




August 16, 2016

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# Weekly Deals 16 August 2016

weeklyDEALS - Resort Benoa,Bali,Myanmar's Inle Lake,presidential Sanctuary Suite,Qantas,cheap short-haul flights,Europe,Dynasty Travel,Northern Lights,North America,60 exhibitors,SilkAir

## BALI HOLIDAY PACKAGE




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Holiday Inn Resort Benoa In Bali's watersport area, Tanjung Benoa, has a Transfers On Us package from now till Dec 23.

Starting from US\$105 (S\$140) a night, the package includes a two-night stay in the holiday-maker's preferred room type, daily breakfast for two, return airport transfers, a beachside BBQ dinner, Wi-Fi and access to the Resort Centre and Kids Club. Children under 12 years old stay and eat for free.

For more information, go to [www.balibenoa.holidayinnresorts.com](http://www.balibenoa.holidayinnresorts.com) or e-mail [reservation\\_benoa@ihg.com](mailto:reservation_benoa@ihg.com)

## UPSCALE HOTEL OPENING AT INLE LAKE



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Myanmar's Inle Lake has many accommodation options along its shores for those wanting to explore the scenic area. But good news for those looking for a spot of luxury: the first upscale designer hotel will open there on Oct 1. The 94-room Sanctum Inle Resort features an Olympic-sized swimming pool overlooking the lake, a 150 sq m presidential Sanctuary Suite and The Refectory, a Shan and International cuisine restaurant.

The resort offers four room categories, including a pair of suites with excellent views.

Guests can see markets, pagodas and stupas as well as the lake, which is famous for its stilted wooden homes, floating vegetable gardens and fishermen who propel their boats across the water with a one-legged rowing style.


Rooms range in size from 40 to 150 sq m and feature high ceilings, natural wood floors, plush beds, air-conditioning and cable television.

The resort also features a 170 sq m Sanctuary Spa with five treatment rooms and numerous therapies, including its signature Tamarind Scrub with tamarind harvested from the property, as well as hot stone massages and facials. There will also be a gym.

The resort also has eight tours, ranging from a half-day cycling excursion to Red Mountain Estate winery to a full-day trip to Kakku's ancient temples.

Opening room rates start at 334,470 kyat (S\$380) a night.

## MORE FLIGHTS ON QANTAS




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Between Dec 12 and Feb 6, Qantas will increase its flights from Singapore to Perth from 10 to 14 a week to meet demand for the route during Australia's summer months.

Flights between Brisbane and Christchurch will grow from thrice weekly to daily starting Oct 30, to connect Qantas' Asian and American networks via Brisbane, and a new daily Melbourne-Christchurch service will start on Dec 4.

For more information, go to [www.qantas.com](http://www.qantas.com)

## FIND LOW-COST FLIGHTS



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Compare prices across international low-cost carriers on HelloWings.com. The website compares prices across 365 days and displays them across easily readable charts.

The company also offers HybridConnect, which charts the best flight deals and connections between low-cost carriers and full-service carriers by calculating layovers, immigration and luggage terms.

There is also a HelloWings Now app for travellers looking for cheap short-haul flights in Europe and South-east Asia at short notice. The app focuses on budget flights that depart today, tomorrow or on the weekend, so travellers can simply book a flight from their phone and head to the airport.

For more information, go to [en.hellowings.com](http://en.hellowings.com)

## Happy holidays



Travel Revolution 2016 - The Event is on at Marina Bay Sands this weekend. Check out offers from participating travel agents:

**Dynasty Travel at Booth A3 12D/9N**

**Northern Lights of Norway and Sweden**

Priced from \$6,988, highlights include Northern Lights hunting in Tromso, tasting typical Sami cuisine, and visiting the world's oldest ice hotel.

**10/11D Northern Lights of Iceland**

Priced from \$5,188, highlights include: Aurora viewing by boat and viewing oating icebergs on Jokulsarlon Glacier Lake.

