

Travel Aggregator

OCTOBER 2022

WebBeds APAC Newsletter



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FOREWORD

Welcome to October's edition of Travel Aggregator, WebBeds' monthly newsletter dedicated to the travel trade in Asia Pacific.

This month, we go on a safari in Asia Pacific! While Africa is home to the famous "Big Five" – the lion, leopard, rhinoceros, African elephant and buffalo – we take a look at the Asian and Australasian animals that are regarded as national treasures in their home countries. With diverse flora and fauna, this exotic region provides plenty of opportunities for responsible wildlife tours.

Alternatively, travellers who prefer manmade and geographical attractions can check out our hand-picked selection of hotels with views of the world's most iconic landmarks, from the spectacular Petronas Towers to mesmerising Mount Fuji.

Vietnam is now fully open to international visitors, so WebBeds invites you to spend "72 Hours in Hanoi". Check out our immersive three-day itinerary which uncovers the top activities in this ancient capital city, including cultural experiences, sublime street food, vibrant nightspots and more.

Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru is our "Featured Hotel of the Month". "Newly-Opened" offers an exclusive glimpse of the new GLOW Mira Karon Beach. "Ask the Insider" reveals top travel tips from one of our esteemed travel agent partners, and take a look at the "WebBeds X STB Fam Trip", our latest collaboration to stimulate the recovery of travel in Asia Pacific.

And of course, you can catch up with all the latest news, photos and exclusive offers from WebBeds in Asia Pacific.

Enjoy the read!

KS Sun
President, Asia Pacific
WebBeds

To catch up on any past editions of Travel Aggregator, simply head to apac-marketing.webbeds.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@webbeds.com. Alternatively, for marketing partnerships with WebBeds Asia Pacific, please email apac.marketing@webbeds.com

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Bengal Tiger



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GLOW Mira Karon Beach, Phuket



NEWLY OPENED

GLOW Mira Karon Beach is a bright and stylish new upscale hotel that showcases the best of Phuket, ancient and modern. The inviting interior design reflects the island's rich Sino-Portuguese heritage, with traditional motifs, fabrics and tiles, while the contemporary amenities and connectivity ensure complete convenience.

Nestled in the heart of Karon, the popular seafront destination on the island's highly desirable west coast, GLOW Mira Karon Beach is just a short walk from the sandy beach. While it is suited to all types of travellers, families will be especially attracted by the hotel's diverse accommodation and fantastic facilities. The 154 rooms all include "better-than-home bedding", a rain shower, free Wi-Fi and a balcony with outdoor seating, plus a wide range of other home comforts. In addition to the king and twin rooms, a selection of triple rooms also features sofa beds, the family rooms are fitted with bunk beds, and a 24-hour onsite laundry is available.

Guests can spend their days unwinding in the hotel's spacious courtyard swimming pool and grab refreshments at the pool bar, or work out at the well-equipped fitness centre. Chen's Restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and specialises in modern international dishes, with interiors reminiscent of Phuket Town's traditional shophouses, and Chen's Lobby Bar is a great place to enjoy light refreshments during the day and after dark.

For couples and families seeking a stylish break in one of Phuket's most popular tourism hotspots, GLOW Mira Karon Beach is an excellent new option.





AN INVITATION TO UNWIND

Tokyo Grand Hotel offers the ideal base for business and leisure travellers. Our hotel's location puts guests within reach of Tokyo's finest attractions such as Imperial Palace, Tsukiji Market, Roppongi and Ginza shopping district. Guests can be sure of a comfortable stay in Japan, along with friendly service, convenience and dining options.



www.tokyogrand.gr.jp

Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor Reopens to the World

Stepping into a new chapter in the history of this iconic hotel, the Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor reopens with a refreshed new look, offering guests a compelling mix of culture, heritage and charming hospitality. Relive the grandeur of the golden age of travel right at the gateway of the ancient temples of Angkor in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

For reservations, please call to T +855 63 963 888 or email apac.sales@webbeds.com



RAFFLES
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Iconic Views To Illuminate Your Stay

Many destinations around the world are famous for an iconic landmark. From natural wonders to manmade monuments, these are the places that illuminate the covers of guidebooks and entice visitors from around the world. While visiting these attractions is exciting, nothing can beat the thrill of waking up and opening your curtains to reveal an uninterrupted view of the landmark, straight from the comfort of your hotel room.

In this edition of Travel Aggregator, we find the hotels and resorts with the world's most iconic views...



 WHERE TO STAY

THE RUMA HOTEL & RESIDENCES

The RuMa Hotel & Residences is a high-style five-star hotel that promises panoramic views of the Petronas Towers in the heart of Kuala Lumpur. Guests can soak up stunning views of the city's famous skyline from its rooms and suites, or from the gorgeous 25-metre outdoor pool and sundeck which is cantilevered over the edge of the building. SANTAI is a chic pool bar and ATAS celebrates contemporary local cuisine.





