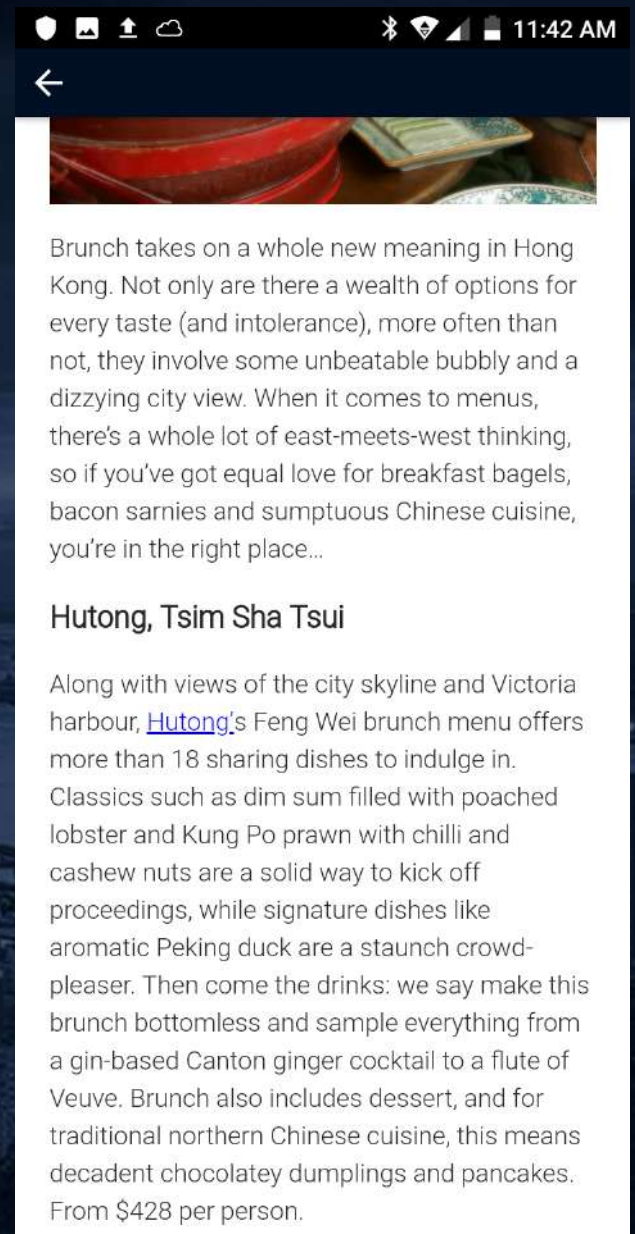
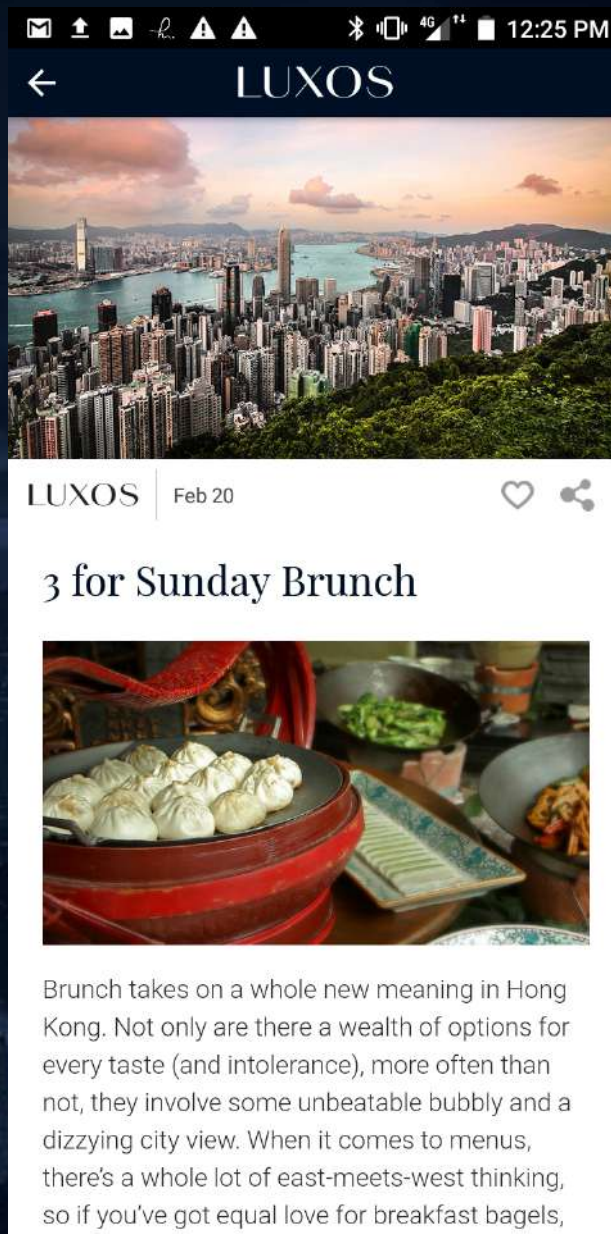




February





Grassroots Pantry, Sheung Wan

While the prospect of a rich 18 course meal is exciting for any hungry foodie, sometimes it's overkill. For anyone after something a little lighter, [Grassroots Pantry](#) focuses on healthy, organic options serving up plates of 'food that heals'. The menu is completely vegetarian, with plenty of vegan, Buddhist-friendly and gluten-free options too - one of a kind in Hong Kong. Their focus is on wholesome, flavoursome ingredients and being uber-sustainable - think koji-smoked carrot bagels, and vanilla chia seed waffles loaded with sweet compote, cinnamon sugar and maple syrup. They make being eco-friendly look easy, with a set breakfast menu Monday to Friday from 9am to 11am and a special brunch menu on the weekends from 9am to 4pm.



Bread & Beast, Wan Chai

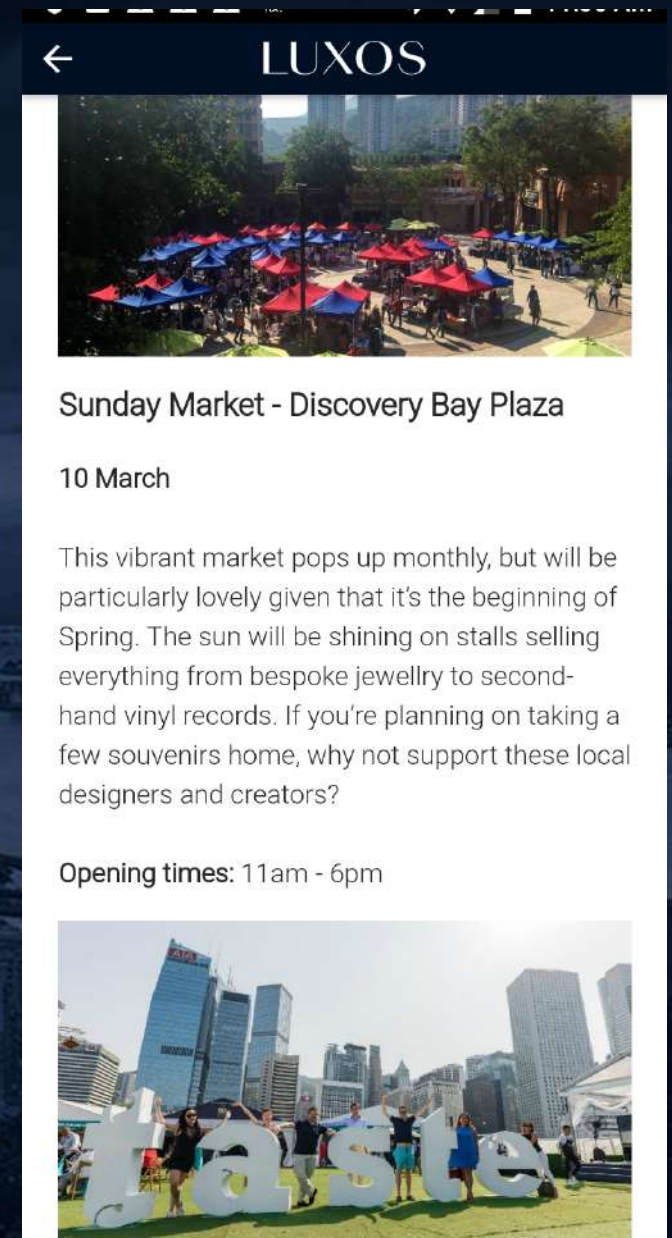
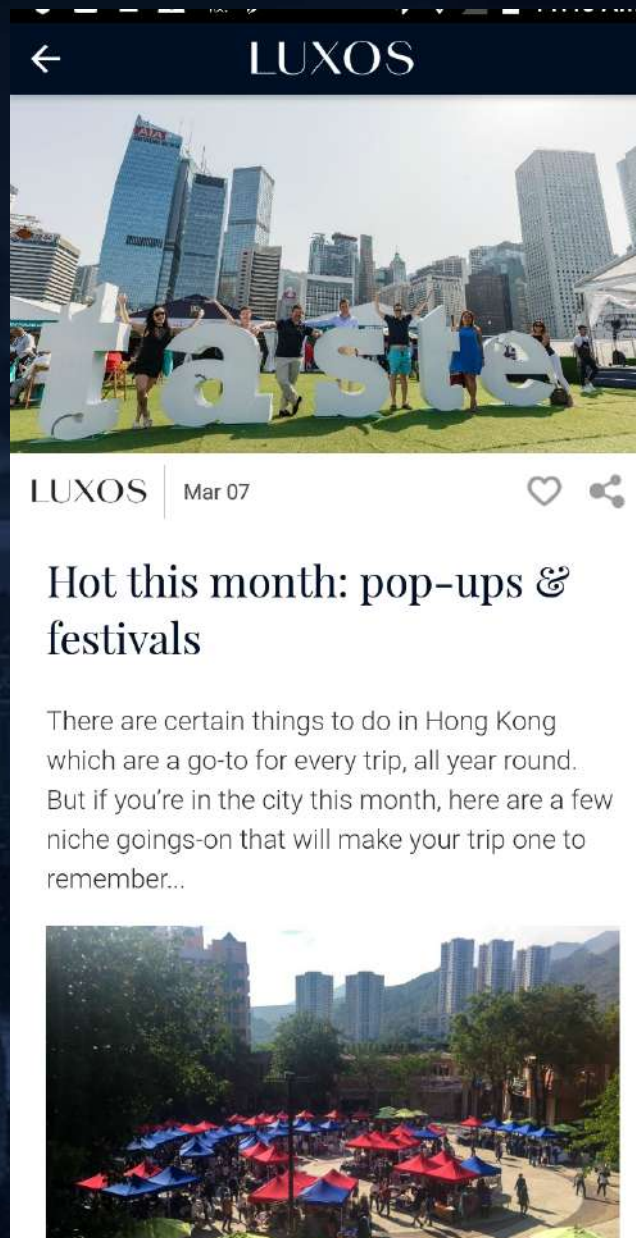
With a traditional and healthy option sorted, it's time to turn full fusion: The founders of 'Beast Brunch Club' are firm believers that great meals come in sandwich form and after brunch here, we wholeheartedly agree. Go for the eggs Benedict - available with suitably local twists, including char siu pork neck, ginger scallion crème fraiche and kumquat purple cabbage slaw - or the 'beast croissant' stuffed with beef brisket, scrambled egg and tomato jam. Lighter, gluten-free additions are also on offer, including cauli-rice and coconut yogurt.

By Megan Thomas

Image credit: Florian Wehde, Grassroots Pantry, Hutong and Bread & Beast



March





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Taste of Hong Kong - Central Harbourfront

21 - 24 March

A four-day festival packed with deliciousness. Some of Hong Kong's top chefs will be there, showcasing their mouth-watering cuisine with exclusive festival menus. Expect outlandish pop-up bars, cooking classes that will unleash your inner master-chef, vibey live music and cheek-roasting G&Ts. We suggest b-lining for Bibò X Silencio X The Ocean for their dacquoise ice cream sandwich with juicy Japanese strawberries.

General Entry: HSBC eligible credit card holders, HK\$98 / all others HK\$120

Me +3: HSBC eligible credit card holders, HK\$294 / all others HK\$360

Food and drink package: HSBC eligible credit card holders HK\$278.40 / all others HK\$348



LUXOS



Art Brunch 2019

30 March

March means 'art month' in Hong Kong and the city is brimming with immersive, diverse art exhibitions and events. Amidst the installations, exhibitions and masterpieces is a gem of an event: Hong Kong Art Gallery Association Art Brunch. [A number of galleries](#) will be opened early with special free exhibitions and brunch-essentials. Each gallery has a contact with whom you need to pre-register, so get on that and enjoy.

Open hours: 9am - 12pm, various venues



LUXOS



The Irish Village - Telegraph Bay

17 March

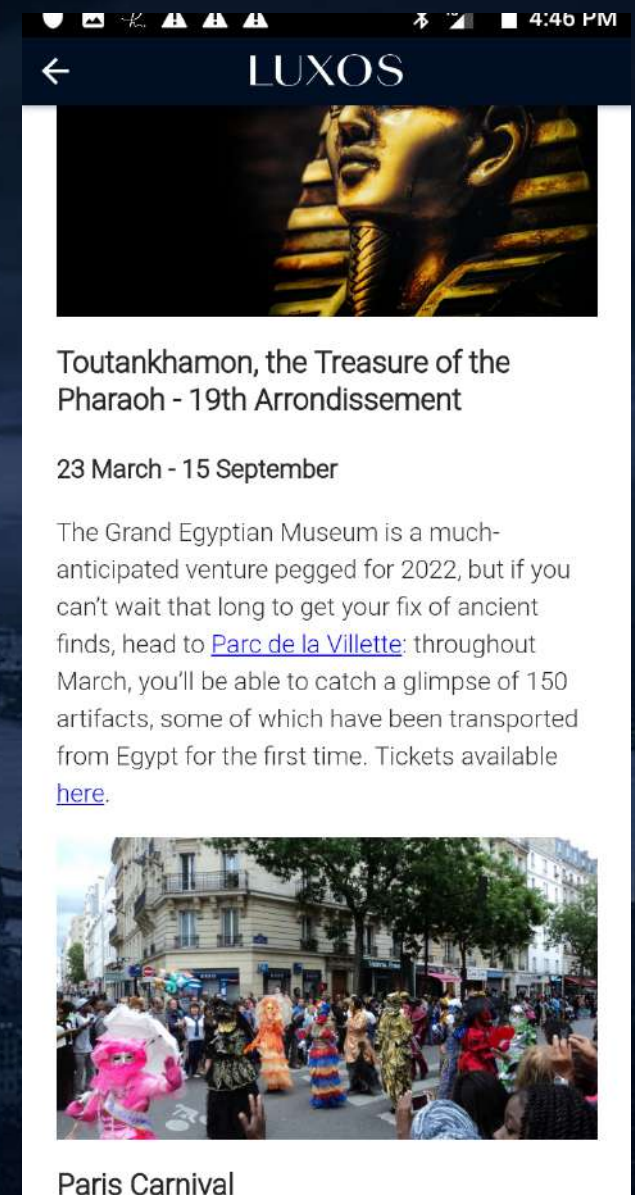
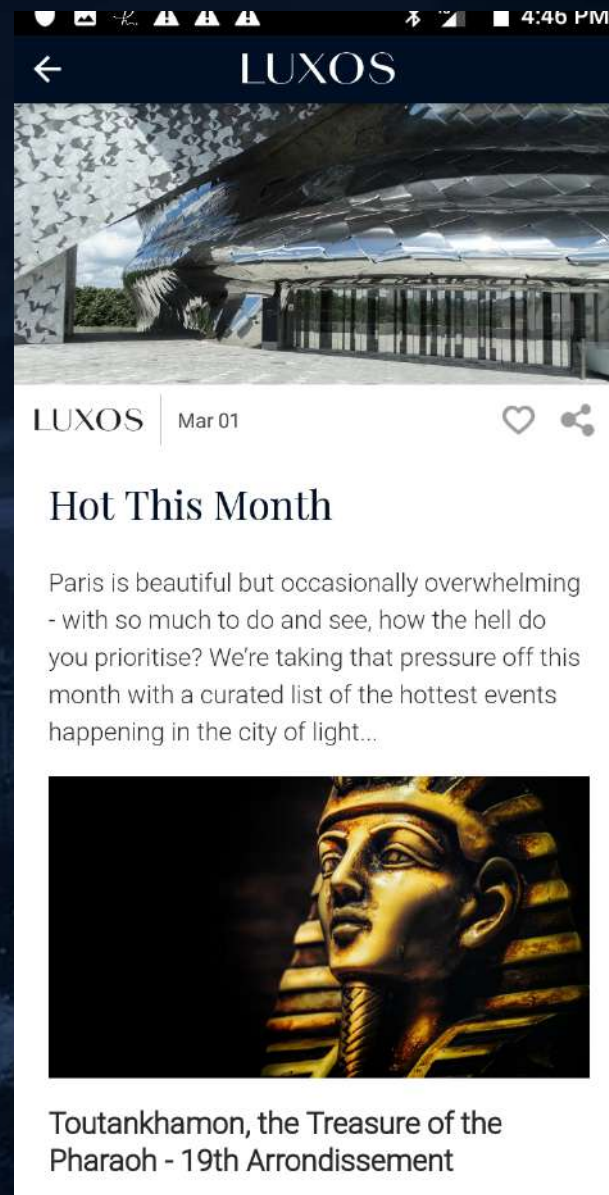
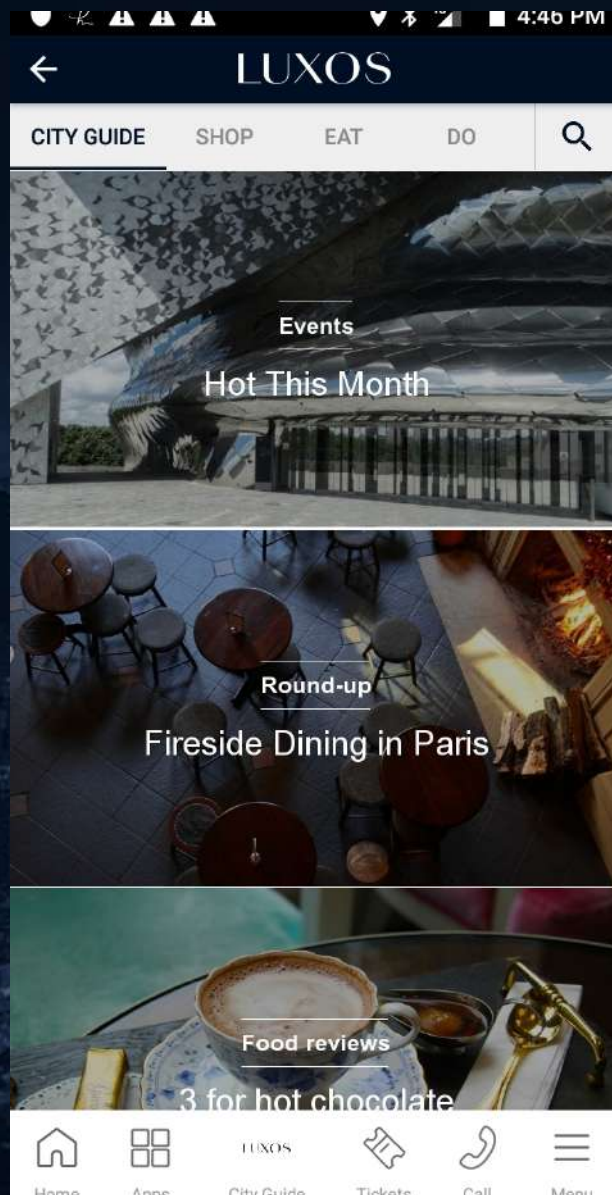
You may be miles away from Ireland but there's still plenty of reason to celebrate St Paddy's Day, and Delaney's Irish pub agrees. Expect Guinness, Irish craft gin, suitably gaelic dancing, live comedy and to belt out The Cranberries. The green theme will reign - from the soda to the popcorn - so don your finest lime or khaki and get involved.

Entry: free

Open hours: 12pm - late

By Megan Thomas

Image credit: Handmade Hong Kong, Taste of Hong Kong, Hong Kong Art Gallery Association and VGstockstudio / Shutterstock





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Paris Carnival

3 March

This annual carnival, which dates back to the 16th Century, never fails to shine a light on the joyous vibrancy at the heart of Paris. This year's theme is 'one for all and all for sport', so don your finest sweatband, ready your racquets and get involved. If not for the celebratory atmosphere, join the parade around the city as a way of mapping your walking route free from cars and traffic.



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Salon du Livre/Paris Book Fair - Saint-Lambert

15 - 18 March

Book lovers unite: The Paris Book Fair is coming to town. This annual literature event sees the transformation of the [Porte de Versailles convention centre](#) into a hub of authors, books, professionals and visitors. A multitude of genres, roundtable debates, exhibitions, talks and themes are being showcased, with plenty of global cultures and languages incorporated. Tickets available [here](#).



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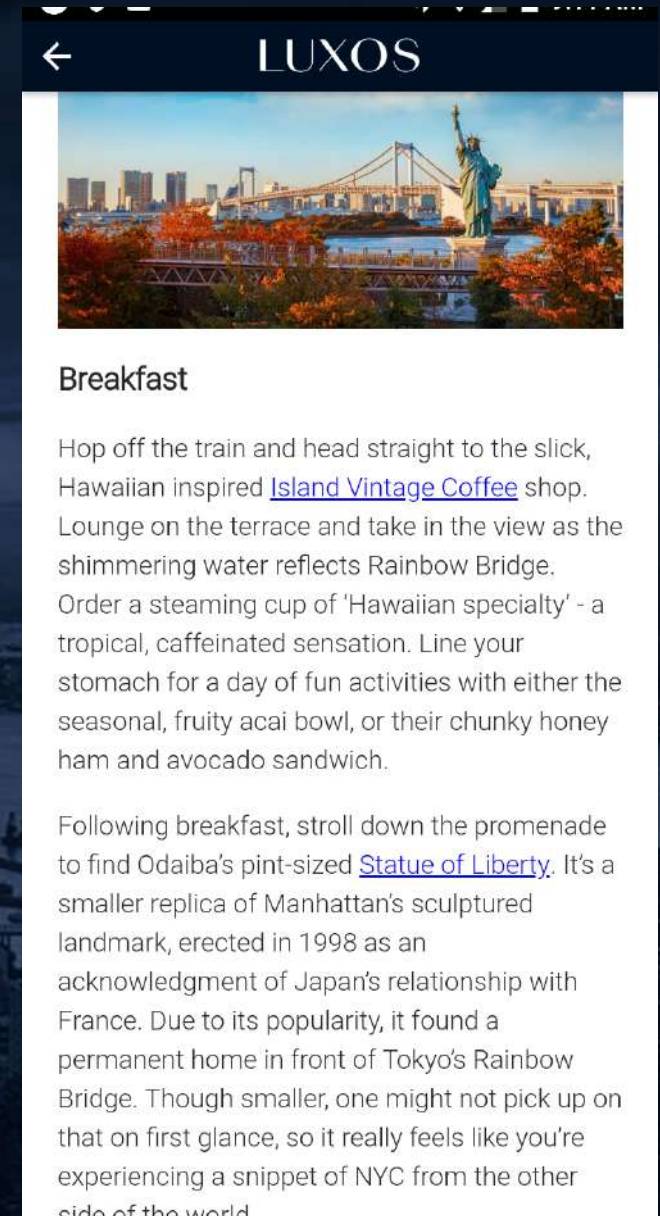
Showtime in Paris

25 February - 10 March

Enjoy more than 40 shows in venues across the city: from cabaret and theatre to dance and circus performances. It's suitable for a romantic date, a day with the kids, a bundle of laughs or even a good old-fashioned cry. All shows have English subtitles, with some in foreign languages. Not only is this a thrilling cultural experience, it's also an opportunity to see some of the French capital's most iconic venues such as the [Moulin Rouge](#) and the [Philharmonie de Paris](#). Tickets available [here](#).

By Megan Thomas

Image credit: Fre3darchi, ErasmusOfParis, ActualLite and Merydolia / Shutterstock.





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Morning

Now that you're fuelled up for the day and have checked one of the biggies off your list, it's time to get educational. While you're fresh and ready to absorb some info, walk through the winding paths of [Metropolitan Shiokaze Park](#) to the [Museum of Maritime Science](#). It's pretty hard to miss, given it's shaped like an enormous ocean liner. It hosts a number of sea-themed exhibitions, a fitting set-up considering the maritime history of Odaiba itself. Be sure to check out Nelson's Ship in a Bottle. Keep in mind that it's closed on Mondays.



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maritime history of Odaiba itself. Be sure to check out Nelson's Ship in a Bottle. Keep in mind that it's closed on Mondays.



Lunch

Museum complete, it's time for a bit of relaxation and cultural exploration in [Oedo Onsen Monogatari](#). Before you take a dip, head to the main hall for a light sushi lunch or ramen bowl. The space is set out to resemble a Japanese summer festival - street food, games and colourful lanterns abound.



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Spa hour

Oedo Onsen is not your average hot-spring: you're transported into another world - one altogether more relaxing - as you don a yukata (a summery kimono), pop your phone in a locker and receive a payment wristband so you don't even have to carry a purse around with you. Step into a dreamy, mineral-dense bath, or if the day's exploits have really taken it out of you, collapse into one of the heavenly tatami rooms and have a nap.





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into one of the heavenly tatami rooms and have a nap.



