

# Footprints

MINOR HOTEL GROUP / ISSUE 7 / 2014

## MOZAMBIQUE

AFRICA'S RISING STAR



### DINING

GOING UNDERGROUND  
AT HUVAFEN FUSHI

### SPA

KNOW YOUR DOSHA

### SAFARI

FROM BEAN-TO-CUP

# 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 MORE THAN 100 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 14 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, CAMBODIA, CHINA, INDONESIA, KENYA, MALAYSIA, MALDIVES, MOZAMBIQUE, SRI LANKA, TANZANIA, THAILAND, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES AND VIETNAM.



### PERAQUUM

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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)



### 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

A unique luxury vacation ownership product offering the opportunity for 5 Star holidays in choice destinations. The vacation lifestyle is yours to explore with Anantara and affiliated destinations, from one exotic locale to the next, for your family today and generations to come.

[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)



## WELCOME

After my first trip to Africa, I was asked which were my favourite places and why. The Masai Mara for the wildebeest migration and the sheer scale and drama of the natural spectacle enraptures those who visit each year, as well as the iconic big cats of Africa, undoubtedly appear on that list.

Minor Hotel Group's first foray into Africa was in our partnership with the Elewana Collection in Tanzania and Kenya. In 2013 we deepened our relationship with the continent when we opened the first Anantara resort just off the coast of Mozambique on Bazaruto Island. This year we added two more destinations to our footprint in this enchanting country and I invite you to acquaint yourself with Mozambique in our cover story on page four.

Integral to our travel philosophy is spa and well-being. Ayurvedic medicine is a holistic approach that can be traced back over 5,000 years to the Indian sub-continent, making it the world's oldest healthcare system. In May this year we opened a dedicated Ayurvedic Spa at Anantara Veli Resort & Spa in the Maldives. It focuses on creating harmony between the body, mind, and spirit, maintaining that this balance prevents illness, treats acute conditions, and contributes to a healthy life. When staying at Anantara

Veli or Anantara Dhigu, drop in for a consultation and discover your 'dosha', but in the meantime, read more about it on page six.

Staying in the Maldives, on page 11 we highlight one of the most exclusive and unique dining experiences I have encountered anywhere in the world, Vinum at Huvafen Fushi. Seaplanes take on the role of sports cars in the Indian Ocean as guests staying all over Maldives venture here to take their place on any Tuesday night. Each week, this wine cellar 8-metres underground is host to a dinner for 12 guests as they meander through five courses specifically prepared to match six wines, some rare and only available at auction. It's the ultimate dream for all epicureans.

As always, we have many more stories and discoveries to share with you, so I hope you enjoy this issue and find new interests to encourage further travels along roads known and unknown. I hope to see you along the way.

Dillip Rajakarier  
CEO Minor Hotel Group



The temples of Angkor attract visitors from around the globe and Siem Reap has evolved into a chic haven of relaxation. International chefs have established the country's finest tables and the vibrant night life sees bartenders versed in sophisticated cocktails. A growing art and gallery scene nurtures local artists and today, Siem Reap is regarded as the centre of Khmer culture. Socrates Alvaro is the General Manager of Anantara Angkor Resort & Spa and shares his insights with us.

**Angkor Wat is a vast collection of temples, do you have a favourite one and why?**

Ta Prohm for the atmosphere and to see nature intertwined with ancient human work. Much of the Temple has been uncovered from the jungle and creates a unique and beautiful combination of wood and stone.

**For a day trip outside of Siem Reap, where can visitors see a different side to Cambodia?**

Mechrey Village to the West of Siem Reap provides a stunning backdrop to the Cambodian countryside, best seen during the wet season. The rice fields provide greenery and a rural scene that seems so removed from the hustle and bustle of Siem Reap.

**During your time in Cambodia, what has been the most surprising discovery for you?**

That it has so much more to offer than the temples, as long as you are prepared to explore and discover, Cambodia. The countryside, remote islands and wildlife.

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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](http://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 Sarab before you journey on 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 430 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 23 member hotel chains in the alliance. Join GHA Discovery today by going to [anantara.com/discovery](http://anantara.com/discovery) and start seeing the rewards.



Sailfish Bay in Bazaruto Archipelago

# MOZAMBIQUE AFRICA'S RISING STAR

ALONG MOZAMBIQUE'S STUNNING NORTH COAST, ANCIENT DHOWS ARE HELPING TO REVITALISE THE LOCAL ECONOMY. TRADE AND FISHING DHOWS HAVE BEEN A COMMON SIGHT ON MOZAMBIQUE'S QUIRIMBAS ARCHIPELAGO FOR CENTURIES, BUT NOW THEY HAVE A NEW USE - TAKING TOURISTS ISLAND-HOPPING AROUND THE WARM TURQUOISE WATERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

The past decade has seen Mozambique embrace a new generation of travellers bedazzled by what the country has to offer: Magical off shore islands, excellent diving, a 2,500km coastline and a fascinating cultural scene.

In this long strip of land running from Tanzania in the north to South Africa in the south, Portuguese colonial heritage fuses with African traditions, humpback whales migrate up the coast while lions and zebras roam the interior. Gaining independence from Portugal in 1975 Mozambique fell into almost two decades of economic ruin and guerilla warfare before finding stability after the 1993 peace accords. While the politics remain as spicy as their food the past two decades has seen major advancements in tourism.

