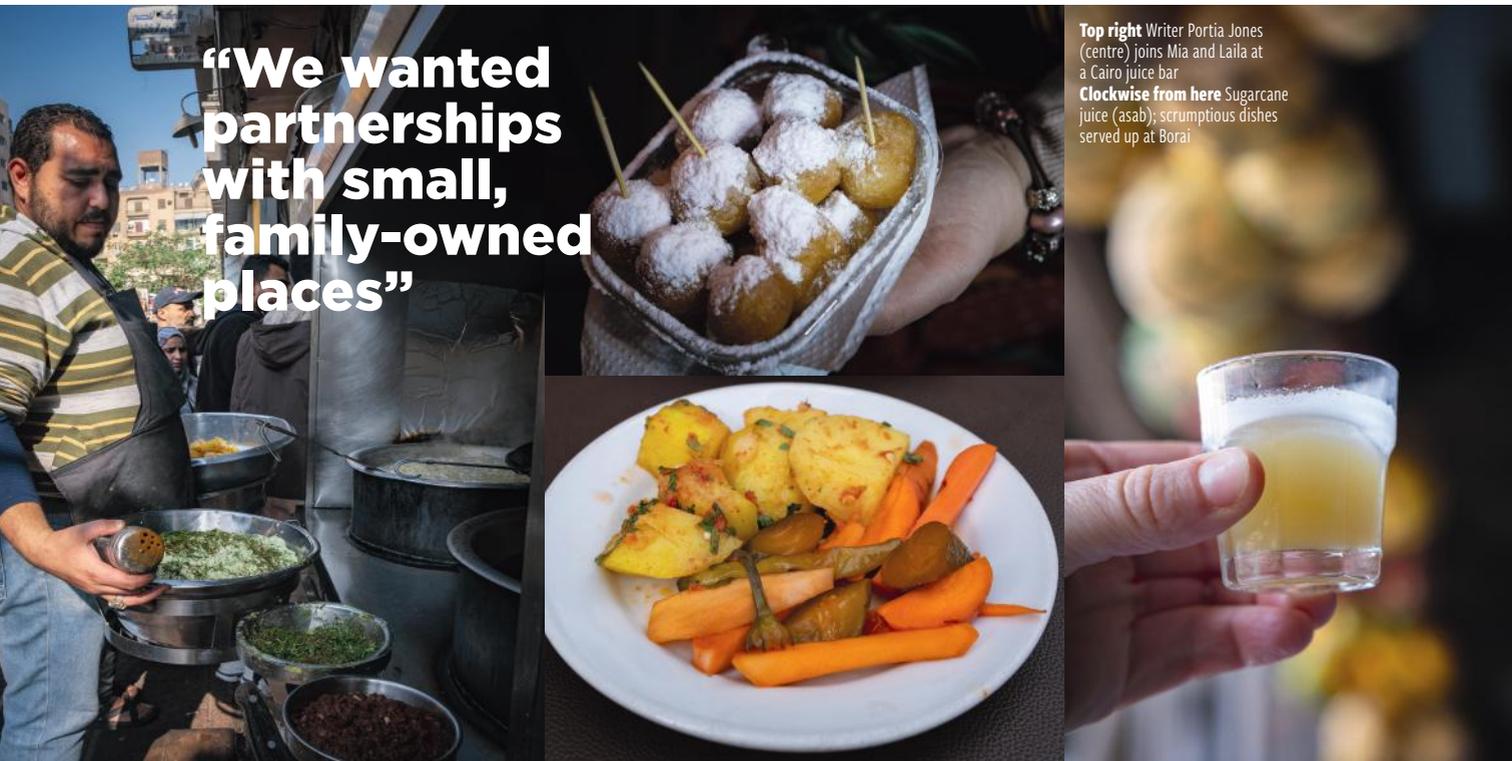
clients started showing up every day, the food vendors and agents saw that we’re doing serious work,” says Mia. “They’re like, ‘OK, these girls aren’t just doing this for fun; we can depend on them because this is a whole new income stream for us.’”

Their drive to provide guests with a true flavour of Egyptian food brings us to rustic, family-owned café Zahret El Bostan for homemade veggie stew. Made with a hearty mix of okra, snow peas, spinach, carrots, potatoes, tomatoes and white beans, stews here are typically prepared at home and enjoyed at family gatherings. “This is what an Egyptian would eat at home,” says Laila as steel bowls of stew and rice with vermicelli are served family style.

The stew is accompanied by aish baladi bread again – which acts as a makeshift soup vessel. “To eat the stew, you fold your bread in a certain way, creating what looks like a cat ear, and that becomes your little dipping scoop or spoon,” adds Laila.

Between serving large groups of Egyptian patrons, café staff drift over to chat warmly

“We wanted partnerships with small, family-owned places”



Top right Writer Portia Jones (centre) joins Mia and Laila at a Cairo juice bar
Clockwise from here Sugarcane juice (asab); scrumptious dishes served up at Borai



with Mia and Laila, who have prioritised local and largely unknown vendors when curating their food tours. “We wanted partnerships with small, family-owned places that don’t know how to market themselves beyond word-of-mouth. The kind of places that locals go to, but tourists wouldn’t know about,” explains Laila. “We always wanted to make sure we were having a positive impact on the community. They treat us like family; we treat them like family.”

With its faded Arabic signs peeling off tiled walls and stray cats stretched out under tables, this is precisely the kind of homely, nondescript neighbourhood café tourists might swiftly saunter past without a second glance, missing out on simmering stews rich in flavour and easy on the wallet.

For the culinary curious however, a curated food tour like this one offers convenient way of experiencing Cairo’s hidden spots, swerving both language barriers and navigation issues. What’s more, unlike more established food tours in more expected cities, this burgeoning scene offers something that’s – for now – still just a little bit off the beaten track.

belliesenroute.com

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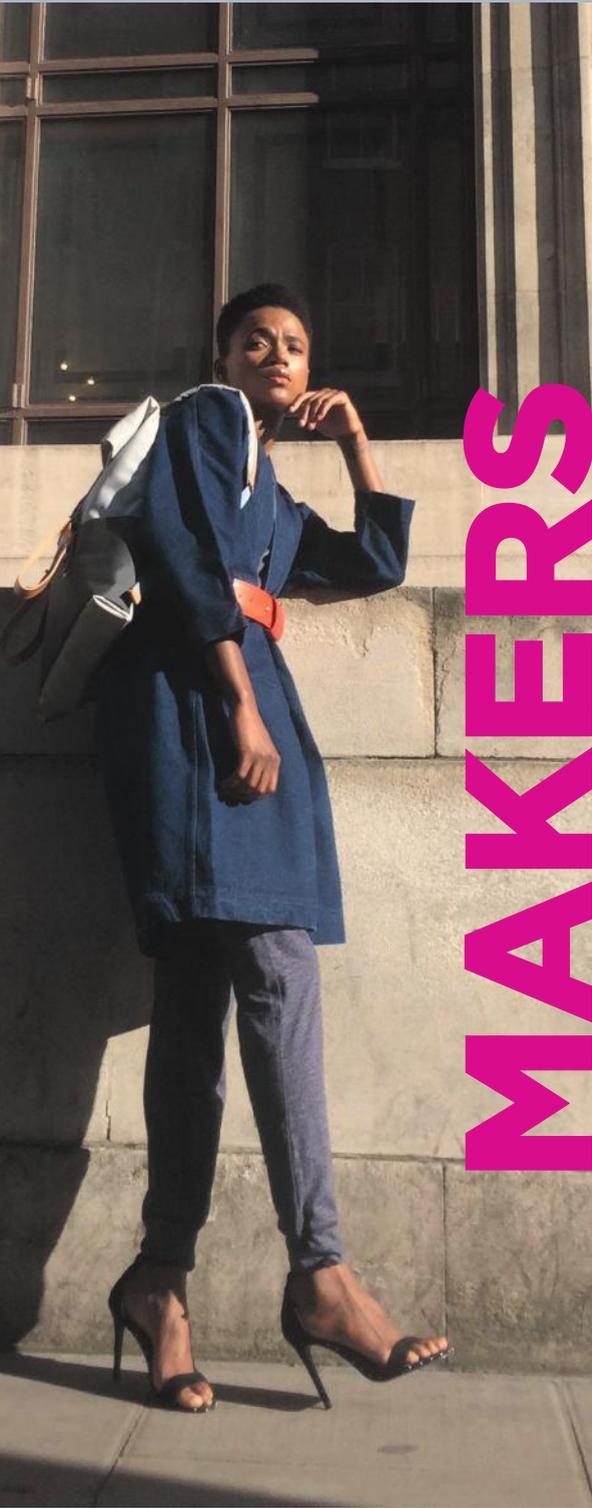
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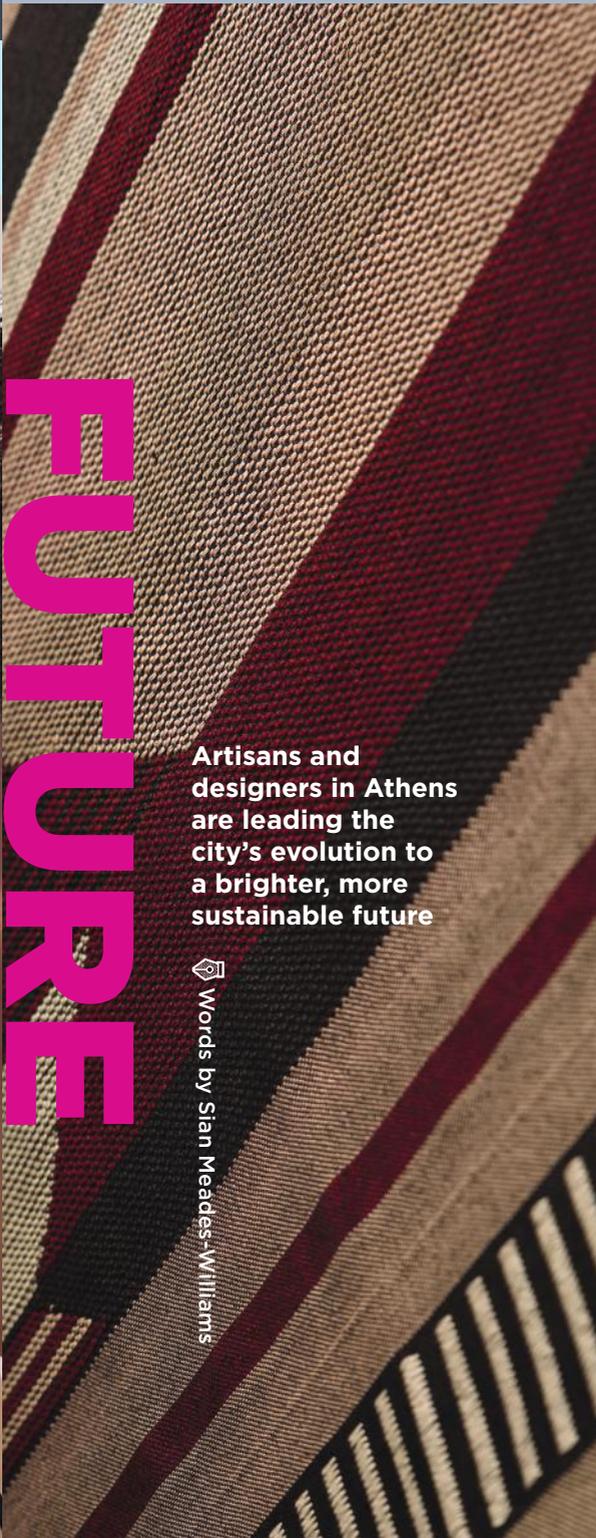
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FUTURE

