

Travel Aggregator

AUGUST 2018

WebBeds APAC Newsletter

WIN!

3D2N stay at
Waldorf Astoria
Bangkok!
Worth up to
THB 20,000

Discover quirky hotels
around Asia

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Michelin-approved hotels

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Amsterdam through
the eyes of WebBeds'
Corene Lee

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FOREWORD

Welcome to the August edition of Travel Aggregator, providing the latest industry news, travel tips and exciting updates exclusively to the clients of WebBeds Asia Pacific.

In this month's edition, we'll be entering the weird and wonderful world of quirky hotels, and discovering how these unique properties are delighting guests in Asia.

We'll also take a peek inside the impressive new Waldorf Astoria Bangkok, which opens this month to become the ultra-luxury brand's first location in Southeast Asia; discover a series of enticing three-day packages at Resorts World Sentosa; and find out which properties made this year's Michelin Guide for hotels.

Also in August's Travel Aggregator, WebBeds' own team member, Corene Lee, describes her experience of living in Amsterdam, with advice for travellers heading to this remarkable Dutch city.

Enjoy the read!

Daryl Lee
CEO of WebBeds Asia Pacific

ABOUT TRAVEL AGGREGATOR

Travel Aggregator is the monthly newsletter published in-house by WebBeds Asia Pacific. Created especially for our travel trade partners and clients, this informative newsletter will include the latest updates from WebBeds Asia Pacific, including our news and developments, plus exciting offers from our partners, a selection of the hottest hotel deals, and much more!

If you'd like to be featured in the next issue of Travel Aggregator, please email Travel.Aggregator@fitruums.com. Alternatively, for marketing partnerships with WebBeds Asia Pacific, please email marketing@fitruums.com.

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Cover image courtesy of Keemala Phuket



VIEW FROM SUITE

A STUNNING NEW LANDMARK ON THE HONG KONG HARBOURFRONT

NOW OPEN

Located in the newly-fashionable district of North Point on Hong Kong Island, Hotel VIC boasts panoramic views of Victoria Harbour and direct access to a newly-created waterfront promenade. The twin-tower hotel offers 671 affordable luxury guestrooms and suites. Dining options include a sophisticated rooftop restaurant and bar, an all-day outlet and a deli shop, complemented by diverse eateries and superb shopping in the hotel's podium floors, as well as in an adjacent mall and the vibrant surrounding area. Links to Hong Kong's superb public transport network, including the MTR and ferries, are just steps away from the hotel.

Hotel VIC's hospitality extends to the high-tech world of super-connectivity. In addition to complimentary lightning-fast Wi-Fi available throughout the premises, the hotel features online check-in/out services, guestrooms equipped with flat-screen televisions featuring IPTV service; tailor-made smartphone app that puts such services in-room dining, table reservations, networking and multimedia entertainment at guests' fingertips.



FIND OUT MORE AT HOTELVIC.COM



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First
Look

Waldorf Astoria to Unveil New Landmark in Bangkok

Waldorf Astoria, one of the most famous and historic names in the hospitality industry, will arrive in Southeast Asia this summer with the launch of an eagerly-anticipated new hotel in Bangkok.

Hilton's ultra-luxury brand, which takes its name from the original Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York, promises exclusive experiences in the world's most desirable destinations.





Newly developed on a prime plot of downtown land, Waldorf Astoria Bangkok will offer 171 luxurious rooms and suites with a minimum size of 50m², plus indulgent facilities, extensive event space and premium F&B outlets, including a 55th floor restaurant and 57th floor Champagne Bar.

When it opens in August, the Bangkok hotel will become only the fourth Waldorf Astoria in Asia Pacific. In an era of widespread hotel development, it takes a very special property to stand out from the crowd. Waldorf Astoria Bangkok is set to become an iconic new landmark in the city.

[Find out more](#)

WIN!