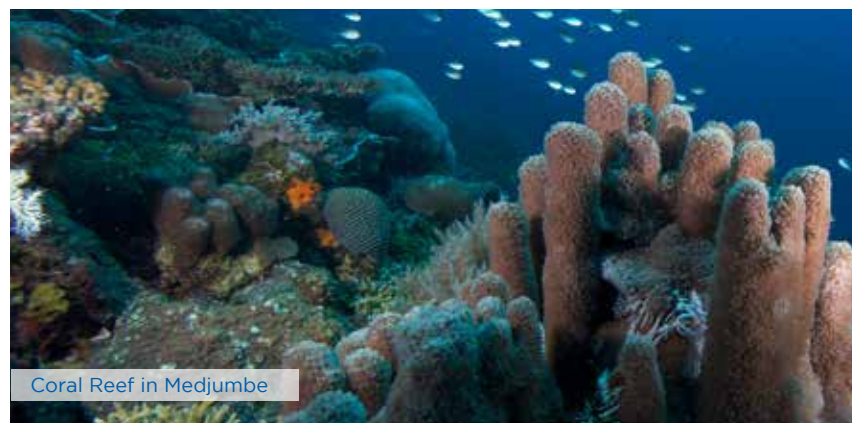
New developments are most noticeable in the national capital, Maputo, which is in Mozambique's far south and is the first port of call for most travellers. A vibrant capital city, Maputo features luxury villas overlooking the blue expanse of Maputo Bay where Portuguese-style pavement cafés offer respite from the streetside bustle. A colourful array of restaurants serve spicy samosas, sizzling steaks and seafood platters.

Mozambique's north is in many ways a different land, with vast tracts of dense bush and rugged mountains in the interior and idyllic islands scattered along the coastline. Getting around here takes time, but the coastal panoramas and sense of space and the sheer adventure of travel make the journey well worthwhile.

The port city of Pemba, on the northern coast, is a prime destination for water sports

and diving enthusiasts with a stunning coral reef and a beautiful coastline. A short flight north from Pemba reveals the Quirimbas island chain, a clutch of 32 pristine coral islands and islets. This UNESCO world heritage site stretches for 320km up to the Tanzanian border and this is where the islands of Medjumbe and Matemo sit like jewels in the Indian Ocean. White sand beaches, turquoise waters and luxurious accommodation make these the perfect island resorts for anyone seeking an African paradise.

Further south leads to the Bazaruto archipelago, a national marine park surrounded by turquoise waters rich with marine life. The largest island, 35km-long Bazaruto is the kind of escape where you can spend your days swinging in a hammock or swimming and snorkelling amid well-preserved coral formations. At night the stars



Coral Reef in Medjumbe



# TRAVEL GUIDE

## WHEN TO GO

Because of Mozambique's size it is best to focus on either the south or the north. Southern Mozambique's climate is ideal almost year round, apart from January, which can get very hot. In the north, the main rains fall from mid-February through April, and temperatures are somewhat higher than in the south.

## WHERE TO STAY

Minor Hotel Group has three stunning resorts and a fourth set to open in 2015. Anantara's heartfelt hospitality can be enjoyed on the islands of Bazaruto and Medjumbe, while AVANI Pemba Beach Hotel & Spa is a perfect base for business and leisure travellers alike.

## EXCURSIONS

Mozambique is teeming with wildlife reserves and some of the best diving locations in Africa. Travel in the south is made easy with the development of new road systems while island hopping in the north is convenient with airports and ferry services linking the islands together. The rugged mountains and thick bush of the inland north make for a challenging and rewarding adventure.

illuminate the sand banks before the sun rises above the Indian Ocean, bringing into view a fantastic array of marine life.

As you explore, you'll see fish eagles, flamingos, and many other bird species. Dolphins and mantra rays are easily identified in the clear waters, while whale sharks swim through the depths. They are joined by many other types of fish plus leatherback, loggerhead and green turtles. If you're lucky, you may even spot one of Bazaruto's rare dugong, who spend their days foraging among the sea-grass meadows.

But Mozambique is more than just lazing on soft sandy beaches. Once one of Africa's top big game destinations, the country's wild reserves are recovering rapidly and are becoming a top choice for off-the-beaten-track safaris, regaining the country's reputation as both a game viewing and beach holiday destination. There has never been a better time to discover Mozambique, the rising star of Africa.



## TRANSFERS

Airport transfer services to each of the resorts are available to and from the nearest international airports in Maputo, Pemba and Bazaruto. Medjumbe is serviced with its own airstrip.

## CURRENCY

The metical is the currency of Mozambique, abbreviated with the symbol MZN or MTN. It is nominally divided into 100 centavos.

## LOCAL LAWS, ETIQUETTE

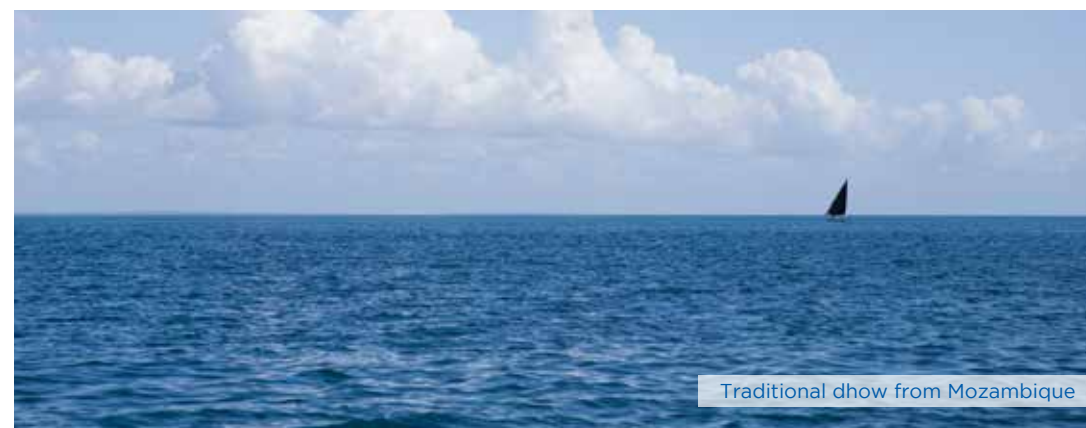
A handshake is the most common greeting between men, women, strangers and friends.

