

VOYAGEUR

A publication of the Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce



09 / 2013

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travel advice and the latest tweets
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The Voyageur is the monthly magazine of the Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, covering all Thai-Canadian business, legal and social news of interest to the members and others who are active in expanding Thai-Canadian bilateral trade.

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Calendar of events:

TCCC

WHEN:	Saturday, October 5, 2013; 6:30 pm – Midnight
WHAT:	2013 Maple Leaf Ball “Magic of Lanterns Night” & Silent Auction
WHERE:	Four Seasons Hotel Ballroom
PRICE:	Sold-out event
WHEN:	Wednesday, October 9, 2013; 11:30 pm – 1:30 pm
WHAT:	Speaker Luncheon – “Helping Elephants in a Changing Economy” with John Edward Roberts, Director – Golden Triangle Asian Elephant Foundation
WHERE:	Eastin Grand Hotel, 33/1 South Sathorn Rd. [Use sky-bridge from Surasak BTS Station]
PRICE:	800 baht – Members; 900 baht – Non Members
WHEN:	Wednesday, October 16, 2013; 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
WHAT:	Canuck Connections Networking Night & Beach Party
WHERE:	Flow House (A-Square - Sukhumvit / Soi 26) 02-108-5210; info@flowhousebangkok.com
PRICE:	200 baht – Members & Non Members; snacks compliments of Flow House.
WHEN:	TBA
WHAT:	4th Annual Beaver Invitational Charity Golf Tournament
WHERE:	TBA
PRICE:	TBA
WHEN:	Wednesday, December 4, 2013; 7:00 pm to 10:30 pm
WHAT:	Canuck Christmas Fest
WHERE:	Bistro 33; Sukhumvit / Soi 33
PRICE:	Final pricing to be announced via event flyer

Upcoming events in the region:

CCBA

Japan: www.cccj.or.jp

WHEN: Thursday, October 3, 2013
WHAT: **A Luncheon with the Premier of Saskatchewan, the Honourable Brad Wall**
WHERE: Grand Hyatt Tokyo - Coriander Ballroom - Level 2
PRICE: ¥4,000 for Members, ¥5,000 for non-Members

Hong Kong: www.cancham.org

WHEN: Fri, October 18, 2013
WHAT: **Transfer Pricing & the Benefits of the New Hong Kong Canada Treaty**
WHERE: CanChamHK Boardroom
PRICE: HK\$200 for members / HK\$300 for non-members

China: www.ccbc.com

WHEN: Wednesday, October 16, 2013
WHAT: **The 35th AGM & Policy Conference**
WHERE: Four Seasons Hotel Beijing
PRICE: Full Registration (Members): CDN\$500.00
 Full Registration (Non-Members): CDN\$800.00
 Business Forum Program Registration (Members): CDN\$250.00
 Business Forum Program Registration (Non-Members): CDN\$400.00
 Ticket to Gala Banquet (Members): CDN\$350.00
 Ticket to Gala Banquet (Non-Members): CDN\$500.00



Dear TCCC Members and Friends,

We're happy to announce that the Thai-Canadian Chamber is now on both Facebook and Twitter!

Facebook:

Join us on Facebook for the latest updates, special events and connections to your chamber friends and colleagues: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Thai-Canadian-Chamber-of-Commerce/278574032237865>

Twitter:

Breaking news, business tips, travel advice and the latest tweets from the TCCC can be followed here: @Thai_Canadian

Sincerely,

The Thai-Canadian Chamber of Commerce

TCCC Networking Night at Bistro 33

One of the TCCC's favourite haunts, Bistro 33, hosted August's TCCC Canuck Connections networking night and the preceding TCCC board meeting, which was held in the Bistro's meeting room on the second floor.

President Peter van Haren, and board members John Casella, Art Chanovan, Neil Chiu, Nelson Hilton, Dean Outerson, and Jim Patterson were all in attendance as were advisors Sean Brady and Sam Cohen. The TCCCC embassy representative Ping Kitnikone was on hand for the board meeting and the Canadian Ambassador to Thailand, Philip Calvert, took time from his busy schedule to attend the networking night. It was also nice to see many new faces in the crowd. Bistro 33 provided delicious complimentary snacks, including mini-burgers, pizza, potato salad, samosas, fresh chicken, and ham and there were special prices on beer and alcohol too. And at the end of the evening, the TCCC raffled off a couple of six-packs of Molson's Canadian as well as a backpack and some yummy Canadian cookies.

You might not tend to think of Sukhumvit Soi 33 as a place to take your family. But Bistro 33 is a delightful eatery, run by manager Barry Osborne. You are probably familiar with Barry; he spent 16 years with the British Club before coming over to Bistro 33 a couple years back (Interesting, he left one green oasis for another).

Describing Bistro 33, Barry says, "It's a meeting place, it is ideal venue for functions, events, parties, networking nights and children's birthday parties. It's really an oasis in the middle of Sukhumvit." There's set lunches for Bt250 and set business lunches for Bt350, all come with an appetizer, a main and a dessert.

Barry designs special menus for these functions e.g. he arranged for Pimms and canapés, mimosas, a birthday cake and cupcakes for one party, so it's safe to say he goes that extra distance for his customers. Bistro 33 also organizes bands and discos for special parties. Popular food includes Argentinean steaks, ribs, and the "Works" burger.

Bistro 33, which has a stunning large garden, has a brick-built pizza oven and is known for its salads and fresh-baked pasta. It has a Sunday Brunch (Bt1,000 with alcohol, Bt500



without, kids under 12 are Bt250, kids under 3 are free) from 11am-3pm with children's activities, such as face painting and crafts, from 1-4pm. Bistro 33 can serve up to 30 people a la carte in its special dining room.

