

Travel Aggregator

FEBRUARY 2021

WebBeds APAC Newsletter



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FOREWORD

Welcome to February's edition of Travel Aggregator, WebBeds' monthly newsletter dedicated to providing the latest news and updates exclusively to the travel trade in Asia Pacific.

If the recent upheaval has had any positive side-effect, it has been that many people were able to spend more time with their loved ones. In this edition, we showcase the best destinations for couples and families who want to enjoy quality time together, along with a choice of attractive hotel packages.

Do you miss international travel? So do we, but don't worry, WebBeds is here to help! We've created a collection of domestic travel experiences that feel exactly like you're overseas! Finally, spring is just around the corner, so we're showcasing some of Asia's most spectacular seasonal flower festivals to brighten your mood.

As always, we'll present Asia Pacific's most exciting new hotel openings, plus all the latest news and exclusive offers from WebBeds.

I hope you enjoy the read!

Daryl Lee
CEO of WebBeds
Asia Pacific

To catch up on any past editions of Travel Aggregator, simply head to attractions.fitruums.com/landing/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@fitruums.com. Alternatively, for marketing partnerships with WebBeds Asia Pacific, please email marketing@fitruums.com.

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Cherry Blossoms in Spring

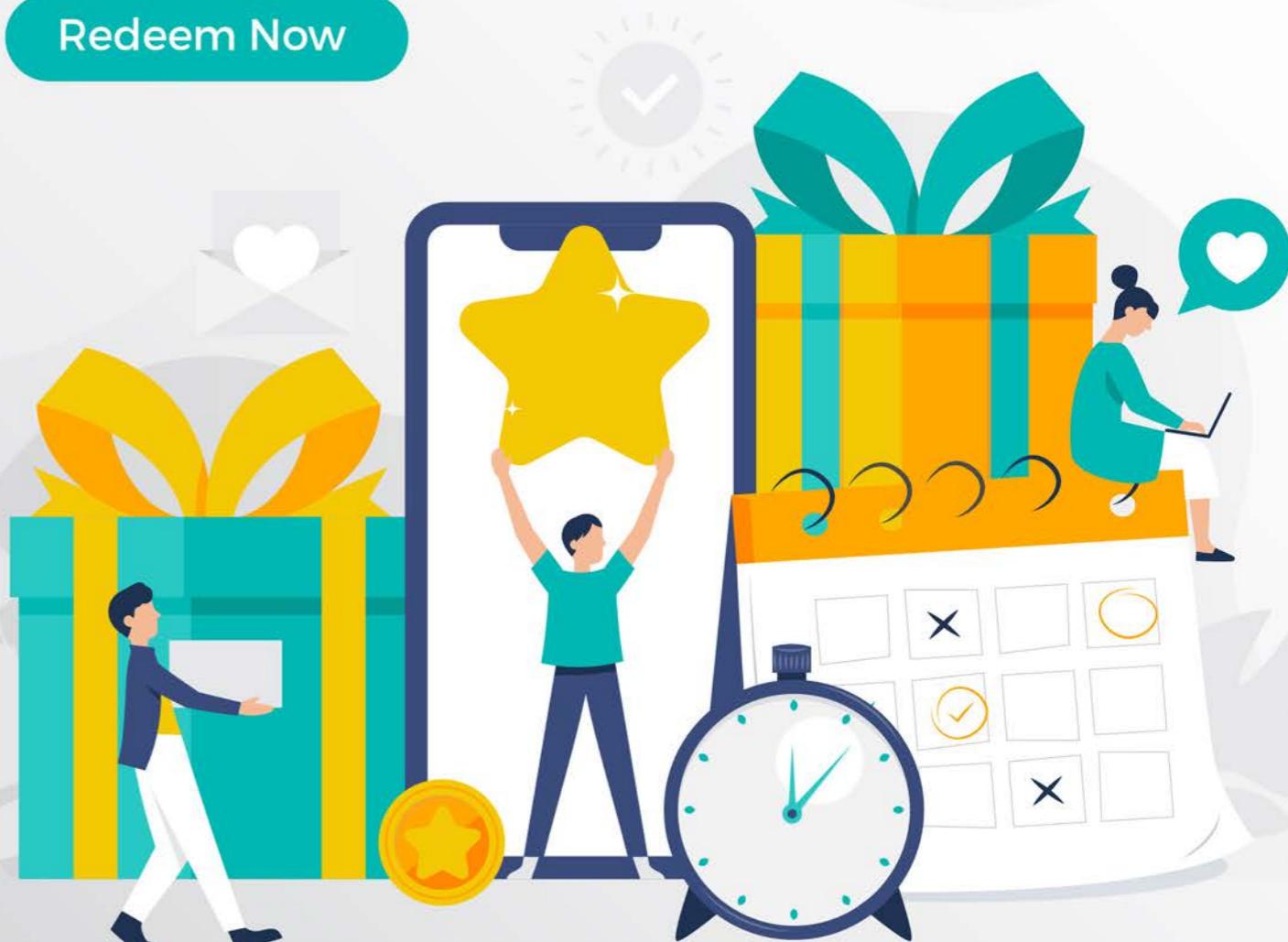


FIT REWARDS

Your 2020* FIT Points
are expiring on
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redeem your points for rewards.

