

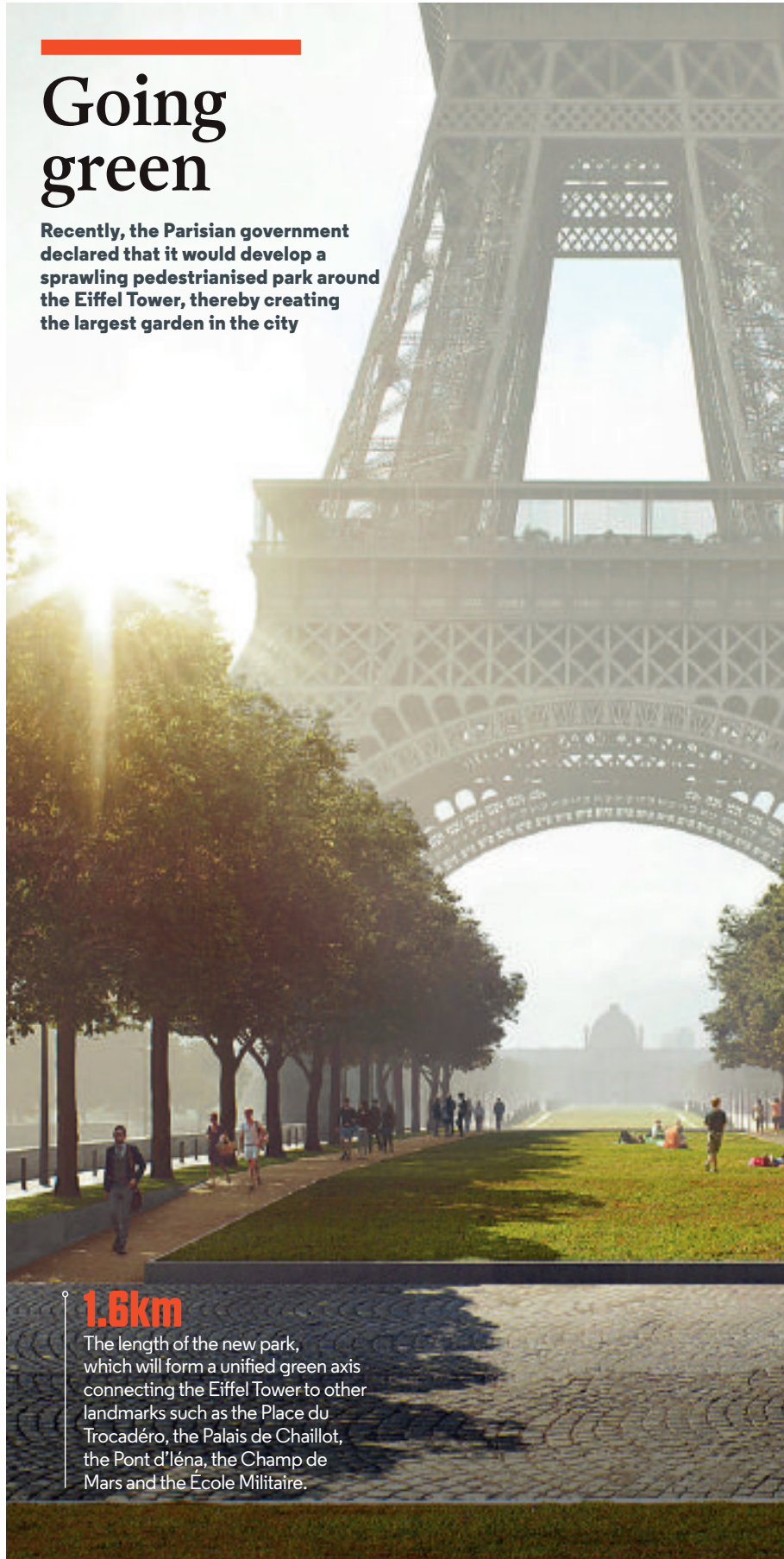
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UPGRADE YOUR
TRAVEL IQ WITH
THE LATEST
GLOBAL TRENDS

Going green

Recently, the Parisian government declared that it would develop a sprawling pedestrianised park around the Eiffel Tower, thereby creating the largest garden in the city



1.6km

The length of the new park, which will form a unified green axis connecting the Eiffel Tower to other landmarks such as the Place du Trocadéro, the Palais de Chaillot, the Pont d'Iéna, the Champ de Mars and the Ecole Militaire.

2023

The year in which the first phase of the project will be unveiled, right in time for the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris. The entire scheme is expected to be completed by 2030.