People beckon one another by holding the hand palm-side out and bringing the fingers down towards your palm in a scratching motion.

Don't be shocked to hear someone hissing, it's a common way to capture attention.

Holding one's hand in a fist and covering it with the other hand open, means "enough".

Use both hands to give and receive objects, and never use only the left hand.



# DISCOVERING YOUR DOSHA

THE AYURVEDA APPROACH RECOGNISES THAT EVERY INDIVIDUAL IS FORMED BY THREE UNIQUE ENERGIES. IT IS THE HARMONY AND BALANCE OF THESE ENERGIES THAT KEEPS US HEALTHY, WHILE AN IMBALANCE INVITES DISEASE.

Ayurveda, meaning the “science of life”, is an approach to well-being that can be traced back over 5,000 years to the Indian sub-continent, making it the world’s oldest healthcare system. Entirely holistic, its adherents strive to create harmony between the body, mind, and spirit, maintaining that this balance prevents illness, treats acute conditions, and contributes to a long and healthy life.

In recent decades Ayurvedic medicine has spread around the world but remains India’s primary healthcare system. More than 90 percent of the continent’s population use some form of Ayurvedic therapy, following its dietary principles, practicing traditional medicine, or seeking professional help from trained Ayurvedic practitioners.

## THE TRI-DOSHA THEORY

The three unique energies, better known as Doshas, are Vata, Pitta and Kapha. Everyone has a unique combination of doshas which define a person’s temperament and characteristics. Each person has a natural state comprising a combination of these three energies, and should seek balance by modulating their behaviour or environment.



Vata is the force of propulsion. It governs all movement, including muscles, nerve impulses and thoughts. Literally meaning ‘wind’, it is the element of Ether and Air in the body and a subtle dosha that goes out of balance easily. Vata people often suffer from depletion of nutrients. Their behaviour is creative when balanced, or erratic and dispersed when imbalanced. Vata senses are hearing and touch.

Pitta is the principle of heat, digestion and all transformation in the body. Pitta is the acid secretion from the stomach, bile from the liver, and inflammation. In the body, the element of Fire always comes with Water. Pitta can also color the skin and create freckles and red hair. Pitta’s sense is vision and a strong sense of smell.

Kapha is growth of tissue, production of mucous and fat, and retention of fluids. As such, Kapha is Water and Earth, and the stable, relaxed dosha. It is the force of consolidation, solidity and denseness. Kapha people are great homemakers. Kapha senses are taste and smell.

## SUNDĀRI AYURVEDIC SPA ON VELI ISLAND, MALDIVES

In the world’s greatest paradise, the Maldivian elements of lush tropical nature, soft powdery white sands and translucent ocean provide vivid and sensual inspiration. At a resort where the focus is on individual attention to cultivate the ultimate escape, SUNDĀRI Ayurvedic Spa extends a welcoming invitation to discover the beauty of personal well-being.

At SUNDĀRI Ayurvedic Spa, the journey starts with an in-depth consultation with the resident Ayurvedic Doctor. Using various techniques (pulse, iridology, tongue and a health interview) the Ayurvedic Doctor will identify your dosha type or combination of doshas that determine your current imbalances. According to this assessment, a personalised treatment experience, which may include an exercise programme and diet, will be designed for you by the Ayurvedic Doctor to ensure the balancing of your energetic constitution for good health.

At the end of your stay at the resort, the Ayurvedic Doctor will provide you with take-home information to continue an Ayurvedic lifestyle once you return to your daily routine.



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



Melbourne at night

# FLAVOURS OF MELBOURNE

THREE OF THE CITY'S TOP DINING TREASURES CAN BE FOUND AMONG THE CITY'S LANEWAYS AND IN UNLIKELY LOCATIONS.

Hundreds of eateries call Melbourne's inner city grid of tree lined streets and tiny, enigmatic laneways home. From humble street-style cafes to bursting-at-the-seams noodle bars, lavish establishments fronted by Michelin starred chefs to glittering roof top bars and sublime supper clubs, Melbourne fuses an eclectic medley of cultures and cuisines to tempt every palette.

While the renowned 'eat streets' are easy to find and perennially popular with visitors, if you are looking to sample some of Melbourne's undisputed best, take your lead from the locals who have hand selected a few favourites within easy walking distance from a selection of Oaks Hotels & Resorts' Melbourne city properties.

## FLOWER DRUM

- 17 MARKET LANE

A true Melbourne institution, Flower Drum specialises in Cantonese fusion cuisine and is celebrating 40 years as one of Melbourne's premium restaurants next year. Executive Chef Anthony Lui has earned celebrity status among locals and visitors alike with mouthwatering dishes inclusive of a uniquely Australian twist like sliver-thin pearl meat from Broome, Western Australia and wallaby tail soup with dried wolfberries and wild yam.

