At Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts, we continue on a transformative journey towards achieving our fullest potential. Through synergies with our strategic partners AccorHotels and Vanke, we aim to grow exponentially as we expand our brands worldwide at an unprecedented pace with at least eight properties stipulated to open by the end of 2018.

Angsana Zhuhai Phoenix Bay is the first hotel to open its doors this year and in this issue, we explore Banyan Tree Anji in China and Angsana Cayo Santa Maria in Cuba. We also delve into the opening of Angsana Teluk Bahang in Penang, the third property in Malaysia that will welcome travellers around the globe in 2019.

Learn about our newest wellness programme where travellers will find the phrase 'rest and rejuvenate' redefined, with their overall wellbeing looked after from the start with 50 different wellness activities inspired by nature and exclusive spa treatments. Recreate signature cocktails and easy body scrubs in the comfort of your own home with our curated recipes; and find out what are the most popular dishes around our properties.

Our hotels and resorts continue to take action to conserve and safeguard our cultural and natural heritage, showing full support in the International Year of the Reef 2018 project and helming different conservation projects all over the world – all of which are continuous efforts to make impactful, real world changes for the benefit of present and future generations.

We want to weave inspiring and memorable guest experiences together with a positive environment and community imprint. The future holds many exciting prospects and they are only possible with the support of our guests and associates.

“SUSTAINABLE TOURISM CAN BE A POSITIVE INSTRUMENT, AND IT HAS BEEN OUR CORE VALUE SINCE BANYAN TREE’S INCEPTION. TOURISM REMAINS ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING GLOBAL INDUSTRIES AND THIS SHOULD BE MATCHED BY OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PEOPLE, PLANET, PROSPERITY, PEACE AND PARTNERSHIP.”
Bali Kite Festival is an annual festival held in July and August. The event highlights Bali’s unique culture, drawing thousands of visitors each year. The timing of the kite festival is key as it marks the start of the windy season. To spice up the event, locals will compete with tourists in kite flying.

Banyan Tree Ungasan Bali, Indonesia

Macao International Fireworks Display Contest

September

The annual Macao International Fireworks Display Contest takes place over several Saturdays in September, leading up to Mid-Autumn Festival and China’s National Day on 1 October. This contest will feature ten international teams with two teams lighting up the sky in one night. It is a dazzling event that has inspired many wonderful works year after year.

Banyan Tree Macau, China
Angsana Zhuhai Phoenix Bay, China

Patong Carnival

November

Patong Carnival is a three-day celebration with creative stalls, activities, colourful displays, and folks dressed in flamboyant costumes. This carnival also doubles up as the Patong Seafood Festival, where the freshest catches of the day are sold.

Banyan Tree Phuket, Thailand
Angsana Laguna Phuket, Thailand
Angsana Villas Resort Phuket, Thailand
Cassia Phuket, Thailand

Marrakech International Film Festival

December

Renewing dialogue between talents and intellects, encouraging diversity and building bridges between different cultures and countries, the Marrakech International Film Festival has become a place where great international actors, producers, filmmakers and directors gather yearly.

Banyan Tree Tamouda Bay, Morocco
Angsana Riads Collection Morocco, Morocco

Ultra Mexico 2018

13 to 14 October

Ultra is an annual international outdoor electronic music festival that invites the world’s top electronic dance music (EDM) DJs to perform with unparalleled stage designs and top tier production. Previous years’ line-up included popular music artistes Alesso, Martin Garrix, Afrojack and Armin Van Buuren.

Banyan Tree Cabo Marques, Mexico
**XIN AN RIVER**

Xin An River rises in Xiuning County at the foot of the Yellow Mountains (Huangshan) in Anhui Province. It winds its way to the east and joins the Qiantang River at Jiande City in Zhejiang Province and finally into the Pacific Ocean. The ancient villages and fields along the riverside makes up the charming scenery. Travellers can enjoy a 10km hike along the natural landscape, the level of difficulty is set at easy.

*Banyan Tree Huangshan, China*

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**JINSHANLING GREAT WALL**

Jinshanling’s Great Wall is in a mountainous area 130 km (80 miles) northeast of central Beijing. This section of the wall connects the Simatai Great Wall section in the east, and Gubeikou Section in the west. The special features of this section are the 31 watchtowers. According to the different terrain, the watchtowers were built differently – tall or short, rectangular or square, with three to five embrasures. Most watchtowers are one or two floors.

