

LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# travel

## SPAN

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Red Sea Project**  
seeks to embody  
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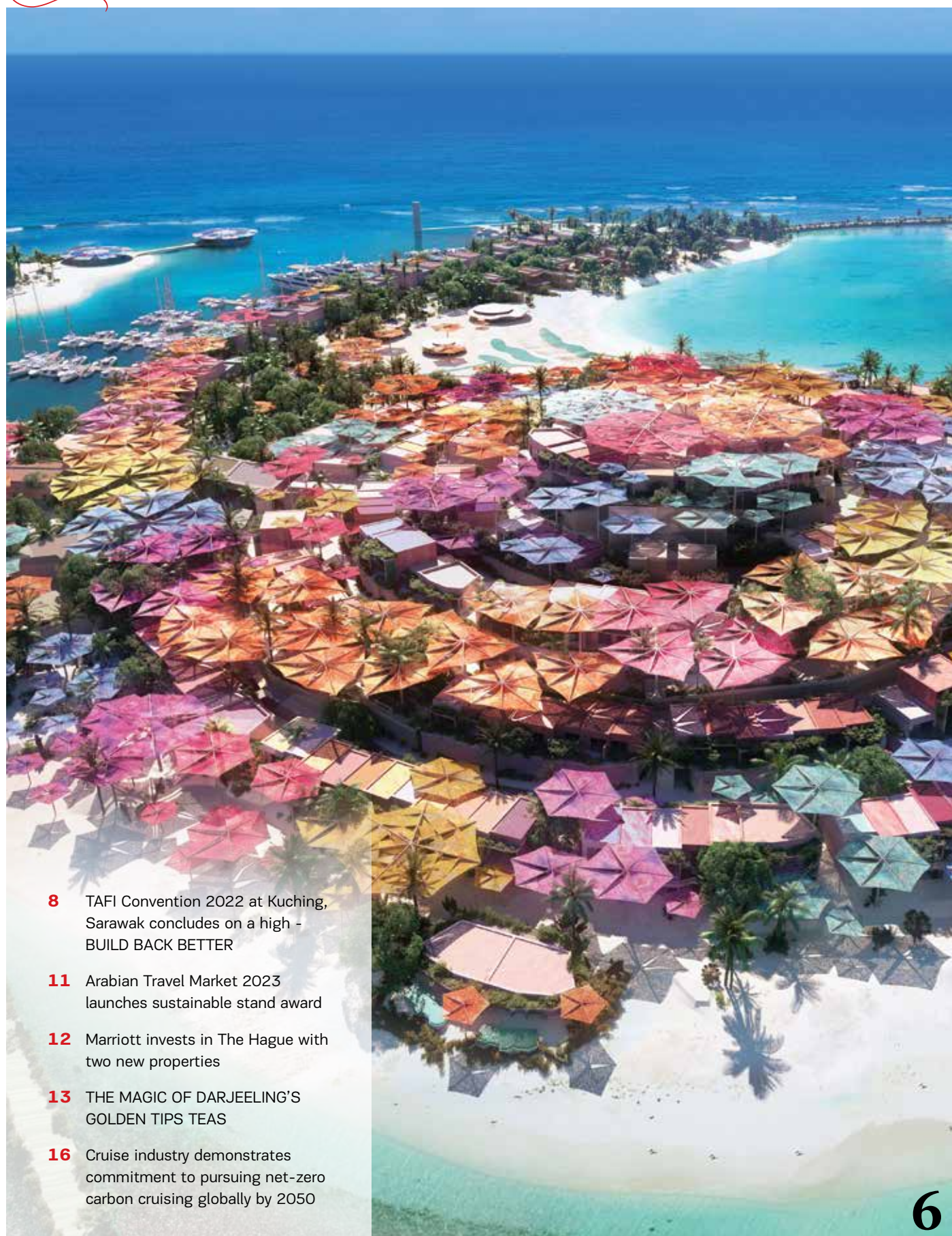
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**DEVENDER GROVER**  
Editor in Chief & Publisher

**GAURA G BAHL**  
Group Editor

**ANURADHA M**  
Associate Editor

**JYOTSNA MALIK**  
International Sales Director

**RASIKA MATHUR**  
Events Coordinator

**RAJESH MAURYA**  
Head of Finance

**JITESH GANDHI**  
Creative Director

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Website: [www.travelspan.in](http://www.travelspan.in)

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## Editor's Letter

# Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Project seeks to embody regenerative Tourism



**E**mbracing adventure, culture, luxury, and nature, The Red Sea and AMAALA are two tourism destinations being developed on Saudi Arabia's west coast by The Red Sea Development Company (TRSDC).

Spanning over 28,000 sq km of undulating desert dunes, mountain canyons, an archipelago of 90 islands, dormant volcanoes and ancient heritage sites.

Alongside rehabilitating coral reefs and planting forests in the desert, the Red Sea Development Company is carving out a utopian tourism enclave on a Saudi Arabian archipelago that will be home to 50 luxury hotels by 2030.

Saudi Arabia's "Vision 2030" promotes a future that puts culture, education and industrial diversification, and tourism policies at the top of its list of priorities.

Building its tourism sector will be central to these ambitions. By the end of the decade it hopes that tourism will contribute 10 per cent of its GDP annually, provide one million additional

jobs, and attract 100 million visitors a year.

The Red Sea Development Company's "Red Sea Project" will no doubt be a major draw – and work is already well underway. Located on Saudi Arabia's west coast, nine international hotel brands have now signed management agreements to open properties here.

The first hotels to open will be from Six Senses and St Regis, with guests being welcomed from early 2023.

These will be followed by resorts from EDITION, Fairmont, Raffles, SLS, Grand Hyatt, Intercontinental Hotels and Resorts, and Jumeirah.

The gateway to the Red Sea Project will be Shurayrah Island, where Foster + Partners is designing a hub called Coral Bloom to accommodate the debut hotels. Part of an archipelago of 90 islands, just 22 of them will be developed, meaning 75 per cent of them will be protected. The destination also features desert dunes, mountain canyons, dormant volcanoes, and



ancient cultural and heritage sites.

The vision for Shurayrah is inspired by the island's natural state, with the hotels designed to give the impression that they have washed up on the beaches and nestled among the dunes almost like driftwood. The materials we use and the low impact they have ensures that the pristine environment is protected, while the additions we make to the island serve to enhance what is already there – hence the name, Coral Bloom.

Saudi Arabia is accelerating its development of a new tourism offering in the Kingdom, fueled by the ambitious Vision 2030 program. It will unveil a collection of unique and diverse hospitality brands that cater to this growing market and underpin our commitment to creating a world-leading barefoot luxury destination which will soon serve as a gateway to one of the last undiscovered places on the planet.

By 2030, the Red Sea Project expects to host one million visitors annually, creating upwards of 70,000 new jobs and contributing US\$5.3 billion to the nation's GDP once fully operational.

The Red Sea Project's first phase of development is on track for completion by the end of 2023, with a total of 16 hotels set to offer 3,000 hotel rooms across five islands and two inland sites.

Upon completion in 2030, the site will host 50 hotels offering up to 8,000 hotel rooms and approximately 1,000 residential properties across 22 islands and six inland sites.

The first phase will also include a luxury marina, an 18-hole championship golf course, entertainment and leisure facilities, as well as an international airport that will be accessible by 80 per cent of the world's population in less than eight hours and expected to serve up to one million passengers per year by 2030.

The Red Sea Development Company is a closed joint-stock company wholly owned by the Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia. TRSDC was established to drive the development of the Red Sea Project, a luxury,



regenerative tourism destination that will “set new standards in sustainable development and position Saudi Arabia on the global tourism map”.

The Red Sea Project will also feature residential properties, leisure, commercial and entertainment amenities, as well as supporting infrastructure that emphasizes renewable energy and water conservation and re-use, as well as a circular waste management system to achieve zero waste to landfill.

The 100-hectare Landscape Nursery, which will provide more than 15 million plants for the destination, is fully operational. Protecting existing biodiversity is also important – mangroves are being preserved and floating coral nurseries established to help regenerate marine habitats, as well as grow reefs for divers close to resorts.

The Red Sea Development Company says it has committed to delivering a 30 per cent net conservation benefit by 2040. To achieve this it is creating the world's largest district cooling plant powered by renewable energy 24 hours

a day and the largest battery storage system in the world. It will offset visitors' entire carbon footprint on their behalf.

Along the northwest coast is AMAALA, spanning over 4,155 square kilometers of unique terrain. It is an ultra-luxury destination designed to create transformative personal journeys inspired by wellness, arts and culture, featuring the sun and sea, stunning sceneries, mountainous landscapes, golden sands, crystal waters, and untouched coral reefs. Its first phase of development is set for completion by mid 2024.

“Authenticity is at the core of TRSDC's brand narrative. We aim to develop memorable journeys and personalized experiences. India's luxury travel segment is growing at an admirable pace and exhibiting immense promise,” said **Ms. Loredana Pettinati, TRSDC Senior Travel Trade Director**. “Our intention is to engage this market with authentic, immersive and innovative storytelling that rightfully paints a sublime picture of The Red Sea and AMAALA.

We are on    

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## TAFI Convention 2022 at Kuching, Sarawak concludes on a high - BUILD BACK BETTER







After a gap of 4 years, TAFI held its international Convention at Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia from 20 to 23 September. The theme of the Convention was “Build Back Better,” a direct reference to the need to rethink and reorient tourism business strategy post-Covid. Close to 500 Indian delegates and media attended the Convention which was hosted by Tourism Malaysia, Sarawak Tourism Board, Business Events Sarawak, and MyCEB. The Borneo Convention Centre Kuching was the venue for the successful convention.

Commenting on the theme and outcome of the Convention, **Ajay Prakash, TAFI President** said, “We’re holding a Convention after 4 years in a world that has undergone a radical change. The consumer has changed, the expectations have changed and stakeholders in the industry change must keep pace with the new travelers. Responsible Tourism is no longer an optional luxury, it’s a dire necessity if we are to remain relevant. I’m very happy at the response from our members and I hope that everyone who attended will go back with some new ideas and a new attitude to the business.”

Eminent industry leaders from India and across the world participated in the 3 Knowledge Sessions:

1. Build Back Better which focused on the responsibility of the travel and tourism industry to learn from past mistakes and to restructure tourism with sensitivity towards the Planet and in line with the changed consumer behaviour and expectations.

2. Change the Tune which focused on the need to travel agents and tour operators to look beyond airline

commissions, which have all but disappeared, and to creatively devise new avenues for revenue

3. The Big M in Tourism addressed the issue of, Magnifying and resurrecting brands in the post-Covid world to stay relevant to the younger generation Informative presentations by Asego who have revolutionized the distribution of travel insurance, DreamFolks who offer airport lounges and related services across the globe, Verteil who are an NDC aggregator and VFS Global, the pioneers of facilitating visa services were attentively absorbed by the delegates.