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Waldorf Astoria
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Worth up to
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WebBeds Expands in the Pacific with Three Key Executive Appointments

WebBeds is positioning itself for a bright future in the Pacific region by appointing a trio of key executives to drive its operations in Australia, New Zealand and beyond.

John Stucci becomes WebBeds' new President – Pacific; Grant Sumich has been named as the company's Head of Commercial – Pacific; and Anthony Rumpel has been appointed as WebBeds' Hotel Procurement Manager – Pacific. All three senior leaders will now be based in Sydney.

"It is a great honour to be named as WebBeds' President – Pacific and I look forward to working with the entire team here in Sydney, across the Pacific region and worldwide," said John Stucci. "As part of

Webjet Limited, such an important Australian travel company, WebBeds Pacific is in a fantastic position to expand and become the leading B2B player in the region."

Hotels and travel suppliers in the Pacific region should contact WebBeds Pacific to see how they can benefit by working together in the B2B channel. The region's travel agencies meanwhile, can discover a world of opportunities by partnering with WebBeds Pacific, including access to exclusive agent rates, benefits and educational opportunities.

For more information, please email contact.pacific@fitruums.com.



John Stucci

President – Pacific

John joins WebBeds from GTA, where he held the position of Vice President of Sales & Marketing. John had worked for GTA for over 10 years and formed part of the company's global leadership team since 2012. He also has extensive travel industry experience, including airlines and GDS businesses. Based in Sydney, John will now lead the company's regional operations and expansion in the Pacific, providing strong leadership, driving performance and developing partnerships across the region. His new role commenced in July 2018.



Grant Sumich

Head of Commercial – Pacific

Grant moved to WebBeds' Sydney office in May 2018. Prior to this he was Head of Sales for Rezdy, the booking and distribution system for tours and attractions, and he also spent nine years at GTA as Head of Sales. Grant will now lead WebBeds' commercial strategy in the region, including relationships with suppliers, agents and other partners.



Anthony Rumpel

Hotel Procurement Manager – Pacific

Anthony also joins WebBeds in July 2018. He gained considerable experience at GTA in Australia and Thailand, holding positions in hotel sourcing, and most recently in global commercial and technical training. Based in Sydney, Anthony will now report directly to Grant Sumich.



Quirky Hotels

Transporting Guests Into Exciting New Worlds

In the 21st Century, travellers are looking for more than just a place to stay - they are seeking an experience. Holidays are no longer just about sightseeing and souvenir shopping; increasingly, guests want to leave the usual tourist trails behind and discover something completely different.

For many travellers however, it can be difficult to combine their own off-beat travel ambitions with their desire for international accommodation and upscale amenities. This balance can be even harder to strike when travellers have children. Kids have wonderful imaginations and will be captivated by exotic destinations, but they can easily become bored by hotels that lack character.

All across Asia Pacific there are hotels that exude unique charm. From Godzilla-themed hotels in Japan to African safari resorts in Bali, colourful children's playgrounds in Hong Kong to treehouse retreats in Phuket, Asia offers a wide range of whimsical hotels and resorts that are just waiting to be discovered.

Quirky hotels are destinations within destinations. Many are so innovative and enriching that holidaymakers base their entire vacation around the hotel. They are attractions in their own right, and most importantly, they are experiences.

Here is WebBeds' selection of quirky hotels and resorts in Asia, which are guaranteed to enchant guests and enliven every stay...





Hotel Gracery Shinjuku (Tokyo)

Imagine staying in the heart of Tokyo, then looking outside to see Godzilla looming over your hotel! This is the surprise that awaits guests at Hotel Gracery Shinjuku, one of the newest properties from Japan's Fujita Kanko Group. Rising 130 metres from the bustling streets of Tokyo's Shinjuku district, the hotel stands head and shoulders above its surrounding buildings.