Artisans and designers in Athens are leading the city's evolution to a brighter, more sustainable future



Words by Sian Meades-Williams

Anyone who has been to Athens in the past five years will know the city's design credentials are off the chart. After the economic crisis of a decade ago, when a bottomed-out rental market and lack of commercialism attracted artists and designers to the city in droves, it's been riding high on a new wave of cutting-edge talent – so much so that it's been referred to as the 'New Berlin'.

Artisans and craftspeople are taking traditional Greek crafts, like weaving and jewellery-making, and updating them for a modern audience. Even the most touristic parts of the city are filled with trendy concept stores stocking local designer brands; while the bone fide art districts like Psyrri are filled with dozens of uber-hip shops tucked away on a need-to-know basis.

The city is particularly good for shoppers who are demanding about the ethical credentials of their souvenirs, thanks to the large proportion of artists for whom sustainability is a core value. These forward-thinking creators might make bags or jewellery but they all share a vision of positive and lasting change, driven by goods that are low-waste, carbon-positive or upcycled.

We went to meet five of the most creative sustainable artisans in the city right now, to find out what drives their passion for a greener Athens.

The green jewellery designer

Sustainability has been the mainstay of Joanna Cave's jewellery design career from the beginning, thanks in part to her father. "He was ahead of his time and very much into sustainability," she says. "He would explain how people were living and how cities were developing. It was ingrained in me."

For Joanna, the most important work she does is in sourcing sustainable materials. Alongside ethically sourced pearls, recycled silver and gold play a big role in Joanna's craft. "I needed some material to start my new collection and my father had quite a



Above Joanna Cave and her daughter, Sophie May
Right Eco jewellery created by the Athens-based designer



Left Garyfalia Pitsaki and John Pitsakis

Below left A bag made from an awning at 3QUARTERS



bit of silver that I could melt and reuse. Initially I felt reluctant because they were beautiful pieces, but the things that came out were extraordinary.”

Joanna prefers not to follow trends, but tradition does play a big part in her designs. Her latest collection is a modern take on the Matakis – the classic Greek eye symbol. She likens her pieces to talismans, mindful of the strength that we gather from wearing jewellery that we love and handing pieces down through generations.

She gestures to a bracelet she’s wearing that was made using gold from a bracelet belonging to her late grandmother. “It makes me think of her. There’s a connection there.” joannacave.com

The awning upcyclers

Visit the 3QUARTERS shop, and you’ll soon realise there’s something familiar about the bags. They’re made using the colourful balcony awnings that are found almost everywhere in Athens.

When John Pitsakis and his sister Garyfalia thought up 3QUARTERS, the idea wasn’t simply to design beautiful bags. It was a way to deal with the specific local problem of large-scale textile waste. The duo go directly to companies and organise collection of unwanted fabrics, so they can make use of the material before it becomes a landfill issue.

“We want to showcase the inherent value in waste,” explains John. “With creativity, perseverance and design thinking we can solve a problem without creating a new one.”

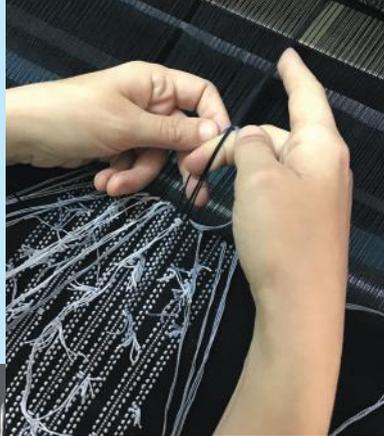
There can be limitations in using waste materials – using deadstock means that colours and designs are finite, plus awning fabric is too stiff and thick for too many frills or folds. But these constraints have become a positive here, informing 3QUARTERS’ clean and modern aesthetic.

There’s another upside too – thanks to offsetting, the company soaks up more carbon than it generates. “If you don’t add sustainability as a core element of every new venture, there’s no point,” says John. “In 10 years, there will be no point in using the term sustainable fashion, there will just be a term for unsustainable fashion.” 3quarters.design

“We want to showcase the inherent value in waste”



Clockwise from below
Petros Christoforatos and
Anastasia Xenaki; bringing
a modern twist to ancient
weaving; a bag made with
love at LOOM%



**“Every
handcrafted
creation
conceals
within
the love,
passion and
meraki of
a person”**

The future weavers

For many designers in Athens, tradition is at the heart of their business. On the edge of the city in Marousi is LOOM%, a small weaving company founded by Anastasia Xenaki and Petros Christoforatos, who put a modern twist on an ancient skill. “Through our woven creations, we wanted to teach the world about the rich Greek tradition and history,” Petros says.

He emphasises the Greek word *meraki*, which means to create something with love and soul, putting yourself into the work. “Every handcrafted creation conceals within the love, passion and *meraki* of a person. The weaver who worked with his arms, legs, heart and mind on our looms to create something unique.”

Weaving and the use of raw materials are inextricably linked, Petros tells us. “We always try to make our raw materials sustainable, made in Greece by Greek producers.”

Petros is aware of the unique position LOOM% is in – marrying the old and the new, pushing tradition and sustainability – but he is optimistic about the changes happening in Athens. “Young people in Athens are trying to make our city better. A sustainable city is a happy city.” feelourloom.com





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The plastic alchemist

We sat down with Diti Kotecha at Meet Market, a popular craft and design market in Athens. Diti works with a small team of artisans at her business Théla, turning plastic bags into vibrant jewellery, homewares and accessories. Each piece has a label telling you how many bags were used to make it.

Despite working to stop the overuse of plastic, Diti still has positive feelings about its qualities. “It was a breakthrough in so many industries. It made our life so convenient and safe.” She feels it’s often misunderstood. “Plastic is perceived as something that’s toxic and harmful. But it’s not the material – it’s the usage.”

Alongside creating usable pieces from recycled waste, part of Diti’s work is in education. “I really want to talk to people about reducing their consumption. The real impact lies there. If the kitchen tap is on and your kitchen is flooding, would you run to get a mop, or would you turn off the tap? What I’m doing with the products is getting a mop, but I also want to contribute to turning off the tap.” **thela.eco**



“Plastic is perceived as something that’s toxic and harmful. But it’s not the material – it’s the usage”

More Athens eco-shopping hotspots

Shedia Home

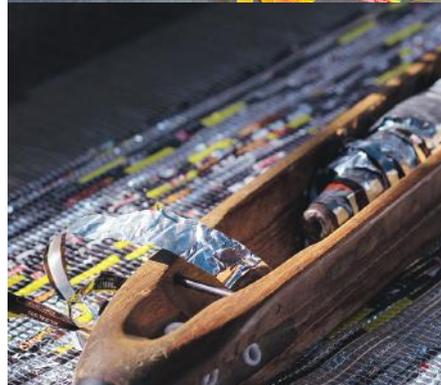
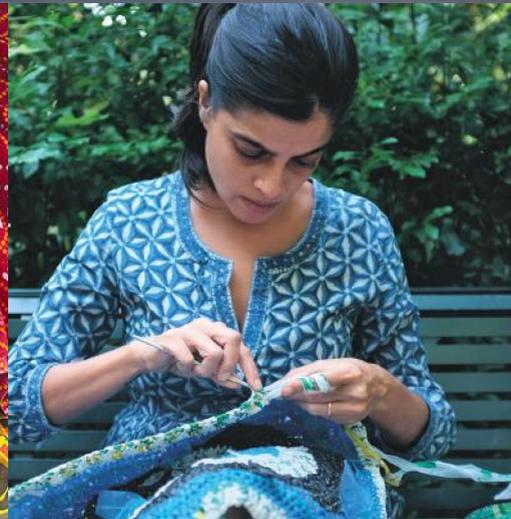
Like London’s *The Big Issue*, *Shedia* is a street magazine which helps the city’s homeless people find work. The team has a vegan café near Ermou Street, which also houses a gift shop of pieces made from recycled magazines. **shediahome.gr**

Cool N Conscious

One of the chicest design shops in the city, curating ethical and sustainable gifts, accessories and fashion brands. **coolnconscious.com**

Meet Market

If you’re looking for a shopping experience that’s recommended by artisans and designers, head to Meet Market. These pop-up events take place at different locations across the city. **themeetmarket.gr**





Right Christiana Vardakou
Left, from top to bottom Christiana turns waste into wonderful garments

The natural fashion designer

Further out from the city centre in Katehaki is designer Christiana Vardakou's peaceful studio where organic silks, linens and cottons in soft muted shades are draped across every surface.

