

# Footprints

MINOR HOTEL GROUP / ISSUE 4 / 2013

## THE MALDIVES

PARADISE FOUND:  
NO DISTRACTIONS, ONLY TRANQUILITY

SPA

HEAVENLY  
JET LAG TONICS

TOP TIPS

FAMILY FUN IN  
AUSTRALIA

SAFARI

AFRICAN TREE HOUSES  
FOR GROWN UPS

# MINOR HOTEL GROUP

HOTELS AND RESORTS,  
WORLD CLASS SPAS AND  
AWARD-WINNING  
HOSPITALITY



## MINOR HOTEL GROUP PCL.

A HOTEL OWNER, OPERATOR AND INVESTOR WITH A PORTFOLIO OF CLOSE TO 11,000 ROOMS ACROSS 96 HOTELS AND RESORTS UNDER THE ANANTARA, AVANI, OAKS, PER AQUUM, ELEWANA COLLECTION, FOUR SEASONS, ST. REGIS, MARRIOTT, AND MINOR INTERNATIONAL BRANDS. TODAY MINOR HOTEL GROUP OPERATES IN 11 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CHINA, INDONESIA, KENYA, MALDIVES, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, THAILAND, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, AND VIETNAM.



### ANANTARA HOTELS, RESORTS & SPAS

Luxurious and heartfelt hospitality. Embark on a journey rich with discovery at these unique destinations. Be it a quick city break or an extravagant once in a lifetime experience, Anantara offers indigenous and exotic retreats that draw on the locale's heritage.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)



### AVANI HOTELS & RESORTS

Contemporary, relaxed and imaginative. Be it a leisurely family break or romantic escape, AVANI hotels and resorts provide the right space for relaxed and inspired comfort. Discerning service, relaxed dining and engaging recreation facilities for all guests are a given.

[AVANIHOTELS.COM](http://AVANIHOTELS.COM)



### OAKS HOTELS & RESORTS

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### ELEWANA COLLECTION

Each of the camps, lodges and hotels within the Elewana Collection offers unique accommodations of exceptional comfort. Their iconic locations provide any discerning world-traveller one of the most rewarding experiences they could wish for; close access to all the drama and spectacle of African wildlife.

[ELEWANACOLLECTION.COM](http://ELEWANACOLLECTION.COM)



### PER AQUUM

Bold, imaginative and renowned for their trailblazing concepts such as the Maldivian underwater spa, a modern campsite dining experience or simply spectacular views of the Dubai city skyline from a boutique retreat set on a private polo estate.

[PERAQUUM.COM](http://PERAQUUM.COM)



### MSPA

MSPa International currently operates 41 spas in a diverse collection of exclusive worldwide properties. With current expansion projects underway in China, the Middle East, Africa and the Maldives, MSPa International has risen to become a leading international spa operator.

[MSPA-INTERNATIONAL.COM](http://MSPA-INTERNATIONAL.COM)



### ANANTARA VACATION CLUB

Taking the Anantara Experience from a more moment in time to a prized possession the Anantara Vacation Club offers generation after generation the opportunity to explore stunning destinations with a multi-destination shared ownership club.

[ANANTARAVACATIONCLUB.COM](http://ANANTARAVACATIONCLUB.COM)



### MJETS

Convenience, flexibility and a more personalised service with Thailand's premier private jet service. Providing a full range of services to executive customers and their jets, a 2,000 sq ft. executive lounge offers a relaxing environment, luxurious services including shower facility and business centre for passengers and pilots.

[MJETS.COM](http://MJETS.COM)



## CEO INTRO

Welcome to this edition of Footprints. It's great to see how this publication serves our growing collection of hotel brands as a way to communicate with each other's guests and get to know one another a little better.

It's quite amazing at how big we've become in the 12 years since Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa first opened. Today, we have ten Anantara hotels and resorts in Thailand. We also have another 13 Anantara hotels and resorts providing amazing experiences for travellers in China, Indonesia, the Maldives, Vietnam, and the United Arab Emirates, each one embracing the local culture and providing truly unique activities for our guests to recall year after year.

I am also delighted with the international recognition of Minor Hotel Group and the expansion of our portfolio brands, the most recent addition being the luxury lifestyle brand, Per AQUUM with two resorts in the Maldives and one in Dubai.

Our cover story this issue takes us to the Maldives, where every shade of blue can be seen either above or below sea level. I will never forget my first visit to their islands, the calming effect of the serene blues accentuated by white sands, and yet simultaneously an excitement to explore further and deeper into the ocean. If you have not yet had the Maldivian experience, I recommend it finds a place on your future travel plans.

We have an exciting few months ahead with new Anantara resorts opening in Chengdu, (China), Siem Reap, (Cambodia), on Sir Bani Yas Island and in Dubai, (UAE) as well as Mozambique - the first Anantara in Africa - before the end of the year. In addition to the expansion of AVANI to Vietnam and soon to be in Thailand also, Minor Hotel Group ensures you never tire of new places to explore and adventures to dream of.

I wish you an enjoyable read, a delightful stay at our hotels and resorts, and please do let our Associates know how we can be of assistance to make sure your time with us is as relaxing and memorable as we intend it to be.

Dillip Rajakarier  
CEO Minor Hotel Group



Imagine an island paradise of chic simplicity in a charming tropical setting replete with soft white sand and azure waters.

Torsten Richter, Cluster General Manager for Anantara & Naladhu Maldives shares his advice for travellers visiting one of the world's largest natural playgrounds.

### What surprised you most about the Maldives?

The amazing sights of various Atolls seen from a sea plane...just breathtaking!

### Name four things every visitor should experience

- A snorkel or dive excursion
- A Dolphin watch tour
- An Anantara Massage (Balinese, Swedish, Thai stretching, light to medium pressure)
- Lunch at our over water Thai Restaurant Baan Huraa, Anantara Veli Resort & Spa

### What aspect of the culture do you enjoy the most?

There are some amazing tuna curries and indigenous coconut snacks. The playing of Bodu Beru combined with some regional dances are an attraction not to be missed.

