

# The 6th edition of MeetingPlanners Russia is coming up in September this year!

On 10 and 11 September 2018, the sixth annual edition of MeetingPlanners Russia will take place.



This long running MICE B2B forum sees key worldwide destinations and MICE suppliers coming to the Russian capital in order to meet up with Russian and CIS event planners.

These carefully selected hosted buyers are keen to find new business partners from various destinations and to discuss about their upcoming outbound MICE business. Hosted Buyers from leading outbound agencies as well as main corporate accounts will give 'acte de presence'. The corporate buyers are representing the strongest industries as Oil & Gas, IT and Pharmaceuticals, placing most outbound MICE business in international destinations.

Business Development Director Asya Revina from Europe Congress stated: "The success and growth we have reached over the years have been staggering. We're confident that the time we spend on our thorough selection procedures and



communication with the buyers have been paying off in terms of bringing high ROI to all participating Convention Bureaus, Tourism Bureaus and MICE suppliers. Many of the participating suppliers are returning yearly and it is the best feedback we can get as organizers. Yet we're always looking to increase the values within for all participants, by improving the format, content and of course the outcome of the pre-scheduled and guaranteed meetings."

The 2018 forum will offer in total, two action-packed days, with pre-scheduled match-made face-to-face meetings, keynotes, networking, social sessions as luncheons and receptions. The keynotes will be hosted by with the Meetology Lab. The Meetology Lab conducts in depth behavioral research to come to a better understanding why we communicate the way we do and how we can all improve ourselves professionally as well as personally. Forum MC Jonathan Bradshaw, also CEO of the Meetology Lab will further host the destination promotions included in Europe Congress' forum program every morning.



As the only organizer in these markets guaranteeing meetings, Europe Congress has established itself as the prime player organizing business encounters on the Russian and CIS markets. However not only the impressive meeting scheduling is what draws many to the MeetingPlanners Russia forum. The high quality concept and the clever programming has been matching the requirements of most event planners and suppliers present at this one-stop-shop event.

For more information and participation possibilities, please contact Europe Congress on:

Email: [info@europecongress.com](mailto:info@europecongress.com) or Telephone: +420 226 804 080

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**Investerings van €1.9 miljoen transformeert Radisson Blu Palace Hotel, Spa**



Het [Radisson Blu Palace Hotel, Spa](#) heeft een investeringsprogramma van €1.9 miljoen afgerond. Alle 120 kamers kregen een stijlvolle nieuwe look&feel. Het recent voltooide project heeft het hotel een elegant nieuw uiterlijk gegeven. Ook de hotelgangen kregen een facelift waarbij ze werden getransformeerd tot een moderne kunstgalerie.

*“We zijn zeer enthousiast over de renovatie – die een significante investering is in het hotel. De nieuwe slaapkamers zijn stijlvol ingericht met toevoeging van lokale designelementen. We zijn er zeker van dat we een ruimte hebben gecreëerd die de verwachtingen van onze gasten overstijgt. Als groep zetten we in op het leveren van een fantastische klantervaring. Dit verbeterde productaanbod -in combinatie met onze ‘Yes I Can’ service- zal ons helpen om onze positie als één van de leidinggevende hotels in het gebied te verstevigen”,* zegt Cathy Vander Eecken, General Manager, Radisson Blu Palace Hotel, Spa.



Het gebruik van grijs- en blauwtinten als aanvulling op de stijlvolle nieuwe inrichting heeft de hotelkamers compleet getransformeerd. Nieuwe meubels, parketvloeren, gordijnen en bedlinnen maken de nieuwe look af. Verder pakt het hotel uit met LED-verlichting en een verbeterde technologie op het gebied van TV- en USB-poorten. In de ruime kamers wordt er gespeeld met lichte en eigentijdse accenten waarbij er herkenbare Radisson Blu Elementen zijn verwerkt. We hebben met die ingrepen een ruimte gecreëerd die niet alleen mooi is, maar die ook uitnodigt om te werken, te ontspannen en je thuis te voelen.

Door inzet van kunst zetten we 'Spa' als bestemming duidelijk in de kijker. We spelen met stadsgezichten van Spa en kunstwerken die een eerbetoon zijn aan de natuurlijke bronnen van de stad. De vernieuwde gangen van het hotel worden ingezet als moderne kunstgalerie. Hier laten we foto's van bekende en historische monumenten zien.



