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# ABOVE THE VOID

AERIAL VIEWS OF THE PLANET

46

THE ART  
COLLECTOR  
AIMING TO PUT  
DUBAI ON THE  
CULTURAL MAP

60

BRITISH COMEDY  
LEGEND MICHAEL  
PALIN'S EPIC  
ODYSSEY  
AROUND BRAZIL

70

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BE THE PAPERLESS  
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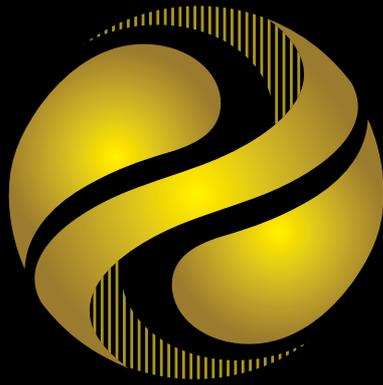
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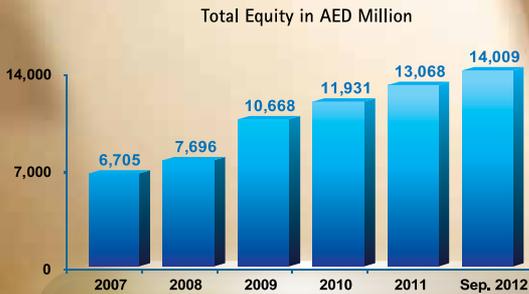
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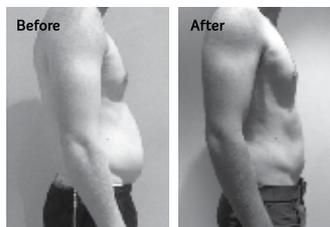
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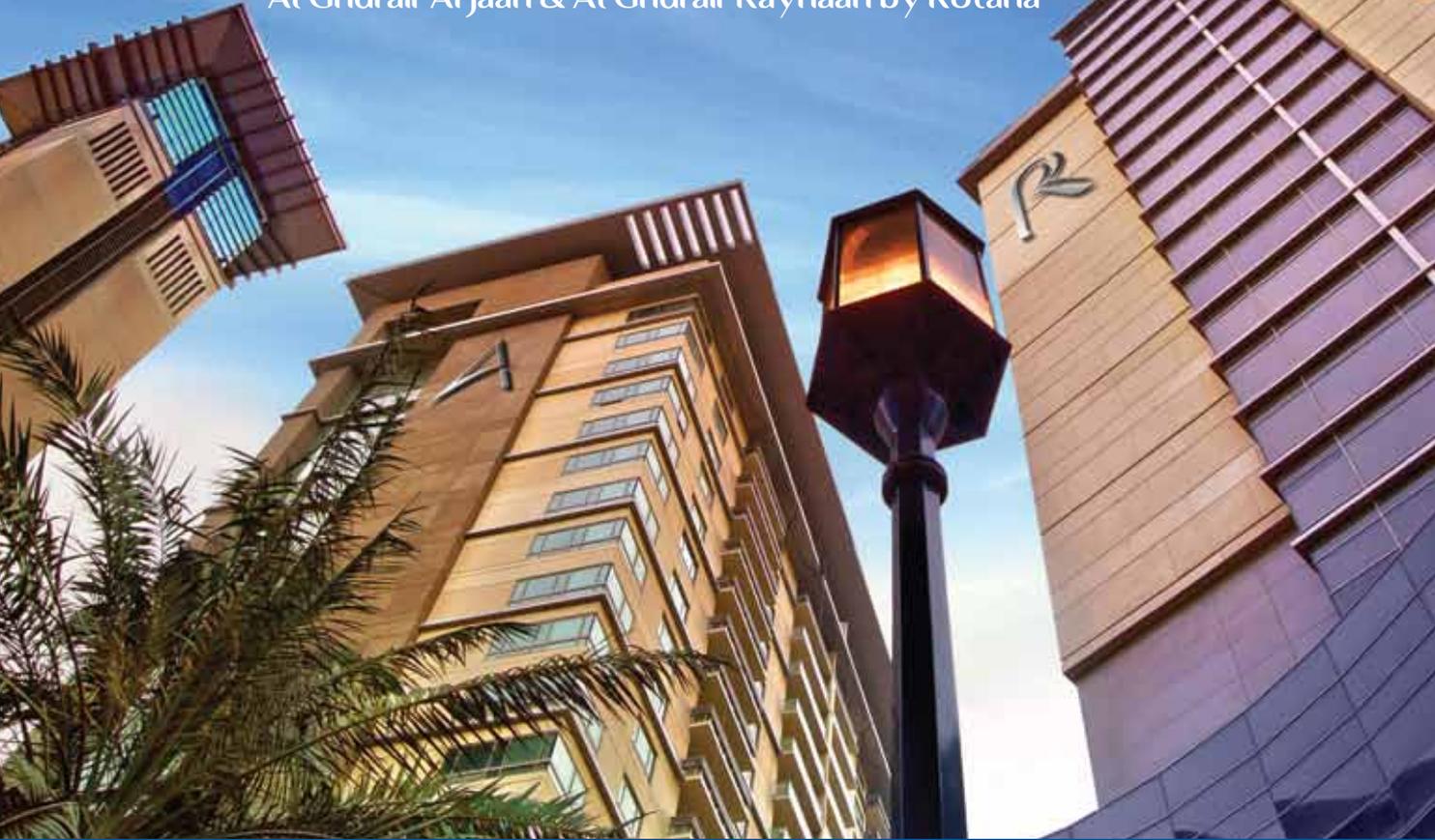
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These initiatives are examples of Samsung's corporate social responsibility investment on the continent, and its keen focus on harnessing the company's legacy of innovation to respond to the needs of people in Africa.

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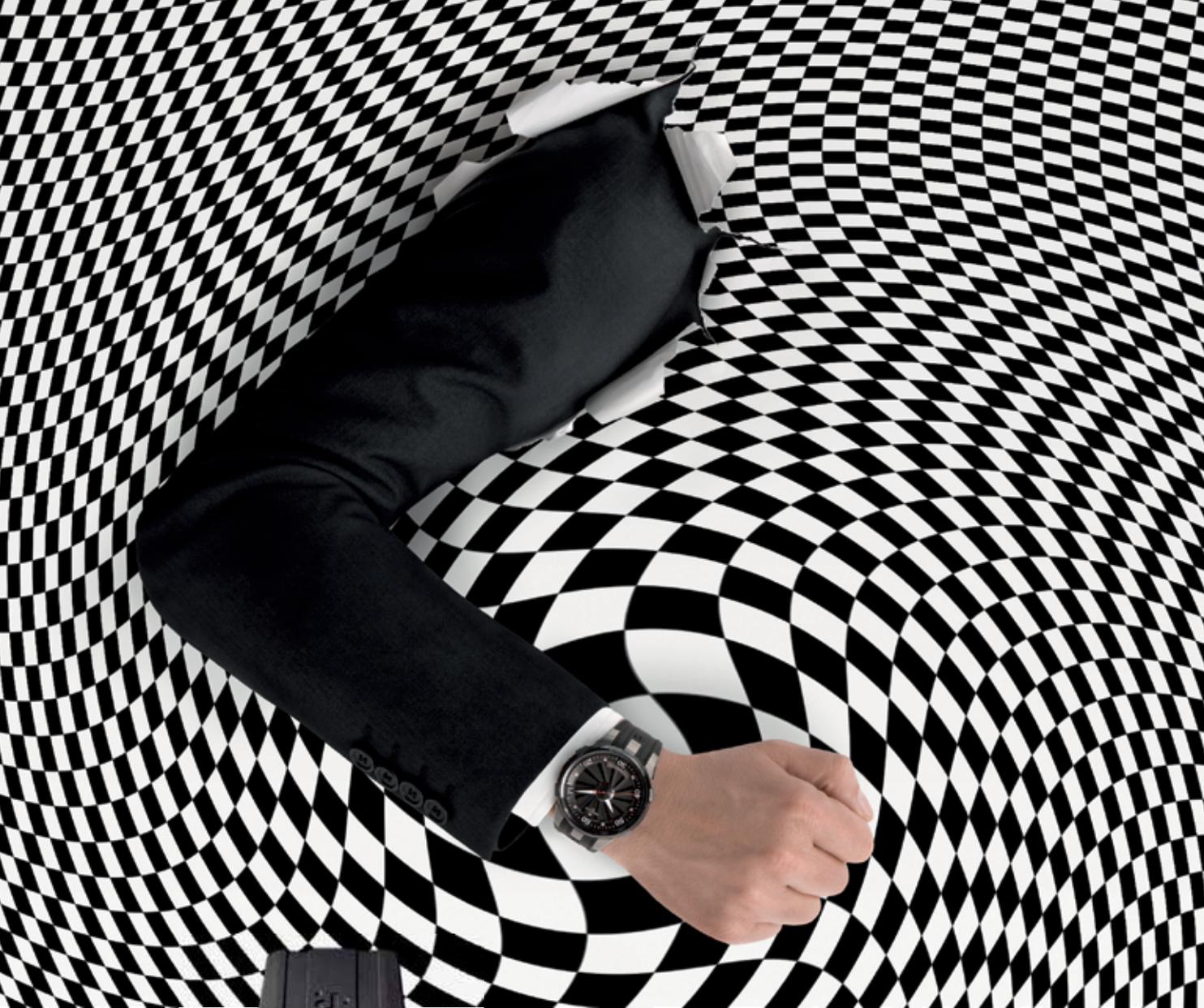


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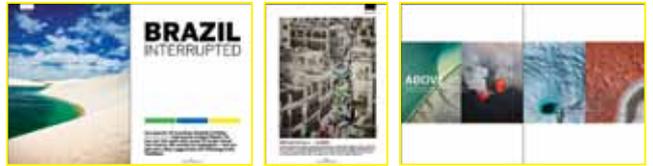
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# EDITOR'S LETTER

This issue we travel to Brazil with one of the UK's most respected broadcasters, Michael Palin. His second career – after Monty Python – as a travel writer has seen him travel the world for the BBC, and this was his first visit to a country that will be very much in the public eye in the coming years. We also give the Mapped treatment to São Paulo, a bustling metropolis of 20 million people. Ramin Salsali owns SPM, one of the most interesting galleries in Dubai, and we find out about his plans for culture in the city. And if you have ever dreamt of packing it all in and departing for a tropical island, Torre DeRoche has a sobering reminder that paradise has a cost. Our cover shot this month belongs to Bernhard Edmaier, whose aerial photographic work documents some of the most desolate parts of the world. Enjoy the issue.

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# CONTENTS / FEBRUARY 2013



**34**  
A wander down one of Shanghai's quirkiest streets



**36**  
Soul singer Alice Russell shares her favourite tunes



**40**  
Toronto's culinary scene through the eyes of celebrity chef Massimo Capra



**42**  
São Paulo gets the Mapped treatment as we visit Brazil



**46**  
We meet Dubai-based art collector Ramin Salsali



**53**  
An aerial shot of one of Jeddah's most fascinating streets

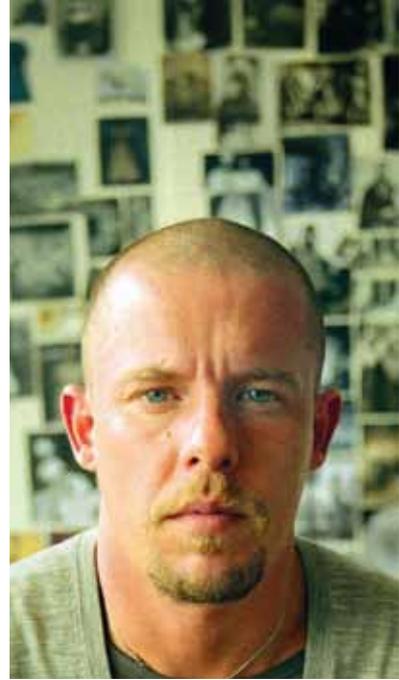


**70**  
How Bitcoin is changing the face of the currency system



# 60

Around Brazil  
with Michael  
Palin



# 50

The legacy of Alexander McQueen



# 80

Stunning  
aerial  
shots by  
Bernhard  
Edmaier

## FRONT

Calendar.....	32
The Street.....	34
Skypod.....	36
Room.....	38
Consume.....	39

BLD.....	40
Mapped.....	42
Local Knowledge.....	46
Place.....	53
Our Man.....	54

## MAIN

Brazil.....	60
Bitcoin.....	70
Photo Essay.....	80

## NEWS

Algiers.....	90
Recycling.....	92
Fleet.....	102



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## TORRE DEROCHE

Torre DeRoche writes a blog called *Fearful Adventurer*, where she hopes to inspire others by being a bad example. Her debut book, *Love with a Chance of Drowning*, is due out in the summer.

## ALICE RUSSELL

One of the UK's most interesting soul singers, Alice has collaborated with everyone from David Byrne to Fatboy Slim and her unique sound has gained her fans around the world. She divulges her favourite tunes.

## MICHAEL PALIN

A legendary comic, thanks to his time spent in Monty Python, Michael is more recently known for his travel documentaries. His latest series sees him travel to Brazil.

## NOAH DAVIS

A freelance writer living in Brooklyn, Noah writes about everything from sport to science. He has been published everywhere from *Sports Illustrated* and the *Wall Street Journal* to *New York* magazine and *GQ.com*.

## BERNHARD EDMAIER

A German geologist, photographer and author of geoscientific books, Edmaier has managed to combine his two passions in a number of striking publications, notably *Earthsong*.



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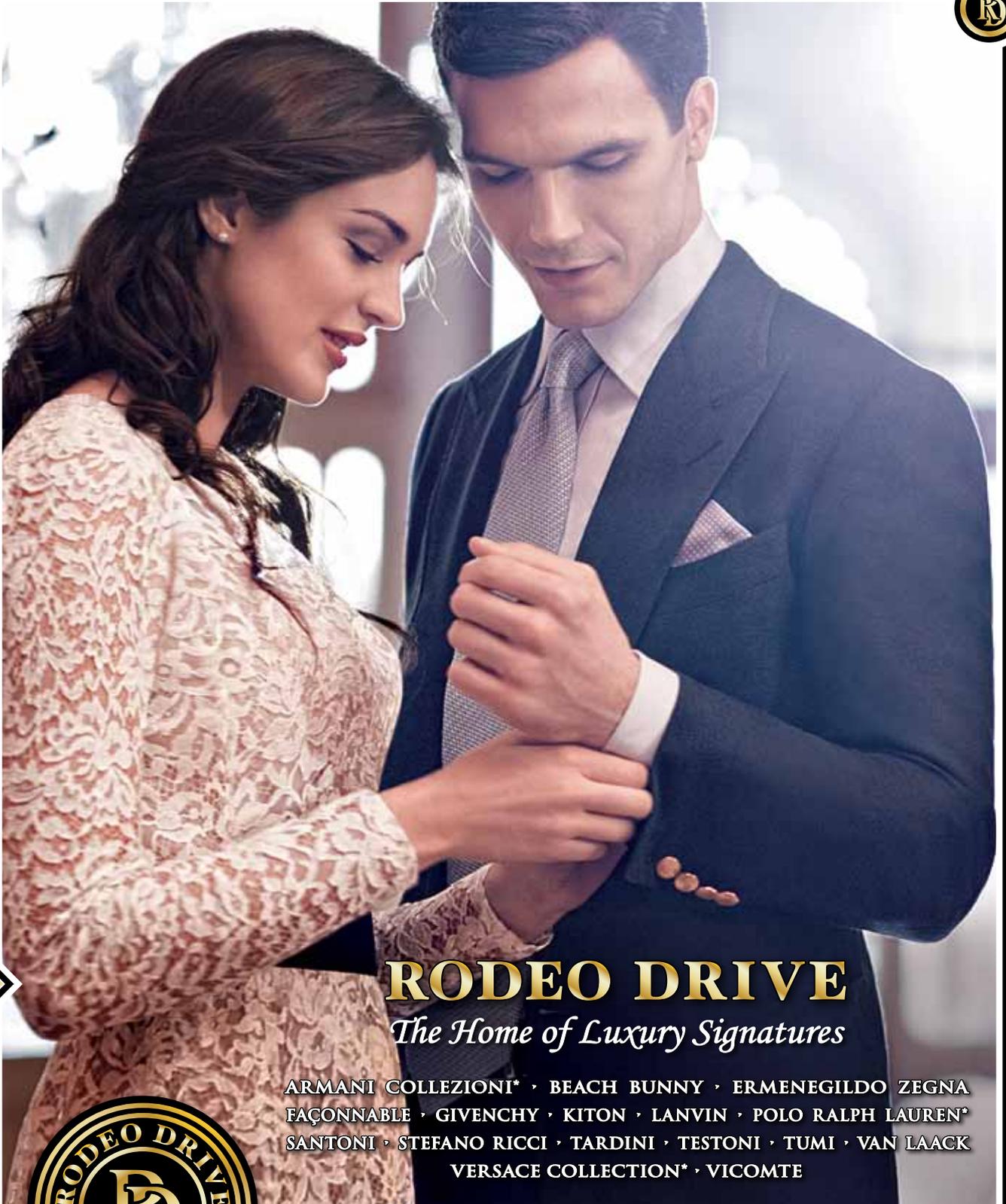


