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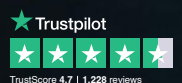
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This spring we’ve added lots more flights across the network. But we’re particularly proud to be solidifying our position as the market leader in Hungary, thanks to the addition of two brand-new A321neos. This boosts the number of aircraft in our fleet at Budapest to 16.

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**József Váradi**  
Chief Executive Officer

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**60.3m**  
passengers  
carried\*

\*FIGURE FOR 2023. \*\*BASED ON THE LATEST PUBLICLY DISCLOSED EMISSION INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO A 12-MONTH PERIOD (RYANAIR, EASJET). DUE TO DIFFERENCES IN REPORTING PERIOD, THE FIGURES AND TIMEFRAME ARE NOT FULLY ALIGNED.

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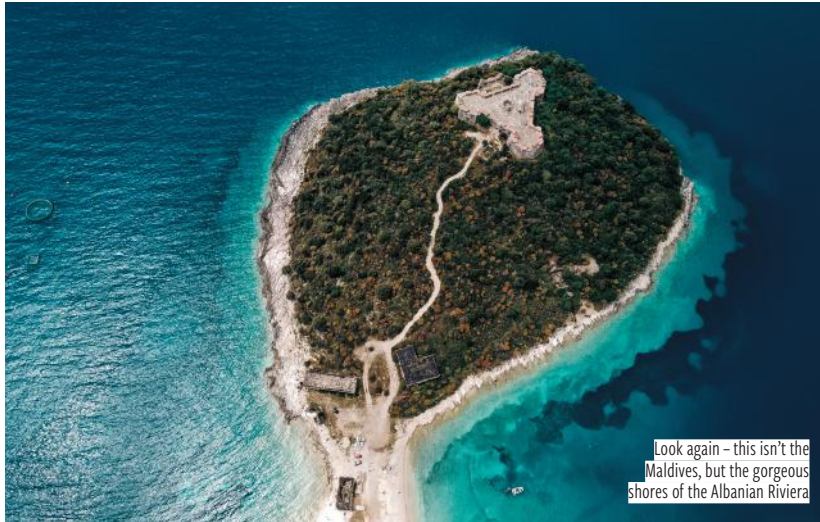
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## Editor's letter

I've got a significant birthday this year. Which is the perfect excuse for a big-ticket holiday that I'll remember fondly for years. The Maldives has been sitting pretty on the top of my bucket-list for a while now, but the thought of travelling from London with two small children in tow isn't exactly appealing. Which is why I've been watching the recent buzz about the Albanian Riviera with great interest. Crystal-clear waters? Tick. Icing-sugar soft sand? Yup. Boho-style beach bars with bottomless cocktails? Well, you get the gist. Our feature on p58 has an influencer-style itinerary for this lesser-known 'Maldives of the Med'. But be quick, you'll want to get there before everyone else does.

We've got plenty of other celebratory trips this issue for good reason: Wizz Air turns 20 this May. Which inspired us to put together a story about the top 20 eco escapes around the Wizz Air network (p47), and take a look at Copenhagen's cool new coffee and cake scene (p38), because you can't mark a birthday without cake, can you? We also have a story about sustainable diving in Marsa Alam (p30), plus we take a look at Sofia's best kleks (p68) - tiny basement shops where you have to kneel down on the pavement to buy something. 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**

## HOW TO CONTACT WIZZ AIR

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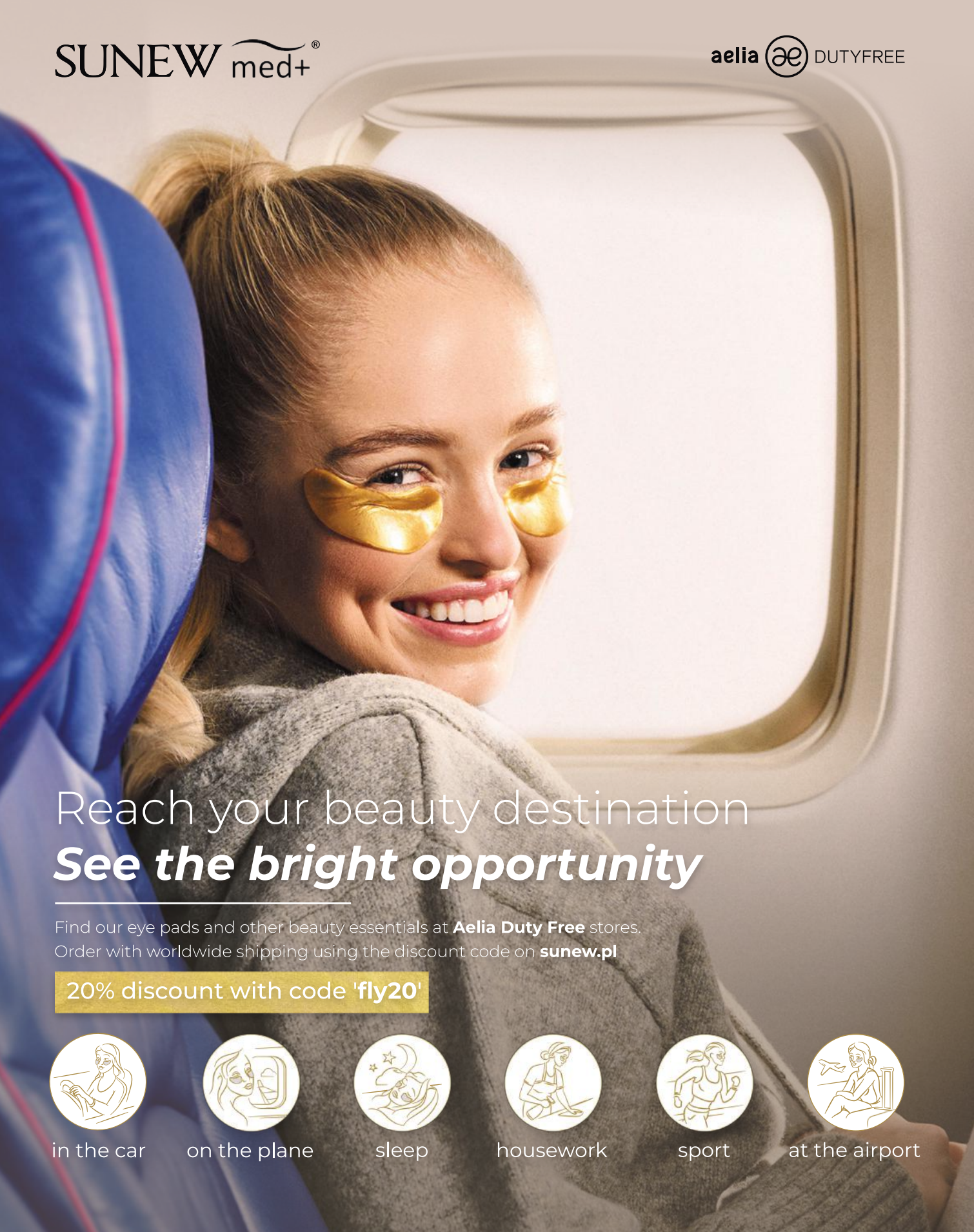
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# in this **issue**



## **p11 In Place**

Croatia's festival season kicks off; Bourgas's gorgeous pink lake; a Roy Lichtenstein retrospective in Vienna; and a fabulous Eurovision quiz

## **p19 In Person**

The two female skaters challenging perceptions in Morocco; adventure-seekers turn to parkour in Cyprus

## **p29 In Depth**

Eco-diving in Egypt; Copenhagen's creative coffee-and-cake scene; 20 sustainable travel ideas for 2024; why Albania is this summer's hottest destination; Sofia's klek shops

## **p83 In the Know**

The best places to eat and sleep across the network



## **p98 Destination Map**

The Wizz Air route map

## **p100 WIZZ News**

The latest news, plus the people going the extra mile at Wizz Air

## **p106 Insight**

A breakdown of our fleet, products and services

## **p110 Safety and Security**

Looking after your safety, health and security on board

## **p115 Café & Boutique**

Our onboard café and duty-free shopping options





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Where to go, what to do and why

# in place



## See 1960s artwork in Vienna

For Roy Lichtenstein's 100th birthday, the ALBERTINA museum in Vienna is planning a very special party. More than 90 different artworks from private collections and other major museums are on display until 14 July in this retrospective to celebrate the iconic artist, who died in 1997. Famous for his brash, cartoon-like pieces, see some of the Pop Art master's boldest artwork, including comic-book illustrations with witty speech bubbles and the nearly 10m-high *Brushstroke* sculpture set at the heart of the exhibition. [albertina.at](http://albertina.at)

✈ Wizz Air flies to Vienna

# Check out the mind-bending Maison Bernard pod house in Nice



To look at, Maison Bernard resembles a cross between an early diver's helmet and Barbie's dream home. Its designer, Antti Lovag, thought straight lines were an offence against nature and said normal houses were "cubes full of dead ends and angles that... break our harmony". Sure.

The Hungarian-born architect was once a style icon of the Côte d'Azur, designing a number of playful circular bubble houses for the glitterati here, including one for fashion icon Pierre Cardin. Maison Bernard was built for his patron, Pierre Bernard, and has passed on to become an artists' residence and monument to his work. Now the site in Théoule-sur-Mer, near Nice, has opened for guided visits, by appointment only, on Tuesdays and Thursdays until June. Whether you feel confined by cubes or not, it's well worth a peek.

[fonds-maisonbernard.com](http://fonds-maisonbernard.com)

✈ Wizz Air flies to Nice

## Pack your glow sticks for Croatia

There are pretenders to the crown, but let's be honest – the beating heart of Europe's festival season can be found in Croatia. This summer more than 20 festivals will be held up and down its coastline, featuring an array of boat parties, beachfront stages and all-night raves. This year the Lighthouse Festival kicks off the season on 29 May and is taking over a whole resort complex on the Lantarna peninsula in Tar, complete with proper hotel rooms and pools, elevating the boutique festival to hedonistic mini-break status. [lighthousefestival.tv](http://lighthousefestival.tv)

✈ Wizz Air flies to Split and Dubrovnik



PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK; BENEDIKT OTTMANN; YES GELLIE FOR THE ENDOWMENT FUND MAISON BERNARD



## Find ‘dupes’ for the world’s hottest spots

TikTokkers will need no intro to the word ‘dupe’, but for the rest of us, it’s short for ‘duplicates’, and is used to refer to the swapping of products or destinations that replicate the experience of more expensive or less accessible items and places. Here are some suggested travel swaps...



### FOR PACKAGE HOLIDAY ‘FLOP AND DROPS’: **VARNA**

Swerve been-there Spanish Costas in favour of this pocket-pleasing Bulgarian seaside resort. The ‘Pearl of the Black Sea’ has golden sands, warm waves, fantastic nightlife and numerous natural spots. In short: it’s a great alternative.



### FOR ITALIAN BEAUTY, FOOD AND CULTURE: **PUGLIA**

While crowds are booking their tickets to Venice, Florence or the Cinque Terre, you’ll be experiencing the deep south – the mainland region with the longest coastline, fantastic scenery and cool conical houses to stay in.



### FOR SCOTTISH CITY BREAKS: **GLASGOW**

Your first thought might be Edinburgh but Glasgow arguably has the better museums, better nightlife and the food is excellent. Plus fewer tourists – win! ✈️ **Wizz Air flies to Varna, Bari, Brindisi and Glasgow**

## Head to Eurovision in Malmö

On the 50th anniversary of their most famous victory, Sweden is hosting the Eurovision Song Contest this year, complete with the usual (or perhaps unusual) blend of high-camp, questionable singing and transnational politics. Even if you can’t get tickets to the Grand Final on 11 May, don’t fret. The Malmö Arena is hosting nine flamboyant shows across the whole Eurovision week. Plus, you can try your hand at our equally camp quiz. It’s tricky though – will you get *nul* points? [eurovision.tv](http://eurovision.tv); [visitmalmo.se](http://visitmalmo.se)

✈️ **Wizz Air flies to Malmö**



1

Which two countries have won the Eurovision song contest the most in its history?

2

With which song and band did Sweden win the 1974 competition?

3

According to Eurovision, if you were to listen to all the 1,500 songs that have featured in the finals over the years, how long would it take?

- a) 24 hours
- b) 48 hours
- c) 72 hours

4

Which country has come last most often?

5

The most covered Eurovision Song Contest song is Domenico Modugno’s *Nel Blu Di Pinto Di Blu*, but by what name do we commonly know this song?

6

In 2015, the Eurovision Song Contest was recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records as the Longest Running Annual TV Music Competition. But when did it start?

- a) 1933
- b) 1956
- c) 1963

7

Which country was invited to join the contest in 2015, despite being around 12,000km away from Europe?

8

How many countries will compete in the Grand Final on 11 May?

- a) 26
- b) 37
- c) 42

ANSWERS: 1. Ireland and Sweden have won seven times. 2. *Waterloo* by ABBA. 3. 72. 4. Norway (11 times). 5. *Volare*. 6. b) 1956. 7. Australia. 8. a) 26

# Celebrate Surrealism in Barcelona

Salvador Dalí's birth is coming under the microscope, exactly 120 years since it occurred in Figueres, near Barcelona. A new museum in the artist's family home, Casa Natal Salvador Dalí, is crammed with immersive projections and "kaleidoscopic" installations that reveal the truth about the man behind the wacky art. [casanataldali.cat](http://casanataldali.cat)



## ...and Brussels

Meanwhile, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium is celebrating 100 years of the Surrealist movement that made Dalí famous. IMAGINE! (ongoing until July in partnership with Paris' Pompidou Centre) features many of the great names of the movement like Man Ray, Ernst and Miro. [fine-arts-museum.be](http://fine-arts-museum.be)  
✈️ [Wizz Air flies to Barcelona and Brussels](#)



# Plan an escape with your pup in the UK

This year's biggest trend? Bring along your four-legged friend. According to Canine Cottages, some 75% of British dog owners are planning to take their pooch on holiday with them this year. Which is why they should check out new travel book *Dog Days Out* by Lottie Gross, which has tips for walks and dog-friendly hotels and restaurants across the UK. It also features essential practical information for dog owners, such as local bylaws, rules for dogs, wildlife to be aware of and safety tips from Cornwall to the Scottish Highlands. Pawfect! [Dog Days Out, £20, Conway](#)  
✈️ [Wizz Air flies to Aberdeen, Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool and London](#)



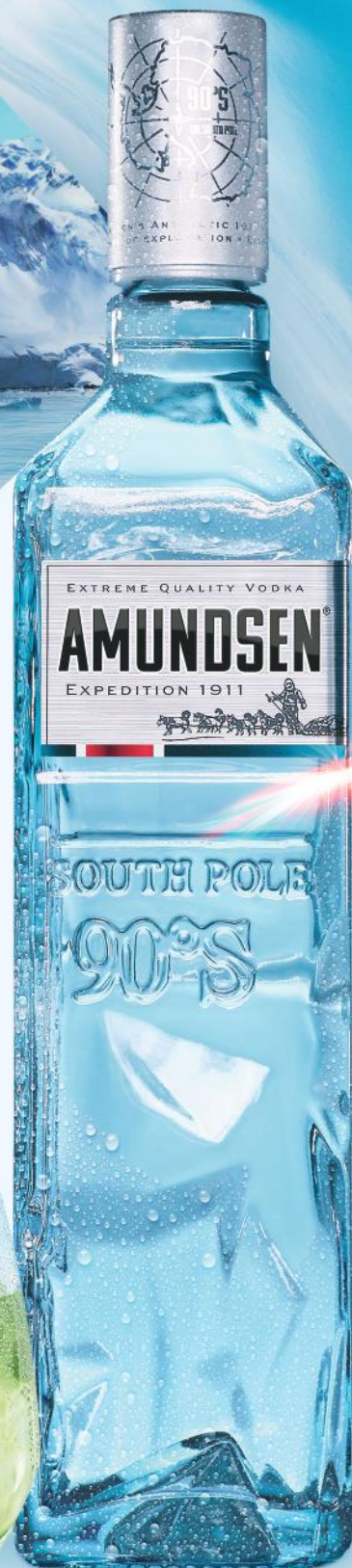


# JOURNEY? ALWAYS YOUR WAY

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# Be 'salt aware' in Bourgas

Yes, folks, it's Salt Awareness Week from 15-21 May, and while we know the organisers of that event want to warn people that too much salt in your food can be unhealthy, there are salts that can be good for you.

At Bourgas in Bulgaria, you can soak up some of these with a dip in one of the stunning pink salt lakes, which are coloured due to a high salt and lye content in the water and contain traces of calcium, iodine and phosphorus. Locals claim the waters rejuvenate the skin and cure all sorts of aches and pains

You'll find the pools at the Burgas Salt Pans, a short walk from the city's northern tourist beaches. While technically these are industrial salt pans, producing 40,000 tonnes of the table seasoning per year, they also act as a free open-air spa for locals and anyone else savvy enough to find them.

✈️ **Wizz Air flies to Bourgas**



## EXPERIENCE BOURGAS'S PINK LAKES



**1.** Go for a float in the pink salt water or lye pool for at least 20 minutes. Just as in the Dead Sea, you will bob about, taking the salty goodness into your pores.



**2.** Cover yourself in healing mud. Try and ignore the sulphuric smell (the mud contains numerous decaying microorganisms but it's best not to think about that).



