

## PRESS RELEASE

### Explore the Unexplored with Banyan Tree



**Singapore – April 2016:** Discovering fascinating places and stories about people, culture and history, and returning home with a tale, rather than a tan, is a dream holiday for many travellers, young and old. Found in some of the World's most beautiful off-the-beaten-path locations, **Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts** offers discerning nomads a window into a world of exotic experiences, many of which are waiting to be explored.

#### Lose track of Time in the highlands of China

**The birthplace of Tibetan Buddhism.** Banyan Tree Ringha, nestled in the Shangri-La valley in China's Yunnan province, was created from original Tibetan farm houses, imbued with over 100 years of history. Step into this Tibetan Kingdom and discover the small Potala Palace, one of only two in the world, (the other being Lhasa's Potala Palace, symbolising Tibetan Buddhism).

**Mountain Wildlife.** Across the Ringha Valley, farmers release their animals to the grassy hills at sunrise. A menagerie of yaks, horses, black pigs, sheep and goats graze freely during the day and head home at sunset, watched carefully by the hundreds of vultures circling the blue skies above.

**Mystical Mountains.** Tibetan people have many holy mountains, rivers and natural spring water fountains, which can only be used by Tibetans. Local guides at Banyan Tree Ringha are on hand to help guests discover these mystical, secluded places and embrace the Tibetan spirit.

**Peace in a lost horizon.** The acclaimed novel by James Hilton, "Lost Horizon" was based on Ringha's Shangri-La, which describes the awe-inspiring beauty, peacefulness and harmony of the region. Here, the locals believe that God walks amongst the people, a feeling that seems to radiate from the mountains today.

**Witness a traditional wedding ceremony.** The wedding season is from May to September and guests are welcomed to join a Tibetan wedding ceremony, which usually take place inside a traditional family farmhouse. Surrounded by authentic, colourful decorations and the melodic prayers of monks, this is a culturally-immersive experience into local life and traditional ways.

**Dine Mongolian style.** Enjoy a special Banyan Tree Ringha private dining destination experience in a traditional Mongolian yurt. In ancient times, to strengthen relationships with their Mongolian neighbours, Tibetans would hold meetings between the two cultures in yurts. Guests are invited to wear Tibetan attire if they wish and enjoy a Hot Pot dinner complemented by traditional bonfire dancing.

**Dress like a Tibetan.** Tibetan costumes are available for guests to use for special photos, made even more authentic with the resort's mascot - 'Lanka', a Tibetan Mastiff. Banyan Tree Ringha is the only hotel in the region to host this special indigenous breed of dog, Lanka has become a firm favourite of guests ever since.

**Celebrate Banyan Tree Ringha's 10th anniversary in 2016.**

*In 2016, receive hotel credits of USD\$150 per stay to redeem at the resort's restaurants, award-winning Spa, hotel transportation as well as Gallery. Terms & conditions apply.*

**Unveil a Gem in Central Vietnam**

**From golden sands to mountain peaks.** The boutique resort of Banyan Tree Lăng Cô on the central Vietnam coast is perfectly located under the shadow of the Truong Son (Annamite) Mountain Range, overlooking the East Sea.

**Uncover the vibrancy of ancient dynasties.** The architecture and design of this all-pool villa resort pays tribute to the cultural richness of the region. The design is reminiscent of the traditional garden houses of Hue. Discover the ancient versions of this architecture at the nearby UNESCO World Heritage sites of Hue, Hoi An and My Son.

**The world's favourite colour is green.** Guests can practice their swing at the 18-hole championship Laguna Lăng Cô Golf Club course designed by Sir Nick Faldo, or experience an adrenaline rush by mountain biking across the Annamites.

**Enjoy the 'Night on Us' offer at Banyan Tree Lăng Cô**

*Stay three nights for the price of two in 2016. Terms & conditions apply.*

**Discover a blue heart in the Maldives**

**Explore the magic and mystery of the underwater world.** The luxury island-resort of Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru is home to the first resort-funded Marine Laboratory in the Maldives; and was the first resort recognised by the Maldivian government as a member of the Sea Turtle conservation programme. With over 150 different species of fish living in the resort's house reef, in 2016, the Marine Laboratory team released their 400th Green Sea Turtle into the Indian Ocean.

**Meet a stingray colony.** With its own stingray family, the resort welcomes up these majestic creatures to its beach at 17:00h every day to meet the guests and show off their swimming skills, whilst the resort's Marine biologists monitor their health and wellbeing.

**Go in search of a shipwreck.** Spend a day at sister resort, Angsana Ihuru and explore its shipwreck, the Rannamari sank on the resort's house reef in 1999; and every year on its anniversary, 25th April, the resort commemorates the occasion with a special 24-hour dive event.

**Enjoy The Credit Goes to you promotion at Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru**

*Valid for a minimum stay of two consecutive nights, receive hotel credits worth up to EUR 150 per day.*

**Uncover hidden treasure in the Seychelles**

**Become friends with turtles.** Banyan Tree Seychelles, home to the only wildlife conservation and rehabilitation centre on the island, is renowned for having the most Hawksbill turtle nests of any beach on the island of Mahe. Out of the 120 Yellow Bellied Mud Turtles left in the world, nine of these endangered species live at the resort.

**An island where East meets West.** Seychelles is recorded as being uninhabited until the 1700's, making the islands a melting pot of different cultures and races which can be seen in its cuisine, traditions and people. Creole comes from "criar" meaning 'to raise' and was originally a term used to describe Portuguese and Spanish living at overseas trading posts. It is believed that 82% of Seychellois have Indian roots.

**Natural wonders of the Indian Ocean.** In the past, Seychelles was home to the salt water crocodile, the only dangerous land animal in the country (now extinct). Seychelles is a wonderfully safe environment to explore the beauty of nature. Renowned for the Coco de Mer, the largest seed in the world (weighing up to 33 pounds), the islands are also home to another heavyweight, Esmerelda, the largest land tortoise in the world (at 670 pounds), as well as two UNESCO world heritage sites - Vallee de Mai and Aldabra.

**Indulge in a legend.** Local legend has it that if you eat breadfruit in Seychelles, you will return again.

**Book early to enjoy the beauty of the Seychelles**

*Book your stay at Banyan Tree Seychelles 45 days in advance and receive a 15% discount or 60 days in advance for a 20% discount. Terms & conditions apply.*

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**About Banyan Tree**

**Banyan Tree** offers a Sanctuary to rejuvenate the mind, body and soul in awe-inspiring locations around the globe. Rediscover the romance of travel as you journey to iconic destinations and gateway cities. An all-villa concept often with private pools, Banyan Tree provides genuine, authentic service and a distinctive, premium retreat experience.

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