 WHERE TO STAY

HOTEL MYSTAYS FUJI ONSEN RESORT

HOTEL MYSTAYS Fuji Onsen Resort is nestled in Japan's Fujiyoshida region, overlooking the snow-capped peak of Mount Fuji. This midscale hotel features a collection of contemporary rooms, a terrace restaurant and a natural hot spring bath, or onsen, that showcases inspiring vistas. As well as being on the doorstep of Japan's highest mountain, the hotel is also just a short distance from Fuji-Q Highland theme park and Lake Kawaguchi.





 WHERE TO STAY

FOUR SEASONS HOTEL SYDNEY

Four Seasons Hotel Sydney is a sensational five-star hotel situated directly on the water's edge at Sydney Harbour. Guests can stay in a selection of spacious rooms and suites with full or partial views of the historic Rocks district and the city's most iconic attractions: Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge. Savour modern Australian cuisine at Mode Kitchen & Bar or cool off at the inviting outdoor pool and deck.





 WHERE TO STAY

1 HOTEL BROOKLYN BRIDGE

1 Hotel Brooklyn Bridge puts guests in the beating heart of New York City, with spectacular views of Manhattan's high-rise skyline and Brooklyn Bridge. Chic and sustainable, this five-star hotel embraces a rustic industrial design that reflects the appearance of its namesake bridge, which is framed by panoramic windows. Take a dip in the rooftop pool, unwind at the spa and dine in style at Harriett's, the 10th floor garden, bar and lounge.





 **WHERE TO STAY**

MAKKAH CLOCK ROYAL TOWER, A FAIRMONT HOTEL

Makkah Clock Royal Tower, A Fairmont Hotel is an outstanding option for pilgrims to Islam's holiest city. Set in one of the world's tallest buildings, the 601-metre-high Makkah Clock Royal Tower, this impressive hotel directly overlooks the Masjid Al Haram, also known as the "Great Mosque of Mecca". Guests can enjoy panoramic views of this landmark from their room or suite, with floor-to-ceiling glass. Multiple dining options, a spa and kids' club are also available.

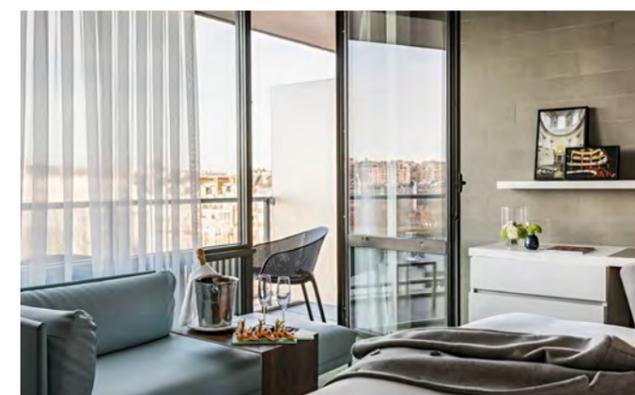
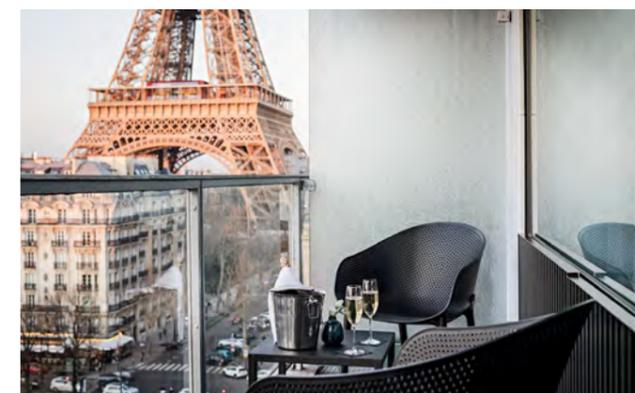




 WHERE TO STAY

PULLMAN PARIS TOUR EIFFEL

Pullman Paris Tour Eiffel offers unparalleled views of France's most famous landmark. Standing at the foot of the Eiffel Tower, this stylish, art-inspired hotel lets guests gaze in wonder at this iconic monument from the private balcony of their room or suite, or from the elegant terrace of FRAME, the chic brasserie. This perfect location has attracted many famous faces since the hotel opened in the late 1960s, from Elizabeth Taylor to Usain Bolt.



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Reimagining & Rediscovering

An epic five-day fam trip in collaboration with Singapore Tourism Board



Hosted from 29th August to 2nd September 2022, the "WebBeds X Singapore Tourism Board Familiarisation Trip" was carefully crafted to incorporate the city's most popular attractions including Resorts World Sentosa and the Singapore Night Safari, cultural highlights such as Kampong Gelam and Joo Chiat, and icons like Gardens by the Bay. Throughout the trip, guests had the chance to enjoy exclusive workshops and dining experiences, and visit Singapore's finest hotels, including Oasia Resort Sentosa, PARKROYAL COLLECTION Marina Bay, Goodwood Park Hotel and The Capitol Kempinski Hotel.



