



>> FOR THE ARCHITECTURE AFICIONADO
THE RITZ-CARLTON SHANGHAI

Chosen to host the World Congress on Art Deco for 2015, the city of Shanghai is an exhilarating landscape for the traveler with an eye for architecture. The Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, Pudong, offers a singular way to experience the city's most iconic structures with a new Art Deco-inspired tea and tour curated by native Texan and renowned architect and historian Spencer Dodington.

From classic to new, the private day tour introduces guests to Shanghai's architectural treasures. The relaxing afternoon tea at hotel lounge Aura, which offers breathtaking views of The Bund from the 52nd floor, features an exclusive tea blend made for the experience called "As Time Goes By," as well as an array of desserts modeled after the city's most famous Art Deco buildings. ritzcarlton.com/shanghaipudong

KATHRYN HUNTER

Kathryn Hunter is an Austin-based freelance writer whose work has appeared in *Texas Parks and Wildlife Magazine*.



>> FOR THE NYC DEVOTEE
LANGHAM PLACE

Recent renovations to Langham Place highlight this midtown Manhattan hotel's characteristic metropolitan style and contemporary luxury. Along with guest-room updates, a redesign of the lobby and the transformation and renaming of The Spa at Langham Place to Chuan Body + Soul Spa, the changes include a permanent installation of the \$2 million Alex Katz art collection.

A stay at Langham Place puts the NYC visitor steps away from Bryant Park, the Empire State Building and Times Square, and the hotel's Michelin-starred restaurant Ai Fiori—a destination in itself, specializing in inventive cuisine from Italy and the French Riviera. Many of Langham Place's 214 residentially styled guest rooms and suites look out on views of the Manhattan skyline through floor-to-ceiling windows. langhamhotels.com

>> FOR THE MAP QUESTER
ARCHIE'S PRESS

Electronic devices get us where we want to go, but often there's a catch: We arrive at our destination with no understanding of the landscape as a whole.

Hand-designed letterpress maps by Archie's Press make sense of urban environments in a uniquely human way. Minimalistic and simple, the maps use circles to depict relative landmark sizes and distance, displaying neighborhoods and districts in the manner a local might perceive them. Destinations range from major U.S. and world cities to more whimsical, extraterrestrial locales like the moon. This frameable, inventive product allows travelers to inform or commemorate an important journey in a tangible and meaningful way—no batteries or cables required. thegrommet.com/archies-press



THE GROMMET | THE RITZ-CARLTON SHANGHAI, PUDONG



enlightened explorer

escape



>> FOR THE LUCK-O-THE-IRISH SEEKER

EMLAGH HOUSE

The beauty of the Emerald Isle is matched only by its hospitality. Emlagh House, located in the town of Dingle along the infamous Wild Atlantic Way, combines the warmth and personality of B&B-style accommodation with the professional polish of a boutique hotel.

Each of the Georgian country house's 10 bedrooms is named after a flower native to Ireland, and all are beautifully and uniquely furnished with thoughtful detail, from cashmere throws to antique cabinetry and hand-picked books on area history. Most offer king-size beds, a cozy sitting area and a view of the water or gardens.

The downstairs drawing room and breakfast room are places of quiet sanctuary, and the cooked-to-order breakfast is always a treat. Among the highlights: Delicate, crepe-like pancakes are served with chocolate spread, fruit and honey, and wholesome porridge is accessorized with brown sugar and Irish cream liqueur. To fuel a full day of active adventure and exploration on the spectacular Dingle Peninsula, opt for the "full Irish breakfast" of bacon, eggs, sausage, tomato, mushrooms and baked beans. emlaghhouse.com



AKYRA MANOR CHIANG MAI | EMLAGH HOUSE | CHRIS CALDICOTT

>> FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY EXPEDITIONIST

GANGTEY GOENPA LODGE

In the remote and spectacularly beautiful eastern Himalayas, the Gangtey Goenpa Lodge offers an ideal base for discovering the exotic and mysterious Kingdom of Bhutan. The three-night Gangtey Valley Explorer Package includes tours of the village and local monastery, a guided nature walk or mountain bike in the Phobjka Valley and additional options like archery lessons, cooking demonstrations and a visit to the Black-necked Crane Center.

Along with sweeping views, the lodge's 12 farm house suites boast heated, hand-cut stone floors and deep bathtubs set next to wood-burning stoves. In the coming year, the Lodge will complete the addition of a traditional hot stone bath house featuring tailor-made massage and body treatments. easternsafaris.com

>> FOR THE TREND-SETTING WORLD TRAVELER

AKYRA MANOR CHIANG MAI

In the green foothills of northern Thailand, the city of Chiang Mai draws visitors from around the globe with a culture built upon remarkably vibrant contrasts: the ancient and the new, the sacred and the sophisticated, the urban and the natural.

Recently opened, akyra Manor Chiang Mai mirrors the city's unique charm, offering 30 luxury suites with private interior courtyards inspired by the brand's signature "outside living in" philosophy. Other highlights of the new 5-star hotel include a rooftop bar and pool, a rotating art exhibit and the restaurant Italics, a dining experience lauded for its locally sourced ingredients and imaginative Italian cuisine.

Located near Nimmanhaemin Soi 9 (known as "Coffee Street"), akyra Manor Chiang Mai is at the heart of the city's hip downtown boutiques, coffee shops and galleries. Consider a visit during the secretive and visually stunning festival of Yi Peng, when thousands of candlelit lanterns are released into the sky, each representing a wish. theakyra.com/chiang-mai

