



ISSUE 54

# CAMPUS

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Illustration by Ansh Sirohi







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We are always open to contributors who want to polish their writing skills, or simply want to get their work out there. You can even write for our website blog. Best part is, you don't have to be at the office (unless you want to) to be a contributor. You will, however, have to meet us first in order for you to know some guidelines (yes, we have some) for our contributor programme.

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## ISSUE 54 | JUN '18 CONTENTS

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### 02: Grad Trip 101

Avoiding a disaster overseas

### 03: Planes, Trains & Automobiles

Popular ways to travel between cities

### 04: High Flying Career

Jobs Involving Travel

### 07: Free Education Abroad

Check out these overseas scholarships

### 08: Checking In

Unique hotels around the world

### 10: Horrors in the Sky

Terrible uniforms and inflight food

### 11: Comedy in the Sky

Airline Safety Cards

### 12: Weird Foods

...worth travelling for?

### 15: Ultimate Relationship Test

Travelling overseas

### 16: Bow, Shake, or Kiss?

How to greet people around the world

### 18: Romp in the Ruins

Saucy ancient sites



### REGULAR STUFF:

06: The List:

Superlative Travel

14: Cheat Sheet:

Student Travel Tips

20: Out & About:

21: Stress Relief





# GRAD TRIP IOI

## AVOIDING A DISASTER OVERSEAS

Grad trips are the new rite of passage for soon-to-be-adults in Singapore. I mean, did you really graduate if you didn't go on a grad trip? And as someone who has helped plan and bore witness to countless horror stories from grad trips gone wrong, here are some tips that could've prevented all the things that went wrong on a recent grad trip to Japan.



### Got money or not?

One of the biggest issues for a grad trip is money. Especially in this case, the group wanted to head to Japan for more than two weeks! Japan is one of the costliest places for a holiday. With an unlimited train pass that costs close to S\$300 and housing that can easily run up to S\$100 a night, it is best to go in a big group and split the cost. This way, you can have a comfortable place to stay with all the amenities you need, while keeping your spending as low as possible. Or you could consider capsule hotels (S\$40-60 per night) or hostels (S\$30-40 per night) if you intend to travel light.

For this trip, the group started their week in Osaka and then travelled to Tokyo; members of the group who brought around S\$2,000 in cash, excluding money for the Airbnb and plane tickets, were the most comfortable throughout the entire trip.

In order to bring enough, do a little research into the cost of everything you would like to do or buy so you can estimate how much you need per day and how much extra you would need for things like tours, shopping, food and nightlife. Most importantly, ensure you have some emergency buffer money. Also ensure that all your cards are activated for international use; otherwise, you will have no access to your money to enjoy all your dream destination has to offer.

### To jio or not to jio

The trip is only as good as the people you bring along. Since most of us are students and do not have the deep pockets to travel solo or in pairs, we will need to travel in packs. This allows you to buy tickets in bulk, cutting down the price of each ticket, and as mentioned above, share accommodation costs.

But be careful who you chose to bring along. These people will be around you for the entirety of this trip, 24 hours a day. Every little quirk that mildly irritated you in Singapore is going to increase tenfold there. And it can be the smallest things, like not keeping the toilet clean or texting all night. These annoying habits can start to build up for the duration of the trip and dampen the mood for the entire group. You will have to depend on one another and if you survive this trip, you might just be friends for life.

### Scheduled fun

Another helpful tip is to create an itinerary. Your schedule does not have to take into account every waking minute, but it has to include roughly what you would want to do during the trip and how to spread it all out. Everyone has their own expectations and desires for the trip, so keeping open communication is key to making sure everyone has the grad trip of their dreams.

There are entire apps dedicated to helping you plan and share your trip, like TripIt. It's a free app (iOS and Android) which acts as a central app, not only for your plans and schedules, but also for storing all your tickets, passes and even GPS routes. This information can be shared with your trip mates, so planning and purchases can be a group effort rather than being dependent on one person to get it all done. If this app doesn't work for you, consider other apps like Google Trips, Roadtrippers, Packing Pro and Skiplagged, to name a few.

From here, it would be a lot easier to plan a budget and ensure everyone knows what to expect. Remember to keep the schedule light, as it allows for impromptu adventures and improvisation as you go along. But do not neglect planning an itinerary as that could leave you bored or rushing for time. Plus, an itinerary helps reduce the mental load while on the trip, allowing you to really take it all in.

### Take everything in your stride

Most importantly, go for the trip with the right mentality. Know that people will mess up, things will go wrong, and plans will change, but it doesn't mean the trip was a failure. It just means the trip had other plans for you. So, take any changes in stride, and who knows, you might embark on an adventure you never expected.



# PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES:

## POPULAR WAYS TO TRAVEL BETWEEN CITIES

Travelling is all about being on the go, on the lookout for something different. As the adage goes: "Travel is about the journey, not the destination." Other than going around on a plane or a tour bus, here are some better ways to get between cities or places of interest:

### By boat

If your holiday involves island hopping, what better way to do so than by going around on a boat? Greece, for example, has many ferry operators to bring you from island to island. In Hong Kong too, it is cheaper to travel on the ferry than on the subway while getting from Hong Kong island to Kowloon or Lantau Island. The best part about water transportation? No time wasted on traffic jams!



### By bicycle

With the increase in popularity of bike-sharing worldwide, we can now explore cities on a bicycle with more convenience than ever. In Taiwan, biking around the island is a popular activity amongst locals and international cycling enthusiasts. Other than bike-friendly Taiwan, Amsterdam and Belgium are also known as the cycling capitals. These countries all have scenic cycling routes - some away from the bustle of traffic - which you can follow for an eco-friendly self-guided tour.



### By train

For most people (especially students), travelling across Europe is easiest - and most scenic - by rail, thanks to the extensive rail network and discounted rail pass system which makes it cheaper and more convenient to travel between cities. As the world's fourth most popular destination among international tourists, China's railway culture still remains the backbone of the populous nation's transport system. With an extensive and integrated network, you can get to all cities by rail. Increasingly, high-speed rail is shortening the time taken to get to major cities. For example, a train ride from Beijing to Shanghai now takes no more than five hours. You could also hop onto a train to Pyongyang, North Korea from Beijing!



### By self-drive

If you have a driver's license and want to cover the maximum distance within a short period of time, a self-drive is your best bet. As online navigation gets more advanced, one can drive around like a local. Popular countries for self-drive are Australia and New Zealand, with scenic spots that you can enjoy along the drive. In Asia, destinations like Hokkaido and Jeju also allow you to self-drive on a shorter haul holiday!



### On foot

Forrest Gump ran around the USA for six months. If you have the same level of perseverance and want to take on this challenge, there are a few suggested routes shared by people who have travelled across the USA on foot on the internet. A non-stop jog from the west to the east took a lady six months to complete. If your holiday is slightly shorter, perhaps you can consider walking from the sixth to the last Forrest Gump stop (there is a signboard along the road where he stopped).



Forrest Gump says this about running: "My Momma always said you got to put the past behind you before you can move on. And I think that's what my running was all about." The same applies to travelling. It is all about the anticipation and making new discoveries. Travel around on different modes of transportation and keep moving on!



BY YIN LOON

# JOBS THAT TAKE YOU PLACES

## HIGH FLYING CAREERS



Being that we live on a tiny island, most of us love to travel. Most of us only get to travel once in awhile, perhaps on school trips or summer breaks. But what if we can make travelling part of our career? We're not talking about travel bloggers, or even airline crew. Here are some jobs – or 'career paths' – that may entice you if you've got a thirst for adventure.

### SALES

Mention 'sales job' and watch millennials flee. However, a sales job can not only be lucrative, it can take you places, literally. Selling is an instrumental skill in any industry – besides, you're already 'selling' yourself on your public Instagram page. Depending on the company, a sales job can fly you worldwide, with all expenses paid – plus commission for any sales you close. Imagine selling airplanes to airlines, pharmaceuticals to emerging markets, or ice cream to a chain of cafes.

**CAVEAT:** You may get to travel so much that you can't remember where you are when you wake up one morning.

### INSTRUCTOR

If you really dig skiing, cycling, diving, or even yoga, why not become an instructor and watch newbies struggle? These jobs are ideal for those who are allergic to offices – plus, everyone will think you're cool. You can find seasonal jobs (teach skiing in winter, diving in summer), working at slopes and dive sites around the world, especially if you can handle languages that the locals don't understand (ie Chinese skiers in Canada). Just because you're in Singapore doesn't mean you can't make sports a career.

