2017 TRAVEL PLANNER
7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE
DESTINATION HOTSPOT

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” – Mark Twain

Over the years of sailing and flying through destinations and doing research, we have acquired significant information and recommendations for at least 45 destinations round the world. This enables us to cater for our customers specific requirements from specific hotels, related excursions, flight information and personal recommendations be it for a Family, Couple, Safari or Business travel.

We are pleased to present our 2017 Travel Planner, offering you a gist of our research that will enable you to choose what suits YOU BEST!!

I leave you with our Destination hotspot of the year ‘SOUTH AFRICA’ which we visited recently, and now have meticulous information that may be of assistance to you.

We are pleased to present our 2017 Travel Planner

‘7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE’

Yours Sincerely,
Shakheel M. Sheriff
Chief Executive Officer
BLUE LOTUS TRAVEL & TOURS
BUSINESS LOUNGE - TRADE FAIR ALERT 2017

**TOURISM**

**ITB BERLIN**
BERLIN, GERMANY
08th - 12th MARCH 2017

**INDABA**
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA
16th - 18th MAY 2017

**WORLD TRAVEL MARKET**
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
06th - 08th NOVEMBER 2017

**CONSTRUCTION, PRINTING AND DESIGN**

**INTERNATIONAL DESIGN EXHIBITION (INDEX)**
DUBAI, UAE
25th - 27th MAY 2017

**INTERBUILD AFRICA**
JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA
TO BE HELD IN THE YEAR 2018

**THE BIG FIVE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION SHOW**
DUBAI, UAE
26th - 29th NOVEMBER 2017

**PERFUMES, GIFT ITEMS & COSMETICS**

**COSMOPROF**
BOLOGNA, ITALY
17th - 20th MARCH 2017
COSMETICS

**COSMOPACK**
16th - 19th MARCH 2017
BEAUTY DUSSELDORF
GERMANY
31st MARCH - 02nd APRIL 2017
COSMETICS, NAIL, FOOT, WELLNESS, SPA

**CANTON FAIR GUANGZHOU, CHINA**
23rd - 27th APRIL 2017
GIFTS / HOME DECORATIONS

**BEAUTY WORLD MIDDLE EAST**
DUBAI, UAE
14th - 16th MAY 2017
BEAUTY PRODUCTS, HAIR, FRAGRANCES AND WELLBEING IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**GEMSTONES & JEWELLERY**

**59th BANGKOK GEMS & JEWELLERY FAIR**
BANGKOK, THAILAND
22nd - 26th FEBRUARY 2017

**HONG KONG JEWELLERY & GEM FAIR**
HONG KONG, CHINA
13th - 17th SEPTEMBER 2017

**ELECTRONICS, TEXTILE & CROCKERY - GHUANGZHOU**

**CANTON FAIR GUANGZHOU, CHINA**
15th - 19th APRIL 2017 (PHASE 1)
ELECTRONICS/HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES
01st - 05th MAY 2017 (PHASE 3)
TEXTILE & GARMENTS

**INTERNATIONAL APPAREL & TEXTILE FAIR**
DUBAI WORLD TRADE CENTRE, UAE
08th - 10th APRIL 2017

**INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE FAIR**
DUBAI, UAE
NOVEMBER 2017

**B2B INTERIM MEDICAL & PHARMACEUTICALS AND TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (DUPHAT)**
DUBAI, UAE
07th - 09th MARCH 2017

**MEDICA 2017**
WORLD FORUM FOR MEDICINE
DUSSELDORF
13th - 16th NOVEMBER 2017

**9TH IAS CONFERENCE ON HIV SCIENCE**
(IAS 2017)
PALAIS DES CONGRÈS,
2 PLACE DE LA PORTE MAILLOT
PARIS, FRANCE
23rd - 26th JULY 2017

**THE SPECIALITY FOOD FESTIVAL**
DUBAI, UAE
18th - 20th SEPTEMBER 2017

**ANUGA**
COLOGNE
07th - 11th OCTOBER 2017

**FOOD & HEALTH**

**GULFOOD 2016**
DUBAI, UAE
26th FEBRUARY - 02nd MARCH 2017

**DUBAI INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS AND TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION**
DUBAI, UAE
07th - 09th MARCH 2017

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FAMILY FUSION

**Aquaventure Waterpark & Lost Chamber** - Vast water park with zip lines, slides through shark-filled lagoons & a splash area for kids. Get up close with over 65,000 marine animals as you tour the glass tunnels of The Lost Chambers aquarium at Atlantis, The Palm.

