

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP

SOUTH ASIA'S LEADING TRAVEL

ddppl.com



TRAVTALK

Experiential Talk

TravTalking

Published from : ★ India ★ Middle East



Connecting Oceans Worldwide **ARK HOLIDAYS**
 Tel.: +91-22-42461919 / 31 operations@arktravels.com

Season's greetings omanair.com

In this season of celebration, please accept our heartfelt wishes for peace, prosperity and happiness to you and your loved ones.

Season's greetings and a happy 2017.

Queenstown
100% PURE NEW ZEALAND
 newzealand.com

THE WAY TO AN IPAD MINI IS VIA NEW ZEALAND

EVERY DAY A DIFFERENT JOURNEY

Photo credits: Julian Apse

All agents completing 10 online training modules including the Driving Safely in New Zealand module by 5th Feb 2017 will go in for the draw to win an iPad mini. Visit www.traveltrade.newzealand.com to complete the modules and enter the competition.

Terms and Conditions apply.

Fanatic

sports. tickets. tours & hospitality

Fanatic Sports is amongst Asia's leading 'Sports Ticketing' companies. We offer the lowest prices & high commission to Travel Agents / Tour Operators / B2B Partners.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Indian Premier League
European Football
Wimbledon

OFFICIAL /AUTHORISED TICKET AGENT



WWW.FANATICSPORTS.IN

Famous Studios
Mahalakshmi, Mumbai

Anant Roongta
M: +91 9819989878
E: anant.roongta@fanaticsports.in

MUMBAI . DELHI . KOLKATA
DUBAI . SINGAPORE

Live your dream!

Travel Show kicks off with a bang



(L-R) Punam Singh, Shah Nawaz Shah, Guldeep Singh Sahni, Sushil Shamal Wadhwa, and Sarika Bhambhani Rawal

The Travel Show's first-ever Business and Experiential editions drew to a close with 650 meetings on each day conducted between 25 exhibitors and 25 buyers, respectively. Representatives from destination management companies, corporate organisations, hotels, travel agents and tour operators, among others, thronged the venue aiming to make the most of the closed-door event.

Exuberant about the overwhelming response, **Punam Singh**, Associate, Pacific Leisure Group stated, "From the feedback, the show was a huge success. We welcomed a lot of familiar faces and some new ones and the platform helped them discover newer avenues to further their business. We will surely be back next year to bring more people together." **Sarika Bhambhani Rawal**, General Manager, DDP Exhibitions, added, "The show is a diverse forum featuring the best of MICE and luxury brands. Successful meetings took place between selected exhibitors and top-level buyers. Travel Show is an excellent platform for companies which are looking to gain slice of demand or are looking to grow their existing share."

The show was inaugurated by **Guldeep Singh Sahni**, President, Outbound Tour Operators' Association of India; **Sushil Shamal Wadhwa**, Founder & CEO, Platinum World Group; **Priti Khanna**, Chairperson, MCI Management India; and **Shah Nawaz Shah**, Manager Marketing, SKICC. A gala dinner was also held on the first day which gave new participants a chance to informally break the ice and for others to let their hair down.

Trade stoic despite slowdown

While the industry saw some landmark decisions like National Civil Aviation Policy executed, others like the National Tourism Policy have yet to see the light of the day. Inbound, too, fell short of desired results. Trade, however, takes heart despite a dismal 2016 and remains optimistic for a better 2017.



"Our focus will be to enhance members' experience in OTOAI with respect to the information we receive and the partnerships we forge this year. We'll be partnering with more organisations so that our members get more value. GST is another thing we are focusing on. We want the government to understand how GST is going to impact outbound, especially since consumers can easily buy packages online. If they don't take this into consideration, a majority of the offline agents' business will be in jeopardy. On the other hand, we will all have to re-strategise if the rate of GST is high."



Guldeep Singh Sahni
DDP Trailblazer ITA 2016 & President, OTOAI

"The New Year is going to be very big. However, the summer, which is our main season, may not be as big as it used to be before. I believe that following the summer, there would be a tendency for people to unleash and come out of the impact of demonetisation and move forward. There are many new destinations that would emerge next year as the number of countries that are receiving more than one million visitors is multiplying."

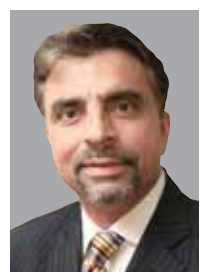


Sunil Kumar
President, Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)

"Expectations are always high which also applies to the year 2017. But, with the practical experience we have, I don't think there will be much of a change if the overall approach of the Ministry of Tourism does not change to bring the desired results. The marketing and promotional plans of 2017 will remain basic as we will not be able to get anywhere on our own if MOT does not take the lead like it used to."



Sarab Jit Singh
Tourism Ambassador ITA 2016 & Managing Director Travelite



Vikram Madhok
Best Luxury Professional ITA 2016 & MD, Abercrombie and Kent India

"Going forward into 2017, we remain with the same knitting and don't digress from it. Since 2016 wasn't a very good time for us, we will be picking up the coming year. The European market was impacted mainly France, Spain, Italy, Germany etc. which was an area of concern. Hence, we will be focusing more on the key markets that have the ability and the propensity to expend monies. We believe, for us, the US market is the main one where 50 per cent or more of our business is dependent on."



Ankur Bhatia
Executive Director Bird Group & Member of CII's Core Committee on Aviation

"In 2016, tourism, hospitality and aviation industries experienced a new era of expansion driven by strategic initiatives by the government and also attracted some of the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). There will be a spike in demand from Tier-II and Tier-III cities. Going further, as the industry grows steadily, Global Distribution Systems (GDS) will be an even more essential part of its success by linking services across sectors and improving efficiencies."



Rajan Dua
Managing Director Udaan, India Travel Award winner

"We are looking forward to a fantastic response at SATTE like last year and we will also be participating in IITT 2017. Moreover, we are constantly working towards the promotions of our full-fledged set of services such as FRRO Services, legalisation of educational and commercial documents and Udaan Destination Marketing conglomerate through travel magazines and various social networking sites. We are also planning to venture into medical tourism."

Contd. on page 7 ▶

LOVE LONDON

Virgin Atlantic flies daily, direct to London from Delhi, so your customers can enjoy a trip to the UK's lively capital that works for them. With its fascinating historic buildings, exciting nightlife and diverse food scene, it's the perfect place to be for a holiday.

For more information, call 1800 102 3000 or visit vsflyinghub.com

virgin atlantic




SUCCUMB TO THE SUNDARBANS

In the Sundarbans, nature will seduce you. The air is heavy with the aroma of flowers, and the lazy waterways and dense mangrove forests offer tantalizing glimpses of extraordinary fauna. Even the honey is captivating – forest-fresh and served to you as nature intended it – on the comb.

EXPERIENCE
Bengal
THE SWEETEST PART OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM,
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

www.wbtourism.gov.in/www.wbtdc.gov.in www.facebook.com/tourismwb
www.twitter.com/TourismBengal [+91\(033\) 2243 6440, 2248 8271](tel:+9103322436440)

Download our app 

OTOAI taps Ahmedabad agents

The Outbound Tour Operators' Association of India (OTOAI) held its meeting in Ahmedabad for the first time on Dec 21, 2016, to enhance its membership base and apprise members about Turkey EduCon scheduled for next year.



NISHA VERMA

The maiden meet in Ahmedabad was held at the Hyatt Regency and saw a total of 90 guests including sponsors, and office bearers of OTOAI, informed **Mahendra Vakharia**, Chairman, Western Chapter, OTOAI. "The agenda for the meet was to introduce OTOAI to the industry in the city, use it as a networking event for members of OTOAI and non-members with the intention to increase the membership base in the state," he revealed.

The office bearers of OTOAI present at the event included **Guldeep Singh Sahni**, President; **Riaz Munshi**, Vice President; **Himanshu Patil**, EC Member; **Sujit Nair**, EC Member; **Ankush Nijhawan**, EC Member and **Vineet Gopal**, Chapter Head, Northern Region. Vakharia added,



"Along with networking, we had also included interesting mix of destination and product presentations as well as presentation by a professional GST expert on the implications of GST on our industry."

Sahni also addressed the gathering highlighting why one should become a member of OTOAI and spoke about the future and potential of the outbound tourism industry as well

as the Turkey EduCon which scheduled for March 12-15, 2017, and will also have pre and post tours for members.

There were also presentations by **Saugat Nandy**, Director Western India, Marriott International, **Ankush Nijhawan** on Nijhawan Group; **Twinkle Shah** of Ark Travels on Norwegian Cruise Lines; **Neha Johri**, Country Manager India for Reunion Island Tourism Board,

and **Anil Bhargavan** from Tally Solutions on GST.

Save the dates

The pre-tours for members start from March 9-12, which will be followed by the main educon programme in Istanbul, which would include destination training and meetings with local suppliers

ROYAL DESERT CAMPS



Camel Safaries, Village Safaries by Jeep, Cross Country Drives, Nature Walks, Dune Walks, Gala Dinners in the Desert, Special Camps, Weddings in the Desert, Conferences, Cycle Tours, Special Interest Tours, Desert Games, Adventure activities



A UNIT OF
ROYAL DESERT SAFARIES PVT. LTD.
JAISALMER

Nachna Haveli, Gandhi Chowk, Jaisalmer - 345 001 | T: +91-2992252538/251402
M: +91-9414149636, +91-9929093380
info@campsandsafaries.com / sales@campsandsafaries.com
www.campsandsafaries.com
www.royaldesertcampsjaisalmer.com



Radisson BLU
RESORT & SPA KARJAT

YOUR LUXURY. OUR PRIVILEGE.

HIGH QUALITY LEISURE & CUSTOM CRAFTED EVENTS.
NOW JUST A STONE'S THROW AWAY.

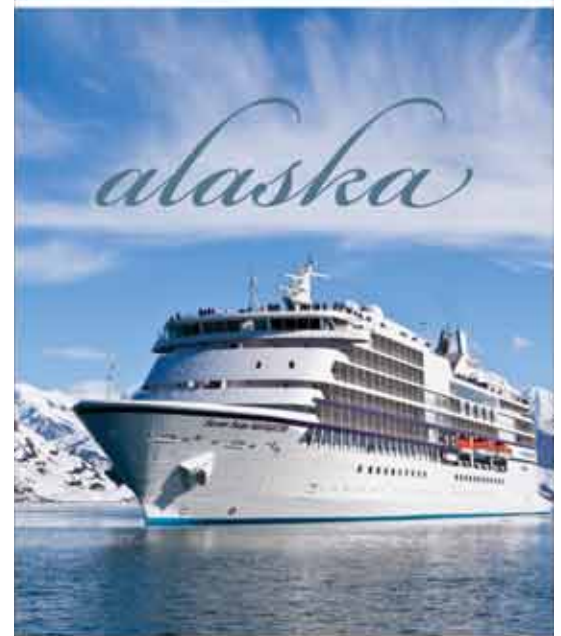
For Reservations contact 02148 240240 info@rdkarjat.com

Regent

SEVEN SEAS CRUISES

THE MOST INCLUSIVE LUXURY EXPERIENCE™

IT'S ALL INCLUDED



24 May, 2017	VANCOUVER TO ANCHORAGE (SEWARD)
31 May, 2017	ANCHORAGE (SEWARD) TO VANCOUVER
7 Jun, 2017	VANCOUVER TO VANCOUVER
14 Jun, 2017	VANCOUVER TO ANCHORAGE (SEWARD)
21 Jun, 2017	ANCHORAGE (SEWARD) TO VANCOUVER
28 Jun, 2017	VANCOUVER TO ANCHORAGE (SEWARD)
5 Jul, 2017	ANCHORAGE (SEWARD) TO VANCOUVER
12 Jul, 2017	VANCOUVER TO ANCHORAGE (SEWARD)
19 Jul, 2017	ANCHORAGE (SEWARD) TO VANCOUVER
26 Jul, 2017	VANCOUVER TO ANCHORAGE (SEWARD)
2 Aug, 2017	ANCHORAGE (SEWARD) TO VANCOUVER
9 Aug, 2017	VANCOUVER TO ANCHORAGE (SEWARD)
16 Aug, 2017	ANCHORAGE (SEWARD) TO VANCOUVER
23 Aug, 2017	VANCOUVER TO VANCOUVER

- FREE**
UNLIMITED SHORE EXCURSIONS
- FREE**
SPECIALITY RESTAURANTS
- FREE**
UNLIMITED BEVERAGES INCLUDING FINE WINES AND PREMIUM SPIRITS
- FREE**
OPEN BAR AND IN-SUITE MINI-BAR REPLENISHED DAILY
- FREE**
PRE-PAID GRATUITIES



16 GOKUL MAHAL,
197 DHOLE PATIL ROAD, PUNE 411001
CALL: +91 84089 91111 / 84089 95555
EMAIL ID: BOOKNOW@CRUISECLUB.IN

Lessons learnt from the year gone by

The year 2016 may have been slow in terms of growth of the travel and tourism sector, but the outlook for 2017 remains robust despite economic volatility in the world market. The airline industry has benefitted greatly with low oil prices since the beginning of 2015. This has bolstered their confidence as it lets them enjoy profits despite lower load factors and the consumers too don't have to bear the brunt of higher airfares.

We hope that the tourism sector is developed in such a way that its GDP growth contribution will again outpace the growth of the wider economy. The year 2016 has also exposed the world to a lot of attacks and unpleasant security concerns moving the spotlight on global co-operation and collaboration to help destinations affected by terrorism and other crises. This might continue to plague tourists in 2017 too, but that will not stop people from travelling. The sector remains resilient and governments too are working hard to ensure the safety of tourists and to minimise the impact of security threats.

Among the rising trends in travel and tourism is the emergence and acceptance of experiential travel in a big way; everybody now wants something different from the run-of-the-mill holidays and people want to explore more than just the must-see destinations.

Mobile technology and the new age fascination with wearable tech are ushering in a new era of travel and tourism. While there are a million Apps providing various information and personalisation of travel experiences, customisation is the buzzword here. We are increasingly seeing customisation of travel itineraries keeping the previous trip history in mind.

The travel industry should wake up to this growing advent of technology and use it to grow business, they should also be more alert to the impact of economic uncertainty and volatility and adapt accordingly.

With so much on the anvil, we welcome 2017 with open arms and wish our readers A Very Happy New Year, and hope that the year turns out to be happy in the true sense and definitely new! If not, we'll have to think of a better greeting for the next year. Fingers crossed!

GST: Immediate action is essential

The suspense surrounding Goods and Services Tax (GST) has sent the travel industry in a tizzy. Here is some advice to help travel agents be GST-ready.

What is GST?

It isn't just another indirect tax; it is one of the biggest economic reforms since Independence after demonetisation. GST is going to affect each and every person of India. What we will face is dual GST. This means that big players like Akbar or Riya will need de-centralised registration – a separate registration for every state. So each state will be a separate agency as far as GST is concerned.

How will this help?

Under this, agents may apply for credit on assets bought for business (computers, furniture, etc). Therefore, the cost of provision of service will reduce substantially. Another advantage is that GST will make everything very systematic. The mechanism that they are developing is similar to Income Tax where all transactions are recorded. Once a person records an expense in his books, it will automatically reflect in my account under GST.

Monthly Filing of Returns

Filing of returns will go from half-yearly to monthly. Each state will have a separate return. So the agent will have to file three returns every month – the Statement of Sales on 10th of every month, Statement of Purchase on 15th, and the final return on 20th. So they will have to gear up on their accounting software on immediate basis because giving all these details on a monthly basis that too within 10 days will be difficult without a proper accounting system. The benefit will be that everything will be systematic. As of now, things are not streamlined.

Multi-state Presence

One major after-effect of GST will be that agents will need to pick states where they do a majority of business and get themselves registered in that state to avail seamless credit. For instance, if a Mumbai agent is selling a hotel room in Ben-

galuru, he will need to be registered in Karnataka state to avail credit. So agents will need to have a multi-state presence depending on their size of business or lose credit on the same. If they don't have a multi-state presence but selling a multi-state product then they will face a challenge. Agents can migrate from ST to GST only between January 1 and 31, 2017.

Airline Ticketing

When it comes to booking airline tickets for corporate clients under GST, the agent will need to issue the invoice, etc. in the name of the firm and use the individual's registration number. Only then will they be able to apply for the credit. Currently, the credit is not passed down to the consumer by the agent. For this to happen, they will have to change their software that will incorporate data of all their corporate clients so that the credit can be passed on to them.

Outbound

Currently they are paying Service Tax (ST) at 15 per cent. In GST, this might increase to 18 per cent. Whether the government is planning to come up with any abatement scheme or not remains to be seen. We will know more by March. This applies to all services that agents buy for their clients like car rentals, sightseeing, etc.

(The views expressed are solely of the author. The publication may or may not subscribe to the same.)

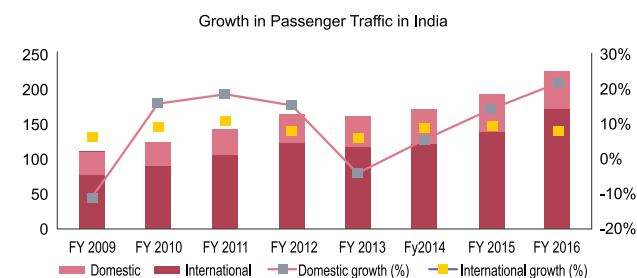


CA Manish Gadia
Partner at GMJ & Co

Charting Indian aviation growth map

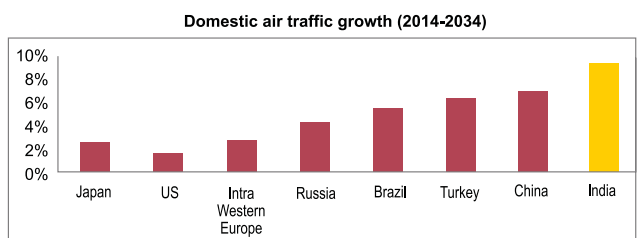
Buoyed by low fuel prices, economic recovery and industry rationalisation, the global aviation industry has seen profitable growth in 2016. Middle East and Asia Pacific regions have been the protagonists in this growth story.

• India is among the Top 3 fastest-growing markets, after China and the US, in terms of additional passengers flown per year. India outperformed all the other markets in both capacity and traffic growth in Aug 2016.



Source: AAI

• India was the fastest growing domestic air traffic market in calendar year 2015 with a passenger growth of 18.8 per cent.



Source: Airbus

Contribution of Top 10 cities to National Domestic Traffic

Metros	Domestic Passenger Air Traffic		
	2015-16 (Lakh)	2009-10 (Lakh)	2000-01 (Lakh)
Delhi	343	178	48
Mumbai	300	174	65
Bengaluru	156	80	23
Chennai	103	67	20
Kolkata	102	68	20
Hyderabad	92	48	17
Cochin	31	16	8
Ahmedabad	49	27	7
Goa	47	22	8
Pune	51	22	4
Total Domestic Traffic	1689	891	329
Metro Traffic as % of Total Domestic Traffic	75%	79%	67%

Source: DGCA, AAI

Source: Enhancing Regional & Remote Air Connectivity 2016, Auctus Advisors and PHD Chambers

Demonetisation affects the year-end

► Contd. from page 3



EM Najeeb
India Travel Award winner,
Chairman and Managing
Director, Air Travel Enterprises
Group of Companies (ATE)

“We have a desire to do better in 2017, but because of demonetisation we have faced innumerable difficulties, the effect of which will be seen next year as well. Long ATM queues, money exchange problems, monument fee problems, etc. have created negative publicity about India in the international market, which is taking a toll on arrivals. We have seen cancellations for the next month as well, which is otherwise peak season for us. While MOT has been supportive and is attending to all the requests and problems put forth by IATO, it will take some more time for us to revive and we hope after that things come back to normal.”



Manoj Saraf
Managing Director
Gainwell Travels and Leisure

“Due to demonetisation, in 2017, I see a flat-to-negative growth for inbound. The outbound industry may suffer with reduction up to 30 per cent. It is going to be a very tough year for leisure travel while the hotel and airline industry are likely to suffer as well. We are planning a big marketing event in February 2017 and are in the process of tie-ups with a large number of tourism boards, hotels, airlines, cruise companies and other tourism suppliers to make it a win-win event for all.”

“In the year 2017, we hope to grow exponentially and soon hope to become synonymous with visa applications. Since digital is the way to go, in today's day and age, we have tapped into various social media platforms to connect and communicate with our target audience. In the coming year, we will be introducing a host of ancillary sales and value added services that will give us an additional edge and give our customers a more holistic experience.”



Clevio Monterio
Chief Executive Officer
Visa Lounge



Dhananjay Kumar
General Manager
The Suryaa New Delhi

“2016 witnessed a positive growth in occupancies, and we expect the same trend in the coming days. Online segment is growing at a very fast pace. Similarly, medical tourism is also gaining pace and hotels are focusing on these segments for long stays. In my opinion, 2017 will also be a good year as we expect travelling to increase both domestically and internationally. Next year, we foresee growth in the overall business in the hospitality sector.”

“We see a buoyant growth in the hospitality industry with additional number of keys in the market by 2017. Being a nouveau hotel, we are currently focusing on promoting our brand to our target audience and showcasing the USPs namely a cinema hall ‘Upstage’, a luxe retail boulevard and distinguished food and beverage offerings at Roseate House.”



