

WEEKEND JOURNAL.

ASIA

The
Gift
Guide

Inside: After hours in Hong Kong



A polo match aboard an elephant

What: Gather your adventurous friends and learn the basics of "mahouting" or elephant driving. Unlike polo ponies, the elephants are not allowed to block goals or kick the ball (one of the younger ones does tend to break these rules).
Where: Four Seasons Tented Camp, Golden Triangle, Thailand
Contact: ☎ 66-53-910-200 or email reservations.thailand@fourseasons.com
Price: A three-day tournament costs US\$150,000 for up to 30 people (includes accommodations, food and beverage plus a spa treatment for each guest).



A private performance by Lang Lang

What: The celebrated Chinese pianist will perform for you for up to 90 minutes.
Where: Anywhere you choose
Contact: www.langlang.com
Price: US\$350,000 donation to the Lang Lang International Music Foundation.



A scuba-diving tour of the Great Wall of China

What: A section of the Great Wall in Hebei province has been submerged since the Luanhe River was dammed to create a reservoir in the 1980s. Make an underwater visit to this largely unexplored part of the wall, built during the Ming dynasty.
Contact: Urbane Nomads ☎ 65-6728-8614; www.urbanenomads.com
Price: US\$2,500 (includes accommodations and equipment rental but no international airfares).



A one-on-one pastry class with Jean-Paul Hévin

What: Chocolatier Jean-Paul Hévin has shops in France, Japan and Hong Kong. In this three-hour private class, he shares his award-winning recipes for macarons and other pastries.
Where: Jean-Paul Hévin, IFC Mall, Hong Kong
Contact: ☎ 852-2583-9118 or email marketing@jpevin.com.hk
Price: US\$2,580.

Just for YOU

By Amy Ma Illustrations by Laura Williams



A private dinner prepared by chef Pierre Gagnaire

What: The Michelin three-star chef will create a menu of your favorites and prepare dinner for you at his eponymous restaurant in Hong Kong.
Where: Pierre, Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Contact: ☎ 852-2825-4001 or email mohkg-pierre@mohg.com
Price: If Mr. Gagnaire must fly in, about US\$27,700 (airfare included); if he's in town, about US\$17,750.

Memorable experiences to enjoy and to share



A cocktail party with mixologist Eben Freeman

What: New Yorker Eben Freeman, a leader in modern mixology—the father of the alcoholic gummy bear (flavored with absinthe, say)—throws a cocktail party in the location of your choice, including your home. Sample his signature creations, including bubble-gum martinis and yes, the gummy bears.
Where: Anywhere you choose
Contact: Email cocktailallstars@gmail.com
Price: About US\$11,400 for 40 to 50 people (including airfare, standard alcohol and stemware).



A molecular cooking class with chef Uwe Opocensky

What: Distill the scent of Wagyu beef into perfume and whip up "spherified" balls and foams in this two-hour class with Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong executive chef Uwe Opocensky. Lunch follows at the Mandarin Grill.
Where: Mandarin Grill, Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong
Contact: ☎ 852-2825-4004 or email mohkg-grill@mohg.com
Price: About US\$500.



A customized online game by Second Life

What: Get "virtual" on Second Life, the world's largest 3-D online community. Work with a team at Second Life to create a range of options not available to regular members, such as custom-designed clothes and shoes for your avatar, your own TV show on Treet TV, Second Life's online TV station, or even your own virtual city.
Contact: For shoes, "Feather Grizot" of Stiletto Moody for Second Life (create a Second Life account online to contact this "resident"); for a TV show, "Starr Sonic" at Second Life; for a city, visit secondlife.com/land
Price: Shoes, US\$750; TV show, \$1,200; virtual city, \$150,000.



A private tour and concert in ancient Turkey

What: Tour the ancient city of Ephesus at sunset and dine under moonlight at the landmark ruins of the Roman-era Celsus Library while the Izmir State Symphony Orchestra plays a private concert.
Contact: Abercrombie & Kent at ☎ 1-800-554-7016; www.abercrombiekent.com
Price: About US\$13,000 (includes accommodations but no airfares).