Easter Sunday will see a Bt1,300 nett special buffet including an Easter egg hunt for the kids. There are also the occasional free wine tastings.

Bistro 33 is a great venue for families, couples, friends & celebrations. It is open from 10am-midnite daily.

(Note: add 7% tax is added to all prices, unless noted)

www.thebistro33.com

Temple Trotting Nakhon Phanom Style

Looking to escape the more crowded and busy tourist spots, or just need a getaway from the hustle and bustle of frenzied Bangkok, why not travel to Nakhon Phanom where you can relax and see a more traditional Thai way of life. The city has a beautiful landscape with French, Lao and Vietnamese influences abundant and the Mekong River runs adjacent to the city, marking the border between Thailand and Laos.

The city is also somewhat of a cultural Mecca as it home to seven major stupas that Buddhists regard as sacred pilgrimage sites, each symbolising a different day of the week. These are Phrathat Phanom (worshipped by those born on Sunday) in That Phanom district, Phrathat Renoo (Monday) in Renoo Nakhon district, Phrathat Srikhoon (Tuesday) in Na Kae district, Phrathat Mahachai (Wednesday) in Plabak district, Phrathat Prasit (Thursday) in Na Wa district, Phrathat Uthane (Friday) in Tha Uthane district and Phrathat Nakhorn (Saturday) in Muang district (downtown Nakhon Phanom).

Manote Tripahti of The Nation has done a brilliant job of summing up why this pilgrimage is unique and how best to complete it: "For Thai Buddhists, the graceful spires radiate blessings thanks to the relics of the Buddha they house -- worshipping a stupa is akin to honouring the Buddha. Found mostly in big cities and usually exhibiting white stuccoing with golden embellishments, these imposing and distinctively Isaan stupas can rise as high as 30 metres, and each has its own special character for worshippers."

"Phrathat Phanom, housed in Wat Phrathat Phanomworamaha Viharn, is a Sunday stupa that also symbolises the Year of the Monkey. Those who worship here are believed to win more respect from others".

"Located at Wat Renoonahorn, Phrathat Renu is a Monday stupa said to reward worshippers by lending their complexions a moonlit glow".

"Phrathat Srikhoon of Wat Phrathat Srikhoon was purportedly built by a warrior on the site of several battles between the Lan Xang and Khmer kingdoms. Anyone worshipping this Tuesday stupa is believed to be rewarded with a warrior's winning streak, courage and greater dignity".

"Local legend has it that Phrathat Mahachai, housed in Wat Phrathat Mahachai is the abode of an angel whose subtle power ensures her followers victory in any undertaking. People worship the Wednesday stupa for good luck and to triumph over adversity".



Phra That Renu Nakhon for Monday



Phra That Sri Khun for Tuesday



Phra That Mahachai for Wednesday

"Locals say Phrathat Prasit of Wat Phrathat Prasit, a Thursday stupa, guarantees success and productivity while Friday's Phrathat Uthane stupa is believed to bring prosperity and an outlook on life as bright as a rising sun".

"Phrathat Nakhorn of Wat Mahathat, a Saturday stupa, supposedly guarantees more power at work for worshippers".

"A pilgrimage to all the seven sites is easily completed in a couple of days. As the seven stupas are spread from north to south, worshippers usually start the first day in Muang district where the Saturday Phrathat Nakhorn stupa is located, followed by a visit to Phrathat Uthane that lies 30 kilometres to the north. From there the pilgrimage route runs to Phrathat Prasit, another 30 km to the west, before returning to downtown Nakhon Phanom (Muang district) for a night's rest".

"Next day, pilgrims can cover the remaining four stupas, starting with the drive to Phrathat Mahachai to the west of the town and then Phrathat Renu to the south. From there, it's a short distance to Phrathat Phanom and Phrathat Srikhoon".

"But those who don't have time to cover all the sites will probably prefer to visit Phrathat Phanom, regardless of their birthday. The focus of morale among people on both sides of the Mekong, Phrathat Phanom - the oldest in the whole of Isaan - houses the remains of the Buddha's breastbones. Near the stupa in the compound of the temple are seven ponds, the water of one of is considered holy and has been used in the coronation ceremonies of Thai monarchs since the sixth reign".

"Ancient lore has it that Phrathat Phanom was built by five kings: Phraya Chulanee-phromathat, Phraya Nanthasen, Phraya Inthapat, Phraya Khamdaeng and Phrayasuwannaphingkharn".

"That Buddhism runs deep in this part of the country is obvious when you witness how much awe the stupas of Isaan still provoke in the locals".

Background on Nakhon Phanom Province

Nakhon Phanom is one of Thailand's north-eastern provinces, bordering Mukdahan, Sakon Nakhon and Bueng Kan. It lies about 734 km northeast of Bangkok and 378 km southwest of Hanoi. Nakhon Phanom was prominent during the Vietnam War, serving U.S. forces of the 56th Air Commando Wing stationed at the Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai

Continued on page 13



Etihad Airways' Decade

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, is the fastest growing in the history of commercial aviation. Today, just 10 years since it began flight operations, it serves 94 destinations on six continents with a fleet of 80 modern, state-of-the-art aircraft.

Etihad, which means "united" in Arabic, operated its maiden flight in November 2003. A few months later it launched flights to Bangkok which was – in April 2004 – one of the first international cities in its network.

Bangkok is the airline's headquarters for the North Asia Pacific region with responsibility for Thailand, the Indian subcontinent, China, Korea and Japan. Berlin is its regional headquarters for Europe, New York for The Americas and Sydney for Australia, New Zealand and Southeast Asia.