Christiana uses natural dyes to make her textile pieces. "I started using kitchen waste and whatever flowers there were in the garden - avocado stones, onion skins, pomegranate skins," she says. "I really liked how all the colours matched, whatever combination you made."

Christiana was recently commissioned to create napkins for the restaurant at the National Museum of Contemporary Art. When we visited, she was working on an extension of the project - coordinating belts for the waiters. "We're using the kitchen waste from the restaurant - all of their own vegetable skins. After we're done, we can dispose of the dyes in the garden," she explains.

Nothing is wasted here: fabric offcuts are used to create bookmarks, and Christiana offers an upcycling service so customers can give their own clothes a new lease of life, as well as hosting regular workshops in her studio. She'd love to welcome tourists to these so they can take away a life-enhancing skill from their time in the city, rather than a throwaway souvenir. "Learn something new and then you take something as well," she says. christianavardakou.com

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Athens

"I started using kitchen waste and whatever flowers there were in the garden"



Join us in rebuilding 300 years of Polish history

Not all of Warsaw has risen from the rubble after World War II. But now, as the next decade begins, the Saski and Brühl Palaces, as well as three downtown townhouses, will reappear on the city's map. Read on for how you can help

The story of Piłsudski Square's lost historic buildings

The Saski Palace was a residence of two Polish kings, dating back to the late 17th century. After a 19th-century reconstruction, the palace gained a distinctive, impressive colonnade overlooking the neighbouring Saxon Garden. The world-famous composer, Fryderyk Chopin, spent his youth in the

palace, most likely composing his first polonaises here. After Poland had regained independence, the General Staff of the Polish Army was headquartered in Saski Palace - it was here that Polish intelligence services broke the cipher of the German Enigma machine. The Brühl Palace, a pearl of Warsaw's Rococo architecture, was located right next to the Saski Palace. In the 1920s and

1930s, it housed the Foreign Ministry and, before that, the Telegraph Office, with its premises traversed by the Indo-European cable connecting London with India.

Both palaces, as well as three neighbouring townhouses along Królewska Street, fell victim to World War II. They almost entirely disappeared from the landscape of Warsaw, although a central part of

the colonnade of the Saski Palace remained intact, with its arcade serving, since 1925, as the location of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The final stage in the Warsaw's dynamic reconstruction

Intense work aiming to reconstruct these destroyed buildings has been underway for the past two years. Once the preparatory stage had been completed, relics of the basement of the Saski Palace, previously hidden under the surface of Piłsudski square, were uncovered in 2022. In the middle of 2023, archaeologists began surveying the basements of the Brühl Palace. They unearthed some highly unexpected artifacts, such as a fragment of a sculpture depicting a female character – an allegory of “glory” – with its twin sister being on display, for a number of years now, around 200m away in the Saxon Garden.

During an international competition last year, participants were tasked with developing an architectural and landscaping concept for the reconstruction project. It was won by the WXCA Group sp. z o.o. studio, with its concept based on the idea that “the reconstruction process is never limited merely to the restoration of walls (...) and involves also writing new chapters in the history of a specific location”.

This idea will be followed while rebuilding the Saski and Brühl Palaces and the townhouses located along Królewska Street. Further chapters of history will be written by the future users of the facilities, i.e. cultural institutions, organisations benefiting the society, the Chancellery of the Senate of the Republic of Poland and the Mazovian Voivodeship Office. The word “reconstruction”, in turn, means that the external appearance of the entire complex will be preserved – the aim is to make sure that it precisely

reflects the status quo from just before the outbreak of World War II.

What layouts and photographs have survived today?

The company in charge of preparing and implementing the project has already conducted a thorough search of domestic and foreign archives, primarily those in Germany and Russia. While searching for materials related to the Saski and Brühl Palaces, the three townhouses and their immediate surroundings, numerous building plans, maps, photographs and drawings were found. Nearly 4,000 copies of archival materials were relied upon to conduct an in-depth architectural analysis of the historic buildings. This, in turn, has made it possible to identify the techniques and materials used while erecting the original structures. The photos showed what their facades looked like, allowing the specialists to recreate the detailed ornaments and reliefs.

When you create something great, every memory counts

Although the external shape of the buildings is known, key photographs – in which the Saski Palace, the Brühl Palace and the townhouses at 6, 8 and 10/12 Królewska Street are visible, even if only in the background – may still be found in some private archives.

Are you in the possession of any photographs of Warsaw dating back to pre-1945? Perhaps one of them shows the vicinity of Piłsudski Square? If so, submit them to the *Saski Palace Photo Library* – a collection of private photos we are creating right now to shed new light on the details of the restored buildings. Every photo counts – sometimes a different camera angle unveils previously unknown building details, or helps confirm their proportions or shapes.



To submit your photographs and learn more about the project, please visit palacsaski.pl



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage
Republic of Poland

Co-financed from the funds of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland "Reconstruction of the Saski Palace, the Brühl Palace and tenements at Królewska Street - preparation works".



The hot list

Restaurants, bars, events and more – this is our essential guide on what to do this spring

Biking bliss in Ljubljana region

Embark on a journey through the breathtaking landscapes of Ljubljana region, where clean air and picturesque trails await avid cyclists. Explore the verdant Ljubljana marshes, lush green forests, and scenic hills. Whether you crave leisure or competition, our diverse trails promise an unforgettable active holiday. Feel the adrenaline rush with events like the Barjanka or Franja marathon in June, offering a unique perspective on Ljubljana's regional treasures. Elevate your adventure and immerse yourself in the beauty of Ljubljana's cycling haven. visitljubljana.com



PHOTO: SRDJAN ŽIVULOVIC



À la Maison

Start your day right at this restaurant

When in Budapest, many believe that the best brunch is served at Szervita Square. This comes as no surprise since, for many years, À la Maison has been the first place that comes to mind when in-the-know locals crave brunch favourites of the world in a beautiful environment alongside high-quality service.

Besides the classic choices of eggs Benedict, French toast, Croque Madame and various breakfast platters, the restaurant team always comes up with extraordinary dishes that make coming back every season worth your while. À la Maison is also famous for the unique spin they have on each dish served, and so even when you are coming for the popular lunch menu, it's worth looking at the chef's special.

Whether you fancy an early breakfast, a comfortable brunch or a hearty lunch, À la Maison never disappoints – and when it's time to celebrate, you can clink your glasses with fantastic cocktails or a bubbly! Lunch is served daily from 12. Opening hours: Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm. Sat-Sun, 8am-4pm. alamaisongrand.com



Albena: enjoy sustainable beach holidays with wildlife and healing water

As one of the most sustainable travel destinations on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast, and only 45 minutes away from Varna Airport, the Bulgarian holiday resort of Albena is ideal for beach holidays close to nature. A six-kilometre long and 500m wide sandy beach that merges into a dense liana forest, gentle hills that protect against currents and clean air with a high oxygen content are just some of the natural advantages it offers - a combination that makes this holiday village on the Black Sea Coast unique indeed.

Amazing wildlife at Baltata Nature Reserve

Baltata Nature Reserve, bordering Albena, is the heartbeat of the resort. Peaceful and marshy, this protected

area is both powerful and fragile at the same time. To preserve this natural beauty, there are buffer zones with restricted car traffic, hiking paths and viewpoints in the park to experience undisturbed environment and amazing wildlife.

Local food production and healing mineral water

Albena is also known for its "farm to fork" strategy. More than 60% of food here is produced on-site. Guests can enjoy fruits and vegetables, grapes and honey, black angus meat and snails, jam and juices from Albena's own gardens, vineyards and cattle farm only eight kilometres away.

There are several mineral water springs bubbling in Albena. The healing water comes out of the



showers, fills the swimming pools and flows through the awarded Albena Aquapark Aquamania. In total, an average of 1.1 million litres of water flow through the resort every day, around 25% of which is for medical use - in the balneotherapy and also as drinking cure. For more information visit albena.bg/en or call **+359 70 012 110**.



PHOTO: SKI RESORT, GIORGI GOGA LOSELIANI

Svaneti: hidden gem of the caucasus mountains

Combine natural beauty and adventure in this superb destination

Not only is the beautiful Svaneti region rich with history and culture, it is also home to some of the most dramatic mountain landscapes in Europe, including the highest mountain in Georgia, Mount Shkhara (5,193m). During the winter months, adventure seekers can hit the slopes at the nearby ski resorts or explore off-piste surrounded by towering peaks. In the summer, they can embark on challenging treks, experiencing centuries-old traditions and the hospitality of the local communities including Mestia (named one of The Best Tourism Villages by UNWTO 2022) and Ushguli (a UNESCO Heritage Site). Mark your calendar and join us for the 2024 season – and don't miss the exhilarating Freeride World Tour 2024 from 1-7 March. Your extraordinary adventure begins here – let us help plan your trip.

