

LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

travel

SPAN

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launches new
campaign to lure
Indian travellers

Saudi Tourism
launches aggressive
tourism campaign
for the Indian market

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the music genre that
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Editor's Letter

Mauritius Welcomes Tourists after lifting quarantine restrictions

The Republic of Mauritius officially reopened its borders as it lifted restrictions for fully vaccinated travellers. Visitors will be able to freely explore the paradise island's beaches, mountains, waterfalls, and lagoons from the moment they land. The paradise island is now seeing huge demand from international travellers who are choosing Mauritius for its stunning scenery, safety, and security.

Starting 1st July 2022 and with the great connectivity that Air Mauritius offers to multiple cities across India (via codeshare with Vistara Airlines), it is all set to welcome over around 80,000 Indian travelers in 2022 and 1,00,000 in 2023. The country has seen a 55% recovery from the Indian market, post-pandemic.

Arvind Bundhun, Director, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) said, "This reopening has been very successful for us especially when it comes to safety and security as Mauritius ticks all the right boxes. As of today, 90% of our population is vaccinated, and we are now vaccinating school children and teenagers too. But the real success of Mauritius comes from a close collaboration between MTPA and the private sector. Our reopening strategy was closely crafted along with our tour operators and airlines. We welcomed over 500,000 tourists since opening our borders and our guests still come to us for the gorgeous beaches, for our excellent service, for food and to explore like never before!"

"Tourism is crucial to our economy, but so is the safety and security of our citizens, and it is thanks to our world-leading response to the coronavirus

pandemic that we are able to reopen our borders today as planned.

"Mauritius responded quickly and effectively to the threat of Covid-19 right at the start of the pandemic. By implementing an early lockdown and strict quarantine measures we were able to keep infection rates incredibly low and, by prioritising the vaccination of our tourism workers alongside healthcare staff, they were able to put the phased reopening in place right on schedule."

Tourism accounts for more than 25 percent of the nation's GDP and employs many thousands of people directly and indirectly.

Hotel and airline bookings for Mauritius have soared in recent weeks, and additional international flights have been added to keep up with demand. Many major airlines from around the world fly to Mauritius, including British Airways, Emirates, Air France, South African Airways, Air Austral, Air Seychelles, Turkish Airlines, Kenya Airways, Edelweiss, Austrian Airlines, and Mauritius's flagship carrier Air Mauritius.

Mauritius' hospitality industry has recently invested millions of dollars in its hotels, infrastructure, and visitor attractions, including refurbishing luxury hotels, spas and wellness centres, to provide holidaymakers and business travellers with the very best in accommodation and amenities.

Aiming to position Mauritius as a destination beyond its beaches, MTPA launched the 'Where else but Mauritius?' campaign in India, earlier this year. The campaign highlights the less-explored parts of the country, which includes land activities like adventure sports, gastronomy experiences, and cultural and religious tourism.

We are on



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visitBerlin develops a tourism data hub for the city

VisitBerlin is beginning to develop its smart tourism database for Berlin and has gotten **Join GmbH** on board as a partner. The goal is to store and consolidate all the city's tourism information – e.g., about hotels, sights, museums, attractions, restaurants, and events – in a machine-readable format in a digital data hub, and make it usable for a variety of applications. Not only will the city's tourism providers benefit from the smart database, but the modern technology will also make it possible for visitors to access the latest information through various channels. visitBerlin plans to finish the development of the first prototype by late 2022.

“Digitalization is affecting all industries today and, of course, tourism as well. The new DataHub is a consequent decision to make the wide range of information about Berlin tourism centrally usable for everyone. By developing a hub for Berlin-specific tourism knowledge, we are helping the

industry to position itself for the future and to meet the needs of Berliners and visitors alike,” says **Michael Biel**, State Secretary of the Senate Department for Economics, Energy and Public Enterprises.

“With our new data hub, we are making Berlin tourism a bit smarter and creating the technical foundations to continue to play in the top group in the international competition among city destinations in the future,” says **Burkhard Kieker**, CEO of visitBerlin.

The project will last until late 2023. Internal data from visitBerlin will be compiled for the prototype planned for release by the end of the year and stored centrally in the database. Other external systems will be integrated into the second project phase next year. The new data hub is expected to lay the groundwork for further smart applications, such as AI-based services. Personalised event tips for the visitor might be possible alongside tailored travel products.

Join GmbH from Magdeburg has already realized numerous tourism-related data consolidation projects. The Senate Department for Economics, Energy, and Public Enterprises also financially supports the tourism data hub.

“Inspiring the world for Berlin.” With this mission, Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH promotes Berlin's destination management as well as the city's tourism and congress marketing. Under the visitBerlin brand, the company is a partner, actor, source of creative ideas, and networker. Its remit is focused on sustainable product development and marketing city-compatible tourism services in all twelve Berlin boroughs to maintain the life quality of local residents and harmoniously increase experience value for visitors. As a tour operator, visitBerlin also issues the Berlin WelcomeCard, the city's official tourist ticket. The company also operates the Berlin Tourist Info Centres and the Berlin Service Center advice line.



Qantas reinstates first-class on the Sydney-Singapore route

Qantas customers travelling between Sydney and Singapore can now opt for the carrier's full first-class service for the first time in over two years. The airline has rostered its recently refurbished A380 onto a daily flight between the two cities, which offers 14 first-class suites – as well as expanded business and premium economy cabins.

Qantas has reopened its first-class lounge at Changi airport – the facility was originally unveiled in late 2019, but only operated for a few months before closing as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The lounge has a capacity of 240 guests and offers a Neil Perry fine dining experience with a menu inspired by Singapore's dining scene. In addition to Qantas' daily return A380 service now operating from Sydney to Singapore (and onto London), the



carrier also offers 20 A330 weekly flights from Singapore to Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, and Brisbane.

Commenting on the news **Qantas Group Chief Customer Officer Stephanie Tully**, said: "We'd only just opened our brand-new First lounge before the pandemic forced its closure. Many of our Frequent Flyers never had the chance to see it. "We're delighted to once again welcome our customers back to this beautiful lounge at Changi

Airport. Our lounge team is excited to be back and eager to offer the warmest hospitality to Qantas and our partner airline customers. "Singapore plays an important role in Qantas's worldwide network as we continue to ramp up capacity in line with strong travel demand. It's great to have our First offering back both in the air and on the ground at Changi Airport, which is consistently recognized as one of the best airports in the world."

Abu Dhabi Airport to serve 2.8 million passengers in July and August



The Abu Dhabi International Airport is expecting a huge rush during Eid Al Adha and the summer season, the airport operator said. As many as 2.8 million passengers are expected to use AUH during July and August, of which 414,000 will travel between July 7 and 15 for the Eid holidays, Abu Dhabi Airports said.

"We are excited to keep the momentum going as the industry continues to recover and consumer confidence rebounds. Traffic during this upcoming peak season will ultimately have a positive impact on our 2022 traffic estimates of over 13 million passengers passing through Abu Dhabi International by the end of this year," said Francois

Bourienne, Chief Commercial Officer, Abu Dhabi Airports.

Late last month, Etihad Airways said it will fly 2.7 million passengers between June and August, following a surge in demand for global travel. Over 1.4 million passengers will depart from Abu Dhabi through the more than 1,100 weekly network-wide departures.

"As travel rebounds from the impact of the global pandemic, Etihad has witnessed a vast increase in bookings over recent weeks," said **Mohammad Al Bulooki, Chief Operating Officer, Etihad Aviation Group.** "With summer holidays upon us and to manage the increase in passenger numbers, Etihad has bolstered operations both locally and across our global network to ensure

guests enjoy a seamless airport and flight experience."

As many as 2.56 million people travelled through Abu Dhabi International Airport in the first quarter of 2022, a 218 percent jump compared to the year-ago period, which saw 0.81 million visitors. The airport recorded 22,689 flights during the period compared to 16,351 in 2021, a growth of 38.8 percent.

Load factors have also doubled, with the average passenger load factor reaching 70 percent during the first quarter, compared to 35 percent in the year-ago period. The airport now offers flights to 99 destinations on 26 airlines compared to 81 destinations on 18 carriers during Q1 2021.

87% of Indian travellers want airport lounge access



International travel is making a comeback at full speed

With summer in the Northern Hemisphere entering what is generally considered the 'peak tourist season', travel to the region can be expected to increase as people start planning their much-anticipated holiday. While the majority of these trips are expected to be domestic leisure trips, 55% of respondents expressed an interest in traveling outside their home market on at least one trip.

Looking specifically at India, the market seems to be ahead of the curve, with Indian airports seeing a sharp increase in international passenger traffic. Travel reached 72% of pre-Covid levels this May and is expected to reach 80-85% of pre-Covid levels by April 2023. The main destinations driving this demand are Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Europe. This is important because it shows how travelers are undaunted by the scale of their travel and are still looking to make up for the time and experiences lost over the past two years due to the pandemic.

Travel worries continue to linger

Despite traveling in 2022, health problems related to COVID-19 remain; at the same time, almost half (42%) of the respondents note that they are afraid of catching infections at the airport. Others fear that airport crowds could lead to a new outbreak, while others want to avoid the logistical challenges of traveling under the new normal — including mask-wearing, travel restrictions, mandatory quarantines, and more. However, just over 10% of people still feel unsafe travel, which is a promising trend when it comes to travel recovery.

- *Easing travel restrictions in the Asia-Pacific region boosted international tourist travel despite residual travel anxiety, new research shows*
- *Lounge access is considered a desirable benefit for travelers as it provides a sense of security*
- *Collinson's Priority Pass Access India further enhances domestic travel for Indian travellers, backed by seamless access to over 1,300 lounges and experiences around the world as international travel returns.*

International demand for air travel has increased significantly as restrictions in various countries have eased. Travelers who made an average of 6 return trips before the pandemic (2019) are starting to return to the skies, with an average of 3 self-predicted return trips planned for 2022, according to new research commissioned by Collinson, a world leader in the field of tourist experiences.

The study, which seeks to understand the latest trends and travel habits driving customers in the Asia-Pacific region, surveyed nearly 5,400 frequent travelers across seven major markets – Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea. India saw the largest number of respondents to the study of all the markets included, with 1,063 participants (20%).

Airport lounges that help with travel

Airport lounges are seen as key to curbing travel anxiety – Collinson's research found that 49% of Indian travelers **"feel safer at the airport"** if they can access a lounge. On average, travelers consider lounge access the number one most desired airport travel benefit, leading to 87% of Indian travelers expecting airport lounge access as a premium card benefit. 55% of Indian respondents said they felt "rewarded", while another 52% of Indian respondents said lounge access made them "feel valued as a customer".

Todd Handcock, president of Collinson Asia Pacific, said: "After two long years of waiting for the pandemic to recede and borders to

open, people across India are eagerly embracing the return of the travel. This is an encouraging trend, given that concerns about the safety of travel continue to exist. Recognizing the value travelers place on the lounge, we are thrilled to support Indian travelers back in the skies with the launch of Priority Pass™ Access to India.

Designed to provide our customers with a touch of luxury in a safe and comfortable environment, Priority Pass™ Access India allows access to more than 50 premium lounges and airports located across major cities in India with a simple tap or swipe of your credit or debit card at check-in. This is seamlessly complemented by access to unrivaled 1,300 airport lounges and Priority Pass experiences worldwide – providing at least one experience

covering 95% of all international flights from the top 100 airports."

Rewards in today's new era of travel

As COVID-19 continues to lead to additional checks and balances at airports, travelers will inevitably demand fresh experiences in the airport lounge. The increased focus on security and the celebration of the return to travel is expected to lead travelers to place greater value on travel-related amenities. This requires brand identification and innovative ways to maintain loyalty among current customers while attracting new ones using lounge access and flight delay benefits; such as Collinson's SmartDelay which offers lounge services when customers' flights are delayed or cancelled.

United Airlines to start daily flights from Bengaluru to San Francisco by the end of 2022



United Airlines is scheduled to begin daily flights from here to San Francisco in the last quarter of 2022, according to Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.

Australian national carrier Qantas will begin four weekly flights to Sydney from September 14, the airport said

in a statement on Monday while giving an update on the international flight operations. Two weekly flights to Tel Aviv (Air India) and daily flights to Seattle (American Airlines) are also planned in the near future, it said.

Additionally, new routes launched a few months before the outbreak of

Kempegowda airport said it has witnessed robust growth in international flight operations, connecting 23 international destinations in May 2022 -- the highest in south India.

the pandemic have already been re-connected. Addis Ababa, (connected by Ethiopian Airlines), Amsterdam (by KLM), and Tokyo Narita (by Japan Airlines) have been reinstated from Bengaluru, it said.

Kempegowda airport said it has witnessed robust growth in international flight operations, connecting 23 international destinations in May 2022 — the highest in South India.



Air France has unveiled its new long-haul Business cabin

Air France has unveiled its new long-haul Business cabin, elegantly reasserting the French-style art of travel. Constantly striving to offer the highest level of comfort, the airline's completely redesigned iconic seat features even more enveloping curves and extra comfort. Air France is introducing a new standard dedicated to this travel cabin. Progressively rolled out on 12 Boeing 777-300s, it will fly for the first time in autumn 2022 from Paris to New York JFK, one of the airline's legendary destinations. With attentive service, gourmet cuisine designed by French Michelin-starred chefs, a carefully selected wine and champagne list, and a wide selection of in-flight entertainment, the journey can begin.