Kirk Albrow, Etihad Airways' General Manager for Thailand, joined the airline in April of 2004 to open the Bangkok office and returned to the same post in May 2012. In 2004, Bangkok was one of only five cities in the airline's network, but today it's the busiest route served by three Boeing 777 flights daily. Kirk tells us that Etihad Airways has an equity stake and codeshare partnership with airberlin, which flies non-stop daily between Phuket and Abu Dhabi, where the six-hour flight connects seamlessly with the rest of the Etihad Airways' network.

Etihad Airways has been flying to Toronto for eight years now: there are three flights a week (on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday) leaving Abu Dhabi at 10:20am and arriving at Pearson International Airport at 4:20pm. The connecting flights depart from Bangkok at 2:55 am, arriving in Abu Dhabi at 7am. The Toronto flights are very popular with a 90 per cent-plus seat factor.

With the growth of Etihad Airways, the airline is seeing more and more air travellers flying west to North America (particularly New York, Chicago and Washington) across the Atlantic than the more conventional route of flying east across the Pacific.

Although Etihad Airways (EY) has only one Canadian destination, it is about to enter into



Etihad aircraft

a codeshare agreement with Air Canada (AC), so on the arrival/departure boards in airports you will soon see the flights listed jointly as AC/EY. This will allow a seamless connection for you and your baggage (cargo too) through to many other Air Canada destinations if you fly into Toronto with Etihad Airways, and vice versa, if you start with Air Canada and say land in Berlin, you can then have a seamless connection on Etihad Airways to any of its destinations. The airlines will also offer reciprocal frequent flyer program benefits.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is Canada's largest merchandise export market in the Middle East and approximately 40,000 Canadians and 150 Canadian businesses reside in the UAE, of which Abu Dhabi is the capital (there are seven emirates in total, but Abu Dhabi takes up about 80 per cent of the land mass). The government sits in Abu Dhabi as do all the major financial institutions and embassies.

Neighbouring Dubai targets inbound investment and is a popular destination. Etihad Airways also sells Dubai as a destination via Abu Dhabi (it's a 45-minute drive to Dubai from Abu Dhabi airport, 30 minutes into Abu Dhabi town).

One of the 150 Canadian companies operating in Abu Dhabi is Tim Hortons, which even has a franchise in the very upscale five-star Abu Dhabi Mall, which also contains an ice rink.

Furthering the Canadian connection, Etihad Airways is buying seven flight simulators from Canadian Aircraft Engineering (three Boeing 787 FFs, one Airbus A350 FFS, one Airbus A350 FFS and two Airbus A320 FFS), which will all be based at the airline's state-of-the-art Training Academy in Abu Dhabi. It already has four CAE FFs: one Boeing 777, one Airbus A320 and two Airbus A330/340s.

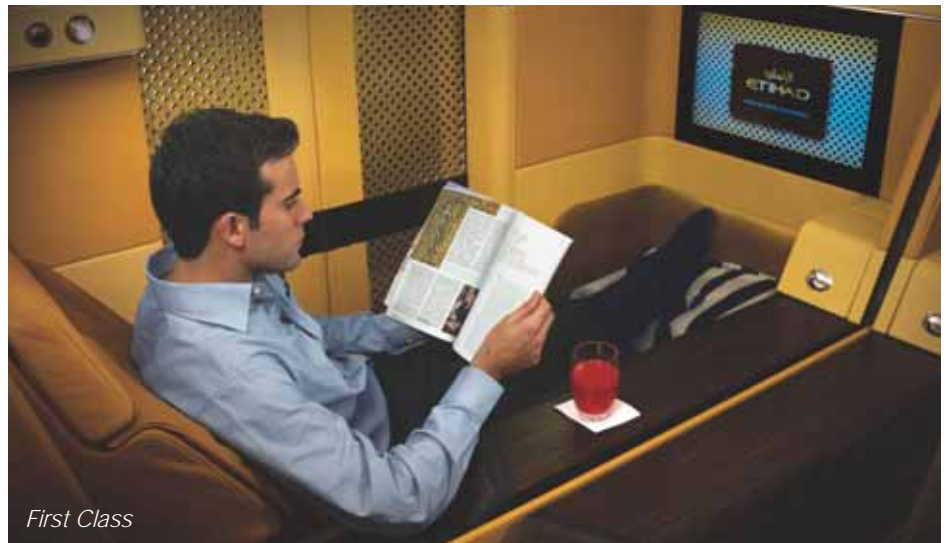
But what sets Etihad Airways apart from other airlines? "Top of the class in all cabins", is how Kirk describes Etihad Airways' cabin service. The airline has won a slew of awards and accolades including World's Leading Airline for the past four consecutive years at World Travel Awards and World's Best First Class for the past three years in the SkyTrax World Airline Awards.

When it comes to cabin crew, the airline has more than 110 nationalities, - all of whom are trained and based in Abu Dhabi - so if you are flying from Bangkok you'll always have

of Excellent Service



check in

Etihad's
specialized
service

First Class

an international crew including at least two or three Thai nationals (plus Thai food).

It's the extra touches that set Etihad Airways apart from its competitors – treats like popcorn are served while watching a film (ice cream too). In first class, there's a professional chef on board who prepares meals from scratch using a fully stocked larder, and on every flight there's an F&B Manager dedicated to the business class cabin, many of whom have worked in some of the world's finest restaurants. Kirk says Etihad Airways looks after its guests with a very personalised style of service. "We tailor our cabin service to the preferences of our individual guests. For example, you can eat when it suits you – not according to rigid procedures or the convenience of the cabin crew as it is on many airlines," Kirk says. "Also the food we serve is very much tailored to the local market – a Thai-style selection on our Bangkok flights, always a Taste of Arabia plus meals for special diets and restaurant-quality four or five-course meals."