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*FIT Points accumulated in year 2020.

The Hari Hong Kong

The Hari Hong Kong is a luxurious new hotel that aims to connect its guests with the spirit of the neighbourhood. Nestled in the heart of Wan Chai, this design-led urban retreat is surrounded by local attractions, including the Hong Kong Convention Centre and Happy Valley Racecourse, while Causeway Bay MTR station is just six minutes' walk away.

The 210 rooms and suites were crafted by renowned interior designer Tara Bernerd, and blend natural materials such as linen wallpaper, timber panelling and feather bedding with cutting-edge amenities, including Nespresso machines, 4K ultra HD TVs and rainforest showers. With open-plan layouts and panoramic windows, every guest can unwind with views of the city or Victoria Harbour. For an additional sense of space and style, The Hari offers a collection of Family Rooms (55sqm) and stunning suites (77-80sqm).

Dining at The Hari is a cosmopolitan affair; Zoku Restaurant & Terrace specialises in contemporary Japanese cuisine, and Lucciola Restaurant & Bar is a traditional Italian trattoria. The Lounge is a relaxing space for daytime refreshments and Zoku terrace bar frames breath-taking views of the Wan Chai skyline. Every guest is encouraged to head out, explore the area and gain a deeper understanding of this dynamic district. The hotel's team members are on-hand to share their local knowledge and provide insider tips.

Guests who book The Hari Hong Kong with WebBeds can now take advantage of a special offer, with rates starting from just HK\$1,400 per night for a King or Twin Room, including HK\$700 F&B credit and late 3pm check-out!



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Whether you are safely exploring beyond borders or rediscovering your own backyard, take advantage of the latest hotel offers by destinations which include



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JAPAN



MACAU



MALAYSIA



PHILIPPINES



SINGAPORE



TAIWAN



THAILAND



VIETNAM

Post-Peak Pandemic Travel Trends in China and South Korea

Focus groups, executive interviews and in-house data provide insights into the changing face of tourism and hospitality in two of Asia's biggest markets, including a sharp shift towards domestic tourism, shorter booking lead times, and rising demand for contactless booking tools...

China and South Korea were two of the first countries to feel the impact of COVID-19. Now, following extensive research including focus groups, expert insights, interviews with travel experts, and its own in-house data, WebBeds can reveal the first in-depth analysis into the changing travel landscape in these two Asian nations.

"The global pandemic has transformed the travel industry. In order to shed light on the latest trends, we engaged with our partners in China and South Korea to help all our esteemed partners navigate a route safely through these troubled waters," said Daryl Lee, WebBeds' CEO for Asia Pacific.

China: Uncertainty impacts domestic rebound

In China, WebBeds found that the country has relied on the rebound of its large domestic tourism sector, although uncertainty is still having an effect. Ted Zhang, co-founder & CEO of DerbySoft, revealed that the booking window has shortened to just 2-3 days – an assertion supported by Zhiwei Bai, Vice President of Brand Marketing of Tongcheng Elong, who also stated that online

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hotel bookings have significantly increased, in line with a sharp drop in walk-ins. According to Mr. Bai, domestic airfares were "surprisingly low" this year, and demand for bus tickets grew fast as trains were suspended. Wenzhi Zhao, Executive Vice President of Guangzhilv Travel Agency, identified a shift towards small domestic groups and niche products such as ecotourism and wellness. Gloria Wang, Executive Vice President of Jin Jiang Hotels - China Region, predicted that the domestic travel switch could continue for "3-5 years".

"We have seen a 60% increase in bookings made 2-3 days in advance, and a sharp increase in requests for room rates that include value-added services."

Sun Kok Sheng, WebBeds' CCO for Asia Pacific.

South Korea: Spending power and independent travel drive revival

Booking lead times in South Korea have been severely shortened, which impacted the popularity of early bird rates. Flexible booking conditions are now the top priority for customers. Youngmi Jung, General Manager Overseas at Interpark, noted that travellers are now booking either ultra-short breaks or very long holidays, with a preference for self-contained stays. The desire for secluded staycations has also led to a rise in motorhome holidays, and Kyung Ok Kim, Managing Director of Hotelpass, suggested that demand may continue in the post-pandemic

era as more people become accustomed to this type of independent travel. Korean consumers were also found to prefer contactless booking. Finally, Wook Sung, Managing Director of Shinhwa World, noted that the usual travel seasons have also been usurped by COVID-19 swings, as booking patterns are influenced by infection rates.

"Our focus groups in China and Korea correlate with WebBeds' own data. For example, we have seen a 60% increase in bookings made 2-3 days in advance, and a sharp increase in requests for room rates that include value-added services. Our local teams are able to react to any last-minute requests," commented Sun Kok Sheng, WebBeds' CCO for Asia Pacific.

