



**FORCETEN LTD.**  
Corporate Travel & Incentive

Your unique **TRAVEL PARTNER**, from **personal** to **corporate** needs  
**Travel Newsletter**

Every month FORCETEN LTD. keeps you updated with information on the **travel market**. This **Special Edition** focuses on **HOTELS**. **Are you ready for something different?** Try these unique hotels for your next vacation. You can spend the night cuddle up in an all-ice hotel, stay in a tree house or relax in the Himalayas! Have a look also at our promotions! The hotels described below are all outstanding properties that worth the detour if you travel nearby!

Current Promotions:

Aman at Summer Palace Beijing  
Golf package at Softiel Dalat

Unusual features of the lodging

On a train    In caves    Underwater  
Made in ice    In the trees

Unique ..

- Unique **Building**: Banyan Tree Ringha
- Unique **Size**: Japanese Capsule hotels
- Unique hotel dedicated to **Architecture**: the HOMA
- Unique **History**: Devi Garh Palace
- Unique **Spa**: Ananda in the Himalayas

?? Did you know ??

- What is a "Boutique Hotel"?
- What is a "Motel"?
- **M Gallery**, the new brand of ACCOR?
- A jail transformed in a "Liberty hotel"?

**CURRENT PROMOTIONS**



**Aman at Summer Palace Beijing**

Beijing has seen dynasties and revolutions come and go and today remains one of the world's most remarkable cities, offering visitors a kaleidoscope of Old and New China. Aman at Summer Palace is housed in a **series of pavilions**, some of which are over one hundred years old. This tranquil retreat is an ideal base from which to discover the multi-faceted city of Beijing. The resort offers a variety of accommodation which pays homage to traditional Chinese architecture and celebrates the courtyard style of Imperial China.

***SPECIAL 3 nights PACKAGE for Two persons:***

*From Guestroom at USD 2085*

*To Courtyard Suite at USD 3735*

Includes :

- 3 nights for two at the resort
- Daily American breakfast
- Chinese tea ceremony
- Guided tour of Summer Palace
- Excursion to Forbidden city, Great Wall or Temple of Heaven

Conditions: Valid until 31 december 2009

Subject to availability. 15% service charge and government tax applies.



## Sofitel Dalat Palace and the best Golf in Vietnam

Located in the cool Central Highlands with meticulously manicured greens, Dalat Palace Golf Club offers playing conditions second to none in Vietnam. Come see why Golf Digest (USA) voted it the country's best course.

### **ULTIMATE GOLF GETAWAY - 2 nights:**

*USD600 net for 2*



#### Includes:

- 2 nights in Luxury room at Sofitel Dalat Palace
- Breakfast at Le Rabelais restaurant
- Two days unlimited Golf
- Airport & Golf transfers
- Complimentary driving range balls

Conditions: Valid until 31 dec 2009 except during black out dates.

Subject to availability.



The lakeside hotel was built in 1922 in the heart of Dalat set in a private 5-hectare superb park. Rooms have French colonial furnishings and an exclusive palatial design. The gastronomic restaurant and bars provide the perfect setting for relaxing and socializing and offer refined French cuisine with the latest in fusion dishes from around the world.

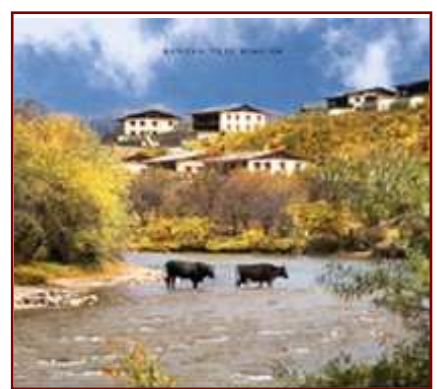
Recently opened in February 2007, the Spa, run by L' Apothiquaire, is offering a wide range of treatments for men and women.

## UNIQUE HOTELS

### Unique Building: Banyan Tree Ringha

Behind every myth is at least a grain of truth — a comforting thought for someone in search of James Hilton's evasive Shangri-La. In his acclaimed novel "Lost Horizon" Hilton masterfully describes a distant and secluded hideaway of great beauty and peacefulness, a remote paradise on earth hidden in a Tibetan valley of snow-capped mountains, where harmony reigns, where the gods walk among the people, and where man and nature embrace.

