Bangkok's 137 Pillars Hotel Demonstrates A True Commitment To Sustainability

By Shweta Neelakantan, Former Contributor. | Shweta Neelakantan is a Lifestyle Travel...

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There are no shortage of five-star hotels in Bangkok. However, guests who are interested in a luxury property with a serious sustainability commitment will feel spoiled for choice at the 137 Pillars. This lovely property offers guests outstanding service, extremely comfortable rooms and a terrific rooftop bar with city views. But where it really shines is in its commitment to creating an environmentally-friendly and locally focused experience.

The Pillars Hotel in partnership with Earth Day Bangkok and Ecoman Thailand

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My favorite example is the partnership between 137 Pillars Hotels & Resorts and the Elephant Nature Park in Chiang Mai. Together, they have built clear goals and global awareness for elephant conservation and reforestation in Thailand. This initiative showcases the significance of elephants to the culture and the Elephant Nature Park serves as a sanctuary and rehabilitation center for elephants, the Park rescues and provides a home for distressed elephants.

Elephant Nature Park in partnership with 137 Pillars Hotels & Resorts

The 137 Pillars Hotels & Resorts has also undertaken a restoration project. The hotel's owners have donated land to the Batchelort province that is designed to create a self-sustaining forest ecosystem that can maintain and regenerate itself. A diverse set of 14,000 plants, as well as a lawn trees are slated to be planted. During certain times of the year, a percentage of hotel revenue is donated to this effort.

Photo credit: Earth Day Bangkok

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The property is also committed to nurturing local culture and sustainability efforts. It offers curated experiences such as a "Lanta," aka a community tour as well as a visit to Pattan Farm where guests can meet and support local farmers who have established organic farming techniques. Guests can also join a yoga retreat led by local yogis, visit local galleries and exhibitions and really gain a deeper understanding of modern Thai culture, which sometimes gets overlooked during all those temple visits.

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The Pillars Hotel Bangkok

137 Pillars's restaurant also plays a role. The Ninety Restaurant features local ingredients and emphasizes that Chinese cooking influence. This is the place to try local favorites such as stewed pork with mustard greens, pickled cabbage, tofu, tamarind, and chicken in a delicious, gingerbread-like sweet and sour sauce. Thai milk tea is served with a twist, with a dollop of ice cream. The pineapple glazed with honey syrup and served with grated coconut and pineapple-caramel crackers. An employee-only herb garden provides the hotels' restaurants with basil, chili, kaffir lime, okra, spring onions, and edible flowers.

The Pillars Hotel Bangkok

The hotel also avoids plastics and instead uses biodegradable products, paper straws, reusable key cards and glass bottles.

Lastly, the Sitra Spa utilizes local herbs and remedies and has developed a terrific menu of wellness offerings. Why not indulge in a coffee detox body wrap or a deep tissue sports massage after enjoying a day in Thailand's capital?

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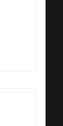

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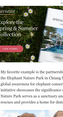

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