**3.** Wash the mud off with a swim in the Black Sea, located 50m from the pools. You'll feel 10 years younger... for free!

# Try neo-nomad cuisine in Almaty

If flour, water and meat doesn't sound like the recipe for delicious cuisine, your tastebuds will be confused by what's happening in Almaty right now. That's because Central Asian dishes are having a contemporary makeover. Mountain restaurant Auy (pictured right) has received rave reviews for its recipes full of lesser-known treats like sulguni (brined cheese), kaymak (buffalo-milk yoghurt) and lazjan (spicy pepper sauce), while fellow neo-nomad restaurant TÖR serves adventurous dishes including guinea fowl liver pâté, salt fish pastries and qazy sausage tartar with sweet potatoes. @auyl.almaty; @tor.restaurant.almaty

✈️ **Wizz Air flies to Almaty**



PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK, DAMIR OTEGEN; ICONS: FREEPIK.COM



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Colourful characters from around the network

# in person



**Surf-and-skate  
girl power**  
in Morocco

**p20**


**Why parkour is  
taking flight**  
in Larnaca

**p25**

# *“I want to surf and skate until I die”*



Childhood friends Wafa and Faiza are the founders of Moroccan surf and skate brand Wheels n Fins. We speak to them about their passion for introducing women to their twin sports

 Words by Emma Ventura



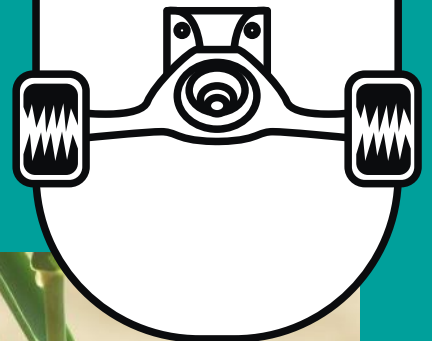
**Left page** Faiza Moumane  
**Above** some of the Wheels n Fins surf-themed products  
**Far left** Wafa Heboul  
**Left** Faiza

in person



**SKATEPARKS AS A LIFELINE**

The skatepark at Taghazout is one of those funded by Make Life Skate Life, an NGO that empowers communities to invest in safe places for young people to skate, providing lessons and equipment. Run by a passionate skateboarders, its skateparks are found in disadvantaged areas in countries such as Laos, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Jordan and Nepal. Thanks to the charity, thousands of kids now have daily access to skateboarding, resulting in a boost to their exercise levels and self-esteem. [makelifeskatelife.org](http://makelifeskatelife.org)



**F**or Wafa Heboul and Faiza Moumane, co-founders of Moroccan surf and skate brand Wheels n Fins, an awakening came in their mid teens. The pair wanted nothing more than to peacefully carry their surfboards to their local break in the city of Agadir on Morocco's long, windswept Atlantic coast. But back then – even just 15 years ago – Moroccan women surfers were rare, and those heading out with surfboards attracted plenty of unwelcome interest.

“We’ve been through a lot, me and Wafa,” says Faiza. “From home to the surf spot was only a 20-minute walk, but it was kind of like hell for me. You put on your headphones but still you can feel people acting weird around you. When I got harassed, I was like, okay, this is enough.”

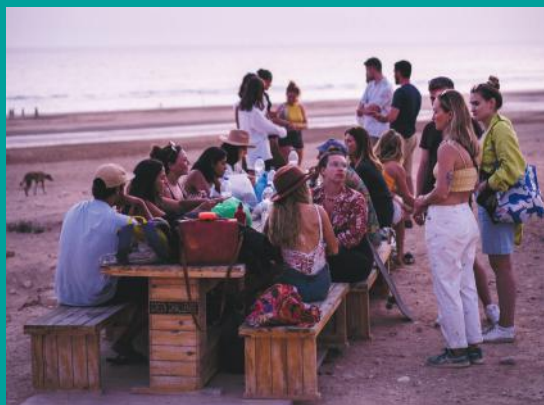
Putting their surfboards away, instead Faiza and Wafa split the cost of a beat-up old skateboard for a handful of dirhams, and the pair were converted. They discovered that while the skatepark was male-dominated, they were far from unwelcome. They found a community that embraced them as equals.

BOX OUT PHOTO: MAKE LIFE SKATE LIFE



**SEE Wafa IN ACTION**

A short film about the pair, *Raised by Sand & Salty Water*, co-written and directed by Daniel Simón and David Corrochano, premiered at the 2023 Paris Surf & Skateboard Film Festival. It provides a snapshot of the rapidly emerging skate culture of Taghazout and female empowerment – as witnessed by beautifully shot videos of Wafa skateboarding. [rbsswfilm.com](http://rbsswfilm.com)



"At the beginning, it was a little intimidating because, of course, there were more boys and it's something new for us," says Wafa. "But we were lucky to meet beautiful, cool people who helped us, and also pushed us to skate more."

Wafa's skating profile rose to the point where in 2021 she made it to the Olympics try outs. Meanwhile, Faiza, who had a graphic design background, was working full time for Morocco's leading surf organisation, Surf Maroc, based in Morocco's surf capital of Taghazout, 30 minutes north of Agadir.

As she surfed more, she came to a realisation. "Every time I surfed, I got out of the water and I'd cry because I didn't have the courage to surf big waves," she says. "I was like, you know what, this thing is supposed to make me happy, not sad – and I had the idea that many girls feel the same. So, this is where it started, the idea to create this brand, get girls together and just be us, motivating each other."

The idea linked up with others already in motion – she had been working on designs, inspired by skate and surf culture, for T-shirts and jewellery. Meanwhile, the pair were offering skate lessons to encourage the growing numbers of local women and girls interested in skate culture, buoyed by the opening of a brand-new, clifftop skate park in Taghazout.

When the pandemic hit, Faiza brought disparate female skaters together on the street as a means of

bonding, sharing tricks and creating a community: "I thought, let's bring our skateboards, put on some music, and have fun. I thought, we have nothing to lose. We do it anyway. So why not together?"

The result of all this has culminated in *Wheels n Fins*, a side hustle with serious ambitions that blends the pair's two biggest passions – skating and surfing – while also utilising their talents outside of sport: Faiza's artistic flair with Wafa's knack for branding.

As well as offering merchandise – T-shirts, hoodies and jewellery – and regular surf and skate lessons in Taghazout and BBQ evenings, there are now plans for retreats, a vintage clothing shop and more events.

Further into the future, Faiza is thinking bigger still. "My goal is to have my own indoor skate park, where people can hang out, chill, have a drink, and gather together," she says. "I want to be surrounded by surf and skate until I die." [wheelsnfins.com](http://wheelsnfins.com)

✈ **Wizz Air flies to Agadir**

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***“We want to inspire a movement that gets people having fun, and challenging themselves”***

Childhood friends Liam Iacovou and Paris Hadjisoteriou are the team behind the parkour academy that’s scaling new heights in Cyprus

 Words by Amy Rose Everett



**W**hile Cyprus is better known for its sun-kissed beaches and charming waterside tavernas, this year it's attracting adventure-loving tourists for a very different reason. That's in part thanks to Redpoint, the country's first parkour and bouldering academy, founded by locals Liam Iacovou and Paris Hadjisoteriou in 2022. "The parkour scene was non-existent before we opened Redpoint," says Liam. "The climbing scene was bigger – though still relatively small." But now both are thriving.

Liam's introduction to parkour was influenced by his childhood friend, Paris. "He started parkour at the

age of 15," says Liam. "As there wasn't a scene back then [no gym to train in or anyone to mentor them], he would watch videos on YouTube and go out in the city to practise. He and his friends were the first people on the island to experiment and fall in love with parkour."

It wasn't long before Liam got into the sport too. The idea of Redpoint, which is in Nicosia (about 50km from Larnaca), was born from their shared passion – filling a gap in the local sports scene. They wanted to create a place where thrill-seekers could train frequently in a safe environment, developing their skills and challenging themselves daily.

Liam's decade as a kitesurfing instructor and coaching at kids' summer camps complemented Paris's experience as head coach at the first parkour academy in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. "We realised that we should start a venture of our own," says Liam.

Redpoint isn't just a gym. It's become a beacon of innovation and community, where individuals can discover their potential, push their limits, and connect with like-minded adventurers.

Its inception has galvanised parkour and climbing opportunities in Cyprus. To date, the space has over 50 students, of all ages, practising and training Parkour weekly. They make use of 200m<sup>2</sup> of climbing wall, including a MoonBoard training wall, traverse wall and Beastmakers (wooden climbing equipment).

"We have the first European Standard bouldering wall on the island," says Liam.

Through classes, private sessions and self-training, Redpoint helps people gain strength, learn something new and make friends. "The inspiration for Redpoint is basically European parkour and climbing gyms," continues Liam. "Cyprus is always a little late to the party, and so we want to inspire a movement that

## in person

gets people of all ages out of their houses, having fun, and challenging themselves.”

“For young people, we want to show them the amazing benefits of doing individual sports, breaking the mould of always wanting to play football, basketball and tennis.”

The academy also features a Conditioning Room, equipped with a rowing machine, weights, resistance bands, pinch blocks, parallettes and a boxing bag, so comprehensive training needs are well catered for.

Liam and Paris make vaults, swings, rolls and flips an achievable goal for everyone. “Both climbing and parkour are fantastic; available for complete beginners all the way up to advanced,” says Liam, emphasising the inclusivity of their programmes.

Eager to try it? “If you’re looking to take a break from the historic sightseeing in Cyprus and need a bit of adrenaline, you know where to find us.” Under Liam and Paris’s guidance, Redpoint has become a catalyst for community, adventure and personal growth. No peak is too high, no jump too far. [redpointcy.com](http://redpointcy.com)

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Larnaca



**Left and below left**  
Liam Iacovou and Paris Hadjisoteriou

**Opposite page, left to right** A young parkourist at Redpoint, practising parkour in Nicosia



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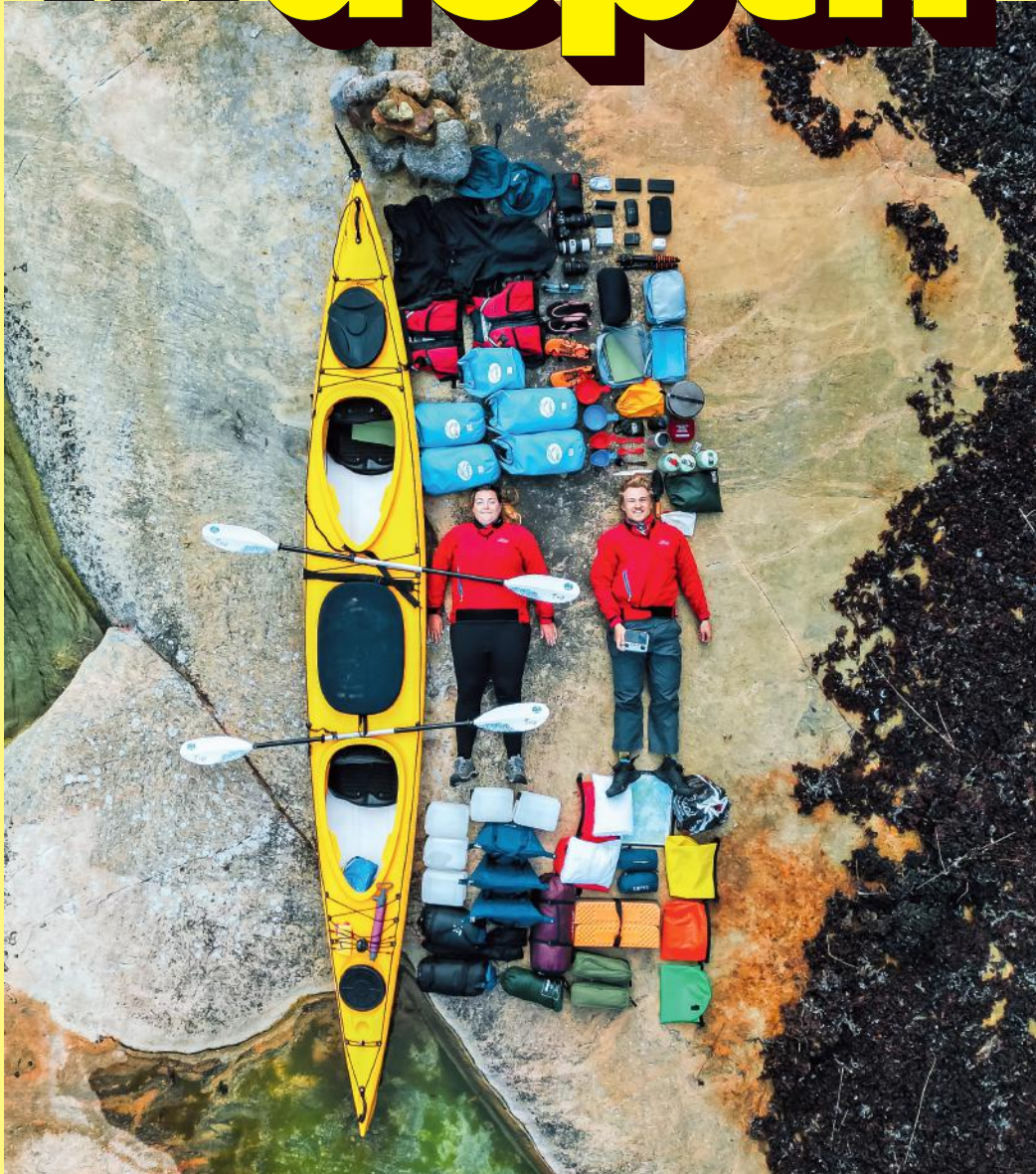


PHOTO: ©2024THEKAYAKTRAIL

**Saving the Red Sea**  
in Egypt

**p30**

**Coffee and cake, elevated**  
in Copenhagen

**p38**

**Eco escapes**  
around the network

**p47**

**Holiday like an influencer**  
in Albania

**p58**

**Small shops rule**  
in Sofia

**p68**




# rees

ALL PHOTOS: PADI / JAY CLUE

# Chamises



Marsa Alam is becoming a hot spot for eco-friendly diving holidays. We went to find out how its new sustainable initiatives are helping tourists make a real difference

 Words by Ianthe Butt

“

It's like going into space," exclaims Hossam Abdelaziz, my enthusiastic guide and Red Sea Diving Safari's (RSDS) Head of Training and Development. Wetsuit-clad, tank in

place, I backwards-roll off the boat, and plop into Shaab Samadai's electric blue, 23°C waters. As I descend, coral comes into view - vast amethyst fans, feathery crimson plumes and spiked candy-pink reefs where whitetail dascyllus dart, looking like marine mint humbugs. Emerging from a shallow cavern, clouds of orange anthias and sunshine-yellow butterfly fish swarm around towering pinnacles. It feels like I'm swimming through a rainbow. A few metres away, a beady-eyed green turtle glides by. The Red Sea - home to 1,252 fish species - is already living up to its 'Underwater Garden of Eden' nickname.

Back on the surface, a 20-minute speedboat ride across calm waters takes me to dive lodge Marsa



Nakari. One of RSDS's three lodges in idyllic Marsa Alam, it's one of Egypt's very first Eco Dive Centers. The classification, accredited by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), recognises dive outfits going the extra mile with environmental protections. While the accolade is new, the sentiment embodies the RSDS ethos. And there was nowhere better than Marsa Alam to kick-start this new, forward-thinking marine conservation initiative - even if 73-year-old founder Hossam Helmy had a bit of convincing to do.

"Everyone laughed at me when I said I wanted to bring eco-tourists here," he says as we meet over koshari (a rice, chickpea and lentil dish) at Marsa Nakari's low-key restaurant. In the mid-1980s, after 14 years in the presidential police, Hossam tried scuba diving, fell in love with the Red Sea and spent a year diving. What follows reads like a Hollywood script - Hossam persuaded the Ministry of Defence to let him explore the then-military zone of Marsa Alam, and to map its never-dived reefs. "Marsa Alam was not even a village. There was zero infrastructure, no water supply, and no electricity," he says. "The diving was like nothing I had ever seen. A whirlwind of sharks, turtles, dolphins, healthy hard and soft corals in easily accessible reefs. I knew they were special, and that they must be protected."

Ahead of his time, Hossam recognised that a responsible tourism model would create local employment, underline the reefs' value, and add



**Top** Hossam Abdelaziz does a pre-dive briefing  
**Here and left** A Red Sea Diving Safari gets underway





**“The diving was like nothing I had ever seen. A whirlwind of sharks, turtles, dolphins, healthy hard and soft corals in easily accessible reefs”**



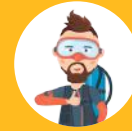


### A helping hand

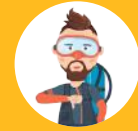
How to master communicating under the water



Okay



Going up



Going down



Stay there



Come here



Something wrong

weight to the case for preserving them. Since setting up three RSDS camps in 1988, he's resisted the mass-market resort approach seen elsewhere in Egypt, enforcing responsible diving codes, and campaigning for countless protections – including seeing Shaab Samadai designated a National Marine Park.