WebBeds has continued to stimulate the recovery of travel and tourism in Asia Pacific by teaming up with the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to invite six of Australia's top product managers to rediscover the "Lion City".

For many of the delegates, this was their first chance to explore Singapore since the removal of travel restrictions, and the immersive itinerary allowed the product managers to find out what's changed since their last trip.

Stephanie Yong, Area Director, STB Oceania, commented: "Australia has always been one of our most important source markets, and we're delighted to see more Aussies starting to return this year. Singapore has been busy during the pandemic downtime welcoming many new experiences to join familiar destination favourites, so it's important to ensure that our travel partners rediscover what Singapore now has on offer. WebBeds was the perfect partner for this fam trip to update product managers, and we would like to thank them for making it such a success. We're confident that this initiative will help to accelerate the return of more Australians to Singapore in the coming months and even years, to come."



The Singapore fam trip marked the latest phase of WebBeds' mission to boost global travel and encourage cross-border collaboration. Catch all the exciting and delicious adventures on our YouTube channel! [Watch video now](#)





THE BIG FIVE OF ASIA PACIFIC

For decades, the world's travellers have been seduced by African safaris and the chance to see the continent's "Big Five": the lion, leopard, rhinoceros, African elephant and buffalo. Africa is not the only place to witness wonderful wildlife, however; Asia Pacific is also home to many iconic species that are regarded as national treasures in their home countries.

In this edition of Travel Aggregator, we present the contenders for an alternative "Big Five" that can be experienced as part of sustainable vacations in Asia Pacific.



Bengal Tiger



INDIA

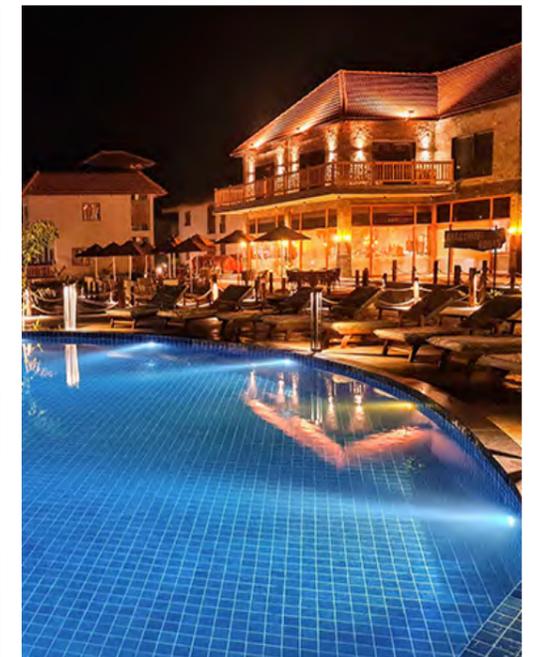
The Bengal tiger is the world's largest species of cat and a cultural symbol in India. The country is home to 80 percent of the world's tigers, which makes India the best place to see these majestic creatures in the wild. Responsible safari tours are available in several national parks, including the Sundarbans near Kolkata. While tigers are famously elusive, guests will be enchanted by the ambience of the world's largest mangrove forest.



 WHERE TO STAY

Hotel Sonar Bangla Sundarban Luxury

Hotel Sonar Bangla Sundarban Luxury is the perfect place to stay for travellers seeking an eco-sensitive excursion into the Sundarbans National Park. Nestled on the riverbank at the gateway to this coastal labyrinth, this five-star resort features large and luxurious rooms and suites with private balconies and natural views, plus an outdoor pool, a gym, restaurant, café and outstanding children's activities. Boat safaris into the national park can be arranged.





Asian Elephant

 THAILAND

While the Asian elephant may be smaller than its African cousin, it is no less important. In Thailand, the elephant is highly revered and was even depicted on the Siamese flag until the 1900s. Sadly in later years many elephants became tourist attractions, but conservation efforts are now in full swing. An estimated 3,500 elephants exist in the wild in Thailand, but a responsible sanctuary may be the best place to see them up-close.



 WHERE TO STAY

Panviman Chiang Mai Spa Resort

Panviman Chiang Mai Spa Resort is nestled high in the hills of Chiang Mai, Thailand's northernmost province, surrounded by tropical forests, gardens and orchards. This stunning setting makes it ideal for an eco-sensitive escape and the responsible Mae Sa Elephant Camp - where the animals enjoy complete freedom in nature - is less than 15 minutes away. Back at the resort, the spa, meditation cave, infinity pool and restaurant offer myriad ways to relax.