A utopian dream perhaps or surprisingly close to reality ?



Banyan Tree Ringha is found in **China's Yunnan province**, a mountainous area that has been designated as the official Shangri-La by the Chinese government and is part of Greater Tibet, both historically and culturally. At 3,200 meters above sea level, in true Banyan Tree style, the resort architecture reflects the **local Tibetan culture**. All 32 spacious lodges and suites are traditional farmhouses with intricate woodcarvings, smoky fireplaces and wooden balconies that have valley or river views. Impressive pine pillars add **enormous character** to both the interior and exterior of each house.

For Corporate groups, this unique hotel boasts meeting facilities well-suited for conferences. Adventure treks, cultural visits and spa treatment to reward tired muscles will take corporate get-together to dazzling new heights!

**Unique Size: Japanese Capsule hotels** When traveling in Japan, you may wish to try this **typical and economical accommodation!** In one of the numerous modular plastic or fiberglass block roughly **2 meters by 1 meter**, stacked side by side and two units top to bottom, you will have just room to sleep, for one person only!



Indeed, this type of accommodation was originally developed for businessmen too tired or far away to make the trip home. Today, especially on weekdays, roomers are also men too inebriated to safely travel to their homes, or too embarrassed to face their spouses. The first capsule hotel, opened in 1979 was the Capsule Inn Osaka, designed by Kisho Kurokawa and located in the Umeda district of Osaka. Almost 30 years later, the concept is very popular and most of the time the facilities reduced to a television, a wireless internet connection and communal washrooms.

### **Unique park and hotel dedicated to Architecture: Yuzi Paradise and the HOMA**

Set against the beautiful mountains of Guilin, **Yuzi Paradise** is a **sculpture park** dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art and culture in China. Founded in 1997, and boasting over 600 hectares, the park features more than 200 works made on-site by internationally acclaimed artists. Its elegant and **contemporary Hotel of Modern Art (HOMA)** has blazed the trail for design hotels in China.

HOMA marks a renaissance in Asian hospitality. Nestled between a limestone peak and a pine forest, and featuring a unique sloping roof covered with grass, the hotel sits in harmony with its environment. The only Chinese hotel member of the prestigious **Relais & Chateaux association**, it offers guests a level of style and design never before available in China. From its minimalist lobby, adorned with exquisite sculptures, to its other public spaces, **the entire environment is fused with art**. Each of the 46 rooms has been individually designed: from the shape and size, to the furniture, and even the curtains, everything is beautifully different.

For inspiration, intimacy, and sheer awe, nothing compares to a stay at HOMA.

**For incentive groups, this hotel is an ideal and surprising venue. Combined with activities in Guilin and Yangshuo, conferences and meeting in this environment will definitely enchant participants.**



### **Unique History: Devi Garh Palace**

The **18th century Devi Garh Palace** near Udaipur, **Rajasthan**, took years of restoration and rebuilding, before it was ready for visitors. The Fort Palace was conceived as a place where the past meets the future. This **all suite luxury hotel** comprising of 39 suites takes on the look of modern India with emphasis on design and detail, using local marbles and semi precious stones. The contemporary design show-cased within this **spectacular heritage property** is complemented by personalized and intimate service. Devi Garh has numerous rooms, lounges, courtyards, terraces and gardens, making it also a perfect venue to host conferences, corporate or private functions.

Located in the picturesque Aravali hills, Devi Garh is easily accessible both, by air or by a comfortable overnight train journey from Delhi.





### Unique Spa: Ananda in the Himalayas

Swirled in the sacred mists of time, nestled in the Himalayas is Ananda, a world class Destination Spa. Once the residence of Maharaja of Tehri-Garhwal, it is dedicated to today's traveler, who is looking for innovative ways to restore and rejuvenate his energies.

