

Travel Aggregator

SEPTEMBER 2019

WebBeds APAC Newsletter

WIN!

3D2N stay at
Chinzanso Hotel Tokyo

2D1N stay at Sotetsu
Fresa Inn Seoul
Myeong-dong

**Best stargazing spots
for the starry-eyed**

~ Page 5

**Soak in celebrations
of the full-moon**

~ Page 18

**Experience Macao
beyond the casinos**

~ Page 36



FOREWORD

Welcome to September's edition of Travel Aggregator – WebBeds' newsletter created exclusively for the travel trade in Asia Pacific!

This month, we're looking up to the heavens with a special feature on the best places to stargaze. This new tourism trend is inspiring travellers to discover the magic of the Milky Way, far away from the bright lights of the city. We're also looking forward to the Mid-Autumn Festival with a focus on the finest festive traditions all across Asia.

WebBeds is putting the spotlight on Macao this month, with an in-depth look at this captivating city's many attractions, away from the casino, and social media fanatics can discover how to capture the best food photos for their Instagram feed!

As always, we'll bring you the latest hotel openings and developments, including exciting updates from South Korea, Malaysia and Hong Kong, plus all the news and exclusive offers from WebBeds.

Enjoy the read!

Daryl Lee
CEO of WebBeds
Asia Pacific

To catch up on any past editions of Travel Aggregator, simply head to attractions.fitrooms.com/aggregator

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@fitrooms.com. Alternatively, for marketing partnerships with WebBeds Asia Pacific, please email marketing@fitrooms.com.

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Mount Bromo, Indonesia



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 HOTEL GAJOEN TOKYO

**First
Look**

Sotetsu Fresa Inn Seoul Myeong-dong

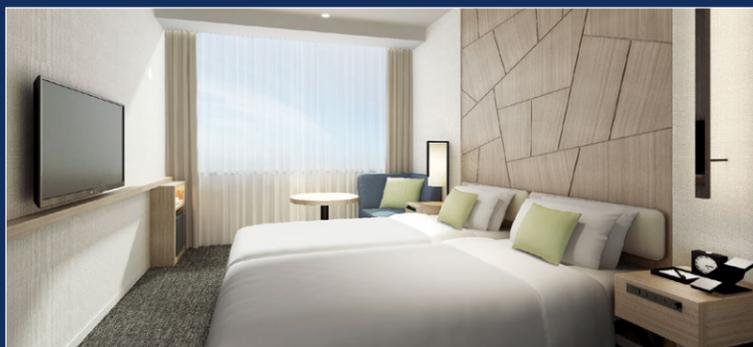
Visitors who want to immerse themselves in Seoul's most popular shopping district will soon have a highly convenient new place to stay at Sotetsu Fresa Inn Seoul Myeong-dong.

Scheduled to open on 1st October 2019, this contemporary hotel will offer state-of-the-art amenities including self-service check-in machines and rooms that can be unlocked by smartphone. This high-tech focus does not come at the expense of home comforts however; every room features Sealy beds, soft towels, pyjamas and slippers. Visitors can stock up on amenities at the 13th floor lobby, and breakfast can be enjoyed at a choice of local restaurants. Other items, such as smartphone chargers, can be borrowed for the duration of the guest's stay.

With its prime location in the heart of Seoul's commercial district, five minutes' walk from two subway stations and easily accessible from Incheon and Gimpo airports, Sotetsu Fresa Inn Seoul Myeong-dong will usher in a new era of comfort and convenience to this dynamic city.

Sotetsu Fresa Inn Seoul Myeong-dong is now bookable via all WebBeds platforms.

[Read more >](#)



WIN!

2DIN stay for 2
at Sotetsu Fresa
Inn Seoul
Myeong-dong



Stargazing: A Sparkling New Tourism Trend

As long as humans have inhabited the Earth, we have looked up at the night sky and wondered what lies beyond our planet. Stargazing can be a deeply humbling experience, and for friends and loved ones it can create unforgettable moments and personal connections that last a lifetime. Even if you are not a starry-eyed romantic, the celestial sky is surely the greatest one of the most mesmerising free shows that nature has to offer.

Unfortunately, urban light pollution is making it increasingly difficult to see the Milky Way in many parts of the world. But for city dwellers who reach for the stars, there are several parts of the planet where the cosmos can still be viewed in all its glory.