A Preserved Space

The 48 spacious seats in the cabin are based on the 3 "F"s: Full Flat, meaning that the seat transforms into

a real bed almost 2 meters long, Full Access, providing all passengers direct access to the aisle, and Full Privacy, ensuring optimal privacy. The seat



cushions have been made even softer to ensure you cross time zones without fatigue. A new sliding door allows each passenger to create a private space, out of sight from the other passengers in the cabin. The seats located in the centre of the cabin have been completely redesigned to create a greater sense of privacy for passengers travelling together. These seats are now equipped with a central panel that can be lowered by pressing it down, thus creating a convivial space in which to make the most of the flight together. Finally, the seats at the front of the Business cabin have extra space in front of them for additional comfort. Thanks to this new major step in its move upmarket, all Air France Business seats will be fully flat by autumn 2023, compared with 90% today.

Air France Style

Air France has unveiled a cabin and a seat that elegantly displays its signature colours: navy blue, the presence of white adding light and contrast, and touches of red

embodying its excellence and savoir-faire. The carpet on the floor revisits the traditional ornamental herringbone pattern, symbolising the emblematic world of traditional Parisian Haussmann apartments.

A Sense of Detail

As you settle comfortably into your seat, you are greeted by a backlit winged seahorse, embodying the founding myth of the company and its rich history. Inside the seat, the soft upholstery provides a feeling of warmth and privacy. Air France has chosen noble, soft, and natural materials such as wool, brushed aluminum, and full-grain French leather for the manufacture of its seat. Each seat is also embroidered with the red accent, the airline's brand symbol. During the trip, all passengers are provided with a soft microfiber pillow and a soft blanket. With a simple touch of a button, it is possible to adjust the seat recline as desired as well as the light intensity. A new 'do not disturb' feature is also available, informing the crew that the customer wishes to rest.

Stay Connected

Each seat has a large 17.3-inch 4K high-definition anti-glare screen, equipped with noise-reducing headphones and, for the first time, a Bluetooth connection so that customers can use their headphones. A new, state-of-the-art graphic interface available in 12 languages makes it easy to choose from a wide variety of programmes. More than 350 films are available, including a large selection of French movies, as well as TV series, documentaries, music, and podcasts. A specific section on well-being also allows young and old alike to learn about meditation and seated yoga during the flight. Finally, kids now have their navigation interface to easily find all the entertainment specifically dedicated to our younger passengers. Ultra-connected, the seat also features A and C USB ports, an induction charger, and a laptop socket. In all cabins, customers can use Air France Connect, the airline's in-flight Wi-Fi offer. The portal offers three passes, one of which is completely free of charge and allows customers to send

and receive messages. Customers can also consult all the information related to their flight and their connections.

To Accompany your trip

In line with its commitment to more responsible travel, Air France is for the first time providing a new comfort kit made of 93% recycled material. Its plastic packaging has been removed in favour of an integrity seal. Sober and refined, it is available in two colours, navy blue, and grey. Each kit contains a toothbrush and a pen made from cornstarch, as well as earplugs wrapped in kraft paper to avoid plastic. A large sleep mask, socks, toothpaste, and Clarins cosmetics complete the kit. By offering these eco-friendly kits, Air France is continuing its actions to limit the use of single-use plastic on board its flights whenever possible.

Signature Dishes

On long-haul flights departing from

Paris, Air France has entrusted the menu in its Business cabin to Michelin-starred French chefs. The greatest names in French haute cuisine, including Régis Marcon, Anne-Sophie Pic, and Michel Roth, take it in turn to offer vegetarian dishes as well as refined dishes with red or white meat or fish. These meals are enhanced by tableware signed by French designer Jean-Marie Massaud. The wine and champagne list are selected by world-famous sommelier Paolo Basso. By the end of 2022, on all flights departing from Paris, Air France is committed to offering 100% French meat, dairy, and eggs in all its cabins, as well as fish from sustainable sources. A vegetarian dish will also be systematically available and all meals will be prepared entirely in France. The kids' and infants' menus will be made from 100% organically grown produce. As part of the fight against food waste, this year Air France is offering customers the



possibility of pre-selecting their hot meal in Business before departure. This service combines the guarantee of the availability of the customer's choice with fairer consumption. The airline is also committed to recycling and eliminating 90% of single-use plastic on board its aircraft by early 2023. Finally, when certain items can no longer be used on board, they are donated to charity.

Air France: Business Travel demand up 318 percent



Air France has said that business travel was “progressively returning to pre-Covid levels”, with demand up 318 percent since

the start of the year, and peaking on April 6. Air France also reported a 74 percent increase in demand for its premium economy seating since the

start of 2022, as well as a 204 percent increase in demand for luxury long-haul destinations including Mauritius, Saint Martin, Dubai, Thailand, and Cancun.

In recent months the carrier has been touting a move “upmarket”, with the launch of a new long-haul business class seat with a sliding door, and work progressing on a brand new first-class seat which it says “will be the longest on the market and will offer up to three modular configurations that can be fully privatized for an even more exceptional journey”.

Commenting on the data Fahmi Mahjoub, General Manager of the United Kingdom and Ireland at Air France-KLM, said: “We couldn’t be more excited to see passengers returning to air travel – for both business and leisure. “It’s encouraging to see just how much people want to explore both close and far-flung destinations around the world, and in more comfort than ever before thanks to our services on Air France. “People’s interest in traveling in comfort did not go unnoticed, and because of that, Air France is committed to offering a service that caters to that.”

Indulge in Premium Service Offerings with the Reopening of Malaysia Airlines

Platinum Lounge at KL International Airport

The reopening marks the airline's full restoration of its Golden Lounges in KLIA



PREMIUM services are finally back at Malaysia Airlines' Platinum Lounge at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) beginning July 1, 2022. After a hiatus due to pandemic-related restrictions, the reopening of the airline's flagship Platinum Lounge also marks the full restoration of its lounges at KLIA, including its Domestic, Regional, and Satellite Golden Lounges.

The bespoke end-to-end premium services can be enjoyed by passengers and frequent flyers traveling via Business Suite, Enrich Platinum, Enrich CIMB World Elite, First Class on codeshare flights (Malaysia Airlines operated flights), Oneworld First Class, and Oneworld Emerald.

Group Chief Marketing and Customer Experience Officer of Malaysia Airlines, Lau Yin May, said, "As a full-service carrier, we want to deliver memorable end-to-end experiences for our guests that prioritizes convenience, comfort, safety, and wellbeing at every step of their journey. We are thrilled to reopen our

Platinum Lounge, especially as we continue to ramp up our international frequency and network to meet the growing travel demands. We hope guests, far and wide, will continue to enjoy the Malaysian Hospitality service that comes with flying with Malaysia Airlines; from the moment they seamlessly book their flights with us, upon their arrival at the airport, impeccable experiences at our lounges, and a comfortable journey on board."

The Platinum Lounge offers guests exclusive fine dining experiences and spacious facilities to refuel before their flight. Tantalise taste buds by indulging in a three-course meal or choose from a variety of food and beverage options through its premium buffet-style offerings at the Platinum Gallery. From local must-tries such as the Malaysian ox tail soup to international classics like a chicken roulade, and crowd-pleasing favourites of Tiramisu and apple crumble to complete the gastronomic journey; there are plenty of mouthwatering options for guests to choose from. The lounge is also equipped with facilities such as

washrooms, private shower suites, nap rooms, and the Platinum Suite where guests can relax and freshen up before boarding their flight. With its spacious and comfortable seating area, guests can unwind, quietly work, or simply take in the picturesque views while enjoying the premium Malaysian Hospitality service at the Platinum Lounge.

Located at the Satellite terminal of KLIA, the Platinum Lounge will operate on a 24-hour basis, welcoming its first guests at 6 am on 1 July 2022. The Satellite Golden Lounge will also operate 24 hours beginning 1 July 2022, as the airline regains momentum on travel and provides guests convenience and access to its lounges at any time.

Malaysia Airlines received a 7-star rating for COVID-19 health and safety measures from Airline Ratings and is a member of Travel Safe Alliance Malaysia; strengthening its commitment to ensuring safe and seamless travel by adopting safety and hygiene excellence on-ground and on board their flights so passengers can continue to *Fly Confidently*.

Lufthansa reactivates Airbus A380 – First flights are expected from the summer of 2023

Lufthansa is reactivating the Airbus A380 in response to the steep rise in customer demand and the delayed delivery of ordered aircraft.

The airline expects to use the long-haul aircraft, which is popular with customers and crews, again from summer 2023. The company is currently assessing how many A380s will be reactivated and which destinations the Airbus will fly to.

Lufthansa still has 14 Airbus A380s, which are currently parked in Spain and

France for long-term so-called “deep storage”. Six of these aircraft have already been sold, eight A380s remain part of the Lufthansa fleet for the time being.

The Executive Board Members of Deutsche Lufthansa AG also announced the reactivation of the A380 in a joint letter to the company’s customers: *“In the summer of 2023, we not only expect to have a much more reliable air transport system worldwide. We will be welcoming you back on board our Airbus A380s, too. We decided today to*

put the A380, which continues to enjoy great popularity, back into service at Lufthansa in summer 2023. In addition to this, we are further strengthening and modernizing our fleets with some 50 new Airbus A350, Boeing 787, and Boeing 777-9 long-haul aircraft and more than 60 new Airbus A320/321s in the next three years alone.”

The Airbus A380 is the world’s largest passenger aircraft: it is 73 meters long and 24 meters high and can seat 509 passengers at Lufthansa.



First Lufthansa Boeing 787-9 gets ready for delivery

- Lufthansa to receive its first Boeing 787-9 when deliveries recommence
- Followed by cabin refurbishment at the Frankfurt maintenance center
- The official naming of the aircraft «Berlin» and its first flight in the second half of the year
- Kerosene consumption and CO2 emissions of Boeing 787-9 are around 25 percent lower

The Lufthansa Boeing 787-9 with the registration D-ABPA and the future name “Berlin” will be delivered to Lufthansa following certification by the FAA (Federal



Aviation Administration) this summer.

The ultra-modern long-haul “Dreamliner” aircraft will consume an average of around 2.5 liters of kerosene per passenger and 100 kilometers flown. That is around 25 percent less than their predecessor aircraft. The CO2 emissions are also improved accordingly.

The Boeing 787-9 “Berlin” will have an improved cabin product - including direct aisle access for all guests in

Business Class. Following several weeks of planned cabin refurbishments at Lufthansa’s maintenance in Frankfurt, the aircraft will be deployed initially on domestic German routes for training purposes. The first intercontinental scheduled destination of the Lufthansa “Dreamliner” will be Toronto.

In total, the Lufthansa Group has ordered 32 Boeing “Dreamliner” with delivery between 2022 and 2027.



Air Canada to Launch Seasonal Flights to Bangkok and Mumbai for Winter 2022-23

- Only non-stop North America-Thailand route. Service to operate four-times-weekly beginning Dec. 1
- Daily Toronto-Mumbai flights via London Heathrow beginning Oct. 29
- Restoration of key routes to India, Australia, New Zealand, and Peru



Air Canada has announced the expansion of its international network with the addition of Bangkok, Thailand, the carrier's first non-stop service to South-East Asia.

The airline will also be resuming flights to Mumbai, its second destination in the strategic India market.

Air Canada's seasonal service to Bangkok will operate from its trans-

Flight	From	To	Days of Week	Departs	Arrives	Aircraft	Season
AC65	YVR (Vancouver)	BKK (Bangkok)	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	23:00	05:55 +2 days	Boeing 787	Dec. 1 - Apr. 14
AC66	BKK (Bangkok)	YVR (Vancouver)	Tue, Wed, Fri, Sun	08:30	06:35	Boeing 787	Dec. 4 - Apr. 17
AC856	YYZ (Toronto)	LHR (London)	Daily	20:30	08:30 +1 day	Boeing 787	Oct. 29-Mar. 24
	LHR (London)	BOM (Mumbai)	Daily	11:10 +1 day	01:40 +2 days		
AC855	BOM (Mumbai)	LHR (London)	Daily	04:50	09:20	Boeing 787	Oct. 31-Mar. 26
	LHR (London)	YYZ (Toronto)	Daily	12:00	14:55		

Pacific hub at Vancouver International Airport, while the carrier's Mumbai flights will operate from Toronto via London-Heathrow. Both routes are subject to receiving final government approvals.

"We are extremely pleased to be launching our first non-stop service to South-East Asia this winter, the only one between North America and Thailand. Thailand is a popular leisure destination for Canadians and this new service will give Aeroplan members exciting opportunities to both earn and redeem their points. For further convenience, our Bangkok flights will connect to our extensive domestic and trans-border network giving customers added seamlessness and choice when travelling," said **Mark Galardo, Senior Vice President, Network Planning and Revenue Management, at Air Canada.**

"We are also excited to return to Mumbai, India's largest city and an important financial, commercial, and entertainment hub, complementing our 13 weekly flights from Canada to Delhi. Our Mumbai services are scheduled to operate with a stop in London Heathrow, offering connectivity to more than a dozen Air Canada and Star Alliance partner United Airlines flights between North America and London, as well as additional options for travel between the UK and India. The India market remains very important to Air Canada, and we are committed to resuming our currently paused non-stop services on Toronto-Mumbai and Vancouver-Delhi when circumstances allow."

The planned service between Vancouver and Bangkok, as well as between Toronto and Mumbai via London-Heathrow, will be operated with Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft featuring three cabins of service for customers to choose from, including lie-flat seats in Signature Class, Premium Economy, and Economy Class. Seats are available for sale now at aircanada.com, aircanada.com/Aeroplan, via the Air Canada App, Air Canada's Contact Centres, and travel agents.

Air Canada is bolstering its

international winter offering to the South Pacific region with the return of seasonal service from Vancouver to Auckland, New Zealand, and additional flights to Sydney and Brisbane, Australia. Air Canada is also re-establishing international services to South America with the resumption of routes from Montreal and Toronto to Lima, Peru on a seasonal basis.