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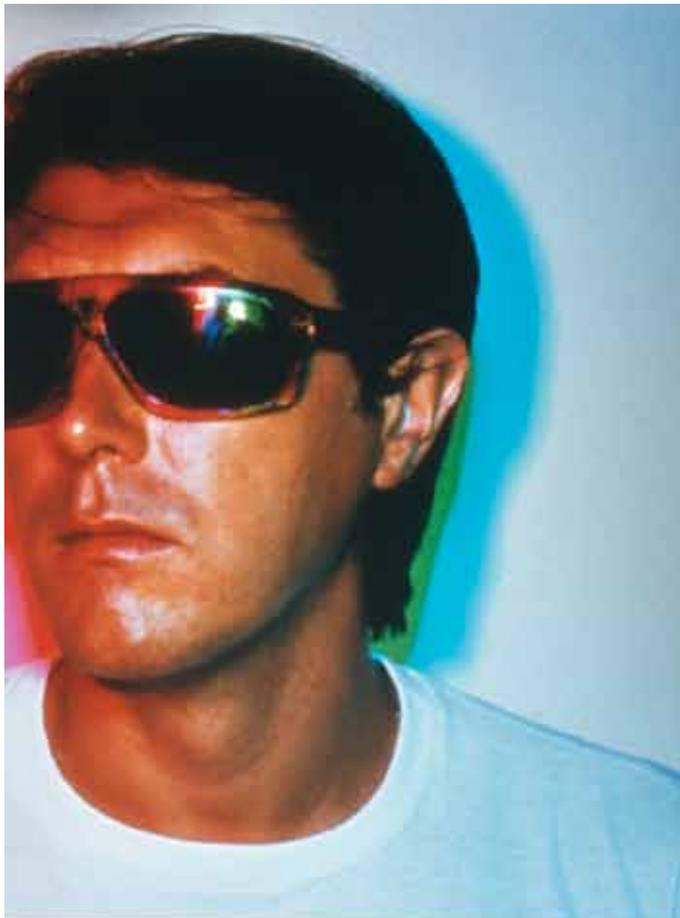
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# FRONT



34

## SHANGHAI

We take a stroll through one of the city's most offbeat, charming streets

50

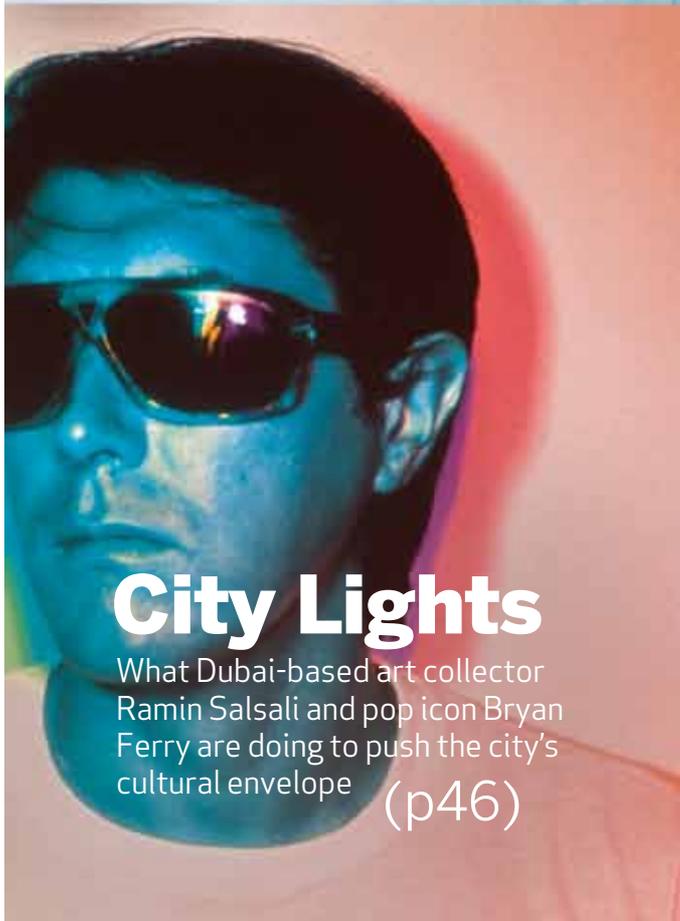
## LONDON

The legacy of UK fashion designer Alexander McQueen

54

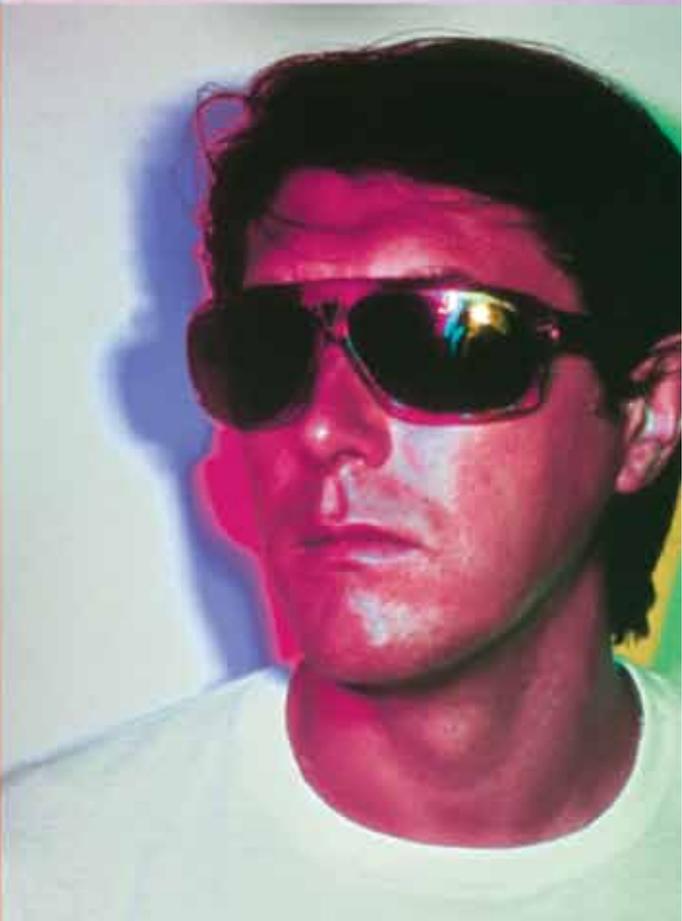
## THAILAND

A travel blogger tries to create the perfect writing space



# City Lights

What Dubai-based art collector Ramin Salsali and pop icon Bryan Ferry are doing to push the city's cultural envelope (p46)



FEBRUARY  
CALENDAR

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MBFASHIONWEEK.COM



February 6 to 17

## Cirque Du Soleil

Expect music, pyrotechnics and mind-bending acrobatics as the world's most spectacular circus makes its long-awaited return to Dubai this month.

Touring its East-meets-West inspired show *Dralion*, Cirque Du Soleil brings more than 100 performers, dancers and acrobats to put on the award-winning show that has already played to more than seven million people since it premiered in 1999. [CIRQUEDUSOLEIL.COM](http://CIRQUEDUSOLEIL.COM)

February 21

## Stone Roses



Following on from a recent sold-out European reunion tour, legendary indie rockers The Stone Roses make their Dubai debut this month.

The Manchester-based band is widely considered to be one of the most influential British bands of the 1990s, credited with launching the so-called 'Madchester' musical movement, which inspired bands

such as Happy Mondays and Oasis.

Despite a string of hits including *Fool's Gold* and *She Bangs The Drums* and their self-titled debut album, genuinely accepted as one of the great British albums, the band

acrimoniously split up in 1996, but reformed last year with a concert in their home town that sold 220,000 tickets in just 68 minutes – the fastest-selling rock concert in UK history.

[THESTONEROSESDUBAI.COM](http://THESTONEROSESDUBAI.COM)



From February 8  
EULÀLIA GRAU

One of the most interesting and combative voices of her generation, Grau's work sees her use a variety of mixed media to get her messages across. This exhibition focuses on her output from the 1970s and 1980s, and explores everything from advertising and gender roles. The MACBA is one of Europe's most interesting museums, and this show is not to be missed.

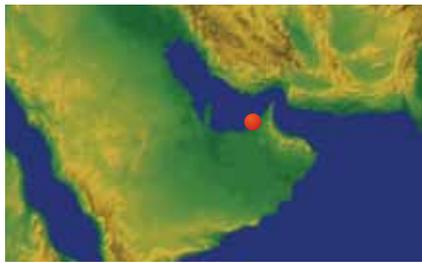
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Place

Jeddah Uncovered  
page 53



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Words and images by  
Mark Andrews

# Taikang Road

In a city rushing to embrace the 21st century, Taikang Road is a throwback to old Shanghai. While only 420 metres long, it boasts a labyrinth of lanes that makes up Tianzifang – an area that also includes the mammoth SML shopping centre and the Dapugiao subway station. Zoned as an art street, Tianzifang is a mixture of former factories and traditional Shanghai style shikumen dwellings. Shikumen once made up the majority of housing in Shanghai and were an early fusion of Western and Eastern design. Today you can find cafes spilling out onto the cobbled lanes and small shops selling everything from antiques to art in an area mercifully spared big brand homogeneity. Locals still live in some of the buildings, and the street has not yet been completely gentrified.

## Kommune Café

Nestled in the heart of Tianzifang, this eaterie features an outdoor patio in the thick of the action. Started by Australian serial entrepreneur Kirk Jobsz, it was the first café in the area, and is now famed for its barbeques and weekend big breakfasts.

[www.kommune.me](http://www.kommune.me)  
No. 7, Lane 210 Taikang Road  
021 6466 2416





## Ren Weiyin Art Gallery

The gallery is a retrospective exhibition of the persecuted late artist, Ren Weiyin. Forbidden from painting, he worked as a cobbler through the Cultural Revolution. Mixing Western techniques with Chinese style he painted everyday Shanghai scenes often on cardboard and with diluted oil paints.

No 3, Lane 210 Taikang Road



## Casa Pagoda

Started by husband and wife team Capone Chowdry and Leontien Nipshanger, the shop consists of two stores facing each other across the street – one with furniture and in the other, smaller decorative items. Largely retro in style, most of the furnishings are new but some are genuinely old.

[www.casapagoda.com](http://www.casapagoda.com)

13-17 and 136 Taikang Road  
021 6466 7521 & 021 6466 8198



## Magic Mirror

Professional photographer Sau Chi Yong bridges the gap between photography and oil painting in a process that irons out the blemishes in your portrait before it is immortalised in oil. This all makes for a unique – if cheesy – souvenir of your trip.

[www.picpaint.com](http://www.picpaint.com)

No 14, Lane 274 Taikang Road



## The Melting Pot

This bar and restaurant has nightly live music courtesy of the house band, featuring an international line up, and plays host to regular guests. Performances take place both upstairs and downstairs.

[288meltingpot.com](http://288meltingpot.com)

288 Taikang Road



## Shokay

This small store sells socially responsible clothing made from yak down sourced from Tibetan herders in Qinghai Province. Yak down is a precious fibre with each animal only producing 100 grams a year which needs to be hand combed. This adds up to an ideal gift for the carry-on luggage.

[www.shokay.com](http://www.shokay.com)

No 6, Lane 210 Taikang Road

British soul singer-songwriter  
**Alice Russell** reveals her eight favourite tracks



1.

**The Invisible**  
*London Girl*

I just love their sound, their lyrics – and I love Dave Okumu, the guitarist. They’ve recently produced and co-written some of the lovely Jessie Ware album.

2.

**Gonzales**  
*Gentle Threat*

I adore this man and his fingers – just him at the piano is pure magic. This is my favourite track from his album *Solo Piano*.

3.

**Frank Zappa**  
*Dirty Love*

A pure artist. All his music is a running commentary on the human condition. He had a band made up of some of the best musicians around – George Duke, to name but one.

4.

**Sarah Vaughan**  
*The Mystery Of Man*

From *Let It Live: Sarah Vaughan Sings The Poetry Of Pope John Paul II*. I was introduced to this track by Gilles Peterson and fell in love. Sarah Vaughan’s voice is so rich and haunting.



→ **5.**  
**Curtis Mayfield**  
*Right On For The Darkness*

I love the slow build as he adds each instrument – he was not only an amazing songwriter but an arranger too. Its message hits hard but, as always, Curtis gets us dancing on the way there.

**6.**  
**Donny Hathaway**  
*A Song For You*

A song that comes with me wherever I go. It's kept me company on tour on many a late night when I couldn't get to sleep.

**7.**  
**Discos Panamas**  
*Revolution Generation*

A track Will Holland gave me to listen to when we were writing the Quantic album *Look Around The Corner* together. The sentiment is timeless – revolution, generation!

**8.**  
**Elvis Presley**  
*Love Me Tender*

I became obsessed with this as a five-year-old. My mum and dad tell me I took this cassette recorder with me on a camping holiday and drove them mad listening to it on repeat.



February 14 to 22

**Emirates  
 Airline Dubai Jazz Festival**



OK, so there may not be that much actual jazz on offer, but there is no denying this festival keeps things as varied as possible. US alternative rock band? See One Republic. UK indie darlings? Check out The Script. Progressive rock gods? Why it must be Deep Purple. Held over nine evenings at Dubai Festival City, the event is now in its eleventh year, and is an excellent mid-size musical festival. The crowd ranges in age from teenagers to grandparents, and part of the festival's charm is the family atmosphere. There is something for everyone over the course of the event, and this is one of the highlights of the winter social calendar.

DUBAIJAZZFEST.COM

**São Paulo** Brazil's beating heart  
 page 42



**SKYCATS**



## THE ROOM



ROOM 139

### CORINTHIA HOTEL LONDON

While it's fair to say that most of the architecture in central London is impressive, the Corinthia – which takes up an imposing corner of Whitehall Place, opposite Embankment tube station and the river Thames – still makes for an impressive sight. In an area steeped in history – Trafalgar Square, Covent Garden and the Houses of Parliament are a stone's throw away – the Victorian hotel uses its wonderful 1885 façade to the fullest, having been carefully restored in 2001. Inside, the striking architecture continues; intricate detailing and lavish marble abound. Rooms are no less extravagant, with high ceilings and plenty of space to move around, while, thankfully, they've resisted the temptation to bring in too much 'period style' furniture, instead opting for slick contemporary fittings. It works; rooms feel modern and comfortable, without losing their sense of identity. Service is equally slick, but it's the breakfast buffet that takes star prize, with the Corinthia serving up possibly one of the finest English breakfasts we've ever eaten.

WWW.CORINTHIA.COM

**INTERNET SPEED:** 100MB

**PILLOWS:** four

**iPOD DOCK:** yes

**CLUB SANDWICH**

**DELIVERY TIME:**

21 minutes

**COMPLIMENTARY**

**SNACKS:** chocolates and

fruit every day

**TOILETRY BRAND:** ESPA

**EXTRAS:** Nespresso  
machine

**DAILY NEWSPAPER:**

A choice available  
from the UK dailies

**TV CHANNELS:** 52

**VIEW:** 3/5

**RATE:** from \$540



FILM

**LINCOLN**

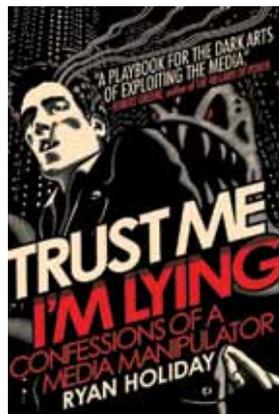
Spielberg. Daniel Day Lewis. Iconic historical figure. It is hard to see how this biopic of the 16th President of the United States could fail. And, thanks largely to Spielberg's eye for drama, and Day Lewis' ability to completely inhabit a role, it succeeds. Is it the best film released in the past year? Almost certainly not, but these are the types of films the Academy loves, so don't be surprised to see this win an Oscar. Also keep an eye out for Tommy Lee Jones' electric performance as Thaddeus Stevens.

BOOK

**TRUST ME I'M LYING**

Ryan Holiday

Ryan Holiday is not a man you should trust. The 26-year-old is a self-confessed media manipulator; that is, he creates fake news stories, generates controversy and plants marketing campaigns in the rather gormless media machine. He has decided to come clean about his past (his most notable employer was American Apparel) to, as he claims, prevent the same thing happening to you. Whether this is just another manipulation is debatable, but the flawed blogging system that dominates online discourse in the US is not. A must-read for anyone who wants to understand how the media in 2013 actually works.



ALBUM

**ARC**

*Everything, Everything*

Following on from our first album, *Man Alive*, we feel that our new album, *Arc*, is more focussed and direct. We wanted to distil the essence of what our band is whilst raising our game in terms of song-writing. We liked the idea of releasing the song *Cough Cough* first as it's a bold statement of intent and follows on from the strange, slick R&B sound of *Man Alive*. Like the rest of *Arc*, though, it has a more live sound and is full of melodic hooks. [Mike Spearman, drummer](#)

BLD



## Chef **Massimo Capra** shares his favourite places to eat out in Toronto

### B BREAKFAST

Sélect Bistro for a beautiful Sunday brunch. The beef tartare, the foie gras, the quiches... The frisée salad with lardons and poached egg is absolutely delicious too! They have it all – it's just crazy. They even have a pewter bar with boiled eggs on it. But breakfast is a tough one. The counter at the Thompson Hotel has a good breakfast. And it has white bread! I don't go out a lot for breakfast, and I'm very simple when it comes to breakfast. I come from Italy white-bread country – so I like my bread to be nice and white and soak up the butter.

▲ Le Sélect Bistro  
432 Wellington Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5V 1E3  
Tel:(416) 596-6405  
[www.leselect.com](http://www.leselect.com)



### L LUNCH

Ah lunch. Kenzo. It's fast. The food is spectacular. I'm in a restaurant all day long, so I want to eat in 15 minutes and get out. They make their soup stock from scratch. They only have eight soups on the menu. Try the sapporo miso ramen: It's the combination of flavours, a shred of meat, and lots of vegetables. A bit crunchy too. It's absolutely fantastic. They make a killer gyoza – handmade dumplings filled with pork and cabbage. A thing of beauty! Spectacular. Everyone that I take to Kenzo goes back and back and back.