So whether you're an enthusiastic amateur astronomer or simply someone who likes to contemplate their place in the universe. The world has some truly wonderful places to view the heavens in all their glittering glory; here is WebBeds' guide to stargazing tourism...



Mount Bromo, Indonesia

For urbanites who want to escape the city, what could be more tranquil than staring up at the stars from the top of a volcano? Nestled in Indonesia's UNESCO World Heritage-listed Bromo Tengger Semeru National Park, Mount Bromo is an active

volcano that erupted as recently as 2015, giving it an otherworldly ambience. Climbing to the caldera allows guests to see the Southern Hemisphere's stars with incredible clarity.

 WHERE TO STAY

Plataran Bromo

Perfectly positioned on a hillside just 16km from Mount Bromo, **Plataran Bromo** is an enchanting base from which to explore the volcano. Guests can choose from a selection of rooms, including

family options and a three-bedroom villa, savour authentic Indonesian dining with dramatic views, chill out at the Padma Spa, or head out for a jeep adventure in the national park.



Perth, Australia

Perth is the most remote city on Earth, over 2,000km from Adelaide and closer to Singapore than Sydney. This makes it a wonderful destination for stargazing, and guests who want to learn about the night sky should pay a visit to the Perth

Observatory. Discover breath-taking views of the Milky Way through powerful telescopes or take part in a night sky tour, including dark sky, moonlit sky and winter night options.

 WHERE TO STAY

Fraser Suites Perth

Overlooking the Swan River in the centre of the city, **Fraser Suites Perth** provides a selection of spacious serviced apartments, all equipped with kitchen facilities and modern amenities for short

and extended stays. Guests can enjoy a full range of hotel facilities, including a serene spa, indoor swimming pool and a 24-hour fitness centre, plus the Heirloom Restaurant and Bar.



Tromsø, Norway

The night sky has many spectacular shows, but one of the most magnificent is surely Aurora Borealis, also known as the Northern Lights. High up in the Arctic Circle, Tromsø is a great place to experience these magical dancing rays. The phenomenon can

be seen from September until March, and although it is difficult to predict exactly when it will occur, Tromsø's latitude and long nights give guests the best chance of a sighting.



 WHERE TO STAY

Scandic Ishavshotel

Scandic Ishavshotel is perched on the Tromsø waterfront, directly overlooking the harbour, putting the city's main attractions within easy reach. Guests can choose from a selection of

rooms and suites that can accommodate up to four guests. The onsite Roast Restaurant specialises in fresh local meat and seafood, and the hotel's breakfast was voted as the best in Norway!



Bryce Canyon National Park, USA

Covering 145 square kilometres in southern Utah, Bryce Canyon National Park is a simply stunning terracotta landscape that is famous for its "hoodoos" - the local name given to its rock towers. It is also a sensational setting for stargazing, with

park authorities claiming that visitors can see "up to 7,500 stars on a moonless night". Free astrology programmes allow visitors to learn about the stars and constellations.

 WHERE TO STAY

Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn

Best Western Plus Ruby's Inn has been welcoming visitors to Bryce Canyon National Park for over 100 years. Guests have a choice of spacious rooms, including two-bedroom family suites, and all

stays include daily buffet breakfast. The hotel can arrange horseback, ATV and mountain bike trips into the park, and a choice of three restaurants is available.



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Discover the Diversity of the Mid-Autumn Festival

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a wonderful time of year to experience the cultural charms of East Asia. Originally created as a celebration of the harvest, this enchanting occasion has grown to encompass a wide variety of myths and legends. The most famous is the story of the goddess Chang'e, who flew to the moon with her jade rabbit, which can still be seen in the full moon today.

All across Asia, different countries and cultures have developed their own distinct festive traditions. From brightly coloured hanging lanterns to decorative boxes of mouth-watering mooncakes, there are many exciting things to see and do in the region. This makes it a great time of year to visit the region and savour the celebrations.

WebBeds' guide to the region's best Mid-Autumn festivities will help you to start planning your trip...



