# Akorn Destination Management

# **ZNSPIRE** December 2022

# **ZNSPIRE** | CULTURE

#### Picnic at the Pyramid, Cambodia

Walk down an old causeway, through a crumbling stone gate and past an open field to discover the moss-covered ruins of a tenth-century Khmer kingdom. Dating back to a time before Angkor Wat, Koh Ker is a seven-tiered pyramid on the edge of a forest just two hours' drive from Siem Reap. Rarely visited due to its remote location, the temple presents the perfect backdrop for an Akorn-style picnic with gourmet delights served with chilled Champagne at a private table under a tent.

#### Thailand's Tribal Tea Culture

Head to the hills of northern Thailand to sip organic tea and experience the centuries-old tea making wisdom of hill tribe farmers. Just one hour from Chiang Mai, Araksa Tea Garden offers immersive tea sessions where you can learn how to make the perfect brew and taste up to 20 different types of teas. We love to wander the tea fields and take in scenic views of the plantation while enjoying a cup of aromatic Assam tea plucked straight from the garden.

#### Singapore's Laksa Street

Creamy and coconut-y with a hint of spice – this mouth-watering noodle sensation is our go-to dish when visiting the city-state of Singapore. While you can find Singaporean laksa at many restaurants and hawker centers around town, true aficionados will head straight to Katong where several stalls battle for supremacy in the so-called "Laksa Wars." While each stall claims to be the original and the best, locals are divided as to which is their favorite. You can be the judge and sample some of Singapore's best laksas and other Katong foodie favorites on your next Akorn journey in Singapore.

### **ZNSPIRE** | EXPLORE

#### A Walk in the Clouds, Vietnam

For a true "Back to Nature" experience, escape to the northern highlands of Vietnam where we love to slow down and explore local life in the remote hills and villages of Sapa. Trek across the rolling landscape and meet villagers of the Tay, Xa Pho and Hmong tribes who offer insights into their unique ways of life. Along the way, stop for a picnic overlooking terraced rice fields and explore the market where people of different tribes gather to buy and sell precious cattle or exchange locally grown goods and handicrafts.

#### An Indonesian Odyssey

sea turtles and black tip reef sharks or hike through savannahs where the elusive Komodo dragons make their home. Indonesia's Komodo National Park is a treasure trove natural wonders, both on land and at sea. One of our favorite ways to explore is on board Vela, a private sailing vessel with a dedicated crew who whisk you away to secluded spots in unchartered waters. Combining centuries-old seafaring tradition with modern naval design, Vela offers six staterooms decorated with custom teak furniture and comes complete with gourmet meals on board and a variety of equipment, including water-skis, jet-skis, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards.



#### NIRJHARA | Bali, Indonesia

Surrounded by forests and rice paddies, Nirjhara is a natural oasis that blends sophisticated Indonesian design with captivating views of coconut groves, rivers and waterfalls. Located just a few minutes from Tanah Lot, one of Bali's most sacred temples, the property is the ideal base for exploring Canggu village and the island's southern coast.

Why we love it: The hotel offers easy access to good surf beaches and we love to simply hop on a bike and explore neighboring villages on two wheels. The restaurant's farm to table cuisine comes with waterfall views while the spa is a great place to unwind with traditional healing and relaxation.

#### ANANTARA GOLDEN TRIANGLE Golden Triangle, Thailand

Nestled on a hilltop framed by lush jungles, Anantara Golden Triangle is a scenic retreat perched on the edge of a mountain overlooking three countries -Thailand, Myanmar and Laos. For a more immersive experience, opt for a night in one of the resort's Jungle Bubbles where you can look up at the star-lit skies while staying in a chic and fully-furnished transparent dome.

Why we love it: We love waking up to the sound of elephants trumpeting in the morning and watching the wonders of nature from the comfort of our airconditioned bubble-home. This private experience comes with a dinner basket served in the Jungle Bubble.





#### SIX SENSES KRABEY ISLAND Sihanoukville, Cambodia

Set to reopen in December 2022, Six Senses Krabey Island is an idyllic escape hidden away on an island off Cambodia's south-west coast. Surrounded by verdant jungles, pristine beaches and inviting ocean waters, the resort offers private pool villas built using sustainable materials that blend with the natural environment.

Why we love it: Perfect for soaking up Cambodia's sun, sand and sea, the hotel brings to life the culture and traditions of rural Cambodia. The lobby, lounge and sunset bar, reflect the style of a classic fisherman's house, while the restaurant serves some of our favorite Khmer and Southeast Asian flavors.

# INSPIRE | STORIES



The Bangkok Art Biennale presents thought-provoking art exhibitions and installations at temples, galleries and public spaces across the Thai capital from now until 23 February 2023

Cover photo: The face of Buddha wrapped in the roots of a tree at Wat Mahathat in Ayutthaya, Thailand

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**Akorn Southeast Asia** Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Singapore, Myanmar

southeastasia@akorndmc.com

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