**CAVEAT:** Your parents will probably constantly pester you about getting a 'real' job.

### ART BUYER

Definitely a sexier title than 'merchandise', the lucrative world of fine arts in Singapore is an industry that sounds like a myth – this means if you've got a passion and the eye for art, you can travel the world buying artwork for clients such as the National Museum. You'll be a regular at auction houses in cities like Paris and Milan, and can be seen sipping champagne at museum fundraisers around the world. Who says studying fine arts is a waste of money?

**CAVEAT:** Buying art is a lot more complicated than buying anything on Carousell – you don't want to end up buying million-dollar fakes.

### MUSICIAN

From professional violinists to buskers and even YouTubers, music is a universal language that can take you places. If you're a virtuoso or a full-time part of a symphony orchestra, you may travel regularly to perform around the world. Some buskers can even travel around the world earning money along the way. If you're moderately successful as a musician, you can even make appearances at clubs or festivals across the globe. If you're really successful, you get to go wherever you want.

**CAVEAT:** Breaking into this industry is so hard, even struggling artists have sympathy for you.

### TEACHER/PROFESSOR

Some of you have probably taught English in rural communities across Asia as part of your CCA, but even career teachers can pack in a lot of travel – there are plenty of grants for teachers to travel the world to enhance their teaching skills. Some institutions even post their teachers abroad regularly, and teaching skills are transferable worldwide. If you become a hotshot professor, you may even find yourself doing lucrative lecture circuits around the world.

**CAVEAT:** Managing students can be challenging – but managing their parents may require some knowledge of magic spells.

### FOREIGN AFFAIRS STAFF

If travelling the world on the government's dime sounds great, consider a job with the foreign affairs office – it may not sound as sexy as being a spy, but you'll get job security, with great benefits and pay. You'll be able to travel the world as you get transferred regularly – although you won't get a say in where you'll be posted, at least your living expenses will be taken care of.

**CAVEAT:** You'll need the qualifications and you'll have to slowly work your way up the office ladder – only to find that you'll probably be posted to somewhere like Bafam for 3 years.

### ENERGY INDUSTRY

Everybody knows that being in the energy industry is pretty lucrative – because we all need power for wifi – and the industry needs more people like engineers and environmental experts. Many roles in the industry offer the opportunity to travel and work in unusual places – you could be inspecting oil rigs in the middle of nowhere, or creating renewable energy solutions in developing countries. Since energy is a key commodity worldwide, the world is your oyster.

**CAVEAT:** You could lose all your hair within years of working in this competitive industry.

### HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

Hospitality is a booming industry, with hotels popping up all over the globe – just see how many Instagrammers are promoting them. Job options are varied – there's hotel management (for you business types), guest relations (for you social types), and F&B (everyone needs chefs). Work at an international chain or a cruise ship, and chances are you'll be sent to different locations around the world regularly.

**CAVEAT:** As a service industry, expect long hours and hard work serving people who love to complain.

### ARMED FORCES

Those who dread NS would avoid this career with a 100-foot pole, but if you like the idea of being part of the military full-time, it can take you places in the government. Plus, you'll get to learn a lot of things – from driving tanks to earning a degree – for free. Being in the armed forces gets you travelling – Singapore sends full-time SAF members to train in countries like Australia, New Zealand, Germany, and the US, so you could be posted to these countries and look cool in uniform.

**CAVEAT:** Working in the SAF means you could be in a sausage party the company of mostly men, most of the time.

### COSPLAYER

Many people have a misconception that all cosplayers are huge nerds who're more invested in nerd-doms – and sewing costumes – than other humans, and that they'll either be single forever (if it's a guy) or are attention seekers (if it's a girl in skimpy outfits). But, did you know that some popular cosplayers regularly travel the world on all-expenses-paid gigs, on top of being paid appearance fees at comic conventions? Some even have side gigs streaming their videos, while others model for companies looking to cash in on their millions of followers.

**CAVEAT:** You'll forever be branded a professional nerd and may not be taken seriously.

### SCIENTIST

If you've always been curious about our planet, and think you're the next David Attenborough, a career in natural sciences can have you swimming with sharks in Australia as a marine biologist, or stalking a lion in the Serengeti as a zoologist. Scared of wildlife? Then dig up bones in Africa as a paleontologist or travel the world to find dirt samples as a geoscientist. Or work as a researcher, with job opportunities in fields like mining and renewable energy, most of which involve plenty of travel.

**CAVEAT:** You'll need to have the smarts and passion for your field and all that research may make you the most boring person at parties.



Some of these are more a string of part-time gigs than full-time jobs, but there are also plenty of other industries suited for travelling freelancers – think designers, photographers, writers, translators, and the like. These are just some of the industries that could get you travelling while working, making the world truly your oyster.

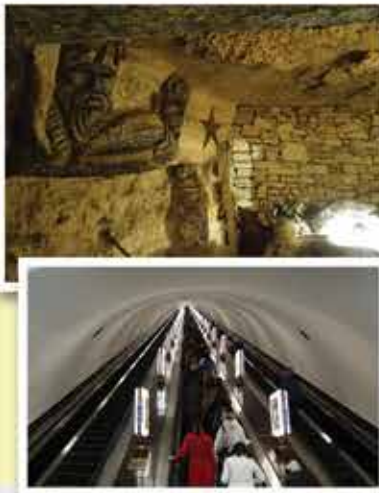


# THE LIST

TRAVEL THE WORLD'S  
LONGEST, BIGGEST, TALLEST

## LONGEST CATACOMB SYSTEM: Odessa, Ukraine

You may have heard of the catacombs in Paris and Rome, but the one in Odessa is the longest at 2500km (ie. distance from Singapore to Hong Kong). Dating back to at least the 1600s, a girl got lost in the catacombs in 2005 and died after 3 days of wandering the tunnels. It took police 2 years to find her body. Today, parts of the tunnel are open to the public, who can visit only on guided tours since not even Google Maps navigate these tunnels.



## TALLEST BUILDING: Burj Khalifa, Dubai

It can be hard to stay at the top, as the title of 'tallest building' shifts hands so often. The current winner is Dubai's Burj Khalifa (828m) with 163 floors. The next tallest building is a much shorter Shanghai Tower (632m) with 128 floors. However, the title for 'tallest' might shift to the 167-storey Jeddah Tower (1,008m) in Saudi Arabia upon completion - but, construction has halted since early 2018 (with only 63 floors built) and its fate is unknown.



## LONGEST FLIGHT: Singapore to New York

The throne for longest flight has passed hands quite a few times. Contenders included Dubai to Auckland on Emirates (14,201km / 17h), Perth to London on Qantas (14,500km / 17h20m), and Doha to Auckland on Qatar (14,535 km / 18h). There will be a new winner on 11 October 2018 when Singapore Airlines relaunched - it used to run the same route until 2013 - its Singapore to New York flight, covering 16,700km in under 19 hours. It only has Business and Premium Economy Class seats though.



With mankind's constant urge to create the longest, biggest, deepest, and tallest, here's a list of places and travel options that are at the top of their game. From ancient tunnels to gleaming modern skyscrapers and deepest metro stations, these are some superlative man-made wonders that make for great travel photo ops. And perhaps bragging rights.

## DEEPEST SUBWAY STATION: Arsenalna Station, Kiev, Ukraine

The deepest subway station is Arsenalna (105.5m underground), part of Kiev Metro's Sviatoshynsko-Brovarska Line when it opened in 1960. To board the train, you have to take 2 long escalators to the bottom, taking 5 minutes just to descend. However, the deepest subway track belongs to North Korea: the Pyongyang Metro system has an average depth of 110m underground which keeps its temperature a constant 18°C year-round. As a comparison, the deepest MRT station in Singapore is Bencoolen, which is 43m underground.

## LONGEST PLACE NAME: Hawkes Bay, New Zealand

The spelling of this hill in Hawkes Bay has either 85 or 92 letters. The short version is Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaungahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu (it's in the Guinness Book of Records) which means "The place where Tamatea, the man with the big knees, who slid, climbed, and swallowed mountains, known as land eater, played his flute to his loved one." The second place goes to Welsh village with a 58-letter name, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch, meaning "Saint Mary's Church in the hollow of white hazel near a rapid whirlpool and the Church of Saint Tysilio near the red cave."



## BIGGEST CRUISE SHIP: Symphony of the Seas

Launched this year, Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas is currently the world's largest cruise ship, and its 18 decks can house a whopping 6,780 passengers (it's at least 4 times the size of Suntec City Mall). It's split into 7 "neighbourhoods" with a spread of features, including a laser tag facility, a 10-storey slide, a surf simulator, zipline, hi-speed waterslides, an aqua theatre, and even its own escape room. It's a whole city on the sea that sails around the Mediterranean and Caribbean.



