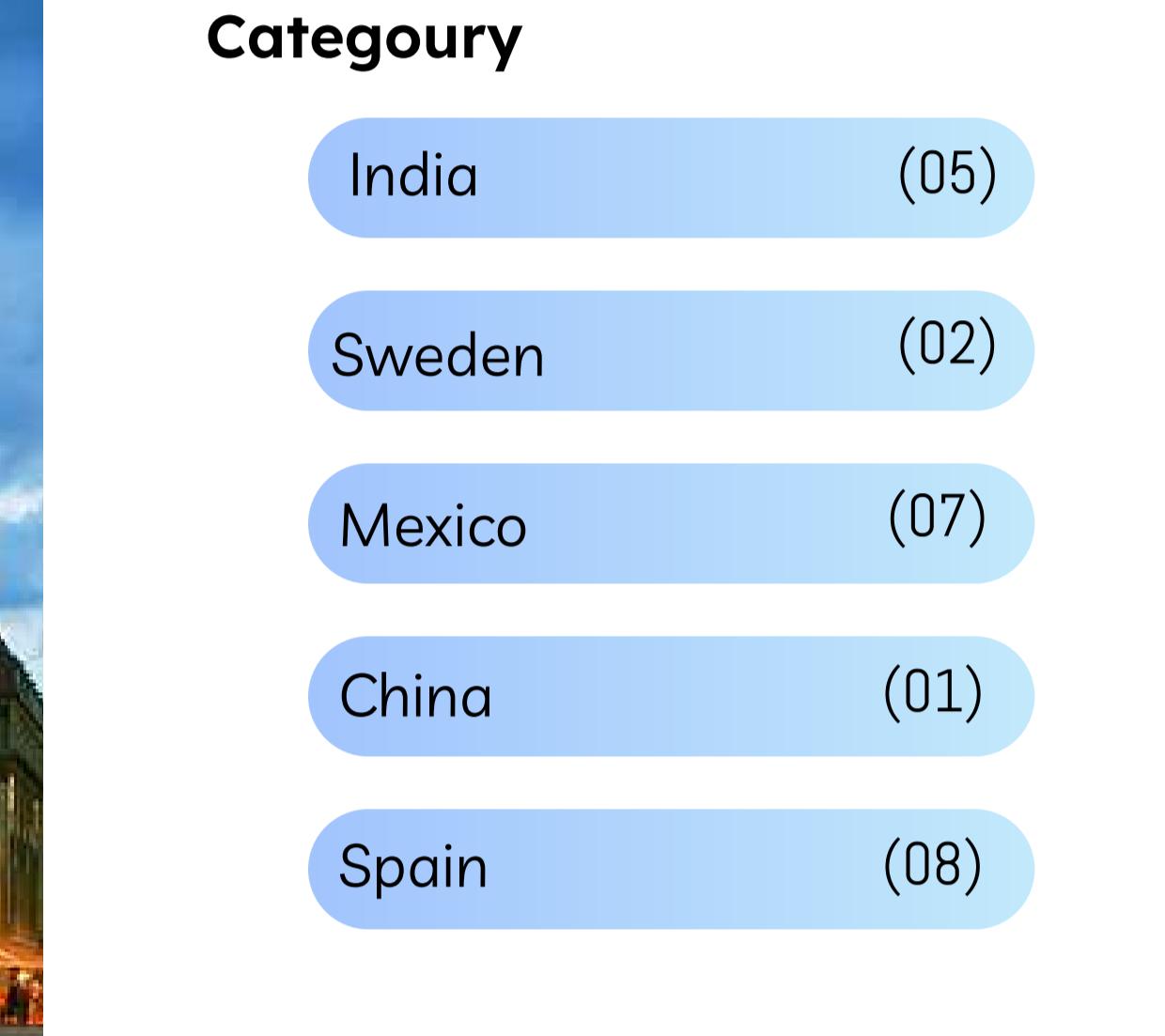




Wandering Her Way

Dreaming Of Traveling Alone?
Dive Into My Stories And Find Out What It's Like To Go Around The World
As A Solo Female Traveller



New York : Wel Come To The Concret World

[Explore](#)

2 Minutes

Thailand : They Say Do What You Love So I Travel To Thailand

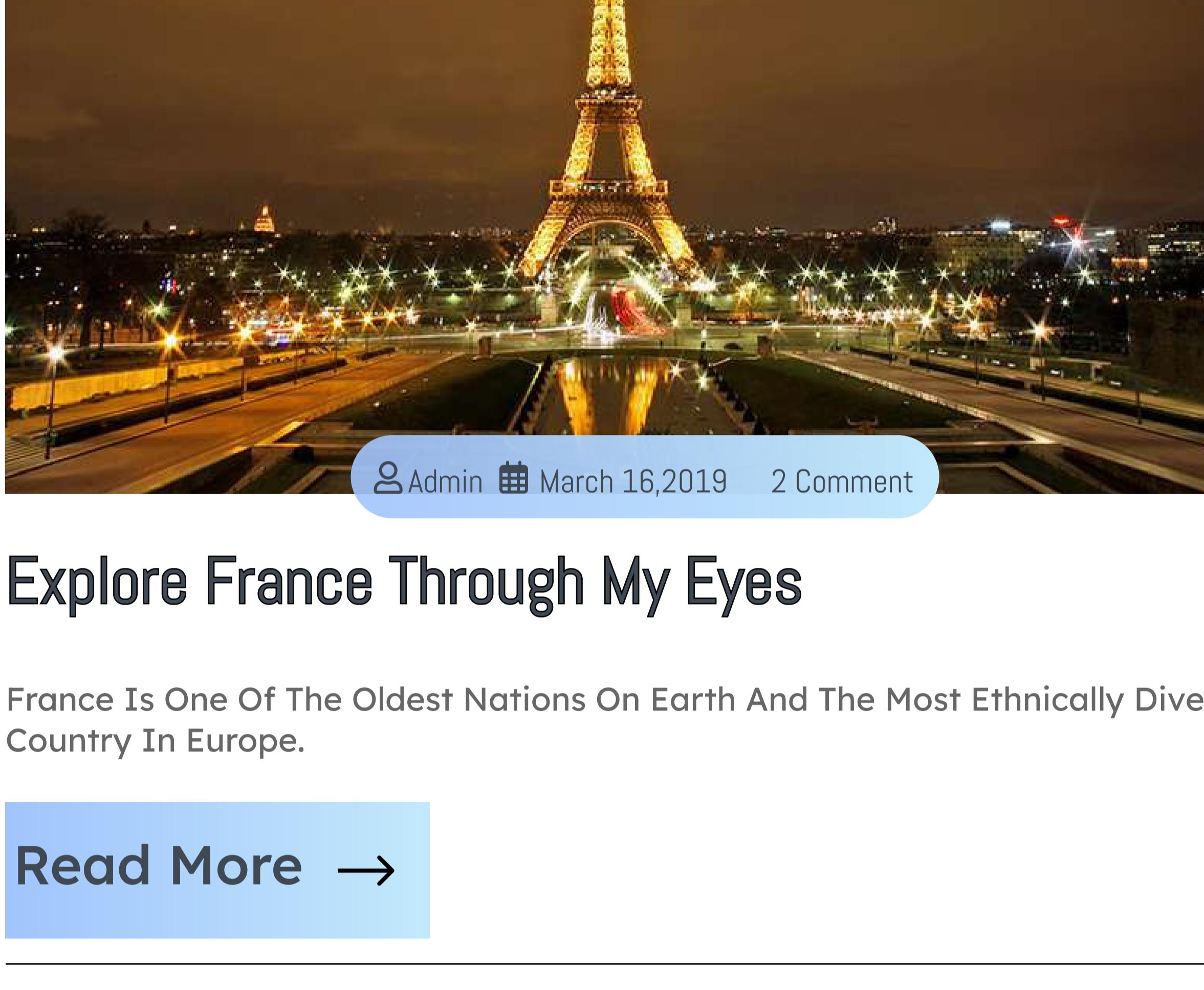
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2 Minutes

Maldives : I Wonder If Maldives Misses Me!

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2 Minutes



Category

India (05)

Sweden (02)

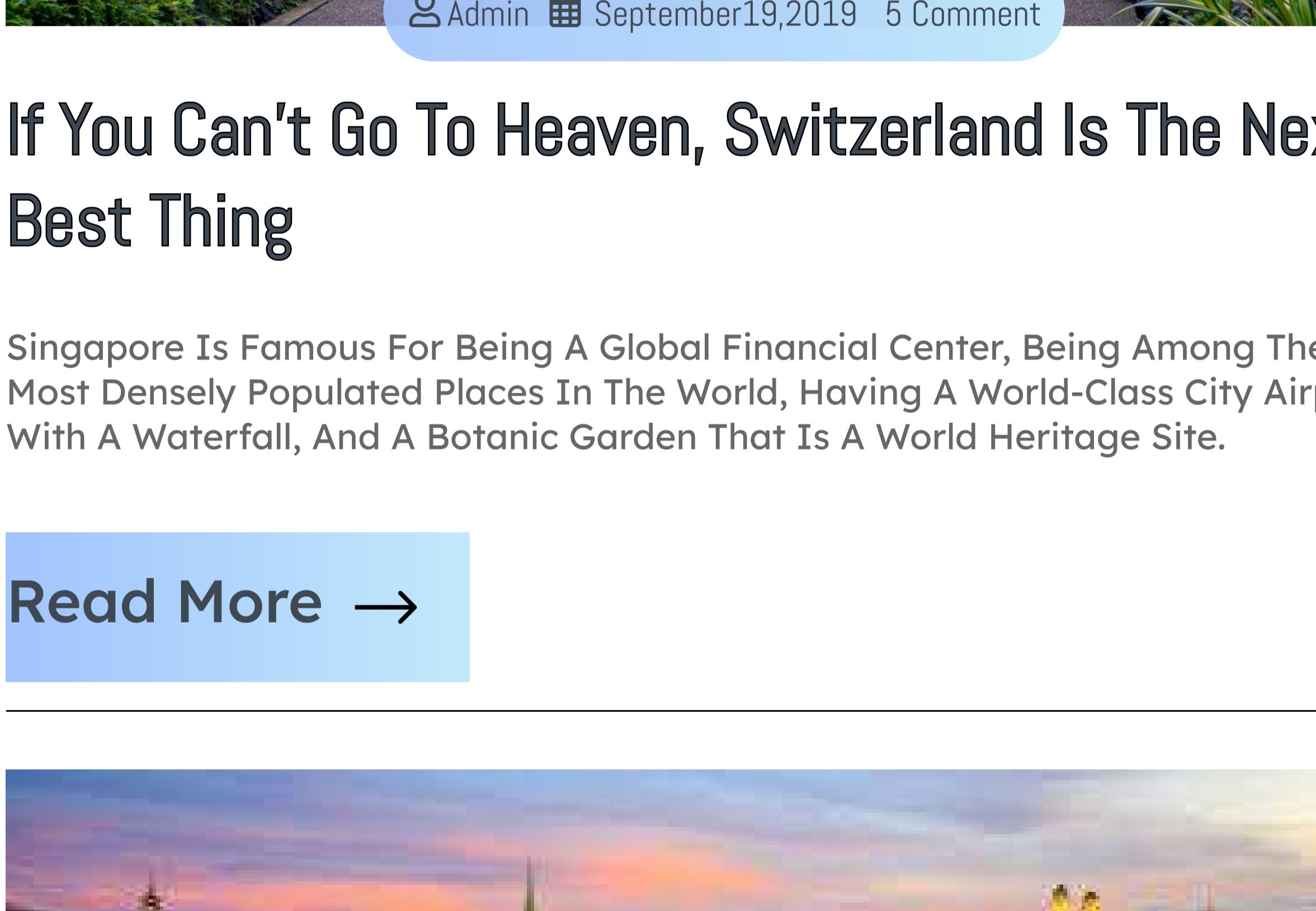
Mexico (07)