Het Radisson Blu Palace Hotel, Spa is rechtstreeks verbonden met de privé kabelbaan die leidt naar de Thermen van Spa. Alle 120 designkamers hebben een prachtig uitzicht op de stad en de glooiende heuvels van de regio. De Brasserie 'Les Saisons de Spa' serveert heerlijke gerechten in een informele omgeving. Voor evenementen en vergaderingen biedt het hotel acht flexibele en goed uitgeruste vergaderzalen.

### **Over Radisson Blu®**

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Radisson Blu® is een upper-upscale hotelmerk dat staat voor positieve en persoonlijke service in stijlvolle ruimtes. Met oog voor detail en een 'Yes I Can' mentaliteit, zijn de Radisson Blu hotels ontworpen om ieder verblijf onvergetelijk te maken. Dankzij de inzet van gepersonaliseerde service en lokale nuances is ieder verblijf bij Radisson Blu hotels een echt individuele ervaring voor gasten. Radisson Blu hotels bevinden zich in grote steden, bij belangrijke luchthavens en vakantiebestemmingen. Gasten en professionele zakenpartners kunnen genieten van voordelen bij Radisson Blu via Radisson Rewards: een wereldwijd loyalty programma dat exceptionele voordelen en prijzen aanbiedt.

Radisson Blu is onderdeel van The Radisson Hotel Group,

waartoe ook de volgende merken behoren: Radisson Collection™, Radisson®, Radisson RED®, Park Plaza®, Park Inn® by Radisson, Country Inn & Suites® by Radisson en prizeotel.

Voor reserveringen en meer informatie, bezoek, [www.radissonblu.com](http://www.radissonblu.com)

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## **Nouvelle expo : «La pêche de jadis : 500 ans de pêche en mer, en Flandre»**

Plongez dans le passé de la pêche, en visitant une exposition sensationnelle, au musée national de la pêche NAVIGO





À l'occasion des 500 ans d'existence de la pêche en Flandre, l'expo «La pêche de jadis : 500 ans de pêche en mer, en Flandre» débutera cet été, au musée national de la pêche NAVIGO. Elle raconte l'histoire de la pêche en Flandre, de

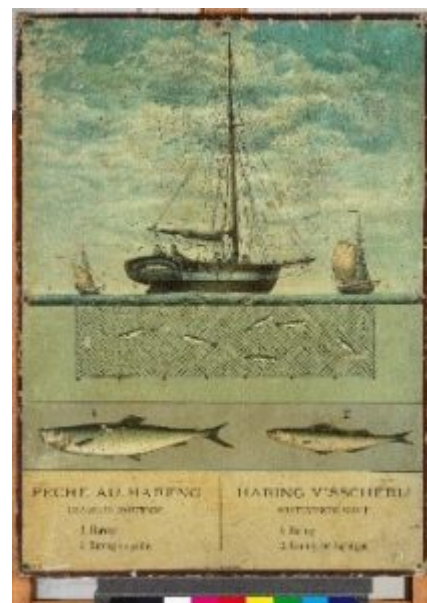
l'époque du bas Moyen Âge à aujourd'hui. Elle emmène le visiteur en voyage, à travers le passé.

### **La mer comme gagne-pain**

Pour organiser l'expo «La pêche de jadis : 500 ans de pêche en mer, en Flandre», le musée NAVIGO a collaboré avec le Museum aan de Stroom (MAS), le musée de l'Abbaye des Dunes et l'Institut flamand de la Mer (VLIZ – Vlaams Instituut voor de Zee). Cette collaboration entre des musées d'importance permet de donner un vaste aperçu de l'histoire de la pêche en Flandre.

L'expo emmène le visiteur en voyage, à travers le passé. Jusqu'aux années cinquante au cours du siècle dernier, la pêche a, en effet, déterminé l'image de la côte flamande. Dans les ports, les silhouettes des bateaux de pêche dominaient la vue sur la mer. Les quais étaient occupés par les femmes de pêcheur, qui vendaient leur marchandise. On trouvait plus de cafés pour les pêcheurs que de salons de dégustation de glaces. La mer n'était pas un lieu de détente, mais une source de nourriture, de développement économique et d'identité culturelle.