Kangaroo

 AUSTRALIA

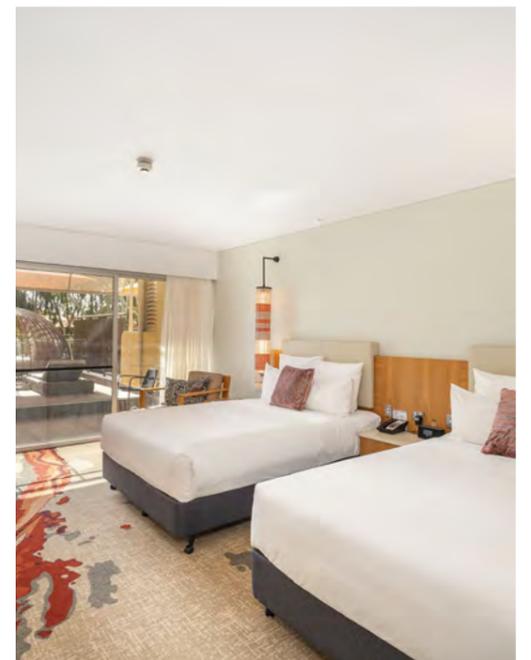
Is any animal more emblematic of a country than the kangaroo is of Australia? This world's largest marsupial, various species of this unique creature can be found in every state and territory of Australia, including the "Red Centre" around Uluru. Famous for its bouncing movement, the kangaroo can cover over 7.5 metres in a single leap and reach speeds of up to 70 kilometres per hour! It is even featured on Australia's coins and coat of arms.



 WHERE TO STAY

Sails in the Desert

Sails in the Desert is a unique five-star hotel that offers highly immersive and authentic experiences, overlooking the iconic outline of Uluru. Guests can stay in a choice of luxurious rooms and suites, cool off in the garden pool, be soothed at the Red Ochre Spa, savour modern Australian cuisine at Ilkari Restaurant or uncover indigenous art at the onsite gallery. Plenty of local experiences can be arranged, including wildlife tours.



A young orangutan with reddish-brown fur is perched on a thick, grey tree branch. The orangutan is looking upwards and to the left. Its right arm is raised, with its hand gripping a higher branch. The background is a dense canopy of green leaves, with some branches visible against a bright sky. The overall scene is a natural, outdoor setting in a forest.

Orangutan

 **INDONESIA**

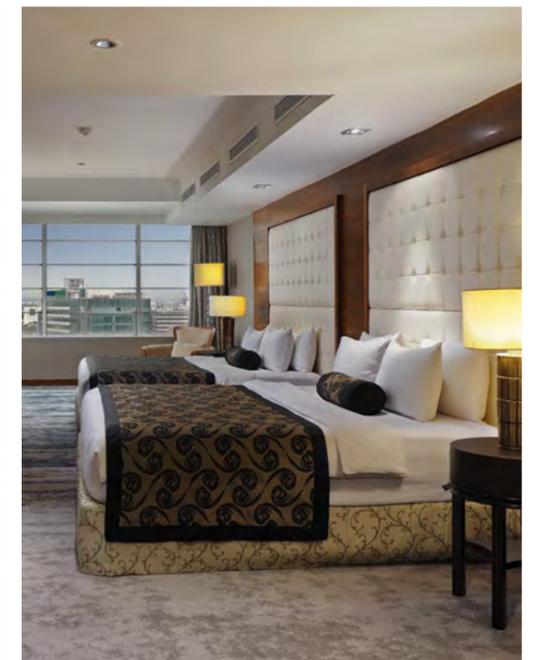
Few animals hold a mirror up to humanity like the orangutan. Highly intelligent and family oriented, these great apes share more than 96 percent of their genes with humans. In fact, the name "orangutan" literally means "person of the forest" in Indonesian. Tragically, these wonderful creatures are critically endangered - mainly due to deforestation in their native habitats. But orangutans can still be seen in the wild on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.



 WHERE TO STAY

Aryaduta Medan

Aryaduta Medan is a stylish upscale hotel that puts guests within easy reach of Bukit Lawang, which lies on the edge of the UNESCO-listed Gunung Leuser National Park in Sumatra, one of the last remaining natural habitats of the orangutan. Guests can enjoy jungle treks from the hotel, then come back and unwind with a soothing massage, a refreshing dip in the courtyard pool, or dinner at The Kitchen restaurant.



A Giant Panda is shown climbing a tree trunk. The panda's head is at the top of the frame, looking towards the camera. Its body is wrapped around the tree trunk, with its paws visible. The background is a dense forest of green leaves.