Early evening

Feeling suitably pampered and refreshed, jump on the train at the Telecom Center just down the road and travel to Aomi. You'll spot the [Palette Town Daikanransha](#) before you get there: a 100-metre high Ferris wheel, it gives you a bird's eye view of mainland Tokyo and Mount Fuji. Try to hit it at dusk when the view is more shiny and magical than a Christmas tree.



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Dinner

Expect a food coma when you eat at Prince and Princess: it's a delightful Thai menu and we recommend sharing plates to try as much as possible. Start with the appetizer platter - the fresh spring rolls and piquant Thai sausage will kick your taste buds into overdrive. The som tam salad is packed with peanuts, tiny dried shrimp and lush green papaya, and makes a refreshing accompaniment for coconutty prawn green curry with sweet basil, and mustard spinach rice noodles. We suggest skipping dessert and hitting a nearby ice cream shop...



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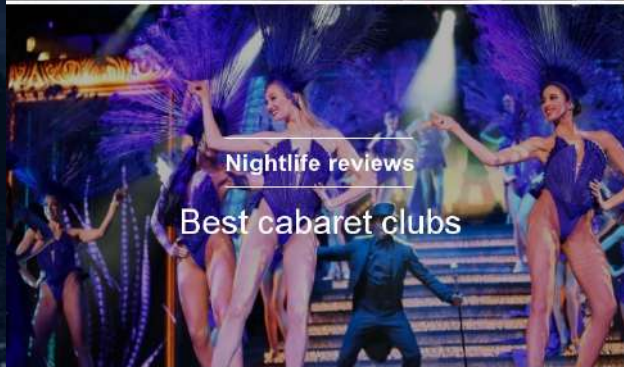


Ice Cream Stop

You've got two quality options just on your doorstep once you leave the Prince and Princess. Head to Hobson's and start an addictive relationship with their flavour blend of raspberry yogurt and blueberries. Alternatively, Or you can dabble with something more unusual from Mou Mou, where they use milk rather than cream - a traditionally Japanese method. Steer away from your usual go-to and try their pumpkin paste ice cream. Trust us, it works. It's manned with friendly staff who know a thing or two about ice cream, so ask them for help if you're unsure.

By Megan Thomas

Image credit: Hector Martin, JC Bonassin, Mark Cruz, Michael Gordan and Shutterstock



3 for Crêpes

In Paris, crêpes are more than just a delicious batter-based treat. They're an institution. They're also suitable for any time of day, so head to these gems whenever the craving hits you...



La Crêperie - Latin Quarter



La Crêperie - Latin Quarter

If the weather is right, [La Crêperie](#)'s offerings are best enjoyed on the sidewalk, overlooking the hustle and bustle of Parisian life with a view of the [Pantheon](#). Try the salted caramel creations and you won't go hungry because holy crêpe, they're huge. Best of all, you can take a post-crêpe walk in the beautiful [jardin du luxembourg](#).

Book Panthéon Ticket and Tour





Bisou Crêperie - Passage des Panoramas

[Bisou](#) is known for its bustling restaurant, but it's also a dreamy stop-off for crêpes. Nowhere does a classic lemon and sugar option better, but they're most famous for their galettes, a lighter, savoury crêpe. Made with stone-ground buckwheat flour straight from Brittany, order the 'Chiquita!': cornflake-breaded chicken with toasted hazelnuts, cheddar, homemade guacamole, cherry tomatoes, softened shallots and - just in case you're short on toppings - a poached egg for good measure.

[Book a French Bakery Tour Now](#)



Kasha - Canal Saint Martin

Two things that you didn't realise could go together so well: crêperie and cocktail bar. Head to [Kasha](#) if that sounds like your kind of party. The interior is highly Instagrammable, the menu is short but masterful, and their galettes put all others to shame. For the sweet-toothed, the poached pear, chocolate and chopped almond crêpes are mouth-watering.

Compiled by Rozena Crossman and Megan Thomas

Image credit:

Alphonsine Sabine / Shutterstock

La Crêperie

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April


Hotel information

CITY GUIDE
SHOP
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Q



Hot this month
6 must-see events



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 立减 **5%** 折扣


ISA





Your ultimate shopping itinerary
 48 hours for fashion lovers









VIP




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♥
🔗

6 must-see events

April doesn't just bring the blossoms out; there's a number of exciting events for the sport-fanatics, kids and ravers alike. So whether you're in the mood for a cheeky chocolate hunt or want to suss out the latest techno tunes, dip in to our top picks for unmissable events this month...



←
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Disney Springtime Carnival

Finishing in June 2019

The Disney crew is celebrating Spring too, with a lively show on [Disneyland's](#) Main Street. There's no extra cost for these springtime activities, just park admission, so join Mickey and the gang in the sunshine.

Get Discounted Disneyland Tickets Here





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Hong Kong Rugby Sevens - Causeway Bay

5 - 7 April

This 44th Hong Kong Rugby Sevens weekend is not just for rugby fans, but anyone interested in experiencing the buzzing atmosphere that emanates from Hong Kong Stadium. To top it off, certain ticket packages enable you to bag a place in the crowd at a Gwen Stefani gig, at Central Harbourfront in the evening. [Check ticket availability.](#)

Venue: Hong Kong Stadium, 55 Eastern Hospital Rd, Causeway Bay



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Hellodog Fest - West Kowloon

13 - 14 April

The non-profit Hellodog Foundation have delivered a dog-lover's dream with a pet and family friendly dog carnival. We assume you have not brought your dog along on your travels, so if you're missing your own furry friend or you're simply a pup-fanatic, this is a great day out for the family. [The full programme](#) includes doggie-yoga and massage sessions, face-painting, educational talks and play sessions for children and dogs, as well as dog behavioural workshops.

Venue: Nursery Park, West Kowloon Cultural District

Price: Free

Time: midday - 6pm



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Sonar Hong Kong - Science Park

13 - 14 April

Anyone for a 15-hour electronic music festival? Well, Sonar Hong Kong is legendary. With its five indoor and outdoor stages, where you can soak up the sun in the Sonar Village, it is the place to be this month. The festival includes more than 35 incredible electronic acts incorporating mind-blowing DJs, explosive audio-visual creativity and state-of-the-art technological experiences.

Venue: Hong Kong Science Park

Price: from \$580

[Check availability.](#)





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Dragon Boat Festival - Lamma Island

14 April

Participants and spectators agree: this is one of Asia's best dragon boat races. It started in 2007 with 52 teams and last year it had a turnout of 80...

Perhaps China's most popular sport, come race day dragon boat racing is all about team-spirit and eminently enthusiastic crowds cheering them on (and in this case, palpable excitement for the afterparty hosted on the beach in the beautiful Tai Wan To Bay on Lamma Island). This is a 'green event', with numerous stations and free-refills available for all those passionate about making a positive impact on the environment. If you've not attended a previous year, you'll need to email to register: racing@hongkongdragonrun.com.hk.

[Further information](#)

How to get there: Take the ferry to Lamma Island from Central Pier 4 to both Yung Shue Wan and



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Easter Lunch Buffet and Egg Hunt - Causeway Bay

21 April

Easter Sunday is an exciting day for the kids, but you may not want to spend the whole day watching them hunt for chocolatey treats. Luckily this festive buffet at The Bistro at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Kellett Island, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong is fun for the whole family. Get stuck in to the special Easter buffet lunch while the kids enjoy face-painting, balloon twister and easter egg hunts.

Venue: The Bistro at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Kellett Island, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Reservation: events@rhkyc.org.hk

Price: \$428 adults
\$214 children 5 - 8
\$300 children 9 - 12



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Venue: The Bistro at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, Kellett Island, Causeway Bay, Hong Kong

Reservation: events@rhkyc.org.hk

Price: \$428 adults
\$214 children 5 - 8
\$300 children 9 - 12

By Megan Thomas

Image credit:

*EllenSmile, moonblack, Richard Chaff and OSTILL is Franck Camhi / Shutterstock.com
Sonar Hong Kong*

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Tips from Honi Honi's Max Traverse

Fast-talking Frenchman Max Traverse is something of a



3 for Japanese

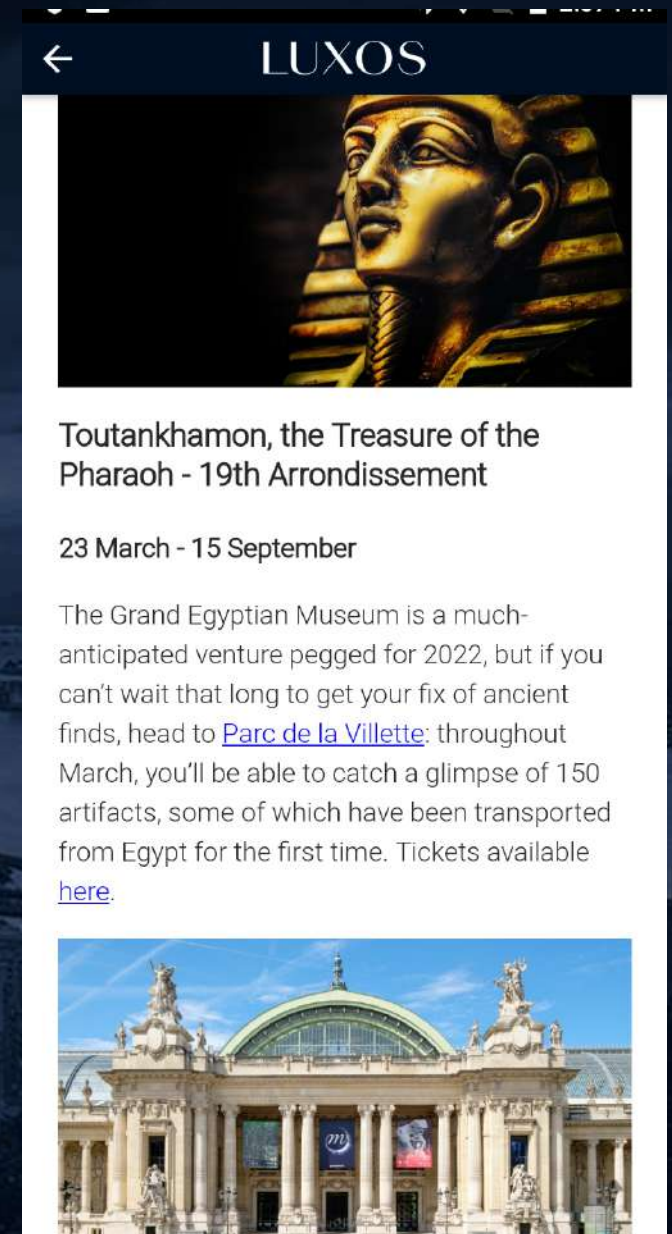
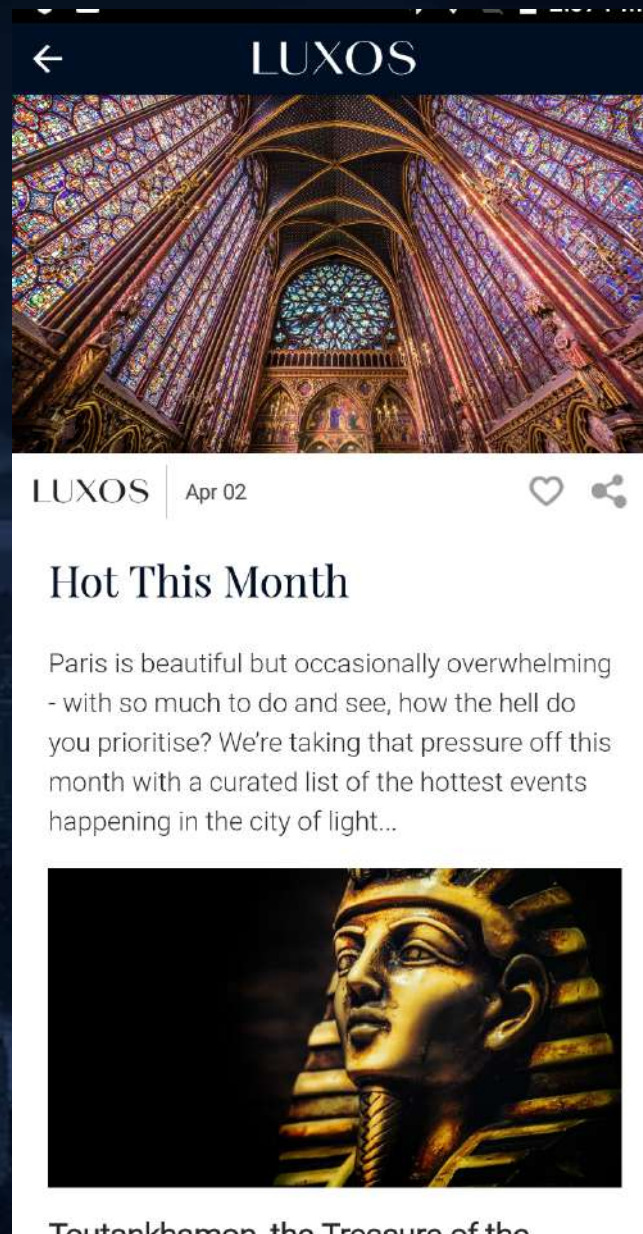
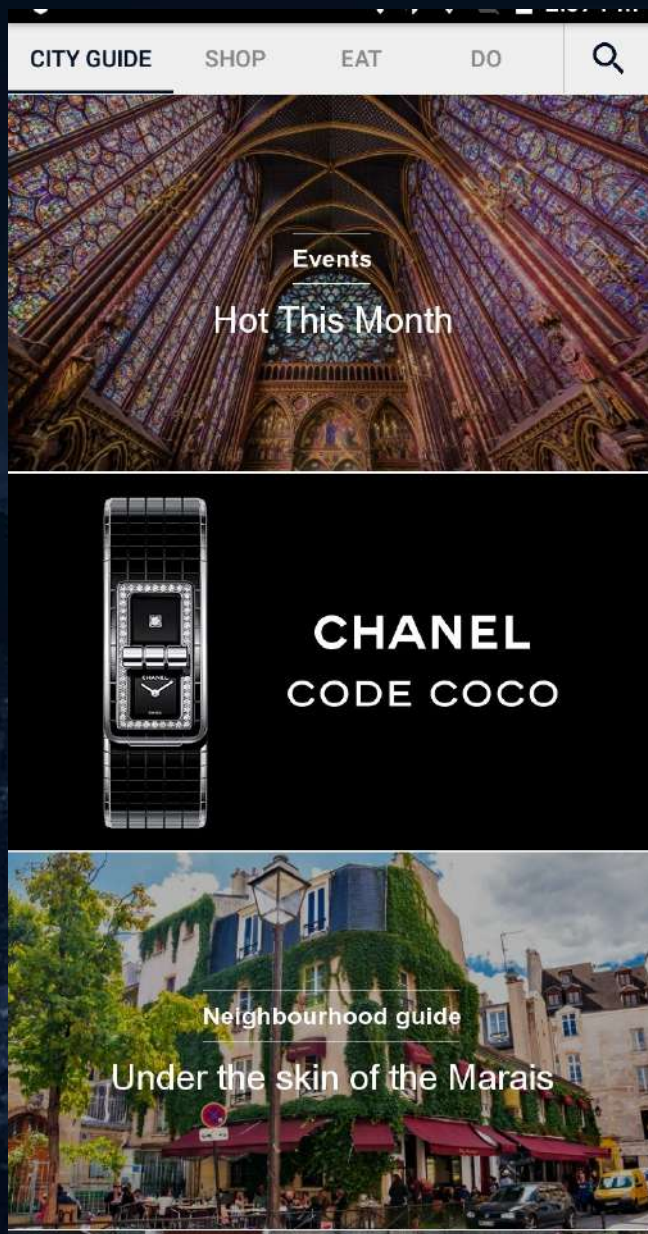
Hong Kong locals love authentic Japanese cuisine, which is why



3 for Sunday Brunch

Brunch takes on a whole new meaning in Hong Kong. Not only







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Art Paris - 18th Arrondissement

4 - 7 April

This month, under the awe-inspiring glass dome of the [Grand Palais](#) is artwork from 150 modern and contemporary galleries, from 20 countries, presenting a delightful balance between well-established artists and up-and-coming talent. Segmented into regions - Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East - the collections range from post-war to present-day, each offering an alternative perspective of what's to come. In addition to the primary exhibition, there's also an exhibition curated by AWARE: Archives of Women Artists, which explores critically and subjectively the work of French female artists.

3 Avenue du Général Eisenhower, 75008

Book Montmartre Impressionist Art



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Franz Marc and August Macke - Jardin des Tuileries

6 March - 17 June

Franz Marc and August Macke's exhibition at the [Musée de l'Orangerie](#) delves into the careers of these two leading German expressionists and their connection to the Der Blaue Reiter (blue rider) movement. Engaging with these painters' masterpieces is inspirational, offering an eye into both artists' admiration of Cézanne, Van Gogh, Gauguin and Fauvism.



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Paris Marathon

14 April

Whether you're running the 26.2 miles or just being a tourist in Paris, this is a wonderfully festive event to attend. More than 55,000 runners set off from the [Arc de Triomphe](#) down the Champs-Élysées, usually spectated by a quarter of a million people who line the streets to dance, drum and cheer people on. The route, mostly flat so easy to follow, is dotted with all of Paris' favourite landmarks, including the [Eiffel Tower](#).

Start time

Elite runners: depart at 8.20am

Waves: depart until 9.50am

Skip The Line For Eiffel Tower





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Easter Egg Hunts - various locations

Easter week

On holiday with the kids? There are a string of Easter egg hunts taking place this month, with these little chocolatey orbs hidden in some of Paris' loveliest gardens that will keep your gang giddy with excitement and give you an opportunity to see the city's famous sights.

On 17 April from 3:30-5:30pm, kids can hunt for eggs made by Paris' top patisserie chefs and partake in lots of Easter activities in the Jardin des [Champs Élysées](#). It's free, but pre-register: paques@comitedufauboursainthonore.com

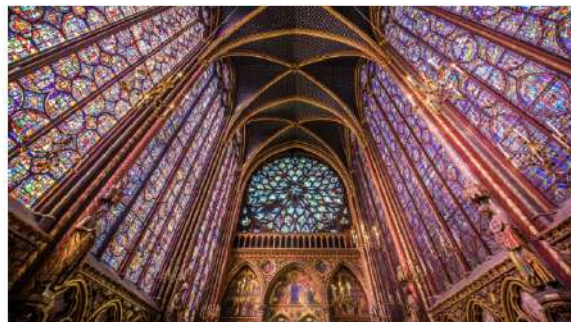
On 17 April from 3.30pm-5.30pm, the mesmerizing Jardin du [Palais Royal](#) will harbour hidden eggs, made by famed Parisian chocolate shop Senoble. Children from 3-12 can attend. Head to the shop afterwards and pick up a special, multi-coloured 'Artchoco' egg, made by



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On 21 and 22 April from 11.30am-5pm, children aged 2-12 (accompanied by an adult) can head to the Renoir Gardens at [Musée de Montmartre](#), where they need to find five matching eggs in the Chasse aux Oeufs in the gardens, which can be exchanged for their chocolate counterparts. Free for kids, €12 for adults. Pre-register: groupes@museedomontmartre.fr

Buy Arc de Triomphe Rooftop Tickets



Easter Concert

19 - 22 April

It is a truly affecting experience being inside [La Sainte Chapelle](#), so having intense works of sacred music by some of the most famous composers reverberating from the Gothic



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Easter Concert

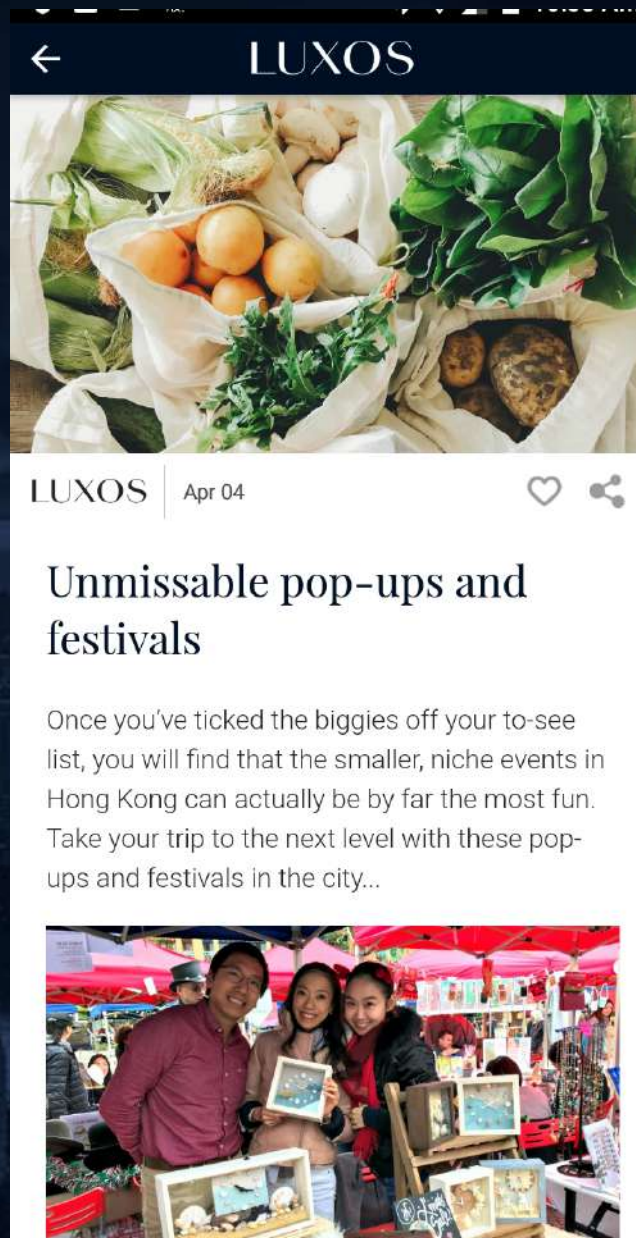
19 - 22 April

It is a truly affecting experience being inside [La Sainte Chapelle](#), so having intense works of sacred music by some of the most famous composers reverberating from the Gothic stained-glass windows is other-worldly. To top off this Easter weekend spectacle, buy a [ticket](#) that includes champagne and enjoy a glass of bubbly at a nearby venue before this excellent choral music takes over.

By Megan Thomas

Image credit:

[BlueOrange Studio](#), [Gumbao](#), [Kamira](#), [EQRoy](#), [SIAATH](#) / [Shutterstock](#)





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Sustainability Matters - Central

25 April

Sustainability Matters is so much more than a marketplace; it offers workshops, events and exciting ways to learn more about the scope of the environmental concerns we face internationally. A documentary is being screened on the terrace, alongside panels discussing what's happening in the eco-industry and there are opportunities to learn how to make your own eco-products.

Floor 6, The Hive, Kennedy Town, 12P Smithfield

Time: 6:30 - 9:30pm

Price: free



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Brewcraft Anniversary Party - Central

13 April

It's Brewcraft's 6th anniversary and they're celebrating the ripple-effect of craft beer in Hong Kong with free-flow brews, tasty snacks, lucky draws and a beer-themed quiz. [Tickets](#) include an anniversary glass, four tastings of Brewcraft beer and two special concoctions from the Brew Crew.

4/F, 15 Cochrane Street, Central

Time: 4 - 7pm

Price: \$250



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IRIS: Your Escape - Central Harbourfront

27 - 28 April

Round eight of IRIS: Your Escape is back with more than 80 of Hong Kong's fitness stars and instructors, who've come together to make the most pumped up health and fitness experience to date. Flit between yoga on the mainstage, dancing your stress out at the silent disco, finding inner peace in the zen garden and getting your heart racing in the fit district - this uber healthy event really does leave you feeling that bit brighter. Children go free, [check availability](#).