Today, Marsa Nakari, which has 65 tents and chalet rooms – and guest numbers capped at 110 in line with the house reef's capacity – remains small-scale by Egyptian standards, where 900 rooms can be the norm. Hossam resists governmental pressure to increase room numbers. Aluminium bottles are provided for water refills, and single-use plastic is minimised. Nearby, polytunnels brim with plump aubergines, courgettes and cucumbers at RSDS's 1.5-hectare farm. Launched in 2020, it provides 40% of the lodges' produce needs. It might seem small fry, but the challenges of growing in salty, dusty terrain make it significant. Hydroponics will be implemented soon, and Hossam hopes that eventually, a five-hectare farm will bring full self-sufficiency.

"I'd love to reduce our environmental impact even further, by becoming 100% solar-powered, and improving water provision," he says. Steps are already in place – one of RSDS's properties has a first-in-the-region solar-powered water desalination plant, and a 400kw solar field, which feeds excess energy back to the grid, and Marsa Nakari's own 25kw solar array will be expanded in time.

RSDS's Red Sea Center also offers its divers citizen science (when the public conduct scientific research) opportunities. The next day, I join three fellow divers in the classroom, and take a PADI Dive Against Debris certification led by Hossam Abdelaziz, offered to guests free of charge. Slides explain how to safely conduct and log a clean-up dive. Knowing what to collect is important, as some litter – tangled through coral, or repurposed by marine life – may cause more damage than good if removed.

We've got a job ahead of us: stormy weather overnight has brought litter into Marsa Nakari's thriving house reef. "Wind brings back all the things thrown into the ocean, reminding us it's our responsibility," says Hossam Abdelaziz, as I put on my wetsuit, a thick glove on one hand, and mesh bag in the other. A few strokes from shore, litter drifts past Gorgonian fans, neon blue giant clams and crocodile fish, and I see a unicornfish mouthing at a disintegrating crisp packet. For close to an hour, I collect, piece after piece. Back on land, the spoils are sobering; we spend 90 minutes separating 30kg – 603 individual bits – of rubbish. Bottles, food wrappers, cigarette ends and more are all logged

Here A polytunnel at the RSDS's 1.5-hectare farm  
Above left Divers get ready to clean up the Red Sea



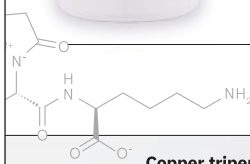


**“Wind brings  
back all the things  
thrown into the  
ocean, reminding  
us it’s our  
responsibility”**



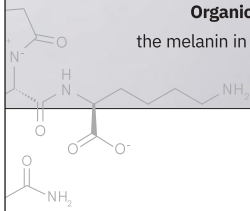
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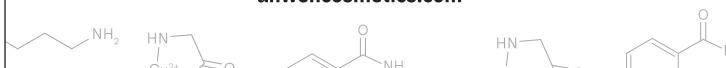


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**Clockwise from left** Red Sea Turtles Project director, Ahmed Fouad; the pool area at Wadi Sabarah; a green turtle is given a once-over



in PADI's Dive against Debris database. While what I've done addresses a fraction of a global problem, I'm proud to help. "Doing this resonates deeply with guests," says Hossam Abdelaziz.

Alongside cleaner reefs, the longer-term goal with Dive Against Debris data – collected worldwide – is that over time, it reflects patterns about rubbish type, and where it's coming from. This knowledge can then be used to drive wider change. In 2018, for example, data in the South Pacific helped secure a ban on non-biodegradable plastic bags on Vanuatu island.

For my final days, I travel to Wadi Sabarah, a coastal lodge 40 minutes north of Marsa Alam, built from repurposed fossilised coral limestone. The property doubles as a base for the Red Sea Turtles Project, which assesses Marsa Alam's green and hawksbill turtle populations.

"From battling red tape to covering vast areas with limited resources, marine research in the Red Sea is one wild ride," says director Ahmed Fouad. Alongside research team surveys using counting, measuring

and photo ID techniques, a core element is educating tourists to take and submit their own photography of turtles they've spotted while diving.

Since launching in 2020, over 8,000 turtle sightings have been submitted, establishing one of the largest databases on Red Sea turtles. "Markings either side of a turtle's head and their carapace, are like a fingerprint, completely unique," says Ahmed. "Everyone uses a camera these days, so why not tap into that?" Once in the database, AI draws a dot-to-dot around darker and lighter colourations to identify similar animals, with the final match selected manually by a researcher. While Ahmed acknowledges the project has "a long way to go", it's a step in the right direction. Add in efforts spearheaded by Hossam Helmy and Hossam Abdelaziz and the outlook for Marsa Alam's marine life feels hopeful. The fact that holidaymakers like me can get immersed in it all – the marvellous megafauna, the many corals – in a way which helps safeguard it feels an absolute privilege.

**[redsea-divingsafari.com](http://redsea-divingsafari.com); [padi.com/ecocenter](http://padi.com/ecocenter)  
[redsea-project.com](http://redsea-project.com)**

✈ **Wizz Air flies to Marsa Alam**



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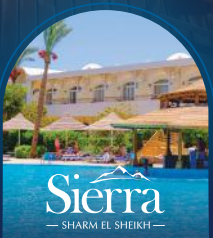
ROYAL SAVOY VILLAS



ROYAL SAVOY HOTEL



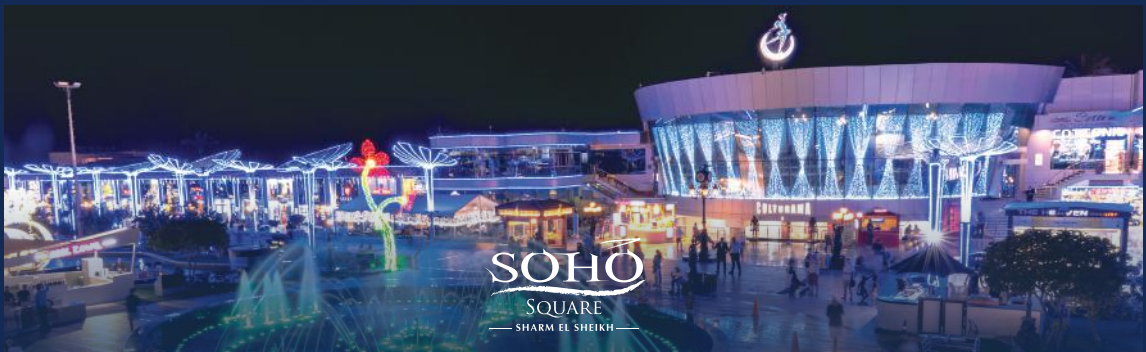
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# The perfect blend

How a new generation of baristas and bakers are shaking things up in Copenhagen by elevating the daily coffee-and-Danish ritual

 Words by Kate Guest



It's probably no surprise that the people who gave the world *hygge* – that hazy but instantly recognisable concept of candlelit cosiness – are big fans of coffee and pastries. Danes drink 430 cups of coffee a year, on average, although for many it's much more. Factor in a *kaffepause* (coffee break) and *aftenkaffe* (nightcap – yes, coffee right before bed) and it can be four or five cups a day.

Traditionally it was instant or filter coffee and cake, but today they're just as likely to down a specialty brew and a bun by a Michelin-starred pastry chef as bakeries and coffee bars have blossomed across Copenhagen. Big hitters like Alice, Rondo, Bageriet Benji, Andersen & Maillard and Hart Bageri (where actor Lionel Boyce studied before filming his Copenhagen-set episode of *The Bear*) are just a few internationally recognised names in a new generation of cafes and bakeries giving fresh expression to Danes' centuries-long love affair with coffee and cake.



## Rise and shine

Sunlight is pouring through Lille bakery's ceiling-height windows, and at least five different languages can be heard in the cinnamon-scented air as customers queue for sourdough loaves, sausage rolls and airy Berliner donuts filled with plum cream.

Housed in the former apprenticeship school of the old shipyard in Refshaleøen, Lille is a 15-minute bus ride from downtown Copenhagen, but as the international crowd proves, people will travel for good bread. While Refshaleøen's past as a shipyard means there's a lingering air of industry, it's home to a growing number of galleries, bars and a world's best restaurant or two.

"I went to look at the space and as soon as we entered I knew," says Sara Macedo, a trained biochemist from Portugal who co-owns the bakery with Australian chef Mia Boland. "It was a true rom-com moment. Refshaleøen has changed a lot, but it retains that edge that makes you feel everything is possible."

Much of Refshaleøen's good energy is down to Lille, which opened in 2018. Sara and Mia wanted to create the kind of place they felt Copenhagen was missing: "a space where people felt seen and recognised, just like at a good friend's home," Sara says.



**Clockwise from above**  
Inside Lille bakery; putting the finishing touches on Lille's doughnuts; coffee perfection at Prolog; Lille's cinnamon buns and freshly baked bread

"Building a community has always been very important to us, perhaps because we are not from here, but also so Lille could gain different dimensions and become a hub for people who thought alike, or differently, and together we could create even more projects."

They raised the funds for their oven via Kickstarter. "To our surprise, many local people funded it, so when we opened our doors we had neighbours coming in, showing it to their friends and saying, 'This is my bakery'. That was a wonderful feeling," says Sara. Six years later they have a team of 15 and bake around



**Below** Lille owners Sara and Mia  
**Rest of page** Treats at Lille  
**Far right** Almond-topped pastries at Juno

**“Our cardamom buns are now what we call ‘flower buns’, as we replaced cardamom with a blend of dried local aromatic plants”**



100kg of dough a day. Inbetween, they host dinners, breadmaking workshops, mini-festivals and even the occasional dance party.

Their ingredients are “maybe 99.9% Danish organic” and they were the first to use 100% Danish wheat in their bread.

“This can be tricky because you need to have knowledge about wheat and be okay with the fact that it will vary from harvest to harvest,” says Sara. “You might have to spend time adapting recipes, but that is also the rewarding part. It’s never boring.”

They preserve as much as they can during the short seasons and if they can’t find a local version of what they need, they change the recipe.

“We have replaced lemons with our own homemade vinegar,” she says, “and our cardamom buns are now what we call ‘flower buns’, as we replaced cardamom with a blend of dried local aromatic plants.”

**Oven ready**

Lille is among a new wave of world-class bakeries, many founded by burnt-out pastry chefs chasing a more family friendly lifestyle. Bring it on, says Sara.

PHOTOS: MIKKEL BAEKGAARD, MICHAEL GARDENIA





“Each is different. Every one has a special pastry or bread or technique, and that adds to the richness of the city itself.”

Across town another queue is forming outside Juno in Østerbro. They’re here for the coveted fastelavnsbolle, a pastry with jam and cream that’s only available around the Fastelavn holiday and creates such mass hysteria, it’s earned international press coverage. Juno’s versions are among the best, but as soon as they’re over another must-eat will come along.

While cardamom buns, pain au chocolat, sourdough rolls and rye bread are constants, the rest of the



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## COPENHAGEN

menu changes often. “We spend countless hours on development and have several team members dedicated to it daily,” says Swedish founder Emil Glaser, a former Noma pastry chef.

“Citrus, nuts and chocolate in the colder months, and fruits as they arrive in the warmer months. Sometimes it is a take on nostalgic pastries, sometimes something that’s been developed by the team.”

Most ingredients are from Denmark, with some flour from Sweden and other ingredients “where the quality is the highest,” says Emil. They’ll often work with ancient grains such as einkorn, spelt and kamut too. “We try to constantly improve the quality of raw materials. It has such a direct and honest impact on our work.”

### The new New Nordic

This widespread emphasis on providence and seasonality is a legacy of the New Nordic Food Manifesto. Twenty years later, its influence has spread well beyond fine dining to all kinds of hospitality, and its practitioners are often not Nordic at all.

German Patrik Rolf had only visited Copenhagen before deciding to open April coffee roastery and store, drawn by the city’s respect for quality food, drink and design. “I can’t think of another city, apart from perhaps Kyoto, where quality is such a consistent and widespread part of everyday life,” he

says. Opening somewhere unknown to him “wasn’t the easy choice. But I was convinced it was the only place in Europe where people would understand what I was trying to do. It seemed to be a city where if you build something good, people would give you a chance.”

Patrik previously worked in roasteries in Gothenburg and Berlin, but in Copenhagen he felt people were especially eager to embrace third-wave coffee.

“They consume a lot of coffee without milk. I believe that is why there is such a big interest in higher quality coffee,” he says. “People forget that in general the coffee being consumed in Scandinavian countries was mainly dark roasted filter coffee of lower quality. But the guest is more curious today and has a better understanding of coffee’s potential.”



#### Clockwise from below

Coffee beans ready for roasting at April; coffee and canele; April's exterior; Patrik Rolf





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**Clockwise from below**  
Inside Prolog; coffee and  
pastry perfection; Prolog's  
pleasing aesthetics



It's a sentiment shared by Jonas Gehl and Sebastian Quistorff, co-founders of Prolog Coffee, which opened in the Meatpacking District in 2016. What set Prolog apart from day one was what it lacked: pretentiousness. The coffee is of course excellent but that's no longer a selling point, so their focus was on creating a wholly welcoming team and space (complete with Douglas fir accents for cosy sauna vibes), offering coffee education without attitude and making the relationship between barista and customer

“less adversarial,” says Jonas. Judgement was out; so if you want oat milk in your coffee, go ahead.

“The only way we were able to succeed was by offering a great hospitality experience,” adds Jonas. “To a certain extent we believe that if you choose to work in hospitality you need to have a certain desire to give something good to other people. Coffee becomes that much more valuable and exciting when you share it.”

As a B corp, welfare of both people and planet is at the top of their minds. They make constant endeavours to reduce milk waste and reuse packaging, and are focused on supporting their team of around 30. “Is it a fun place to work? Are you challenged? Can you make a living from it?” asks Jonas. “We have such a great team, and we want to be able to give them more opportunities.”

All the business owners agree: people come first, which is perhaps the X-factor that makes Denmark's hospitality scene so special. “What I enjoy most is seeing my team share their knowledge and transmit their passion to our guests, in exchange for the biggest smiles when biting into a warm cardamom bun, or a bread roll with a thick layer of butter,” says Emil Glaser. “It is a feeling difficult to explain other than sheer happiness.”

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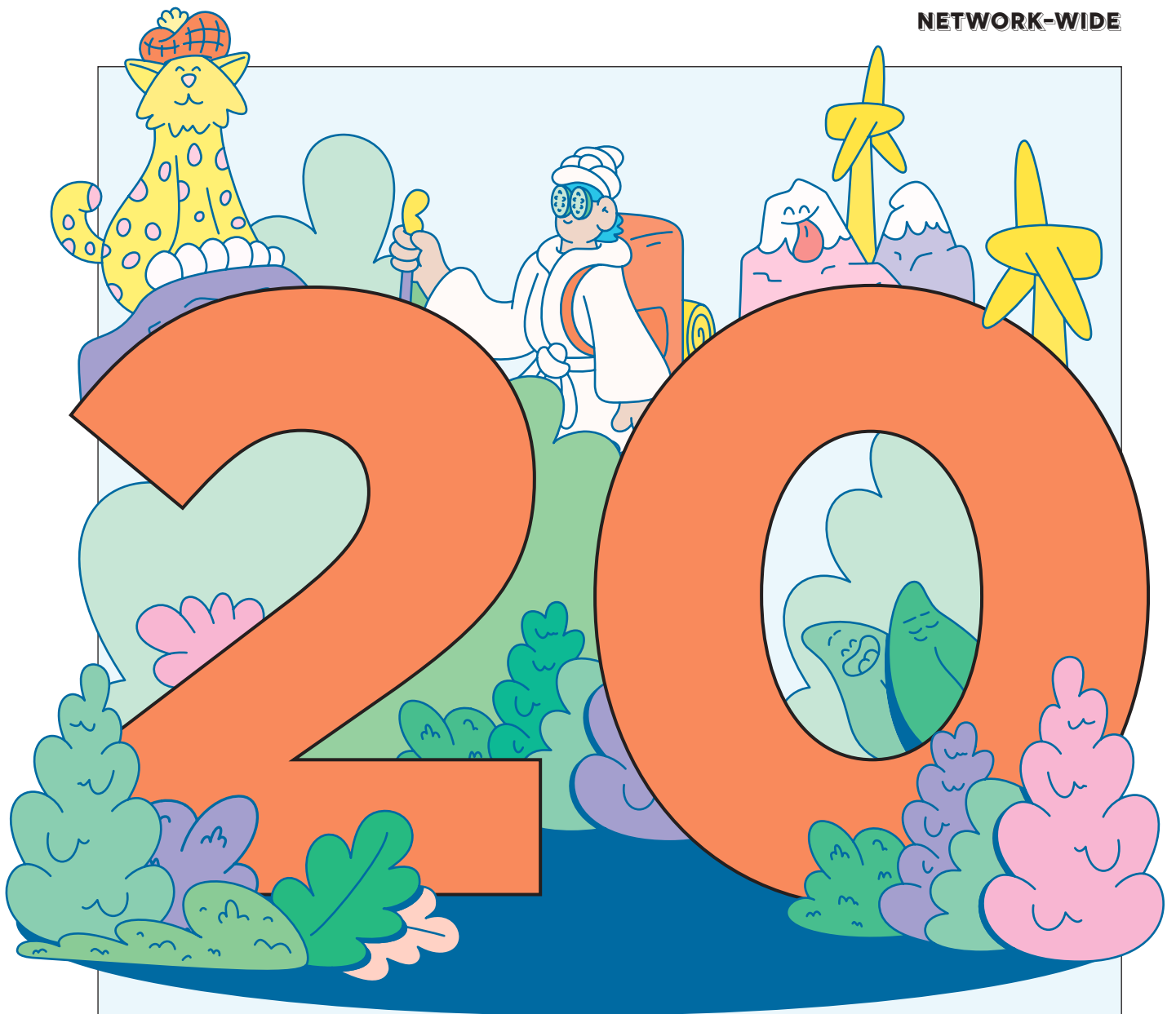


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# CLEAN BREAKS

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We're all looking for ways to be more responsible and climate-conscious these days - so why not try these 20 eco-friendly trips across the Wizz Air network?