Tsukimi in Japan

In Japan, the Mid-Autumn Festival is deeply associated with the harvest moon. Tsukimi, the local name for the holiday, means “moon viewing” and events are held all across the country. Instead of mooncakes, the Japanese mark the festival by eating tsukimi-dango, small white dumplings that are said to resemble the full moon. Visitors can head to temples, shrines and gardens nationwide and enjoy the exquisite ceremonies.



WIN!
3D2N stay for 2
in Prime Superior
Garden View room
with daily breakfast
and spa access



 WHERE TO STAY

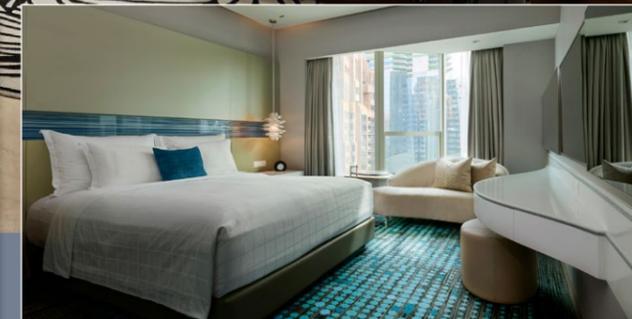
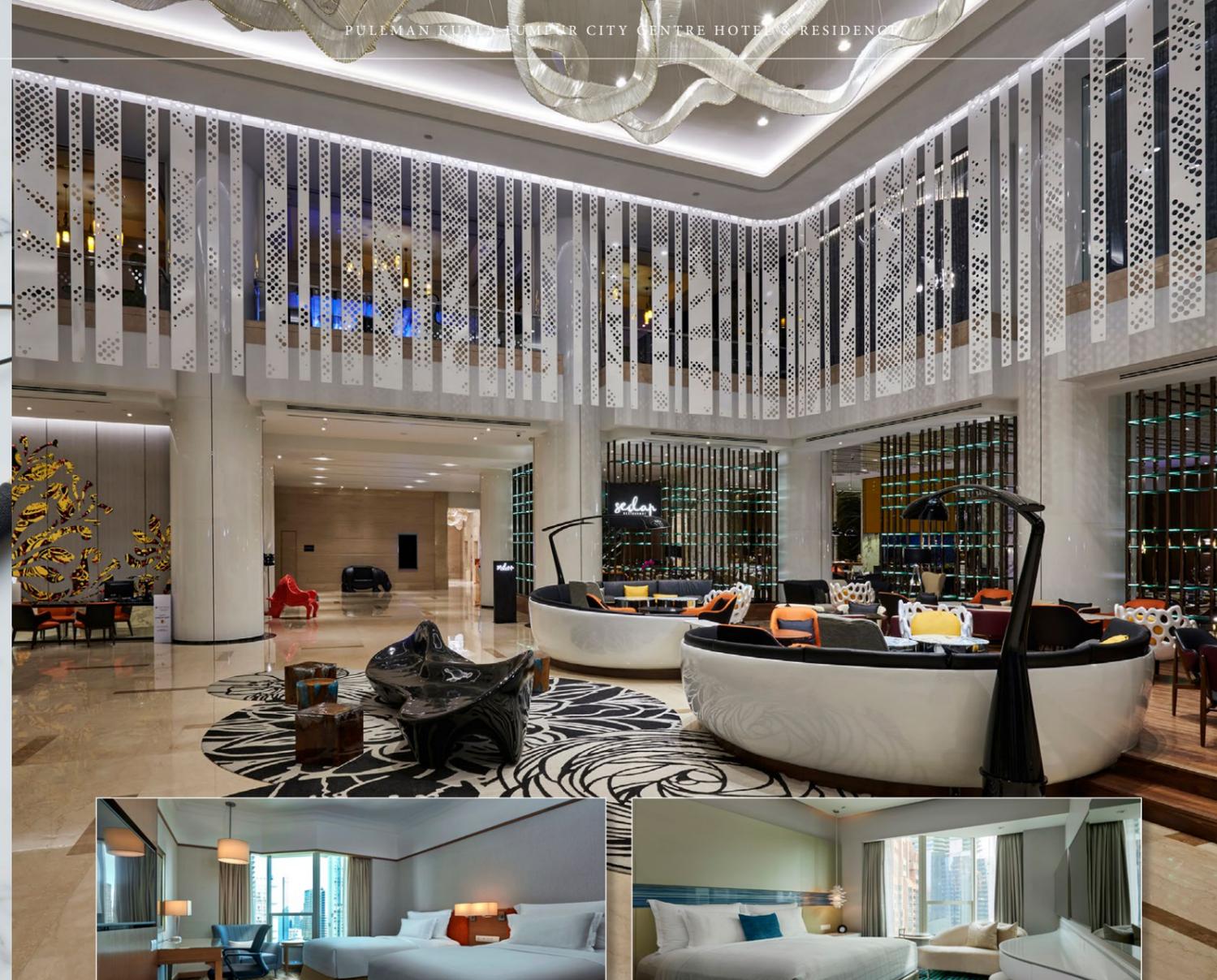
Chinzanso Hotel Tokyo