*Dhana Jinshanling, China*

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**BATU CAVES**

Batu Caves is a limestone hill comprising three major caves and a number of smaller ones. Located approximately 11km to the north of Kuala Lumpur, this 100-year-old temple features idols and statues erected inside the main caves and around it. Incorporated with interior limestone formations said to be around 400 million years old, the temple is considered an important religious landmark by Hindus.

*Banyan Tree Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

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**GRAN CENOTE**

This spectacular cenote is located just a couple of miles from Tulum in Mexico, and it is one of the most well-known in the area, featuring great natural light and a depth of approximately 30 feet. Gran Cenote is perfect for snorkelling and scuba diving and travellers can swim through the crystal-clear water and marvel the wonderful stalagmites and stalactites.

*Banyan Tree Mayakoba, Mexico*
BE SURROUNDED BY THE BLOOM OF THE FOREST

Banyan Tree Anji

Imagine a dense bamboo forest with each stem soaring over 30 metres into the sky and topped with a thick canopy of leaves, dappling the sunlight on the forest floor. See endless acres of tea trees, clad to a verdant hillside and tended by traditional Chinese tea-pickers. These encompass the beauty of Anji.
Nestled in the rolling hills of eastern China’s Zhejiang province, Anji is surrounded by lush greenery and feels classically Chinese – proven with it being the filming site of the famous movie ‘Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon’.

Overlooking a mirror-like lake, Banyan Tree Anji both reflects and respects the environment in which it lies. The eight-storey main building is surrounded by an enchanting low-rise complex of villas, courtyards, pools and ponds that combine traditional architectural styles with contemporary elements. Created using natural materials and embracing the Earth’s elements, this resort is one with the local ecosystem.

With 151 rooms, suites and villas, guests can unwind in style and comfort with views of gardens, lakes and mountains. The sensation of serenity is further enhanced at Banyan Tree Spa, a standalone sanctuary that offers a series of treatments that harness the healing benefits of herbs and spices. Alternatively, guests can take a dip in the indoor swimming pool, relax in the chess room, sample exquisite Asian cuisine at a choice of restaurants, sip tea at the lounge, or simply enjoy a peaceful walk through the endless bamboo groves.

In this tranquil setting, it is easy to forget that one is surrounded by China’s most densely-populated regions. With major cities such as Shanghai, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Suzhou, Ningbo and Wuxi all located within a few hours’ drive, there are more than 120 million people at Anji’s doorstep. This destination is a blissful escapade separated from the bustling world.

*Banyan Tree Anji’s opening offer room rate starts from RM 2029 per night with breakfast.*
Cayo Santa Maria – white, powdered beaches, fringed by swaying palm trees and lapped by bright turquoise seas. Unlike many other tropical beach destinations, this island remains widely unexplored. The vicinity’s biodiversity is an ecological treasure trove protected by the UNESCO. Respecting the balance of this ecosystem, Angsana Cayo Santa Maria has been designed to be sensitive to the local environment.

Stretched along the north coast of Cuba, the resort is accessible via a 48 kilometre-long causeway from the Cuban mainland. The second to open out of four resorts in Cuba (with the first being Dhawa Cayo Santa Maria), this spectacular retreat allows guests to relax and recalibrate while being surrounded by the wonders of nature.

All rooms and suites are built bright and spacious to capture the character and colours of the Caribbean. Guests can take a break at any one of the restaurants or bars that offer delectable dishes that tantalise the taste buds – from the sizzling beachfront grill to the cool jazz lounge, unwind in the spirit of Cuba intertwined with international flavours.

Equipped with facilities to enhance one’s holiday experience, travellers can whisk themselves into the warm embrace of Angsana Spa that provides soothing Asian-inspired spa treatments, or dive into the outdoor pool to cool off from the heat of the day. The gym is well-equipped, while Rangers’ Club provides younger guests with opportunities to learn and love the environment. Couples seeking to create life-long memories can exchange their vows in the ocean-facing, open-air wedding chapel.

In a society that is increasingly overwhelmed by economical demands, Angsana Cayo Santa Maria provides a rare slice of peace and seclusion, away from the weight of the world.

Angsana Cayo Santa Maria opens in Q4 2018.

THE ECOLOGICALLY-SENSITIVE HAVEN

Angsana Cayo Santa Maria
Historic trading port, modern commercial hub, tropical beach resort; Penang is a cultural jewel that dazzles visitors with its diversity.