Call 6338-4455 and e-mail [enquiries@dynastytravel.com.sg](mailto:enquiries@dynastytravel.com.sg) for enquiries and bookings.

**CTC Travel at Booth A7**

Check out these promotions on selected tours and packages:

- 50 per cent off second traveller's fare;
- 1-for-1 deals;
- "Child travels free";
- Family discounts of up to \$500; and
- 4-to-Go savings of up to \$4,000.

**Packages include:**

- 8D6N Tasmania Self-Drive Convoy From \$2,088 for second traveller
- 7D6N Taiwan Family

**Farm & Minsu Experience From \$1,098**

- 5D4N Okinawa Self-Drive Holiday From \$1,098
- 14D European Grandeur From \$2,488

## Special fares to see the world




Emirates is offering enticing fares that will inspire travellers from Singapore to explore new destinations.

All-inclusive Business Class fares from Singapore start at \$3,035 to Dubai, \$4,375 to Europe and \$5,755 to North America, while Economy Class fares start at \$645 to Dubai, \$885 to Europe and \$1,335 to North America.

Bookings have to be made between now and Aug 31, 2016, for travel between now and March 31, 2017. Visit [www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com) for more information.

## Singapore's biggest travel fair is back



The biannual Travel Revolution 2016 - The Event returns with over 60 exhibitors comprising top brand names and leading travel agencies, and will occupy a space spanning 17,000sqm.


**Organised by the Singapore**

Outbound Travel Agents Association (SOTAA), the first fair in February registered a record-breaking 82,000 visitors. The upcoming travel fair will offer the widest range of best travel deals under one roof and easy accessibility with its central city location.

When: Aug 19 to 21, 11am to 9.30pm Where: Marina Bay Sands B2 Expo Halls D to F. Admission is free.

Visit [www.TravelRevolution.sg](http://www.TravelRevolution.sg) for more information.

## Europe on a budget



With falling currency exchange rates translating to more shopping dollars and competitively priced airfares and land packages, Europe ticks all the right boxes on your travel wishlist.

Save even more - get up to 40 per cent off the second person's fare on selected itineraries in Trafalgar's Autumn, Winter & Spring 2016/17 brochure. Additional discounts of up to 10 per cent are available for groups, frequent, and young travellers.

Here is Trafalgar's pick of three captivating European cities that are ideal for those travelling on a budget:

**Lisbon**

Listen to Lisbon's popular Fado singing in a street-side café, then visit some of the city's museums. On the first Sunday of the month, Museu Nacional de Azulejo and Museu Nacional de Arte Antiga don't charge entrance fees.

**Prague**

Dining and trying the beer at authentic local spots won't leave you out of pocket. Many attractions offer free admission too.

**Seville**

Wander through the city's markets and indulge in tapas and the local wine, without digging deep into your pocket. At some flamenco bars, you can buy a beer for as low as €1.

To book your year-end holiday, call Trafalgar's travel experts on 69225950, contact your preferred travel agent or visit [www.trafalgar.com](http://www.trafalgar.com) Terms and conditions may apply to all promotions and packages listed above

## SilkAir spreads its wings



From Oct 31, SilkAir will fly a new route three times a week to two destinations in Laos - Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

The flights will operate on the A320 aircraft in a circular routing and will depart from Singapore for Vientiane (above), and on to Luang Prabang, before heading back to Singapore.

Fares to Luang Prabang (below) are from \$479 and \$449 to Vientiane.