Kush Kapoor
Area General Manager Roseate
House and The Roseate & India
Travel Award winner



Ritika Modi
Excellence in Corporate Tourism
Strategy-ITA & Regional
President, UNIGLOBE Travel
(South Asia)

“Our focus has been on giving UNIGLOBE clients more choices, greater savings, and the fastest service possible. Throughout this last year, we have expanded our locations and worked on leisure product sourcing and marketplace tool. We are working with our agencies one-on-one to not just plan but deliver customised solutions for faster client acquisition, process improvements for higher efficiency and targeted programs for non-air revenue growth.”

“Over four per cent growth in international travellers in 2016 despite global uncertainties and challenges must give us an optimistic entry into 2017. Staying abreast with current trends, technology innovations, in addition to seeking new opportunities including global connect will be the new mantra to stay afloat. Last year saw many challenges around the globe. India, particularly has seen a huge challenge in demonetisation, but I think it will come back to normal very soon.”



Ramesh Marwah
Secretary General, UFTAA

STRESS-FREE ONLINE UAE VISA

dnata's online tool dtsvisa.in allows you to get your UAE visas processed at your fingertips. Visas can be applied for and downloaded online, in the comfort of your home or at the office.

▶ Online access

▶ Easy registration

▶ Instant alert

▶ MIS reports

▶ Quality check

▶ 24/7 support

▶ Easy & multiple payment options

1. Visit dtsvisa.in

2. Upload application

3. Pay online

4. Download visa

Visit us at dtsvisa.in, call +91 120 676 3630 or email visa@dnata.com

Making regional connectivity a reality

In a bid to make flying affordable for the masses, the National Civil Aviation Policy promises to enable `30 crore domestic ticketing by 2022, `50 crore by 2027 and increase international ticketing to `20 crore by 2027. TRAVTALK asks experts what needs to be done to achieve this ambitious target.



SAMAPTI DAS



Ashwani Lohani
Chairman & Managing Director, Air India

“The regional air connectivity scheme is a wonderful scheme that the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has launched. There is a lot of empty space there. So, I believe that we have to occupy that space. We are also making an effort to meet the government's 2017 deadline for starting the regional connectivity scheme that promises one hour flight for a fare of `2,500.”

“We are not participating in the regional connectivity scheme as it is meant for a different segment in the market. However, we are about connecting regional in any case. Our first flight was not from Delhi to Mumbai but it was from Delhi to Guwahati and then from Guwahati to Imphal. So if there's anyone who is a flagship carrier of the regions, it is actually IndiGo.”



Aditya Ghosh
President and Whole-time Director, IndiGo, India Travel Award Winner

“Zoom Air is India's newest national airline and we are pleased that MoCA has launched the regional connectivity scheme. We are working on the lines of the commitment made by the ministry that they will make regional connectivity a reality before 2017 and we are the ones who are making this true even before that with the launch of our regional flights connecting smaller cities like Durgapur, Jaisalmer and others across the country.”



Koustav M. Dhar
CEO and Managing Director Zoom Air



Amber Dubey
Partner-Aerospace and Defense, KPMG

“Regional connectivity is a great idea but it should have come 10 years back. Kudos to the government for having this concept as the key corner stone of the Civil Aviation Policy which has 22 chapters but the biggest emphasis on regional connectivity shows that the government is highly committed to it. This is not only a government job but at the end of the day the whole industry has to participate. So it should be a joint effort of the government, the industry and the regulators.”



Pran S. Dasan
Regional Manager-India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, flydubai

“Regional connectivity is not something that falls in our scope of business as of now. But this is a great initiative for the civil aviation industry in India. As far as flydubai is concerned, we are getting more aircraft in 2017 and we would like to expand in India but that expansion is subject to us getting more capacity being granted in the bilateral by the Government of India.”



Capt. Robin Cherian
Director- Business Development, K-Air

“Regional connectivity has a lot of potential especially for the North East states. Even places like Surat and Baroda in Gujarat will be well connected where people have money but they have no flight connection. There are a lot of possibilities of regional connectivity in India provided they develop all the small airports also.”

EMPOWER YOUR HOTEL EMPLOYEES TO GENERATE REVENUE!

Know more about our **TWO-DAYS DIGITAL HOSPITALITY CHAMPIONSHIP TRAINING** by *Avi Arya*

This training will help your employees to market and position your hotel better using creative Digital Marketing Strategies.

internet **MOGULS**
Born 15 Aug, 2009 | Religion : Digitalism



Call now to find out more : **+91 9810058409** | Neha@internetmoguls.com



Come experience
Straight-from-the-heart Sarovar Hospitality in Bhavnagar



NOW OPEN



EFCEE
SAROVAR PORTICO

b h a v n a g a r

A SAROVAR HOTEL

99 Guest Rooms & Suites

Victoria 23 - All Day Dining • Spice Story - Speciality Indian Restaurant • Bake & Brew - Lounge & Patisserie
Banquet & Conferencing facilities for up to 500 guests • Swimming Pool • Gym • Spa • Wi-Fi

ISCON Mega City, Opp. Victoria Park, Bhavnagar - 364 002, Gujarat Tel: +91 278 2412222, Fax: +91 278 2412200 Email: esp@sarovarhotels.com

Ahmedabad: +91-79-2642 5299. Bengaluru: +91-80-4115 3344/5588/5599. Chennai: +91-44-2826 5566/6644/4488.

Delhi: +91-11-4554 5661-63. Hyderabad: +91-40-2374 1666. Kochi: +91-95393 92555. Kolkata: +91-33-4063 3336.

Ludhiana: +91-161-277 3000 Ext. 4390. Mumbai: +91-22-6156 5757. Pune: +91-20-2683 0855. Surat: +91-99740 22783.

www.sarovarhotels.com | Toll Free Reservation: 1800 111 222

Banking on culture & nature

Manipur is focusing on promoting its nature and heritage to increase tourist footfalls, informs **N. Bandana Devi**, Director-Tourism, Government of Manipur.

NAVEEN KUMAR FROM IMPHAL

QHow has tourism in Manipur fared this year?

Manipur is full of surprises for adventure and the nature lovers alike. The state has been witnessing an increase in the number of tourist arrivals, both domestic as well as international. Manipur recorded 1,00,768 domestic tourist arrivals during the period January-August, 2016, and 1,734 international arrivals for the same period.

QWhat are some of the popular tourism products?

For any visitor, the principal attraction of the state is the Loktak Lake in Bishnupur district. It is a beautiful stretch of water resembling a miniature inland sea. Sangai, the brow-antlered deer is found only at Keibul Lamjao which is a part of this lake.

The Kangla Fort at the heart of Imphal city unfolds the proud history

of the erstwhile Asiatic Kingdom dating back to 33 A.D. It is the quintessential symbol of the state's culture and heritage.

The Ima Market which is counted as one of the largest only women market in Asia is at a stone's throw distance from the Western Gate of Kangla. The oldest polo ground in the world, Mapal Kangeibung is also located at the heart of the Imphal city.

Siroi Lily, a species of lily is found nowhere else in the world other than the Siroi Hills range in Manipur. The Dzuko in Senapati and the Bunning in Tamenglong offers the adventure lovers an irresistible challenge with its natural beauty.

QTell us about your most recent tourism initiative?

The annual Manipur Sangai Festival is organ-



N. Bandana Devi
Director-Tourism
Government of Manipur

ised to highlight the tourism potential of the state. In the recent years, the festival has assumed greater significance by drawing participation of various foreign delegates and exhibitors, many Indian states and a number of cultural troupes. The increasing participation of Southeast Asian countries at the festival also makes it a special event for outbound travellers looking for travel information on countries like Myanmar and Thailand.

IATO backs digital payments

In the wake of demonetisation, the Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has called for guidelines for ASI to accept credit and debit cards or online payments.

TT BUREAU

Pronab Sarkar, President, IATO, claimed that the Ministry of Tourism has taken into consideration most of its suggestions regarding ASI monument fee right from the day the transaction with `500 and `1000 notes was banned. "Owing to demonetisation, our members are facing problems and we have taken up the issues with MOT and they have taken up this matter with the culture ministry. We want that culture ministry should issue proper guidelines to ASI monuments for accepting credit and debit cards, and also activate online transaction," he said.

Citing the example of Agra, Sarkar said, "A total of nine monuments are not online, including Fatehpur Sikri and Red Fort in Agra, which should be online, allowing tour operators to buy tickets online. We have also requested that our members should be able to buy ASI monument tickets in advance by paying through cheques, demand



Pronab Sarkar
President
IATO

drafts, NEFT or RTGS and the entry of tourists should not be restricted. Since the Secretary, Tourism, has written to Secretary, Culture, we are now hoping that there will be a positive response coming our way."

Lally Matthews, Hony. Secretary, IATO, added, "We have written to the ministry and the ASI to allow POS machines to be installed at the monuments, so that it becomes easy for the tourists as well tour operators to buy tickets."

In fact, one of IATO's demands to buy tickets in bulk



Lally Matthews
Hony. Secretary
IATO

has now been accepted by the Ministry of Tourism.

Sarkar revealed that they also had other issues of their members. "We also met Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh (AP), and expressed our difficulties in handling tours in the state, especially with high road taxes for tourist vehicles. We requested for some discounts so that more people can travel between Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Plus, there should be extra facilities for foreign tourists to visit Tirupati."

Mahan Air

Welcome to our World!!!

- ★ Four weekly flights from Delhi
- ★ All Flights operate on Wide Bodied Aircrafts
- ★ Convenient connectivity via Tehran to IST/MXP/ CDG / DUS / VKO / EVN / GYD... ..
- ★ Rewarding Frequent flyer Programme "Mahan & Miles"
- ★ Excellent In-flight Persian hospitality

EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF SOUTH AFRICA



If it's something different you're looking for – a place with a rich serving of diverse cultures, intriguing traditional cuisine, the buzzing city life that will have your feet tapping to its rhythmic beats, as well as remarkable outdoor and wildlife experiences, then come see the best of South Africa's tourism products. Four days featuring trade professionals from up to 60 exciting South African products, who will teach you more about successfully packaging and selling **#wowSouthAfrica**.

Join us and experience a country like no other at the 2017 South African Tourism Roadshow.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Date	Day	City	Time	Venue
30-Jan	Monday	Chennai	10:00hrs - 14:00hrs	Taj Coromandel
31-Jan	Tuesday	Bangalore	10:00hrs - 14:00hrs	ITC Gardenia
01-Feb	Wednesday	Delhi	10:00hrs - 16:00hrs	Le Meridien
03-Feb	Friday	Mumbai	10:00hrs - 16:00hrs	St. Regis

RSVP: Indiaroadshow@southafrica.net or call
022 40144070 for more information



SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM

240mn fliers in Dubai by '25

Dubai Airports project 240 million passengers will travel through its two airports by 2025. Airport expansion plans are already in place to cater to the growth.

TT BUREAU

According to **Lorne Riley**, Director-Corporate Communication, Dubai Airports, "India is our largest market, one of our most important ones globally. India contributes almost 25 per cent of our total traffic. The Indian airlines, as a group, are the fastest growing group at Dubai International (DI) over the past year.

The total number of seats has increased by 35 per cent; the total number of flights between the two destinations has increased by 29 per cent while the total number of passenger traffic year-to-date has increased at over 10 per cent in 2016 over 2015." Out of the total passengers, 47 per cent traffic is for original destination while 53 per cent traffic is connecting at Dubai Airport.

Riley informs that Dubai Airports is projecting that over 240 million passengers will travel through both its airports — Dubai International and Dubai World Cen-

tre — by 2025. Currently these airports have capacity for 90 million passengers at Dubai International (DI) and only 5 million at Dubai World Central (DWC). To cater to this traffic, the airport authorities have deployed a three-pronged masterplan to boost capacity to handle this passenger growth.

"Firstly, we are expanding the current passenger terminal building at DWC from 5 million to 26 million which will be in place by the end of 2017. Secondly, we have launched a program called DXB Plus which will take our current capacity at DI from 90 million to 118 million by 2023. This is being done without building anything but strictly through processes like getting passengers through the airport faster, increasing use of technology and more aircrafts landing at the airport than we currently do. Lastly, DWC will be the brand new airport with passenger capacity of 120 million, the project



Lorne Riley
Director-Corporate Communication
Dubai Airports

The Indian airlines are the fastest growing group at Dubai International. The total number of seats has increased by 35 per cent

for 2025," says Riley. He further added that they want to grow the market and business and provide Indians with access to over 240 destinations at DI, an inter-continental hub.

Treebo targets 1500 hotels

Treebo Hotels, a technology-enabled budget hotel chain, is one of the few new entrants in the market that has seen occupancy increase from 40-50% to 75%.

TT BUREAU

Treebo Hotels was set up with the mission of providing a budget-traveller the best value for money by building a budget hotel brand. With a core focus to delivering quality services to guests, the group heavily depends on technology interventions and boasts a network of 200 properties across 40 cities.

Sidharth Gupta, Co-founder, Treebo, says that the year has been a milestone and has marked several achievements for the group. "We completed one year of operations and riding against the tough waves, raised our Series B worth \$17 million from SAIF Partners, Matrix Partners India, and Bertelsmann India. The new round of funding further validated the potential of our innovative business model to transform the segment, which was later emulated by other industry players."

He asserts that handing their hotel partners to ensure each one of them can deliver the desired Tree-



Sidharth Gupta
Co-founder
Treebo

bo standards is one of the foremost reasons for their progress. "With occupancy increasing from paltry 45-50 per cent to 75 per cent, the take home profits of the hotel partner can multiply 4-5x, thereby preserving his motivation to maintain great quality," he explains. "Over the past 16 months of our existence we have forged deep partnerships with players such as Cox & Kings, Thomas Cook and TBO to name a few, and these relationships have contributed in a big way for our rapid growth." B2B sales driven by offline leads and demand

from corporate partners, on-line travel agents, and direct sales through digital campaign make up a huge part of their business. Adopting a full-inventory based franchise business model, along with an omni-channel approach are some other effective strategies Treebo uses to generate business for hotel partners, shares Gupta. "Owing to this, some of our properties see over a 100 per cent increase in their occupancies within the first few months of partnering with Treebo."

Buoyed by the favourable environment, Gupta aims for a wider presence around the country in the next two years. "By the end of 2018, we aim at expanding to 100+ cities with 1500 properties and 40,000 rooms. To be relevant to our target customers, we need to be present wherever our customers travel. Hence, the need for a wider reach is imperative. Going forward we will remain focused on building the most loved hotel brand in the country that is known for the great experience and value for money it offers its guests."

Celebrating a decade of service in India

Air China acknowledged and appreciated their Indian partners' efforts at a celebration held in The Lalit New Delhi on the occasion of completing 10 years of operations in the country.



Mumbai agents say it the Dutch way

With presentations on the destination, the Schiphol Airport as well as the visa process, Holland managed to motivate a roomful of travel agents to send their clients to the Land of Tulips.

TT BUREAU



Guido Tielman
Consul-General, Dutch
Consulate in Mumbai, India

“This has been the first tourism event I have attended in Mumbai and it has been organised well. People know Amsterdam as a destination for its famous museums and architecture, but there are also other places that will be of interest to Indians. This event gave us a platform to introduce the Netherlands to an ever-expanding group of Indian tourists, which also brings with it challenges that we will tackle along with our friends from the travel agencies.”



Wilco Sweijen
Director Aviation Marketing,
Amsterdam Airport Schiphol

“We are pleased to see the turnout of people here and we see this as the introduction of Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to the travel trade in Mumbai. We are thrilled that Jet Airways is flying daily from Mumbai to Amsterdam and it has been successful. Soon, more capacity will be put into the market with the Boeing 777 instead of the A330 which proves there is huge possibility of increasing traffic between India and Netherlands.”



Marzban Antia
Vice President, TAAI

“Amsterdam is a good selection by Jet Airways as its hub as its one of the most vibrant cities of Europe. With direct flights, I expect an increase in numbers. We expect more such roadshows to be organised by Holland Tourism to promote the destination in a better way. It was a great event to showcase the destination.”



Carola van Rijn
Project Manager
NBTC Holland Marketing

“We have seen steady growth of Indian travellers to the Netherlands in the last couple of years. Last year we had 100,000 visitors to the Netherlands and this year we expect a 30 per cent growth. With Jet Airways connecting Amsterdam we have already noticed an increase in passenger numbers and a growing interest of travellers.”



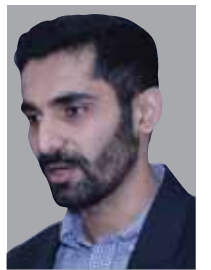
Sameer Karmani
Hon. Secretary-Western
Region, TAAI

“Holland is a destination with tremendous potential and a must-see destination in Europe for all age groups. One of the problems with Holland has been the number of seats available for travellers at lower rates. Though Jet Airways has been there, we need more seats to Holland. We have been sending 50-60 passengers every month to Holland which has been constant.”



Jay Bhatia
Hon. Treasurer
Chairman- Tourism Council,
TAAI

“We would like to see more roadshows by Holland in future and training programs across the country for the frontline agents like giving them detailed itinerary programs which will help them sell the destination. It was good to see Schiphol airport being a part of the roadshow since airports are the major points where people do last-minute shopping.”



Neil Patil
Founder & Director
Veena World

“Holland has always been close to the hearts of the Indian travellers and one of the main reasons is tulips, which have always been shown in Bollywood. But the Indian traveller only knows three things: Rotterdam, Amsterdam and the tulips. There is much more that Holland has to offer. We also get demands from passengers for experiencing music festivals and Holland hosts many music festivals.”

Contd. on page 16 ▶



Discover a hotel that defines a new dimension of luxury

Kuldhara Turn, Off Sam Road
Jaisalmer – 345001 Rajasthan

Now Open – The Jaisalkot, Jaisalmer

Ph: +91- 9116036667
reservation@jaisalkot.com

BEST ON-TIME PERFORMANCE AMONG ALL AIRLINES IN INDIA

HIGHEST OCCUPANCY RATE FOR 2016

OTP RATING (ALL AIRLINES) NOVEMBER, 2016

OTP RANKING	AIRLINE	ON-TIME PERFORMANCE
1st	SpiceJet	81.7%
2nd	Jet Airways+JetLite	75.9%
3rd	Vistara	75.2%
4th	IndiGo	72.4%
5th	GoAir	69.0%
6th	Air India	67.7%

*As per DGCA statistics released on 19th December 2016



www.spicejet.com



+91 98

 **SpiceJet**
Red. Hot. Spicy.

**LONGST
DIA.**

.....
0 MONTHS.



ber, 2016.

71803333

Kerala launches new 'Biennale' campaign

Along with its successful 'God's Own Country' campaign, Kerala will now be promoted as the 'Land of the Biennale' as well, says **U.V. Jose**, Director, Kerala Tourism. The new moniker comes in line with the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB) by the Government of Kerala, which allocated ₹7.5 crore towards operational expenses for the KMB's ongoing third edition – besides committing to finding India's only Biennale a permanent venue.

"Kerala Tourism has allotted around ₹6 crore to promote both the biennale and the state through ad films, national and international road shows and campaigns as well as other initiatives," Jose said. Noting that the theme of the new campaign would be related to art, he said the Tourism Department had sanctioned ₹60 lakh for a film to promote Kerala as the land of the Biennale. "For the next three months, over the duration of the Biennale, Kerala Tourism will showcase it at national trade fairs, international roadshows and tourism and trade conventions. We will also roll out the 'Live Inspired' campaign, which is themed around the inspiration and pride of having the chance to view and experience such top class artworks here," he added.

Holland has trade asking for more

► Contd. from page 13



Subhash Motwani
Director
Namaste Tourism

Rotterdam. Unique adventure trails and cycling should be promoted.”

“Holland has a lot of diversity and I have good memories of this country as I ran my first full marathon in Amsterdam. The country has lots to offer and with Jet Airways, it offers an edge to the incentive market. Holland needs to create awareness among the trade that the country is beyond Amsterdam with cities like Utrecht and

“It is nice of the tourism board to introduce the destination to the travel trade which will help gain knowledge and promote Holland in a better way. Tourists prefer the Tulip Festival and like to see the architecture in Holland. We mainly focus on leisure and FIT clients to Holland.”



Rosita Haribal
Director
Travel Forte

“Holland is one of the jewels of Europe. No itinerary to Europe is complete without visiting Holland especially Amsterdam. Indian travellers like to visit Madurodam, canal cruise, Heineken beer factory, cheese factories and the windmills. Holland has done a roadshow here after a long time, and it should keep doing these activities regularly and also promote adventure sports like cycling which is very popular there.”



Vinayakk Laud
CEO
Vinaayak Holidays



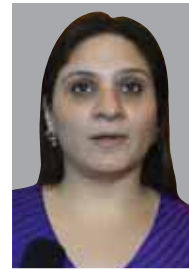
Tarun Malhotra
Director
Inorbit Tours

“Holland as a destination has a lot to offer for the Indian travellers. But it needs to get involved in promotions to create more awareness about the destination. We have been taking around 750 passengers to the Netherlands in the last year out of which 400 were only for MICE.”