Chinzanso Hotel Tokyo is a luxurious sanctuary in the heart of the Japanese capital. nestled amidst lush landscaped gardens that date from the Meiji era, this also provides the perfect place to stroll,

sit and gaze up at the full moon. The hotel's nine restaurants and bars also create amazing options to connect with loved ones.

Mooncake Festival in Malaysia

In Malaysia, the joy of the Mid-Autumn Festival is in the food! As in China, mooncakes are hugely popular and a wide range of flavours are available, the most traditional being lotus paste with salted egg yolk. Head to Kuala Lumpur's Chinatown to find the best selection of mooncakes. This event is also called the Lantern Festival in Malaysia, as many streets are illuminated with beautiful red and multi-coloured lanterns.



 WHERE TO STAY

Pullman Kuala Lumpur City Centre Hotel & Residence

Pullman Kuala Lumpur City Centre Hotel & Residence puts guests in the heart of KL's vibrant Bukit Bintang district, surrounded by the festivities. Choose from a range of rooms, suites and residences with amazing views, and dine at a

choice of outstanding F&B outlets. Red, the hotel's Chinese restaurant, is inviting guests to savour handcrafted mooncakes until 13th September, with a range of exquisite styles.

Chuseok in South Korea

Also known as Korean Thanksgiving Day, Chuseok is one of the country's most important celebrations. Family members gather together, often travelling back to their hometowns to reconnect with each other, play traditional folk games, pay their respects to their ancestors and, of course, enjoy family feasts. Popular festive foods at this time of year include songpyeon (colourful rice dumplings) and jeon (Korean pancakes).



 WHERE TO STAY

The Shilla Seoul

The Shilla Seoul is one of Korea's leading hotels and a wonderful place to enjoy the magic of Chuseok. Stay in the Korean Suite for a truly authentic experience and feast on Korean cuisine

at La Yeon restaurant. The hotel is also selling a range of boutique hampers during the festival, featuring a range of luxurious treats and sweets.

Tết Trung Thu in Vietnam

Each country has its own Mid-Autumn Festival legends, and in Vietnam the most famous the tale of Cuội, who was pulled up to the moon by a magical banyan tree. Children light lanterns to show him the path back down to Earth – one of many fun activities that are focused on kids (Tết Trung Thu is also known as the Children’s Festival). This is a great time to visit Vietnam, with activities including lion dances and street fairs.



 WHERE TO STAY

Caravelle Saigon

With its distinctive façade and prime position close to the Opera House and Notre Dame Cathedral, **Caravelle Saigon** is a genuine Ho Chi Minh City landmark that puts guests in the heart of the

action. The rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon, is a chic venue to unwind, and Café de l’Opera is offering “Mooncake & Tea” daily throughout Tết Trung Thu, for just VND250,000++!



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Spice Up Your Social Media!

Social media has revolutionised the dining industry. In the world of Instagram, going out for dinner is no longer simply a private experience with your partner, friends or family - it is an experience to share with the world! With the right lighting and filter, you can make just any food look appetizing. With its lively social dining scene, Asia is a great place to snap your best drool-worthy food photos.

Need some inspiration? Check out these local favourites that are perfect for your Instagram feed...



Bubble Tea

Originally created in Taiwan in the 1980s, bubble tea has become a firm favourite among Asian youngsters as a quick perk-me-up. Over the years several spin-offs have followed, including fruit teas, handmade pearls, cheese clouds and tea creams, and the most popular variety now is brown sugar milk tea and colourful fruit-infused tea! Fancy an alternative? Try an iced bubble coffee or a refreshing fruit tea for the health conscious.



