

**Australia, Melbourne: Melbourne is Australasia's leading Meetings & Conference Destination**

Melbourne has been voted Australasia's Leading Meetings & Conference Destination in the 2013 World Travel Awards. Melbourne's infrastructure, intellectual capital, professional services and aesthetics have once again proven superior to those of its Australasian competitors and have enabled the city to be officially recognized as the number one meetings and conference destination in the region. The city's ability to secure such events is proven by the fact that in the next year Melbourne will host three of the world's largest and most prestigious health and medical related conferences: the 22nd World Diabetes Congress for 12,500 delegates (December 2013); the World Congress of Cardiology for 9,000 delegates (May 2014) and the International AIDS Conference for 14,000 delegates (July 2014). The majority of the larger events MCB wins for Melbourne are housed at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC).



[www.melbournecb.com.au](http://www.melbournecb.com.au)



**China, Hong Kong: HKCEC voted "The Best" again**

The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) has been voted "Best Convention & Exhibition Centre" for the fifth time in the 24th Annual TTG Travel Awards 2013. The continual trust and support from the travel trade industry in such a competitive market reaffirmed the HKCEC as the pride of Asia. The TTG Travel Awards not only serve as a benchmark for high standards across the Asia-Pacific travel industry since 1989, but also as a trajectory for the travel industry's advancements. This year, the winners of the TTG Travel Awards are determined through votes cast by 120,000 TTG's readers across the Asia Pacific region, which demonstrates the high recognition from the travel industry.



[www.hkcec.com](http://www.hkcec.com)

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**Puerto Rico**

The island of Puerto Rico is a very popular tourist destination because of its location, rich history and warm atmosphere. Puerto Rico is home to beautiful white sandy beaches, rolling mountains, bio-luminescent bays whose waters are full of glowing micro-organisms at night and beautifully preserved Old San Juan, a 500 year old city enclosed by a

massive wall, built when the city was a Spanish military stronghold.

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**Sweden**

A vast array of landscapes - from dense pine forests and craggy mountains of the north, to the rolling hills and glossy golden beaches of the south - the gap widens even more when you take the country's urban centers into account. Malmö, Gothenburg and the capital, Stockholm - each with their own distinct character, compelling histories

and wildly varying architectural styles are also very stylish, modern and sophisticated and both, cities and countryside offer incredible venues.

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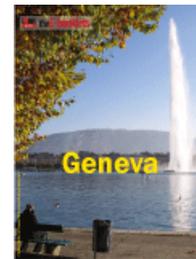
## China, Hong Kong: EarthCheck Gold goes to Hong Kong hotel

InterContinental Hong Kong is the only hotel in Hong Kong and also the first IHG property globally to achieve a Gold certification from EarthCheck, an acclaimed recognition of sustainability efforts in the travel and tourism sector. Having earned a Silver Certification in 2009, InterContinental Hong Kong made further progress by reporting its environmental footprint and adhering to an internationally recognized standard of best practice. For the past five years, it focused on waste recycling and reduction, energy savings, green purchasing and environmental activities. Each year leading to the Gold certification, the property had to submit 12 months of operational data to EarthCheck and was evaluated on key indicators such as energy and water consumption, total waste production, and community commitment.

[www.ihg.com](http://www.ihg.com)



Meeting planners are the real stars in Berlin.

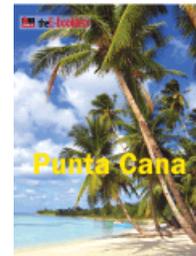


### Geneva, Switzerland

The reputation to be a major center for events of all kinds is founded by its wide range of congress infrastructure. Geneva has more to offer to the MICE market than ever before, it is a smart, cosmopolitan city with all the advantages that this implies. The artistic and cultural life is particularly rich, including theaters, concerts, exhibitions, music festivals, opera

house and museums. Fashionable hotels, chic restaurants and elegant shops jostle for a position along the flower-decked lakefront.

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### Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Boasting a series of wide white beaches that stretch nearly uninterrupted for 56km (35 miles), Punta Cana has a well-deserved reputation as one of the most affordable destinations in the Caribbean, as well as one of its friendliest, thanks to the Dominican Republic's lively, Spanish-influenced culture and music. Luxury resorts offer

top level conference facilities and a wide range of offers and services in order to create unforgettable events.

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## USA, Washington: US government shutdown no big impact on business travel

TRAVEL planners expect the partial shutdown of the US federal government will be disrupting without having a long-term effect on business travel. Government buildings and services, as well as public-funded monuments, museums and national parks including the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, the National Mall and the Statue of Liberty are closed. Incentive and meeting groups travelling currently in the US are largely unaffected, provided their travel planner has contingencies in place. On visa and security checkpoint issues the industry does not expect the partial 'government shutdown' to have a major adverse impact on travel operations. Customs and Border Protection, the Transportation Security Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration have been unaffected by the shutdown.

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"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit." Aristotle



2009, 2010, 2011, 2012



WMA, Category Winner 2012



2009, 2011, 2012



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