Jyot P. Jhaveri
Director
Sunday Pure Holidays

“Holland has always been a popular destination for any holiday to Europe. People often repeat the destination even when it comes to luxury travel. Though it is well known for its Tulip Festival there should be more media campaigns showcasing other attractions to grab the attention of Indian travellers.”



Pilo Antia
Director
Avesta Travel & Tours

“We would like to see more communication from Holland tourism and would like to learn more about the destination. The presentations at the roadshow were very informative and getting the airport involved was a very good initiative and should be done more frequently.”

Time to Change your Corporate Movement to

Northern Europe

Incentive Package Price starting from

₹ 79,999/-

(All Inclusive)

Vilnius - Riga - Tallinn

Baltic Cities with Vibrant Nightlife, Casinos, Location and Indian Food

SHIVANTIKA
Bon Voyage
Travel the world with us

202, Naurang House,
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
Connaught Place,
New Delhi - 110001

Contact
+91- 85888 44444
+91- 98737 10999
+91- 11-47075707

info@shivantika.com
www.shivantika.com
www.facebook.com/shivantikabonvoyage

Singapore bets big on films

The Singapore Tourism Board has chosen to reach its target audience via the traditional route of films, banking not just on Bollywood but also regional films to work their magic on Indian travellers.

TT BUREAU

It did wonders for Switzerland and Spain and now Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is hoping that the film industry will help popularise the destination even more. The NTO recently associated with the Bollywood production titled 'Dear Zindagi' even though most of screen space in the film has Goa as its backdrop. But that didn't discourage STB.

G.B. Srithar, Regional Director, South Asia, Middle East and Africa (SAMEA),



G.B. Srithar
Regional Director, South Asia, Middle East and Africa (SAMEA)
Singapore Tourism Board

Through the movies, we want to showcase some of the newer attractions in Singapore and show the city's local sights and sounds

Singapore Tourism Board, who returned to the India market after being away for three years, says, "Bollywood is big on Singapore and we are happy about that. We have realised that over the last five decades since Shammi Kapoor's time, Singapore has always been featured very positively in Indian movies."

STB is not leaving out regional films either. Srithar adds, "Whether it is Kollywood or Tollywood, there are many movies being shot in Singapore. Our key objective in working with production houses is to observe how they are portraying Singapore." The next movie with which STB is association itself is Dharma

Productions' *Badrinath ki Dulhaniya* that will be released in March 2017. "Through the movies, we want to showcase some of the newer attractions in Singapore and show the city's local sights and sounds since more and more travellers want to explore the city as a local," Srithar adds.

However, he says that there are no single-window clearances for filming in pub-

lic spaces in Singapore. "Locations either fall under various government authorities or are privately owned. We can help production houses to connect with local fixers who can facilitate and coordinate with the relevant authorities in Singapore to secure location permissions," Srithar adds.

Crossing one-million mark
In 2015, STB crossed the one-million mark and wel-

comed a record number of 1.014 million visitors. It also saw contribution from Indian travellers to the tune of 1.167 billion Singapore dollars. In 2016, the number of arrivals to Singapore from India was 5,91,844 from January to August with a 10 per cent year-on-year growth.

Srithar reveals, "After China and Indonesia, India is the third-largest tourism

receipts generating market for Singapore. Therefore, our investments in the country are very important. We are hoping to welcome more visitors to Singapore. We will do this by focusing on a few things. One, penetrate more Tier II cities apart from the metros Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai. We are also looking at other cities like Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad and Amritsar. In

terms of the target segments, family traffic is very important for us and so are the working millennials as well as MICE groups. Another segment we will be promoting is cruise since Indians are now starting to enjoy cruise holidays." STB will conduct a four city roadshow in early 2017 targeting Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai. This will be followed by a six-city roadshow in mid 2017.



Travelport Branded Fares

Delighting your customers with more personalized services while building greater relationships.

Sell more than just a seat, sell an experience!



Travelport Branded Fares can help you grow your revenues. Using this unique tool accessed through Travelport Smartpoint, you can access branded and ancillary services available from leading national and international airlines, and low-cost carriers alike. Plus, with its added images, you can explain the details of each airline fare and offer bookable ancillaries such as meals, bags, or seat selection for that extra leg room. Through Travelport Branded Fares, you can create more upsell opportunities, and create customized solutions. Sell your travelers an experience!

© 2016 Travelport. All rights reserved.

www.itq.in | marketing@galileo.co.in | Follow us on

Hot Favourite

A trend report by a UK-based travel search engine shows that Singapore has emerged as the top country for Indian travellers

What 2016 will spell for the year ahead

A host of new policy initiatives and schemes last year kept the tourism industry on its toes throughout. TRAVTALK brings you events and implications of the schemes that will go on to affect the year 2017.

The Year That Was (2016)

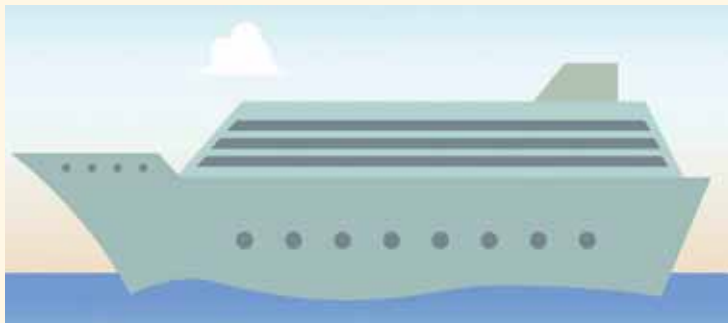
National Civil Aviation Policy

The Ministry of Civil Aviation released the National Civil Aviation Policy 2016 which is the first time since independence that an integrated civil aviation policy has been brought out by the ministry. It covers 22 areas of the civil aviation sector like the Regional Connectivity Scheme; airfare cap; revival of airstrips/airports; Viability Gap Funding(VGF); taxes on tickets; 5/20 requirement; bilateral traffic rights; ground handling policy; MRO facilities; aviation education and skill building etc.

Task Force on Adventure Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism formed a National Task Force on Adventure Tourism for the development and promotion of adventure tourism in India, that aims to resolve issues such as security, accessibility, products and promotion, licensing etc. related to adventure tourism.

Task Force on Cruise Tourism



MOT constituted a Task Force on Cruise Tourism under which Port Level Facilitation Committees were set up by port authorities for coordinating logistic issues with all concerned agencies prior to the landing of cruise vessels.

Advisory Board for MICE

An exclusive advisory body for MICE tourism was announced by MOT to chart out ways to push MICE travel to India. This neutral body would work in tandem with the state governments, public and private sector stakeholders, associations and ICPB.

Investment Opportunities

The Tourism Ministry announced the setting up of Investment Desks by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Invest India to facilitate investment for tourism.

Marriott and Starwood merger

The biggest news in hospitality came with the Marriott International announcing the addition of Starwood Hotels & Resorts' 30 brands to its portfolio. Marriott guests would now have access to more than 5,700 hotels and 1.1 million rooms in over 110 countries across the globe.

MakeMyTrip and ibibo Group merger

MakeMyTrip and Goibibo announced their merger – a consolidation of the two largest online travel players in India. In the travel space, the combined entity includes: MakeMyTrip, Goibibo, redBus, Ryde and Rightstay, which together processed 34.1 mn transactions during FY2016.

Electronic Visa

India's e-visa now comprises three components — e-tourist visa, e-medical visa, e-business visa. For the first time India will offer electronic medical and business visa. The initial period of application has been extended from 30 days to 120 days. The validity of eTV has been increased from 30 days to 60 days. The e-tourist visa and e-business visa has been made double entry. For e-medical visa, the government has provided triple entry. Film visa has also been streamlined and rationalised. Along with this, e-visa services have been extended to five sea ports in India – Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi, Goa and Mangalore.

Demonetisation

The year ended with the enactment of demonetisation policy by the Government of India, ceasing the usage of 500 and 1000 notes as legal tender. The tourism industry in general applauded the move but also pointed out that the execution was poor and the effects will be seen only till the second quarter of 2017.

India Travel Awards

India Travel Awards (ITA) 2016			
ITA-South	ITA-East	ITA-West	ITA-North
Hyderabad	Kolkata	Pune	Delhi
April 12	July 15	August 5	October 21

Looking Ahead (2017)

National Tourism Policy



The much-awaited National Tourism Policy, once effective, is expected to facilitate India's share in international tourist arrivals from current 0.68 per cent to 1 per cent by 2020. The draft policy is awaiting Cabinet approval and it is hoped that the same will be cleared in 2017.

Goods and Service Tax (GST)

GST Bill is anticipated to be the single biggest game changer for the tourism and hospitality industry. The tourism and hospitality segment is overtaxed at various levels and the industry stakeholders hope that tourism will be put in the lowest slab under GST to allow it to be a driver of growth for the economy.



Regional Connectivity Scheme

The National Civil Aviation Policy laid emphasis on Regional Connectivity Scheme as one of its primary objectives. The industry hopes that it will further infrastructure development of airports and airstrips and connect remote locations with other parts of the country and the world.



IATA NewGen ISS

IATA adopted resolutions supporting the development of the New Generation of IATA Settlement Systems (NewGen ISS) in 2016 which will be implemented in 2017. The NewGen ISS will introduce a range of travel agent accreditation models; IATA EasyPay-a voluntary pay-as-you-go e-wallet payment solution for issuance of airline tickets in the BSP, and Global Default Insurance – an optional financial security alternative to bank guarantees for travel agents.





travelrez **OnLine**
ECB solutions by Travstarz Holidays & Destinations Pvt Ltd
 .com

DTCM Joint Promotion Partner

DUBAI



Discover Dubai With
 Shah Rukh Khan
 #BeMyGuest



Dubai Shopping Festival Packages

5 Days/ 4 Nights Package

Starting @ Just US\$ **235/-** Per Person

Valid 3 Jan 2017 - 29 Jan 2017*

Winter in Dubai Packages

5 Days/ 4 Nights Package

Starting @ Just US\$ **235/-** Per Person

Inclusions:

- 04 Nights Stay in Standard Room on Bed & Breakfast Basis
- Lavish Buffet Breakfast
- Meet & Assist at Dubai International Airport on Arrival
- Half Day Dubai City Tour By English Speaking Guide
- Desert Safari, BBQ Dinner, Tanura Dance & Cultural Entertainment Program - 4x4 Land cruiser
- Arabian Dhow Cruise & Dinner at Dubai Creek
- Return Dubai International Airport to Hotel Transfers – SIC

T&C Apply

For Bookings Call Us at 91-11-47050000
 Or Write to Us at bookings@travstarz.com

TRAVSTARZ GLOBAL GROUP

GLOBAL CORPORATE OFFICE:

61-C, 2nd Floor,
 Eagle House, Kalu Sarai,
 Sarva Priya Vihar,
 New Delhi - 110016, INDIA
 T: +91-11-47050000 (100 Lines) F: +91-11-26965292

INDIA OFFICES:

DELHI | PUNE | BENGALURU

INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

THAILAND | MAURITIUS

OUTBOUND DMC ● AIRLINE & HOTEL CONSOLIDATORS ● GLOBAL B2B RESERVATION SYSTEM ● REPRESENTATIONS

UFTAA touches the golden figure 50

The United Federation of Travel Agents' Associations (UFTAA) saw members from over 25 countries gather under one roof in Istanbul for its Golden Jubilee Congress. TRAVTALK spoke to the attendees to understand the challenges of the industry and how UFTAA plans to overcome them.

 NISHA VERMA FROM ISTANBUL



Basaran Ulusoy
President, Association of Turkish Travel Agencies, TURSAB

“I am glad that we hosted the Golden Jubilee Congress of UFTAA in Istanbul and we saw a cordial and heartfelt atmosphere at the congress. Everybody felt at home and appreciated the hospitality. TURSAB will be heading the newly-formed tourism committee of UFTAA and it's a great opportunity for us. We have come out of every kind of experience and we are sure that we will contribute to UFTAA's tourism committee in a good way. Right now, we want to tell everyone around that don't be scared to travel to Turkey, as tourism is the only way to foster peace.”

“UFTAA in its 50th year is growing fast and getting stronger. More associations are joining UFTAA and those who had left are thinking of coming back. The message that should come out of this congress is that we must unite, as this is what makes us stronger, so that when we are talking to our superiors and suppliers, we can talk with one voice as UFTAA, which will be a voice to reckon with. Having the congress in Turkey was a challenge, but despite other offers, we decided on this destination because Turkey has been a good member of UFTAA and a strong partner. We came here to show that we are friends in terms of tourism and show that Istanbul should be back on the tourism map.”



Joseph Borg Olivier
Past President UFTAA



Richard Lohento
CEO, Agence Africaine De Tourisme (AAT)

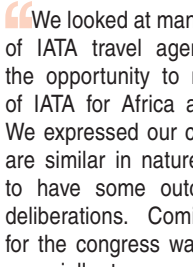
“UFTAA is a global organisation, which is appreciated in Africa, and allows us to push the industry in our region to increase our capacity for the airlines as well discuss the main issues we are facing. One of the biggest issues addressed by UFTAA at the congress is New Gen ISS, which is being applied next year. Currently, travel agencies are afraid because it can bring many changes in the industry, especially when they are working hard to increase revenue. I think UFTAA would be a great force to deal with IATA and its new programmes, and in turn help the agencies to be more efficient”

“We looked at many critical issues of IATA travel agencies and had the opportunity to meet the head of IATA for Africa and ME region. We expressed our concerns, which are similar in nature and we hope to have some outcome of these deliberations. Coming to Turkey for the congress was a great idea, especially to support one of our important members who has gone through a lot of issues in the last one year. All the heads of travel agent associations are here right now and this would help us to sell this destination to our customers.”



Adriana Miori
Buyer Office Manager & Responsible Incoming Network, TIG Italia

“This was my first time at UFTAA and I was very impressed. It was interesting to see how passionate the travel agents and their associations were about their representations and their role in the industry. I believe that personalisation can really make a difference as far as travel agents' business is concerned. Associations like UFTAA play a big role in political and diplomatic talks and concentrate on bringing all the countries together for one achievement, which is peace. Hence, it was a good decision to do the congress in Turkey.”



Marzban Antia
Vice President TAAI

“We discussed a lot of topics on tourism, airlines, IATA and several other issues. I wish to state that UFTAA, being a global body, is going to achieve great heights and we at TAAI wish UFTAA all the success. Also, as part of UFTAA, we wish to bring a change with the airline and government scenario. In addition, they have chosen a great location for the Congress despite the so-called unrest here. Such incidents can happen in any country and we should not stop travelling because of that.”

“The meetings as well as the Golden Jubilee celebration of UFTAA was very good. I have been attending the UFTAA congresses since 1974, and this is the third time it has been held in Istanbul. Hopefully now, UFTAA will get stronger and larger. Apart from great discussions and networking, we saw members coming together to solve their problems together. We have also invited UFTAA to hold the next year's congress in Northern Cyprus, and we would love to be the hosting association for the same.”



Ahmet Necati Ozkan
Honorary President, Cyprus Turkish Tourism & Travel Agents' Union



Madhu Sudan Acharya
President Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA)

“The participants at the congress discussed how our respective regions could do better with support of UFTAA members. While one focus of all the associations was aviation, which included IATA-related matters, the other one was tourism and MICE related activities. While IATA matters were discussed openly, most members agreed that all such matters should be brought under UFTAA's notice. For promotion of tourism, UFTAA has taken a huge step in holding the congress in Turkey and had it not been for this event many of us wouldn't have visited the destination and bust some myths about the issues of safety. Nepal has also been at the receiving end of bad publicity, which did affect tourism, and as members we should all stand up for such destinations.”



Nicanor Sabula
Chief Executive Officer Kenya Association of Travel Agents (KATA)

“We had quite a few thrilling moments at the Golden Jubilee Congress of IATA. It was very educative and we shared our problems and information regarding our businesses with members from around the world. It was my first time at an UFTAA congress and it has exceeded my expectations and I feel more involved and feel stronger to be able to defend the rights of my members in Kenya. Also, I agree with the resolution that UFTAA has made regarding the situation in Turkey, as in Kenya we have also faced issues of terrorism and how bad publicity affects tourism in the country.”



LAND COMBO PACKAGE

US \$28^{*} P.P



- Bangkok Airport – Pattaya Hotel – Bangkok Hotel – Bangkok Airport Transfers
- Coral Island Tour With Lunch & Half Day Bangkok City Tour.



Free Tickets For Tuxedo Illusion Hall

Valid only when Hotel Bookings done from www.bookmyhotelz.com

Your Trusted DMC For Thailand



India Sales Office Contact : M : +91 9988867301, T : +91 172-4020376 Email : info@bookmyhotelz.com

Thailand Office :

73/1, Soi Latpharo 64, Sub District Wongthonglang Bangkok 10310, Thailand



TAT LICENCE : 1482810

*conditions Apply

The changing landscape of travel

Smartphones are changing the way travellers plan, book and execute their trips. These equipments have slowly and steadily graduated from communication gadgets to travel advisors and companions.

Mobile devices were once just pieces of equipment that helped us connect with others. Today, they have become such an integral part of the way we live and breathe – not only do these provide entertainment and an immediate source of information, these have also changed the way we interact with people and the physical environment. Unsurprisingly, this has meant that the way people travel has changed – travellers are now able to discover places they want to go to and interact with the world, be it before, during or after they have gone on their trips.



Nikhil Ganju
Country Manager
TripAdvisor India

It is clear upon analysing planning and booking trends on TripAdvisor that mobile usage continues to rise and shape the future. In India, 60 per cent of Internet users access it via their mobile phone* and as Internet users in India continue to grow, this is set to increase substantially in the coming years. Those who use their smartphone to plan or book their travel are the ones we call 'Connected Travellers'.

Currently, 47 per cent of travellers in India are 'Connected Travellers.' This puts India in the 9th place globally for the highest proportion of travellers who are enabled by their mobile devices, leaving highly connected countries like the United Kingdom, Australia and Japan trailing in this category.

And research shows us mobile Apps are becoming a more popular channel for travellers to book their accommodation – TripBarometer research showed the number of people using a mobile App to book their accommodation doubling from 2014 to 2015, and we anticipate this to continue rising year on year.

Our analysis reveals that those who booked via a mobile App were seen to be habitual users, with one in four (24 per cent) saying they would usually book via this channel. But what was

In India, 60 per cent of Internet users access it via their mobile phone* and as Internet users in India continue to grow, this is set to increase substantially in the coming years

most interesting was that Connected Travellers were twice as likely as global travellers to make travel-related bookings via their mobile device. Almost 45 per

cent of these savvy mobile travellers also use their smartphones to book activities for their trip, while only 28 per cent of global travellers do so.

The mobile phenomenon has also enabled these 'Connected Travellers' to use their smartphones whilst on their trip – turning their devices into real-time travel companions that they can turn to at any point. Forty four per cent said they brought them on trips to organise themselves more efficiently and even to book accommodations on the go (37 per cent). 72 per cent of these savvy travellers also

used their smartphones to search for restaurants; 67 per cent to find things to do and 64 per cent to read reviews. This has given us a powerful way to connect directly with the traveller, delivering more value to both our users whilst on-the-go and helping them discover and enjoy the places that they visit, making their trips special. Connected travel will continue to be at the forefront of travel

and the industry should continue to look at ways to further enable the travel discovery of this group of travellers. I, for one, am certainly looking forward to all the amazing things that my 'best friend' will be able to do for me and my travels in the future.

(The views expressed are solely of the author. The publication may or may not subscribe to the same.)

*Source: Report by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and KPMG



enchanting udaipur. uniquely ananta.

Relax and rejuvenate!

Luxury Package: 2 Nights 3 Days at ₹1,39,999 for three couples.

- Welcome drink on arrival • Butler service • Fruit & cookie basket in room • Wi-Fi
- 20% discount on laundry, room service & spa • Happy hours at Float bar: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
- First day breakfast at Oasis & second day breakfast at villa pool with floating service • High tea with snacks at Anant-Tara, Rooftop restaurant • Barbecue bonfire dinner with unlimited liquor (IMFL) for two hours in the villa garden on the first night • A candlelight dinner at Oasis, the deck on the second night • City tour on second day to six scenic spots of Udaipur in an Innova
- Use of recreation facilities • Massage for each couple, once during the stay

For reservations, please call +91 294 6600 600, 95498 91709, 95498 91721 & 95498 91800

Experience the best of luxury with a resplendent stay in our luxurious Presidential Villa

- 3 bedrooms • 1 living room
- kitchen • dining area
- attached pool & garden



Ananta Udaipur

Village Bujhda, Tehsil Girwa, Kodyat Road, Udaipur 313001, Rajasthan, India
T: +91 294 6600 600 E: reservation.udaipur@anantahotels.com

ananta
Hotels & Resorts

Udaipur | Pushkar | Dwarka*

ananta
Villas

Udaipur

E: reservation@anantahotels.com | W: anantahotels.com

*Opening Soon

Terms & conditions apply: Booking is non-refundable & non-transferable | Inclusive of all taxes | Valid till March, 2017 | Early check-ins / check-outs are subject to availability | Not applicable on blackout dates & festivals | Each extra guest is at ₹22,499 all inclusive for 2 nights | Stay for one child under eight years of age is complimentary in each room | Children between 8-12 years stay at ₹15,999 all inclusive for 2 nights

creatives@templatolio.com



Win a **FREE** trip to **Canada**

Answer 5 questions and win a
holiday to Canada*

Plus 25 more prizes to be won!