**KidZania** - In this interactive and imaginary world of KidZania, kids can interact with each other in a city complete with paved streets, cars, a hospital, a beauty salon, a bank, a television station, pizzeria and more.

**IMG Worlds of Adventures** - The world’s largest indoor theme park opened on 31 August 2016. four epic adventure zones featuring adrenaline-pumping roller coasters, thrill rides, and spine-tingling attractions based on popular Cartoon Network characters, MARVEL super heroes and, of course, dinosaurs.

**Caribbean Cruise from Dubai** - Cruise through a mystic world unlike any other. The rich history, opulent beauty and luxurious lifestyle of Dubai and the Emirates will dazzle you.

**IFly Dubai** - Defy gravity with a freefall experience at iFly Dubai, the world’s first-ever wind tunnel at a mall.

**Legoland Dubai** - Over 40 LEGO themed rides, shows and attractions, a mix of indoor and outdoor attractions, 6 themed lands, 15,000 LEGO models and over 60 million LEGO bricks

**Motion Gate Dubai** - Discover the Middle East’s largest inspired Hollywood theme park – step into the adventurous world of Columbia Pictures, venture into the fantasy world of The Smurfs, immerse yourself in the world of DreamWorks and Lionsgate, and much much more!
7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!

Walk with the Giant - For wondrous Elephant interaction, beautiful surroundings & accommodation, Knysna Elephant Park is a Garden Route holiday highlight and a unique wedding venue. Hand feed the Elephant & to get to know them & their dedicated handlers in a relaxed & natural environment.

Robben Island - The island’s most famous prisoner, Nelson Mandela, has turned this institute of brutality into a symbol of the triumph of the human spirit over enormous hardship.

Elgin Grabouw Zipline - An extreme nature adventure situated only an hour from Cape Town in the Elgin Valley. The tour consists of 13 platforms constructed on the cliffs & fynbos covered mountain slopes above the Riviersonderend gorge, joined by 11 thrilling slides up to 300 m long. Experience this unforgettable, gravity defying adventure.

Cape Point and Cape of Good hope - A trip to Cape Point is a must for any Cape Town visitor. The southern end of the Cape Peninsula boasts two points of interest really, the Cape of Good Hope & the more southerly & a bit higher situated Cape Point.

Cango Caves - enter a mysterious and strangely beautiful underground world of fascinating rock formations. Be prepared to crawl, duck & squeeze your way through a fascinating subterranean world.

Table Mountain - The best views of Cape Town are from the Table Mountain Cableway, a unique and 87-year-old method of seeing the wonders of the city. Travel up to the summit of the majestic flat-topped mountain & be astounded by vistas of the Mother City, Robben Island & the Peninsula.

Hermanus - Built along the beautiful shores of Walker Bay. Hermanus is surrounded by majestic mountains, indigenous Fynbos & spectacular natural beauty while its residents are the heart & soul of the town providing an unforgettable holiday experience. This coastal resort offers the best land based whale watching in the world.
7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

IRENTE / MAMBO VIEW POINT

NATURAL HEALERS TOUR

SHAGAYU FOREST HIKE

POTTERY EXPERIENCE

CHALA CRATER TOUR

MARANGU WATERFALLS

HORSE RIDING

FAMILY FUSION

LUSHOTO

Irente & Mambo View Point - Hike to this outlook for spectacular views of the village of Mazinde and the Maasai plains almost 1000 meters below. Eat lunch at the Irente Biodiversity Farm in their beautiful flower garden.

Shagayu Forest Hike & Sprinkle Waterfall - Walk through Shagayu forest with its stands of great trees, waterfalls, & incredible biodiversity.

Natural Healers Tour - A pleasant walk through villages will lead you to the traditional healer’s home where you will get detailed information about traditional healing plants, their use & the way to prepare the local medicine! Go for a walk with the healer in the close surrounding of his house and touch, see and smell the healing plants!

Pottery Experience - Observe & participate in the age-old tradition of pottery making.

LAKE CHALA & MARANGU FALLS

Chala Crater Tour - Located near the slopes of Kilimanjaro, the lake is filled & drained by underground streams, amazingly clear with steep crater walls. Hike down to the shores of the lake to swim or canoe. Aside from plenty of fish, monitor lizards, baboons, monkeys and herds of elephants if you are lucky.