Ube (Purple Yam)

In this health-conscious age, superfoods are one of the most on-trend culinary concepts. Popular in the Philippines, where they are used in all types of recipe, ubes are loaded with vitamins, minerals and antioxidants, and can help to reduce blood pressure, ease digestion, and may even improve asthma. Their bright purple colour also makes them highly Instagrammable!



Pancakes

The humble pancake has come a long way - dating back as far as ancient Greece, this simple blend of eggs, flour and milk has become a global culinary movement! These tasty treats are fantastically flexible and can be either sweet or savoury, from simple French crêpes to hearty Dutch pannenkoeken and even jiggy Japanese pancake soufflés. And they look great on your social feed!



Want to learn more about Asia's latest foodie fads?

Check out the most recent food series on our official YouTube channel.

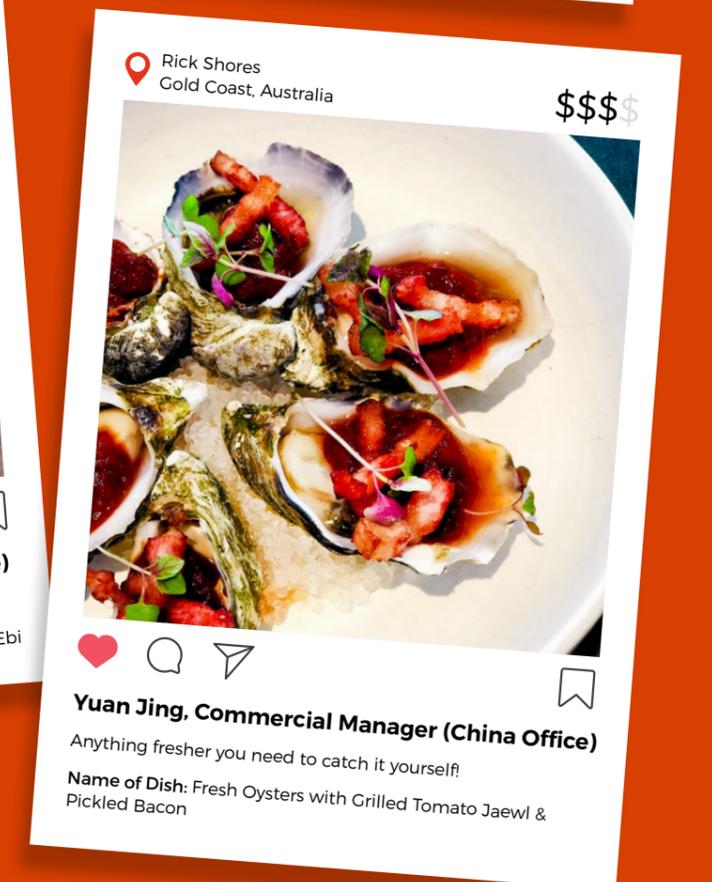
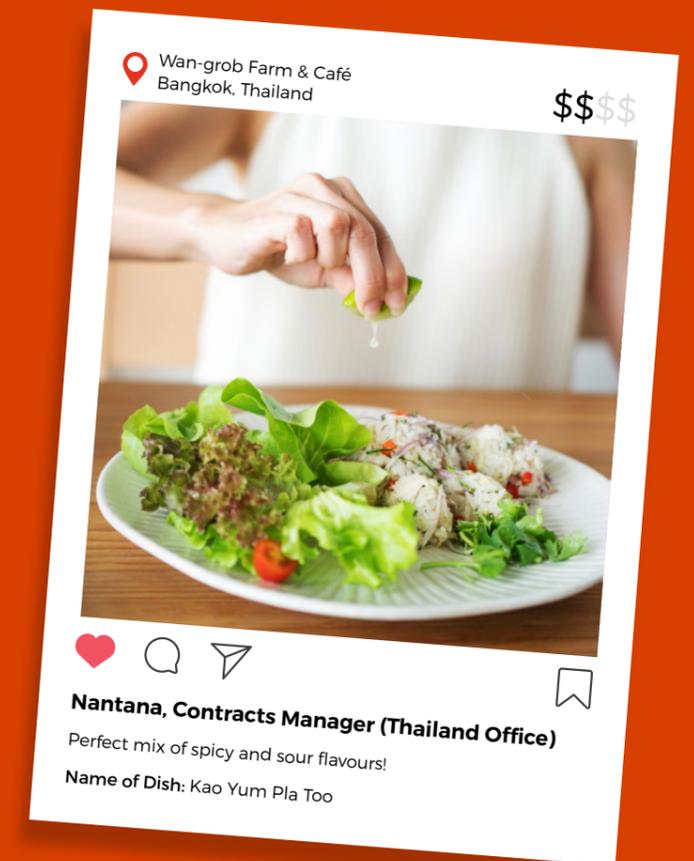