"We continue to pursue our strategy of expanding our global network in response to pent-up demand and expect to operate approximately 81 percent of our 2019 international capacity this winter. We look forward to welcoming our customers on board," said **Mr. Galardo.**

Award-Winning Service

Air Canada's onboard services

on international flights showcase some of the best cuisine Canadian culinary talent has to offer with Air Canada's panel of celebrity chefs, including award-winning, Vancouver-based chefs David Hawksworth and Vikram Vij, and renowned Montreal chefs Antonio Park and chef Jérôme Ferrer.

Complementing the culinary journey is a selection of top wines chosen by the leading Canadian sommelier, Véronique Rivest.

All customers have the opportunity to collect and redeem points through Aeroplan, Canada's leading loyalty program, when travelling with Air Canada, and eligible customers have access to priority check-in, Maple Leaf Lounges, priority boarding, and other benefits.

Highlights of Air Canada's resumed and increased international routes for Winter 2022/23 include:

India:

Toronto-Mumbai	Seasonal daily flights resume Oct. 29 via London Heathrow
Toronto-Delhi	Daily flights remain year-round
Vancouver-Delhi	3 weekly flights resume Oct. 1. Outbound flight includes a technical stop in Dublin for operational purposes.
Montreal-Delhi	3 weekly flights remain year-round

South Pacific:

Vancouver-Auckland	3 flights weekly service resume Nov. 10, increasing to 5 flights weekly from Dec.-Mar.
Vancouver-Brisbane	Increases to 5 weekly flights in Dec.
Vancouver-Sydney	Increases to 10 weekly flights for Dec. and Jan.

Peru:

Toronto-Lima	Seasonal 2 weekly flights resume Nov. 4
Montreal-Lima	Seasonal 2 weekly flights resuming Oct. 30

Travelling internationally?

Visit Air Canada's Travel Ready Hub for the latest government entry requirements. Customers are responsible for ensuring they meet all government entry requirements, including holding the correct travel documents, visas, any required health certificates, and all other eligibility requirements for any flights they purchase. Government requirements may change with little notice.



Korean Air to restore long-haul network destinations in July

Korean Air will gradually resume its long-haul flight operations from July on the recovery of international travel demand. The routes to be resumed are Incheon-Las Vegas, Incheon-Milan, and Incheon-Vienna.

The airline's Las Vegas flights will resume on July 10. The flights will operate three times a week on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday, departing Incheon at 2:10 PM and arriving in Las Vegas at 10:10 AM. The returning flight departs from Las Vegas

at 12:10 PM and arrives at Incheon at 5:40 PM the following day. The airline's Airbus A330-200 fleet will service this route.

Flights to Milan, the fashion capital of the world, will recommence on July 1. The Incheon-Milan service will operate three times a week on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. The flight departs at 1:40 PM from Incheon and arrives in Milan at 7:55 PM. The return flight departs Milan at 10:00 PM to arrive in Incheon at 4:15 PM the next day.

Three weekly flights to the capital of music - Vienna, Austria - will resume on July 1, operating on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday. The flight departs from Incheon at 11:00 AM and arrives in Vienna at 5:10 PM. The returning flight leaves Vienna at 6:40 PM and arrives in Incheon at 12:50 PM the next day.

In restoring its global network to meet post-pandemic international travel demand, Korean Air will ramp up its operations by gradually resuming suspended routes.



Germany Tourism launches new campaign to lure Indian travellers and promote sustainable, outdoor experiences

Recognising an increased demand for outdoor experiences this summer among visitors from the Indian market, the German National Tourist Board (GNTB) is debuting the brand-new Embrace German Nature campaign that focuses on highlighting sustainable, open-air activities. Germany is home to more than 130 protected natural landscapes, including a plethora of stunning forests, lakes, valleys, and hiking and cycling trails just waiting to be explored. It also boasts three UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites, 16 UNESCO biosphere reserves, 16 national parks, and 106 nature reserves.

Inviting Indian travellers to choose Germany as their next preferred destination this summer, **Romit Theophilus, director German National Tourist Office, India (GNTO)** said that the 'Embrace German Nature' campaign will improve access to and information about these opportunities even further, in a sustainable way. "Indian travellers are

The tourism board is working to attract Indian travellers to visit natural landscapes and experience varied outdoor activities. Notably, Germany has more than 130 protected natural landscapes, including forests, lakes, valleys, hiking, and cycling trails. The country also boasts three UNESCO World Natural Heritage Sites, 16 UNESCO biosphere reserves, 16 national parks, and 106 nature reserves.

keen to visit countries that possess ideal summer climates with a wide range of things to do. Germany's diverse selection of outdoor activities ensures something for everyone, from hiking trails to relaxing spa towns," he added. The GNTB promotes forward-looking and sustainable tourism in line with the objectives of the German government. The agency has 27 foreign agencies that cover more than 40 markets around the world.

Four unique picks that fit the campaign are:

The Bavarian Forest National Park - Visitors can explore this natural space, which is left to grow without any human interference, across hiking routes, cycle paths, and skiing trails spanning several hundred kilometres. The treetop trail is just one example of the fun adventure routes also available. Whichever route visitors decide to take, a view of the Alps is guaranteed.

Rhine Castles Trail - The Rhine Castles Trail is the little brother of the Rheinsteig, a trail that unfolds on the other side of the river. Travellers can even make up their own route and cross the Rhine on a vessel. On the Rhine Castles Trail, the trip starts at the Mouse Tower in Bingen in the Upper Middle Rhine Valley UNESCO World Heritage Site, extending all the way to Koblenz. One can naturally see a lot of castles on the route – around 20 in total, and also visit some of the castle grounds. Wine is another major theme along the Rhine Castles Trail.

Berlin-Copenhagen Cycle route - The cycle route promises a cycling adventure between Berlin and Copenhagen that is sure to be anything but exciting. Cyclists will head across the water to Denmark via Brandenburg and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Baden-Baden - Baden-Baden, a chic little town in the south of Germany, is surrounded by stunning scenery and is home to stylish hotels, lush green spaces, and no end of health offerings. Whether visitors head to the health clinic, spa, or wellness hotel, they are sure to find an outstanding selection of exclusively tailored treatments waiting for them.

Rail Europe Launches B2B Booking Platform Easy Rail Access

Rail Europe has recently launched a B2B booking platform, Easy Rail Access – ERA that offers the largest catalog of 60+ European train operators (including SNCF, SBB, Eurostar, Thalys, Lyria, Trenitalia, Italo, DB, Renfe, OUIGO Spain, and NATIONAL RAIL) and rail passes, such as the Swiss Travel Pass and the Eurail Pass.

This brand new B2B platform offers a unique & seamless experience to plan & book rail travel to travel professionals. It allows them to access new features including the full range of fares, multiple payment options & currencies, and after-sales processing.

Into its 90th year of operation in 2022, Rail Europe is the business and technology partner of more than 20,000 travel professionals in 70 countries. As a part of the 90th anniversary, at the start of the year, Rail Europe had many promotional offers which included up to 50% off on some journeys in partnership with top European rail operators.

Currently, there are offers going on for Eurostar and Eurail. Travel professionals can avail 20% discount on Standard Premier Class bookings on Eurostar till July 17, and 15% off on all Eurail Global Mobile Passes till the end of July 2022. The company will be introducing such offers throughout the year. One can check the offers on our Rail Europe's portal on the promotions page.

As the business is growing and markets are opening for travel, 2022 is the year of opportunities and growth. "Our focus this year is to make our B2B booking portal ERA – Easy Rail Access, more convenient for our GSAs and partners who are booking with our GSAs as well as those booking directly on our B2B platform *agent.raileurope.com*. So, on the technology front, we are continuously adding a lot of new rail sectors and products



and want to bring passholder fares, seat reservations for scenic trains in Switzerland, and more sectors on point-to-point tickets on our B2B portal soon. We are in the process of updating our portals with such technological innovations and determined to make it available for our partners by the start of the year 2023," the company said.

"We conduct a series of webinars and training for our partners on a time-to-time basis. We also have our e-learning programme *The Rail Agent Course (TRAC)* which is a comprehensive rail training programme that includes Europe's major train operators, that is also available on a dedicated app. Travel agents and partners can register and complete the assigned modules, complete the contests and win prizes. After completing the course agents can earn *The Rail Expert* certificate. We are also updating this programme with

more rail carriers' modules. It is a fully equipped Rail Certification programme that travel agents can participate in to increase their knowledge about European trains and passes. The e-learning programme is available at: www.trac-raileurope.com."

In the Indian market, Rail Europe is seeing pent-up demand for leisure and family trips to Europe, and Indians love travelling to Switzerland and France. So, there is an increase in demand for Swiss passes along with French train SNCF and Swiss France connecting train – TGV Lyria. Italian train – Trenitalia, as well as trains in the UK, are also seeing a rise in demand.

Rail Europe was founded in 1932 to promote French rail routes to North American travelers. Rail Europe soon extended its offer to the rest of Europe to become the largest one-stop shop for planning and booking European train travel.

Visit Portugal Unveils First E-Learning Course For Indian Travel Trade

To help trade partners in India to better understand the country, Visit Portugal has introduced the comprehensive new e-learning course "Portugal Expert E-learning program." This course will help agents to understand the country in detail. The training is split into multiple modules to offer in-depth knowledge of everything a travel agent would need to market the destination. The modules cover all aspects of the destination, from its culture to its seven distinct regions, along with specialized modules such as shopping, gastronomy, and accommodation.

In addition, the training covers the specifics and advantages of MICE and weddings in Portugal. After completing

the programme, the agents will be certified as destination experts, and the first few agents will also be qualified for rewards from Visit Portugal. Also, the certified agent will be eligible to be part of the Expert club, where they will receive news and updates on the location directly from the tourism board.

To make it more interesting, the Portugal Expert Module has a lot of interactive features, like voice notes, downloadable resources, etc. The course's itinerary builder, which allows agents to apply their knowledge to create useful itineraries for their clients and even save them for later use, is its strongest feature. The trade partners can use their expertise & ideas to plan

unlimited itineraries of various types & days.

Claudia Matias, Director of Visit Portugal in India, says, "Our goal has always been to provide the trade community tools which will assist and increase knowledge about Portugal. This interactive and engaging course will showcase Portugal's uniqueness, and why it's a perfect holiday destination for the Indian traveller. It is inspiring and with this programme, the agent will be able to learn about our lovely country while also working on and saving itineraries for their clients. This course has been exclusively devised by Visit Portugal specifically to the Indian trade partners and we are looking forward to having Certified Destination Experts".





Sabre accelerates NDC rollout with offers from Qatar Airways

Travel agencies to shop, book and service NDC offers through Sabre Red 360 as well as the technology provider's Offer and Order APIs.

Sabre Corporation, a leading software, and technology company powering the global travel industry has successfully integrated IATA New Distribution Capability (NDC) content from **Qatar Airways** (QR) into its global distribution system (GDS). After a pilot phase with agency customers in Australia and Sweden, the offers of Qatar's flag carrier will now be rolled out successively to travel agencies across the globe starting on July 7, 2022.

Travel agencies will be able to shop, book, and manage NDC offers from Qatar Airways. Access to Qatar's content will be available through Sabre Red 360, Sabre's agency point-of-sale tool, as well as its NDC-enabled Offer and Order Application Programming Interfaces (APIs).

"We've been actively engaged in Sabre's Beyond NDC program for several years and



destinations, access to the carrier's unique NDC content is expected to be relevant to travel buyers across the globe in the post-COVID-19 recovery period and beyond.

"As the corporate travel sector continues to recover, customers are looking for enhanced shopping experiences and improved content in their marketplace," said **John Bukowski**, Vice President of Distribution, Content, and Sourcing at American Express Global Business Travel. *"Our objective is to ensure that our customers and travelers have access to the broadest content and an unrivaled travel experience. We are excited about collaborating with Qatar Airways and Sabre to continue to evolve our customers access to content while delivering the servicing and experience they expect from American Express GBT."*

NDC is one aspect of Sabre's strategic goal to create a new marketplace for personalized travel, with some key developments expected for 2022. Dynamic air pricing for NDC offers is anticipated to become available with the recently launched Air Price IQ

product within the Sabre Retail Intelligence suite, which will enable airlines to optimize offers in real-time with machine learning and data analytics capabilities based on airlines' unique strategies and needs. As an NDC aggregator and airline IT provider, Sabre is now included in the Airline Retailing Maturity (ARM) index from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Radixx, which provides solutions for low-cost carrier airlines, is also expected to become certified under the ARM index later this year as an airline IT provider.

"We've always said that NDC is a marathon, not a sprint," said **Kathy Morgan**, vice president, Channel Delivery, Sabre Travel Solutions. *"We believe that realizing the potential of NDC is a collaborative effort, and we are excited about the progress we are making with carriers like Qatar Airways. Alongside strategic efforts like Sabre Travel AI, as well as the launch of our Retail Intelligence suite of products, these NDC achievements expand and progress our opportunities to advance personalized retailing."*

we're proud to be the first carrier-based in EMEA to make our products and offers available to the global travel agency community through Sabre's marketplace," said **Matt Raos**, Senior Vice President Global Sales at Qatar Airways. *"With NDC*

as a part of our strategy to evolve our offering and enhance ancillary sales, we believe effective distribution in the indirect channel will become more important in the future."

With Qatar Airways' extensive network of

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LINKIN Reps appointed as India Representative for Haritha Villas + Spa, Sri Lanka



LINKIN Reps has been appointed the India sales, marketing, and Public Relations representation office for Haritha Villas+ Spa, Sri Lanka. LINKIN Reps will be responsible for driving holistic sales, trade marketing, and PR Strategies in India for Haritha Villas+ Spa, Sri Lanka.