DEALS

National Association of Travel Agents Singapore



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12-14 AUGUST 2016  
SEYCHELLES

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**NATAS Holidays 2016**  
BEST OF EUROPE SALE  
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**My Ultimate Australia Outback Adventure**

Australia



**Boracay Island Escapade!**

Philippines

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MOST READ THIS MONTH

**Treetop adventure in Seychelles**  
Leong Phei Phei rediscovers the beauty of nature in this beautiful island paradise

**Wild about Costa Rica**  
Suna and Rusi Kanga are spellbound by the amazing landscape and fauna in the Central American country

**Island in the sun**  
Leong Phei Phei discovers the timeless allure of Seychelles where life goes on at a slow pace and no one is a stranger

LATEST TRAVEL STORY

**Abundant natural and man-made beauty**  
From volcanic craters to beautiful golf courses, Indonesia is full of breathtaking tourist attractions

**Can Istanbul's 'High St' survive the low blows?**  
FOR centuries, it has been the main commercial artery running through the heart of Istanbul, attracting thousands of people every day for shopping, entertainment or historic sightseeing.

But following a string of deadly attacks and the failed coup of July 15, Istiklal Avenue now faces an uncertain future, its shops boarded up, visitor numbers plummeting and its identity rapidly changing.

Located in Beyoglu in the centre of European Istanbul, the pedestrianised street is lined with elegant shops and cafes, stretching 1.5km from Tunel, which overlooks the Golden Horn, to Taksim Square.

In March, the street was hit by a suicide bombing that killed three Israelis and an Iranian and injured dozens in an attack blamed on Islamic State (IS) jihadists. And three months later, at least 41 people were killed in a triple suicide bombing at Ataturk Airport, causing tourism to plummet.

Now, once-lively areas along the street have fallen silent, with a string of shops shuttered, from big chains to boutiques, unable to make a profit in the face of high rents and declining revenues.

For Beyoglu mayor Ahmet Misbah Demircan, Istiklal Avenue will never lose its dynamism, with the current recession an unfortunate "reality" but only a temporary one.

"The terror attacks followed by the July 15 coup were actions aimed at dealing a setback to Turkey's economy," he told Agence France-Presse.

"We are aware of the negative waves. It's only natural after all that has happened but I personally do not see any sign it will have permanent repercussions," said Mr Demircan, a member of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP).

Although some businesses will not survive because of the lack of profits, it would be unfair to stigmatise Istiklal Avenue and craft "disaster scenarios" out of it, he added.

**HISTORICAL HUB**

Istiklal Avenue has a special place in the history of Istanbul and, until the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, was the heart of what is seen as very much the European quarter of the city.

Then known as the Grande Rue de Pera - the great street of Pera - it formed the main axis of an area that, at the time, was populated almost exclusively by Europeans and Christians and not Ottoman Muslims.

For centuries, it was a hub for foreign merchants, diplomats and, later, tourists in Istanbul - then known as Constantinople - resulting in the construction of churches and embassy complexes that remain to this day.

Its character changed markedly after the foundation of modern Turkey in 1923.

Renamed Istiklal (independence) Avenue, the area gradually became exclusively Muslim Turkish with most of the remaining Christian minorities pushed out in the horrific anti-Greek riots of September 1955.

With Turkey's dynamic growth over the last decade, Istiklal was gradually taken over by the big chain stores at the expense of smaller shops that could not afford the high rents.

Many Istanbul locals gave the street a wide berth but it became a magnet for tourists, especially growing numbers from Arab countries.

But soaring rents have forced out many businesses, locals said. Real estate advertisements are pasted on the front of empty buildings.

"Over the last decade, rents have skyrocketed irrationally," noted Ihsan Aydogan, who owns property on the famed avenue.

With monthly rents ranging from US\$4,000 (S\$54,000) to US\$40,000 (S\$540,000) to US\$4,000 (S\$54,000), he added that he has been unable to find a tenant.

"There is no demand."

But the violence and high rents are not the only factors, with the street's character changing starkly after the 2013 street protests against then prime minister, now President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

At the time, protesters played cat-and-mouse with riot police who fired volleys of tear gas in the side-streets of Istiklal.

Turks began to stay away but the area became attractive to Arab tourists, with restaurant names appearing in Turkish and Arabic, street businesses playing Arabic tunes and shisha cafes proving popular.

Hakan Eginlioglu, head of the Istanbul Tourist Guides' Chamber, said in the past, Istiklal was frequented by secular Turks and European tourists but it has