**Keynote addresses by Zubin Karkaria** - Founder & CEO of VFS Global, **Ankush Nijhawan** - Co-Founder of TBO.com and MD Nijhawan Group and **Vinay Gupta** - Founder and Group CEO of TripFactory.com kept the delegates in their seats.

A major highlight of the Convention was the TAFI-TBM awards which brought glam and glitter to the Inauguration. **H.E. Mr. B.N. Reddy, High Commissioner of India** to Malaysia presented the awards along with other dignitaries and TAFI MC members.

**Ms. Elena Primikiri, Head of ESG at VFS Global** introduced the TAFI-TBM Women Achievers’ awards which were presented by VFS Global.

The illustrious award winners were:

TAFI-TBM “GLOBAL AMBASSADOR FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM” –

Presented by VFS Global to **YB Dato’ Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri** – (Minister for Tourism, Govt of Malaysia) - for Visionary Leadership



TAFI-TBM “SUPERWOMEN OF TOURISM” - Presented by VFS GLOBAL

1. **Sharzede Datu Hj Salleh Askor** – (CEO Sarawak Tourism Board) - for Conservation & Environment
2. **Amelia Roziman** – (CEO of Business Events Sarawak) - for Innovation & Marketing Leadership
3. **Libertha Kallat** – (Founder & MD DreamFolks) - for Business Leadership
4. **Jyoti Mayal** – (President TAAI) - for Tourism Advocacy
5. **Natalia Bayona** – (Head of Education & Digital Transformation UNWTO) - for Education Digital Transformation

TAFI – TBM TORCH BEARERS OF TOURISM

1. **YB Dato’ Sri Abdul Karim Rahman Hamzah** - (Minister for Tourism, Sarawak) – Torch Bearer of Sarawak Tourism
2. **Dato Zainuddin Abdul Wahab** - (Director General, Tourism Malaysia) – Torch Bearer of Malaysian Tourism

TORCHBEARERS OF TOURISM INNOVATION

1. **Ankush Nijhawan** - (Co-Founder TBO.com & MD Nijhawan Group) - for Tech and Travel Innovation
2. **Dev Karvat** - (CEO Asego) - for Travel Services Innovation

GLOBAL BUSINESS LEADER AWARD – PRESENTED BY TAFI & TBM IN ASSOCIATION WITH TOURISM MALAYSIA

**Zubin Karkaria** - CEO & President VFS Global

TAFI – TBM SPECIAL RECOGNITION for Exceptional Contribution to Tourism

1. **Hii Chang Kee** – (Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Sarawak) - for Championing the Cause of Sarawak Tourism
2. **Manoharan Periasamy** (Senior Director, International Promotion, Tourism Malaysia) –for being the Face of Tourism Malaysia in India

The finale to the Awards was the TAFI TRIBUTE FOR STERLING SUPPORT TO THE INDIAN TRAVEL INDUSTRY which was presented by **Ajay Prakash** on behalf of the travel fraternity to the late Ankur Bhatia of the Bird Group. A short video wherein industry leaders recounted their association with Ankur was played. A visibly emotional **Rajiv Bhatia** of Bird Group came up to accept the commemorative plaque.

Speaking at the gala farewell dinner hosted by Tourism Malaysia and Business Events Sarawak the Honourable Nancy Shukri, Federal Minister of Tourism for Malaysia recounted the traditional ties between India and Malaysia and hoped that the TAFI Convention would bring more Indian travelers to discover the pristine beauty of Sarawak.

In keeping with the Convention theme - & Build Back Better TAFI initiated two CSR activities at the Convention to encourage members to contribute towards creating a more

equitable society.

The first was to support the Books Build Legacy project spearheaded by **Ms. Amelia Roziman, CEO of Business Events Sarawak** who is creating free libraries in the interior areas of Sarawak for young people. In response to an appeal sent out before the Convention, many TAFI delegates had carried books that were donated for the project.

The second initiative is aimed at accelerating gender parity in the travel and tourism industry in India. According to reports by the WTTC and UNWTO, while women constitute over 60% of the workforce in our industry, a scant 12 to 13% are in managerial positions. TAFI, in Association with VFS Global has launched a pledge to be signed by all members to promote gender equality in our workplace. “The empowerment of women and gender parity is not just a politically correct idea,” said **Ajay Prakash**, “studies have shown that it actually leads to better bottom lines. We hope that our members will adopt the pledge and work towards implementing it.”

**Abbas Moiz, General Secretary** said he was “tired but happy” at the end of the Convention. “We had a lot of challenges, starting with the visa process and the rebooking of airline tickets on account of the pre and post-Convention itineraries, but the team came through and I believe this was a landmark Convention – the biggest such event post-Covid.”



# Arabian Travel Market 2023 launches sustainable stand award



**A**rabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023, the travel and tourism showcase in the Middle East which is being held at the **Dubai World Trade Centre** from 1–4 May 2023, will feature a sustainability category at its annual exhibitor awards next year for the first time.

The decision was taken to recognise exhibiting organisations that have considered the impact that their stand will have on the environment and the efforts they have made to reduce and or offset their carbon footprint.

**Danielle Curtis**, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market, said: “We are aware of the incredible amount of effort and investment that goes into designing, building and manning exhibition stands at Arabian Travel Market.

“Since its inception, the ATM exhibitor award programme has not only recognised those efforts, but has also encouraged exciting, fresh and creative ideas. “For our 2023 event, we wanted to include a category that provided synergy with our official theme, ‘Working Towards Net Zero’ and furthermore one that supports the UAE’s broader net zero commitment as well as RX’s mission to deliver Net Zero Carbon events by 2040.”

“The sustainability award will be open to all exhibitors who can nominate themselves with a justification against certain criteria that will be clearly laid out in the ATM operations manual,” added Curtis.

The criteria will include the use of bio-degradable, reusable and recyclable materials for the stand build & features, digital marketing materials, limited single use plastics, reduced freight and logistics emissions, waste management, as well as recycling and or reusing the stand for multiple events, plus carbon offsetting initiatives.

The award will be judged in advance of the show by the ATM operations team, with advice and support from an independent sustainability expert and the winner will be announced onsite along with the other award category winners. These will include Best Stand Design, Best Stand for Doing Business, Best Stand Feature and Best Stand at ATM Travel Tech.

The Best Stand Design award has also been revamped and is now more inclusive with two awards, one for stands above and one for those less than 150 square metres. For stands over 150 square metres ATM has added

additional criteria that will consider pre-show and onsite promotions to attract visitors.

The judging for these awards will take place as usual on day two of the show (Tuesday 2nd May), with all winners announced on day three (Wednesday 3rd May), with a panel comprising of trade journalists and industry commentators.

“As usual, the judging panel will have an exceptionally difficult job, comparing creative design, people skills and business-friendly appeal. So, for the 2023 awards along with the winners, we will publish up to five shortlisted stands in each category to recognise their considerable efforts,” added Curtis.

ATM 2023 will offer global travel trade professionals a vision of how the travel and tourism industry will look in the coming years by sharing new and insightful commentary from experts from around the world, creating significant business opportunities over the course of the four-day event.

Each year, ATM highlights specific aspects of travel that will be pivotal in determining the direction the industry will take moving forward. The show will explore how innovative sustainable travel trends will evolve and identify strategies for growth within specific key vertical sectors.

The ATM 2023 conference programme is being specifically developed to address sustainability issues across the travel and tourism industry, with commentary from leadership figures representing a variety of sectors such as Destinations, Travel Technology, Airlines, Cruise, Hospitality, Car Rental and Hotels.

ATM 2022 attracted over 24,000 visitors and hosted over 31,000 participants, including 1,600 exhibitors and attendees from 151 countries, across ten halls at Dubai World Trade Centre.



# Marriott invests in The Hague with two new properties

*The two new hotels sit on the former site of The Muzentoren office building, which has been transformed using the latest in environmentally friendly building techniques, including the reuse of old materials, sustainable material choice and efficient waste management and disposal.*



**M**arriott International and International Hotel Capital Partners have demonstrated their commitment to The Hague with the opening of two

new hotels. **The Residence Inn by Marriott The Hague** and **Moxy The Hague** add another 300 plus bedrooms to the city's already extensive hotel infrastructure.

The two new hotels sit on the former site of The Muzentoren office building, which has been transformed using the latest in environmentally friendly building techniques, including the reuse of old materials, sustainable material choice and efficient waste management and disposal.

Moxy The Hague is a stylish and playful hotel in the old city, close to both the vibrant heart of The Hague and Scheveningen beach. Guest experience service from Moxy's young at heart ambassadors, whilst all rooms include the MOXY Sleeper – offering a high level of comfort, spacious walk-in showers and 55-inch flat screen televisions.

Residence Inn The Hague allows guests to discover contemporary comfort living in a vibrant city centre. Their spacious studios and apartments include a fully equipped kitchen with dishwasher, cooktop stove, microwave and all plates and utensils – ensuring a home from home experience.

The two new hotels, located together on the same site, in the heart of The Hague and are connected, allowing guests to seamlessly move between their extensive facilities, particularly Moxy's lively Now Bar.

"Great initiatives have been taken in the hotels to reduce our ecological footprint," says **Annemarie van den Berg**, Director of Sales at International Hotel Capital Partners. «For example, motion sensors have been installed that save lighting and air conditioning, water leak detection and a transport plan for guests to be aware of sustainable options. The hotels also work with a biodigester, which means that all food waste is broken down in a natural way and does not end up directly in refuse."

**Bas Schot**, Head of **Hague Convention Bureau** said: "As The Hague continues to thrive as a conference, meetings and event destination it is vital that our hotel offering grows to meet the needs of our incoming delegates. These new hotels balance and contrast each other and are welcome additions to the city."



# THE MAGIC OF DARJEELING'S GOLDEN TIPS TEAS

## Synopsis

### Heritage

Among India's Oldest tea brands established in 1933. Originally from Darjeeling, the land where grow the finest teas in the world.

### Passion

Headed by Expert Tea Taster Madhav Sarda, Golden Tips has 14+ exclusive tea boutiques across Eastern India. Exhaustive range of over 200+ Single Origin Teas and blends

### Purity

100% Pure Indian Teas certified by Tea Board of India. Specific CTM Licenses for single region Darjeeling, Assam, Nilgiri, Sikkim Tea awarded by the Tea Board.

Established in 1933 in India, where the finest teas of the world are grown with a mission to epitomize the art of drinking gourmet teas, Golden Tips is among the oldest & most reputed home-grown tea brands from India. Originating from Darjeeling, it is cherished by connoisseurs & tea lovers across the globe for the quality of its teas.