▲ Kenzo Japanese Noodle House  
138 Dundas Street West  
Toronto, Ontario M6G 1C3  
Tel:(416) 205-1155  
[www.kenzoramen.ca](http://www.kenzoramen.ca)

### D DINNER

Auberge du Pommier is the grande dame of all restaurants in Toronto. It's not downtown, but I travel for food. It's a great place for French-inspired food. And the service and décor is like being in a French country estate. The menu changes all the time. I've had sole filets or tenderloin... done perfectly. Rack of lamb too. They have terrines and preparations of meat that are French with a touch of modernity. The big tables are very comfortable. You're not piled up, eating one on top of another.

▲ Auberge du Pommier  
4150 Yonge Street  
North York, Toronto, Ontario M2P 2C6  
Tel:(416) 222-2220  
[oliverbonacini.com/Auberge-du-Pommier.aspx](http://oliverbonacini.com/Auberge-du-Pommier.aspx)

Massimo Capra presents the Food Network show *Restaurant Makeover*





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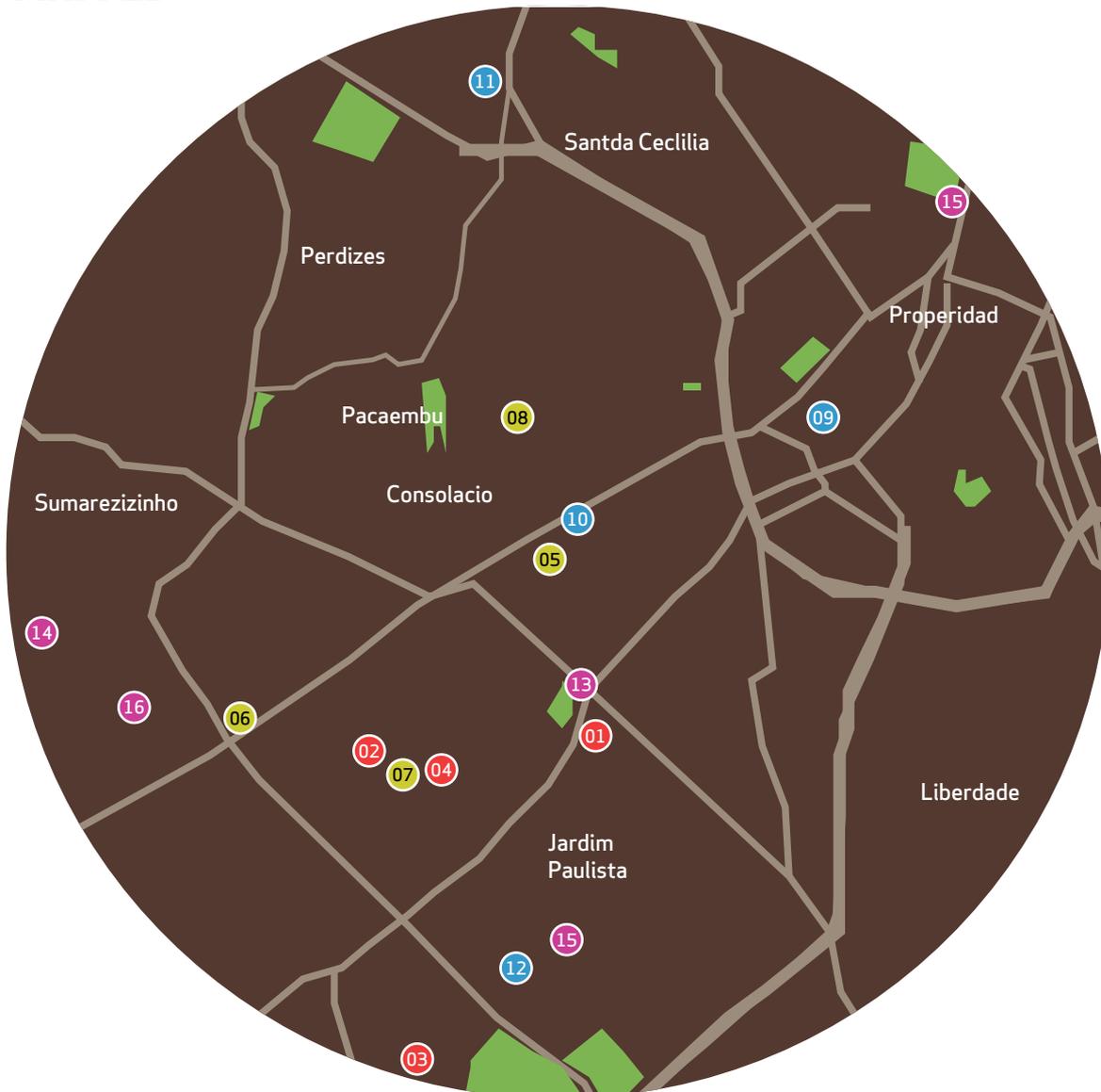
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# São Paulo

The second largest city in the world, São Paulo fuses old-world historical charm with endless skyscrapers. Energetic, cosmopolitan, and Brazil's creator, and consumer, of trends, the city is also home to countless restaurants, and a growing art scene. Business visitors will benefit from world-class hotels – a result of the economic force of this commercial and industrial hub of South America. While the city might be more work-orientated than the rest of the country, it's still Brazil, and so, after dark, São Paulo comes alive. [www.Hg2.com](http://www.Hg2.com)



## HOTELS

- 01. Tivoli São Paulo - Mofarrej
- 02. Fasano
- 03. Hotel Unique
- 04. Emiliano Hotel



## RESTAURANTS

- 05. Tordesilhas
- 06. Jun Sakamoto
- 07. D.O.M.
- 08. Carlota



## BARS / CLUBS

- 09. Paribar
- 10. Sonique
- 11. D-Edge
- 12. The View Bar



## GALLERIES

- 13. São Paulo Museum of Art
- 14. Galeria Raquel Arnaud
- 15. Pinacoteca do Estado
- 16. Galeria Jaqueline Martins

## HOTELS

### 01 Tivoli São Paulo - Mofarrej

Set in the heart of the business, shopping and dining hub, this five-star hotel boasts a heated outdoor pool, an Elements spa, a bistro and a restaurant with Michelin-starred chef Sergi Arola at the helm, plus one of the best wine lists in Brazil.

### 02 Fasano

In central Jardins, the Fasano family's hotel recreates the 1930s, with warm tones and an architectural edge. Fasano has a spa, the best Italian restaurant in South America and Baretto – a jazz bar with world-class live acts – the atmosphere matches the fly décor.

### 03 Hotel Unique

Unique's abstract boat shape and minimalist interior portray ultra-modern panache. Downstairs is an art and design library and a cyber café, while the rooftop, with a red-tiled pool and a restaurant, offers views over Ibirapuera Park and the São Paulo skyline.

### 04 Emiliano Hotel

Complete with its own helipad, elegant Emiliano never sleeps. A 24-hour fitness and business centre complete with free wifi, an Italian restaurant, fine bed linens, in-house CDs, 60 beers, 100 teas and a champagne and caviar bar are all at your disposal.



EMILIANO HOTEL / The view from the pool terrace of the Emiliano is probably worth the price of a room

## RESTAURANTS

### 05 Tordesilhas

Mara Salles has developed this understated, authentic Brazilian restaurant over the past two decades. A colonial mansion in earthy tones showcases local ingredients and regional dishes with a gastronomic slant. Delights include *feijoada* and a Brazilian tasting menu.

### 06 Jun Sakamoto

This outstanding sushi restaurant fuses French and Brazilian

elements with Japanese cuisine. Master chef Jun Sakamoto grates freshly imported wasabi root onto his creations and his knife skills are legendary. The décor is made up of wood and leather banquettes as well as a long counter.

### 07 D.O.M.

Voted the fourth best restaurant in the world, chic D.O.M. combines a Brazilian and Amazonian base with European haute cuisine. Chef Alex Atala opts for new techniques to enhance *pripricoa* root, heart of palm and black rice, with herbs, flowers and sprouts.

### 08 Carlota

Owner Carla Pernambuco combines her Italian heritage with Brazilian and American influences. Carlota started life as a deli and is now a charming and intimate setting to enjoy creative dishes. Leave room for the *sufflé de goiabada* for dessert.



## BARS / CLUBS

### 09 Paribar

A legendary bar from the 1940s to 1980s, this remodelled classic offers martinis and cocktails in a low-key setting, as well as hearty Brazilian bar food. Perfect for lunch or pre-dinner drinks. Try their gnocci made from arracacha (a root vegetable).

### 10 Sonique

A sophisticated crowd enjoys dance music in this concrete space, with geometric ceiling lights and modular furniture. Floating somewhere between a lounge-bar, a restaurant and a club, Sonique is busiest at the weekend. Entry is free, even on DJ nights.

### 11 D-Edge

This progressive, dynamic club is one for true night owls. With three rooms, the party continues until 6am midweek and 10am on Sunday mornings. Deep house music reverberates from enormous speakers, put on by cult-status local DJs or international guests.

### 12 The View Bar

Enjoy a cocktail under the skies on The View Bar's open-air terrace. Thirty floors up, the São Paulo skyline from inside is similarly spectacular. Italian bites and mains, accompanied by live piano or guitar music every night, justify the 'entertainment' fee after 9pm.

## GALLERIES

### 13 São Paulo Museum of Art

This imposing concrete and glass structure houses South America's largest collection of European and Brazilian art. Alongside an art library, cultural centre and temporary exhibitions, highlights include a collection of Edgar Degas sculptures and scores of oil paintings.

### 14 Galeria Raquel Arnaud

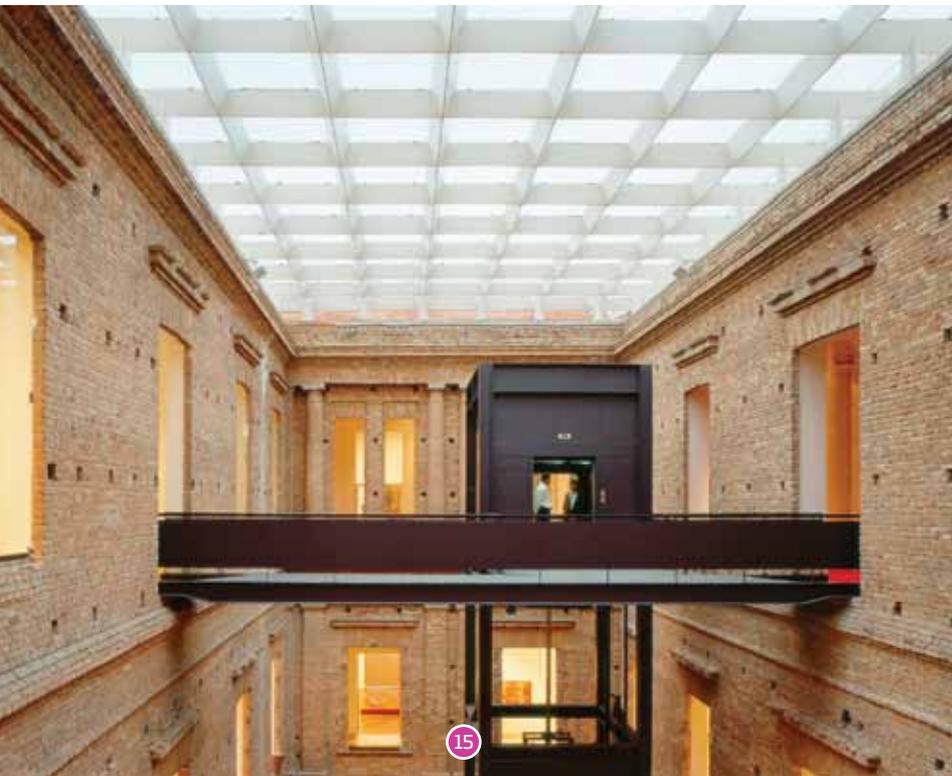
Founded in 1973, Galeria Raquel Arnaud has played a major role in developing contemporary Brazilian art. The focus is on geometrical abstraction, through paintings, drawings and sculpture. The gallery represents more than 20 artists, including internationally established names and young up-and-coming talent.

### 15 Pinacoteca do Estado

The oldest museum in São Paulo, this neo-classical palace houses Brazilian paintings and sculptures from the 19th and 20th centuries. Visitors may recognise the sculptures of Alfredo Ceschiatti from the streets of Brasília. Nearby, its sister museum houses modernist works.

### 16 Galeria Jaqueline Martins

Newcomer Galeria Jaqueline Martins exhibits dual exhibitions, with a well-known name alongside a fresh face, generally working in the same medium. The aim is to provoke discussion and dialogue on artistic methods, inspiration and customs.



**PINACOTECA DO ESTADO** / The oldest museum in São Paulo, the Pinacoteca houses a treasure trove of local art

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Words by [Tahira Yaqoob](#)

# The Collector

RAMIN SALSALI AIMS TO PROMOTE DUBAI'S CULTURAL SCENE, ONE ARTIST AT A TIME

**R**amin Salsali is, by his own admission, one of the worst art collectors in the world. “I have never sold anything,” he chuckles. “I keep everything and now I have more than 700 works of art. I am a very bad investor when it comes to selling.”

In that respect, he has much in common with Bryan Ferry, the lead singer and songwriter

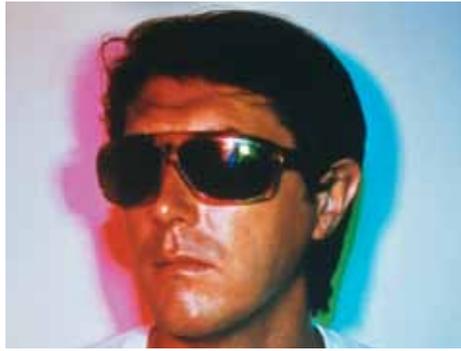
for Roxy Music and now a solo musician in his own right.

A consummate stylist with an eye for the aesthetic – Ferry was instrumental in Roxy Music’s iconic and carefully curated album covers in the 1970s and ‘80s – he began buying British modern masters with the money that poured in from his musical success and filled his Victorian mansion in West Sussex in the UK with his acquisitions, only stopping when he ran out of wall space.

“I do not buy to sell,” admits Ferry. “I just buy them because I love them and love having things around me which become, in a way, your friends and part of you.”

The two make an unlikely pairing. British rock legend Ferry, 67, came from working-class roots in Newcastle in the north of England, his success as a musician fuelling his passion for art; Salsali, meanwhile, had a privileged upbringing in his native Tehran, dispatched to study at a boarding school in Europe but spurning his parents’ desire for him to become a doctor and instead setting up his own oil and gas consultancy in Germany.

Yet their mutual love of art has brought them both here to a spacious warehouse in the dusty wasteland that is Al Quoz, amid the trucks endlessly shunting cargo from one end of Dubai



and a diverse mix of backgrounds.

He sees the city as a model of “tranquillity and tolerance” and made his home there six years ago, opening the Salsali Private Museum in his Al Quoz warehouse 18 months ago to showcase the astonishing collection he has accumulated since he

was a student.

Through the art on display, he hopes to show the world a different side to the Middle East, one which speaks of centuries of civilisation and culture: “I saw the only way you can bring people together is art and culture,” he explains.

A sister museum, already two years in the planning, will follow in Berlin once Salsali has secured land permits and will mirror his aims in the Middle East to introduce a new audience to art from the region.

But it is his grand scheme to open Dubai’s first museum of contemporary art, DMOCA, in the downtown area of the city that has him most enthused.

The Dh25 million (\$6.8m) project, which is currently in the sketching stages, has Iraqi-British artist Alia Dawood at its helm as creative director while Salsali has written to HH Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Ruler of Dubai, asking for his support.

“It will be a museum by the people for the people,” he says. “We are going to sell shares to get some of the funding but we need the support of the government.

“We also need the help of the big companies who made their fortune in Dubai. They need to give something back to the city so that hand in hand, we can create a hub for art and culture. The art scene here is growing but it needs help.”

Salsali became a collector by accident. While studying business management and industry design



to another and mixers churning cement for a city still in the making.

Salsali, 47, is unveiling one of his most ambitious projects yet, an exhibition of Ferry’s album covers called *Olympia* and featuring, among others, a sultry Jerry Hall on the cover of the 1975 album *Siren*, the moody, atmospheric shot from the cover of the 1978 album *The Bride Stripped Bare* and the aching cool of *Another Time, Another Place* with a white tuxedo-clad Ferry looking Bond-like by a swimming pool.

The show, on display at Salsali’s eponymous museum in Al Serkal Avenue until the end of February, includes images from a shoot with Kate Moss for the 2010 release *Olympia*.

The exhibition had already toured London, Paris, Los Angeles, Berlin and Oslo when it arrived in Dubai and marks Salsali’s lofty aspirations to transform the city into a world-class hub for art and culture.

“I have always had this idea to create a museum and show



## THE BRIAN FERRY EXHIBITION IS PART OF SALSALI’S PLANS TO TRANSFORM DUBAI INTO A WORLD-CLASS CULTURAL HUB

the work of Middle Eastern artists to decrease the level of misunderstanding,” he says.

“The image of the Middle East in Europe is not good. In Iran, we have a 7,000-year-old legacy yet if you are not wearing shorts and carrying a Coca-Cola in your hand, you are given a certain stamp, which I find very unjust.”

Arguably, he is preaching to the converted in Dubai, where the cultural mix includes more than 150 nationalities

## AS COLLECTORS, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR THE ARTISTS THAT WE BUY FROM. I NEED TO TALK TO, TO LIKE, THE ARTIST

at university in Munich, he lived in the bohemian neighbourhood of Schwabing with then relatively unknown artist Kiddy Citny – whose murals adorned the Berlin Wall – as a neighbour.

Salsali says: “We started talking in a cafe and became friends. I lent him money because he was always bankrupt.