“India has always been a very important market for us, not only as it is the number 1 inbound market

to Sri Lanka, but also due to them being our closest regional neighbour. The long-standing friendship and support rendered to Sri Lanka by the people of India have been pivotal in supporting us in this very difficult time of unprecedented economic uncertainty as well as the global pandemic and other international shocks. Keeping this in mind, we are happy that LINKIN Reps will represent us, with their vast tourism

*experience and through their large network of travel agents in the country to promote our little island and Haritha Villas + Spa to the luxury travel segment in India”, said **Thanuja Weerasinghe, Sales & Marketing.***

“India has always been a very important market for us, not only as it is the number 1 inbound market to Sri Lanka, but also due to them being our closest regional neighbour.



The long-standing friendship and support rendered to Sri Lanka by the people of India have been pivotal in supporting us in this very difficult time of unprecedented economic uncertainty as well as the global pandemic and

other international shocks. Keeping this in mind, we are happy that LINKIN Reps will represent us, with their vast tourism experience and through their large network of travel agents in the country to promote our little island and Haritha

*Villas + Spa to the luxury travel segment in India”, said **Thanuja Weerasinghe, Sales & Marketing.***

On this occasion, Komal Seth, Founder & Director, LINKIN Reps said, “We take pride in announcing that Haritha Villas+ Spa is the newest addition to our brand portfolio. We are looking forward to working closely with Haritha Villas + Spa to position them as an attractive leisure Resort for Indian travellers to Sri Lanka.

Umberto Piccolini, General Manager also expresses his feelings “Haritha Villas + Spa is very proud to enter into cooperation with LINKIN Reps with its very experienced visionary leadership team within the industry. We are convinced that discerning luxury travellers from India will truly enjoy the culture and heritage of Haritha Villas + Spa in Sri Lanka, coupled with genuinely personalized and warm hospitality creating authentic experiences and memories to treasure.”



Yas Island And Department Of Culture And Tourism Abu Dhabi Host A Mega FAM With Indian Travel Agents For The 22nd IIFA

Experience Hub, the trade and promotion arm of Yas Island Abu Dhabi and a subsidiary of Miral and the Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi (DCT) partnered to host 45 Indian leisure and MICE travel agents on a four-day familiarization trip to Abu Dhabi. The group was invited to be part of the glitz and glamour of the IIFA Awards along with discovering and participating in all of Abu Dhabi's and Yas Island's attractions.

Yas Island, one of the world's fastest-growing leisure and leading entertainment destinations hosted one of the grandest celebrations of the Indian Cinema; the 22nd International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) 2022. The event took place at the Etihad Arena, the Middle East's largest state-of-art indoor entertainment venue, and was organized in collaboration with the Department of Culture and Tourism—Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), and Miral, Abu Dhabi's leading creator of immersive destinations and experiences.

The trip saw the agents experiencing rides at Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld Abu Dhabi,

and Warner Bros. World™ Abu Dhabi trying their hand at golf at Yas Links Abu Dhabi, venturing to Yas Mall for some shopping, appreciating the amazing artworks at the Louvre Museum, marvelling at historical landmark Qasr Al Hosn, the presidential palace Qasr Al Watan, and then visiting the largest mosque in the country, none other than the architectural masterpiece Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque to learn about the Emirate's culture.

They had the opportunity to experience the best of hospitality as Yas Island has more than 2,000 rooms and suites across 10 hotels including the Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island. Located on the Waterfront, Hilton Abu

Dhabi Yas Island features a 545-room and around 2000 sqm of event space, offering an exceptional array of culinary options across a multitude of dining venues. Hilton Abu Dhabi Yas Island also has a kids' club with a splash pad, all within a five-minute walk of the award-winning Etihad Arena.

The destination is not only home to award-winning theme parks but also offers world-class shopping and 165 dining experiences for guests to choose from.

"We are thrilled to host the mega FAM trip from India and showcase all that Yas Island Abu Dhabi has to offer. This trip is an excellent opportunity for both leisure and MICE agents to experience the attractions on the island and understand firsthand, the potential that Yas Island offers." **Liam Findlay, CEO of Experience Hub said.**

Spread over 25 kilometers, Yas Island is conveniently located, a 10-minute drive from Abu Dhabi International Airport and a 50 minute drive from Dubai. As many as 500 international shows, cultural festivals, and family entertainment events are hosted here all year round.

TAT launches 'Write Your New Chapter'

TVC promoting Thailand from cinematic perspective



Amazing New Chapter of Nature, Amazing New Chapter of Love, and Amazing New Chapter of Self Discovery. The "Write Your New Chapter" TV ad was premiered during the TAT's recent roadshow to Europe. It was then released again at Thailand's leading B2B travel industry show, the Thailand Travel Mart Plus (TTM+) 2022, held in Phuket during 8 – 10 June – the first physical event in two years post-pandemic. TAT has scheduled to distribute of Write Your New Chapters TVC through various offline and online media platforms, including the TAT's own social media including those of the 29 TAT offices around the world. In addition to the TVC videos, there are ad formats under the cinematic theme, including an out-of-home ad at mass public transport locations as well as airports in various countries. There will also be online gimmicks to create engagement with the tourists, in response to the latest digital marketing trend, which calls for user-generated content.

New TVC to inspire tourists to explore, experience, and share their Amazing New Chapters of travel in the kingdom post-pandemic.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has launched a new **"Write Your New Chapter"** TVC to promote Thailand's fully reopening post-pandemic, in line with the 'Visit Thailand Year 2022-2023: Amazing New Chapters' tourism marketing campaign. The Write Your New Chapter TV advertising represents a new direction in the TAT's marketing of Thailand to the world, which places emphasis on highlighting the kingdom's 6F, 4M soft-power foundations; namely, Food, Film, Fashion, Festival, Fight, Friendship, Music, Museum, Master, and Meta.

Mr. Yuthasak Supasorn, TAT Governor, said "Representing film, this

latest TVC is a new approach we are taking to communicate the Amazing New Chapters message and to engage tourists around the world through a cinematic perspective to show them Thailand has a multitude of holiday possibilities in which there is something for all. We want to inspire tourists to explore our wonderful country and to create their own impressive chapters, which they can then share with their friends and family and encourage them to visit."

The **"Write Your New Chapter"** TVC consists of three episodes highlighting the three Amazing New Chapters that tourists can discover on a visit to Thailand. These are the

"This aims to spread Thailand's tourism message to the world that it is open, especially when the Thailand Pass application will be removed for international tourists from 1 July onwards. This TVC is an inviting message sent to tourists to come and write their own new chapter in the kingdom. They can visit a world-class destination that offers something for everyone under the concept of 'From A-Z: Amazing Thailand Has It All. Even more, an appeal can be added through Thailand's increasing move towards sustainable and responsible tourism, other key elements of the Visit Thailand Year 2022 campaign," Mr. Yuthasak concluded.

Having reopened to international tourism and entry requirements been eased, Thailand hopes to welcome seven to 10 million foreign visitors in 2022 and generate tourism revenue of around 800 billion Baht.



The Hyatt Regency

brand enters the Pink City with Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar

The 245-room property strengthens Hyatt's brand presence in India, marking the first Hyatt Regency hotel in the state of Rajasthan

Hyatt Hotels Corporation has announced the opening of Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar.

The property underlines Hyatt's focus on strengthening its brand presence across urban and resort destinations in India. In line with the Hyatt Regency's brand philosophy, the hotel has been designed with productivity in mind to deliver seamless experiences and an energizing hub for both business and leisure travelers alike.

As Rajasthan continues to be an important destination for Hyatt guests, the opening marks the second Hyatt hotel in one of India's most sought-after tourist destinations. Spread across an area of approximately five acres, Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar is conveniently located in the scenic surroundings of Mansarovar in Jaipur.

In addition to being situated near the renowned ISKCON temple, Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar also offers easy access to iconic landmarks and shopping attractions such as Hawa Mahal and World Trade Park. It is also well-connected to major Indian cities through air and rail services and national highways. With its rich architecture, vast event spaces, and landscaped gardens, Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar promises to be the ideal destination for weddings, family holidays, and travelers visiting the state to experience the rich heritage of Jaipur.



“As one of the most preferred and culturally rich destinations for Indian and global travelers, we are extremely excited to welcome guests and World of Hyatt members to Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar,” said **Nikhil Gandhi, general manager Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar.** “With its opening, there are now three Hyatt hotels in Rajasthan, reiterating Hyatt’s focus on growing its brand presence in destinations where guests prefer to travel.”

Guestrooms

Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar presents the perfect combination of classic architecture and contemporary décor to create a stylish, functional experience for the guests. The 245-room property is spread across two wings – the Royal Wing and the Tower Wing – and guests can enjoy accommodations across various room

categories, including 34 suites. The Royal Wing brings 65 Royal rooms, 41 Regency Club rooms, nine Royal Deluxe rooms, and four categories of Suites - including Royal Majestic, Royal Prestige, Royal Diplomat, and the Presidential Suite. The spacious rooms come with traditional projecting stone windows known in India as *jharokas* that provide guests with a bird’s eye view of the central courtyard. The Tower Wing offers 96 Standard Rooms and eight Regency Executive Suites.

Dining

Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar presents a range of dining experiences that capture the essence of local culture and reiterates Hyatt’s commitment to caring for local communities. For those seeking an authentic culinary experience, **Shrot**, which means “source,” offers organic, locally sourced, regional delicacies. **The North Club**

carries forward the timeless club culture of Jaipur and offers food influenced by the traders and colonisers who set up home in the Indian sub-continent decades ago. **The Royal Bakery and Bar** is open 24/7, serving freshly brewed coffee, a selection of pastries, and signature cakes, along with time-honored classic cocktails at the bar.

Special Events

Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar offers distinct event spaces that define the grandeur and flamboyance of Rajasthani architecture. With over 53,000 square feet (5,000 square meters) of function space, the hotel offers thematic indoor spaces for large and private gatherings and expansive outdoor locations with a magnificent backdrop of the hotel. Designed to host a range of events including weddings, corporate meetings, and social gatherings the indoor venues include The Regency Ballroom, The Imperial Room, and The Manor, and the outdoor venues include Navras Bagh and Chauras Bagh.

Differentiated Experiences for guests

The wedding experience becomes even more special at Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar with Married @ Hyatt, the wedding planning service provided at Hyatt hotels in India. The program offers membership to Hyatt’s lifestyle and luxury rewards program, the Hyatt Dining Club, to the couple and their family members, who can enjoy a range of exclusive offers, rewards, and experiences at Hyatt’s participating hotels across India.

Recreation and Wellness

Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar is a perfect setting for a peaceful and relaxing stay. The Mudita Spa presents a wide selection of Indian and contemporary spa therapies and treatments. The StayFit Studio offers 24-hour access to dedicated trainers and cardio and strength training equipment. The hotel also features an outdoor swimming area with a separate pool for children.

Marriott Hotels and TED

evolve partnership
with the debut of
first-ever immersive
guest rooms,
bookable around the
world

Marriott Hotels, the signature flag of Marriott Bonvoy's 30 extraordinary hotel brands, furthers its partnership with idea engine TED through its award-winning educational arm TED-Ed, to debut their first-ever immersive experience outside of a TED conference. Aimed at sparking curiosity and enriching the experience of global travelers, the rooms feature interactive, mind-bending activities integrated into the Marriott Hotels guest room design. Recommended for families and friends ages seven and up, reservations for The Curiosity Room by TED can be made



now for stays starting July 15 at San Francisco Marriott Marquis. Following the inaugural launch in San Francisco, guests can also book the discovery-based room at Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park and London Marriott Hotel County Hall later this summer with stays starting on August 15 and September 15, respectively. Each room experience will be live for three months at each location.

Recent social listening research conducted on behalf of Marriott saw a significant year-over-year uptick in searches for #themedrooms (+106%) and "hotel rooms" + themed (+65%), suggesting consumers are craving more distinct and inspiring hotel experiences.

Sparkling curiosity from the start,

guests embark on the adventure immediately upon entry to the room. The entire room is a puzzle box waiting to be solved. Puzzle elements have been seamlessly hidden within the décor; solving them all will lead guests to a grand finale and series of surprises and rewards. The puzzles have also been customized to the three destinations, featuring and celebrating local landmarks, culture, and more. Guests will uncover hidden messages, hunt for puzzle pieces, and experience elements of the room in unexpected and delightful ways. The room's Curiosity Journal serves as the guide and connection to the one-of-a-kind in-room journey, with hints available in case guests need a helping hand. When the final challenge has been completed, guests receive a certificate of completion and can celebrate with a complimentary dessert in the hotel's restaurant.

"Marriott Hotels has always been a place where guests can be inspired at every corner of their experience and we've taken that to the next level with TED's award-winning, educational arm TED-Ed," said **Jason Nuell**, Senior Vice President, Premium Brands, Marriott International. "This one-of-a-kind adventure further fosters the notion for our guests to stay curious in their travels, opening their minds beyond a typical overnight stay and propelling them to explore the destination with a renewed desire to learn something new."

Awe-inspiring décor elements have been expertly layered onto Marriott Hotels' modern, residential guest room design to create a blended experience, with everyday hotel items serving as "keys" to unlock clues to help guests progress through the immersive space. Drawing inspiration from the hotel's respective destination, the rooms feature eye-catching drawings by illustrator and artist Caleb Morris, who founded 'Welcome to the Neighborhoods' – an art series focused on creating unique connections between people and cities all over the world. In addition, throughout the room, guests will discover various

moments of wonder as well as a guide of local travel recommendations curated by Marriott Hotels and TED, that encourage further exploration beyond the guest room – from the striking architecture of San Francisco to the culture of Bangkok and rich history of London. Guests will be able to take home some mementos, such as the travel guide, to leave a lasting impression of the trip.