*Darjeeling is blessed with a unique terroir with an altitude ranging between 1200 – 6000 ft above sea level. The steep slopes, ample humidity, rainfall, shade, moisture, and acidic soils infuse “magic” into the teas of this region. There is a certain air about the region and not surprisingly, Darjeeling teas are one of the most loved beverages around the globe with absolute uniqueness in flavour and aroma.*



*Expert Tea Taster and  
Managing Director Golden  
Tips Tea, Madhav Sarda*



Capturing the essence of Darjeeling is a home-grown tea brand Golden Tips Teas, which comes with a heritage of over eight decades and 4 generations of tea entrepreneurship. Following the “Direct from Plantation + Auction model”, the expertise of Golden Tips lies in sourcing, sampling, choosing, packaging and marketing of the finest single origin teas, tea blends, infusions for a cross section of tea drinkers and that - at the correct prices. The Company offers an extensive range of teas in terms of varieties and styles. The packaging offers innumerable options and is also ideal for gifting during special occasions.

The company operates primarily through its retail outlets (over a dozen stores mainly in Eastern India), Omni-Channel route, through renowned stores at select cities and airports in the country, and from the company’s website [www.goldentipstea.com](http://www.goldentipstea.com) apart from online marketplaces like Amazon, Flipkart, etc.

Golden Tips has a strong presence in Darjeeling & Sikkim and its famed Tea Boutiques are very popular amongst tourists and visitors, especially during the peak holiday season. The Boutiques are a must visit, whether to relish the ambience, avail the free tasting facility, to see and learn more about the world-renowned Darjeeling Tea, and also to purchase for drinking or gifting.

A wide and attractive range of Tea accessories consisting of Tea Sets, Tea Pots, fancy Tea Strainers, Tea Cosies, Tea Timers, etc are also on display and



sale at the Boutiques to entice and charm visitors to make their visit a memorable one.

Apart from the domestic market, the company has dedicated customers across the globe and has shipped Golden Tips teas to almost 90 countries at some point of time in the last several years through orders from its website & online channels. Golden Tips also has exclusive representations in Russia, Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan, Nepal, Bhutan and now China, through distributors.

Reminiscing about the history, **Madhav Sarda, Expert Tea Taster and Managing Director, Golden Tips Tea** says, “When we started a few decades ago way back in 1933, the almost complete absence of a premium homegrown brand that could package and present the finest Darjeeling Teas

to customers spurred us to start Golden Tips.” Today, Golden Tips follows the “**Direct from Plantation + Auction model**) and the brand’s expertise lies in sourcing, packaging and marketing of premium quality single origin teas, and tea blends. Apart from the domestic market, Golden Tips sells online to 90+ countries with Russia, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Bhutan and now China, the main international markets for B2B sales of the Golden Tips branded range.

Sarda adds, “Our endeavour has been to cater to domestic as well as foreign customers, especially those visiting India, through our omnichannel presence across India and of course through our website and marketplaces like Amazon. Our specialized and unique **Tea Boutiques** spread across Darjeeling, Sikkim, etc are also a





must-visit for tourists and play a major role in popularising the finest teas and making them available to connoisseurs.” **Madhav, who is also an experienced tea taster**, shares, Golden Tips has a vast and eclectic range of the finest **Darjeeling, Sikkim, Assam, Nilgiris**, and other Indian teas sourced from the best plantations across the country. These teas are packaged in varied styles and packs. Like Economy packs, Handcrafted Gift packs consisting of **hand-carved wooden boxes, fancy Brocade** and Velvet cloth bags, Jute boxes, etc. The brand also manufactures commercial packs in paper cartons and tin cans, as well as gift packaging and assortments, he adds.

Elucidating on the future roadmap for Golden Tips, Madhav says, “We have

recently opened one of its kind PURE VEGETARIAN café - “**Teattoria**” in Darjeeling. It offers Italian/ Continental and Oriental cuisine along with our Specialty Teas. We now plan to expand our footprint through our offline/ physical retail operations across Metro and Tier 2 cities in India by opening niche experiential tea boutiques and stores. We are exploring this route and hopefully shall finalize some tie-ups after the current wave of the pandemic subsides. We also intend to give a thrust to our online operations to capture a larger market in the near future.”

**Profiling Madhav Sardha, Expert Tea Taster and Managing Director, Golden Tips Tea.**

A Well-known Tea Taster and Managing Director of Golden Tips Teas

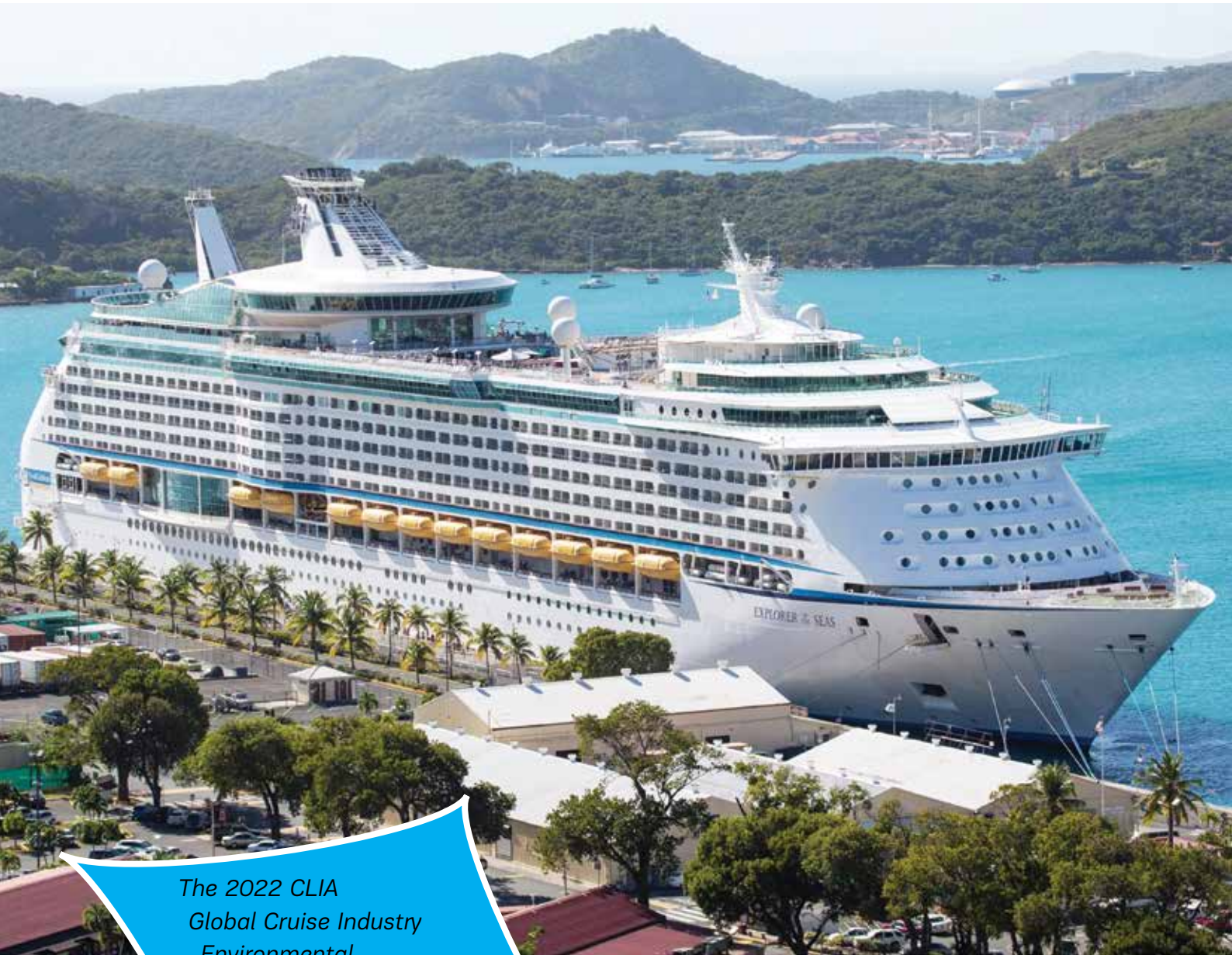
Madhav Sardha was born and brought up in Darjeeling. The tranquil environs of Kanchenjunga, amidst the idyllic and scenic surroundings of the Himalayas and the tea plantations of Darjeeling has had a lasting impact on his life. An alumnus of St. Joseph’s School and College Darjeeling, he was the founder Secretary of Friends Organization and also the Charter President of Leo Club of Darjeeling, which happened to win the International Excellence Award during his tenure.

Madhav, with over 4 decades of tea tasting experience majorly with Darjeeling & Assam orthodox Teas, personally tastes and selects each tea, assisted by his colleagues, which eventually bears the Golden Tips stamp, to ensure that customers get the perfect cup every time. His passion to make Darjeeling Teas available to connoisseurs in India and worldwide - not only pure and fresh, but also at reasonable prices, and in attractive packaging directly from the source - continues unabated.

An avid whistler, he is truly a music lover. His album ‘Mesmerising Melodies Whistle’ is about his passion for those evergreen Hindi Film songs that we all love to hum. Madhav has recorded a collection of such unforgettable songs in a whistling style. He continues with his passion till date whether at home, office or any public place apart from occasional public performances. He is also a percussionist of some consequence. Everyday yoga & exercise is also a part of his daily regimen to stay fit.



# Cruise industry demonstrates commitment to pursuing net-zero carbon cruising globally by 2050



*The 2022 CLIA Global Cruise Industry Environmental Technologies and Practices Report highlights the need for development and deployment of sustainable marine fuels.*

**C**ruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the leading voice of the global cruise industry, released the results of its 2022 *Global Cruise Industry Environmental Technologies and Practices Report*, showing progress towards achieving the industry's vision of net-zero carbon cruising globally by 2050.



The 2022 report reinforces the cruise industry's credentials as an innovator and early adopter of environmental technologies. Examples cited include the increasing number of vessels launching over the next few years that will be able to incorporate zero-emissions propulsion when available as well as the growing investment to equip ships to plug in to shoreside electricity where available. In fact, more than 15% of the vessels to be launched in the next five years will be equipped to incorporate fuel cells or batteries, and 85% of CLIA-member ships coming online between now and 2028 will be able to plug in to shoreside electricity, allowing engines to switch off at berth for significant emissions reduction.

President, and CEO, CLIA, **Kelly Craighead** said: *"Innovation and engineering are at the heart of the industry's vision for net zero carbon cruising. The cruise industry continues to lead the way by investing billions to incorporate new technologies, accelerate development of sustainable marine fuels - in particular, engines capable of using sustainable marine fuels - and enable shoreside electricity connectivity on existing and new ships. These are the fundamental building blocks for the decarbonisation of global shipping, and we are acting now for the future."*

Despite progress made, the report makes clear that a transition to sustainable marine fuels remains essential to achieving the maritime industry's decarbonization goals and underscores the urgent need for governments to support research efforts to accelerate development of these fuels so that they are safe, viable and available for use at scale. To that end, CLIA is a supporting organization to the Getting to Zero Coalition's Call to Action for Decarbonization of Shipping. This support is in addition to the leadership of its individual cruise line members and their partnerships with a number of other coalitions and organizations that are working to find critical decarbonisation solutions.