“Every time I went to his studio to collect my money, he said he did not have it but offered me a painting instead. All of a sudden, I had five and was a collector.”

It sowed the seed of a relationship with artists which continues to this day. Unlike some collectors, Salsali believes in nurturing a relationship with the artists he buys: “I need to see the art and talk to the artist. I cannot relate to a person I do not like.



**FORWARD THINKING** / Ramin Salsali has big plans for art in Dubai, including a museum of modern art in Downtown

“There are collectors who have destroyed artists by pushing them up to a certain level, then dumping them, but as collectors, we have a responsibility to take care of them.”

He buys about 10 pieces a month, paying up to \$200,000 for each artwork he falls in love with.

He jokes “collectors are failed artists” and points to the painting *Mass Parade* by Iranian Amir Hossein Zanjani, hanging in pride of place in his office: “I invited him to come for a month’s residency and it took him three days just to create the right brown. That impressed me a lot.”

His degree, though, helped him develop a flair for conceptual design and aesthetics, which he is passionate about, from the chairs in his office to the designs he has sketched himself for DMOCA.

“I learned your office should not be functional alone, it should

have elements of design, from the amount of light to the ergonomics of your chair, to create a feeling of physical and mental wellbeing and make you want to stay longer in your office,” he says.

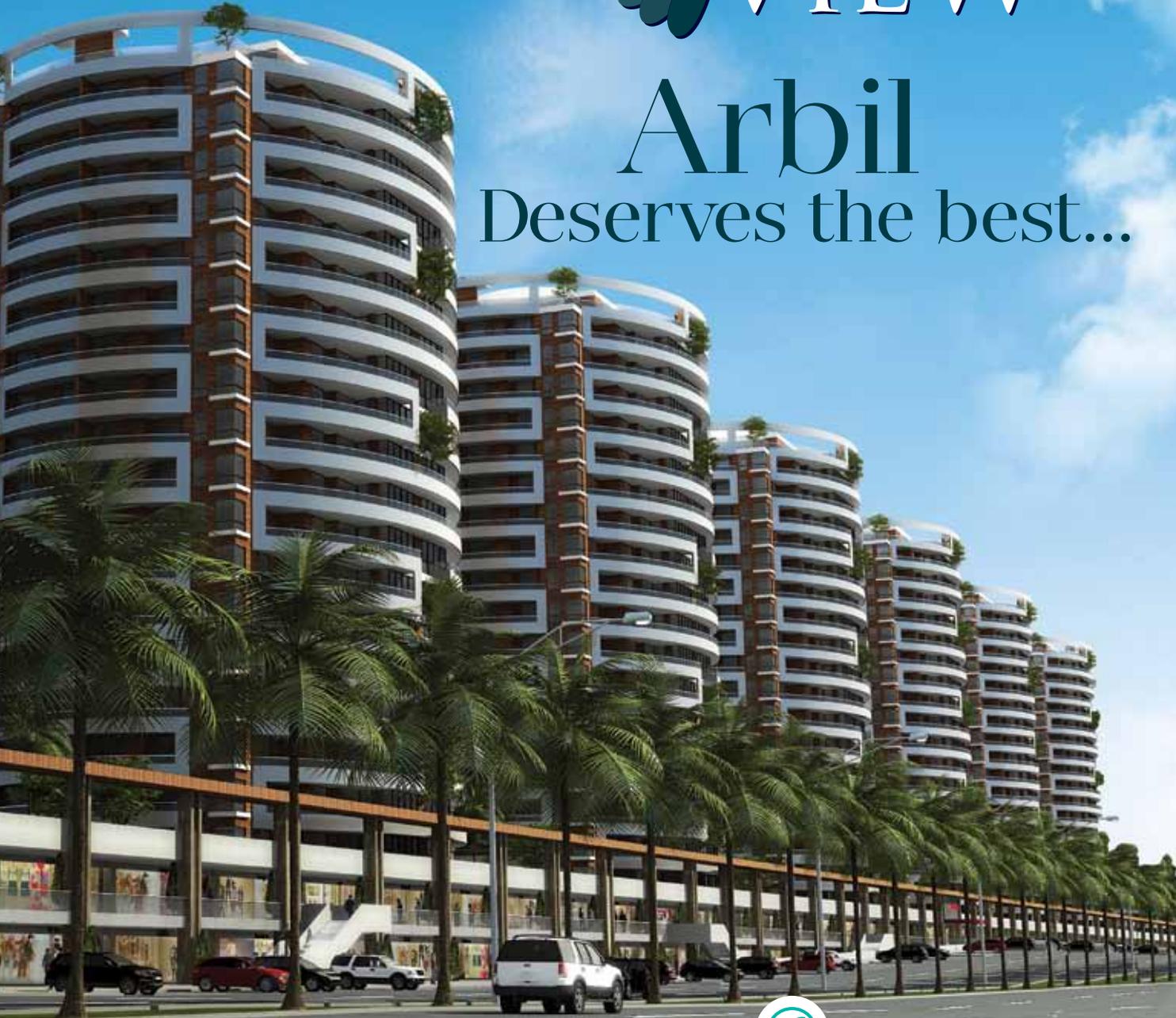
As for increasing an appreciation of Middle Eastern art – two-thirds of the artists he exhibits are from the region – Salsali says while public perception of Iran has come a long way since its depiction in the controversial 1991 Hollywood film *Not Without My Daughter*, there is still some way to go.

“I cannot fight against 10 million people,” he says, “but the only place I can show them the Middle East is not like their preconceptions is to bring them to a neutral place like a museum.”

Olympia by Bryan Ferry runs until February 28th at the SPM Gallery in Al Quoz.  
[www.salsalipm.com](http://www.salsalipm.com)

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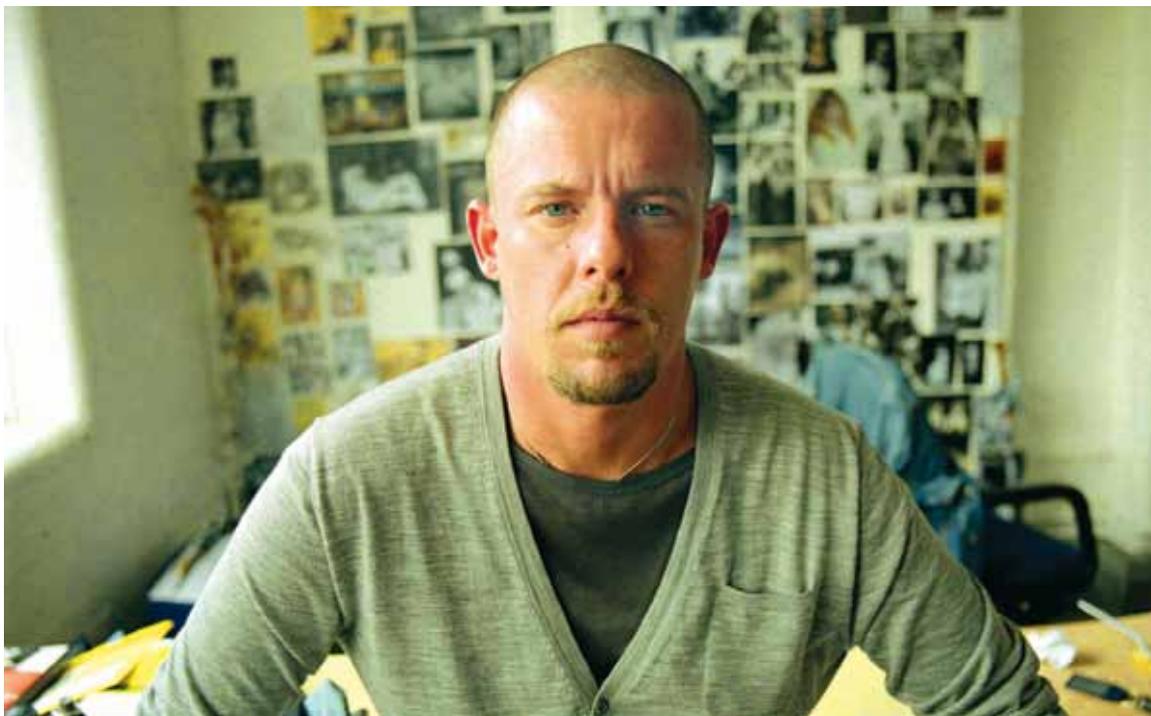
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Words by [Sean Williams](#)

## LONDON GOTHIC

He was the young man thrust into the world of fashion, a man who kept the fashion world in thrall to his revolutionary designs and terrifying shows. Three years after his death, we examine his legacy

**T**hey were the ‘ugliest shoes in the universe’ and the girls wouldn’t wear them. Spring 2010, Paris.

British fashion designer Alexander McQueen had been dead for two months but he was still as controversial as ever. His ‘armadillo’ shoes were 12 inches high – a step too far for three of his models, who walked from the show (presumably on flats).

Not that McQueen would have cared. Here was a man who, as an apprentice on London’s Savile Row, idly wrote an expetive in

the lining of a jacket destined for Prince Charles. His runway shows revelled in torment: one saw a pack of chained wolves snarl at the front row, while in another one of McQueen’s friends leapt out of a box full of moths, wearing little but a gas mask. Neither was McQueen much bothered if many of his outlandish catwalk creations made it to the high street. His was a style steeped in the weird, the chilling and the macabre. And by the time of his death, no-one could do it better.

But Alexander McQueen wasn’t always a fashion icon. He wasn’t

even Alexander McQueen until he dropped his first name, Lee, as a starving artist claiming benefits.

Born in South London on March 16, 1969, McQueen was the youngest of six children. His father a cab driver, his mother a teacher. As a boy, he did well at two things: drawing and withdrawing. McQueen was an avid bird watcher and left school with a single qualification in art.

But he knew from an early age he wanted to work with clothing. Having cut his teeth on prestigious Savile Row as an apprentice at Anderson & Sheppard, then Gieves & Hawkes,

McQueen worked at a local costumier before he was offered a job, aged 20, by designer Koji Tatsuno. A stint in Milan working under Romeo Gigli followed before McQueen went back to school, completing a master's in fashion design at London's Central St. Martins College. That was in 1994. By 1996, McQueen's entire collection had been bought by eccentric magazine editor Isabella Blow, and he had been appointed chief designer at French label Givenchy, taking over from fellow Brit John Galiano.

Galiano had enjoyed success at Givenchy, but the brand was flagging. And the Gibraltar-born Londoner, whose aesthetic was more colour-soaked rebellion than Parisian prim, jumped ship for Dior. McQueen was just 27 when he got the call from LVMH chief Bernard Arnault, and began immersing himself in the elegance of the 44-year-old brand. "I was a tailor at Savile Row," he said. "At Givenchy I learned to soften. For me, it was an education. As a designer I could have left it behind.

But working at Givenchy helped me learn my craft."

McQueen was already known as an enfant terrible of British fashion, a young sartorial punk strutting the same east London streets as the Young British Artists Emin, Hirst, Taylor-Wood who'd put the British capital back on the creative map.

His eponymous label made outfits for Björk, and his flair for surreal, terrifying shows began to take the fashion world by storm. Influences included fairytales, thriller novels and Hitchcock. Arnault's decision to hire McQueen was controversial, and seen by many as a crass attempt to tap in to a young demographic.

Throughout McQueen's career he spoke bluntly without trespassing into cheek, maintaining a persona of the quiet kid at school. But his work spoke another language, of menace and predatory instinct, of bondage and terrifying subversion. "I don't like throwaway images," he said once. "I like images to be stuck in the minds of people. Maybe that's why my work can sometimes come across as aggressive or violent. Because to me, maybe the world is a bit violent." His female characters – bedizened in birdcages, butterflies, or stuck on hellish merry-go-rounds – drew criticism from some who thought his designs misogynistic. Others

heralded his perfect tailoring, strong shoulders and dominant female imagery as a new wave of feminism in fashion. For his part, McQueen just kept on offending, pushing boundaries. "His shows were always ahead of their time, it was like a full-on production," says 125 fashion editor

Faye Sawyer. "He made people think it's not just the hair and make-up. He was making something for people to witness." Fights outside Alexander McQueen shows were not uncommon.

McQueen quickly grew bored with Givenchy. He preferred to focus his darker, more incendiary talents on his own label. "I treated Givenchy badly," he would later admit. "It was just money to me." And although McQueen was rarely without Katy England, the confident and design partner he'd stuck with ever since she tried to talk her way into a high-profile show, he soon learned that the house

always wins. No matter how much influence a head designer has, they can be as dispensable as the looks they create each quarter. When McQueen sold a 51 per cent stake in his label to LVMH rivals Gucci Group in 2001, he and Givenchy parted ways after five years.

That's not to say McQueen has no legacy in the world of wearable fashion. His skull motif, the essence of mortality, became a 1990's icon, while his low-slung jeans were enjoyed by women worldwide. On the catwalk he empowered those without a traditional voice in fashion, when he designed double-amputee Aimee Mullins a pair of carved wooden legs in 1999.

But still the darkness remained. Blow's suicide in 2007 gave McQueen a fresh perspective on life, and a month-long meditation break to India resulted in cheerier designs. But the darkness always hovered. And when in February 2010 his mother died, the darkness that had claimed countless admirers worldwide claimed his life too.

McQueen was just 40 when he cut short his own life in London. Which makes it all the more remarkable that he has left such a lasting legacy on the industry he knew he wanted to be in since childhood. "His brilliant imagination knew no bounds as he conjured up collection after collection of extraordinary designs," said *British Vogue* editor Alexandra Shulman, upon the news of his death. "At one level he was a master of the fantastic, creating astounding fashion shows that mixed design, technology and performance, and on another he was a modern-day genius whose gothic aesthetic was adopted by women the world over." The shoes may have been ugly, but they were beautiful too.

## MCQUEEN WAS 40 WHEN HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE, MAKING IT REMARKABLE HE LEFT SUCH A LEGACY ON THE FASHION WORLD



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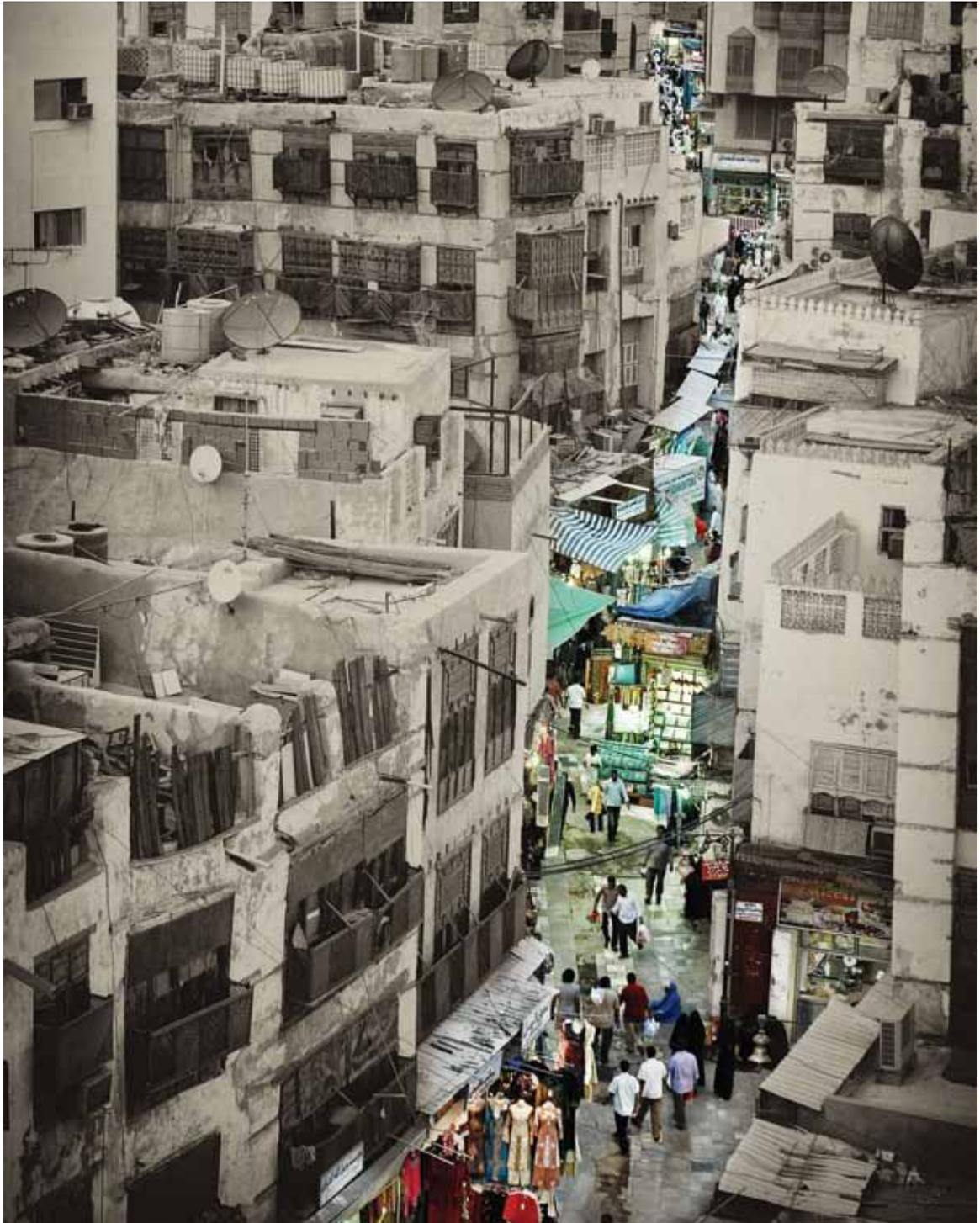


PHOTO: NAIF AL OWAIS

## Al Balad District / Jeddah

The old town is a warren of narrow souks and the multi-storey coral houses that Jeddah is famous for. Many of the houses are falling apart, but there have been attempts to renovate some of them. Jeddah is Saudi Arabia's most cosmopolitan city, and Al Balad is filled with merchants from around the Muslim world. This is one of the region's most interesting areas and the streets – particularly Souq Al Alawi – have a wonderful faded charm.