It launched in 2015, a year after the 60th anniversary of the original Godzilla movie. To mark this milestone, a huge Godzilla head was placed on the 8th floor, 52 metres above the ground - the same height as the original movie monster. There are also several "Godzilla-view" guest rooms and even a special Godzilla-themed room featuring its very own statue and walls adorned with posters of the movie series.



Keemala (Phuket)

Nestled in the forests of Phuket, Keemala is a unique treehouse-style retreat that showcases four tribes that once inhabited Phuket. These tribes never actually existed, but that doesn't matter; Keemala creates an exotic new world in which guests can lose themselves.

Guests have a choice of four spectacular accommodation types - clay cottages, tented villas, elevated treehouses and dramatic bird's nests -

each representing one of the tribes. All rooms feature luxurious interiors and private pools. A member of Small Luxury Hotels of the World (SLH), Keemala also provides a range of activities, including sublime spa treatments and indulgent dining experiences, while the golden sands of Kamala Bay are just a short distance away.

In this fictitious forested world, Keemala allows its guests to create their own stories, surrounded by luxury.



Hong Kong Gold Coast Hotel (Hong Kong)

For families with kids, it can often be difficult to find a hotel that caters for the needs of your children. At Hong Kong Gold Coast Hotel however, a selection of special themed rooms helps every child fulfil their fantasy!

Options include a Racing Car Room, Hong Kong Tram Room, Carnival Room, Outer Space Room, Dinosaur Room, Pirate Room and Safari Room.

There is also an amazing array of family activities and attractions, including the Sharks and Pirates Adventure Zone, Kid's Island, swimming pools with water slides, a sand pit, and Hong Kong's first hotel outdoor mini-train ride – not to mention the sandy beach.

With so much fun to be had, parents will be able to relax and enjoy their own vacation, without worrying about how to keep the kids entertained.

Mara River Safari Lodge (Bali)

Believe it or not, it is possible to wake up in Bali, open your curtains and gaze out over a landscape rhinos, wildebeest and zebras! Mara River Safari Lodge is a unique resort located within the grounds of Bali Safari & Marine Park. With African wildlife roaming the grounds, it is easy for guests to imagine they are staying in the heart of the savannah.

This unusual family-friendly retreat features just 39 rooms, and guests can even feed the wild animals from their own balcony. The resort also offers an outdoor pool, tropical bar, spa and a choice of restaurants - including one that overlooks the park's lion enclosure through panoramic glass walls.

For families seeking a tropical break with a difference, Mara River Safari Lodge provides an enchanting escape into another world.

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Conrad Centennial Singapore Reveals Fresh Look and Feel

Conrad Centennial Singapore recently completed a major project to rejuvenate its 511 rooms and suites and create a stylish new event space.

The luxury city hotel hired Jaya Ibrahim Design to oversee the refurbishment, which comprised all 487 rooms and 24 Centennial Suites. The new look blends contemporary design with natural materials and Peranakan-inspired patterns, plus evocative black-and-white prints by Gene Nemeth, which were specially commissioned by the hotel.

Each room now comes with a 55-inch HDTV, motion sensor lighting, Nespresso coffee machine and a luxurious bathroom with separate bathtub and shower. The hotel's event space has also been enhanced with the addition of The Pavilion, an elegant glass-enclosed ballroom that can host up to 160 guests for events and weddings.

These new developments are expected to reaffirm Conrad Centennial Singapore's position as one of the Lion City's leading hotels.



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Michelin Guide for Hotels

The Michelin Guide is world-famous for being a leading authority on restaurants, but many people might not know that it also inspects and grades the world's hotels.

In the 2017-18 Michelin Hotel Guides, the company's famous inspectors have visited hotels in a wide range of global destinations, including Hong Kong, Singapore and Seoul. Hotels are awarded between one and five stars, based on their comfort and quality - from "Quite Comfortable" (one star) all the way through to "Luxury in the Traditional Style" (five stars).