Giant Panda



CHINA

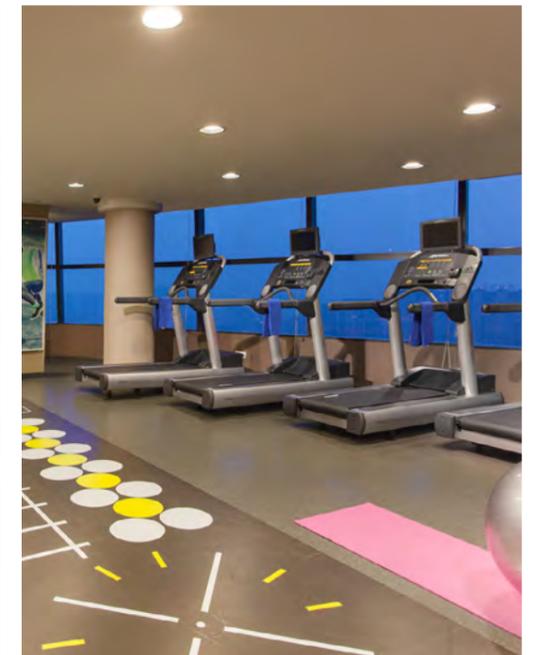
One of the most treasured animals on the planet, the giant panda is wonderfully charismatic. Native to three Chinese provinces - Sichuan, Shaanxi and Gansu - only about 1,800 pandas remain in the wild, so the best place to discover these charming bears is in Chengdu, home of China's panda research and breeding centre. While they are famous for sitting down and munching on bamboo, pandas are actually fantastic climbers and strong swimmers.



 WHERE TO STAY

Ascott Raffles City Chengdu

Ascott Raffles City Chengdu is situated in the heart of Chengdu's central business district – excellent for guests who want to visit the city's panda research centre, which has become a top tourist attraction. With a selection of spacious apartment-style rooms, a fitness centre and heated indoor swimming pool, this is a great place for families to unwind. It is also directly connected to world-class retail and lifestyle facilities at the Raffles City Chengdu.





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72 HOURS IN HANOI

More than 1,000 years old, Hanoi is an enchanting ancient city that has retained its rich culture and diverse heritage. Vietnam's capital is blessed with a range of influences, from classical Asian shrines and temples to elegant French colonial architecture, and the exquisite Old Quarter features a maze of narrow streets and markets selling an amazing array of household goods, souvenirs and street food. Autumn is one of the best times to visit Hanoi, as the vibrant colours illuminate the city's streets, lakes and parks.

In this edition of Travel Aggregator, we spend 72 hours exploring the wonders of Hanoi.

DAY ONE

THE OLD QUARTER

A walking tour of the Old Quarter is an unmissable element of any trip to Hanoi. This labyrinth of ancient streets was named after the 36 trades and crafts that supplied goods to Thang Long Citadel. This makes it a wonderful place to stroll and soak up the atmosphere, and also to sample Hanoi's famous street food. Don't miss the unique egg coffee at Café Giang, or local specialties such as cha ca la vong (grilled marinated fish with noodles, dill and peanuts).



DONG XUAN MARKET

The largest covered market in the city, Dong Xuan sells everything residents and visitors could possibly need, from clothing and household goods to electronics, flowers and even pets. Set in an imposing four-storey Soviet-style building, it is also an excellent place to try authentic food and watch cultural performances.



NIGHT - BIA HOI CORNER

After dark, the junction of Ta Hien and Luong Ngoc Quyen streets has become a hotspot for young people and international travellers to hang out and drink Bia Hoi, the popular Vietnamese craft beer.



HOAN KIEM LAKE

At the heart of Hanoi's Old Quarter, Hoan Kiem Lake is an iconic attraction and an idyllic setting to stroll at any time of day or night. Set on a small island in the middle of the lake, Ngoc Son Temple ("Temple of the Jade Mountain") was built in the 18th Century and houses the preserved remains of a 250kg turtle – the symbolic animal of the lake. The island temple is connected to the mainland by the beautiful, bright red Huc Bridge.



DAY TWO

LAKE TAY HO (WEST LAKE)

Hanoi's largest lake features 17km of shoreline, which makes it a wonderful place to relax. Hire a bike and cycle around the lakeside paths and gardens, then visit Tran Quoc Pagoda, the oldest in Hanoi, which dates from the 6th Century and is considered a symbol of Vietnamese Buddhist heritage. No trip to West Lake is complete without a walk down Thanh Nien Street, which is famous for its shrimp cakes, which must be made with shrimps caught from the lake.



PHAN DINH PHUNG STREET

Named after one of Vietnam's most prominent revolutionaries, Phan Dinh Phung Street is a charming street lined with ancient trees that lay a carpet of red and yellow leaves in autumn. The wide footpaths and French colonial architecture make it among the most popular and photogenic avenues in Hanoi.



TRUC BACH ISLAND

Just across the bridge from West Lake, Truc Bach is home to Quan Thanh, the 11th Century Taoist temple, and beautiful Buddhist pagodas. This is also a great spot to eat and drink with a series of coffee shops, lakeside bars and local eateries. Don't miss the famous pho cuon - a large white noodle rolled with beef and fresh herbs. A more indulgent option, pho chien phong, uses deep-fried noodles with strips of pork or beef, topped with a thick sauce.