*"The cruise industry has always been and will continue to be at the*



*cutting edge of innovation when it comes to environmental and maritime technologies,"* said Chairman of CLIA Global, **Pierfrancesco Vago**. *"For this next phase of our journey to net-zero as an industry, we now need clear support from governments and policy-makers to ensure that the right infrastructure is developed also on land and to encourage the investment and innovation that will be required for the development of sustainable marine fuels at scale."*

The report notes that CLIA ocean-going cruise lines continue to progress reductions in emissions:

- **Shore-side Power Capability** – cruise lines continue to make significant investments for cruise ships to connect to shoreside electricity, allowing engines to be switched off in port.
  - 40% of global capacity (up 20% year over year) are fitted to operate on shore-side electricity in the 29 ports worldwide (less than 2% of the world's ports) where that capability is provided in at least one berth in the port.
  - 98% of new build capacity on the order book (between now and 2028) is either committed to be fitted with shore-side electricity systems or will be configured to add shore-side power in the future.
- **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Fuel** – The 2022 report found 61% of new-build capacity will rely on LNG fuel for primary propulsion. The use of LNG results in 95% to 100% fewer

particulate matter (PM) emissions., virtually zero sulphur emissions, and an 85% reduction in nitrogen emissions. As a transitional fuel, LNG provides real benefits now, but also allows LNG-ready ships to adapt to a future generation of sustainable marine fuels.

- **Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS)** – More than 79% of global capacity utilizes EGCS to meet or exceed air emissions requirements, representing an increase in capacity of 7% compared to 2021. Additionally, 88% of capacity of non-LNG new builds will have EGCS installed, in line with an already high historical level of investments.
- **Advanced Wastewater Treatment Systems** – 100% of new ships on order are specified to have advanced wastewater treatment systems and currently 78% of the CLIA ocean-going cruise line fleet capacity is served by advanced wastewater treatment systems (a 9% increase compared to 2021).

The industry's commitment to pursue net-zero carbon cruising by 2050, announced earlier this year, is consistent with the target set by the Paris Agreement, and is supported by the industry's intermediary objective to reduce the rate of carbon by 40% across the global fleet by 2030, compared to 2008, which is consistent with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Initial Strategy for GHG reduction.

# London launches new 2030 Tourism Vision

## set to transform tourism and hospitality industry

**B**rits are falling in love with their capital city again, according to new data revealing the majority would prefer to holiday in London versus other European city breaks and 60% are proud to call London their capital city.

The research has been commissioned by **London & Partners**, which runs **Visit London**, to coincide with the launch of a new Tourism Vision, which outlines the city's plans to transform its tourism and hospitality industry by 2030.

### UK visitors are flocking back to London

City destinations such as London are recovering strongly from the pandemic, with new research revealing nearly 6 in 10 Brits are feeling more confident





about booking a city break again following the pandemic.

The research also revealed Brits were now more likely to book a city break than a coastal or rural getaway. Over 41% believe city escapes offer more sights, more choice in restaurants and cafes, and easier transport options than a beach getaway.

The London 2030 Tourism Vision outlines the need to create better experiences for Brits to enjoy in the city and in turn, increase the amount of nights spent in London per trip. The Vision proposes a number of

measures including extending opening hours across the city to support with increasing capacity, and calling on government support to improve infrastructure, allowing Brits to get in and out of the city.

#### **London makes Brits proud**

Brits are fans of London: with almost 60% saying they were proud to call London their capital city. Over half also agreed they like the idea of a 'staycation' in London, because it puts money back into the UK economy. And when it comes to city trips, London

was rated as having more to offer than global competitor cities Paris, Amsterdam and Rome.

The new Vision outlines the need to ensure London's tourism and hospitality industry brings prosperity and good growth for both visitors and Londoners.

#### **Visitors want a mixture of iconic and new travel experiences**

When it comes to the kind of activities Brits are looking for from a travel trip, almost a quarter said their favourite part of London is its historical sites, with London's most iconic





landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, Big Ben and London Eye featuring in the top five choices.

At the same time, Brits are looking for the 'unexpected' in London, with over half surprised by the number of hidden gems across the capital – with rooftop cinemas, riding a canal boat and exploring a Roman temple ranking as some of the most sought-after options.

Three quarters of respondents said they would need to make three or more trips to London before they felt they'd seen everything they wanted to in the city.

According to the Vision set out by London & Partners, by 2030, the UK capital city should offer a wider range of 'visitor districts', spreading numbers across the city and giving tourists and Londoners new and exciting parts of London to explore.

Sustainability will be a top consumer priority – with encouragement from the industry

Green issues are becoming a top consideration for travellers, with over half of Brits saying they do consider their carbon footprint when booking a holiday. However, most admit this currently only plays a small role in their decision making. With more than a third open to considering a more sustainable UK 'staycation' versus a

trip abroad, there is clear appetite from consumers to make greener choices when they are presented with them.

As a city with outstanding connections to the rest of the world, there is more to be done to persuade visitors to incorporate neighbouring European destinations into their travels and encourage slow travel. London gateway travel currently accounts for 12% of all visits to the capital city – with the Vision predicting this can and should go further by 2030.

Already recognised as the greenest city in Europe, London is a city committed to sustainability: but the London 2030 Tourism Vision recognises there is more still to be done. The Vision supports the Mayor of London's aim for London to be a zero carbon city by 2030. That means a focus to deliver on London's ambition to be one of the greenest cities in the world, from the moment of arrival to the moment of departure.

Situated on an island with a significant proportion of international visitors, London's tourism industry needs to collectively support net zero ambitions, in addition to supporting visitors in making the right sustainable choices.

### Creating a new Vision for 2030

The London 2030 Tourism Vision is led by London & Partners, and is

supported by the Mayor of London and the wider tourism industry. The Vision is based on extensive research, stakeholder roundtables, a written consultation and analysis.

The Vision identifies experience as the "north star" for London's tourism and hospitality industry and sets a clear direction for the industry on how to achieve this by 2030, through four pillars:

1. Managing the destination – how we expand our offer, improve data sharing and visitor knowledge.

2. Maximising our impact for Londoners – how our industry drives positive change for London and Londoners.

3. Leading in sustainability – how tourism plays its part in supporting London and the UK's goals.

4. Redefining our measure of success – how we measure impact and shape future growth.

**Rose Wangen-Jones**, Managing Director, Marketing, Destination & Commercial at London & Partners, said: *"So much has changed since our last Tourism Vision back in 2017 - we knew it was absolutely essential to create a new framework to support one of London's most vital industries. It has been so rewarding to lead such a collective effort along with organisations across the tourism industry in London, creating a vision that we know will benefit both Londoners and tourists alike. Sustainability, inclusivity and resilience, all of which are increasingly important to visitors and the industry, are all at the heart of our shared vision as we work to make London a brilliant experience for all."*

The Mayor of London, **Sadiq Khan**, said: *"Tourism is a key driver of London's economy, supports over half a million jobs, and is one of the cornerstones of our diverse, vibrant, global city. This Tourism Vision builds on the inspiring way the tourism and hospitality sector came together during the pandemic, working collaboratively for the benefit of their businesses and the capital's recovery, and I am looking forward to taking the next steps together as we build a better London for everyone."*



# TBO.com Co-Founder Gaurav Bhatnagar joins the WTTC's Executive Committee

*Gaurav Bhatnagar's appointment comes following considerable growth of the TBO.com business globally, and the significant contribution made by Gaurav to the Travel & Tourism sector.*

**G**aurav Bhatnagar, Co-Founder of **TBO.COM**, leading travel distribution platform, has joined the Executive Committee of the **World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC)**.

Bhatnagar's appointment

comes following considerable growth of the TBO.com business globally, and the significant contribution made by Gaurav to the Travel & Tourism sector.

**Julia Simpson**, WTTC President & CEO said: "We are delighted to

welcome a true travel tech entrepreneur like Gaurav to the Executive Committee at WTTC. His vision and the growth achieved at TBO is impressive. Now operating in more than 100 countries, connecting 100,000+ travel agents with over a million

suppliers, the business is growing from strength to strength."

Gaurav Bhatnagar said: "I am humbled, yet excited to join the Executive Committee of an organisation I have respected since the start of my career. "The industry appreciates WTTC's efforts and values that it brings, and I am eager to contribute. Together, we will continue to grow the industry and ensure all partners in the travel ecosystem benefit from the resurgence of travel post the pandemic."

The World Travel & Tourism Council represents the global Travel & Tourism private sector. Members include 200 CEOs, Chairs and Presidents of the world's leading Travel & Tourism companies from all geographies covering all industries.

The original vision of WTTC's founding members remains the same: governments must recognise Travel & Tourism's value, not only to economies around the world, but to the millions of livelihoods that depend on it.

Members of WTTC range from airlines to tour operators and hospitality groups. The Executive Council is comprised of Chairs, Presidents, and Chief Executives from many of the world's most powerful Travel & Tourism businesses.



# Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released its Tourism in 2023 report

*Global tourism arrivals will rise by 30% in 2023, following 60% growth in 2022, but they will still not return to pre-pandemic levels. The economic downturn, sanctions on Russia and, above all, China's zero-covid strategy will be among the factors weighing on the industry.*

**T**he report finds that global tourism arrivals will increase by 30% in 2023, following growth of 60% in 2022, but will remain below pre-pandemic levels. The economic

downturn, sanctions on Russia, and China's zero-covid strategy will delay recovery.

**Ana Nicholls**, Director of Industry Analysis, EIU, says: "The tourism

industry saw a strong recovery during 2022, and we expect that to continue in 2023, particularly if China starts lifting its zero-covid policy as expected. But the industry certainly won't be immune





to the economic slowdown. Costs have already risen sharply for fuel, electricity, food and staffing, and companies will have to pass those costs onto consumers who are already hurting from the higher cost of living. As a result, EIU has pushed back its forecast for a full recovery in international arrivals. We now don't expect them to get back to 2019 levels until 2024, although the Middle East is one region that will be ahead of the curve."

Key trends to watch in 2023 include:

- Global tourism arrivals will rise by 30% in 2023, following 60% growth in 2022, but they will still not return to pre-pandemic levels.



- The economic downturn, sanctions on Russia and, above all, China's zero-covid strategy will be among the factors weighing on the industry.

- Hotels, restaurants and airports will struggle to cope with labour shortages, wage demands, and high food and energy prices.