Based on these findings, WebBeds recommends that hotels and other tourism providers continue to offer flexible travel policies and create attractive value-added packages. It also advises that travel agencies and other stakeholders continue to make investments in technology, including contactless services. WebBeds stands shoulder-to-shoulder with its partners all across the Asia Pacific region, and will work tirelessly to help them overcome this unprecedented challenge.



Perfect Packages to Reconnect with Your Loved Ones

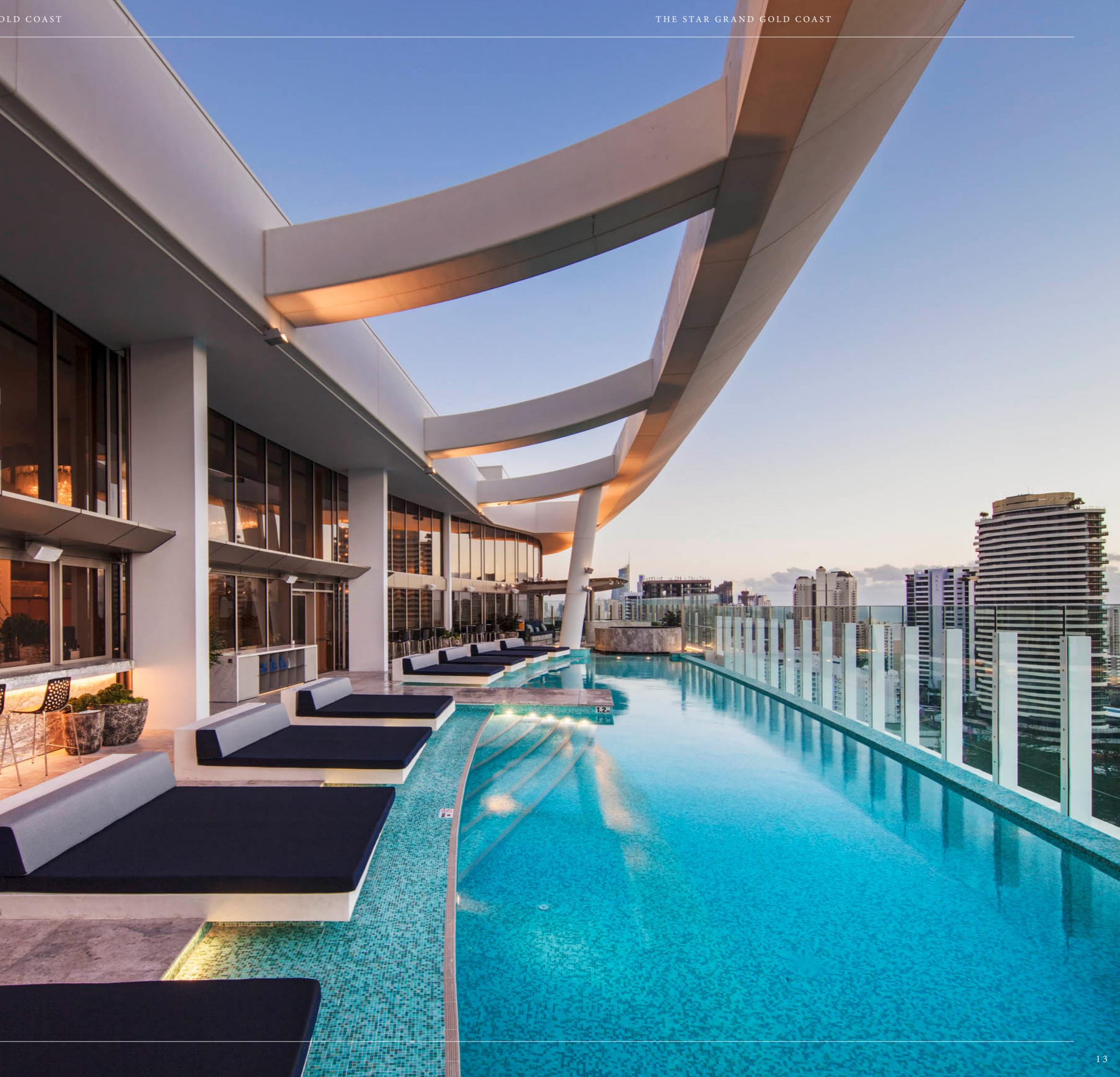
Sometimes it takes a period of upheaval to reaffirm what is truly important in life. If the events of 2020 had any positive side-effect, it has been that many people were able to spend more time with their partners and families. As we move into 2021, let us get together with our loved ones, share experiences, and spend more quality time in each other's company. In this article, we'll showcase some of the best hotels for an action-packed staycation break with your cherished family and friends.

The Star Grand Gold Coast

FOR COUPLES, FAMILIES & FRIENDS:

Treat your loved ones with a two- or three-night stay in a Deluxe Room at **The Star Grand Gold Coast** and receive AU\$100 of F&B credit, late 12pm check-out, two complimentary in-house movies per stay, free Wi-Fi and parking.