Reservations for The Curiosity Room by TED are available now for the stay dates below:

- San Francisco Marriott Marquis: July 15 – October 16, 2022
- Bangkok Marriott Marquis Queen's Park: August 15 – November 15, 2022
- London Marriott Hotel County Hall: September 15, 2022 – January 2, 2023

"Watching millions of people view and share TED-Ed's educational animated videos online every day is a profoundly rewarding experience for our team of creators," said TED-Ed's founding and executive director, **Logan Smalley**. "What excites me about our partnership with Marriott Hotels, though, is that it will enable families throughout the world, for the first time, to experience a unique version of TED-Ed in person. I think everyone who participates will gain, in the most tantalizingly fun way possible, a deeper understanding and appreciation of TED-Ed and their destination, and I'm grateful to Marriott Hotels for making that possible."

Marriott Hotels has a longstanding, global partnership with TED. The relationship began in 2016 by distributing TED Talks and TED Fellows Salons, blogs, and original quotes to hotel guests worldwide, and has continued to elevate every year with new elements of the partnership. Travelers staying at Marriott Hotels have access to custom content expertly curated by TED, with selected themes that are topical and relevant to guests including innovation, travel, entrepreneurship, and much more. Specifically, new TED-Ed content will now be available at hotels with video-based lessons that vary by subject and age.



Saudi Tourism Authority

launches aggressive tourism campaign for the Indian market

Saudi Arabia has done pretty well to recover its tourism sector post-pandemic attracting 62 million visitors, including domestic travellers in 2021, and now the country is looking at over 70 million visitations in 2022 and targeting 100 million visitors for 2030. The destination has embarked on its ambitious programme to drive inbound visitation from India, and inspire local trade partners and travellers to explore the undiscovered beauty, pristine nature, authentic Arabian art and culture, diverse landscapes, and wonders of the country. As the country continues to open up to the world, India is undoubtedly an important key source market for Saudi offering a wealth of possibilities for trade partners, to grow their business and create new exciting destinations for Indian travellers.

In an exclusive to Travel Span **Alhasan Aldabbagh, Chief Markets Officer, Saudi Tourism** shares details on future marketing plans, engagements, and connectivity tie-ups between India and Saudia.

To clock 100 million visitors from across the globe by 2030, Saudi Arabia has launched an aggressive campaign for the Indian market as part of its strategy. Saudi Arabia Tourism has signed 17 MoUs with Indian trade partners that include tour operators, DMCs, and Trade Associations. “We are looking forward to forming a close working relationship with the Indian trade and consumers to raise awareness about the destination and various offerings from Saudi Arabia, **said Alhasan Aldabbagh.**

Why is the Indian Market important for Saudi?

With a 1.3 billion Indian population and 27 million Indians travelling abroad every year (2019 statistics), Saudi Arabia has positioned itself to capture the Indian outbound mainly because of its proximity to Saudi Arabia which is pretty close. It is a mid-haul destination and we have the right product offerings for them that we think will be attractive to Indian travellers. “We know that Indians travel in groups and with families and they like to go







to beaches, love cultural and heritage products, adventure, sports, shopping, food, and cuisines. Today we have great offerings for people looking for cultural experiences as well as for those looking at adventure and sports activities and very soon we plan to introduce a good mix of products and add to the existing sun and beach attractions”, **Aldabbagh** added. “We are making sure to bring the right type of products for Indian travellers like the hotels, shopping, food, and activities, tour guides, and giving them satisfying experiences from the moment they land until they leave the destination making their journey a memorable one”.

On UNESCO Heritage Sites in Saudi

“We have six UNESCO heritage sites and over 10,000 archaeological sites in

Saudi Arabia and recently the country has unlocked some more UNESCO world heritage sites adding to its existing tourist attractions”, **Aldabbagh** added.

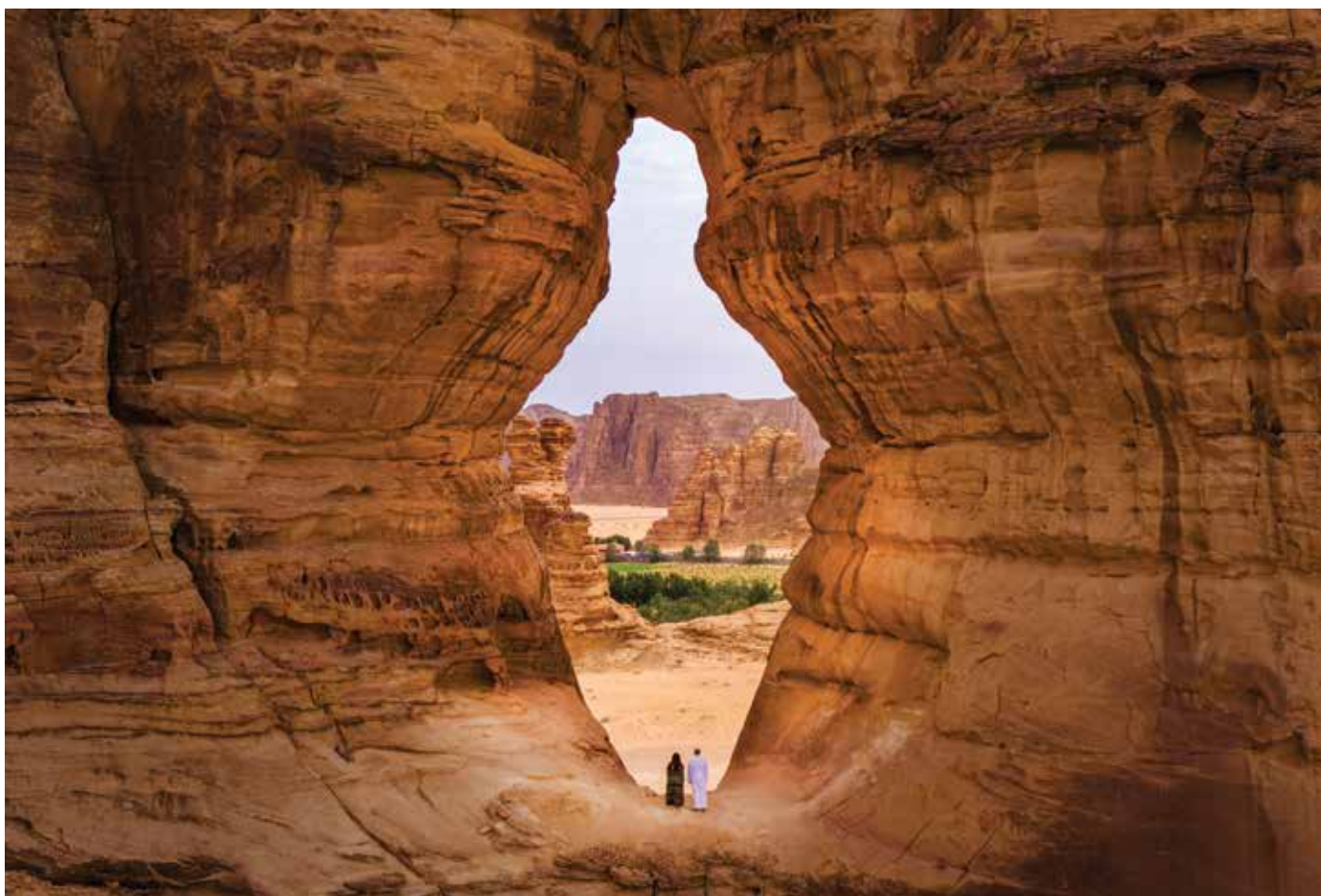
The country has unlocked additional UNESCO world heritage sites, to its existing tourist attractions. These sites include the Hima Cultural Area, Hegra in AlUla, Al Turaif in Diriyah, Al Ahsa Oasis, Historical Jeddah, and Rock Art in the Al Hail Region.

Bollywood is another big thing for us, to raise the right level of awareness and buzz about Saudi,” we are planning to work closely with Bollywood and bring some of the production houses, create some joint PR activities in India and Saudi, we are also planning to host some friendly cricket matches in Saudi Arabia that is also a part of our marketing plan”.

On Destination Wedding

Saudi is eyeing the Indian wedding market as well. “We are aware of how Indians like destination weddings as they travel in big groups of 100 and we would like to bring some of these weddings to Saudi Arabia.” “We have some stunning wedding venues to select from in Saudi. These beautiful wedding venues are fit for royalty. We have plans for hosting Indian weddings as there are beautiful Natural spots in Saudi that are perfect for that. For instance, there is a property coming up in AlUla, by the banyan tree hotel, where the mountains are lit up at night and the way that they have been designed is perfect for weddings. We would be working much closer to create products well suited for the Indian wedding market”, said **Aldabbagh**.

Saudi is now inviting visitors to



experience destinations like AlUla, Jeddah, and Riyadh, among others. *"We have something called the Riyadh season, which is one of the largest festivals in the world that attracts great footfall. A lot of concerts and cultural*

events are held during this time in different parts of the city", he said.

Besides this, Saudi has an image of a religious destination due to the holy land of Mecca and Medina. *"Saudi is the location for the two holy sites and*

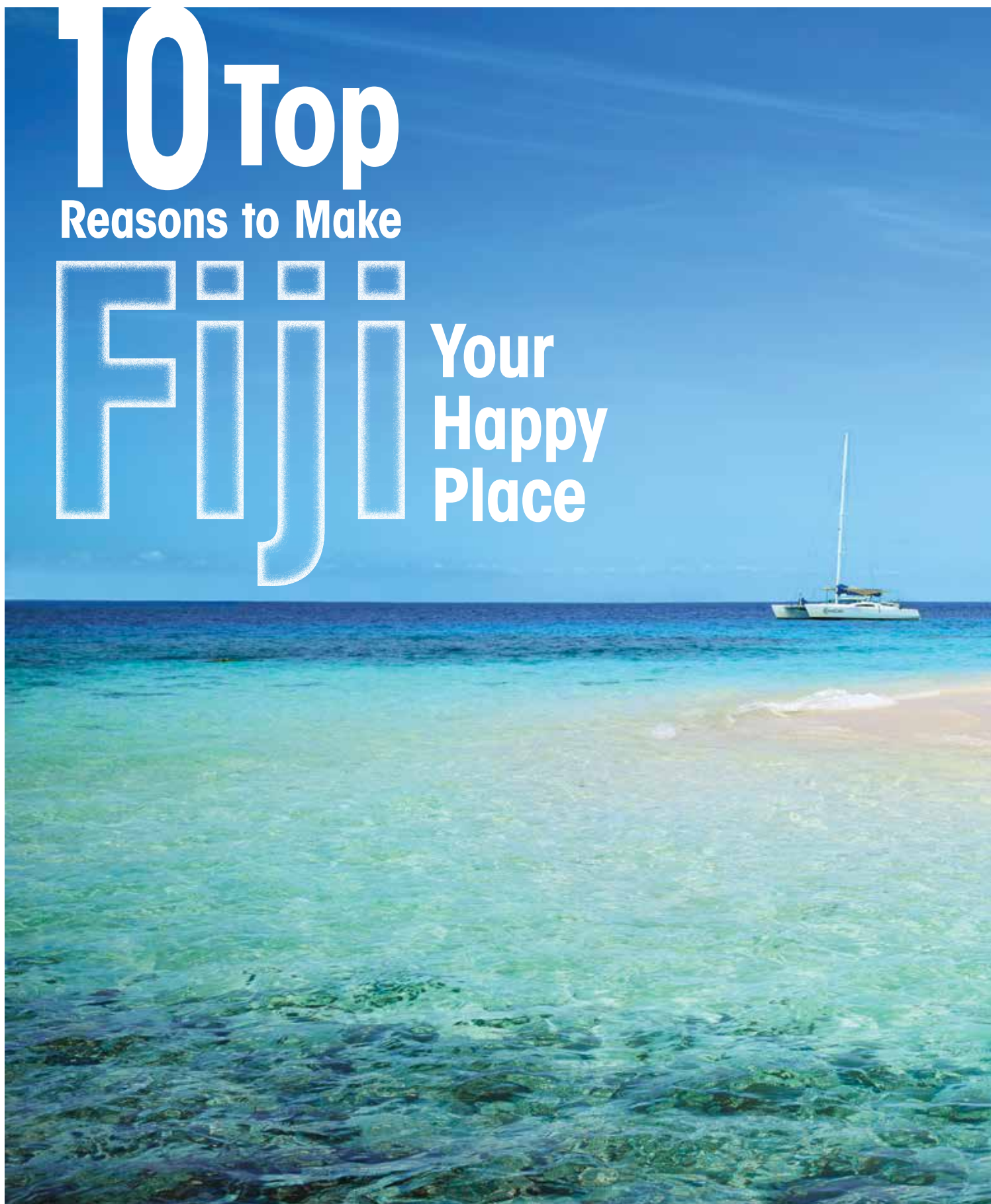
that will always be important. We have made it much easier now for any travel agent or tour operator to book trips to Saudi Arabia for Umrah. The Umrah Plus package is now being promoted. It is a great way to visit the twin holy cities and experience other cities and parts of the Kingdom", said Aldabbagh


On Air Connectivity

Currently, there is a bilateral agreement for 28,000 seats between Saudi Arabia and India – split into half between direct and indirect flights. Apart from its national carriers Saudi, Flynas and Flyadeal, there is Air India, Indigo, Spicejet, and Air India Express operating between the two nations. We are now working together to increase the slots between Saudi Arabia and India, said Aldabbagh.

Saudi Arabia has earmarked over \$800 billion to be invested in the tourism ecosystem and infrastructure by 2030.

10 Top Reasons to Make Fiji Your Happy Place





With a genuinely friendly vibe and limitless options for relaxation and adventure, Fiji makes it easy to live your best island life.