- Even so, international airlines are expected to return to profitability, benefiting from continued pent-up demand.

- The impact of climate change on the industry will become more apparent, with high temperatures, water shortages and floods forcing tourism destinations to take action.

### Tourism arrivals will rise by 30% globally

Last year, EIU expected global tourism arrivals to recover to near pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023, as fear of covid-19 recedes and restrictions are lifted. However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and the accompanying political instability, global inflation and economic slowdown - as well as China's strict zero-covid strategy - have dampened those expectations. We have now pushed our forecast for a tourism recovery firmly into 2024, with considerable turbulence likely in the interim.

Even so, the depth of the tourism slump in 2020-21 means that strong growth is nearinevitable in 2023 now that travel restrictions have been lifted in most countries. Globally, we expect pent-up demand for travel to drive growth of 30% in international tourism arrivals, taking them to 1.6bn. This follows growth of 60% in 2022, but will still not be enough to take total arrivals to their 2019 level of 1.8bn. However, the trajectory will differ by region. Much of the Middle East, buoyed by high oil prices, has already seen a full recovery, while Eastern Europe will have to wait until 2025 because of the impact of the war in Ukraine. Other regions will range in between, with most reaching a full recovery in 2024.

### Chinese travellers will remain largely absent

While the war in Ukraine has delayed the tourism recovery, an even bigger factor has been China's zero-covid policy. China accounted for around one-tenth of the world's tourism departures before covid, but we now expect its borders to remain largely locked until at least mid-2023. There is even a risk that the zero-covid policy could be extended if the pandemic continues to be a threat. If all goes to plan, however, authorities will gradually take a less strict stance towards the virus, easing (but not lifting) mandatory quarantine measures and inbound travel controls. However, frequent mass testing of the population in big cities, and occasional lockdowns in smaller cities will continue to keep sporadic outbreaks from spiralling out of control.

In this scenario, we expect the number of outbound travellers from China to more than double in 2023, to around 59m. Even so, that would be only a little more than a third of the 155m departures in 2019, when China was the world's biggest source of tourists. This reduced demand will primarily affect tourist destinations in Asia, including Thailand and Hong Kong, which used to be highly dependent on Chinese visitors. But the dampening effect will also be felt in Europe, the US and elsewhere. Even China's domestic tourism - which also fell in 2020-22 - will be affected by the country's economic slowdown. We expect GDP growth of "just" 4.7% for China in 2023, which will feel like a recession in a country used to strong growth.

### Labour shortages and high prices will add to woes

Inflation will not only affect travellers in 2023, but also the tourism sector. Hotels, bars and restaurants are grappling with high food and energy prices, while airlines are contending with high fuel bills. Airlines also face increasing wage pressures amid a chronic labour shortage. After laying off staff during the pandemic, many companies have struggled to rehire.

This lack of staff has caused airport queues and caps on passenger numbers, as well as flight cancellations and lost luggage in the summer of 2022. The chief executive of Heathrow (UK) has warned that problems will last until the end of 2023.

The UK faces particular issues, because Brexit has stemmed the flow of seasonal workers from the EU. However, there are also labour shortages across Europe and in the US, where employment in the leisure and entertainment industries is still nearly 1m short of 2019 levels. The economic slowdown should make recruitment easier if job losses mount elsewhere. Several countries, including New Zealand and possibly the UK, will also ease visa requirements. Even so, it will take time to replace skills lost during the pandemic. Moreover, this labour-intensive industry is also likely to see more disruptive strikes in 2023 as workers themselves demand higher wages to cope with the higher cost of living.

#### Airlines will edge closer to profit

Major airlines in the US cut costs throughout the pandemic by laying off staff, restructuring fleets and borrowing heavily. They also received big government bailouts, particularly in Europe, North America and parts of Asia. Loans, wage subsidies and deferred taxes collectively totalled US\$243bn in 2021. Nevertheless, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) expects airlines to suffer a combined net loss of US\$9.7bn in 2022, after losing around US\$180bn in 2020-21.

Despite the difficult economic conditions, the signs for 2023 are brighter, and IATA suggests that airlines may even head towards profitability if travel rebounds as expected. One big risk will be fuel costs: although oil prices are now softening, they are priced in US dollars, and the dollar is strengthening against nearly every currency. As a result, US-based airlines are the most likely to be profitable in 2023, while airlines in other regions will struggle.

#### The impact of climate change will increase

Climate change has already started to have an impact on key tourism destinations, with ski resorts lacking snow and summer resorts affected by droughts and wildfires. In 2023 these impacts will become clearer if weather-related events continue to get more extreme. Indeed, back in 2009, the Association of British Travel Agents pinpointed 2023 as the key date for its sustainable tourism drive, which aimed to protect the environment and develop sustainable transport. However, not enough progress has been made—tourism now accounts for between 5% and 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Nepal is one country that is setting 2023 as the start of a new sustainable tourism drive.

Travellers' awareness of the environmental consequences of tourism may also change their travel plans in 2023. According to the European Investment Bank, 37% of Chinese people, 22% of Europeans and 22% of Americans say that they will avoid flying because of climate-change concerns. Some of those who still want to travel will be prepared to pay higher prices for more eco-friendly options, or carbon-offsetting efforts. Regulators will pile on the pressure too. 2023 will see the conclusion of the voluntary pilot phase of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation to reduce emissions from international flights. Eight more countries, including Cambodia, Cuba and Zimbabwe, will join, bringing the total number of participating states to 115.

#### To watch

- **Saudi sojourns:** The Middle East has seen an extremely strong revival in tourism in 2022. International arrivals rose by 287% year on year in January to July 2022, taking them close to 2019 levels. Saudi Arabia, which has seen the resumption of the Hajj pilgrimage, has particularly big plans for its tourism sector under its Vision 2030 economic development plan. These include the development

of the Red Sea Project, with 50 hotels spread over 22 islands. Although not due for completion until the end of the decade, the project will take in its first visitors in early 2023.

- **Venetian fees:** Some major tourist attractions are experimenting with tourism fees and taxes to help reduce crowds or fund infrastructure. From January 16th day-trippers to the ancient Italian city of Venice and some of its islands will have to make a reservation at a cost of between 3 and 10 euros (US\$3-US\$10), depending on demand. The long-threatened fee will not only cut crowds, it will also cut taxes for resident Venetians. Overnight tourists will be exempt because they will already be paying for their stay. Thailand and the Maldives introduced tourism fees in 2022, and London is also considering one. Good sports: Sporting events will spur travel in 2023. China has pulled out of hosting June's Asian Cup football tournament, but it will ease its covid restrictions in order to host the postponed Asian Games in September. Meanwhile, France will hope to convert the Rugby World Cup into a boost for its tourism industry.

#### Key risk scenario: A new pandemic or war could upend travel

The travel industry was the sector hardest hit by the covid-19 pandemic, with international arrivals and flights down by over 70% on 2019 levels in both 2020 and 2021. A new pandemic, or even a new deadly variant of covid, would therefore have the biggest impact on the sector's recovery. It would deter China from reopening its borders, and could prompt other countries to reimpose travel bans. A widening of the Russia-Ukraine war could have an equally devastating effect. The war is already affecting the tourism industry in several ways: the loss of Russian and Ukrainian tourists, restrictions on airlines and the use of airspace, and higher food and fuel costs. However, a wider war would land a big hit to traveller confidence and disposable incomes, as well as new limitations on air routes.



# Radisson Hotel Group launches new Radisson Rewards loyalty program

**R**adisson Hotel Group has announced its new Radisson Rewards loyalty program which will open doors for guests to enjoy valuable and exclusive benefits faster, with VIP members advancing to the highest tier twice as fast as before. Benefits can be accessed from day one and are available across the entire member journey from inspiration to booking. This includes in-stay privileges such as complimentary upgrades, F&B discounts and additional experiences, as well as post-stay benefits such as the option to make a stay carbon neutral.

Since the launch of *Radisson Rewards*, Radisson Hotel Group has delivered stand-out benefits, complimentary upgrades, and exclusive experiences to its members to ensure that stays at Radisson Hotel Group properties are truly memorable. The Group's new loyalty program has been simplified to become the most streamlined in the sector with just three tiers (Club, Premium, and VIP), offering members the fastest route to elevate their status, earn and redeem more loyalty points, and unlock a host of VIP benefits. The new Discount Booster for future reservations - a unique feature across industry loyalty programs - will allow members the choice to boost their discount by reducing the number of points they earn.

The currency model has been enhanced with members now able to book any room type in any hotel making it easier to book an Award Night with the new dynamic redemption model, plus we are offering more ways to earn and redeem. Members can use their points exactly how and when they like, and now have the flexibility to choose how many points to use for an Award Night or combine any amount of points with cash for room bookings

and hotel services with this brand new dynamic redemption model.

*"We are excited to launch our new Radisson Rewards program and thank our members for their loyalty. Now is our time to reward them with a new range of personalized benefits to ensure that Every Moment Matters when they stay with Radisson*

*Hotel Group. These exciting new benefits will certainly encourage new members to join and fast-track their member status with one of the world's fastest growing hotel rewards programs as they stay at our impressive hotel footprint across the globe."* says **Cristina Serra**, Global Senior Vice President Brand, Experience & Customer Strategy at Radisson Hotel Group.

The new program aims to be the most personalized in the industry and offers choices based on guest preferences and previous requests. A comprehensive member profile is created which allows member benefits to be customized and tailored per booking. Radisson Rewards now provides an enhanced digital experience for members including a new private area on their member profile online and on the app for quick access to useful information such as their previous bookings, invoices, favorite hotels, and much more.

For professional Bookers and Planners, Radisson Rewards will also be fully integrated to allow them the opportunity to earn and redeem points when they book for others as well as on



personal travel. The program is more flexible allowing travel professionals to share their points with other members, use them to book meeting and event spaces, and earn extra points when they refer a new member.

Sustainability is one of Radisson Hotel Group's highest priorities. Radisson Rewards members can now make their hotel stays carbon neutral by redeeming just 325 points per day to offset the carbon footprint of their stay in a reliable and seamless way. Radisson Rewards is one of the few loyalty programs to offer this option in points and as an integral part of the stay, making green stays easy.

Global partnerships will play an important role for the member value proposition offered by the new loyalty program. Radisson Rewards will expand its current portfolio across three key pillars with new travel, financial, and sustainability partners. The travel component kick-starts with Radisson Rewards Experiences, where members can book experiences earning 20 points per US\$ spent if taken before the end of 2022 including sightseeing, museum tours, and access to local attractions.