OTHER UPCOMING ECO DEVELOPMENTS



Sky Garden, Dubai
Standing at 60m, this planned footbridge will link several landmarks along the banks of Dubai Creek. Besides a leafy garden, it will feature multi-level running and cycling tracks, plus shops and restaurants.



West Landscaped Deck, Hong Kong
Set to open in 2024, this 190m-long grass-carpeted footbridge will connect the neighbourhood of Wan Chai to the waterfront. There'll be an observation deck for sea views and an open-air gallery for cultural events.



Greenland Bund Centre, Shanghai
Real estate developer Greenland Group has announced plans for a mixed-use riverfront project. Slated to launch in the next two years, it will feature a hotel, apartments and shops built around nearly 50,000m² of public green space.

€72 million

The amount the project is expected to cost. Dubbed OnE, the redevelopment will be entirely paid for by ticket sales to the Eiffel Tower.

500%

The percentage increase in the number of travellers using Airbnb to trace their roots, from 2014 to 2019. DNA tourism is rising in popularity, and Airbnb has partnered with genomics company 23andMe to enable such trips. Now, when a customer receives their ancestry reports from the latter, they will also be given recommendations for Airbnb homes and experiences in their ancestral countries.



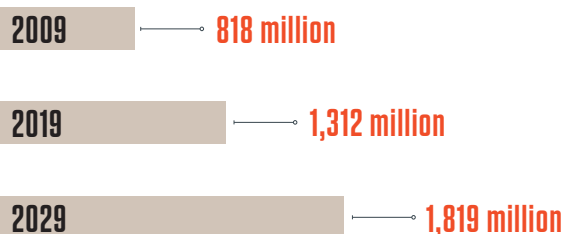
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The number of bridges that will be lit up for Illuminated River, a large-scale, long-term art project that aims to reinvigorate the **River Thames in London**. Four of them – London Bridge, Cannon Street Railway Bridge, Southwark Bridge and the Millennium Bridge – were illuminated for the first phase this July. When the entire project is completed in 2022, it will span about 4km, making it the world's longest public art commission.

GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

According to Skift Research, international traveller departures grew by 494 million over the past 10 years – and it is forecasted that these will increase by an additional 507 million by the end of the next decade.



WHATEVER FLOATS YOUR BOAT

Floating establishments, from hotels to museums, are making a splash all around the world



A GRANDE DAME RETURNS

Key dates in the history of Raffles Hotel in Singapore, which reopens this month

1887

The establishment is founded by renowned Armenian hoteliers the Sarkies brothers.

1894

With the completion of the Palm Court Wing, the hotel's number of guest rooms is upped to 75.

1899

A new main building by architect Regent Alfred John Bidwell is finished, and the hotel becomes one of the first in the region with electric lights.

1915

The year the Singapore Sling was invented by bartender Ngiam Tong Boon.

1987

The hotel is officially declared a National Monument by the government.

2019

After nearly two years of extensive renovations by 11 partners, the hotel reopens with 115 suites and 10 F&B outlets.

2,000

The maximum number of diners that can be accommodated at **Jumbo Floating Restaurant in Hong Kong**. The iconic 43-year-old venue is decorated in the Chinese imperial style and has attracted famous names from David Bowie to Chow Yun Fat.

850M²

The total size of **Fluctuart in Paris**. Opened in June 2019, the space is billed as the world's first floating museum. It's dedicated to street art, with works from big-name graffiti artists such as Keith Haring, JR and Shepard Fairey. There's also a bookshop and bar.

32

The number of cows at **Rotterdam's** offshore dairy farm **Floating Farm**. Should the cows tire of the water, they can cross a bridge to a mainland pasture. Their milk is processed into dairy products, while their manure is used to help fertilise the city's green spaces.

19

The number of rooms on **guntū**, an upscale floating hotel that sails around the **Seto Inland Sea**. The wood-clad cabins come with floor-to-ceiling windows and there's a six-seater sushi counter that serves fresh fish caught from the surrounding waters.

100

The approximate age of the 1920s-era Dutch barge that **Word on the Water**, a floating bookstore in **London**, is housed on. Permanently berthed on Regent's Canal, the 15m boat is filled with both new and used books and hosts talks, readings and other events.

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

Head below the surface instead at these underwater restaurants



Under, Norway

The world's largest underwater restaurant extends 5.5m below sea level and is specially constructed to withstand the North Sea's extreme conditions.



Ocean Restaurant, Singapore

Housed within Resorts World Sentosa's S.E.A. Aquarium, this spot offers diners widescreen views of the marine life thanks to floor-to-ceiling glass panels.



Ithaa, Maldives

The world's first undersea restaurant when it opened in 2005, it is encased in acrylic and offers panoramic views of the surrounding coral reefs.