THE “BULA” SPIRIT MAKES EVERYTHING SEEM BETTER

Ahh... Fiji. A gorgeous island, full of pristine white beaches and sparkling azure waters, with greetings of ‘*Bula!*’ (the Fijian welcome greeting) from the friendly natives everywhere you go, and is it almost too cliché to say: coconut trees swaying in the balmy wind? Have all that and *so, so much more*, what’s with its abundance of culture and spirit, when you enter the tropical and exotic haven of Fiji, an archipelago of 333 islands located in the South Pacific. And if you’re wondering what exactly you can do there, other than lounging at the gorgeous beaches..., Here are some great options to make your great escape even sweeter.



1. THERE'S ANOTHER WORLDLY UNDERSIDE

Called the “Soft Coral Capital of the World” by legendary undersea explorer and conservationist Jacques Cousteau, Fiji is brimming with dazzling sites. Go underwater to explore shallow lagoons teeming with marine life, mysterious caves and canyons, and cool coral-covered walls. Among the archipelago’s most famous world-class dive destinations are the Great Astrolabe Reef, Somosomo Strait, and many more. Idyllic weather, clear waters, and a wealth of expert instructors also make Fiji an ideal place to learn how to dive, particularly as a family. With an unmatched spectrum of colourful reefs, more than 1,500 species of fish, and several hundred types of coral and sponges, Fiji offers plenty of unique diving and snorkelling experiences. There is even the opportunity to swim with Manta Rays and Hawksbill Turtles if done during the right time of year.

2. IMMERSE YOURSELF IN NATURAL BEAUTY –

The islands of Fiji are spread over 500,000 square miles of the Southern Pacific Ocean. The dreamy country made even more famous by the movies *Cast Away* with Tom Hanks and *The Blue Lagoon* is home to 333 picturesque islands and some of the most paradise-like scenery on earth. With its postcard-perfect islands, hidden coves, and luxurious views of the turquoise ocean, Fiji boasts of having hidden waterfalls and lush green tropical rain forests rugged coastlines, and dramatic volcanic mountain peaks. Fiji’s third-largest island ‘Taveuni’ is referred to as the ‘Garden Island of Fiji’ for a good reason —80 percent of the island is covered by tropical rainforests, along with natural rockslides and ancient lava flow. Also, the Sigatoka Sand Dunes, on the main island of Viti Levu is famous for whose rolling dunes are something straight out of Arabian

nights though right on the coastal front!

Fiji is a breathtakingly beautiful destination on many a traveller’s bucket list and the scenery includes powdery white sands, swaying palm trees, and sparkling turquoise lagoons. From jaw-dropping beaches to tranquil small islands, snorkelling, and wellness programs, to adrenaline-pumping adventures and parties in the middle of the Pacific, there are nearly as many reasons as there are islands in Fiji to ‘Dream of this Paradise’. With some of the most exotic locations in the world, Fiji is the destination of choice for filmmakers also.

3. FAMILIES FEEL AT HOME IN FIJI

Fiji is an ideal destination for those seeking a tropical family holiday; it is filled with fun land-based activities, epic marine experiences, sumptuous cuisine, and warm and friendly locals.



Finding family-friendly accommodation with meal deals and amazing Kids' Clubs for the little ones in Fiji isn't hard. With incredible wildlife, stunning beaches, and a huge range of adventure activities,

Fiji is just one big playground. Grab some snorkels and discover little critters on the reef or learn to dive at any of the many excellent dive spots. You can jump on a jet ski, kayak through mangroves, or head inland to hidden waterfalls and float down rivers on a bamboo raft. Or simply let them swim and build sandcastles to their heart's content on long sandy beaches.

Fiji's relatively small size means getting around is easy so that you can squeeze more activities into each day. Complimentary perks for families commonly include one-on-one nanny services for infants and toddlers, and supervised kids clubs for children ages four to 12. Teens typically can choose from a daily slate of guided activities,





like kayaking, snorkelling, and hiking. At the end of the day, families can gather for meals, swim time in the family pool, and evening activities, such as Fijian dance performances.

4. RELAXATION IS A FORM OF ART IN FIJI

There's always time and room to chill in Fiji. One can experience the sheer bliss of doing nothing except floating in a serene lagoon or napping in a palm-shaded hammock. Many resorts offer relaxation options with a Fijian twist, such as massages on the beach and private picnics on secluded beaches or sandbars. Adults-only island enclaves like Tokoriki Island Resort (only 15 minutes by air from Nadi

International Airport) and the remote Royal Davui Resort in the Beqa Lagoon offer a relaxation trifecta: peace, quiet, and total privacy.

To add a daily dose of pampering to your relaxation regimen, unwind at one of Fiji's world-famous spas. Typical rejuvenating options include traditional Fijian Bobo massages and skin treatments incorporating sugar cane, honey, banana leaves, and other Fiji-sourced ingredients. Fiji's second-largest island is an ideal destination for tranquillity at exclusive properties, such as the celebrity favourite on Vanua Levu. Much of the island is covered in lush tropical forest and coconut plantations, making it a scene



to connect with nature. A few of the accommodations around Savusavu not only host regular wellness retreats but also have their wellness and health programs.

5. ADVENTURE AWAITS IN FIJI!

Those who want some action on their holiday, you are in for a treat. Skydiving, helicopters, jet boats, white water rafting, shark diving, river tubing, Zipline Through the Rainforest, Parasail Over the Islands, White Water Rafting in Deep River Canyons, and much more can be enjoyed in and around the islands of Fiji! with warm weather, warm waters, and warm Fijian hospitality.

6. DISCOVER FIJI ON CRUISE

Fiji Cruises as a holiday option? Yes! Picture this ... Cocktails on the rear deck, fresh sea breezes, sunsets over a golden ocean, and a fabulous new island to discover every day.

Cruises to Fiji are one of the best ways to see and experience the raw natural beauty and serenity of the South Pacific. Discover beaches that

feel like paradise, with crystal-clear water lapping at soft white sand, and palms rustling in the warm breeze. You can snorkel over coral reefs, sunbathe, visit eco-parks with rare protected species, and trek through tropical jungles on these fantastic Fiji cruise itineraries.

In Nadi, take in a live performance that highlights local culture and tradition through music and dance, or explore the town's Hindu temples. Visit the Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park, where you can see 500-year-old lava flows. Soak your stress away in the Sabeto Hot Springs and Mud Pool, or see the incredible fire walking ceremony performed by the villagers of Beqa Island. Experience unforgettable adventures, rich culture, and total relaxation.

Captain Cook Cruise - Get a taste of Fijian Beauty on the blissful short Captain Cook Cruises. The day cruises are designed to give you a taste of the real Fiji; it's great food, spectacular scenery, friendly people, and the opportunity to be as active or laid back as you want. From Tivua Island Day Cruise and Fiji Sunset Dinner Cruise to Private Yacht Sailing, and Adventure Cruises, there's something for every travelers.

Blue Lagoon Cruises - Blue Lagoon Cruises takes you on a journey through paradise, cruising the Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands. These idyllic islands lie off the western coast of Viti Levu, and have some of the most beautiful and striking scenery in the South Pacific. **Opt for Sigatoka River Safari** - Explore Viti Levu's longest river on a Sigatoka River Safari! Enjoy the 18-kilometer journey from Sigatoka Town into Sigatoka Valley and discover the lushly green environment known as the 'salad bowl'. The Sigatoka River Safari is an exciting cultural experience, where you will get to experience both the thrill of a Jet Boat and explore a traditional Village. This tour offers both morning and afternoon departures from Sigatoka, your day will start with an exciting Jet Boat ride to the village where you will learn about some Fijian history and life in the village. During your time in the village,





you will sit down to a lovely tropical lunch with singing and entertainment. After a wonderful cultural experience, you will head back to Sigatoka by Jet Boat and have some fun doing 360-degree spins! Tantalize your taste buds with a sumptuous tropical Fijian lunch prepared by the women of the village before jumping aboard for the return journey!

7. RELISH YOUR TASTE BUDS WITH FIJIAN CUISINE

Fijian cuisine is a delectable fusion with recipes that regularly

incorporate locally sourced ingredients like mud crabs, crunchy sea grapes (called nama), cassava (a fibrous root vegetable), and freshly caught fish. Indian curries are restaurant staples infused with homegrown Fiji flavors, such as coconut milk, plantains, and tomatoes. Extend your deep dive into Fijian cuisine by sharing in a Lovo (earth oven) feast, a traditional meal, slow-cooked underground over heated stones and under banana stalks and palm fronds. Many resorts and restaurants offer special Lovo nights,

where guests can dine on steaming meats, fish, and root vegetables freshly dug out of the subterranean oven.

8. POSTCARD-PERFECT BACKDROPS FOR INSTAGRAM

Capture vibrant images with a daily dose of Fiji's land and water locations and with 30 to 40 varieties of Asian orchids and Cattleya hybrids. In addition to the ubiquitous natural beauty, wherever you choose to travel in the islands you'll encounter an only-in-Fiji scene worth sharing. Make the quick hop south of Viti Levu to post mesmerizing images of Fiji's legendary Beqa Island Firewalker. On the eastern side is the wildly green Taveuni Island, aptly named the Garden Island, fill your feed with shots of the three Tavoro Waterfalls. Located in lushly forested Bouma National Heritage Park, the cascades are visual stunners and have natural volcanic pools where you can simultaneously soak and share a to-die-for Instagram story.

9. GO GOLFING IN FIJI

Golf is played widely in Fiji. The island has plenty of expert-designed golf courses for you to explore. There



are over a dozen scattered throughout the islands, with three championship courses on the main island, Viti Levu, and many smaller and fun 9-hole courses elsewhere. For the ultimate, world-class golfing experience, Viti Levu has three spectacular 18-hole, 72-par championship courses. The Natadola Bay Championship Golf Course, arguably Fiji's best, is located on the South-West coast of the island and it offers spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean, along with excellent facilities. The green island does have everything you need for a luxury golfing holiday. There are world-class championship golf courses and stellar private island stays available.

10. HAVE YOUR WEDDING AND HONEYMOON IN FIJI

Turquoise waters lapping onto sandy shores backed by swaying coconut palms... That's the typical backdrop to a romantic getaway, wedding, or honeymoon in Fiji. The island is so renowned for its breathtaking wedding venues and honeymoon resorts that it's almost become a cliché for romantic island getaways. But it also offers something unique, as Fiji has a smorgasbord of landscapes to dress up your big day, proposal, or honeymoon, from volcanic cliffs with cascading waterfalls to verdant jungles. The romance of the tropics... it has long been a favourite destination for honeymooners and couples and it's becoming increasingly popular for weddings or the re-affirming of vows.

One can choose from modern international resorts or smaller more intimate islands because this tropical paradise has a resort just right for everyone. Some resorts will help you arrange your wedding either in the traditional Fijian style or the white wedding of your dreams.

Whatever the plans, discover why Fijians are the world's best hosts and dive into Fiji for a wedding and honeymoon that you'll never forget. The Fiji people are so warm and friendly that no matter what resort you stay at you will feel like family by the time you leave.



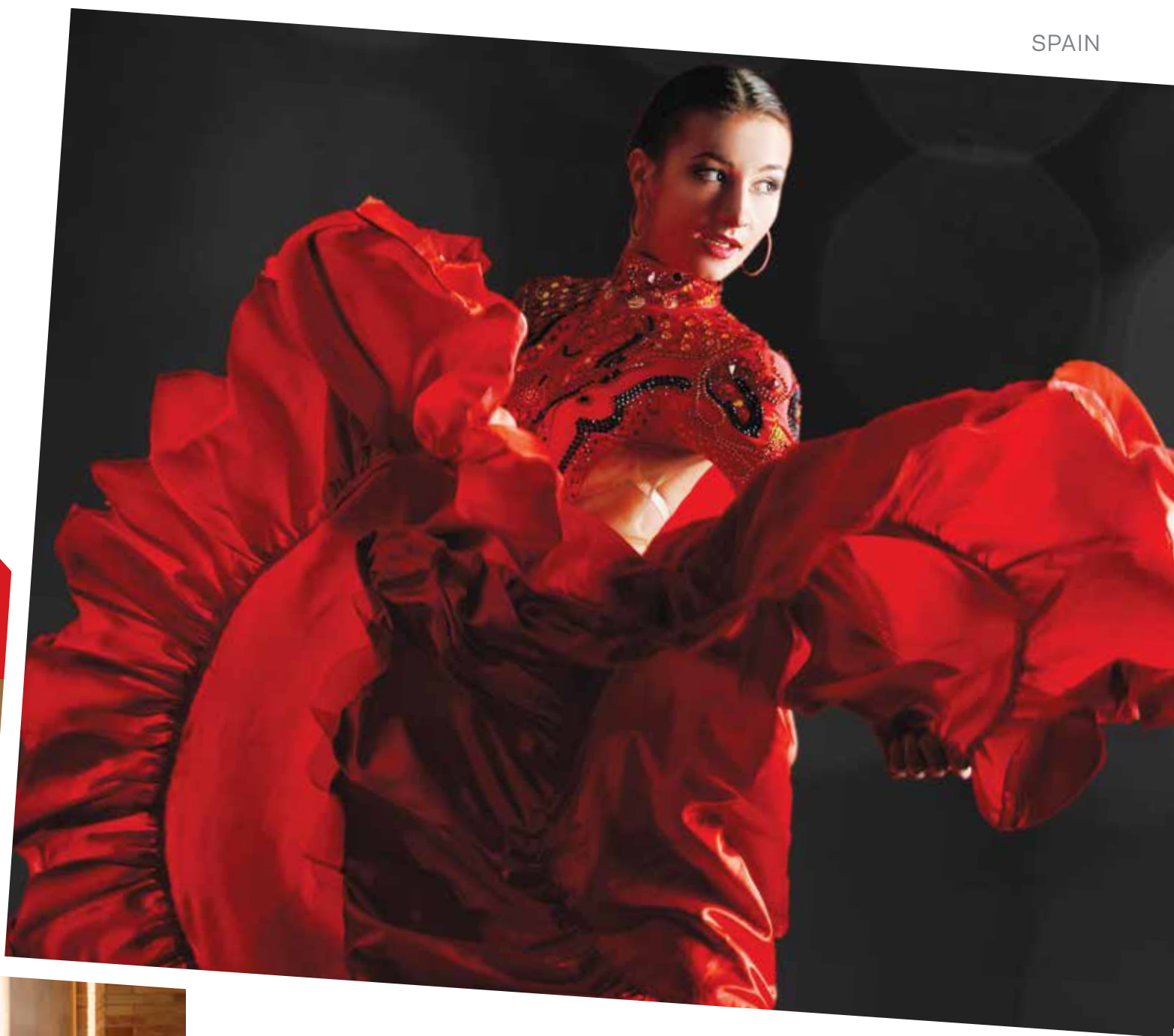
Flamenco

the music genre that will captivate
you when you visit

Spain

*Flamenco
is a form of popular
artistic expression representing a
long-standing tradition that appears
on UNESCO's list of Intangible Cultural
Heritage of Humanity.*





This art form combines vocal music, dance, and musical accompaniment (called *cante*, *baile*, and *toque*) rooted fundamentally in Andalusia and other regions like Murcia and Extremadura. This cultural expressive vehicle with two centuries of history (some experts have traced its origins to the 18th century when its popularity began to grow) is the most emblematic of Andalusian folklore and the most renowned form of artistic expression in Spain. Flamenco has become a true identity for numerous communities, such as the gypsy ethnic group, where it is transmitted from generation to generation through dynasties of artists, families, flamenco clubs, numerous important festivals, schools, and flamenco

tablaos, whose numbers are growing each year.