- Q1 Established in 1885, which was the first national park in Canada?
- Q2 Which is the greatest outdoor show in Canada?
- Q3 In October 2016, Air Canada started flying non-stop to Vancouver from which Indian city?
- Q4 How old will Canada turn in 2017?
- Q5 Name the attraction recently opened at Niagara Falls which allows you to zip through to the falls?

To participate in the contest,
provide your name, e-mail id, mobile number, designation and company name
along with answers on: winatriptocanada@buzzindia.in

The adventure side of South Africa

Sapphire Ventures held its maiden experiential educational tour to South Africa in association with its DMC partner Southern Africa 360 and South African Tourism Board along with its supporting agents. The 10-day Fam was loaded with adventure with a thorough overview of the destination and all that it has to offer.



Affirming loyalty in Sri Lanka



Starwood Hotels and Resorts along with Akquasun Group hosted a networking dinner in Sri Lanka that was attended by top 70 tour operators to create more awareness about Starwood's SPG Pro Loyalty Program.

Tunisia bullish on India market

The Government of Tunisia is keen on tapping the tremendous potential of India outbound market and is pulling out all stops to attract more tourists from the country.

TT BUREAU

Tunisia has become one of the major outbound tourism destinations for India and looking at better relations with India. **Abdellatif Hamam**, Director General, National Tourism office, Tunisia, said, "Last year it was our political decision to take part in tourism exhibitions in India. As our government body is supporting tourism, we are very keen to focus on India to attract more tourists from the country."



Abdellatif Hamam
Director General
National Tourism office, Tunisia

Both the nations have strong political link to develop business in the field of tourism between India and Tunisia. Connectivity between both the countries is not a problem as both have good air connectivity with Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Hamam added, "We are known as one of the major historic tourist destinations in the south Mediterranean as we are one of the first countries to invest in tourism. Tu-

nisia has been trying to invest in this field for the past 50 years and we have realised that tourism is not only about business but it's about sharing civilisation, knowledge and culture. For us it is very important for our sustainable development and our aim is to be open to the world and in this strategy it is understandable that Tunisia is very close to France and Italy. Tunisian culture and our people are very open to international visitors."



Fresh Track... Best is yet to come
Have a Ski-centric at Pamporovo Mechi Chal,
Smolyan, Bulgaria.



Pamporovo offers excellent opportunities for organizing congress and conferences corporate events and business events, business meetings and training, PR events corporate parties and team building.

Contact India Representative: **Fatema Adenwala**: +919920076603 E: fatema@bridgetourism.net



Game changer for theme park tourism

Dubai Parks and Resorts is set to create a legacy for live entertainment and theme park tourism in the region as it opens its three mega properties to visitors – domestic as well as international.

 KALPANA LOHUMI FROM DUBAI

Dubai's new £2.8 billion mega-theme park officially opened with a grand ceremony attended by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, and Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai.

Dubai Parks and Resorts comprises three theme parks; a Hollywood-inspired park called Motiongate Dubai, regions' first Legoland and the world's first Bollywood theme park based on some of its biggest blockbusters named Bollywood Parks Dubai sprawling over 30.6 million sq. Ft. The entire destination is connected by Riverland™ Dubai; a uniquely themed retail and dining district, and a Polynesian-themed Lapita Hotel.

The occasion showcased its theme parks in a special show involving the dancers and actors from Dubai Parks and Resorts' live entertainment team, such as the Bollywood musical, Jaan-e-Jigar and Step Up All In, inspired by the Step Up film franchise.

Raed Kajoor Al Nuaimi, CEO, DXB Entertainments and Owner, Dubai Parks and Resorts, said, "The cost of the project is AED10.5 million. This is an inheritance which is going to be here for many more years. Being responsible for this project from planning to delivery has been a gift, and today, it is my turn to deliver a gift back to world. Our aim was to create a legacy for entertainment in the region, for the communities and charities we will support and for the residents and tourists who will make great memories and visit us again."

From the weather perspective, Nuaimi said, "This is the best time for business and we are targeting 20 million visitors by 2020. Number of visitors can drop in summers but we have all air-conditioned rides here and will surely come up with some attractive packages to attract more visitors."

"The best thing about Bollywood Parks is the show Jaan-e-Jigar. Our main aim was to combine the key elements of Bollywood movies in the show with the dance. Inside the park, visitors will be able to enjoy immersive 3-D and 4-D rides from mov-

ies *Sholay*, *Lagaan*, *Ra One* and *Krrish* and relish the live performances," said, **Thomas Jellum**, General Manager, Bollywood Parks Dubai.

"Personally, I would like to have more of Bollywood's leading ladies like Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone but the Bollywood film industry is male dominated, hence, we chose

the big male stars," he adds.

Siegfried Borst, General Manager, Legoland Dubai, said, "We have a team defining which areas we want to feature. In total, we have 15,000 model build up over more than 60 million Lego bricks in the park and the tallest building in Legoland is Burj Khalifa which is also the tallest

Lego building ever build for any other Legoland Park."

"We have a possibility to do events around certain themes in the park around the year to attract people across the world. We are not only targeting Dubai but also international tourists," Borst adds.

John Hallenbeck, General Manager, Motiongate

Dubai, said, "Motiongate Dubai is the largest Hollywood inspired theme park that brings together three blockbuster studios. Hence, we have lot of opportunities to use the park for film purpose as one can shoot many different scenes at many different places but all at one space."



2017
Fitur
 International Tourism Trade Fair
MADRID, 18th-22nd January

tourism makers
 #allinfivedays

9,600 exhibiting companies
 125,000 trade participants
 7,200 journalists
 107,000 general public

fituronline.com

OFFICIAL CARRIER
IBERIA
 MEMBER OF
ufi
 Approved Event

MEDIA SPONSOR
TRAVTALK

ORGANIZED BY
IFEMA
 Feria de Madrid

Aravali beckons adventure enthusiasts

Over 50 travel trade professionals, including members from ATOAI and ADTOI, recently went on a day-long excursion to Camp Wild Dhauj in the Aravali Valley, a unit of Holiday Moods Adventures. A host of adventure activities like cycling, rock climbing, rappelling and zip lining on natural rocks, were lined up for them. The camp now introduces its latest offering – the Aravali Cycling Tours in association with Spinmonkey Cycling Tours in Delhi.



الملتقى
arabian
travel market®
24-27 April 2017 • Dubai

Premier Partner

السياحة
Tourism للسياحة

ATM® Means Business



ATM 2016 attracted
40,000
travel professionals



9%
increase in visitors
year on year



Official Partners



Media Partner



Register today at arabiantravelmarket.com

Double digit rise for NYC

Makiko Matsuda Healy, Senior VP, Global Tourism Development, NYC & Company, says India is the 2nd highest growth rate market for NYC.



SAMAPTI DAS

New York received 290,000 Indian visitors in 2015. This year it has received 370,000 Indian visitors which is almost a double digit growth. Matsuda Healy says, "India is the second highest growth rate market for us among 20 key international markets."

She said, "We will be calling ourselves 'new New York city' as we are coming up with a lot of new products added to the classic New York City such as sunrise experience at the Empire State Building and visit to The Metropolitan Museum of Art before the regular opening hours to experience an intimate and private art experience. Also 'new New York' has



Makiko Matsuda Healy
Senior Vice President, Global Tourism Development, NYC & Company

so many hotels opening up. Currently we have 11 southern hotel rooms. By 2019 we will be having about 135,000 hotel rooms."

According to Matsuda Healy, the city offers great value to all segments such as MICE, leisure or educational tours and travellers should relook at NYC hotels and can come and find great ways to enjoy and have a good time.

She said, "We also work closely with the Indian travel trade to create more awareness about the destination. We have an online travel trade training academy and anyone can come and become NYC specialist."

She adds that India is among the top 10 MICE international markets for NYC. Pharmaceutical companies, auto industries take great interest in it and if someone picks NYC once and organises events there the motivational and participation level goes up. According to her, incentive tour is all about providing a lifetime of memorable experience.

Matsuda Healy informed that Jacob K. Javits Convention Centre has a great renovation plan. It will soon be providing

France banks on film tourism

According to **Sheetal Munshaw**, Director-India, Atout France, a Yash Raj film shot entirely in France will showcase various facets of the country and encourage more Indians to travel there.



TT BUREAU

Atout France in collaboration with Yash Raj Films celebrated the upcoming movie *Befikre* which is the first Bollywood movie to be entirely shot in France. Munshaw informed that in 2015, France crossed the half a million mark for Indian tourist arrivals corresponding to a 34 per cent increase over the previous year. She adds that in 2016, the trend

from Indian travellers looks very positive and hopes to see at least 15-20 per cent growth for 2016. "France is making history at the moment. *Befikre* is the story of many firsts for us. It is the first-ever Bollywood film to be entirely shot in France and the first time that a Yash Raj production has taken place entirely in France. The trailer was launched internationally at the Eiffel Tower. The movie will showcase the spirit of France;

from the myriad charms of Paris, glitz and glam of Cannes to the castle city of Picardy etc. The movie will excite more Indians to go on to explore the various facets of the country."

Munshaw also points out that soon, *Befikre* trails will be introduced around France as a tourism product to showcase the locations where the film has been shot offering a variety to the Indian travellers.



Sheetal Munshaw
Director-India
Atout France

Bring in the New Year 2017 with "All Inclusive Luxury"

"Take that spectacular oceanic journey to the South American coast, Experience the best of Mediterranean or simply sail to Cuba - the newest destination on earth"

Regent Seven Seas and Oceania Cruises gives cruisers lavish complimentary amenities with "All Inclusive Luxury" Cruise Vacations in 2017 to discover magnificent destinations - Lisbon, Rome, Barcelona, Monte Carlo, the best of Europe & The Americas & Alaska



Oceania's Alaskan Itineraries Now Sailing From

- 11 Days - San Francisco to Vancouver, May 10-21, 2017
- 10 Days - Vancouver to Vancouver, May 31-June 10, 2017
- 07 Days - Seattle to Vancouver, May 24-31, 2017
- 10 Days - Seattle to Seattle, June 20-30, 2017
- 10 Days - Vancouver to Seattle, June 10-20, 2017

Featuring FREE

- 6 FREE Shore Excursions
- FREE House Beverage Package
- Upto \$600 Shipboard Credit

Limited Time Offer Regent Seven Seas

- Reduced 10% Deposit For Bookings Made By January 31, 2017 on Seven, Nine and Ten Nights Itineraries

Additionally Offer On Regent Seven Seas

- FREE Unlimited Shore Excursions
- FREE 1 - Night Pre-Cruise Hotel Package*
- FREE Specialty Restaurants
- FREE Unlimited Beverages, Including Fine Wine & Spirits
- FREE Unlimited WIFI In Every Suite



ARK TRAVELS
PRIVATE LIMITED

Mumbai :
1109, Samarth Vaibhav, Above Barista, Oshiwara,
Andheri - West, Mumbai 400 053, India.
Tel.: +91-22-42461919 - 31

Contacts :
Nirupama Pillai - nirupama@arktravels.com
Prasad Bhinge - prasad@arktravels.com
Kunal Vaza - kunal@arktravels.com

Mumbai says *dank je* to Holland

After a successful show in Delhi, the Holland Club Meeting was held in Mumbai by NBTC in association with Amsterdam Airport Schiphol and Jet Airways and showcased the best of the country's tourism offerings to the Mumbai travel trade.



Germany eyes buoyant India

The German National Tourist Office (India) conducted its annual four city roadshow to introduce its theme – Palaces, Parks and Gardens for 2017.



Eight German partners ranging from German state tourist boards, airlines, hotels and cruise lines participated in the roadshows, conducting B2B meetings with the Indian travel agents on latest offers, highlights and attractions for Indian travellers.

Germany recorded over 500,432 overnights from India for the period of January-August, 2016, corresponding to a 4.4 per cent growth over the same period in 2015, informs Romit Theophilus, Director of Sales and Marketing, GNTO (India), adding that of this, 50 per cent tourists are leisure travellers while the rest are business travellers. He adds that the tourist figures may actually be higher as there is no definitive data yet for the overnights in alternate accommodations like Airbnb, river cruises and apartments.

“At present, India ranks 20th in our global figures for the



Romit Theophilus
Director of Sales and Marketing
GNTO (India)

We are focusing more on online promotional strategy. In 2017 we are expecting anywhere between 3-5% growth year on year

top 20 source markets for Germany. We want to reassure the Indian travel trade that we are very serious about promoting leisure and business tourism to Germany. We had both the Ambassador and the Visa

Counselor with us to share their experience, encourage the travel trade to book more holidays to Germany and that it is the most affordable destination in Europe.”

Germany is concentrating on its theme-Palaces Parks and Gardens in 2017. “We have launched our Facebook page – Germany Tourism for the India market and look forward to it becoming a hub for discussions relating to travel to Germany, sharing itineraries, exciting travel finds in the country and lots more. We are focusing more on online promotional strategy to promote Germany in India. In 2017 we are expecting anywhere between 3-5 per cent growth year on year.”

Deutschland Data

Germany recorded over 500,432 overnights from India for the period of January-August, 2016, corresponding to a 4.4 per cent growth over the same period in 2015

New flights to aid S. Australia

Vinod Advani, Tourism Trade Ambassador, South Australia, says the new flight connections to Adelaide via China Southern Airlines would boost tourist numbers.



Adelaide, the capital of South Australia, is the gateway to one of the most sought after attractions in the region — Kangaroo Island. Vinod Advani, Tourism Trade Ambassador, South Australia, said, “We have been promoting Kangaroo Island for quite a few years in India. It is Australia’s most exclusive island and is seven times the size of Singapore. It is the only wildlife place where everything is out in the open and none of the animals are controlled by fences.”

He further talked about Adelaide, saying, “Adelaide is where Sir Don Bradman, the famous cricketer, lived the last 40 years of his life, and there is a museum dedicated to him in the Adelaide Oval cricket ground. The architecture of Adelaide is very different from rest of Australia. Apart from Kangaroo Island and Adelaide, there is also the wine growing region of Barossa, which is considered



Vinod Advani
Tourism Trade Ambassador
South Australia

to be the world’s most famous Shiraz wine grape region.”

Advani claimed that they are using various methods to promote the destination including media, travel agencies as well as digital marketing. They also have a PR company.

He further said that the launch of the new flight by China Southern Airlines from Guangzhou to Adelaide is going to boost numbers from India to South Australia as

well. “China Southern Airlines’ new route between Delhi-Guangzhou and then Guangzhou-Adelaide has opened up yet another way to come and visit Adelaide and Kangaroo Island,” said Advani.

According to him, Australia would see a huge surge in incoming tourists from around the world. “There is a definite shift, starting this year, of people from going to Europe and moving towards destinations like Australia. In fact, I believe 2017 will be a milestone year for Indians who’ve always been excited about going to Australia and in turn to Kangaroo Island.”

Talking of agents, he said, “Travel agents play a very important role because they provide the right knowledge to customers. While people in India are getting informed about many destinations through technology, it’s the travel agents who open the door to the world for them.”

Make your China travel much cheaper with Shandong Airlines...

SECTOR (EX-DELHI)	ONE WAY (INR)	RETURN (INR)
JINAN	15345	27218
QINGDAO	15345	27218
KUNMING	14195	24972
BELING	18133	31644
SHANGHAI	18133	31644
HANGZHOU	20433	35094
CANTON	18133	31644
ZHENGZHOU	20433	35094
URUMQI	22224	37605
SHENYANG	22339	38165

Fares & Taxes are subject to availability

BIRD TRAVELS

For any further information/query, please contact
 Email: mns@bird.in, res.sc@bird.in, sales.sc@bird.in
 Tel: +91 1143640464/65, Mob: 9818620717, 9711619187

IATO get-together for visa issues

The Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) organised a luncheon to apprise its members about the new developments in the eVisa scheme and to discuss the problems faced after the demonetisation drive in the country.



Ushering in 2017 with Lama & Dubai Parks

The who's who of the travel industry let their hair down at the pre-New Year get-together organised by Lama Tours along with Dubai Parks & Resorts, represented by Nijhawan Group in India.



Tiger conservation imperative

PATA India Chapter and WWF India jointly organised the Bagha Mitra Awards, recognising the work done at the grass-root level by custodians of wildlife, environment and nature.



TT BUREAU

The awards ceremony, held on December 19, was attended by environmentalists, special interest groups, and governments which promote sustainable tourism, wildlife and ecotourism, along with travel industry stakeholders. The event was graced with the presence of **Runeep Sangha**, Executive Director, PATA India Chapter, **Inder Sharma**, Life Member PATA and Member of PATA Foundation, and **Ravi Singh**, Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer, WWF India.



Ravi Singh
Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer, WWF India

Sharma appealed to the travel industry players to take greater interest in tiger conservation and wildlife sanctuaries in the country. He said, "The initiative has already proved that the population of tigers has increased in the country and the idea of this event is to reward people who are doing good work in the field of conservation of tigers."

Jatinder Taneja, Honorary Secretary, PATA India Chapter, feels that this initiative has helped the travel industry understand the importance of conservation of tigers and is a source of information for inbound tour operators about various reserves that can be visited for wildlife tourism. "India is a well known destination for wildlife tourism and the first choice amongst tourists who wish to spot tigers in their natural habitat which makes tiger conservation of utmost importance," says Taneja.

Singh informs that there have been inputs given by government agencies, both from the conservation department and the forest management and the tourism ministry, which have been inducted into guidelines that has allowed travellers to view the tigers in a safer manner in its natural habitat. He feels that these guidelines will get better with time to offer better sustainable tourism.

Macao sojourn for Indian agents



The Parisian Macao, Cathay Pacific and Akqasun Hong Kong recently organised a familiarisation trip for travel agents from Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. They paid a subsidised price to fly down and experience The Parisian Macao.

Travel SHOW

ANNOUNCING EVENT DATES FOR TRAVEL SHOWS IN 2017!

Experiential SHOW <i>Beyond Luxury</i>	April 8-9, 2017 (Sat - Sun) Delhi NCR	Wedding SHOW	July 8-9, 2017 (Sat - Sun) Delhi NCR
Technology SHOW	September 2-3, 2017 (Sat - Sun) Delhi NCR	Business SHOW <i>Beyond M.I.C.E</i>	December 2-3, 2017 (Sat - Sun) Delhi NCR

Exhibitors are invited to save the dates!

Categories of Exhibitors:

Tourist Offices – both international & domestic • Hospitality chains – Both international & domestic • Boutique – Stand alone properties • Homestays, unusual stays • Convention Centres – Venues • International DMC's • Event Managers • Airlines • Spa & Wellbeing • Cruises – Yachts & Helicopter hire – Bespoke experiences !!! • Ground transportation • Attractions – Shopping, Adventure, Wildlife Destinations • Special Interest – Culinary, Historical, Heritage, Walking tours • Music Fests – Art & Culture • Wedding vendors in all categories • Entertainment providers

Travel Show Exhibitors*

Pacific Leisure Group

Interested Exhibitors and Buyers, please contact:

Punam Singh: punam@travelshow.world, +91 98111 58785

Sarika Bhambhani Rawal: sarika@travelshow.world +91 98101 91852

DDP PUBLICATIONS PRIVATE LIMITED

*Our exhibitors for the year 2016.



Go with the flow

The second edition of Jalmahotsav, a festival of adventure tourism in central India, is back with a bang and is about to unfold between Dec 15, 2016, to Jan 15, 2017, at Hanuwantiya, Khandwa.

Hanuwantiya is a serene destination by the banks of the Indirasagar Dam — one of the biggest man-made dams and offers unmatched scope for adventure lovers. The one month long adventure carnival will be a treat for all those who want to seek adventure other than rock climbing or mountaineering. A wide range of water, land and air activities will be available to choose from like parasailing, para motoring, hot air ballooning, wind surfing, parasailing, island camping, jet-skiing, artificial climbing wall, Burma bridge, night camping, bird watching and lots more. Para-motoring and hot air ballooning

will make you reach out for your cameras to freeze the thrilling moment of your life up in the air.

This quiet, secluded place will be buzzing with activities for one full month

when it will transform into a tented city to host the guests from India and abroad. Month-long cultural extravaganza every day, after sun down including the New Year's Eve party will be something you will cherish.



Craft bazaar, food bazaar, cycle rides and many more recreational activities are waiting to be explored.

There are a wide range of attractive packages to choose from — a tent city package to island night camping package to staying in premium/deluxe tent.

The tariff ranges from ₹6,100/- to ₹16,000/-.



Fact File

- Nearest Railhead: Khandwa
- Nearest Airport: Indore
- Tourist Helpline: 18002337777
- Website: www.mptourism.com
- Find us on:

Training tourism leaders of tomorrow

The Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management (IITTM), an autonomous organisation of MOT, has taken to train aspirants in tourism and hospitality. **Dr. Sandeep Kulshreshtha**, Director, IITTM, elaborates on their initiatives.



ANKITA SAXENA

QWhat is the USP of IITTM? How is this institute different from others?

