



AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

INSPIRE

January 2021

A photograph of Mount Batur, a large volcano in Bali, Indonesia, during a vibrant sunset. The sky is filled with orange and yellow clouds, and the mountain's peak is silhouetted against the bright light. The foreground shows lush green vegetation.

A Balinese Sunset from Mount Batur

With more volcanoes than any other country in the world, Indonesia's landscape is truly unique and breathtaking. But what if you could capture that beauty in a single moment with a chance to dine on the edge of a volcano? On your next Akorn journey, we recommend a late afternoon hike up to the top of Mount Batur, an ancient volcano surrounded by East Bali's rice fields and fruit plantations followed by an organic picnic dinner with a view. The mountain is more peaceful and less crowded in the evening and offers incredible sunset vistas overlooking volcanoes and lush valleys.

An aerial photograph showing a large, circular cast-net fishing operation in the crystal-clear waters of Phu Yen, Vietnam. A small boat is visible in the center, surrounded by the green netting that has been cast in a wide circle.

Life of Phu Yen Fishermen in Central Vietnam

Boats filled with fresh fish, shrimp and squid cast their nets over the crystal-clear waters of Phu Yen. We love to spend time with the fishermen and villagers here who live a very traditional lifestyle and have perfected the timeless skill of cast-net fishing as well as their specialized "Mo-O" method using primitive, yet effective bamboo traps. We recommend this fishing village visit with a stay at the newly-opened Zannier Hotels Bai San Ho, a stunning coastal retreat with a private beach and gorgeous villas.

Vietnam Prepares for Tet!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! At no other time will you see so many motorcycles take to the streets, packed high with colorful peach flower, marigold and kumquat trees. But as the preparations ramp up for Tet, Vietnam's New Year celebration, anything goes! This is Vietnam's biggest annual celebration and the plants are important symbols that express messages of love and happiness to loved ones. Vietnamese families honor their ancestors by burning incense and making offerings of paper money. This year, Tet takes place on February 12, 2021 and the festivities usually continue for several days.



Giving Back in Myanmar

While international travel takes a pause, life goes on as usual in Sin Kyun. On this small island in the middle of Myanmar's Ayeyarwady River, just 30 minutes from Mandalay, where farmers grow peanuts and craftsmen make bamboo hats, AKP Philanthropy continues to support the local school to improve access to education for the village children. Thanks to our guests' contributions, two new school buildings were built in 2020. You can get involved in the Sin Kyun project and visit the village on an Akorn river cruise with the custom-designed Sanctuary Ananda ship.

Artisanal Flavors of Laos



Meet the makers of Laos' first and only buffalo cheese! Providing local farmers with a new source of income and new knowledge about vaccinations and animal care, this social enterprise dairy and farm is one of our favorite spots in Luang Prabang. Akorn can arrange a private tour with the owners where you can help wash and feed the animals and savor a tasting platter of mozzarella, feta and ricotta as well as fresh farm yogurt and home-made ice cream.



MANDARIN ORIENTAL, BANGKOK Bangkok, Thailand

A piece of living history, the Mandarin Oriental, Bangkok has served the likes of Tsar Nicolas II of Russia, Eleanor Roosevelt and Princess Diana over its 140 years and occupies a prime riverfront location, representing the hallmark of sophistication and comfort in the city.

Why we love it: Following extensive renovations in 2019, the hotel has never looked better. The new colors and tones give the rooms a fresh, contemporary feel while showcasing iconic views of the Chao Phraya River. Don't miss the quintessential afternoon tea at The Authors' Lounge or a night out with jazzy cocktails at the famous Bamboo Bar.

THE OBEROI BEACH RESORT, LOMBOK Lombok, Indonesia

Located on the white sandy shores of Lombok's Medana Beach, The Oberoi Beach Resort, Lombok is a peaceful paradise - ideal for romantic escapes, quiet retreats or exhilarating water sports. The spacious thatched-roof pavilions offer contemporary comfort combined with local touches, featuring two poster beds, cushioned cane furniture and hand-picked artwork.

Why we love it: This is the perfect base for exploring coral reefs and underwater life in the nearby Gili Islands. The resort comes complete with its own PADI dive center and an infinity pool that seems to melt into the ocean.



ZANNIER HOTELS BAI SAN HO Phu Yen, Vietnam

Surrounded by hills and vegetation, Zannier Hotels Bai San Ho is a chic eco-retreat nestled on a private, untouched beach on Vietnam's central coast. Overlooking the Bay of Corals, the resort stands out with its soul and historical authenticity. The private villas celebrate local architectural styles including tribal village homes of the Eden and Cham cultures.

Why we love it: We love the classic, rustic design that has become synonymous with Zannier properties around the world, including sister property, Phum Baitang in Cambodia. This inspired haven is perfect for rest and relaxation with a stunning private beach, gorgeous views from the infinity pool and blissful massages, yoga and traditional wellness treatments at the spa.



Eye-catching street art draws urban explorers to Bangkok's Klong Ong Ang, a canal-side community where a once polluted canal has been transformed into a trendy promenade with food stalls and weekend markets. Just one of many urban renewal projects taking place in the city and one of the locales featured in Akorn Thailand's new walking tour series that explores up-and-coming areas of Bangkok, Thailand.

Cover photo: Peach blossoms are used to decorate the home during Vietnam's Tet New Year Festival, a symbol of love and joy

OVER 30 YEARS
OF LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERTISE IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA



Our offices:

Thailand, Cambodia, Laos & Indonesia

thailand@akorndmc.com

Myanmar

myanmar@akorndmc.com

Vietnam

vietnam@akorndmc.com

Explore our archive
for more INSPIRE'ation