Central Harbourfront, 9 Lung Wo Rd, Central

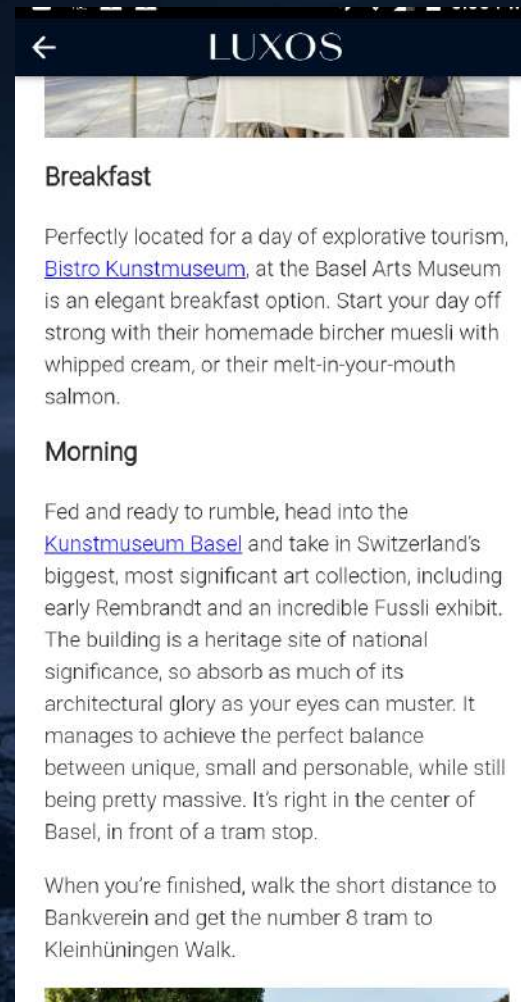
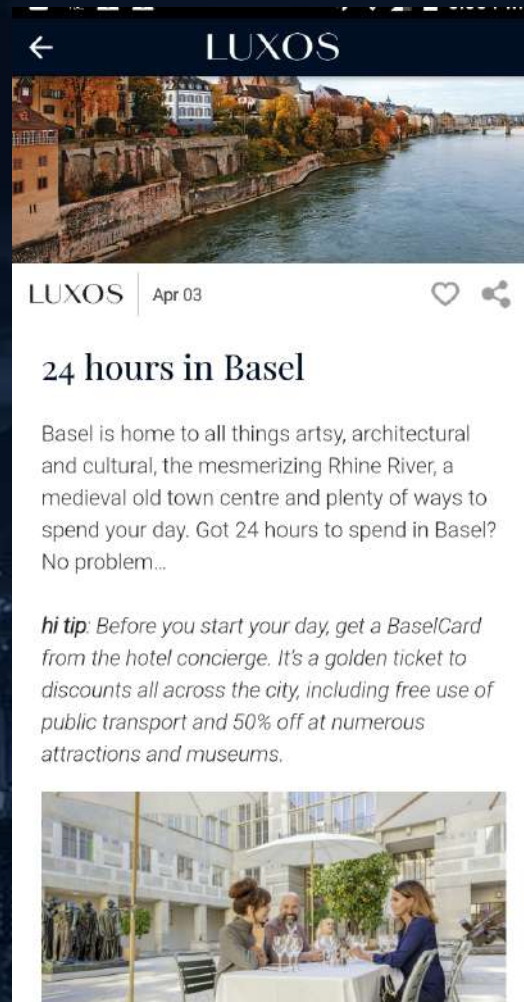
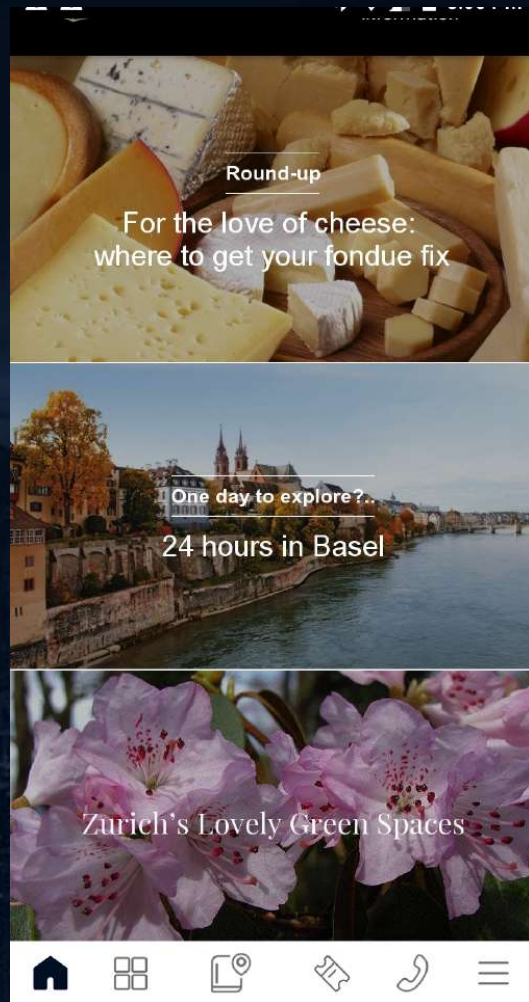
By Megan Thomas

Image credit:

Handmade Hong Kong

zhgee / shutterstock

Bogdan Sonjachnyj / shutterstock



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Afternoon

Spend the afternoon on the river: there are a few options depending on your preference and the weather: if you want to make your own way, [hire a boat](#). If there are a few of you, it's worth booking a group tour, where you'll be guided along with a skipper with both solid steering skills and local knowledge. Or, if you'd rather make some friends and adventure with new people, round-trip tours run regularly from April to October and take several hours.



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Pre-dinner exploits

An evening stroll before dinner is the perfect way to whet your appetite. Head back to where you started and take a stroll around De-Wette Park, popping into [Zum Kuss Café](#) for a beer as the sun goes down.



Dinner

After a day of exploring, dinner calls for some traditional Swiss dining at [Restaurant Elsbethenstübli](#). It may be the perfect rösti potatoes you're after, their speciality veal cordon bleu or delicious *Zürcher Geschnetzeltes*, the renowned Swiss method of cooking sliced strips of meat, white wine, cream, and demiglace. You'll wash it all down merrily with a big glass of Swiss pinot noir.

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Chocolate!

Are you even in Switzerland if you aren't permanently craving a chocolate fix? As fans of this heavenly wonder will know: [Läderach](#) is where the magic happens and it's the only place you'll want to find yourself after dinner. A 12-minute walk from the restaurant through the architecturally brilliant old town will see you on your way to absolute cocoa bliss. Walking is the best option for this part of Basel, as all notable sights are packed together, allowing you to gawk-as-you-walk at the quaint, intricately decorated cathedrals through the prettily lit streets.

After Hours

If the night isn't quite over and you've managed to resist a chocolate coma, then you're in the right place. The old town has a couple of gems for the after-hour dwellers: [Singer Basel](#) is a vibey live music venue, which often runs events and live gigs, and proffers an assortment of delicious cocktails.

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By Megan Thomas

Image credit: Basel Tourismus Media
Sergey Fatin / Shutterstock
Läderach

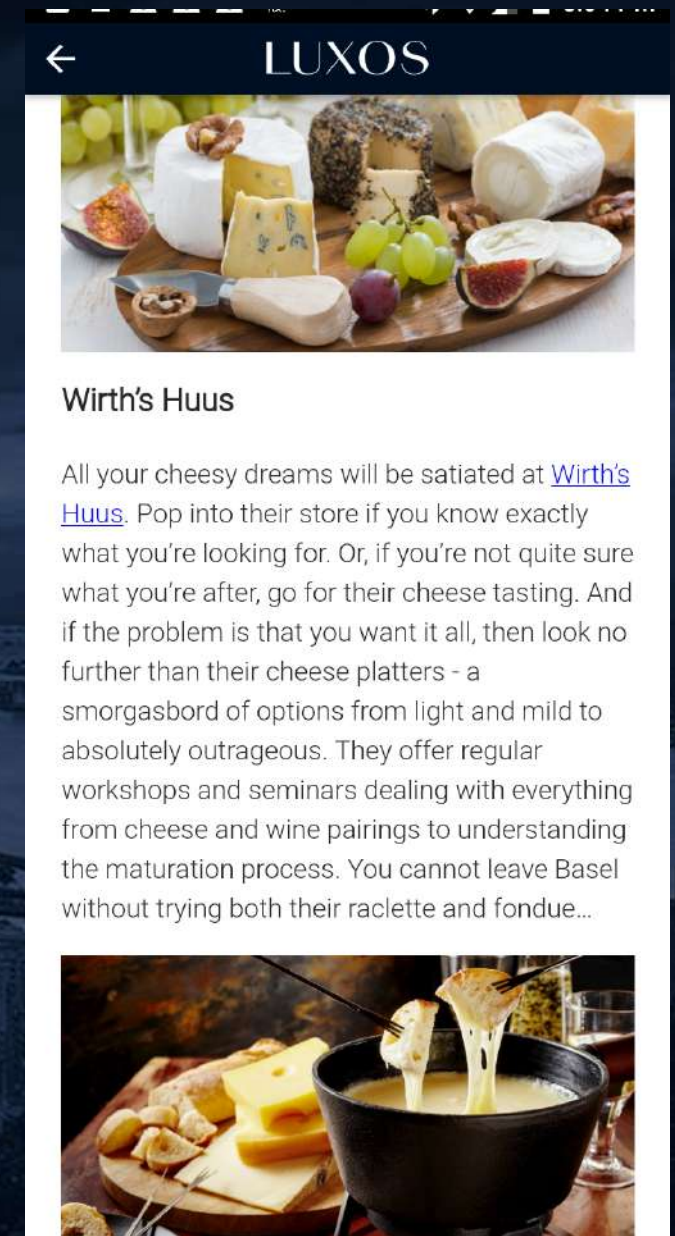
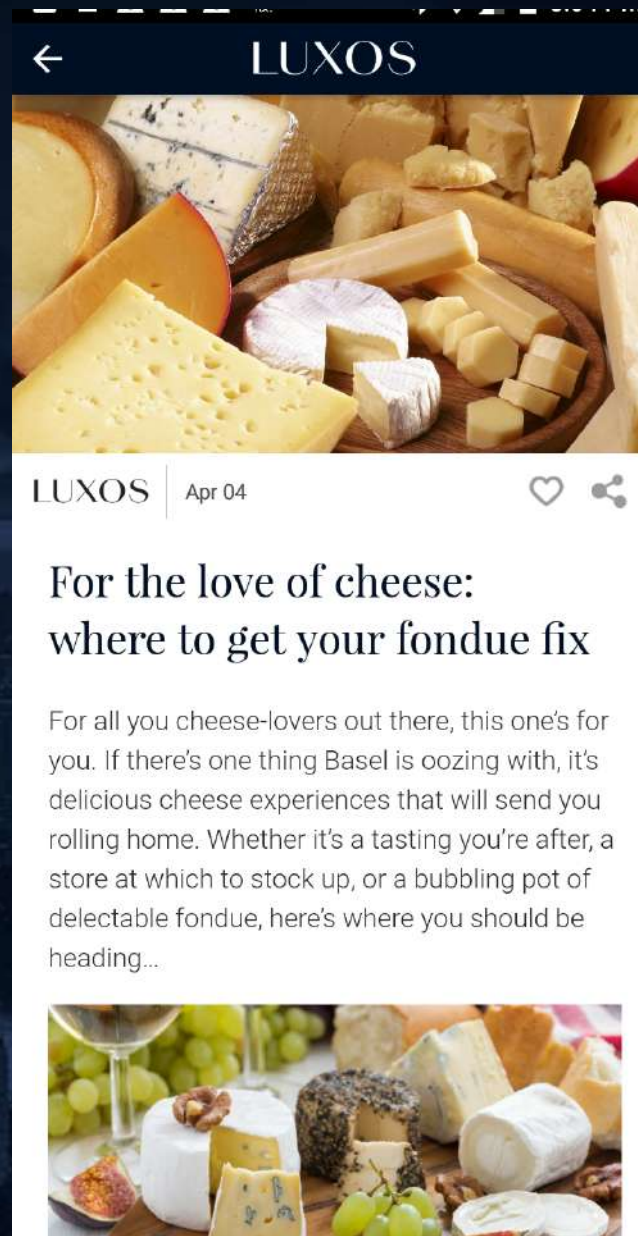
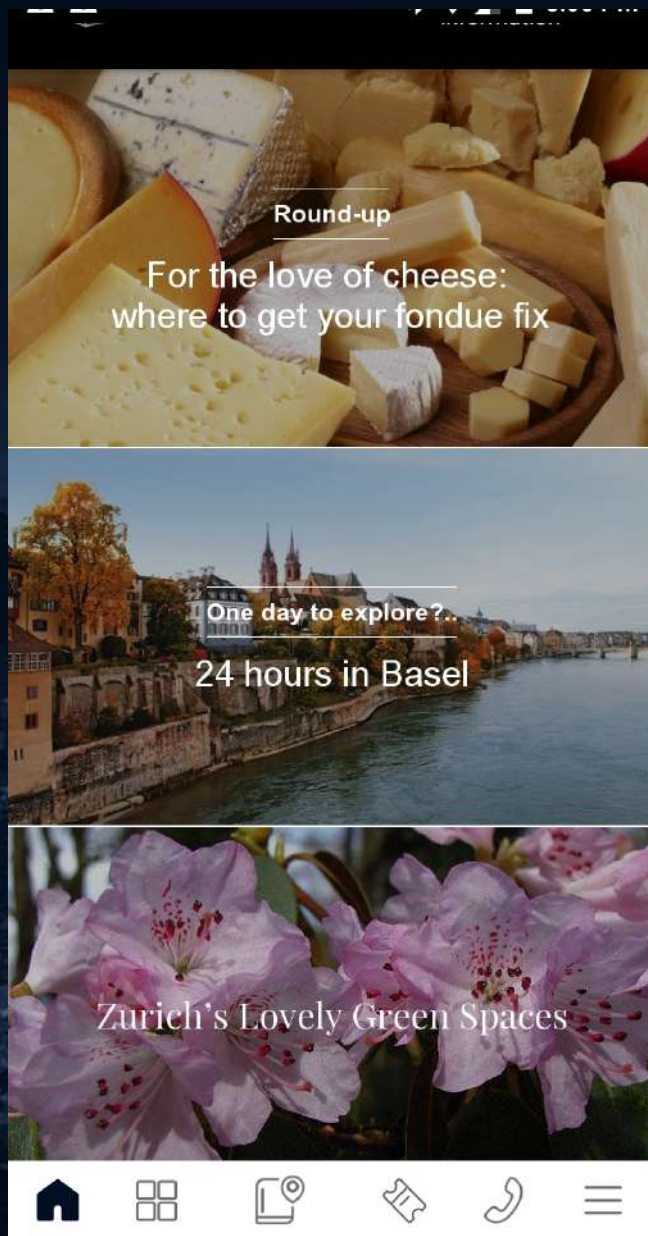
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Kunsthaus Zurich Arguably the





Löwenzorn

Head to [Löwenzorn](#), ask for the specialty fondue menu and prepare to eat your heart out with cheese made from Swiss milk so fresh you can practically hear the cow bells. You can't really go wrong with a classic selection, but if you're feeling puckish, throw in some wild mushrooms or sundried tomatoes and prepare to be impressed. Pair it with a big glass of wine and finish off with a Swiss digestif.



Mylk

Mylk ticks all the cheesy boxes and some, including tours, tastings and workshops. But what really makes a jaunt to [Mylk](#) special - whether you're in a corporate group or out with the family - is the chance to make your own cheese. It's great to learn the process behind each delicious mouthful. All varieties are made at the Mylk dairy farm in Markthalle Basel, to which local folk flock to stock up. Their Juniper Brie is a must-buy from their store - creamy, delicious and the perfect accompaniment to a gin and tonic.



Walliser Kanne

Your heart will melt along with the cheese when you order [Walliser Kanne](#)'s raclette. This pearl of a restaurant is everything you could ask for, whether you're warming your soul with a raclette on a cold evening, or enjoying it with a springtime breeze on their terrace. A traditional, classic setup without bells and whistles. Just good food, expert staff and a friendly, welcoming atmosphere.

By Megan Thomas

Image credit: Mylk

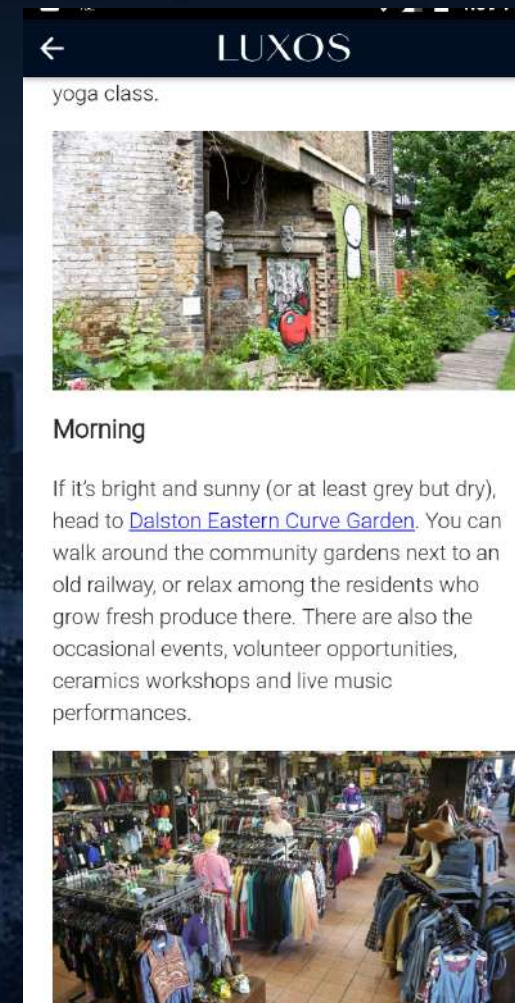
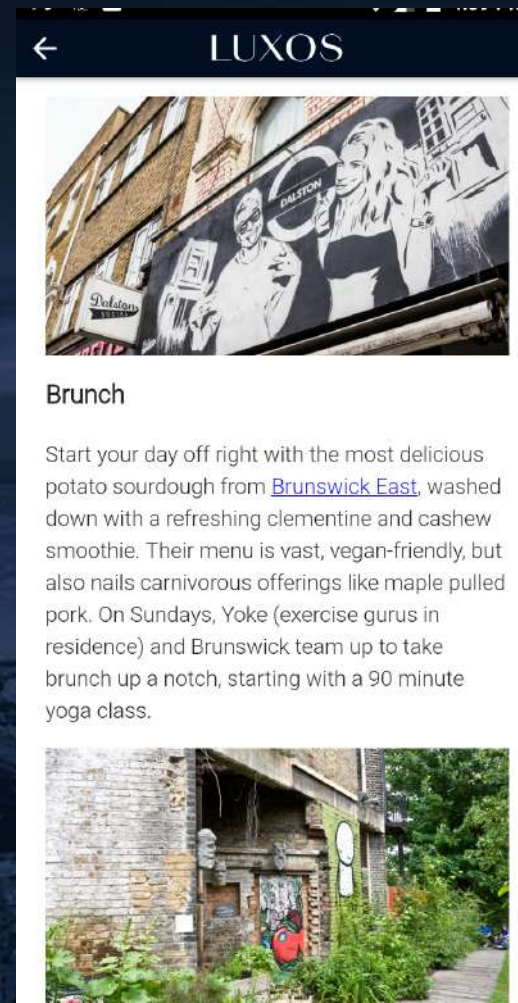
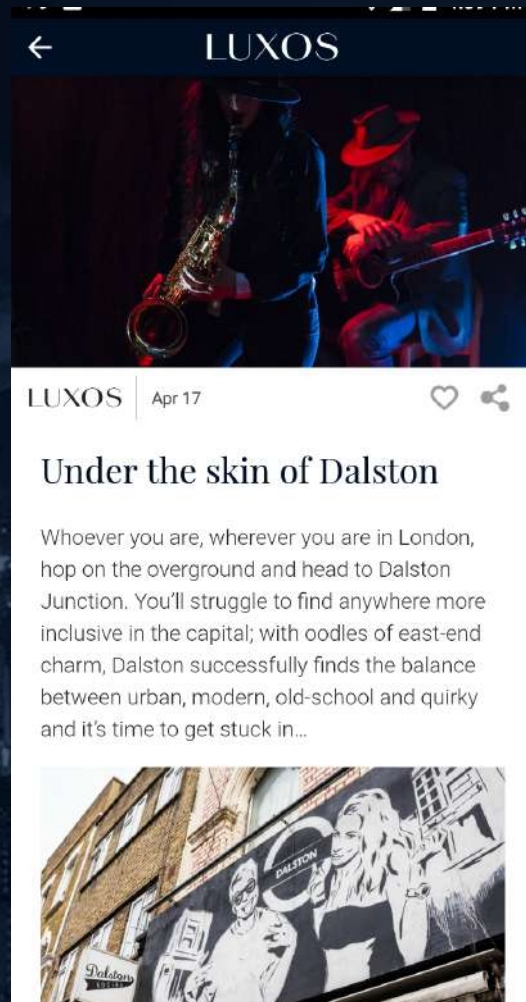
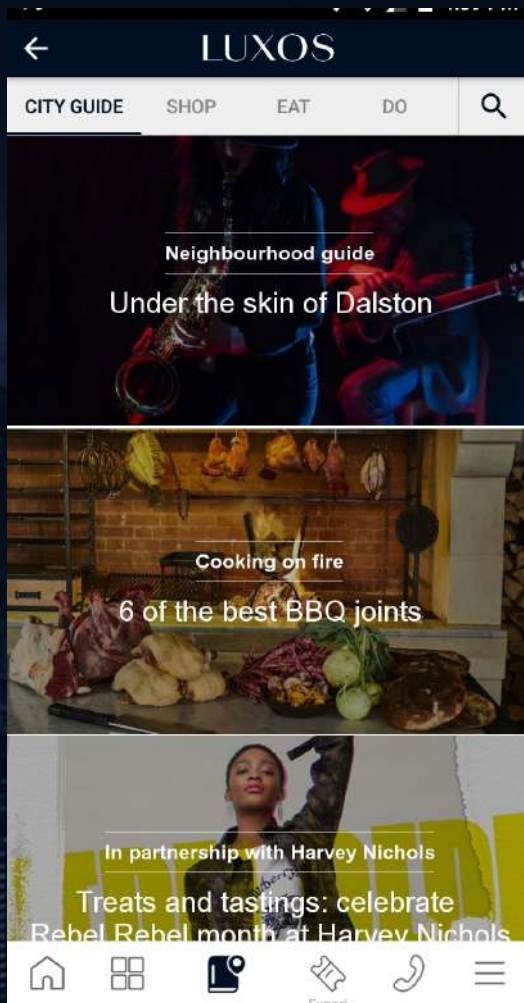
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occasional events, volunteer opportunities, ceramics workshops and live music performances.



For all London has to offer, a blue sky is never a guarantee. Luckily, there are plenty of indoorsy options too. For all your vintage shopping needs, head to [Beyond Retro](#), where you can peruse a jumble of old-school, quirky items and find something unique to take home with you.



Lunch



LUXOS

something unique to take home with you.



Lunch

[Mildreds](#) tackles the stigma of vegetarian food being stuffy, limited or boring by serving up tasty plates that feel like the main prize rather than a meat substitute. Their international menu features Mexican dishes like black bean sweet potato burger with sweetcorn relish and tomatillo mayonnaise, alongside Indian dishes including a rather lovely tandoori 'chicken' and black dahl salad.



LUXOS

black dahl salad.



If Mildred's halloumi and chargrilled aubergine (another great shout) isn't what you had in mind, [Honest Burgers](#) is quick, simple and meat-heavy. Order yourself a mint lemonade to wash down either a juicy beef burger or a fried chicken and bacon 'mother clucker', accompanied by salted rosemary chips. These little beauts will become a regular craving: be prepared.



Afternoon



LUXOS



Afternoon

During warmer months, you should definitely spend some time in [Dalston Roof Park](#). This rooftop garden and bar is a great location for daytime drinks and chats, as well as a music and event venue by night. Go watch the day turn to dusk from your perch, overlooking the east-side view of London's skyline. If you fancy sticking around for dinner, there are great food options available.



← LUXOS



Dinner

If you're ready to move on, hit [Jodori](#), a yakitori restaurant whose namesake originates from a special breed of free-range chickens. To start, order the koji fried chicken, or the Katsu curry scotch egg, followed by any of the delicious yakitori sticks - we're throwing in a special mention for the aubergine and miso-glazed variety.

Alternatively, head to [Del74](#) for the kind of tacos and margaritas you'll be forever praising every time you hear someone say "Dalston". Somewhere between the fresh guacamole, braised leg of pork, smokey chipotle chile and cauliflower crackling, you'll know what we're talking about.



← LUXOS



After Hours

When the sun goes down and you're well fed, it's play time. For divas and backup dancers alike, [Karaoke Hole](#) has your back. They're open Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 7pm for early sessions, and a bit later is the karaoke free-for-all that goes on until 3am. Not to mention the deliciously cheeky hosts in drag will keep you entertained while you take a bar-break for some dutch courage.

While some like to sing the blues, others prefer to watch it. If that's you, head over to [Vortex Jazz Club](#) any night of the week. Order a jazzy cocktail and sip it to those smooth, smooth sounds.

Or, you could head to [Dalston Superstore](#) (one of Dalston's top gay bars, with a full schedule of art shows and music events) or [VFD](#), a gay nightclub amped with everything from live music performances and art club meetups, to open-mic nights and electrifying parties.