IITTM is one of the premier institutes in the country offering education, training, research and consultancy in sustainable tourism, travel and other allied sectors. There are more than 70 universities in India running tourism programmes, but IITTM is considered to be the number one institute as far as infrastructure, faculty, library and placement is concerned. At present, IITTM has five campuses – Gwalior, Bhubaneswar, Noida, Nellore and Goa and a new campus is proposed at Bodh Gaya, addressing regional tourism needs and concerns.

QWhat programmes are offered at IITTM?

The institute offers various courses, addressing various aspects of the tourism and hospitality industry.

government tourism departments, five-star hotels, airlines and aviation companies, foreign exchange units, adventure tour operators and allied sector and also under various tourism segments like MICE, event management and cruises. We plan to become an institute of national importance for awarding its own degrees.

QKindly elaborate on the initiatives of IITTM.

IITTM is conducting unique training programmes for the grass-roots level stakeholders like boatmen, street vendors, rickshaw pullers, priests/pandas, immigration officers, porters, tourist police, coach an taxi drivers and tourism sen-

sitization programmes for unemployed youths. On November 9-12, 2016, IITTM organised the 6th Asia-Euro International Conference on Tourism, Hospitality and Gastronomy, held for the first time in India, and was attended by more than 65 foreign delegates besides professionals from Indian academia.



Dr. Sandeep Kulshreshtha
Director
IITTM

Some of the courses offered are Bachelors/Master of Business Administration (Tourism and Travel Management) in collaboration with IGNTU; Ph.D. in collaboration with Punjab Technical University; Management Development Programme; Entrepreneur Development Programme; Regional Level Guide Training Programme; Skill Development Programmes; *Hunar se Rozgar* Training Programme; water sports and life saving related training programmes; training programmes for departments of the central government and different state governments.

QDo you provide hands-on training to students?

For the post graduate students, out of their two year programme almost eight months are for on the job training through industry attachments. The students work with tour operators, travel agencies, cargo and logistics companies, IRCTC,

Nominate Now

for India Travel Awards 2017

For further details, please contact:
 Gunjan: +91 96503 99905 gunjan@ddppl.com, Amit: +91 96509 13334 amit.bhasin@indiatravelawards.in
 Seema: +91 96501 96531 seema.datt@indiatravelawards.in, Sonia: +91 96503 11774, sonia.butalia@indiatravelawards.in

To nominate and vote, please log on to: www.indiatravelawards.in

SUPPORTED BY

ENDORSED BY

Digital wins big under demonetisation

The tourism and hospitality industries are recuperating from the initial hiccups caused by demonetisation and slowly moving towards digital operations. India Travel Award winners share their views on the evolution of these industries in the wake of currency ban.

ANKITA SAXENA

► **Most Trending Personality – Shalini Jain**

Online platforms biggest gainers

According to **Shalini Jain**, Director-Operations, Click2Travel.in, demonetisation is a positive move overall but it will take time to get all functions and operations running smoothly. "Business is slow for sure, but it's not like one is completely out of business. People who want to travel, especially honeymooners, will continue to travel despite demonetisation. Change is the only constant and any major change always takes time to be accepted. Going forward, the biggest gainers will be online platforms," Jain shares.



► **Best Leisure and Wedding Resort – Ramada Udaipur Resort and Spa**

Drop in interest rates

November to February is always a strong season and as of now there has been no adverse impact on rooms business because bookings were done in advance, reveals **Dolly Taldar**, Resort Manager, Ramada Udaipur Resort and Spa. "We accept payments only by credit card or through banking channels. Only a few smaller payments are accepted in cash. The pickup for future bookings for rooms has slowed down a bit but we are sure that from December onward, people will start travelling in good numbers." She expects demonetisation to be a game changer as people will now move towards digital payments. "Also, with banks being flooded with deposits we are expecting a drop in interest rates which will boost our profitability," says Taldar.



► **Best Destination Management Company-Domestic – KK Holidays N Vacations**

Government support helping the industry

According to **Mahender Singh**, Director, KK Holidays N Vacations, there has been no major impact on tourism and hospitality businesses. "Apart from the initial hassle faced by the common public and a few hiccups during the initial days, there hasn't been any major effect on tourism in particular. All ASI monuments have accepted old currency, the



government has made provisions to smoothen the process, banks are offering currency exchange for both inbound and outbound travellers, etc. The government has also considered our requests and is supporting the process. It is a good move as more and more businesses will shift online, making the payment procedure safer," says Singh.

► **Excellence in Hospitality & Best Leisure Hotel – Four points by Sheraton Agra**

F&B business suffers

The food and beverage business has suffered a setback due to demonetisation as the domestic market has seen a dip, laments **Paul Gomes**, General Manager, Four Points by Sheraton, Agra. "I know our foreign guests had suffered due to the sudden announcement of the changes but I am sure that things will be normal soon." The hotel is



encouraging its guests to make payments through their cards (debit/ credit) as most of the companies are providing various attractive offers on usage of plastic money.

► **Best Corporate Hotel – Ramada Gurgaon Central**

Positive market response

Sumit Ghosh, Director Sales and Marketing, Ramada Gurgaon Central, points out that demonetisation has had a dual effect on the hospitality business. He says, "Initially we faced problems during bill settlement as we stopped accepting banned currency. However,



eventually guests made payments via cards. Hotels which were booked for events and agreed to take cash payment in old currency notes are facing some challenges. Even the vendors who provide décor, flower arrangements, etc., are in deep trouble." Ghosh says winter is considered to be the peak season for hospitality and as of now the market is responding in a positive manner.

► **Best Luxury Hotel Brand – Mayfair Hotels and Resorts**

Transparency in transactions

Pradipta Mohapatra, General Manager-Sales and Marketing, Mayfair Hotel and Resorts, informs, "Demonetisation has affected our business very little as most of our transactions are carried out electronically and through digital platforms. Cash transactions have been affected marginally, but it has had a negligent impact on the company's operations and



revenues." He says the move will have far reaching implications on the economy as corruption and black money could be effectively contained. It will lead to a cashless society with a higher degree of transparency in transactions, he adds.

Get GPS-apped & find new ways to empower your business at GPS Nagpur



Your business will grow manifold with first hand experiences of networking with 100+ big businesses. The latest updates from the industry, and the cream business crowd awaits you at GPS 2017. Develop trade relations and expand your business.

Educative Seminars like no other!

GST Special

by CA Manish Gadia
Jan 19, GPS Nagpur.

Registrations now open for GPS-2017, Nagpur on www.gps-india.com

Call +91 9225248070,
+91 9820224272 for details
e : harmandeep@gps-india.com
madhu@gps-india.com



Download the GPS app & become eligible for amazing prizes!

Metaphors



Travel Show showcases the best

Travel Show's first MICE and Experiential editions took place on Dec 17 and 18, 2016, respectively, where a selective list of exhibitors were acquainted with buyers in a pre-scheduled one-on-one meeting format.



of MICE & Experiential segments



JANUARY

► National

6-8	Chennai	TTF
11-13	Pune	Destination Britain roadshow
12-14	Kochi	IITM Cochin
19	Kolkata	Best of Australia workshop
19-21	Kochi	IITM Kochi
19-21	Nagpur	Global Panorama Showcase (GPS)
30	Chennai	South African Tourism roadshow
31	Bangalore	South African Tourism roadshow

► International

16-20	MBS, Singapore	ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF)
18-22	Madrid, Spain	FITUR
23	Bangkok	Thailand Tourism Forum
26-29	Istanbul, Turkey	EMITT

FEBRUARY

► National

1	New Delhi	South African Tourism roadshow
3	Mumbai	South African Tourism roadshow
7	Mumbai	Austrian Tourism Board roadshow
8	Chennai	Austrian Tourism Board roadshow
8-9	Mumbai	CAPA India Aviation Summit
9	New Delhi	Austrian Tourism Board roadshow
9-11	Mumbai	IITT 2017
10	Mumbai	Visit Indonesia roadshow
13	New Delhi	Visit Indonesia roadshow
15-17	New Delhi	SATTE
21-23	Mumbai	OTM
24	Mumbai	Philippines roadshow
24-26	Kolkata	IITM Kolkata
25-28	Goa	Goa Carnival
27	New Delhi	Philippines roadshow
27 Feb-1 Mar	New Delhi	TTF
28 Feb-2 Mar	Gurugram	Phocuswright India

► International

7-9	Abu Dhabi, UAE	IBTM Arabia
16-18	Istanbul, Turkey	World Tourism Forum Global Meeting
21-22	Melbourne, Australia	AIME 2017
22-23	Olympia, London	Travel Technology Europe
22-23	Grand Hall Olympia, London	Business Travel Show
22-24	Istanbul, Turkey	ACE of M.I.C.E
23-25	Guangzhou, China	Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF)
27 Feb-1 Mar	Kyoto, Japan	ILTM Japan

MARCH

► National

12-14	Goa	India Travel Mart
22-23	New Delhi	FICCI Travel & Hospitality Tech Conclave

March Contd.....

March Contd.....

► International

1-2	Olympia, London	International Confex 2017
8-12	Berlin, Germany	ITB Berlin
12-15	Istanbul, Turkey	OTOAI Turkey EduCon
14-16	Moscow, Russia	MITT
21-23	Shanghai, China	IT&CM China 2017
26-29	Hyderabad	Connections Luxury
29-31	Beijing, China	COTTM
29-31	Kiev, Ukraine	UITT

APRIL

► National

3	Ahmedabad	Ras Al Khaimah roadshow
4	Mumbai	Hotel Operation Summit India
4	Mumbai	Ras Al Khaimah roadshow
5	Bengaluru	Best of Australia roadshow
5-6	Mumbai	Hotel Investment Conference South Asia
6	New Delhi	Ras Al Khaimah roadshow
7	Hyderabad	Best of Australia roadshow
8-9	New Delhi	Travel Experiential Show
11	Chennai	Best of Australia roadshow
23-25	Jaipur	Great India Travel Bazaar 2017

► International

2-4	Milan, Italy	BIT Milan
6-8	Baku, Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan International Tourism Fair (AITF)
13-15	Novosibirsk, Russia	SITT
19-21	Almaty, Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan International Tourism Fair (KITF)
20-23	Shanghai, China	Shanghai World Travel Fair 2017
22-24	Xi'an, China	CXSRITE
24-27	Dubai, UAE	Arabian Travel Mart 2017 (ATM)
25-27	Singapore	Digital Travel Summit APAC
26-27	Bangkok, Thailand	WTTC Global Summit 2017
30 Apr-2 May	Sydney, Australia	Annual Meetings & Events Industry Conference

MAY

► International

9-12	Calgary, Canada	Rendez-vous Canada
9-12	Auckland, New Zealand	TRENZ 2017
10-12	Shanghai, China	ITB China 2017
14-18	Sydney, Australia	Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE)
16-18	Frankfurt, Germany	IMEX
16-18	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Phocuswright Europe
16-18	Durban, South Africa	INDABA
17-19	Penang, Malaysia	WTM Connect Asia
18-21	Negombo, Sri Lanka	PATA Annual Summit 2017
21-24	Ireland	Connections Luxury
31 May-1 Jun	Auckland, New Zealand	CINZ Meetings 2017

JUNE

► International

4-6	Cancun, Mexico	IATA AGM 2017
5-8	Shanghai, China	ILTM Asia
13-15	Olympia Grand London, UK	The Meetings Show
15-18	HKCEC, Hong Kong	International Travel Expo (ITE)
18-21	Quito, Ecuador	Connections Meetings
23-25	China National Convention Centre, Beijing, China	Beijing international Tourism Expo (BITE)

JULY

► National

8-9	New Delhi	Travel Wedding Show
13-15	Ahmedabad	Global Panorama Showcase (GPS)
14-16	Chennai	IITM
20-22	Chandigarh	Global Panorama Showcase (GPS)
21-23	Bengaluru	IITM
27-29	Kolkata	Global Panorama Showcase (GPS)

► International

15-19	Boston, USA	GBTA Convention
-------	-------------	-----------------

AUGUST

► National

3-5	Kochi	Global Panorama Showcase (GPS)
10-12	Pune	Global Panorama Showcase (GPS)

► International

22-23	Tokyo, Japan	ACTE Conference
29-31	Florida, USA	La Cita

SEPTEMBER

► National

2-3	New Delhi	Travel Technology Show
22-24	Mumbai	IITM

► International

13-15	Macau	PATA Travel Mart 2017
21-24	Tokyo, Japan	JATA Tourism Expo
26-28	Bangkok, Thailand	IT&CMA and CTW Asia-Pacific 2017
26-29	Paris, France	IFTM Top Resa
27-29	Astana, Kazakhstan	Astana Leisure

OCTOBER

► International

11-13	London, UK	CAPA-ACTE Global Summit
25-27	Marina Bay Sands Singapore	ITB Asia 2017
29 Oct-1 Nov	Portugal	Connections Wellbeing

NOVEMBER

► National

24-26	Pune	IITM
6-8	London, UK	WTM London
12-15	Prague, Czech Republic	JCCA Congress
19-22	Tuscany, Italy	Connections Meetings

DECEMBER

► National

1-3	Hyderabad	IITM
2-3	New Delhi	Travel Business Show

For more details, contact: talk@ddppl.com

**UNLIMITED BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THE GLOBAL TOURISM FRATERNITY!!**



April 23 - 25, 2017 (Sunday - Tuesday)

Inaugural Venue: The Lalit, Jaipur &
Exhibition and B2B Venue: JECC, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

B2B meetings with the Foreign Tour Operators!

Log on to www.greatindiantravelbazaar.com to fix your meetings online.

B2B meetings will be organized at the booth(s) of the registered Indian sellers only.

Around 294 Booths to showcase your products...BOOK NOW !

Around 275 Foreign Tour Operators participating from 50 Countries !

Argentina | Australia | Austria | Belgium | Brazil | Bulgaria | Canada | Chile | China(Main) | China(Taiwan) | Colombia | Czech Republic | Denmark | Finland | France | Germany | Hong Kong | Hungary | Indonesia | Iran | Israel | Italy | Japan | Kazakhstan | Korea | Latvia | Lithuania | Malaysia | Mexico | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Russian Fed | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | South Africa | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Turkey | U.K. | U.S.A | Ukraine | Uruguay | Vietnam

FOR BOOTH REGISTRATION AND PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE CONTACT:

TRAVEL BAZAAR SECRETARIAT

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Phone : 011-23487490, 23311720, 23322539 (New Delhi)

Email : rahul.chakravarty@ficci.com, samanda.syiem@ficci.com, arshad.danish@ficci.com | Web : www.greatindiantravelbazaar.com

Kindly Note: Entry is strictly for buyers and sellers. There is no visitor entry.

Thank you Partners

Host State



Theme State



Partner States



Platinum Partner



Inaugural Cocktail and Dinner Partner



Diamond Partners



Gold Partners



Skål mixes fun with work



Skål Mumbai recently organised a networking evening over cocktails and dinner on the sidelines of its second edition of 'Skål Bazaar'.

IAAI aims to be on top with I-TOP

The portal aims to enable each association member to become a consolidator that will help them tide over the challenging market conditions.



HAZEL JAIN

In an effort to safeguard the interests of its members from the current challenging market conditions and present them with a new revenue model, the IATA Agents Association of India (IAAI) has announced that it will launch an exclusive portal that will enable each of its members to become a consolidator. Titled 'I-TOP' which stands for Indian Travel Agents Own Portal, the program will

be launched shortly. This was announced at its Annual General Body Meeting of IAAI Maharashtra State unit held in Mumbai recently.

Biji Eapen, National President, IAAI National Board, said, "It is the first portal of its kind in the history of the aviation world created solely for the agents, by the agents. It has sophisticated technology and enhanced innovative processing modules.

It has been enriched with facilities for the user to work as an individual or a consolidator and operate through GDS platforms and also the Internet to meet the present challenges and competitions in the Industry with B2B, B2C and B2D facilities including the new NDC process."

Other issues discussed

The team discussed other issues during the AGM that included the negative ef-

fect on all IATA agents of the government restriction on air travel and LTC wherein only Balmer Lawrie & Company and Ashoka Travels & Tours agents have been authorised to service all government and



Biji Eapen
National President
IAAI National Board

It is the first portal of its kind in the history of the aviation world created solely for the agents, by the agents. It has sophisticated technology and enhanced innovative processing modules

public sector undertakings, including nationalised banks.

The team also brought to notice the 'Fuel Surcharge' that airlines continue to collect. He said, "Though the actual required fuel cost is already been accounted in the base fare, airlines are still collecting an exorbitant amount as 'Fuel Surcharge' under the YQ tax code, which is neither reportable to IATA nor to any government, thereby depriving the Indian government of its rightful tax revenue and the travel agents of our legitimate agency commission." Airline representatives who were present at this AGM included Oman Air, Air Arabia and GoAir.

Temporary relief

There is temporary relief for all IATA agents from the newly-introduced BSP's enhanced user charge that was applicable from 1 Jan, 2017 wherein the BSPLink 'Enhanced User Account' was chargeable at USD 30 per user ID per agent location, per month (excluding applicable taxes). However, IAAI feels this could be a temporary relief as APJC can reverse the same any day.

Never miss out on the latest & most in-depth coverage of the news which shapes your business!



Great reasons to get your complimentary* copy of TravTalk today:

- Stay in touch with latest Travel News
- Free delivery direct to your door
- Never miss an issue

If you have not been receiving your complimentary copy then send us your details:

Name, Designation, Company Name,
Full Postal Address, Mobile, Email

Email us at: subscription@ddppl.com

*Addition to the mailing list is subject to approval. Terms & conditions apply.



SBU: Travel & Vacations
Assistant Manager
 (Sales)
 1 position in Bengaluru

Deputy Manager/Manager
 (Marketing & Key Account Relationship)
 1 position in Mumbai

For details and to apply, log on to Careers at
<http://www.balmerlawrie.com/pages/currentopening>
Last date for submission of applications:
 15th January 2017



बामर लॉरी एण्ड कं. लिमिटेड
 (बामर लॉरी का हिस्सा है)
Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd.
 (A Government of India Enterprise)
 (A Mini Ratna - I PSE)

Regd. Office: 21, N. S. Road, Kolkata - 700001
 CIN: L15492WB1924GOI004835
 Website: www.balmerlawrie.com
 Phone: 022-61983377, Email: hr@vacationsexotica.com



Experience the difference with every comfort of today at Hotel Park Ocean.

Park Ocean
www.hotelparkocean.com

A-4, Opposite Bhawani Niketan School, Sikar Road, Jaipur Rajasthan (India)
 Phone: 0141-2337787
 Mobile: +91-9783077755



THE ALLURE
 a boutique hotel
 (A Unit of Clark International)



R-57, Greater Kailash, Part-1,
 New Delhi-110048 (INDIA)
 T: +91-11-48184818, F: +91-11-48184800,
 M: +91-9811023375
 E: info@theallurehotel.com

www.theallurehotel.com

Are you looking for the
IDEAL CANDIDATE
 for your organisation?




Fill your vacancies by
 advertising in
 the **Opportunity Section** of



Pick the **best talent**
 from the trade


For further details contact:
situationsvacant@ddppl.com




Absolute freedom in Goa with

Freedom HOLIDAYS


Contact us for • Tours • Travels • Events • Aviation • Exports
www.freedom-holidays.com

Follow us at: 


6, 3rd Floor, Patto Centre, Patto, Panjim, Goa. C 0832-2438320, 21
 Mob: 8308825995 / 9822136691 / 9822984481 / 9922410795
operations@freedom-holidays.com



A Boutique Hotel



Clark International
 NEW DELHI



Saraswati Marg, Karol Bagh,
 New Delhi-110005 (India)
 T: +91-11-4500 5500, F: +91-11+2575 6551
 E: info@hotelclarkindia.com
www.hotelclarkindia.com

24 Hours Reservation:
 +91-98110 23375





Partner with us for **Flights, Hotels, Car Rentals,**
Domestic and International Holiday Packages

Register yourself @ Agents.Bigbreaks.com or call: +91 8010 800 500 or email: info@bigbreaks.com
www.Bigbreaks.com

Sabre Corporation

USA

Sean Menke has been promoted to President, CEO and a member of Sabre's board. Menke will succeed Tom Klein, who served as President, CEO and board member since 2013. Menke joined Sabre in October 2015 and currently serves as Executive Vice President of Sabre and President of Sabre Travel Network. Prior to Sabre, Menke served as CEO of Frontier Airlines and held senior executive positions at Hawaiian Airlines and Air Canada, among other carriers. He also served as Executive Vice President at IHS Services. He holds an MBA from the University of Denver and a dual Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Aviation from Ohio State University.



The Grand

New Delhi

The Grand New Delhi has appointed Rajat Sethi as the new General Manager. An industry veteran with over 18 years in the hospitality industry, Sethi brings with him holistic experience including pre-opening and expertise in revenue analysis, yield management and sales & marketing. An alumnus of IHM Chandigarh, he has held position of General Manager with leading hotels chains: Hilton Worldwide and Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. His career also boasts of a very successful eight-year stint with the Oberoi Hotels and Resorts at their flagship property-Trident Gurgaon.