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Is your food Instagram-worthy?

Our WebBeds APAC team are so excited to share their photos; here's what they think!



NEWLY
OPENED

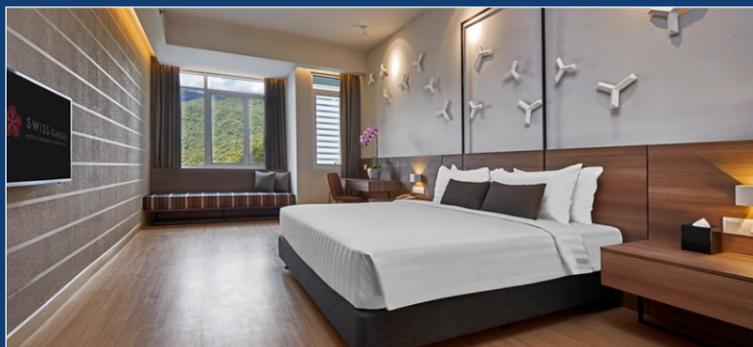
Swiss-Garden Hotel & Residences Genting Highlands

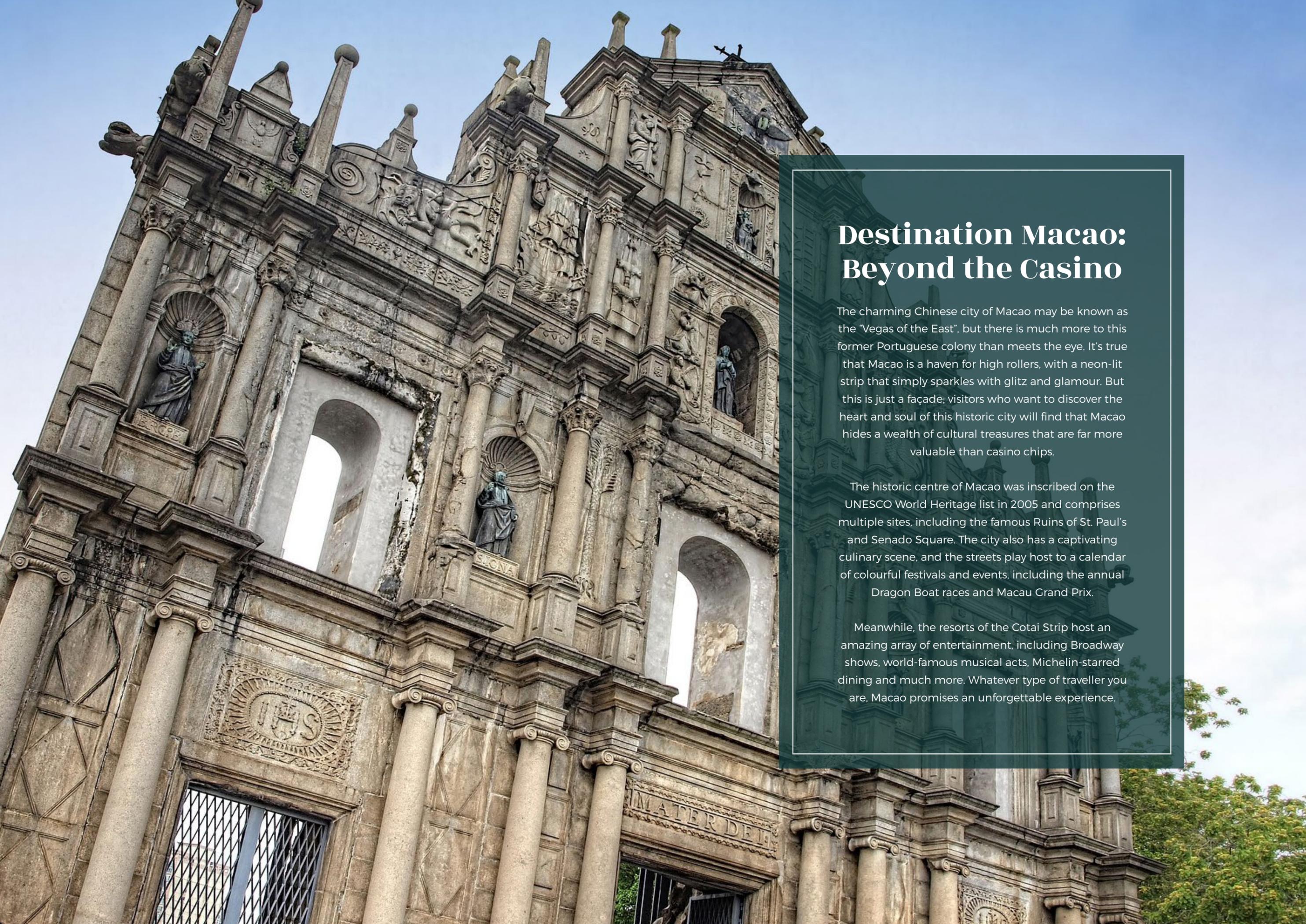
Swiss-Garden International recently unveiled a new property in the Genting Highlands, the popular integrated resort development just one hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur.

