

TOKYO



LUXOS



Morning

Take a breezy tour down the Sumida River from Asakusa to Toyosu. There are several types of water taxi or bus to hop aboard that will take you past such famous sights as the [Tokyo Skytree](#), lordling over its fellow skyscrapers, Ryōgoku Kokugikan (the home of Sumo wrestling) and multiple riverside parks. In spring, you can see the stunning cherry blossoms in picture-perfect surrounds.



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surrounds.



Toyosu is home to the [world's largest fish market](#) where you can peruse the technicolour array of ocean-going deliciousness, get lost on the hubbub of the live tuna auction and even get involved in sushi making classes.

Discounted tickets for sushi making



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Lunch

Why not stop here at Toyosu for a seafood lunch? Taste the freshest maguro (tuna) sashimi at this megamarket, browse the giant bluefin tuna, sample squid, savour scallops and much, much more.

After lunch, visit one of the open-air markets or artsy events dotting this pocket of Tokyo near [Tennozu Isle](#) station. Once a sleepy backwater of fishermen's stores, this area has been thoroughly renovated into pretty shops and outdoor stalls selling secondhand books, vintage fashion and antique nick-nacks. Have a leisurely browse, artisan coffee in hand, and a stroll along the water's edge.



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Afternoon

Just a three-minute train ride from Tennozu Isle is a whirlwind of sightseeing, games, virtual reality experiences and endless shopping, at [Odaiba Seaside Park](#). With an observation deck overlooking the towers of the city, a man-made beach and its own Statue of Liberty replica, this island is a playground of the Japanese imagination.

[Read our Odaiba neighbourhood guide](#)





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[Read our Odaiba neighbourhood guide](#)



Another city view you cannot miss: ride the 117-metre-high Diamond and Flower Ferris Wheel at Kasai Rinkai Park to see landmarks such as [Tokyo Disneyland](#) and [Rainbow Bridge](#).



Dusk

Spy Tokyo from a bird's eye view while sipping champers on this quite magical helicopter



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Dusk

Spy Tokyo from a bird's eye view while sipping champers on this quite magical helicopter cruise. Offered by Excel Air Service, you board the chopper a short train ride from Tokyo Teleport station in Odaiba.

[Book your ride](#)



Dinner



LUXOS



Dinner

When it comes to rare beef, Tokyo knows what's up. You may have to wait for a table at [Kobe Beef Kaiseki 511](#) but it is so worth it. The exquisite flame-baked Kobe beef steak course is just one standout dish on what ladders up to an epic set menu: squid and roast beef with vinaigrette sauce; clam and domyoji (mochi rice flour) dumplings in dashi soup; deep-fried foie gras and beef croquette; boiled udo beef rolls; and skewer-flamed Kobe-beef sirloin steak. Holy cow this place is good.



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Alternatively - if you didn't get your fill of fish at lunch - [Ride](#), located on the hip waterfront near Shinagawa, offers ocean-inspired food that is beyond definition. Go for the turban shell (sea snail) bourguignon, or the charcoal grilled squid and endive.



After hours

When the night rolls in, there's nothing quite like

LUXOS




After hours

When the night rolls in, there's nothing quite like the onslaught on the senses that is Shinjuku, lit from pavement to sky in neon colours. Step out into Shinjuku's [Golden Gai](#), packed with more than 250 decades-old micro bars and traditional diners. Here you can drink like a true local.



You better stifle that yawn - the night isn't over yet! There's a multitude of late-night endeavours to keep you wired in Tokyo's sleepless suburb: clubbing, billiards, karaoke, sushi shops, spas or drinking at the plethora of *izakaya* - taverns serving drinks and small plates late into the night.

[Check out Tokyo's best karaoke bars](#)

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[Check out Tokyo's best karaoke bars](#)

By Victoria Vlisides and Samuel Ford

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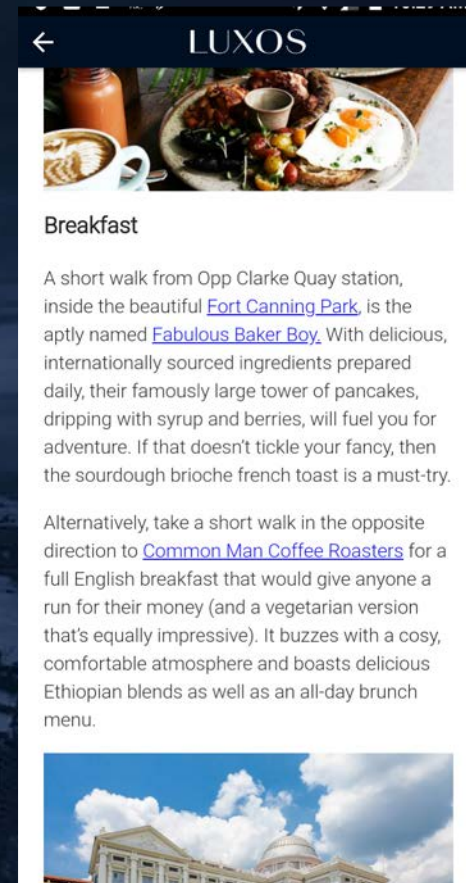
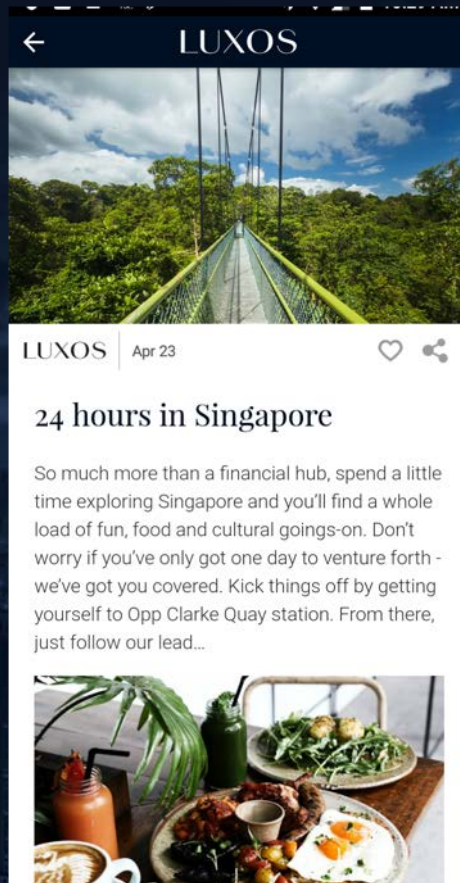
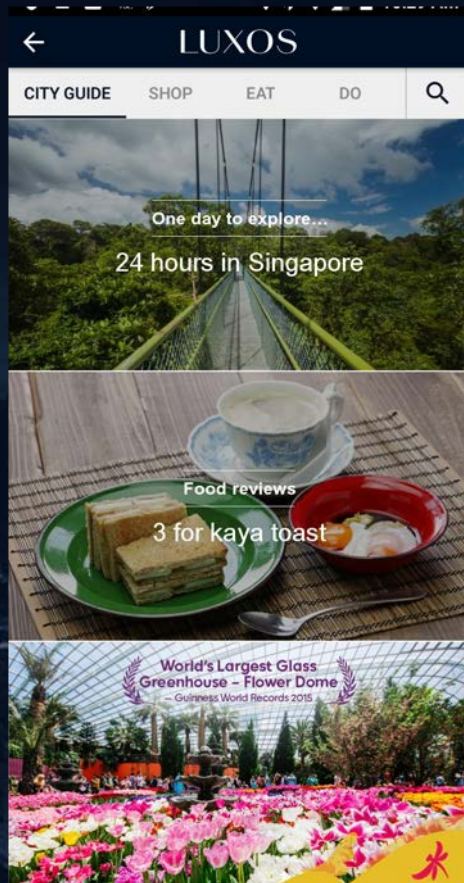
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SINGAPORE



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Morning Museums

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

Get National Museum tickets here



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

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



Lunch



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Lunch

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

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





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the best feature for some inspiration.