## Trésors issus de la pêche de jadis



«La pêche de jadis : 500 ans de pêche en mer, en Flandre» présente différentes œuvres d'art du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle ainsi qu'une large sélection de trésors issus de la collection liée à la navigation maritime du MAS, du musée de l'Abbaye des Dunes et du musée NAVIGO. Divers objets sont sortis, pour une fois, des réserves de ces musées, afin de décrire le glorieux passé de la pêche.

Lors de cette exposition, l'accent n'est pas mis sur les pêcheurs. Mais les pièces exhibées illustrent l'histoire de la flotte de bateaux, des techniques de pêche, des captures et des lieux de pêche ainsi que le contexte – tant économique que politique – dans lequel les pêcheurs devaient évoluer. Sans oublier le passé récent, l'exposition relate l'histoire fascinante des hauts et des bas d'un univers presque inconnu : la vie en mer.

### Infos pratiques

L'expo «La pêche de jadis : 500 ans de pêche en mer, en Flandre»

- jusqu'au dimanche 6 janvier 2019
- La visite est comprise dans le billet d'entrée au musée
- Visite guidée, organisée gratuitement le samedi, à 16 h





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# BAVARIA is where I want to go

**MUNICH (by.TM. 13. January 17): Welcome to Bavaria – a unique holiday destination!**



With 'big city' flair and idyllic countryside, the fascination of the Middle Ages and the beauty of the Alps, Bavaria offers a range of attractions that makes it Germany's most popular vacation destination.

## **1. Neuschwanstein Castle**

It's kitsch, it's over the top, it's absolutely stunning and a must-see. Walking up the steep hill to Schloss Neuschwanstein can take your breath away, but the view of this fairytale castle looking down on the village of Füssen will leave you at

a loss for words for more than one reason. King Ludwig II asked his architects to build an idealized version of a medieval knight's castle. The result is 'castle romanticism' at its best. Originally intended as his own private retreat, Ludwig II's castle was opened to the public only a few weeks after the King's death in 1886. Each year approximately one million people are drawn to this distinctive, mesmerizing palace.



## **2. On Top of the World: The Zugspitze**

The Zugspitze is Germany's highest mountain at 9,717 ft. Hiking is possible, but there are also mountain railways and cable cars for an easier ascent. From the summit, one can see more than 400 mountain peaks. At the nearby Alpspitze with its awe-inspiring AlpspiX viewing platform, visitors have spectacular views over the southern Bavarian Alps.

## **3. Munich: Bavaria's exciting capital**

For those who love shopping, Munich offers many choices, with its Kaufinger Strasse or the Viktualienmarkt, a colorful market of fruit, vegetables, and fish stalls. Cultural highlights are the world-famous 'Glockenspiel' (Clock) at

Marienplatz and the large state-run art galleries and museums. The Neue and Alte Pinakothek, the Pinakothek der Moderne, the Museum Brandhorst, the Lenbachhaus Gallery, and the State Museum of Egyptian Art are all considered some of the most important museums in the world. Also notable are the opulent opera house 'Bayerische Staatsoper' and the very popular BMW Welt next to the BMW Museum and car factory. The new Nazi Documentation Centre, opened May 2015, chronicles the history of National Socialism in Bavaria, shown through documents and visuals, rather than artifacts.

## **4. Music is in the Air: Festivals in Bavaria**

Many events and festivals take place in Bavaria throughout the year, catering to all tastes. Rock music lovers will enjoy 'Rock im Park' in Nuremberg or the 'Taubertal Open-Air Festival' in Rothenburg. Other important festivals include International Jazz Week in Burghausen and the International Festival for New Music Theater in Munich. Annual classical events are the Mozart Festival in Augsburg and the famous Richard Wagner Festival in Bayreuth. Oktoberfest is celebrated yearlong at the many beer gardens in Munich.