"Our seats in economy pivot on themselves," Kirk continues, "we have one of the largest seat-back screens in economy and there is more than 600 hours of on demand inflight

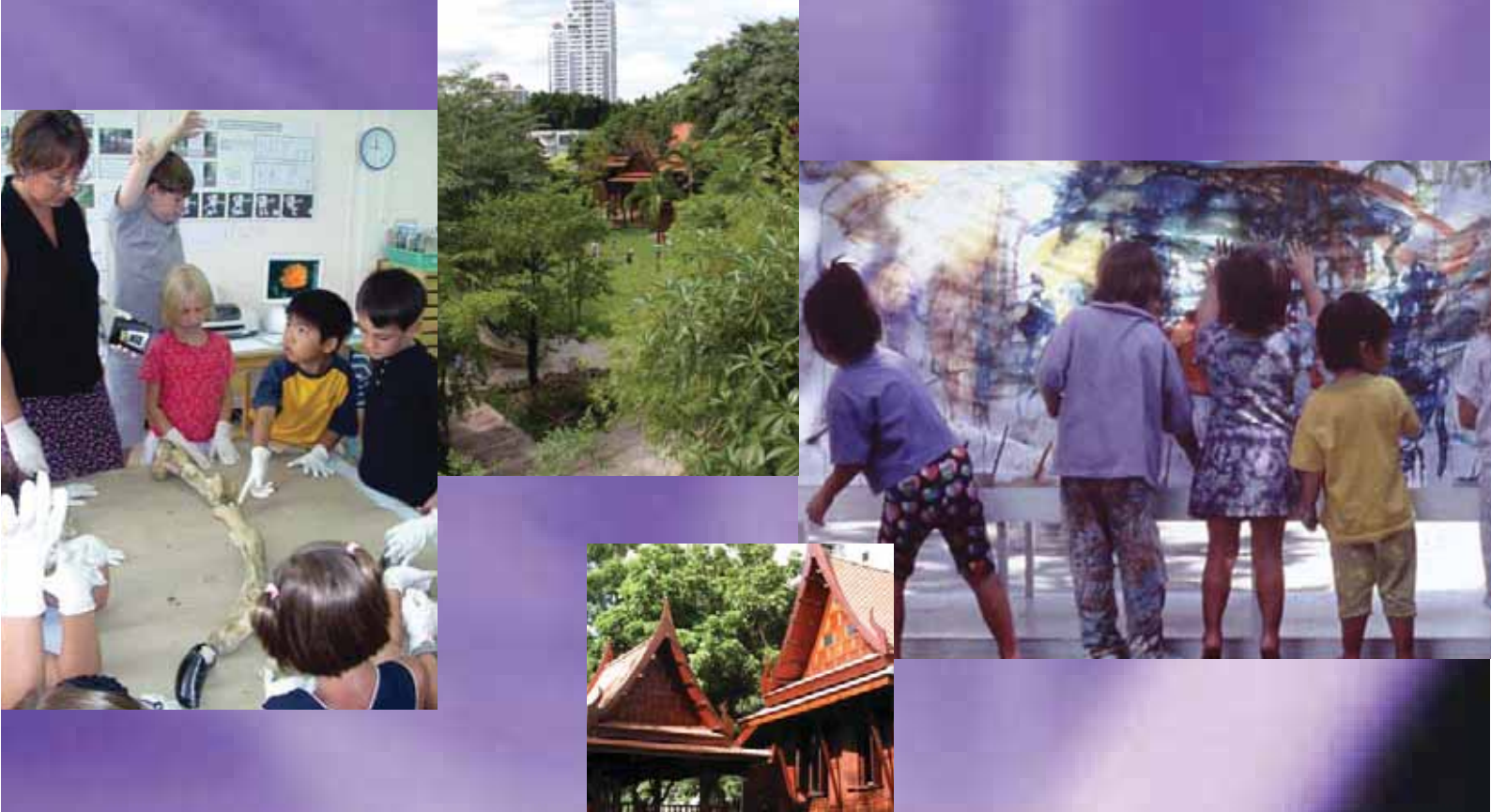
entertainment from games to documentaries to blockbuster movies and a wide range of music genres (same as in first and business class). All three cabins are smart phone and laptop compatible and new aircraft have full Internet and wifi service.

"We guarantee you a fully flat bed in business class on all our long haul flights. Plus, you never have to excuse yourself and hurdle your neighbour's feet when you want to get up. The way our seats are configured means that every seat has unrestricted access to the aisle. And if you're travelling with your partner, there are adjoining seats in the middle and you still get to step straight out into the aisle." Etihad Airways' first class (Bangkok-Abu Dhabi only has business and economy) has eight or 12 individual suites with sliding doors for extra privacy. And to top it all off, Six Senses operates spas in Etihad Airways' lounges in Abu Dhabi and London Heathrow. People even arrive early to get a complimentary spa treatment before jetting off to their destination.

Abu Dhabi is safe, secure and very green and it's always been the hub of the oil, gas and financial institutions based there. It is home to Masdar City, one of the most sustainable

communities on the planet. Located near the airport, its street lights are solar-energy powered as are the vehicles that move around the precinct and organic produce, grown nearby, is used as ingredients for Etihad Airways inflight fare. Abu Dhabi is also home to the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. The track, a marina, a Ferrari-themed amusement park with the world's fastest roller coaster, a world-class golf course (based on a links course in Scotland) and the world's biggest water theme park are all located on Yas Island.