DAY THREE



HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM

The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is the final resting place of Ho Chi Minh, where people come to pay their respects to Vietnam's iconic leader, whose body is preserved in a glass box. Guests can learn more about the life of "Uncle Ho" at the adjacent Ho Chi Minh Museum and his former home, a simple stilted house. This area is also home to the "One Pillar Pagoda", an extraordinary structure built on a single pillar in the middle of a lotus pond.

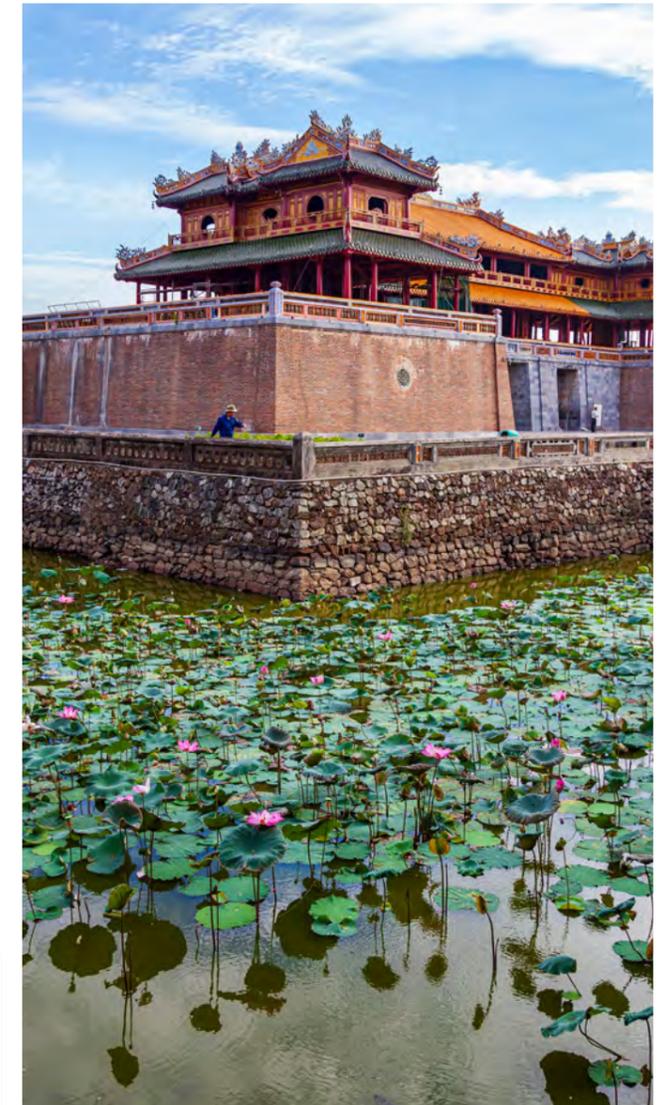
TEMPLE OF LITERATURE

Founded almost 1,000 years ago by Emperor Ly Thanh Tong as a temple to worship the Chinese philosopher Confucius, the Temple of Literature is considered to be Vietnam's first university. Over the centuries it has educated hundreds of well-known scholars and mandarins.



IMPERIAL CITADEL OF THANG LONG

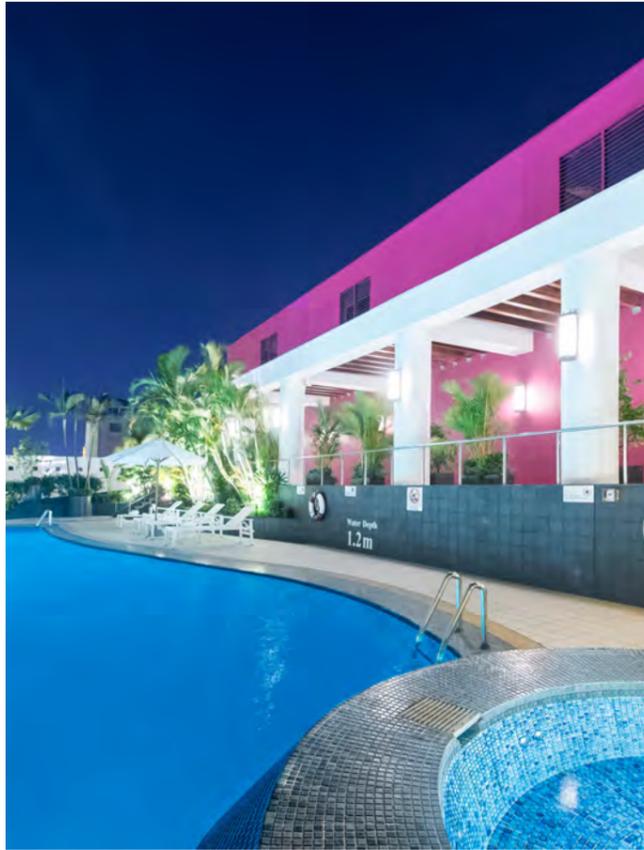
A UNESCO World Heritage site, the citadel's origins date from the 7th Century and it remained the seat of the Vietnamese Court until the 19th Century. An excavation in 2004 revealed ancient artefacts and the foundations of palaces, roads and wells.