# In Search of the Perfect Workspace

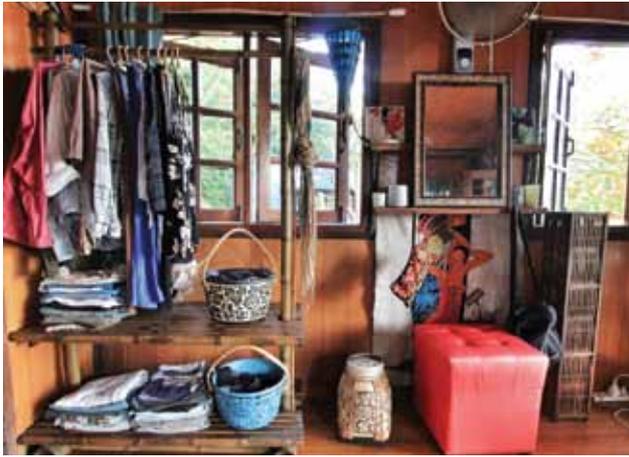
Torre DeRoche left the city for a tropical Thai island in order to realise her dream of becoming a writer. But, as she explains, paradise has a price



**F**or two years, I wrestled my butt into a chair for eight hours a day to write a book. In the city, where distractions abound, getting words from head to page was about as effortless as housebreaking an old, blind, stone-deaf dog. The expenses of city living brought on anxiety, and writing seemed indulgent. I dreamed of escaping to a cheap cabin – a writing retreat as peaceful as a Buddhist monastery, tucked away in nature, where time doesn't exist. In my temple of creativity, there would be no such thing as 'work.' Books would write themselves.

When my partner, Ivan, declared that he wanted to quit his consulting job and move to Thailand to become a pro scuba diver, I saw my window of opportunity. There, I could surely find a basic wooden bungalow wedged between luscious green foliage and the ocean. There'd be no phone calls, no mounds of unopened mail, no obligations, no distractions – just wind chimes, candles, gecko calls, and white linen curtains slow-dancing in the breeze. In a state of meditative calm, I could finalise my book with my publisher, and then begin work on a new project. Ideas





**BOOTY /**  
The spoils  
of market  
trips across  
South East  
Asia

would flutter in through the open windows. Words would fall down like tropical rain. I'd finally get around to reading *Ulysses*.

Selling up and moving to Thailand might sound like the throes of a mid-life crisis to some, but grand adventures have always been at the centre of our relationship. One year after we met, we quit our jobs and sailed our humble boat from the US to Australia via the South Pacific islands. Two years later, we settled in Melbourne, but Ivan eventually grew weary of his job, and insomnia turned his eyes into dark orbs of misery. He dreamed of the ocean, of swapping his business suit for a wetsuit, of giving up his thousand-dollar-a-day career for

simplicity. Thailand seemed like a rational next step.

On the dreamy island of Koh Tao, we began hunting for our bungalow. In the sweltering heat, on the back of a rusted scooter, we traversed potholes, fallen coconuts and squashed snakes, looking for the perfect hut. Without a steady income our budget was small, but my expectations were not. In order to fully realise my creative self, I wanted my artist's utopia.

Two months on, we still hadn't found anything, and I was beginning to wonder if we'd spend the rest of the year homeless while searching for a magical fairy-dust bungalow built from naive fantasies and unobtainable goals, painted in a lovely shade of purple, called: Wake Up, Fool.

"I found our bungalow!" Ivan

declared one day. "And it's only five dollars a night!" I was sceptical, but desperate. On the scooter, we laboured up an obnoxiously steep hill, and came to a shabby hut with a sad-looking mattress in the centre of a room carpeted with gecko scat. The place looked exactly the way you'd expect a five-dollar bungalow to look, except for one feature: French doors folded open onto a balcony overlooking a painfully beautiful sea. For a fiver, we'd have a million dollar view. "We're taking it!" I boomed, scaring off a gecko the size of my forearm.

Given the low cost of living, we could justify spending money



## TWITTER PITCH

The recent growth of adventure travel means that normal holidays just don't cut it any more. Here's a selection of thriving tour companies worth following:

### ● Haka Tours

Awesome small-group extreme adventure tours and ski/snowboarding holidays in New Zealand - we're sweet as bro.  
@hakatours

### ● Cayo Adventure Tours

Cayo Adventure Tours is a local tour operator and destination management company in Belize offering rock climbing, zip lining, caving, tubing and more.  
@CayoAdventure

### ● Nomad Tours

Cape Town's Nomad Adventure Tours wants to show you the best that Africa has to offer. We're local, so we know

all the best spots and we want to share them with you.  
@NomadTours

### ● Adventure Tours MAT

Based in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolian Adventure Tours has more than 20 years of rich experience in the wilds of Mongolia.  
@MAT\_tours

### ● Gunslinger Mtc Tours

Gunslinger Motorcycle Tours provides adventurous tours around the Las Vegas area. We have a good time and also offer custom-made motorcycle accessories.  
@lvrider





**UPWARDLY MOBILE** / Their bungalow gradually became home, a tropical sanctuary with a sea view



on a makeover, so we headed to Bangkok for a week of shopping. We shipped the goods back, and one day of hammering and intense sweating was enough to transform our bungalow into a sanctuary. I had officially arrived.

And now, here I am at my writing desk. From my hillside perch, I watch the dive boats heading out to sea. Ivan, now a certified diving instructor, is out there now. Only the chatter of birds busying themselves in the fronds breaks the surrounding silence of the jungle. This space is mine, and I have all the time in the world to write. My hands are curled over the keyboard, ready to type, and...

Ugh! Do I really have to write today?

I sneak a quick look at the view. Again. The hammock

beckons me over. Lay with me, it whispers. "Okay," I say, "but just for a second." The anxieties of city living are no longer present, but nor is the desire to move. Like, ever again. Who would know or care if I napped instead of worked? Motivation has come to a standstill

## WITHOUT DEADLINES, PRESSURES AND OBLIGATIONS, NOTHING HAS HELD ME ACCOUNTABLE TO MY WRITING



because I feel spoiled with the gift of time. But the gathering lines in the corners of my eyes suggest otherwise.

The hammock swallows me, and when I come to, I'm hot, groggy, and appalled to find the sun in its zenith. All my creativity is lodged in the thick, humid air, and I can't seem to pull it out. I'm not just living the dream; I'm stuck in a dream. Maybe a little swim will wake me up, I think, and I close my laptop and walk to the

beach. Soon after, a Chang beer has found its way into my hand, and I'm watching a papaya-coloured sunset with Ivan. Another day is lost in the most delicious way.

A year has slipped by. One whole blurry year, and I struggle to account for my heedless spending of time. Without deadlines, pressures and obligations, nothing has held me accountable. The distractions in the city were nothing, I realise. Here, in paradise, I'm up against sun, sand, tranquility and hammocks! Despite having a picture-perfect retreat and an empty schedule, my brain is as disobedient as it always was.

I once believed that unlimited time and a perfect workspace would make creating a cinch. The words would flow from my fingertips. The books would write themselves. I'd finally get around to reading *Ulysses*. What utter nonsense. It's time to turn my back to the view, wrestle my butt into a chair and stay there for eight hours a day.

"I write when I'm inspired, and I see to it that I'm inspired at 9 am every morning." – Peter DeVries.

# DISCOVER DUBAI JUST LIKE YOU IMAGINED



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# MAIN

An aerial photograph of a modern cable-stayed bridge with two tall, slender pylons and numerous stay cables. The bridge spans a wide river. In the background, a city skyline with various high-rise buildings is visible under a bright, slightly cloudy sky. The bridge's design is a mix of concrete and steel, with the cables creating a complex web of lines across the scene.

70

## FINANCE

Will Bitcoin change the way we think about currency?

80

## AERIAL VIEW

Bernhard Edmaier's stunning aerial shots of isolated landscapes

## Southern Comfort

Michael Palin takes an epic journey across Brazil

(p60)

TRAVEL



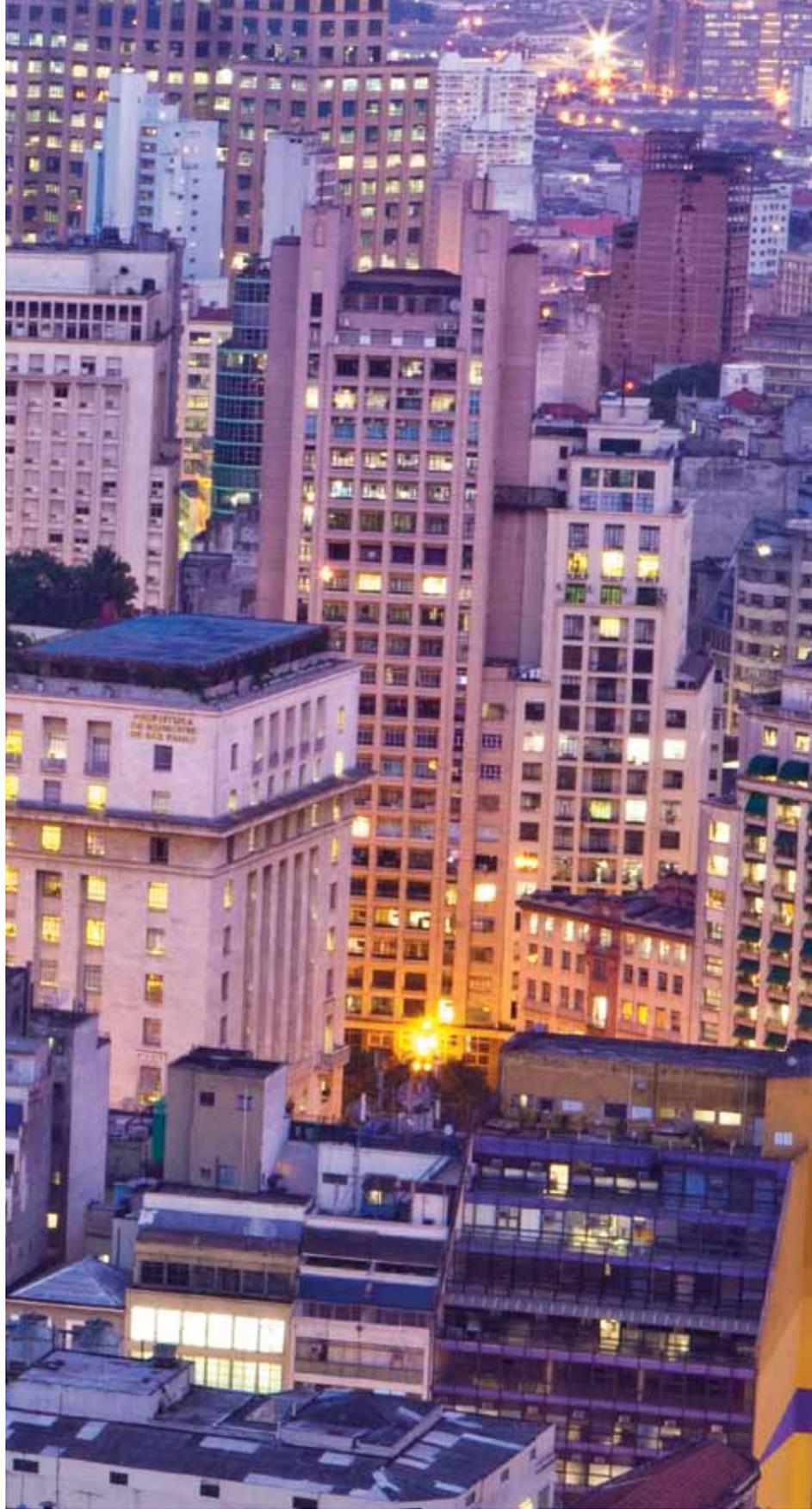
# BRAZIL INTERRUPTED



**In a quarter of a century of globetrotting, Michael Palin had barely touched Brazil. He has put this right with a new TV series about the country. He reveals his highlights – and we give you some suggestions for following in his footsteps**

**F**or a long time I thought of Brazil as a state of mind. A fantasy of sun, sea, samba and lots of other words beginning with 's.' I partly blame Terry Gilliam, for in *Brazil*, his 1985 film, he uses the lilting samba beat of the eponymous song (known as *Aquarela do Brasil* in its native land) to accompany the final crushing of his hero by the mad, dysfunctional world around him. The song represents pure unproductive pleasure. Brazil as the ultimate escapist image.

The Latin American mindset is one with which we north Europeans can't easily identify. China we can relate to because it is single-minded and industrious; India and the sub-continent is crazy and colourful and quite a bit English. Russia is dark and impenetrable but good at putting up with things, which we admire. The Brazilians on the other hand don't have to put up with anything. They have everything. Spicy seafood stews, fruits of the forest and luscious caipirinhas. Swaying music, sensual dancers and perfect bodies, wrapped in balmy warmth and enveloped in rapturous humanity. As they say, what's not to like? Even as we read about drug gangs and watch violent films such as *City of God*, we give Brazil the benefit of the doubt. Bound to be some bad



**CAPITAL GAINS** / São Paulo is one of the largest cities in the world and Brazil's economic driving force

'uns in a country that plays such beautiful football.

So, for me, Brazil's mystique grew, hot and steamy and lush as the jungles that I assumed covered most of the country. Even its location seemed a touch other-worldly. Most of it in the southern hemisphere and not exactly on the way to anywhere, except possibly Peru or Paraguay. My early attempts to learn more about it only strengthened the mythology. Brazil's northern border was the setting of Conan Doyle's *Lost World*. The explorer Colonel Percy Fawcett who went deep into the rainforest to discover El Dorado, was never seen again. Peter Fleming, who went to find him, got lost too and just got out of the jungle alive. (*Brazilian Adventure*, Fleming's first book, is, nevertheless, one of the funniest books about nearly dying.)

I am not sure of the reason, despite having been to many countries these past 24 years, I'd been keeping Brazil at arm's length. Was it that I didn't want my fantasies to be destroyed? Could it have been that, little Protestant that I am, I was fearful of having too good a time? Of having all those layers of reserve, privacy, caution, discretion and self-doubt corroded by tropical hedonism?

Three things helped to convince me that there was no good reason for not going to Brazil. In 2001 Jim O'Neill, an alumnus of Sheffield University no less, and now chairman of Goldman Sachs Asset Management, coined the acronym Bric for what he saw as the global super players of the future. Russia, India and China we might have expected to be included, but Brazil, the 'B,' really caught the eye. Less than 10 years previously, Brazil was suffer-

ing 2,700 per cent inflation. Now we were being told by a highly respected economist that the sun was shining out of its backside. Suddenly the exotic paradise sounded a lot more like the rest of the world. Only more successful.

Then, in 2007, as I was completing a travel series called *New Europe*, which I fully intended to be my last, Brazil was chosen to host the 2014 World Cup. Two years after that Rio de Janeiro pipped Madrid, Tokyo and Chicago to win the 2016 Olympics. By now I knew there was another journey to be done. I had to expunge the fantasy and check out the reality of the country everyone would soon be talking about.

The fifth-biggest country in the world by land area, Brazil is roughly 4,800 km from north to south and from east to west. Despite its extent, most of its 205 million people live in towns and cities on or within 160 km of the coast. The vast and fertile interior comprises millions of hectares of farming land as well

as the biggest rainforest and the biggest river system in the world – the Amazon pours into the Atlantic at the rate of 57 million gallons a second. To travel there means to somehow deal with this imbalance between the thin sliver of human Brazil and the gigantic natural splendours surrounding it.

For the series, I split the country into four episodes: the north-east, the Amazon and Brasilia, Rio and the important mining state of Minas Gerais, and São Paulo and the south.

The north-east coast is where the first Europeans set foot, by accident, in 1500. Here the pro-

duction of coffee and sugar and cotton became so successful that it created a plantation system that eventually required some seven million African slaves to work it. This coast, from just south of the mouth of the Amazon to the state of Bahia, is steeped in African influence, in religion, music, food, dress and style.

São Luís's old town is slowly benefiting from a big restoration scheme. In those streets that have been made over there are shops, bars, internet cafes and restaurants. Calhau Praia is as clean, comfortable and walkable a stretch of sand as I've come across. And it's apparently endless. Around 320 km south-east of São Luís is the Lençóis Maranhenses national park. Here is sand in its most majestic state. Dunes up to 50m high spread and billow over roughly 1,600 sq km. After the rainy season, in March, April and May, up to a thousand lagoons appear among the dunes.

Olinda, over 620 miles down the coast from São Luís, is a colonial town of some beauty, stretching up and over the hills. It still resonates with style and affluence, with many churches, including the church and convent of St Francis, the oldest convent in Brazil. The Alta da Sé cathedral has a breathtaking view over the city and across the water to the skyline of Recife.

Recife has become the scene of new and adventurous cultural work, especially in music. We lunched at the Pernambuco Yacht Club, out by the sea wall. The food is glorious: *caldinho de peixe* (fish soup), a *moqueca* of fresh shrimp, red mullet, beans and caju juice.