## **5. The Seven World Heritage Wonders of Bavaria**

Seven World Heritage sites can be admired in the state of Bavaria. In 2012, the Margravial Opera House in Bayreuth was added to the list of sites most worthy of protection. This magnificent edifice in the center of Bayreuth is one of the last and most beautiful baroque theaters in the world that is still in its original form. Equally beautiful are the Würzburg 'Residenz' (a prestigious baroque palace) and the pilgrimage Church of Wies in Pfaffenwinkel (a rococo gem with a gorgeous

interior). The old towns of Regensburg and Bamberg with their medieval architecture, as well as the prehistoric pile-dwelling in the Alps and the Upper Germanic Raetian Limes, the second longest man-made structure in the world, are also part of the state's World Heritage wonders.



## **6. Delicious Bavarian Beer, Wine and Sausages**

Bavarian cuisine is famous around the world: pretzels with 'Obatzda' (typical Bavarian cheese), aromatic dishes with dumplings, numerous kinds of fish and meat dishes and, of course, regional sausages. Try white sausage in Munich, 'Rostbratwurst' in Nuremberg, and 'Knacker' in Regensburg. A national pastime, Bavarian people enjoy good food with their family and friends in local taverns or under the shadows of linden trees in the beer gardens. Wines from Franconia, traditionally served in 'Bocksbeutel' bottles, or any of 4,000 different beers from the more than 600 breweries in Bavaria are served as well.

## **7. Bavarian originals: Customs and traditions**

People in Bavaria are loathe to pass up an opportunity to celebrate and make music. Be it summer or winter, traditional festivals abound such as the dance into May around the maypoles, 'Vihscheid' transhumance or the 'Leonhardiritt' horse procession. These celebrations – with food, beer, wine, traditional clothes, music and dances – are an important part

of Bavarian culture and help to create the gregarious and joyous attitude that prevails in the Free State of Bavaria.



## **8. Visit a Bavarian Christmas Market**

In Bavaria, Christmas markets are a key part of pre-Christmas preparations. At the traditional markets, visitors can admire handicrafts, listen to festive music and enjoy regional delicacies in a cozy atmosphere. The oldest and most famous Christmas Market is the Nuremberg 'Christkindlesmarkt'. In the wooden huts of the 'town made of wood and cloth' you can find traditional, handcrafted Christmas jewelery, along with sweet and hearty treats such as the famous Nuremberg 'Lebkuchen' biscuits or 'Rostbratwurst' sausages. The Nuremberg 'Christkindlesmarkt', together with the churches and museums of Nuremberg, invite visitors to attend festive concerts, tours and exhibitions in the pre-Christmas period.

## **9. Travel along the Romantic Road**

One of Germany's most beautiful tourist routes, the Romantic Road, a 410km (255 mile) route which runs through scenic rural Bavaria, is dotted with pretty towns, many with half-timbered houses, and some with their medieval walls still surrounding them. Enjoy sites such as the famous residential palace in Würzburg and the medieval town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber (be sure to take the night watchman's tour), Füssen (located on the edge of the Alps, close to Neuschwanstein Castle) along this former trade route, established during the Middle Ages. The Romantic Road can be travelled by car, bicycle or train,

or via 'Romantic Road' busses which link most towns and cities.

## **10. Value**

Bavaria is not only a paradise for outdoor activities, nature experiences and skiing, but also a competitive vacation choice with excellent value for the dollar. Several Bavarian destinations such as Ruhpolding and Oberstaufen, Nuremberg and Augsburg, also feature special visitor attraction cards offering the chance to enjoy spectacular mountain scenery and a range of add-on attractions and services at no extra charge. Low-cost airlines, an efficient and service-oriented airport in Munich, affordable public transportation, and well-priced accommodations, food and beverage, make Bavaria a wonderful destination to visit.



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# easyJet's enhances Budapest's UK network



*Photo caption: easyJet confirms the introduction of London Southend and Manchester to its network from Budapest Airport. Launching on 2 and 5 November respectively, the airline will bolster the Hungarian gateway's links to the UK this winter.*

Following on from the recent announcement of Wizz Air's expansion to the UK with a link to Doncaster Sheffield, plus LOT Polish Airlines confirming it will serve London City, Budapest Airport will further enhance capacity to the nation this winter as easyJet confirms it will introduce London Southend and Manchester to its Hungarian network. Launching on 2 and 5 November respectively, with both seeing twice-weekly departures on Mondays and Fridays, the airline is bolstering its existing UK service to London Gatwick.