# 10 Relaxing *in* Nordik Spas Quebec, Canada

**N**ordic, or Nordik spas in Quebecois French, are a circuit of hot and cold baths, saunas, and steam rooms that you move through in order to reap health and wellness benefits. Generally, you repeat the cycle 2 to 3 times in a row to get the full benefits, and it makes for a

lovely afternoon or evening, whether you're solo, with girlfriends, or on a romantic date with your partner. While these spas can be found all around the world, Quebec Canada has become extremely well known for them. The snow-capped mountains and chilly winters are the perfect time to visit and







reenergize, though you can go year-round.

The cycle works like this: You begin by working up a sweat in a steam room or sauna to simulate cardiac function and promote blood circulation. You then plunge your body into a cold temperature; whether it is a frigid river or pool, chilly waterfall, rain shower, or even the snow. The cold closes the pores, reduces inflammation, and boosts the immune system by stimulating circulation. The final step of the cycle is to allow your body to relax for 15 to 20 minutes during which time the body regulates itself back to a normal temperature. When visiting a nordic spa, you should bring your bathing suit and an empty non-glass water bottle. Check with the spa ahead of time to see whether they provide robes and sandals. If they don't, you should also pack flip-flops and an absorbent robe.

Many Nordic spas also offer a range of other treatments in addition to the baths, from massage to facials – just be sure to check the service menu at a given place. From modern and polished luxury havens to nature-focused eco-spas, discover one of these ten relaxing Nordic spas in Quebec.

#### Spa Ofuro

The Japanese wooden architecture and flowing river set the stage for complete relaxation here at Spa Ofuro;







located in Morion-Heights in the heart of the Laurentians. Overlooking the mountains, this Nordic spa includes three dry saunas, a eucalyptus steam bath, four hot whirlpool baths, two cold baths, and a cold river to plunge into. With a total of three indoor relaxation rooms, there's plenty of space for everyone here. The focus at this Nordik spa is relaxation and taking care of one's self, and with only the sounds of nature around; you will see why many visitors continue to return.

If you want multiple days of soaking in these baths, stay in one of their beautiful guest rooms, each of which is equipped with a queen-size bed, fireplace, and full access to all the amenities. A bistro on-site provides a daily lineup of soups and sandwiches that can be enjoyed indoors or out. The landscape is equally stunning in all seasons whether the waterfall is clear and babbling or fresh snow is covering the mountain tops.

#### Siberia Station Spa

Just minutes outside of Quebec City, visitors will feel like they have stepped into a different world when they walk through the doors of Siberia Station Spa. In the heart of a beautiful lush forest, multiple saunas, hot pools, and relaxing rooms await you. An infrared sauna helps to alleviate stress, fatigue,





and chronic pain while promoting healthier skin while the Finnish sauna works on blood circulation and removing toxins from the body. Six different hot pools scattered across the property allow for your muscles and mind to unwind and relax.

Hop into the beautiful Yellow River that borders the property or one of the cold plunge pools with their waterfalls to shock (erm, we meant refresh) you! Head to one of the heated relaxation areas including a yurt complete with fireplace or outdoor heated terrace. This nordic spa offers a morning just for families every Sunday from 9:00 AM until noon, as kids are not normally permitted inside. Deep relaxation is a guarantee at this wonderful spa located just steps from downtown Quebec City.

### La Source

One of the most picturesque Nordic spas on our list is La Source Bains Nordique, tucked up high in the dense forest on a hillside in the beautiful Lanaudiere region. As you climb the long stairway to the entrance of this spa, the owners encourage you to leave your worries and stresses at the bottom. A gateway to relaxation awaits visitors as they enter the reception area with its roaring fireplace, bistro loaded with healthy meals and smoothies,

and beautiful views out the large glass windows.

A eucalyptus steam bath and dry sauna will warm you up quickly before you plunge into the cold baths with chilly waterfalls, snow, or even into a hole dug in the frozen river (in the wintertime). Outdoor hot tubs built into the cliffside provide massaging jets and the relaxation areas range from outdoor fireplaces, indoor solariums, terraces, and hammocks. A special darkroom is available in which guests have the chance to relax on zero gravity chairs in complete darkness. Normally the spa is all about silence and reflection, however, La Source often runs fun nighttime activities where silence is not required and people come out to have some more rowdy fun.

### Spa des Chutes de Bolton

Harmony between nature, body, and spirit is the goal of Spa des Chutes de Bolton which is located at the base of the falls of the Missisquoi River in the Eastern Townships. Two dry saunas overlooking the falls along with outdoor hot tubs and a eucalyptus steam bath set the stage for the “hot” part of your nordic experience. This spa is also the only one of its kind in North America to offer the Savusavu; an old-style smoke sauna that works like a wood sauna, without the fireplace. Smoke fills the

air creating a gentle heat that envelops the body and smells great.

The cold part of this spa is the natural river that crashes down and invigorates the body, leaving you fully alert and refreshed. The yurt, with its crackling wood stove, provides rest for those visiting in the winter while the sunny terrace is open in the summertime. If you're hoping for a deal or would prefer to skip the crowds, opt to visit on a weekday and after 5 pm to experience this breathtaking Nordic spa in the heart of nature.

### Bota Bota, Spa-sur-l'eau

Step out of the ordinary with this next Nordic spa on our list. It's actually a former ferry that has been transformed into an incredible spa and is now moored at Old Ports Quay. It promotes the healing benefits of the spa alongside being lulled by the natural movement of the beautiful St-Lawrence River. It is hard to beat the views over the city of Montreal whether you are outside or enjoying them through one of 678 rounded boat windows.

The five decks house the various spa installations including two saunas, a eucalyptus steam bath, outdoor hot whirlpool baths, and of course, cold showers and baths to complete the cycle. There's also a restaurant,



plenty of relaxation areas, gardens and terraces on board. A variety of treatment options exist at the full spa including massages, manicures, pedicures, yoga, and Pilates, making this a must if you're in the area and needing a break.

#### Nordik Spa-Nature

Located only 10 minutes outside of Ottawa at the entrance of Gatineau Park sits the largest spa in North America. This Nordic spa boasts seven outdoor baths, eight saunas, and an infinity pool with views of the city. The outdoor baths range in temperature from 10 to 39 degrees Celsius, varying depending on weather and season. In addition to the typical Finnish sauna (common of all Nordic spas), this one offers many more alternatives including the Barik Sauna – a uniquely shaped tubular dry sauna that creates a special climate. Other saunas include an aromatic sauna that is kept at a lower temperature letting guests stay in longer (talking is permitted here too!); a Maa Sauna which is dug halfway into the ground and offers intense heat; and an orange steam sauna which is similar to the eucalyptus sauna with a different scent. Sign up for a package such as a

girl's getaway and foodie Wednesdays if you're looking for the full experience for one price.

#### Le Nordique Spa Mont Ste-Anne

The most family-friendly Nordic spa on our list is nestled on the edge of a private lake, just a five-minute drive from Mont Ste-Anne. Children are welcomed to this spa every Friday through Sunday morning from 10 AM to 1 PM, as well as holidays, which makes this the perfect place for the whole family to relax. The hot Finnish sauna and Turkish steam bath provide ultimate relaxation. Cooling off here is a breeze with opportunities to swim in the private lake, stand under the rain shower, plunge into the cold bath or simply go for a roll in the snow (a favorite of the kids).

Experience the unique Aufguss Sauna – an experience of German origin that is designed to increase sweating. Every Sunday afternoon the sauna master throws water onto the lava stones creating a cloud of steam that increases humidity, simultaneously waving a towel to increase air movement. Oils added to the water simulate the limbic system and perfume the air while frozen fruit



is distributed to participants to end the experience. This natural environment is packed full of outdoor hot tubs, saunas, and relaxation rooms – all in a beautiful setting appropriate for those of all ages.

### Le Scandinave Mont Tremblant

Immerse yourself in the beautiful natural setting at Le Scandinave for quiet rest and contemplation, located at the edge of the Diable River. Heat up in the Finnish sauna, eucalyptus steam bath, thermal waterfall, or choice of hot baths. Let your pores open and toxins melt away before you head to the cold baths, waterfalls, showers, or year-round Diable River. Silence is key at this Nordic spa and encourages visitors to find inner stillness which leads to complete relaxation.

There are enough relaxation areas to keep anyone happy. Sit by the outdoor fireplace, lounge in the hammocks, or relax in solariums for 20 minutes – after all, resting after a full cycle is recommended. This Nordic spa invited visitors year-round from 10 AM to 9 PM, rain, sun, or snow. For an extra special experience, treat yourself to one of the hot stone or deep tissue massages.

### Polar Bear's Club

Located on the banks of the Rivière à Simon, the Polar Bear's Club offers a breathtaking setting for the true Nordic spa experience. Two hot dry saunas, one steam bath, and five therapeutic thermal pools warm visitors up in all seasons. The cold factor comes by way of a waterfall, two cold baths, and three different access points to the river. Of course, in the wintertime, there is plenty of snow to frolic around in as well. We suggest getting with the theme of this spa and taking a dip in the cold river!

If you just can't get enough why not stay the night? Two separate hotels are available to visitors. Lofts with rustic designs, fireplaces, and a cozy bed with unlimited access to the pools are some of the best options. For larger groups, rent the two-bedroom cottage complete with two full bathrooms, a kitchen, living room, dining room, and fireplace. An updated bistro offers exceptional cuisine on-site with a roaring fireplace and views of the river. Whether you spend a few hours here after the ski hill or make this a romantic weekend getaway, Polar Bear's Club doesn't disappoint.

### Spa Natur'Eau

Located in the beautiful Lanaudiere region, this cozy, calm, and serene Nordic spa will have you relaxed and rejuvenated in no time. The small staff are known for their hospitality and are always ready to ensure visitors have a great experience. Every Sunday this spa opens to families from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM so the whole clan can relax together. The on-site restaurant also offers fresh and healthy meals with a view if you're needing a bite to eat.

The dry Finnish sauna or high-temperature hammam (Turkish bath) is the perfect place to start your heat cycle. From there, plunge into the cold pool with a waterfall to get the heart pumping. Then head to the yurt or aromatherapy room to relax. Three outdoor hot tubs that are cut into the rock face provide visitors with the chance to stay warm and relax outside in the wintertime. This Nordic spa offers a variety of different activities throughout the year including days where you can whisper instead of remaining silent when kids are treated to massages, lunch and the baths, and a full moon evening when mediums and clairvoyants join.







# Boutique Wineries to Visit in Napa

**T**he Napa Valley has been known for its beautiful wineries straight out of a storybook since the 1960s. While there are many popular tourist wineries in the area, there are also a few hidden gems that are more known for their intimate, boutique-style experiences. If you're headed to Napa soon, be sure to add these acclaimed boutique wineries to your itinerary.

*With more than 450 wineries from top to bottom, the Napa Valley has a multitude of tasting experiences from which to choose. The valley is rife with household names in liquor stores across the country.*





wines, it's not a surprise that St. Clement has become a must-visit stop on any tour of the Napa Valley.