People in Bangkok are now flying to Abu Dhabi and Dubai with Etihad Airways to enjoy long weekends. It's a great alternative to getting wet during Songkran, as temperatures in Abu Dhabi are in the mid-70s then. Etihad Airways is also offering stopover packages to encourage people to see more of Abu Dhabi. By the way, Etihad Airways will be a gold sponsor of this year's TCCC's Maple Leaf Ball and is providing two return tickets in its Coral Economy Class to Toronto from Bangkok; the same as they did last year. The TCCC is very grateful for this support.



together, we observe, investigate and learn

Over the past twenty years the philosophy of our schools has evolved into a set of clearly stated and closely practiced beliefs. The core belief centers on relationships, how each part of our schools creates and supports every other part: child, teacher, parent, staff, environment, and community. Through constant study and reflection our schools have become a demonstration of this philosophy of relationships. We continually refine the quality of our relationships through the practice of documentation, a practice inspired by the schools in Reggio Emilia, Italy. Documentation affirms the children and makes visible our image of the child as a competent, creative and articulate member of the school community.

Our positive image of the child motivates us to make this competence visible to others. We document the children's work using transcripts, photographs, and video to create a community of learners. Children revisit these documents to reflect on their assumptions, strategies, and goals.

Teachers study these documents to improve their conversations with children. Parents review these documents to gather an intellectual understanding of their child's work and to become an educational partner of the school.

Knowing that the early childhood years (0-9) are the most important in a child's educational career, the staff has a deep understanding of the developmental stages that a young child encounters.



We believe children have an enormous potential and curiosity. They strive to understand the world, making their own theories to explain how it functions.



As a set of international schools, we value and support meaningful relationships among the diverse cultures of our families. We understand that diversity creates a reason to reflect, to question, and to grow in skills, awareness, and humanity. We value the relation between listening and acting, between aesthetics and utility, and between parents and programme. Particularly in the context of this diversity we maintain our image that each child is strong and competent,

designed to communicate a message of welcome, of support, and of belonging. Each item in the classroom from furnishings to photographs is placed there to support this image of the environment as a teacher that engenders a disposition for the child to slow down, to reflect, and to create.

The Early Learning Centre understands how the workplace affects the peace and productivity of those

the value of small group work and the co-construction of knowledge among children and adults. These spaces communicate The Early Learning Centre's value for supporting *The Hundred Languages* that children can use to express their beliefs, theories, and feelings.

An environment embodies the values of the people who created the form, color and furnishing of the spaces. When one enters a constructed environment, one receives an immediate feeling about the people housed there. At The Early Learning Centre Family of Schools, the deep richness of teak, the gentle curve of a wall, the subtle colours, and the play of light tell the visitor that this is a place to slow down, to speak softly to a friend, and to find some greater purpose in an ordinary moment of the day. As the spaces are related to each other, so do the people relate. The spaces flow one into the other suggesting that activities within those diverse spaces should also be integrated in content and goals. Clearly, for adult and child, the environment becomes an implicit teacher, always there, always saying, I value and support your best work. And those fortunate enough to be in this space and to receive this message begin to adopt these values within themselves.

"Great creativity comes from small hands and growing minds"



an image that also applies to the teacher, parent, community and environment, each part creating and supporting the other.

We also understand that high quality learning requires high quality space. We constantly record and study the relationship between space and learning, from the calming peace of a quiet space to the positive energy of a play space. We believe that the environment can be

whom it embraces. An environment can be more than a place; it can be a message, a message regarding values. The greeting spaces communicate an open welcome for parents to linger, talk together, read documentary panels of the children's work. The meeting spaces communicate the value of professional development, quiet spaces designed for reflection on the progress of a project.

The classroom spaces communicate

the early learning centre family of schools

THE CITY SCHOOL

(3-9 years)

18 Soi Arkaphat,
Sukhumvit Road 49/4,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

Tel: (66) 02-381-2919,

(66) 02-391-5901, (66) 02-712-5338

THE COUNTRY SCHOOL

(3-5 years)

9/4 Moo Samakee Road,
Pakkred,
Nonthaburi 11000, Thailand.

Tel: (66) 02-588-1063,

(66) 02-952-4147

THE PURPLE ELEPHANT

(18 months-3 years)

44 Soi 53, Soi 1,
Sukhumvit Road,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

Tel: (66) 02-662-7653,

(66) 02-662-7654

CHEZ NOODLES

(18 months-3 years)

#61 Soi Prommitr,
39 Sukhumvit Road,
Bangkok 10110, Thailand.

Tel: (66) 02-662-4570

(66) 02-662-4571



www.elc-bangkok.com

Abu Dhabi offers More Than Just Perfect

As one of the fastest-growing tourism destinations in the world, Abu Dhabi is perhaps best-known for offering pristine white beaches and year-round sunshine.

However, while its glowing reputation for seaside holidays is well-deserved, the UAE capital has various other attractions to keep its visitors entertained, from world-class shopping malls, restaurants and amusement parks to cultural landmarks, sporting activities and music concerts.

When it comes to famous landmarks in Abu Dhabi, there's plenty for tourists to explore, so it's worth planning ahead before your visit to the UAE capital. While the traditional design of mosques, palaces and forts are testament to Abu Dhabi's culture and heritage, the contemporary look of modern skyscrapers, amusement parks and shopping malls are reflective of the emirate's status as a fast-growing international city.

The first impression of Abu Dhabi, whether viewed from the air on approach to the international airport, or driving along the impeccably maintained Corniche, is of a thoroughly modern city, with gleaming skyscrapers and beautifully landscaped gardens. But behind this modern facade of city life stands the traditions and rich heritage of its past, which acts as the foundation and bedrock of the Emirate and steadfastly informs its path into the future.

Culture and Heritage

Delve into the world of Arabian culture and heritage with the various museums, galleries, souks and heritage villages in Abu Dhabi. The



Falcon



Abu Dhabi aerial



Camels

unique culture and heritage of Abu Dhabi is showcased at numerous landmarks across the emirate. Explore one of the UAE capital's ancient forts and archaeological parks to relive history, or visit the local museums and religious sites to learn more about Arabian customs and traditions.