 Words by Sarah Warwick  Illustration by Luke McConkey



## THE TRACELESS ADVENTURE

There's no transport greener than your own paddle power – and it's certainly one of the best ways to explore the thousands of islands of Stockholm's stunning archipelago. Book with The Kayak Trail, who give peace of mind through their "Traceless Travel" policy. Their non-polluting, zero-emission tours stay away from bird protection areas and respect the local rules of nature reserves. So, you can enjoy kayaking and wild camping on these precious islands and know you're leaving them as unspoilt as you found them.

[thekayaktrail.com](http://thekayaktrail.com)

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## 2

## THE DESERT CAMP

A far cry from the skyscrapers of the big city, the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve is a piece of unspoilt desert where you'll encounter oryx and gazelles by day and a million stars at night. Help maintain its beauty with a stay at the Nest by Sonara. Its 'nests' – canvas envelopes that sleep four – give guests a taste of nomadic life. [nara.ae/nest](http://nara.ae/nest)

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**There's so often this idea that going green has to involve some kind of self-sacrifice – but that's not true**



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### THE IMMERSIVE WILDERNESS

There's so often this idea that going green has to involve some kind of self-sacrifice – but that's not true at Oasyhotel in Tuscany. Yes, its luxury lodges are in the 2,500-hectare Dynamo Oasis Nature Reserve that was created in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund. And yes, there's an organic farm on site that supports local children's charities. But, there's also farm-to-table dining, wellbeing activities – like wild-swimming and forest yoga on its private lake – and birdsong alarm calls. [oasyhotel.com](http://oasyhotel.com)

✈ Wizz Air flies to Pisa



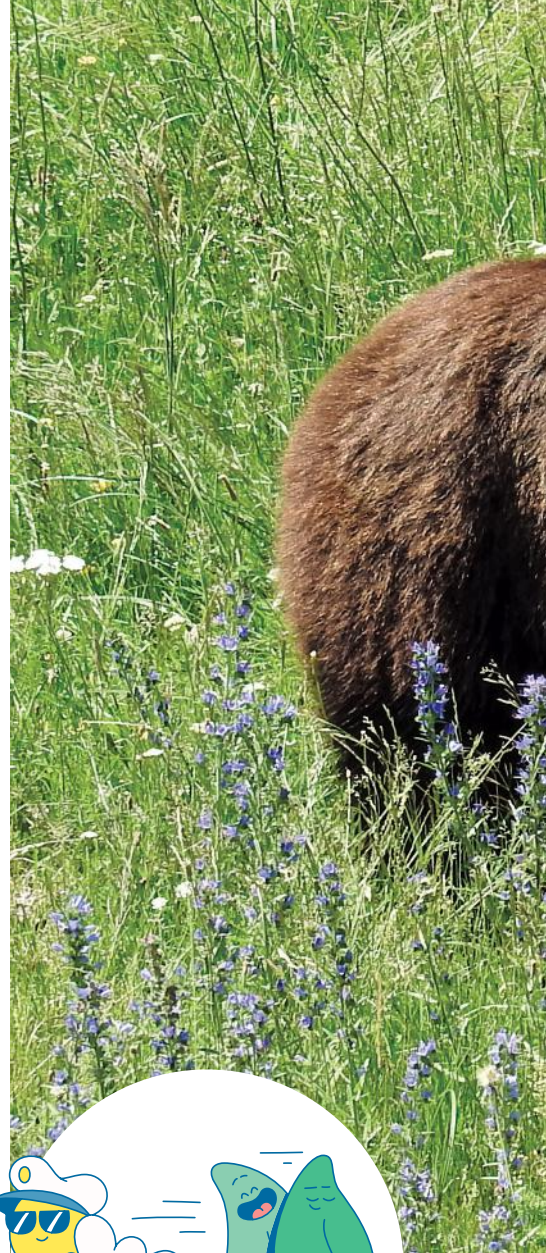
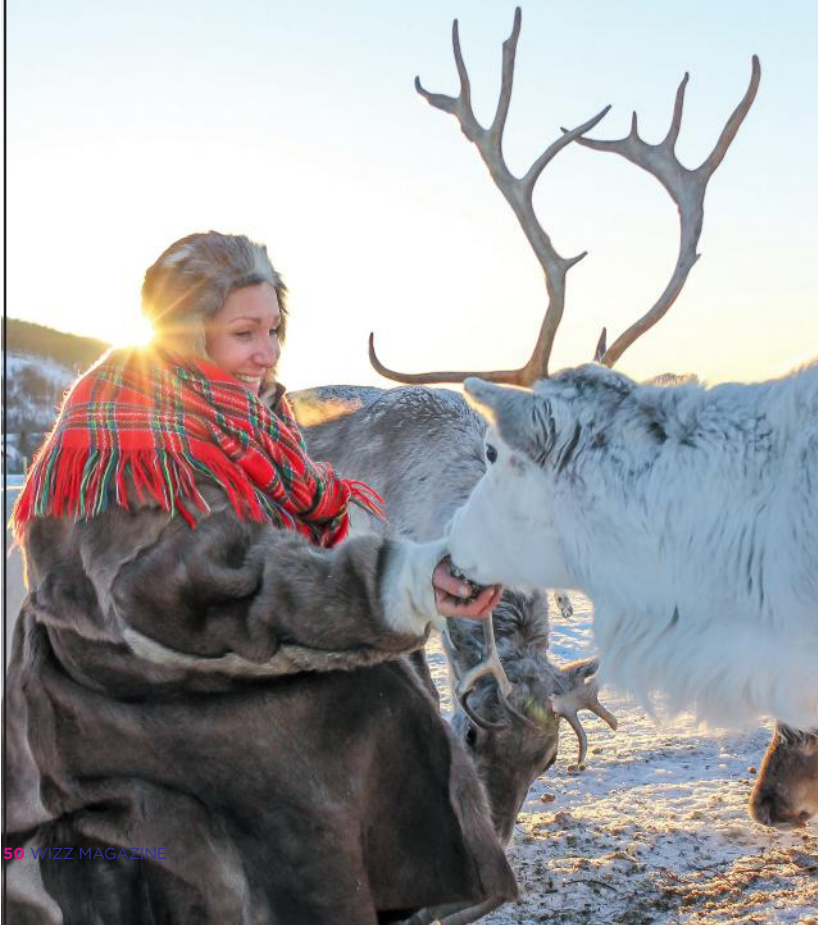
**You can explore a landscape that's crawling with bison, wolves, lynx, bears and wild boars**

# 5

## **THE INDIGENOUS EXPERIENCE**

Indigenous people tend to be more respectful custodians of Mother Earth's resources. In Tromsø, Norway, you can experience the Sámi way of life with a reindeer-herder family, complete with sleigh rides, reindeer feeding, snowshoeing and *joiking* (singing) around the campfire. [tromsoarcticreindeer.com](http://tromsoarcticreindeer.com)

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Tromsø



## **7. THE VEGAN CRUISE**

Choosing a small-ship cruise over gas-guzzlers can reduce your footprint, as can a vegan menu. So, the Vegan Cruise company, which runs small river cruises with plant-based menus, is a double whammy for environmentalists. The pick of their tours is a Nile cruise from Luxor to Aswan and back, aboard the Sonesta Sun Goddess, which sleeps 60 people. [vegan-cruises.com](http://vegan-cruises.com)

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Cairo



## THE CONSERVATION SAFARI

The Carpathian Mountains in Romania are one of the most biodiverse areas in Europe, supporting large mammals that are extinct elsewhere. On a multi-night forest stay that helps to fund conservation (through Foundation Conservation Carpathia), you can explore a landscape that's literally crawling with bison, wolves, lynx, bears and wild boars. [journeyswithpurpose.org](http://journeyswithpurpose.org)

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Sibiu



### 8. THE HUNGARIAN TREEHOUSE

Perched among the treetops outside the village of Bodolyabér in Hungary's Baranya county, Hunza Ecolodge's Korowai-style treehouse combines great views and value. Made from all-natural materials, it's big enough for the whole family to stay in while enjoying hot-spring spas and stargazing in the local dark sky park. [hunza-ecolodge.com](http://hunza-ecolodge.com)

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Budapest



### 9. THE (E) ROAD TRIP

While we love a road trip, we don't love the impact. Cut your carbon by two-thirds and rent an electric car. For the range-anxious, there are self-guided tours available, such as Sustainable Journeys' The Baltics by Electric Car. This 12-day trek from Vilnius to Tallinn includes e-car rental, all the local charging know-how and bookings in eco-hotels. [sustainablejourneys.co.uk](http://sustainablejourneys.co.uk)

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Vilnius and Tallinn



### 10. THE TRANSFORMATIVE RESORT

Talaia Plaza EcoResort is a luxury glamping resort just northeast of Barcelona that combines organic eats and wellness for guests with support for local communities. Like a hippy commune, if it made you feel like a million dollars. [staybeyondgreen.com/hotels/spain/talaia-plaza-ecoresort](http://staybeyondgreen.com/hotels/spain/talaia-plaza-ecoresort)

✈️ Wizz Air flies to Barcelona

11

**THE REHABILITATED ESTATE**

São Lourenço do Barrocal is a luxury hotel in Alentejo, Portugal, built on the footprint of a 19th-century farming collective, where everything from food to plates, the solar energy to the brickwork is made onsite. [barrocal.pt](http://barrocal.pt)  
 ✈️ Wizz Air flies to Lisbon



12

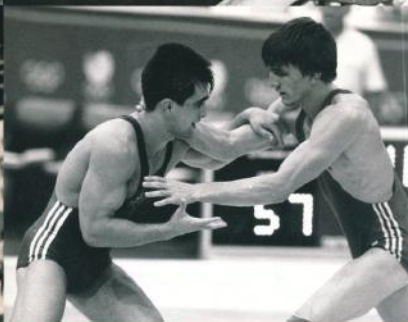
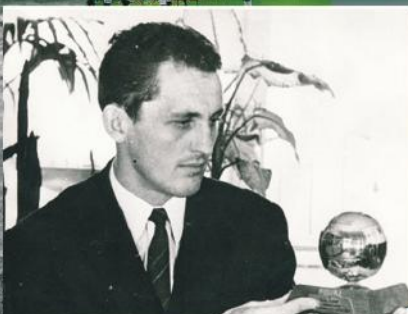
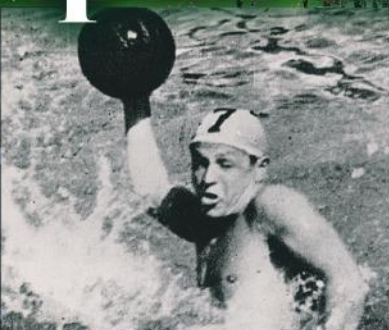
**THE REWILDING CHAMPIONS**

Rewilding has become a bit of a buzzword recently, as environmental groups aim to turn back the clock for nature's sake. Tourism can help with this, providing the funds, moral support or labour for projects. If you're interested in playing your part, take a rewilding journey to Scotland, which aims to become the first 'Rewilding Nation' with large-scale tree planting and restoration of wildlife habitat. You could even volunteer for Trees for Life, and spend your days in beautiful glens, planting trees and putting the world to rights over veggie and vegan meals. [scotlandbigpicture.com](http://scotlandbigpicture.com)  
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13

**THE GREEN HEART OF EUROPE**

Slovenia is one of the greenest countries in the world, nailing almost all of the 100 UN Sustainable Development Goals. It even has its own unique signifier of sustainability in tourism – the Slovenia Green Label – to help you book with confidence. For a great holiday idea, there is also the self-guided Bike Slovenia: Green Capitals route, linking three green cities by rail and bike. [slovenia.info](http://slovenia.info)

✈ Wizz Air flies to Ljubljana



14

**THE ECO-AWARE SKI TRIP**

While many ski resorts boast about their green cred, few are really walking the walk. Serre Chevalier in the French Alps, which has invested in hydroelectricity, wind turbines and solar panels, has created a blueprint for other resorts to follow. Look for Ecogite labels and Écotable labels which denote a pledge to be eco-aware and source sustainable wares. [serre-chevalier.com](http://serre-chevalier.com)

✈ Wizz Air flies to Turin



**15. THE BEST BIKE-AND-FOOD BREAK**

Go on the the Slow Cyclist's Basque Country adventure and you can wind along the pristine coastline of the Bay of Biscay on e-bikes by day, and share heaving platters of pintxos and delicious riojas by night. [theslowcyclist.com](http://theslowcyclist.com)

✈ Wizz Air flies to Barcelona

**16. THE SUSTAINABLE CITY BREAK**

Known for its huge numbers of bicycles and locavore food scene, Copenhagen has just been voted the greenest city on earth by Tripadvisor. Take a tour of the best carbon-neutral sights and waste-free restaurants with Green Tourist Guides on foot, a bike or in an electric car. [greentouristguides.dk](http://greentouristguides.dk)

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19

**THE WORKING HOLIDAY**

WWOOFING sounds like something a dog might do, but it usually has more to do with cows, sheep, goats, or even bees. Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms is a British-led organisation letting guests swap their labour for accommodation in tranquil rural idylls, complete with three organic meals a day. Our pick would be Kumparička – a farm with 300 goats on Croatia’s Istrian peninsula. It has gorgeous scenery, a cheesemaking dairy and its own alfresco farm-to-table restaurant. **kumparicka.com**; **wwof.org.uk**

✈ Wizz Air flies to Split



**20. THE MINDFUL ‘FLOP AND DROP’**

It’s all very well having holidays where you “ohm” in a yurt and snack on mung beans if that’s your thing, but what if you just want everything resort life has to offer? Try one of MYND’s small chain of mid-range hotels in the Canaries, which are Biosphere Certified for their sustainable practices, including solar panels, LED lighting and no single-use plastics. Not only does 80% of the hotel’s supply chain come from local partners, but donations are given to protect Canary forests for every day that guests’ towels are reused. Even better, the Ocean beer on tap at the hotel bars is a not-for-profit tippie that funds marine conservation. Drinking by the pool has never been this worthy. **myndhotels.com**

✈ Wizz Air flies to Tenerife



17

**THE WILDLIFE-SAVING CRUISE**

You can make a real difference to Greek maritime wildlife while sailing the country’s Small Cyclades islands on a six-night yachting trip. This archipelago of tiny gem-like islands are a microcosm of Aegean biodiversity, featuring dolphins, reptiles and rare birds like Eleonora’s falcon and griffon vultures. Alongside a biologist guide, you’ll help collect data on the local wildlife, including recording the dolphins’ sounds with a hydrophone.

**responsibletravel.com**

✈ Wizz Air flies to Athens



**18. THE WALK-TO-SPA TRIP**

There’s nothing as green as walking, but if that sounds like hard work, how about walking to a natural spa? And then walking to another, and so on. On a self-guided walking holiday through the Rhodope Mountains in Bulgaria you’ll do just that, ambling past waterfalls and lakes, then staying at spa hotels, with plenty of Rhodopean food and wine thrown in. Sounds like the rewards will outweigh the effort – not just zero carbon but zero weight gain. **thenaturaladventure.com**

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# The reel deal

Hailed as 'Europe's Maldives', the Albanian Riviera is all the rage on TikTok - but there's much more to this coastline than just social media hype

 Words by Suzy Pope



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**T**he camera focuses on crystal-clear water through a mesh of fishing net. Sweeping up, it shows the seemingly endless denim-blue sea melting into the horizon.

“I made this reel right now. I’m going to send it to my friends,” my 23-year-old guide Ana Koka tells me as we lounge luxuriously on fishing-net beds cast above the calm sea in the quiet village of Ksamil. She posts this 20-second moment of serenity and, in just a few seconds, it already has three likes.

I admire the scene before me. Three tree-laden islands that float in the Caribbean-clear sea, white sandy bays and wooden bars that wouldn’t look out of place on the beaches of Bali. Add the quiet rush of waves and warmth of the sun on my face, and it’s even better in person than the social media fantasy.

I’m not the only person to be lured to this idyllic coastline in the Balkans in search of holiday perfection. TikTokers and Instagrammers have woken up to this undiscovered section of Southeast Europe – which has beaches as beautiful as those found in the Maldives, minus the 10-hour flight and €600-a-night hotel rooms.