### 5. Del Dotto Vineyards

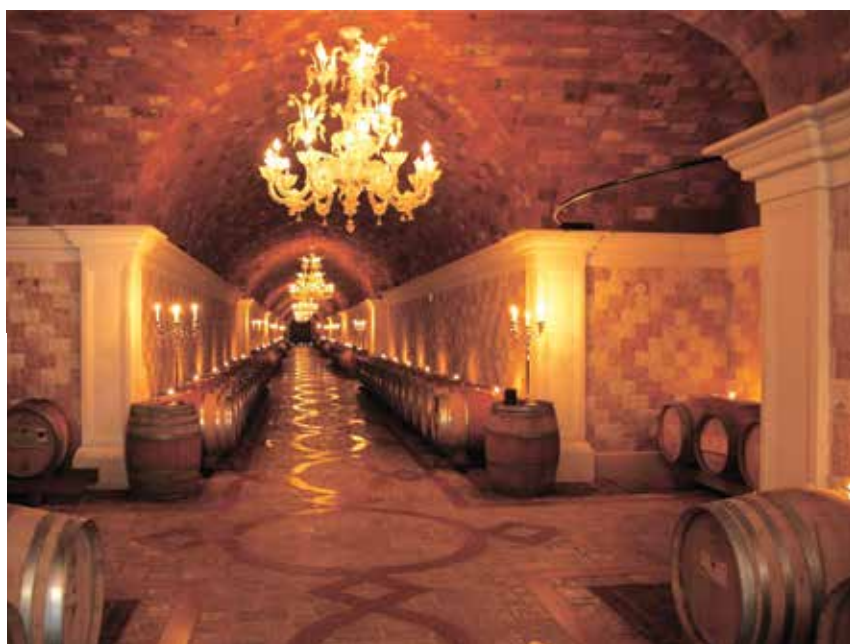
A small, family-run operation, Del Dotto focuses on producing premium, small-batch wines. Experimenting with both ancient and modern wine-making techniques, Del Dotto sources their grapes from family-owned vineyards scattered throughout the Napa Valley region, making for unique blends and flavorful wines that reflect the region's diversity. Renowned not only for wine, Del Dotto has also become a destination for those seeking a Napa Valley experience because of their award-winning hospitality. At both winery locations, cave tours and bar wine tastings are offered by reservation. You can also sample the Del Dotto delicacies, a food and wine pairing experience curated by the estate's executive chef. Both the food and wine pairing and the cave tour received Cellarpass Destination of the Year awards in 2015. For those particularly intrigued, the winery offers a VIP club, with additional events and special reserve wines for members.

### 6. St. Clement Vineyards

Despite its storied history, St. Clement has remained true to its focus as a boutique winery in the Napa Valley. The land was first used as a winery in 1878 and the current winery dates to 1976 and, since then, St. Clement has become a staple of the Napa Valley. With both its own vineyards and strong relationships with other local growers, St. Clement has focused on making vineyard-driven reds and crisp whites, without any additives or fillers that detract from the wines. The winery's signature Oropas, first vinted in 1991, has become something of a legend. Drop-in for a tasting between 11 am and 5 pm daily, or book a private tour and tasting. With a rich history and flavorful











#### 4. Alpha Omega

One of Napa Valley's newer wineries, Alpha Omega opened its doors in 2006. Since then, the boutique operation has focused on creating balanced blends using appellations from around the valley, each reflecting the unique heritage of the region. With a Swiss winemaker and the famed Michel Rolland acting as a consulting winemaker, the vintages produced by Alpha Omega have been nothing short of world-class, even as they combine Old and New World traditions. The estate, in Rutherford, is surrounded by mountains and vineyards and boasts a number of panoramic views. The tasting room is open from 10 am until 6 pm every day, with standard wine tastings from \$30 per person and a "Red Only" tasting option as well. Private and group tastings can be booked in advance. Make a reservation for a weekday visit and pack a picnic lunch to enjoy during your visit!

#### 3. Black Stallion Estate Winery

Located on the grounds of an old equestrian center, Black Stallion set up its winemaking operations in the remains of the indoor race track in 2007. Acquired by one of the region's family-owned winemakers in 2010, the winery has produced an array of award-winning selections, all while keeping a distinct local flavor and

family feels. A trip to the estate itself will only reinforce that sense of rustic charm, as the grounds are surrounded by century-old olive trees situated along the beautiful Silverado Trail. Once at the winery, guests can sample some of the offerings in the tasting bar or relax outside on the terrace. Private tours, tastings, and events can all be arranged, and Black Stallion plays host to a number of special events throughout the year, including luncheons, dinners, and art shows.

#### 2. Outpost Wines

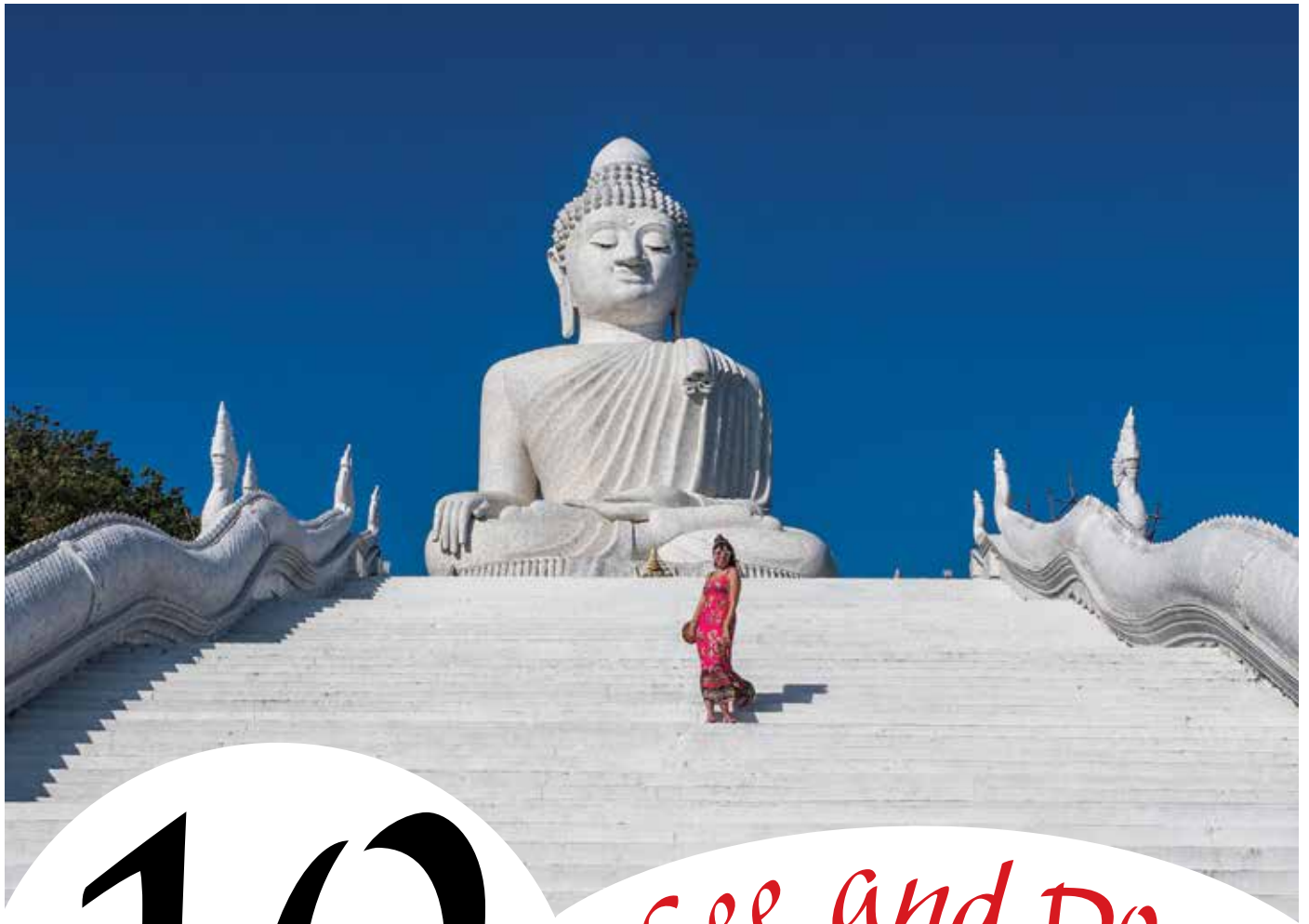
The fact that tastings are by appointment only and must be booked about a month in advance shouldn't discourage you from taking the time to visit Outpost; in fact, it should tell you something about the operation's reputation! Perched on Howell Mountain, Outpost is a 42-acre vineyard located 2,200 feet above the valley floor. Offering up a peaceful, rural setting, it's easy to see why the winery would want to keep groups small and appointments few to upkeep the intimate feel. Organically grown grapes go into every hand-crafted vintage, so you can be assured of quality and character when you taste one of Outpost's Grenache, Zinfandel, Cabernet Sauvignon, or Petite Sirah varietal bottlings. The process is also important to Outpost's

wines, with no fining or filtering involved so as to preserve the full flavor of the wine.

#### 1. Whetstone Wine Cellars

Although Whetstone's operation is quite new, the location has been making waves in the Napa winery industry. With a focus on face-to-face communication and Southern hospitality, Whetstone seeks to make visiting and tasting an experience unlike any other in the Napa Valley. Sourcing grapes from 6 vineyards in the Napa Valley, Sonoma Coast, and Russian River Valley regions, Whetstone has produced luxury wines, with a focus on iconic Pinot Noir blends. A French-style chateau, dating from 1885, serves as the 2-acre estate's tasting room. Fully restored in 2013, the historic distillery is similar to other iconic wineries around Napa Valley, including Chateau Montelena. Wine tastings are \$30 per person and the folks at Whetstone request 24 hours advance notice. Why wait to book? Whetstone's unique experience is a must, for both first-timers and experienced Napa Valley visitors.

*Reservations at Most Napa Valley wineries (especially the smaller properties) are by appointment only, so plan ahead and make reservations early for the best experience*



# 10 Amazing Things to See and Do in Phuket Thailand

**P**huket province is located in southern Thailand. It is the biggest island in Thailand and sits on the Andaman sea. The nearest province to the north is Phang-nga and the nearest provinces to the east are Phang-nga and Krabi. Phuket has a large Chinese influence, so you will

see many Chinese shrines and Chinese Restaurants around the city. A Chinese Vegetarian Festival is held there every year. While the Chinese community is quite big, there are many other ethnicities bringing all their traditions and festivals from all over the world to Phuket.