There are a myriad of figures in the world of flamenco whose endeavours in the art have brought them great success, namely, Antonio Gades, Enrique Morente, Eva La Yerbabuena, La Niña de la Puebla, Joaquín Cortés, Antonio Canales, Rafael Amargo, Antonio “El Bailarín”, Camarón de la Isla, Cristina Hoyos or Carmen Amaya, just to name a few. They are able to express a multitude of different feelings through the medium of vocal music (*cante*) and dancing (*baile*). *Cante* can not only be accompanied by the flamenco guitar, but also by castanets, a percussion box known as “*el cajón*”, hand-clapping and heel-clicking, whose rhythms are broken down into diverse “*palos*” or varieties

(toná, soleá, seguiriya, fandango, sevillanas, etc.) based on factors, such as the song's character or origin. Baile, in turn, has a complex technique and its interpretation varies according to the individual performer.

Flamenco is the most well-known music genre in Spain. Today, one of the best places to enjoy flamenco in Spain is at a tablao, a traditional live music café from "the golden age of flamenco" that you can find throughout the country. These cafés have launched a number of careers over the years: great singers such as Camarón de la Isla and Enrique Morente, dancers such as Carmen Amaya and Farruco, and guitarists such as Paco de Lucía. Madrid is sometimes considered

another province of Andalusia due to its great flamenco and is the home to some of the best tablaos in the country, where you're guaranteed a great show and fantastic food. You will feel yourself clapping along to the rhythm of the music in no time. It'll make you want to get up and dance as you shout: olé! And during your trip, you can also learn to dance Sevillanas and tap your heels in time to the music in the traditional style.

The generation that followed Camarón de la Isla has been introducing new sounds and fusing other genres into flamenco, to create a new vision of the genre that is merged with tradition. Did you know that Rosalía is one of the new up-and-coming artists in

the genre? When you visit Spain, you can also enjoy various routes that you will find in the heartland of flamenco: Andalusia. You can't leave without discovering the home of the music that is loved by the entire world. Begin your discovery by creating a playlist of the best flamenco for your trip to Spain.

Do you love flamenco music? The best areas to enjoy it

Originating in the mix of cultures and traditions that is Andalusia, flamenco is one of the most quintessentially Spanish artistic disciplines. Recognized by UNESCO in 2010 as part of the world's Intangible Cultural Heritage, it is an art form bursting with emotion and passion,





SPAIN

expressed in music, song, and dance. Discover the thrill of this raw and authentic art in the best areas of Spain for enjoying flamenco.

Andalusia, the birthplace of flamenco

Flamenco first emerged in Andalusia, and some of the most famous flamenco artists were born in the region. Today its spirit is still very much alive, and this is one of the best places in Spain to experience flamenco performance. Different areas of Andalusia have their *aires* or regional styles, and while you can find flamenco anywhere in the region, the best-known centers are Seville, Jerez de la Frontera, Granada, and Cordoba.

Seville

Seville is home to *tonás* and *sevillanas*, Spain's most famous flamenco *palos* (styles). As well as enjoying the sound of flamenco in streets, bars, and *tablaos*, not to mention the *saetas* sung during the Easter processions, in Seville, you can soak up flamenco culture in the *Flamenco Dance Museum*, founded by Cristina Hoyos. If you get a chance to attend, the *Flamenco Biennial*, held every two years since 1980, is a major event celebrating the art of flamenco with competitions, shows, discussions, and much more.

Jerez de la Frontera

Lola Flores and José Mercé are just two of the many illustrious flamenco artists from Jerez de la Frontera. This is a town where flamenco pervades everything, with innumerable *tablaos*, recitals, and events, including the traditional Fiesta de la Bulería and the famous Jerez International Flamenco Festival. An essential visit for a deeper understanding of this culture is the *Andalusian Centre of Flamenco*, with exhibitions and historical archives.

Granada

Granada is the living history of flamenco. The famous Sacromonte caves, home to great artists for centuries, offer exceptional flamenco shows where you can enjoy the traditional dance forms of the region,



beautiful guitar playing, and emotive laments or *quejíos*. To experience this culture to the full, we recommend the flamenco tour “Tras los pasos de Antonio Chacón”, visiting several districts of Granada where the people live and breathe flamenco, accompanied by the music of Chacón, one of the greatest exponents of the *fandango*.

Cordoba

A visit to Córdoba is an authentic flamenco experience. One of the most festive evenings in a city famous for its fiestas is the *Noche Blanca del Flamenco*, with top flamenco artists



performing all night in the open air. Another important event in the world of flamenco is the famous *International Guitar Festival*, with workshops, concerts, and shows. The *Fosforito Flamenco Centre* is another must-see venue for discovering the high-quality flamenco of Cordoba.

Madrid, the showbiz capital

The capital of Spain is also the place to enjoy the very best flamenco. *Madrid*

offers flamenco shows at all times of night and day, in theatres and *tablaos*, including the iconic Corral de la Morería. Essential events include the *Suma Flamenca Festival*, celebrating some of the greatest singers, dancers, and musicians while also introducing new talents, and the *Flamenco Madrid contest*, with a full, wide-ranging programme.

Barcelona, the art of flamenco in all its glory

After Madrid and Andalusia,

Barcelona is one of the best places in Spain to enjoy flamenco. This is mainly due to the many shows to be seen in its theatres, including the Palau de la Música Catalana, and flamenco *tablaos*, especially the city's largest, the *Palacio del Flamenco*. Throughout the year, the beautiful melodies of Spanish and flamenco guitar can be heard in Barcelona's *Maestros de la Guitarra* concert cycle.

Murcia, the legacy of Andalusian flamenco

Murcia took the flamenco of Andalusia and fused it with the *cantes* and *fandangos* emerging from the Murcian mining towns, thanks to emigration and the long-term mingling of Murcian and Andalusian traditions. This is how the prestigious *Flamenco Festival of Las Minas* began in 1962, bringing some of the world's greatest flamenco artists to the town of La Unión. Throughout the region, there are flamenco clubs that liven up the local fiestas with their performances, and they are all worth taking the time to enjoy.

Spain, A country full of artistic wonders

Discovering Spain means travelling back and forth in time and being surprised by a whole host of monuments ranging from an ancient Roman aqueduct to medieval castles and the most avant-garde, futuristic architecture. Centuries and mixed cultures have left their fascinating mark on Spain with some of the most amazing artistic heritage in the world. When you visit us you will be enchanted with the stories behind every work of art and remember them forever. Some of the most beautiful masterpieces created by Velázquez, Picasso, Dalí, and Gaudí are here. It is well worth discovering them with the original guided tours on offer, retracing the footsteps of great masters through museums such as the Prado, or visiting palaces like the Alhambra in Granada on a moonlit tour. Experiences that offer so much more than an average visit to a monument.

Qatar on a budget

Insider travel tips from Qatar Tourism

*Qatar Tourism reveals
the best way to
experience Qatar on
a value budget*





With more than one million visitors set to visit Qatar for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, fans should rest assured that incredible experiences, local culture, food, and flavours are all available at fantastic value for money – or even for free.

Chief Operating Officer of Qatar Tourism, Berthold Trenkel, said: “Qatar is easy and exciting to explore without breaking the bank. All visitors will find a raft of inexpensive restaurants, transport options, activities, and lots of attractions to enjoy either for free or at a great value. Qatar is one of the safest destinations in the world, centred around the warm hospitality characteristic of the local culture.”

THINGS TO DO FOR FREE

- Picnics at the park: Qatar has numerous lush green parks – the perfect place for a family stroll and a picnic. Aspire Park has lakes, kid’s play areas, and views of the 300-meter Torch Tower. Al Bidda Park stretches down the coastline and has many sporting activities on offer, along with rentable barbecue spaces. Adjacent to the Museum of Islamic Art is MIA Park with the best vantage point of the Doha skyline. The small but stunning Onaiza Park has a pretty garden area and winding walking track.

- Public beaches: Those willing to venture 1hr 20 mins outside Doha should seek out Fuwairit Beach for its powdery white sand and crystal-clear waters. Fuwairit Beach is a hotspot for kitesurfers and home to a hatching site for the endangered Hawksbill Sea Turtles. Closer to the capital is Sealine Beach, in the desert dunes of the south, or Katara Beach, inside Katara Cultural Village within Doha itself. For a list of the top public beaches visit: <https://www.visitqatar.qa/intl-en/things-to-do/get-inspired/the-top-public-beaches-in-qatar>

- Soak up the culture: Katara Cultural Village has a stunning beach promenade, an impressive open-air amphitheater, and a network of exhibition galleries and cutting-edge facilities. Souq Waqif is the country’s



bustling traditional marketplace, offering souvenirs, spices, and numerous budget-friendly food options. The newly developed Msheireb and Education City districts each provide a free tram service to tour the wonderful avant-garde architecture for a dose of how the past meets the present in Qatari design and culture. The latter also houses the Qatar National Library with its intriguing paper plane design, while Msheireb has museums that

celebrate the history of four heritage houses.

HAGGLE FOR A BARGAIN

In Qatar's souqs or markets, a friendly bit of haggling is expected to find the right price for both parties. The iconic Souq Waqif, in the oldest part of Doha, offers numerous shops and stalls. Popular items for sale include pashmina shawls and scarves, oud wood or oil, dates and spices, intricate

wooden boxes, Dalla Arabian pots for coffee, and modern jewellery at the suitably entitled Gold Souq. Visitors can also haggle when booking a cruise aboard a traditional wooden dhow boat, which are lined up along the Corniche and provide a relaxing way to watch the sunset.

EAT WELL FOR LESS

Qatar offers a wide range of local and international cuisine and being on



a budget doesn't mean skimping on quality and flavour.

Shay Al Shomous is a restaurant run by a renowned Qatari woman called Shams Al Qassabi, who was the first businesswoman to open a shop in Souq Waqif. All menu items are priced under 7 USD, so it is easy to sample a large assortment of authentic Qatari food.

Chapati & Karak is an establishment in Katara Cultural Village, serving local tea for less than 2 USD. This sweet karak tea is an Indian drink now deeply rooted in Qatari culture.

In the heart of the city is Turkey Central, frequented by both locals and ex-pats alike for its mouth-watering menu, generous prices, and prompt service. The menu options start from 1 USD upwards, with plates big enough for two to share.

ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORT

In Doha, one of the easiest ways to get around is the new metro system. The state-of-the-art network features 100 km/h trains, driverless carriages, and a Gold Class for premium passengers. A journey costs as little as 2 QAR for a one-way trip (0.55 USD), after a reusable travel card has been purchased for 10 QAR (2.75 USD).

Other transport options include comprehensive bus service, taxis, and ride-hailing apps such as Uber and Careem. A typical (non-surge)





30-minute journey on Uber usually comes to no more than 7 USD.

Lusail Tram travels around Lusail City, the heart of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™. Sights include Lusail Stadium, which will host the tournament's final, and Place Vendôme – a giant new luxury French-inspired shopping mall with dancing water fountains. Tram tickets cost 2 QAR for a one-way trip (0.55 USD).

SIX OF THE BEST VALUE HOTELS

Four Points by Sheraton Doha

With 120 spacious rooms or suites available, the hotel sits right across a metro station and is just a short walk from Msheireb Downtown Doha. Rates start at QAR 475 per night (130 USD), room only, subject to hotel availability

Holiday Inn Doha – The Business Park

In the centre of the bustling financial district – perfect for a 'bleisure' break. It's a 15-minute drive from Hamad International Airport and a few minutes away from top attractions including Souq Waqif, the Museum of Islamic Art, and the National Museum of Qatar. The hotel's room rates start at QAR 400 per night (110 USD)



The Curve Hotel Qatar

Overlooking the Arabian Gulf in a design that follows the curvature of the Corniche, the hotel sits in the heart of the city skyline

Centro Capital Doha

A 4-star affordable brand of the Rotana hotels, with a stylish design and modern amenities in the middle of the historical old Doha district. Rates start at QAR 400 per night (110 USD), room only, subject to hotel availability

Strato by Warwick

Close to the Hamad International Airport with elegant interiors. Rates start at QAR 200 per night (110 USD), room

only, subject to hotel availability

Swiss- Belinn Doha

In the heart of the capital amid comfortable and trendy surroundings, the hotel is near Quest Doha, and Msheireb Downtown Doha. Room rates start from 220 QAR / night, subject to hotel availability

ENJOY THE WORLD'S BEST VALUE STOPOVER

Qatar has incredible stopover packages available from just 14 USD per night. The deals, launched at the end of last year by Qatar Airways and Discover Qatar, and supported by Qatar Tourism, include a range of leading four-and five-star hotels, offering an affordable luxury to suit all budgets.