**Previous spread** Ksamil looks as picture-perfect as the Maldives  
**Above** Paradise found at beautiful Ksamil

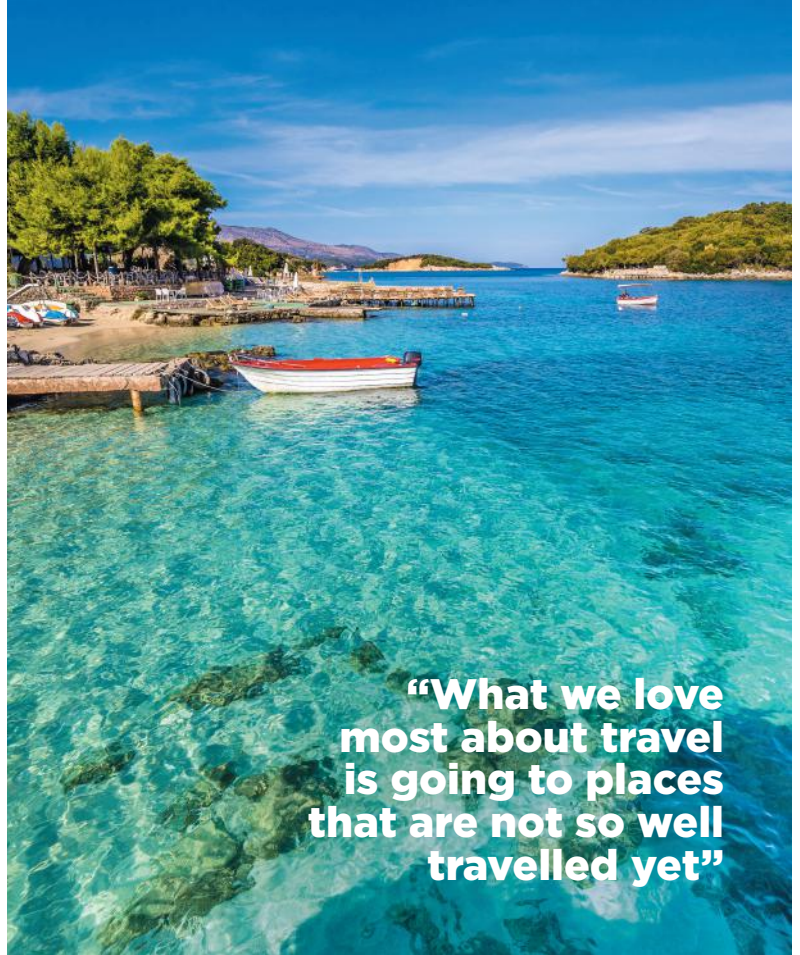
## ALBANIA

Albania is quickly becoming one of the hottest holiday spots in Europe as visitors are lured by a heady combination of stunning Instagram reels and bargain prices. The Albanian government records show a 30% leap in incoming tourists for the past two years, with a similar uptake predicted for 2024. Influencers Hannah Spelt and Nick Noordijk from travel blog Salt In Our Hair discovered the allure of the Albanian coast last year.

“What we love most about travel is going to places that are not so well travelled yet,” says Hannah. “Albania has stunning, unspoiled beaches, crystal-clear waters and a relatively low cost of travel compared to other European beach destinations.”

Their Ksamil guide is dreamy, showing off platforms of sprawling day beds with billowing curtains over the water, villa-style hotels and seafood restaurants punctuated by bays of shimmering turquoise water and white pebble-and-grain sand.

The town is a must-see for those planning any kind of Riviera tour – and is the first stop on my three-day long Choose Balkans



**“What we love most about travel is going to places that are not so well travelled yet”**



**Above** Spectacular Butrint National Archaeological Park  
**Far left** Hannah exploring the park's Byzantine ruins  
**Left** Salt In Our Hair influencers Hannah and Nick

Albanian Riviera tour, beginning and ending in Tirana. The village has become the jumping-off point to explore local treasures – including a horizon full of uninhabited islands just waiting to be explored by boat (some are close enough to swim) and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Byzantine ruins of Butrint National Archaeological Park, just a few kilometres away.

Most visitors, however, will do as the influencers do, and lounge on the fishing-net beds over the water, bronze themselves on the white-sand beaches, or sip a rainbow of cocktails at seafront bars beneath thatched umbrellas and admire the teal



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seascape. After a blissful couple of hours drifting around Ksamil, Ana takes me on to the next Insta-perfect village.

Searching for Lukova on Instagram, I'm met with pictures of paddleboards drifting on a glass-clear sea and influencers posing in the crystalline shallows of Lukova Cave. Despite the name, Lukova Cave is not actually a cave, but a grotto-like bay of white pebble and sand.

Arriving in person, I find a line of beach bars just waiting for me to while away the day on a lounge. I pick the prettiest – called No Name Bar – and enjoy having little to do but sip a cocktail, swim in the calm sea and snap some enviable photos for folks back home.

At Blue Paradise Beach Bar, a tiki-shack-style watering hole, the concrete expanse of a secluded Cold War bunker has been turned into a spot to dine, recline and slip from the rocks right into the azure water for a well-deserved dip. Only the window once used for artillery fire is visible from the deck of the bar.

White rocks sleek as marble cascade into the water, providing the perfect viewpoint to shoot epic shots of the bay here. I'm a little too nervous of clambering onto the rocks though, so Ana happily takes my phone to oblige. "I grew up in the mountains. My mother called me a wild mountain goat," she laughs.

**Above left** Exploring Himarë by boat  
**Above right** The Insta-worthy Lukova Cave



**Lukova Cave is not actually a cave, but a grotto-like bay of white pebble and sand**

Inspired by Nick and Hannah, I request Himarë for our next stop – one of their favourite secluded beaches. Their page on Himarë is a love letter to pristine stretches of sand, undisturbed by bars, restaurants and highrise hotels.

This section of the Albanian coast is less developed than Ksamil and nearby Sarandë. From here, hiking routes lead from the town into the mountains, and the famously beautiful Jale Beach is a 10-minute drive away. We find various coves where our footprints will be the only sets in the sand that day. And we don't have to wait around for other tourists to move for that 'secluded paradise' shot.

Further along the coast again, Ana introduces me to the most special destination of the lot. If Himarë is under the radar, Qeparo is completely off the map. Even the most savvy TikTokers haven't found this coastal treasure yet.

PHOTOS: SALT IN OUR HAIR, ABODE STOCK





There are plenty of places to stay on neighbouring Borsh Beach, from deluxe small hotels to wooden cabins for families. You can walk barefoot from room to beach lounge in a matter of seconds and wake to the sun sparkling over the ethereally blue Ionian Sea.

I opted to stay in Qeparo at a family-run La Casa di Nonna where breakfast of kulac - fried parcels of dough served with honey and cheese from the local farms nearby - is dished up by host Krisa's grandmother.

In the morning, Ana and Krisa take me to the 700-year-old upper Qeparo village, 10 minutes from the beach. Here cobbled streets and wooden shuttered houses look like they date back to the 14th century. Many of the houses have been abandoned as villagers moved down the hillside towards the beach, no longer seeking sanctuary from pirate attacks. As well as looking like a fairytale village, this is one of the best spots to snap photos of the fabulous sunsets over the rugged Albanian coast.



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Finally, we head to the coastal city of Vlorë. Albania's third-largest metropolis, Vlorë hums with life throughout the year and summer sees the biggest crowds flock here to enjoy the plentiful Caribbean-esque beaches.

On TikTok, the beach suburb of Orikum is favoured for those pristine beach shots. There's a Miami vibe along the long stretch of sand lined with towering palm trees.

What the videos don't show is that this is *the* place for fresh seafood – an abundance of taverna-style restaurants display the glistening catch of the day. A man in traditional Albanian dress invites us into his restaurant and we dine on perfectly charred octopus and fat, juicy shrimps.

The simple meal will never make it to my Instagram grid because a phone can't capture the warmth of Albanian hospitality, accompanied by a complimentary shot of homemade rakiya.

Like the influencers before us, Ana and I have spent our days on the Albanian Riviera making reels and snapping photos to show off our best lives to the envy of everyone back home. Yes, the stretch of sand at Orikum looks like the shores of Barbados (having been to both, I can confirm it) and the beaches at Ksamil are named Bora Bora and Tropicana for their resemblance to utopias thousands of kilometres and hundreds of euros away.

But TikTok and Instagram simply don't capture the sweet stickiness of beehive-fresh honey for breakfast, the feel of sunshine on your face with a day of nothing but lounging ahead of you, or the quiet intake of breath as Ana's car rounds a mountain bend, revealing another turquoise-and-teal bay. For that, you have to visit in person.

**[choosebalkans.com](https://www.choosebalkans.com); [saltinourhair.com](https://www.saltinourhair.com)**

✈️ **Wizz Air flies to Tirana**

**Above** Vlorë looking dreamy at sunset

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# SMALL TALK

Words by Sarah Rodrigues

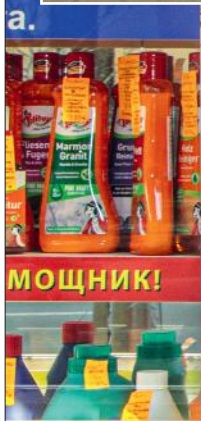
Photography by Jonny Hughes





We celebrate the distinctive culture of Sofia's kleks - its quirky basement shops that are evolving with the times to stay relevant





**T**he yellow taxi comes to a stop, hazards flashing, and its driver jumps out, leaving the door jutting out over the pavement. In front of him, the exterior wall of the building has glassed-in shelves of chocolate, crisps, soft drinks and alcohol. You could mistake it for a street-side exhibition of junk food, were it not for the tiny opening at pavement level. The cab driver drops to a crouch, speaking with someone in the subterranean space, passes over some money and gathers a handful of snacks. Jumping back in his taxi, he roars off.

The people of Sofia stroll past. This is one of the Bulgarian capital's klek shops, and to a long-time local, nothing very remarkable at all. This may soon change, however, as such shops are becoming increasingly rare.

"To understand klek shops, you must understand something about Communism," says Yoan Dimov, Team Leader at The New Sofia Pub Crawl, a themed tour around the special bars of Sofia. "Pre-1989, everything was state-owned, and when we



**“Kleks were an example of people making use of what they now had – bomb shelters, bunkers, basements – rather than renting a retail space”**

**Top left** Yoan Dimov outside the klek on Patriarch Evtimiy Boulevard  
**Other images** A klek dedicated to cleaning products on Georgi S. Rakovski Street

transitioned to a free market, nobody had any money to establish a business.”

‘Klek’ means ‘squat’ in Bulgarian, a reference, of course, to the customer having to hunker down to buy from the vendor’s basement. “During the period of restitution, people who had previously owned private property were able to take it back, so kleks were an example of people making use of what they now had – bomb shelters, bunkers, basements – rather than renting a retail space.”

“Some of these places became mini-markets and started selling anything from sandwiches and snacks to cigarettes and alcohol, cleaning products and laundry detergent. I also recall going to one that sold freshly squeezed juices,” says Simona Grinnell, of Fora Travel. Others decided to provide services – cobblers who patched government-issued shoes, for example.

Klek shops grew in the 1990s not only because people needed to think commercially, but also as a means of providing what people required during a time of economic upheaval. The crux came in the winter of 1997, when Bulgaria entered a cycle of hyperinflation, where savings were lost and the national currency was in crisis. As an





**“The saleswoman from the 24-hour klek shop knew everyone in the neighbourhood by their shoes”**

**Left** The closed pink doors of the Matsa coffee klek  
**Below** A customer outside a tobacconist klek on Georgi S. Rakovski Street



example, in March 1996, US\$1 was equal to BGN70; the following February, the exchange rate was US\$1 to BGN2,200.

“Desperate times necessitated the creation of a competitive business culture,” says Yoan. “Kleks became a symbol of a practical adaptive, resilient attitude in Sofians and the beginning of capitalism.”

Ironically, as capitalism has evolved in the city, the age of the klek has dwindled. Since the early 2000s, when their number peaked, some have been converted, their street-level windows glassed over and the basement shops entered via a door. Others have closed – the word TOTO (Lotto) above boarded pavement-level windows is a telltale sign.

Locals are keen to tell of their dearly departed favourites. “There was a klek shop near my school, which sold sandwiches, soft drinks and hot dogs,” remembers Ivelin Kulenski, who works with Yoan. “I’d buy a ‘Princess’ – an open-faced, toasted

sandwich with yellow cheese [as opposed to the white sirene cheese, which features in Bulgarian cuisine] and meat.”

“The saleswoman from the 24-hour klek shop knew everyone in the neighbourhood by their shoes,” recalls Daniella Doncheva. “When we went clubbing, we’d buy vodka there, to hide in our bags.”

Dido Peshev, an illustrator and screen printer at Bare Hands Society on General Gurko Street, used to take his shoes to a klek cobbler just around the corner from where he now works. When did he last do this? He squints apologetically, surrounded by T-shirts and framed band posters with cool graphics. “Not for some years,” he says.

While there are rumours that it was a government crackdown on basement-brewed rakia – the eye-wateringly strong fruit liqueur that Bulgarians call their national drink – that has forced klek shops to close, Yoan is more pragmatic.





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## This is not the end of Sofia's kleks - many of them are now part of the city's nightlife

**Right and below** The 5L speakeasy in a former bomb shelter  
**Below right** The bar's entrance where you have to solve a puzzle to gain access



"The decline simply coincided with the city becoming richer and the emergence of a middle class," he says. "All through the city, you see 24-hour stores selling cigarettes and alcohol, which were once the domain of the klek.

"Today your shoes break, you go to a fast fashion store and buy a new pair. Young people want craft beers, not Soviet-style beer. And, in truth, I think that klek shops are a reminder to many of desperate times that they're happy to leave in the past."

And yet, this is not the end for kleks in Sofia, as Yoan's tour shows. Several of these spaces are now part of the city's nightlife in their own right. On the corner of Stefan Karadzha and Georgi S. Rakovski, a former shop has been repurposed into a Jack Daniel's bar (Thursday to Saturday, from 7pm), where customers squat for a shot to drink on the pavement.

Meanwhile, on Shishman Street, 5L became Sofia's first speakeasy in 2017. Find your way past the secret

'bookcase' door by selecting the right key and you'll find yourself in an unapologetically slick cocktail bar, despite the dense stone walls that give away its former identity as a bunker.

In the centre, we visit Raketa Rakia, a themed restaurant/bar that - as well as serving up the city's most famous spirit - delights in kitsching up the realities of Sofia's past; its decor hung with Soviet household items.

Rakia here hasn't been brewed in a basement, but still boasts an ABV of 40-60%. In the future, sadly, there might not be as many klek shops that bring people to their knees - but it's almost certain that the rakia will.

*Take the The New Sofia Pub Crawl, a themed tour around the special bars of Sofia. It is part of the wider 365 Association, which runs the city's main free tour.*

**365association.org; barehandssociety.com**

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# Whatever the destination, we have a beer for you



## Nikšičko

**Country:**  
Montenegro

With its perfect combination of opulent taste and crisp refreshment, Nikšičko is a result of long-lasting brewing craftsmanship, carefully selected ingredients and the raw and untamed Montenegrin nature.

### Where can you try it?

From the riviera to the high mountain peaks of Durmitor, Nikšičko is everywhere in Montenegro.

### How to say cheers?

Živjeli! (Zhee-ve-lee)

## Jelen

**Country:**  
Serbia

Jelen Beer is a synonym of beer tradition in Serbia for more than 260 years.

With a subtle note of pleasant bitterness Jelen has a unique taste that pleasantly quenches the thirst.

### Where can you try it?

You can enjoy Jelen all over Serbia, be it the plains of Vojvodina, Šumadija or the urban landscapes of Belgrade.

### How to say cheers?

Živeli! (Zhee-ve-lee)



## Bergenbier

**Country:**  
Romania

Matured at -1 degree Celsius, Bergenbier is a stable, clear and easy to drink beverage with a perfect taste due to the flavours of the specific yeast.

### Where can you try it?

Everywhere across Romania, while discovering its natural, artistic and historic wonders.

### How to say cheers?

Noroc! (No-rock)



Drink responsibly!



## Ožujsko

Country:  
Croatia

Named after the month of March, Ožujsko is #1 beer choice in Croatia with perfect refreshing taste and mild bitterness.

Where can you try it?

All around Croatia and at the Hard Rock Cafe surrounded by Medieval walls in the Old Town of Dubrovnik.

How to say cheers?

Živjeli! (Zhee-ve-lee)



## Borsodi

Country:  
Hungary

One of Hungary's most popular beers, Borsodi, is now brewed purely from barley malt.

Where can you try it?

Borsodi is widely available nationwide, from the most intimate pubs to the trendiest places in Hungary.

How to say cheers?

Egészségedre!  
(Egg-esh ay-ged-reh)



## Kamenitza

Country:  
Bulgaria

One of the legendary national beers, Kamenitza is more than just a beverage: each drop is a tribute to the real bonding moments, authenticity and richness of the Bulgarian land.

Where can you try it?

Everywhere you go in Bulgaria, Kamenitza will be there.

How to say cheers?

Nazdrave! (Naz-dra-vey)

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# One of a kind: Żubrówka

A single sip and you'll fall in love with this award-winning vodka from Poland

Żubrówka is a world-renowned, legendary vodka brand from Poland. One of a kind, with a tradition that dates back more than 500 years, its uniqueness is determined by the historically rooted method of production and the special place it originates: the surroundings of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Białowieża Forest.