← LUXOS

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By Megan Thomas

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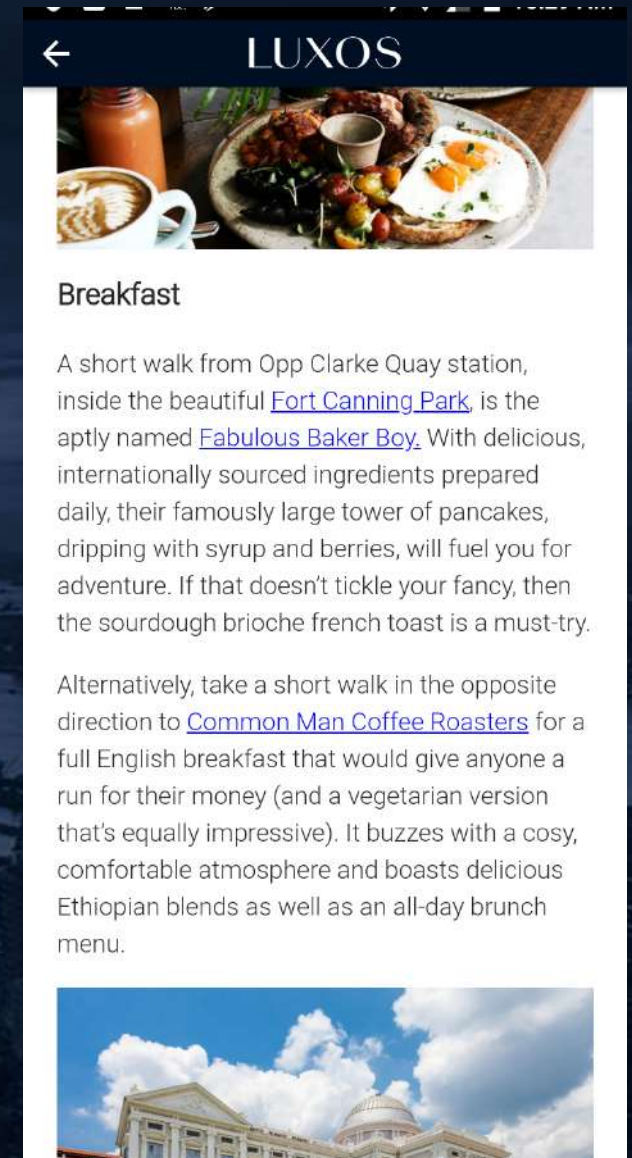
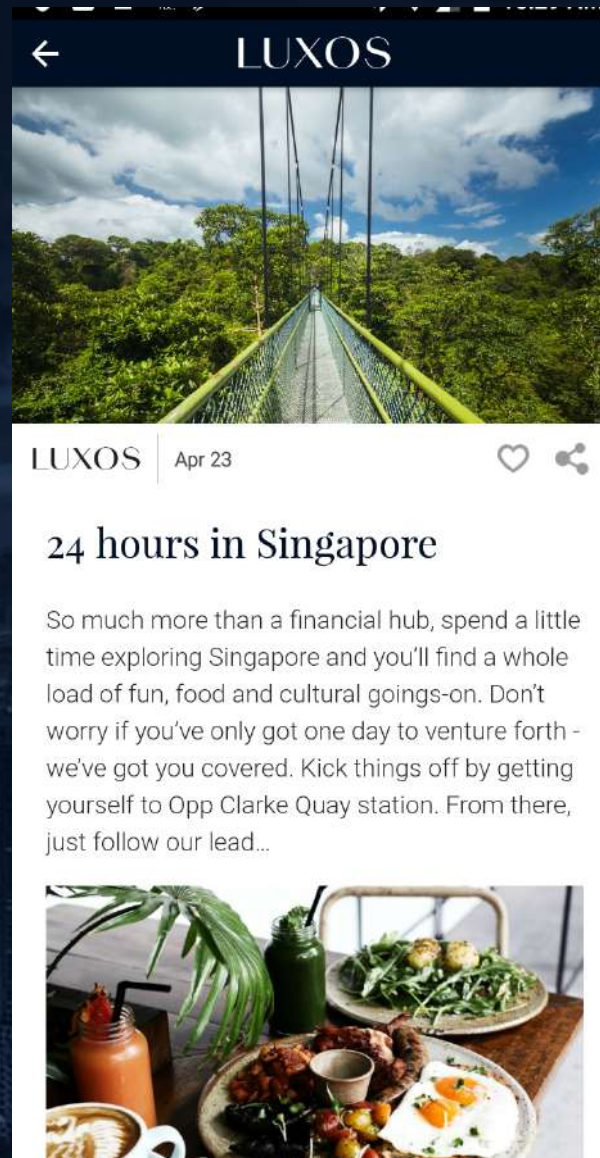
Ready for romance? London's West End is home to some



A Guide to London's Luxury Districts

For a luxury London love affair, wander the museums, peruse







LUXOS



Morning Museums

Singapore is brimming with museums, and in one day it would be difficult to see them all. Thankfully, they're all quite close together, so you can choose whichever appeals most. A great option is the [National Museum of Singapore](#): an embodiment of the hybrid between classical and modern architecture, it's Singapore's oldest museum, with one of the most impressive collections of Singaporean artifacts.

Get National Museum tickets here



LUXOS



If you have a particular interest in cultural history however, the National Museum's next-door neighbour is probably more up your alley. [The Peranakan Museum](#) is a neo-classical space in which you'll learn of Singapore's rich, culturally diverse background through multimedia and interactive exhibits.

With kids? Check out the [MINT Museum of Toys](#), instead.



Lunch



LUXOS



Lunch

You can't be in Singapore and not try an absolute classic: fried carrot cake. Jump on the bus at Stamford Central and get off at Macritchie Reservoir. Just down the road is [Chey Sua Carrot Cake](#), a little market stall to which local folk and visitors flock to try this hawker dish consisting of radish cake, stir-fried egg, garlic, and spring onion.

hi tip: Like the sound of carrot cake? Read our '[3 of the best](#)' feature for some inspiration.





LUXOS

[the best](#) feature for some inspiration.



Afternoon

The views from the [Macritchie Treetop Walk Trailhead](#) are breathtakingly beautiful. Walk across these sky-high suspension bridges over a carpet of greenery, taking in the surprising expanse of nature in a city that can often seem over-industrial.



Dinner



LUXOS



Dinner

Round off the day with some fresh sushi from [Omote](#) - a celebration of all things delicate, snazzy and chic. It's a big, modern, contemporary space with an open kitchen where guests can watch their food being crafted. Order a sharing platter, which comes with *tamago-mentai* (salmon and omelette-topped rice), salmon *aburi* (slightly smokey) and salmon mentai (with pollock roe and chilli). For mains, they to a great *tamagoyaki* sweet omelette diced with seafood sashimi.



LUXOS



After Hours

Head to [Gardens By The Bay](#) to see some beautiful lights and futuristic gardens. Take a walk along the bridge and marvel at this urban jungle. Amidst the interwoven hive of modern greenhouses and waterfront parks, you'll find [Satay by the Bay](#), a food court where you can have your final drink of the night before heading back to your hotel.

[Book a Gardens By The Bay night tour](#)

By Megan Thomas

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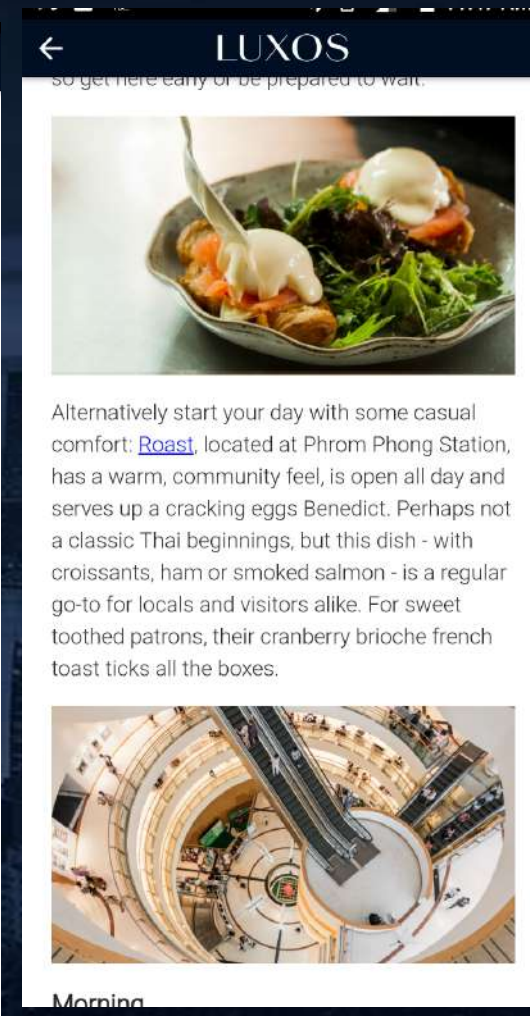
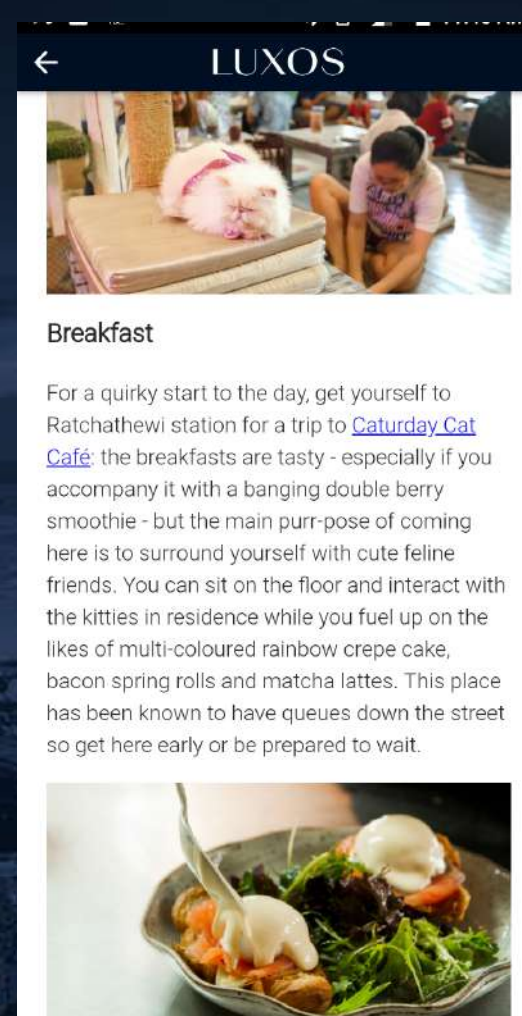
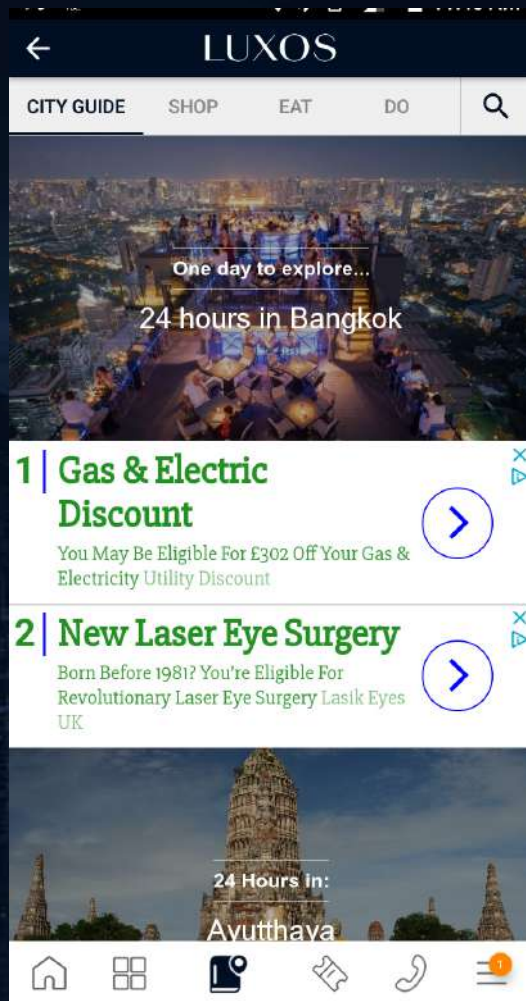
Common Man Coffee

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LUXOS

toast ticks all the boxes.



Morning

Fed and felined-out, your first major stop should be the [Arts and Culture Centre](#), walking distance from either Siam, Ratchathewi or National Stadium stations. It's an expansive, contemporary exhibition and performance space that radiates all things artsy. Check ahead as their may well be theatre performances, crafts, educational workshops or cultural events going on.



LUXOS



Perhaps the museum scene isn't your cup of tea - not a problem, walk over to MBK. If you hadn't heard of [MBK](#) (AKA Mahboonkrong) before, you definitely won't forget it. It's huge. At eight stories high and with over 2000 shops to explore, it's highly likely to have just about anything you could possibly need.

[I'm Park](#) is equally close, a lot smaller, and still offers some great shopping outlets worth visiting. This community mall has everything from small boutiques to big name brands, so if you fancy a less all-consuming shopping experience, it's a good shout.



LUXOS



Lunch

Whether you're vegan, vegetarian or just passionate about healthy, sustainable food, then [Broccoli Revolution](#) by Sukhumvit Soi station is a lunch spot that won't disappoint. They've sought inspiration from all over, with Southern American and Italian flavours coming to the fore, and a steady stream of traditional Thai techniques thrown into the mix. Accompany your quinoa charcoal burger with their Burmese tea leaves: it's a winning combination.

If you're more in the mood for traditional Thai food (when in Bangkok, right?) get yourself straight to [Jim Thompson](#), which is just by the [Arts and Culture Centre](#) from this morning. Somewhere between their Khao-Chae, stir fried rib eye steak and mango cheesecake, you'll fall in love.





LUXOS



Afternoon

It's no coincidence that traditional Thai massages are renowned internationally, and there are loads of places to experience one in Bangkok. Whether it's a hot herbal compression followed by a warm herbal ball of steamed Thai herbs from [Orchid Spa & Massage](#) in the Bu House neighbourhood, or a full-body scrub from Khet Watthana's [The Hive Spa](#), you won't have to look far for one of the most relaxing afternoons of your life.



LUXOS



Temple time

Not far off from your pampering is [Wat Pathum Wanaram](#) Bhuddist temple, founded by King Rama IV as a place for worship. Its large pond separates the car park from the temple, so once you're temple-side, you feel completely removed from the busy city, instead cloaked in tranquility as you meander the courtyard.

If you're into temples, then you're in the right city. Another incredible temple to visit is the [Grand Palace](#) (pictured). At the heart of the city, it's a complex that housed the Kings of Siam since 1782. Its buildings are magnificent, steeped in history and sparkling with royal culture. Alternatively, head to [Wat Arun](#) on the Chao Phraya River bank. Its namesake, the Hindu god Aruna, is often thought to symbolise the light from the rising sun.



LUXOS



Dinner

If you're wanting a meal with a view, there's no better place to head than the city's commercial district, Sathorn, known for its skyscrapers, offices and most importantly: [Vertigo](#). Their 700g chateaubriand will make you feel even more on top of the world than the gorgeous view of the city skyline. It's stylish and serves up killer cocktails. Make sure you make a reservation.





LUXOS



Now you'll be feeling like one of two things: dessert or a nightcap. Thankfully, Bangkok night markets nail both, within a buzzing atmosphere that entices you to stay up way past bedtime. Head to [Art Box night market](#) and enjoy all the stalls and street food there is on offer. Sweet rice dishes are always delicious - keep your eyes peeled! It's in Khet Khlong Toei, which is central but a bit far to walk. So why not jump on a tuk-tuk? They're fun, reasonably priced and a Thai must-do.



LUXOS



After hours

A night out in Bangkok is world-renowned, but you've got to start it right. [Havana Social](#) has you covered for delicious cocktails to kick things off. Before you get there, be warned: there's a strict dress code - no big bags, backpacks or luggage allowed, and gentlemen are required to wear trousers and closed shoes. What is allowed is Cuban music, great cocktails (mojitos specifically) and excellent service.

Though Havana Social is open late, it's also a stone's throw away from Insanity Nightclub, Sugar Club Bangkok and Boulevard Beer Garden, so the night never really has to end.

By Megan Thomas

Image credit:



LUXOS

so the night never really has to end.

By Megan Thomas

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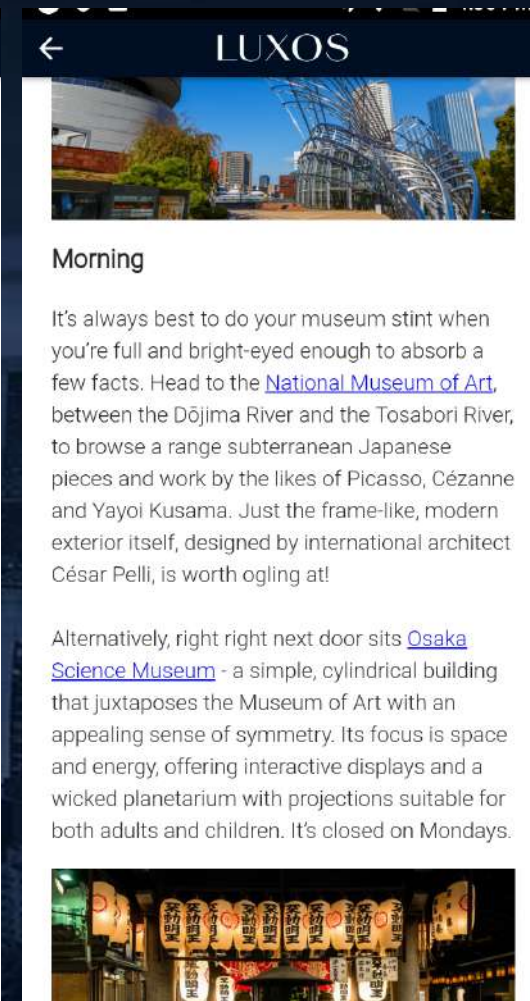
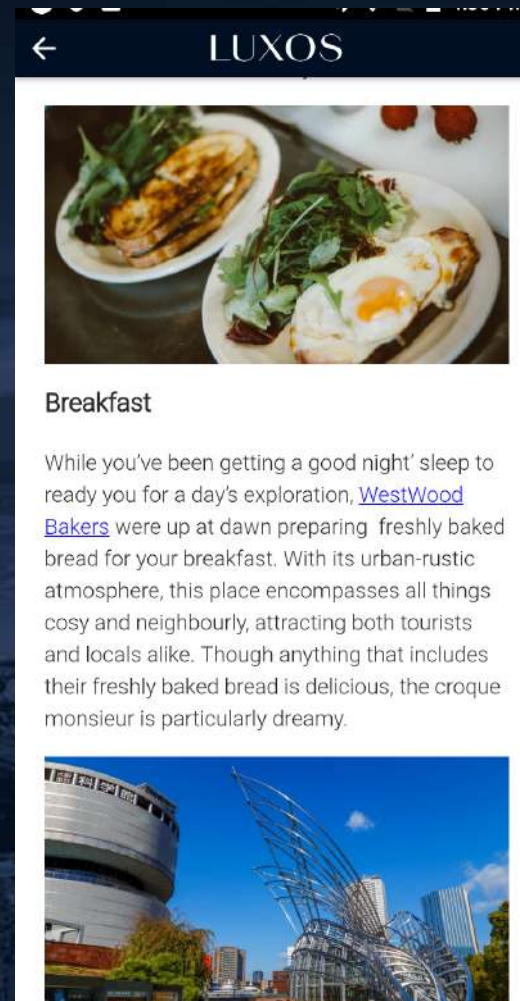
By Eddie Yii (Stranger in Bangkok) If only Tom Yum



5 Best Night Markets To Visit In Bangkok

By Eddie Yii (Stranger in Bangkok) Think Bangkok isn't







LUXOS



Lunch

Jump on the train at Namba station to Yodoyabashi (it's a 30 minute ride but it's well worth it). Here you'll find the atmospheric archway gate of the Showa era. Step through the arches and you'll enter [Hozenji Yokocho](#) alley, a sudden switch from metropolitan buzz to cobblestones and culture. The narrow street is lined with old, traditional restaurants and food stalls that bring to life the historical richness of Osaka.



LUXOS



If you're in the mood for a sit-down meal, take a short walk down the alley to [Yakiniku M Hozenjiyokocho](#) for its famed yakiniku (grill-style) steaks. If you feel like getting more hands-on, you can also hire a private room to do the meat-grilling yourself.



Afternoon

Head to [Osaka Castle Park](#) and nature commune. The imposing building in the centre of it all is everything you could want from a



LUXOS



Afternoon

Head to [Osaka Castle Park](#) and nature commune. The imposing building in the centre of it all is everything you could want from a Japanese castle: surrounded by cherry and plum trees and dating back to the 1500s, it's a straight-out-the-picture-book, almost fairytale-like structure, puncturing the otherwise natural landscape. You could spend a whole day here in itself exploring the greenery and intricate architecture. But by now, you're probably a bit hungry, so hop on a train at Morinomiya Station and head to Sakaisuji Hommachi for dinner.





LUXOS



Dinner

You can't visit Japan without trying okonomiyaki (pancake), and you can't have a hankering for okonomiyaki in Osaka without eating at [Fukutaro](#). You have the option to eat and observe the chefs at work from the counter, or you can sit on tatami mats if you're in a group. Try the butatamayaki (sliced pork okonomiyaki): it's crunchy on the outside, soft on the inside and packed with flavour. Get there early, because it's known to have people queueing down the street.



LUXOS



Dessert

You know that little spot that's left once you've finished a Japanese feast of shredded meat and pancakes? It's best filled with a delicate eclair or macaroon from [La Maison du chocolat](#). This world-famous, Paris-born chocolatier offers an array of fancy treats and is the perfect decadence to finish off your day.

hi tip: try the local confectionary...

When you visit the States, there are certain sweets and chocolates you tend to stockpile for friends at home. Turns out Osaka is no different: make sure you get hold of some matcha flavoured KitKat (just wait until you try it) and a few packs of KORORO fruit gummies.



LUXOS



After hours

You don't have to roll very far from your chocolate stop to find a night-cap: [Bar Moon Walk](#) is your go-to if an extensive cocktail list is what you're after, while [Marciero](#) is the best spot in town for craft beer lovers. [Bar Creek](#) is where you want to be for live music, while [Shot Bar Himenya](#) explains itself. If in doubt, have a wander in Kita Ward and go where the wind takes you.

By Megan Thomas

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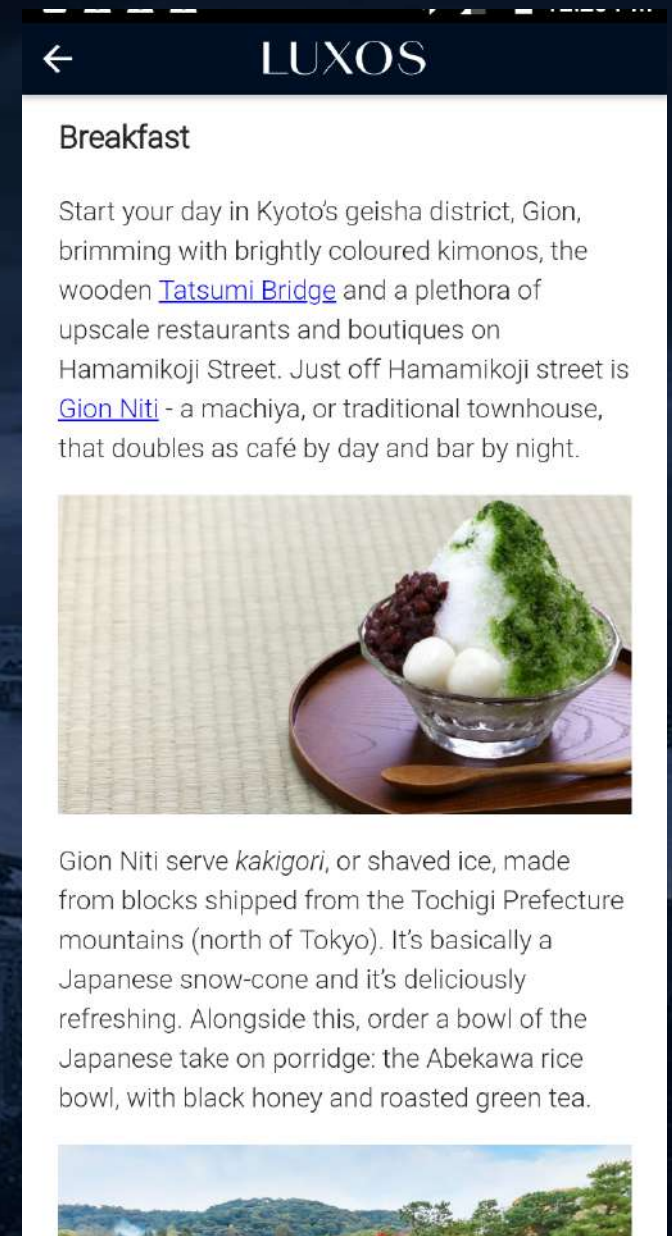
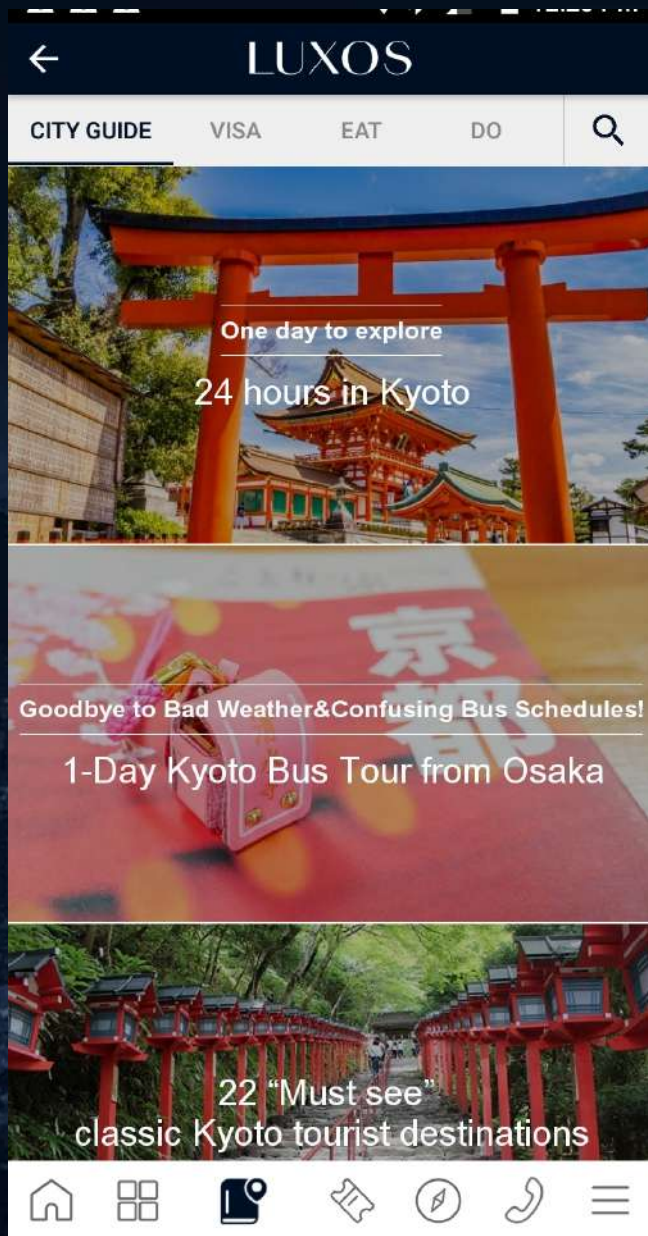
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May





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Morning

Take a leisurely northward stroll through [Maruyama Park](#) and explore this green space's popular statues and blossom canopies, as well as [Shōren-in Monzeki Temple](#), [Chion-in Sanmon](#) and [Yasaka Shrine](#).