As a direct result of Europe's second largest low-cost-carrier's (LCC) latest commitment to Budapest, weekly capacity to Manchester will be enhanced by 20% this winter, with the airline's planned twice-weekly service complementing the existing operations flown by Ryanair and [Jet2.com](https://www.jet2.com). easyJet's new Southend route offers passengers even more choice when flying to London's newest airport, with the LCC's link adding to Flybe's existing Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays schedule.

Overall this winter Budapest will be connected to 15 destinations across the UK, with this latest announcement by easyJet further confirming it as the capital city airport's largest international market with passenger numbers reached over 2.15 million passengers in 2017, up 6.1% versus 2016.

“It is great that easyJet is enhancing its Budapest network and tripling its route count to the UK with these routes to London Southend and Manchester, highlighting how important the UK market is for Hungarian passengers as well as the popularity of Budapest as a European city break for British nationals,” comments Balázs Bogáts, Head of Airline Development, Budapest Airport. “This expansion by easyJet means that this winter it will offer 10 routes from Budapest to destinations across the UK, France, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland.”

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## **Kia Motors Showcases Next-Generation Separated Sound Zone Technology**



- Next-generation sound system allows each passenger to

- listen to different music, headphone-free
- Maintains passenger privacy during phone conversations
- Can mute sounds unnecessary for passengers, but crucial for the driver
- Advanced technology will enhance the automobile experience in the autonomous navigation era

Kia Motors corporation revealed for the first time, its next-generation Separated Sound Zone (SSZ) technology that allows each passenger of a vehicle to experience an audio stream tailored to their individual needs, including music, hands-free phone calls, and vehicle alerts, whilst maintaining a headphone-free social space where passengers can converse freely.

SSZ technology creates and controls the acoustic fields of the car, allowing the driver and each passenger to hear isolated sounds. The many speakers installed in the vehicle feature technology that uses scientific principles to reduce or increase audio levels of sound waves. This negates the overlap of sounds being heard in each seat, creating the same effect as current noise cancellation systems, but without the need for headphones.

“Customers in the autonomous navigation era will demand increasingly customizable entertainment options within their vehicles, which includes technological innovations such as the Separated Sound System.” says Kang-duck Ih, Research Fellow at Kia’s NVH Research Lab. “I hope by providing drivers and passengers with tailored, independent audio spaces, they will experience a more comfortable and entertaining transportation environment.”

People’s musical tastes vary, so some passengers choose to use headphones during a journey to isolate their audio stream, but this also creates an unnecessary social barrier when

interacting with other passengers. When travelling in a vehicle equipped with next-generation SSZ technology, each passenger can connect their smartphone via Bluetooth and listen to their own music without interference from, or interfering with other passenger's audio streams.

When the SSZ is utilized, hands-free phone calls can also be isolated to individual passengers, ensuring privacy when having important phone conversations on the move.

Furthermore, this ground-breaking technology can eliminate unnecessary sounds for the passenger, but provide them for the driver. Navigation sounds, or various alerts allow the driver to focus on controlling the vehicle, while the SSZ system isolates these sounds, maintaining a quiet area for the other passengers. This has a particularly strong application for drivers with a sleeping child in the vehicle.

SSZ technology has been in development since 2014, and the completed mass production system is expected to be ready for installation in vehicles within one to two years.

For the video of Separated Sound Zone technology described above, please visit <https://youtu.be/lokXL8qyu1c>.

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**La Journée mondiale du tourisme sera consacrée à l'innovation et à la transformation numérique**



*Madrid (Espagne), juillet 2018 – L'importance des technologies numériques dans le tourisme, les incitations à l'innovation et la préparation du secteur à ce que sera l'avenir du travail seront au cœur de la Journée mondiale du tourisme de cette année qui sera célébrée à Budapest (Hongrie), le 27 septembre 2018.*

La Journée mondiale du tourisme (JMT), fêtée chaque année le 27 septembre à travers le monde, est une occasion exceptionnelle de faire mieux connaître la contribution réelle et potentielle du tourisme au développement durable.