Growing in this inaccessible wilderness is bison grass, the most important ingredient of Żubrówka Bison Grass. Harvested by hand, it has a special taste and aroma. Thanks to this, a unique flavoured vodka is created that can't be compared to any other drink. It has herbal notes, hints of creamy vanilla and delicate spices, and finally bids you farewell with a gentle finish of spring flowers. Żubrówka Bison Grass has complex aromas of bison

grass, chamomile, green apples, lavender, vanilla and almond, as well as the freshness of citrus fruits. Each bottle is immersed with an evenly trimmed, wild growing bison grass straw, making it unique in both taste and appearance.

Żubrówka Biała is a crystal-clear vodka inspired by the winter landscape of the Białowieża Forest. It was created out of love for authentic, traditional products and based on carefully selected grains and crystal clear water. It is a pure, mild and delicate beverage with notes of coolness and fresh grains.

Żubrówka boasts a rich collection of awards, titles and distinctions, won at prestigious fairs and competitions for both its vodkas. Specialists all over the world appreciate both for their authentic character and unmistakable,

distinctive taste and aromas.

Żubrówka is the third best-selling vodka in the world and one of the best recognised Polish brands worldwide. [zubrówka.com](http://zubrówka.com)



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# Hidden “Glory” unearthed in the centre of Warsaw

What lies hidden just below our feet in a busy city centre? Read on to learn about the latest archeological finds in Warsaw – and find out how you can help restore its stunning palaces

One of the most famous public spaces in Warsaw is undergoing a dramatic makeover. The sprawling Piłsudski Square will soon welcome back the Saski and Brühl Palaces and three neighbouring townhouses which all fell victim to destruction in World War II. However, before workers can set foot in the area, archeologists have to analyse it, unearthing many surprising finds in the process.

Top specialists have dug their shovels deep into the area where the majestic Brühl Palace once stood. Just after a couple of weeks of working where no one has touched the earth since the war, they discovered an incomplete, life-size sculpture of a woman with “GLORY” written on its pedestal. Incredibly enough, it has a twin sister just 200 meters from the site – in the 300-year-old Saski Garden. Future research will tell if the “Glory” statue found by the archeologists is an original Rococo sculpture or a slightly later copy.

Thousands of artefacts recovered from the site reveal a fascinating story about the city’s past. Ornamental Saxon porcelain, fragments of pipes and oyster shells tell us of the dining habits of the rich in 18th century. An engraved Kiddush cup from the first half of the 20th century reminds us of the melting pot that was pre-war Warsaw, when a third of its population was Jewish. As the Brühl Palace housed the Polish Ministry of



Foreign Affairs, archeologists have also found many artefacts related to office work, such as a glass inkwell or an early radio receiver.

Most importantly, archeological discoveries such as these tell us more about the people who lived here and buildings which once stood here. Since every detail counts in the last stage of rebuilding the destroyed heritage of Warsaw, we are also creating a photo library – or, as we call it: Fototeka – with images of the Saski and Brühl Palaces from around the world. This is where your help is truly needed: we are sure there are key photos still waiting to be discovered in

private collections. If you think you have family photos showing these buildings before 1945, you might have the missing pieces of our historical puzzle!

To learn more and submit your photos, visit: [palacsaski.pl](https://palacsaski.pl)



Ministry of Culture and National Heritage  
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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”.

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People, places and things we love this season

# in the **know**



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Where to rest  
your head

**p85**

**The Eats**  
Where to have  
a good meal

**p89**



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# THE STAYS

The best places to rest your head across the WIZZ network



## Hotel Indigo Berlin - East Side Gallery

### Berlin

It's barely 30 years since people from East Berlin would have stared enviously across the wall and the River Spree to the more affluent West. Now, hotels like the Indigo - East Side Gallery draw admiring eyes in the opposite direction.

Situated walking distance from the hip districts of Kreuzberg and Friedrichshain, and metres from the East Side Gallery - a remaining art-covered section of the wall - the hotel offers views over the water, but this time from considerable comfort. Stylish but cool rooms are complemented by a gym and an open-plan workspace.

Don't miss the adjoining Spreewirtschaft Restaurant, which serves up German cuisine along with local beers and wines. But the best place to take in those views is the Gallery rooftop bar. As the name suggests, it's on the top floor of the building, with an outdoor terrace and indoor seating (for Berlin's cooler months) and the stars of the show here are the imaginative cocktails.

Everything at the hotel is done with a seemingly effortless style and delivered by a casual and friendly, but attentive, staff. Very East Berlin.

WORDS: ANDREW DICKENS, CLAIRE KOKSAL

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[Booking.com](https://www.booking.com)

# Hotel Saint

## London

Have you been more saint than sinner? Then please, step this way. Because this luxurious hotel in the heart of bustling Aldgate is exclusively for the virtuous. From the moment you step into Hotel Saint's elegantly styled lobby you wouldn't know that there are 267 rooms above you – the space immediately feels cool, calming and welcoming.

The rooms keep a tranquil, serene feel, with neutral tones, velvet sofas and fresh flowers – oh, and the hotel's own signature scent elevates things further. The converted will appreciate the hotel's very close proximity to St Botolph without Aldgate, a splendid ancient church dating back to the 1700s. Many rooms have glorious views of its

magnificent steeple, but head up a few floors and you'll be further rewarded. Rooftop bar Jin Bo Law – Sky Bar has heavenly views of the church, plus sweeping vistas of some of London's most iconic architecture, such as Tower Bridge, the Shard and the Square Mile's rapidly changing skyline.

The perfect pairing is one of the bar's sublime cocktails – our pick is City Jingle, a peppy gin sour with pomegranate liqueur. For when you're ready to venture out, Aldgate tube station is right on the corner, and the buzz of the City and clubs of Shoreditch are conveniently within stumbling distance. Well, we can't be saints all the time, can we?



### **Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort**

#### Dalaman

This sensational five-star all-inclusive resort blows the competition out of the water. Talking of which, there are 10 swimming pools to choose from – and if you stay in one of the swish, swim-up Lake House suites you can plop from your bed straight into a lagoon-pool swim. There's excellent food, a brilliant kids club, captivating evening entertainment plus ice-cream and cocktails on tap.



### **The Amberlyn Suite Hotel**

#### Budapest

Bringing together practicality and style in an effortless way can be challenging, but Budapest newcomer the Amberlyn Suite Hotel has nailed it. The revamped building in the Palace District is ideal for weekend hoppers and business travellers thanks to its collection of well-equipped suites, bustling lobby area and friendly staff.

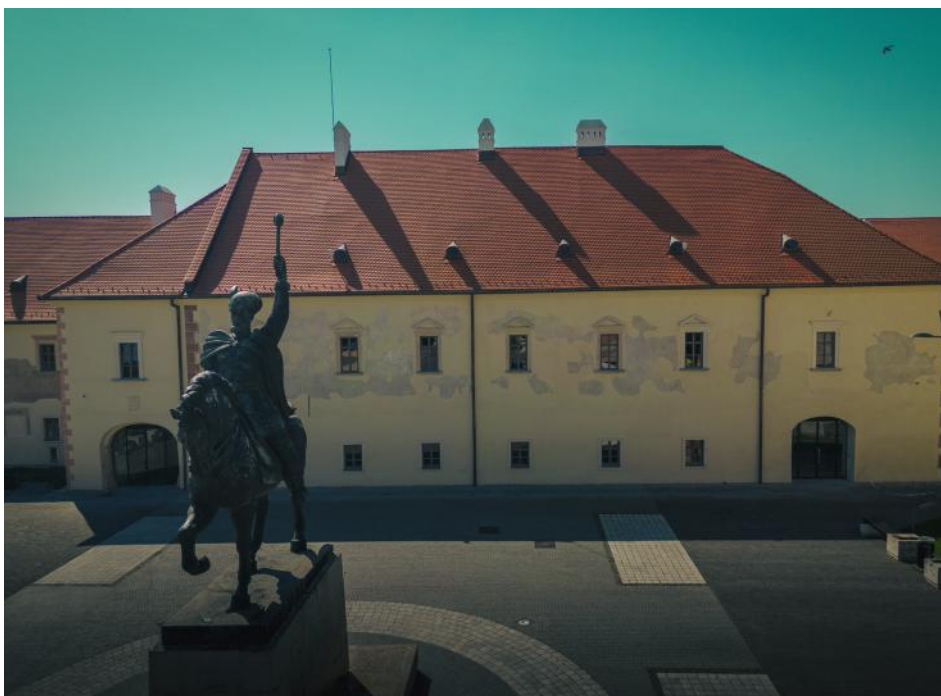
# Secrets of a recovered legacy

History, luxury, and intrigue in the Palace of the Transylvanian Princes in Alba Iulia

Immerse yourself in the lavish lifestyle of Transylvania's princes, and enter their palace – but beware of their hot tempers, frequent beheadings, and intricate plotting...!

Located in the centre of the star-shaped Citadel of Alba Iulia, the 15th-century palace, never before accessible to the general public, reveals its tumultuous history of beheadings, successions, and abdications, together with the luxurious lifestyle and décor, through the immersive experience offered by this newly opened museum.

Unravel the secrets of the Palace of the Transylvanian Princes and its famous ruling inhabitants in the heart of Alba Iulia Citadel! This is the place where the fate of the entire region was decided, for more than 150 years, is now a must-see on your travel bucket list! [palatulprincipilor.ro](http://palatulprincipilor.ro)



## Secretele unei moșteniri recuperate istorie, lux și intrigi, la Palatul Principilor Transilvaniei din Alba Iulia

Îndrăznește, oaspete ales, dar fii cu băgare de seamă! Pășind în universul imersiv al Muzeului Palatul Principilor Transilvaniei, îmbătat de atmosfera vieții la curtea princiară, ai putea aluneca în urzeala intrigilor ce i-au lăsat fără cap pe unii dintre cei mai faimoși principii, locatari ai Palatului!

Situat în inima cetății din Alba Iulia, monumentul din secolul al XV-lea, niciodată disponibil până acum publicului larg, își dezvăluie secretele păstrate vreme de secole, odată cu influența, deciziile, succesiunile, abdicările sau decapitățile celebrelor lui personaje, printre care Mihai Viteazul sau Gabriel Bethlen.

Trăiește istoria, luxul și intriga anilor de glorie ai Principatului Transilvaniei, într-un altfel de muzeu, printr-o altfel de experiență, la următoarea vizită obligatorie în Alba Iulia - Cealaltă Capitală!



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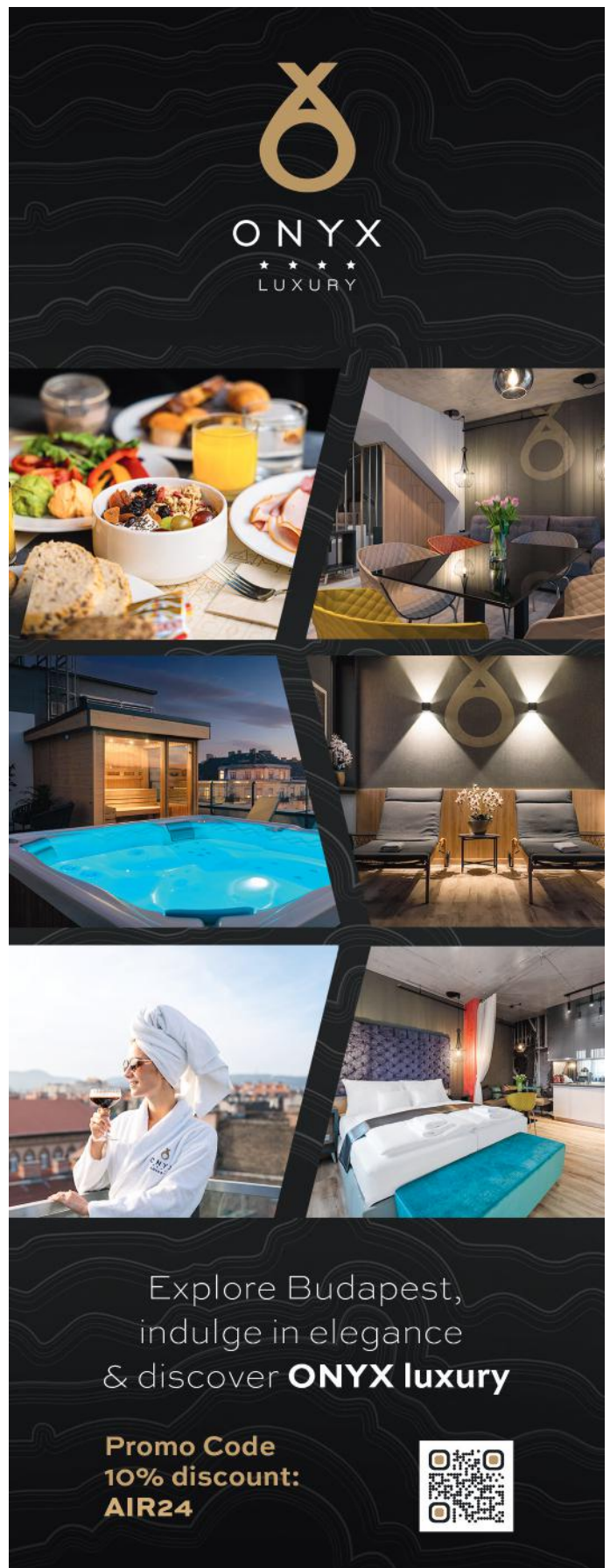
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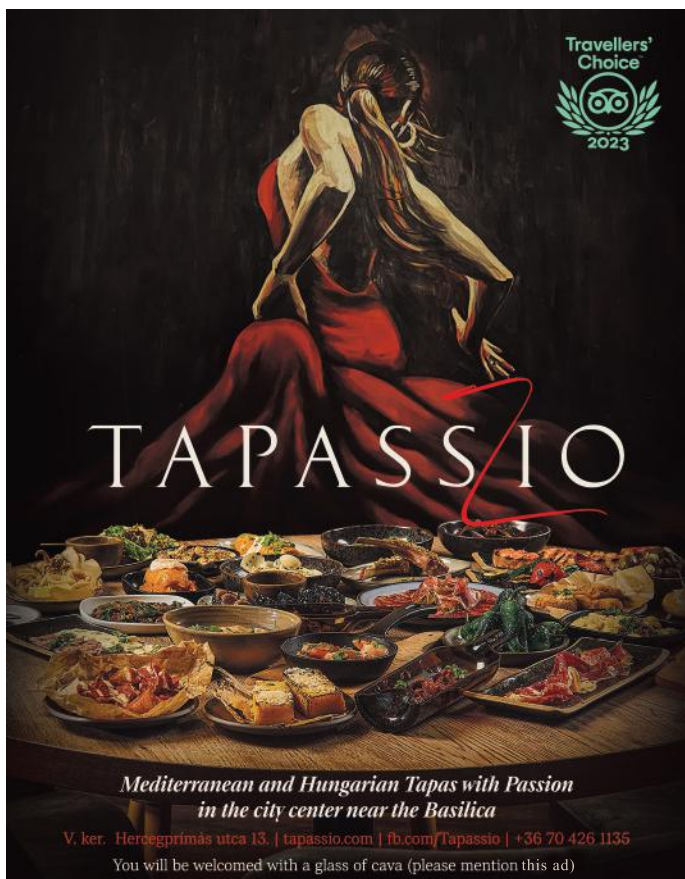
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# THE EATS

Where to go for a great meal across the WIZZ network



WORD: SARAH WARWICK. PHOTO: JEVEN BLOMSNES SOLHEIM. EVENES PHOTOGRAPHY

## RavioxO Madrid

“Individual, unique and artisan” – that’s how the world’s best chef, Dabiz Muñoz, describes the handmade dumplings that are the steaming heart of this Madrid restaurant. His concept – centred around “cooked dough” products from Europe and Asia – doesn’t sound overly sexy.

That’s until you’re salivating at a menu full of jiaozi with Galician blond beef mole, ravioli filled with quail, sea urchin and jalapeno gazpacho, steamed dumplings with rabbit pepitoria stew, and cheung fun with truffled guinea fowl.

Given a first Michelin star and added to Condé Nast Traveller’s Gold List last year, it’s clear that what started in 2022 as a lightweight spin-off to Muñoz’s impossible-to-book three-star icon, DiverXO, is no longer confined to understudy status. For the adventurous eater, RavioxO’s menu of exquisite flavour-bombs is an inspiring journey through global tastes and textures. Despite being an easier and less expensive way to try Muñoz’s genius than DiverXO, this is no pale imitation of greatness but a growing icon in its own right. [ravioxo.com](http://ravioxo.com)



### Fagn

Trondheim

Norway’s reputation for world-beating seafood is tastefully maintained – in all senses of the world – at this newly starred gem. Although its name refers to a ‘farmhouse-style welcome’, there’s nothing rustic about impeccable tasting menus filled with oyster granité, sea urchin soup or smoked halibut with hibiscus. It’s essentially high art with local produce. [fagn.no](http://fagn.no)



### Le Cadoret

Paris

It’s hard to pigeon-hole this corner bistro in the colourful Belleville quarter. On the one hand, its retro style and affordable, tasty dishes (*en pointe* steak-frites) make it feel quintessentially and traditionally Parisian. But the organic wine list, modern music and global ingredients (roast chicken with kimchi?) mean it’s anything but basic. [@le\\_cadoret](https://www.instagram.com/le_cadoret)



# Carlsberg Byen

## Copenhagen

When the Carlsberg brewery moved away from its prime real estate location in 2008, its absence created a tremendous potential that's only now being fulfilled. What was once a network of breweries and warehouses has been turned into a paradise for the foodie traveller, home to more than 30 restaurants.