**Stay:** Oaks on Lonsdale, short 500 metre walk from venue.



## CUMULUS INC. AND CUMULUS UP

- 45 FLINDERS LANE

Cumulus Inc. Eating House & Bar blurs the lines between restaurant, café and bar but it is the exquisite food created by chef Andrew McConnell that sees Cumulus Inc. consistently polling as one of Melbourne's best. The 15 page wine list is epic, as is the food, including an Australian oyster menu depicted by region and dishes imbuing the famous McConnell rustic farmhouse feel. Prepare to wait, as the restaurant has a no reservations policy ensuring first in best dressed is order of the day.

**Stay:** Oaks on Market, an easy 1.2 kilometre walk along Flinders Lane.



## VUE DE MONDE

- LEVEL 55/RIALTO 525 COLLINS STREET

The decadent and highly awarded Vue De Monde is poised 55 stories above the CBD within the iconic Rialto Tower, formerly Melbourne's tallest building and offering sweeping views across the city. Shannon Bennett presents a French inspired menu that includes indigenous delicacies such as salt cured wallaby and emu jerky with the finest matches in wine and champagne. The degustation menu is famous; the more sedate four-course 'choice' menu or impressive 10-course 'freedom' menu both offer journeys in sublime gastronomy.

**Stay:** Oaks on Collins, across the road from the famous Rialto, home to Vue De Monde.



Supporting the Farmers Programme in Bali

# 365 DAYS OF GOOD DEEDS

ANANTARA'S POSITIVE ACTIONS ARE MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.

For over a decade now, Anantara's extensive grassroots activities have demonstrated a 100% commitment to protecting our beautiful planet, conserving cultural traditions and bettering the lives of local communities. Ever since the first resort opened in 2001, Anantara has become synonymous with creating unique luxury travel experiences in some of the world's richest cultures and most exotic landscapes. As part of these experiences, all Anantara properties worldwide immerse themselves in local initiatives that give back to the community and environment, thereby enhancing the social and environmental surroundings of each Anantara destination.

With 2014 now underway, Anantara has embarked on a number of new and unique sustainability projects that not only supports local communities but also protects nature and wildlife ensuring a prosperous future for younger generations.

## CARDAMOM MOUNTAINS - CAMBODIA

In late 2013 Anantara was approached by the US/ Cambodian Conservation NGO Wildlife Alliance for assistance in protecting 18,000 hectares of forest in Cambodia's Cardamom Mountains, with the aim of creating a corridor for elephants and other animals.



The Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation

Contributions from Anantara's parent company Minor International have funded the building, manning and equipment for ranger stations to patrol the land, to prevent hunting and illegal logging. Beyond the benefits

for wildlife, it is calculated that the forest holds more than 5,000,000 tonnes of carbon, which would be released into the atmosphere if the partnership with the Wildlife Alliance did not exist.



## ELEPHANT CONSERVATION/ EDUCATION - THAILAND

Famous for staging the King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament in Thailand Anantara's popular charity event has raised over US\$750,000 which has been donated to a number of causes that better the lives of domestic and wild elephant populations throughout Thailand. Money from last year's event has been donated to a number of 'world first' environmental and educational causes.

Funding from last year's event is currently being used to introduce educational conservation programmes by Think Elephant International (TEI) to over 600 students from 20 schools in Thailand who learn about elephant behaviour, conservation, human-elephant conflict and scientific research, as well as training and supporting Conservation Biology graduates to become TEI classroom teachers.



Elephant Educational Programme for Children



Coral Adoption Programme in the Maldives

Money from the tournament has also helped set up the world's first Thai Elephant Therapy Project (TETP) in conjunction with Chiang Mai University and the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre. The programme is designed to provide autistic children with an opportunity to develop their social interaction and emotional skills by using elephants as a working partner with occupational therapists.

The elephants used in the project have been rescued from the streets of Thailand and have gone through specific training to ensure that they are healthy and well prepared for the clinical research sessions. The elephants are accompanied by their expert mahout handlers, alongside human therapists and researchers.

The programme now runs a series of free therapy sessions for Thai children and this year the TETP also intends to expand the research aiming to widen the scope of the clinics to include children with Down Syndrome and other conditions.

This year's 13<sup>th</sup> King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament is scheduled for 28 - 31 August and aims to raise even more money than ever to donate to various projects that benefit the elephants of Thailand.

## 365 DAYS OF GOOD DEEDS – WORLDWIDE

All of Anantara's properties across Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, China, the Maldives and the Middle East continue to immerse themselves in local initiatives that give back to the community and environment, thereby enhancing the social and environmental surroundings of each Anantara destination. Anantara continues to bring these positive activities together allowing at least one good deed will take place for every single day.