Afternoon

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



Dinner



LUXOS



Dinner

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



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After Hours

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

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

By Megan Thomas

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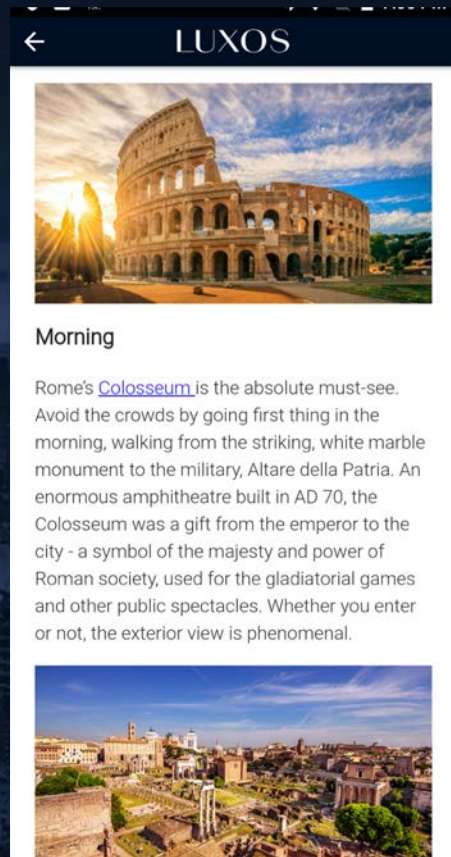
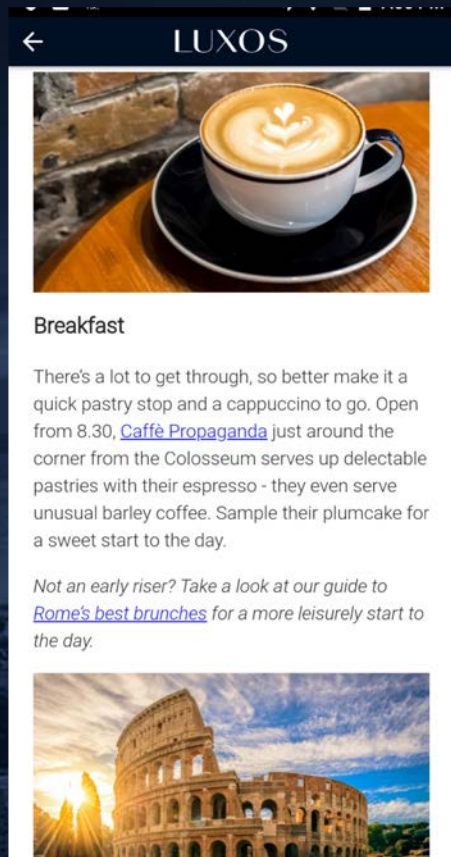
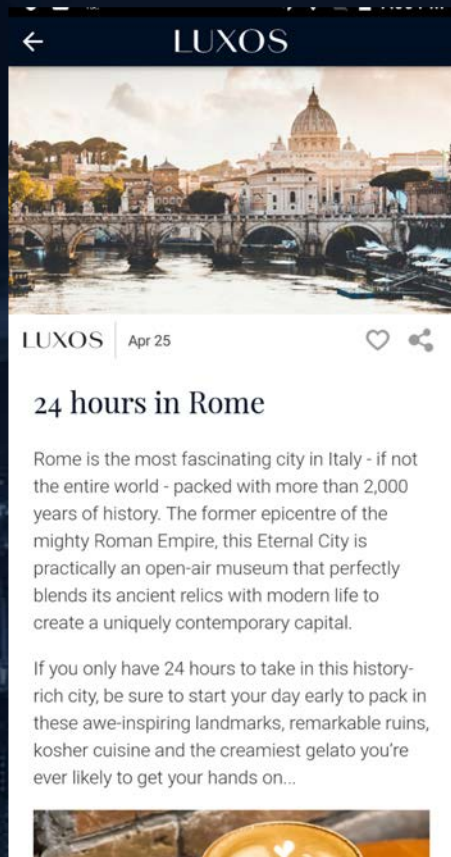
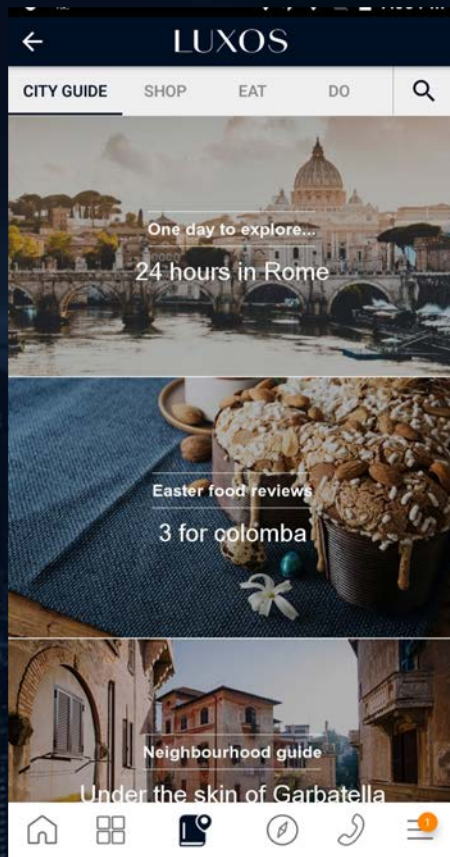
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ROME



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If time allows, visit the breathtaking [Roman Forum](#) and [Palatine Hill](#). This was the political centre of the mighty Roman Empire, the seat of renowned emperors and home of ancient government buildings. Palatine Hill is the central-most of Rome's famed seven hills. You can book onto tours to learn the in-depth history of this fascinating site (be aware some last up to 3.5 hours) or you can simply wander around independently.

Skip the Line Colosseum Roman Forum



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Take time to pause at the [Arch of Constantine](#), an underappreciated monument due to its proximity to the Colosseum. The Arch of Constantine, the largest triumphal arch in Rome, was built in AD 315 and erected by the Roman Senate to commemorate Constantine I's victory over Maxentius, who were rivals for the seat of the Empire.



With the midday mercury rising, all that walking calls for an ice cream stop. Call in at [Il Gelato di](#)



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With the midday mercury rising, all that walking calls for an ice cream stop. Call in at [Il Gelato di Claudio Torcè](#) - something of a hidden gem - for the creamiest and dreamiest iced treats in the city, located just a stone's throw from the tourist trail. This is where ice cream meets high gastronomy - be sure to sample some of the more obscure flavours such as gorgonzola, celery and habanero chilli.



Lunch



LUXOS



Lunch

Between the Forum and the Centro Storico (historic centre) of the city, lies the [Jewish Quarter](#) - the perfect area to indulge in some more unusual lunch dishes you may not have expected to find in Rome. [Nonna Betta Cucina](#) serves up superb Jewish-style artichokes and a selection of *fritti* - or fried vegetables. Its dining room is warmly lit with hanging lamps and intriguing frescoes adorn the walls.

Or, just over the street, check out [Ba'Ghetto](#), a trio of sister restaurants that draw a decidedly younger crowd with their more modern take on traditional Ebraic cuisine, including. Kosher specialities, Roman delicacies and Middle Eastern dishes.



