



101 Ideas: Eight exciting event destinations

2 SEPTEMBER 2014 BY KIM BENJAMIN , BE THE FIRST TO COMMENT

New flight routes, developments and favourable exchange rates are putting destinations including Bogota, Rwanda, Strasbourg and Miami on the C&I map.



Bogota is more accessible to UK C&I groups thanks to new flight routes

Bogota

TAP Portugal launched an indirect service from London to Bogota in July, while Columbia's national airline, Avianca, launched the first direct scheduled service between the two cities, also in July. Hotly anticipated hotel openings include W Bogota and Autograph Bogota.

Strasbourg

Access to the city has improved with an Easyjet service from London Gatwick launched in March last year. On the conference side, the Aar Conference Centre opened in November, offering two plenary rooms and four reception areas,

including the Salons de l'Aar, a 300sqm reception area. Strasbourg Convention Centre will also offer three new auditoriums by the end of 2016, with 520, 1,200 and 1,800 seats respectively.

Miami

With a favourable dollar exchange rate the US becomes more affordable. Miami has some great new hotel developments on the horizon, in addition to event planners' favourites Key Biscayne and the Ritz-Carlton, which offer the scope to build temporary structures in beautiful gardens in addition to their conference and dining facilities.

Lucca

Often overshadowed by its famous Tuscan neighbour Florence, Lucca is looking to boost its credentials as a top congress destination, with a new convention bureau having opened in January. Both the city and its outlying areas boast more than 55 facilities for meetings and events, including historic buildings, hotels, multi-functional spaces, villas and theatres. Notable venues include the Palazzo Ducale and the San Romano Auditorium.

Dominican Republic

A new convention centre in the capital of Santo Domingo is just one of several proposals to transform the Dominican Republic's C&I offering. The country's Punta Cana and Puerto Plata districts are also reinventing themselves, making the Caribbean destination one to watch.

Rwanda

With the opening of the Convention Bureau in May this year, Rwanda is making it clear that the destination is open for C&I business. The wide networks of Kenya Airways, Turkish Airlines and Ethiopian Airlines provide global access to the region. But what makes this such a great destination is both its beauty and the fact that it's only one of three places in the world where you can see the Mountain Gorillas.

Tegernsee

Just one hour from Munich, the Tegernsee region is a haven for those in search of outdoor pursuits, with hiking, sailing, boating trips and white-water rafting trips available for groups. For meetings and events, the 146-room Bachmair Weissach, a member of Design Hotels, completed refurbishments in 2013 and has 14 meeting rooms, as well as the Bachmair Weissach Arena, which can host up to 1,100 people for events.

Cape Town

The weak rand, a range of new hotels opening, great weather, exhilarating activities, superb restaurants, and reasonable flight access, mean that Cape Town is a great value-for-money option for incentives. The minimal time difference and availability of overnight direct flights make it eminently suitable even for shorter incentive programmes. The convention centre is currently under expansion, with plans to double the venue's capacity by adding 10,000sqm of flexible space.

Over the next four weeks, *C&IT* will publish 101 hints and tips generated by our readers – from their favourite dining experiences and incentive activities, to great new event technologies and fabulous destinations.

Tweet us your ideas using #cit101ideas or email cit@haymarket.com – the best ideas will be published as part of the online guide.

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