### The blues of the Maldives are one of the big attractions. What time of day do you prefer to admire these and how?

Personally I love an early morning dive, when the sea is calm or a night dive to explore some of the amazing colors of the reefs around the resorts.

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Bangkok, Thailand

Footprints is published by: Minor International PCL.  
for distribution on Minor Hotel Group guest rooms  
worldwide.

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## BOOK YOUR TRAVEL ITINERARY ON ANANTARA.COM

It's never been easier to book your Anantara journey of discovery. Anantara Hotels & Resorts recently launched its itinerary booking functionality on anantara.com. Whether you are booking a few days in Bangkok followed by a weekend getaway in a private villa in Phuket or booking your desert hideaway at Qasr al Arab before you head to Eastern Mangroves, its all easily bookable with our new functionality.

## GHA DISCOVERY

GHA Discovery is the Anantara, AVANI and Per AQUUM partnership with Global Hotel Alliance. With over 345 partner hotels globally, there's a hotel almost everywhere you need one offering great rewards and benefits. A world of possibilities is yours to explore across 21 member hotel chains in the alliance. Join GHA Discovery today by going to Anantara.com/discovery and start seeing the rewards.



# THE MALDIVES PARADISE FOUND

THERE ARE NO DISTRACTIONS HERE; NO BEACH HAWKERS PUSHING SARONGS OR TAXI DRIVERS PLEADING FOR BUSINESS, NO INDUSTRY OR EVEN AGRICULTURE. ONLY TRANQUILLITY.

These are the most beautiful small islands in the world. From afar they appear like sapphire gems set in white stone and placed on a canvas of cobalt blue. Upon entering their fold the abstract becomes reality. Verdant palms and white sand beaches give way to crystal waters richer in fish than your average aquarium.

Scattered across a far-flung corner of the Indian Ocean, The Maldives constitute 26 atolls in a chain reaching down to cross the equator. Within those atolls are 1,200 islands, 200 of which are inhabited and 100 are resorts.

Coral reefs encircling each atoll protect the islands from tropical storms and create calm, pale turquoise lagoons inside the atolls as well as the world's most stunning white sand beaches. The surrounding seas are home to an astounding variety of marine life, part of a rich underwater ecosystem that supports a flourishing commercial fishing industry and offers fantastic diving and snorkelling in lagoons where the water temperature invites exploration by day or night. The colourful reefs, as well as such deep-water denizens as the giant manta ray and whale shark are a major draw for divers from around the world.

Born of towering volcanoes that have long since sunk into the sea it's hard to believe The Maldives have only been a holiday destination for the past forty years or so. Now, more than ever, is an exciting time to visit. The region is experiencing incredible growth and standards of service are among the highest in the world. The travellers'

experience of the paradise found in The Maldives today includes world-class cuisine, cellars of cheese, charcuterie, wine and chocolate experts, the world's first underwater restaurant, underwater spa and an underwater nightclub.

Accommodation here is amongst the most sophisticated in the world. Artistically crafted pool villas with marble floors and high ceilings blend effortlessly with a backdrop of palm trees. The days are pure bliss. Try not to build up a sweat as you slope in and out the infinity pool, snorkel the crystal waters, enjoy world-class spa treatment or simply while away the hours in a swaying hammock knowing there will be soft sand between the toes when the swaying ends. And at sundown, an exquisite cocktail followed by a magical night beneath a dome of brilliant stars, The Maldives are, quite simply, paradise found.

## GETTING THERE

Flights from around the world arrive at Male International Airport. This takes up the whole of Hulhule Island, which lies, like a mighty aircraft carrier, a short distance from the capital island, Male.



Pool Villa at Anantara Dhigu Resort & Spa

# TRAVEL GUIDE

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## WHEN TO GO

The Maldives has a benign climate, with year-round temperatures between 26°C - 30°C. It never suffers from tornadoes though it does have a monsoon season in November, albeit rain showers in short, afternoon bursts. The high season stretches from November to April, with Christmas and New Year being the most coveted time to travel. The most perfect months are January, February and March when the sky is blue and the water so calm you would be forgiven for thinking it could be a painting.

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## WHERE TO STAY

Minor Hotel Group has six stunning resorts under the Anantara, Naladhu and Per AQUUM brands offering luxury over water villas and the only house style accommodation to be found in the Maldives that blends seamlessly with the mesmerising beauty of its natural surrounds. Calm, crystal clear waters lap palm - fringed white sand beaches. A variety of choice awaits you at every turn. Numerous beaches, a multitude of activities and a tempting array of enticing dining options.

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## EXCURSIONS

Once arriving at the resort, you're almost certain to want to most your time there, except the odd excursion into the azure waters. But for the curious and adventurous, boat trips to local inhabited islands reveal coral houses, woodwork artisans and colourful doorways of the local people.

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## TRANSFERS

Transfers used to be a matter of jumping into a dhoni (local boat) and chugging off to your resort. These days the resorts span the whole archipelago so your transfer could be by boat, by plane, or both. Speedboats have replaced dhonis for the nearer resorts; seaplanes take guests to the more distant ones, and fixed wheel planes carry guests to the five regional airports, from where it's another trip on a speedboat.

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## CURRENCY

The Maldivian currency is the Rufiyaa but tourists have no need of it. Resort bills are best paid by credit card at the end of the stay and other expenses, such as tips and purchases when on excursion, are best paid in American dollars.

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## LOCAL LAWS, ETIQUETTE

As tourists remain ensconced on separate islands, local laws and customs do not apply. When visiting local inhabited islands, it is recommended that you dress modestly. It is not a matter of covering your head but simply means of taking a more conservative approach to fashion.



Choose your place in the sun on the beach at Naladhu.



Sail away with Per AQUUM's traditional wooden Maldivian boats.



A Sunrise Beach Villa at Anantara Dhigu Resort & Spa offers idyllic relaxation.