Guests can arrive by **special helicopter shuttle** from New Delhi airport (45 minutes flight time) and are accommodated in contemporary, chic rooms with wooden floors, personal yoga mats, Internet access and **spectacular mountain views** from the sunken bathtubs and balconies. The restaurants, including the fabulous Tree Top Deck, serve exquisite healthy cuisine. Grounded in **Ayurveda, Yoga and Vedanta** combined with contemporary international therapies which enhance and augment the original, Ananda is the ultimate escape from the mundane to the spiritual, where every corner spells harmony and every color soothes the senses. While the **vast menu of spa programs** and adventure activities energize



the body, serene yoga and meditation sessions uplift the mind. The inclusion of art and culture into the regime of the guests is carefully orchestrated to elevate the human spirit and complete the holistic experience.



### **UNUSUAL FEATURES OF THE LODGING**



**On a train!** The majesty and splendor of the **Eastern and Oriental Express**, with its comfortable and elegant compartments, delicious cuisine and superb service, combined with the adventure of a journey through the heart of Asia, is a truly unique way to experience the full wonder of this remarkable region. The inaugural journey departed in September 1993 and the Eastern & Oriental Express quickly built for itself a highly regarded reputation as providing **one of the most adventurous and exciting rail journeys in the world**. In addition to the two-

night journey between **Singapore and Bangkok**, the E&O also travels overnight to **Chiang Mai from Bangkok**. Whichever journey passengers decide to take, they are assured of the **highest quality food and service** while enjoying **dramatic views across the South East Asian landscape**. A quarter of a mile in length, the air-conditioned gleaming green and cream carriages evoke the great age of luxury train travel and are a world of opulence and fine craftsmanship. Time aboard the train is full of diversions. In the Dining Cars, waiters present gourmet Asian and European dishes and fine wines in gleaming crystal and silverware. The Bar Car with its resident pianist and variety of local entertainment provides a special opportunity to meet fellow travelers. The most popular place on board however, is the open decked Observation Car, which provides an unbeatable opportunity to enjoy the **beautiful scenery**.

**Made in ice:** The Icehotel in the village of Jukkasjärvi, about 17 km from Kiruna, Sweden was the world's first ice hotel. In 1989, Japanese ice artists visited the area and created an exhibition of ice art. In Spring 1990, French artist Jannot Derid held an exhibition in a cylinder-shaped igloo in the area. One night there were no rooms available in the town, so some of the visitors asked for permission to spend the night in the exhibition hall. They slept in sleeping bags on top of reindeer skin - the first guests of the "hotel". Nowadays, it is in **several Scandinavian countries and Canada** that every winter ice hotels are reconstructed. **Made up entirely of snow and sculpted blocks of ice**, they require constant sub-zero temperatures during construction and operation. The walls, fixtures and fittings are held together using a substance known as snice, which takes the place of mortar in a traditional brick-built building. Inside, everything is made of ice: decorations, furnishing, bars, reception areas, restaurants, even glasses and plates! In an ice hotel, one may sleep in Arctic sleeping bags on an ice bed covered with deer fur. Luckily, the bathrooms are heated, in a separate insulated structure!





**In Caves!** Gamirasu is an exquisitely restored twenty-five-room troglodyte cave house opened in 1999, in Ayvali Village near Urgup in the heart of Cappadocia, Turkey. Located in a restored **thousand-year-old Byzantine monastic retreat**, this unique hotel offers modern conveniences without distracting from the spiritual feeling of the area which has been known to be inhabited for more than five thousand years.



Part of the hotel was used by Christian monks until recently. **Some of the rooms were actually monk cells.** The quality of the cave rooms makes you feel cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Volcanic rock called "tufa" is perfect insulation material which keeps the temperature between 17 - 20 degrees Celsius throughout the year. All rooms are different from each other in their size, shape and qualities. In the hotel kitchen, **organically produced food** is used to prepare typical Cappadocian style of dinner. Horse riding, Turkish cuisine class, agricultural activities discovery, yoga, cultural event and other activities can be arranged in the hotel or in the surrounding area, to make your retreat even more enjoyable.