Visit svaneti.org/en for detailed information about the region, or email: info@svaneti.org

Explore Central Bohemia this summer

Discover picturesque towns, historic landmarks and delectable cuisine in Central Bohemia

Have you made your plans for the summer yet? Now is the perfect time to organise your next getaway, and we've got just the inspiration for you. Surrounding the Czech capital, Prague, Central Bohemia's incredibly convenient proximity to Prague Airport makes exploration a breeze. You'll be captivated by charming towns where you can escape the constant bustle of large cities or explore impressive castles and untouched wild nature. Uncover the UNESCO-listed secrets in Kutná Hora, dominated by St. Barbara's Cathedral, GASK – Gallery of the Central Bohemian Region – featuring modern art, and the nearby architectural masterpiece, the cathedral designed by the baroque architect Santini-Aichel. Local vineyards and breweries will ensure a delightful gastronomic experience with authentic Czech cuisine. visitcentralbohemia.com, @visitcentralbohemia



PHOTO: CATHEDRAL OF ST. BARBARA, ADOBE STOCK
WINE CELLARS, CENTRAL BOHEMIA TOURIST BOARD



Élephante Champagne and Tapas Bar

Embark on a culinary safari in Bucharest's newest skyscraper – One Floreasca City – and discover exclusive Élephante Champagne and Tapas Bar. Admire its tropical aesthetics alongside mouth-watering Asian fusion tapas such as Japanese-style salmon tartare to the signature pulled pork bao buns. Elevate your mornings with a Champagne Brunch, add a touch of luxury to your business lunch, and enjoy vibrant sounds during Live Music Wednesdays from 8pm. Élephante Champagne and Tapas Bar is the finest spot in the urban jungle. elephantebucharest.com

Mamma Mia in Iași

With 20 years of passion, exceptional flavours and perfect taste, Mamma Mia is a restaurant that you'll fall in love with. For fantastic cuisine on your next trip to Iași with an elegant, relaxing setting and positive vibes, there's nowhere better. The menu features the best selection of international dishes around. There's also an impressive wine list with more than 200 labels from six different countries. Mamma Mia NON STOP Restaurant is the place you want to be. What are you waiting for? Book a table at the most welcoming restaurant in Iași. mammamia.ro, +40 729 136 518



Great history, excellent food and amazing entertainment await

On your next visit to Transylvania you don't want to miss Alba Iulia citadel, an impressive star-shaped fortification. The largest Vauban-type fortification in Romania, its structure is awe-inspiring, with massive defensive walls never trespassed by invaders, and exquisite decorations on its impressive stone gates. In the heart of the Citadel you'll discover exciting museums and two cathedrals, one of which is considered a gothic jewel – older than Notre-Dame! – and the antique remnants of the Roman Castrum, visible throughout the citadel.

If you're into exquisite food, super-fast internet connection, excellent prices, comfortable accommodation and ongoing entertainment, Alba Iulia has you covered. You can enjoy concerts, festivals, open-air theatre, battle reenactments, gladiators and numerous restaurants with the tastiest dishes ever (think smoked pork served in a carved loaf of bread, and sweet cream and blueberry jam covered papanashi!). Experience it all in Alba Iulia, The Other Capital of Romania!

turism.apulum.ro





Health & wellness

We all need a little pampering at this time of year. Read on for our pick of the very best health and wellness options



Hotel Sante - your gateway to relaxation and self-discovery

Rest and recharge in the heart of the Polish capital. At Hotel Sante, each stay is a unique journey. The welcoming rooms provide a peaceful retreat, perfect for unwinding after a day of adventure or business. The state-of-the-art spa is one of the best in the country, with the largest Finnish spa in Warsaw (complete with holograms – a world first!), an expansive swimming pool, relaxing treatments and the first hydrogen spa in Europe. A stay here is utter bliss. hotelsante.pl, repcja@hotelsante.pl



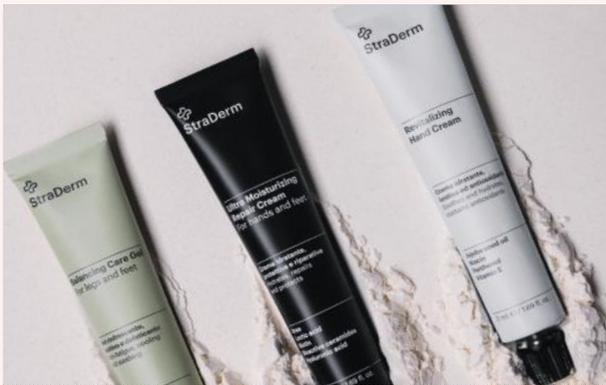
Wellness and adventure at Amazonia in Timișoara

Western Romania's most iconic destination

Rediscover balance and aquatic paradise at Amazonia, western Romania's hidden gem. Nestled in the vibrant heart of Timișoara, Amazonia is the ultimate all-in-one location, that offers a harmonious blend of relaxation, rejuvenation, and aquatic thrills.

Are you ready for an aquatic adventure? Amazonia is the largest complex of its kind in western Romania. Its jewel, the Amazonia Aquapark, promises aquatic delight with thrilling water slides and outdoor and indoor pools that transform every day into an exotic vacation all year-round. Amazonia takes wellness to new heights with its SPA Medical & Wellness Retreat, where thermal waters, a wide variety of spa therapies, physiotherapies, and Asian treatments rejuvenate your body and soul. Meanwhile, the Amazonia Apartments offers luxurious accommodations and tranquil surroundings to transform your trip into an unforgettable holiday.

Wellness, adventure, and relaxation – all masterfully blended in one captivating destination at Amazonia. Come and experience a truly exceptional journey in the heart of western Romania's most enchanting oasis. amazonia.ro



StraDerm® for your skin and nails

An Italian brand owned by a company that excels in professional cosmetics, StraDerm® is a saviour for your skin and nails. Its unique formulas have proven high-quality standards thanks to cutting-edge pharmaceuticals and active ingredients.

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People, places and things we love this season

in the **know**



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THE EATS

Where to go for a great meal across the WIZZ network



Ajitama Lisbon

A decade ago, António Carvalhão and João Azevedo Ferreira returned from a Japanese holiday with a rampant ramen obsession. Unable to find the dish in Lisbon, they took a course at the best school in Tokyo, before setting up Ajitama supper club in 2015. Named after their favourite ingredient – it's short for Ajitsuke Tamago, 'marinated egg' – Ajitama was a grassroots hit.

Now in its first bricks-and-mortar incarnation, Ajitama Noodle Temple, the pair's slow-cooked Japanese noodle dishes have lost none of their appeal or authenticity. Diners can choose from shoyu, tonkotsu, paitan or miso ramen (or veggie/vegan versions). Add one of the shochu and yuzu cocktails and a side of pork belly and you could well forget you're in Lisbon. ajitama.pt



OKKU

Dubai

One of the most eye-catching restaurant openings in Dubai in 2023, OKKU at Marriott Resort Palm Jumeirah takes contemporary Japanese cuisine and adds an international twist. Not only are dishes like the imported wagyu beef and black cod worth the trip alone, but the way the food is served – sent out from a 20m sushi station and robata grill – is quite the show. okku.com



Matur og Drykkur

Reykjavik

Living up to its name taken from an old cookbook, Matur og Drykkur (which translates as Food and Drink) leans heavily on traditional Icelandic recipes. That's not to say this Reykjavik favourite is stuck in the past. The curated six-course tasting menu here brings a thoroughly modern feel to dishes like foal tartare with fermented angelica seeds, with the team of chefs making great use of fresh ingredients sourced from local farmers. maturogdrykkur.is



Pom Friterie Stockholm

Fries. Whether they're plated up next to a burger, piled high as the Pont Neuf in an upscale restaurant, or soggy and sauce-

covered inside a polystyrene box, they're a mealtime staple. They're so beloved, in fact, that a new restaurant in the Swedish capital is dedicated to them.

Here, you are presented with bowls of perfectly crisp-on-the-outside, fluffy-on-the-inside fries, topped with additions inspired by different parts of the world. These include the New Yorker, dripping in BBQ chipotle and American mayo, topped with cheese, pickled chillies



and purple cress, and the Bali Bom with peanut sauce, rendang mayo and pickled cabbage.

Despite being in Stockholm, Pom Friterie is owned by two Dutch natives who wanted to bring the concept of fancy fries from the Netherlands to Sweden. They offer an extra taste of home by using sustainably grown Dutch potatoes.

Wherever they're from, this is the only way we want to eat our fries from now on. pomfriterie.com



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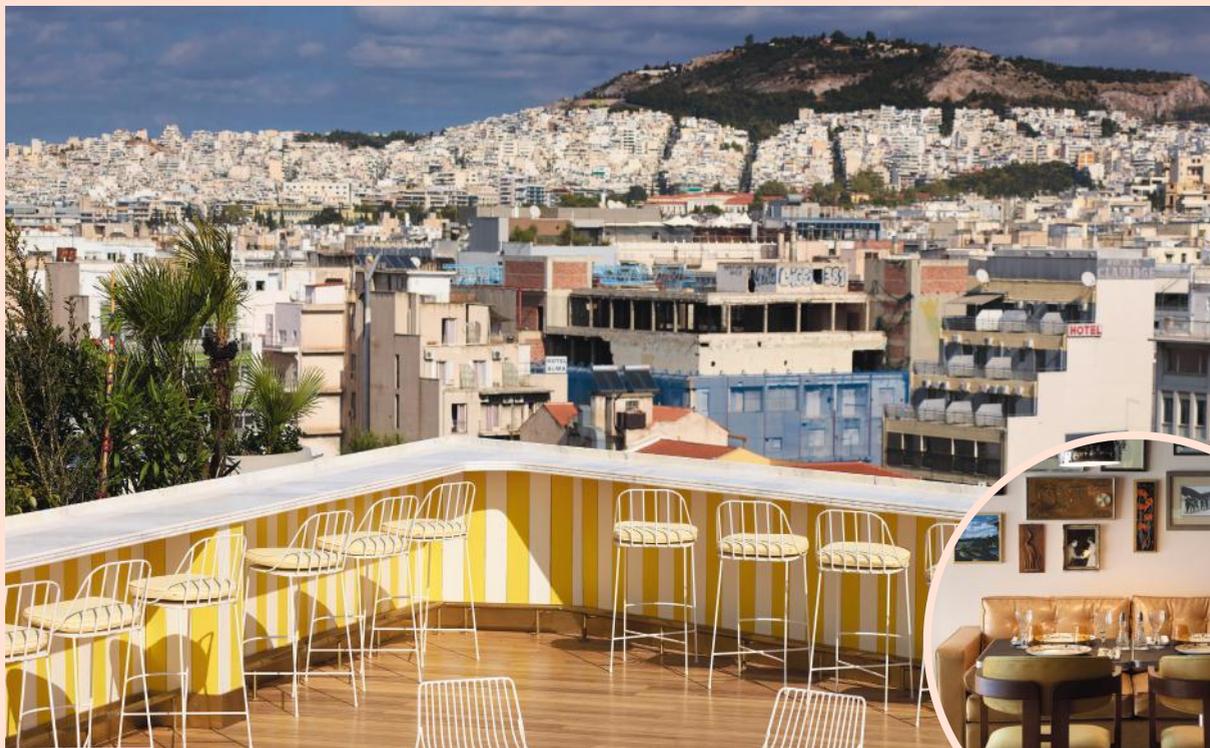
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THE STAYS

The best places to rest your head across the WIZZ network



Brown Acropol

Athens

To book any of these hotels, visit wizzair.com and find your best deal with our trusted partner

Booking.com

Omonia Square hasn't always been a destination in Athens, but it's had a makeover in the last few years. A big part of that is down to hotel chain Brown, which have opened up several hotels here.