With its swimming pools, soothing spa, chic bars, inviting restaurants and entertainment zones, including a world-class casino, this is a five-star pleasure palace for all ages! The hotel is also a great base to explore tours and attractions nearby, including Sea World, Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary, and the endless stretches of golden sand.



The Murray, Hong Kong, a Niccolo Hotel

FOR COUPLES & FRIENDS, INCLUDING OUR FURRY FRIENDS:

Those in Hong Kong and Macau can enjoy a luxurious staycation at **The Murray, Hong Kong, a Niccolo Hotel** and receive a welcome drink, complimentary breakfast, afternoon tea for two, a welcome bottle of Prosecco, and 20% off on spa treatments.

Set in an historic building on Cotton Tree Drive, this luxurious hotel features 336 rooms and suites, a wellness centre and five dining destinations, including a rooftop restaurant and bar. The hotel is also pet-friendly so you can pamper your furkids and create fonder memories together.



Furamaxclusive Resort and Villas

FOR COUPLES & FRIENDS:

Enjoy a relaxing stay with loved ones at **Furamaxclusive Resort and Villas** in Ubud, Bali and go a complimentary cycling tour of the paddy fields for two and a relaxing 30-minute couples' foot massage.

Nestled amid a lush landscape of paddy fields and palm trees, overlooking Mount Batur, this haven of tranquillity features luxurious Balinese villas set around a pristine pool, along with a serene spa and more. For those seeking a cultural and spiritual escape, be sure to also visit Pura Tirta Empul (Holy Water Temple) and the Sacred Monkey Forest.



Osaka Dotonbori Hotel

FOR FRIENDS & FAMILIES:

Soak up the culture of Osaka at Osaka Dotonbori Hotel with free entry to a range of events daily, such as culinary evenings including specialty homemade ramen with free unlimited beer and wine, kimono photo sessions, games and more!

Single, twin and triple rooms can accommodate a wide range of stays, and every guest will enjoy a delicious breakfast, Wi-Fi and free drinks in the lobby. The hotel also offers free bicycle and stroller rentals for those heading out to explore the city. Don't miss the culinary delights along Dotonbori, exhilarating rides of Universal Studios Japan, the cultural charms of Osaka Castle and more.





Let Your Spirits Blossom this Spring

The arrival of spring never fails to brighten one's mood, and in 2021, the world needs its spirits lifting more than ever before. After the challenges of the last 12 months, spring's vibrant colours, warm air and beautiful blossoms have the power to revive, rejuvenate and replenish. So where better to celebrate this soothing season than at one of Asia's many springtime flower festivals? Take a domestic break and discover the natural blooms of your home country. Comfortingly, the "Color of the Year" for 2021 (according to the Pantone Color Institute) is yellow, so keep your eyes open for these warm hues and embrace their sense of positivity!



Hotel Papa Whale

For guests on a nature-inspired escape, **Hotel Papa Whale** is the perfect place to stay. Head to Taipei's Ximen Station and simply look for the white building adorned with an enormous whale!

Then enter a whimsical world of contemporary style, organic materials and rustic chic design. With eight room types, from single rooms to family units, every traveller can find their ideal option.

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Nestled on the coast in southern Taiwan, Kaohsiung has a warm, sub-tropical climate all-year-round. In spring however, the rising temperatures bring the country's fruit trees into bloom a full month before Japan. Across the city's parks and gardens, guests can stroll amid sakura-lined streets and be showered with ethereal flowers from February onwards. One of the best places to see these iconic attractions is Bao Shan Er Ji Tuan Cherry Blossom Park.



H2O Hotel

Feel the colours of nature come to life at the **H2O Hotel**, which features a striking soft blue exterior designed to reflect rippling water. Guests can stay in a choice of modern rooms, including

