

# BANYAN TREE

HOTELS & RESORTS

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Discover some of the World's most exciting UNESCO Heritage sites with Banyan Tree and Angsana Hotels & Resorts**



**Singapore, September 2014** – Step back in time and soak in the rich history and culture of ancient dynasties and kings past. From the centuries-old cities of China to the Mayan ruins in Mexico, the Banyan Tree Group is proud to have a number of resorts in or near UNESCO World Heritage Sites across the world.

#### **China: Discover China's past through rock carvings**

The Dazu rock carvings of Chongqing are famous for depicting everyday life of 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century China. Etched into the steep hillsides of the Dazu area, these world-famous carvings are an example of the highest level of Chinese cave temple art and illustrate the harmonious co-existence of three religions, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. More than 10,000 carvings provide an intriguing insight into China's history, religious beliefs and historical figures of the day.

[Banyan Tree Chongqing Beibei](#), nestled at the foot of Jinyun Mountain Natural Reserve, is an exclusive hot spring resort located just two hours from the Dazu Rock Carvings.

#### **Laos: Live like Royalty in the City of Monks**

Former French colony, Luang Prabang, also known as the City of Monks is surrounded by breathtaking views of mountains, the mighty Mekong river and stunning monasteries. Attractions include the Royal Palace, Mount Phousi and the world-renowned Pak Ou caves with its images of the Buddha. As the royal capital of Laos between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century, the town became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995. A walk through the streets of Luang Prabang takes visitors back in time, with its enchanting Lao-European style architecture framing brightly-dressed monks and heady scents from local markets.

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[Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum](#), a former royal residence is a historic base from which to explore Luang Prabang. Guests can discover this fascinating historic town by foot or bicycle.

## **Vietnam: Discover dynasties past in Central Vietnam**

Central Vietnam is home to a number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient capital of Hue; the charming town of Hoi An; and the ruins of My Son. As the imperial capital of Vietnam from 1802 to 1945, Hue is considered the cultural centre of Vietnam with its Complex of Hue Monuments, built during the reign of 13 Kings of the Nguyen Dynasty. Hoi An is a well-preserved example of a South East Asian trading port dating from the 15th to 19th centuries; and the My Son Sanctuary of connecting temples and towers was an imperial city during the Cham dynasty from the 4th to 12th centuries. Close to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Central Vietnam lies [Banyan Tree Lăng Cô](#), Central Vietnam and [Angsana Lăng Cô](#), Central Vietnam. Banyan Tree Lăng Cô pays tribute to the cultural richness of the region and is home to 49 all-pool villas, while Angsana Lăng Cô has 229 stylish suites and overlooks a three kilometre beach.

## **Mexico: Unravel the mystery of Chichen-Itza**

The sacred site of the pre-Hispanic City of Chichen-Itza is one of the great Mayan centres of the Yucatan peninsula. Through its 1,000-year history, the Maya and Toltec vision of the world is revealed in the city's stone monuments, temples, tombs, market places and ball courts. The fusion of Mayan construction techniques with newer elements from Central Mexico make this site one of the most important sites of the Mayan-Toltec civilisation.

Offering a harmonious blend of nature and luxury, [Banyan Tree Mayakoba](#) on Mexico's Riviera Maya is surrounded by four ecosystems, mangroves, dunes, forests and coral reefs and is a perfect base to explore Chichen-Itza, a two hour 30 minutes drive away.

## **Morocco: Explore the ancient laneways of Marrakech**

The capital of the Almohads from 1147-1269, Marrakech was a major political, economic and cultural centre of the western Muslim world. The living historic town of the Medina in Marrakech, consist of heritage riads and souks, markets and laneways. Key monuments include the Koutoubia Mosque; Badia Palace, the Ben Youssef merdersa and les Saadians tombs.

The six traditional riads of the [Angsana Riads Collection](#) are located within the Old Medina of Marrakech. Here, guests can enjoy a calm and elegant sanctuary where royal Moroccan heritage is brought to life.

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Other UNESCO Heritage Sites near our hotels and resorts include

- Xidi and Hongcun, Ancient Villages in Southern Anhui – 5 and 20 minutes respectively from Banyan Tree Huangshan (Opening early 2015)
- Mount Huangshan – 1 hour and 30 minutes to Banyan Tree Huangshan (Opening early 2015)
- Changdeokgung Palace Complex – 30 minutes from Banyan Tree Club & Spa Seoul
- Cultural Sites of Al Ain – two hours from Banyan Tree Al Wadi
- Historic Centre of Macao – Minutes from Banyan Tree Macau
- Old Town of Lijiang – 20 minutes from Banyan Tree Lijiang
- Emperor Qin’s Terracotta Warriors – 15 minutes from Angsana Xi’an Lintong
- West Lake Cultural Landscape of Hangzhou – 30 minutes from Banyan Tree Hangzhou and Angsana Hangzhou

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## **About Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts**

The leading international operator in the premium resort and spa industry, **Banyan Tree** offers a signature blend of romance and travel with a green conscience. The philosophy behind the hotels, resorts and spas is based on rejuvenation of the body, mind and soul – a Sanctuary for the Senses. **Angsana** is the ideal complement to Banyan Tree, comprising contemporary, chic and ecologically sensitive resorts. Based in areas of outstanding natural beauty and exciting city hubs, Angsana hotels, resorts, and spas reflect the spirit and communities of their environment.

**To date, the Banyan Tree Group manages and/or has ownership interests in over 36 resorts and hotels, over 70 spas, 90 retail galleries; as well as three golf courses.**

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