

STYLES

Delay Delights

FOR GLOBETROTTERS, SPENDING TIME IN AIRPORTS IS INEVITABLE. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT **AIRPORTS** ALL AROUND THE WORLD ARE **REINVENTING** THEMSELVES WITH **NEWLY DESIGNED OFFERINGS** AND AMENITIES TO MAKE YOUR TIME BETWEEN FLIGHTS MORE RELAXING AND MORE ENJOYABLE. BON VOYAGE.

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When flying from one destination to another, it's the comfort and ease of airports that can make all the difference. With so much time between cities or continents, a pleasant airport experience might even help you embrace a dreaded delay or long layover. What are the best surprises in airport amenities around the world?

For both shopping and spa services, London's Heathrow and Hamad International in Doha surpass standards. In 2016, Terminal 5 at Heathrow unveiled the first ever airport Personal Shopping suite, catering to the needs of any sophisticated traveller. After browsing the watch selection at Cartier or perusing rare cigars, travellers can rest their feet at one of the airport's seven lounges. For deeper relaxation, globetrotters can enjoy a bounty of spa options as well. And in Doha, there's even a fitness centre including

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spa facilities, and an art space, in addition to all the usual upscale boutiques. The art space, curated in partnership with Qatar Museums, brings art to millions of people each year outside of the classic museum model.

With the advent of in-airport restaurants by celebrity chefs, excellent food is easy to come by for travellers. Take Gordon Ramsay's

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Courtesy of Gordon Ramsay Restaurants



Courtesy of Hanga Airports



Courtesy of Hong Kong Airport

Airports are being reinvented as enticing destinations in themselves. They now provide tech-savvy travellers with everything they need to shop, relax and enjoy (Dubai International above, Hong Kong airport exhibition below, and Gordon Ramsay's Plane Food restaurant at Heathrow, left).

Plane Food at Heathrow, Cat Cora's Kitchen at San Francisco International, or the Lorena Garcia Cocina at Miami International Airport—these are all restaurants with menus designed by famous chefs, catering to sophisticated, well-travelled diners.

Any frequent traveller is familiar with the need for comfortable rest while waiting for a delayed flight, and now that need is met at various airports around the world. At Sleep 'n Fly at Dubai International (located in Terminal 3), open since April 2017, you can rest easy in one of 20 state-of-the-art Sleep Pods. You can book in advance for hour-long power naps or full nights of sleep. If you find yourself in the Munich or Berlin-Tegel airports, Napcabs have comfortable beds and docking stations for you. Airports are finally embracing the need for relaxation between long flights.

For other novel airport experiences, Hong Kong International has some creative options for making the most of your time between flights. In Terminal 2, you will find an aviation discovery centre with a cockpit simulator. You can also see a movie at the in-airport IMAX Theatre (also in Terminal 2), which actually has the largest screen in the whole city and 350 plush seats. Sit back and relax through an immersive in-airport cinema experience.

Looking for airport activities elsewhere? At Incheon International Airport in South Korea, you'll find Ice Forest, an indoor skating rink, open year-round, as well as a two-screen cinema.

With airports stepping up their global offerings, travel is about more than final destinations; getting there can be just as fun. Isn't it all about the journey anyway?