First produced in 1926, the Michelin Guide was originally created as a handbook for French motorists, providing information about where to stay and eat on their journey. Over 90 years later, the guide's team of inspectors now rates more than 30,000 establishments in over 30 destinations worldwide. More than 30 million Michelin Guides have been sold.

Asia is now home to some of the world's leading hotels, from exquisite establishments that reflect the cultural authenticity of the region, to stylish and contemporary properties that showcase the modern dynamism of 21st Century Asia.

So which Asian hotels make the grade in 2018? Here's our introduction to some of the region's Michelin-approved hotels...





Premier Twin Room



Harbourview King Room

Royal Hotel Seoul

Michelin Guide Rating:
Very Comfortable

Nestled in the heart of Myeondong, the Korean capital's trendy downtown retail district, Royal Hotel Seoul perfectly reflects the city's contemporary style. Rated as "Very Comfortable" by the Michelin Guide, this hotel offers a choice of accommodation (Standard, Premier and Executive Rooms), including triple rooms for families and a Club Lounge for executive guests, with panoramic windows overlooking the Seoul skyline. High quality cuisine can be enjoyed at a choice of three outlets, including the 21st floor Grand Kitchen restaurant, and guests can unwind at the hotel's spa and fitness centre.

Harbour Grand Kowloon

Michelin Guide Rating:
Top Class Comfort

Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour is one of Asia's most iconic destinations. Overlooking this glittering waterfront, Harbour Grand Kowloon is a luxurious retreat that blends Hong Kong's grand heritage with the vibrant modernity of this global city. Rated as "Top Class Comfort" by the latest Michelin Guide, the hotel offers 555 rooms and suites, most of which boast outstanding harbour views. A full range of facilities includes seven spectacular F&B outlets, an incredible outdoor pool with city views, spa, fitness centre and extensive event space.



Balcony Room

Regent Taipei

Michelin Guide Rating:
Top Class Comfort

Regent Taipei is an iconic destination in Taiwan's capital. The flagship of Taiwan's Regent Hotels, this luxury property is located in the heart of Taipei's main commercial district, close to many city landmarks. Rated as "Top Class Comfort" by the Michelin Guide, the hotel features 538 rooms and suites plus the two-level Tai Pan Residence & Club. There are seven dining options, including stunning Cantonese and Japanese restaurants, while leisure facilities include a serene spa, outdoor pool and health club. Regent Taipei is also a leading venue for weddings and events.



Grand Room

Grand Hyatt Singapore

Michelin Guide Rating:
Luxury in the Traditional Style

Michelin Guide has given Grand Hyatt Singapore its top five-star rating, "Luxury in the Traditional Style" - and it is easy to understand why. Located on Scotts Road in downtown Singapore, close to Orchard Road, this luxury hotel features 677 exquisite rooms and suites, plus eight restaurants and bars including StraitsKitchen, which reflects the contemporary flavours of Singapore, and an award-winning Martini bar. Guests can relax in the swimming pool, Damai Spa and fitness centre, while the hotel's 16 function spaces provide plenty of options for high-end events.



TOP 10 TRAVELLERS CHOICE
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For booking and enquiry, please email to rail@fitruums.com.

Meet our own traveller: Corene Lee, living her dreams in Amsterdam



Having spent my entire life in Singapore, I decided to take a leap of faith and visit Amsterdam for eight months alone. I experienced cultural shock, met amazing individuals and created lifelong memories.

Picture yourself in a city where thousands of bikes swarm through the narrow streets. In Amsterdam, bikes carry people of all different walks of life. Amsterdam is also known as the “Venice of the North” and I also found myself constantly getting lost in a maze of beautiful canals. It is such a picturesque place.

With a rich history and some of the world’s greatest artworks, Amsterdam has so much to offer for tourists. Regardless of whether you are seeking cultural, gastronomic or social experiences, this is a city that gives endless possibilities. Read on for more of my curated travel tips on how to explore Amsterdam like a local.

[Read more](#)



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