Located off the northwest coast of Peninsular Malaysia, this island is linked to the mainland by a pair of bridges, and to the rest of the world by its expanding airport. Penang has always been widely connected, known as one of the original Straits Settlement in the 18th and 19th centuries. Penang’s charming capital city – Georgetown – was inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage list in 2008. Visitors can be amazed at the melting pot of cultures – Malay, Chinese, British, Indian – that have all left an indelible imprint on the island and remain in evidence today. Stroll past the exquisite Asian shophouses, visit British battlements, discover modern Malaysian architecture or simply unwind on the pristine beaches.

Overlooking a long stretch of sandy beach, Angsana Teluk Bahang is built with many Asian design elements and Peranakan motifs that pay homage to Penang’s history. The 230 rooms and suites are bright and spacious with a seafront setting. Find a wide variety of amenities at the resort – dining outlets that reflect Penang’s cultural diversity, serving a delectable selection of Malay, Chinese, pan-Asian and international dishes, or escape to Angsana Spa to rejuvenate with a broad selection of Asian spa treatments infused with fruits and flowers.

Angsana Teluk Bahang is also a unique destination for special occasions. The expansive event space and beach create the perfect setting for large-scale gatherings, from corporate conferences to glittering gala dinners.

Born within a protected heritage site and contemporary commercial centre, Angsana paves a path of discovery for travellers to learn about the history and embrace the future.
Going on vacation is not just about the sights. One other reason as to why we travel to far-flung and exotic locations: food. Exploring a local cuisine provides another lens through which to gain a better understanding of a country’s culture: unique local produce, new flavour combinations, dining habits, and even the utensils used. All these contribute to the experience of visiting a new destination. And there’s no greater leveller among people than a shared love for good food.

From the mellow spicing of Moroccan tagines to the fiery heat of Thai curries, or the freshest Maldivian seafood to steaming bowls of Malaysian laksa, one dish can evoke a thousand memories. But what is it that people love to eat the most when on holiday? We did some research and reveal the most loved dishes from around our hotels and resorts. The result? An eclectic mix of Western classics and Asian staples.

**Popular dishes from around our hotels and resorts**

Grilled tiger prawns
A sweet, plump prawn plucked fresh from the ocean and grilled atop a BBQ is the ultimate taste of summer. Served simply with a brush of garlic butter or olive oil makes this a simple yet decadent delight.

From Velavanni Bar, Angsana Ihuru in Maldives
Nasi Goreng
A addictive Indonesian classic comprising fried rice, soy sauce, shallots, garlic, tamarind, chilli, and typically served with egg, chicken and prawns that will make your taste buds tingle.
From Treetops, Banyan Tree Bintan.

Tom Yum Goong
A delicately balanced spicy and sour prawn soup brimming with flavour from Thai spices and herbs like kaffir lime leaves, galangal, fish sauce, crushed chilli and lime juice.
From Baan Talay, Angsana Laguna Phuket

Mie Goreng
Similar to Nasi Goreng, the only difference being it is made with fried yellow noodles instead of rice. It is spicy, savoury with a hint of sweetness, and perfect at breakfast, lunch or dinner.
From Banhu, Banyan Tree Ungasan, Bali.

Beef Steak
Be it Angus or Wagyu, fillet or ribeye, a piece of beautifully cooked, charred on the outside pink in the centre steak is a carnivorous treat that few can resist.
From Au Jardin d, Epice, Banyan Tree Seychelles.
A vacation doesn’t start until you’re lying by the poolside with a refreshing cocktail in hand. And there’s nothing like the flavours of tropical fruit, coconuts and exotic spices to conjure memories of magical moments from past adventures. Transport yourself back to balmy beach days by recreating these three classic cocktails at home.

Evoke memories of the Caribbean with a fruity twist on the famed Cuban Mojito. Head to the fragrant East with a subtly spiced lemongrass Caipirinha. Or reminisce over tropical deserted beaches while sipping a classic Pina Colada. Whip these cocktails up in two shakes to bring a little dash of your vacation home with you!

**Passionfruit Mojito**

- 1.5 tsp white sugar
- 20ml fresh lime juice
- 1 handful fresh mint leaves
- 45ml Chalong Bay Pure sugarcane rum
- 60ml soda water

**BANISH THE VACATION BLUES:**

3 easy tropical cocktails to recreate at home
Lemongrass Caipirinha
• 1tbs white sugar
• 30ml fresh lime juice
• 60ml Chalong lemongrass rum
• 1 whole fresh lemongrass
• Crushed ice to serve

Pina Colada
• 3 pieces of fresh pineapple
• 120ml pineapple juice
• 15ml vanilla syrup
• 30ml coconut cream
• 15ml fresh lime juice
• 50ml Chalong Bay Pure sugarcane rum
SECOND NATURE:

Living a creative and fulfilling life is easier with nature.
We journey with Singapore-based botanical artist & Founding Director of Within Lucinda Law as she shares how she immerses in nature and translates that into her art.

