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Akorn DESTINATION MANAGEMENT



INSPIRE

December 2018

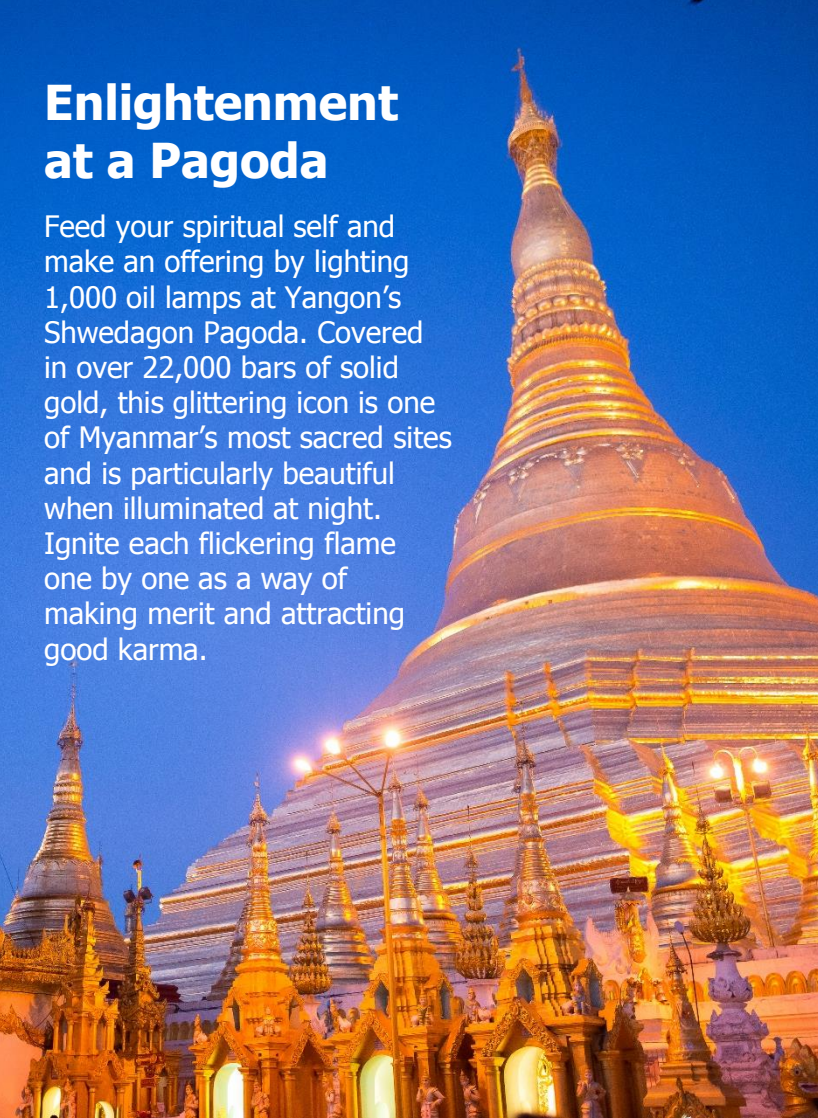
Vietnam's New Year Blossoms

Boats brimming with orchids, marigolds, apricot blossoms and all kinds of exotic blooms line the riverbanks in the lead up to Vietnam's New Year, or Tet celebrations. Flowers are believed to bring good luck so most homes and city streets will be beautifully decorated this time of year. Tet flower markets pop up around the country and you can catch it in Hoi An from 20-30 January 2019 and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) from 29 January to 4 February 2019.



Enlightenment at a Pagoda

Feed your spiritual self and make an offering by lighting 1,000 oil lamps at Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda. Covered in over 22,000 bars of solid gold, this glittering icon is one of Myanmar's most sacred sites and is particularly beautiful when illuminated at night. Ignite each flickering flame one by one as a way of making merit and attracting good karma.




The Siem Reap Taste Trail

Experience the best of Siem Reap's eateries on a food hopping night out by tuk tuk. Sip Mango Mai Tais at Miss Wong's, a 1920's style speakeasy, and nibble on Tonle Sap Fish Carpaccio or Grilled Beef marinated with local herbs and spices at Mie Café. Continue to The Sugar Palm for a taste of Khmer Curry or try the Fish Amok, a local favorite. Then end at Malis for a local twist on classic desserts such as Kampot Pepper Brulee or Malis Mousse infused with jasmine, honey and ginger.

The Mark of Power

What better way to gain positive energy in the new year than with a sacred "Sak Yant" tattoo, created by the same hand that decorated the likes of Angelina Jolie and other international celebrities. Enjoy a private experience of this centuries-old tradition with the renowned Sak Yant master who gently taps a sacred symbol into your skin using a bamboo stick. These symbols were used to protect Thai warriors in ancient times and are said to bring spiritual power in the form of good luck and health.



Sunset Soirée on Cambodia's Great Lake

Make 2019 a year to remember and celebrate your special occasion with cocktails and Champagne surrounded by the wild beauty of Southeast Asia's largest lake, Tonle Sap Lake. From your private, hand-crafted wooden boat, you have front row seats to nature's most spectacular show, where the magical sunset casts a warm pink glow across the rippling lake. Celebrations on the boat are recommended during high water season between August and February.

Opened
October 2018

INSPIRE | STAYS



WA ALE RESORT Myeik Archipelago, Myanmar

Set on a private island in the untouched Myeik Archipelago, Wa Ale is a intimate eco-resort with just 11 tented beach villas and two amazing treetop villas. Hop on a plane from Yangon or Bangkok and connect with a two-hour speedboat to spend endless days on the island, kayaking, swimming, snorkeling or trekking jungle trails.

Why we love it:

Being one of the first to visit these sandy shores, we felt we had entered a secret paradise. It took just seconds for us to feel at home in this tropical haven. We are also impressed with the resort's genuine commitment to wildlife conservation.

FOUR SEASONS RESORT KOH SAMUI Koh Samui, Thailand

Set in a secluded bay with a pristine beach, Four Seasons Resort Koh Samui offers laid-back island living with private pool villas set among coconut groves on a scenic hillside overlooking the Gulf of Thailand.

Why we love it:

Designed by one of our favorite hotel designers, Bill Bensley, this hotel boasts one of the most secluded beaches on the island, where life seems to pass at a more relaxed pace. We also loved the chance to get fit in the Muay Thai boxing ring and sampling the connoisseur's collection of spirits in Asia's only rum vault, in that order of course!



137 PILLARS HOUSE Chiang Mai, Thailand

Built around the headquarters of the former East Borneo Company just a stone's throw from downtown Chiang Mai, 137 Pillars is an elegant retreat evoking the essence of its founders' British heritage.

Why we love it:

One of our favorite stays, this property is a haven of tranquility in Chiang Mai. We love the landscaped garden and old-world charm of the suites which are all styled with authentic rattan furniture and Thai textiles. The swimming pool is also one of the most beautiful in Chiang Mai, set against a verdant vertical garden wall - simply stunning!



“The new year stands before us,
like a chapter in a book,
waiting to be written.”

- Melodie Beattie, author





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Start planning your next inspirational journey to Southeast Asia!



Sonja Stoerr
Director of Sales
sstoerr@akorndmc.com



Baptiste Dauvergne
Regional Sales Manager
bdauvergne@akorndmc.com

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30 years in
Southeast Asia*

Our offices:

Thailand, Cambodia & Laos
thailand@akorndmc.com

Myanmar
myanmar@akorndmc.com

Vietnam
vietnam@akorndmc.com

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Cover photo: Monks praying by candlelight at a Thai temple

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