Once you've had your fill of the many things the park has to offer, keep heading north until you reach the [National Museum of Modern Art](#), which boasts impressive local 20th-century art as well as rotating exhibits. Alternatively, just next door is one of the oldest art museums in Japan, [Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art](#), which features paintings and sculptures by local artists.

With the kids? You're right by the [Kyoto City Zoo](#).



LUXOS



Lunch

For lunch, head to [Nishiki Market](#) by hopping on the train at Okazaki Koen, getting off at Shijokawaramachi and walking the short remaining distance. This market is 400 years old and still as buzzing as ever. Whether you're looking for fresh produce, seafood, meat, cooking utensils, or a deep fried prawn nibble and skewered sweet fish to keep you going while you shop, the lively, friendly atmosphere will put you in a great mood.

The market is open between 10am and 6pm all week except Wednesdays.



LUXOS

week except Wednesdays.



If you'd rather have a sit-down meal, you will find several restaurants among the stalls. [Ippudo](#), a ramen-lover's haven, is nestled in the market and their Ippudo ramen, with spicy meat miso topped with several kinds of spices, balm and nuts, is to-die-for.

[Book a Kyoto food and drink tour](#)





LUXOS



Afternoon

Get on the train at Gion-Shijo station and take the Keihan main line to Fushimi-Inari, where you'll find the majestic 1,300 year-old [Fushimi Inari Shrine](#), otherwise known as the 'place of 1000 mystical toriis' and regarded as one of Japan's most popular tourist spots. It's visited annually by pilgrims paying tribute to the gods of prosperity, good harvest and home safety. Of the 30,000 Inari shrines across Japan, Fushimi is considered the main event.

Closed on Mondays.



LUXOS



Cultural experiences come in all shapes and sizes, and while Fushimi Inari Shrine ticks the historically and spiritually enriching boxes, there's nothing quite like a couple rounds of saké to jazz up your afternoon. Saké is a Japanese rice wine with its roots firmly planted in the 3rd Century and is not only worth tasting, its history is pretty interesting. [Book a Fushimi Inari and saké brewing tour](#) to really round out your experience.

Particularly fond of saké? Head to [Saké Bar Yorumu](#) in Nakagyo Ward.



LUXOS



Dinner

After your saké stop, head to Kyoto station for dinner at [Katsukura](#). This place has been passed through generations of Kyoto locals, becoming a well-loved spot and an absolute treat for visitors. They're known for their tonkatsu: crumbed, deep fried pork cutlets, served piping hot, tender on the inside and crispy on the outside. It comes with a sesame dip that you grind yourself in a tableside pestle and mortar.

[Book a Kyoto night food tour](#)



LUXOS



After Hours

If you miss out on the drinks and night-time goosebump-views from [Kyoto Tower](#), you've not done Kyoto right. Head to the Sky Lounge and marvel. You can't go wrong with their espresso negroni.

By Megan Thomas

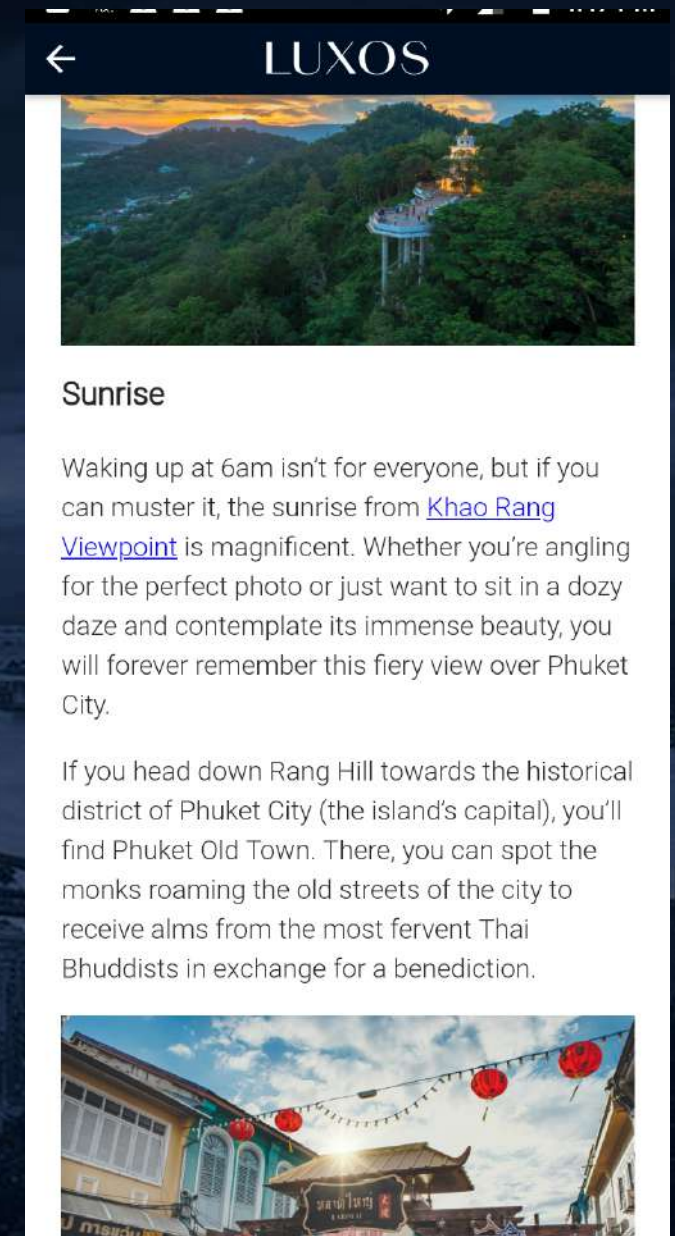
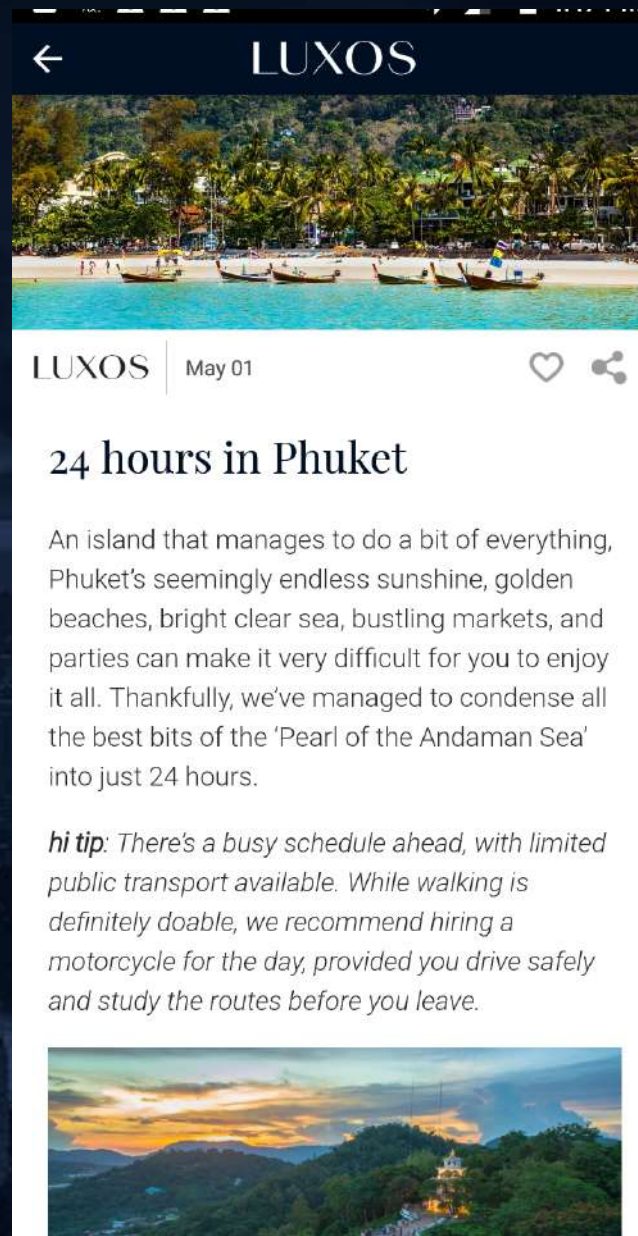
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Breakfast

There are two markets abuzz by this time; Downtown Market and the Public Fresh Market, where you must try some local breakfast foods. Feast on Khao Tom (boiled rice), iced tea or coffee, and *patonko* (Thai donuts) available at the many restaurants and stalls found on and off Ranong Road.

It's worth roaming the streets of Phuket's Old Town to get your fill of cute and cool independent shops, as well as some captivating architecture. The core of the Old Town is essentially made up of several *sois* (small streets) and five main roads: Rasada, Phang Nga, Thalang, Dibuk and Krabi. This quarter teems with history and is on a steady incline after years of neglect.



LUXOS



Brunch

For those less enthused by the early-rise, it'll be about now that your stomach wakes up and a spot of brunch is needed. Head to the old town's [Gallery Café by Pinky](#); a charming eatery with breakfast options ranging from omelettes and poached eggs to pancakes and French toast. For anyone wanting to sample Thai-style breakfast, there is also *congee* (savoury rice porridge with meat and egg).



LUXOS

meat and egg).



Morning

A cooking class is a great option for foodies who want hands-on experience so you can replicate Thailand's yummy food culture at home. Try out a cooking classes at [Phuket Thai Cooking Academy](#) to learn the secrets behind your fave dishes like hot and sour *tom yam*, *tom kha gai* (chicken and coconut soup) and of course, pad Thai.



LUXOS



Afternoon

You'll be stuffed after the food course so with lunch sorted, it's time to bask in the sunshine. Head to [Patong Beach](#). Any water sport you could possibly dream of is available in the crystal clear, emerald water.

Book a surfing lesson



Depending on what time of year you're visiting,

LUXOS



Depending on what time of year you're visiting, there's the possibility of a rainy day. If this is the case, sub your beach afternoon with a shocking-yet-thrilling boxing experience at [Bangla Muay Thai Boxing Stadium](#). Watching live Muay Thai is not just about the fisticuffs - the atmosphere is electric and picking an opponent to cheer on with a beer in hand more than makes up for a bit of drizzle.



Dinner

LUXOS



Dinner

Head just along the coast to [Acqua Restaurant](#), to enjoy some mandatory sundowners and a gorgeous ocean-side dinner. It's run by Sardinian-born chef Alessandro Frau, winner of Masterchef Thailand 2013, whose passion for Mediterranean food is evident in every delicious, artfully presented dish. Sit on the terrace overlooking Kalim Bay and indulge in the signature tortelli, stuffed with burrata cheese, drizzled with vongole juice and topped with squid ink, sea urchin and marine plankton.



LUXOS



After hours

Phuket is known for its nightlife, so you won't need to look far to find the watering hole that's right for you. Head back towards Patong beach and take your pick: the most noteworthy being [Lion Livemusic](#) if beer and live bands are your vibe, [BPM Club Phuket](#) if you're in a nightclub sort of mood, or [Moulin Rouge Bar](#) if you're thirsty for cocktails.

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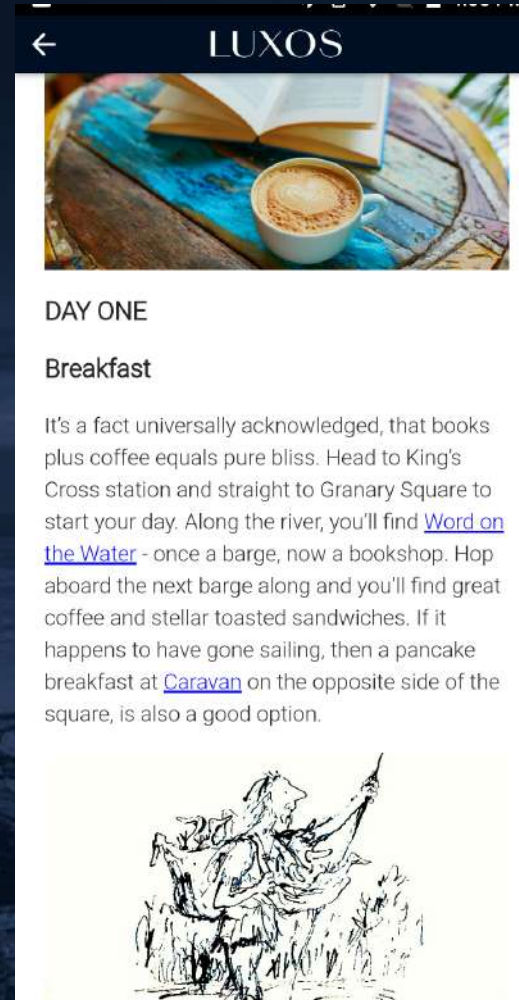
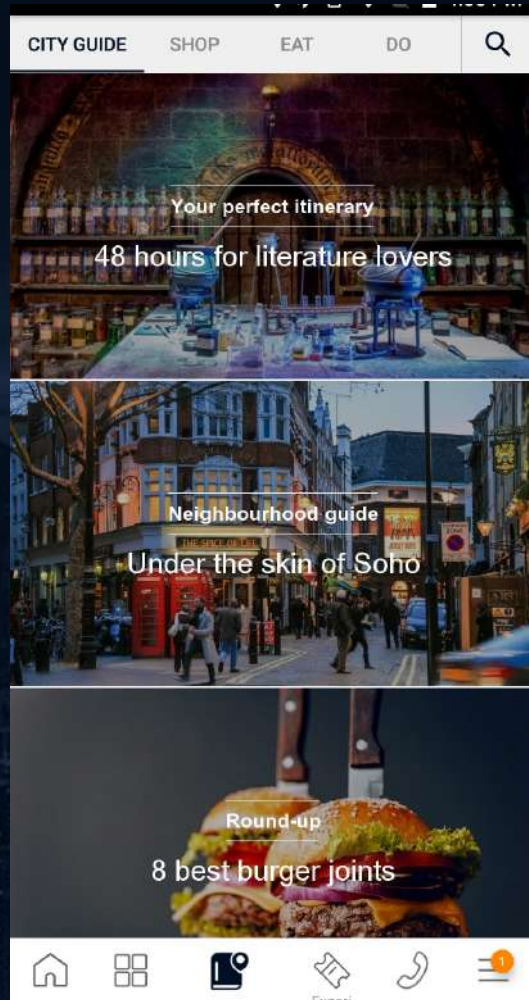
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Twits to life.



Now back to that barge: [Word on the Water](#) is a 1920s Dutch barge that once sailed down Regent's Canal, but has taken permanent mooring in Granary Square as a floating bookshop, reminiscent of the romantic barge along the Seine that Nina George conjures in *The Little Paris Bookshop*. Though books is the primary focus, they often host jazz performances too.



Ready for some more nostalgia? Well get

LUXOS



Ready for some more nostalgia? Well get yourself back to King's Cross station and hunt down platform 9 and $\frac{3}{4}$. After running at the wall and gaining nothing but a bruise for your troubles, a selfie with the trolley at [The Harry Potter Shop](#) ought to soften the blow. This is more than just a souvenir shop. It's a magical place: whether you're letting a wand choose you or stocking up on chocolate frogs and vom-flavoured jelly beans, you will surely come out with a smile on your face.

Potter fanatics can take things a step further with a trip to the Harry Potter Warner Bros. studio. [Book a day pass](#), or [guided tour](#). Alternatively, [book a round-trip with transport](#) or a [private transfer from central London](#). And if you really can't get enough, why not get a [tour by Black Taxi Cab](#) or do a [3-hour Potter walking tour of London](#)?



LUXOS

[transfer from central London](#). And if you really can't get enough, why not get a [tour by Black Taxi Cab](#) or do a [3-hour Potter walking tour of London](#)?



[Hatchard's](#), established in 1797, booksellers to the Royal Household and arguably one of the most famous European bookshops - as well as one of the oldest - is also located at St Pancras station and is well-worth a visit.



Lunch

Hop on the tube and head to Tottenham Court

LUXOS



Lunch

Hop on the tube and head to Tottenham Court Road station. From here, walk to [Dalloway Terrace](#) for a lunch that is, like the restaurant's namesake (Virginia Woolf's Mrs Clarissa Dalloway), elegant, frightfully British, poetic and charming. Get swept up in the secret garden terrace at the heart of Bloomsbury and be sure to sample the fish and chips - the little book icon next to it on the menu signals that £2 of the meal goes to the National Literacy Trust.



LUXOS



The greats

You're in a real hub for literature, where writers have been known to hangout throughout history. Head to the [Charles Dickens Museum](#) to discover the best and worst of times for this famous novelist, including his work as a social campaigner.

Alternatively, do a mini pub crawl to see where the likes of Dylan Thomas and George Orwell spent time away from their writing desks: [Fitzroy Tavern](#) was an escape for both while they worked at nearby BBC offices; channel TS Eliot with a drink at the [Marquis of Granby](#); or make like Anthony Burgess and Anthony Powell by grabbing a pint at [The Wheatsheaf](#).



LUXOS



Dinner

Make for [The Fable](#) by Chancery Lane – think good solid pub food – for a night of fairytale and Aesop's fables-themed whimsy, surrounded by piles of leather-bound books and typewriters. Make the Mad-Hatter proud with an enchanted teapot cocktail to share, while you suss out how many of the books you've read from their wordy wallpaper, before getting stuck into the likes of beef brisket with paratha bread and Korean slaw, or one of their many burgers. Do as Augustus Gloop would and finish it off with a chocolate brownie.



LUXOS



DAY 2

Brunch

Had enough of books yet? Thought not. To brunch or not to brunch is never the question, so head to [The Swan](#) at Shakespeare's Globe overlooking the [River Thames](#) - the full English is never a bad shout but we're putting in a special mention for their homemade Swan Bircher muesli.

You're on the doorstep of [Shakespeare's Globe Theatre](#), so take the time to do an incredible walking tour, which steers you through the bard of Avon's literary footsteps. There's usually a play running, but booking in advance is advisable.

If you've got more time and you're a particular Shakespeare fan, [book a day trip](#) to Shakespeare's Stratford and the Cotswolds.



LUXOS



Lunch

Nestled in Talbot Square, [the George Inn](#) is not only an authentic coaching inn and gorgeous oak-beamed, lattice windowed pub, it has a lovely courtyard for those elusive dry/sunny London days. It's also a spot regularly visited by Shakespeare, Dickens (who directly references the pub in *Little Dorrit*) and Geoffrey Chaucer, in whose *Canterbury Tales*, the pilgrimage sets off from this very courtyard.

It does simple pub food well and it's a relaxing space to sup G&Ts for hours.





LUXOS



Book crawl

Head towards [Trafalgar Square](#) and along Tottenham Court Road towards Cecil Court - otherwise known as Booksellers Row. While independent bookshops are usually sparsely dotted around a city, this road is only bookshops! Alice Through The Looking Glass is where to head for Wonderland-inspired memorabilia, while Goldsboro Books is your go-to if you're after first editions or signed copies of bestsellers old and new. For the cartographers and historians out there, Bryars & Bryars antiquarian bookshop specialises in atlases, maps and rare historic volumes.



LUXOS



Dinner

By this point, you may feel like you've been around the literary world in 80 hot seconds, so why not round things off with a laid-back meal at [Mr Fogg's Tavern](#) in Covent Garden, themed on Phileas Fogg's travels in Jules Verne's *Around the World in Eighty Days*.

It's a cosy spot to plough your way through a gin-heavy drinks menu. On the food front, we recommend ordering from the 'miniature marvels' section, which includes lovely little morsels like the pea and mint arancini with spicy sauce and homemade sausage rolls.

By Megan Thomas

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By Megan Thomas

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Dalloway Terrace

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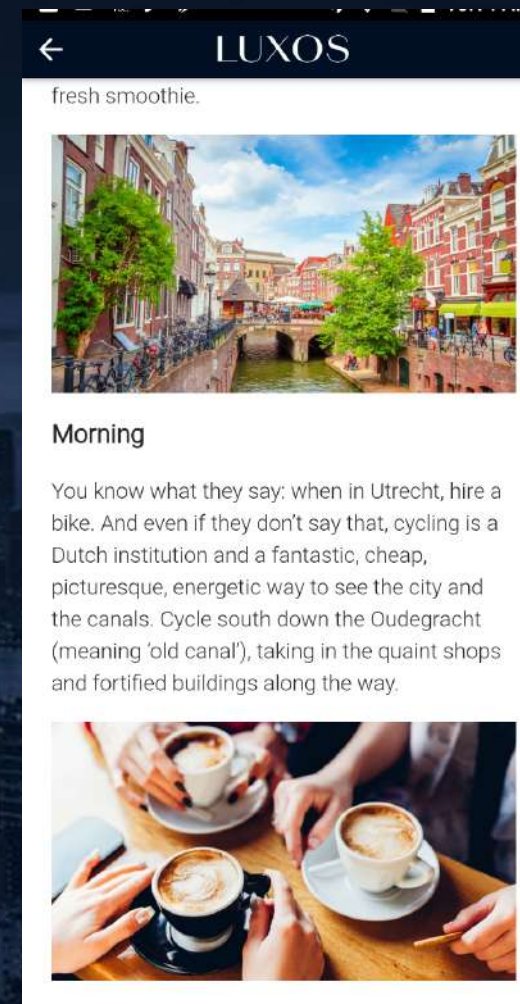
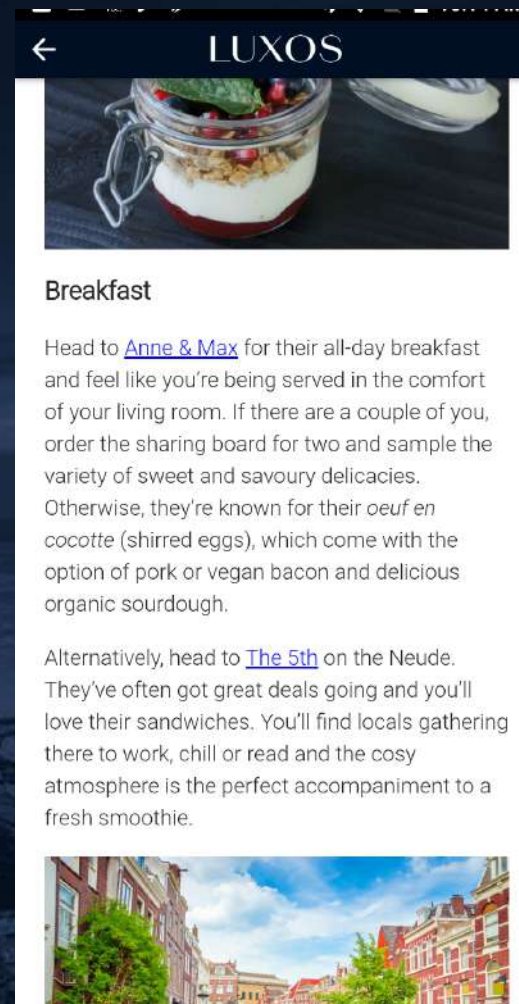
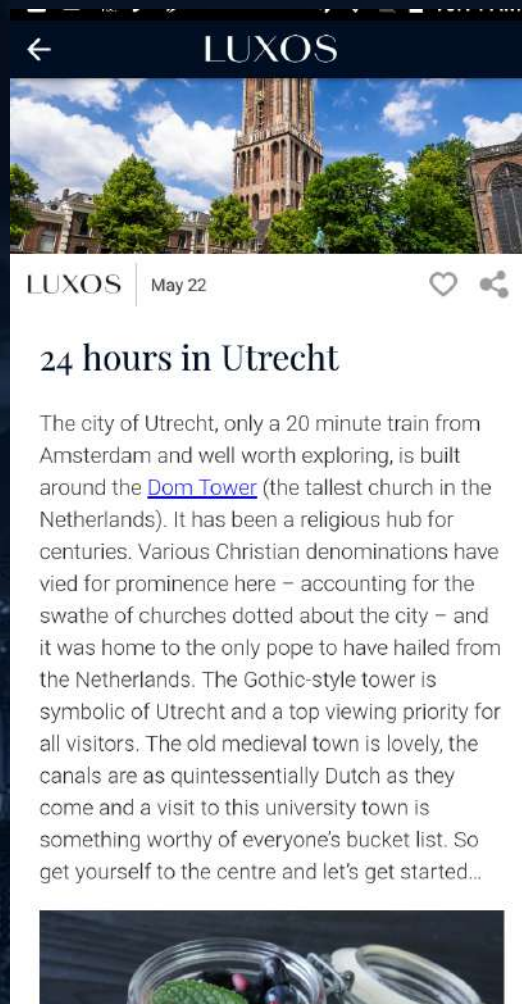
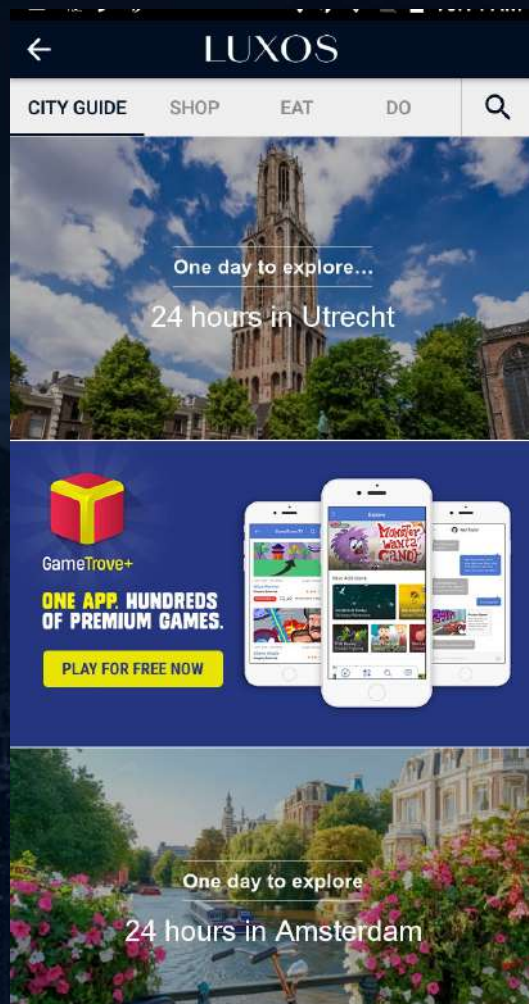
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Pit stop

Stop at [KEEK](#) for a mid-morning scone and coffee. This organic bakery on the wharf is just what's needed for a mid-morning caffeine kick before continuing your ride.