China (01)

Spain (08)

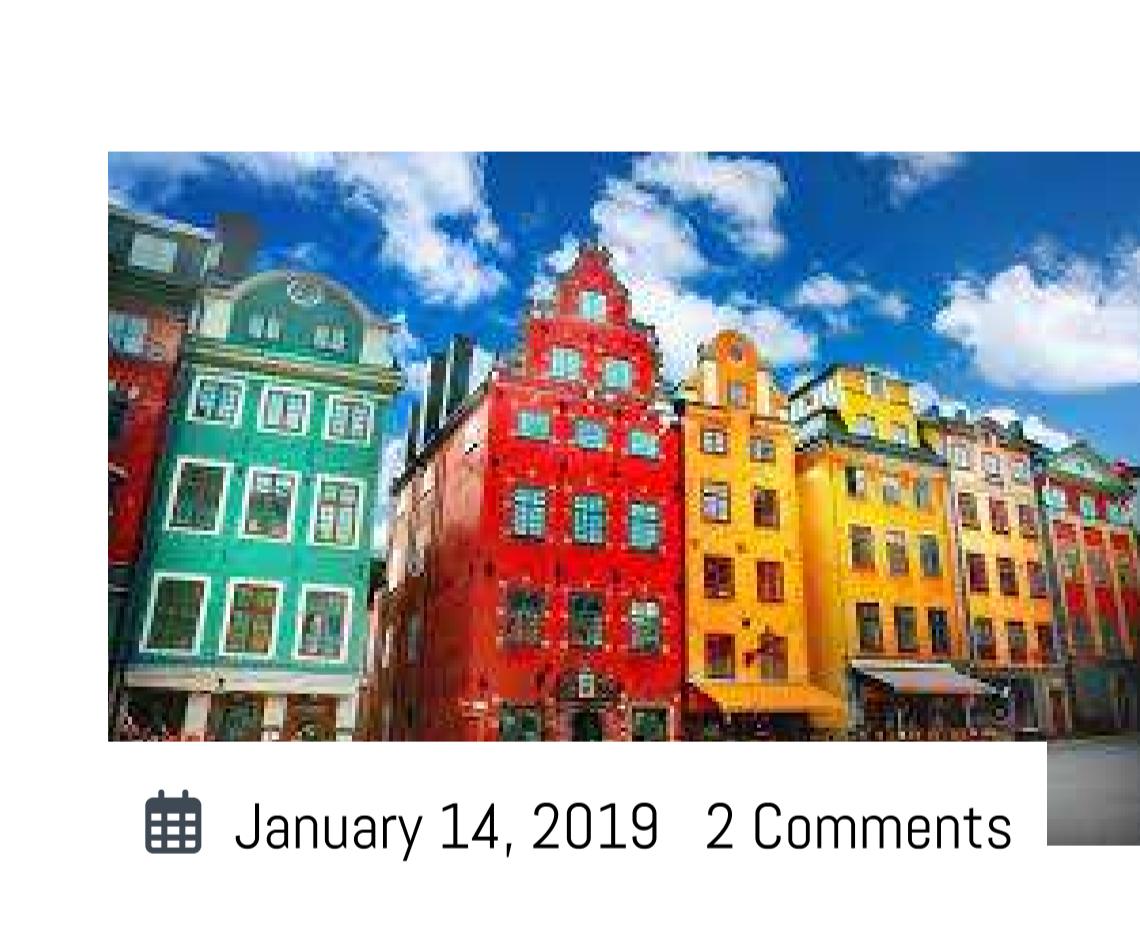
Germany : Some Call It Berlin, I Call It HEAVEN

Germany Is A Western European Country With A Landscape Of Forests, Rivers, Mountain Ranges And North Sea Beaches.

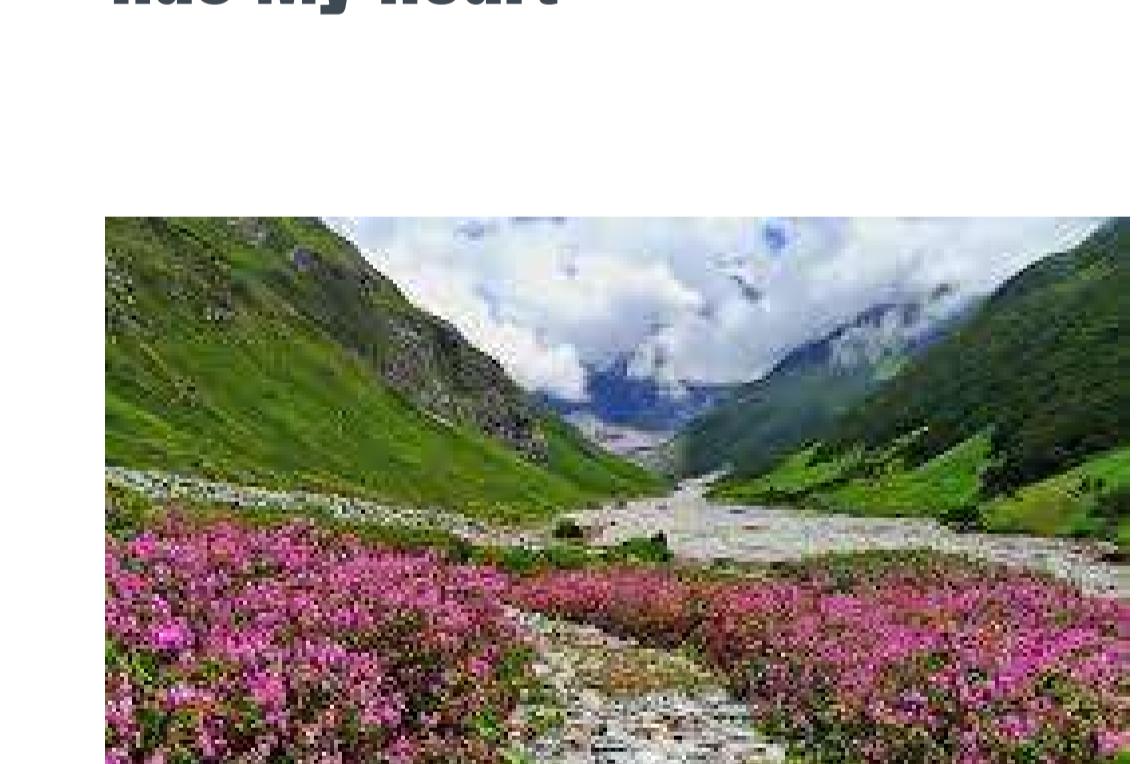
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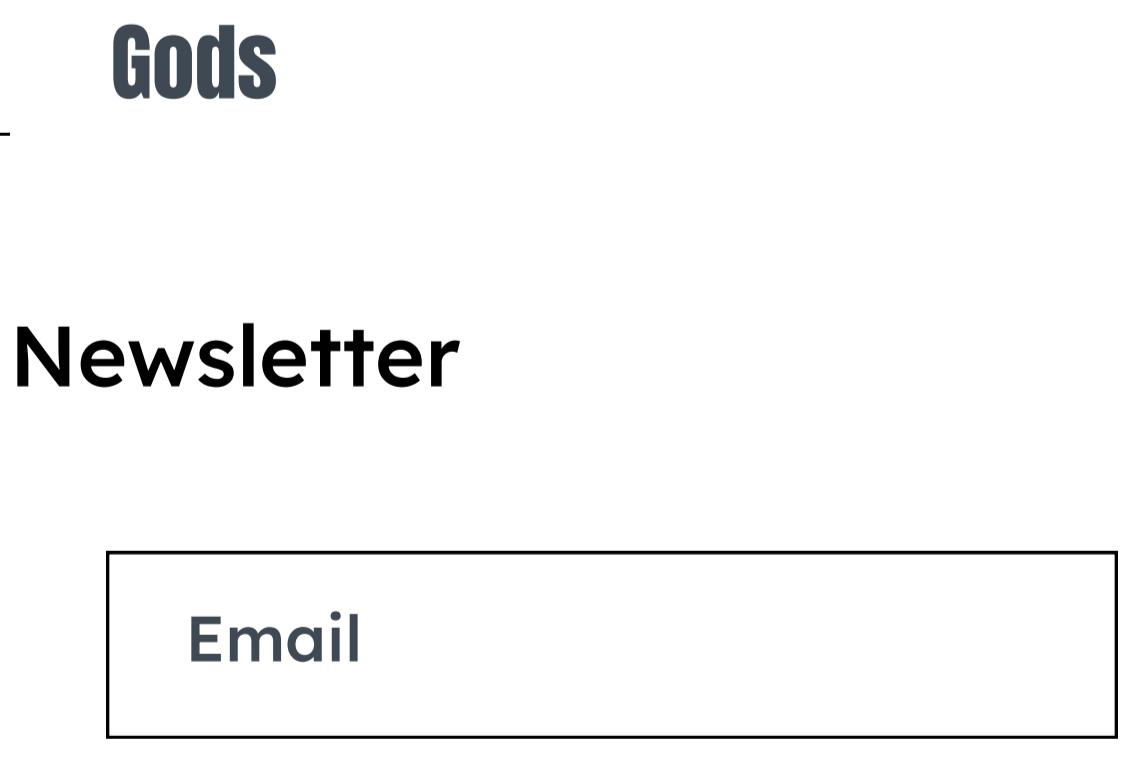
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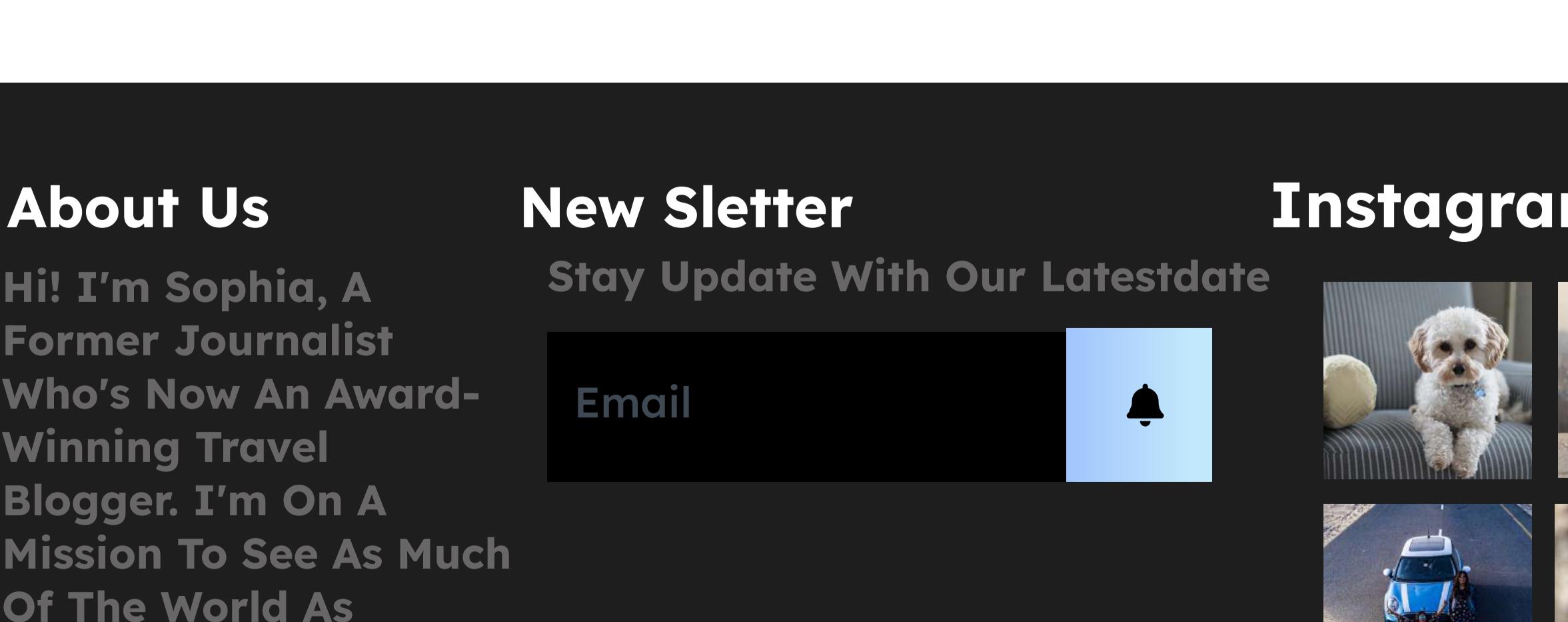
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January 14, 2019 2 Comments