Launched in July 2019, Swiss-Garden Hotel & Residences Genting Highlands is a large hotel nestled in the lush jungle-clad hills, 1,800 metres above sea-level. This 41-storey property provides guests with spectacular views from its 561 rooms and suites, and also from a rooftop leisure complex which includes swimming pools, Jacuzzis, decks and gardens. Squash and tennis courts, a restaurant, gym, children's playground and games room complete the facilities, while the pool decks and gardens create exceptional options for events, including weddings.

Swiss-Garden Hotel & Residences Genting Highlands is located on the doorstep of the Genting Highlands, which is home to theme parks, retail malls, performance venues, casinos, restaurants, and cable cars. It will also soon welcome the world's first 20th Century Fox theme park.

Swiss-Garden Hotel & Residences Genting Highlands is now bookable via WebBeds. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) to read our latest blog.





Destination Macao: Beyond the Casino

The charming Chinese city of Macao may be known as the “Vegas of the East”, but there is much more to this former Portuguese colony than meets the eye. It’s true that Macao is a haven for high rollers, with a neon-lit strip that simply sparkles with glitz and glamour. But this is just a façade; visitors who want to discover the heart and soul of this historic city will find that Macao hides a wealth of cultural treasures that are far more valuable than casino chips.

The historic centre of Macao was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2005 and comprises multiple sites, including the famous Ruins of St. Paul’s and Senado Square. The city also has a captivating culinary scene, and the streets play host to a calendar of colourful festivals and events, including the annual Dragon Boat races and Macau Grand Prix.

Meanwhile, the resorts of the Cotai Strip host an amazing array of entertainment, including Broadway shows, world-famous musical acts, Michelin-starred dining and much more. Whatever type of traveller you are, Macao promises an unforgettable experience.



For Foodies

Macanese cuisine is arguably the world's first example of fusion food, blending Chinese, Portuguese and other imported flavours. Street food fans should try the egg tarts, almond cookies, steamed pork chop buns and delicious dim sum. Check out Rua de Cunha in Taipa Village, or for a more upmarket experience, book a table at one of the city's 19 Michelin-starred restaurants.



For Architecture Lovers

With 300 years of history and diverse international influences, Macao is a cultural and architectural treasure trove. Discover exquisite Chinese temples, colonial churches, cobbled streets and more. The UNESCO World Heritage-listed centre is separated into two zones, creating an intriguing architectural trail for visitors to follow, with plenty of photo opportunities along the way.



For Adrenaline Junkies

Macao may not seem like an adventure tourism capital, but thrill-seeking guests can experience the world's highest commercial bungee jump – a heart-pounding, hair-raising leap from the top of the 233-metre-high Macau Tower! Not quite ready for the full jump? Tower Climb, Skywalk and Skyjump experiences are also available, all of which offer breath-taking views.