Family Entertainment

Essential attractions to keep the family entertained in Abu Dhabi range from the pulse-racing Ferrari World to the scenic Al Ain Paradise Garden. Abu Dhabi is packed with fun-filled attractions for all ages, making it the perfect destination for family holidays. From the undeniable thrill of world-class amusement parks and sporting facilities to the cultural lure of traditional mosques and heritage villages, the UAE capital has it covered.

Sporting Activities

With world-class facilities for horse racing, motor sport, golf and even ten-pin bowling in Abu Dhabi, the opportunities are endless. Tourists are flocking to Abu Dhabi from across the world due to the impressive collection of modern, state-of-the-art sporting facilities on offer. For spectators, there are year-round tournaments, from camel, horse and car racing to world-famous tennis, golf and bowling

competitions. Alternatively, if you're looking to participate, the UAE capital ticks all the right boxes, including watersports, golf, shooting and go-karting, just to name a few.

MUST SEES

Al Ain zoo

If you're looking to entertain children during a visit to Abu Dhabi, why not arrange a day trip to Al Ain Zoo? With a collection of more than 4,000 animals, families can tour the wildlife areas on foot or board a special train. There's a range of interactive sessions too, where kids are invited to feed giraffes, ride camels and play with chickens, goats, llamas and ducks at the 'Elezba' petting zone. Another popular attraction is the children's garden, where youngsters learn about the natural beauty of plants with mixed-use play areas, rolling hills and allotments for vegetables, fruits, herbs and native plants. Founded by the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan in 1968, Al Ain Zoo is spread across 900 hectares of land and includes retail shops, mobile souvenir carts and landscaped gardens for picnics. Food can also be purchased at the air-conditioned Zarafa Cafe, while snack kiosks are located throughout the zoo.

Abu Dhabi Corniche

As one of the UAE capital's most popular landmarks, Abu Dhabi Corniche attracts in the region of 30,000 to 50,000 visitors each month, which includes both tourists and local residents. Stretching around eight kilometres in total, the coastal promenade has dedicated areas for singles, families and the general public. Visitors have access to numerous cafes and restaurants, shaded landscaped gardens, separate pedestrian and bicycle pathways, children's play areas,

Sandy Beaches and Year-Round Sun

and facilities for beach football and volleyball. Of course, one of Abu Dhabi Corniche's biggest draws in the lifeguarded beachfront, which has been awarded the coveted 'Blue Flag' status for guaranteeing clean and safe bathing water. However, it's not possible to swim too far out, as floating fences will keep you within 40 metres of the beach. To make the corniche more accessible, there are over 1,100 free parking space within a five minute walk of the beach.

Sheikh Zayed Mosque

A trip to the world-renowned Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is highly-recommended during a visit to Abu Dhabi. The impressive monument is located on a 22,412 square metre site (the equivalent of five football fields) and has enough capacity for 40,960 worshippers. Leading artisans from around the world were involved in the mosque's design and construction, with a major focus on materials such as ceramics, marble, gold, semi-precious stones and crystals for their long-lasting qualities. Once inside the mosque, keep an eye out for the world's largest hand-knotted carpet, which was completed by 1,300 Iranian artisans and can be found in the main prayer hall, where one of the world's largest chandeliers has also been placed, weighing a staggering nine tonnes. Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is open daily to visitors, except on Friday mornings, which is only for worshippers. General admission is free and complimentary guided tours are available for individuals and groups with a maximum of ten people.

Yas Island

A number of world-class attractions have opened at Yas Island, making it a popular hangout for residents and tourists in Abu Dhabi. For thrill seekers, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi is a spectacular indoor theme park and the first of its kind to be centred on the world-renowned Ferrari brand. The action continues at Yas Marina Circuit, venue of the F1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, where visitors are also placed in the driver's seat with special packages at Yas Racing School, Yas Drag Racing Centre and Yas Kartzone. Music fans will be entertained at du Arena, where the likes of Madonna, Elton John and Janet Jackson have performed, while Yas Marina is the ultimate place to unwind. The island's newest leisure attraction is Yas Waterworld, a state-of-the-art waterpark with a unique pearl diving theme. Finally, to stay in the centre of all these attractions, book a room at the iconic Yas Viceroy Abu Dhabi Hotels.

Abu Dhabi Heritage Village

A traditional oasis village has been reconstructed at Abu Dhabi Heritage Village, offering a unique opportunity to step back in



time and experience the UAE capital's past. The landmark attraction, which is run by Emirates Heritage Club, can be found on a 1,600 square metre site overlooking Abu Dhabi Corniche, in close proximity to Marina Mall. It includes an open museum with examples of desert campfires, old-fashioned tents made from goat hair, sea houses made from palm tree fronds, traditional water wells, and the 'falaj' irrigation system. Demonstrations are often held at the village too, with skilled craftsmen focusing on pottery and metal work, while women use their knitting and weaving skills to make woollen socks, carpets and trays. In addition, there are opportunities to shop around for handmade soap and dried herbs at the village store, and if you're really lucky, falconry displays might also take place during your visit.

Hili Fun City

Here's an interesting fact: before the mid-1980s, theme parks were non-existent in the Gulf region. However, the concept was finally introduced in 1985 with the much-awaited opening of Hili Fun City. Located in the 'garden city' of Al Ain, families from across the UAE and neighbouring countries have been flocking to the large-scale development ever since. Earlier this decade, a major revamp was completed at Hili Fun City, which included the renovation of existing rides, including the popular Crazy Marina, Flying Dutchman and Sinbad's Farm, together with the introduction of new favourites, such as Twister Mountain, Hili Swinger, Circus Train and Lighthouse. The landscaped gardens were fully-enhanced too, with the addition of 30,000 new plants and 250 new palm trees, plus designated BBQ areas and benches for family picnics. What's more, visitors are treated to year-round events at Hili Fun City,

ranging from in-your-face entertainment at the 3D cinema to live performances at a 1,400 seat amphitheatre.