# MSPA

## HEAVENLY JET LAG TONICS

SUFFERING FROM JET LAG BECOMES MORE EXTREME THE FARTHER AWAY WE TRAVEL, AND REACHES A PEAK A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER LANDING. THANKFULLY THERE ARE WAYS TO HELP COMBAT THE EFFECTS WITH ALLURING JET LEG REMEDIES AT ANANTARA SPAS.

Dream getaways often entail air travel across different time zones, resulting in disruption to our biological clock. Otherwise known as our circadian rhythm, this is linked to the cycle of light and dark; hence jet lag occurs when we encounter day and night at a different time than usual. During hours of darkness our bodies release the hormone melatonin to induce sleep, and stop releasing this when light appears. Our internal body clock cannot adjust straight away to changes in the rhythm of melatonin release, and therefore we become out of balance, both physically and emotionally.

Quality sleep is perhaps the most vital recovery factor. Travellers who experience insomnia will be delighted to learn that the best ways to promote a deep, long and restful sleep just happen to be the most sensual and indulgent. Aromatic herbs known for their calming, balancing and mood uplifting qualities provide a fragrant route to revival, and can be found in luxurious oil blends for bath rituals and massages. Heading straight to the spa is even more rewarding, and many offer specialist jet lag treatments.



### AROMATHERAPY JET LAG TONICS

Helping weary travellers fall easily to sleep, Anantara's turn down service includes essential oils burned in guest bedrooms, such as lavender which calms the nervous system, releases emotional stress and encourages sleep.

Guests can also purchase aromatherapy products such as the Divine Peace Detoxifying Massage Oil, which blends juniper, lemongrass, lemon and sweet almond oils to reduce stress and eliminate toxins.

### A TOUCH OF RELIEF

Anantara Spas offer a range of soothing and restorative treatments, and many invite guests to book late night appointments.

The Milky Bath Collection includes a "Balance" blend of lavender, rosewood and cedarwood to relieve anxiety and tension, leaving a feeling of peace and calm.

The signature Dawn Renewal sequence commences with a Detoxifying Green Tea Scrub to exfoliate, purify and nourish skin, at the same time encouraging a healthy blood circulation. An invigorating Jet Lag Massage then employs long, kneading strokes to relieve muscle tension, particularly on the legs, lower back, neck, shoulders and around the eyes. Purpose-designed movements are enhanced by a Jet Lag Massage Oil that contains natural essential oils of bergamot, lavender, geranium and chamomile, to relieve fatigue and insomnia, boost concentration and create deep relaxation.

### CALL UPON A SLUMBER GURU

Taking the importance of a good night's rest to a whole new level, guests of Anantara Kihavah Villas in the Maldives can call up on the resort's dedicated Slumber Guru for a special pre-bedtime ritual. The experience begins with an early evening meal, before the Villa Host escorts guests back to their private villa for a relaxing massage with ylang ylang or lavender essential oils. Guests are left alone to enjoy a luxuriant warm milky bath to soothing music in a candlelit bathroom. A selection of infused herbal teas or Italian Eraclea hot chocolate is served with homemade cookies. Sweet dreams then await in a comfortable bed that is dressed in the finest linen with each guest's personal pillow choice, which is sprayed with a heavenly mist, accompanied by a lavender silk eye mask and ear plugs, making drifting away to the land of nod a blissfully easy experience.

[MSPA-INTERNATIONAL.COM](http://MSPA-INTERNATIONAL.COM)





## ADELAIDE FUSION COUNTRY AND COASTAL CUISINE

FOR DANIEL CSORTAN, GENERAL MANAGER OF SALES FOR OAKS HOTELS & RESORTS AUSTRALIA AND PROUD ADELAIDE LOCAL, WEEKENDS ARE OFTEN SPENT HITTING THE MCLAREN VALE REGION IN SEARCH OF THE BEST LOCAL PRODUCE OR SOURCING FRESH SEAFOOD IN THE CHARMING BEACHSIDE TOWN OF GLENELG.

### A TASTE OF COUNTRY

McLaren Vale is only 45 minutes by car from Adelaide and is home to an enviable collection of Australia's most acclaimed vineyards. Rolling hills dotted with verdant vineyards make for an eye pleasing road trip and the local 'paddock to plate' philosophy ensures there is much to please the palate too.

"With over 65 cellar doors to explore, it can be hard to decide where to start, but my favourite is Serafino McLaren Vale where you can taste and buy some of the very best wines available in the region, but also enjoy a delicious lunch overlooking the lake in Serafino's picturesque restaurant".

Serafino McLaren Vale is set amidst 300 spectacular acres, lovingly tended by first generation winemaker Steve Maglieri who immigrated to Australia in 1964 from Italy with barely \$20 in his pocket and a burning desire to own and run his own winery. In 1972 his dream was realised when Maglieri Wines Pty Ltd was established and later, in 2000, Serafino Winery was born. Today, Steve is still at the helm and with the assistance of his family and award-winning winemaker Charles Whish, Serafino produces an exceptional range of Italian-style wines such as Lagrein, Vermentino, Sangiovese, Pino Grigio and Primitivo plus the Spanish variety Tempranillo, as well as classic McLaren Vale varieties including the most revered - McLaren Vale Shiraz.

"The weekend farmers market in Willunga are also worth the visit. Choose from hand-made breads, tarts, cured and smoked meats, artisan chocolate and a smorgasbord of fresh seasonal fruit and vegies straight from the local farmers fields. And if you love cheese as much as I do, Blessed Cheese in the main street of McLaren Vale is provedore perfection with a range of local and imported cheeses, chutney, olive oil and smallgoods to suit every taste." says Daniel.

### BEACHSIDE SEA BOUNTY

Glenelg is South Australia's most popular beachside destination and is just a 35 minute drive from McLaren Vale and 10 kilometres from Adelaide city making it the ideal central place to stay to enjoy what the entire region has to offer.