Now known as the Carlsberg Byen (Carlsberg City District),

it's notable for the variety of its restaurants: unique names as well as Danish chains. Some eateries take inspiration from the area's past, such as Carls Øl & Spisehus – a brasserie in a former malt silo that serves over 100 different beers – while some, like Studio by Christoffer Sørensen, a Michelin Best Young Chef, showcase the kind of minimalist fine dining that the city has become known for.



From breakfast to dinner you'll find something to suit. First, drop-in to the Coffee Collective, with its daily roast-tastings. Then grab a traditional Danish smørrebrød at Aamanns. Finally, something more exotic? Global flavours are well represented at Neapolitan pizzeria, SURT, and Kona, an izakaya from former Noma chef Philipp Inrieter. Dare we say: something for everyone? [carlsbergbyen.dk](http://carlsbergbyen.dk)



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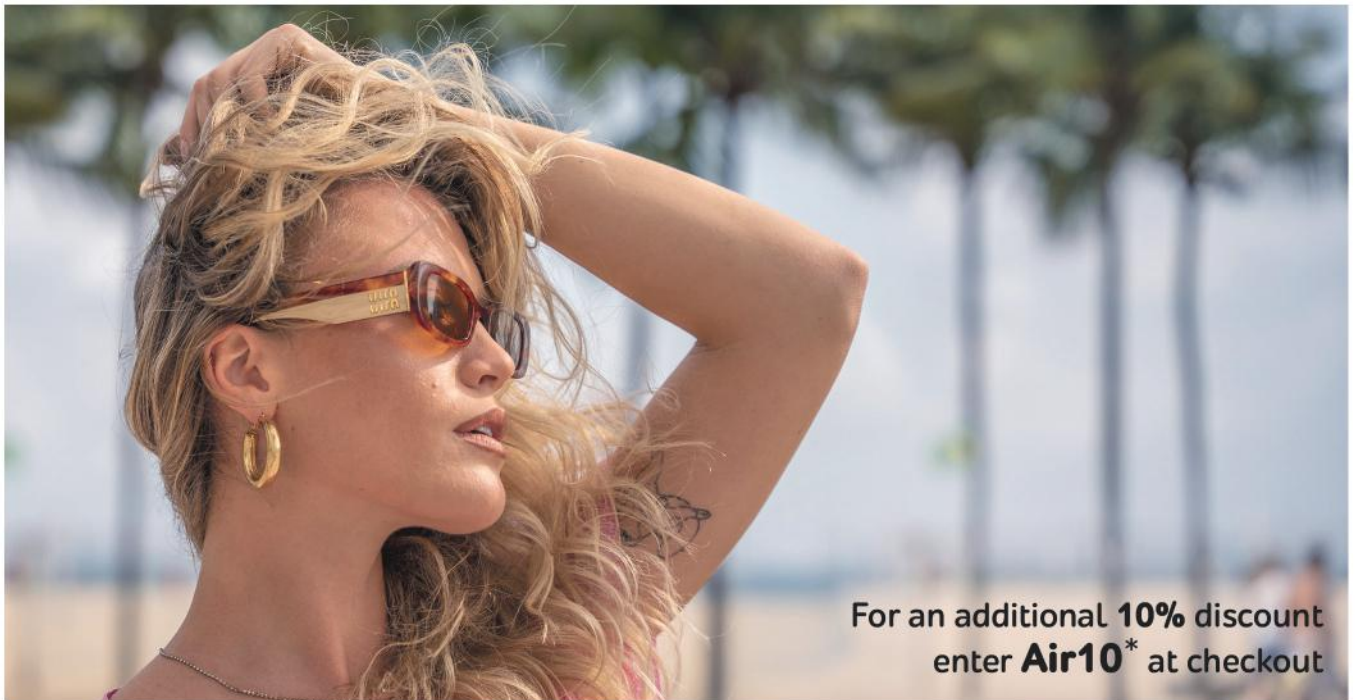
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# The hot list

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

## Hotel Monte Gudauri

“Seeking summer thrills? Discover Gudauri’s top retreat! Hotel Monte, situated at 2200m, offers breathtaking mountain views. Embrace couples’ or family rooms with Georgian and international cuisine and refreshing cocktails. Relax in our spa featuring a Finnish sauna, steam room, rain shower, and indoor pool, or enjoy outdoor activities such as mountain-biking, rock climbing or sightseeing tours. For further information visit: [montegudauri.com](http://montegudauri.com) or email [info@montegudauri.com](mailto:info@montegudauri.com). Your ultimate mountain getaway awaits!”



## 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](http://alamaisongrand.com)





## Come to Craiova between 16-26 May, when Shakespeare's vibrant spirit permeates the city!

For over 30 years, Craiova in Romania has been the home of one of the most important Shakespeare festivals in the world. Whether in the streets or on the stage, in the city's squares, parks and former industrial spaces, Shakespeare's plays spring to life and become one with the city.

Don't be surprised if you happen to meet Hamlet in Cofetaria Minerva, Orsino in a club, Othello in the Botanical Garden or Julieta in Romanescu Park! That's because Craiova will adopt Shakespeare's spirit, making it its own for a fortnight.

Established in 1994, The Craiova International Shakespeare Festival has been the Romanian home of theatre plays directed by the world's greatest stage directors such as Peter Brook, Eugenio Barba, Yukio Ninagawa, Robert Wilson, Lev Dodin, Declan Donnellan, Silviu Purcărete, Eimuntas Nekrošius, Michael Pennington, Edward Hall, Richard Schechner, Elizabeth Le Compte, Thomas Ostermeier, Yuriy Butusov, Krzysztof Warlikowski, Oskaras Korsunovas and Robert Lepage. [shakespearefestival.online](https://shakespearefestival.online)



## WHAT NOT TO MISS AT THE 2024 SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

- **The street performances and theatre shows** in Craiova's neighbourhoods, city squares and parks
- **Shakespeare Dimensions** – episode one: a foray into virtual reality hosted by Promenada Mall
- **The stage plays in Amza Pelea Hall**  
 Marin Sorescu National Theater Craiova  
 The Tempest directed by Robert Wilson – **16 and 17 May**  
 The Tempest Project directed by Peter Brook and Marie Hélele Estienne – **21 May**  
 Hamlet directed by Declan Donnellan – **19 and 20 May**  
 Shakespeare Flamenco. Hamlet – The Melancholic's Dance directed by Jesús Herrera – **22 May**  
 Hamlet directed by Robert Lepage – **25 and 26 May**

- **Shakespeare Village** – a total experience that will take you back to Shakespeare's time, complete with shows for the whole family, including children's games, open-air concerts, unique experiences, and parties till midnight.





## Montenegro: the jewel of the Mediterranean

Located on the Balkan Peninsula, Montenegro is a country that has long been a melting pot of cultures, civilisations and religions. Surrounded by natural beauty, it offers visitors a wealth of experiences. With 293km of coastline and more than 100 diverse beaches, forest-cloaked mountains and mirror-like lakes in one of five national parks, there's plenty to admire here. Visitors will also find friendly locals, centuries-old sights and an eclectic culinary scene that changes as you move inland and further down the coast.



### Handpicked wild and beautiful Montenegro suggestions:

- Ride the Kotor Cable Car from Kotor to Lovcen National Park and experience panoramic views of the Bay of Kotor. On a clear day you can see far as neighbouring Croatia.
- Take a boat ride into Skadar Lake National Park and enjoy bird watching. There are over 280 species of birds that call the freshwater lake their home.
- Wander the cobbled streets of one of many historical coastal towns, including UNESCO-protected Old Town Kotor, Herceg Novi, Tivat, Budva, Bar or Ulcinj.
- People-watch in Budva's atmospheric old town or the former royal capital of Cetinje, just a short bus ride from Budva.
- Take a hike through the colossal Tara River Canyon and admire the deepest canyon in Europe (second deepest in the world) over emerald-and-blue waters.
- Alternatively, for the more adventurous, zip-lining and river rafting is available at the canyon.
- Swim in the warm coastal waters of the Adriatic sea at any of the aforementioned coastal towns.
- Take a tour of Our Lady of the Rocks and enjoy the views on Boka Bay of Perast.
- Marvel at the historic Ostrog Monastery built into the side of a mountain cliff above the Zeta River Valley.
- Enjoy skiing in the mountain resort town of Kolašin, which highlights Montenegro as a key player in the European winter sports arena.

Shape your Montenegro story. Visit [montenegro.travel](https://montenegro.travel)



## Discover Craiova - a city like a festival

If you are looking for a new city break in a place full of life and spectacular green spaces, with good vibes and an incredible food scene, then head to Craiova this spring

The Best Easter Destination in Europe in 2022 and 2023, according to European Best Destinations, Craiova is one of the most important cities of Romania, near the Danube and Carpathian Mountains. It's easy to access by plane from across Europe - and once you've landed, be ready to fall in love at first sight. Because Craiova is a city with hundreds of thousands of beautiful flowers, amazing old buildings and events for all ages.

Craiova is an ideal spring holiday destination. Don't miss the beautiful production of *The Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, at Craiova Easter Fair in Romanescu Park, one of the largest parks of Europe, awarded a gold medal at the Paris Universal Exhibition in 1900. Held from 19 April - 12 May, you can see unique painted cottages, the witch's palace and oversized apples. There's plenty more to do here once the show has finished, including visiting the zoo, boat trips on the

lake, seeing waterfalls, riding a giant Ferris wheel or electric karts.

Between 16-26 May, Craiova will host its world-famous Shakespeare Festival, where 350 shows will be held across 11 days all around the city, including an authentic Shakespeare Village, as well as theatre productions by Peter Brook, Robert Lepage, Robert Wilson or Declan Donnellan. For further information visit [shakespearefestival.online](https://shakespearefestival.online).

But if you are a summer dance lover, get a ticket to IntenCity - the festival that brings together some of the world's greatest DJ's (such as Alan Walker, Dimitri Vegas and Like Mike) and Balkanic music (including Elena Păparizou). From 28-30 June, it's a festival for those who know how to set the right rhythm for the summer. Take your friends and family to Craiova, where people live intensely. [facebook.com/PMCraiova](https://facebook.com/PMCraiova) or [facebook.com/CraiovaIntenCity](https://facebook.com/CraiovaIntenCity)



# The best of...

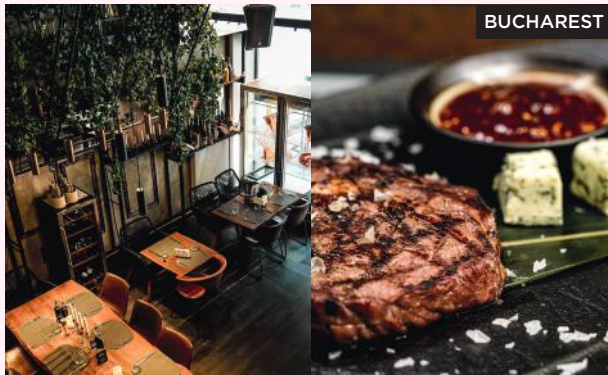
Restaurants, bars, events and more – this is our essential guide on what to do this spring

## Mamma Mia in Iași - magical taste and exceptional cuisine

Discover more than 200 dishes that cover international and Romanian recipes at Mamma Mia NON STOP Restaurant, right in the heart of Iași. Enjoy the exceptional cuisine and cocktails with your friends, and savour unforgettable culinary experiences! Every dish is a work of art, carefully crafted by our chefs. If you plan to visit Iași Mamma Mia is the place you want to be – and our wine list with over 200 labels from six different countries makes the experience even more interesting! Book a table at +40 729 136 518, [mammamia.ro](http://mammamia.ro)



IAȘI



BUCHAREST

## An unforgettable culinary experience awaits at NOA Restoclub

Discover a restaurant that transcends cultural boundaries and where the common language is an irresistible passion for food. NOA Restoclub in Bucharest is for you if you're a devoted steakhouse enthusiast or if you like high-quality international food – including Romanian dishes, of course. NOA embraces all tastes and preferences. Book a table at NOA and start a memorable journey where beautiful moments and delicious food come together in perfect harmony. [noarestoclub.ro](http://noarestoclub.ro)

## Indulge yourself in the decadent world of Chantia

Founded by Roxana and Cosmin Cionca, Chantia embodies the essence of artisanal chocolate and gelato, crafted in Banat, Romania. With premium ingredients and a focus on reduced sugar content, every Chantia praline is a testament to artisanal mastery. Chantia has four shops in Timișoara and Oradea, where they deliver unrivalled quality and authentic gelato flavours and pralines to chocolate enthusiasts across the country. Visit [chantia.ro](http://chantia.ro) or go on [Instagram/Facebook: @chantia.ro](https://www.instagram.com/chantia.ro)



TIMIȘOARA/ORADEA





## Social Cafe, Bar and Kitchen

Try a whole new social dining experience at this vibrant restaurant in Sofia. It serves everything you need, from breakfast to coffees and cappuccinos, to lunch and dinner. On the menu you'll find imaginative salads, homemade pasta and pizzas, burgers and steaks, plus comfort food including their tasty signature desserts. It's a totally unique and cosy venue in which to relax and appreciate Bulgarian hospitality, conveniently set in the heart of Sofia at 16 Vitosha Blvd. Open Monday-Sunday, from 9.30am until midnight. Tel: +359 87 6767 647. [socialcafe.bg](http://socialcafe.bg)



SOFIA



SOFIA

## A flavour tour of Bulgaria's best rakis

Come taste the spirit of Bulgaria in the heart of Sofia. Dive into our captivating exhibits and indulge in a unique Rakia tasting experience, expertly paired with tasty local appetisers. Whether you're a history fan, a foodie, or an avid explorer, the Rakia museum offers a memorable journey through time and flavour. Try the museum favourite safran rakia – it's like nothing else in the world! **Enjoy a special 5 leva discount with code 'Air5'.** Book your tickets in advance online at: [rakiamusem.bg](http://rakiamusem.bg) or on the spot! No reservation needed.

## Taste has no borders

GO GRILL is a third-generation family-owned company that has managed to preserve unique Bulgarian grill traditions. GO GRILL shops can be found in almost all Bulgarian cities. The brand started developing a franchise network of grill kiosks offering its products - meatballs, kebabs, sausages. The start was in 2009, and in less than 15 years the number of shops has reached 100. The company has a strategic partnership with the Lidl chain, in whose supermarkets it opens its shops.

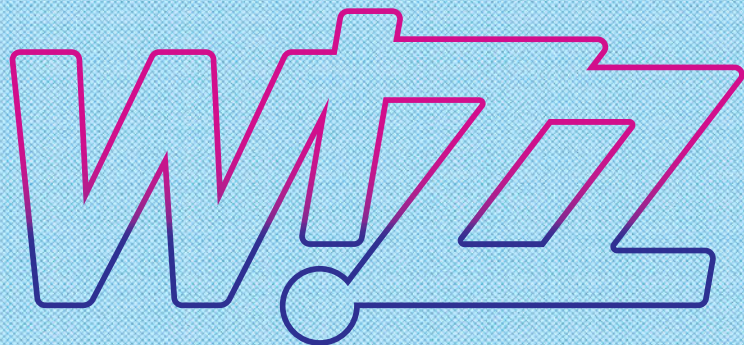
### It all began with the production of meat products.