AccorHotels

New Delhi

Rohit Chopra has been appointed as Regional Director of Sales, India, for AccorHotels India. In his new role, Chopra will be responsible for expanding the proposed sales structure in the country by developing various global sales offices in India. Chopra's career as a hotelier spans over two decades, including extensive experience in working with global hospitality leaders such as IHG, Marriott and Hyatt in leadership roles. Chopra completed his Bachelor of Commerce from DAV Amritsar and studied Marketing from Institute of Management Studies, Ghaziabad.



Aloft Bengaluru Cessna Business Park

Bengaluru

Aloft Bengaluru Cessna Business Park has appointed Saraswathi Naveen as Hotel Manager. She comes with over 15 years of experience in managing and leading the Sales & Marketing division and has been associated with Starwood Hotels & Resorts since August 2011. Her earlier projects include stints at Le Meridien, Bangalore where she was designated as Associate Director of Sales, General Manager at Regus Millenia Bangalore and Area Director for all four Regus Business Centres in Bangalore. She holds an MBA from Bangalore University.



Novotel Hyderabad Airport

Hyderabad

Nazma Mamaji joins Novotel Hyderabad Airport as Director of Sales and Marketing. A seasoned hotelier, Mamaji comes with over a decade of hospitality experience with deep expertise in business development and team handling. She was previously associated with leading hotel chains such as Hilton, Hyatt Hotels, IHHR hospitality and Indian Hotels Co Ltd. Nazma is a 1997 Hotel Management Graduate from Dr. D Y Patil College of Hotel Management Mumbai.



Four Seasons Hotel

Mumbai

Stephanie D'silva has recently taken on the helm of the Sales and Marketing division at Four Seasons Hotel Mumbai. She began her career with Fariyas Hotels and Resorts, then moving to Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces Mumbai for nine years. She moved on to helm the marketing and sales functions at The Westin Mumbai, and then the JW Marriott Juhu. A Post Graduate Diploma in Business Management from the Xavier's Institute of Management, Mumbai in International Sales and Marketing, D'silva is not only known for her business acumen, but also her bubbly personality.



Novotel Imagica Khopoli

Mumbai

AccorHotels has appointed Ajith Nair as the new Director of Sales and Marketing for Novotel Imagica Khopoli. In his role, Nair will be responsible for leading all aspects of the sales and marketing communications, and promoting brand strategies. Nair has been in the hospitality industry for over 16 years. Previously he was associated with Radisson Blu Resort, Karjat, Radisson Blu Resort, Goa, and Alcon Victor Group of Resorts, Goa. After pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Hotel Management, from The Institute of Hotel Management, Mangalore, Nair started his career from Hotel South Park, Trivandrum.



Crowne Plaza Jaipur Tonk Road

Jaipur

Rahul Singh Sisodia has been appointed as Director of Engineering at Crowne Plaza Jaipur Tonk Road and Area Engineering Champion for Central India & Holiday Inn Express. He is an Engineering graduate from Rajasthan Technical University. He has over nine years of experience capturing brands like IHHR (Ista), Starwood, Marriott & Hyatt during his industrial exposure where in acquiring detail knowledge, operational skill and expertise in his role.



Kunal Sabharwal has been appointed as Associate Director of Sales-Delhi, at Crowne Plaza Jaipur Tonk Road. He will be taking care of the MICE & travel trade for the hotel. He comes to Crowne Plaza Jaipur from The Grand Hotel, New Delhi, where he was working as Associate Director of Sales. He has worked with brands like ITC Hotel Maurya-The Luxury collection, Radisson Blu-CP, Radisson Blu-Paschim Vihar, Country Inn Sahibabad, Country Inn-Saket & Accor Hotels-Regional Sales, Delhi. He is a Post Graduate in Hotel Management from Annamalai University, Salem.



TALKing People

When Aashima Sharma, General Manager, Park Hyatt Chennai, starts to feel the anxiety setting in, she gives herself some time to meditate. "Half an hour of meditation does wonders for me. On days when I have some time to myself, I tend to indulge in a short dance regimen as I love to dance. As a person, I am very family oriented and have always been very passionate about my family, both, back at home and at work," she says. Traveling fascinates her and her favorite holiday is her trip to Cairns. Next on her list is New Zealand.



For Nikheel Shirodkar, General Manager, ibis Styles Goa Calangute, biking is not just a hobby but helps him de-stress as well. "I enjoy unwinding after a long day with motorbike rides in the bylanes of Goa which offers a great insight into the Goan culture and heritage," he says. Shirodkar is passionate about travelling as a backpacker. "Being from a family of doctors, I was always inclined to follow my father's footsteps. Hospitality happened at the last moment after HSC when love for food and travel took over medicine," he adds. Bali has been his most memorable holiday.



An early riser, Russell Shane Gregory, General Manager, U Tropicana Resort Alibaug, begins his day as early as 6.30 am with yoga and meditation. "This is something I have practiced and it has brought a dramatic change in my confidence, physical exuberance and most of all, the frame of mind that I carry to work. Other than this, I use my free time to converse with the kids, making it a point that I teach them something new every day," Shane says. Catching up with friends and reading a lot of fiction books are some of the things he takes up when he gets time.



NOW EVERYONE CAN FLY

WIDER NETWORK. UNIMAGINABLE FARE.

At AirAsia, we ensure that you get the best experience at the best fares. No doubt, we have been awarded the World's Best Low-Cost Airline for 8 consecutive years.



Fly to



Bengaluru



Goa



Guwahati



New Delhi

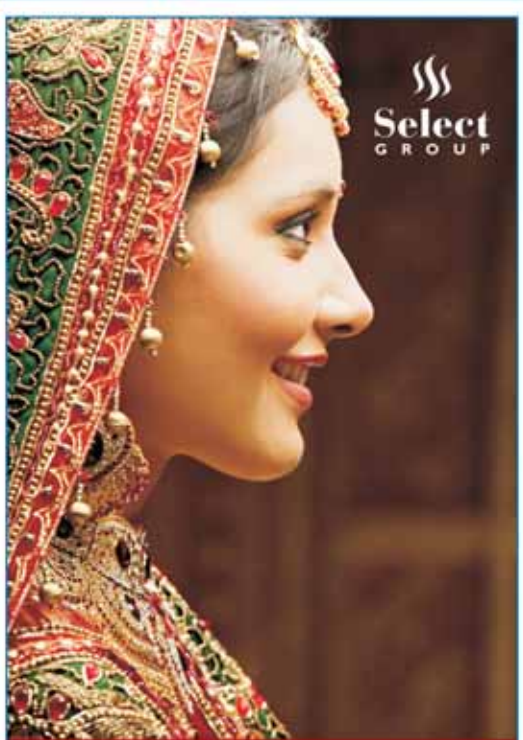
Chandigarh → Hyderabad → Imphal → Jaipur

Kochi → Pune → Visakhapatnam

..... and over 120 destinations across Asia and Australia.

AirAsiaIndia AirAsiaIN

AirAsia .com



PERFECT MOMENTS

Regal Weddings at Manesar

Celebrate your special day at the
Heritage Village Resort & Spa Manesar,

- Strategically located on NH8, 45 mins from Delhi airport and 30 mins from Gurgaon
- Magnificent royal architecture and ambience with 154 luxurious rooms
- 45000 sq feet of landscaped lawns for outdoor banquets and 12000 sq feet space for indoor banquets
- Master chefs and Speciality Maharaj's to create a culinary experience from a wide array of cuisines
- Dedicated banquet coordinators to look after every function from mehendi to bidai



Heritage
VILLAGE

—MANESAR—
NH 8, Gurgaon, Haryana

Resort & Spa

For reservations please contact :

Select Holidays Resorts Pvt.Ltd.
Level 7, Select Citywalk, A-3,
District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

Delhi: 011 46162650,
Mumbai: 022 66953082/3
Email : sales@selecthotels.in
www.selecthotels.co.in

CIN No. - U55101DL1989PTC037891

NIKKI DUGGAL DESIGN

Mumbai-Jakarta takes flight

Mumbai seems to have caught the eye of the Garuda. After commencing flights between Mumbai and Jakarta with a pit stop in Bangkok, the airline now wants a direct non-stop to cut down the turnaround time, reveals **M. Arif Wibowo**, President and CEO, Garuda Indonesia.



HAZEL JAIN FROM INDONESIA

Q Why did you choose Mumbai for your debut into India?

India has been a part of our milestone for expansion of our global network. One thing that we had to consider is that not only the China market, but even the India market has a lot of potential for us and needs to be explored. We considered Mumbai because of the traffic potential it offers. The market size from India to Indonesia is more than 3,00,000 travellers and around a third of this comes from Mumbai. This gets divided into two destinations – Bali which gets around 45 per cent of this traffic and Jakarta which gets the rest. The reverse traffic is also good. Indonesia is currently one of the largest markets to India with 350,000 people currently travelling to the region on both business and leisure.

Q How do you plan to expand your operations in India?

We have started with the Jakarta flight for which we considered Bangkok as the transit point. But in the future we

“Apart from Mumbai, we also see potential in New Delhi and Chennai markets. But first, we want to concentrate on Mumbai. If we see growth during the first three months we will increase the capacity also and after a year we will consider other cities from the India market.”

M. Arif Wibowo

President and CEO, Garuda Indonesia



Q What about other cities in India?

Apart from Mumbai, we also see potential in New Delhi and Chennai markets. But first, we want to concentrate on Mumbai. If we see growth during the first three months we will increase the capacity also and after a year we will consider other cities from the India market.

also the airline better. In fact, we recently hosted 18 travel agencies in partnership with a major DMC in Indonesia called Diorama Travel Management on our inaugural flight from Mumbai to showcase the destination as well as our convenient domestic connections. One agency was from Ahmedabad, two from Pune and the rest were from Mumbai. This included top operators like Thomas Cook, SOTC, Veena World and Akbar Holidays. So within Indonesia, we flew them from Jakarta-Bali, Bali-Jogjakarta, and finally Jogjakarta-Jakarta for their return flight to Mumbai. Our government has put a priority to enable tourists to explore our top 10 destinations and Garuda is connected to eight of these 10 destinations from either Jakarta or Bali.

Q What kind of growth are you expecting from India in 2017?

We expect a growth of 7-8 per cent from the India market in 2017 because of the growing economic trade relations between the two countries. We expect about 75 to 80 per cent load factor on our flights to India. Our inaugural flight from Mumbai to Jakarta recorded 90 per cent seat load factor, which is very promising for us.

Q What is the kind of market share that Garuda enjoys in India?

The current market share of Garuda Indonesia is only 27 per cent and we aim to take this to at least 40 per cent if not more. So by 2019, we expect Garuda to help our government reach the 20 million tourist mark it has set for itself. We will be offering the best fares to travel agents from India.

Q Will the agents get to experience the airline?

Yes, we plan to host travel agents on familiarisation trips so that they have a better understanding of our country and be able to sell not only the destination but



will consider having a direct flight depending upon the market response. We may soon replace the one-stop service to a non-stop direct flight from Jakarta to Mumbai or even consider a Bali-Mumbai direct flight. The opening of our flight to Mumbai is part of our international network development program, especially in the South Asia region, as well as our strong commitment to support the Indonesian government's aim to double the number of international tourists visiting the country by 2019. We will first study the demand for the first three months and if we see growth, we may also plan to increase the frequency.

Dreams get wings

Garuda Indonesia serves the Jakarta-Mumbai route via Bangkok route every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The service will be operated by Garuda's Boeing 738 aircraft with a two-class cabin configuration. The aircraft is capable of carrying 156 passengers (12 Business Class seats and 144 Economy Class seats).



BEAUTIFUL.
BEHOME.

With breathtaking views of Dubai Marina, a stay at La Verda promises the ultimate guest experience. Exceptionally unique in designs to secluded luxurious Suites & Villas. The next time you visit, you will have something more memorable to take home with you - a La Verda experience.



LA VERDA
SUITES & VILLAS DUBAI MARINA

For Reservations:

reservations@laverdadubaimarina.com
hotsales@ahsindia.com

Tel: +91-124-4209973 / +971-4-2785555

www.laverdadubaimarina.com

Experiential talk

For the discerning traveller

CANADA CHRONICLES

Nature lovers' paradise

A DUTCH WONDER

A sneak-peek into Dutch rural life



Panaromic Philippines



Boracay



Chocolate Hills, Bohol

It's more fun in the
Philippines



reema.gurung@buzzindia.in  www.facebook.com/PhilippinesTourismIN

www.tourism.gov.ph

SEVEN WONDERS

It may be a little myopic to say that we have (only) Seven Wonders in this beautiful world, as it would be to pick only seven spots from the seven continents to feature in this magazine. Still, one is forced to draw a line somewhere for all practical purposes.

The third edition of 'ExperientialTalk' addresses the point of 'Where?' – the most pertinent of all questions that a traveller asks when they decide to get away. The world is their playground and each of the seven continents that divide it has innumerable attractions that are unique to their country and region. This issue, however, zooms into only one such spot on every landmass and highlights its distinguishing feature.

While the destinations covered here on each continent may appear a bit random to the hasty reader, they might be inclined to change this perception on further review. Each of these destinations is in itself an ambassador (so to speak) of their continent and gives off a flavourful whiff of the fragrance that pervades the parent landmass.

The Philippines has the warmth and cultural richness that Asia is so steeped in, Peru is not only home to the ancient South American cultures but also to a section of the Amazon rainforest that the region is so famed for, and what better way to experience the surreal beauty of Antarctica than on a ship?

The following pages will reveal the Seven Wonders of the World handpicked by us. Some are daring and adventurous and others fascinating. But the one common thread that binds them all is that they are all experiences that are offbeat and unconventional.

HAZEL JAIN

NEWS IN BRIEF



SONEVA JANI OPENS IN MALDIVES

The Soneva story continues with Soneva Jani, the luxury resort operator's newest property, located in the Noonu Atoll, Maldives. The primarily overwater resort comprises 24 water villas and one island villa situated in a 5.6 km lagoon, one of the largest in the Maldives. All villas include a 13m private pool on the outdoor deck, a walk-in mini bar, and uninterrupted lagoon views. Three different glass-bottomed areas in each villa guarantee that the underwater world is never too far away.



Pod accommodation opens in Christchurch

New Zealand's first-ever 'micro accommodation' concept has been launched by tourism operator Jucy. Christchurch is the home of the pod-style hostels which see 271 beds just minutes from the international airport. The Jucy Snooze pod prices start at \$39.



Agri Tourism in Pune

Courtyard by Marriott Chakan has introduced an Agri Tourism Package offering a tour of the nearby farm. The hotel has cultivated a farm experience which is 12 kms away. As part of the experience guests are taken to the farm where they experience cows being milked, fed, and then taken to a village for a home-cooked meal.



Winter in Black Forest

In winter, the Feldberg and surrounding area offer the best conditions for all winter sport fans. This winter wonderland includes 60 lifts servicing exciting ski and snowboard slopes of every level, 700 kilometer of cross-country ski runs, 34 different sledding hills, about 300 kilometers of cleared hiking trails and a wide range of different level signposted snow shoe trails. The Winter Wonderland package is valid from Jan-Mar 2017, and includes two overnights in the Best Western Hotel Hofgut Sternen.

Amsterdam's festival of light

The fifth edition of the Amsterdam Light Festival will see a host of Dutch and international artists contribute to the festival, creating site-specific light sculptures around the Canal Ring, the River Amstel and other special locations. Look out for dedicated canal cruises and a walking route taking in the selection of spectacular illuminated artworks. The renowned Water Colors canal cruises can be enjoyed for the entirety of the Amsterdam Light Festival, ensuring visitors can see the city at its best — from the water — and get up close to all of the major artworks. There are also guided tours and an extensive side-programme that will see a host of activities and events take place at museums, theatres, restaurants, shops and other locations in Amsterdam.



Luxury train through Ireland



The Belmond Grand Hibernian has introduced the first luxury sleeper train to travel throughout the Island of Ireland. The tour heads from Dublin to Cork where guests will visit the Jameson's Distillery, followed by a

private visit of Blarney Castle where it is traditional to 'kiss the Blarney Stone'. The sleeper cars feature 20 luxury en-suite cabins including four double cabins with spacious storage. Belmond Grand Hibernian offers two, four and six-night itineraries for up to 40 guests. In the upcoming season it will run from April 25, 2017 to October 14, 2017. Prices start from €3,160 per person for a two-night journey with two guests sharing a twin or double cabin.



The Pachamama ritual

Belmond Sanctuary Lodge, the only hotel located next to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Machu Picchu, Peru, invites guests to discover ancient traditions in a setting surrounded by nature. The Pachamama ritual (\$350 per person) is based on mystical practices of Andean communities which honor the Incan goddess of Mother Nature, believed to help renew both body and soul. An Andean shaman leads an hour-long ceremony in the hotel's gardens. The Pachamama experience is available all year around, and is subject to weather conditions as the rituals are performed outdoors.



Canal boating in France

Discover river and canal boating in France with Le Boat's boating vacations by TUI India. Travellers can choose from 10 regions with distinct scenery, gastronomy, culture and charm and explore them at their own pace aboard the self-drive barge. The Golden Midi Cruise for instance takes travellers to the charming Port Cassafières where they can find themselves on the golden sands of the Mediterranean. After a swim and a delicious meal, they can begin the boat rent on the Canal du Midi, heading to quiet villages and bustling Béziers, passing through the famous Fonsérannes Locks and the amazing Tunnel de Malpas. Le Boat is Europe's self-drive boating rental company. Renters can sleep on board in five-star comfort, saving on hotel costs. All boats feature fully-equipped kitchens, comfortable furnishings, showers, and warm air heating.

Experientialtalk

Vikramajit
CHAIRMAN

SanJeet
EDITOR & PUBLISHER

COVER PICTURE:
Destination Canada

EDITORIAL
Devika Jeet
Peden Doma Bhutia
Hazel Jain
Ruchi J. Singh
Shivani Kaul

ADVERTISING
Gunjan Sabikhi
Harshal Ashar
Karishma Khanna
Priyanshu Wankhade
Gaganpreet Kaur
Susan Eapen

DESIGN
Raashi Ajmani Girdhar

ADVERTISEMENT DESIGNERS
Vikas Mandotia / Nitin Kumar

PRODUCTION
Anil Kharbanda

CIRCULATION
Ashok Rana



Heart of the Indian Ocean

Located 210 kms from Mauritius, **Reunion Island** has a tremendous mixture of wild nature and authentic culture.

TRAVELLER'S ISLAND

With 40 per cent of its 2512 sq kms territory classified as World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the culture-rich island has Asian cuisine to creole markets, from Buddhist traditions to Tamil, Islamic or Christian rituals. The contrasting experiences are unique in that, in only a few hours, you can be in the expansive volcanic lunar landscapes, then in the translucent waters of the lagoons or enjoying the feeling of being on top of the world in the lush green vegetation of one of the picturesque craters.

VOLCANOES

In 2010, UNESCO included Reunion Island's volcanic peaks, cirques and ramparts in its list of natural World Heritage Sites. Reunion

Island is synonymous with Piton des Neiges (Snow Mountain) - the volcano which has been dormant for 120 centuries, is the origin of the creation of two thirds of the island, more than three million years ago. Eroded by time and the absence of volcanic activity, it still remains the highest summit in the island, at 3,071 metres above sea level. However, its name is deceptive, because this island rooftop is rarely covered in a white blanket of snow: there is no permanent snow cover and snowfall is in fact very rare. Nonetheless, it is cold and hikers who want to climb it must ensure they are well equipped.

HELICOPTER

With its 'Gay Friendly' label, Coral Helicopters offers various sightseeing flights as well as private and business travel from the airport at Saint-Gilles-les-Bains and Pierrefonds, and is a must to do activity for tourists. Coral Helicopters has a fleet of five Squirrel Eurocopters, including two new EC130B4s.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air Austral, the French airline of the Indian Ocean, is the only airline to offer direct flights between Reunion Island and Chennai with connection from various cities in India in code share with Air India. It operates two flights per week on Reunion to Chennai - Tuesday

& Friday and vice versa on Wednesday & Saturday.