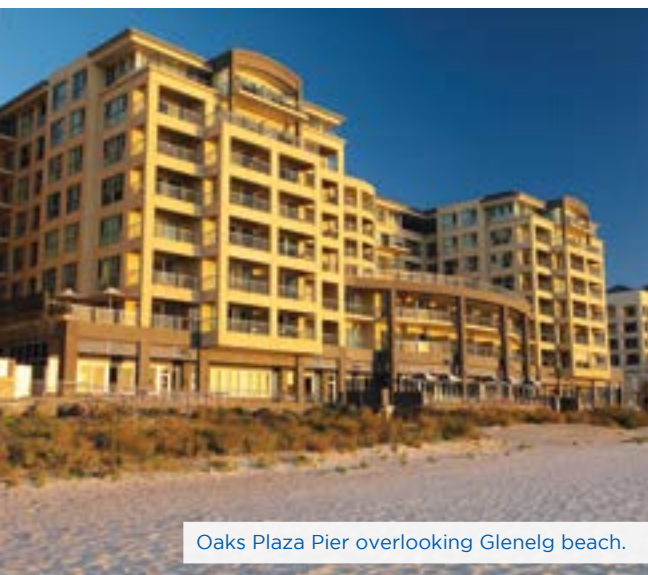
For a nostalgic arrival, jump on the Glenelg Tram where for over 70 years the famous 'city to bay' route has been connecting the bustling city to the serenity of the sea. Jetty Road is a must visit and there is always something new to see or do. With a lazy Sunday style, you can wander through the endless array of shops including some great art galleries and boutiques, or just take a seat street side and soak up the sunshine at an alfresco café or restaurant," Daniel says.

Sampling the local seafood is an essential part of experiencing Glenelg, whether you throw in a line to catch your own prized snapper, flathead or local favourite the King George Whiting, or sit back and relax while someone else does the cooking for you.

"For fishing enthusiasts, the waters off Glenelg are a haven for an assortment of fish. Local charter boats will take visitors to local fishing hot spots like Clarrys and Freds, which always seem to have fish on the bite but if you are looking for something less strenuous, Sammy's on the Marina offers one of the best selections of seafood in Glenelg and their seafood platters are particularly famous". Daniel says.

### WHERE TO STAY

Oaks Plaza Pier offers self-contained apartments with spacious living areas and a range of resort facilities. Oaks Liberty Towers has one, two and three bedroom apartments equipped with contemporary amenities and quality leisure facilities including indoor heated lap pool, spa, sauna and gym.



Oaks Plaza Pier overlooking Glenelg beach.



## TOP TIPS FOR FAMILY FUN IN AUSTRALIA

### 1 | CALOUNDRA, SUNSHINE COAST, QUEENSLAND

Home to a number of stellar surfing, fishing, sailing and swimming spots perfect for beginners along with grassy picnic parks and bike friendly boardwalks, Caloundra on Queensland's Sunshine Coast is a favourite with families. A short drive to famed local family attractions, including Australia Zoo, Underwater World and the uniquely Australian Ettamogah Pub with its resident fun park the destination offers a laidback lifestyle and charming coastal culture.

The celebrated golden beaches offer hours of fun exploration from a delayed fountain to dipping in the fully fenced saltwater pool at Kings Beach, beachcombing for hermit crabs and pippies at Dicky Beach or catching some serious waves at Moffat Beach. And for those wanting to discover the hamlet's unspoiled natural beauty from a different vantage point, the 25 kilometre Caloundra Coastal Walk provides an uninterrupted scenic snapshot of the endless shoreline, sand dunes and rocky headlands along with stunning distant views all the way to the Glasshouse Mountains, which when timed with sunset, are particularly breathtaking.

### WHERE TO STAY

#### OAKS OASIS

Oaks Oasis is just a short walk from the white sands of Golden Beach and a collection of Caloundra's finest shopping and dining hot spots. Set amongst four acres of landscaped gardens and featuring tropical pool with spa, onsite restaurant and sports bar, children's playground and floodlit tennis court, Oaks Oasis is ideal for families of all ages, with accommodation ranging from hotel rooms to three bedroom villas.





## 2 | COOLANGATTA, GOLD COAST, QUEENSLAND

Quintessentially sun, surf and sand, Coolangatta lies on the Queensland and New South Wales border and presents a family-friendly fusion of world-class and beginner surf breaks along with calm swimming bays and picturesque walking tracks. Learn a lifelong skill with a family surf lesson at beginner friendly Greenmount Beach or if you would prefer to watch how the professionals roll, hang out at nearby Snapper Rocks or Duranbah where you're bound to spot some of the world's best surfers who call 'Coolie' home.

The local surf scene is not just about the waves - for some of the best and most affordable coastal cuisine hop between the iconic local Surf Clubs - from Tweed Heads/Coolangatta to Greenmount and Rainbow Bay. Teach the kids how to throw in a fishing line at the nearby Tweed River or head to Jack Evans Boat Harbour where they can splash around in the shallow waters, try standup paddle boarding or just play in the park while mum and dad cook up a beachside BBQ or grab some famous fish and chips nearby.

### OAKS CALYPSO PLAZA

Just minutes from Coolangatta Airport and literally steps from the ocean, Oaks Calypso Plaza offers a selection of spacious apartments in one and two bedroom configurations. Adjacent to Coolangatta Beach, guests can take advantage of the many restaurants, cafes and boutique stores located on the doorstep of this resort.

## 3 | BROOME, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Broome sets itself apart from the rest of Australia with its colourful and captivating landscapes that form the gateway to the famous Kimberley region in Western Australia and offers the perfect family adventure holiday. There is no shortage of activities on offer; from meandering along the famous sands of Cable Beach by camel to embarking on a hovercraft tour over the tidal flats at Roebuck Bay or adventurous trike flight where you can enjoy a birds eye view of the Broome coastline, even taking the controls for a spectacular beach landing.

Four-wheel drive tours are also popular with self drive or guided adventures to Australia's iconic Bungle Bungle Range, Kimberly region, Cape Leveque and Windjana Gorge. Kids will love the chance to spot a croc, kangaroo or brumby and witness the wide, open spaces of the outback. For a different kind of family attraction, Willie Creek Pearl Farm presents a fascinating and educational forum where you can see and learn how pearls are cultured. And for those looking for the ultimate souvenir the gift shop offers prized Broome pearls at farm prices.