# Want Free Education Abroad?

Check Out These Overseas Scholarships

## International Summer School, University of Oslo (Norway)

This would be the perfect scholarship to consider if you are hoping to do a summer exchange abroad. The University of Oslo, a leading European university, is generously offering International Summer School scholarships to academically outstanding students for its Bachelor's and Master's programmes. Up to 50 outstanding applicants will receive a scholarship which covers tuition fees, reading materials, as well as a transportation card. Summer school courses usually run from early June to mid-August.

## South Korean Government Undergraduate Scholarship Program

Love seeing your dreamy Korean oppas in drama series? Pursue an undergraduate or postgraduate degree in the land of kimchi, and you just might be seeing them around campus.

You can apply for the South Korean Government Undergraduate Scholarship Program, which provides funding for international students to pursue 4-year courses at designated universities. Singaporean students who are below the age of 25 are eligible to apply for undergraduate programmes, while applicants for master's programmes should be below the age of 40. Applicants must have decent academic standing and must undergo a year of intensive Korean language studies, in order to qualify. The scholarship covers airfare, tuition fees, medical allowance, resettlement allowance and even printing costs for dissertation.

## Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship

Let's begin with Asia - the Joint Japan/World Bank scholarship offers fully-funded scholarships to international students from World Bank member countries. The good news? Singapore has been a member of the organisation since 1966, so Singaporean students are eligible to apply. The scholarship covers airfare, tuition fees, allowance for living expenses and study materials, as well as basic medical insurance. However, as the scholarship aims to promote development-related studies, this scholarship is applicable for selected postgraduate courses and universities only. Applicants may select from a range of 14 partner programs at institutions in the US, Africa and Japan. Some courses available for the 2018 batch of applicants include Master's in Agricultural Systems and Engineering, Master's in Food Engineering and Bioprocess Technology, Master's in Urban Environmental Management, and Master's in Regional and Rural Development Planning, among others.

## Denys Holland Scholarship at University College London

UCL is a leading public research university located in the Bloomsbury area of central London. The university was ranked top in Research Excellence Framework, and is offering scholarships to international undergraduate students who require financial support to pursue their studies at the institution.

Students are eligible for the scholarship as long as they hold a valid UCL Student Number - which means once they qualify for the institution, they can apply for the scholarship. The great thing about the Denys Holland Scholarship is that it applies to all Bachelor's Degree Programmes in any discipline offered at the university, and is worth £9,000 per year for three years of study.

## Alternative options - A's Ain't For Everyone

Don't think you can make the cut for an overseas scholarship? Fret not - your dreams are not dashed yet. Some countries offer tuition that is nearly free, or affordable, at least, for international students.

- In Germany, for example, there are no tuition fees for both German students as well as international students, at the undergraduate level. Administrative costs are still payable to the universities, however it is quite a small fee which typically does not exceed \$5400 per annum.

- In Iceland, you will find that there are no fees at public universities, while private universities charge comparatively lower rates versus other countries. Students need to pay a registration fee, which should not exceed \$5400.

- A value for money option closer to home would be Taiwan - tuition fees at the National Taiwan University, the country's leading tertiary institution, should only set you back about \$55,600 per annum.



# Checking In

## QUIRKY HOTELS AROUND THE WORLD

By Rachel Lim

People all over the world are getting increasingly outrageous with their hotel ideas. From living with giraffes to experiencing a night as a prisoner — are these hotels a yay or a nay?

### Glamping 2.0

These hotels take the trendy phenomenon of glamping to a whole new level, whether they're situated in lush greenery or the white of winter.



#### LIVE LIKE A SMURF

Always wanted to live in a tree stump like a troll? Now's your chance. Located right next to the Göta canals, **Norrgården Hotell & Konferens** in Sweden welcomes you to live like a Smurf in tree stumps and mushrooms crafted by chainsaw artists with wood and concrete.

**See also:** Experience hobbit life in **Hobbit House** (Baan Suan Noi) in Khao Yai, Thailand which recreates the entire village from the LOTR series.



#### SLEEP IN A BUBBLE

Literally live in your own bubble at the **Attrap Reves Hotel** in France. Nestled in the countryside of Allainch, these transparent domes will allow you to sleep under the stars and be one with nature with all the comforts of a hotel room. It's one of plenty of bubble hotels popping up all over the world.

**See also:** Closer to home, Australia's **Bubbletent** is located in a canyon just outside Sydney, where stargazing is spectacular.



#### GLASS IGLOO

**Kakslauttanen Arctic Resort** in Finland is the best place to capture a breathtaking view of the Northern Lights. With its glass igloo and log cabins, you can stay warm and toasty as you take in the enchanting beauty of the abundant Arctic nature.

**See also:** Kyushu's **Aso Farmland** occupies a huge compound, where hotel rooms are individual dome igloos of various colours.



### Hotels au naturel

Forget about marble floors and porcelain vases — just as how we'd like most of our food to be nowadays, these hotels here are as organic as they can get.

#### FROZEN

Made entirely with snow and ice, this ephemeral work of art in Quebec, Canada is completely redesigned and rebuilt every winter (unfortunately not by Elsa). **Hotel de Glace** is the only one of its kind in North America. You definitely don't need ice cubes in your cocktail here because even their glasses are made of ice!

**See also:** The world's first ice hotel is the **Icehotel** in Jukkasjärvi, Sweden.

#### SALTY SLUMBER

Stay here for a night at your own risk because this entire hotel is built with salt. Yes, salt, like the seasoning (but please don't lick the walls). Everything in **Palacio De Sal** in Bolivia is made of salt: bed frames, sofas, coffee tables even their golf course! Located at the edge of Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat, it's not the only salty hotel: there's another one called the **Luna Salada**.

### One with Nature

Hotel stays aren't all about the bubble baths and free gym access. These hotels will bring you a step closer to Mother Nature.

#### BEING A CAVEMAN

In **Kokopelli's Cave** in New Mexico (USA), you don't have to sleep on the hard ground and make your own fire just to experience life as a caveman. We have clearly come a long way from those prehistoric times as this cave is richly furnished with a bedroom, a living room, a kitchen and dining area and even a Jacuzzi tub!

**See also:** At 155m, the world's deepest hotel suite is housed in a cave in **Sala Silvermine**, Sweden.

#### WILD LIFE

Hidden in the indigenous forest in the Langata suburb of Nairobi (Kenya), **Giraffe Manor** is home to both humans and giraffes. Experience life alongside the resident Rothschild's giraffes when they drop in, sometimes poking their long graceful necks into the windows of the historic manor home in hopes of a treat, before retreating to their forest sanctuary.

**See also:** Set in a private wildlife enclosure in Canberra (Australia), **Jamala Wildlife Lodge's** Giraffe Treehouses have balconies where you can feed the resident giraffe.

### Probably uncomfortable but still pretty cool

These places may not be as comfy as your luxurious 5-star hotels but they will certainly leave a deep impression!

#### BUNKING WITH INMATES

Been a law-abiding citizen all your life but always wanted a taste of being bad? **Karostas Cietums** in Latvia can certainly fulfill your dream. Spend the night in this supposedly haunted prison, fully equipped with iron beds and prison meals. For an extra €2, you can even be treated like a prisoner!

**See also:** Among a number of prison-turned-accommodations, Canada's **HI-Ottawa Jail Hostel** is housed in a 150-year old prison featuring functioning gallows.

#### BEDTIME READING

Finally, a library you can sleep in without being chased out by the librarian. However, the **Book and Bed Hotel** chain has several locations across Japan, and has beds for you to doze off on... literally in a bookshelf. Separated by curtains, each cubicle in the bookshelf has its own reading light and collection of books. Single bunk beds are from ¥4,000 a night depending on location, and are chargeable by the hour in the day.

**See also:** The **Commons Hotel** in Minneapolis has resident "book butlers" who deliver guests their choice of reading materials.

#### PIPE DREAMS

Constructed from repurposed, incredibly robust drain pipes, **Das Parkhotel** in Austria and Germany are definitely not for the claustrophobic! However, they do provide you with lights and proper mattresses, which is probably all that can fit in the tiny barrel. Also, this hotel has a "pay as you wish" system where customers leave any amount they want.

**See also:** Rooms at the **Matices Hotel de Barricas** in Tequila, Mexico are actually housed in oversized barrels — with the added advantage of tequila tastings on-site.

### Tacky Architecture

From beagles (no, it's not made of beagles) to construction cranes — there are indeed some pretty weird and bizarre-looking hotels in the world.

#### IN THE BELLY OF THE BEAST

It has beds. It has breakfast. But unlike other B&Bs out there, this one is shaped like a beagle. Colloquially known as **Sweet Willy** by local residents, the **Dog Bark Park Inn** in Idaho, USA stands 30 feet tall. You will be greeted with many dog-theme furniture once you enter the belly of the beast (literally). Sadly, the only thing lacking is — ironically — an actual beagle, or any dog, for that matter.