At the heart of the concept lies a long family tradition in the meat industry dating back to the 1930s. Nowadays, the company has a high-tech modern plant for the production of grill meat products, which successfully combines family production traditions with European standards and the environmental views of modern society. [gogrill.bg](http://gogrill.bg)

*"Our mission is to offer the modern European market delicious, high-quality and healthy food – the authentic Bulgarian grill – an original part of Bulgaria's rich culinary culture."* Miroslav Velkov, Manager of GO GRILL



BULGARIA



## The WIZZ pages

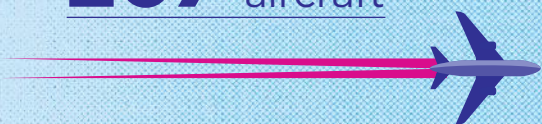
- 100 News
- 102 Where to next?
- 104 People
- 106 Sustainability
- 107 Fleet
- 108 Products and services
- 110 Health and safety
- 113 Security
- 115 Café and Boutique

**53** countries

**190+** destinations

**780+** routes

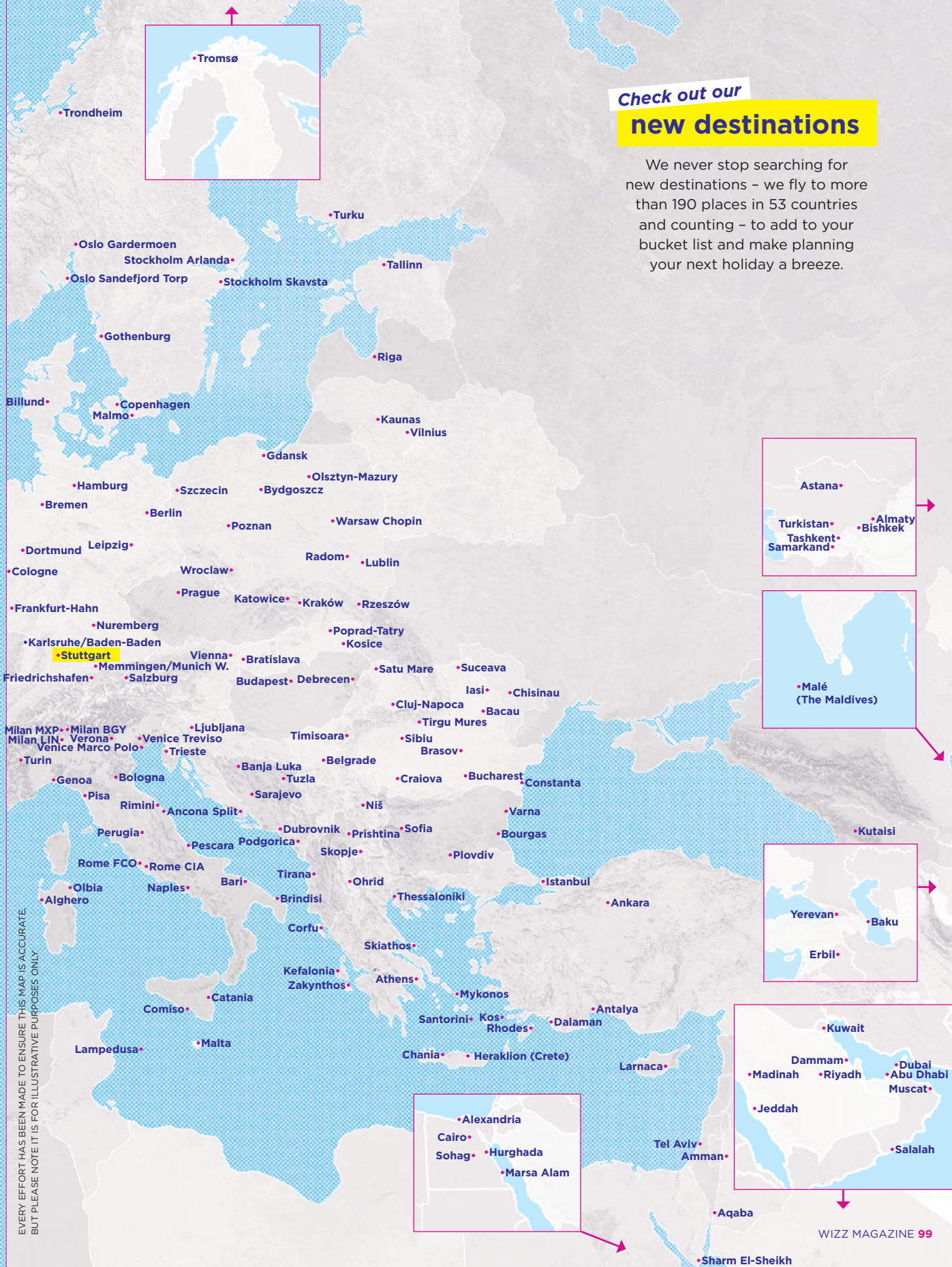
**207** aircraft



Check out our

## new destinations

We never stop searching for new destinations - we fly to more than 190 places in 53 countries and counting - to add to your bucket list and make planning your next holiday a breeze.



EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ENSURE THIS MAP IS ACCURATE, BUT PLEASE NOTE IT IS FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY



# 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 improves environmental ranking

Wizz Air has received a B score for its climate change mitigation and disclosure in 2023, two ranks higher than in 2022. The ranking is given by the Climate Disclosure Project (CDP), an environmental disclosure nonprofit, and their B score indicates that a company is taking coordinated action when it comes to climate issues.

The CDP also awarded Wizz Air the highest scores for disclosure on Scope 1 & 2 emissions, emission reduction initiatives and low carbon products, risk management processes and governance.

“The B score in the CDP’s

ranking is a testament to the significant work that Wizz Air is doing to manage its environmental impact,” said Yvonne Moynihan, Corporate and ESG Officer at Wizz Air. “We have had full disclosure with the CDP since 2021 and we are proud that we were also able to significantly improve our ranking this year.

“We have a robust sustainability strategy and continue to invest in the latest technology aircraft and sustainable aviation fuel. We already operate with the lowest carbon emission per passenger/km among competitor airlines\*\*.

## Join one of our scavenger hunts!

Three lucky winners took home flight vouchers worth €300 from a Wizz Air Scavenger hunt in Vienna. The social media initiative across Europe sees clues to secret locations released as well as a code those taking part can whisper to a Wizz Air staff member to win. The next Wizz Air scavenger hunt is taking place soon so keep your eyes on @wizzair to see where it will happen!



\*FIGURE FOR 2023. \*\* BASED ON THE LATEST PUBLICLY DISCLOSED EMISSION INFORMATION APPLICABLE TO A 12-MONTH PERIOD (RYANAIR, EASYJET). DUE TO DIFFERENCES IN REPORTING PERIOD, THE FIGURES AND TIMEFRAME ARE NOT FULLY ALIGNED.

Wizz  
by numbers

  
**207**  
aircraft

  
**190+**  
destinations  
in 53 countries

  
**33**  
bases in  
16 countries

  
**780+**  
routes

  
**8,000+**  
staff

  
**60.3m**  
passengers  
carried\*

## Huge growth in Hungary

This year we are proud to be strengthening our position as the market leader in our home country, Hungary, thanks to the addition of two A321neo aircraft. Our new arrivals take the number of aircraft in our Budapest fleet to 16. And new planes mean new routes – we now fly to Brasov, Bucharest, Brussels, Stuttgart, Yerevan and Valencia from the capital, with increased capacity to Alicante, Athens, Glasgow, Madrid, Malta, Milan, Naples, Nice, Rome, Thessaloniki and Tirana. What are you waiting for? Book your next flight with us now!



## Happy birthday Wizz Air!

Facebook, *Mean Girls*, the iPod Mini... these are just some cultural icons that turn 20 this year. Oh, and let's not forget it's Wizz Air's birthday too. Yes, this spring we're celebrating two decades in the skies. On 19 May 2004 Wizz Air's first distinctive pink plane flew from Katowice to London Luton, and the rest is history. What will happen for us in the next 20 years? Stay tuned to find out.

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK

## New routes



**Abu Dhabi** – Bishkek, Erbil, Larnaca, Turkistan

**Budapest** – Brasov, Brussels, Bucharest, Stuttgart, Valencia, Yerevan

**Bucharest** – Glasgow  
Catania – Brussels, Hamburg

**Chisinau** – Budapest, Milan Malpensa, Rome Fiumicino, Venice Marco Polo

**Debrecen** – Istanbul, Stuttgart

**Gdansk** – Rome Fiumicino, Valencia

**Katowice** – Aqaba, Brussels

**Larnaca** – Radom

**Milan Malpensa** – Paris Beauvais, Tenerife

**Rome Fiumicino** – Alicante, Berlin, Copenhagen, Debrecen, Hamburg

**Salzburg** – Bucharest, London, Skopje

**Tirana** – Krakow, Leipzig, Prague, Valencia

# Where to next?

This is the time of year when nature springs to life. Relish the spring season across our network on one of these floral-focused escapes

Winter is finally over and we can gratefully say hello to all the spring flowers popping their heads above ground, and welcome to the blossoms that appear on the trees. It's the time when some of our destinations are at their most beautiful – when famous botanical gardens and city parks glow with newly-minted blooms, and there's a sense of new life and new hope in the air. Where to go? Well, we have come up with a few ideas. And if you do take one of these floral forays, do tag us on social media (@wizzair) to let us know how you get on.

## Flower power in Paris

"In ev'ry glance you'll find an invitation to romance" – so say the lyrics of the famous ditty *Paris in the Spring*. What it doesn't say is that you'll also find flowers in ev'ry glance this time of year in the French capital. From the magnolias in the gardens around the Eiffel Tower, to wisteria draped across the railings of public parks and the Grand Mosque, it's a pure delight. Rooftop gardens and even laden window boxes provide serendipitous street-corner joy, while excursions to the magnificent gardens at Versailles, or Giverny, where Monet painted his world famous water lilies, top off an incredible floral escape.



## Kew and Chelsea bloom in London

The UK's capital tops the charts for green space in an urban environment worldwide, and its public parks – especially the Royal variety, including Hyde and St James's – are replete with floral displays and colourful borders right now. The jewel in the crown is Kew where greenhouses of all shapes and sizes are stuffed with triffid-like tangles of exotic plant life. Each May, gardens top the city's social calendar as designers

take over Chelsea Royal Hospital for the ultimate botanical show – tickets from the RHS sell out so do book ahead.

## Scents and sensuality in Seville

Being so close to Morocco means Andalusian architecture owes much to its Moorish influences, and that applies to gardens, too. At the Alcázar palace you'll find formal spaces with low intricate hedging and trickling rills, combined with palms and tiled pavilions. Elsewhere, streets have a

PHOTOS: ADOBE STOCK



scent of orange blossom, while botanical gardens, including the opulent Buhaira, are filled with fragrant shrubs, mediterranean herbs and shady nooks to shelter from the midday sun.

### Turkish tulips in Istanbul

You may think tulips come from The Netherlands, but in fact the flower (and its name, derived from the Turkish word for turban) originated in Central Asia. In recent years Istanbul has aimed to reclaim the association from the Dutch by planting up to 30 million bulbs and staging a Tulip Festival every spring. The most brilliant displays are in Sultanahmet Square

and in three beautiful main parks: Ermagin, Yildiz and Gulhane.

### Exotic beauties in Madeira

The Portuguese island's sub-tropical microclimate means plants from all over the world can thrive here. During spring you'll find gardens bursting into life with flowering succulents and cacti as well as eye-catching displays of Agapanthus (African Lily) and 'bird of paradise' Strelitzia - the signature flower of the island. Madeira Botanical Garden and Palheiro are the big hitters, although there's plenty of floral life to be found wherever you wander.

### Cherry blossoms in Copenhagen

Its most famous gardens - Tivoli - might be more about fun than flora but the Danish capital still comes up trumps for plant lovers. Its botanical gardens cover 10 hectares, packing in greenhouses filled with cacti and palms and magnificent spring displays. Also visit Kongens Have, a former royal garden with Renaissance and Baroque influences, and Bispebjerg Cemetery with its avenues of pink cherry blossoms.

**Clockwise from below**  
Madeira Botanical Gardens;  
the Alcázar in Seville; the  
Monet Garden in Giverny;  
tulips in front of the Hagia  
Sophia in Istanbul



# “As a community, we encourage each other to push limits”

Wizz Air and high-profile running events go together like socks and shoes, says the airline’s Marketing Manager Fruzsina Polácska

**R**unning has a lot more in common with flying than you might initially think. And that’s why Wizz Air’s commitment to running events across Europe is a natural partnership. “They both improve people’s lives by getting them on the move, creating new experiences and being affordable and easily accessible to everyone,” says Wizz Air Marketing Manager Fruzsina Polácska.

As a fitness fan, one of her favourite parts of the job is getting involved in the organisation of Wizz Air’s packed portfolio of marathons and half marathons, which has been building up over the past 10 years. The airline currently sponsors eight running events in six different countries.

In January 2024, Wizz Air hosted a WIZZ Marathon Summit in Budapest, a two-day event that brought together all eight event organisers. “Our main focus was to swap ideas, encourage collaboration between events, and brainstorm ways to make our events more sustainable” says Fruzsina.

Despite offers from races worldwide, each race is carefully selected, and sponsorship is



confined to established partnership events in Wizz Air base cities. The most recent additions include the London Hackney Half, the Venicemarathon, and – new for this April – the Milano Marathon. “This race kicks off and finishes next to the iconic Duomo di Milano – an extraordinary experience we are thrilled to share,” says Fruzsina.

And she will literally be sharing the experience. Fruzsina loves promoting the airline’s marathon events – and she’s

no stranger to sporting success herself. “Sports have always played a significant role in my life,” she says. “I dedicated 11 years to playing basketball, and in 2022 I developed a passion for CrossFit.”

This year Fruzsina plans to participate in the marathon relay. She’s not alone either. The WIZZ Run Club Community is made up of employees from every base, who take part in the events Wizz Air sponsor. “As a community, we encourage each other to push





Left The Budapest Half Marathon  
 Top The Skopje Marathon  
 Above Fruzsina Polácska

limits," she says. Fruzsina will continue watching and joining races, enjoying how every event links to the spirit of the area.

"What brings me joy is the opportunity to foster connections in different regions, from Budapest to North Macedonia and beyond." And Fruzsina loves that her work furthers Wizz Air's ambition to promote an active lifestyle for its employees and its customers. "Together, we run towards a future filled with shared experiences, passion, and a commitment to a fulfilling life," she says.

Find out more about Wizz Air's running events at [wizzair.com](http://wizzair.com).

**"Running and flying improve people's lives by getting them on the move, creating new experiences and being accessible to everyone"**

# Wizz Marathons 2024

Milano Marathon

Cluj-Napoca Marathon

Hackney Half (London)

Debrecen Airport Run

Budapest Half Marathon

Skopje Marathon

Sofia Marathon

Venice-marathon

7th April

14th April

19th May

September

8th September

6th October

13th October

27th October



**FLY THE GREENEST**



More about sustainability at Wizz Air:

# How we fly a more 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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?

You can mitigate plastic waste at your destination by packing with alternative items. A reusable bottle or a bag from recycled materials can become your travel must-have. Going plastic-free is easy, contributing to a cleaner environment and preserving biodiversity.

\* 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.  
\*\* 51.5 grams per passenger/km in 2023

# Our fleet





## Younger, greener and growing

**Wizz Air has a single-type fleet** of 207 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 4.09 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







### 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







### 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



### Airbus A321neo

-  **Max. cruise speed** 903km/h  
**Economical cruise speed** 840km/h
-  **Wingspan** 35.8m (117ft 5in)
-  **Number of aircraft\*** 121
-  **Seat capacity** 239  
**Flight crew** 2 **Cabin crew** 5



## 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**

\*DATA AS OF 1 APRIL 2024

# World of WIZZ

At [wizzair.com](http://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

We understand that flexibility is crucial when it comes to travel. That's why our bundles offer flexible options, allowing you to tailor your trip to your preferences. Whether you're planning a tropical getaway or a city escape, our bundles have everything you need to make your trip unforgettable. Take the stress out of planning and let us handle all the details for you.

Not only do bundles save you money, but they also save you time. With just a few clicks, you can choose the right fare for you,

avoiding the hassle of searching for the best deals individually.

Fly in comfort and take your travel experience to the next level with extra legroom, priority boarding, and ample storage space for all your belongings. Don't miss out on our exclusive offers to make your journey even more enjoyable.

Whether you're a frequent traveller or planning your first trip, our bundles are designed to make your travel experience unforgettable.

**Check out our offers on our website when you book your next flight**



## Fly with us for less

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



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

- Subscribe on the WIZZ app or on the WIZZ website
- Activate your coupons in the WIZZ app within 48 hours before your flight and enjoy incredible discounts from Café & Boutique purchases



**€39.99**

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

- €10 ticket discount on flight fares from €19.99\*
- €5 discount on checked-in bags purchased online\*\*
- Exclusive onboard coupons
- WIZZ Café & Boutique promotions



COMING THIS SPRING!



**€349.99**

Suitable for frequent flyers travelling with one companion

- €10 ticket discount on flight fares from €19.99\*
- €5 discount on checked-in bags purchased online\*\*
- WIZZ Priority with a cabin bag onboard
- Premium (unlimited) seat selection
- Exclusive onboard coupons
- WIZZ 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.

## We understand that flexibility is crucial when it comes to travel

### 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](http://wizzparking.com).

#### Airport transfer

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



### Download our app!

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.



### 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](http://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.**



### Charging electronic devices on board using a portable battery charger is forbidden.

### 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.**

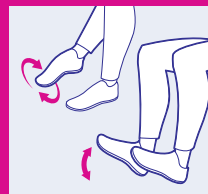
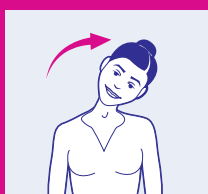
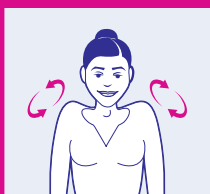


### Nut allergy

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:



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# 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... **...so you can:**

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

## Not tolerated onboard... **...or face the consequences:**

- 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
- 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\***



**FILMING OR PHOTOGRAPHING THE CABIN CREW WITHOUT THEIR PERMISSION IS NOT PERMITTED**

For more information, please refer to the **General Conditions of Carriage** on [wizzair.com](http://wizzair.com)

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Hackney Half **19 May**

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Skopje Marathon **6 Oct**

Sofia Marathon **13 Oct**


Venicemarathon **27 Oct**


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\* For all the details check out WIZZ Discount Club General Terms and Conditions at [wizzair.com](http://wizzair.com)

\*\* Valid for 20 kg and 32 kg bags

**Wizz** DISCOUNT CLUB STANDARD

# ERSTE

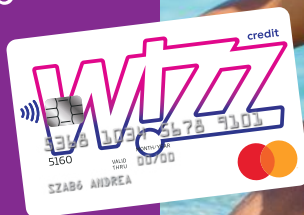
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