For Outdoor Adventurers

One of the world's most densely populated regions, Macao may not seem like a great place for outdoor adventure. But the city does have a green side; head to the south side of Coloane Island and enjoy a series of hiking paths and nature trails. Visitors who reach the summit of Alto de Coloane, Macao's highest point, will be rewarded with panoramic views of the South China Sea.



When to Visit

Macao has a pleasant sub-tropical climate, with mild winters, sunny springs and a short but pleasant autumn. The best time of year to visit is from October to December, but visitors should avoid the hot and humid summer, when Macao is often hit by heavy rainstorms.



WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Lisboa

With its distinctive exterior and grand interiors, Hotel Lisboa is a genuine city landmark. Located on the Avenida de Lisboa in Macao's historical and cultural heart, this five-star hotel features almost 1,000 rooms, including Kids' Themed Suites and

Family Suites, a shopping arcade, extensive leisure facilities and six restaurants and bars, including the first international branch of the Michelin-starred Portuguese restaurant, Fortaleza do Guincho.

WHERE TO STAY

Studio City

Film fans can combine luxurious accommodation and fantastic facilities with a full movie-making experience at Studio City. This unique hotel, named after LA's celebrity neighbourhood, features 1,600 rooms and suites in two towers, plus multiple

dining venues and state-of-the-art attractions, including live shows, a 4D Batman-themed ride, a virtual reality theme park, Warner Bros children's zone, and even the world's highest figure-eight Ferris wheel!



Studio City

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Harbour Grand Kowloon Unveils New Tower Rooms & Suites

Harbour Grand Kowloon, the impressive 900-key hotel overlooking Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour, recently unveiled a new collection of 360 Tower Rooms and Suites. With six distinct room types, ranging from the Tower Cityview Rooms to the Tower Premium Harbourview Suites, this new accommodation enables guests to unwind in comfort and style, with soft earth tones, sleep-inducing beds, bathtubs, power showers, working desks and state-of-the-art amenities, including large flat-screen TVs, international power outlets and complimentary Wi-Fi.





Many of the harbour-facing suites also offer panoramic corner windows that frame the spectacular waterfront scenery. Harbour Grand Kowloon has always been a favourite among visitors to Hong Kong, and its new Tower Rooms and Suites have elevated the quality of its accommodation to a new level.



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Koh Samui, Thailand

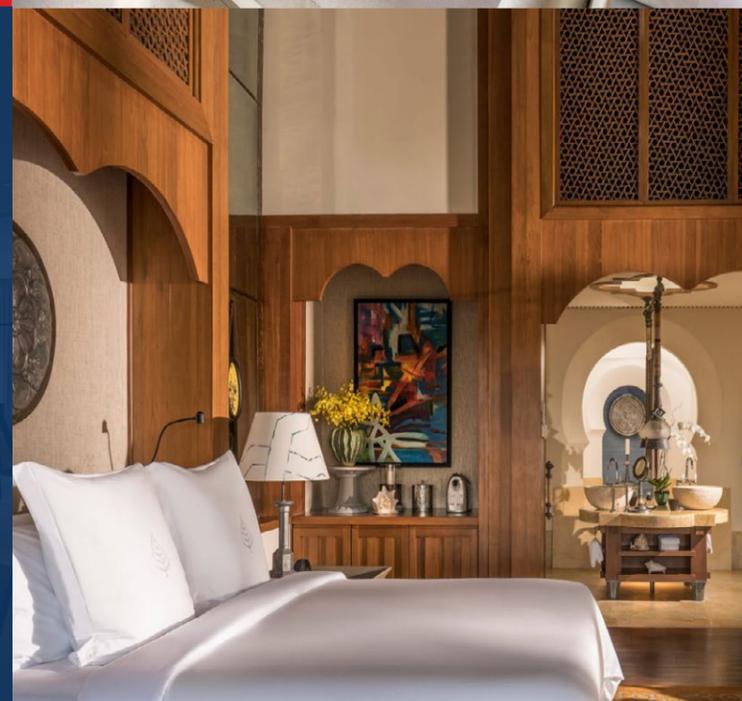
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