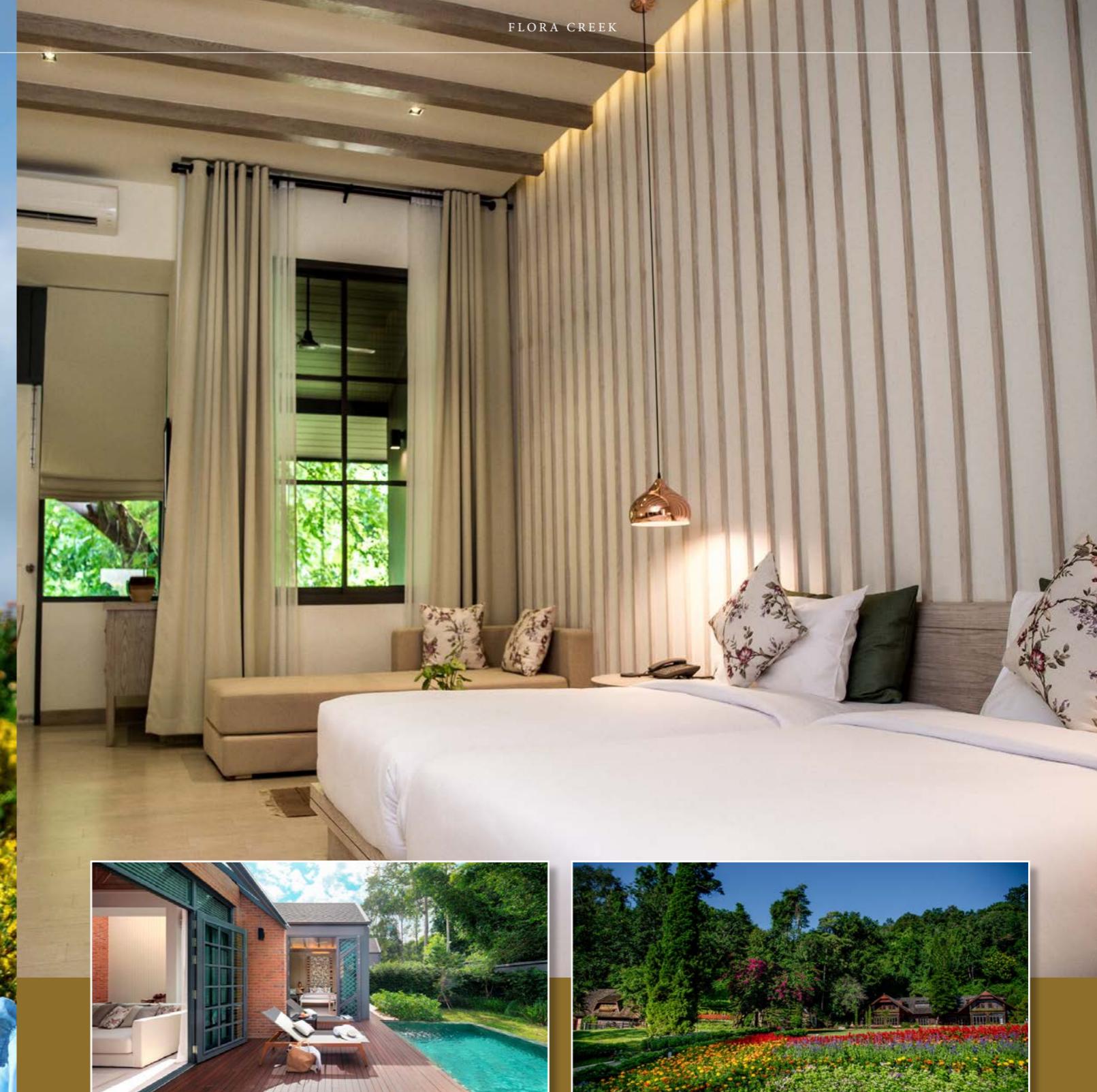


triple and family options, all equipped with high-tech amenities. Then dine at a choice of restaurants, including a steakhouse and Cantonese dim sum venue.



Chiang Mai, Thailand

Set in the cool, verdant hills of northern Thailand, Chiang Mai is a wonderfully refreshing city. Visitors who head into the rolling countryside surrounding the walled city will find a series of floral farms that prove popular with tourists. The I Love Flower Farm is open daily until the end of March and lets guests enjoy a traditional tea experience on a private table amid a seemingly endless sea of flowers.



Flora Creek

For guests who want to immerse themselves in botanical beauty, **Flora Creek** is an seductive place to stay. Nestled among 10 acres of manicured gardens and vivid flowers with a rippling creek,

the resort blends local charm and five-star services, including the Green House Spa and northern Thai cuisine. This makes it an inviting place to soak up the beauty and heritage of Chiang Mai.



Chiang Rai, Thailand

Thailand's northernmost province, Chiang Rai is exotic, unspoiled and filled with natural and cultural charms. Its elevated latitude and altitude means that winter temperatures can dip into single figures, but the arrival of spring brings a new sense of warmth to the region. At Singha Park, visitors can bathe their senses in a breath-taking tapestry of rolling hills and floral fields. A Buddhist pavilion also provides a serene place to relax and reflect.