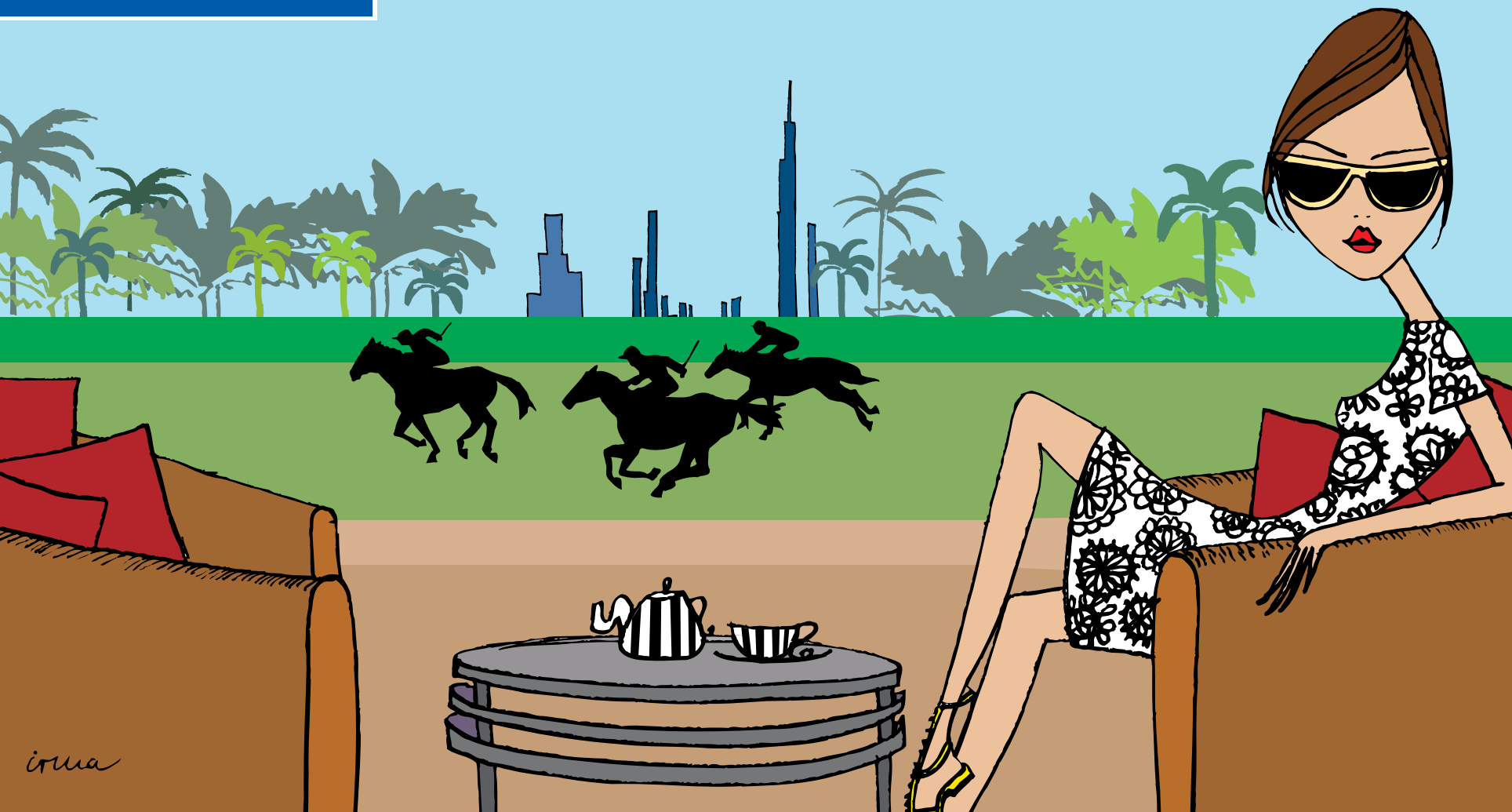
Whether its marine turtle protection in Phuket, coral rejuvenation in the Maldives or supporting local farmers in Indonesia, Anantara continues through its 365 Days of Good Deeds to carrying out a corporate social responsibility programme at a grassroots level in each of its exotic locations around the world. The '365 Days of Good Deeds' programme also invites guests to combine their luxury Anantara stay with opportunities to participate in a range of activities that help local communities and the environment.



Elephant Cultural Documentary in Chiang Rai



Turtle Protection Programme in Phuket



## WHAT'S YOUR IRMA-INSPIRED AVATAR?

JASMIN KHEZRI THE AWARD-WINNING CREATOR OF ICONIC ILLUSTRATED STYLE ICON IRMA, GIVES US A UNIQUE INSIGHT INTO HER GLOB-TROTTING ALTER-EGO AND HER PLANS FOR THE PER AQUUM DREAM CALENDAR.



### HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH THE INSPIRATION BEHIND IRMA?

When I had the idea of creating an iconic illustrative character in 1996, I did not have to think twice: IRMA would be her name. My grandmother, Irma, was an inspirational force in my life. She encapsulated and brought to life the virtues of a strong, independent and cosmopolitan modern woman - always ahead of her generation. Above all, she was full of love and had a desire to learn and explore, fuelled by curiosity and open-mindedness. Everything she did, she did with authentic style. Every piece of furniture, fabric and artwork, and every travel and culinary experience was joyfully selected with care. And as diverse as everything may have been, it all formed one authentic unity. Because she was no follower and her style was authentic, she impressed. Her good genes empowered her to live a healthy and active life until she died in her sleep at the age of 92. IRMA was born.

### HOW HAS IRMA EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS?

First I did illustrations for fashion magazines, like Marie Claire and Elle in Germany and Tatler in the UK, but because I am also a journalist I started to put a story behind the character. She became my alter ego. Whenever I wrote about my travels, fashion experiences or beauty tricks she became more and more alive. Other women started to identify with IRMA and they related to her. Established brands recognised the potential too. For example, Procter & Gamble in the US did a big advertisement campaign with IRMA for Noxzema and the French fashion House Céline produced t-shirts and foulards. Kiehls used IRMA illustrations for their famous crème de corps. Soon we will be launching our new IRMA accessory collection.