Right in the heat of the moment of being immersed in the twelve degree-celsius seraphinite-green spring waters of the Ruwaka Resurgence, my mind went silent. I was in awe of the raw verdant beauty of the plants surrounding the mouth of the cave right in front of me. Rejuvenated, I began to luxuriate in this new sensation of being part of the water and the natural surroundings. More intimate connections with nature soon found me while I was living on a 38-foot sailing boat in winter New Zealand during my two-month sabbatical leave. Whether it was through observing the dandelion-like reflections of stars on the calm ebony sea or admiring a cavern ceiling of over-hanging emerald ferns twinkling with millions of sapphire-blue glow worms, I began cultivating a mindfulness to the elements of nature and found ways to be inspired by the sheer ingenuity of Mother Nature.

My experiences inspired me to start botanical watercolour painting and Within, a creative studio to teach and create nature-led arts. In my nature-meets-arts workshops and creative retreats, technical skills and holistic practices flow as one to enhance everyone's immersive experience with the beauty and therapeutic benefits of nature. I would take myself or my guests through an exercise called “Magnifying Beauty”. Armed with a magnifying glass, we focus on the details of botanical subjects using both art and science perspectives— always marvelling at the clever engineering of a plant before we create photographic artworks or illustrations. It always brings out a sense of wonder and gratitude.

My well-being is important to me, so I would often practice new nature-inspired rituals to nurture my creative journey.

Being on a holiday is a great time to tap into your creativity; pack a set of watercolour painting tools and a postcard-sized watercolour pad; engage in plant and floral photography. I also enjoy foraging for nature materials during my walks or hikes with friends or families. Everyone can be tasked to collect materials in a specific colour, texture, pattern, shape and form to compose portraits, animals, scenery or even a flower mandala. Being in harmony with nature helps us to live a more creative and fulfilling life. Knowing we’re all connected enhances our well-being and in this way, you will always carry a sanctuary within you.

“You carry Mother Earth within you. She is not outside of you. Mother Earth is not just your environment. In that insight of inter-being, it is possible to have real communication with the Earth, which is the highest form of prayer. In that kind of relationship, you have enough love, strength and awakening in order to change your life.”

- Thich Nhat Hanh

Within is a nature-led creative studio that carries out arts and design projects, commissioned artworks, botanical art workshops and nature-themed overseas creative retreats in collaboration with various botanic gardens and hotel partners in Asia-Pacific.

www.within.sg
www.instagram.com/withinartnature
A BRAND NEW WELLNESS JOURNEY AWAITS

Press pause on your daily hustle and experience our newest Sanctuary Wellbeing by Banyan Tree Spa Sanctuary in the peaceful surrounding of tropical Phuket.

This unique programme focuses on overall wellbeing of each guest. With the professional advice from our team of accredited Wellness Hosts, choose from four curated tracks (New Wellbeing, Balanced Fitness, Mindful Awareness and Urban Detox) and customise your experience according to your personal requirements and goals.

Start your morning right with a gentle stretching session, wellness shot and a healthy breakfast. Let your days be filled with a variety of fitness classes, enrichment workshops and inspirational experiences that are designed to promote self-learning and enhance your overall wellbeing. A suite of more than 50 different activities including gentle stretching, yoga, Thai boxing basics to learning about vitality through nutrition and positive resilience are available. These activities are inspired by Nature and provide the time and space for rediscovery and reconnection with one self.

Combat stress and soothe away worries and aches with daily spa treatments that include a range of massages and facials. As night falls, our indulgent sleep rituals will promote deep rest and recovery. Discover how warming baths, meditation, aromatherapy, binaural music and luxurious bedding prepare you for a restful slumber.

Sanctuary Wellbeing by Banyan Tree Spa Sanctuary leaves you with a renewed zeal for life together with impactful and beneficial lifestyle tips.

Sanctuary Wellbeing launches in late 2018 so stay tuned for updates.
There are few things that can calm the mind like watching cerulean waves lapping a shoreline. And the latest science backs up what many have been advocating for years, that being near the water makes us happy.

Since the days of Ancient Greece, people have bathed and soaked in mineral-rich seawater in the belief it could restore physical health. From lowering stress and anxiety levels to improving circulation, boosting immune systems, and helping fight conditions like asthma, arthritis, bronchitis and common aches and pains, the healing properties of the ocean are proven and plentiful.