### **In the trees!**

Nestled deep in the forests of Aberdare National Park, Treetops Hotel is a world-renowned **rustic treehouse** dedicated to game viewing. First opened in 1932, it was literally built into the tops of the trees as a treehouse, offering the guests a close view of the local wildlife in complete safety. The idea was to provide a machan (hunting platform on a tree during shikar in India) experience in relative safety and comfort. From the original modest two room tree house, it has grown into 50 rooms. The original structure was burned down by African guerrillas during the 1954 Mau Mau Uprising, but the hotel was rebuilt near the same waterhole and **has become a fashionably exotic adventure** for many of the rich and famous. It includes observation lounges and ground level photographic hides from which guests can observe the local wildlife which come to the nearby waterholes. Guests can drink in the sight of Elephants, Buffalos, Rhinos and more from the safety of four viewing decks and a rooftop platform. Shutterbugs can take close shots from two photographic hides at ground level.



### **Coming... an underwater hotel in Dubai !**



Almost the entire collection of the world's newest and most breathtaking architectural genius is based in Dubai. The world watched in breathless anticipation as the Burj Dubai grew into the clouds, and whilst this project set up its home in the sky, another architectural mind set his sights on the depths of the sea, inspired by the Jules Verne classic 20,000 Leagues under the Sea. **Hydropolis is a hotel beneath the waves.** It is destined to be an underwater haven where visitors can be in awe at the surrounding architecture and the life out in the deep blue sea. Construction has been moving in fits and starts and is currently on hold. It is unknown what the difficulty is or when the project may finally be completed.



## DID YOU KNOW???



### What is a "Boutique Hotel"?

Sometimes known as "design hotels" or "lifestyle hotels", "boutique hotels" began appearing in the 1980s in major cities like London, New York, and San Francisco. Boutique hotels differentiate themselves from larger chain hotels and motels by providing **personalized accommodation, services or facilities** and are usually **intimate, luxurious or quirky**. Typically boutique hotels are furnished in a themed, stylish and/or inspirational manner and offer **less than 50 guest rooms**. Boutique hotels have typically been unique properties operated by individuals or companies with a small collection. However, their successes have prompted established multi-national hotel companies to usurp the term and/or try to establish their own brands in order to capture a market share. The most notable example is Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide's W Hotels, ranging from large boutique hotels like the W Union Square NY to the W 'boutique resorts' in the Maldives to true luxury boutique hotel collections like the Bulgari collection, SLS Hotels, Thompson Hotels, Joie De Vie hotels, and The Keating Hotel, among many others.

What is a "Motel"? A motel (**Motor Hotel**) is a hotel which is for a short stay, usually for a night, for motorists on long journeys. It has direct access from the room to the vehicle (for example a central parking lot around which the buildings are set), and is built conveniently close to major roads and intersections.

### M Gallery, new high-end brand of ACCOR portfolio



ACCOR has expanded its brand portfolio further with MGallery, a label which will make its presence felt throughout Asia over the next two years. The group, which in 2007 relaunched the Pullman brand, pushed its Sofitel from upscale to luxury and started opening new-generation Ibis hotels, is continuing its network push in Asia with its redefined portfolio. Unlike Small Luxury Hotels of the World or Chateaux & Relais, **boutique hotels under MGallery are fully managed by Accor**, although they retain their own individual names.

Each MGallery hotel boasts a **strong, individual personality**, complete with signature 'Unique Pleasures', and is distinctive in terms of its notable history, superb location, exceptional design or striking vision. **Phoenix Hotel Yogyakarta**, formerly known as Grand Mercure Yogyakarta has been repositioned as a member of the MGallery collection. The 144-room Phoenix Hotel Yogyakarta is the second MGallery hotel in Asia after the **Vie Hotel Bangkok**.

### A jail transformed in a "Liberty Hotel"

Always an architectural gem, what was once the iconic **Charles Street Jail** is now the stunning, vibrant Liberty Boston Hotel. Since opening in September 2007, the Boston Liberty Hote quickly became the "must-visit" downtown Boston destination for visitors and local residents alike.



With the **19<sup>th</sup> century cells** transformed into 300 luxury rooms and granite walls the hotel retains much of the historic structure, including its famed rotunda.

## TO KNOW MORE

To know more about rates or transportation, or to book any of the above mentioned hotel, please contact our Travel Consultant by phone at **+852 2526 0336** or email : [forceten@forceten.com.hk](mailto:forceten@forceten.com.hk)



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