**See also:** In Australia, there's a **Holiday Inn** that's shaped like a crocodile — from the air.

#### GROUNDLED SUITES

If you think Singapore Airlines A380 suites are the best there is, think again. **Costa Verde Hotel** in Costa Rica has made a Boeing 727 its luxury suite. Don't be fooled by how it looks like it just suffered a crash landing. This two-bedroom suite is fully outfitted with polished wooden frame beds and exquisite teak furniture.

**See also:** You can stay in a 1950s Bristol freighter, "one of the last allied planes out of Vietnam" in New Zealand's **Woodlyn Park**.

#### LOFTY ASPIRATIONS

Stationed in a former harbour right in Amsterdam's hub of art, culture and business, **Crane Hotel Faralda** is known to be an exclusive hotel for only the biggest names. Its three double-storied luxuriously designed suites still sometimes turn when the wind blows, since they're set 50m high within a former harbour crane.

**See also:** Yokohama's **Bayside Marina Hotel** comprises several luxury double-storey containers which are set by the bay.



### Fast forward to the future

The future is now, even when it comes to staying in a hotel. Check out these futuristic high-tech hotels that will surely impress!

#### DOMO ARIGATO, MR.ROBOTO

Say goodbye to check-in delays and heavy luggage lifting! Introducing state-of-the-art technology, **Henn na Hotel** in Tokyo (with more to open across Japan) is the world's first hotel staffed by robots. Imagine being entertained by robotic fish while getting checked-in by animated dinosaurs. You don't even need a key card to enter your room, thanks to their facial recognition scanners. While no other hotel is fully-staffed by robots, you can see robot staff at hotel chains like **Hotel Jen**, **M Social** and **Yotel**.

#### SPINNING ROOM

Turkey's **Marmara Antalya** is probably not the best place to stay in if you suffer from motion sickness. This hotel has a cylindrical annex building which provides a 360° panoramic view of majestic mountains and the vast Mediterranean Sea as it constantly rotates with the help of 6 electric motors. Imagine waking up to a new view each morning.

**See also:** Slated to complete in 2020, Dubai's 80-storey **Dynamic Hotel** will feature individually-rotating floors.





BY DARRYL GOH

# HORRORS IN THE SKY:

Uniforms and food that'll make you go 'what were they thinking?'

The airplane is considered to be one of the greatest inventions of all time. However, we take this technological marvel for granted at times because of bland in-flight experiences. Whether you are served exotic 'mystery meats' during in-flight meals or feel sorry for flight attendants who have to don tacky uniforms, it adds to the many reasons people dread about flying. Here are some airlines that may have missed the mark when it comes to inflight uniforms and meals:

## Austrian Airlines

Red represents passion and love, but seeing too much of it might just give you a headache. Female flight attendants from Austrian Airlines are dressed in red from neck scarf right down to their stockings and shoes (yes, this includes the 3-piece top consisting of innerwear, blouse and blazer which are all in the same shade of red).

Red uniforms are also worn by other airlines like Aeroflot and Virgin Atlantic, but superstitious Asian folk must be wondering what auspicious occasion Austrian Airlines' flight stewardesses are attending, given how they are just one red mask short of becoming the red Power Ranger. Let's hope they're not on the ground during a bull run!

## VietJet

Just because you are furthest away from a pool of water does not mean you cannot rock a bikini, according to VietJet. Nicknamed 'Bikini Airline' by some, marketing material for this airline consists of scantily clad 'air stewardesses' who are really just professional models.

Of course, it is all a gimmick as actual VietJet flights do not typically feature air stewardesses dressed in bikinis - they are merely selling this fantasy. Ironically, even the prettiest VietJet air stewardess is unable to pull off the standard uniform, which appears to be a horrible camp instructor-boy scout cosplay mashup.

Call them controversial and sexist, but it seems like VietJet is having the last laugh, as its founder is currently Vietnam's second richest person. VietJet's rapid expansion and domination of the low-cost travel industry is solid proof that sex sells.

## Aegean Airlines

In 2017, a picture of a 'vegetarian meal' from Aegean Airlines was uploaded to Reddit and went viral. At first glance it seemed like Aegean Airlines hastily stuffed some vegetables from other meal options into a box and tried to pass it off as a vegetarian option, but upon further research, the meal actually fit the description of the 'vegetarian raw' option on the airline's website.

The airline did apologise, but not for the meal's content; the Redditor was actually served the vegetarian raw option instead of vegetarian oriental, which was, according to the website, vegetarian food prepared Chinese style. No thanks, I will stick to week-old breads from the supermarket instead.

## UNIFORMS GALORE

Uniforms are the best way to advertise an airline's personality, and professionalism. Unfortunately, not all airlines got the memo.

## Hooters Air

This would either be at the bottom or the top of your list, depending on your cup of tea. The relatively casual attires of budget airlines do not even come close to the infamous outfits of this American restaurant chain, which leave little to your imagination.

Before you get overly excited and look for the first available flight to book, operations for Hooters Air ceased in 2006 after just 3 years of being in business. Call the business ahead of its time or an abomination, but it will forever be immortalised in 'worst in flights' lists such as this.

## DINING IN THE AIR

Part and parcel of providing a food service is to ensure all dietary requirements of customers are met. Sadly, with limited storage space in an airplane's food compartment, some meals seem more like April Fool's jokes than actual in-flight food.

## Air Koryo

Most airlines choose to serve in-flight food which is unique to the airline's origin country, but Air Koryo from North Korea is an exception. The state-owned airline ditched bibimbap and cold noodles for an unlikely food item - a western-style burger.

The Koryo burger has a reputation for being the very definition of bad in-flight food, leading some to book an Air Koryo flight for the sole purpose of trying the legendary burger. Countless reviews online warn about the bland, seemingly unidentifiable meat patty, which has contributed to Skytrax consistently naming it the 'worst airline in the world'.

Perhaps Mr Kim Jong-un should offer the Koryo burger as a diplomatic gift to the US. After all, nothing quite satisfies the POTUS like a good ol' Big Mac.



# COMEDY IN THE SKY

## Airline Safety Cards

By Nina Gan



How many of us actually pay any attention to the onboard safety instruction cards that are tucked into the seat pocket in front of our seats? While there's nothing funny about an airplane emergency, you may find that these safety instruction cards can sometimes be unintentionally hilarious when it comes to their illustrations. Because these cards have to be easily understood and serious, you get the feeling that sometimes the illustrators try to slip in a bit of fun. Here are some actual inflight safety instruction cards from various airlines that are either mind-boggling, or are outright hilarious if you add your own captions. Next time you're on a flight, look out for those oft-forgotten cards for some free inflight entertainment.

### PLEASE DON YOUR LIFE VESTS

Life vests are an essential element when it comes to emergency evacuation on water, however, when it comes to donning a safety vest, you'll notice that most safety instruction cards seem to only depict women wearing them. It's as if they're trying to pass off life vests as part of women's couture like designer puffy scarves that can save lives. Male passengers don't need the help because they're part of the Navy SEAL and can handle the water, of course.



Introducing the 2018 life vest summer collection

And naturally, it's usually the women who don the life vests for children, because the men have probably already evacuated #DadsForLife. In any case, illustrations for kids being helped into life vests can be pretty awkward.



Looking fabulous in a life vest  
If you're a guy, your vest probably looks like beer  
It's not you, it's me, babe...  
Life vest levitates child - led by a string

### EXITING THE PLANE

When exiting the plane on those inflatable slides, you'll have to treat it as if you're jumping down a slide at a waterpark. This means you aren't allowed to hold up other paying customers by sitting down on it - you have to jump onto the slide like you mean business.



If possible, levitate  
She's got the right idea



Don't sit, jump onto the person in front of you  
Someone's enjoying the slide...

### OXYGEN MASKS WILL DROP



Father seen not helping at all!

There's an unspoken rule that men don't get to sit next to children on airplanes - even if they're related. In fact, men aren't even allowed to touch kids. This is because they aren't allowed to help children in any way; when oxygen masks are deployed, only women are allowed to put them on children.



Mother aids passed-out child  
This 'kid'...

### CHILDREN ON A PLANE

When it comes to children, it seems that only women are allowed to bring them onboard. Sometimes it seems as if children play the role of emotional support for female passengers.



Rubbing a baby's head will calm you  
Babies bring out the emotional side in women  
Wait, who does this baby belong to?

### JUST BIZARRE

Most safety cards have the same instructions for evacuation and flight preparation, but some airlines have illustrations that will leave you scratching your head.