If You Can't Go To Heaven, Switzerland Is The Next Best Thing

Switzerland Is Famous For Being A Global Financial Center, Being Among The Most Densely Populated Places In The World, Having A World-Class City Airport With A Waterfall, And A Botanic Garden That Is A World Heritage Site.

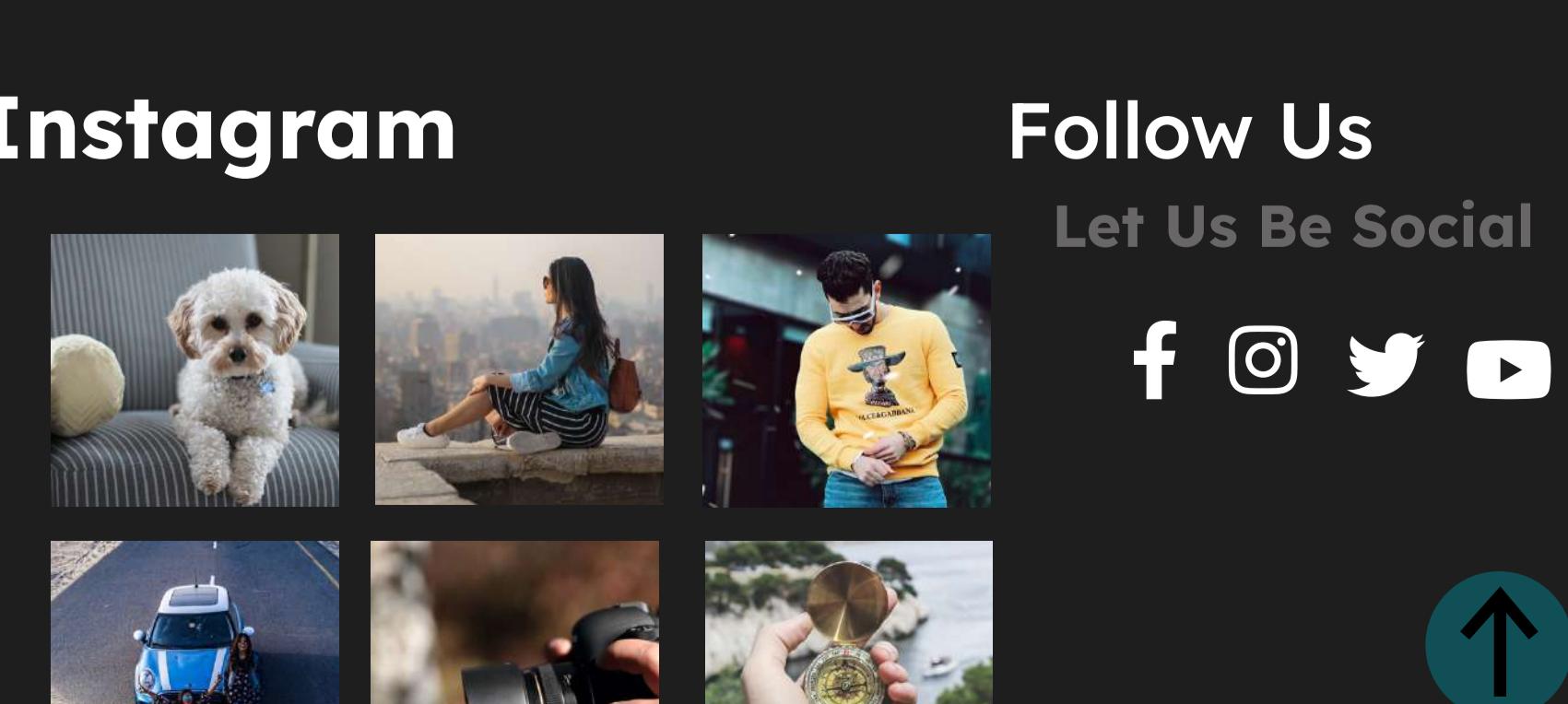
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Hi! I'm Sophia, A Former Journalist Who's Now An Award-Winning Travel Blogger. I'm On A Mission To See As Much Of The World As Possible. In Order To Show You How You Can Fit More Travel And Adventure Into The Lifestyle You Already Have.

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Epic Tips For Travelling Alone In France

Travelling Alone In France Is One Of The Most Incredible Travel Experiences You Can Have! The Country Has A Rich Culture, A Variety Of Architecture Depending Where In The Country You Are, And It Is Super Easy To Travel Alone In France.

Get Outside Of Paris



One Of The Biggest Mistakes You Can Make On Your Trip To France (Whether You're Alone In France Or With A Group) Is Staying In Paris The Entire Time. I Definitely Made This Mistake The First Time I Visited France, And I Regret It. Don't Be Like Me! Paris Is Just A Small Slice Of France, And The Rest Of The Country Has So Much To Offer! Every Area Of France Is Unique And A Different Experience. As With Many Of The Major Cities In The World, Paris Doesn't Give You A Genuine Sense Of What France Is Like. It Is A Taste Of France, But You Have To Try More Than One Dish To Get The Full Experience! If You Don't Have A Lot Of Time In France Or You're Nervous About Travelling Between Cities, Taking A Day Trip From Paris Is A Great Option. You Will Be Surprised At How Different Somewhere Just An Hour Or Two Outside Paris Is From The Capital City. Especially If You Choose Your Destination Properly! In A Perfect World, You Would Spend At Least A Weekend Outside Of Paris, But I Know That Isn't Possible. But Please, Please, Please Make Sure You Get Outside Paris For At Least One Day On Your Solo Trip To France!