VISA

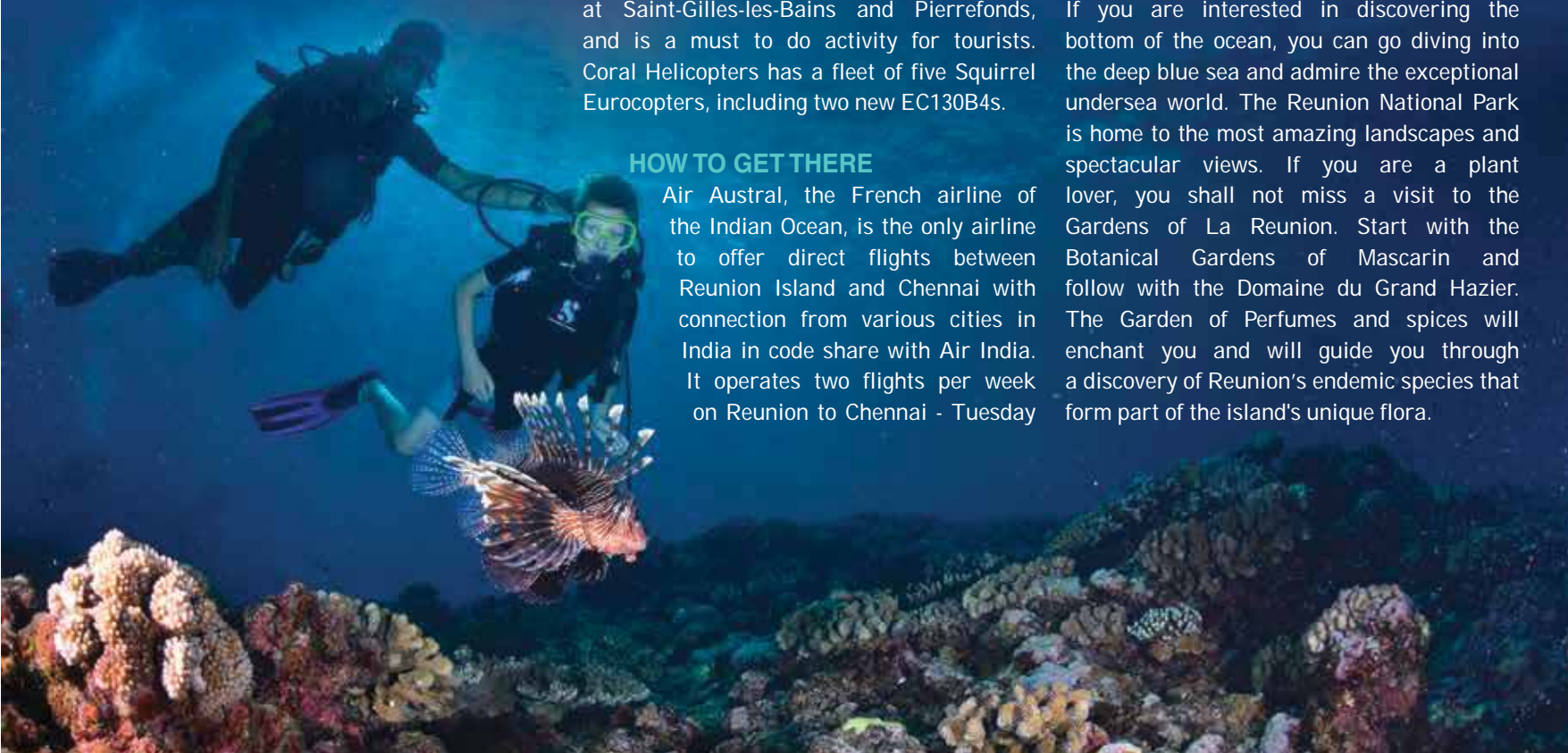
For passengers travelling to Reunion Island from India, there is a 15 days free visa on booking package through tour operators or local DMC.

SELF DRIVE

The best and most affordable way to explore the island is to drive, and car hire is readily available. Drivers are required to produce an international or French driver's licence. It's a left-hand side drive and French rules of the road apply.

ACTIVITIES

If you are interested in discovering the bottom of the ocean, you can go diving into the deep blue sea and admire the exceptional undersea world. The Reunion National Park is home to the most amazing landscapes and spectacular views. If you are a plant lover, you shall not miss a visit to the Gardens of La Reunion. Start with the Botanical Gardens of Mascarin and follow with the Domaine du Grand Hazier. The Garden of Perfumes and spices will enchant you and will guide you through a discovery of Reunion's endemic species that form part of the island's unique flora.



utch



D

A

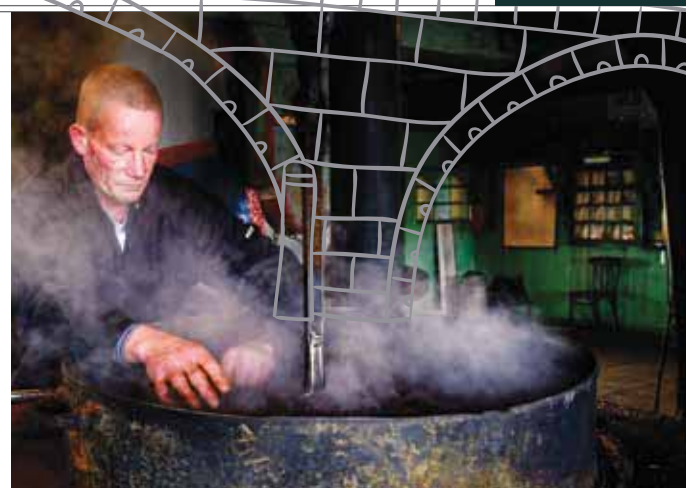


wonder

Zaanse Schans, on the outskirts of Amsterdam in Northern Holland, is a quaint settlement offering a sneak peek into Dutch rural life with windmills and houses standing tall from yore.

RUCHI J. SINGH





The Zaanse Schans encompasses seven museums and various handicraft factories that show how raw materials were procured and then processed

The Zaanse Schans gets its name from the river Zaan and its original function as a scone (schans in Dutch) against the Spanish troops during the Eighty Years' War of Dutch Independence. It is now an open residential area exhibiting the Dutch lifestyle from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Inge Kroonenberg, Manager Marketing & PR, Zaanse Schans, details the importance this settlement holds in the depiction of Dutch history and culture. "The Zaanse Schans is undoubtedly one of the most picturesque places in the Netherlands. An 18th and 19th century living and working community, the Zaanse Schans is a unique Dutch heritage site that impressively showcases the golden age of the Zaan region — Western Europe's very first industrial area," she says. Kroonenberg informs that the houses, shops, barns and windmills were moved here in the 1960s and 70s. The buildings came from all over the Zaan region, transported

here by road using huge cranes or by water, using special pontoons.

The Zaanse Schans encompasses seven museums and various handicraft factories that show how raw materials were procured and then processed into the everyday things used by the Dutch. See how a piece of wood gets transformed into a clog, how barrels were made in the ancient times and see a local weave sails used on Dutch boats. For the connoisseurs with finer palates, there is a chocolate museum, a cheese museum and a bakery museum.

As far as visitor numbers are concerned, China is their biggest market in Asia. Kroonenberg says, "In 2015, 24 per cent of our 1.9 million visitors came from China/Taiwan/Hong Kong and 11 per cent come from the rest of Asia (including India)." Also, the Zaanse Schans as a foundation currently has no trade partners in India. However, some of the companies who work with them recently visited Asia "to close some deals."

GOOD TO KNOW

The only option for accommodations in Zaanse Schans itself is B&B Heerlijck Slaapen. An absolute high point is the unique Inntel Hotel in Zaandam, which can only be described as a big, beautiful pile of Zaanse facades.



Canada Chronicles



Not the weather, but how you dress makes all the difference in Canada. The country is the world's second largest landmass, blessed with surreal landscapes and is an ultimate treat for nature lovers.

ANUPRIYA BISHNOI

BLUE MOUNTAIN

Blue Mountain is a town in Grey County where the Beaver River flows into Nottawasaga Bay. Pristine views accompanied by blissful weather will set the tone for the day, without you fretting about jet lag.

This place has everything for everyone. If you are someone who is looking for dining out in one of the famous patios, you can pick a restaurant located in town or unwind at one of the breweries. For those who want to get a panoramic view of the town, a gondola ride to the top of Blue Mountain can take care of that. This town will serve as a break from the maddening bustle of city life.

From experiencing 'Ice Cave', a natural refrigerator which remains at approximately four degrees Celsius even in the summer, to a crevasse which is 14 inches broad at its narrowest, Scenic Caves make sure you have a strenuous day. These caves are best described as a series of chambers, with sculptured cliffs, overhanging rocks, boulders, tight passageways and jigsaw puzzle fractures.

Adventure unlimited

For the adrenaline junkies, Canada's longest Twin Zip Line ride can always find some time in your itinerary. The Twin Zip ride is a kaleidoscope of the Ontario's best views above the treetops. Thunderbird Twin Zip Line is located in the interior of the park. To access it, hike above the caves trails up to the top of the escarpment. The adrenaline kicks in as you pull the handle down to become airborne. On clear days, you will see magnificent views of southern Georgian Bay, Collingwood, the Blue Mountains, Wasaga Beach, even Christian Island and beyond.

For real adventurers, there really never is a pause. To make your stay more exciting, go for canoeing in the Beaver River which will turn out to be arduous yet an unforgettable activity. But before you plan to row on the Beaver River, make sure you have a bottle full of water and some music.

When your body asks for a break, give it one but with a luxury twist. This break could be one of the signature experiences of Collingwood. Scandinave Spa at Blue Mountain is renowned for its energising and relaxing properties. The Scandinavian baths cleanse the skin,



improve physical condition and promote a sense of well-being. One can try the Finnish sauna, eucalyptus steam bath, thermal and Nordic waterfalls, hot baths and cold plunges. Complete the experience by enjoying the serenity of the solariums and relaxation areas and the outdoor fireplaces. Do not leave without visiting one of the vineyards where the region's unique terroir of soils and climate influences wine styles and flavours.

TORONTO

Whether you're travelling with family or having a couple's weekend, you're a sports fan or a spa goer, Toronto has it all. No matter where you are, you'll find safe neighbourhoods and convenient transit links which will make shopping, strolling, and snacking convenient. So put on those walking shoes, pick up your camera as some of the most exotic 'Instagrammable' locations are waiting to

enchant you. The architects of Toronto have juggled between the historical preservation and the needs of developers. Historically rich and contemporarily brash, Toronto has blossomed into a city with places of everybody's interest.

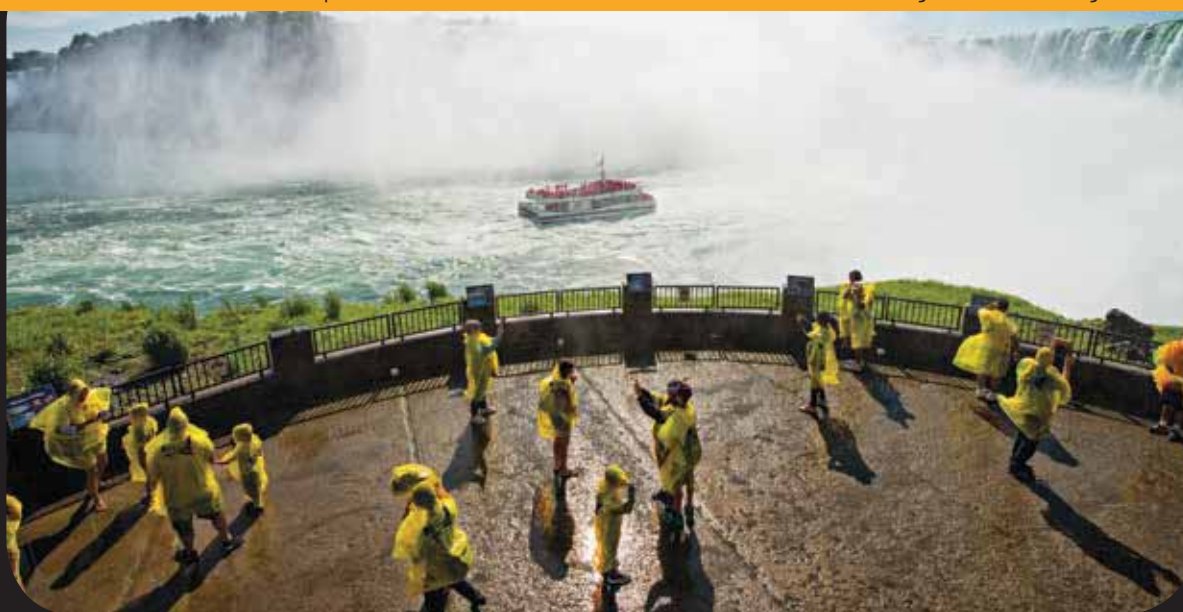
Eat street

Yonge Street is one of the most popular attractions of Toronto, bound by historic and commercial buildings. Bankers, lawyers, students and thousands of office workers keep this district buzzing during the day while party-goers venture out mostly at night. This street is equipped with the best of the shopping spots and eating joints.

Eaton Centre is Canada's most celebrated landmark that houses over 250+ best-in-class retailers, restaurants and services in the heart of downtown. Talking of fine-dining, 360 The Restaurant at



The architects of Toronto juggled between historical preservation and the needs of developers. It has blossomed into a city for everybody



the CN Tower is one of Toronto's finest, features unforgettable food combined with a magnificent revolving view of Toronto more than 351 metres (1,151 ft) below. So while you can enjoy inventive, Canadian sourced and seasonal menu, one can also experience the breathtaking 360-degree view of the city. After enjoying dinner one can either enjoy some signature wines at the restaurant or can head towards the breweries located in the hub of the Downtown.

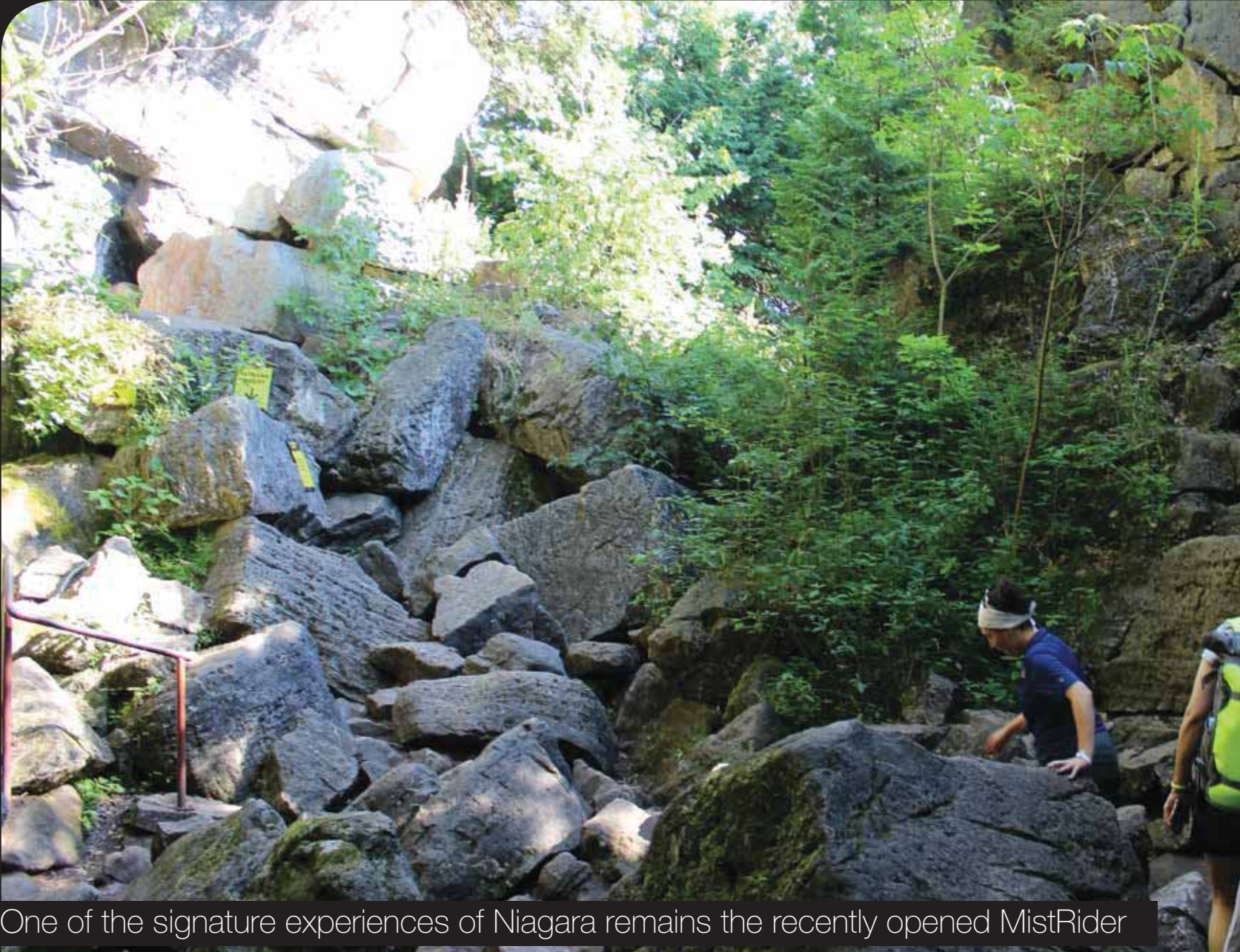
For those who are on a limited budget and looking for inexpensive shopping, Chinatown is a great option. This dynamic neighbourhood has been home to generations of Chinese, Eastern European, Caribbean, Latin American and Vietnamese immigrants who have made Toronto what it is today. Right from Kensington Market to Queen Street West, this area is known for everything from international

produce to discounted goods to cutting-edge clothes, boutiques and vibrant restaurants.

The Old Town + The Distillery Historic District caters to those who love food and culture. The district was designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1988 while its origin dates back to early 19th century. One can head to El Catrin for authentic traditional and modern Mexican cuisine.

The culinary tour to Centre Island counts as one of the most unforgettable experiences during my visit to this magnificent city. Towards evening, one can canoe till Centre Island to experience one of the many culinary tours organised here. All you have to do is to get your tour booked in advance.

While canoeing, the skyline of Toronto with a view of some exotic birds accompanied by a quaint sunset



One of the signature experiences of Niagara remains the recently opened MistRider Zipline, overlooking both the American and Canadian Horseshoe Falls





will revitalise you. Escape the confines of the city while experiencing the best of food during the culinary trail. This city has so much to offer, a month is too short a time to explore it.

NIAGARA

After making the most of Toronto, we headed to the world's largest waterfalls – Niagara Falls. From vineyard tours to outdoor excitement and family fun, there's more to discover beyond the Falls. About a 90-minute drive from Downtown Toronto, the Niagara Region has a lot of activities to indulge in. Right from the majestic Falls to the quaint wine valley, you will never run out of options.

Hornblower Niagara Cruises

Hornblower Niagara Cruises bring you as close as possible to the breathtaking flow of water, power and mist of the magnificent Niagara Falls. Within the Niagara Great Gorge you'll journey past the American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls and into the heart of the Horseshoe Falls. As you get closer to the Falls you'll feel the mist on your face. This is the second best way to experience the Falls, 'Behind the Falls' remains the first. With facilities like that of a bar on a cruise, one can have a perfect evening while getting lost behind the majestic Falls.

Niagara Helicopters

The helicopter tour is one of the most exotic ways to experience the Niagara Falls. Get a bird's-eye view from the helicopter as it flies you close enough to feel the power of the Falls. Niagara Helicopters is an exciting way to experience the Falls from the cockpit of a helicopter, that takes you as close as possible to the thundering heart of the Falls for a personal tour narrated in 12 different languages.

Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours

If you are a thrill seeker, catch an adrenaline rush riding the Class 5 rapids of the Niagara River. With Whirlpool Jet Boat Tours one can experience so much. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to comfortably experience what is commonly referred to as the 'Mount Everest' of white water. As you speed along the Lower Niagara River at 80 km/h in the confines of this truly one-of-a-kind jet boat, the river guide will tell you all about the fascinating history of the Niagara area, local points of interest as well as the mechanics of the impressive vessel you are touring in. The highlights will include the power plants of

the Niagara Gorge, the 175ft. stone wall canyon, and the Whirlpool Cable Car.

WildPlay's MistRider Zipline

One of the signature experiences of Niagara remains the recently opened MistRider Zipline. On the grounds of Queen Victoria Park, overlooking both the American and Canadian Horseshoe Falls, Niagara's newest tourism experience has taken flight. WildPlay's MistRider Zipline to the Falls was officially opened to the public by The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC) and WildPlay Niagara Falls.

Designed to enhance the overall tourism offerings of Niagara and Niagara Parks, WildPlay's MistRider Zipline to the Falls consists of four parallel lines that take guests on a 670 metre (2,200 ft) long scenic ride from Niagara Parks Grand View Marketplace to the historic Ontario Power Company building located within the Niagara Gorge.

Outlet Collection at Niagara

One of my favourite experiences in Ontario is shopping at Outlet Collection at Niagara. As Canada's largest open-air outlet shopping centre, this shopping destination is home to 100+ fashion, beauty and lifestyle brands. One should at least keep six hours for this.

Journey behind the Falls

The other most interesting aspect of the Niagara Falls is its journey behind the Horseshoe Falls. Linked through the tunnel, you will be surprised at how loud the Falls are. During the summer, over 2,800 cubic meters of water thunders over the brink every second, travelling 65 kilometres per hour.

There are so many activities to do around Niagara that one should at least have a week at disposal.

One can head out for a wine experience as the Niagara wine country is blessed with more than 80 wineries across the region. Visitors to the winery can choose from a variety of wine experiences. From tasting out in the vineyard to learning the art of pairing, the experience is worth driving down for. One gets to learn the nuances of the drink and to appreciate its fine taste. At Peller Estates, one can take a walk in the vineyard while appreciating the wine. But better still, opt for an ice lounge experience where one can taste ice wine in -10 degree Celsius.



While the Amazon rainforest can be accessed from many South American countries, it is best to experience it from Peru. More than 50 per cent of Peru comprises massive tropical rainforests which also border Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia and Bolivia.

The Peruvian Amazon rainforest is a paradise of biodiversity. It consists of the most diversified species on the planet. Whether it is the giant trees, the toothy caimans, giant anacondas, jaguars,

tapirs or anteaters, there are numerous, amazing as well as mysterious, creatures found here. This region of Peru is also home to indigenous communities that promote ecotourism.