THANG LONG WATER PUPPET THEATRE

Water puppetry is an ancient Vietnamese artform with a history that dates back to the 11th Century, when local people created puppet shows in flooded rice fields. It is appropriate therefore, that Thang Long Water Puppet Theatre is staged in one of Hanoi's oldest buildings. This exquisite attraction is one of the few places visitors can still see these shows performed, as historical stories are told using handcrafted wooden puppets, accompanied by music from a live in-house band.

RECOMMENDED STAYS IN HANOI



HÔTEL du PARC HANOÏ

HÔTEL du PARC HANOÏ reflects the grace and elegance of the Vietnamese capital. Located close to Thong Nhat Park, this five-star hotel features luxurious rooms and suites with city or park views, a choice of dining options including AZABU, the chic Japanese restaurant, and Voyage, an international outlet overlooking the bustling streets. The spa, outdoor pool and fitness club provide plenty of ways to relax and the executive lounge offers premium services and panoramic vistas.



Pan Pacific Hanoi Hotel

Pan Pacific Hanoi Hotel is perfectly positioned on Thanh Nien Road, overlooking West Lake. This five-star hotel is an outstanding place to dine and unwind; five F&B outlets include international and Chinese restaurants, and the 20th floor alfresco rooftop lounge offers breathtaking views of the city and lake, especially at sunset. The impressive indoor pool is set within a glamorous glass pavilion and the spa is a haven of tranquility.



RECOMMENDED STAYS IN HANOI



Silk Path Hotel Hanoi

Silk Path Hotel Hanoi is an oasis of calm in the city's bustling Old Quarter. This four-star boutique hotel features stylish rooms and suites, two restaurants and two bars. The Terrace Café is a great place to sit back and soak up the energy of the city streets, the Reading Lounge is ideal for quieter moments, and a Jacuzzi, sauna and fitness centre help to revive body and mind.



The Chi Boutique Hanoi

The Chi Boutique Hanoi is set in the heart of the Old Quarter, just a few minutes' walk from Hoan Kiem Lake. This newly refurbished 42-key hotel blends contemporary design and modern amenities with classical elements to create an instant impression. After a day exploring the city, guests can enjoy Vietnamese and Cantonese cuisine at Ngo Dining or chill out at The Chi Rooftop Bar.





Travel back in time to the Edo period and experience the beautiful nature in Kanazawa. Tmark City Hotel Kanazawa is conveniently located minutes from Oyama Shrine and Kenrokuen Garden. A soothing atmosphere, along with attentive Japanese hospitality and facilities guarantee guests a delightful and memorable stay.

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★ Featured Hotel of the Month



BANYAN TREE VABBINFARU

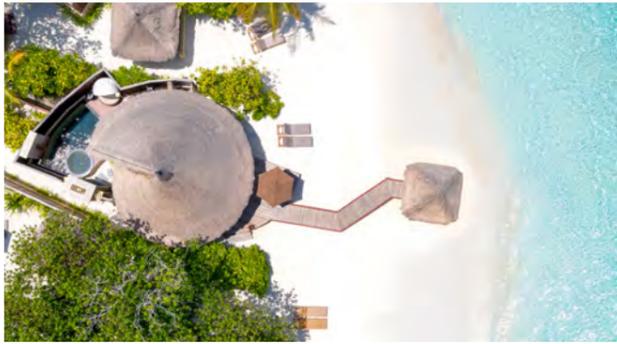
Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru is an intimate and idyllic private island retreat that brings the Asian-inspired luxury of the Banyan Tree brand to the pure shores of the Maldives.

Nestled in the North Malé Atoll, just 20 minutes by speedboat from Velana International Airport, this five-star retreat features a collection of spacious, ocean-facing pool villas with thatched roofs and extensive outdoor space, just steps from the powder-soft sand. The Spa Sanctuary Pool Villas also offer unlimited wellness therapies throughout the stay.



The award-winning Banyan Tree Spa blends ancient Asian healing wisdom with the natural, tropical ingredients of the Indian Ocean, and immersive experiences can also be enjoyed offshore, including snorkelling in the vibrant, turquoise seas. Guests can dine in style at Ilaafathi, the rustic-chic seafront restaurant, or sip sundowners at the Naiboli Bar.

For guests seeking a serene escape away from the crowds, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru is a haven of tranquility.





Resort

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Ask the **INSIDER**

WebBeds Insider is an interactive platform that provides the latest insights, opinions, giveaways and more exclusively to WebBeds users in Asia Pacific. In this dedicated space, we reveal insider tips from Asia Pacific's top travel experts to keep you inspired!