Is that a cat in the overhead luggage bin?  
Why is this man (who looks like the pilot) wrapped like ET in a blanket?  
Random maintenance guy?





# Weird foods to travel for

Culture is what makes a country special, and food is an integral part of it. So whether you need the motivation to travel to a country, or a reason to avoid it, here are some delicacies that may help you decide.



## France Mimolette (mim-o-let)

Mimolette is a decadent, bright orange cheese. It's salty and dense, with sweet caramel undertones, and is nuttier the longer it's aged. Be sure to dust off the cheese mites at its rind before you begin, though. It pairs well with dessert wines or light reds like Pinot Noir. You can travel to France for this, but not America as it's been banned by the FDA.

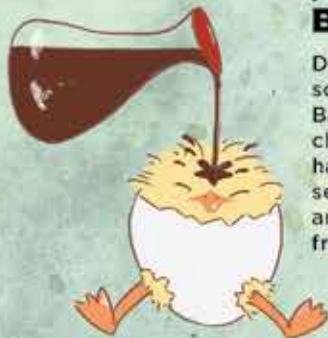
## Finland False Morel

Although it is enjoyed as a delicacy in other parts of the world, Finland is the only country brave enough to sell these fatal mushrooms fresh. They resemble the highly regarded "true morels", but being highly toxic, they come at a hefty price - no level of preparation can guarantee them being safe. They may not taste the best, but they're really just eaten for the adrenaline rush.



## Philippines Balut (bah-loo)

Do you like your eggs boiled, scrambled, or fertilised? Balut is a boiled duck or chicken egg containing a half-developed embryo seasoned with chili, garlic, and vinegar, and is eaten from the shell.



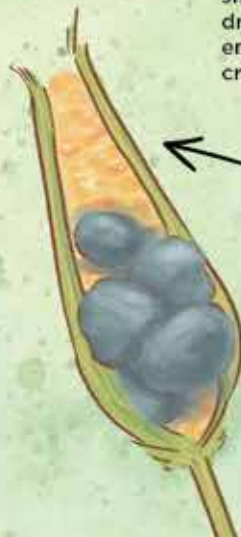
## India Chapra (chuh-pra)

"Chapra ki Chutney" (Chapra's chutney) is a hot, protein-packed chutney made with crushed, dried red ants and their eggs. Once you get over the burning sensation caused by the acidic ants, this chutney can complement any dosai.



## Zimbabwe Mopane Worms

These worms are the cigar-sized caterpillars of the Emperor moth. They are protein-packed snacks that can be eaten as dry crunchy chips or drenched in sauce. After squeezing out their entrails (which appear as green goo), these critters are dried out and ready to eat.



## Mexico Huitlacoche (whee-tala-coach-a)

This corn smut is a delicious disease that grows best on the ear of corn. Don't like what you hear? Well, it's also known as Mexican truffles, and is a delicacy that can be enjoyed with a wide variety of dishes from enchiladas to soups.



## Alaska Jellied Moose Nose

This is one jelly you don't want in party packs. The snout of a moose is boiled to remove the hairs, and then onions, garlic, and spices are added. It is then left to set into a jelly, and served chilled.



## Indonesia Paniki Manado

This fruit bat stew is prepared by the Minahasans from North Sulawesi. Made with coconut milk and ginger root, you're gonna wanna fly to Indonesia for this one.

## Argentina Cazuela de Llama

Although they are mostly known for their fur, these angry alpacas also make a great main course. Their meat is described to be similar to tender beef, but a little more intense and flavourful, especially when served as a casserole.



## USA and Canada Prairie Oysters

This appetiser has nothing to do with the sea, as it's found in Canada and the American West, where they're called Rocky Mountain Oysters. It is considered to be an aphrodisiac because nothing spells love more than deep-fried bull testicles.

## Turkey Tavuk Göğsü (tah-vook ger-soo)

Served to royalty during the Ottoman empire, this dessert is a rich milk pudding famous for its secret ingredient: ground chicken breast meat.



## Korea Sannakji (sun-uhk-jee)

These live octopi are the life of a party as they're eaten raw and wiggling. But be careful - they will fight for their lives as they try to choke you on their way down your throat.



## Tanzania Blood Milkshake

Blood and milk are a core part of the Maasai community's diet as their lives revolve around their cattle - for milk and blood. Cattle blood is drunk raw, cooked into a sausage, or during a special occasion, mixed with milk. The cow isn't killed for the blood - its jugular artery is nicked to 'milk' the blood.



## Peru Cuy (kew-y)

Guinea pigs make great pets. They are low maintenance and also cute enough to eat. Which is exactly what you can do if you visit the streets of Peru. They are mostly cooked whole on a spit, and apparently taste like chicken wings.



## Canada Akutaq (ah-goo-duck)

This "Eskimo Ice Cream" is an Inuit dessert made from animal fat (reindeer, caribou, or moose), berries, and snow. The kind of animal fat determines the flavour and texture, and aged yellow fat is preferred over fresh as it makes the ice cream fluffier and richer. Just because it's cold doesn't mean they'll skip out on ice cream.



Whenever there's a school holiday, it's very tempting to pack your bags and head out of the country. However, not everyone can afford to just travel at the drop of a hat. Here are some ways you can maximise your budget no matter where you decide to travel to, which being a student, help greatly.



## GET A UNIVERSAL STUDENT DISCOUNT CARD

Your student card gets you discounts locally, but get an ISIC card and you'll be able to take advantage of student discounts worldwide. Some discounts can be substantial. Even if a place doesn't advertise it, you can ask if they have student discounts.

## SIGN UP FOR MAILERS

Whether it's for flights or accommodation or a package deal, look out for time-sensitive promo codes which can drastically reduce costs especially if you're not travelling in a group. Sign up for airline and hotel mailers, and get first dibs on promos. In addition, check out last minute deals on sites like Skyscanner.

## BOOK WITH STUDENT-SPECIFIC TRAVEL AGENTS

Student-oriented travel agents like STA, Contiki, or CostSaver all have students in mind - most of the time, you'll end up saving on costs on group tours, as well as accommodation and airfare.



## GET A CREDIT CARD THAT REWARDS YOU FOR OVERSEAS SPENDING

If you haven't already gotten a student credit card (no minimum spend and no income required), you should - most will give you attractive rebates when you spend overseas. Plus, it's a safer way to pay than debit cards since there are traceable records of bills, and there's built-in consumer protection.

## LEARN ABOUT AIRLINES

While most people prefer direct flights, take advantage of multiple stopovers - which are cheaper - to maximise the number of countries you can visit if you have the time. Some airlines offer cheaper (or even free) accommodation in their home countries on stopovers. Depending on your airline, most will reimburse you if your flight is delayed for a certain length of time.

## PLAN AROUND NON-PEAK PERIODS

Avoid summer (July-August) and school holiday periods (June and December), and Fridays/Saturdays if you can, because prices can soar due to overwhelming demand.



# Cheat Sheet

By Tartan Ares Ow

#54 Student Travel Tips

## VOLUNTEER OR GO FOR INTERNSHIPS ABROAD

You can work and travel on an internship abroad - you can find paid internships via agencies (which you have to pay for), or via an AIESEC chapter (which is free) at your university. You can also go volunteer at programmes like WWOOF where you can exchange work for homestays.

## MAKE THE MOST OF SCHOOL AND MISSION TRIPS

Most students will have the opportunity to travel with a school or church group, whether it's simply for an educational trip or a volunteer-based one. It'll be the cheapest (and safest) way to get you travelling and learning a lot of things.



## USE FREE ONLINE TOOLS TO HELP PLAN CHEAPER TRIPS

Some apps help you look for free tours (ie. Around Me), while others let you check for lowest accommodation rates (ie. HotelsCombined). Some apps reward you for referring buddies or give you discounts for using their site (ie. Shopback).

## HOW TO PLAN A BUDGET

A lot of people let airfare prices make the decision as to the travel destination, but it may not be the most cost-effective. Some countries - like Greece - are cheaper on the ground than somewhere like Australia, so the costs do even out. Plus, check current exchange rates as some currencies do fluctuate dramatically, allowing you more bang for your buck if you plan carefully. The easiest way to control your travel budget is to go on all-inclusive packages which include your accommodation, dining, and even entertainment. These include going on cruises which double as modes of transport, as well as all-in resorts in places like Phuket or Bali, or brands like Club Med.