### OAKS CABLE BEACH SANCTUARY

A short stroll from the picturesque Cable Beach, Oaks Cable Beach Sanctuary offers a choice of studio, one and two bedroom self-contained apartments as well as three bedroom villas with private plunge pools set in landscaped surrounds. The Resort features a range of premier leisure facilities including lagoon style swimming pool, infinity pool, children's wading pool, restaurant and onsite car parking.

## 4 | PORT STEPHENS, NEW SOUTH WALES

Referred to by many as a 'blue water paradise' and home to thousands of bottlenose dolphins and humpback whales during June to November, the New South Wales' seaside town of Port Stephens provides families with a front row seat to experience a spectacular display of marine mammals as they breed, socialise and rest during their northward migration.

Kids will love hitting the dunes at The Worimi Conservation Lands (Stockton Bight Sand Dunes) which stretch over 32 kilometres. For the adventurous, jump on a fast sliding sand board for a 30 metre ride down the face of a sand dune, or if you have ever fancied yourself as an off road specialist, jump on a quad bike or behind the wheel of a 4WD and give your family the ride of their lives as they cheer you on while tackling the shifting dunes.

It may be a rarity to see a Koala in the wild, but at the pristine Tomaree National Park, your chances are assured if you take the walking track along the banks of the Tillgerry Creek where a colony of these cute and cuddly critters are regularly spied.

### OAKS LURE

Just minutes from golden beaches and unspoiled waterways, golf courses, a profusion of cafes, restaurants and boutiques, and of course the Nelson Bay Marina, Oaks Lure offers guests relaxed, stylish accommodation in studio, one and two bedroom configurations with large living spaces, full kitchen facilities and supreme seaside panoramas. Family-friendly facilities include an outdoor lap pool, children's wading pool and BBQ facilities.

# THE RISE OF PRIVATE JETS

ENTER THE PRIVATE JET STREAM AND BALANCE THE  
NEED FOR SPEED AND SEAMLESS CONVENIENCE WITH  
WAYS TO OPTIMISE YOUR INVESTMENT.





In response to the frenetic pace of today's global community, the need to cover continents as swiftly as possible has made the luxurious appeals of owning and chartering a private jet even more compelling. Globe trotters attracted to this discerning way to make time fly will be pleased to learn that fast tracking airports with exclusive privileges is no longer reserved for the world's richest and most famous.

Gone are the days when you need to be some kind of James Bond or boast the kind of wealth it takes to buy and service a half decent football team, since taking to the skies in private jet style comes with the rewarding opportunity of having your personal plane pay for itself.

### JET INVESTMENT

As Simon D'Oyly, General Manager of MJets, Asia's leading private jet service, explains, "With flexibility on the part of the owner it's possible to offset the ownership costs through generating charter revenue. I have seen an owner fly 300 hours over the course of a year, and at the end of that year his costs had been completely counter balanced by the charter flights we generated. It really depends on an owner's objectives and willingness to let us suggest the best solutions for his requirements".

### THE NEED FOR SPEED FOR BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

For most people, speedy travel is of the essence, and the number one advantage of owning and chartering a private jet.

"Time spent booking a flight and waiting for hours in immigration and check-in are eliminated with private

jet travel," says Simon D'Oyly. "Depending on your itinerary, with a private jet your flight can be ready in just a few hours. Saving even more precious time, you can arrive at the airport literally minutes before your scheduled departure time, then fly directly to your destination, making productive use of your time onboard".

While these attractions naturally appeal to high flying executives, it is not only the business world who is finding private jets a transformative experience. For families and friends, private trips to some of the most exclusive and unspoiled regions in Asia and Africa can be enjoyed without arduous modes of outback transport. Catering for the demands of private jet travellers, an increasing number of large and small airports enable you to land closer to your final destination, with the added bonus that you can savour a breathtaking bird's eye perspective of the exotic landscapes you'll be encountering at ground level.

### ONBOARD LUXURY

Although it's often the case that if something seems too good to be true, it probably is, this is certainly not so when travelling by private jet. The space and furnishings of your personal plane can be tailored precisely to your tastes, as can the cuisine and beverages during each flight. Then there's the unparalleled privacy. Meetings for important negotiations can be held in absolute comfort and secrecy, without being overheard. If you're travelling with friends and family, the allure of a stress free holiday begins the moment you step aboard, and as you'll bypass the annoyance of long check-in lines, security issues, time wasted waiting to board and the stop start of transfers, as well as the concerns of possible delays and lost luggage that commercial flights entail, you'll travel seamlessly to your destination and arrive feeling luxuriously relaxed.

## TOP 5 FLIGHT ROUTES FROM BANGKOK

#### PHUKET

Providing island pleasure seekers with a seamless transition following their international flight.

#### NAYPITAW

Enabling high flying executives to travel in style and confidentiality to sign contracts in Myanmar's emerging business destination.

#### MALE

Every moment counts in the world's greatest paradise, and a private jet to the Maldives provides you with more precious time to enjoy the experience.

#### HANOI

Enjoy an executive transfer to this business and leisure destination in northern Vietnam.

#### UAE (ABU DHABI & DUBAI)

Passengers choose to take the luxury route to sought after Middle Eastern cities, savouring exclusive service onboard.

# SPICE SPOONS

## A GATEWAY TO CULTURE



CULINARY TRAVEL, CREATIVE DINING EXPERIENCES, FOOD FESTIVALS, VINEYARDS AND CLASSES ON REGIONAL SPECIALTIES HAVE ALL PROMPTED AN EXCITING RANGE OF KITCHEN ADVENTURES. FROM SERIOUS FOODIES TO HOBBY CHEFS, COOKING SCHOOLS OFFER INSIGHTFUL EXPERIENCES FOR EAGER EPICUREANS.