Brown Acropol was the first out of the gate, and it's still holding up to the competition three years on. Its 1960s vibe is chic without losing the fun side. With sexy dark corners and touches of gold, it feels smart and grown-up. We love the retro, geometric-print carpets and wallpaper, glittering disco ball hanging in the lobby and record players in the rooms.

Some of the other stand-out reasons you'll want to stay are very much of this decade, including dreamy mattresses that will delight even the most troubled of sleepers, enough bathroom toiletries to open a boutique pharmacy and Nespresso machines. Another selling point dates back even further than the 1960s - there's a dreamy view of the Acropolis from the rooftop restaurant and bar.

It's the perfect place to bookend your day, starting with the extensive buffet breakfast and then finishing with a punchy glass of Greek red at sunset.

The Hotel

Ljubljana

There's a reason Ljubljana is often named Europe's best city break destination. This bijou capital has it all – lush parks, a glittering river, spectacular medieval architecture, a blossoming arts and culture scene and some lip-smackingly good restaurants. Everything is accessible by foot – the best sights are all around a 15-20 minute stroll from each other – which is why choosing a hotel in the heart of the action is an absolute must. And that's where The Hotel comes in.

This brand-new, four-star spot is a modern delight in the city's old centre. The rooms are elegantly designed in calming, neutral tones with splashes of colour – velvety-soft yellow, pink and turquoise

pillows and throws – adding an element of playful fun. If you can, try to book one of the roof terrace doubles, which boast views of Ljubljana's terracotta-tiled roofs.

After a day spent exploring the castle and charming cobbled streets, there's nowhere better than The Hotel's cosy restaurant to round things off. With exposed stonework, a flickering fire and romantic table lights, the atmosphere is top notch – as is the food. The duck breast served with creamed pumpkin and coriander and ginger sauce gets a special shout-out from us, as does the lamb with polenta and pickled beetroot served with pine nut and pumpkin seed pesto.



Junó Hotel Sofia

Sofia

Smack-bang in the heart of Sofia, this hotly anticipated hotel opened last year. With its on-trend design credentials (think neutral tones, butter-soft leather seating and monochrome accents) and dynamic artwork (by local sculptor Pavel Koychev), it's a very hip spot to lay your head. Be sure to order a signature cocktail or two (Cozumel is our pick) at Cookó Kitchen:Drinks downstairs.



Yaiza Mynd

Lanzarote

Opened in 2022, this is becoming a new Canaries highlight, popular for its sustainable ethos and thoughtful design. It's split to please all package-holiday guests: stay, eat and hang out in the Family Zone – with its waterslides, kids club and uptempo vibes – or the Relax Zone, which offers the exact opposite, complete with daily pilates classes and spa.



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THE DRINKS

Where to go for a cocktail across the WIZZ network



Society25 Budapest

History plays an important role in the new W Budapest's basement speakeasy - and little wonder, given that it has taken over Drechsler Palace. The neo-Renaissance-style former Ballet Institute stands on UNESCO-listed Andrassy Avenue, opposite the Hungarian State Opera, and has seen every era of Budapest since the late 1800s.

The building's original features - think ornate windows and

dramatic arches - have been dressed up with modern mood lighting, malachite hues, plush furniture and gold detailing. It makes for a brooding yet inviting space.

The cocktail list also honours the building's - and the city's - creative past. Head bartender Stefano Ripiccini whips up outstanding beverages inspired by Budapest's different decades, events and locals. Try the bold and fruity Brew Bop, which references its long-established coffee culture, or order The Illusionist (after the city's own Harry Houdini) and make it disappear. society25.com





Alma

Prague

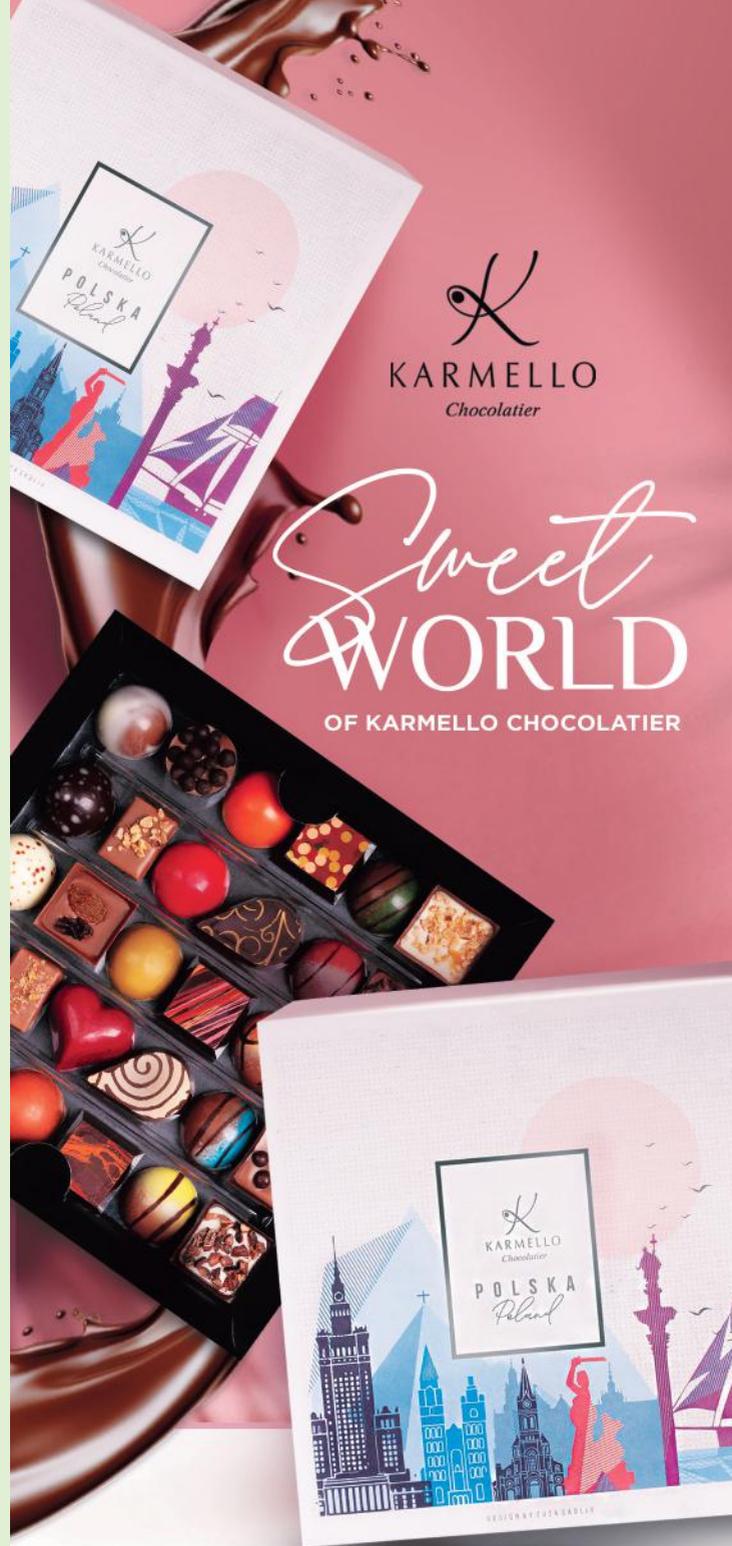
Thirsty tourists in the Czech capital will be pleased to stumble upon Alma. Taking its name from the interwar cinema that used to occupy the space, it no longer invites visitors to drink in arthouse movies but rather natural wines at its wine bar and cocktails at the restaurant bar. Alma focuses on sustainability, with drinks predominantly featuring homemade tinctures, syrups and materials from the restaurant. almaprague.cz



Nite Kong

Rome

If you're struggling to get a spot in Rome's Drink Kong since it ranked 21st on The World's 50 Best Bars list, this new opening from owner Patrick Pistolesi is the answer. Just like the original, 1970s futurism permeates the decor, but the overarching theme is in the name: nighttime. Head bartender Mattia Capezzuoli's signature cocktails, such as *Insomnia*, are definitely worth staying up for. nitekong.com



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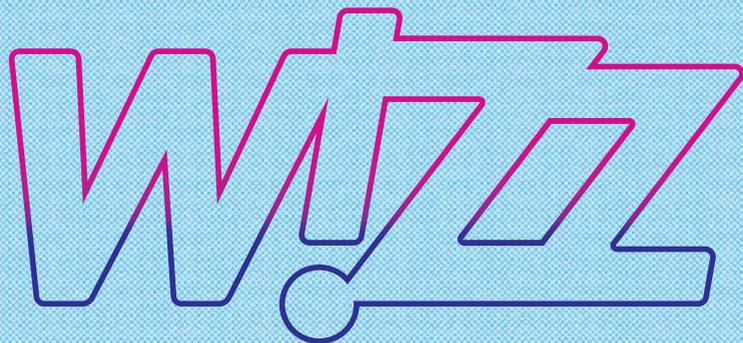


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news

Want to know where we're flying next, how to get the most out of your journey and what's new in the dynamic world of WIZZ? Then read on...

Wizz Air takes over 100 people to 'Get Lost' in Italy

Wizz Air's popular 'Let's Get Lost' campaign, which sees participants travel to a secret destination, returned in November 2023 with an unforgettable trip that combined the Eternal City and the Beautiful Game. Through Instagram, Wizz Air followers were invited to compete for the chance to 'Get Lost', by suggesting what being Italian means to them.