# THE ULTIMATE RELATIONSHIP TEST

## Travelling Overseas

BY MELISSA BERNARD

Travelling overseas is one of the top things to do with your significant other. Just ask any couple! After checking off items on your "things couples do" list, such as watching a movie, having a picnic or your first staycation, the next step would be to travel overseas together. Imagine the sun basking on your skin, the cool breeze weaving through your sea-salted locks and the sound of waves crashing down on the sand. Not to mention your partner walking over to you, bringing you an ice-cold piña colada. Seems like something straight out of a movie, right?



## Cursed Destinations

That may not be the case. Since the 1990s, the Narita Rikon, or 'Narita Divorces' has been steadily contributing to the increased divorce rates in Japan. This phenomenon has affected many young Japanese newlyweds, as they divorce within a year or two of going through Narita Airport after their honeymoon abroad. In more extreme cases, couples get divorced the minute they touch down. With their disparity in terms of experience overseas, the absence of personal space, combined with a lack of understanding of each other during their first trip spells a recipe for divorce. According to relationship experts in Japan, couples' idealistic expectations and lack of forthright communication manifest as major issues after marriage.

That being said, there are destinations known for "breaking up couples". According to research by sunshine.co.uk, Mexico is the number one destination where couples go to, only to break up shortly after. Another destination also known as the "breakup island" is Bali. Legend has it that when a prince and princess were visiting the island, they watched a romantic sunset at Tanah Lot temple and the unmarried couple then "became intimate". After which, the prince left the princess and refused to marry her. Filled with grief, she cursed all unmarried couples who visited the area to break up within six months.

Initially, I was skeptical about the Bali curse. Then it started happening to my friends, even though they never visited Tanah Lot temple specifically. My partner reassured me that all these were old wives' tales (mainly because he had his heart set on climbing a mountain over there) and I trusted him. A year later and we were planning for our next couple trip to Bali. And as I'm typing this, I can see him out of the corner of my eye working on something as well. It's safe to say the curse of Bali has not affected us!

## Compatibility and Compromise

What's the key to making it or breaking it? Although compatibility may be vital for couples in order to form stronger bonds while overseas, compromise is essential as well. Compatibility is the ability to co-exist without conflict and this will definitely be put to the test on your first trip together. There is a common saying that "marriage is all about compromise," and when tempers flare even during your planning process, this need to accommodate to your partner's wishes is crucial.

A close friend of mine said that she did not believe destinations were cursed, but a likely reason for breakups would be a difference in behavioural traits. When you prefer to lepak (relax) during a trip and your partner is the type to chiong (rush), this might actually pose a big problem to the relationship. Even if you both have differences in opinion, it's important that both parties have a say in making decisions.

Taking that first trip out of the country is an eye-opener for couples and it forces you to learn that there may be certain traits about your significant other that might not be to your liking. In some cases, it could be downright annoying! However, without these challenges in life, your relationship will not grow. So take that first step out of your comfort zone and see where life takes you!





# BOW, KISS, or hug?

Text by Nina Gan  
Illustrations by  
Akanksha Kariik

## How to greet people around the world

Hand-shaking is a common – and safe – way to say “hello” to people you don’t know throughout the world, although it’s not exactly the most personable way to greet someone especially if you’ve already met them once before and are friendly with each other.

However, the greeting methods vary from country to country, so greeting someone in Japan is completely

different from greeting someone in France. Who do you hug, how many kisses do you give, or how do you greet the opposite sex? Do you smile in Russia? All of these can be confusing, and sometimes terrifying when both of you turn to the same side, brush noses, sometimes lips, and bump heads. Or worse, get a stone-cold stare back.

So here’s a list of ways to greet people around the world.

## Cheek Kissing

In Western and Southern Europe (but not the north), most people greet social acquaintances with cheek-kissing – however, you don’t actually kiss the cheeks, you kiss the air as you touch cheeks together (usually right cheek first). Remember to make a proper “kiss” sound, and not say “muak”, as it’s considered rude to do so.

It’s usually done between two women or a woman and a man; men more commonly shake hands with each other but this is not the case in the Middle East, where cheek-kissing is usually done between men. Women – or one with higher social status – typically lead.



## Parts of Europe

In **France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Romania**, and the **UK**, two pecks are the most common form of kiss greetings. Called “faire la bise” (fair-la-bees) in France, there can be up to five pecks depending on region; oddly, hugging is awkward for French people. In Italy, men in the south sometimes cheek-kiss other men and also strangers. For Brits, cheek-kissing is usually only done in big cities as a posh custom.

People in the **Netherlands, Switzerland, Croatia**, and **Russia** prefer three kisses. In **Belgium**, it’s just one.

## Latin America

Single pecks the cheeks are the norm in **Mexico, Colombia** and **Ecuador**, where women are only kissed on the right cheek only. In **Brazil**, kisses range from one to three pecks. In **Argentina**, it’s a hug and a kiss.

## Middle East

In much of the **Middle East**, cheek kisses are between men only – usually following handshakes. In **Lebanon** and **Egypt** it’s not unusual for men to greet each other with 3 pecks. In **Jordan, Tunisia, Syria** and **Iran**, it’s more common for either a single or double peck on the cheeks.

When it comes to greeting women – especially if you’re a guy – it can be considered rude to have any contact, even shaking hands.

## Hugging

In some Western countries, people prefer to hug rather than kiss to greet someone they know. Hug only when the person you want to hug extends his or her arms – the most common way is to place one arm around their shoulder and the other just under their armpit. Don’t hug someone if you’re sweaty or stinky.

Between men, there’s the option of the ‘bro-hug’ (or pound hug) where you start with a handshake before drawing the other person in for a one-armed hug; the only rule here is, no groin contact.



## Parts of Europe

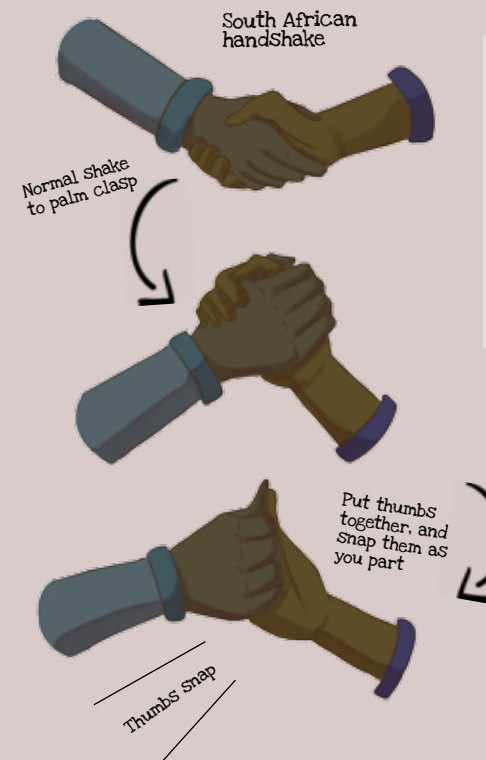
People in Northern Europe, like **Germany** and **Sweden** prefer hugging over kissing. In the case of Germany, sometimes hand shakes are safer.

## North America

In much of the **USA** and **Canada**, handshakes are still the norm, but hugging is preferred among closer friends. The bro-hug is popular among male friends. People in Quebec practise “un bec” – a single peck on the cheek.

## Australia

**Australians** are very informal, and close friends may hug, back-slap (for guys) or kiss one another on the cheek, while others may simply offer a nod.



## Hand Gestures

Across parts of Asia, most greetings don’t involve any touching at all. The most common is the hand gestures, usually with two palms placed together as a sign of respect. If a handshake is in order, the grip is much limper than those you encounter in the West. In parts of Africa, handshakes are still the norm, but there are various methods depending on which area you’re in, and some can be very tough to pull off (and remember) so just let your friend lead.

## Africa

In Africa, handshakes are the most preferred greeting in most countries, and the method varies greatly. The rule of thumb is to use the right hand only.

In **South Africa**, handshakes between men are a bit tricky: with your other hand on top of your elbow, start with a normal handshake, followed by a thumb clasp, then move back to the normal handshake and end with a thumb snap – when both thumbs come together to snap (yes, with sound) – before putting your hand to your heart.

In **Ghana**, you sort of slap the other person’s outstretched hand and as you draw away, your middle fingers come together and come apart with an audible snap (snap your fingers). In **Rwanda**, when greeting friends, most prefer to hug and/or cheek-kiss.

## South & Southeast Asia

**Thais** greet each other with a “wai”, where you press your hands together as if you’re praying, and then slightly bow so that your thumbs slightly touch your chin and your fingertips reach your forehead.

In **India**, the prayer hand gesture is similar – you also tilt your head forward and say “namaste”.