### YOU WILL BE VISITING DESERT PALM, NIYAMA AND HUVAFEN FUSHI AS PART OF THE PER AQUUM DREAM CALENDAR, WHAT ARE YOUR ABSOLUTE TOP FIVE MUST-HAVES FOR THIS TRIP?

I always travel with my scrapbook, camera and lots of paper and pens. I will take a bunch of new books to read, my first-aid beauty supplies, like different sunscreens, Bioderma hydrator, zinc and vitamin C, and of course my favourite bikinis and tunics.





VINUM

# VINUM

## GOING UNDERGROUND IN THE MALDIVES

ONE TABLE, FIVE COURSES WITH SIX WINE PAIRINGS FOR 12 PEOPLE SURROUNDED BY A CELLAR OF 6,000 BOTTLES OF WINE. IT'S AN EPICUREAN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER.

Eight metres below the surface of Per AQUUM's island atoll, Huvafen Fushi, lays a salubrious cellar by the name of "Vinum", boasting 6,000 of the world's finest wines and the promise of a truly unique dining experience.

Every Tuesday, when the moon's reflection dances on the Indian Ocean, expectant diners descend to take their place at Vinum's round table seating up to 12 guests. The Island Sommelier, keen to share his expertise as he guides the diners through a specially designed menu marrying fine wines with exceptional dishes.

While wine connoisseurs may salivate in anticipation novices should also rest assured that Vinum is all about having a fun, relaxed evening in the company of new and old friends



while enjoying a culinary experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

"Vinum is a fun, enjoyable and a highly informative evening. We offer an experience that cannot be recreated elsewhere, allowing guests to experience some of the world's finest wines in an innovative environment, eight metres beneath the island. Guests do not need to have an extensive knowledge of wine to enjoy the evening; they just need to come along with an open mind and a sense of fun to experience a sensory journey through some of the best vineyards of the old and new worlds."

Vinum's temperature is electronically regulated to create the perfect environment. The bottles are showcased in floor to ceiling wine racks, creating a welcoming atmosphere and adding a new dimension to paradise.

### DINING EVENTS

Cellar Door takes place every evening where experts can test their knowledge against the Island Sommelier, and novices can discover the interesting side to wine and its history.

Taking this experience one step further is the Island Chief Dinner held once a week. An ideal setting for those looking for a dynamic culinary experience. The Island Chief Dinner, hosted and inspired by the Island Chief, combines the



expertise of the island's Chefs and Sommelier, marrying the best food and wine to create a true food and beverage extravaganza. The menu for this event consists of three courses complemented with three different types of wine. To ensure guests get the most from this experience, they offer an explanation to each wine before each course.

Vinum is both a wine connoisseur's utopia and a journey of discovery for the novice; among the gems in the cellar are a 1999 Romanée-Conti Grand Cru Domaine De La Romanée Conti Monopole Burgundy, France and a 1995 Romanée-Conti Grand Cru Domaine De La Romanée Conti Monopole Burgundy, France.

# FROM BEAN-TO-CUP

## THE JOURNEY OF THE ARUSHA COFFEE BEAN EXPLAINED

Ever wondered how the humble coffee bean goes from its bush to your cup? Arusha Coffee Lodge - part of the Elewana Collection of lodges, camps and boutique beach hotels in Tanzania - has introduced an exciting and informative 'Coffee Tour' for anyone who wishes to learn the fascinating life cycle of the world's most-consumed bean.

Lying on the gently rolling foothills that cascade down from the ever-present Mount Meru is the bustling and vibrant town of Arusha. It is here on the outskirts of this town, hidden amongst one of Tanzania's largest coffee plantations, that you will find Arusha Coffee Lodge, a perfect haven for relaxation either before or after any African safari.

The coffee bean tour takes place within the grounds of the Lodge. Weaving in and out of the evergreen coffee bushes, the Coffee Guide explains how the bean is nurtured, harvested, dried and finally roasted to produce a myriad of different blends that sate the taste of the most ardent of coffee connoisseurs.

And the best part of the ninety-minute tour? Most, if not all, agree that it is surely the preparation of the coffee for that all-important taste test. In full view of all, the coffee is roasted, then freshly ground and finally added to hot water, all three actions of which delivering aromas that awaken even the dullest of senses.



### ARUSHA COFFEE LODGE

An aromatic and sensory experience comprising of 30 Plantation Houses - inclusive of 12 Plantation Suites - that radiate out into the evergreen coffee fields, Arusha Coffee Lodge has been designed around the original landowner's home that dates back to the early 1900's.

From the industrious coffee pickers gathering in the harvest to the aromas of the morning brew emanating from the main Plantation House as breakfast is being prepared, Arusha Coffee Lodge is full of surprises that revitalise the body and soul for the adventures and excitement that lie ahead when visiting Africa.



### DID YOU KNOW...?

Arusha is the nearest town to all of the northern Tanzanian game parks.

Mount Meru is the fifth highest mountain in Africa.

Arusha is 5,053ft/1,540m above sea level.

Arusha is half way on the Cape-to-Cairo route through Africa.

The 1962 movie "Hatari!" was filmed in Arusha.

# ANANTARA VACATION CLUB PHUKET MAI KHAO RESORT

RECOGNISED WITH PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Anantara Vacation Club, Asia's leading luxury shared ownership concept for discerning travellers, is thrilled to announce its receipt of two prestigious awards by American Resort Development Association (ARDA). Anantara Vacation Club's Phuket Mai Khao property won the award for Best Resort Architecture in the World as well as one of the organisation's highest honours, the ACE International Project of Excellence Award: International Developer.