More than 100 lucky passengers were chosen for the flight from Milan to Rome on 17 November, and the mystery destination was revealed on board. As if travelling to one of the most captivating cities in the world wasn't enough, participants learnt that they were on their way to the European Championship qualifying game between Italy and North Macedonia at the spectacular, near 73,000-seater Stadio Olimpico.



And to complete the trip's football theme, there was also a guest on board - World Cup winner and former Italian captain Fabio Cannavaro. The Italian trip follows similar 'Let's Get Lost' flights from Abu Dhabi to Bishkek, and from Venice to Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

For your chance to 'Get Lost' with WIZZ, follow @wizzair.com.

Chisinau calling

Wizz Air has relaunched flights to the jewel of Moldova, Chisinau, from London, Milan and Rome. New flights are also now jetting off to Salzburg from London, Bucharest and Skopje, ensuring that our passengers can start the New Year by visiting exciting new destinations. Whether you want to explore Dendrarium Park in Chisinau or marvel at Hohensalzburg Fortress in Salzburg, Wizz Air will get you there.



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*FIGURE FOR 2023

Lending a helping hand

Underlining its commitment to corporate social responsibility (CSR), Wizz Air recently teamed up with global executive search firm Venari Partners to help with its latest charity drive. In October, WIZZ flew seven people from London to Jordan to take part in a five-day, once-in-a-lifetime adventure trek to raise funds.

At the time of writing, more than £23,000 has been raised by the Venari Partners Challenge, underscoring the difference that taking part in the programme has



made to the participants' lives. "Helping those less fortunate than ourselves is not just the right thing to do – it is an essential, integral aspect of our business culture and values," said Venari Partners company director, James Parker. "Put simply, CSR is, and has always been, woven into the core of how we operate."



WIZZ wins CAPA award – again!

Wizz Air has taken home the award for Global Environmental Sustainability Airline Group of the Year for the second consecutive time at the CAPA Asia Aviation Summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Welcoming the latest accolade, József Váradi, Chief Executive Officer at Wizz Air, said: "Our ultra-low-fare model has proven to be sustainable by design: we operate the latest technology aircraft in the most efficient way, with the lowest emissions per passenger per km in the industry."

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK

New routes



Abu Dhabi – Bishkek, Erbil, Larnaca, Turkistan

Budapest – Glasgow, Stockholm Arlanda

Bucharest – Glasgow, Leipzig

Cairo – Abu Dhabi, Budapest, London Luton

Catania – Brussels, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Paris Beauvais, Sharm El-Sheikh

Chisinau – London Luton, Milan Malpensa, Rome Fiumicino

Craiova – Dortmund

Gdansk – Alicante, Copenhagen, Rome Fiumicino, Stockholm Arlanda, Tenerife, Valencia

Katowice – Aqaba, Brussels

Milan Malpensa – Comiso, Paris Beauvais, Tenerife

Radom – Larnaca

Rome Fiumicino – Berlin, Debrecen, Hamburg,

Salzburg – Bucharest, London Luton, Skopje

Tirana – Comiso, Krakow, Prague, Venice

Wroclaw – Malaga, Valencia

Where to next?

From strolling narrow alleyways in France to skiing down the slopes in Italy, here are some perfect cities on the Wizz Air network for a short wintry break

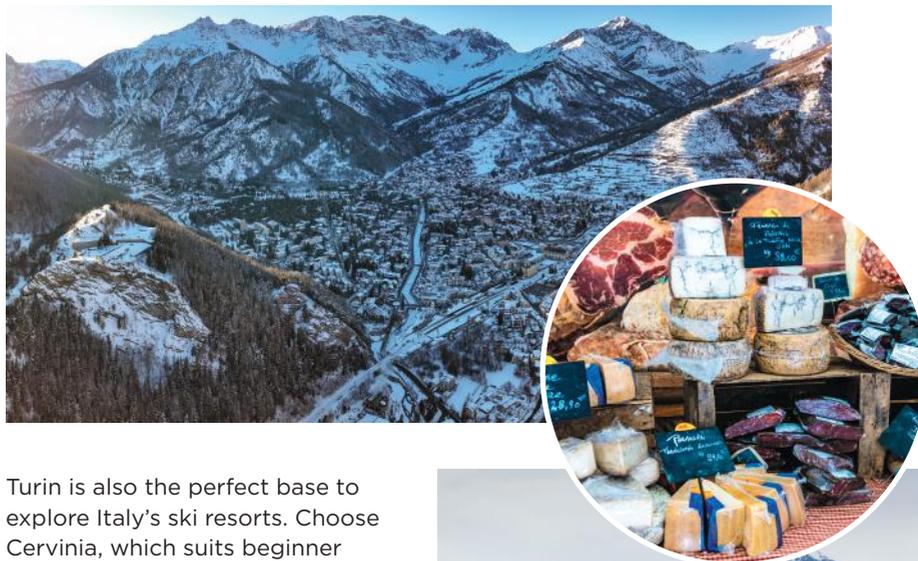
Is there anything better than waking up in a new city with a whole day of exploring ahead of you? Or maybe you're someone who lives for the first fresh-powder descent of ski season. Thanks to Wizz Air's extensive network, you can have both of those experiences... and so much more. Here is a list of cities for the ideal getaway - whether you like sightseeing or skiing this winter.

Lyon

Known as the gastronomical heart of France, Lyon is the sort of place where you can easily go up a couple of belt sizes in a week. It's the culinary capital of the world's most refined foodie destination, so tuck into something rich and moreish at a traditional bouchon restaurant or experience the vibrant colours and flavours at one of the city's many markets. Work off your meal by walking up Fourvière Hill for some wonderful views of Lyon, visit Musée des Confluences, where the Saône and Rhône rivers meet, or take a guided tour of the traboules, a network of silk merchant houses and narrow alleyways dating back to the 16th century.

Turin

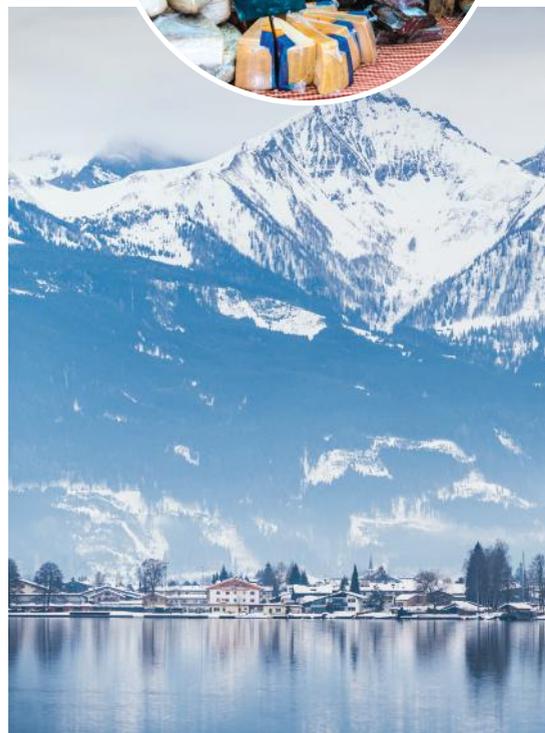
While famous for its stately Baroque buildings, world-class cuisine and grand squares,



Turin is also the perfect base to explore Italy's ski resorts. Choose Cervinia, which suits beginner to intermediate skiers, with 160km worth of groomed slopes; Bardonecchia, with over 100km of piste; or Champoluc, where a large majority of red runs and off-piste merriment make it the perfect ski resort for a short break - just 90 minutes from Turin.

Salzburg

Whether it's Mozart's birthplace, Mirabell Palace and Gardens, or the Museum of Modern Art, there is plenty to get through in Salzburg. Look towards the horizon and you'll spot another big draw - the snow-covered Alps, just waiting for avid skiers. Hop over to St Johann im Pongau, which sits snugly between two mountain peaks and has charming



Clockwise from here
 Chiatura cable car; tuk-tuk
 touring in Lisbon; Cibeles
 Fountain in Madrid; Czech
 goulash; Zell Am See-Kaprun;
 a French market scene;
 Bardonecchia in Italy



squares crammed with bars and restaurants. Meanwhile, Bad Gastein has plenty of spas and intermediate red runs and Zell Am See-Kaprun boasts a frozen lake and cobbled medieval centre.

Kutaisi

One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, Kutaisi has a long tick-list of magnificent sights, including the medieval Bagrati Cathedral and the UNESCO-listed Gelati Monastery, home to some of the finest Byzantine mosaics. History buffs will be charmed by Soviet-era throwbacks, including the Tskaltubo sanatoriums and the Chiatura cable cars, while nature lovers can enjoy sprawling tea fields, wild waterfalls and some dramatic canyons.

Prague

A city that matches Paris for sheer jaw-dropping beauty, Prague is a wondrous place all year round. Most first-time visitors head straight for the Charles Bridge for a few selfies with its statues, before strolling over to the astronomical clock at the Old Town Hall, but you can find stunning art and interesting shops down almost any cobbled street. Also make sure you take in a local puppet show, visit the impressive



Prague Castle and tuck into some goulash and dumplings.

Lisbon

Spread across seven hills, Lisbon is one of Europe's hippest cities – where parties rage until the early hours, street-art adorns the walls and market stalls creak under some of the best seafood you'll find anywhere in the world. To feel the pulse of the city, head to the Barria Alto neighbourhood and plonk yourself down in a buzzing bar. Jump aboard a tuk-tuk for a tour of the city and, for lunch, head to the Time Out market where communal tables are surrounded by stalls run by the city's finest chefs.

Madrid

Spain's capital is all elegance and class – combining amazing art museums, sensational cuisine, lush parks and Western Europe's largest palace, the Royal Palace of Madrid. Get your museum fix at the Museo del Prado and the Centro de Arte Reina Sofía and spend some time in El Retiro Park with its dazzling Crystal Palace, impressive stone fountains, and huge manmade lake. And don't leave Madrid without trying local delicacy the bocadillo de calamares (fried squid sandwich).