Learn A Little Bit Of French

I'm Sure You've Heard The Stereotypes That French People Are Rude And Don't Like Tourists. That Is 100% A Myth. I've Had Nothing But Incredibly Positive Experiences When In France. That Being Said, It Is Very Important To Know A Few Key French Words When Visiting France. I've Found That French People Are Extremely Appreciative Of You Trying To Speak A Little Bit Of Their Language. Even If You're Not Very Good At It! Simple Things Like Knowing How To Say Hello, Good-Bye, And Thank You In French Goes A Long Way In France. The More You Know The Better! And Be Polite! Kindness Goes A Long Way Anywhere You Go, And That Is No Different In France. You Have To Remember As A Traveller That Nobody Is Obligated To Speak In Their Second Or Third Language To Accommodate Your Language Skills. It Is A Kindness That People Do, And We Shouldn't Take It For Granted. I'm Certainly Very Grateful When People Speak English For Me When I'm In Their Country! I Know How Privileged I Am To Be Afforded That Convenience. Communication Is Give And Take.

France Is Safe For Solo Travellers

Okay, Okay. I Know This Kind Of Goes Against My Last Point, But Hear Me Out. The Only Time I've Felt Even The Slightest Bit Uncomfortable Alone In France Is At Night. I'm Not Normally One To Stay Out Past Dark, But I Was Coming Home From A Hockey Game And Had No Choice. I'm Specifically Thinking About Paris. The Streets Are Kind Of Eery To Me At Night, And I Can't Quite Place My Finger On Why. There Isn't Any Reason To Be Afraid Or Feel Sketched Out, But I Know Quite A Few People Who Hate Walking Outside In The Evening In Paris. Even My Dad Hates It! I'm Not Saying You Shouldn't Be Out After Dark. I Just Want You To Be Prepared To Maybe Have Your Heart Beat A Little Faster And Feel The Need To Walk A Little Bit Faster. It Isn't Everywhere In France, But I've Found That Some Of The Larger Cities Have The Same After Dark Vibe That Makes My Heart Race. You May Have A Different Experience Though! I Just Want To Give You My Experience, So You Can Be A Little Bit More Prepared If You Are Out And About At Night. But Definitely Take The Metro To As Close To Where You're Going As Possible!



Not Buying Your Train Tickets In Advance Is One Of The Biggest Mistakes Anybody Who Visits France Can Make. I've Made The Mistake Too Many Times In The Past, And My Wallet Hurts Because Of It. Many Places In Europe (France Included) Determine The Price Of A Train Ticket Around When You Purchase Your Ticket. The Earlier You Purchase Your Ticket, The Less Expensive It Is. Leave Buying Your Ticket Until The Last Minute, Your Wallet Is Going To Hurt Like Mine Does! I Know Not Everybody Likes To Pre-Plan Their Trips (Me Included!), But You Should Definitely Pre-Plan And Purchase Your Train Tickets In France. I'm Not Talking About The Ticket Prices Going Up By A Few Euros Closer To The Day Of Departure. I'm Talking The Price Difference Could Be €50 To €100 More! I've Had To Not Go On A Day Trip From Paris Because I Didn't Book My Train Ticket In Advance, And It Was Too Expensive. Like It Was Going To Be Over €300 Round-Trip For A Two-Hour Train Ride Each Way! So, Learn From My Mistakes And Book Your Train Tickets Early! I Know This Isn't Exactly A Tip For Travelling Alone In France, But I Need You To Know This! It'll Make Your France Trip Go So Much Smoother And Save You A Ton Of Money. Especially If You're Visiting Multiple Cities On Your Trip!

But It Can Feel A Bit Sketchy At Night

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Things To Do In Berlin

Don't Think Too Much About What To Do In Berlin!

Behold The Berlin Panorama From Reichstag Building



A Visit To The Reichstag Building Is One Of The Top Things To Do In Berlin. Better Known As The German Parliament, It Was Built In 1894 And Renovated In 1992 To Add A Glass Dome Symbolising Transparency. It's Open To Only A Limited Number Of Visitors Each Day And A Wonderful Place To Gulp In 360 Degree Views Of Berlin.

Walk Down The East Side Gallery



Berlin Has A Conflict-Ridden History And The East Side Gallery Is A Grim Yet Important Reminder Of That. A Popular Open-Air Gallery, It Is A 1316 Metre Long Wall That Reminds Of The Berlin Wall. The Wall Is Now Covered In Graffiti And Art By Famous Artists Demanding Peace And Love For The World. It Should Definitely Be On Your List Of Things To Do In Berlin.

Learn History At The Holocaust Memorial



One Of The Top 10 Things To Do In Berlin Is To Pay Your Respect At The Holocaust Memorial. It Is A Grim Reminder Of The The Fateful Day When 3 Million Jews Were Killed During The Holocaust. A Great Many Tourists Visit The Memorial Each Year Making It One Of The Most Popular Things To Do In Berlin Germany.

Go For A Picnic At The Tiergarten Park



Among The Fun Things To Do In Berlin Is To Enjoy A Chilled Beer In Tiergarten Park's Café After A Nice Run. Tiergarten Is A Lively Park Full Of Lawns And Trees. The Open-Air Lantern Museum Will Also Make A Great Addition To Your List Of Things To Do In Berlin! The Park Turns Into A Fairyland Every Evening When Over 100 Gas Lanterns Are Lit!

Explore Art And Architecture At The Museum Island



Wondering What To Do In Berlin Germany? Think No More! A UNESCO World Heritage Site And Home To Five Museums, The Unique Museum Island Displays Art And Artefacts From Ancient Egypt, Byzantine, And Berlin. The Museum Buildings Themselves Are Spectacular; So Make Sure You Find Time For This With All The Other Stuff To Do In Berlin!

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password

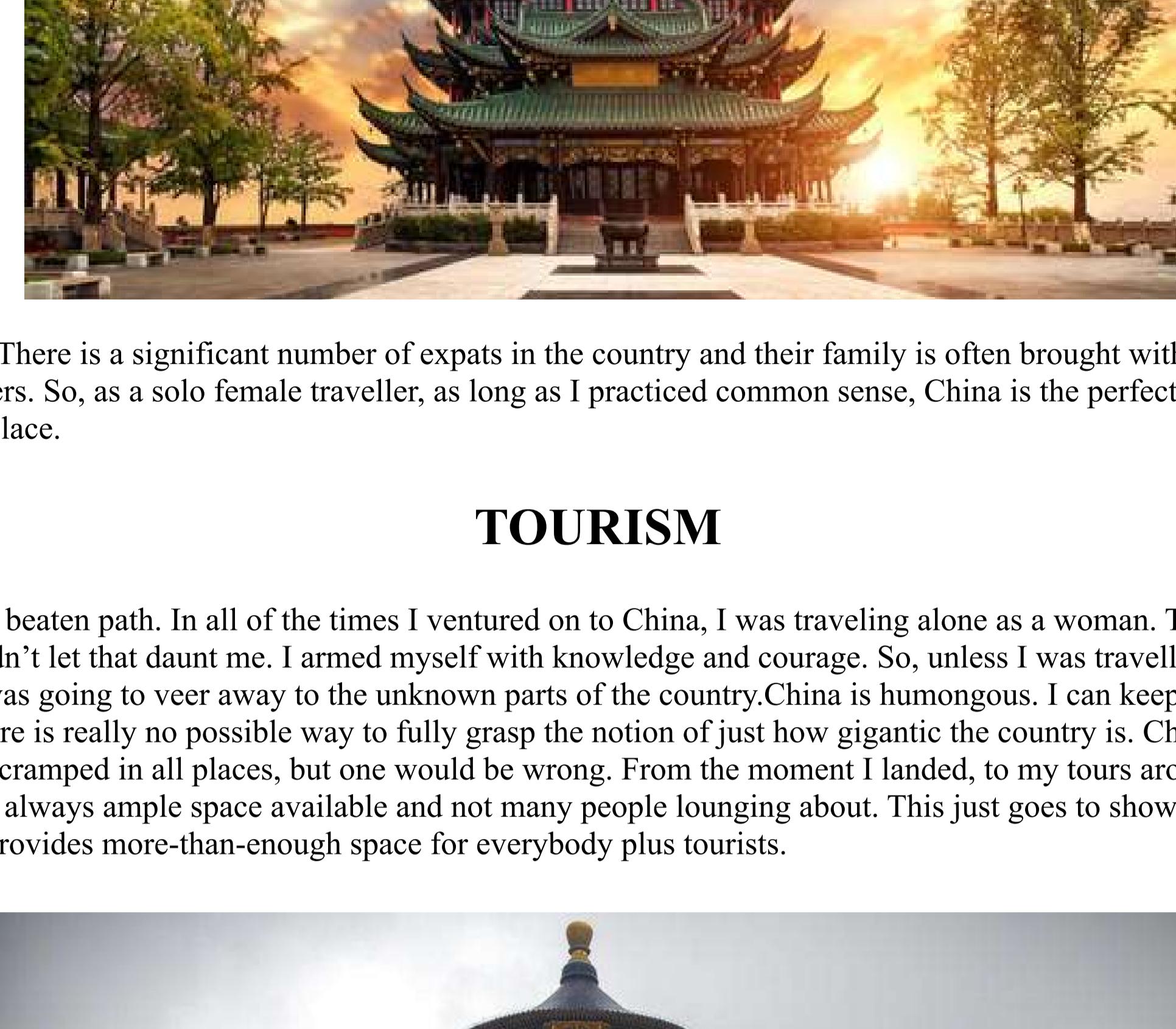
login

TRAVELING ALONE AS A WOMAN IN CHINA

Traveling alone as a woman in China was a dynamic experience. I have gone on to visit this vast, ancient country three times, all in different places. And let's just say, it exceeded all my expectations and my journey was beyond compare. It is such a mysterious and exotic land, steeped in history, culture, and stunning natural views such as West Lake, one of the prettiest lakes in the world. Within it, the bustling modern cities and technology envelopes its people. My many travels proved that China is one of a kind, different from any other place.