A contagious sense of adventure means travellers are looking out for exciting indigenous discoveries. We now not only want to taste the delights, buy the products and photograph the famous sites of a unique destination, but also to delve into its history and learn how to create local recipes for ourselves. A flourishing increase in interactive cultural activities invites travellers to step behind the tourist scenes and explore beneath the surface.

Cooking schools have become one of the most popular experiences on a holidaymaker's wish list. The history of food is the history of its people, and exploring a country's authentic cuisine reveals great insight into its heritage. While Thailand has never been colonised, its regional gastronomic specialties hint at the nation's influences, many of which stem from ancient trade routes; it was the Chinese who introduced noodles to Thailand, as well as the steel wok. This new cooking utensil gave rise to a variety of stir fry dishes, including the ever popular Phad Thai, which has been a staple ever since

Vietnamese traders brought the noodles used in this dish to Ayutthaya - the kingdom's former capital.

In response to growing demand for cooking classes, Anantara launched the Spice Spoons cooking school for internal and external guests, as well as local residents, whether they wish to learn the basics or are looking for fresh ideas as an aspiring chef. The Spice Spoons experience begins with an inspiring local activity, such as a guided tour of a local market, farm or rice field, a fishing trip, rice planting session or a visit to a traditional family home. Budding culinary students may also tour the resort's own herb and vegetable garden, highlighting a focus on using the freshest ingredients.

Class commences with a cultural theory introduction to provide useful background information. Typical local ingredients and traditional cooking equipment are displayed so that the master chef can paint a richer picture for the students. The chef then describes the main characteristics of each dish to be prepared, adding

in facts where appropriate about the recipe's origin, time of day or special occasion it would be eaten, and any health benefits. Following a step by step guided cooking class, students savour their own creations with the chef as their host, providing an extended opportunity to ask more questions.

When staying at Anantara Hotels & Resorts, enquire about the Spice Spoons Culinary Journey. As a reminder of the engaging gastronomic experience, students take home an apron, a shopping bag, a chopping board and a certificate, as well as a box of recipe cards complete with beverage recommendations for each dish.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)



SPICE SPOONS



Anantara



SAFARI



# TARANGIRE TREETOPS

## AFRICAN TREE HOUSES FOR GROWN UPS

A MAASAI TRIBESMAN OPENS YOUR EYES TO THE WARM AND BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLE; A ONCE IN A LIFETIME CLOSE UP ENCOUNTER WITH ANIMALS IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT; CHILDHOOD DREAMS OF AN AFRICAN SAFARI BECOME A REALITY WHEN STAYING IN A TREE HOUSE MADE FOR GROWNUPS AT TARANGIRE TREETOPS.

Perched high up above the tops of baobab and marula trees, south of the large open grassy plains of southern Masailand in Tanzania and with unspoiled vistas to Lake Manyara and the Rift Valley wall, is a place of apparent make-believe where nostalgic childhood dreams turn into surprising reality. It is here that Tarangire Treetops lodge invites discerning travellers, adventure seekers and the young at heart to ascend to luxurious new heights for a lavish African experience.

Named after the Tarangire River that flows intermittently through the bordering National Park, the lodge occupies a serene spot in a private game reserve southwest of Arusha. Arriving guests are warmly greeted by a blaze of vibrant colours and a host of happy smiles all belonging to the local Masai tribesmen that appear as if by magic to welcome each of the expectant travellers.

Tarangire Treetops comprises 20 elevated guest rooms, some of which are built in the trees and all affording unmatched views across the surrounding Tarangire plains that are especially renowned for large herds of elephants and swamps that support the largest number of breeding bird species to be found anywhere in the world. A covered private balcony wraps around the elevated room and offers both cooling shade during the day and an ideal spot for relaxing sundowner cocktails against an idyllic backdrop of rolling baobab studded hills.

Dining at Tarangire Treetops sustains the momentum of undeniably memorable moments with ingenious spaces that both extend out into the rugged wilderness and bring the rich, age-old culture into the locale. Around the main lodge's striking thousand-year-old baobab tree a tranquil open-sided lounge and dining room are furnished with earthy décor and striking examples of local tribal art while offering mesmerising views across an infinity edge swimming pool to a watering hole beyond, both of which provide cool refreshment to the lodge's residents and resident wildlife alike.

In the adjacent Boma – a traditional enclosure still prevalent in eastern and southern Africa – a starlit sky creates a blanket of twinkling fairy lights under which guests can savour traditional fare. As the glowing embers of the bonfire ascend into the cool night air, the captivating rhythm of the Masai's traditional jumping dance stirs the senses and arouses the imagination, affording a glimpse into this fascinating culture.

The safari dream comes to life with game drives in the Tarangire National Park, while night drives in the surrounding bush afford encounters with lesser spotted nocturnal animals. More intrepid adventurers revel in the exhilaration of walking safaris with an experienced guide through the scrub and dry river beds. As night falls, guests ascend Sunset Hill to discover a table laden with refreshing cocktails and pre-dinner delights. Here the last rays of sunshine across the Tarangire plains to the distant Lake Manyara mark the end of an unforgettable day of discovery in one of the most idyllic and unforgettable settings on the planet.

[ELEWANACOLLECTION.COM](http://ELEWANACOLLECTION.COM)



# EXPERIENCE A MORE REWARDING HOLIDAY LIFESTYLE

Anantara Vacation Club Phuket Mai Khao.

The culture of holiday ownership plans has evolved to offer members a more rewarding investment, hassle free service and value added benefits. Today's vacation clubs are an increasingly popular option for travellers looking to secure an ideal holiday lifestyle.

Time is a precious commodity and holidays are a luxury to be treasured. However, there is also a growing trend for more frequent jaunts abroad, and a sense of urgency to make the most out of every getaway. Rising to the challenge, holidaymakers are becoming savvier than ever to create the ultimate holiday lifestyle. While quality, choice, flexibility and security naturally rank high on the agenda, it is experience while away that holds the greatest power to transform a great holiday into an amazing travel story.