In this edition, Rosdiana from Sakura Tour in Indonesia reveals her favourite travel season and which destinations she would most like to visit at this enchanting time of year.



My favourite season to travel is autumn. I love how the fall colours blend together so well, with different shades of reds, oranges, yellows and dashes of green and brown. I would love to visit Canada and South Korea in autumn. Although I have not been to either country, I have seen their lovely autumn foliage in movies and was absolutely mesmerised!



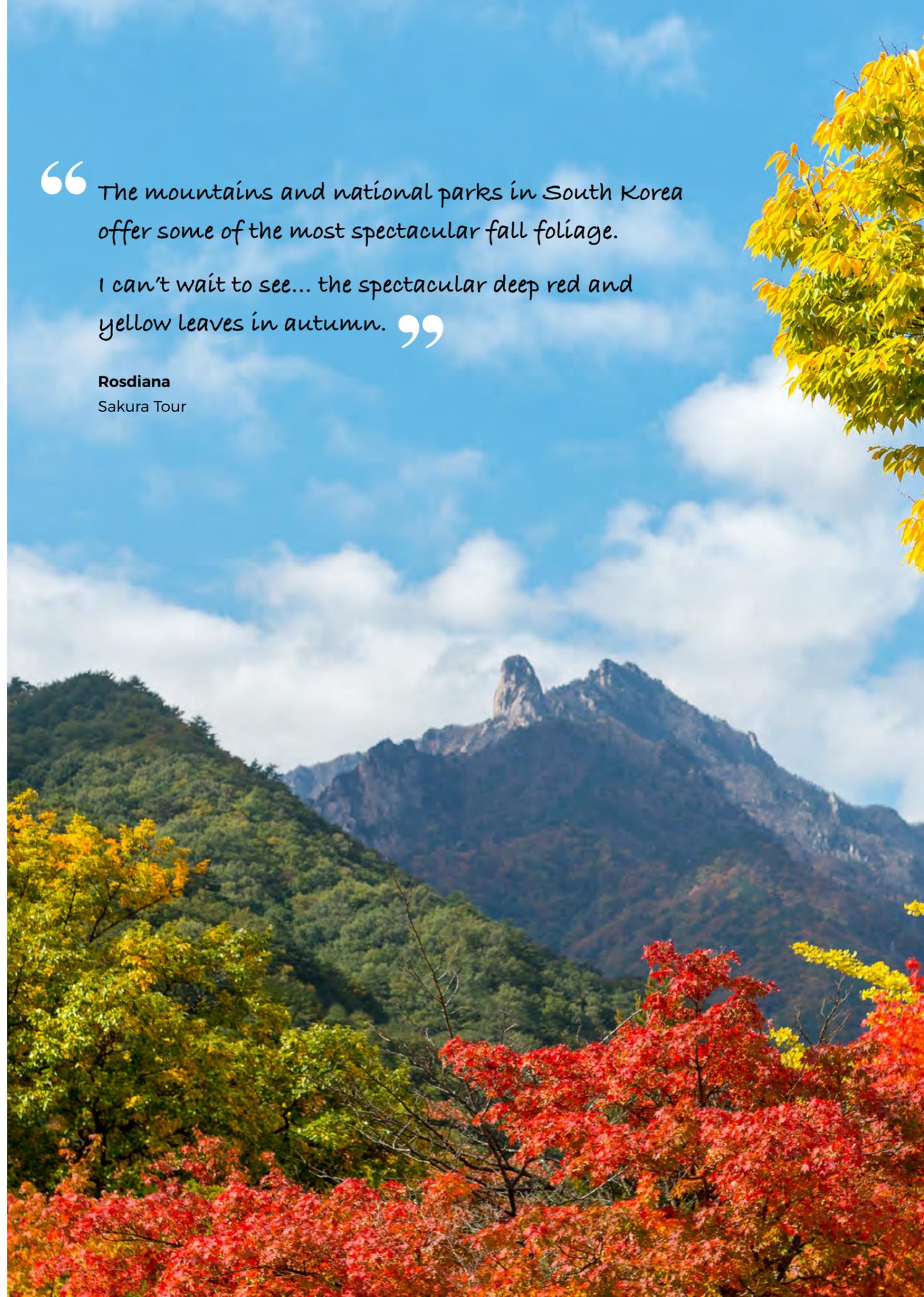
I've heard that the mountains and national parks in South Korea offer some of the most spectacular fall foliage. Seoraksan is one of the country's highest mountains and one of the first places to see the autumn colours. I can't wait to see the mountain peaks, unique rock formations and gorgeous valleys amidst the spectacular deep red and yellow leaves in autumn.



“The mountains and national parks in South Korea offer some of the most spectacular fall foliage. I can't wait to see... the spectacular deep red and yellow leaves in autumn.”

Rosdiana

Sakura Tour





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