Akorn Destination Management

ZNSPIRE February 2020

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ZNSPIRE | CULTURE

Off-Road by Jeep in Cambodia

Imagine an Indiana Jones-style escapade into the remote fields and forests where ruined temples whisper untold stories of a forgotten time. Throw in an army Jeep and a magical sunset to complete this epic off-road adventure on the outskirts of Siem Reap, Cambodia. Satisfy your thirst for discovery amid the lush countryside and stop by quiet villages for a sense of rural Cambodian life amid the verdant rice paddies.

Bold Burmese Brew

Whether you prefer a Rangoon Blonde, a Mandalay Brunette or a Burma Pale Ale, Burbrit is where you need to be! A refreshing sip of Myanmar's first craft ale is the perfect end to a Yangon day. Go behind the scenes with the bar crew to see the micro-brewing process before sampling a range of different brews, from the traditional English Bitter and American Golden Ale to more innovative local concoctions such as the Mango Weizen, which comes laced with the tropical sweetness of Southeast Asia's golden fruit.





The Rice Bowl of Vietnam

Taste sweet sugar cane, chomp on juicy papayas, mangoes and grapefruit and indulge in juicy coconuts in Vietnam's "Land of Plenty". The Mekong Delta region, just a few hours' drive or a pleasant boat ride from Ho Chi Minh City, is where one third of the nation's food comes from, but you would hardly know it when passing through the sleepy canal-side villages. We love to hop on a bike here to meet some of the farming and fishing families who welcome you with open arms, invite you for lunch and offer a taste of their home-grown produce. Discover more of the Mekong Delta's charms on your next southern Vietnam journey with Akorn.

Vanishing Bangkok

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From the forgotten backstreets to hidden neighborhoods, this is one man's journey to capture the fading charms of Bangkok before they disappear forever within this fast-changing metropolis. Shot over a five-year period using for the most part a large format Linhof film camera, this moving series by British photographer, Ben Davies, offers a truly eye-opening perspective. The exhibition runs from 12 March until 30 April 2020 in Bangkok.

A Ritual Balinese Blessing

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Dressed in pure white, a Hindu priest hums a sacred prayer and blesses you with holy water while gently pressing tiny grains of rice onto your forehead. Rooted in ancient tradition, the "melukat" ritual is a deeply spiritual Balinese experience that is said to purify the soul and expel bad luck. Enrich your mind, body and soul with a private ceremony arranged by Akorn and bathe in the communal holy waters of sacred Taman Sari Palace.





ANAVILA | Bagan, Myanmar

Breaking new ground in Bagan's luxury accommodation scene, Anavila offers a stylish collection of villas and residences just twenty minutes' drive from Old Bagan's temple zone. With the Ayeyarwady River as a backdrop, the villas and residences create a sense of comfort enhanced with elements of European design and a touch of Burmese character.

Why we love it: A game-changer for highend travelers in Bagan, we love the minimalist style of this property. The rooms are built around the original terrain with trees becoming as much a part of the interior décor as they are preserved in the garden. Floor-to-ceiling glass sliding doors open onto large terraces with dreamy views of the river flowing into the distance.

ANANTARA CHIANG MAI RESORT Chiang Mai, Thailand

Offering all the pleasures of resort living just around the corner from Chiang Mai's bustling night bazaar, Anantara Chiang Mai Resort is a chic sanctuary built around a 100-year-old heritage house which was once used as the British Consulate. The rooms and suites are housed in a contemporary building with a sleek, modern design overlooking the peaceful Ping River.

Why we love it: The restaurant is an experience in itself. The early 20th-century spy and secret service theme adds a fun twist complete with doors concealed behind bookcases and cocktails inspired by James Bond. And who could resist the herbal bath and Thai healing treatments at the spa?





ANCIENT HUE GARDEN HOUSES Hue, Vietnam

Inspired by the architecture of imperial Hue, Ancient Hue Garden Houses offers a window into a bygone era. Reminiscent of a mandarin's living quarters, the elegant residences are lovingly decorated with terracotta tiles, floral motifs and dark wooden furniture, paying homage to a Vietnam of old. Set in a village just beside the Imperial Citadel, this is where history, poetry and tradition come alive.

Why we love it: Relaxing by the pool surrounded by beautiful, tropical gardens is the perfect complement to an immersive day in Hue. Each house tells its own story through hand-picked furniture, paintings and decorative items and we loved the chance to indulge in traditional massages at the spa.

ZNSPIRE | STORIES

"A journey is best measured in friends rather than miles"

- Tim Cahill, travel writer

MAN TELSES VALUE /

A rice farmer and children enjoying life on the river, Thailand



Start planning your next inspirational journey to Southeast Asia!



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