La Journée mondiale du tourisme de cette année mettra en lumière, dans le contexte du développement durable, les possibilités offertes par les progrès technologiques et notamment les mégadonnées (*big data*), l'intelligence artificielle et les plateformes numériques. Face au défi consistant à soutenir la croissance dans la durée tout en faisant du tourisme un secteur plus durable et responsable, l'Organisation mondiale du tourisme (OMT) considère que les progrès numériques et l'innovation apportent des éléments de solution.

« Un tourisme qui s'appuie sur l'innovation et sur les progrès numériques aura plus de possibilités d'améliorer l'inclusivité, l'autonomisation des populations locales et l'utilisation rationnelle des ressources, entre autres objectifs resitués dans le contexte plus large du processus de développement durable » a déclaré le Secrétaire général de l'OMT, Zurab Pololikashvili.

La célébration officielle de la JMT se déroulera à Budapest (Hongrie). Le tourisme connaît dans ce pays une croissance

vigoureuse, avec le soutien constant des pouvoirs publics et un engagement envers l'avenir numérique. D'autres célébrations seront organisées à travers le monde.

La célébration officielle sera aussi l'occasion d'annoncer les demi-finalistes du premier concours de l'OMT de start-up de tourisme. Ce concours a été lancé par l'OMT et Globalia pour donner de la visibilité aux start-up porteuses d'idées novatrices capables de révolutionner notre façon de voyager et de vivre l'expérience touristique.

### Liens utiles :

[Site internet de l'OMT de la Journée mondiale du tourisme](#) (en anglais)

[Tableau Trello de la Journée mondiale du tourisme](#)

[Premier concours de l'OMT de start-up de tourisme](#)

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# Everything you wanted to know about bats in Postojna Cave Park

I FEEL  
SLOVENIA

The Cave under Predjama Castle located in Postojna Cave Park is home to numerous bats, which are connected with many stories and myths and often considered as





flying mice that come from hell, feed on blood and get tangled in people's hair... But is it really so? Read why it's worth visiting the Postojna Cave Park in the summertime! And check out their new webpage!

Postojna Cave Park is one of the most popular attractions in Slovenia. Here, we reveal why it's worth visiting in the summertime. Fun for a whole family is guaranteed! [Check out their new webpage](#) and enter the fairytale world.

In summer months, after the bats' hibernation period, during which the cave is completely closed to the public, visitors can finally get inside the bats' home and get to know these animal nightlife lovers from up-close. According to the most recent monitoring data, the **Cave under Predjama Castle** is inhabited by **fourteen different bat species**. One of the most interesting ones is without doubt **the lesser horseshoe bat**, which weighs only as much as a sheet of paper.

### **A lightweight bat – a badass creature**

The Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation declared 2018 **the year of the lesser horseshoe bats**. The bat is the smallest of the horseshoe bat family and **one of the world's lightest bats**. During the summer, you will get to see the bats flying above the Predjama Castle soon after sunset and, while touring the cave, you will find them hanging upside down from the ceiling. As for their appearance, the lesser horseshoe bats have a distinctive flattened horseshoe-shaped nose, triangular ears with a pointed tip, and wide, extremely short wings, which they use to wrap around their bodies while hanging from the ceiling. They have a body length of 4.5 cm, a three-cm-long tail and a wingspan of up to 20 cm. They feed on nocturnal butterflies and other flying insects. And another fascinating feature is their communication by means of echoes.

### **Higher-level of communication**

Lesser horseshoe bats have extremely good eyesight, but they

also have a special communication system that works like a sonar. They emit **ultrasound calls** inaudible to people, which return from the walls and are then used by the bats to create a very accurate picture of the environment or the position of their prey – this is called **echolocation**. This allows the lesser horseshoe bats to detect even a thread as thin as 0.05 millimetres. If you would like to hear their inaudible sounds, you can listen to bats using the so-called **ultrasonic detector**, which converts ultrasound calls into sounds that can be detected by the human ear.

### **Red alert for the lesser horseshoe bat**

In the second longest Slovenian show cave spanning four floors, you can see as many as **six endangered bat species** among other things. In addition to the greater mouse-eared bat, the long-fingered bat, the barbastelle, and the common bent-wing bat, there are two other bats included in the Red List of Threatened Species, namely the greater horseshoe bat and the lesser horseshoe bat. Nevertheless, we are very pleased to announce that the lesser horseshoe bat population in the Postojna Cave Park is growing steadily. This year, **our lesser horseshoe bats number 368, i.e. twice as many** as at the count eight years ago. According to Primož Presetnik of the Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora “low mortality is mostly a result of favourable conditions, and there is no doubt that the Cave under Predjama Castle boasts such conditions.” In the Postojna Cave Park, we are very consistent in maintaining the peace and quiet inside the cave, making sure the bats are not disturbed during the hibernation period.

