

## Building castles in the sand



Location: The Beach at the Millennium Hilton Bangkok

**B**eginning this issue, I am going to be your new guide to Asia and beyond. It promises to be a fun journey, exploring new destinations, sampling an assortment of cuisines, checking into new lodgings, evaluating new travel services, and in essence, discovering and appreciating the lifestyle of travel. I hope it will aid you in making the appropriate lifestyle choices.

Sandwiches & Sandcastles is the theme of the issue you are now holding in your hands. From luxurious oases in Dubai to the world's biggest camel fair in Rajasthan, India, and the friendly dolphins at Monkey Mia, Western Australia we serve up a healthy dose of sun, sand and surf.

And talking of sand brings to mind an excerpt from one travel writer Bill Bryson's books, "Among the many thousands of things that I have never been able to understand, one in particular stands out. That is the question of who was the first person who stood by a pile of sand and said, 'You know, I bet if we took some of this and mixed it with a little potash and heated it, we could make a material that would be solid and yet transparent. We could call it glass.' Call me obtuse, but you could stand me on a beach till the end of time and never would it occur to me to try to make it into windows." Well, neither would I have. Growing up literally on the beaches of Goa in India, never once did I stop to think what I could accomplish with all sand.

Continuing with our sandy premise we inspect a variety of lodgings in the increasingly popular resort town of Hua Hin in Thailand and are surprised at the eclectic choices available for those looking for a getaway.

And since sandwiches have always been a fundamental part of any trip to the beach, we asked four chefs to make a special sandwich each. Plus we have our usual bounty of news, views and outstanding photography.

Safe journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gavin Nazareth". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gavin Nazareth  
Editor-in-Chief