SAFETY

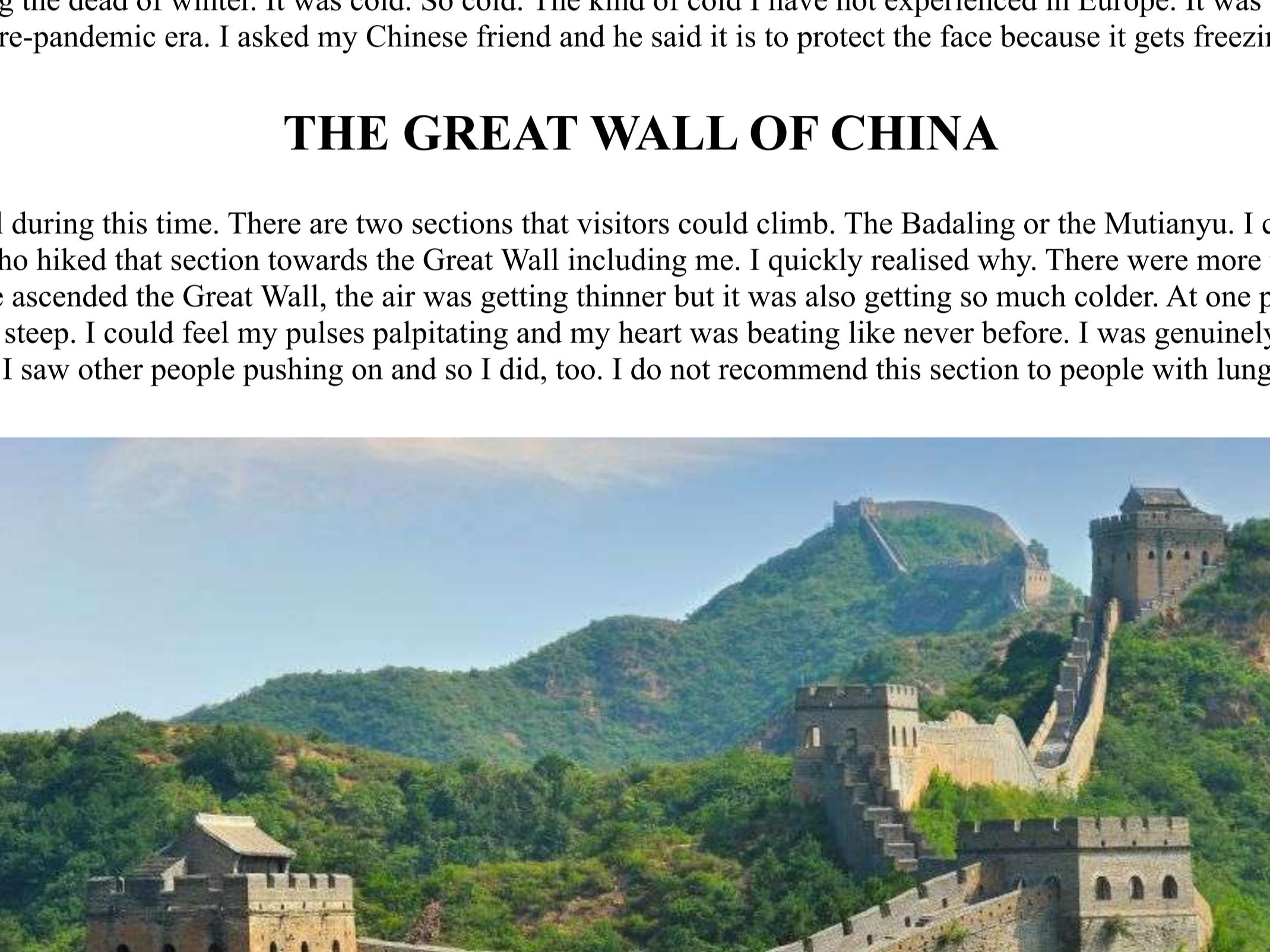
The Republic of China is relatively safe. No different than any big countries and crowded cities. I will even say that I felt safer in China than I did in some of the countries I've lived in. Yes, I had a preconceived notion of what to expect and guaranteed, I was a little bit intimidated to be traveling alone as a woman in a massive nation but all of that vanished once I stepped foot in The Middle Kingdom. Compared to other big nations, I felt more relaxed in China because there is a large presence of police, security services, and private guards. Like any other place, petty crimes are, of course, present but in the three times I've gone to visit China — all in different cities — I have not been able to experience this despite looking like an obvious foreigner which is said to be the target of petty crimes according to tourists boards that I have read before my travels.



China is a hub for businesses and trades. There is a significant number of expats in the country and their family is often brought with them. This is an insight as to how accommodating the country is to foreigners. So, as a solo female traveller, as long as I practiced common sense, China is the perfect destination. I made sure I was never disoriented and everything else fell into place.

TOURISM

My personal take is to always stay on the beaten path. In all of the times I ventured on to China, I was traveling alone as a woman. That simple fact alone is enough to raise red flags with my friends and family but I didn't let that daunt me. I armed myself with knowledge and courage. So, unless I was travelling in a group and accompanied by a trusted local tour company, there was no way I was going to veer away to the unknown parts of the country. China is humongous. I can keep saying that, but unless you truly understand the concept of how big the country is, there is really no possible way to fully grasp the notion of just how gigantic the country is. China's population currently stands at 1.402 billion. One would think that they are all cramped in all places, but one would be wrong. From the moment I landed, to my tours around the country, down to my mundane walks along the narrow streets, there was always ample space available and not many people lounging about. This just goes to show that despite the number of people in the country, the land mass is so large that it provides more-than-enough space for everybody plus tourists.



I went during winter and spring time. Both were alike in terms of crowd density. Enough space to move around and lots of space to breathe in. I can't personally say the same for summer, though. I would assume there'd be more people out and about during this season as they bask in the sun as it can get very cold during winter. A friend who is a constant traveller to China said, if possible, avoid travelling in China and going to waterparks because it can get extremely crowded. This would make sense, though, as it is the same for any other place in the world. Except, of course, they have a billion people.

NORTHERN CHINA

I went to Beijing in December during the dead of winter. It was cold. So cold. The kind of cold I have not experienced in Europe. It was the burning kind of cold. I saw loads of locals wearing masks and this was pre-pandemic era. I asked my Chinese friend and he said it is to protect the face because it gets freezing during winter. And so it was!

THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA

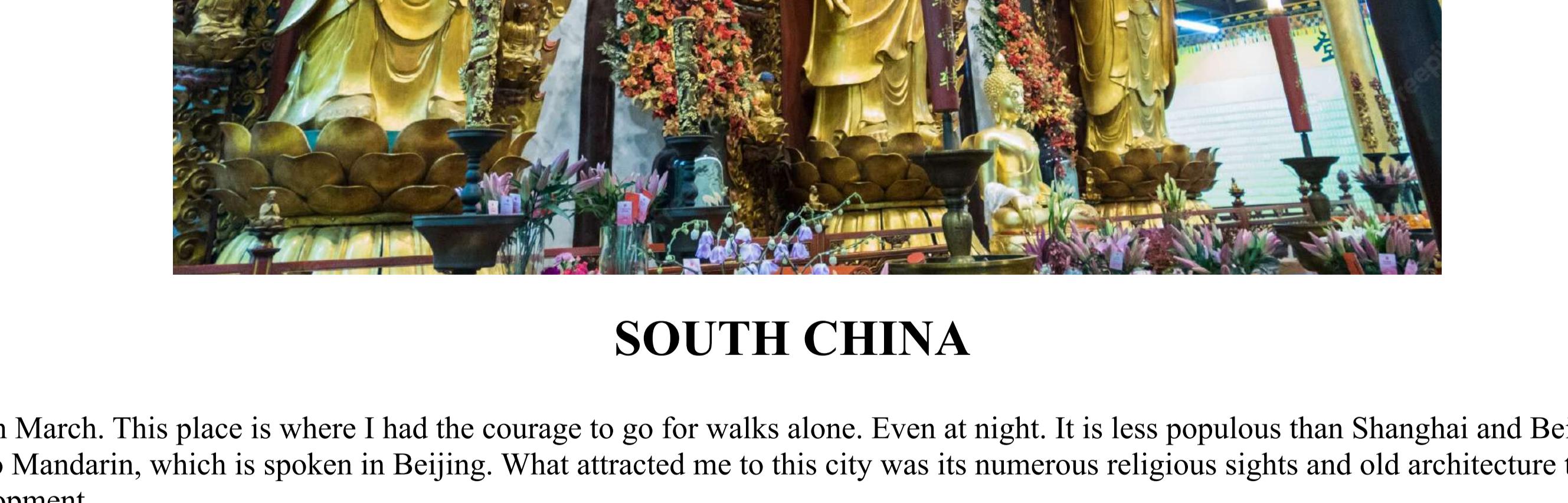
I had gone on to visit The Great Wall during this time. There are two sections that visitors could climb. The Badaling or the Mutianyu. I chose the Mutianyu path. There were perhaps just fifteen people in total who hiked that section towards the Great Wall including me. I quickly realised why. There were more tourists in Badaling because it is much less steeper and easier to hike. As we ascended the Great Wall, the air was getting thinner but it was also getting so much colder. At one point, I was afraid I wouldn't be able to make it. The hike up was getting too steep. I could feel my pulses palpitating and my heart was beating like never before. I was genuinely terrified that I would suffer a heart attack whilst hiking my way up. But I saw other people pushing on and so I did, too. I do not recommend this section to people with lung problems and weak hearts.



As I reached the mid point, I was given the option to take the cable car ride all the way to the top or continue hiking. I already knew my knees were going to give up and my breathing could only do so much at this point. I liked cable car rides, anyway, so I took that route. And boy was I in for a treat! The cable car brought me slowly to the top, showed me the area where the Great Wall was built, amongst other natural beauty that surrounded me. I was all alone in that cable car and the astonishing views made me feel some type of way. It was exhilarating. Words are not enough to describe the stunning views up there.

FORBIDDEN CITY

The Forbidden City is a palace complex in Beijing. It's at the center of the Imperial City of Beijing and surrounded by numerous opulent imperial gardens and temples. The palace exemplifies the opulence of the residences of the Chinese emperor and the traditional Chinese palatial architecture. It's listed by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world. The Forbidden City's market value has been estimated at 70 billion USD, making it both the world's most valuable palace and the most valuable piece of real estate anywhere in the world. My only tip would be to avoid tourist peak days to truly enjoy the ancient beauty of the place. The weekends and Chinese public holidays are the busiest times of the year.



