

2017 BEST IN TRAVEL Poll Smart Travel Asia

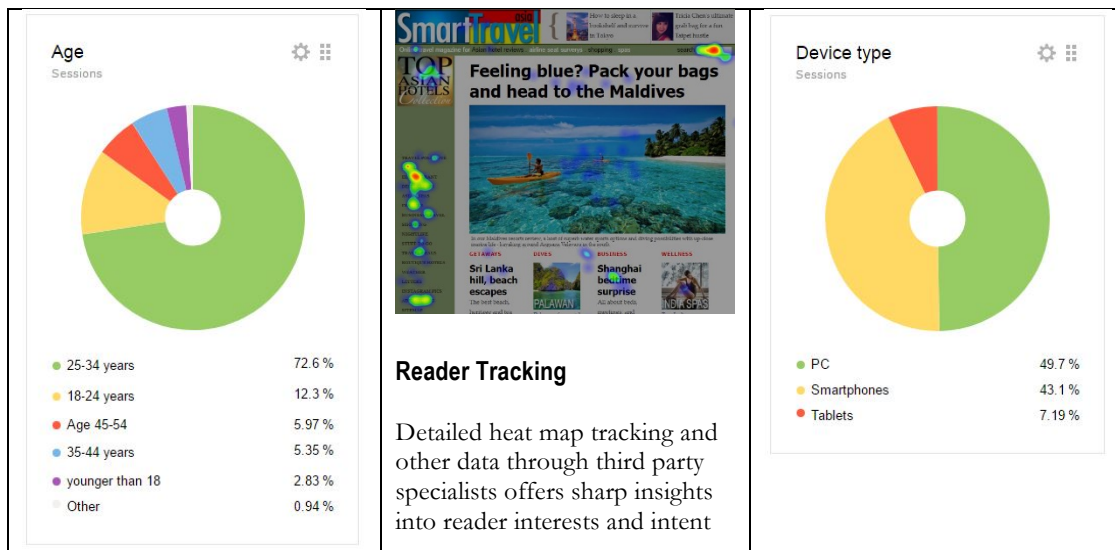
An [independent free and fair poll](#) without nomination fees and gala dinner arm-twisting, since 2004. Quality market research and results that have [not been bought](#), with votes from international [affluent frequent travellers](#).

This year saw the emergence of [younger millennial voters](#) with a high amount of [smart phone](#) usage and a discernible shift away from brand loyalty to fun [new brands](#) and independents and more time spent on research. Older readers stayed with [classic choices](#) and less experimentation.

New voters came from India, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, USA, Europe, and China. The poll ran May-June 2017, with the addition of a new category – [best family hotels](#) – in response to reader demand. Key searches are for family-friendly hotels, airline seat comfort, shopping tips, corporate meetings, spas, business hotel reviews, and weddings.

Voting came in through the Smart Travel Asia online [polling page](#), via [social media](#), hotel and airline [guest referrals](#), and through e-marketing and direct reader [e-mails](#) with comments and feedback.

As in previous years we [blocked over exuberant IP addresses](#) and [eliminated 'group' votes](#) running counter to normal voting trends.



TOP 10 Airlines	TOP 10 Airlines Business Class
WORLDWIDE	WORLDWIDE
2017 Rank	2017 Rank
1. Singapore Airlines	1. Singapore Airlines
2. Emirates	2. Qatar Airways
3. Qatar Airways	3. Cathay Pacific Airways
4. Cathay Pacific Airways	4. Emirates British Airways
5. All Nippon Airways	5. Air France
6. Jet Airways Thai Airways International	6. All Nippon Airways Thai Airways International
7. Korean Air Japan Airlines	7. Jet Airways
8. Bangkok Airways Garuda Indonesia	8. Japan Airlines Korean Air
9. Turkish Airlines Air France	9. Garuda Indonesia
10. Etihad Air New Zealand	10. Lufthansa Eva Air

Younger readers moved towards [small airlines and low cost carriers](#), exploring fresh destination choices, while older business travellers tended to remain with [legacy airlines](#) that offered better scheduled timings, expedited check-in and lounges. For [holiday destinations](#) though there was a clear preference across all age groups – except luxury travellers – for smaller regional carriers.

