ON THE RADAR
NEWS, EVENTS AND MUSINGS

PAIN MEETS PURITY

Only the brave and psychotic venture to Laza for tet. Entroida is the Spanish city’s carnival, and it’s far from the merry visual feast that outsiders expect of the Catholic holiday. The festival, to be held this year between 12 and 22 February, is all about pain and humiliation, which folklore insists purifies the soul. Purge the devil raging inside by hurting balls of mud and angry feet ants into the faces of other revelers. Be warned though; Entroida celebrates a cast of uncanny characters like Moreno, a homed pervert who lifts up women’s skirts, cat calls and makes outrageous sexual gestures.

THE MILD WEST

Cowboys are kinda losers, aren’t they? Men of few words with big hats and noble steeds? If you believed everything you saw on television this description would be true, but each year thousands travel to Elko, Nevada, for the National Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Words – lots of them – are spoken and sung in all the name of life on the land. This year, from 25 to 30 January, ranchers, poets, musicians and artists will celebrate the expansive horizons and endless grasslands of the Northern Plains. Pull on your boots and saddle up for a festival like no other.

IF YOU DO ONE THING THIS SUMMER…

You should head to the northern hemisphere and catch the last of the ski season. For our money you can’t do better than Mayrhofen in Austria, where, from 4 to 9 April, days spent carving down slopes on skis or a board are just the start of it. Snowboarding is the ultimate off-peak party, with six nights of the last live acts and DJs from around the world. The 2016 carnival has the likes of The Prodigy, Macklemore, Groove Armada and DJ Sneak hitting the slopes, bringing the beats. So book your ticket and prepare to wave your hands in the air like you just don’t care that the morning you’ll be bombing down the Harz mountain’s steepest slope, with two planks of wood strapped to your feet.

HotelTonight

Last-minute hotel booking sites are as ubiquitous as narcissists on Facebook, but HotelTonight is different. The app-only portal is geared towards the more discerning traveller and offers cut-price rates for stays at a select portfolio of properties up to seven days in advance. Register, choose your property and in two taps you’re in the room. We bagged a stay at The Olsen Art Series Hotel in Melbourne for $149 (the rack rate was $185) and were checked in pronto. Unlike some booking sites, there was no trawling through extras, including the app’s interactive map and weather forecast. There were a few hiccups made the cut (a maximum of 15 hotels are featured for any one destination and they compete

FREEx’N easy

If Bangkok is on your itinerary, here are five fun activities that won’t cost a baht.

1. Visit Baan Slaipan, a rickety wooden house on the river, that has Thai puppetry shows each day (except Wednesday).
2. Get your zen on during a meditation class with Buddhist monks at Wat Mahathat temple.
3. Watch from the sidelines as some of the best Muay Thai boxers fight each other in the MBK shopping centre every Wednesday night.
4. Eyeball the oddities at Wat Hua Krabue temple, where an eccentric monk has Thai puppetry shows each day (except Wednesday).
5. Get informed at the Museum of Counterfeit Goods, where you’ll learn just how destructive your fake designer bag really is.

FOR THE DIARY

Kia Abdullah and Peter Watson of Atlas & Boots reveal their top pick for a far-future adventure.

We’ve been fortunate enough to swim with whales in Tonga, trek to Machu Picchu in Peru and dive with sharks in the Galapagos, but it was the less-famous island of Tanna in Vanuatu that offered the most breathtaking adventure of all: Mount Yasur, one of the most accessible active volcanoes in the world. Yasur has been erupting nearly continuously for 800 years and continues to do so several times an hour, guaranteeing fireworks for most visitors. We trekked to the top late one afternoon and were greeted by a stomach-churning roar and red-hot lava shooting into the air above. At one point, a single flare landed threateningly close by. As a nearby French tourist put it, it felt “super dangerous”. As darkness fell, most visitors returned to their waiting transfers. Thankfully, we had agreed an extended stay with our driver so by 7pm, we had the volcano all to ourselves – undoubtedly one of our ultimate travel experiences.

HotelTonight

The price on the product should be final. Open as the address.

LOUNGE LIZARDS

Check out our level on a scored at about twice as long as it last.

Met the the bloggers

Kia Abdullah and Peter Watson of Atlas & Boots reveal their top pick for a far-future adventure.

We’ve been fortunate enough to swim with whales in Tonga, trek to Machu Picchu in Peru and dive with sharks in the Galapagos, but it was the less-famous island of Tanna in Vanuatu that offered the most breathtaking adventure of all: Mount Yasur, one of the most accessible active volcanoes in the world. Yasur has been erupting nearly continuously for 800 years and continues to do so several times an hour, guaranteeing fireworks for most visitors. We trekked to the top late one afternoon and were greeted by a stomach-churning roar and red-hot lava shooting into the air above. At one point, a single flare landed threateningly close by. As a nearby French tourist put it, it felt “super dangerous”. As darkness fell, most visitors returned to their waiting transfers. Thankfully, we had agreed an extended stay with our driver so by 7pm, we had the volcano all to ourselves – undoubtedly one of our ultimate travel experiences.

HotelTonight

The price on the product should be final. Open as the address.

LOUNGE LIZARDS

Check out our level on a scored at about twice as long as it last.

Met the the bloggers

Kia Abdullah and Peter Watson of Atlas & Boots reveal their top pick for a far-future adventure.

We’ve been fortunate enough to swim with whales in Tonga, trek to Machu Picchu in Peru and dive with sharks in the Galapagos, but it was the less-famous island of Tanna in Vanuatu that offered the most breathtaking adventure of all: Mount Yasur, one of the most accessible active volcanoes in the world. Yasur has been erupting nearly continuously for 800 years and continues to do so several times an hour, guaranteeing fireworks for most visitors. We trekked to the top late one afternoon and were greeted by a stomach-churning roar and red-hot lava shooting into the air above. At one point, a single flare landed threateningly close by. As a nearby French tourist put it, it felt “super dangerous”. As darkness fell, most visitors returned to their waiting transfers. Thankfully, we had agreed an extended stay with our driver so by 7pm, we had the volcano all to ourselves – undoubtedly one of our ultimate travel experiences.