Al Ain Paradise Garden

Offering a tranquil escape from the city, Al Ain Paradise Garden is best-known for having 2,968 hanging baskets, which is the highest number in the world according to Guinness World Records. In addition, there are approximately 10 million flowers in the garden, some of which are native while others have been imported from countries such as Italy, Uganda, Japan and the United States. Opened in 2010, the beautiful Al Ain Paradise Garden is around the size of four football pitches and incorporates the latest in irrigation systems and landscaping to keep the flowers in bloom for most of the year. Other highlights include a 12-metre tall replica of the Eiffel Tower and a 95-metre long water stream, in addition to a dedicated theatre and scenic meeting areas, all of which make colourful backdrops to your holiday photos. Entrance is free, although Al Ain Paradise Garden has been known to temporarily close during the summer months.

Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital

Launched on 3rd October 1999, Abu Dhabi Falcon Hospital (ADFH) has emerged as the world's largest falcon hospital, with more than 50,000 patients in the first 12 years. On average, this includes around 6,000 falcons each year from across the UAE, in addition to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain. In addition to examining, treating and breeding the animals, the hospital was developed into a leading tourist attraction with the launch of a 'Falcon World Tour' in

Continued on page 12

Abu Dhabi offers more than just perfect sandy beaches and year-round sun

Continued from page 11

2007. Under the initiative, guided tours are offered to a falconry museum, where the historical relationship between falcons and the Middle East is explored, followed by a visit to the examination room, where feather repairs, pedicures and other activities are conducted. Visitors also have access to a large free-flight aviary, where birds are kept, and can have their photos taken with a falcon on their arm in the hospital garden. A buffet lunch can also be purchased, served in a traditional Arabic tent and prepared by Abu Dhabi National Hotel's staff.

Yas Links

Yas Links is a flagship development on Yas Island, situated close to Yas Marina Circuit, Ferrari World Abu Dhabi and Yas Viceroy Hotel. Opened in 2010, it has been designed by one of the world's leading golf course designers, Kyle Phillips, and includes an 18-hole course, a nine-hole academy course and floodlit practice facilities, set against dramatic views of the Arabian Gulf.

Described as "a course that will test professionals, enthrall amateurs and excite beginners", Yas Link has already been listed Gold World's Top 100 Courses in the World. Other onsite highlights include the Yas Links Professional retail outlet, where visitors can purchase equipment and clothing, while the luxury clubhouse is perfect for rest and relaxation.

Measuring 5,750 square metres, the Andalusia-styled clubhouse includes two restaurants, a live sports bar, changing rooms, wet area, spa, infinity swimming pool, terraces, meeting rooms and valet parking.



Ferrari World



Louvre Abu Dhabi- Jean Nouvel Design

Al Wathba Camel Race Track

A much-loved tradition in the United Arab Emirates, camel racing has a dedicated following across the country, with much of the action taking place at Al Wathba Camel Race Track, around 45km east of Abu Dhabi. During the annual race season, from October

to March, thousands of spectators head to the impressive venue, including tourists, local residents and even members of the ruling families.

An early start is recommended, as most races are hosted on weekend mornings from around 6.30am, although the frequency increases on public holidays. Entrance is free and there's plenty of opportunity to watch the animals thunder across Al Wathba Camel Race Track, with as many as 15 races on a single morning. All camels have electronic jockeys on their backs, which are controlled by specially-trained handlers using a remote.

Generous prizes and cash awards worth millions of dirhams are offered to winners, especially during the Al Wathba Camel Race Festival at the end of each race season.

The VIP Treatment...

On Monday, September 9th, the Ambassador of Canada and the TCCC Executive Board were out in full force trying to land the new Holiday Inn on Sukhumvit Soi 22 as a chamber member. Enjoying a wonderful dining experience at the Holiday Inn's new top floor Maya Restaurant, were (L-R): Sean Brady, Derek van Pelt, John Casella, Peter van Haren, Ramneek Singh Lamba, Ambassador Calvert, Surachit (Art) Chanovan and Neil Chiu.



Temple Trotting Nakhon Phanom Style

Continued from page 5

Air Force Base. Their missions were search and rescue and interdiction of the Ho Chi Minh trail in Laos 48 km to the east.

The province is located in the Mekong River valley, the northern part of the province has more upland character, and forest covered plains. The main river in the northern part is the Songkhram and the smaller is the Oun. The southern part is more flat, and has the Kum River as the only notable river. The provincial capital, the city of Nakhon Phanom, is located directly on the banks of the Mekong. The name Nakhon Phanom, meaning "city of mountains", was given to the city by King Rama I. There are no mountains within Nakhon Phanom itself; the limestone mountains are concentrated in the city of Thakhek, Laos, which is on the other side of the Mekong, so really Nakhon Phanom should mean a city where you can see mountains.

The area was long settled by Lao people and belonged to the Lan Xang Kingdom. Even after it came under the control of Ayutthaya, the population stayed predominantly Laotian. At first it was known as Si Kotrabun, and during the times of King Rama I as Maruka Nakhon. Nakhon Phanom saw some of the most serious fighting between North Vietnamese insurgents and the US forces during the Vietnam War. During the 1960s, 73 of the 131 sub-districts (tambon) were said to be infiltrated by the Vietnamese and Lao communists, it was known as the "heartland of insurgency". American and Thai forces established a base at Nakhon Phanom where the Thai military hosted the 56th Air Commando Wing, which conducted special operations against the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos and also carried out counter insurgency operations against Thai Communist forces while conducting search and rescue operations primarily within Laos and North Vietnam.