TEMPLES

China has many temples. I went to the Yonghe Temple in Beijing. Some people also call it the Lama Temple because it is the biggest Tibetan Buddhist temple in Beijing. It's a popular worship place for locals. It was actually originally a royal palace that has since been converted to a temple where members of the public can pray. I've always found the religion of Buddhism to be interesting and beautiful. During my visit, there were very few people there, so it was very quiet and comforting. I took time to pray to the Buddha in front of me. I wasn't exactly sure what I was doing, but I just spoke in my head and felt a sense of comfort, peace, and contentment. I could feel my inner self being just there, standing still. I was happy and overall overwhelmed by the tranquility.



SOUTH CHINA

I travelled Guangzhou in March. This place is where I had the courage to go for walks alone. Even at night. It is less populous than Shanghai and Beijing. Here, they speak Cantonese as opposed to Mandarin, which is spoken in Beijing. What attracted me to this city was its night. It is less religious sights and Shanghainese architecture that gave me an insight into China's historical development.

CANTON TOWER

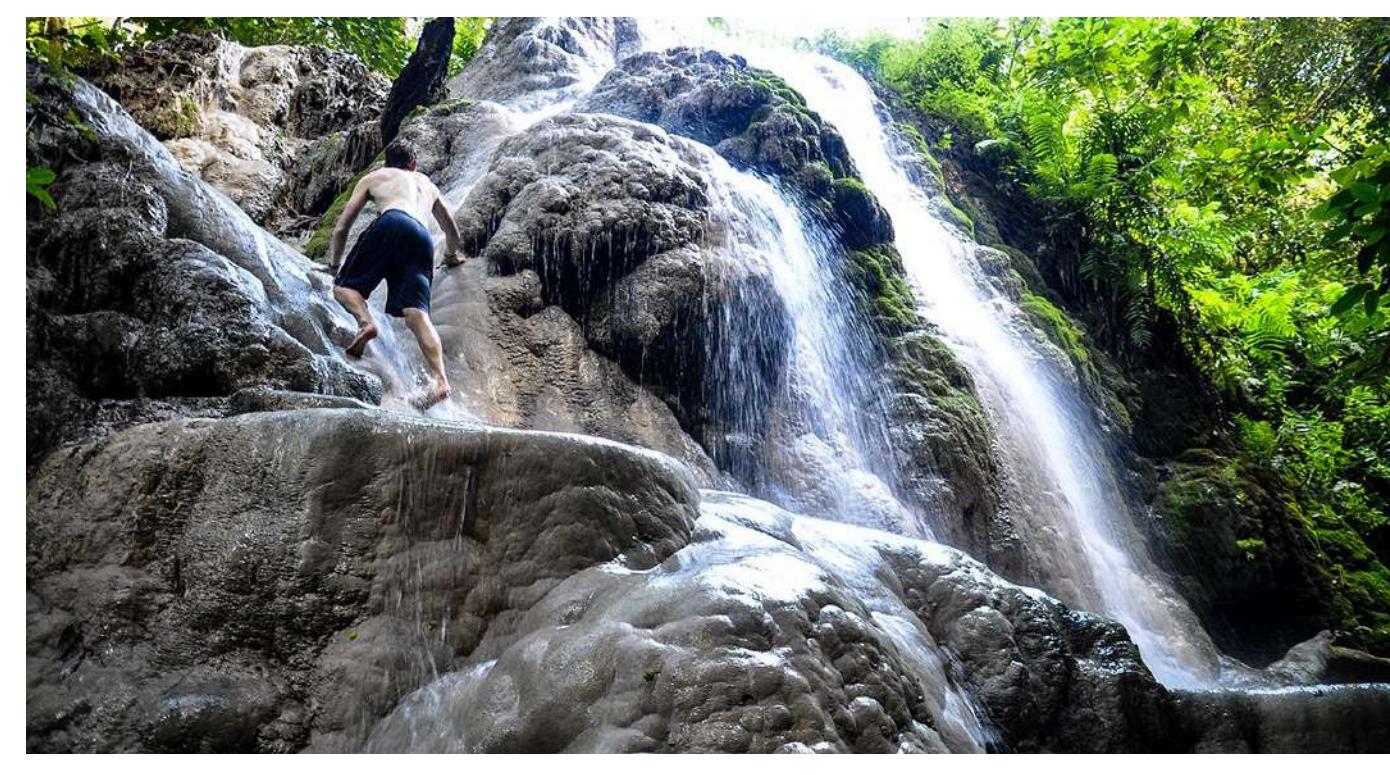
The tower is the fourth tallest freestanding structure in the world and the tallest structure in all of China. Naturally, the tourists come flocking to see it. It symbolises Guangzhou's place in China's modern age with its night show of colourful lights and astonishing architectural design. In the main observation deck, there is a glass skywalk tucked away inside the tower edges. I would say people with shaky knees should avoid this, but it truly is one for the books!

On the first night of travelling alone as a woman in Guangzhou, I took a leap of faith and went on a walk in one of the local areas at night. I found myself walking towards a busy street in the city and it felt like walking in my home town except everything is in Chinese! I always bring a printout of my hotel address in Mandarin/Cantonese so I could show a taxi the location in case I got lost. Luckily, this has never happened to me. The metro can get really busy and crammed, this is the point to really watch my belongings. But nothing I hadn't done in London or Manila.

Adventurous Things To Do In Chiang Mai

Surrounded By Lush Mountains And Dotted With Historic Temples, Chiang Mai Is The Best Hub For Exploring Northern Thailand. This City Has A Rare Combination Of Adventure, Nature, Culture, History, Food, And Modern Comforts; A Blend That Makes It One Of Our Favorite Cities In The World.

Climb Up "Sticky Waterfalls"



Most Waterfalls You Think Of Are Extremely Slippery Due To The Massive Build Up Of Mossy Rocks Or Fast Moving Water. The Bua Thong Waterfalls (Also Known As "Sticky Waterfalls") Are Unique Because They Are Fed By A Spring Rich In Minerals. Due To The Mineral Deposits In The Water, The Rocks Have Become Porous And Slightly Spongy, Allowing You To Walk Up Them With Bare Feet (Perfect For Anyone With "Wandering Soles"! Haha!) There Are A Couple Sections To The Tiered-Waterfall, But Our Favorite Was At The Very Bottom Where The Falls Drop About Thirty Feet And You Are Able To Climb Around Them. It's A Great Way To Cool Down On A Hot Day! After You're Done Playing The Falls, Head Up The Small Set Of Stairs Opposite Of The Falls Which Leads To The Source Of The Spring. The Spring Itself Is A Deep Hole Filled With Vibrant Blue Water. Read Our Complete Guide To Visiting Sticky Waterfalls (Bua Tong) For Directions On How To Get There And What To Expect.

Hike The Pilgrim's Path To A Jungle Temple



There Are Dozens Of Temples In Chiang Mai, But Wat Pha Lat Is Our Favorite Temple We've Visited By Far. First, It Is Surrounded By The Jungle, So It Has A Completely Different Feel Than The Temples Within The Old City. Second, It Can Only Be Reached By Hiking, Which Eliminates Many Tourists. The Crowds At Wat Pha Lat Are Far Fewer Than At Many Of The Other Temples In Chiang Mai, So It Feels Really Special. After An Easy 30 – 40-Minute Hike On The Pilgrim's Path, You'll Be Rewarded With Bamboo Forests, The Sound Of Chirping Birds, A Trickling Waterfall, And Monks Completing Their Daily Chores. Allow Yourself At Least 30 Minutes To Wander Around, Take Photos And Enjoy This Beautiful Place.

Hike The Pilgrim's Path To A Jungle Temple



Songkran, Or Thai New Year, Is Celebrated In April. (The Exact Date Changes, As It Follows The Lunar Calendar.) If You're Planning To Visit Chiang Mai For Songkran, Get Ready For A Festival You'll Never Forget! Songkran Lasts For 3 Days, And The Whole City Plays Along. Everyone Carries Water Guns And Buckets, And There Is No Way You Can Walk Down A Street Without Getting Wet. As Long As You've Got Your Phone Protected, You're In For An Incredible Time. Families Will Drive Down The Street With The Bed Of Their Pickup Truck Lined With Plastic And Filled With Water, Creating A Makeshift "Pool". Kids Or Teenagers Sitting In The Back Will Find Every Opportunity To Douse Passersby With Buckets Of Water.

Splash Around At The Chiang Mai Grand Canyon



We've Visited The Chiang Mai Grand Canyon Twice – Once In 2015 And Again In 2019 – And Boy Oh Boy Has It Changed! What Used To Be A Sort Of Hidden Secret Is Now Super Built Up, And It's Certainly Not Off-The-Beaten-Path Anymore. Back In The Day (Aka 2015 And Before), This Old Quarry Was A Haven For Backpackers Looking For An Adventurous And Cheap Way To Spend The Day. There Was One Small Cafe Onsite And It Cost 50 Baht (\$1.60 USD) To Enter, And This Fee Included A Complimentary Drink. From There, You Were On Your Own. Locals Hung Out And Dived Off Cliffs – Some As Tall As 15 Meters (50 Feet). There Were A Couple Of Rickety Bamboo Rafts To Float On, And That Was Pretty Much It.

See Elephants In Chiang Mai The Responsible Way



Seeing An Elephant Up Close Is On Pretty Much Everyone's Bucket List In Thailand. But Before We Dive Into Where To See Elephants In Chiang Mai, We Are Going Over Some Very Important Things To Consider When You Book Your Elephant Experience. If You Just Skim This Section Over And Don't Do Much Research, Your Actions Can Actually Be Very Harmful To The Elephants You Just Wanna Cuddle. Today, Many Travelers Are Educated About Why You Should Not Ride Elephants, And Instead Decide To Visit "Elephant Sanctuaries" While On Vacation In Thailand. While This Is A Great Shift, There Are Some Things You Should Know Before You Book Just Any "Sanctuary"… Here's A Little Insight We've Learned While Living In Chiang Mai: As The Demand For Sanctuaries Grows, There Are Unfortunately Some Places That Are Capitalizing On This And Calling Themselves "Sanctuaries" Without Truly Doing What's Right For The Elephants. We've Heard Stories That After Tourists Leave, The Way They Treat Their Animals (And Staff Members) Isn't Always Great.