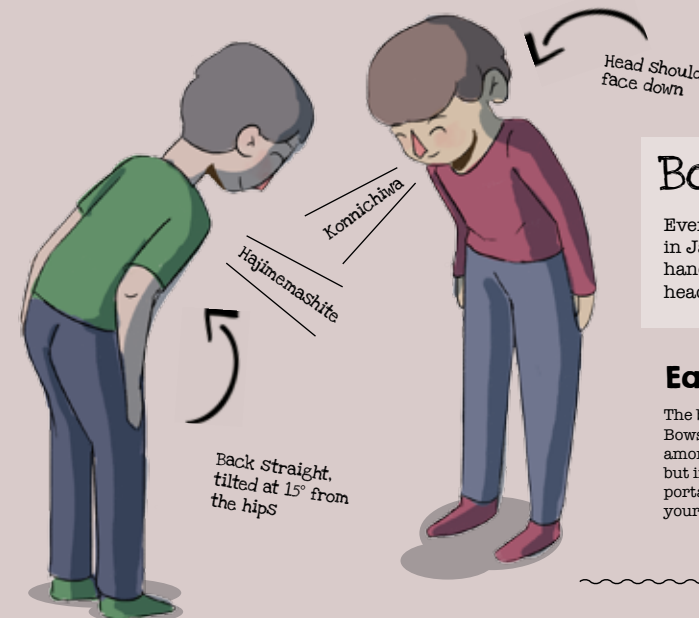
## Bowing

Everyone’s familiar with bowing as a form of greeting in East Asia, especially in Japan and Korea. It isn’t popular these days in China and Vietnam, where handshakes are the norm. But even bowing has its nuances – do you bow your head only, or do you bow 45° from your waist, and who do you bow to?

## East Asia

The bow is the standard greeting in **Japan**. Bows differ depending on the occasion; among peers, you can just nod your head but if it’s an older person or someone important, you should bow at least 15° from your waist (with a straight back).

In **Korea**, it’s also acceptable to nod your head among peers, and in a formal setting it’s common to bow before a handshake (only among men, as women don’t initiate a handshake), with the left hand supporting the right wrist as a sign of respect.



## Face Greeting

Some traditional greetings still prevail among Inuit tribes – usually involving very close facial contact. This is probably easier than shaking thick-mittened hands. The “Eskimo kiss” is the most common, involving rubbing the tips of their noses (side to side) with each other. A variation is the “hong” which is done by pressing together one’s nose and forehead with the companion’s.



If in doubt, wait for the other party to initiate the first move. Once you’ve gotten the correct form of greeting, saying goodbye is easy – it’s exactly the same way you greeted each other.

## Arctic Circle and New Zealand

Inuits in the Arctic Circle – from **Greenland** to **Canada** – use the “Eskimo kiss” to greet each other. Among really close friends and family, they do the “kunik”, where the greeter puts their nose and top lip on

the cheek or forehead of their companion and breathe in. The Maori people in **New Zealand** use the “hong” – pressing one’s nose and forehead to the companion – to welcome travellers into their village.



# Romp in the Ruins: Saucy Ancient Sites

by Nina Gan

If you're the type that's squeamish about seeing anything to do with copulation, then read no further. But, if you're the Indiana Jones/Lara Croft type who loves exploring unique ancient sites around the world, then look no further than these places that come with an R-rating - aka 'don't bring your parents'.

Some of these sites may have saucier stuff than allowed in our magazine stands, yet they were once dedicated to sacred deities or are meant for good luck, while others are mere records of daily life dating back thousands of years. These monuments remind you that even in the days before the internet, folks in the past knew how to entertain themselves.

## Titillating Temples:

### KHAJURAHGO GROUP OF MONUMENTS (MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA)

The Khajuraho temples are an architectural wonder - filled to the brim with exquisite carvings of Hindu gods like Shiva, Vishnu and Ganesha - and hundreds of explicit sculptures of people doing devious carnal things. Built between 900-1050AD, this UNESCO site is one of India's best preserved temples, and is most famous for its '50 Shades of Reliefs'.

Today, only 22 of its 85 temples remain. The best-preserved cluster is the Western Group - in particular, the Kandariya Mahadeva with its central spire and 80 pinnacles decorated with delicate carvings. Look closely at the bas-reliefs on the facade, and the frisky figures, while small in number, are about as hardcore as you get. You have couples, groups, and even animals thrown into what seems to be a 3D version of the kama sutra.

Although theories vary wildly, nobody really knows what the carvings represent. Were they worshipping fertility, reincarnation, or simply being naughty?



### CANDI SUKUH (NGAROGYOSO, INDONESIA)

As you enter this 15th century Hindu temple complex, situated 900m above the Solo plain, you will stumble across plenty of phallic lingam (a symbol of 'man') scattered throughout. Several structures have bas-reliefs and statues of mostly figures displaying their genitalia; there's even a decapitated statue of a man grasping his manhood. There are also representations of sex - like a lingam poking a triangle-shaped yoni (the female symbol).

The centrepiece is a pyramid once topped by a 6-foot-tall phallus with four balls - at the tip, representing marble or gold balls implanted under the tips of the penises of some men of the aristocratic caste during the Majapahit Empire.

An important relic of Javanese-Hindu religion, many of the temple's erotic features were sadly vandalised during the Islamic invasion in the 16th century so no one really knows how extensive they were.

This temple is still a place where locals determine the chastity of a wife - a woman had to wear a sarong and jump across a lingam, and if the sarong fell off, it meant she was unfaithful. Today, women are required to wear a sarong when visiting, but not to jump over a lingam.



## Graphic Graffiti

### POMPEII (ITALY)

Of all the remnants in this 6th century BC Roman city, you may probably recall images of plaster bodies frozen in time, capturing the last moments of the city's inhabitants. Another standout fact is that the city was adorned with erotic images - from phallic wind chimes to frisky frescoes depicting naughty satyrs - which were common as decoration for good luck associated with the well-endowed god Priapus. However, his willy couldn't save Pompeii from the mighty eruption of Vesuvius, which buried every citizen in deadly ash.



Excavators also unearthed evidence that revealed Pompeii's penchant for prostitution - numerous brothels had rooms adorned with erotic frescoes and graffiti ('John was here, xxx'). The most famous brothel is the Lupanare, known for its titillating frescoes depicting people engaging in various positions of intercourse - it's sort of like a menu advertising services on offer.

During the looting of Pompeii in the 1700s, much of the erotica - including terracotta male genitals of every shape and size - had been syphoned off to a secret room (called Gabinetto Segreto) in the National Museum in Naples, and metal shutters were installed over the frescoes as they were deemed too saucy for the public. Pompeii's art of erotica, including the Lupanare, was finally opened to the public in 2000.

## Poking Phalluses

### TEMPLE OF DIONYSUS (MYKONOS, GREECE)

Not far from the party-town of Mykonos, quiet Delos island was once so revered that according to Athenian historian Thucydides, no one was allowed to give birth or die on the island for it may offend the gods. But it was perfectly fine to erect a temple that worshipped two giant marble penises with their accompanying testicles. This Stoibadeion temple was dedicated to Dionysus, the god of wine, fertility, theatre and religious ecstasy - you could say he's the 'god of hedonism'.



Perched atop pillars on both ends of the temple, each whopping willy stands several metres high today, although nobody knows how long these erect members originally were because they've been cut short (by time or spite, no one knows).

In ancient Greece, people used to worship Dionysus by holding processions of fetishised willies (called phallika) accompanied by obscenities and verbal abuse. In fact, there is still an annual celebration of Dionysus in Athens, where lashings of wine, dancing, theatrical plays, and revellers donning giant you-know-whats are involved.



## PAINTED PHALLUSES (BHUTAN)

Bhutan is known for its happy citizens, and that fact that you have to drop a minimum of US\$200 per person per night (as per visa requirements) simply for the pleasure of visiting the country. However, this Instagram-worthy kingdom has more than just the Tiger's Nest for your perfect picture.

Head to Chimi Lhakhang village, and you'll see plenty of cute houses adorned with colourful paintings. No matter how hard you try, you won't be able to get a good shot without getting a painted willy in your picture - you'll see erect members with eyes, wings, and even hands come with hairy testicles, others with shaved ones. Some are tied with ribbons, and some are depicted with a dragon. Big and small, almost all the houses have them, since they're supposed ward off evil spirits and apparently, gossip. These images are found all over Bhutan, but this village has the added bonus of a fertility temple which features - you guessed it - phallus blessings.

Visit the 15th century fertility temple of Chimi Lhakhang, and don't be surprised if you get bopped on the head with a 10-inch wooden willy by a priest - even if he's just a 10-year-old one. Don't worry, it's just a blessing. This unique tradition of worshipping the phallus has persisted for over 500 years thanks to Lama Kunley (whom the temple is dedicated to, a 'mad saint' whose unorthodox teachings of Buddhism included the rampant use of phallus symbols. The temple itself is often visited by women seeking fertility, who are blessed with a silver-handled wooden phallus that Kunley brought from Tibet.