Museum loop

If you're a museum buff, you'll be pleased to hear you're in an absolute hotspot. You're walking

distance from the [Nijntje Museum](#), a picture-



LUXOS



Museum loop

If you're a museum buff, you'll be pleased to hear you're in an absolute hotspot. You're walking distance from the [Nijntje Museum](#), a picture-book inspired children's museum with themed exhibits and multiple play areas - a great option if you're with the family. A bit further north is [Sonnenborgh Observatory](#), a museum in a 19th-century observatory, equipped with telescopes and hosting exhibitions as well as stargazing events. [University Museum Utrecht](#) has an interactive science lab and a botanical garden while [Centraal Museum](#) offers a selection of art, fashion and history exhibitions.



LUXOS



Lunch

Pedal your way to the best burgers in Utrecht: the towering beasts from [Meneer Smakers](#) Burgerbar, loaded with onions and a mound of fries, are plain naughty. You won't look at burgers the same again after trying out their Smakers sauce, made from a closely guarded family recipe. You can't really go wrong with the classic beef burger, but for and any herbivores in your party, the walnut and red lentil Aunt Mila burger is also a good shout. Burgers are also available to go and you're right by a lovely green park on the river, if you feel so inclined.





LUXOS

the river, if you feel so inclined.



Afternoon

If spending the afternoon moseying about the chapel, parks and gardens of Holland's biggest castle appeals, hop on the bus at Tolsteegbrug towards [Castel de Haar](#). Its neo-Gothic architecture is remarkable and the reflection off the water on a still, sunny day makes for brilliant photos. It will take you an hour to get there from the centre (or 30 mins by car), but it's well worth a full afternoon venture.



LUXOS



Dinner

If you are heading back to central Utrecht, go to [Restaurant Bis](#) for dinner. A Dutch take on French cuisine, the restaurant has a lovely relaxed vibe, with friendly service and excellent food. It's on the Lijnmarkt, one of Utrecht's oldest, historically rich shopping streets, and looks out over Oudegracht canal and Dom Cathedral. The salmon tartare makes for a nice, delicate starter and the Marseillaise fish soup with shrimp, saffron rouille and gruyère.

If you would like to stay near Castel de Haar, then you have got to try nearby [t Wapen van Haarzuylen](#). They've screwed with a classic prawn cocktail in the best possible way: a triumvirate of smoked eel, smoked salmon and Dutch shrimp in cocktail sauce sets your tastebuds ablaze and serves as the perfect starter before diving into mains like veal entrecote with truffle gravy. Round things off with traditional warm cherry waffles - all kinds of



LUXOS

After hours

One of the hottest spots for disco, house and techno in central Utrecht is [BASIS](#) nightclub, on Werf 97. It's open every Friday and Saturday with a banging lineup, often including international acts. If you get there before 11.30pm, entrance is cheaper and you're probably more likely to get your way to the front of the DJ booth. With a no-fuss, utilitarian, industrial-chic vibe, you're in for a treat if this is your kind of scene.

By Megan Thomas

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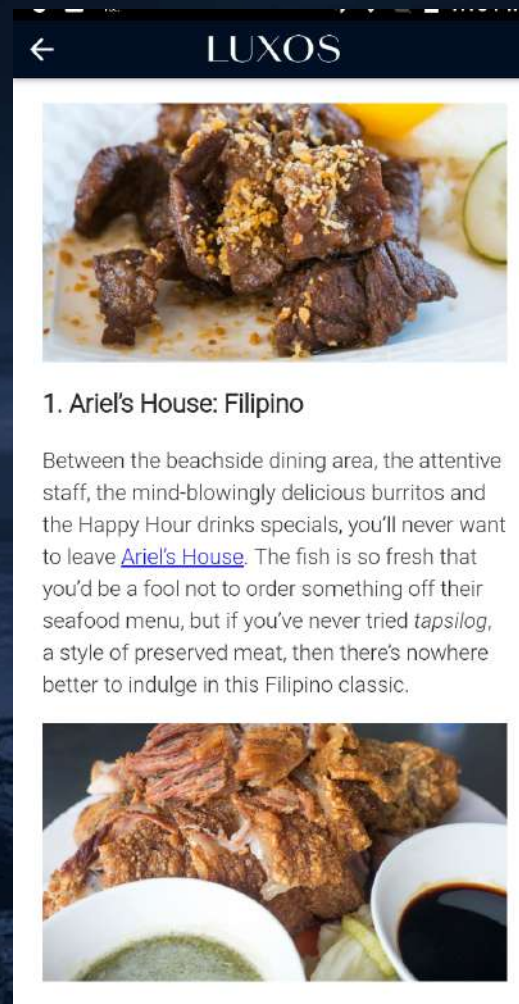
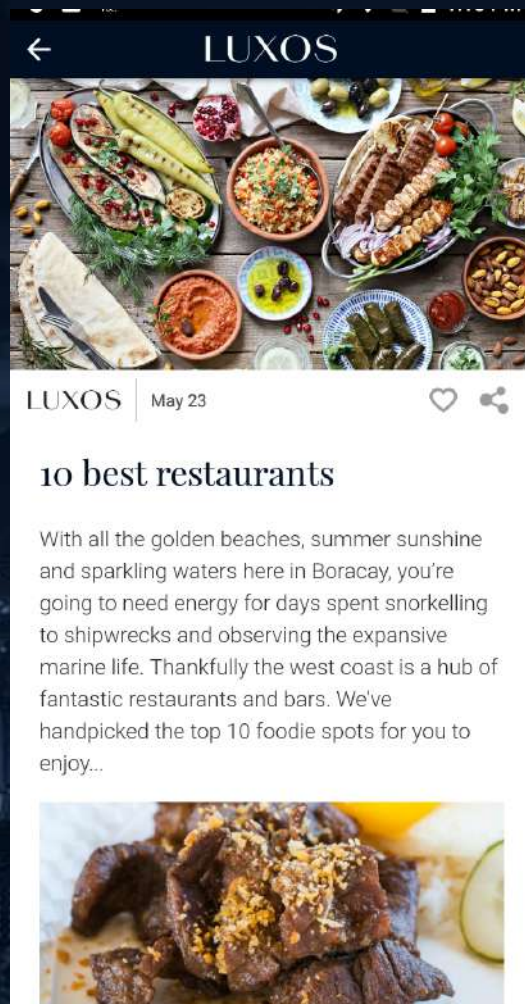
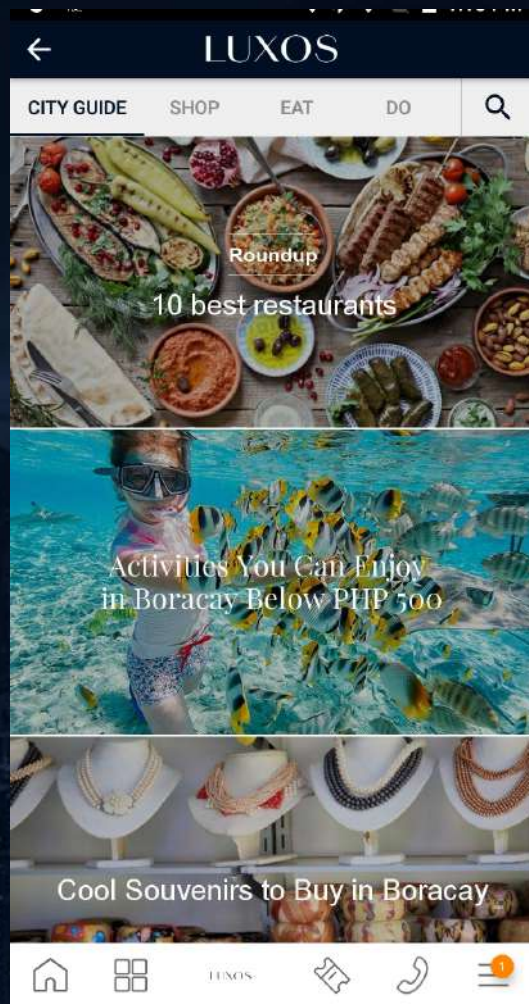
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BASIS





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3. Nonie's Restaurant: Health food

[Nonie's health food restaurant](#) is just the place for smoothie lovers, environmentally conscious consumers and those who just love a delicious, hearty bowl of food. Part of the slow food movement, Nonie's focuses their food on being clean and fair without ever compromising on flavour. Their seasonal menu really highlights the chef's ability to make Filipino ingredients pop! They're pretty on the ball when it comes to allergens, so just let them know and they'll point you in the direction of something perfect for you.



LUXOS



4. Dos Mestizos: Spanish

If you're up for a classy night on the island, you can never go wrong with dining at [Dos Mestizos](#) in Station 1. This Spanish restaurant is famous and for a good reason—their food is meticulously prepared and always looks and smells delicious. Come alone, bring a date or dine with the family. Whatever you choose, your experience of Dos Mestizos will involve great food, fantastic service and a rustic ambience. Try one of their paellas, they're glorious.



LUXOS



5. Aria Restaurant: Italian

Mediterranean food on a tropical island? [Aria](#) gets it just right. Faced with Italian cravings? Now you know where to go. Stylish and modern, yet cosy and inviting, this Italian restaurant is inspired by delectable Mediterranean flavours. Perfect as a dinner destination due to its cosy ambience at nighttime, Aria is famous for its brick-oven pizzas, pasta and salads. Hangout with friends for a round of cocktails or order from their vast selection of meat, seafood and vegetables. Buon appetito!





LUXOS



6. Los Indios Bravos: Spanish

The word Indio was used by 1800's Filipino academics and warrior-poets as a symbol of honour and pride, reclaiming a formerly derogatory description of the island's native people. They formed a society which fought for human rights and reform, becoming known as [Los Indios Bravos](#), "The Brave Natives". This cool gastropub-style restaurant pays tribute to these pioneers, offering up international pub food as well as local craft draughts on tap.



LUXOS



7. Kasbah: Moroccan

You can't really sample Moroccan food without dabbling with a lamb dish - and you can't fancy a Moroccan spicy lamb sausage in Boracay without jetting to [Kasbah](#) as quickly as you can. This restaurant is authentic and relaxed, with the option to dine beach-side. Grab a mojito at sunset and then pick just about anything on Kasbah's menu and you won't be disappointed.



LUXOS

Kasbah's menu and you won't be disappointed.



8. Tres Amigos: Mexican

Craving Mexican? Lucky for you, Boracay is so international that this is an easy-fix problem: head to [Tres Amigos](#). Drop by this little piece of Mexico in the tropical paradise of Boracay. Your favourite Tex Mex staples are all there: chimichangas, burritos, nachos, you name it. But special mention goes to the hybrid of Mexican and island-living: the shrimp fajitas.





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9. Hama: Japanese

There's no better spot to enjoy Japanese cuisine in Boracay than [Hama](#). The perfect hybrid between modern culinary skill and tradition, the food served up in front of you is something quite special. The chic yet calming decor makes you forget you're amidst the liveliness of D'Mall. You can't go wrong ordering their tempura prawns, but if you're feeling a bit adventurous, check out their Cordon Bleu Maki and see what we mean when we talk about their fusion style.



LUXOS



10. Hap Chan: Chinese

Just when you thought Boracay couldn't have a more international variety of restaurants, we're bringing out [Hap Chan](#), a not-to-be-missed Chinese restaurant in Station 2. All the classics are here and the beef brisket noodle soup is so delicious you'll be tempted to reorder it as soon as you finish.

By Megan Thomas

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as you finish.

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Which is Your Perfect Boracay Beach Destination?

Although being the most popular one, White Beach is not the only

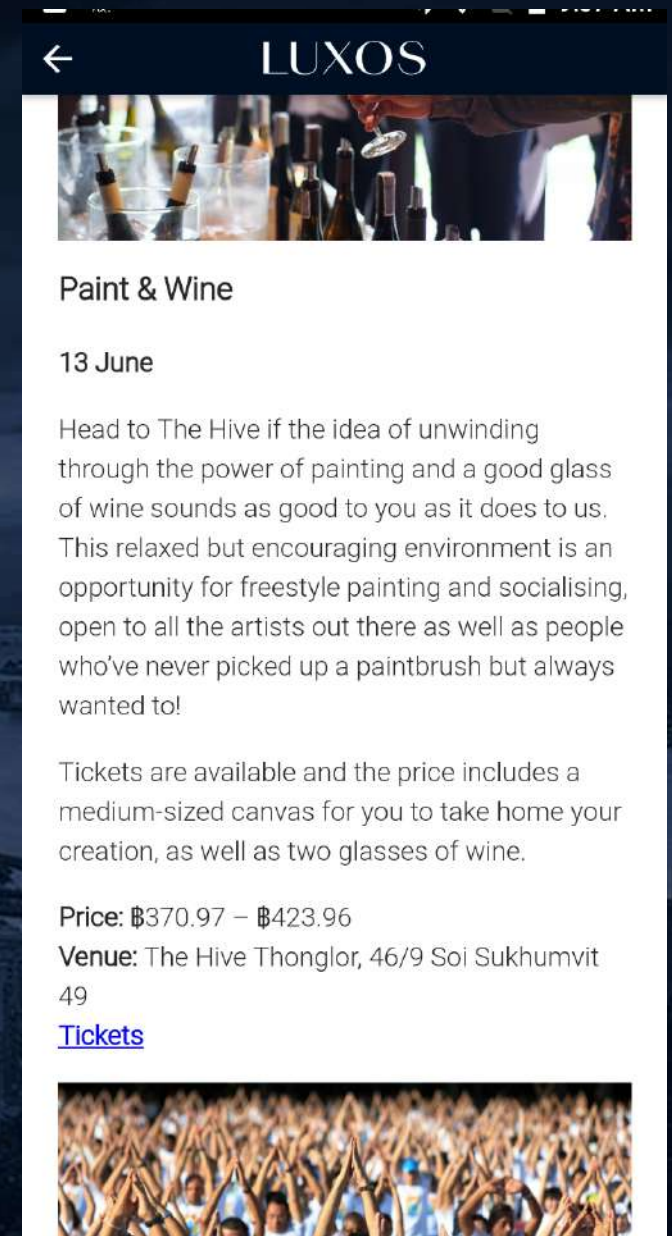
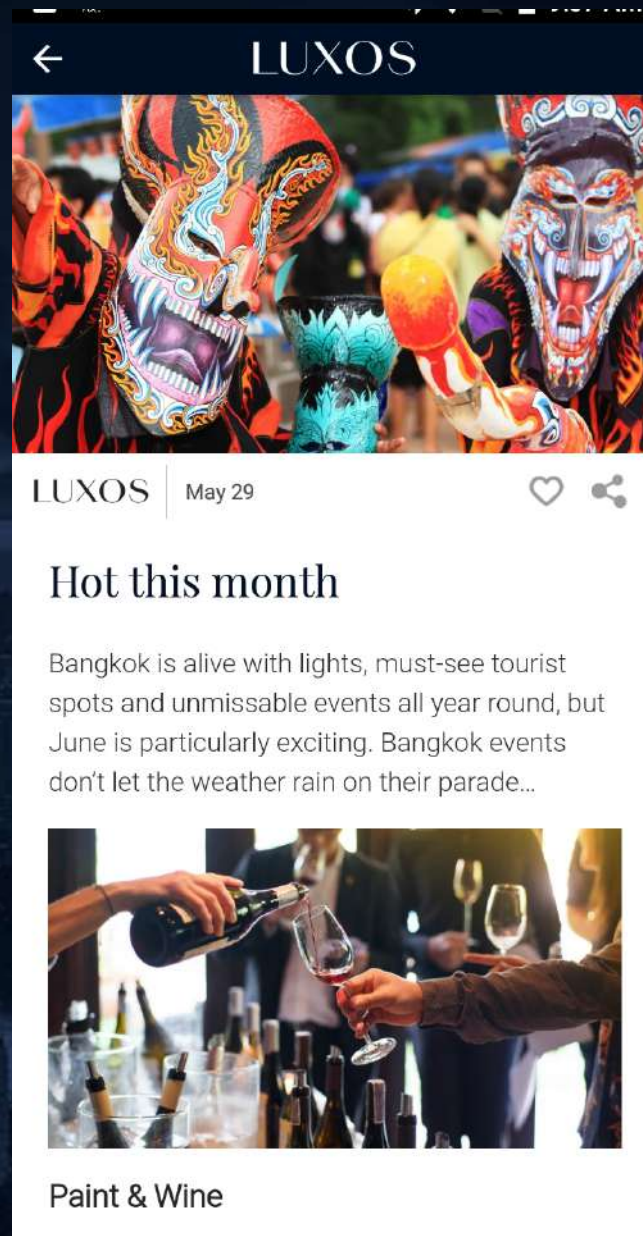
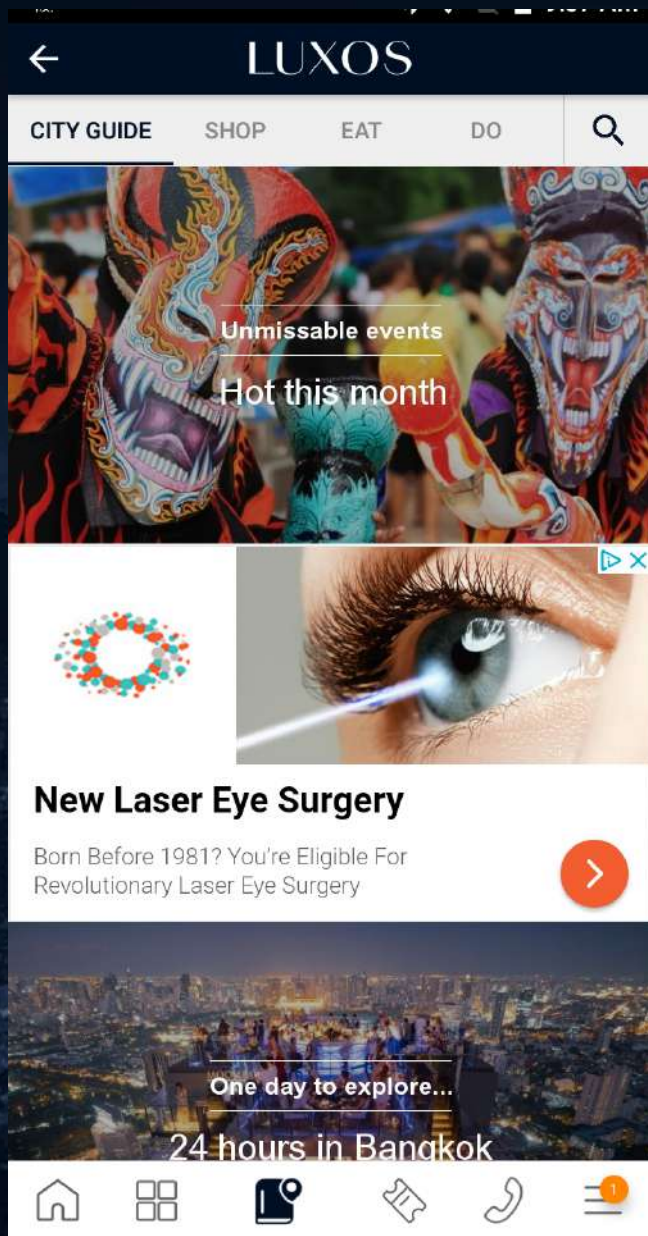


Boracay – Beyond the Beach

These are what most people would typically associate with



June



LUXOS



International Day of Yoga

16 June

June 2019 says hello to Bangkok's 5th International Day of Yoga, a golden hour of zen on a Sunday morning and pure collaborative bliss. Both locals and tourists alike gather on the lawn in front of the Royal Statues of King Chulalongkorn and King Vajiravudh for this celebration organised by the Embassy of India and supported by numerous associations, including UN organisations. Everyone who takes part receives a t-shirt and refreshments.

Price: Free

Time: 6.15 am to 7.30 am

Location: Chulalongkorn University playgrounds, Phaya Thai Road



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Triennale International Print and Drawing Exhibition

30 May - 11 August

The Bangkok [Arts and Culture Centre](#) is walking distance from either Siam, Ratchathewi or National Stadium stations. It's an expansive, contemporary exhibition and performance space that radiates all things artsy.

During June, the main gallery exhibition is the Triennale International Print and Drawing Exhibition - Bangkok's fifth of its kind. The exhibition gives opportunities to Thai and international artists to display their artwork in both print and drawing.



LUXOS



Phi Ta Khon ghost festival

June/July

Love of culture, energy, entertainment and intricate craftwork: Phi Ta Khon encapsulates much of what makes Bangkok great. Taking place on the sixth full moon of the lunar calendar, it resurrects an old Buddhist legend, of a party so incredibly fun that both the living and dead wanted to attend.

This three-day festival is all about masks, which local revellers handcraft and proudly brandish - beware, the aim is to make them as frightful as possible!



LUXOS



Amazing Thailand Grand Sale

June-August

Shopping in Bangkok is a treat all year round, but it's particularly pleasant over the two months starting in June when the sales are on. Everyone loves a bargain, right? So make your way to all the major shopping malls - Bangkok's most famous being the Siam area, brimming with big name brands, small local businesses, boutiques and malls.

By Megan Thomas

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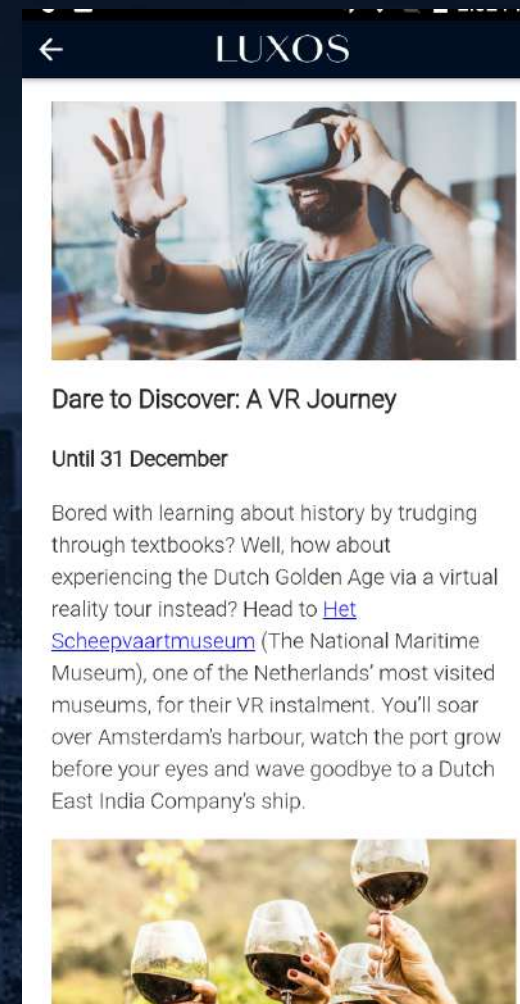
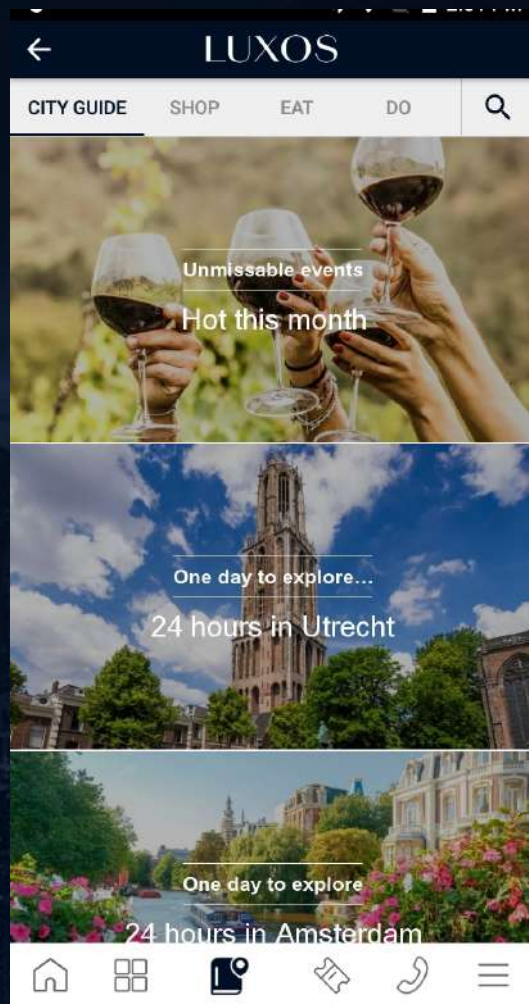
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Bacchus Wine Festival

7 - 16 June

Did someone say wine? Bacchus, the god of wine, certainly did. There's no better way to pay tribute to the glorious summer sunshine than in Amsterdam's largest park, Amsterdamse Bos, at a wine festival organised by Bacchus - not the god but the city's leading wine merchant.