More recently, scientists have identified that being in, on, or under water can also improve mental health, coining this phenomenon "blue mind", a mildly meditative state induced by being close to the sea that promotes happiness. Even so, you do not need to be submerged to reap the benefits; just watching or listening to the waves encourages the practice of mindfulness (focusing on the present moment) and triggers a release of dopamine and serotonin, known as 'happiness' chemicals, to the brain.

The next time you need to relax your mind, take a trip to the ocean. At Banyan Tree Seychelles, watch the sunrise over the shimmering waves and verdant tropics from your own private verandah. Or choose an In-Ocean villa at Angsana Velavaru, Maldives and surround yourself with the warm, crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean. Alternatively, our latest opening, Angsana Zhuhai Phoenix Bay, China, offers uninterrupted sea views over the white powdery shores of Xiangzhou Bay. Wherever you choose, we guarantee it will not take long before you sink into blue mind territory.
When MATTER first started, we knew what our non-negotiables were: the impact we wanted to achieve and the processes that had to be in place to achieve them. One of which was our commitment to sustainable production practices. Since the beginning, we have chosen to work with a minimal waste design approach, with that said, MATTER garments are created with natural materials and azo-free dyes – azo-free dyes are not natural dyes, but they are removed of any chemicals that would be harmful to the environment, maker and wearer.
Sustainability is a journey and we are always looking at what more can be done. Over the years, we’ve tested the waters with natural dye. First, with a pair of pants naturally-dyed with the indigo plant, then a capsule range of #MATTERwraps that were dyed with the indigo plant, and mahogany wood bark.

Three Reasons Why Matter Loves Natural Dye:
1. It is a traditional craft that dates back to thousands of years. Today the few who still know how to dye naturally often work with chemicals because there is no demand for their skill. Creating a need for natural dye allows for the conservation of the craft.
2. For the love of colours! Less than two hundred years ago, the whole world wore natural dyes every day, and it is one of the most sustainable dyeing options out there today.
3. It creates work by hand, providing employment and a safe environment to dyers, for them to be able to carry their families’ skills forward and express themselves with something they feel proud and strongly about.

The Material:
The Pyramid Tops are made from banana fibres – the actual edible fruit itself. Usually, when bananas are harvested from the trees, the stalks are seen as waste to be cut down and burnt. An alternative to this is to extract yarn from the stalks through machines. (Fun fact: the yarn extraction machines for banana fibres are simple to use and cheap to buy, which means they are highly accessible to banana farmers. It makes for an added income, which adds a social dimension to the fibre.)

The Cross-Back Tops on the other hand are handspun and handwoven in khadi cotton – the material we used for the Chenelle Jacket. Mahatma Gandhi saw khadi cotton as a symbol of Indian textile heritage. He would encourage people across India to spin their own yarn, to go back to the roots of their heritage with pride while supporting the Khadi industry. It is a fabric that embodies a worldview of the past as well as the future.

The Natural Dyes:
These tops are natural dyed with indigo, myrobalan, common madder plants, and fermented iron. A parallel of deliberate waiting and patience are the undercurrent necessary to its making. From the two days needed to prepare the dye paste (15 for fermented iron), repetitive cycle of dyeing and drying, to the finishing of the fabrics – time governs the natural dye process.

Fermented iron is not plant-based but it is still considered a natural dye because it is a natural-occurring element dug out from the ground.

Natural dyes often get a bad reputation for its colour fading tendency. Our artisan partner, Indigenous Industries, are no strangers to this concern and they structured their processes to prevent this – from a three-day process of bathing the fabrics in a natural mordant to fix the colour to the fibres, to developing a finishing recipe of their own that colourfasts the fabrics.

From dyeing to stitching, there are 25 people involved in the making of these tops. Dyeing begins with Jeethu and Ahmed – Jeethu learnt natural dyeing at a young age and has been doing so for the past 30 years. He is considered to be a true master of the craft. As for Ahmed, he learnt from one of the most prestigious dyeing families in the whole of Gujarat. When the fabric is dyed, the pattern master, Yusuf, cuts the fabric before passing it to the tailors for stitching.

Explore our natural dye range on shop.matterprints.com.
It’s not always about money. We have to learn to focus and cherish the bigger things in life; like the friendships and communal spirit we have nurtured.