MANU NATIONAL PARK

The Manu National Park, located in the region of Madre de Dios and the Loreto, are amongst the most amazing places of the Peruvian rainforests. It is one of the most famous and the largest conserved natural areas across the world, covering an area of 1,716,295.22 hectares. Since 1977, the area has constituted the core of the Manu Biosphere Reserve, declared a World

Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1987. Manu National Park has a diversified species of animals, plants and insects. Most of the area in the park is reserved for research purpose only and not for public. The park consists of some wonderful landscapes, vegetation along with fantastic flora and fauna.

The area holds over 1,000 species of bird and 200 species of mammals. Trees touch a height of over 45 metres and measure three metres in diameter. Tourists can take a tour of Manu National Park accompanied by authorised guides. It can be reached from Cuzco along the Cuzco-

The amazing Amazonia

The Amazon rainforest, covering much of northwestern Brazil and extending into Colombia, is the world's largest tropical rainforest.

HAZEL JAIN



Paucartambo road (10 hours using a 4x4). From Atalaya the trip continues by river to Boca Manu (seven hours by boat). Afterwards, you have to travel along the Manu River to access the park. It is also possible to reach Boca Manu from Cuzco by a light aircraft (45 minutes).

Loreto is Peru's northernmost region and is by far the nation's largest region. It is also one of the most sparsely populated. It is covered by dense vegetation and by primary and secondary jungles with low hills and slightly rolling landscape, crisscrossed by the many rivers of the Amazon River basin. Iquitos, the capital of

GOOD TO KNOW

- The Southeast Peruvian forests have numerous lodges and tourist facilities including local guides
- Tours are possible through flights and boats
- Cusco is the getaway destination for tourists who wish to reach the southern regions of the Peruvian Rainforest
- The Peruvian region of 'Madre de Dios' is one of the best places for exploring the jungles and can be reached by road or air

Loreto, is the main port city on the Amazon River — the longest and mightiest river by volume on the planet — and the largest city in the Peruvian jungle. The only way to reach it is by air or by river making it, more or less, an island in the midst of a vast ocean of green forests, cut off by meandering rivers. It is this exact isolation that contributes to its charm. There is ground and river transportation, guided tours, full service expeditions to the jungle, cruises down the Amazon and its tributaries and visits to native communities. Also in the area are travel agencies, basic services, camp grounds and tourist information and assistance offices.

Iquitos, the capital of Loreto, is the main port city on the Amazon River — the longest and mightiest river by volume on the planet — and the largest city in the Peruvian jungle



Taming of the WOOLIES

Kangaroo Island in South Australia gives visitors a chance to get up close and personal with the marsupials in their natural habitat.

HAZEL JAIN





Getting to KANGAROO ISLAND

By ferry: Kangaroo Island Sealink operates two large, luxurious vehicle and passenger ferries, between Cape Jervis (approx. 2 hour drive from Adelaide) and Penneshaw KI. Bookings are necessary. Mainland coach connections are available to/from Adelaide and Goolwa to Cape Jervis.

By air: A 30-minute flight operates between the main terminal at the Adelaide Airport and Kingscote KI Airport.



An island with 509 km of coastline and 155 km from the East Coast to the West Coast, Kangaroo Island is one of Australia's natural wonders. It has native bushland, wildlife, and adventure but also beaches and local wines.

There are so many fantastic places to see on Kangaroo Island (KI) and one of the best ways to experience its splendid scenery is to self-drive. Visitors can hire a car when they get there. Exploring Kangaroo Island by car is a wonderful way to travel the 1,600 km of roads which will take them through the major townships.

If they wish to go bush, they can travel on the unsealed roads leading them to tucked-away beaches, natural wildlife habitats and special destinations. For those who wish to sit back and be guided through the beautiful terrain on

Kangaroo Island, there are many tour options available. For instance, they can take tailored tours that include major attractions, lighthouses, wildlife, extreme adventuring, food and wine, heritage and history, boating and fishing, cycling, bush walking and much more!

The region is promoted by the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC). According to **Dana Urmonas**, Regional Director, Southeast Asia & India, SATC, Kangaroo Island is very unique. "You get an idea of just how vast it is and how spacious it is. It is all about wildlife. This is a place where people get to really unwind. They can get up close and personal with nature here – we have Seal Bay on KI that is the third largest colony of seals in Australia. It has hundreds of seals in their natural environment basking on the beach. Visitors can go on a guided tour and walk past them. There are no fences so you have to be very aware of your surroundings because they can

charge. But most of the time they are just relaxing and sunbathing. Visitors get this real intimate experience being close to wildlife."

GETTING AROUND KANGAROO ISLAND

She recommends two nights at least but it can also be done as a day tour. Seal Bay is home to a colony of 600 rare Australian Sea Lions. Other than that, there is Remarkable Rocks in KI which is very unique and distinctive and is one of the key places to visit on KI. It has been formed over 500 million years and is an unmistakable red. It is on a cliff making this spot extremely windy.

Urmonas adds, "We have actually been voted the Friendliest State in all of Australia. We have premium products targeted at families as well as honeymooners. Indian food is available with many Indian restaurants in the city centre."

The Phenomenal Philippines

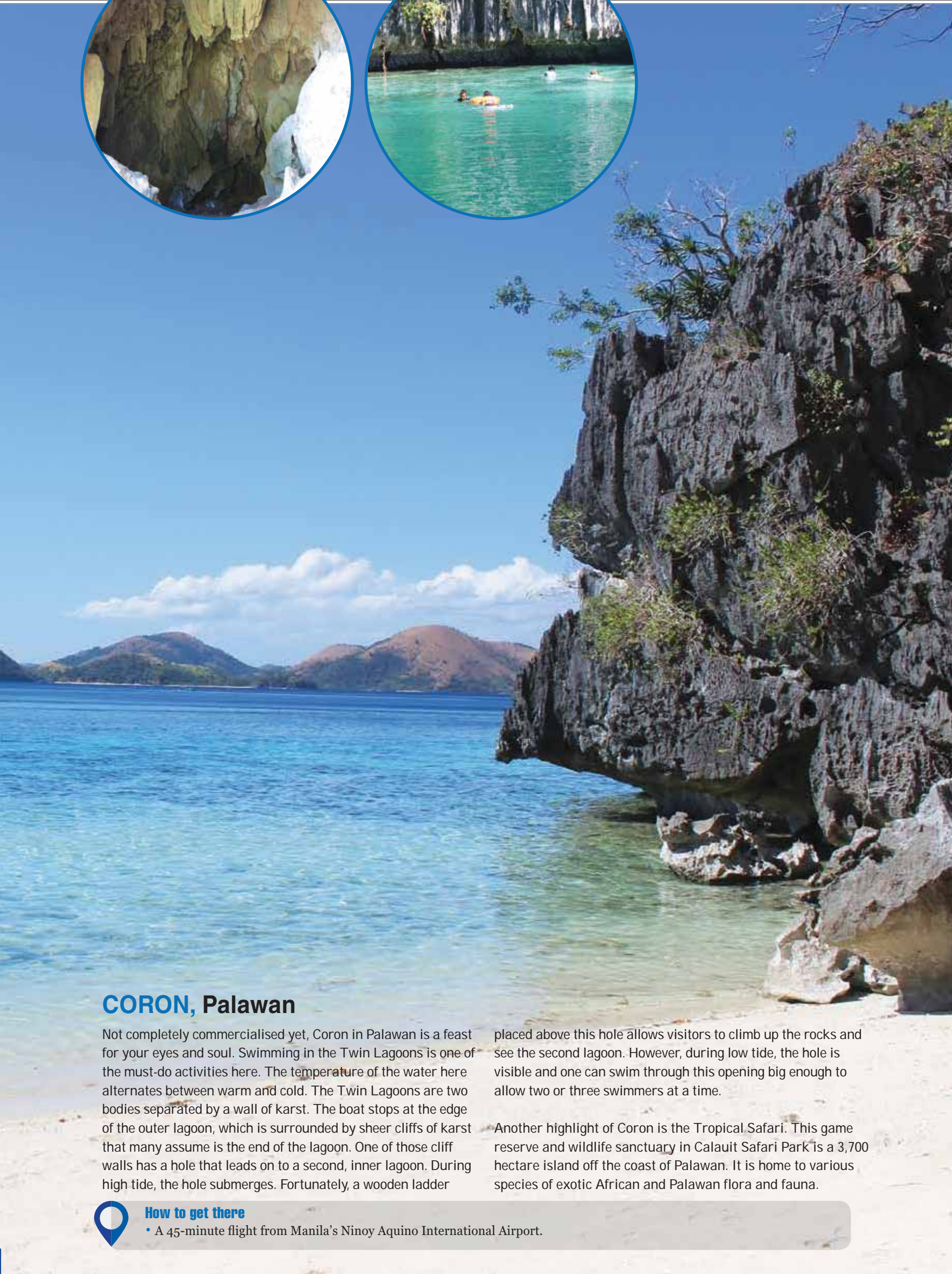
From meeting endangered tarsier in Bohol, soaking in the nightlife of Boracay to floating in the pristine waters of Palawan, the Philippines will ensure not a single dull moment.

ANUPRIYA BISHNOI



Photographs by: Anupriya Bishnoi

Swimming in the Twin Lagoons is one of the must-do activities. The temperature of the water varies from warm to cold and the lagoons are separated by a wall of karst



CORON, Palawan

Not completely commercialised yet, Coron in Palawan is a feast for your eyes and soul. Swimming in the Twin Lagoons is one of the must-do activities here. The temperature of the water here alternates between warm and cold. The Twin Lagoons are two bodies separated by a wall of karst. The boat stops at the edge of the outer lagoon, which is surrounded by sheer cliffs of karst that many assume is the end of the lagoon. One of those cliff walls has a hole that leads on to a second, inner lagoon. During high tide, the hole submerges. Fortunately, a wooden ladder

placed above this hole allows visitors to climb up the rocks and see the second lagoon. However, during low tide, the hole is visible and one can swim through this opening big enough to allow two or three swimmers at a time.

Another highlight of Coron is the Tropical Safari. This game reserve and wildlife sanctuary in Calauit Safari Park is a 3,700 hectare island off the coast of Palawan. It is home to various species of exotic African and Palawan flora and fauna.



How to get there

- A 45-minute flight from Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Indulge in parasailing that gives a breathtaking view of Boracay and is one of the best island highs. Deep-sea diving will bring you face to face with turtles and nudibranchs



BORACAY

Asia's 24x7 island, Boracay is known for its powder-white sand. It is not just a party destination but also has adventure sports activities such as jet-skiing, banana boat rides, and cliff jumping from 80 feet into the water. One can also indulge in parasailing that gives a breathtaking view of Boracay and is one of the best island highs. Deep-sea diving will bring you face to face with the turtles and nudibranchs.

A sports activity that should not be missed is Helmet Diving. At first it appears cumbersome to wear a 40 kilo helmet but you forget about the weight the moment you are pushed into the water and start walking on the sea bed. Admire the sea life and feed the fishes while you're there. A therapeutic massage after a day of adventure is the best way to end it.

At dusk, one can dance their night away at one of the famous pubs by the beach. One can also sign up for a pub crawl or a bar-hopping tour of Boracay. For shopping, the local shops offer inexpensive and unique stuff.



How to get there

- The easiest way to get to Boracay is to fly into Caticlan Airport from Manila and then take a boat to the island.

BOHOL

Bohol consists of the island itself and 75 minor islands surrounding it. Away from the bustle of the city, Bohol is a destination to unwind with a sprinkle of a few adventurous activities. Set out for dolphin watching at 5 AM, where the dolphins will swim along your boat and dance as you clap. Chocolate Hills on the other hand, is ideal for people of all ages, even for those suffering from diabetes! That's because these hills are 1,776 domes of limestone, nearly symmetrical in shape and height, and extend till you can see the horizon.

One of the biggest highlights of Bohol is the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary, which is where visitors can get close to the saucer-eyed, palm-sized endangered animal. Prior to the sanctuary, many tarsiers were kept as pets but the environment they were kept in was not conducive for their survival. Tarsiers are delicate creatures and get stressed easily. They are known to commit suicide via banging their heads against tree trunks, so visitors must lower their voices and refrain from using camera flash. Touching the tarsiers is an absolute no-no.



How to get there

- It is a 50-minute flight from Manila's Ninoy Aquino International Airport to Tagbilaran Airport



One of the biggest highlights of Bohol is the Philippine Tarsier Sanctuary, which is where visitors can get close to the saucer-eyed, palm-sized endangered animal



KING of the castle

Despite donning many hats over the last few decades, Cox & Kings has emerged as one of the largest specialists in leisure travel. **PETER KERKAR**, Director and Promoter, Cox & Kings, reveals more.

HAZEL JAIN

HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE 'EXPERIENTIAL' TRAVEL?

Today, travel is all about experiences. Travellers are inspired to travel to destinations to not just visit tourist attractions but rather immerse and take away an experience. Experiential travel means different things to different people. It could take various forms such as local living or soft adventure.

An increasing number of people on a holiday are incorporating local experiences which are authentic and in some form adventurous — where they want to connect with the local community, understand the local culture, engage in local activities, festivities, etc.

There are also those who would like to give back to society by assisting the local community. A growing segment of travellers worldwide is going beyond just watching monuments or landmarks. They rather travel like a local. It is a concept that is going to evolve with time as the growing tribe of millennials will define and redefine the future of experiential travel.

HOW HAS THE TRAVELLER PROFILE IN INDIA CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

Till a decade ago, it was the urban areas that were driving the growth for travel both within India and overseas. However, the scenario has changed. Today the growth drivers are Category II and III cities. They are fuelling the growth in travel. Travel has become a lifestyle choice these

days. The days of single holidays a year has changed to multiple vacations every year. They may enjoy one big family vacation but they also take a few breaks round the year. These may be weekend breaks to spiritual vacations or just a staycation to rewind and relax. The business of holidays has grown and we see this as a sign of a maturing society.

We see a growth in niche vacations such as women-only tours which we promote under the Getaway Goddess brand and also luxurious camping holidays under the TUTC brand. This indicates the evolution of the Indian traveller. In the semi-urban and rural areas, we find that there is a huge demand for culinary vacations, self-drive holidays which say a lot about the maturity of the Indian traveller.

HOW DO YOU SEE EXPERIENCE-BASED TRAVEL GROW AND EVOLVE IN INDIA?

It is amazing to see that Indians have such varied interests that are translating into their style of travel. The discerning Indian traveller has become more inquisitive and adaptive in nature and there is a huge shift in the way they perceive travel. The intimate 'experiential' travel is fast catching up and going to grow three-fold in the next couple of years gaining prominence from the experience-hungry-middle-class traveller who is seeking exotic and unique holiday experience.

Millennials will drive significant demand for more experiential and adventurous travel as they focus on aspects like community, culture, culinary delights, conservation initiatives and destinations that are soon disappearing due to climate change. Personalisation and customisation will be key drivers.



JOURNEY SO FAR

- Kerkar is the founder member of the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)
- He has a distinction in Anthropology from Stanford University, USA
- He joined Cox & Kings Travel Limited in October of 1986 as General Manager
- He is based in UK



Breaking the ICE

The southernmost continent and site of the South Pole, Antarctica is a virtually uninhabited landmass. But a handful of adventurous Indians are now including it in their bucket list.



The Drake Passage is widely considered the world's roughest passage to sail through. Some guests carried seasickness patches as a precautionary measure

I arrived in Ushuaia, Argentina, located at the tip of South America after a longish flight via Buenos Aires to board the expedition ship 'Sea Spirit'. I was pleasantly surprised by the ship's cabin size especially since it was one of the smaller expedition ships. After dinner we were issued our official Quark Expeditions' bright yellow parkas which we would get to keep as a souvenir. The waterproof parka was good quality and lined with a warm removable fleece that would keep us warm and dry. We also collected waterproof rubber boots (a loaner) for wet landings.

We crossed the Drake Passage on day three and four. The

Drake Passage is widely considered the world's roughest passage to sail through. A lot of the guests had carried seasickness patches and put them behind their back on the afternoon of departure as a precautionary measure. I, on the other hand, survived on the drake diet (green apples) instead! We spent the next two days in open seas preparing for the exciting days ahead. The expedition team had organised lectures and interactive sessions to familiarise us with the type of birds, mammals and ice we would encounter.

As the continent's coastline made its first appearance, we got ready to set foot on the seventh continent. The morning landing was at Mikkelsen Harbour. A penguin colony, along



with seals and an old whaling boat and whale bones made it an interesting place.

The next day we dropped anchor near a small island called Cuverville. We first spent some time on land with the penguins and then took to the water in zodiacs for a cruise and some whale-watching. Early next morning we entered the Lemaire Channel. Guests emerged from their suites to capture 'The Kodak Channel' — one of the most photogenic locations in the Antarctica.

Our next destination was Pleneau Island — a beautiful place commonly called the 'Iceberg Graveyard' because large icebergs get carried into this passageway and trapped by a series of shallow rocks. As we got back on the ship some guests were getting ready for their Polar Plunge — 22 brave swimmers dived into the icy waters!

We then made our way to Port Lockroy. It was renovated in and now hosts a museum, gift shop and post office operated by the United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust. The small rustic building is manned by three staff members each summer. They maintain the station as a living museum and monitor the effects of visitors on the penguin rookeries. It's also the only place we visited that sold authentic Antarctic souvenirs. I got my passport stamped and mailed some postcards home, that'd take three months to reach India!

The writer is *Tarique Hussain*, Co-founder, CruiseClub Vacations



imt
TRAVEL SERVICES S.A.

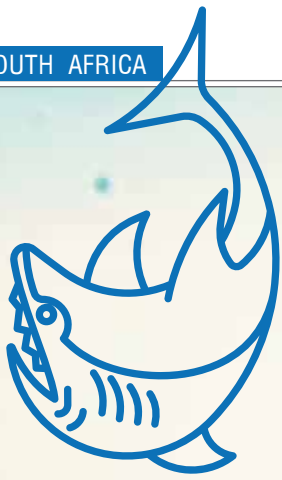
*One Stop Solution for Greece, Your Next Door
Destination Management Company*

We are specialized in:

- Romantic Honeymoon Packages
- Family tours
- MICE & Incentive Corporate Holidays
- Weddings
- Cruise package
- Jeep Safari
- Sailing

For Queries and Booking, Please contact us below:
Office Address: 112, 1st Floor, D- Wing Twin Arcade Building, Military Road, Marol, Andheri (E)
Mumbai -400059 | Landline No: 022 40238076/40043259 | Email: ops@irisreps.in
Web: www.irisreps.in

IRIS Reps



Face to face with **aaws**

The Great White Shark, swimming in South African waters, has led the way to shark tourism.



It was Steven Spielberg's 1975 award-winning movie *Jaws* that first introduced the magnificent Great White Sharks into the public consciousness. But it was only in the early 1990s that the shark tourism industry started with people willing to see this marine predator.

Great White Shark conservation was pioneered in South Africa, the first country to declare this toothy predator a protected species. As a plus, South Africa is the only country in the world where it is relatively easy to see them. You can even enter their domain from the safety of a shark cage and witness these uber-predators in their natural environment. Most adventure tourists don't consider their trip complete until they have seen a shark, usually at the Western Cape town of Gansbaai — a 20-minute boat ride taking you to the 'Shark Alley'.

Hanneli Slabber, Country Head, South African Tourism, points out, "It is an experience of a lifetime to observe the majestic Great White Sharks in their natural habitat. South Africa is one of the first countries to actively work towards conservation of these magnificent creatures. And, you can enjoy a thrilling up close and personal experience with a Great White at various spots in South Africa's Western Cape. A shark cage diving experience is a treat for adventure enthusiasts and nature lovers



The shark diving cage is especially designed for the purpose so that it is extremely safe and secure.

alike. Coming face to face with a Great White is sure to get your heart racing and adrenaline pumping. The entire setting is absolutely brilliant — a scenic drive, a boat-ride across the blue waters of the Atlantic, a dive into the heart of the Great White Trail for a close encounter — all contributes to a truly unforgettable experience."

The shark diving cage is especially designed for the purpose so that it is extremely safe and secure. It typically floats with part of the cage out of the water so that divers are never more than one meter below the surface. All of the necessary diving equipment is supplied, and all shark diving operators have to comply with strict safety rules set out by the South African government. It is not mandatory to be a qualified diver in order to enjoy the shark cage diving experience. All dives are conducted with a snorkel.

ESSENTIAL FACTS

Time taken: The entire experience is usually three to four hours, excluding travel time

Price begins: From Rand 1,700.00 per person (excluding transfers)

Sites for cage-diving: Gansbaai, Simon's Town, Mossel Bay, Dyer Island, Seal Island, and Port Elizabeth, Durban and Aliwal Shoal in KwaZulu-Natal.

Become a
Munich Travel Guru



Neuschwanstein Castle



Marienplatz



BMW Welt



Oktoberfest

www.munichtravelguru.com

simply 
MUNICH

For more information, please contact:

Munich Tourist Office, India

C/o Buzz Travel Marketing India Pvt. Ltd.

Minoti Gupta : minoti.gupta@buzzindia.in



Canada 
keep exploring



Become a
Canada Specialist

CSP 
Canada Specialist Program

Register today at: csp-in.canada.travel