Further south is Salvador, capital of the state of Bahia and the biggest African city outside Africa. It overlooks All Saints' Bay, believed to be the second-largest natural harbour in the world after Hudson Bay. The *Pelourinho* (literally the pillory) is the centre of the old town, where breathtaking architectural beauty



## To travel there means to deal with the imbalance between the sliver of human Brazil and the gigantic natural splendours surrounding it

# NUTS FOR BRAZIL? HERE'S HOW TO CRACK IT /



## MANAUS

Manaus is the major transport hub: flights from Rio and São Paulo take around four hours, and there are flights from other Brazilian cities. Try GOL (voegol.com), TAM (tam.com.br) and TRIP (voetrip.com.br). There are no trains through the jungle, or even buses to speak of. A boat takes around five days from Belém. Michael Palin stayed at the Ariau Amazon Towers (doubles from \$475, ariautowers.com), a treetop hotel in the rainforest 56 km northwest of Manaus. For cheaper options see [visitmanaus.com](http://visitmanaus.com).

sits side by side with corrosive poverty and decay. A non-stop music track animates and deafens, and a life ethic rather than a work ethic dominates.

Amazonia is another distinctive and clearly defined geographical and economic unit. Apart from investigating a river system that is estimated to contain over 20 per cent of all the freshwater in the world, it offered the chance to visit some of the indigenous tribes who had lived in the rainforest long before Brazil ever became Brazil.

In the wide, lake-like waters of the Rio Negro I swam with pink Amazon dolphins. They bounced off my body and came back for more sardines.

Anyone who visits Amazonia must at some point pass through its biggest city, Manaus. The renowned opera house, Teatro Amazonas, is an ornate jewel in a rough and ready city.

The city of Belém stands at the southern portal of the Amazon delta and is home to the vast waterside Ver-o-peso market, selling fish, fruits and handicrafts. Belém's offshore islands offer a tantalising glimpse of rural river bank life. Santarém, the third and most intimate of the Amazon's big cities, has a museum with a rich collection of pre-European ceramics, some dating back 10,000 years.

Fordlandia was Henry Ford's industrial dream town in the middle of the Amazon jungle. Now a ghost town, it was abandoned in the 1950s.

The state of Minas Gerais, on a high plateau north of Rio, has been a heartland of national wealth for over 300 years, and iron ore excavations as deep as volcanic craters scar the countryside around Brazil's fourth city, Belo Horizonte. It has few memorable sights. One is the graceful rectangular Praça da Liberdade, ringed by an esoteric collection of good-looking buildings. I'm told that Lourdes is the hip new quarter for smart clubs and trendy restaurants, but I must have got the wrong time of day.

The discovery of gold in the nearby mountains at the start of the 18th century transformed the balance of power from north to south Brazil and was the reason that Rio de Janeiro flourished.

Cardeal Mota is a long, thin tourist town within the Serra de Cipó national park north of Belo Horizonte. Brazil has no peaks higher than 3,000m and this corner of Minas is exceptional in having anything that looks like a real mountain range. It's a diverse and fragile ecosystem, with more than 2,000 species of plants.

This left São Paulo and the south. The southern and south-eastern states cover less than 18 per cent of Brazil's land area but contain 60 per cent of the population. And they feel different. If the north-east is African Brazil, the south is European Brazil. If the Bahians work to relax, the Paulistas work to make money. São Paulo, the biggest city in the southern hemisphere, is also the richest. There are billionaires all over the place, moving around the vast thrombotic city in helicopters. Further south is a string of affluent, progressive cities such as Curitiba, Florianópolis and Porto Alegre, where you can think yourself in Bilbao or Bristol or Antwerp.

LINKED IN / São Paulo is a huge, cosmopolitan city





**LIQUID ASSET** / The Iguazu Falls, which borders Argentina, is one of South America's natural wonders

There's a feeling Curitiba is trying hard to be cool, though the Oscar Niemeyer Museum in the centre doesn't have to try. It just is. Around the museum is a park, one of many carefully laid out green spaces that dot the city, making Curitiba one of the world's greenest cities. Tourist trains run from Curitiba to the coast.

Inland there are towns that have gone out of their way to preserve their European roots. Blumenau, in the state of Santa Catarina, is so proud of its German origins that the town's sign reads *Wilkommen*, and the council offices are in a six-storey Alpine chalet.

You can find temporary refuge in a Brothers Grimm world of cobbled streets and tall brick-and-timber buildings. Steins of beer are available and accordion music chortles out. The big event of Blumenau's year is the Oktoberfest, the largest celebration of its kind outside of Munich. Nearby Pomerode, founded by Pomeranian

Germans in 1861, is even more obsessed with its Teutonic heritage.

Where Brazil finally rubs up against Argentina and Paraguay, the Iguazu Falls, one of the largest waterfall systems in the world was a spectacular climax to my trip.

I can say now that Brazil is more than just a state of mind and yet, after a year steeped in the country, I still haven't completely figured it out. In many ways the Brazilian way of life seems to live up to all the clichés. It is seductive and easy-going. The sun shines on mile upon mile of sparkling clean ocean-washed beaches. Delicious fruits grow in Eden-like profusion. Brazilians of every age and shape

exercise in tiny slips of clothing, caressed by sea breezes. Music and dancing is hard-wired into the system. Drinking seems to make them happy without tipping them over into aggression. They are tolerant and informal, and live very much in the present. Socrates – the footballer, not the

**Salvador is the capital of Bahia, and the biggest African city outside Africa. Music plays non stop and a life ethic, not a work ethic, dominates**



### MINAS GERAIS

Minas Gerais state, northwest of Rio, offers peace and natural beauty. Serra do Cipó national park is a good destination for outdoor pursuits. Visit from Belo Horizonte, 100 km by road from access town Santana do Riacho. The gold rush towns of Ouro Preto, Diamantina and Tiradentes have churches, museums, and gorgeous pousadas (see [hiddenpousadasbrazil.com](http://hiddenpousadasbrazil.com)). Brazil Ecotravel ([brazil-ecotravel.com](http://brazil-ecotravel.com)) offers a nine-day group tour here.



### THE SOUTH AND RIO

Travellers who make it to the state of Santa Catarina, famous for its beaches, may also enjoy visiting the 'German' towns of Blumenau and Pomerode, which have half-timbered houses, German food and beers, and a cycle or walking route, the Rota do Enxaimel, which takes in around 70 Germanic buildings. The Blumenau Oktoberfest ([oktoberfestblumenau.com.br](http://oktoberfestblumenau.com.br)) typically attracts half a million visitors.

The state capital is Florianópolis, built on an island and a stepping-off point for beach holidays, with bus connections to Curitiba and Porto Alegre, plus Rio, São Paulo and Iguacu, – a popular next stop. Hippy and surfer hangout Campeche is 30 minutes from 'Floripa' by bus. On Ilha de Santa Catarina, Pousada dos Tucanos ([pousadasitiodostucanos.com](http://pousadasitiodostucanos.com)) has several suites, a luscious garden, organic food and a natural swimming pool. In Rio, the grand Copacabana Palace ([copacabanapalace.com](http://copacabanapalace.com)), the country's most famous hotel, is being renovated in preparation for its 90th birthday next year (and the World Cup the year after).

**The Amazon contains 20 per cent of all the freshwater in the world, and the area is home to the indigenous tribes who lived in the rainforest long before Brazil ever existed**

philosopher – described his fellow countrymen as “a shrewd, vain, happy people”.

Yet Brazil is perceived by many outsiders as a dangerous place, where crime and corruption are high and there is every chance of being mugged as you walk the streets. These fears seem to be based on the image of the overpopulated favelas, some of which

do have a fearsome reputation. In Rio, *favelas* accumulate on the hillsides overlooking Copacabana and Ipanema beaches, frightening people who live down below in some of the most expensive real estate in the country. Vik Muniz, one of Brazil's most celebrated artists, described it to me as “Saint-Tropez surrounded by Mogadishu.”

But most of Rio's million or so *favelados* have nothing to do with organised crime. They are mostly people who work in Rio and keep the city running. The rehabilitation of the *favelas* is showing good results, but will it come fast enough for a World Cup that is only two years away, with an Olympics hard on its heels?

Growing international stature could be the greatest threat to this happy situation. With Bric-led prosperity has come responsibility, not just for Brazilians themselves, but for a world looking desperately for strong economies

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### THE NORTH-EAST

In the far north-east, the Lençóis Maranhenses national park is most easily accessed from Barreirinhas. Buses run there from São Luís in about four hours. An air taxi takes 50 minutes. Stay in Barreirinhas and take day trips by boat or jeep, or try a *pousada* in the village of Atins, reached by 4x4 trucks or boat. The best time to visit is June-September, after the rainy season has filled the lakes. See [parquelencois.com.br](http://parquelencois.com.br).

to help the weak. A seat for Brazil on the UN Security Council is already being discussed.

After four months travelling the country my impression is that people are a little apprehensive about the global status being so swiftly thrust upon them. They will now have to compare themselves with other countries in a way they've never bothered to do before. They will find themselves increasingly assessed and judged by outsiders.

While I was there I made a not-altogether-serious list of English words and phrases that seemed to have no

**Inland, there are towns that preserve their European roots. Blumenau is so proud of its German origins that the town's sign reads Willkommen**

counterpart for Brazilians, such as 'introvert,' 'early' and 'turn the music down.' One word at which they always shook their heads when I asked for a translation was 'self-conscious.'

I hope that, with world recognition, the essential, infectious live-and-let-live attitude that I so enjoyed in Brazil will not have to be reined in. Or 'self-conscious' be added to their dictionary.

---

*Michael Palin is a writer, actor and broadcaster*

# THE BITCOIN EFFECT

Does a new  
electronic  
payment system  
threaten the  
future of currency  
as we know  
it? **Noah Davis**  
investigates  
the Bitcoin  
phenomenon  
and discovers  
why the future of  
commerce may  
already be here



Imagine that instead of your current situation – high above the clouds, winging to meet a loved one or attend a business meeting – you are a blogger in Nairobi, Kenya, who has gained a following by doggedly covering political corruption in the government. (A stretch but bear with me for the briefest of moments.) To ensure your safety, you remain anonymous but the wider world is starting to pay attention to your WordPress blog. You want to spend some money to upgrade its appearance and improve the features. Vanity is a human characteristic, even for the blogging set.

WordPress, which boasts nearly 60 million sites worldwide, offers the options you desire for a small fee. The only problem: you have no way to pay. You don't have a credit card and PayPal blocks access to Kenya because of fraud concerns. You are out of luck. Until, that is, someone tells you about Bitcoin. In November 2012, WordPress began accepting the digital currency as payment. Bitcoin – which isn't beholden to governments or any other central organisation, only to a peer-to-peer network of users boasting impressive computer processing power – offers one vision of the future of money. It has a small army of fervent supporters who believe the currency, developed by a mysterious Japanese figure, will take over the world. It is complex and controversial, perfect for the post-industrial age. Bitcoin supporters argue that it scares central banks and big credit card companies because of the possibilities it offers. And they might be correct. Even those who don't believe Bitcoin is here to stay recognise there are lessons to be learned from the experiment, important ideas about how the world connects and pays for services. At the very least, Bitcoin shines a light into what may come next.

And if its proponents are correct, we'll all be paying with Bitcoin in the not-so-distant future.

But right now, none of those details matter. All you, my Kenyan blogging friend, need to know is that WordPress accepts your Bitcoins. You procure some, trading real Kenyan shillings for digital bits of code, pay the blogging network, and continue writing away on your new and improved site. In more ways than one, the revolution will be digitised.

#### WHAT IS BITCOIN?

The idea of currency – that something of value can be exchanged for goods or services – goes back thousands of years to cattle and cowrie shells. Bronze and copper coins pop up around 1000 BC, with silver ones coming into existence roughly 500 years later. The Chinese developed paper money in 806, watched it disappear in 1455, then show up again a few centuries later. Europe, the United States and the rest of the world followed suit. Now central banks regulate money, citizens pay with coins, paper bills, or with debit and credit cards. (The companies distributing the cards profit from fees, of course.)

Satoshi Nakamoto had a different vision: Bitcoin. A document that he uploaded to a cryptology listserv in 2008 – in the middle of the global financial crisis – outlined the plan that didn't rely on governments or central banks. The details are complex, but the simple version is that a network of users keeps track of every Bitcoin transaction by adding each one to the 'block chain.' People use computing power to solve cryptographic puzzles, 'mining' blocks at a rate of about six blocks per hour. The first person to successfully mine the block receives a reward, currently set at 50 Bitcoins. Every 210,000 blocks – roughly four years – the reward is cut in half.

By 2140, 21 million Bitcoins will be floating around the digital world. The fixed supply allows Bitcoins to gain value.

On January 3, 2009, Nakamoto mined the first 50 Bitcoins himself. Over the next two years, two things happened: the open source money slowly, steadily, gained traction among a certain subset of techno-geeks, libertarians and other early adopters, and Nakamoto disappeared.

The second issue first. No one knew the identity of the Bitcoin creator. He might have been a single person, a group or something else entirely. But by December 2010, he – or it – was gone. While the disappearance surprised the growing Bitcoin community, it also helped.

"In a way it's a good thing for the community that he's gone. It's like religion. We had some of the regimes in the 20th century become 'atheist' and replace religion with quasi-religions around their heads of state and look what happened. It's better for society in general when central rallying points are more abstract," Vitalik Buterin, head writer for *Bitcoin Magazine*, wrote over Skype. (That nearly everyone in the Bitcoin community communicates primarily over Skype gives a sense of the currency's worldwide userbase.)

**The Bitcoin ethos is one that does not rely on central banks or governments, but on a network of users that keep track of every transaction by adding it to a bitcoin chain that grows over time**



Nakamoto was gone, but Bitcoin continued to gain traction. The digital currency, which wasn't worth anything initially, suddenly was. A lot, in fact. In February 2011, one Bitcoin could be exchanged for roughly \$1 USD. Just four months later, on June 9, one Bitcoin was worth nearly \$30 USD. Although the market crashed to around \$3 USD by October, it rebounded and hovered around \$12 USD in December 2012.

#### WHY BITCOIN?

The short answer is that Bitcoin offers another option for payment: a (relatively) safe way to conduct transactions without interference from governments or massive corporations. David G.W. Birch, the director of electronic transaction consulting firm Consult Hyperion, sees a growing need for this type of currency. "In the marketplace, there is a real desire to see some alternatives," he says. "Prior to the financial crisis, I'm not sure people would have been prepared to experiment. Post-crisis, people are."

**TRAIL BLAZER** / Tony Gallippi, the co-founder of BitPay, the biggest Bitcoin payment processor



Bitcoin's passionate advocates say there are around one million people who use it, although Birch – who is more analyst than evangelist – puts that number lower. But, undeniably, Bitcoin is gaining traction around the world. It is popular in some places you might not expect. The top six countries with the highest number of transactions in 2011 included Ukraine, Poland and Belarus. (The Russian Federation was number 1 and the United States, which has more difficult regulatory laws than most countries and computer systems that only work in USD, was second.) "I suspect that is for two reasons," Tony Gallippi, co-founder of BitPay, the largest Bitcoin payment processor, explained via Skype. "One, people in those countries are accustomed to paying in cash, not credit. Two, the banking system in those countries is not reliable or trustworthy to many people."

Central banks are starting to pay attention. In October 2012, the European Central Bank released a report titled *Virtual Currency Schemes*. The conclusion: "Although these schemes can have positive aspects in terms of financial innovation and the provision of additional payment alternatives to consumers, it is clear that they also entail risks. Owing to the small size of virtual currency schemes, these risks do not affect anyone other than users of the schemes." The report does mention that if the use of virtual currency grows, it could negatively impact the public's perception of central banks as people will link growth with the banks "not doing their jobs properly."

The Bitcoin evangelists – who, it should be noted, have a vested interest in the success of the currency – hope this is eventually the case and believe the banks

**Central banks have a monopoly on money supply. If people start using an alternative, that threatens this monopoly. Gold, silver, barter and bitcoin are all in the same category.**

have every reason to worry. "Central bankers have a monopoly on money supply. If people start using an alternative, that threatens their monopoly. Gold, silver, barter, Bitcoin are all in the same category," Gallippi says.

For Buterin, it's not just the banks; it's also a problem of large corporations like Visa and MasterCard that make billions by charging transaction fees. Bitcoin is the brave new world. "If you think about it, they are pretty outdated institutions in many ways. This is 2012. You can send an email to anywhere in the world in an instant with zero transaction fees. Meanwhile, bank wires still somehow occasionally get lost," he says. Buterin has a point. At the same time, there are difficult and concerning aspects of Bitcoin that will likely keep the currency from gaining wider adoption.

#### WHY NOT BITCOIN?

In June 2011, Adrian Chen published a long, investigative story on the website Gawker.com called *The Underground Website Where You Can Buy Any Drug Imaginable*. In it, he detailed online marketplace Silk Road where users could buy anything from Afghani hash to 'Avatar' LSD using Bitcoins. Because Bitcoins are mostly pseudonymous, they are a safe way to make these illegal transactions. (As the transactions are recorded

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on the block chain, it would be possible, but difficult, for legal authorities to track down the buyer.) In short, the flexibility and relative anonymity of Bitcoin allow people to purchase illegal substances and other items in addition to more traditionally acceptable things.

The currency's advocates don't dispute this fact, but they do raise an important point. "It happens, but illegal transactions also take place with dollars every day. Criminals use cell phones too. We are all working very hard on the mainstream uses and adoption of Bitcoin," Gallippi says.

Two other common issues are fraud and theft. Because there is no central organisation overseeing Bit-

coin, it's much harder to police problems. When something goes wrong, the answer to "Who ya gonna call?" is, by Bitcoin's very design, no one. The community hopes to limit these types of issues, but the very type of early adopter who is attracted to Bitcoin is also frequently someone who wants to avoid rules and regulations, not necessarily to do something illegal but rather because they don't believe the government should interfere. That attitude makes regulation difficult, and will turn off the less adventurous.

#### WHAT'S NEXT FOR BITCOIN?

The currency finds itself in a bit of a Catch-22. It clearly has a cachet and a usefulness for a

certain subset of people, many of whom want to see it grow into the mainstream. But if it gets bigger, it may lose some of the things that initially attracted the devoted audience. It is also currently too complex for the common person. "At the moment it is too difficult for most people to use. It is like the Internet in the early 1990s, when you had a command line console to telnet, FTP, and use IP addresses. Then came domain names, Netscape and the World Wide Web. Bitcoin is in the pre-Netscape phase right now," Gallippi, the man most responsible for the WordPress partnership, says.



