



TRENDS

coming 'round again

The Ferris wheel is back in style. First it was the 443ft (135m) London Eye which, since its opening in 2000, has been carrying about 3.5 million people every year. Last year, the 525ft (160m)

Star of Nanchang opened in China, while the Singapore Flyer – the tallest at 541ft (165m) – will debut next year and is already booked solid for the first three months. What's with the wheel fever and why are we so keen to pay upwards of US\$20 to ride in them? Dennis Spiegel, president of US-based International Theme Park Services, says that the wheels are the 'icon du jour', and an easy way for a city to stand out.

Check out the rides also in Kuala Lumpur (above), Beijing and Melbourne.

RELAX

lit appreciation

Your hotel doesn't feel quite like home? A travel candle – lit up and subtly scenting the air – can immediately lighten the atmosphere. And with long-burning candles (up to 50 hours) like these from haute candlemaker Rigaud and Flaming Queen, there's no need to worry about running out of ambience on that extended vacation.

[www.rigaudcandles.com]

[e-mail: flamingqueen@mac.com]

CHOICES

new blue's out

Lonely Planet has just launched its new Blue List. If you choose one guide to inspire your travel in the coming year, it must be this one.

New destinations, special interest travel, places to lose – and find – yourself, a section on Endangered Species – what they are and where you can see them in their natural habitats... it's a great read. You can also post your own recommendations on www.lonelyplanet.com/bluelist

Available at major bookstores.