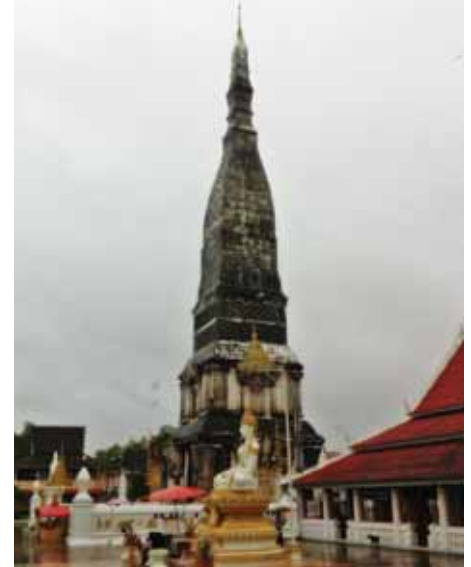
Another point of interest: Ho Chi Minh resided between 1928 and 1931 at Ban Nachok, a small village on the road between the airbase and Nakhon Phanom. His home is now open to the public.

The provincial seal shows the pagoda of Phra That Phanom in That Phanom district. This highly revered religious building was originally constructed around 535 BC in Khmer style. The original pagoda collapsed in 1675 and was rebuilt in Lao style.

Important festivals in the province include the traditional dances of the Phu Thai ethnic group held during May and June every year. The Phra That Phanom temple fair is held every February, on which occasion many locals make a pilgrimage to the temple to



Phra That Prasit for Thursday



Phra That Tha U-tain for Friday



Phra That Nakhon for Saturday



Phra That Panom for Sunday

pay homage. At the end of the Buddhist lent in November, an illuminated a boat procession is held.

The cuisine is mostly the same as in all Isarn. Pla Ra, a kind of preserved fish, originally comes from the Si Songkhram area and is now popular in the whole country.

Traditional products in the province include hand-woven fabric, made from silk or cotton. Renu Nakhon, That Phanom and Si Songkhram districts are the center of this industry. Also hand-made Kaen instruments can be found in the province.

The population of Nakhon Phanom is a diverse mix of Thais, Thai-Vietnamese, Thai-Chinese, and perhaps a few Thai-Indians. The main languages spoken are Thai, Isaan, and Vietnamese, Isaan being the most popular of them. The primary culture is Lao, as Isaan was part of Laos until the late 19th century. Ho Chi Minh resided in a small village between the city center and the air base to the west during the late 1920s

and early 1930s. A new museum has been constructed; his home is preserved and is open to the public, which draws many Vietnamese tourists.

Although a small town, Nakhon Phanom is famous for its centuries-old temples and beautiful landscape. The city has a reserved and traditional Isaan culture. A traveller will usually find the residents of the city very hospitable and kind.

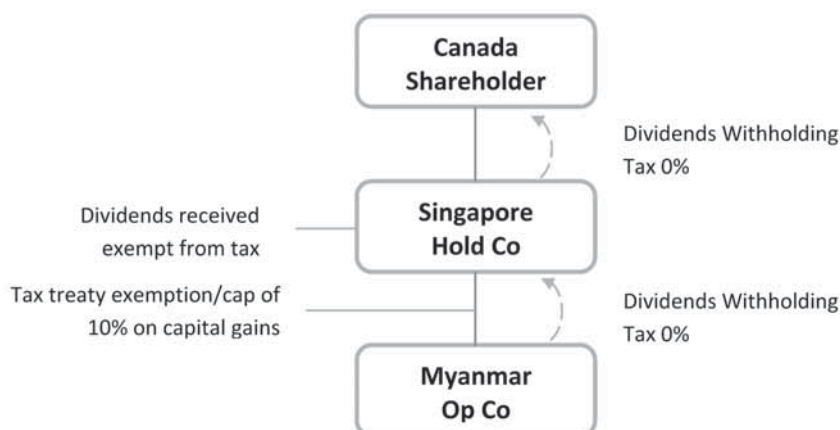
Apparently, the main reason for the strong Vietnamese influence is that Vietnamese fled here during the struggle against the colonial French. Most of them returned to Vietnam in 1960, but left a legacy in the city.

The clock tower in the main road near the river comes from their influence, and signs at the local police station and hospital, etc., are written in Thai, English, and Vietnamese. There is also Vietnamese food in local restaurants.

(Source: Wikipedia, Wikitravel).

- Regional Tax Partner - DFDL

Financing a Myanmar investment from Singapore or Thailand will normally result in interest or financing charges payable to the lender. Normally interest payments paid by a Myanmar entity to a non-resident are subject to a withholding tax of 15%. However, the tax treaties with Thailand and Singapore offer relief to 10%. In the case of Singapore, an additional reduction is available to Singaporean financial institutions and banks to 8%.

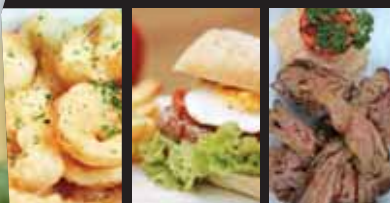


- The Thailand tax treaty provides that gains from the sale of shares in a Myanmar company, where the company consists principally of immovable property (real estate) which is situated in Myanmar may be taxed in Myanmar. And gains from the sale of shares other than those mentioned above representing a participation of 35 per cent in a company which is a resident

Singapore's favorable territorial tax system makes Singapore a regional hub for ASEAN and an efficient location for structuring investments into Myanmar. However, before deciding on a location for a holding company, investors will also need to consider general anti-avoidance rules and requirements for obtaining residency certificates to claim tax treaty relief.

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