"We are overjoyed to have won not one, but two prestigious ARDA awards this year," said Harold Derrah, CEO of Anantara Vacation Club. "We hold the ARDA organisation and awards in high distinction, and are proud that Anantara Vacation Club has received international recognition among a respected group of developments."



The award-winning property is located in Mai Khao Beach on the west coast of Thailand's world-renowned island of Phuket, and represents Anantara Vacation Club's first purpose-built Signature Club Resort.

The luxurious resort was designed to reflect Thailand's exotic culture and traditional village layouts, enhanced by a host of modern comforts. The design incorporates elements of traditional Thai rice field grid patterns, with authentic architecture and materials such as wood shingle roofs, the use of laterite stone, and distinctive landscape design. These aesthetics were coupled with careful ergonomic planning to ensure an exceptional guest experience.

The stunning resort was also recognised in Asia recently, receiving the award for 'Best Shared Ownership Development' for the second year in a row from the South East Asia Property Awards, a highly prestigious annual industry recognition programme.

Launched in 2010, Anantara Vacation Club is a unique luxury shared ownership concept which offers a points based, multiple destination, flexible shared holiday ownership option for discerning consumers wishing to holiday in Asia and beyond.

The Anantara Vacation Club Resort Collection currently comprises a Signature Club Resort in Phuket; a selection of luxury private villas in Koh Samui, Thailand; and Bali, Indonesia; along with a selection of suites in Bangkok, Thailand; Sanya, China; and Queenstown, New Zealand. Over the next five years, the Club will include up to 10 more resorts and expand its marketing reach further in China and the Middle East.



## *Paradise on Earth*

*at Anantara Vacation Club Phuket Mai Khao*

*We visited Thailand for the first time in January 2013. After spending our first four days in Kata, Patong and Karon, we made a visit to Anantara Vacation Club Phuket Mai Khao. What we found was a paradise hideaway, completely different from anything we had seen so far. We walked through beautiful exotic gardens and past lotus ponds- it was like a dream come true, and just a few minutes' walk to the peaceful secluded beach.*

*When we opened the villa door our kids immediately said "WOW!!! Is this our house?" Minutes later they were playing in the private pool, where they were happy to spend the whole day, taking occasional breaks at the playground, Jakka Kids Club and enjoying the free bicycles.*

*We want to thank the resort staff, management and sales department for giving us the opportunity to create such unforgettable memories. We also want to recommend Anantara Vacation Club to others, as we feel that we made one of the best decisions of our life. We are now planning our next stay in Koh Samui or Bali with our children and parents, as we want them to discover paradise on Earth and share these experiences together.*

ALEKSANDR SECHOVCOV AND FAMILY, LITHUANIA



## SOCIAL MEDIA TRAVEL CHANNELS

Exploring the luxurious world of Anantara is only a click away, with our social media channels connecting you to journeys of rich discovery, exciting ideas and insider tips. Feel inspired by rich cultures, intriguing heritage and breathtaking landscapes, wherever you want to go. Log on to find out about our news, latest updates and rewarding special offers. Watch the art of the Anantara experience unfold through vivid photography and captivating videos. Take a peek at amazing travel stories and share your own to inspire others. Read real life reviews and be a part of the experience by posting your highlights, suggestions and personal passions.

To find out how to follow us via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, Pinterest, Sina Weibo, VK, Google and Trip Advisor, check out [anantara.com/connect](http://anantara.com/connect)



## FISH SPOTTING IN KHAVAH AT SEA RESTAURANT, BRINGS BUBBLES TO THE TABLE.

View and savour the Indian Ocean's abundance of marine life by descending into one of the few underwater wine cellars and restaurants in the world, 'Sea'. On the edge of a reef in Baa Atoll, Maldives, the primary view windows are poised next to a channel, providing spectacular displays of fish and sea life all around. Here guests are indulged with an exquisite Sunday brunch as well as daily lunch and dinner set menus of classic seasonal creations. Attracting different marine life by day as the reef does by night; with the aid of a Maldives fish book on each table guests have the opportunity to successfully identify 10 fish during one meal sitting that will bring bubbles to their table in the form of a complimentary bottle of champagne.



## ELEPHANT POLO PACKS ITS TRUNKS FOR BANGKOK

Experience to the 13<sup>th</sup> King's Cup Elephant Polo Tournament, held this year for the very first time in Bangkok, from 28- 31 August 2014 at the Siam Polo Park, VR Sports Club. With a lavish opening parade, nail biting matches and larger than life cultural traditions, Ladies Day, fun elephant related activities and world class entertainment, this year's event promises to be the most thrilling and exclusive yet.

The annual tournament has become one of South East Asia's biggest charitable events and to date over USD750,000 has been donated to better the lives of Thailand's wild and domesticated elephants, as well as people in need. Projects include elephant therapy clinics for autistic children, the first elephant hospital in Krabi and a gantry for lame elephants at the Thai Elephant Conservation Centre (TECC), creating elephant corridors to help avoid elephant/farmer conflict, children's educational programmes about conservation and protection of wild elephants, and workshops showing traditional elephant trainers and camp owners the benefits of positive reinforcement training.