LUXOS



Afternoon

[The Pantheon](#), or 'hall of the gods' is a stunning building. An ancient pagan temple, it is the best preserved and most influential building of ancient Rome, built between AD 118-125. When Michelangelo saw the Pantheon for the first time, he reportedly referred to it as the work of angels. Step inside for a look at the Oculus, the circular cut-out in the ceiling that allows for light to enter the building and for you to contemplate the heavens.



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From the Pantheon, head to [Piazza Navona](#). This ancient square features Bernini's Fountain of Rivers and Borromini's church Sant'Agnese in Agone. Piazza Navona is a lovely place to have dinner, with plenty of romantic restaurants and bars dotted about the square, which becomes a stage for arts shows during summer evenings.



Head across the river from Piazza Navona and make the pilgrimage down the wide avenue of Via della Conciliazione towards the imposing



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Head across the river from Piazza Navona and make the pilgrimage down the wide avenue of Via della Conciliazione towards the imposing dome of St. Peter's Basilica, flanked by the dazzling, colonnaded arcs.

[The Vatican City](#), home to Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel, St. Peter's Basilica, and of course the Pope, should not be missed. Within the city boundaries of the Vatican are several museums featuring immense collections of art amassed by popes throughout the centuries, including the world's most important masterpieces of classical and Renaissance art.

Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel Fast-



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Pitstop

Cramming so much into a single day in Rome means you'll no doubt be hankering for a sugar boost. On the way back to Piazza Navona, stop in at cannoli masters [Don Nino](#). These deep-fried pastry parcels stuffed with sweet ricotta can be enjoyed on the move while meandering to the next landmark on the list.

Take a look at our [cannoli review](#) for more inspiration.





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Evening

A 10-minute amble from the Pantheon is the [Fontana di Trevi](#) - world famous and one of the largest Baroque fountains in the city. It's at the intersection of three roads and marks the terminal point of Aqua Virgo, an aqueduct that supplied water to ancient Rome. The popular ritual is to toss three coins into the fountain in exchange for wishes: the first coin will guarantee your return to Rome, the second, a new romance, and the third, marriage...



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When the sun starts to dip beneath the hills, it's the perfect time to swing by the [Scala di Spagna](#), or Spanish Steps. This monumental, travertine staircase in the heart of the city has 12 flights that lead to the scenic Franciscan Church of Trinita dei Monti. It's surrounded by 18th-century buildings and colourful flowers that look beautiful during Spring.

The rooftop bar of Il Palazzetto at the summit of the steps is an ideal spot to enjoy sundowners, with an unparalleled vista over the city. Or stop in at [Babington's](#) at the foot of the steps for your fix of English teahouse goodness - stacked to the rafters with teas and coffees from all over, and world-class cakes and pastries.



LUXOS



Dinner

Choosing a dinner spot in Rome can be a real head-scratcher: the city is overflowing with exceptional eateries for the obligatory pizza and pasta fix, plus an endless choice for al fresco dining throughout the year. To be truly wowed, book a table at [Metamorfosi](#) and sample the city's most incredible molecular gastronomy. Their designer dishes include fregula, plankton, clams and caviar to start, followed by eel with crushed spelt and carpione sorbet (served on a frozen stone, of course) and finished off with the intrigue-inducing yuzu, almond and chamomile dessert.





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If you're after a more casual supper, head to [Al Ristoro Degli Angeli](#). The historic trattoria has been a Garbatella staple for decades and specialises in Roman classics paired with excellent wines from Lazio. For pasta, the *cacio e pepe* (a simple dish of spaghetti with pecorino cheese and black pepper) served in a crispy Parmigiano bowl, and the homemade fettuccine with aged cheese and toasted sesame is superb.



After hours



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After hours

Night time in Rome buzzes with fun and frolics, way into the small hours. From cocktail lounges to burlesque clubs and wine bars to speakeasies, this fabulous and varied city really has it all... but it's the wine that you really must try here. Start the night at [Enoteca Wineconcept](#), a wine bar (practically on the doorstep of the Colosseum) and see where the night takes you...

Need more drinking tips? Take a look at the [best wine bars in Rome](#).

By Samuel Ford

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24 hours in Hong Kong

Short stay? No problem. There's plenty you can pack into your one-day layover in Hong Kong. Follow our snappy itinerary below and you'll hit many of the key sites and still have time for a foot massage and a cocktail before you call it a day. From local street markets to dim sum at a decades-old eatery (plus a bit of luxury shopping), it's time to get your walking shoes ready.

MORNING

Hotel breakfast

Few things beat having a worry-free hotel breakfast. We recommend you start your day

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Hotel breakfast

Few things beat having a worry-free hotel breakfast. We recommend you start your day fresh with a glass of grapefruit juice and an extra serving of eggs Benedict - you're going to need them.

Chun Yeung Street market

Just before the eastbound tram pulls into Tong Shui Road in North Point, it goes through the famous [Chun Yeung Street market](#). Packed with vendors and shoppers, it's a fascinatingly bizarre scene to experience, with people scampering out of the way as the tram approaches. This area is also nicknamed 'Little Fujian' for its big Fujianese community, so expect to find many Hokkien goodies at the markets. A tram ride and a street market - that's two things crossed off your list

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Address: Chun Yeung Street, North Point, Hong Kong Island

Directions: Take an eastbound tram that terminates at North Point, then get off at the Tong Shui Road tram terminal.

Coffee stop

A few minutes away is [Brew Note Coffee Roaster](#), a tranquil respite among the neighbouring markets and auto shops. It's a champion in pour-over, single-origin coffee, which is all the rage in Hong Kong now. Plus, the baristas here are joyously chatty so feel free to ask them non-coffee-related questions.

Address: 19 Fort Street, North Point, Hong Kong Island

Directions: From the intersection of Chun Yeung Street and North View Street, take the footbridge and cross over to North View Street. Walk up

HONG KONG



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Dim sum at Lin Heung Tea House

Yum cha at this [60-year-old restaurant](#) hasn't changed much since the 1950s. With its shared tables, retro ceiling fans, noisy chattering and newspaper-reading regulars, this is as authentic as it gets.

Address: 160-164 Wellington Street, Central, Hong Kong Island

Directions: From Sheung Wan MTR Exit A2, walk along Hillier Street against the traffic until you hit Bonham Strand. Turn left, walk along and you'll come to Wellington Street at a fork. The restaurant is not far ahead on your right.



LUXOS



Hop on the Peak Tram

Do a quick Google about Hong Kong, and everyone will tell you that Victoria Peak (referred to by locals as simply [The Peak](#)) is a must-visit - and for the complete experience, you must take the Peak Tram to ascend the steep 1.4-km climb. The ticketing queue at [the terminus](#) is pretty long, so we suggest buying a fast-pass package to not only skip the line, but also have a local guide who will hit you with historical facts throughout the ride.

Book your Victoria Peak tram ticket



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Book your Victoria Peak tram ticket



Tour The Peak

You've probably seen Victoria Peak in books and online, but experiencing the panoramic view from the top is almost surreal. Have a leisurely [walk around its trail](#) - which will take just under an hour - until you come to this opening, where you'll be on top of Hong Kong Island.

AFTERNOON



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Madame Tussauds

If you got the fast-pass package, congratulations - you'll also enjoy a complimentary ticket to [Madame Tussauds](#) wax museum, where you can meet your favourite celebrities - Yao Ming, Brad Pitt, Jackie Chan, Iron man. You name it. Your new profile picture awaits.

Book your Victoria Peak tram ticket





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Lunch

After all that walking and photo-snapping at Madame Tussauds, it's time for a light lunch. [Pacific Coffee](#) has been voted by locals as the best coffee in Hong Kong for seven consecutive years. Try one of their healthy salads or a smoked salmon and cream cheese bagel.