“Every day I see how Wizz Air is committed to becoming more sustainable”

We sit down with two of Wizz Air’s current Sustainability Ambassadors to find how they are helping to make the aviation industry, and the world, better

As the airline with the lowest carbon intensity in the world, Wizz Air is constantly looking for ways to champion sustainability. It’s a commitment to more eco-friendly travel that is encapsulated by the latest initiative: the pioneering WIZZ Sustainability Ambassador programme.

In September 2023, more than 20 Sustainability Ambassadors were selected from WIZZ’s employees to represent over 10 countries across Wizz Air’s route network. During the first term, which ends in May 2024, they are supporting local sustainability projects at the airline’s bases and offices, including beach and forest clean-ups and various projects aimed at spreading awareness about eco-conscious practices among employees.

“It is important to protect our ecosystem and natural resources for future generations,” says Sustainability Ambassador Barbare Tabidze, a Senior Cabin Attendant at Wizz Air’s Kutaisi base.

“I became a Sustainability Ambassador to increase awareness of environmental issues among my colleagues and encourage them

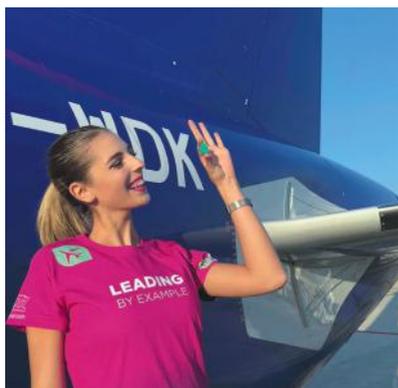


to adopt eco-friendly habits,” she adds. “Being an Ambassador is a great chance to inspire people, including myself, to become a more conscious consumer.”

As part of her duties as an Ambassador, Barbare recently organised a clean-up day at work and, together with her colleagues, collected litter around Opit’ara Waterfall in Georgia.

“For most of my colleagues it was the first event of this kind, and they told me that it was a real eye-opener,” she recalls. “We are planning to organise it more often.”

At Wizz Air’s base in Catania, fellow Sustainability Ambassador and Cabin Attendant Jessica Perna is battling waste by reducing the paper cup usage by crew on board, encouraging colleagues to bring



Left Barbare Tabidze, Senior Cabin Attendant, Kutaisi base
Above Jessica Perna, Cabin Attendant, Catania base

“Encouraging those around me to be more sustainable makes me feel happy”

their own mugs from home during a workday. Jessica’s teammates have also started using their own cutlery. Another sustainability project at Wizz Air’s base in Catania was raising funds to help associations in need.

“Encouraging your colleagues and people around you to be more sustainable, makes you feel that you are helping the environment,” she says. “It makes me feel happy about what I am doing, because I see improvements every day.”

Jessica’s love for the environment goes back to her childhood, growing up in a countryside village close to the mountains. “I have always been in contact with nature and animals,” she points out. “If I can help someone to become more eco-conscious, I am into this, always.”

Barbare’s sustainability journey started when she met a friend who had very good knowledge of environmental issues. “After talking to her, I realised that I need to reduce my environmental footprint, change my behaviour, and make eco-friendly choices,”

she says. “Even the smallest steps like eliminating plastic will create an environment where the whole community will benefit from it.”

The huge importance Wizz Air places on sustainability is one of the main reasons Jessica decided to work for the airline. “Every day I see how Wizz Air is working on becoming more sustainable and I am impressed,” she says.

“I feel that I made the right choice [working here] and now that I am a Sustainability Ambassador, I feel happier and proud to be part of our enthusiastic team.”

Barbare is equally delighted by the effort Wizz Air is putting into aircraft fleet renewal, exploring new, more sustainable, types of fuel and other initiatives.

“I feel great pride working for the airline that year-by-year achieves new milestones in its journey in reducing carbon intensity,” she says. “Sustainability also means creating job opportunities in different fields. We have a great and diverse team and it gives me motivation to continue my initiatives because every small step counts.”



How we fly in the most environmentally sustainable way*

We launched Wizz Air with the strong belief that air travel should not be a privilege. That we will create a world of opportunity for all through affordable travel. And we are delivering on that promise.

And while giving more and more people the freedom to travel, we have also proven that growth and sustainability can go hand in hand. As well as breaking down barriers between people and air travel, we've shown a whole industry how aviation can be more sustainable.

Crucial business model and design decisions, from pricing to seat density, make sure we fly with high-load factors. We've never even thought about business-class seats. Or a hub-and-spoke model. Or substituting short train rides for flights. We've instead focused on flying with the youngest, most efficient fleet and the most modern engines possible, to consume less fuel.

This all delivers the lowest CO₂ emissions per passenger kilometre in the industry, beating not just legacy carriers, but also low-cost airlines operating in a similar way to us.

A plane will never be greener than a train or an electric vehicle. But we are and will be the greenest choice of flying. Because when it comes to a crucial issue like sustainability, we believe in the facts of today. Not promises of the future.

Paperless flight deck

We use tablets in our flight decks, saving over 25,000 printed pages in the aircraft

Lighter seats

We're continuously investing in newer, lighter seats to reduce the aircraft's weight, which decreases fuel burn and emissions

Single-engine taxiing after landing

We save fuel by turning off one of the engines after arrival

Noise pollution reduction

Our A321neo aircraft use two Pratt & Whitney GTF engines, which reduce our noise footprint by almost 50% compared to previous generation aircraft

Sharklets

These amazing inventions can reduce fuel burn by 2% and CO₂ emissions by 800 tonnes per year per plane.

Washing the engines regularly

We wash every engine around 10 times per year - the cleaner they are, the smoother they run, and therefore less fuel is needed

Did you know?

51.5 grams

This is the amount of CO₂ per kilometre that the average passenger travelling with Wizz Air emitted in 2023. This is our lowest ever recorded annual result for CO₂ intensity, thanks to our robust sustainability strategy.

* Wizz Air was named Global Environmental Sustainability Airline Group of the Year by the Centre for Aviation (CAPA) at its Awards for Excellence 2022 and 2023

Our fleet

Younger, greener and growing

Wizz Air has a single-type fleet of 199 aircraft from the Airbus A320 family. It's among the youngest and most efficient in the world – and the safest. The average age of our aircraft is 4.23 years, well below the average fleet age of our major

competitors, which is around 10 years. Our planes already have the most sophisticated safety equipment and, by 2030, we will have 500 aircraft. Our neo aircraft feature advanced systems and engines that reduce our carbon footprint, as well

as noise and cost, helping us keep fares low and accessible and providing the most responsible choice of air travel available. Wizz Air is currently the largest operator of the most sustainable Airbus A321neo aircraft in Europe.

Airbus A320ceo



Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h



Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)



Number of aircraft* 39



Seat capacity 180/186
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 4



↑11.76m (38ft 7in) ↓

Airbus A321ceo



Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h



Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)



Number of aircraft* 41



Seat capacity 230
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 5



↑11.76m (38ft 7in) ↓



Airbus A320neo



Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h



Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)



Number of aircraft* 6



Seat capacity 186
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 4



↑11.76m (38ft 7in) ↓



Airbus A321neo



Max. cruise speed 903km/h
Economical cruise speed 840km/h



Wingspan 35.8m (117ft 5in)



Number of aircraft* 113



Seat capacity 239
Flight crew 2 **Cabin crew** 5



↑11.76m (38ft 7in) ↓

Top marks for safety

Wizz Air is registered under the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Operational Safety Audit (IOSA), the global benchmark in airline safety recognition. Wizz Air has also been awarded the **highest seven-star safety ranking** from the world's only one-stop airline safety and product rating agency, **AirlineRatings.com**

World of WIZZ

At **wizzair.com** you'll find the answers to all of your travel needs, from adding luggage and changing flights, to car rental, airport parking and more

The right fare for you

		BASIC	WIZZ PRIORITY	WIZZ GO	WIZZ PLUS
BAGS	Carry-on bag 40x30x20cm	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Trolley bag 55x40x23cm		✓	✓	✓
	20 kg checked-in bag			✓	
	32 kg checked-in bag				✓
SEATS	Seat selection			✓	
	Premium seat selection				✓
CHECK-IN	Online check-in	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Airport check-in			✓	✓
	Priority check-in		✓	✓	✓
	Auto check-in				✓
BOARDING	Priority Boarding		✓	✓	✓
FLEXIBILITY	WIZZ Flex				✓
	Refund to WIZZ account				✓



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Booking cheap flights is now even easier. Use our app to buy WIZZ Discount Club membership, review bookings, add baggage, upgrade, choose or change seats, get travel insurance, check in, check your flight status and board.



eSIM data roaming

Stay connected with lightning-fast speeds no matter where you go with this revolutionary product which provides 5G-ready data roaming in over 150 countries worldwide.

Wizz DISCOUNT CLUB

Fly with us for less

Our WIZZ Discount Club offers a wide range of discounts on travel* and related services.

Wizz DISCOUNT CLUB LIGHT

Join the WIZZ Discount Club Light and enjoy your discounts on the WIZZ Café & Boutique



Member



Special onboard coupons and Café & Boutique promotions

Flexible travel

Fare lock

You can secure the fare of your selected tickets for 48 hours before you complete your booking for bookings made more than seven days prior to the outbound flight's departure date.

WIZZ Flex

You can modify your tickets (including passenger name) without paying a flight change fee, or cancel your flight and request a full refund (additional services will not be refunded) to your WIZZ account, which can be used for 90 days to purchase new tickets.

Travel insurance

Our comprehensive travel insurance includes medical expenses and cancellation cover. Add your insurance to your basket together with your flights or buy it later in Manage My Booking.

Flexible travel partner

Create a new reservation without providing each passenger's name at the time of booking.

On the ground

Car rental

Book your flights and car rental in one easy step. Just add your car rental to your basket together with your flights. Get attractive discounts and enjoy our WIZZ credit back promotions.

Airport parking

Our long-standing partner ParkVia offers great prices and availability for airport parking across Europe, with fast and easy booking and significant savings, whether you're travelling for business or pleasure. Book online at wizzparking.com.