Vacation clubs that are affiliated with other holiday and exchange programmes can promise even greater choice by broadening the explorative opportunities. This is why Anantara Vacation Club comprises a constantly growing luxury portfolio of Signature Club Resorts and Club Escapes Resorts across Asia, The Middle East and Maldives.

Since time is always of the essence, Anantara Vacation Club Owners appreciate the efficient Client Services team, who research into the most suitable resorts, and offer recommendations based on timescale, budget and activity preferences. Even the burden of researching and booking travel is eased through Anantara Vacation Club's preferred travel company, who offers a well rounded host of services so that Club Owners can devote their attention to choosing the most appealing holiday activities.

Perhaps the most important factor of all is the substantial savings accrued from having pre-paid for future holidays at today's prices. The knowledge that each escape is enjoyed at incredible value translates into a forward thinking mindset, with Club Owners feeling more comfortable to spend on new and unique experiences. Beyond the inspiring resort activities and excursions of rich local discovery, Club Owners receive a 15% discount on dining and spa journeys at Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas worldwide.

## ANANTARA VACATION CLUB PHUKET MAI KHAO

Our Guests Services team prepare personalised itineraries of unforgettable natural, cultural and adventurous experiences on the popular Thai island of Phuket.

### BREATHTAKING NATURE

- Tour the best waterfalls and viewpoints with an experienced guide.
- Visit the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project which has successfully reintroduced gibbons to the wild with progressive conservation techniques.
- Practice your swing with a stunning sea view at award-winning golf courses.

### FASCINATING CULTURE

- Stroll through Phuket Town's heritage of Sino-Portuguese architecture, bustling local markets and old temples
- Meet the Koh Sireh descendants of Phuket's first inhabitants who arrived as sea nomads to find that the excellent fishing and climate provided an ideal base to call home.



### AQUA ADVENTURES

- Explore the Andaman Sea by chartering a luxury yacht and cruise past Phang Nga Bay's limestone karsts.
- Set sail for Koh Phi Phi's diving, snorkelling, rock climbing and kayaking adventures.
- Embark on an overnight journey to the Similan Islands to explore some of the world's best preserved coral reefs.

ANANTARAVACATIONCLUB.COM

TURNING EXPECTATIONS INTO MEMORIES OF QUALITY SERVICE AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES. OUR MANAGEMENT TEAM AT EACH OF THE LOCATIONS IS READY TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY TO MAKE YOUR STAY WITH US AS MEMORABLE AS POSSIBLE.

PLEASE CONTACT THE LOCAL CONCIERGE FOR THE LATEST EVENTS AND OFFERS.



Explore a relatively untouched region of Vietnam.

### DISCOVERY & INDULGENCE AT AL YAMM VILLA RESORT

The recently opened Anantara Sir Bani Yas Island Al Yamm Villa Resort in the United Arab Emirates is an oasis of serenity surrounded by thousands of free-roaming wildlife. Explore Sir Bani Yas Island, famed for its natural rugged beauty and venture out into the wildlife park's dirt tracks in a 4x4 jeep for up close encounters and amazing photo opportunities with a rich variety of free roaming animals, such as graceful gazelles and the elusive oryx. Inspired by traditional Arabic fishing and pearl diving villages, Anantara Al Yamm Villa Resort has been built with sustainable design features perfectly complementing the island's delicate ecosystem.



The Elewana Collection expanded its luxury safari.

### LUNAR LANTERNS

Wish your dreams to come true in Hoi An, Vietnam, at the Lunar Festival held on the full moon each month. When staying at the Anantara Hoi An Resort, experience an idyllic blend of riverside relaxation, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on your doorstep, and beautiful beach life just a short bicycle or boat ride away. Float a lantern from the resort's river banks, make your own hanging lantern to take home and dine at Lanterns restaurant overlooking the Thu Bon River.

### VIETNAMESE RETREAT

Opened on September 1st on the central coast of Vietnam, AVANI Quy Nhon Resort & Spa is a 63 room, hide-away style beach destination set in 13.5 hectares of private mountainous land and beach. Quy Nhon is a charming seaside town untouched by mass tourism 320 kilometres south of Danang and 230 kilometres north of Nha Trang. Just two hours by plane and airport transfer from Ho Chi Minh, this location gives travellers a great opportunity to explore a relatively untouched region of Vietnam.



Oasis of serenity surrounded by thousands of free-roaming wildlife.

### KENYA SAFARAI

The Elewana Collection expanded its luxury safari footprint into Kenya with the opening of Sand River Masai Mara, the bespoke collection's eighth accommodation offering in East Africa. Situated on the banks of a river, the camp with sixteen tented accommodations is located within the Masai Mara National Reserve, closely bordering the Serengeti. The National Reserve is best known for its large concentrations of big cats, such as leopard, cheetah and lion. Here even the dramatic arrival of the Annual Migration merely adds to an already abundant resident wildlife that awaits discovery.



Vietnam, at the Lunar Festival held on the full moon.

### MINOR HOTEL GROUP

Wherever your suitcase takes you, from luxury to family-friendly or from extended stay and once-in-a-lifetime adventures, you are sure to find the perfect hotel and resort with THE MHG family of brands.

ANANTARA.COM | AVANIHOTELS.COM | OAKSHOTELSRESORTS.COM | PERAQUUM.COM | ELEWANACOLLECTION.COM | ANANTARAVACATIONCLUB.COM | MJETS.COM

# CONCIERGE

WHERE IS YOUR NEXT DESTINATION?

MINOR HOTEL GROUP IS OPENING NEW HORIZONS IN EXCITING AND DEVELOPING DESTINATIONS IN 2013. HERE IS A SNEAK PREVIEW OF TRAVEL EXPERIENCES TO START PLANNING.