The soulful sensitivity to how this pair of friends approach the way of living life has made this interview an inspiring one. We asked them about the secret to maintaining this zest and positivity everyday at work - "It’s not always about money. We have to learn to focus and cherish the bigger things in life; like the friendships and communal spirit we have nurtured. Most importantly, it’s a blessing to share life with friends we trust and love. Relationships like these matter more than money."

The first makers of our ceramic die-cut logos, Khun Seangchan and Khun Sureepon are each other’s pillar of support through different seasons of life. This pair of friends started their career 23 years ago at Oriental Porcelain - our ceramic factory in Chiang Mai - where they are now leading a team of five. Both friends picked up the skill of working with crafts delicately and meticulously when they first started working at a doll factory - something that’s inherent in them as they craft the die-cut logos and painting of our ceramics.

"Family. We work to support our family, and that has always spurred us on. We don’t only work for ourselves, but for our loved ones. And that changes the nature of our work into a process we embrace, instead of seeing it as a chore."

Humble and down-to-earth, Khun Seangchan and Khun Sureepon share the same life values and priorities. When asked about what inspires and motivates them, both revealed similar answers - "Family. We work to support our family, and that has always spurred us on. We don’t only work for ourselves, but for our loved ones. And that changes the nature of our work into a process we embrace, instead of seeing it as a chore."

In the midst of the busy, it is easy for city dwellers like them to pack as much life as they could into a day and lose focus on the important, intangible things. Khun Seangchan and Khun Sureepon reminded us that female empowerment is having an unwavering intention to care for your family, a compassion to share the successes and milestones with your community and an open heart to experience life’s little pleasures.

Explore our range of oil burners, candle holders, incense holders and teapots handmade by the village artisans at Chiang Mai on essentials.banyantree.com

In light of 2018’s International Women’s Day theme "Press for Progress", we are honouring the Thai female makers behind our products. They share with us their life journey, inspirations and what keeps them pushing on for a better future, especially during trying times. This campaign has inspired us that female empowerment happens in a series of small milestones and victories that can be already be found in our every day.
Who doesn’t love body scrubs? Besides clearing layers of dull skin, they also promote circulation and unclog pores, thereby improving skin texture and invigorating skin. You never really know what you are getting in commercial exfoliation products, so here is a simple recipe for your very own homemade, all-natural body scrub:

Recipe

- 3/4 cup sea salt
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 1 teaspoon jojoba oil
- 1/8 cup shea butter
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil
- 5 - 10 drops pure essential peppermint oil

1. Using a small ceramic or glass bowl, pour the honey and shea butter in and blend well.
2. Add coconut oil, jojoba oil and peppermint oil. Blend well.
3. Finally, pour in the sea salt and mix all ingredients well to create your scrub.
4. Transfer to a glass jar with a lid (preferably air-tight) and store in a cool, dry place to ensure freshness.

To use, apply a small amount (at your discretion) with your fingertips to your skin one section at a time, massaging gently in circular motions. Then, rinse off and pat dry to retain the moisturising benefits.

Take note to mix the peppermint essential oil well with the jojoba and coconut oils. The latter are carrier or base oils, which help dilute the concentrated essential oils. Pure essential oils may cause reactions to sensitive skin and it is therefore not advisable to apply them directly on the skin before being blended with a base oil.
SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE REEF 2018

2018 marks the third International Year of the Reef (IYOR). Two years ago, a mass coral bleaching event threatened the survival of coral reefs across the planet. Affecting over 90% of the Great Barrier Reef, coral mortality was down to 29% (noting that this is the world’s largest reef and the only living organism visible from space), the 2016 global bleaching event was the most severe recorded to date.

It has been two decades since IYOR was launched and there is an increased urgent need to spread coral awareness and understanding of the growing threats to coral reefs and associated ecosystems. Commitment is needed to restore and conserve coral reefs as these reefs support a quarter of all ocean life and provide food and jobs for millions across the globe.

Banyan Tree Group’s core values and beliefs are deeply rooted in sustainability and responsible travel, and we are firmly committed to supporting IYOR 2018. We aim to promote this significant event throughout the year, engaging guests and associates in enjoyable and meaningful activities that connect them to the importance of this cause, whilst learning more about the environment and communities at the destinations they choose to explore.

Understanding the diverse environments we operate within, Banyan Tree Global Foundation has formulated a guidance for properties that is easily adaptable to suit local surroundings and cultures. Under the three main headings: Cleanse, Conserve and Connect, we will address threats to coral reefs and increase awareness.

By hosting local community cleanups, we can promote the need to care for our environment and educate how marine pollution and litter is the responsibility of all. In order to conserve, we must restore some of the damage, which we can address directly by planting corals and mangrove trees.

