

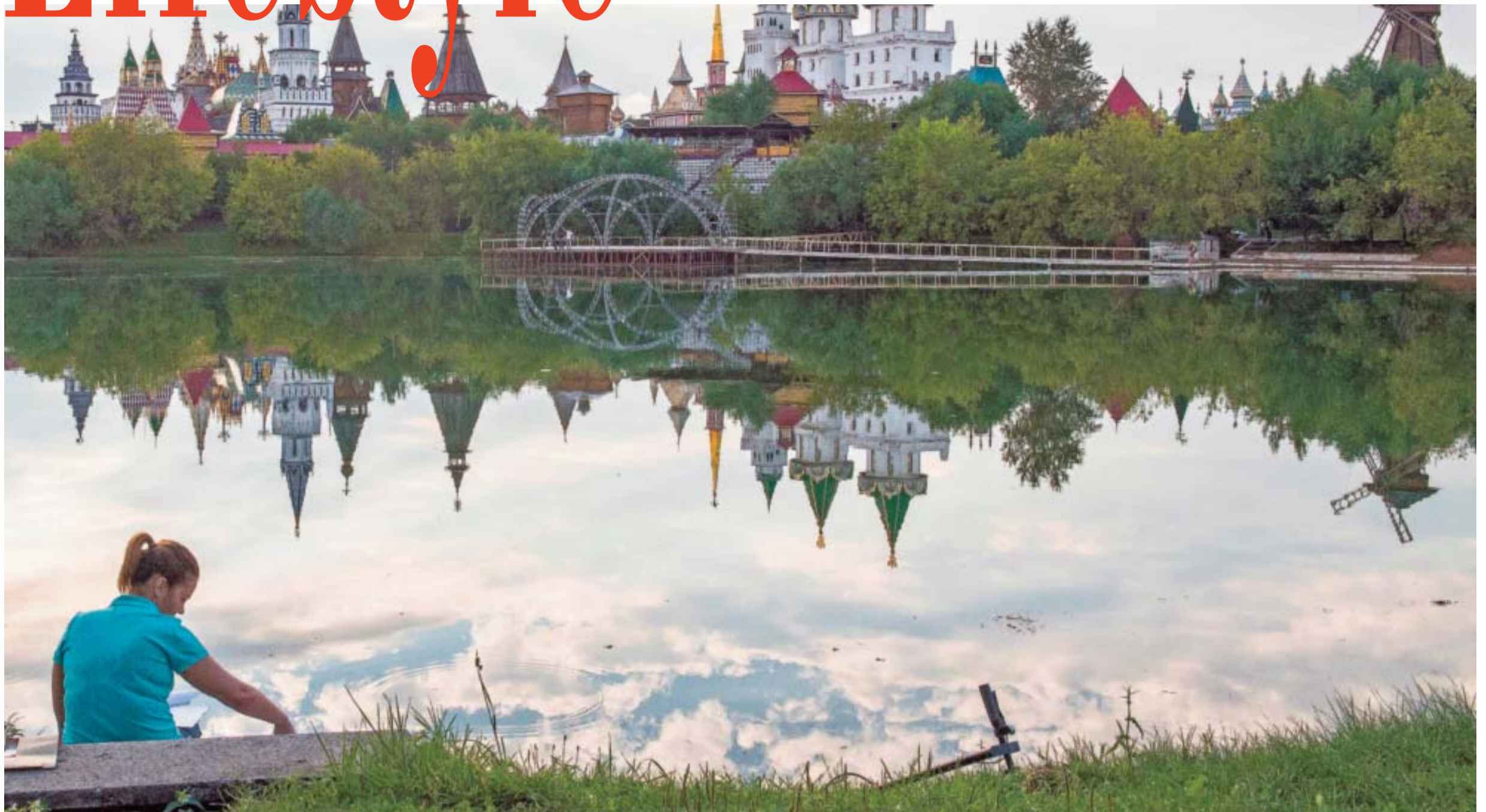
Lifestyle

Tourists seeking 'Despacito' discover Puerto Rico's La Perla



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017



A young woman enjoys the view of the ethnographic and amusement center Kremlin in Izmailovo reflected in the Serebryano-Vinogradnii lake in Moscow. — AFP

Hair for the Gods ends up on thinning heads in Europe, Africa

For Hindu followers it is an act of devotion, but at the Thiruthani Murugan temple and others across India there are millions to be made from heads that are shaved and smothered with tumeric paste. Some days there are hundreds of disciples waiting before dawn at the hilltop shrine west of Chennai to take part in the centuries-old traditional offering to the gods. As they ask the deities for good fortune and health, temple attendants collect the locks for sale to be used for wigs or fashion industry hair extensions.

India has long been the world's biggest exporter of human hair-in money terms-and businesses say the country earns several hundred million dollars a year from its high quality locks. China and Russia are serious rivals in terms of volume. European countries are the biggest customers, but a lot is also sold in the rest of Asia, the United States and even Africa. There are about 10 major temples, and other smaller ones, in India with a cut of the market. Some villages also collect their inhabitants' hair.

The most expensive type-capturing a quarter of

the overall market-is hair shaved directly from the scalp of one donor. The rest-cheaper cuts sourced from comb waste-fetches a lower price. Some temples make pilgrims braid their hair before it is cut so that the locks all face the same direction. The hair collected at Thiruthani Murugan is auctioned to processing plants which sell the finished product as all-human wigs or hair extensions.

Business has to move quickly at the temple, one among the six holy shrines of deity Lord Murugan. From four in the morning to sundown barbers clip away. Pilgrims queue for hours, sometimes much longer on festival days, to make their sacrifice. Tens of thousands, including women and children, shave their heads here every year, applying a bright yellow paste of tumeric powder before offering their prayers. Pilgrims climb 365 steps to reach the shrine, which is open year round. The profits from the sale of their hair goes towards the upkeep of the temple. — AFP



An Indian Hindu devotee gets her head shaved at the Thiruthani Murugan Temple.