### **Bloodthirsty creatures or animals bringing good luck?**

Although the media have contributed to the bats carrying a rather **negative connotation**, early Chinese cultures regarded them as **a symbol of happiness** that brings health, longevity, well-being and love. The Maya saw them as a **symbol of initiation**, rebirth and protection against evil. In pre-

Christian Europe, bats symbolized contact with other worlds, and supposedly also increased **sexual stamina**. We have checked with the Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora, if there are any bats that **feed on blood** in either Slovenia or Europe – the answer is no, so there is nothing to fear during a visit to the Cave under Predjama Castle.

Text and photos provided by Postojna Cave.

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## Sun, Sand and Sea summer vibes at Kempinski Hotels



Geneva, August 2018 – For anyone who enjoys sun, sand and sea in luxurious surroundings, Kempinski Hotels offers a variety of inspiring summer activities in fascinating destinations around the globe. Be it paddling in a transparent kayak to explore the underwater world in Seychelles, a private sunset cruise, or a plunge in the healthy waters of the Dead Sea, Kempinski Hotels have designed beautiful performances with a local touch to be experienced during the holiday season.

At [Kempinski Hotel Soma Bay](#), the ambitious General Manager, Lars Pursche, and his creative recreation and culinary teams, have worked on various concepts to come up with exclusive and

exciting local experiences. The hotel recently unveiled SUNtastic Sundowner options, on the magnificent shores of Soma Bay, offering a scenic backdrop of the Red Sea Mountains, which complements the beautiful sunsets. When on land, a wide range of premium cocktails are served daily, directly at the golden sand beach, while guests unwind in style on comfy beanbags. On Sundays and Wednesdays, live tunes lift the atmosphere to the next level, bringing people together and boosting happiness levels. To make things even more special, the hotel provides guests with the option to take their other half on a special private cruise through the sparkling, turquoise waters. Once the boat takes off from the marina, guests have the chance to snorkel through intact coral reefs and discover the underwater wonders of Soma Bay. The journey is crafted to perfection by the hotel's culinary team, with a catering service offered on board. A choice of canapés from fresh local produce and a bottle of sparkling wine caters for the best bubbly moments, while the sun sets behind the mountains.



HOTELIERS SINCE 1897

Located at the lowest point on earth, where history and nature join forces to provide substantial health benefits, [Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea](#) offers guests a variety of special packages around Sun and Sea.

The Dead Sea is referred to as a Salt Lake, due to its hypersaline water and mineral-rich black mud, which is useful for therapeutic and cosmetic use, as it was first discovered by Cleopatra. Research shows that the Dead Sea water contains 32% salt with 21 minerals, such as calcium, magnesium and chloride, amongst others. Due to this, the Dead Sea strengthens the skin tissue, maintains the chemical balance of the skin, stimulates the blood circulation, and eliminates toxins from the skin. There are countless ways of experiencing

all the perks, such as fighting against chronic skin conditions, eliminating blemishes and cellulite or strengthening hair roots, making the body look healthier and younger than ever before, when using the Dead Sea salt and mud as part of one's daily routine.

Moreover, due to the natural buoyancy from the Dead Sea's unusually high salt concentration, guests have the ability to float, turning it into an all-round fun experience. Not only that, but the beautiful white salt crystals on the shore provide a stunning view of the beach, ensuring a perfect picture of guests reading the newspaper while floating. With an average of 365 sunny days per year, no other holiday destination promises, and delivers, sunshine like Abu Dhabi, with guaranteed sun, sand and sea-fun, year-round, at [Emirates Palace Abu Dhabi](#). From luxurious pool hammocks to adrenaline-filled sports, the hotel's Beach Club can fill an entire day with creative summer activities.