Top 10 unique day trips from Qatar's capital

- Qatar Tourism has rounded up some of the leading attractions to visit outside Doha
- Iconic sites and hidden treasures are never more than 90 minutes away



Qatar Tourism is calling on holidaymakers and fans attending the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ to take a day trip out of Doha and discover Qatar beyond the capital. Within the 90-minutes it takes to play a football match, visitors can leave Doha for amazing adventures in mesmerizing desert dunes, UNESCO heritage sites, ancient rock carvings, water parks, golden beaches, eco farms, lush green mangrove forests and so much more.



Chief Operating Officer of Qatar Tourism, Berthold Trenkel, said: *“Just a stone’s throw from Doha are fantastic cultural, natural and family-friendly excursions that some visitors might miss. We’re more than just a city and we want the world to discover the hidden treasures strewn across our peninsula. The beauty of a holiday here is the compactness of diverse experiences, with all our iconic attractions never more than a 90-minute drive away – or the time it takes to watch a World Cup match. For anyone staying in the country for longer than 24 hours, a day trip out of Doha is a delightful highlight of a holiday in Qatar.”*

Here are 10 of the top out-of-Doha day trips rounded up by Qatar Tourism:

1. Banana Island Resort

The glistening crescent-shaped Banana Island is accessible by boat only. A 25-minute journey from Al Shyukh Terminal in downtown Doha, the island beach offers an ideal escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. Guests can travel for the day or stay overnight at Banana Island Resort Doha

by Anantara, featuring a lagoon pool, spa, golf court, cinema, and several restaurants. *Distance from Doha: 25 minutes*

2. Heenat Salma Farm

Fans of organic, natural produce should visit Heenat Salma Farm for an eco-conscious experience. A working agricultural farm that grows more than 30 different crops, fruits, and vegetables, and produces dairy, eggs, honey, and meat, Heenat Salma is a center for hospitality, education, and wellbeing. Visitors can stay overnight in traditional tents positioned around a central fire, which instills a sense of community. There is a pool, wellness room, library, and a kitchen where chefs prepare simple, healthy, nourishing meals. *Distance from Doha: 40 minutes*

3. Purple Island

Bin Ghannam Island, popularly known as Purple Island, is a hidden gem famous for its abundance of mangroves. The island’s association with purple comes from an ancient Kassite-controlled dye industry, which started more than two thousand years ago when the colour was coveted by Roman royalty for their clothing. Sunset





is an opportune time to visit Purple Island: go kayaking, or hike around the island to scout the perfect sunset spot for photos. *Distance from Doha: 45 minutes*

4. Baladna Park

A green refuge on the outskirts of Doha, Baladna Park is a fun-filled family day out with a children's adventure land, bumper boats, a petting zoo, and a reptile cave. The park is run by Baladna Farm, a 100% Qatari business that is one of the largest cattle farms in the region, and it provides fresh milk and dairy products to Qatar's restaurants and residents. The farm is also open to members of the public, who can discover the milking process in purpose-built farms that protect animals from harsh changes in climate. *Distance from Doha: 45 minutes*

5. Dhal Al Misfir cave

One of the country's most exciting natural sites, the 40-meter-deep Dahl Al Misfir is considered the largest accessible cave in Qatar. Estimated to have been formed around 300,000-500,000 years ago, the cave emits an otherworldly moon-like glow due to gypsum deserts in the center of the peninsula. These same minerals give rise to 'desert roses' – clusters of crystals that inspired Jean Nouvel in his iconic design of the National Museum of Qatar. *Distance from Doha: 55 minutes*

6. Al Jassasiya Rock Carvings

Nobody quite knows when these nearly 900 carvings, known as 'petroglyphs', were created. Discovered in 1957, the distinct carvings feature shapes including fish, ostriches, dhow boats, and cup marks, across a 700-meter area. Some suggest the art dates back more than 2,000 years, others put the date at just a few centuries ago. Either way, the carvings offer a tantalizing glimpse into an ancient past and are Qatar's most exciting enigma. *Distance from Doha: 1 hour*



7. Al Zubarah Fort

Qatar's UNESCO World Heritage Site, Al Zubarah Fort is a pristine example of a traditional Arabic fortress. The walls overlook the ruins of a once-bustling pearling town that saw fierce tribal battles as powerful empires fought for regional dominance. Visitors who head up to the site will find a museum with artifacts from this historical era, including cannonballs, coins, and the weights used by pearl divers who used to plunge down 14 meters to search among thousands of oysters before finding that one rare gem.

On the way to Al Zubarah are the remains of the ghost town of Al Jumail, which offers another fascinating glimpse into Qatar's humble past. *Distance from Doha: 1 hour 15 minutes*

8. Hilton Salwa Beach Resort Villas

On Qatar's southwestern tip is one of the country's best-kept secrets. A nirvana for lovers of sun, sea, and sand, Hilton Salwa Beach Resort has 3.5 kilometers of soft white beaches and landscaped gardens. Within the grounds is one of the largest theme parks in the Middle East, Desert Falls. The park features 18 attractions, with 56 rides and slides, from the Sea Caves Water Park to the Desert Street Circuit Go Karting. *Distance from Doha: 1 hour 20 minutes*

9. East-West / West-East

Richard Serra's breath-taking public art installation in the Qatari desert comprises four 14-meter-high steel plates spread out over a kilometer. Pictures of the striking display routinely set Instagram accounts alight, as the pillars stand in stark contrast to the

soft brown hues of the surrounding desert. Also in the area are the Umbrella Rock Mountain, Zekreet Fort, and the abandoned film set known as Film City, all worth a quick look. *Distance from Doha: 1 hour 20 minutes*

10. Inland Sea

There are rare few places in the world where desert dunes greet the shores of the sea. The spectacular 'Inland Sea', or Khor Al Adaid, in the south of Qatar is one, and those with an afternoon to spare should seriously consider visiting, accessible only by 4x4 vehicles. Visitors should coincide their excursion with the sunset or sunrise for the best photos, and keep an eye out for turtles, the Arabian oryx, and flamingos, before taking a dip in the warm sea waters. *Distance from Doha: 1 hour 30 minutes*

Sri Lanka to Look to India for Quick Tourist Revival Amid Crisis

- Plans roadshows in five Indian cities starting in August
- Aiming for 1 million tourists this year despite challenges



Sri Lanka plans to tap Indian tourists to revive the South Asian island's battered tourism sector and shore up its depleted foreign exchange reserves.

Authorities will hold roadshows starting next month in five Indian cities to attract travelers seeking "wellness, leisure, and Ramayana-trail," tours, corporate functions, and destination weddings, said Harin Fernando, the South Asian island's tourism minister. Ramayana is the mythological life story of the Hindu god Ram.

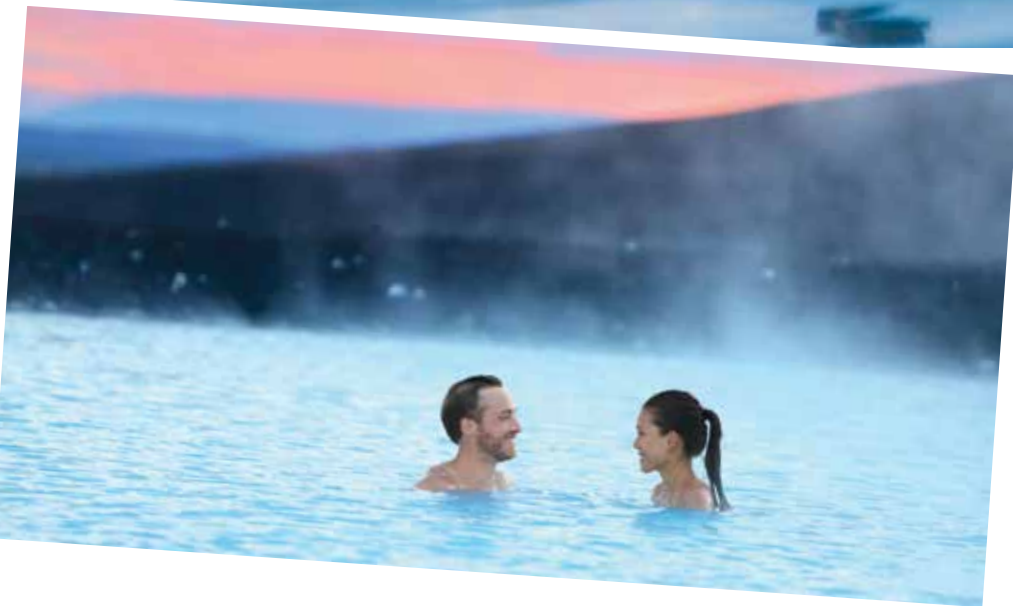
"We believe that Indian tourists will be very important for us in the short term," he said in a virtual conference.

The worst economic meltdown since independence, coupled with political turmoil, has hurt the nation's tourism sector, that's been a key driver of foreign currency inflows. Sri Lanka's forex pile has dwindled to a meager \$1.89 billion in May even as it needs nearly \$6 billion in the next few months to tackle shortages and support its currency.

The South Asian nation is banking heavily on multilateral institutions,

including the International Monetary Fund, and friendly countries, for aid to tide over the crisis. Neighboring India, so far, has extended \$3.5 billion of support in the last few months.

Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and New Delhi have been picked for the roadshows, Fernando said, adding that the bankrupt nation hopes to attract about 1 million tourists in 2022. Sri Lanka welcomed a peak of around 2.5 million tourists in 2018 before the Easter Sunday terror attacks dried up arrivals.



Six reasons Iceland is the ultimate wellness destination

Iceland is one of the best wellness destinations in the world because of the long history of hot springs and geothermal spas. The black beaches, mountains, magical and mysterious lava rock lands, and dramatic landscape have made Iceland a destination not to miss. The naturally occurring phenomenon is not all you will get in Iceland. This magical country will also offer wellness benefits.

Here are some wellness reasons to visit this Nordic island nation.





1. Geothermal pools

Iceland's power source is geothermal energy; thus, natural geothermal pools are found all over. For your wellness, you can swim in the Blue Lagoon's beneficial water because its average temperature is 102 degrees. Your skin is rejuvenated and healed by the minerals such as sulfur and silica found in the warm seawater. Silica found in the blue lagoon keeps

your healthy skin as it acts as an anti-inflammatory. When in you visit Iceland, your skin will feel fresher than before the moment you will receive a silica mud mask.

2. Unspoiled nature

The mother nature-inspired phenomenon in Iceland is rarely spoiled as they are the country's pride. From geothermal, waterfalls, hot springs,

mountains, glaciers, and many others are the unspoiled nature found on this Nordic island, thus making it the best wellness destination. The unspoiled nature in Iceland gives it a fresh and clean look; thus, you are safe when spending your vacation in Iceland.

3. Many opportunities for hikes and outdoor movement

Visiting Iceland, you will experience both the land of ice and fire. Iceland contains many mountains if you are a hiker or like to take on challenging exercises. Because the mountains are many, you can choose one that suits you, whether you are an experienced mountaineer or an amateur. Glacier lakes such as Jökulsárlón are some of the many glaciers you need to discover. During your stay in Iceland, the Þríhnúkgígur magma chamber is a must-visit as you explore the heart of a dormant mountain.

4. Fresh local food

Artificial ingredients or GMOs are rarely used because fresh fare from the surroundings is used for Scandinavian cuisine culture. Lobsters, lamb, salted cod, and hot dogs are the classic food you will recognize, although Iceland locals commonly like cream cheese and Skyr.

5. No pollution

When you step out of the airport, the first thing you notice is to breathe the crisp polar air. Iceland has no pollution; thus, the view of the midnight sky is not blocked by any smog. Geothermal heat, inspired by mother nature, helps you feel free to delight while staying indoors.

6. Slow-paced living

You will practice slow-paced living as Icelanders do because their days are nonexistent in the cold months and longer in the summer. Because of the beautiful concepts and values, the lifestyle is made so entrenched.

Have you ever been to Iceland? If not, you are missing a lot. Thus, you need to plan and visit this magical and mysterious Nordic Island soon.

Banyan Tree appoints Tekla Maira as Regional Director of Sales – India



Banyan Tree Hotels and Resorts has appointed Tekla Maira as the Regional Director of Sales – India for its five key hotels and resorts in Thailand, namely Banyan Tree Bangkok, Banyan Tree Phuket, Angsana Laguna Phuket, Cassia Phuket, and Homm Bliss Southbeach Patong.

“We are pleased to have Tekla, a well-known industry professional joined our team as Regional Director of Sales. Having created successes for different hotel brands in the luxury and premium space, Tekla’s expertise and rich experience will see her implementing innovative sales and marketing strategies for our Thailand hotels post-COVID and create greater awareness for the global multi-brand ecosystem of Banyan Tree Group in India,” said **Benjawan Meksakul, Regional Director of Sales & Marketing – Thailand & Laos of Banyan Tree Group**

Currently, with direct flights operating to both Bangkok and Phuket and relaxed entry guidelines, these five distinctive hotels will be very attractive to the Indian travellers seeking purposeful travel – by catering personalised experiences to the wedding, meeting, and leisure market segments alike.

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