Indian Hindu devotee Ramanama, 45, takes a shower after getting her head shaved.



Indian Hindu devotee Vanaja, 52, gets her head shaved at the Thiruthani Murugan Temple in Thiruthani in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu. — AFP photos



Indian Hindu devotee Punitha (right), 32, gets her head shaved at the Thiruthani Murugan Temple.

Bizarre News

Man who can't afford a toilet is told to sell his wife

A man who has claimed he can't afford to buy a toilet has been told to sell his wife. An Indian official has reportedly urged villagers who are unable to raise enough cash to build loos to sell their spouses. Kanwal Tanuj, a magistrate from the district of Bihar, called for those gathered to obey the campaign's sanitation standards in order to safeguard the dignity of women, according to the Indian Express. He said: "Save the dignity of your women if you can. How poor are you?" But when a man said he was too poor, he replied: "If that is the case then go and sell your wife. If this is the mentality you have then go and sell your wife. So many people talk about advance payment, they get advance and then spend it on useless things." The Clean India Mission - known formerly as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan - is a scheme launched by the Government of India to clean the country's 4,041 statutory cities and towns.

people, which saw them order scallop sashimi, and BBQ meats, as well as other dishes, although the majority of guests in the party had a gluten and shellfish allergy. The culinary mastermind captioned the image of the tickets, which was shared on his Instagram account: "Can people with dietary requirements start knowing what you can and can't eat? Shellfish allergy but loves oyster sauce. Gluten free but loves gluten as long as it's not a piece of bread. Vegetarians that love a chicken wing. Pescatarians who eat chicken. Sort your shit out and let your waiter know. You make it really damn hard for people with actual allergies and dietaries to go out to eat. (sic)"

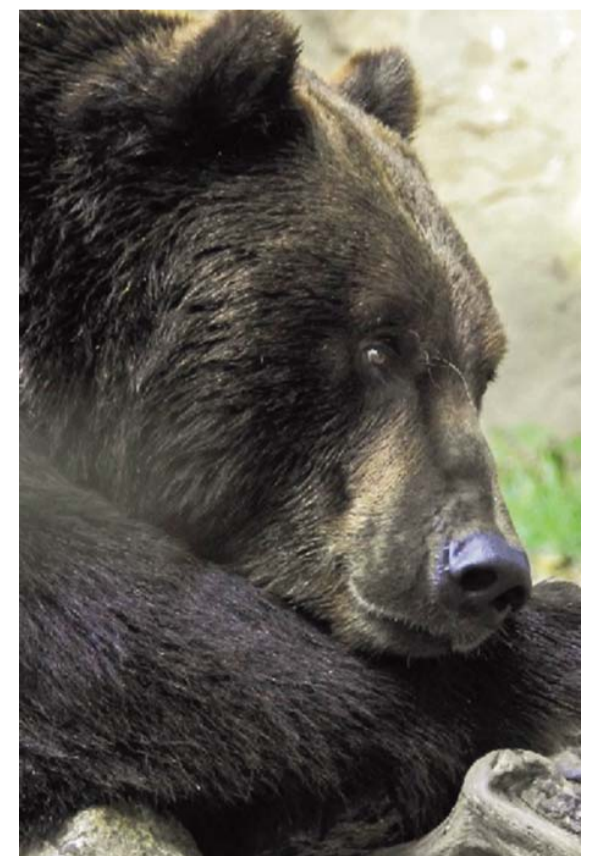
Two squirrels have been caught scrapping in the street

Two squirrels have got caught up in an enormous brawl in the middle of the road. The massive marmots were captured on camera wrestling with one another in the middle of a road in China by a motorist. The footage, which has been obtained by the Mirror Online, shows the aggressive pair standing on their hind legs, and appearing to grab at each other's throats in a bid to win the battle. But by the end of the video neither of the rodents seemed to have trumped the other.



Man gets illusion tattoo that turns his body into a tiny vehicle

A lorry driver has a tiny car and steering wheel inked on his chest to give the illusion that he is driving his own body. Kenny Ollerenshaw, who lives in Silloth, Cumbria shared a photo of the odd inking on social media. The picture went viral after it was shared more than a million times on Facebook. The body art, which was completed at the Immortal Art Studio, took four hours to complete and when the trucker moves around, his tattoo moves with him. Kenny, 36, in a clip of a video getting the piece done: "He (my son) thought it was cool but I wasn't expecting it to go viral, it's all gone a bit mad and my son has told my mum that I'm famous. "I keep looking at it in the mirror and thinking it's just crazy. You should see what happens when I tense my pecs. "My family are all on board with it. The way I look at it is if people don't like it then they don't have to wear it."



A mother bear teaches her cubs to follow the highway code

A mother bear has taught her cubs to follow the highway code. A video of the furry mammal sticking to the road signs and walking to the bear crossing before she led her brood across a busy motorway has gone viral on social media. And the sight touched the hearts of drivers, as well as BBC One's 'Wild Alaska Live' camera crew. The heart-warming footage has been shared on BBC One's Instagram account, which was captioned: "This bear mum led her cubs across the road ... next to a 'bear crossing' sign. Great to see road safety being taught in the animal kingdom. #BBCOne #AlaskaLive # BTS # BehindTheScenes #Alaska # OnLocation (sic)." — BangShowbiz

A chef rants about customers on social media

A chef has ranted about his difficult customer's and their dietary requirements on social media. The head chef at Queen Chow restaurant in Sydney, Australia, has shared a picture of an order placed by a group of eight