Katiliya Mountain Resort & Spa

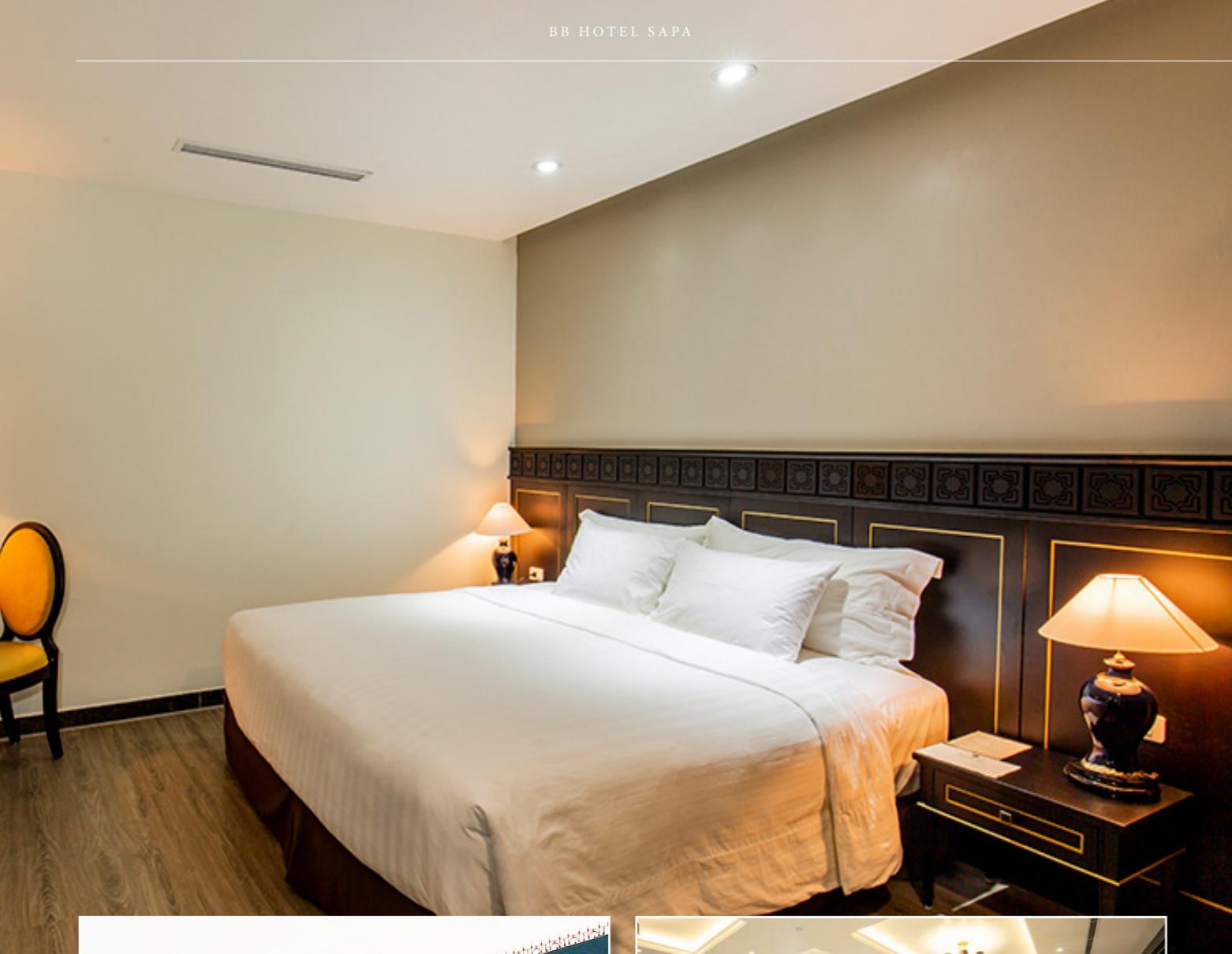
Nestled within the mist-shrouded hills and forests, Katiliya Mountain Resort & Spa brings contemporary luxury to this remote region. Blissfully secluded, this low-rise retreat features a selection of spacious

suites and villas, all with private balconies and panoramic views. With activities including hiking, cycling and birdwatching, this resort lets guests connect with the Earth.

Sapa, Vietnam

Sapa may be small, but it is blessed with a wealth of natural beauty. Located in the mountains of Lao Cai Province, surrounded by soaring peaks, verdant rice terraces and ethnic tribes, this charming Vietnamese town has the kind of cool climate that lets fruit trees flourish. Every spring, travellers who take a trip to O Quy Ho will be able to explore a spectacular spectrum of pastel-coloured blooms, including iconic pink cherry blossoms.





BB Hotel Sapa

BB Hotel Sapa blends rich colonial charm with modern Vietnamese hospitality. This grand building is nestled in the centre of town and offers a choice of stylish rooms and suites, a serene

spa and well-equipped fitness centre. After a day of exploring the local area and soaking up the stunning springtime scenery, guests can chill out at the rooftop bar.

Silk Path Grand Sapa Hotel & Resort & Spa

Perched on one of the town's highest hills, **Silk Path Grand Sapa Hotel & Resort & Spa** is an elegant boutique hotel that overlooks the "Vietnamese Alps". The rooms reflect the diversity

of the local hill-tribes, with traditional fabrics and patterns, the restaurant showcases fresh, local produce, and the heated swimming pool frames unsurpassed mountain views.



A World of Wonders on Your Doorstep

With international travel at a standstill, many travellers have been forced to cancel their dream holidays. But with a little imagination and creativity, you can still enjoy the thrill of an overseas trip – without even leaving your home country! In this edition of Travel Aggregator, WebBeds reveal a selection of distinctive domestic destinations that make you feel as if you are enjoying the international holiday of a lifetime! There are so many world-class wonders right on our doorstep, so let's get out and explore!