There's no denying it – the best way to leave Victoria Peak is, again, by the Peak Tram. Thank goodness your package comes with a return ticket, with which you can, again, skip the queue.

Book your Victoria Peak tram ticket



LUXOS

BOOK your Victoria Peak tram ticket



Take a ride on Star Ferry

So now you've ridden on the street tram and Peak Tram, it's time to cross the famous Victoria Harbour in another unique mode of transportation – the [Star Ferry](#). Find your way to the Central MTR station and head to the Central Pier (there are signs along the way) for the famous crossing.



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Shopping spree at Harbour City

Once you alight the ferry, you're in [Tsim Sha Tsui](#), one of the main shopping districts in Hong Kong, with [Harbour City](#) immediately on your left. Designer brands such as Burberry, FENDI, Lane Crawford, Dolce & Gabbana, Louis Vuitton and Chanel can be found in this shopping mall, as well as trusted fashion chains such as Zara, Massimo Dutti, Jack Wills, French Connection, Club Monaco and many more. You can easily spend a couple of hours here.





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Star Ferry at night

Taking the Star Ferry in the evening is a totally different experience from during the day. With skyscrapers lit up on either flank, the crossing becomes a kaleidoscopic journey. Hold on tight to your camera as you bob your way around and back to Central.

EVENING



Get a foot massage



LUXOS



Get a foot massage

Finally, it's time to relax. All the pavement-pounding during the day means your feet really deserve some pampering. Among the few trusted massage parlours in Hong Kong is [FOOT](#). Their 50-minute foot massage is the local favourite, or you can opt for its head, shoulders and back massage for only HKD200.

Address: 8/F, Regent Centre, 88 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong Island

Directions: FOOT is just a 10-minute walk from PMQ. Alternatively, if you're taking the MTR, from Central MTR Station Exit D2, cross Queen's Road Central and turn right following the direction of traffic. Regent Centre will be on your left.



LUXOS



Drinks in Lan Kwai Fong

Back on your feet! A 10-minute walk away is the famous party district [Lan Kwai Fong](#), where you can get a glimpse of Hong Kong's wildest nightlife and enjoy a cocktail or beer at any one of the bars and restaurants. The crowds slowly filter in - experience its full glory on weekends from midnight onward.

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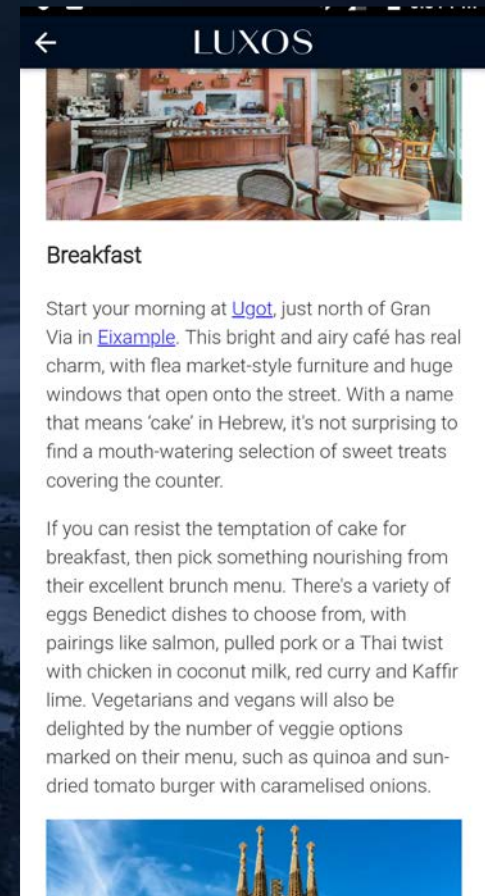
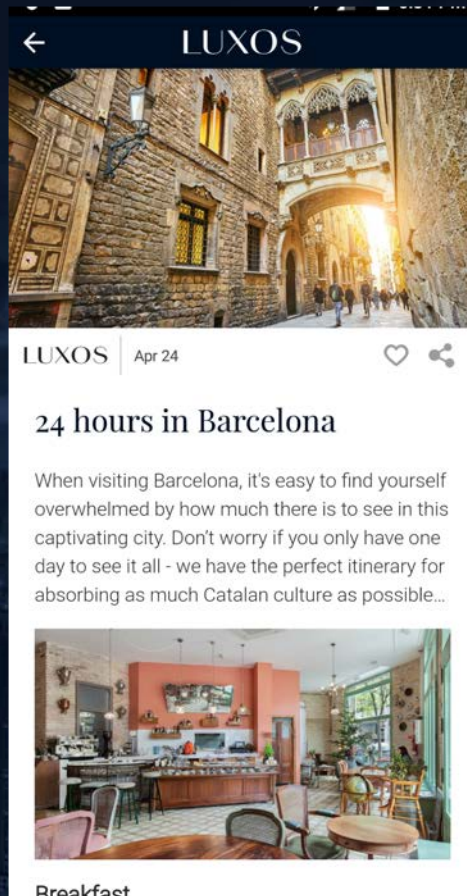
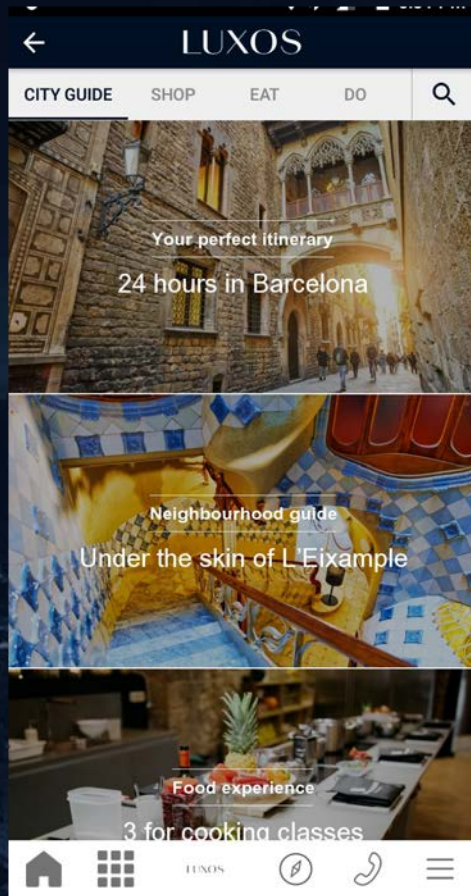
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BARCELONA



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Morning

After breakfast, wander across to Plaza España, a popular meeting point for locals. To its south, you'll find [Las Arenas](#) - a former bullfighting ring that was converted into a shopping centre. To the north of the plaza, there's the [Magic Fountain](#), which graces spectators with a spectacular display of music, water acrobatics, and lights most evenings. Above the fountain is another must visit - the [Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya \(MNAC\)](#), which magnificently lies on top of a hill, with escalators leading to its grand entrance.

After visiting the MNAC and learning about the incredible Catalan history of art, head over to [La Sagrada Família](#) to witness the breathtaking Catalan architecture. This impressively designed building is the largest unfinished Roman Catholic church in the world. Designed by world-renowned Catalan architect Antoni Gaudí, it was the last project he worked on during his lifetime. Simply seeing the magnificent outside of the church is a show in itself, but you can also book



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Lunch

From the Sagrada Família, head to the [El Born district](#) for lunch at [Mosquito](#). Their Catalan reinterpretation of dim sum is like tapas with a Chinese twist, with a 'laundry list' style menu of small dishes including *shui jiao* (boiled) dumplings with shrimp or pork, wonton soup and Sichuan pepper beef. Simply tick the dishes that take your fancy on the menu to place your order.