Guests who enjoy staying active should definitely discover the 6.4 km cycling and jogging track. While working out at their own pace, guests have the opportunity to wander along the palace's weaving trail and get fit whilst enjoying the scenic view. Those who prefer a more relaxing activity are able to while away the hours in a pool or in an in-pool hammock, which can all be found at the palace's East Beach Club. Families, on the other hand, might need a bit more action, which can be found at the West Beach Club mini waterpark. This mini waterpark has the aesthetic of a luxury hotel, meaning there's no need to queue for attractions such as the lazy river or thrilling waterslides.

To round off the day, a camelback ride will ensure the perfect way of enjoying the sunset, the way nomads have for thousands of years; guests will be touring the beach high above the sands on an Arabian camel. The very mention of the Seychelles invokes images of crystal-clear water and palm-lined beaches, and [Kempinski Seychelles Resort Baie Lazare](#) does not fail to deliver on this promise. As this is the only hotel in the bay, the area receives very few outside visitors, and guests are able to relax and enjoy their time on the beach in relative seclusion.

While it would be easy enough to spend an entire trip gazing at the magnificent coastline, Seychelles' real beauty lies

beneath the surface, making this Indian Ocean destination popular to divers and snorkelers. For the ultimate reef experience, hotel guests can sign up to a guided snorkelling tour, to feed a multitude of tropical fish at the Fish Cave. This popular spot, on the house reef, can only be reached by kayak and is home to vibrant fish species, and the occasional hawksbill turtle or juvenile reef shark. While the species of shark that frequently visit Seychelles' waters are completely harmless, guests that would prefer to experience the marvels of Seychelles' pristine marine life without getting wet, can hire a transparent kayak. This ingenious innovation is made from lightweight and stable clear polycarbonate material, and is available for hire from the hotel's main beach.

**About Kempinski:** Created in 1897, Kempinski Hotels is Europe's oldest luxury hotel group. Kempinski's rich heritage of impeccable personal service and superb hospitality is complemented by the exclusivity and individuality of its properties. Kempinski now manages a portfolio of 75 five-star hotels and residences in 33 countries and continues to add new properties in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Americas. Each one reflects the strength and success of the Kempinski brand without losing sight of its heritage. The portfolio comprises historic landmark properties, award-winning urban lifestyle hotels, outstanding resorts and prestigious residences. Each one is imbued with the quality guests have come to expect from Kempinski while embracing the cultural traditions of its location. Kempinski is a founding member of the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), the world's largest alliance of independent hotel brands.

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**BA provides UK capital connection for Cologne Bonn**





**Photo caption: A welcome sight at Cologne Bonn Airport again this winter, as British Airways is set to commence a four times weekly seasonal service from London Gatwick on 16 November (Image courtesy of British Airways).**

Announcing the welcome return of British Airways (BA), Cologne Bonn Airport has confirmed the UK flag carrier as its newest and 34th carrier to join the gateway's airline roll call later this year. Flying to London Gatwick on a seasonal basis, the German airport now has direct scheduled flights to seven UK airports.

"We are very proud that British Airways is returning to the airport – an airline that has a high symbolic value for us. With British Airways, we welcome one of the leading airlines in the world, one which also offers our passengers an exciting long-haul network from London Gatwick," says Johan Vanneste, President & CEO, Cologne Bonn Airport.

Adam Carson, BA's MD at Gatwick said: "We are delighted to be giving our customers the opportunity to fly directly from Cologne to London Gatwick. London has been one of the top destinations for a city break for decades."

Set to commence a four times weekly connection with its A320 fleet from the UK capital city from 16 November, BA's new link will be joining Cologne Bonn's established UK services to Bristol (Ryanair), Edinburgh (Eurowings), London Heathrow (Eurowings), London Southend (Flybe), London Stansted (Eurowings and Ryanair) and Manchester (Ryanair). BA returns

to Cologne Bonn after a 12-year hiatus, while easyJet had previously offered flights to Gatwick until March 2016.

As a result of the addition of its latest service by the oneworld member, the airport's only carrier from this global airline alliance, Cologne Bonn will offer close to 300,000 seats to the UK during W18/19. Based on current schedules, the UK will also jump ahead of Spain to claim its position as the airport's second largest country market to be served over the winter season. Cologne Bonn's H1 traffic has seen healthy growth, with the German gateway handling more than 5.9 million passengers so far in 2018.