Marangu & Ndoro Falls - Located in the beautiful countryside of Marangu surrounded by lush landscapes, you will find this hidden waterfall. The word “Marangu” means a place with too many water streams. This is one of the most popular places in Tanzania.

Horse Riding - Mahoa Farm near Kilimanjaro’s Machame Gate with access to the spectacular rainforest on the mountain’s lower slopes. Explore the farm & its environment from horseback, on foot or with the feet up watch the many changing faces of the mountain.
7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!

FAMILY FUSION

Jaipur City Tour - Also known as the ‘Pink City’, famous for its colorful culture, forts, palaces, and lakes. Visit the Amber Fort by riding up on an Elephant back. Later, stop to photograph the beautiful Hawa Mahal, also known as the “Palace of the Winds.” Next, visit City Palace - The museums here showcase rare and ancient manuscripts, arms dating back to the 15th century, and costumes of erstwhile royalty. Later, visit the Jantar Mantar Observatory, comprising geometric devices for measuring time, and tracking stars in their orbits.

Kempty Falls Mussoorie - A beautiful waterfall located on way between Dehradun-Mussoorie path. The place is visited for taking bath under the falls and for enjoying the beautiful views of surroundings. Reach a beautiful pond while climbing a few steps in the flow of the stream. Located at the footsteps of the falls, the pond is a huge enclosure formed naturally by the stream.

Taj Mahal - Standing majestically on the banks of River Yamuna, one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Kulu Manali - Located at the banks of the Beas River, Kullu valley is home to the picturesque towns of Kullu & Manali. Due to their close proximity, they are often considered as a single destination. The valley is known for its amazing hills & the various temples & sight-seeing locations.

Shimla Hills - Known as the most beautiful hill station in the country. Attractions include - Rashtrapati Niwas , Jhaku temple & Shymala temple, Christ Church, Scandal Point

Lotus Temple - built in the shape of a lotus flower & set among the lush green landscaped gardens. Around the blooming petals there are nine pools of water, which light up, in natural light. Looks spectacular at dusk when it is flood lit.

India Gate - At the centre of New Delhi stands the 42 m high India Gate, an archway in the middle of a crossroad. Surrounding the imposing structure is a large expanse of lush green lawns, which is a popular picnic spot.
PARIS & CHAMONIX

7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!

HORSE & CARRIAGE RIDE
LOUVRE MUSEUM
EIFFEL TOWER
SEINE RIVER CRUISE
SKIING IN CHAMONIX
TOUR DU MONT BLANC
AIGUILLE DU MIDI

COUPLE CONNECTOR

Eiffel Tower - Enriched by a history full of new developments, the Eiffel Tower never fails to impress! Hidden within there are many a secret, and quite out of the ordinary, fun or even romantic places.

Seine River Cruise - By day or by night, enjoy an hour’s cruise on the River Seine to rediscover the full splendour of the river banks and monuments of Paris. Families can combine culture and fun aboard the Enchanted Cruise!

Horse & Carriage Ride - Imagine seeing Paris from a romantic Horse and Carriage with beautiful interiors.

Mont Blanc – Located at the heart of the French alps, from everywhere in the valley one’s gaze is drawn to the giant, ever present, always sublime and yet different depending on where you stand.

Skiing in Chamonix - The Chamonix Valley is considered by many to be the best freeride resort in the world. With its 5 ski resorts, Chamonix Mont-Blanc offers the perfect ski holiday.

Louvre Museum - First stop in Paris for most art lovers is the Louvre, the largest museum in the western world and a historic monument in Paris.

Tour du Mont Blanc - Located at the heart of the French alps, from everywhere in the valley one’s gaze is drawn to the giant, ever present, always sublime and yet different depending on where you stand.

Aiguille du Midi - For more than 50 years, the most famous and highest of the Aiguilles de Chamonix has been an essential world attraction. From the centre of Chamonix, a 20 minutes ride in the Aiguille du Midi cable car takes you to the gateway to the high Alps at a height of 3,842 m.
7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!

**Marina Bay** - Singapore’s famed Marina Bay is the place to go to see the city’s most spectacular side.

**Sentosa Island** - A collection of beaches, theme parks, golf, shopping, dining and more are all available on this strip of reclaimed land that can be reached by road or cable car.

**Wings of Time** - truly a unique attraction and an interesting place worth a visit. As a zoo it offers an unusual glimpse into the nocturnal animal kingdom, with more than 59 exhibits and 1,000 animals to be seen from around the world.