Enjoy vintages from all over the world, street food style catering, live music, DJs and entertainment. The festival is accessible to the wine connoisseurs as well as those who don't know their merlots from their 'cab savs', with talks and lectures conducted by sommeliers as well as tastings and food pairing.

[More info and tickets](#)



LUXOS



TWIST! x Magic Circus

21 - 26 June

Suspend reality for a while and visit the Magic Circus, Amsterdam's most beloved circus, with their new show, TWIST! If you've never experienced Magic Circus before, then you're in for a real surprise. Think all the things you love and know about the big top and flip it on its head. Magic Circus, the epitome of modern circus practice, is on tour, so make sure you catch them while they're in Amsterdam. The good news - it's suitable for the whole family!

[More info and tickets](#)



LUXOS



Van Gogh and the Sunflowers

21 June - 1 September

It doesn't really get more classically Dutch than an exhibition of Van Gogh's Sunflowers in Amsterdam. All year round, the [Van Gogh Museum](#) is home to the largest selection of this masterful painter's work, including 200 paintings, 500 drawings and 750 written documents. However, this month is the beginning of the Van Gogh and the Sunflowers exhibition, which is an exploration of the artist's most famous piece. Recent years have unravelled extensive insight into one of history's most iconic paintings, so don't miss this chance to see it with your own eyes.

By Megan Thomas



LUXOS

exploration of the artist's most famous piece. Recent years have unravelled extensive insight into one of history's most iconic paintings, so don't miss this chance to see it with your own eyes.

By Megan Thomas

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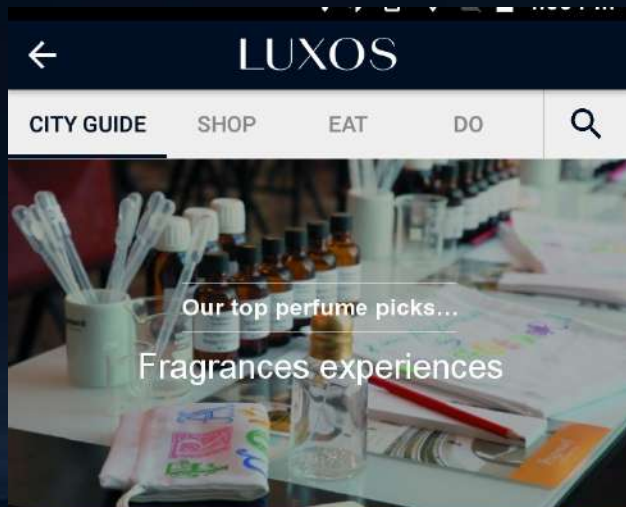
Tulip Season of Amsterdam

There can be no better time to visit Holland than during



Where to Shop Vintage in Amsterdam

The Dutch love a good bargain and it's no surprise that you'll

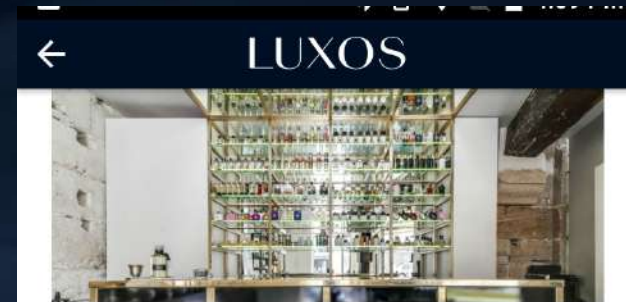


LUXOS | Jun 07



Fragrances experiences

It's one thing bringing home a bottle of eau de toilette as a memento of your French adventure, but if you're visiting Paris, land of perfumeries, why not indulge in a full day trying one of the lovely workshops or masterclasses on offer? From ocean essences to musky tones, to sweet floral notes, get ready to hunt down your new signature scent and prepare for a sensory overload...



Liquides Perfume Bar - 3rd arrondissement

This discreet [perfume bar](#) is everything a fragrance enthusiast could want. Their 'olfactive experience' kicks off with an in-depth one-on-one discussion with the 'barman', who will help you understand why certain fragrances are so popular and which perfume is best suited to you. He'll then talk you through some of their own brand products, developed by Liquides owners Phillippe Di M  o and David Frossard, along with a few boutique labels. It all has the feel of a relaxed wine tasting, and you should come out with a bottle of something far more personal than anything you could pick up in a department store.





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Candora - Le Marais

While watching perfume experts at work is certainly an intriguing experience, getting stuck in with a bit of alchemy yourself take your fragrance hunt to the next level: [Candora](#) in the sleek Marais district, offers a two-hour perfume workshop where you can mix your own fragrance from nineteen signature scents, incorporating your preferred top, middle and base notes. The brother-sister duo that founded and now run this upscale scent factory help you get the quantities just right, to ensure your blend is a true culmination of all your favourite scents.

Price: €79



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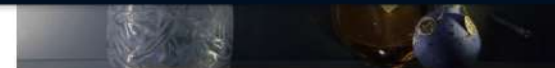
Le Studio des Parfums - Le Marais

[Le Studio des Parfums](#) is a gorgeous studio worth a visit in its own right, but it's at their masterclasses that you really get to grips with how to choose the right perfume for you. They'll help you narrow down exactly what you like (or dislike) about specific scents and teach you how multiple scents work when blended together. They break everything down for you, so you can use your newfound knowledge to construct a perfume that captures all your preferences. Bottle up a vile to take home and if you get truly hooked, you can even reorder your special mix when you've spritzed the last drop!

Price: €95 - €240 (packages available)



LUXOS



Le Musee du Parfum - 9th arrondissement

Parfumeur Fragonard's [Musee du Parfum](#) is a top dog when it comes to the art of perfume. Why do we use it? Where did apothecaries and perfumeries source such exotic ingredients? And how were 'masculine' and 'feminine' scents determined? Immerse yourself in interactive experiences in the museum that reveal all this and much more, helping you to understand the modern world of perfume in an historical context. You can also participate in a parfumeur apprentice workshop, open on Saturdays to anyone over 12 years old. Available in English and French.

Price: €95

By Megan Thomas

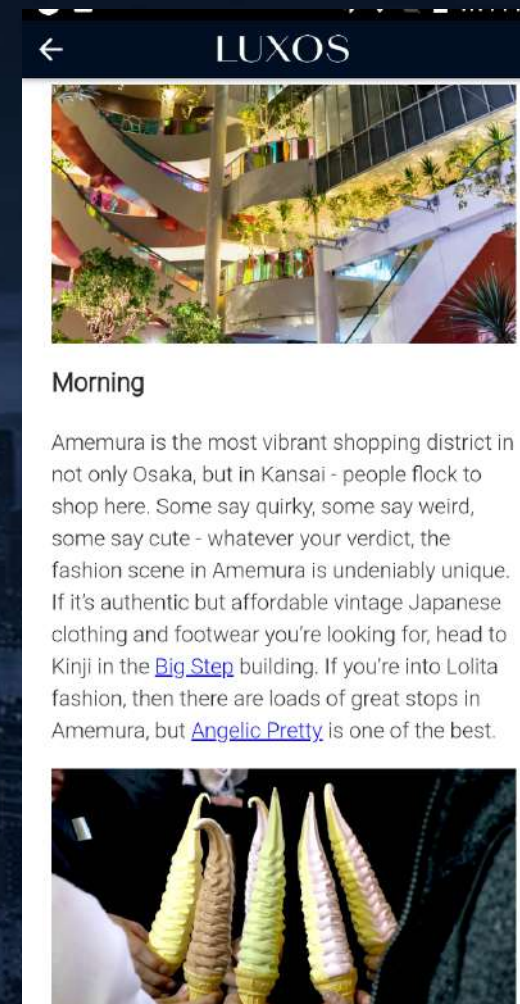
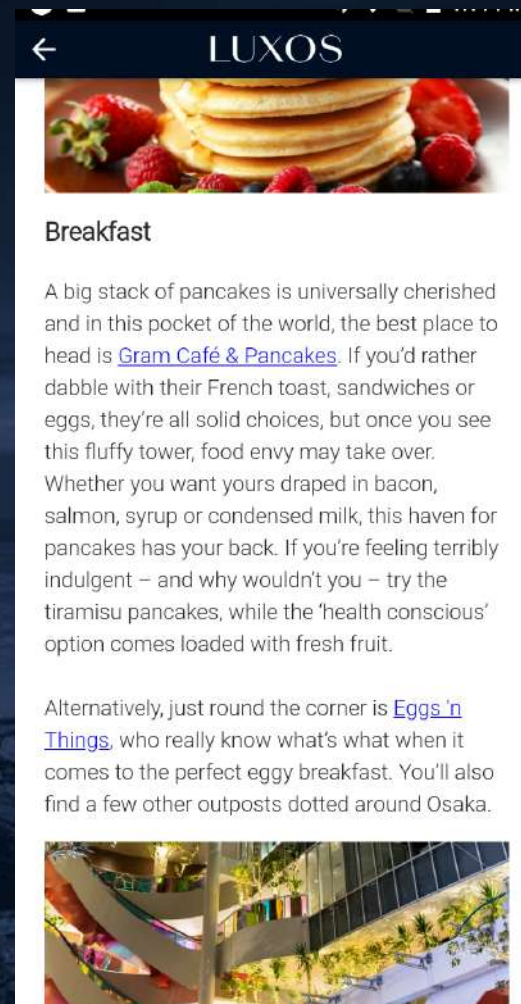
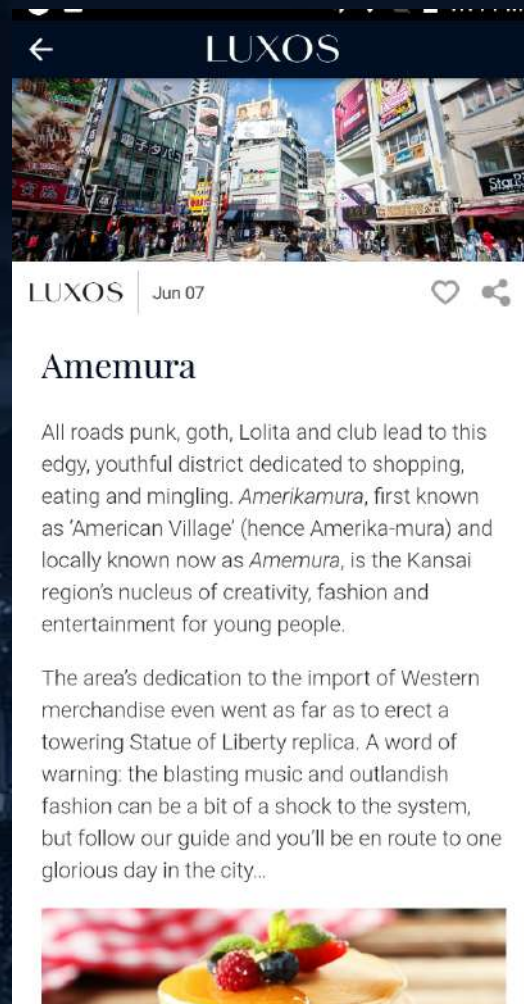
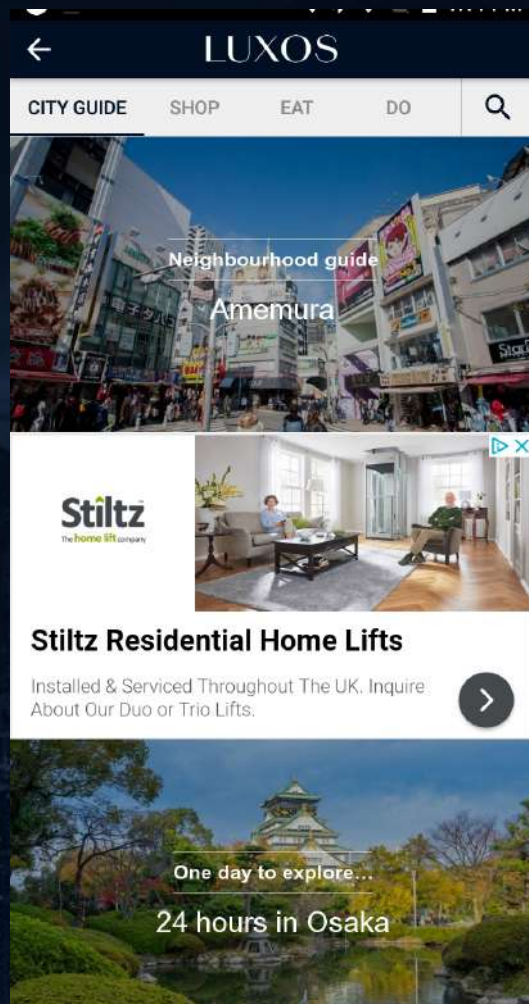
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Fragonard / Le Musee du Parfum

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Candora

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Ice cream break

We don't believe in shopping 'till you drop: you've got to refuel. Interspersing long mornings with long ice creams ought to do the trick - we mean that literally. [Pop Sweet](#) boasts the longest soft serve ice cream in Japan. Now, we don't claim to have tried every ice cream in the country, but when Pop Sweets' come in at 40cm, they've got a pretty good claim. Regardless, they're absolutely delicious and will give you the energy you need to keep exploring.



← LUXOS



Just when you thought your shopping experience couldn't get madder, you'll stumble down the rabbit hole that is [Alice on Wednesday](#), Disney's Alice in Wonderland store. Entering Wonderland through the book-end shaped door is just the first step. Whether you want to don Alice's headband or buy a tote bag to fill with treats from the sweet table and little vials of colourful liquid (their labels of "eat me" and "drink me" being all too tempting), you'll feel like a kid again.



← LUXOS



Lunch

You can't roam Amemura without lunching on street food, you can't go wrong with takoyaki, and you can't deviate from [Koga-ryu](#) if it's takoyaki you're after. What started as a small takeaway front has transformed into a specialist joint for these delightful, octopus-stuffed dough balls. Better yet, it's on the doorstep of Sankaku Koen, AKA [Triangle Park](#), an unmissable hangout while you're in the area. Pick a bench and tuck in.

hi tip: Triangle Park is renowned for its Halloween parties, so if you're visiting at the end of October, things are going to get spooky!



← LUXOS

things are going to get spooky!



Afternoon

Get back inside Big Step for the afternoon and make a beeline for [The Silver Ball Planet](#) to be taken back in time. It's a pinball arcade filled with gems from the 1960s, as well as the newest machines available. You buy access per play, so if you really want, you can try them all. Leave your iPads at home - it's time to do things old school.



← LUXOS



Dinner

Though the cultural atmosphere in Amemura is very Western, we'd still advice partaking in a spot of mind-blowing Japanese teppanyaki for dinner. [Miyazaki Beef-Steak](#) turns a plain steak into something mouthwateringly special: try the restaurant's namesake - their Miyazaki Beef Fillet is melt-in-your-mouth delicious, and the foie gras comes dripping with the most delicious sweet and sour sauce.



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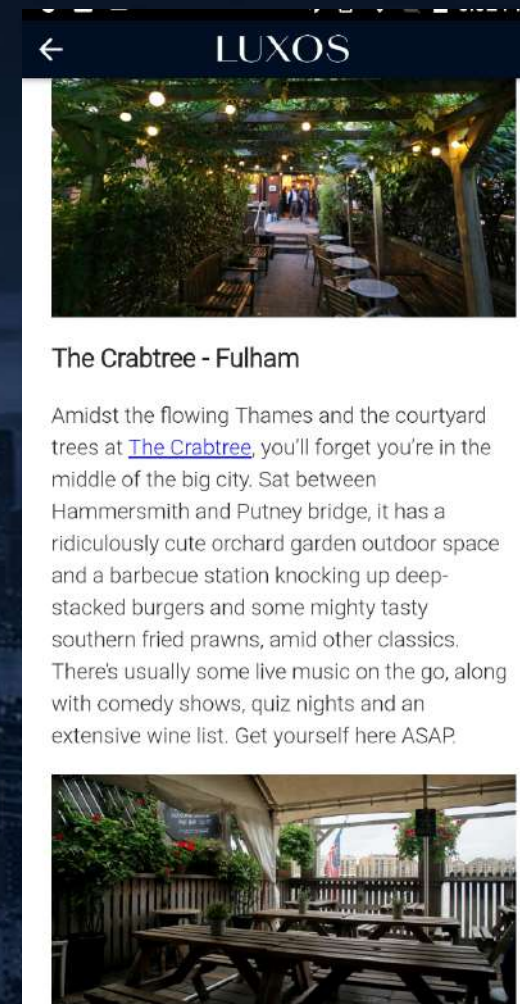
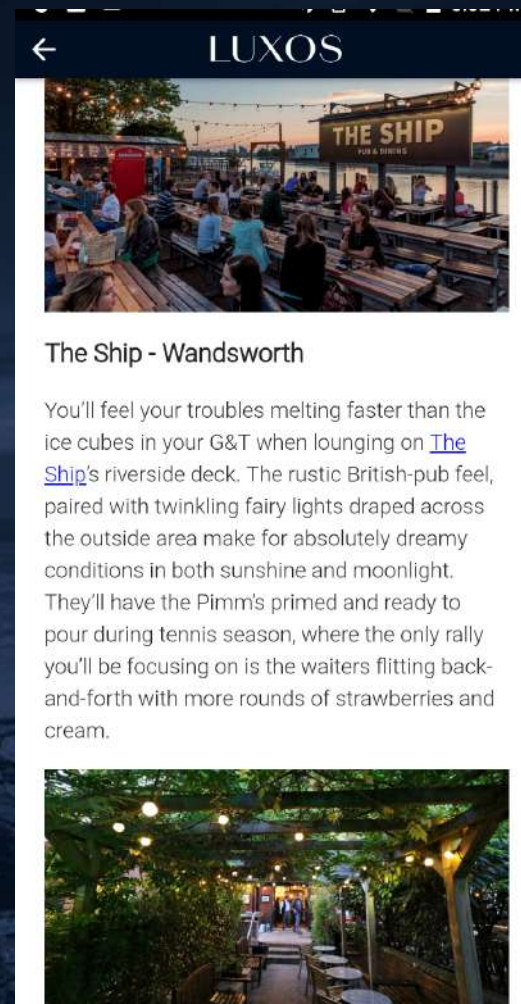
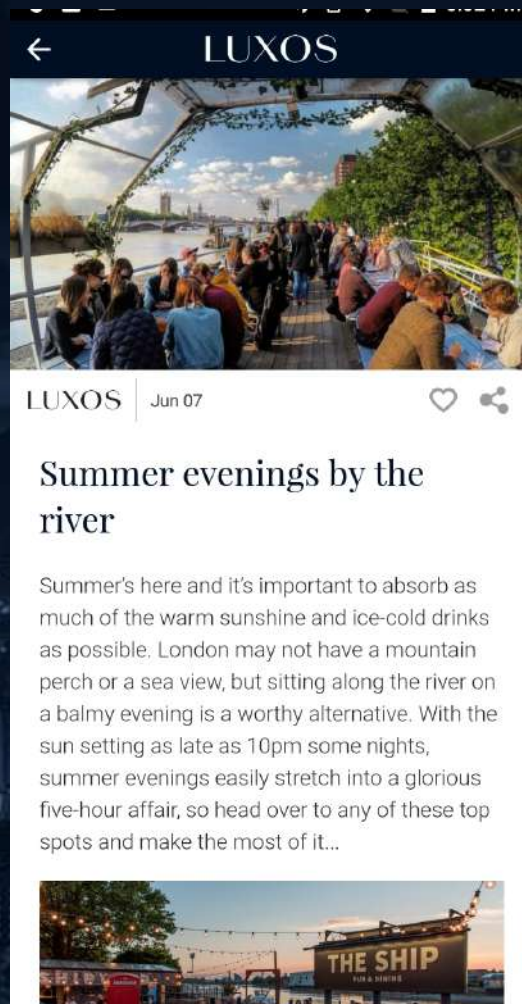
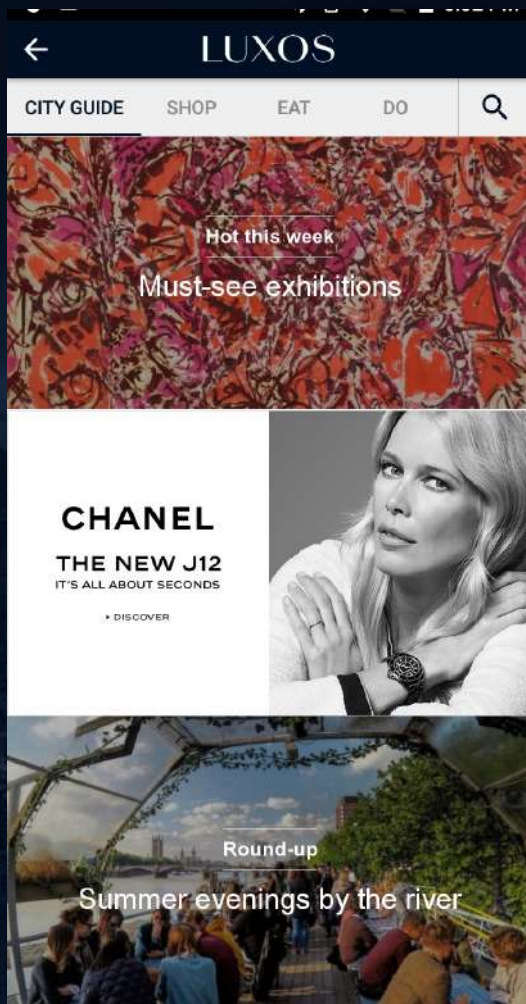
Karaoke

Divas unite - Amemura is the place to be for karaoke. [Moonshine HotDogs & Karaoke](#) is a friendly bar with smashing cocktails. They only take cash, so make sure you have a stash on you. Bar Sorra is another great option if you're looking to belt some classics.

By Megan Thomas

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The Mayflower - Rotherhithe

In 1620, Captain Christopher Jones and 65 passengers sailed down the River Thames towards Southampton from this homeport, which is now a commemorative postcard-perfect pub that stocks a wide variety of beers, ales, ciders and wines, and does a mean fish and chips. A little portal through time, [this place](#) is surrounded by cobbled streets in the cosy area of Rotherhithe that date back hundreds of years - one for history buffs that like their pint with a side-helping of culture.

THE BLUE ANCHOR



LUXOS

THE BLUE ANCHOR



The Blue Anchor - Hammersmith

Opened when George I was King of England, [The Blue Anchor](#) has been in the bevvie game for a fair while. Though it's unlikely cocktails were a big seller 300 years ago, today they've got mixology down to an art and we highly recommend you get involved. The 'blackcurrant leaf spritz' tastes of a summer well-spent - fresh, fruity and fizzing with a prosecco topper.



LUXOS



Tamesis Dock - Vauxhall

Gazing out over the water not quite good enough? Head to [Tamesis Dock](#) and hop aboard their quirky, brightly painted barge overlooking the House of Parliament. Order a pitcher of Long Island ice tea and marvel at the view from Albert Embankment.

The Riverside - Vauxhall

Newly refurbished, The Riverside terrace is where you want to be this summer in particular. If not for a delectable Aperol Spritz and a portion of their moreish cod goujons with bloody Mary ketchup, come for the Cricket World Cup: the Oval is hosting the competition just down the road and this place is buzzing with a friendly, competitive atmosphere from day to night. You'll hear the roar straining from the cricket grounds as you order that second Aperol...

By Megan Thomas

LUXOS

ketchup, come for the Cricket World Cup: the Oval is hosting the competition just down the road and this place is buzzing with a friendly, competitive atmosphere from day to night. You'll hear the roar straining from the cricket grounds as you order that second Aperol...