All of Mosquito's dumplings and noodles are handmade, with the dumplings made to order while you wait. The restaurant was also home to Barcelona's first craft beer bar - check out their great selection of bottled, barreled and hand-pumped brews, including German wheat beers, plus Belgian and English-styles.



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Afternoon

After lunch, spend some time exploring the neighbouring [Gothic Quarter \(Barri Gòtic\)](#), where the winding old town streets are rich in history and culture. Remnants of Barcelona's past are displayed throughout the area, with medieval monuments and Roman remains on show. Must-visit places include the [Santa Creu Cathedral](#), [La Plaça Sant Jaume](#) (where the City Hall and the [Palace of the Generalitat](#) are located) and the [Museu d'Història de la Ciutat de Barcelona \(Barcelona City Museum\)](#), on [Plaça Del Rei](#).





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Early evening

Dinner is served late in Barcelona, so instead of dining in an empty restaurant, spend the early evening at the UNESCO-listed [Park Güell](#). A magnificent illustration of Gaudí's work, the park was the artist's home for two decades and his former house is now [a museum dedicated to the Catalan architect](#). Located just above the [Gràcia](#) district, the park offers panoramic scenic views of Barcelona, from city buildings to the seaside, making it a stunning place to experience the sunset.



LUXOS



Dinner

Once the sun has disappeared, wander down to [Xàtiva Arroseria](#) in Gràcia to experience some of [Barcelona's best paella](#). This rustic restaurant serves around 30 different varieties of Valencian and Catalan rice and noodle dishes. The black rice paella is cooked in squid ink and served with cuttlefish, squid and clams, while the Valencian paella has chicken, rabbit, 'garrofó' beans and organic vegetables.

Finish off your meal with another local favourite - crema Catalana. This custard dessert is very similar to crème brûlée, with its hard caramel topping. Other regional desserts include Valencian orange juice and vanilla ice cream or a selection of raw chocolate by the renowned Spanish chef, Oriol Balaguer.



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similar to crème brûlée, with its hard caramel topping. Other regional desserts include Valencian orange juice and vanilla ice cream or a selection of raw chocolate by the renowned Spanish chef, Oriol Balaguer.

By Bronwyn Griffiths

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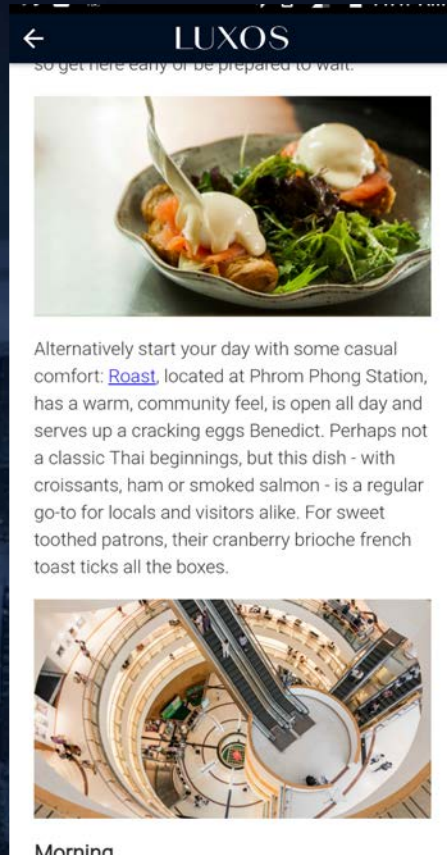
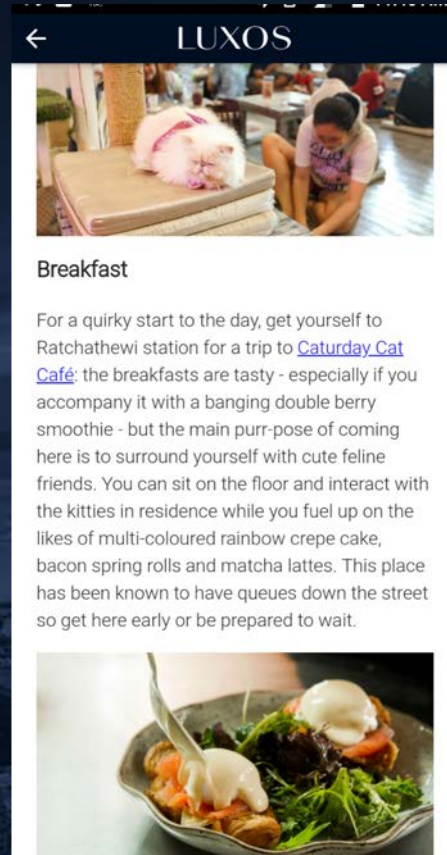
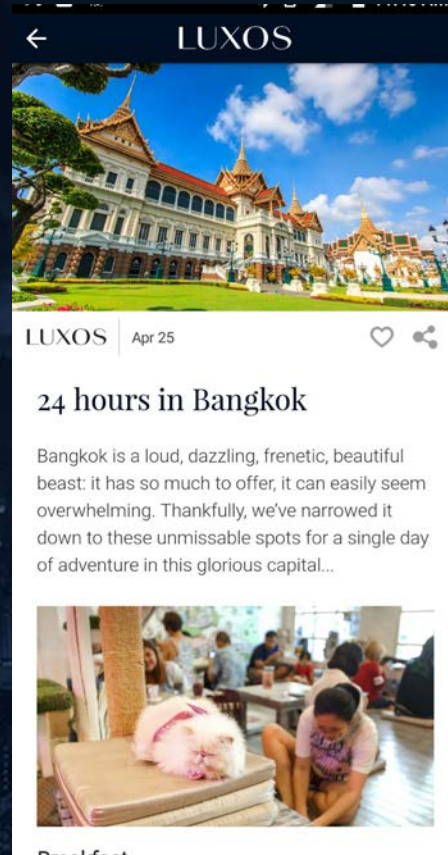
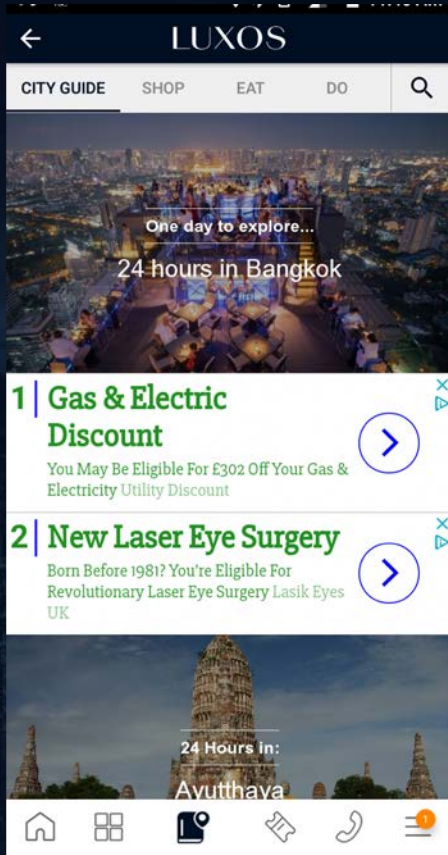
Barcelona is a festive city, and for this reason, there are many



A Day Trip To Tarragona

Although there is a lot to explore in Barcelona, Catalunya, the





BANGKOK



toast ticks all the boxes.



Morning

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



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

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



Lunch

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

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





LUXOS



Afternoon

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



LUXOS



Temple time

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

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



LUXOS



Dinner

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





LUXOS



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



LUXOS



After hours

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

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

By Megan Thomas

Image credit:



LUXOS

so the night never really has to end.