Guests and associates will also learn the intrinsic value of coral reefs and how small changes in their daily lives, such as switching off electrical items not in use, converting to renewable energy sources, consuming responsibly sourced food and sharing transport, all contribute towards reducing our collective impact on the environment.

Visit www.iyorn2018.org/ for more information.

#BTforIYOR2018
50 percent of the world’s wild animals have perished since 1970 and the world is currently experiencing its sixth global mass extinction. Increasing human activity, exploitation and climate change have rapidly destroyed many natural habitats worldwide. As biodiversity continues to decline globally, awareness and conservation are more important than ever.

As a Group with a belief to set a ripple of change throughout the globe, our hotels and resorts have engaged in various long-term conservation projects to make a lasting impact.

Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts has three dedicated research facilities – Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru, Angsana Velavaru and Laguna Bintan – which operate under a guiding philosophy of conservation, restoration, education and research. Long-term monitoring of the environment directs conservation and restoration efforts while educational programmes engage with guests and local communities leading to increased awareness and stewardship.

Coral conservation:
Coral reefs are some of the most biodiverse and productive ecosystems on Earth, supporting 25% of all marine species and providing key resources for more than 500 million people worldwide. 34% of reefs have been destroyed globally and 75% are predicted to be lost by 2050.

Guests and associates are invited to join our coral restoration and conservation activities including coral planting and predator control programmes. Corals are transplanted onto spaces on the reef using cement or through metal frame attachments. Reef restoration efforts have been supported by the establishment of coral nurseries at our three Maldives resorts, where fragmented corals grow for 12 to 16 months before being transplanted back to the reef. These nurseries are located eight metres deep, allowing the corals to thrive without getting affected by high sea temperatures. Since 2015, over 10,000 corals have been planted.

Predator control is the removal of the Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) from reefs within the vicinity of our operations. One COTS can consume 65 square feet of coral annually, making them the second greatest threat to corals in Maldives. Over 1,500 COTS were removed in 2017, with the help of 766 guests and associates at our Maldives resorts.

Turtle conservation:
Eleven properties are active in increasing turtle awareness, handling hatching releases and running head-start programmes to focus on saving baby green and hawksbill sea turtles. The natural survival of hatchlings is as low as only 1 in 600. Our properties take care of these hatchlings until they mature and are ready to return to sea – able to protect themselves from predators. In 2017, 1080 sea turtle hatchlings were released from our properties. In Maldives, our head-start programmes stopped in 2017, with turtles now protected under the Environmental Protection Agency. Operational since 2001, this is the longest head-start programme in Maldives, with 237 young adult green sea turtles released.

Shark conservation:
Widespread exploitation of sharks has resulted in 30% of all shark species at risk of extinction. To increase understanding of shark abundance and distributions, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru’s marine lab has implemented a long-term monitoring programme that encompasses both ecological and social data. This programme is now in its third year, contributing to the National Plan of Action for Shark Management in the Maldives, in collaboration with local and international researchers. Working with local communities, fishermen and divers, we have access to the Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK), gaining greater understanding of sharks. This has been combined with contemporary data collected using Baited Underwater Videos (367 deployed since 2016) and citizen science records.

Citizen science and education:
Awareness and education are the cornerstone to environmental conservation and the first step towards effective stewardship. Education programmes have been implemented through presentations, guest lectures, eco-tours, walks and snorkels to connect people to the local environment.

Citizen science offers the opportunity for people from all walks of life to engage, learn, and support conservation by collecting simple (and fun!) data. Citizen scientists help in understanding long term changes in marine mega-fauna populations including iconic species such as sharks, turtles and stingrays in Maldives, as well as bird populations and migrations with the changing climate and land use in Bintan. In 2017, 2869 participants recorded 2946 sharks and 1252 birds.
Join us as we take you on a journey to our properties around the world and see how they are embracing the environment and empowering people.

POP UP 4 2018

Angsana Laguna Phuket and Angsana Villas Resort Phuket were proud to be sponsors for the event POP UP 4, a food and fund-raising event in Phuket organised by Phuket Has Been Good To Us Foundation. The Foundation helps develop the English skills of students in three Government schools and 175 children who are orphans or whose families are unable to look after them. The aim is to help Thai youths become capable and confident English speakers to secure well-paid jobs in the future.

The resorts provided free-flow food and drinks for the event and the associates took the opportunity to showcase their culinary expertise and most importantly, their sustainability efforts.