By Megan Thomas

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Floating dining destinations

Can you think of a better way to experience London than with



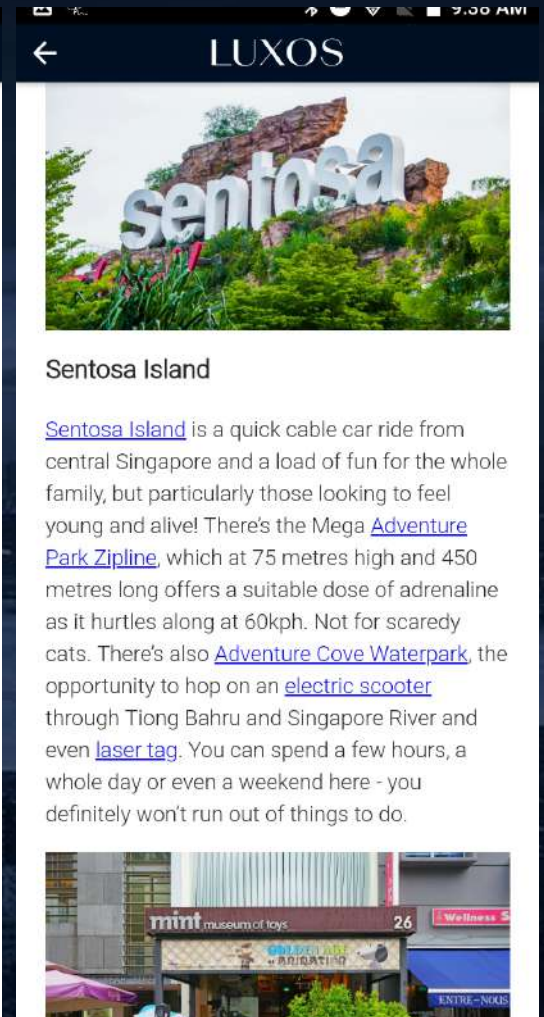
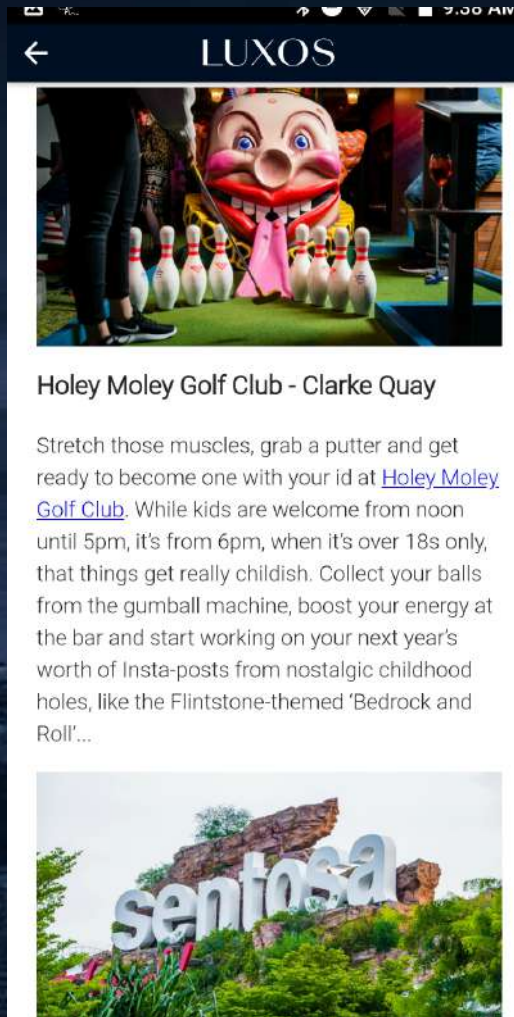
Top 3 quirky afternoon teas



Tap into the British tradition of afternoon tea with a twist



London's Insider Tours

LUXOS asked four of the capital's most cutting edge








MINT Museum of Toys - Downtown Core

The combination of nostalgia and creativity will leave you reeling as you explore the different toys in [this place](#) - it's an incredible reminder of how exciting it is to be a kid, from collectibles to the childhood favourites such as The Adventures of Tintin and Godzilla.

Buy tickets here








V-Room - Orchard

When was the last time you got to really play? You know the kind of immersive world that only a young, creative minds can dream up? Well, Singapore is buzzing with VR experiences that will make you feel like you're back in the imaginary realms of your best childhood games. [V-Room](#) is a high-tech virtual reality arcade, with more than thirty games available. Whether you want to play chef, assassin or dancing queen, there's something for every mood. You can play solo, or in a group.

Like the sound of this? Check out our [jaw-dropping VR experiences](#).





Singapore Zoo - Mandai

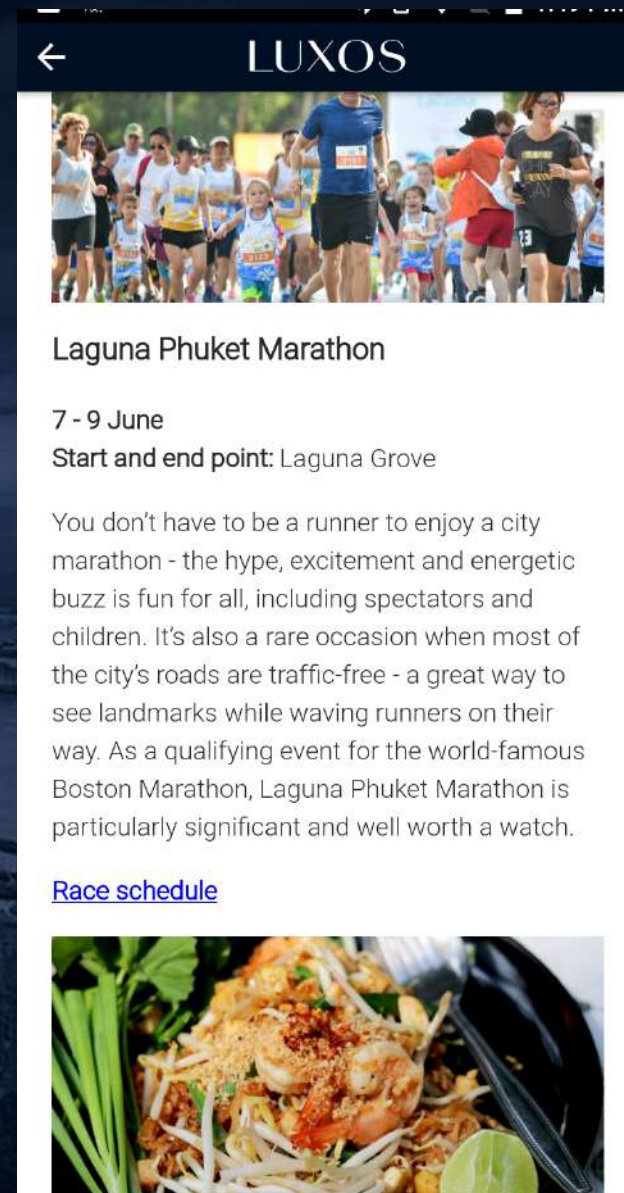
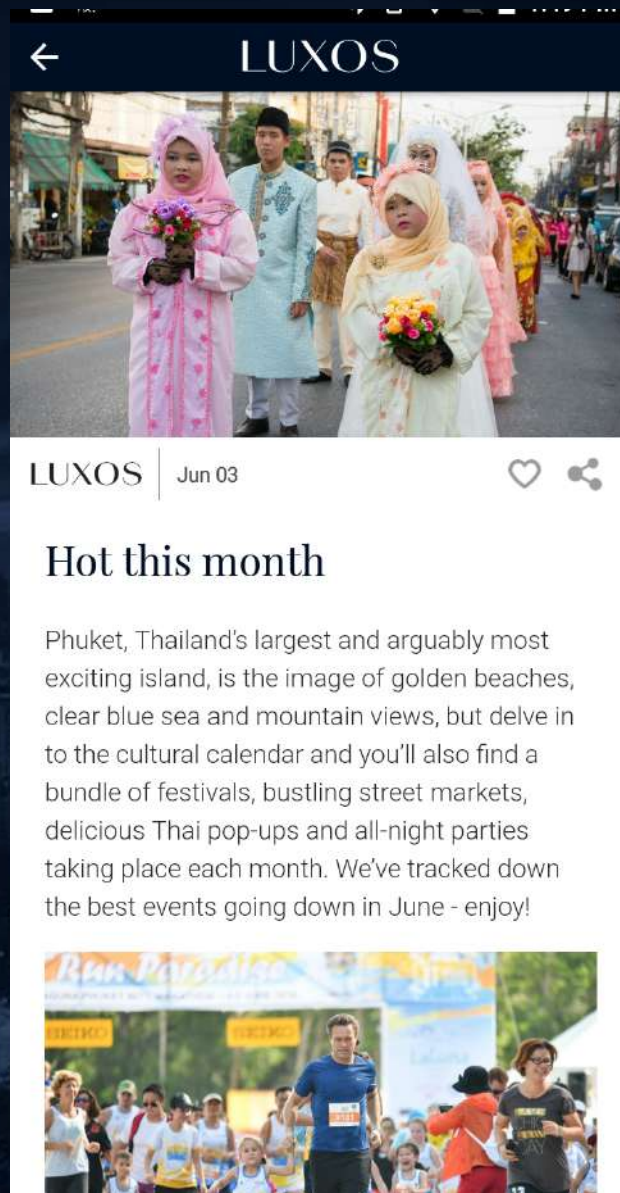
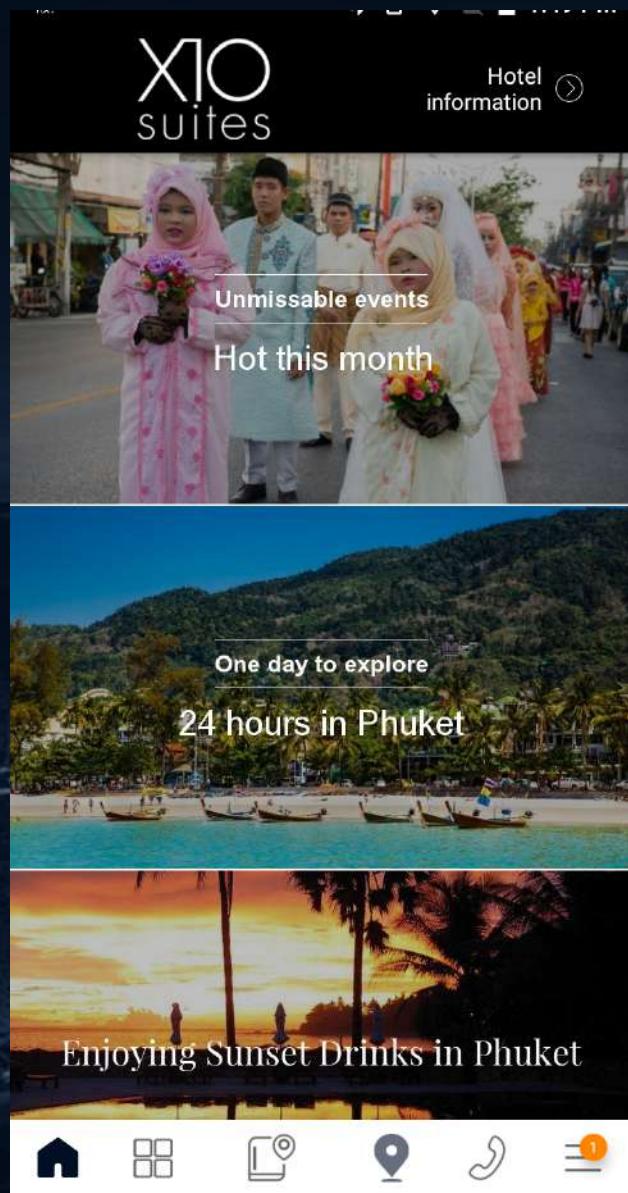
Head to the [Singapore Zoo](#) - between the White Bengal Tiger and the lovable pandas, it's enough to get anyone excited. Step things up a notch with a [Night Safari Tour](#). Trust us - having an Asian elephant Hoover up food from your hand will turn even the most serious among us into overgrown, giddy toddlers.

Discounted tickets here

By Megan Thomas

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Thai Village Fair - Patong

8 June

The Thai Village Fair replicates the best of a traditional fisherman's village. You'll discover all your favourite flavours from plentiful food stalls (seafood abounds) and can watch your culinary creations come to life at various live cooking demonstrations. There's also traditional Thai dance performances and lots of organised games for any kids in your party.

Time: 5-11 pm

Venue: Ta Khai Phuket, 88/28 Muen-Ngern Road, Patong

Prices from: THB 2,562 (drinks included) / THB 1,762 (food only)



Baba (Peranakan) Wedding Festival

14 - 15 June

Ever attended a wedding without actually knowing the bride and groom? This is common practice in Phuket and a culturally enriching (if slightly quirky) way to spend a weekend. 'Baba' is a term denoting mixed Thai and Chinese heritage - around 10,000 Phuket islanders can trace their lineage back to Peranakan or Straits Chinese immigrants, who largely migrated to work in Thai tin mines in the 19th Century - and each year, grand Baba weddings takes place in Sino-Portuguese mansions in the old town quarter.

This year's antics are taking place in Hongyok House. Be a part of the exuberant parade down Thalang Road, which includes red lanterns and a full-blown lion dance. It's free and open to the public - just make sure you dress respectfully (the more colorful the better). Avoid black altogether, as this largely symbolises mourning in Thai culture.

[More information](#)

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[More information](#)

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Get Wild in Phuket with Adventure Sports

One of great things about Phuket are the options for adventure

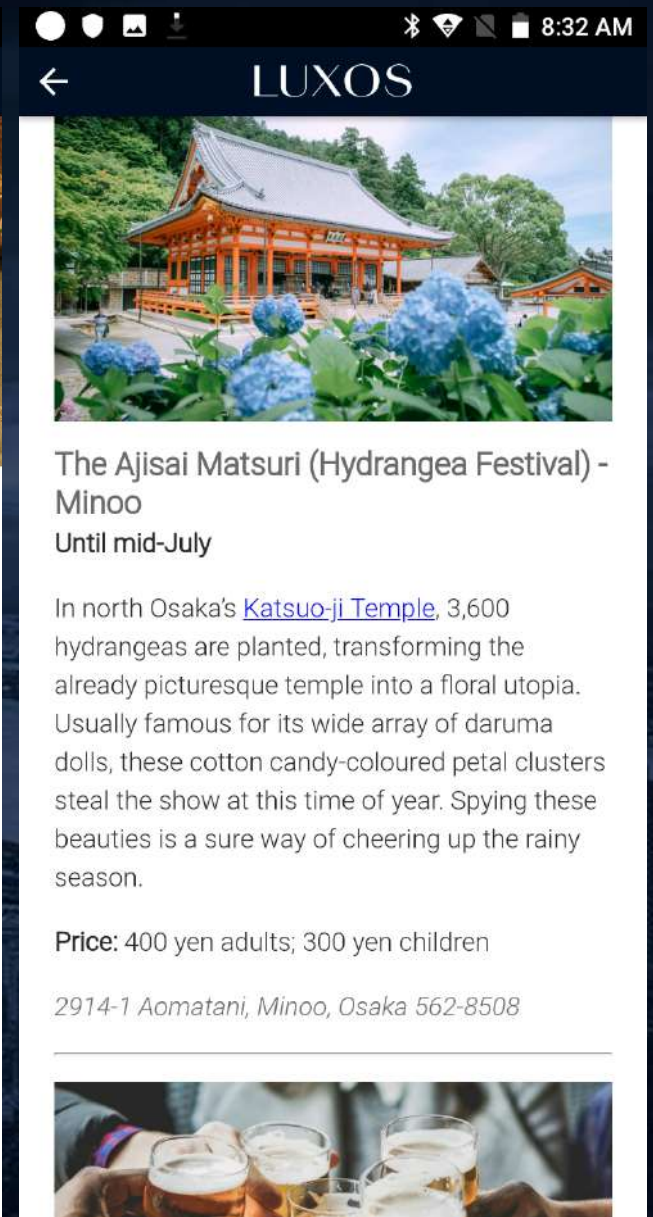
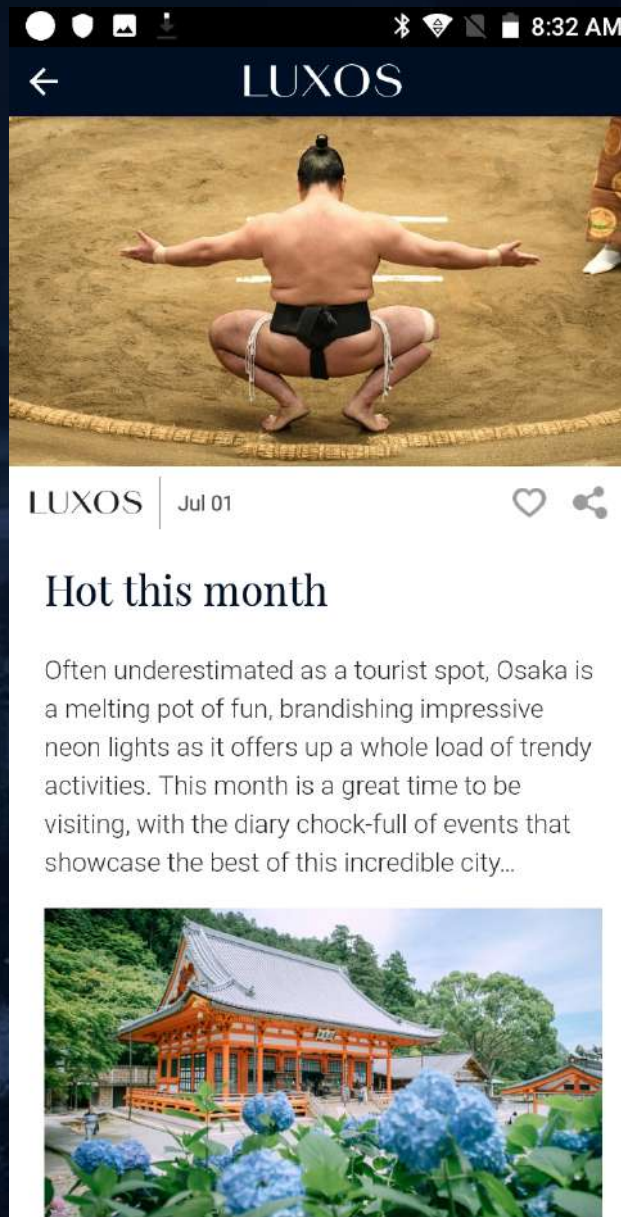


Top Attractions in Phuket for Kids

Splash Jungle Water Park For the wettest, wildest thrills, Splash

A dark, high-angle photograph of a city skyline at night, likely Hong Kong, with the word 'July' in large orange letters overlaid. The image shows a dense urban landscape with numerous skyscrapers and buildings, some of which are illuminated. The city is situated on a peninsula or island, with a body of water visible in the background. The sky is dark and cloudy. The word 'July' is written in a large, bold, orange font, centered horizontally and slightly above the middle vertically. The overall mood is dramatic and atmospheric.

July





BeerFes Osaka - Chuo Ward 12-14 July

You'll be truly remiss if you don't book either an evening or an afternoon session for this weekend overflowing with beer and cheer at MyDom Osaka. Beer lovers will relish the variety and tasting opportunities. The Great Japan Beer Festival (aka BeerFes) has been hosting this hoedown in Osaka since 2003 and as far back as 1998 in other cities, so rest assured they know what they're doing.

2-5 Honmachibashi, Chuo Ward, Osaka, 540-0029

[Check ticket availability](#)



Doraemon Exhibition - Minato Ward 12 July - 23 September

Doraemon is a Japanese manga series, which has, since its initial conception in 1969, exploded into a popular anime series and media franchise. Arriving in Osaka after a successful run in Tokyo, this exhibition at Bunkakan Museum shows what happens when 28 artists are inspired by Doraemon. This is your chance to meet Doraemon never seen before, merging contemporary art and this typical Japanese illustrative style.

Opening hours: 10am-5pm

General admission: 1,500 yen / advance sale 1,300 yen

Middle & high school: 1,200 yen (advance sale 1,000 yen)

Under 4s: 800 yen (advance sale 600 yen)

Osaka Prefecture Minato Ward Kaigandori 1-5-10



Tenjin Matsuri (Water and light festival) - Kita Ward 24-25 July

Considering Osaka is known as the 'city of water and light', it comes as little surprise that Tenjin (god of the sky) Matsuri (festival) is the city's most popular summer celebrations. It's been going for a thousand years and though originally a commemoration of Sugawara no Michizane (Shinto god of learning), nowadays it is more a tribute to the summer and all the sunshine it brings.

To make the most of festivities, head to Tenmangu shrine – just a short walk from Osaka Tenmangu station – for the yomiya-sai (pre-evening festival) at 7:45am on 24 July, to witness prayers and rituals to ensure the success of the full celebration the next day. In the evening, take a look at the boat processions along Okawa

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2 Chome-1- 8 Tenjinbashi, Kita Ward, Osaka, 530-



Regional Sumo tours - Habikino 29 July

Sumo wrestling is Japan's national sport, steeped in tradition, culture and a helluva good time. The wrestlers perform incredible feats under pressure, showing skill, strength and meticulous form. While an exciting event all year round, for the first time in 20 years, Habikino City is hosting a special event, Regional Sumo tours (Japanese: chiho jungyo), with a line-up of sumo stars from the top two divisions.

Venue: Habikino City Comprehensive Sports Center (Horiki no Korosema)

Osaka Prefecture Habikino-shi Minamiegano 4-chome 237-4

[Check ticket availability](#)

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[Check ticket availability](#)

By Megan Thomas

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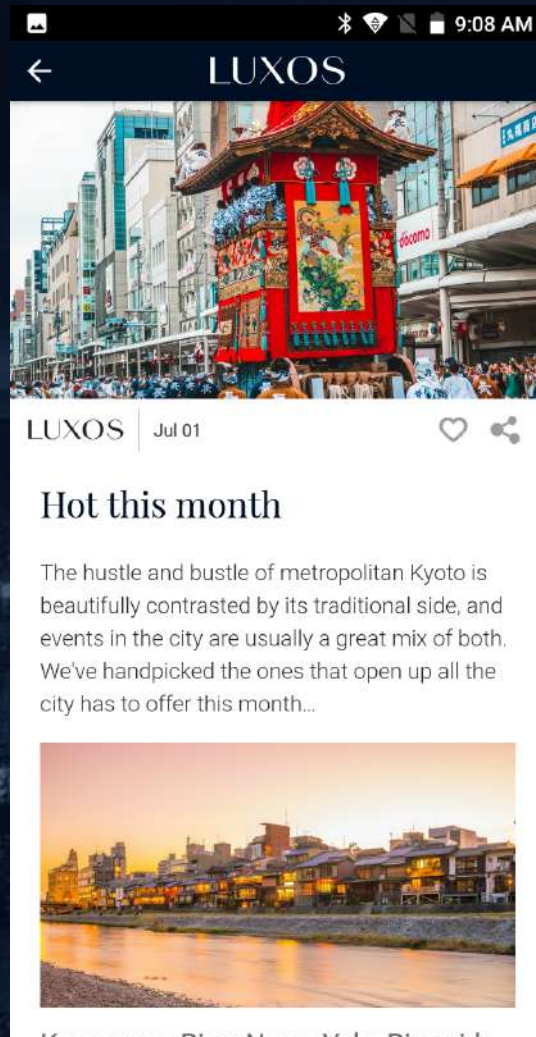
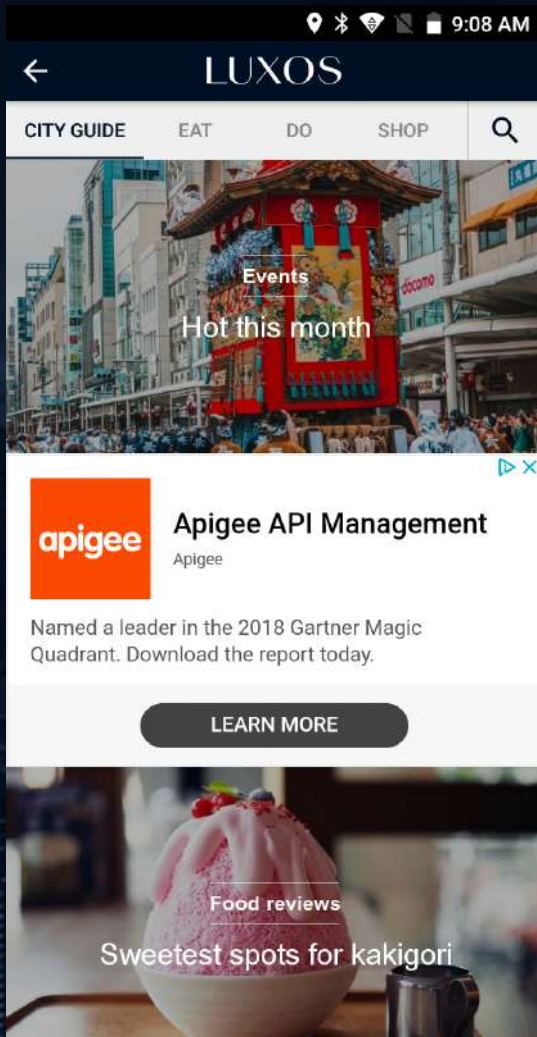
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Some tips for a more enjoyable





To-ji Temple Flea Market

7 July

Held at [Toji Temple](#), a beautiful, large UNESCO world heritage site, this flea market is well-worth your time with its eclectic array of everything from knick-knacks to antiques. It's in front of Kondo Hall, one of Toji's original structures, so a great way to merge your culture and shopping fixes.



Gion Matsuri - traditional parade

July

Gion Matsuri is arguably Japan's most famous parade, which takes place at [Yasaka Shrine](#). Given that it's a month-long event, you're likely to find a celebration happening throughout July, especially in the evenings when the roads are closed to maximise festive fun. However, the main parade - a procession of floats - is on 17 and 24 July and follow three kilometer routes along the streets of Shijo, Kawaraamachi and Oike.



Kyoto Tower Beer Garden

Until 30 September

If there's one selfie-spot that cries "I've been to Kyoto", it's probably from in front of the [Kyoto Tower](#). Looking a lot like a lighthouse, it's no wonder Kyoto Tower is the beacon of light that it is. Better yet, it really gets on board with the 'summer = beer garden' equation, hosting a rooftop beer garden throughout the summer months.

By Megan Thomas

Images:
Head image: Alexander Vow/Shutterstock
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