Melaka, Malaysia

Where to go: White Sand Dunes at Klebang Beach
What it feels like: White Sand National Park, USA

With its rolling white sand dunes, Melaka's Klebang Beach is an otherworldly landscape that doesn't feel like Malaysia at all. Take your camera and snap some dramatic, desert-like photos – your friends will be convinced that you actually visited New Mexico's famous White Sand National Park!



Casa Del Rio, Melaka

The sense of being transported to America's western deserts is enhanced at Casa Del Rio, Melaka, a five-star hacienda-style hotel located on the banks of the Melaka River. Centred around a courtyard with

pools and fountains, this unique property promises a collection of elegant rooms and suites, a soothing spa and four restaurants and bars, including the River Café which features a riverfront promenade.

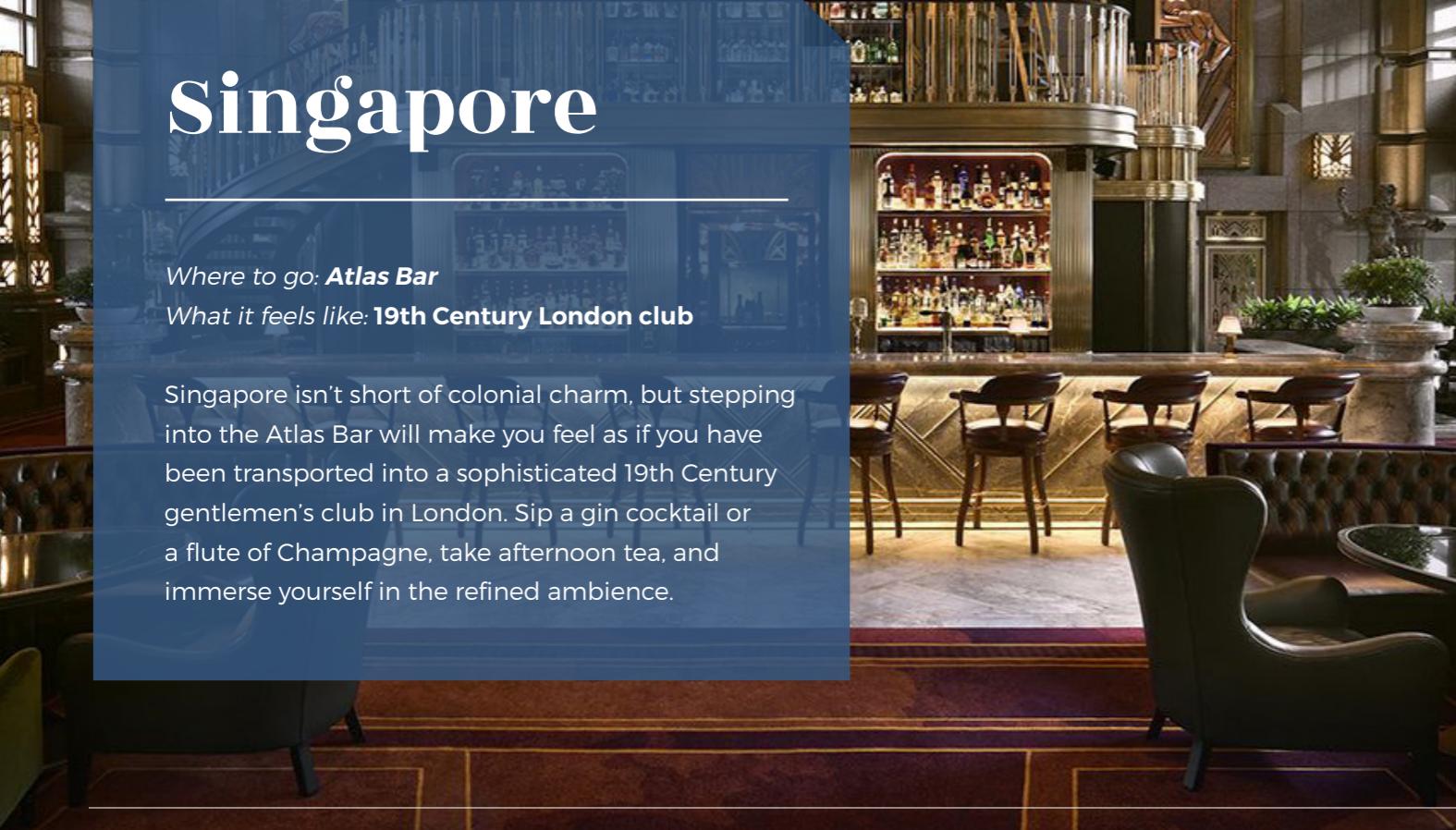


Singapore

Where to go: **Atlas Bar**

What it feels like: **19th Century London club**

Singapore isn't short of colonial charm, but stepping into the Atlas Bar will make you feel as if you have been transported into a sophisticated 19th Century gentlemen's club in London. Sip a gin cocktail or a flute of Champagne, take afternoon tea, and immerse yourself in the refined ambience.