TOP 10 Airlines Cabin Service	TOP 10 Budget Airlines
WORLDWIDE	ASIA
2017 Rank	2017 Rank
1. Singapore Airlines	1. Jetstar Asia
2. Cathay Pacific Airways	2. Indigo
3. Thai Airways International Emirates	3. AirAsia
4. Bangkok Airways Philippine Airlines	4. Scoot HK Express
5. Garuda Indonesia	5. Cebu Pacific
6. Qatar Airways Korean Air	6. Tiger Airways
7. SilkAir Jet Airways	7. SpiceJet Nok Air
8. Cathay Dragon Vistara	8. VietJet
9. Asiana Scoot	9. Peach
10. Malindo Air	10. Jin Air

Middle Eastern airlines recently troubled by the [in-flight electronics ban](#) imposed by the US, and the Qatar air ‘blockade’ continued to be ascendant in our May/June 2017 poll though readers said they were watching this closely. [Cabin service](#) votes strongly favoured Asian airlines, including smaller carriers.

TOP 10 Airports	TOP 10 Holiday Destinations
WORLDWIDE	ASIA
2017 Rank	2017 Rank
1. Singapore Changi Airport	1. Bali
2. Hong Kong International Airport	2. Shanghai Maldives
3. Incheon International Airport, South Korea	3. Taipei Bangkok Angkor (Siem Reap), Cambodia
4. Haneda Airport, Tokyo	4. Phuket, Thailand
5. Munich Airport, Germany	5. Hokkaido, Japan Seoul
6. Hamad International Airport, Doha, Qatar	6. Dubai, UAE Tokyo
7. Zurich Airport	7. Hong Kong Koh Samui, Thailand Danang & Hoi An, Vietnam
8. London Heathrow, Terminal 5	8. Rajasthan, India Macau
9. Amsterdam Schiphol	9. Sanya, China Palawan, Philippines
10. Samui Airport, Thailand	10. Hua Hin, Thailand Luang Prabang, Laos

TOP 10 Meeting Destinations	TOP 10 Hotel Brands
ASIA	ASIA
2017 Rank	2017 Rank
1. Hong Kong	1. Grand Hyatt
2. Singapore	2. Ritz-Carlton
3. Shanghai Dubai	3. Four Seasons Shangri-La
4. Macau	4. JW Marriott
5. Taipei Bangkok	5. Park Hyatt St Regis
6. Seoul Bali Phuket	6. Mandarin Oriental Peninsula
7. Kuala Lumpur Goa, India Tokyo	7. Sofitel Conrad W Hotels & Resorts
8. Bangalore Langkawi	8. InterContinental Hilton
9. Ho Chi Minh City Manila Danang, Vietnam	9. Banyan Tree Westin Taj Hotels, Resorts & Palaces
10. Chengdu, China Hanoi	10. Centara Raffles

TOP 25 Business Hotels	TOP 25 Conference Hotels
ASIA	ASIA
2017 Rank	2017 Rank
1. The Peninsula Hong Kong	1. The Fullerton Hotel Singapore
2. Island Shangri-La Hong Kong	2. Grand Hyatt Hong Kong
3. Park Hyatt Sydney	3. Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong
4. The St Regis Bangkok Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong	4. Plaza Athénée Bangkok, a Royal Méridien Hotel Shangri-La Hotel Singapore
5. Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong The Peninsula Shanghai	5. Park Hyatt Sydney The St Regis Singapore
6. Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur Palace Hotel Tokyo	6. The Westin Resort Nusa Dua Bali The Venetian Macao
7. Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund	7. Grand Hyatt Bali Marina Bay Sands Singapore
8. The Fullerton Hotel Singapore	8. The Peninsula Shanghai
9. Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok The St Regis Singapore	9. Grand Hyatt Seoul JW Marriott Hotel Macau
10. The Westin Chosun, Seoul The Shilla, Seoul Rosewood Beijing	10. Grand Hyatt Kuala Lumpur The Shilla Seoul Grand Hyatt Shanghai
11. InterContinental Bangkok The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong	11. Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok InterContinental Hong Kong