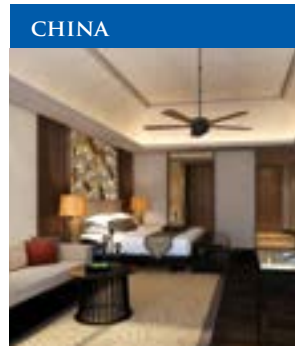


UAE

## 1 | Anantara Sir Bani Yas Al Sahel Villa Resort *Opening mid 2013*

Overlooking the Arabian Sea and salt-dome hilltops, the resort offers 30 luxurious rustic villas surrounded by a lush grass savannah on Sir Bani Yas Island. Located within the celebrated Arabian Wildlife Park, guests will enjoy incomparable viewing of Arabia's elusive gazelles and oryx in total comfort. Take guided treks throughout the park and cherish evenings feasting on the freshest produce and succulent grilled meats.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)



CHINA

## 2 | Anantara Emei Resort & Spa *Opening late 2013*

Just an hour from Chengdu International Airport, the new Anantara Emei Resort & Spa is located in the Southwest of China and at the western edge of the Sichuan Basin. It will be the ideal base from which to explore Chengdu's historic places and natural beauty sites such as E-Mei Mountain and SanxingDui which attract visitors from home and abroad.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)



CHINA

## 3 | Oaks Sanya *Opening late 2013*

Oaks Sanya will be the first of the Oaks brand to enter China when it opens in late 2013 and will feature 122 two and three bedroom duplex apartments, each with kitchen facilities. Oaks Sanya will also feature a Chinese restaurant, a bar, a kids club and a gym. The apartments overlook both bays of the Serenity Coast peninsula and are located five minutes' walk from the beach.

[OAKSHOTELSRESORTS.COM](http://OAKSHOTELSRESORTS.COM)

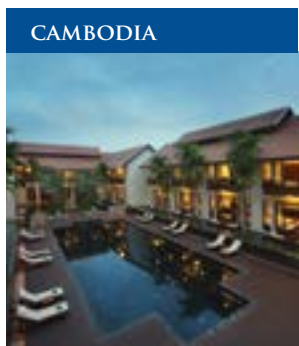


MOZAMBIQUE

## 4 | Anantara Bazaruto Island Resort & Spa *Opening late 2013*

In a jewel-like archipelago off the coast of Mozambique Anantara's first resort in Africa is immersed in natural beauty, laid back island life and offers unforgettable experiences. A boutique collection of 44 beach, sea view and pool villas, designed in natural harmony with the unspoiled island surrounds complement a quiet beachfront pool that is reserved exclusively for adults, while the dedicated family pool ensures hours of fun for children.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)



CAMBODIA

## 5 | Anantara Angkor Resort & Spa *Opening late 2013*

Close to the Cambodian Cultural Village and less than 10 minutes drive from Siem Reap International Airport guests will enjoy with indigenous influences at this luxury Siem Reap resort. Embracing local Cambodian art and craftsmanship, which can be seen throughout this boutique resort, the 39 rooms and suites ensure a relaxing and decadent stay when visiting the much revered UNESCO World Heritage site, Angkor Wat.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)



VIETNAM

## 6 | AVANI Harbour View Hai Phong *Opening early 2014*

Style, comfort and culinary expertise are combined with a French colonial décor. Blending the traditional with the new, discerning corporate travellers enjoy facilities tailored to meet their needs, while leisure guests can explore the colonial charms of Haiphong City and natural wonders of Halong Bay. With its superb accommodations, Spa and pool side oasis, the resort offers a pleasurable escape from a hectic daily life.

[AVANIHOTELS.COM](http://AVANIHOTELS.COM)

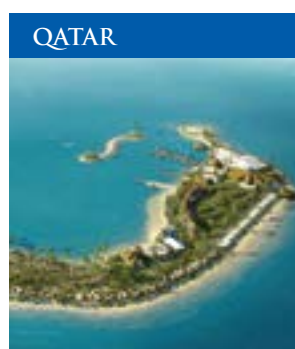


THAILAND

## 7 | Anantara Phuket Layan Resort & Spa *Opening early 2014*

In an intimate and unspoiled corner on the northwest coast of Phuket, the resort nestles Layan Beach at Bang Tao Bay. Peacefully secluded, Anantara's newest hideaway in Thailand offers the best of both worlds. Stroll along a tranquil stretch of sand to Laguna for lively bars and boutique shopping. The island's bustling southern beaches and city centre are only a 35 minute drive, while the international airport is just a 15 minute drive.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)

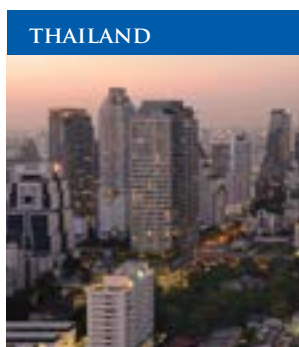


QATAR

## 8 | Anantara Doha Island Resort & Spa *Opening early 2014*

Located just 11 km from Doha and 20 minutes by boat from Doha International Airport on an exclusive 13 hectare island with its own marina and reefs, the resort offers 141 rooms, suites, pool villas and over water villas. Entertainment options include four swimming pools, an Anantara spa and fitness centre, water sports, a nine hole putting golf course, cinema, children's club and dedicated family beach.

[ANANTARA.COM](http://ANANTARA.COM)



THAILAND

## 9 | AVANI Atrium Bangkok *Opening mid 2014*

In central Bangkok on New Petchuburi Road, just a minutes by subway from Bangkok's business district and shopping centres, AVANI Atrium revels in the dynamic personality of Bangkok. This 568 room hotel is ideally situated for expressway access to and from both Suvarnabhumi and Don Muang airports. Prime shopping and business districts, including Sukhumvit, Silom and Siam Square, are within easy distance from the hotel by subway.

[AVANIHOTELS.COM](http://AVANIHOTELS.COM)

### ANANTARA VIDEOS

Peek through the keyholes of Anantara Hotels & Resorts around the world with our video collection. Visit [Anantara.com](http://Anantara.com), choose your destination, visit the gallery page and watch your dream unfold in a 2-3 minute video. Within seconds it becomes clear that Anantara is so much more than a room; its always an experience unlike any other ordinary stay.