Angsana Laguna Phuket & Angsana Villas Resort Phuket - Thailand

Cleaning Through the Weather

Angsana Zhuhai Phoenix Bay organised a cleaning at the beach. Despite the strong winds and chilly weather, all the associates braved through it and collected more than 120 bags of garbage over three hours.

Angsana Zhuhai Phoenix Bay - China

Earth Day Efforts

This Earth Day, Banyan Tree Samui pledged to eliminate single-use plastics by Earth Day 2019. The associates then embarked on a reef clean-up at the resort's beach and house-reefs, collecting over 241kg worth of trash, plastic bottles, ropes and fishing nets.

Banyan Tree Samui - Thailand

Greening the Community

Banyan Tree Macau associates went to A-Ma Cultural Village as part of their Greening Communities programme. They ensured that the land was well-manured and free of weeds for the trees to grow healthy and strong. They also learnt how to care for the trees and the importance of doing so.

Banyan Tree Macau - China
The Pavilion Managed by Banyan Tree will open its doors in Q4 2018

AFRICA
Banyan Tree Seychelles
P.O. Box 2086, Anse-à-Pitons
Mahe Island
Republic of Seychelles
Tel: +248 438 3600
Fax: +248 438 3500
Mahe Island
P.O. Box 2086, Anse Aux Pins
Banyan Tree Seychelles

ASIA PACIFIC
Banyan Tree Anji
Barni Nong, Banshi Village,
Tianhuangping Town
Anji County, Huzhou City,
Zhejiang Province, 313311
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 572 589 1818
Fax: +86 572 589 1819

Banyan Tree Chongqing
Beibei
101 Huiz Spring Road
Chongqing, Beibei District
Chongqing 400070
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 23 6010 8888
Fax: +86 23 6010 9999

Banyan Tree Club & Spa Seoul
60, Jing Chengdan-Ro
Jung-Gu
Seoul 100-877
Korea
Tel: +82 2 2250 8000
Fax: +82 2 2250 8009

Banyan Tree Chongqing
2 Weinfen Road
Zijingang Road
Hangzhou
Zhejiang Province 310000
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 571 8566 0000
Fax: +86 571 8566 2222

Banyan Tree Hangzhou
No.1 Banyan Tree Road,
Huangpu, Yizhuang District
Shanghai 200040
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 21 5521 7737
Fax: +86 21 5521 7727

Banyan Tree Macau
Galaxy Macau
Avenida Marginal de Lotus Cotai, Macau
China
Tel: +853 8885 6088
Fax: +853 8885 6108

Banyan Tree Macau
No.1 Banyan Tree Road,
Huangpu, Yi County,
Huangshan, Anhui 24551
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 559 226 9999
Fax: +86 559 226 9999

Banyan Tree Phuket
55, 1572 Moo 4
Somsworth Road
Chomtalay, Amphur Talang
Phuket 83110
Thailand
Tel: +66 76 372 400
Fax: +66 76 324 975

Banyan Tree Phuket
35, 1572 Moo 4
Somsworth Road
Chomtalay, Amphur Talang
Phuket 83110
Thailand
Tel: +66 76 372 400
Fax: +66 76 324 975

Banyan Tree Phuket
14 Harbour East Road,
Hebei District
Taiwan 80001
People's Republic of China
Tel: +886 23 5861 9999
Fax: +886 23 5861 9999

Banyan Tree Shanghai On The Bund
19 Gong Pinq Road
Huangpu District,
Shanghai 200042
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 21 2509 1188
Fax: +86 21 2509 1177

Banyan Tree Suzhou
2100 North Shin Sushen Road
Suzhou
Jiangsu Province 215100
People's Republic of China
Tel: +86 512 6828 8822
Fax: +86 512 6828 8911

Banyan Tree Suzhou
14 Harbour East Road,
Hebei District
Taiwan 80001
People's Republic of China
Tel: +886 23 5861 9999
Fax: +886 23 5861 9999

Banyan Tree Sanya
1341 Liting Road,
Sanya
Hainan Province 572000
People's Republic of China
Tel: +898 8860 0000
Fax: +898 8860 0000

Banyan Tree Tengchong
34 Harbour East Road,
Hebei District
Taiwan 80001
People's Republic of China
Tel: +886 23 5861 9999
Fax: +886 23 5861 9999

SOUTH ASIA
Banyan Tree Vadhoo
Vadhoo Island
North Male Atoll
Republic of Maldives
Tel: +960 664 3417
Fax: +960 664 3418

Angsana Corfu in Greece, the first for the Group in Europe, will open in Q4 2018