The tournament also gives 50 street elephants a break from their tough city life, ensuring they are well fed, enjoy a native forest environment and receive full veterinary checks and care throughout the event. For more information please visit [anantaraelephantpolo.com](http://anantaraelephantpolo.com)





## THE SERENGETI GREAT MIGRATION

One of East Africa's most spectacular parks, the Serengeti is home to more than 70 large mammal species, 500 types of birds and vast plains covering 18,641 square miles, setting an impressive stage for the Great Migration. For this incredible annual event, 2 million animals travel 500 miles from Tanzania to the Masai Mara Reserve in Kenya, making it one of the world's longest, largest, most famous and well documented natural wonders, with perhaps the most impressive highlight being the herds of wildebeest that blanket the plains.

Combining the drama of African wildlife with exceptional comfort and insider highlights, the Elewana Collection includes the Serengeti Pioneer Camp, located close to the Moru Kopjes, and the award-winning Serengeti Migration Camp, positioned further to the north on the Grumeti River. Covering 90% of the Serengeti, these two unique camps offer unrivalled viewing opportunities of the Great Migration, while their enviable settings mean that the camps can both track and share knowledge of the Migration's exact location, providing Elewana guests with precise viewing times as the amazing wildlife spectacle unfolds.

## HIGH TEA IN CHARMING CHIANG MAI

Thailand's northern mountain city Chiang Mai is renowned for its cultural charms, and at Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa, riverside luxury is enjoyed with a delightful ritual at The Colonial House, which was once the British consulate. Serving a unique weekend High Tea every Saturday and Sunday from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, a boutique buffet of tremendous sweet and savoury variety ranges from English classics to connoisseur tastes from Europe, Thailand and across Asia. Sip refreshing detox drinks, gourmet coffees and specialty teas presented by the resort's expert Tea Master. Unwind to melodies by a live duet, as you linger over this decadent experience beside manicured gardens and the Mae Ping River.



## OAKS OPENS NINTH BRISBANE HOTEL, OAKS MEWS

Oaks has officially opened the doors to its newest Brisbane hotel, Oaks Mews, the ideal complement to the group's expansive Brisbane accommodation offering which now incorporates nine properties.

Boasting a prime location on the fringe of the CBD and Fortitude Valley on Campbell Street, Oaks Mews offers a combination of one and two bedroom apartments featuring sleek designs and complete with modern furnishings and the added convenience of full kitchen and laundry facilities. Rooms are also equipped with WiFi internet access, work desks, TVs with cable channels, Blu-ray connectivity and expansive balconies overlooking the manicured gardens and ponds below. Guests will enjoy an array of premier leisure facilities, including a sauna, superbly equipped gymnasium overlooking a stunning swimming pool, and an outdoor entertaining area complete with barbeque facilities. The hotel is also in close proximity to some of Brisbane's favourite attractions, including Fortitude Valley, Chinatown, New Farm's shopping and dining precinct, Queen Street Mall and Southbank.

# CONCIERGE

WHERE IS YOUR NEXT DESTINATION?

MINOR HOTEL GROUP IS OPENING NEW HORIZONS IN EXCITING AND DEVELOPING DESTINATIONS IN 2014. HERE IS A SNEAK PREVIEW OF TRAVEL EXPERIENCES TO START PLANNING.

## AUSTRALIA



### 1 | Oaks Rivermarque Mackay *Opening late 2014*

Located on central River Street and fronting the iconic Pioneer River, this property will span eight levels and offer both business and leisure travellers the choice of contemporary hotel rooms, studios and self-contained one and two bedroom apartments, perfect for groups and families. Oaks Rivermarque Mackay occupies a sought after city position with a myriad restaurants, bars and cafes within easy walking distance plus a number of popular local attractions including the Bluewater Trail, Mackay Golf Club, Botanical Gardens and Mackay Marina Village.

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

## SEYCHELLES



### 2 | AVANI Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa *Opening late 2014*

The picturesque Seychelles archipelago of 115 islands in the Indian Ocean, east of mainland Africa, enjoy year round tropical climate. Guests of AVANI Seychelles Barbarons Resort & Spa will enjoy direct access to a 600 metre stretch of soft powdery sands and inviting turquoise waters along the calm secluded bay of Barbarons Beach, located on the west coast of Mahé island.

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

## QATAR



### 3 | Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara *Opening late 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 course, cinema, children's club and dedicated family beach.

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

## THAILAND



### 4 | AVANI Atrium Bangkok *Opening late 2014*

In central Bangkok on New Petchuburi Road, just minutes by subway from Bangkok's business district and shopping centres, AVANI Atrium Bangkok 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)

## CHINA



### 5 | Anantara Guiyang Resort & Spa *Opening mid 2015*

Capital of Guizhou province, Guiyang is a dynamic and vibrant centre that has retained some of its old districts resembling small villages within the city. There are 18 ethnic minority groups in the province who strive to keep their spectacular traditions alive throughout the region. Just 15 kilometres from Guiyang, the 218 beautifully appointed rooms and villas are surrounded by refreshing views of lush landscapes.

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



#### CENTRAL RESERVATIONS OFFICE

With the rapid expansion of Anantara Hotels & Resorts we are pleased to announce the opening of a Central Reservations Office in Thailand. With one number you can now book any Anantara hotel or resort. The Central Reservations Office operates from 8:00 am - 10:00 pm (Bangkok Time) seven days a week for reservations in English, Mandarin and Thai.

Reserve your next indigenous discovery with one of our experienced reservations agents.

Call on +66 (0) 2365 9110

Email: [reserveanantara@anantara.com](mailto:reserveanantara@anantara.com)