MINA AL ARAB

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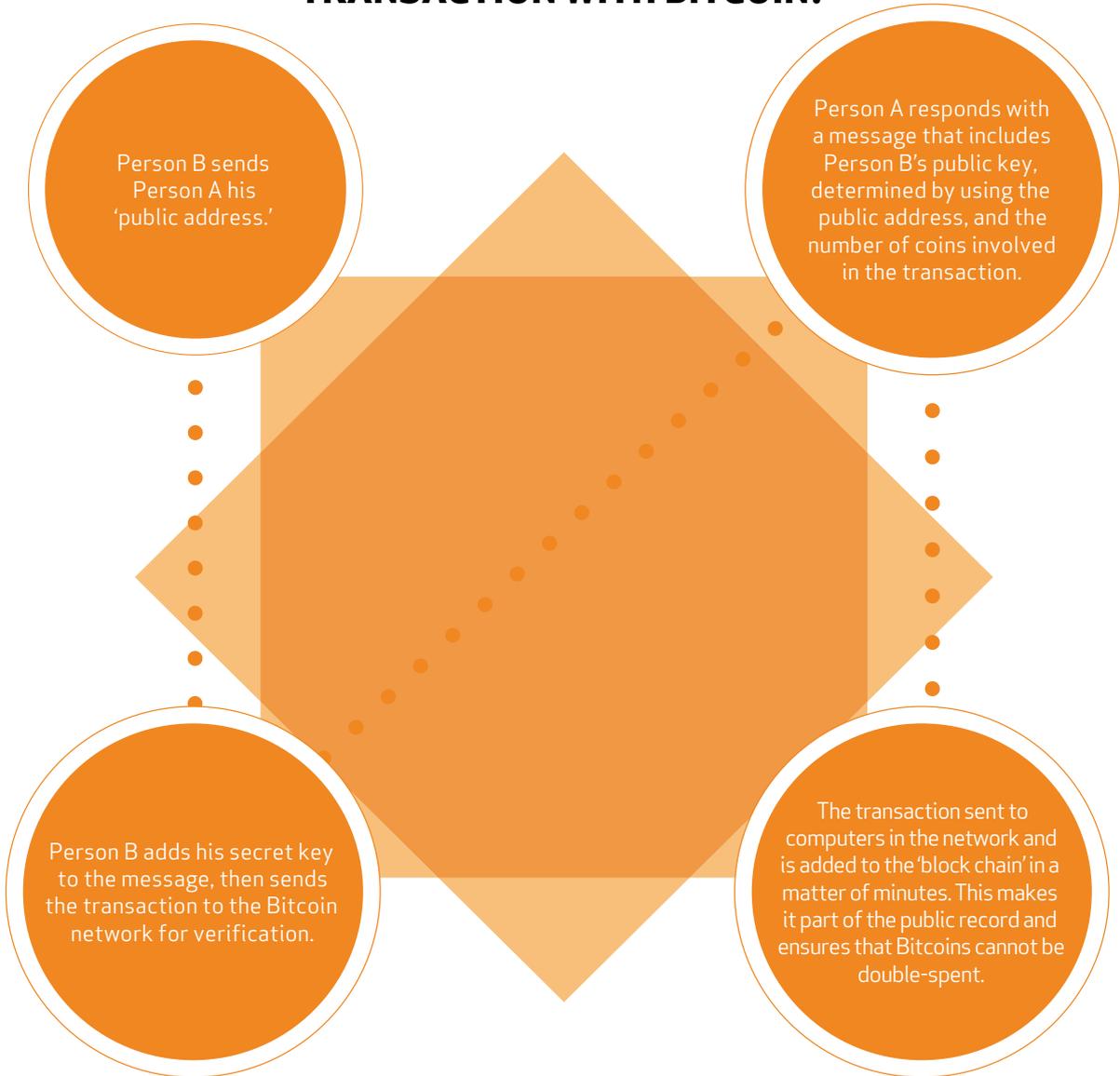
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## HOW DO YOU MAKE A TRANSACTION WITH BITCOIN?



His BitPay company helps make transactions easier. Others are working to simplify other aspects of Bitcoin. Slowly, the digital currency is moving beyond the fringes of the Internet. The Finnish central bank announced its support for Bitcoin and New Hampshire Congressman Mark Warden accepted Bitcoin donations during his successful 2012 campaign. Gallippi believes

that between 10 and 100 million people will use Bitcoin within three years.

Birch thinks that there are reasons to pay attention to the currency, but he's not sure it will find the success Gallippi and Buterin believe it will. It's too new, too strange, too weird, and it's not the best use of the technology. Digital currencies will continue to gain traction, but Birch posits that they

will be based on energy, reputation or other things that are more stable over the long term. "What's the thing that we learn most from Bitcoin? It's that people are prepared to consider alternatives," he says. "Bitcoin is important. We have to study it and learn lessons from it, but the lesson isn't that Bitcoin is going to rule the world."

---

*Noah Davis is a writer in New York*



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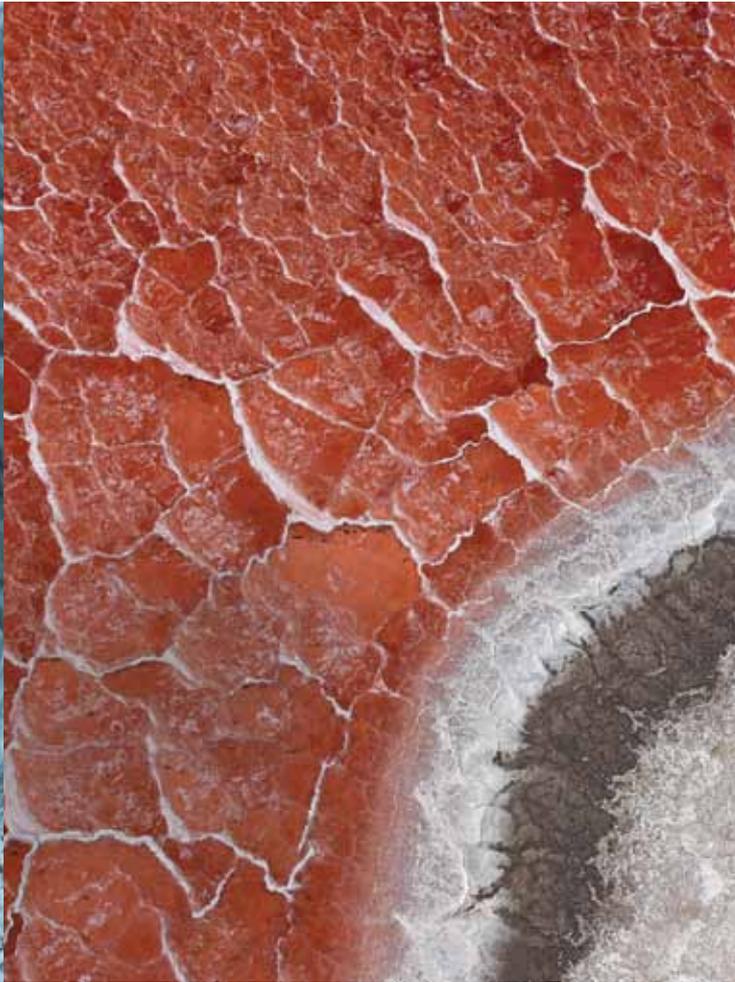
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# ABOVE AND BEYOND

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On the side of Sourdough Peak, a giant grey mass of a rock glacier creeps down to the valley. Rock glaciers are nothing but masses of rock and dirt held together by ice. Rock glaciers flow downstream very slowly compared to typical mountain glaciers, moving no faster than a metre or two per year.

## **SOURDOUGH PEAK, ALASKA, USA**

# NYAMURAGIRA, CONGO

Nyamuragira is currently Africa's most active volcano situated on the border of Rwanda and The Democratic Republic of Congo. It erupts every couple of years. Fountains of molten rock shoot out of its vents on the mountain side, forming new craters. The volcano is very difficult to reach. This aerial image was taken during a flight over the crater in June 2004.

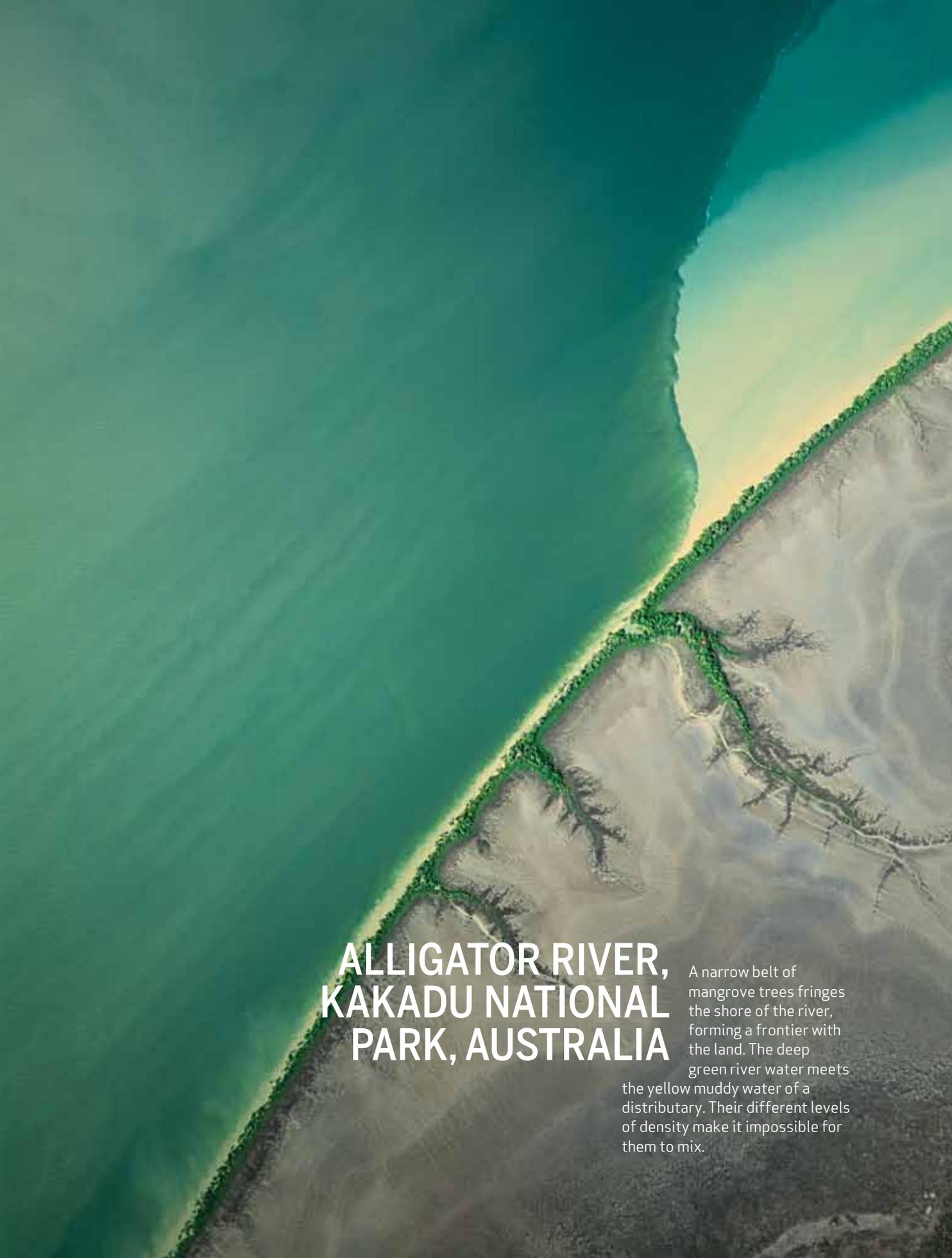




Masses of red, salt-loving algae live in the swamps on the banks of

## SEARLES LAKE, CALIFORNIA, USA

Searles Lake, a salt lake in the Mojave desert. The lake is named after John Searles who ran the first salt mine there in 1873. Even today borax is still mined on its shores.



# ALLIGATOR RIVER, KAKADU NATIONAL PARK, AUSTRALIA

A narrow belt of mangrove trees fringes the shore of the river, forming a frontier with the land. The deep green river water meets the yellow muddy water of a tributary. Their different levels of density make it impossible for them to mix.



# GRAND PRISMATIC SPRING, YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, USA

The basin of the hot spring is 80 metres in diameter. The water temperature reaches 80 degrees centigrade. The basin is covered by mats of heat-loving algae and bacteria, which are deposited on the cooler edge of the basin as well as in its drain channels, giving it its green, yellow, orange-red and brown colours.



# GORNER GLACIER, THE VALAIS ALPS, SWITZERLAND

The Gorner Glacier is the third longest glacier in the Alps. Deep blue meltwater streams and lakes, which cover its surface in summer, have made it famous. Meltwater has formed this tube in ice. On its walls, one can recognise structures shaped by the glaciers' creeping movement.

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# BRIEFING

90

## ALGIERS

We visit the beautiful Algerian capital, Emirates' newest route

91

## FOOD FUN

We check out the food and beverage options at Concourse A

92

## TESLA TOP

Electric car hits new heights with car of the year award

## Jazz hands

Three Doors Down are just one of the acts getting ready for the Emirates Airline Dubai Jazz Festival (91)



# Authentically Algiers

As Emirates begins its daily service to the Algerian capital on March 1, we visit this North African treasure

## 01 Casbah

The city's traditional walled quarter is perhaps its most famous. Perched on the hilltop overlooking the Mediterranean, the Casbah is a maze of zigzagging alleyways bustling with sights and smells of the near 80,000 people that currently live there. The Unesco protected world heritage site is an absolute must-visit on any trip to Algiers.

## 02 Monument of Martyrs

Also known as the Makam Echahid, this enormous landmark was opened in 1982 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Algerian war of independence. Located in the city's outskirts the monument is fashioned in the shape of three standing palm leaves, which shelter the 'Eternal Flame' beneath. At the edge of each palm leaf stands a statue of a soldier, each representing a stage of Algeria's struggle.

## 03 Musée National du Moudjahid

Based beneath the Makam Echahid, this museum is dedicated to the country's struggle against colonialism. With several diverse exhibits

documenting Algeria's past from the French invasion of 1830 right up to their Independence Day in 1962. But please note that most of the exhibits are in Arabic.

## 04 La Grande Poste

It may not sound like the most enticing tourist spot but the striking central post office is a classic piece of French-inspired Hispanic-Moorish architecture. Built in 1908 it was the

showpiece of its day, and definitely worth sending a postcard from.

## 05 Djemaa el-Djedid

The name of this Ottoman mosque translates directly to 'New Mosque,' which is rather confusing considering that it dates back to 1660. Either way, there is still plenty of traditional Turkish design to marvel at and even a cheeky conspiracy about the shape that it was built in.



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## TAKE YOUR PICK

From family-friendly restaurants to bars and champagne lounges – the entertainment and shopping at Dubai International Airport has scaled new heights with the opening of Concourse A.

The addition of five premium restaurants, from Emirates Leisure Retail gives passengers an even wider choice of dining options.

In a series of ‘firsts’, passengers travelling Emirates can now dine at Giraffe, the award-winning family restaurant with its first outlet in the region, or grab a coffee at the upscale Costa Metropolitan, the first airport outlet in the region.

Travellers waiting for their boarding time can also choose between the Jack Daniel’s inspired ‘Jack’s Bar & Grill’ or, for a more sporting option, the Heineken Airport Lounge, as well as the glamour of the first ‘Le Lounge by Moët & Chandon’.

They can also spend their time perusing the special offers at the award winning wines and spirits retailer, Le Clos.



## EMIRATES AIRLINE DUBAI JAZZ FESTIVAL

Music fans from far and wide will tune their focus to Dubai this month with the 11th edition of The Emirates Airline Dubai Jazz Festival.

From February 14 to 22, the nine-day music festival will host 27 different acts including regional and international jazz musicians and globally renowned headlining acts including British rock legends Deep Purple and

Three Doors Down.

This year the programme will also include a wide array of genres with artists playing everything from jazz to blues, soul and R&B.

With over 48,000 people attending last year, the number of attendees this year is expected to rise above 50,000 from around the UAE and neighbouring GCC countries.

[www.dubaijazzfest.com](http://www.dubaijazzfest.com)

# WIND TO WATER



Dubai's water issues could be a thing of the past, as test trials have started for a wind turbine that can produce drinkable water by extracting humidity from the air.

A Dubai-based company has begun a two-year test on a new wind turbine that is designed to produce up to 100 litres of drinkable water in an hour.

The project, if successful, could play a big part in helping solve water problems in desert areas across the Middle East, which, despite very high humidity in the air during the summer months, rely heavily on desalinated seawater.

The turbine (24 metres high, with a 13-metre-diameter rotor) works by driving in air, which is heated to become steam and then condensed. The condensation is accumulated and filtered in the main stem of the turbine, eventually becoming drinking water.

The aim of the trial is to show that the turbine can work under the harshest conditions, with temperatures reaching close to 50°C during the UAE summer.

The turbine will be set up at a coastal marine reserve in Ghantoot, with the cooperation of a local NGO, the Emirates Marine Environment Group (EMEG).

# BEST IN SHOW

Any lingering doubts about the future of electric vehicles can now be laid to rest, after a luxury sedan from American car manufacturer Tesla became the first fully electric vehicle to win the prestigious Motor Trend Car of the Year award.

The Model S is the first vehicle without an internal combustion engine to win the award in its 64 year history, signalling a major shift in the automotive world.