Things To Do In Italy

Italy Is One Of The Most Popular Destinations Worldwide. Italy Has Delicious Food, A Beautiful Coastline, World-Famous Architecture & Art, And The List Goes On. Visit The Best Places In Italy During A 2-Week Italy Itinerary. These Are The Things To Do In Italy.

Climb Up "Sticky Waterfalls"



Cinque Terre Is A National Park In The Northwest Of Italy. It Is Home To Five Colorful Fishing Villages And Is Incredibly Picturesque. The Area Is Great For Hikers But Can Also Easily Be Explored By Train. Spend The Night At One Of The Five Romantic Villages.

Stroll Venice's Streets And Canals



A City Without Cars, Built On Water, Where All Transport Goes By Boats And Bridges. Venice Is A Magical City And An Absolute Must-Visit In Italy! Yes, Venice Can Get Very Busy But Inside This Venice Travel Guide Are A Couple Of Tips To Easily Avoid The Crowds.

Roadtrip Through Tuscany



Drive Over The Rolling Hills Of Tuscany, Along The Vineyards, And Cross The Medieval Villages. Tuscany Might Be Italy's Most Beautiful And Less Visited Regions. That's Why Is One Of The Things You Must Do In Italy. Trains In This Region Are Very Limited And To Really See Tuscany, Renting A Car, Is The Only Way-To-Go.

Sunset At The Duomo In Florence



Florence Is A Charming, Relatively Small, City In Tuscany. The Duomo (Cathedral) Of Florence With The World's Largest Dome Is An Incredible Masterpiece. Head Up To A Rooftop Bar Or Stay At One Of The Hotels That Have A Rooftop View On The Duomo Of Florence.

Relax In Natural Hot Springs



Multiple Levels Of Natural Hot Water Springs Are Heated By A Volcano. An Unreal-Looking Natural Appearance Tucked Away In The Middle Of Italy. Saturnia Is A Spa Town In Tuscany, Italy. A Commonly Misunderstood Fact Is That The Springs Are Part Of A Nearby Located Spa Resort. The Saturnia Hot Springs In Tuscany Are Completely FREE To Visit 24 Hours A Day, 7 Days A Week, 365 Days A Year.

Tourist Attraction In New York City

One Of The Greatest Cities In The World, New York Is Always A Whirlwind Of Activity, With Famous Sites At Every Turn And Never Enough Time To See Them All. Some People Come Here To Enjoy The Broadway Shows; Others Come Specifically To Shop And Dine; And Many Come Simply To See The Sites: The Statue Of Liberty, Empire State Building, Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park, Historic Neighborhoods, And Numerous World Famous Museums. Many Of The Best Places To Visit In New York Are Within Walking Distance Of Each Other, Or Just A Short Ride Away, Making This City A Delight For Sightseeing. Some Of The Newer Tourist Attractions That Have Opened In New York In Recent Years, Like The High Line And One World Observatory, Offer Unique Perspectives Of The City. Any Time Of Year And Any Time Of Day Or Night There Are An Endless Array Of Things To See And Do In New York.

HAVE A BAGEL FOR BREAKFAST



Start Your Day With A NYC Classic, But Take Note: Not All Bagels Are Created Equal, And Most New Yorkers Will Claim You Haven't Really Tried A Bagel Until You've Tried A New York Bagel. While Rumour Has It That It Is The City's Water That Makes Them So Delicious, Apparently It's The Process Of Boiling And Then Baking Them That Gives The Bagels Their Signature Crispy Exterior And Doughy Centre. Whatever Makes A Bagel A "New York" Bagel, There Is Serious Debate Over Where To Find The Best Ones In The City. Whether You're Getting Them Fresh With Cream Cheese From Old-School Ess-A-Bagel In Midtown East, Indulging In Some Smoked Fish At The Iconic Russ And Daughters On The Lower East Side, Or Queuing Up With NYU Students At Murray's In Greenwich Village, You Can't Leave New York City Without Trying One.

SEE THE CITY SKYLINE FROM ABOVE



No Matter How Many Times I See The New York City Skyline, I Never Get Tired Of It. My Own Favourite Skyline Viewing Spot Is From The Outdoor Platform At Top Of The Rock, But The Empire State Building Is An Icon That's Worth Visiting For The History As Well As The Views, While The Viewing Observatory On The 102nd Floor Of One World Trade Is The Highest In The City. Take Your Pick, And Brace Yourself For Vertigo-Inducing But Beautiful Skyline Views!

WATCH THE IMPOSSIBLY BRIGHT LIGHTS AT TIMES SQUARE



No Matter The Time Of Day Or Night, Times Square Is Busy. The Crowds And Commercialism Mean That Most New Yorkers Do Their Best To Stay Away From The Intersection Of Streets Known As 'the Crossroads Of The World,' But On A First Visit To New York City, You Simply Have To Experience Times Square. I Know What It's Like To Be A Tourist Here, And I Can Still Remember The Sheer Thrill Of My First Sight Of Times Square, When I Found Myself Standing In The Centre Of These Blindingly Bright Lights I'd Watched On Television For Years. I Was Giddy With Excitement, So I Say Yes - Visit Times Square, Preferably At Night, And Soak Up The Crazy Atmosphere.

ADMIRE THE CEILING AT GRAND CENTRAL TERMINAL



Grand Central Terminal Is More Than A Mere Train Station: It's An Iconic New York City Destination In Its Own Right. The Building First Opened In 1913, And Sees More Than 700,000 People Pass Through Its Doors Every Day. While There Are Countless Spaces To Shop, Dine, And Eat Here, The Highlight Is Undoubtedly The Main Concourse, Where You Can Stand Back And Admire The Elaborate Painted Ceiling, Featuring Zodiac Constellations Made Up Of Thousands Of Stars. (Don't Miss The Whispering Gallery Either: The Ceilings Just Outside The Oyster Bar Create Certain Acoustics That Mean You Can Whisper To Your Travel Partner From The Other Side Of The Room!)

WALK ACROSS THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE



The Brooklyn Bridge, Built In 1883, Was The First Bridge To Connect Brooklyn With Manhattan, And At The Time Was The World's Largest Suspension Bridge. Today, It's An Iconic Part Of The New York City Skyline, And The Views From The Pedestrian Walkway Are Spectacular. While You Can Access The Bridge From Either Manhattan Or Brooklyn, I Always Take Friends To Brooklyn Via The Subway First, So We Can Stroll Through The DUMBO Neighbourhood And Grab Some Food Or Drinks, Before Heading To Brooklyn Bridge Park And Then Finally Crossing The Bridge Itself.

Things To Do In The Maldives As A Solo Traveler

There's A Perception That The Maldives Is A Destination For Doing Nothing. On A Typical Day, A Couple Or Family Would Enjoy Their Overwater Bungalow And Sunbathe On The Beach. There's Nothing More Wrong Than That. There Are Plenty Of Things To Do There And Most Of Them Didn't Require A Partner.

Snorkeling & Diving



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Surfing



Not Many Associate The Calm Waters Of The Maldives With Surfing. The Waves Are Just About The Right Size (3' - 6') For Beginners And Advanced Surfers. The Summer Months Of June, July And August Are Potentially The Best Months For The Biggest Swells, But Tropical Storms Are More Prevalent. There Are Some Resorts That Specialize In Surf Camps, Particularly In North Male Atol. As You Can Imagine, A Great Way To Socialize And Get To Know Your Fellow Solo Travelers On The Island.

Spa Treatments



I Definitely Enjoyed My Spa Treatments In The Maldives. The Maldivian Treatment, For Example, Uses The Coconut As A Milky Bath And Scrub To Exfoliate And Soften The Skin. I Assure You That You Won't Need Another Person To Admire The Turquoise Waters And Beaches While Getting A Massage To Soothe The Mind And Nourish The Body. Most Resorts Offer Spa Services These Days. While I Got Standard Treatment, I Was Told That If I Had More Time I Could Have Got A Personalized Assessment Of My Skin And Treatment According To My Results. Next Time I Guess.

Watching Sea Life



I Spent Hours At My Pool Watching Tiny Blacktip Sharks Swimming Among Fish In The Ocean. During My Stay, The Water Was So Clean That I Was Able To Stand Over The Water Or Float On My Giant Unicorn And Observe The Ocean Coming To Life. I Swear, It Gets Addictive. Other Resorts Had Manta Rays Coming To The Shore As Well. They're Both Completely Harmless With Their Useless Teeth, So If You Dare You Can Jump In With Them As I Did. When I Went On A Sunset Dolphin Cruise And I Saw A Big Group Of Dolphins Hanging Out Next To Our Boat, Not Even 5 Minutes After We Departed. I've Never Seen Anything Like This In My Life Before!