12. The Upper House, Hong Kong InterContinental Singapore	12. The Ritz-Carlton Millenia Singapore
13. Mandarin Oriental Tokyo Raffles Makati	13. The Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa
14. So Sofitel Singapore The Langham, Shanghai, Xintiandi	14. JW Marriott Hotel Hong Kong Regent Taipei Pan Pacific Singapore
15. Goodwood Park Hotel Singapore Le Méridien Taipei The Ritz-Carlton Beijing	15. Pudong Shangri-La East Shanghai Park Hyatt Saigon
16. Fairmont Makati, Manila The Okura Prestige Bangkok	16. Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund
17. Park Hyatt Beijing The Ritz-Carlton Shanghai, Pudong	17. Centara Grand at CentralWorld, Bangkok Regent Singapore
18. Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit, Bangkok	18. Signiel Seoul
19. Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok The Taj Mahal Palace Mumbai	19. Angsana Laguna Phuket Conrad Hong Kong
20. Anantara Siam, Bangkok Hilton Kuala Lumpur The Ritz-Carlton Bangalore	20. Regal Airport Hotel, Hong Kong JW Marriott Hotel Shanghai at Tomorrow Square
21. The Ritz-Carlton, Chengdu Mandarin Oriental Shanghai, Pudong	21. Sunrise Kempinski Hotel Beijing InterContinental Sanya Haitang Bay Resort
22. Conrad Bangkok JW Marriott Hotel Singapore South Beach Sheraton Imperial Kuala Lumpur	22. Avani Riverside Bangkok Hotel Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui

23. The President by Akaryn, Vientiane, Laos The Leela Palace New Delhi	23. Sheraton Sanya Resort Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park
24. Sofitel Guangzhou Sunrich The St Regis Mumbai	24. Park Hyatt Sanya Sunny Bay Resort
25. Traders Hotel Kuala Lumpur The Imperial New Delhi The St Regis Shenzhen	25. Sofitel Sanya Leeman Resort JW Marriott Hotel Shenzhen Bao'an

TOP 25 Spa Hotels	TOP 25 Leisure Hotels
ASIA	ASIA
2017 Rank	2017 Rank
1. Banyan Tree Phuket	1. The St Regis Bali Resort
2. Ayana Resort and Spa Bali	2. Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai Hoi An Vietnam
3. Conrad Maldives Rangali Island	3. Mandapa, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve, Bali
4. Mandapa, A Ritz-Carlton Reserve, Bali	4. Grand Hyatt Bali Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi
5. The St Regis Bali Resort	5. The Opposite House Beijing Amanpuri Phuket
6. Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay	6. Cheval Blanc Randheli Maldives The Legian Bali
7. Six Senses Samui	7. Amankila, Bali
8. Bulgari Resort Bali Ananda in the Himalayas, India	8. Four Seasons Resort Bali at Jimbaran Bay Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

9. Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa Penang	9. InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort Bulgari Resort Bali
10. Grand Hyatt Bali Vana Belle Koh Samui	10. Siam Kempinski Hotel Bangkok Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor
11. Mandarin Oriental Bangkok Six Senses Laamu, Maldives	11. One&Only Royal Mirage, Dubai The Ritz-Carlton Macau
12. Banyan Tree Samui Chiva-Som Hua Hin	12. Taj Lake Palace Udaipur India Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai
13. Kamandalu Ubud, Bali Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas	13. Twinpalms Phuket The Oberoi Udaivilas Udaipur India
14. The Peninsula Bangkok Hanging Gardens of Bali	14. The Chedi Muscat, Oman Grand Hyatt Goa, India
15. Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai Hotel Tugu Bali	15. The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra Alila Villas Uluwatu, Bali Armani Hotel Dubai
16. JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa	16. Raffles Hotel Singapore The Reverie Saigon
17. Angsana Xi'an Lintong, China The Khyber, Himalayan Resort & Spa, Gulmarg, India	17. Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort, Cambodia So Sofitel Bangkok
18. Anantara Mui Ne Resort, Vietnam The PuLi Hotel and Spa, Shanghai	18. Aleenta Phuket Resort & Spa, Phang Nga Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas, Hua Hin
19. Hilton Shillim Estate Retreat & Spa, Pune, India	19. Trisara, Phuket The Oberoi, Bali

20. Banyan Tree Ungasan, Bali SALA Phuket Resort & Spa W Bali Seminyak	20. The Leela Goa Pimalai Resort & Spa, Koh Lanta, Krabi
21. Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort, Cambodia	21. The Ritz-Carlton Doha The Siam, Bangkok
22. The Farm at San Benito, Philippines W Retreat Koh Samui	22. Samode Palace, Rajasthan The Majestic Hotel Kuala Lumpur Mission Hills Shenzhen
23. InterContinental Samui Baan Taling Ngam, Thailand The Tongsai Bay, Koh Samui	23. Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom, Kerala, India Park Hyatt Siem Reap, Cambodia
24. The Royal Pita Maha, Bali Anantara Hua Hin Resort The Temple House, Chengdu	24. Sofitel Legend, People's Grand Hotel, Xian Yas Viceroy, Abu Dhabi
25. The Ritz-Carlton Sanya So Sofitel Hua Hin	25. The Sanya EDITION Aloft Taipei Beitou, Taiwan El Nido Pangalusian Island, Palawan The Dharmawangsa Jakarta

TOP 25 Family Hotels	TOP 10 Boutique Hotels
ASIA	ASIA
2017 Rank	2017 Rank
1. Grand Hyatt Bali	1. The Chedi Club Tanah Gajah, Ubud, Bali
2. Angsana Laguna Phuket	2. Fusion Maia, Danang
3. JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa	3. Amorita Resort, Bohol

4. InterContinental Bali Resort	4. The Diaoyutai Boutique, Chengdu Hotel Quote, Taipei Gracie Art Hotel Beijing 798
5. Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort & Spa Penang	5. Amba Taipei Ximending Hotel Yan, Singapore
6. Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai	6. The Library Koh Samui Adelphi Hotel, Melbourne
7. Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui	7. The Malabar House, Fort Cochin, India
8. Sheraton Bali Kuta Resort Lotte Hotel World, Jamsil, Seoul	8. Hotel Indigo, Bangkok IP Boutique Hotel, Seoul Tanjung Sari, Bali
9. Shangri-La's Mactan Resort & Spa, Cebu	9. Pei Mansion, Shanghai SALA Rattanakosin, Bangkok Huka Lodge, Taupo, New Zealand
10. Sofitel Sanya Leeman Resort Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket	10. Tintagel, Colombo Clove Hall, Penang Hotel de L'Orient, Pondicherry
11. Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket	
12. Grand Hyatt Sanya Haitang Bay Resort and Spa	
13. Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa, Bali	
14. Plantation Bay Resort and Spa, Cebu	
15. Berjaya Langkawi Sheraton Sanya, Haitang Bay Resort	
16. Banyan Tree Bintan Hard Rock Hotel Penang	

17. Holiday Inn Resort Baruna Bali

18. Shangri-La's Rasa Ria Resort & Spa,
Kota Kinabalu

19. Solaire Resort & Casino, Manila

20. Conrad Bali
Neemrana Fort-Palace, Rajasthan

21. Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, Patong

22. Furama Resort Danang

23. Centara Grand Mirage Beach Resort
Pattaya

24. Aleenta Phuket Resort & Spa,
Phang Nga

25. Alila Diwa Goa