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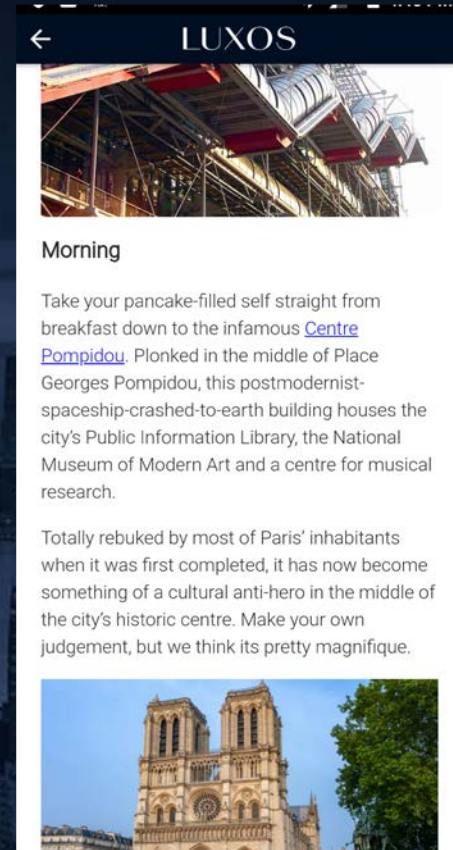
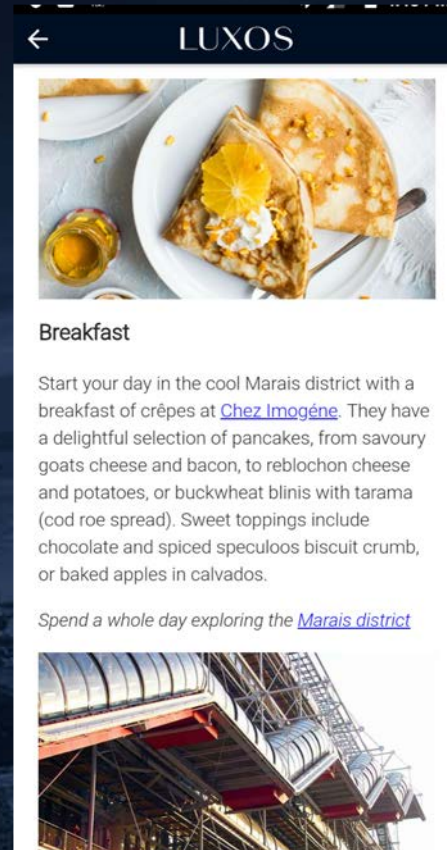
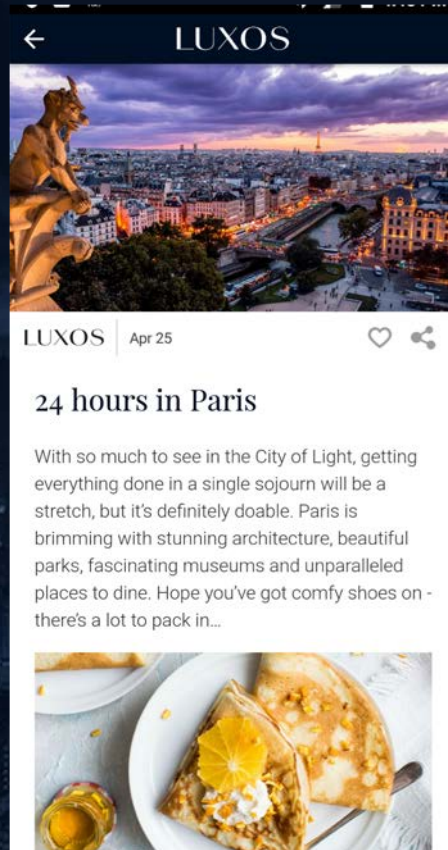
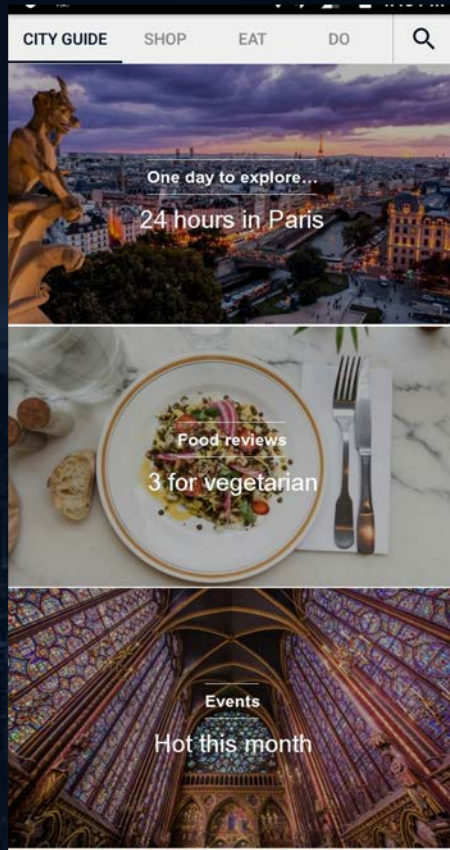
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By Eddie Yli (Stranger in Bangkok) If only Tom Yum



5 Best Night Markets To Visit In Bangkok

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



PARIS



LUXOS



A short amble over the glittering river Seine will take you to the city's most famous monument: [Notre-Dame de Paris](#). This awe-inspiring cathedral is a masterpiece of medieval architecture and its construction took just less than 200 years to complete.

Sadly in April 2019, the structure witnessed a devastating fire that ripped through the knave and brought the ancient spire tumbling down. Incredibly, the facade and its iconic rose window remain unscathed, so a visit to the cathedral's frontage is an absolute must. Obviously, admission to the church has been suspended for the foreseeable.



LUXOS



Head west along the southern bank of the Seine, taking in the sights of this achingly beautiful city. You'll pass the Musée d'Orsay, countless opulent bridges and you'll spot the celebrated Louvre Museum over the water - keep reading: we're heading there later.

As the river meanders west, you'll come to the park that houses the ravishing [Hotel des Invalides](#), complete with sparkling gold dome. This former hospital for wounded servicemen now houses France's army museum, a church and Napoleon's mausoleum, while a single wing still serves as a home for military veterans.



LUXOS



A few paces away from the Hotel des Invalides, you'll find the monument everyone comes for. [The Eiffel Tower](#) soars 276 metres high, puncturing the skyline in its Art Nouveau glory. Another ultra-modern icon that was loathed when first complete, the Eiffel Tower is, these days, synonymous with the image of Paris and a strong symbol of French identity. A trip to the top is a must if you can bear the queue for the elevators, or if you're feeling spritely, you can climb the 1,710 steps.



LUXOS



Lunch

Tucked between the Eiffel Tower and Hotel des Invalides is the ideal lunch spot. [L'Auberge Bressane](#) serves up authentic, homely French cooking and will be packed with hungry locals. Indulge in their set lunch menu, which includes homemade terrine or cockles in cauliflower cream, followed by perfectly tender steak with béarnaise sauce or solette meuniere - pan-fried sole in brown butter sauce.





LUXOS



Afternoon

From the Eiffel Tower, cross the bridge to the Trocadero gardens with bursting 20-jet fountain running down the centre. The [Palais de Chaillot](#), with its grand platform and striking, colonnaded wings that stretch out in arcs around the garden, provides the ultimate photo spot. If you have time, this Palais houses the National Maritime Museum.



LUXOS



Head northwards up Avenue Kleber towards the chaotically fantastic Place Charles de Gaulle, where the sumptuous [Arc de Triomphe](#) lords over the swathes of traffic. Commissioned by Napoleon to celebrate his military successes, you can climb to the top of the marble arch for a view of the 12 avenues that adjoin the world's most famous roundabout.

