

Beyond the Bund
The Shanghai
skyline at night.



BEHIND THE SEAMS

Discover what the Paris of the East has to offer visitors.

SHANGHAI To get the inside scoop on Shanghai, turn to Spencer Dodginton and Jonathan Hasson at Luxury Concierge China. They provide a team of multilingual guides who seek out the city's gourmet treats, retail romps and superior sights with alacrity and aplomb. From a VIP airport welcome, to fossicking for Art Deco antiques or delving into the depths of a Shanghaiese kitchen on the Bund, Luxury Concierge China has got Shanghai all sewn up – and that's not just the city's legendary tailors, who are as supernaturally swift as they are inexpensive. luxuryconciiergechina.com ED PETERS



WHAT WE'RE PACKING

Venusus Jet-Set facial gel, serum and moisturiser, made from organic ingredients, are soothing on dehydrated skin and come in solid but compact packaging to withstand travel leaks. For an extra treat, throw in a sachet of the Ancient Spice body products. venusus.com.au

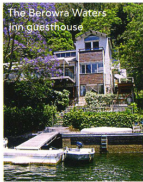
IN BRIEF

GOING WITH THE FLOW

Sydney chef Dietmar Sawyere's much-lauded Berowra Waters Inn, set on the Hawkesbury River, now offers guesthouse accommodation. Take a seaplane or private ferry to the neighbouring self-contained apartment and let the river, and Sawyere's modern Australian food, soothe you. From \$950 per couple per night, including a six-course degustation at the inn. (02) 9456 1027, berowrawatersinn.com

SURF THE WEB IN STYLE

Luxe City Guides' new Hotel



The Berowra Waters
Inn guesthouse

& Villa Collection website allows travellers to swap stories, view image galleries, get the lowdown on featured properties, pick up special rates and deals and get tips such as the best room in the house to book. You can also check out Luxe's online store, featuring destination reports and members' reviews. luxecityguides.com

KIDS PLAY ON HOLIDAY

The Nam Hai, in Hoi An, is making it easier to take children on holiday by launching an Activities Club for kids. Daily programs at the



SPRINKLE OF SPA DUST

A return to Old World glamour awaits guests at The Dorchester Spa, recently opened in the Art Deco London hotel of the same name, which has long been a haven for Hollywood, rock 'n' roll and British royalty alike. A study in opulence, the spa is all elegant tones of ivory and deep blue (pictured) with rich swathes of velvet, silk, satin and leather furnishings, not to mention a chandelier made of 72,000 South Pacific pearls. After you've been smoothed and vigorously kneaded in one of the spa's nine soundproofed treatment rooms, the nearby Spatisserie offers guests a chance to indulge their other senses – with cocktails, cakes, savoury snacks and (what else?) a glass of bubbles, dahling. +44 (0) 20 7319 7109, thedorchester.com

If you're off to Greece for the last of the northern summer, check out the Acropolis now, specifically its new museum, housing some of the most prized treasures of Greek antiquity. theacropolismuseum.gr

playground villa, set in the resort's beautiful gardens, are targeted at ages four to 12. Cultural activities such as Vietnamese language and art lessons are also available. 1800 667 731, ghmhotels.com

LUXE DIGS IN LAOS

Amanresorts has opened a new resort called Amantaka in the World Heritage-listed town of Luang Prabang. Comprising 24 suites, a spa and a fitness centre, it occupies a carefully restored collection of French colonial buildings. amanresorts.com