The Fullerton Hotel

A stay at The Fullerton Hotel allows you to truly embrace Singapore's European heritage. This iconic waterfront hotel has played an important role in the city's history and now stands as a National

Monument. Stay in a choice of spacious rooms and suites, many with views of Marina Bay, dine at a dazzling selection of restaurants, take a dip in the riverside infinity pool, or unwind at the Fullerton Spa.

Gapyeong County, South Korea

Where to go: **Petite France**

What it feels like: **A traditional French village**

Imagine travelling 50km from Seoul and finding yourself in a quaint French village, complete with traditional puppet shows, marionette performances and classical games! This is what awaits Korean visitors at Petite France, a romantic tourist park based on the famous French children's story, "The Little Prince".



Kensington Resort, Gapyeong

Nestled among a lush landscape of forested hills, just 10km from Petite France, Kensington Resort, Gapyeong is a stunning place to stay and explore this enchanting region. Plunge into the heart-shaped outdoor pool, stroll through the gardens

or visit the farm park, while your children enjoy endless fun at the kids' club and playground. All ages can then come together at the restaurant and reflect on their day of adventures.



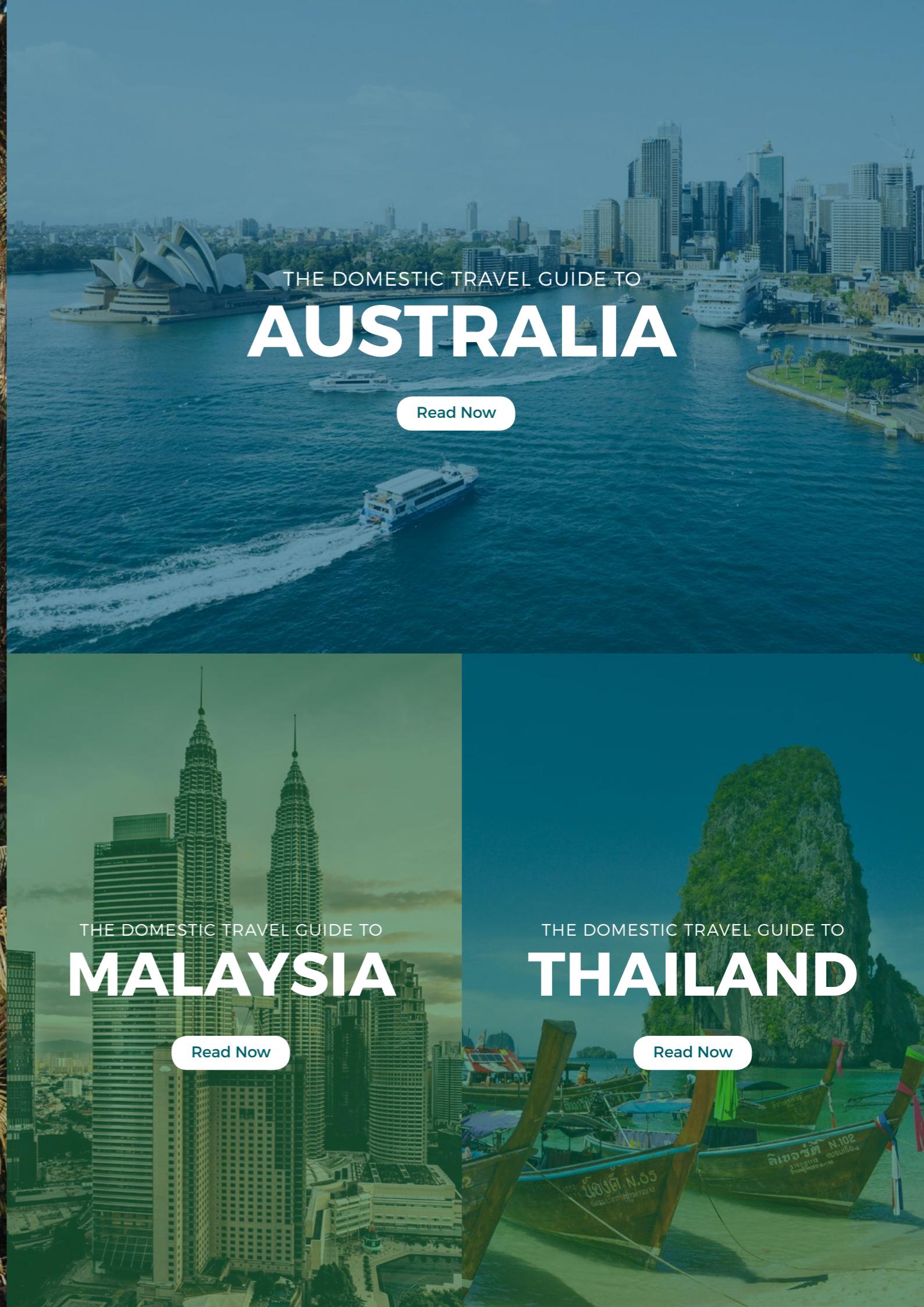
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