The principal thoroughfare leading away from the arch is the illustrious [Avenue Champs-Élysées](#), home of the world's high fashion houses and brilliant boutiques. Generally teeming with people, it's fun to window shop among the fanciest fashion labels such as Louis Vuitton, Cartier, Chanel and Sephora or take the weight off at one of the superb cafés that line the street.



LUXOS



At the eastern end of the avenue, you'll find the [Grand Palais](#) and [Petit Palais](#). The larger of the two is a vast exhibition space with a curved glass roof, and the smaller is an art museum housing works by Monet, Gauguin and Courbet.



If you're not all Palais-ed out after that, head to [Place de la Concorde](#), a grand open space with fountain and obelisk that is probably most famous for being where Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette lost their heads to the guillotine, ending centuries of absolute monarchy and ushering in a new era of the French Republic.



LUXOS



Pitstop

A stroll through the beautiful Jardins de Tuileries will lead you from Place de la Concorde to the single most visited museum on Earth: [the Louvre](#). Before heading inside, get a much-needed sugar fix at [Sébastien Guadard](#). This whimsical patisserie-cum-tearoom has barely changed since the 19th Century. Just a look inside the grand glass cabinets full of colourful creations will make your mouth water.

Equally, check out these [four sweet spots](#) elsewhere in the city - any of which is a must-visit for true Parisian patisserie.





LUXOS

for true Parisian patisserie.



Once you're dosed up on dessert, head to The Louvre. This former royal palace plays host to some of the most famous works of art in the world including the Mona Lisa, Venus de Milo and the Winged Victory of Samothrace. Enter the museum through the starkly contrasting glass pyramid that dominates the forecourt and lose yourself in centuries of civilisation-defining masterpieces.



LUXOS



Evening

At night in Paris, there's nowhere quite like the foot of the steps leading to the magnificent [Basilique du Sacré Coeur](#), which dominates the skyline from the hills of Montmartre. This spot provides the ideal vantage point to see the Eiffel Tower's lights display a shimmering show, on the hour every hour through the night.



A light trudge down the hillside will bring you to



LUXOS



A light trudge down the hillside will bring you to the infamous [Moulin Rouge](#). The cabaret bar from the eponymous movie and musical proudly states its position in Paris' theatre district and is marked by the striking red windmill on its roof. Different productions come and go but you're pretty much guaranteed to experience the incomparable French cancan.



Dinner

The gastronomic capital of the world has hundreds of fantastic restaurants, so how do



Dinner

The gastronomic capital of the world has hundreds of fantastic restaurants, so how do you choose? Well, if you're looking for traditional French, make a beeline for [Atelier Maitre Albert](#). This modern *rôtisserie* is the brainchild of Guy Savoy, one of the country's most celebrated, triple Michelin-starred chefs. Try the codfish ceviche with courgettes and mango chutney, followed by Brittany pigeon 'à la brochette' and finish with 'choc-framboises' - dark chocolate and raspberries with sorbet.



After hours

Tucked in a narrow side street, you could almost walk right past [Le Bar des Prés](#) unassuming frontage, if it weren't for the warm, seductive glow emanating from the windows. Sample their mouth-watering menu of yuzu and aloe-infused cocktails and - if you get the late night munchies - some Japanese sharing plates.

Alternatively, [Compagnie des Vins Surnaturels](#) is an exceptional, contemporary wine bar complete with dim lighting and plush sofas to cosy up on. The bar is unparalleled with its level of stock - it has over 3,000 bottles in its arsenal, the most premium of which costs an eye-watering €4,000. Luckily, glasses start at €6, so you can enjoy a couple.

If these quiet corners are a little too tame for your one night in Paris, see our [best cabaret clubs](#) for where to head for a night of decadence.



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If these quiet corners are a little too tame for your one night in Paris, see our [best cabaret clubs](#) for where to head for a night of decadence.

By Samuel Ford

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Le Bar Des Prés

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Veg is en vogue, with Parisians turning to vegetarian-focused



Under the skin of the Marais

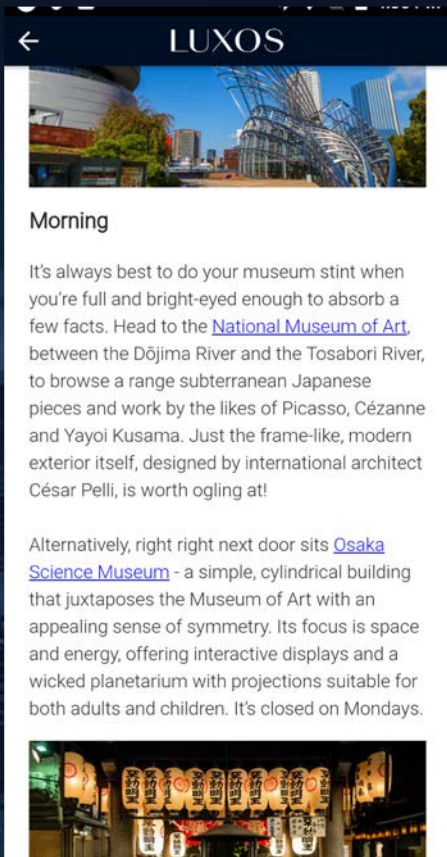
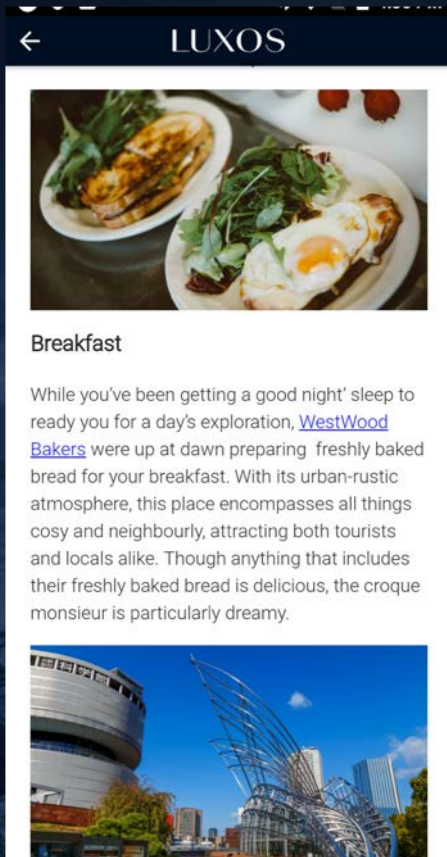
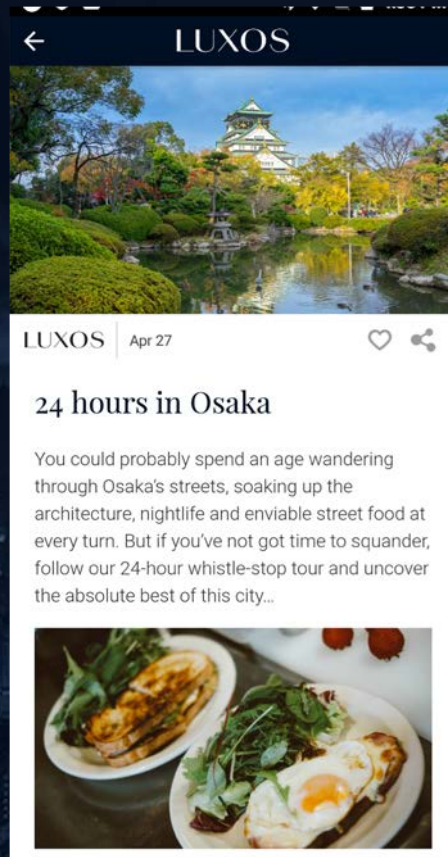
This beautiful, historically Jewish part of Paris is an



Fireside dining in Paris

When the air is crisp and the strolls are brisk, there's nothing





OSAKA



LUXOS



Lunch

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



LUXOS



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



Afternoon

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



LUXOS



Afternoon

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





LUXOS



Dinner

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



LUXOS



Dessert

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

hi tip: try the local confectionary...