## KHALID NABI CEMETERY (NORTHERN IRAN)

Located close to the border with Turkmenistan in the hills of Northern Iran lies an area dubbed the 'Valley of Genitalia', thanks to an ancient graveyard that features 600 mysterious rod-like tombstones that protrude from the ground like the nether regions of the Easter Island statues.

Some of these knobby protrusions measure up to 5m tall, while others are shorter and topped by two spheres; the former are thought to represent manhood because it doesn't take much imagination to see what they resemble. Some shafts have horizontal ribbing, and some were thought to belong to revered men.

In a country known for its strict religious laws, the graveyard is thought to belong to pre-Islamic Turkmen tribes, or perhaps a fertility cult from Central Asia. No one really knows, because few researchers have dared to study them - even so, these gigantic protrusions continue to satisfy the curiosity of those who dared to visit.





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## EVENTS

6-8 Jul 2018 | all day  
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**Campus Party**

Campus Party Singapore is the world's largest technological extravaganza which primarily serves as a platform for tech enthusiasts from diverse backgrounds to learn, collaborate and create the future. This first edition in Asia incorporates talks, workshops, challenges, showcases and special performances in a fun, camp-like environment with options of day-passes or overnight camps. There will be drone racing workshops, cosplay + robotics showcase, cybersports arenas, mind-controlled roaches, and even a Zombie Rush game. Register now at [singapore.campus-party.org](http://singapore.campus-party.org).



## MOVIES

Sooner or later, your past catches up to you.

Disney  
**Christopher Robin**



coming soon

**Christopher Robin**  
(August 2)

**Cast:** Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell, Bronte Carmichael

In Christopher Robin, Ewan McGregor stars as a grown-up version of the title character, who was Winnie the Pooh's best friend when he was a young boy. The film picks up with the Christopher Robin as a hard-working adult who's lost his sense of wonder, and after he's forced to abandon a family vacation at his boss's request. Robin is shocked to reunite with Pooh and his old friends in London, as he learns to appreciate life's charms once again by reconnecting with his favourite childhood toy.

**Crazy Rich Asians**  
(August 22)

**Cast:** Constance Wu, Henry Golding, Awkwafina, Ken Jeong, Michelle Yeoh

The story follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu (Wu) as she accompanies her longtime boyfriend, Nick Young (Golding), to his best friend's wedding in Singapore. Excited about visiting Asia for the first time but nervous about meeting Nick's family, Rachel is unprepared to learn that Nick is not only the scion of one of the country's wealthiest families but also one of its most sought-after bachelors. Being on Nick's arm puts a target on Rachel's back, with jealous socialites and, worse, Nick's own disapproving mother (Yeoh) taking aim. And it soon becomes clear that while money can't buy love, it can definitely complicate things.



## PRODUCTIONS



8 Jul | 6pm  
Resorts World Theatre  
Tickets: \$45 (priority entry)/\$35  
**Voices of Youth**

Voices of Youth is a fundraising initiative by Singapore Red Cross to celebrate local talent while raising funds for local humanitarian services. This concert will feature local celebrities such as Suthasini and Ya Hui, and other performances by groups such as Redeafination, an independent hip-hop dance group for the Deaf and Volunteer, Guitar Connection.

WATCH THEM GO **BALLISTIC** AND FULL **ON STAGE**  
AS THEY TRADE **PUNCHLINES** AND TAKE NO PRISONERS  
ON THEIR WAY TO THE TOP



11 - 29 Jul | 3pm & 8pm  
Capitol Theatre  
Tickets: \$60-\$140

**Happy Ever Laughter**

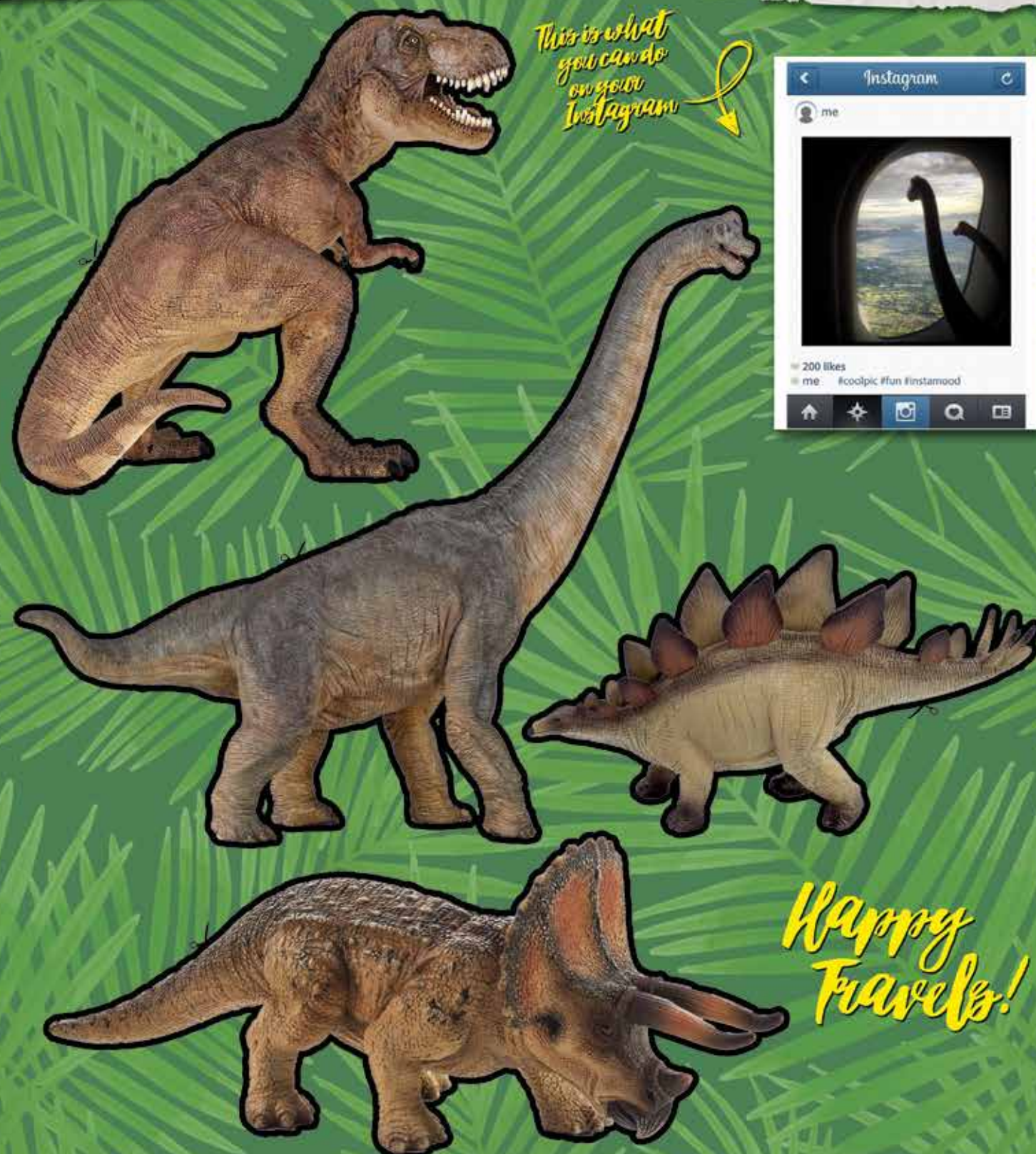
Happy Ever Laughter is Dream Academy's fourth instalment of the biggest local live standup comedy event, this time with THE BATTLE where 12 of Singapore's best comedians are pitted against each other as they pull no punches in a no-holds-barred, full-chuckled fight to the rib-tickling end. Irene Ang, Koh Chieng Mun, Selena Tan, Sebastian Tan, Suhaimi Yusof and Kumar will be defending their egos and reputations against Alaric Tay, Judee Tan, Sharul Channa, Fakkah Fuzz, Preetips and Rishi Budhrani.

## STRESS RELIEF

Have you ever been stressed about air travel? All the security checks and cramming into small spaces can take their toll on some of us - especially if the flight doesn't have in-flight entertainment. So the best way to relieve that stress is to entertain ourselves onboard - with Instagram. If you're seated by the window, imagine the fun you can have posing dinosaurs by the airplane window. Use your filters creatively, and create your own origin story!

### DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out the dinosaur shapes carefully. For better effect, photocopy this onto cardboard paper.
2. Pack them in your carry-on luggage, and pose them near the window.
3. Snap away!



*Happy Travelers!*



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