"Our aspiration with the Model S was to show that an electric car truly can be better than any gasoline car, which is a critical step towards the widespread adoption of sustainable transport," said Tesla's CEO, Elon Musk.

The top of the range model has an 85 kWh battery, which provides a range of nearly 500 km at 90 km/h, with a top speed of 210 km/hr, and acceleration of 5.6 seconds from 0-100km/hr.

**\$3.7**  
TRILLION

THE VALUE OF THE CARBON CAPTURE SERVICES THAT COULD BE GAINED THROUGH **HALVING THE DEFORESTATION RATE** BY 2030

Source: *Eliasch Review*

**75** %

MODERN JET AIRCRAFTS ARE NOW **75% QUIETER** THAN THE FIRST MODELS

Source: *ATAG's ABBB report*

# BIOFUEL BACKING

An initiative to produce sustainable biofuels for use in aviation has been launched by a consortium of leading aerospace and fuel companies.

The EU-backed ITAKA (Initiative Towards sustainable Kerosene for Aviation) project aims to look into removing barriers to the use of sustainable biofuels in aviation. The programme will also seek a way to produce sustainable aviation fuel from a European-based feedstock that would not take up valuable land used for growing food.

The EU has granted nearly \$13 million to the project, which it hopes will contribute to the European Commission's Biofuel Flight Path programme – created to help speed up the commercialisation of aviation

biofuels in Europe. Current plans have set the annual production target of two million tonnes of aviation biofuel to be reached by 2020.

To achieve its goals, ITAKA is currently targeting the use and production of biofuel feedstocks such as Spanish camelina and used cooking oil, neither of which are seen as a threat to valuable farmland used to grow edible crops. The research will also evaluate the economic, social and regulatory implications of large-scale biofuel use in aviation.

The project aims to certify the entire supply chain of the renewable aviation fuel, based on the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) EU RED standard.

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COMFORT

# Comfort IN THE AIR

**TO HELP YOU** arrive at your destination feeling relaxed and refreshed, Emirates has developed this collection of helpful travel tips. Regardless of whether you need to rejuvenate for your holiday or be effective at achieving your goals on a business trip, these simple tips will help you to enjoy your journey and time on board with Emirates today.

## SMART TRAVELLER

DRINK PLENTY OF WATER

**REHYDRATE WITH WATER OR JUICES FREQUENTLY.  
DRINK TEA AND COFFEE IN MODERATION.**



TRAVEL LIGHTLY

**CARRY ONLY THE ESSENTIAL ITEMS THAT YOU  
WILL NEED DURING YOUR FLIGHT.**



WEAR GLASSES

**CABIN AIR IS DRIER THAN NORMAL THEREFORE  
SWAP YOUR CONTACT LENSES FOR GLASSES.**



USE SKIN MOISTURISER

**APPLY A GOOD QUALITY MOISTURISER TO ENSURE  
YOUR SKIN DOESN'T DRY OUT.**



KEEP MOVING

**EXERCISE YOUR LOWER LEGS AND CALF  
MUSCLES. THIS ENCOURAGES BLOOD FLOW.**



MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE

**LOOSEN CLOTHING, REMOVE JACKET AND AVOID  
ANYTHING PRESSING AGAINST YOUR BODY.**



## BEFORE YOUR JOURNEY

- \* Consult your doctor before travelling if you have any medical concerns about making a long journey, or if you suffer from a respiratory or cardiovascular condition.
- \* Plan for the destination – will you need any vaccinations or special medications?
- \* Get a good night's rest before the flight.
- \* Eat lightly and sensibly.

## AT THE AIRPORT

- \* Allow yourself plenty of time for check-in.
- \* Avoid carrying heavy bags through the airport and onto the flight as this can place the body under considerable stress.
- \* Once through to departures try and relax as much as possible.

## DURING THE FLIGHT

- \* Chewing and swallowing will help equalise your ear pressure during ascent and descent.
- \* Babies and young passengers may suffer more acutely with popping ears, therefore consider providing a dummy.
- \* Get as comfortable as possible when resting and turn frequently.
- \* Avoid sleeping for long periods in the same position.

## WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- \* Try some light exercise or read if you can't sleep after arrival.

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# 31

NUMBER OF **A380** IN THE EMIRATES FLEET AS OF JANUARY 2013

#### ELECTRONIC SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL AUTHORISATION (ESTA)

If you are an international traveller wishing to enter the United States under the Visa Waiver Programme, You must apply for electronic authorisation (ESTA) up to 72 hours prior to your departure.

#### ESTA FACTS:

- \* Children and infants require an individual ESTA.
- \* The online ESTA system will inform you whether your application has been authorised, not authorised or if authorisation is pending.
- \* A successful ESTA application is valid for two years, however this may be revoked or will expire along with your passport.

APPLY ONLINE AT [WWW.CBP.GOV/ESTA](http://WWW.CBP.GOV/ESTA)

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\* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

\*\* ONLY BRITISH CITIZENS QUALIFY UNDER THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAMME.

# 75 million

DUBAI AIRPORT'S  
TOTAL ANNUAL CAPACITY

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## Franchising opportunities available globally

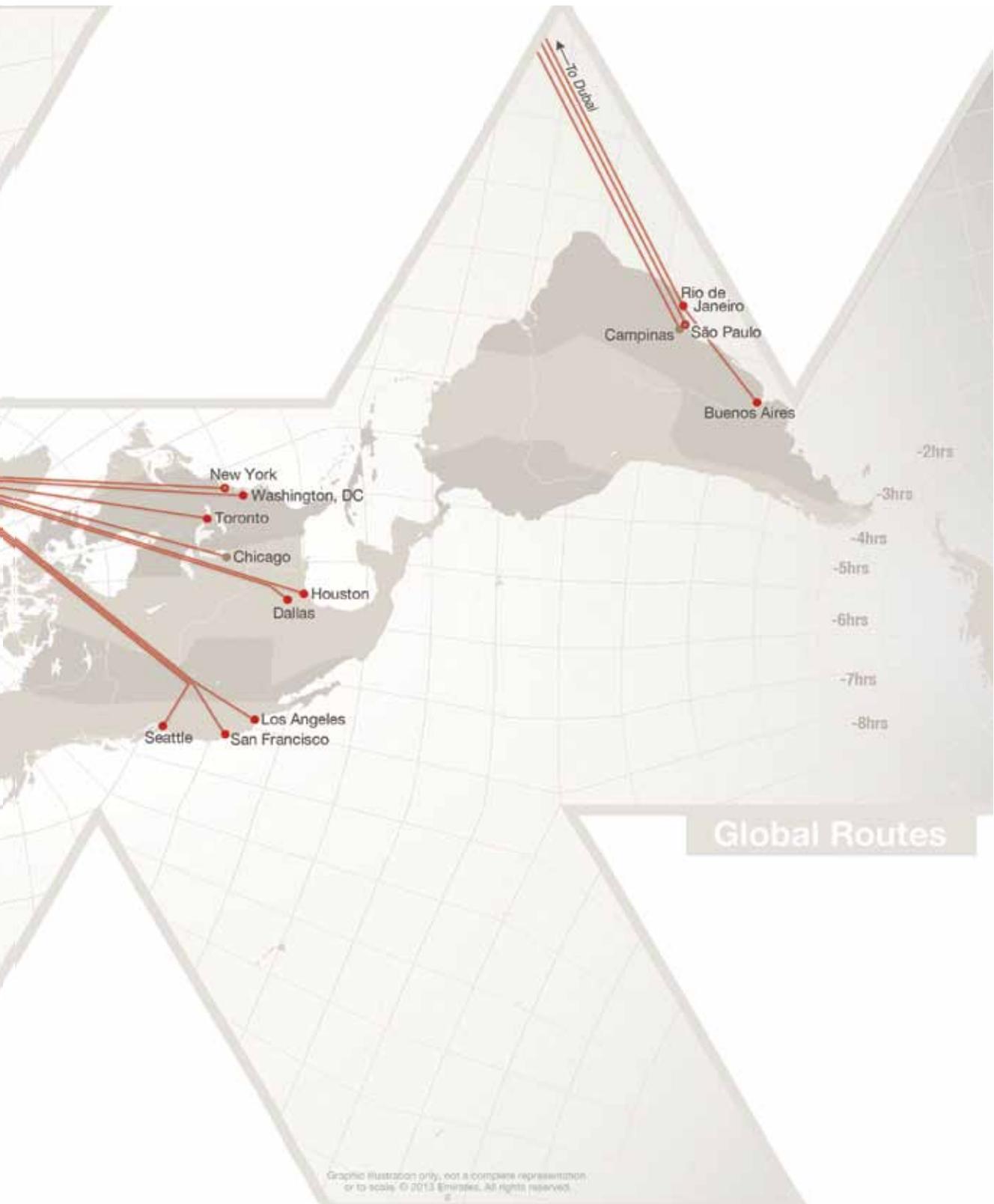
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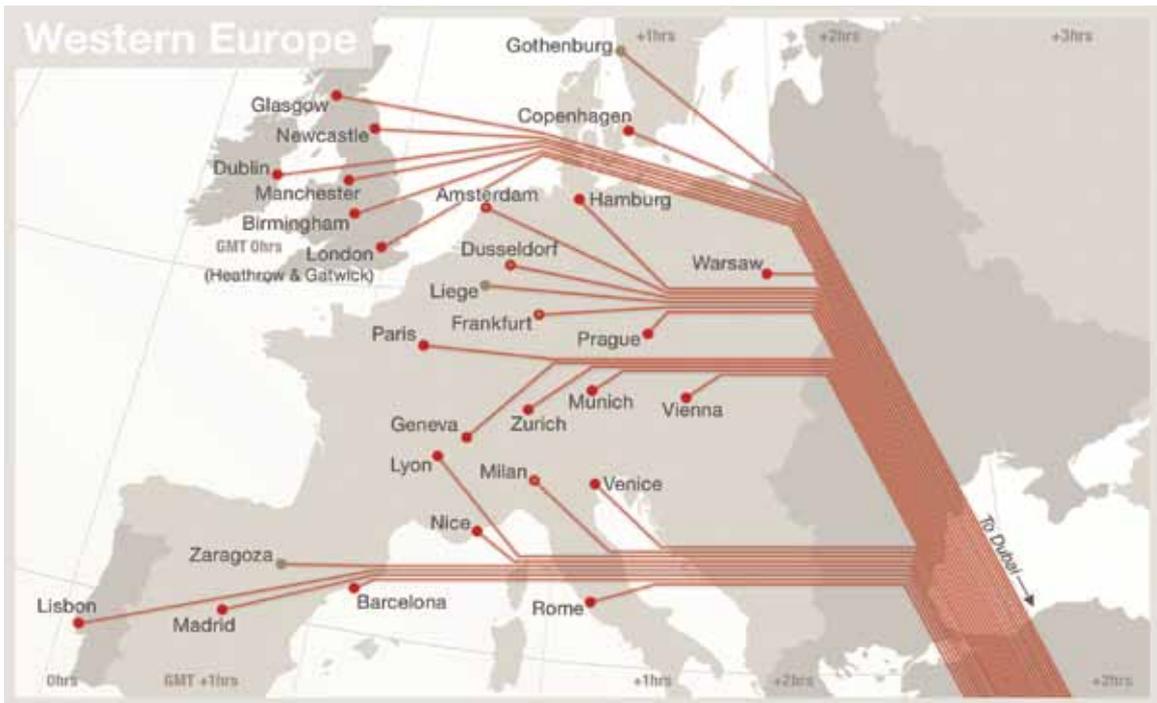


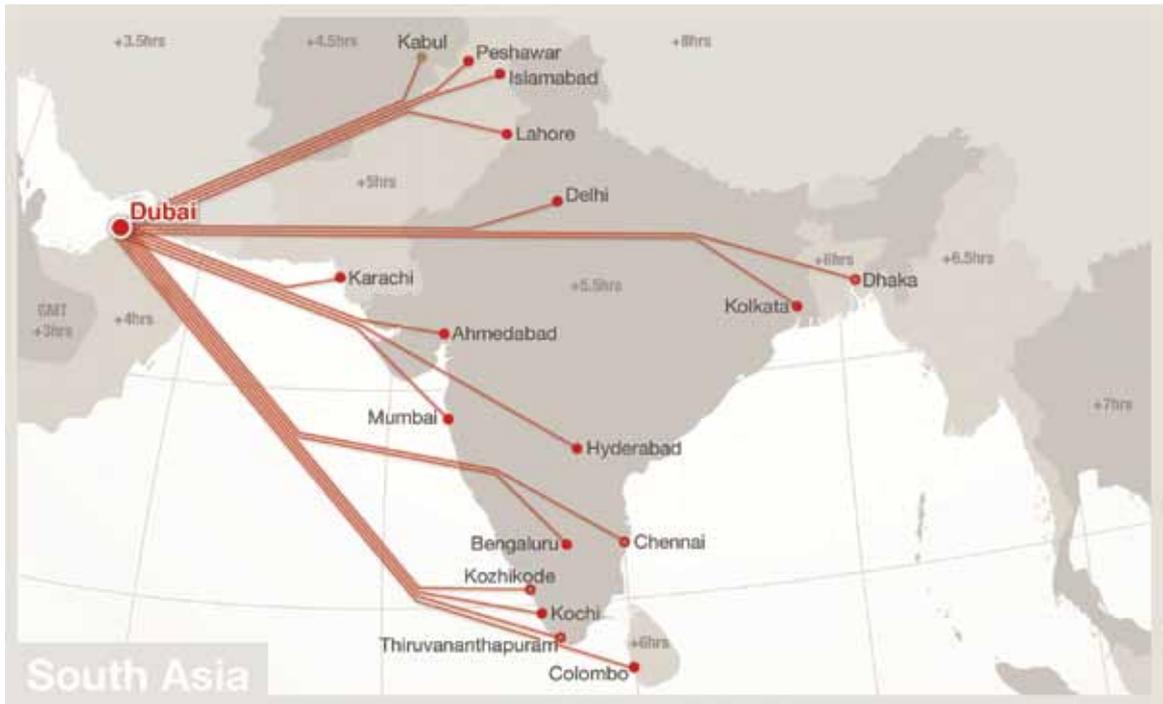
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# FLEET

## The Fleet

OUR FLEET CONTAINS  
**201** PLANES MADE UP  
OF **191** PASSENGER  
PLANES AND  
**10** CARGO PLANES



**BOEING 777-300ER** Number of Aircraft: 86 Capacity: 354-442 Range: 14,594km Length: 73.9m Wingspan: 64.8m

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**BOEING 777-300** Number of Aircraft: 12 Capacity: 364 Range: 11,029km Length: 73.9m Wingspan: 60.9m

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**BOEING 777-200LR** Number of Aircraft: 10 Capacity: 266 Range: 17,446km Length: 63.7m Wingspan: 64.8m

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**BOEING 777-200** Number of Aircraft: 9 Capacity: 274-346 Range: 9,649km Length: 63.7m Wingspan: 60.9m

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**BOEING 777F** Number of Aircraft: 7 Range: 9,260km Length: 63.7m Wingspan: 64.8m

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.EMIRATES.COM/OURFLEET](http://WWW.EMIRATES.COM/OURFLEET)



**AIRBUS A380-800** Number of Aircraft: 32 Capacity: 489-517 Range: 15,000km Length: 72.7m Wingspan: 79.8m

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**AIRBUS A340-500** Number of Aircraft: 10 Capacity: 258 Range: 16,050km Length: 67.9m Wingspan: 63.4m

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**AIRBUS A340-300** Number of Aircraft: 8 Capacity: 267 Range: 13,350km Length: 63.6m Wingspan: 60.3m

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**AIRBUS A330-200** Number of Aircraft: 24 Capacity: 237-278 Range: 12,200km Length: 58.8m Wingspan: 60.3m

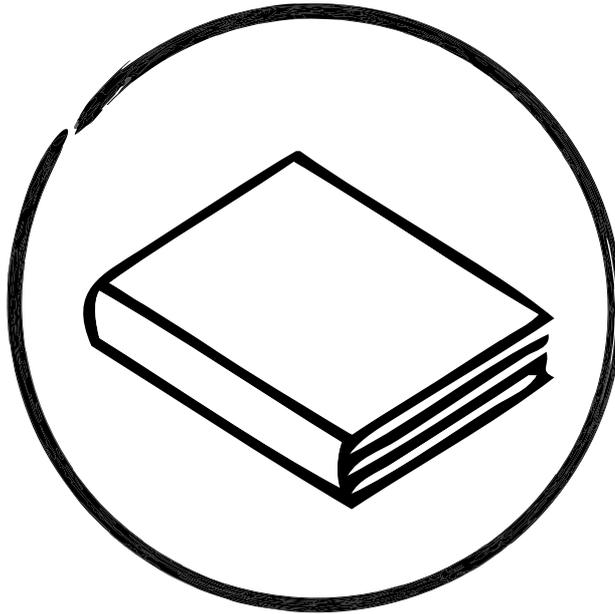
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**BOEING 747-400F/747-400ERF** Number of Aircraft: 1/2 Range: 8,232km/9,204km Length: 70.6m Wingspan: 64.4m

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AIRCRAFT NUMBERS AS OF 28/02/2013



# MARCH

**N**ext month we will interview the man behind one of the most interesting events to take place in Dubai this year, a furniture fair with a global reach. We talk to the man who predicted the US election results – a 34-year-old statistician named Nate Silver. We journey to the Japanese capital to focus on one of the most interesting bookstores in the world, a retail outlet that takes the concept of the bookstore to a new level. We talk to some of the authors coming to Dubai for the Emirates' Airline Festival of Literature, a highlight of a busy cultural month in the emirate, and we get a kitchen-eye view of the changing face of restaurants from one of the most respected men in the business. See you next month.



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