**Indoor Skydiving at iFly Singapore** - Here is your chance to really fly. Experience true free-fall conditions, just like a real skydive. Each flyer will enjoy two skydives in the wind tunnel. The time it takes for each skydive is like falling through the air from 12,000 to 3,000 feet!

**Jurong Bird Park** - Where Colour Lives! One of the most renowned bird sanctuaries with some of the largest free-flying aviary in the world.

**Little India** - a colourful and exciting area with exotic aromas drifting out from family kitchens, restaurants and shops selling all kind of Indian items.

**Skyline Luge** - Navigate down 628 metres of the Jungle Trail or the 688 metre Dragon Trail as thrillingly fast or cruising slow as you like. After the Luge, board the Skyride chairlift and take in the fantastic panoramic scenery of the Singapore city skyline & beautiful coastline of Sentosa Island. Truly an experience not to be missed!
MIGHTY SERENGETI & NGORONGORO

SAFARI PARKVENTURE

SERENGETI

Serengeti National Park - Arguably Africa’s most famous National Park, one of the birthplaces of safari. The fact that it’s home to the ‘The Big 5’ and ‘The Great Migration says it all.

Masai Village - also called Maasai bomas, visit and learn about their customs, traditions, and lifestyle.

Serengeti balloon Safari - Marvel at the views and wildlife or the great migration from above as you enjoy this experience of a lifetime.

Olduvai Gorge - Explore the breathtaking surrounds of the archaeological site of Olduvai Gorge, the cradle of mankind.

NGORONGORO

Empakai Crater - Experience the walk from the crater rim to the crater floor, a fantastic add-on to a safari to Ngorongoro

Elephant Cave - cave-like structures created by elephants digging up the earth to ingest the vitamin-rich soil. This soil also attracts other large animals like Buffalo, Bushbuck, Waterbuck, and Baboons.

Ngorongoro Crater - The worlds largest volcanic caldera, now inhabits its very own ecosystem. Lion, Elephant, Zebra, Buffalo & Rhino can all been seen here.

7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!
Bungee Jumping and Zip line - best done off the Victoria Falls bridge, the plunge will see you heading straight down towards the raging Zambezi River.

Abseiling, Gorge Swing or Zip Line – A little downstream from the falls suspended across the deep Batoka Gorge is a range of fun activities to thrill all the senses!

Walk with Lions – a rare opportunity to walk with lions with no leashes or collars through the African bush as they get rehabilitated for reintroduction to the wild.

Devil’s Pool – enclosed by rocks, This natural Pool is accessed by walking along the edge of the lip of the Falls in the dryer season. It is enclosed by rocks which keep you from falling over the 100 meter drop, but makes for excellent photographs

Elephant Back Safari – Tame elephants give the best view for spotting wildlife in the Reserve.

Tour of the Falls - an unforgettable experience through the Victoria Falls rainforest, with a view of one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. Listen to magical tales of local legend while you enjoy the constant spray from the “The Smoke that Thunders”.

Boma Dinner - Partially open to the African skies, it offers a unique experience that bombards the senses with the tastes, sights, sounds and smells of Africa.
7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!

FAMILY FUSION

**Lamp Festival** - the spellbinding show that happens every year when thousands of people converge to release khom loi (lit lanterns) into the night sky. Prior to the big spectacle, the setting is joyful and serene as monks perform chants during an on-stage ceremony.

**Elephant Back Safari** - ride on the back of Thailand’s finest majestic animal

**The White Temple** - Wat Rong Khun, better known as the White Temple, is a Buddhist temple in Thailand that looks like it was placed on earth by a god.

**Nong Nooch Village** - Discover one of Thailand’s most extensive gardens and see a cultural extravaganza of Thai traditions and ceremonies. Explore the open zoo and see a fantastic elephant show.

**Coral Island Tour** - Jump on board a speed boat and cruise to the offshore coral island (surrounded by multicolored coral reefs, hence the name). Enjoy the various water sports activities like Parachute, Water Scooter, Banana boat, Under sea walk etc or Spend the day on the beach Swimming, Snorkeling and Sunbathing.

**Thailand Market** - Markets around Bangkok offer fascinating shopping experiences as well as excellent bargains. For something you won’t find anywhere else, try one of the floating markets, which combine shopping and sightseeing into one.

**Sleeper Train** - Thailand has one of the best metre-gauge rail systems in the world and train travel is easily the best way to get around & see the country. It’s comfortable, safe, cheap & environmentally friendly.
MAFIA, PEMBA AND KILWA

7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!