Stargazing

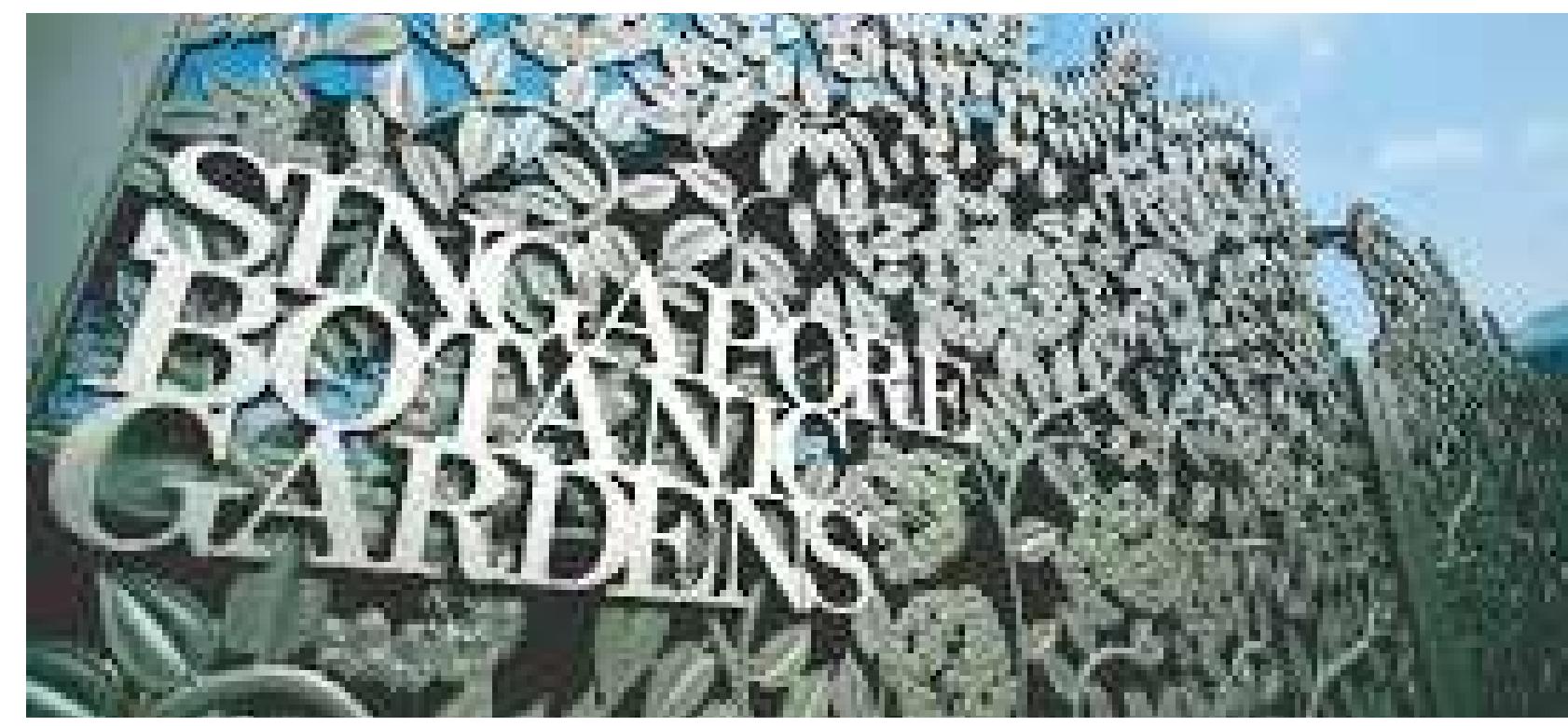


Two Of The Resorts I Stayed At Had Gigantic Telescopes To Watch The Stars. Needless To Say, I Went To See What's Up In The Sky Twice In The Maldives. While Most People Were Interested Mostly In Seeing The Moon, The Local Astronomer Was Also Showing Everyone Different Stars. Since I Was There On My Own, During The Dinner With The Astronomer I Got To Ask Him A Ton Of Questions And Exchanged Many Fun Stories On How He Became An Astronomer, While The Other Couple Was More Focused On Enjoying Themselves. I've Never Seen The Sky Being So Clear Anywhere Else In The World. For Example, I Was Able To See One Particular Star That I'd Never Paid Attention To Before, But It Turned Out It's The Most Blinking Star In Our Galaxy. It's Called Sirius And It Appears To Twinkle The Most Because It's Pretty Close To Earth, Making It One Of The Brightest Stars, Combined With Our Atmosphere Bending The Light From It.

Let's Have A Walk In The Gardens

The Singapore Botanic Gardens Is A UNESCO World Heritage Site In Singapore And Showcases 162 Years Old Tropical Garden. This Travel Guide Of Singapore Botanic Gardens Will Take You Through The Gardens With Some Fantastic Photos. Enjoy!

I Was Animated To Visit This Place. It's Not That I Have Never Been To A Garden Before. But I Have Never Been To A Tropical Garden, Which Is On The List Of UNESCO. And My Initial Impression Was Great Even Before Entering The Garden. First, The Entry Gate Was Delicate And Sophisticated. The Color And Pattern Imparts A Soothingness The Minute You Look At It. It's Like A Lace Embroidery On A White Wedding Dress Prepared For A Princess.



Second, For This Fantastic Grand Clock And The Design Surrounded By It.



As You Can See, It Was Early In The Morning For Me And The Weather Was Perfect. It Was Neither Hot Nor Cold. There Were Few People Inside The Park. A Lush Of Greeneries Reminded Me About The Fascination Of Singapore For Its Greeneries.



There Are Paved Walkways In Different Directions. Some Of Them Are Wide, Some Of Them Are Narrow. Wandering Through Those Will Offer You A Notion About Walking Through A Forest. If You Stroll Around For A While, You Could Observe The Influence Of The British In The Garden. Once, Singapore Was A British Colony. Suddenly You Realize That There Is In Fact A Vast Rainforest Within The Garden Itself. How Large Is The Rainforest? It's Six-Hectare! It Will Not Amaze Me If You Encounter Showers When You Visit There.



You Can See Ponds In The Garden. Many People Throw Foods Inside The Ponds, Expecting The Fishes To Take Those. However, Not All The Fishes Like The Food We Throw. So, They Lodged An Official Objection To The Garden Authority, And They Put The Placard For Us



So, They Put A Dispensing Machine In Place For Feeding The Fishes. You Can Buy Fish Foods From The Machine And Feed The Fishes In The Pond. Isn't It Nice? I Was Enjoying The Walk. Apart From Old Enormous Trees, There Were So Many Types Of Flowers And Orchids. I Did Not Know The Name Of Them All. But I Can Vouch That They Are Beautiful.



Travel Solo In The Most Romantic Country- Switzerland!

Mountains Cast A Spell On Me. Hence, I'm On A Constant Search For Finding Destinations Where I Can Live Like A Pahadi/ Mountain Girl. Having Been To Austria, Scotland, Northern India And Experiencing The Majestic Alps And Himalayas, I Still Always Had The Itch To Go To Switzerland.

Stay In A Quaint Car-Free Village



I Chose Wengen For My 4 Night Stay In The Bernese Oberland Which Is A Car-Free Village 4,180 Ft Above Sea Level. It Had Just The Right Balance Between Quaintness And Availability Of Eating & Shopping Options. A Lot Of Tourists Consider The Not-So-Impressive City Of Interlaken (1,857 Ft Above Sea Level) As A Base Which Is Not Actually In The Alps. Wengen Is A 17 Min Train Ride Away From Lauterbrunnen Which In Turn Is 20 Min Far From Interlaken. I Could've Easily Spent A Week There Going Nowhere But Strolling Around The Village. Waking Up To The View Of The Mighty Jungfrau Right From My Hotel Balcony Everyday Was Worth The Effort It Took To Stay Here. Other Equally Good Option To Stay Is Murren (5,374 Ft Above Sea Level) Which Is On The Opposite Side Of The Lauterbrunnen Valley.

Take Adrenaline Pumping Thrill Walks



Switzerland Is Home To A Few Of The Deadliest Walks In The World. I Was Fortunate That There Was No Earthquake And The Bridge Didn't Fall While I Was Walking On The First Cliff Walk By Tissot In Grindelwald First (7,100 Ft Above Sea Level). The Observation Point Is On A Glass Jutting Out Into A Void. For A Mild Acrophobic Person Like Me, It Surely Feels Like An Achievement Once You Reach The End And Pose For A Click. Another Walk That I Abandoned Almost Half Way Was The Thrill Walk In Birg (9,744 Ft Above Sea Level).

Go Hiking



You Don't Have To Be Fit As A Fiddle Or A Seasoned Hiker To Enjoy Hiking Amidst The Picturesque Views Of The Swiss Alps. I Chose The Easy Trails In The Bernese Oberland Which Were Within 2 Hours And Made Sure My Backpack Carried A Full Bottle Of Water, Sunscreen And Snacks. Believe Me They Are Life Savers When You Try To Find Signs Of Civilization In The Middle Of Your Trail! My First Walking Trail Was From Allmendhubel (In Murren) To Gimmelwald Which Fit In Beautifully In My Plan To Visit The Villages Of Gimmelwald And Murren Which Are On The Same Side Of Lauterbrunnen Valley.

Ride The Trains & Gondolas



We Might Argue That Commute Can't Be Regarded As An 'activity'; It Is Rather The 'down-Time'. Well, This Doesn't Apply In Switzerland Where Every Train Journey Rewards You With Such Gorgeous Views That You'd Hardly Wish The Journey To Get Over. This Is A Very Good Option For A Cold, Windy, Rainy Day When You Just Want To Be Warm And Comfortable But Also Not Miss Out On The 'trip Fun'. Since I Took The Bernese Oberland Regional Pass Which Was The Lesser Known, Cheaper But More Useful Than Swiss Pass, I Had The Flexibility And Luxury To Hop On Any Train Or Cable Car Free Of Cost During The Length Of My Stay.

Explore Swiss Lake Towns



Being Always Drawn To The Lesser Known Villages And Towns, It Takes A Lot Of Convincing To Spend My Precious Trip Days In A Big City. While I Made A Conscious Call Not To Spend Any Time In Zurich (I Landed In Zurich In The Night, And Left For Lucerne The Next Morning), I Spared A Day For Lucerne To Enjoy The Famous Kapellbrücke (Chapel Bridge) And Frescoed Buildings Dotted Across The Town. Many Tourists Also Visit Mt Rigi And Mt Pilatus From Lucerne But I Skipped Them In Favour For Higher And Prettier Mountains Of The Jungfrau Region. On A Particular Rainy Day, I Made An Unplanned Visit To The Lake Towns Of Brienz And Thun And Never Expected To Be Blown Away By The Giessbach Waterfalls (Pictures Don't Do Justice!) Near Brienz. This Surprise Addition In My Trip Ended Up Becoming One Of The Highlights And One Of The Most Cherished Moments In My Life.