Airport transfer

For a comfortable trip, simply book your airport transfer when purchasing your ticket or visit wizztransfer.com. You can travel by shuttle, bus or private transfer – as you wish.



Suitable if you usually travel solo or with one companion, as they'll also enjoy the discount.

€34.99



Member + one companion



Ticket discount Save on each bag booked online



Suitable for those who fly with families and friends, as you'll get the discount for up to five other passengers.

€69.99



Member + up to five companions



Ticket discount Save on each bag booked online

Delayed Baggage Protection



Should your bag end up delayed by 96 hours or more, we guarantee €300 compensation (per person, per sector) with our new bag tracking product.



Fare Finder

Looking for cheap flights? Search for the lowest available fare for your journey, and book your ticket at the best price.

Check out **Fare Finder** on our website and find the deals that fit your needs



Your onboard safety

Please show consideration for your fellow passengers and pay attention to the following information. Remember that by purchasing your Wizz Air ticket, you have accepted the Wizz Air General Conditions of Carriage (available in full at wizzair.com)



Safe handling of hand luggage

Ensure hand luggage remains safely stowed in the locker or under the seat in front of you for takeoff, landing and at any time as instructed by the crew. Passengers seated in the emergency rows and first row must store their cabin bags in the overhead lockers. Take care when opening lockers, as falling items may injure fellow passengers.

In case of evacuation, all baggage must be left on board, and the instructions of the cabin crew must be strictly followed.



Safety equipment

It is an offence to tamper with or remove safety equipment, including adult and infant life vests, infant safety belts or extension belts. You are not allowed to remove or damage any onboard informative placards.



Sharp items

To dispose of any sharp items (e.g. hypodermic needles), please contact a cabin crew member. Do not leave your needle or syringe behind.



Turbulence management

Turbulence can occur unexpectedly. Whenever seatbelt signs are switched on, remain seated, keep seatbelts fastened, and stow away large electronic devices.



Safety of infants on board

Wizz Air has a clear procedure for infant (a child under two) restraint systems. You can only use the single hook infant seatbelt - vests/slings cannot be used with the infant seatbelt. Wizz Air only accepts aft-facing car seats when an extra seat is purchased. **However, during take-off and landing, and whenever the seatbelt sign is switched on, infants should sit on an adult's lap with the seatbelt fastened.** Life vests for infants are available and are provided whenever flying over water. All lavatories are equipped with a changing table. Do not leave children unattended in the cabin.



Lithium batteries

Portable electronic devices (PED) such as phones, laptops and tablets can contain lithium batteries. When damaged, faulty or overheated, these batteries can catch fire and explode. **If you recognise any issues with your device, inform the cabin crew immediately.**



Electronic devices

Some electronic devices can be used during the flight with **WLAN/Wi-Fi/Bluetooth turned off.**

Larger electronic devices that cannot be held comfortably in one hand, exceed ca. 1kg in weight and do not qualify as handheld devices (e.g. laptops, notebooks etc.) must be stowed in the overhead stowage compartments for takeoff, landing and whenever required by the cabin crew. **If in doubt, please ask your cabin crew.**

Inflight health tips

Read these tips on how to stay fit when travelling.



Before your air travel

Consult your doctor before travelling if you have any medical concerns. Pregnant women and those with heart or respiratory problems, blood diseases or ear, nose and sinus infections should seek medical advice before flying. **Crew members are entitled to call for medical assistance pre-flight if they deem it necessary and are in doubt about your fitness for the flight.**



Medical supplies on board

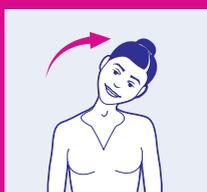
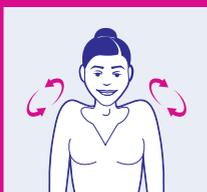
Keep any medication you may need in your hand luggage and in its original packaging. **Inform cabin crew of allergies or illnesses.** If you are seriously ill or travelling post-surgery, you will need a medical certificate confirming that you are fit to fly. If you have limited mobility, are hearing- or sight-impaired, pregnant, or unable to understand/react to safety instructions, you will be unable to sit in the emergency exit rows or the front row. **If you start to feel unwell during the flight, do not hesitate to talk to the cabin crew.**



Nut allergy

During our WIZZ Café service we offer peanuts and some snacks containing peanuts/nuts traces. **If you have any allergies we strongly encourage you to take all necessary medical precautions before flying, and to inform the cabin crew during boarding about your allergy.**

Exercise Be as active as possible. Try the following routine every 30 minutes:



Your security

...is one of our top priorities. To ensure a smooth and pleasant flight, please read the following rules of conduct

We encourage you to...

- Follow crew instructions, which are there to keep you safe
- Be respectful towards everyone on board – fellow passengers and the crew
- Use appropriate language and try to stay calm and cooperative

...so you can:

- Travel in a nice, pleasant and peaceful atmosphere
- Relax on board
- Get to your destination as soon as possible

Not tolerated onboard...

- Smoking on board (including classic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, pipes, vapes)
- Placing e-cigarettes in your checked-in bags or charge them on board
- Breaching, or refusing to follow, crew instructions
- Harassing fellow passengers and/or crew members in any way (including sexual harassment)
- Threatening or being aggressive towards fellow passengers and/or crew members
- Being violent or behave in a hostile, erratic manner
- Damaging the aircraft or onboard equipment
- Wasting, polluting or contaminating the cabin
- Endangering the safety of the flight by any means
- Consuming alcohol that was not purchased on board. Alcohol is served at the crew's discretion to passengers of legal drinking age. The crew reserves the right to stop serving alcohol to any passenger who is, or appears to be, intoxicated
- Being under the influence of drugs or medical substances that may affect your behaviour or self-control
- Filming or photographing the cabin crew without their permission

...or face the consequences:

- You are fully responsible and accountable for your behaviour. Unruly or disruptive behaviour on board and before boarding will not be tolerated and will be reported to the authorities. You will be held legally and financially responsible in all cases.

The following consequences* will occur for such misconduct:

- Passenger denied boarding
- Penalty/fine or arrest by local police:
 - Smoking on board, including lavatory: up to €3,000*
 - Unruly behaviour due to intoxication: up to €5,000 and two years in prison*
 - Endangering the safety of an aircraft: up to five years in prison*
- Diversion of flight and arrest
- Reimbursement of cost of diversion: €10,000–€80,000*
- Criminal procedure and court litigation*
- Cancellation of all of your existing Wizz Air flight bookings
- A ban from Wizz Air flights in the future



THE CREW RESERVES THE RIGHT TO STOP SERVING ALCOHOL TO ANY PASSENGER WHO IS, OR APPEARS TO BE, INTOXICATED



SMOKING ON BOARD, INCLUDING IN THE LAVATORY, WILL RESULT IN A FINE OF UP TO €3,000*

For more information, please refer to the **General Conditions of Carriage** on wizzair.com

*Subject to applicable jurisdiction

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* For all the details check out WIZZ Discount Club General Terms and Conditions at wizzair.com

** Valid for 20 kg and 32 kg bags

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ЧАС ОТ ГИШЕ ИНФОРМАЦИЯ
09:15 БАНКА ДСК 10 ИЗЛИТАНЕ

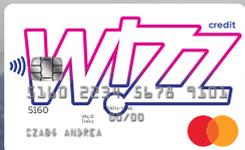
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IGÉNYELJEN WIZZ AIR HITELKÁRTYÁT ÉS VÁLTSA REPÜLÉSRE KEZDÉSNEK KAPOTT 10 000 ÜDVÖZLŐPONTJÁT!



THM: 49,23% a 2024. 01. 01. – 2024. 06. 30. között újonnan igényelt Wizz Air hitelkártya főkártya esetén.
A THM 375.000 Ft-ra és 12 hónap futamidőre került meghatározásra.

Jelen tájékoztatás nem teljes körű, és nem minősül ajánlattételnek. A 10 000 pontot a Bank a 2024. 01. 01. – 2024. 03. 31. között újonnan igényelt és jóváhagyott Wizz Air Hitelkártya főkártya igénylések esetén biztosítja, abban az esetben, ha a főkártyabirtokos a Hitelkártya igénylőlapon mobil telefonszámot és e-mail címet ad meg, annak érdekében, hogy az Erste Bank ezen megadott elérhetőségekre, termékeire és szolgáltatásaira vonatkozóan megkeresse telefonon, SMS-ben, e-mailen, internetbanki és mobilalkalmazási szolgáltatáson, illetve a Wizz Air honlapján regisztrált és rögzítette a Wizz számlaszámát vagy e-mail címét az internetbanki szolgáltatásban a Wizz Air Hitelkártya főkártya jóváhagyástól számított 60 napon belül, valamint legalább egy alkalommal egy tranzakciót végez a kártyával a kártya Bank általi jóváhagyását követő szintén 60 napon belül. Amennyiben az akció keretében igényelt Wizz Air Hitelkártyát a Főkártyabirtokos annak kibocsátásától számított 12 hónapon belül megszünteti, a Bank jogosult a 10 000 pont megvonására akként, hogy 10 000 forinttal a Főkártyabirtokos hitelszámláját megterhelje. Társkártya igénylése esetén a Bank nem biztosít Üdvözlő pontokat. A részletes kondíciókat és szerződéses feltételeket az Erste Bank mindenkor hatályos Lakossági Hitelkártya ÁSZF-je és a Lakossági Hitel Hirdetmény, a Wizz Air Kártyák Pontgyűjtő Feltételei tartalmazzák. Ezek a dokumentumok megtalálhatóak a bankfiókokban és a www.erstebank.hu címen. Wizz Air Hitelkártyák esetén a Főkártyabirtokos a Pontgyűjtési Alap összegével megegyező összértékű vásárlási tranzakció után jogosult pontok gyűjtésére, amelyben a társkártyával történt vásárlások is beleszámítanak. A Teljes Hiteldíj Mutató (THM) meghatározása az aktuális feltételek, illetve a hatályos jogszabályok figyelembevételével történik, a feltételek és a jogszabály változása esetén mértéke módosulhat.

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