MAFIA ISLAND

Walks & Bird Watching - a very interesting dimension to a Tanzania wildlife safari, as you will see many species of shorebird that cannot be observed in the main land National Parks & Reserves.

Whale Shark Diving - Up to 24 can be seen at any one time: males, females and juveniles, all beautifully marked with stripes & spots

PEMBA ISLAND

Ngezi Rainforest Tour - a protected forest reserve home to a variety of endemic bird species, the pemba sunbirds, green pigeon, & scops owl to name a few. It is also home to vervet & black colobus monkeys.

Pemba Spice farm Tour - A fascinating experience as the owner shows you around his farm & informs you of all the secrets that these spices hold. 70% of the world’s clove harvest comes out of Pemba Island

Scuba Diving - The diving around Pemba Island is nothing else but breathtaking. The untouched coral reefs surrounding the entire island make Pemba one of the top dive sites in the world.

KILWA

Kilwa Kisiwani - Find the greatest collection of ruins. Directly on the Northern shore is the old Omani Fort which is built on the foundations of the old Portuguese fort in the early 19th Century, & a big Mosque built in the 12th Century which is said to be the largest mosque in East Africa. Directly south of the mosque is a great house, once a complex building which was most likely the Sultan’s palace. In it there are four graves, of which one is rumoured to be of a Sultan.

Kilwa Mosque - Directly south of the mosque is a great house, once a complex building which was most likely the Sultan’s palace. In it there are four graves, of which one is rumoured to be of a sultan.
7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!

International Drive - One of Orlando’s most popular tourist spot. Oodles of fun and kid-friendly attractions. Test your kids’ senses of fact versus fiction at Ripley’s Believe it or Not, and then pop over next door to WonderWorks for laser tag and other fun activities.

Orlando Water Park - Slide on down Summit Plummet, a breathtaking 120-foot water slide, at Disney’s Blizzard Beach, or float around the lazy river at Disney’s Typhoon Lagoon.

SeaWorld Orlando - If your kids are animal or ocean lovers to any extent, be sure to swing by SeaWorld, which has rides, shows, and marine animals galore.

Universal Studios Florida - The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Islands of Adventure, and Wet ’n Wild Waterpark. - super-fun spots for kids and adults of all ages.

Epcot - a theme park at Walt Disney World Resort featuring exciting attractions, international pavilions, award-winning fireworks & seasonal special events.

Hollywood Studios - Movie magic comes to life during stirring stage shows, blazing stunt spectacles and Disney Character experiences. The Studios has something for everyone - Thrills for the teens, live shows for the tots or Broadway performances for Seniors.

Nickelodeon - It’s the ultimate kid’s destination, where the whole family plays. Enjoy an afternoon of swimming, sliding & poolside Orlando entertainment – including Mass sliming, outrageous games, slime, spectacular shows & meet nickelodeon characters.

SeaWorld Orlando - If your kids are animal or ocean lovers to any extent, be sure to swing by SeaWorld, which has rides, shows, and marine animals galore.
SAFARI PARKVENTURE

Selous Game Reserve - Africa’s largest game reserve. Experience a game drive in an open-sided vehicle, a comfortable and privileged journey through the wild African bush. Expect to see any of the major African mammals, including elephant, giraffes, lions, leopard and even the rare African Wild Dog.

Bird Watching - With more than 440 bird species that have been recorded inside the park, the Selous is a wonderful place for bird watching.

Boat Safari - enjoy the beautiful scenery of the Rufiji River with its many hippos, crocodiles and beautiful birdlife.

Walking Safari - Early morning walks are a fantastic way to learn more about the bush itself. Although you may see wildlife during the walk, the focus is also on the habitat that the animals live in, insects, trees and birdlife. An experience which very few places in Africa are able to offer!

The Love Nest - exquisite hideaway that offers complete seclusion in the heart of remote bush lands. Experience a spectacular view onto the Great Ruaha River and look down onto a busy hippo path below them. Romance and Adrenalin pure!

Cultural Visits - visit a local village on the outskirts of the Selous Game Reserve, and walk around on the farms, seeing the different crops planted by the villagers.

Hot Springs - There are several Hot Springs hidden within the Beho Beho Hills and surroundings in the Selous Game Reserve.

7 STEPS FOR A TRAVEL PARADISE

Like it? Pin it!
If you do not have your 2018 Travel Planner yet, please send an email to shakeel@bluelotus.co.tz and it shall be delivered.

Happy New Year!