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



LUXOS



After hours

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

By Megan Thomas

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Westwood Bakers

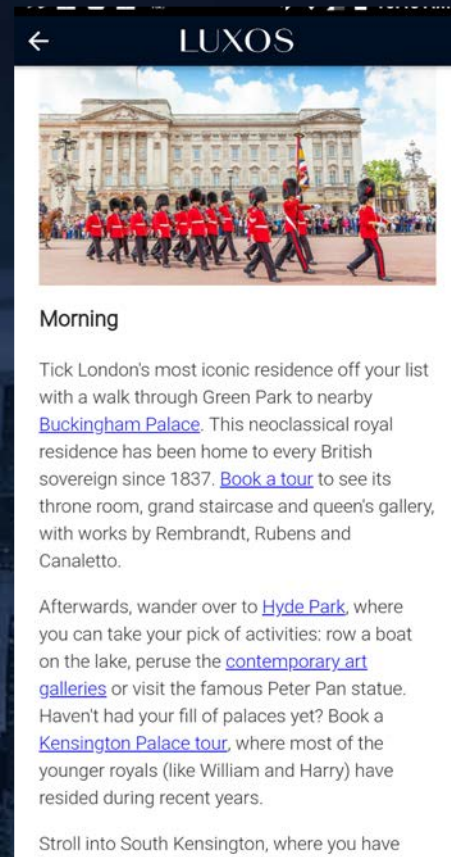
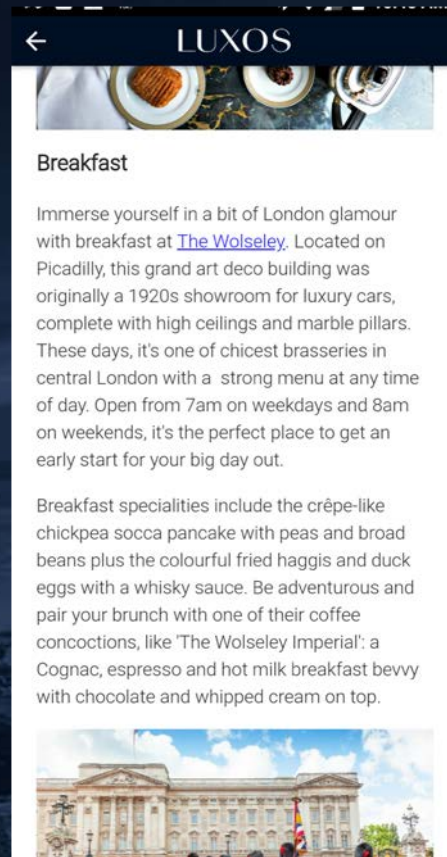
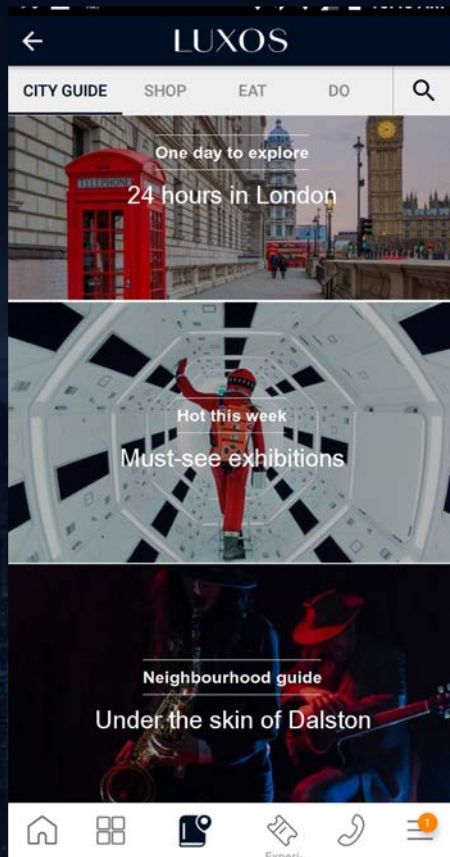
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LONDON



LUXOS

Afterwards, wander over to [Hyde Park](#), where you can take your pick of activities: row a boat on the lake, peruse the [contemporary art galleries](#) or visit the famous Peter Pan statue. Haven't had your fill of palaces yet? Book a [Kensington Palace tour](#), where most of the younger royals (like William and Harry) have resided during recent years.

Stroll into South Kensington, where you have your pick of world-famous museums. Animal (and dinosaur) lovers should make a beeline for the [Natural History Museum](#), while fans of design and decorative arts will find themselves swooning over the [V&A](#). The [Science Museum](#), with astronaut Tim Peake's spacecraft on display, is popular with both children and the young at heart.

[Book your Buckingham Palace tour here](#)



LUXOS



Lunch

Jump on the Underground to London Bridge, where you can find your dream feast at [Borough Market](#). Popular with foodies, the market itself is packed with stalls selling artisan bread, cheese and tea. You can wander around and pick out the perfect lunch from what's on offer.

If you'd rather rest your legs, [Honest Burgers](#) and [Wright Brothers](#) stand out among the many restaurants here. The former is a must-visit if you're big into your beef burgers or rosemary salted fries. The latter is a stylishly relaxed oyster bar, serving a tasty selection of seafood dishes. Top picks at Wright Brothers include king scallops with spiced squash purée and caramelised sherry vinegar plus beef, Guinness and oyster pie.

[Book a private tour of Borough Market](#)



LUXOS



Afternoon

Walk off your lunch with one of the city's most beautiful sightseeing routes. A leisurely stroll along [the Thames](#) between London Bridge and Westminster Bridge takes in many of the city's icons in one afternoon: get up close to [Shakespeare's Globe Theatre](#) and the [London Eye](#), while experiencing amazing views of [St Paul's Cathedral](#) and the [Houses of Parliament](#) (including Big Ben).

There are so many great places for a rest stop on the [South Bank](#). The [Tate Modern](#)'s 6th-floor café and bar is possibly the best place for coffee with a view. If you'd prefer something stronger, there's craft beer bar Understudy at the [National Theatre](#) and the swish cocktail bar Skylon at the [Southbank Centre](#).

[Book London Eye tickets here](#)



Dinner

Jump on the underground to [Covent Garden](#) in the heart of London's [West End](#). There's possibly nothing more British than going for Indian food - and [Dishoom](#) is renowned for doing some of the best in town. It's so popular that they don't take bookings for parties of less than six, so be prepared to queue - with a drink, that is, as they have a lovely bar to help the time pass in style.

Dishoom's menu alone makes your mouth water. Must-tries include their prawn moilee, served in golden, coconut milk broth and accompanied with steamed *idiyappam* (rice noodles), and their signature black daal - cooked for over 24 hours until it takes on an incredibly deep, rich flavour. Wash it down with a bhang lassi served with mint and optional rum.



Evening

Covent Garden is in the middle of London's theatre district, so thankfully you have a wealth of entertainment options around you. The stunningly baroque [Royal Opera House](#) stages a range of performances including ballet, theatre and, of course, opera. Alternatively, it's usually possible to book tickets on the day to big-name musicals and West End theatre shows like *Les Misérables*, *Matilda* and *Mamma Mia*. The perfect end to your London adventure.

Book your theatre tickets here

By Bronwyn Griffiths

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Musicals and West End theatre shows like *Les Misérables*, *Matilda* and *Mamma Mia*. The perfect end to your London adventure.

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