Being a big island, Phuket is surrounded by many magnificent beaches such as Rawai, Patong, Karon, Kamala, Kata Yai, Kata Noi, and Mai Khao. Laem Phromthep Viewpoint is said to feature the most beautiful sunsets in Thailand.

It isn't all just beaches though, there











is also fantastic classical architecture such as the Goom Restaurant. That and the very welcome atmosphere and the famous Phuket nightlife, you can see why the island is a hotspot for tourists in Thailand.

Phuket Thailand is full of amazing things to do, whether you are looking to relax on a beach chair as the water slowly laps at your feet, or you're looking to become one with nature in the rainforest. Temples, night markets, and a historic town all await you on the island of Phuket as well as limestone cliffs that jut out of the ocean and tower above the sparkling emerald waters. Between hikes to the impressive marble Buddha that overlooks Southern Phuket and canoes through the mangrove caves, any visitor will consider themselves the luckiest person on the planet to be able to experience the jaw-dropping beauty. We have chosen just ten of the amazing things to do while you are in Phuket but these are just the start of the epic experiences that await you here.

### **10. Explore Phang Nga Bay**

The most amazing thing about Phang Nga Bay is the scenery, and its beauty is truly jaw-dropping. From the sheer limestone cliffs that rise vertically out of the water to the sparkling emerald green waters, this landscape is the perfect backdrop for those stunning photographs you will send home. There are many different ways to explore Phang Nga Bay but none is more amazing than by canoe.

Become one with nature as your paddle glides effortlessly through the still waters, the only sounds are the chirping of the birds, the calls of the animals, and the splash of the water. Travel through rock caves that resemble something out of an Indiana Jones movie, have lunch on a deserted island, and swim in the sandy waters. Visit a fisherman's village, squeeze into a mangrove cave and soak up the beautiful surroundings. A visit to Phuket is not complete without exploring Phang Nga Bay and our favorite way is by canoe.

### **9. Climb to the Big Buddha**

The Big Buddha is a staple landmark in Phuket and can be seen from pretty much everywhere in the south. The impressive 45m tall statue is layered with beautiful white marble that gleams in the sunlight. Although the Buddha has been under construction for the past 10 years and still has many more years to go; this epic statue is a true symbol of peace and hope. What makes this Buddha even better is the climb up.

The road to the Buddha has been completed but your journey to the top becomes even more amazing when you choose to hike up. Not for the weary hiker as it is a steep 4km hike from the base of the hill. Along the way, you will catch glimpses of amazing landscapes and if you have timed your hike correctly you will arrive at the top to see the sun setting over the city. Look around and you can see Chalong Bay, Phang Nga Bay, Kata Bay, and Kata Noi Bay. On the way down make sure to stop in for a nice cold beer at one of the restaurants that have popped up along the road. The Big Buddha and its enormity are truly appreciated when you are standing next to it after an epic hike up the hill.

### **8. Snorkel the Clear Waters**

Boasting some of the clearest waters around, the area of Phuket has some incredible snorkeling conditions. Not all beaches are suitable for snorkeling and some of them are extremely overcrowded with tourists but if you can find that amazing beach with the right conditions; you will never want to get out of the water. Luckily we are here to help you with that:

Banana Beach is a well-kept secret beach in Phuket offering up great snorkeling in crystal clear waters along with large palm trees and excellent sand. Throw in a restaurant that has been around for years and only offers the freshest seafood (you often see the cooks carrying it up the beach) and you have yourself a winning beach. Ao Sane Beach is another hidden gem that not only offers great snorkeling but has a dive shop on-site where you can rent equipment and even take a lesson. The

rock formations divide it into three coves creating an underwater paradise for marine life. We cannot forget about the infamous Similan Islands which by far offer the clearest water and some of the world's greatest snorkeling. Pick a beach, grab your snorkel gear and head out to view some amazing marine life.

### **7. Khao Sok National Park**

Although not technically located in Phuket, this national park is just too amazing to leave off our list. Southern Thailand's largest virgin forest resides here and is older and more diverse than the Amazon Rainforest offering numerous exotic animals, plant species, and breathtaking scenery. Huge limestone cliffs, deep valleys, exciting caves, and breathtaking lakes make this destination truly amazing.

For a truly amazing opportunity head to Cheow Larn Lake located in the heart of this National Park. Here you can spend the night in one of the floating raft houses or luxury tents. Surrounded by crystal clear water that begs you to dive in, sounds of wild elephants and monkeys in the distance; you can't get much better than that. There are plenty of tour operators offering treks throughout this forest whether you are looking to do it by foot, canoe, or even truck. We do recommend staying away from elephant tours as the treatment of elephants in Thailand is not always the greatest. However you choose to explore this National Park; the scenery, animals, and serenity will blow you away.

### **6. Stroll the Historic Roads in Old Phuket Town**

Located away from the beaches lies a section of town that was once a hub of activity but is now considered the historical section of Phuket. Consisting of five roads and several smaller streets Phuket's old town is teeming with fabulous architecture, Chinese temples, crumbling mansions, and culture. Explore this area on foot as it proves difficult in a car and makes sure to either grab a map of the area or join the historical walking tour.

Make sure to visit the Shrine of the





Serene Light; where a beautiful garden and colorful temple welcomes you. Thalang Road offers plenty of batik shops run by local Malays and Indians and a look at some of the renovated buildings that gleam in the sunlight. A colorful Chinese shrine, a fresh food market, and the Thai Hua Museum are all found throughout this maze of roads. Hip shops, restaurants, cafes, and even bars have been popping up all over Old Phuket Town and it is worth the time to come and experience this history-rich area.

Phuket Old Town was built on the prosperity of tin mining in the last century. It is compact enough to stroll around and witness grandiose Sino-Portuguese-style mansions and shophouses with beautiful facades. The unique architectural style reflects the mixed influences of various cultures in Phuket. The Thai-Hua Museum on Krabi Road is one of the best places that tell interesting stories of Chinese descendants and heritages on the island.

### 5. Visit Wat Chalong

The most important temple of the 29 Buddhist temples in Phuket is definitely worth a visit and is absolutely amazing in its beauty and meaning. This temple is dedicated to two monks who led citizens in the fight against the Chinese Rebellion in 1876 and who helped many injured people with their knowledge of herbal medicine. Please remember to dress appropriately when visiting any of the temples and respect that although many tourists come here; it is an important place of worship for the locals.

Take your time to explore this temple noticing details such as the dragons painted in vibrant colors along the staircases and the painted ceilings. Make sure to see the famous Poh Than Jao Wat statue located in the old hall of the temple along with the statue of a local that is said to have won the lottery after consulting the Poh Than Jao Wat statue. The upper level is the Grand Pagoda and is said to house a fragment of Buddha's bone. This area is breezy, beautiful and contains many images of

the Buddha and paintings that depict his life. There are many beautiful and amazing temples in Phuket and we encourage you to visit as many as you can but if you only have time for one, make sure you come here.

### 4. Gibbon Rehabilitation Project

Escape the ordinary and travel to the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project's visitor center at Bang Pae waterfalls. The goal of this project and its organizers is to rehabilitate unwanted or confiscated gibbons from the pet trade and tourist industry. These highly endangered animals are often used for photos with tourists in Phuket but visiting this center will have you thinking twice about stopping to snap a picture with these cute animals.

Open daily with no admission to the center (although it is located in a national park that charges an entrance fee), and full of lively and passionate volunteers; the center is a learning opportunity for locals and visitors alike. Discover why these apes are highly endangered, what you can do to help and catch a glimpse of them from the viewing platforms. Listen to the songs that the Gibbons sing out, appreciate the hard work these volunteers do, and perhaps consider adopting one of these endangered species. A visit to the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project is a unique way for any visitor to learn, support, and appreciate the wildlife of Phuket.

### 3. Simon Cabaret

Simon Cabaret is the largest transvestite show on Phuket Island and you can't travel here without seeing the famous ladyboys of Patong. From the elaborate stage designs to the brilliant costumes to the bright lights this is one grand show that is simply a must. The Simon Cabaret is often compared to a Las Vegas quality show and these performers lip-sync to popular songs and dance the night away; all while visitors try to glimpse a masculine feature on one of these very convincing looking "ladies".

This show is suitable for kids and adults and it is recommended

to buy your tickets ahead of time at a discounted rate. The movie-style seating in the theater along with free drinks makes it an enjoyable place to watch the show. Most visitors to Phuket will do this once and then over-the-top extravagant costumes and performances are the reason why people come to see it. Stick around after the show to grab some photos with some of the stars, just remember to tip them.

### 2. Visit the Night Markets

Hundreds of stalls teeming with clothes, shoes, crafts, and everything Thai; the night markets offer a break from overpriced souvenir shops and the chance to haggle with shop owners. Don't worry, the vendors price their merchandise accordingly and fully expect locals and tourists to bargain over prices; although the Thai still get the absolute best prices. Located just outside Phuket Town visitors should come hungry and ready to spend.

The various rows of stalls are protected from the rain with tarps overhanging; which is excellent unless you are taller than about 5'8. Prepare to duck as you wander through the bracelets, earrings, shoes, cell phones, live animals, and pretty much everything else you can ever imagine that can be sold. The food is to die for here at the market and be sure to try the butter dripping corn on the cob, exotic fruits, and even some deep-fried insects; all washed down with a nice cold beer. Plenty to see, plenty to buy, and a part of the local culture all await you at the wonderful Night Markets in Phuket Town.

### 1. Visit a Viewpoint in Time for the Sunset

There are many lookout points in Phuket that hundreds of people travel to every day in order to catch a glimpse of the magnificent sun as it slowly sinks down and fills the sky with brilliant colors. The most famous viewpoint is Laem Phromthep which arguably offers the best sunset on the island and the flock of tourists that congregate on the hilltop each night seems to justify just that.

## DESTINATION THAILAND

Although crowded we recommend heading to Laem Phromthep and heading off the beaten track to a secret location where you can enjoy the spectacular sunset in peace. The lighthouse at the top provides some peace as you climb to the top and have an elevated view away from the majority of the people. But for real peace and serenity, you will want to head down to the very south end of the viewpoint. Take the stairs that are placed in the opening of the wall that turns into a winding dirt path ending at the Southernmost tip of Phuket Island. Watch as the sky turns glorious shades of red, pink, and gold and as the sun sinks beneath the clouds you might just feel as though you have found heaven on earth. Make sure to head back before it gets really dark as the path can be hard to find.

Other attractions in Phuket include:

### **Laem Phromthep and viewpoints**

Laem Phromthep, locally dubbed “Laem Chao”, is located on the southernmost point of the Island. With its breathtaking scenery and beautiful *Sunset* spot, the cape is one of the favorite locations for photography among tourists in Phuket. From the edge of the cliff, a line of palm trees inclines downward to the cape’s end, which features rocky reefs where the island, Ko Kaeo Phitsadan, appears at the front. It is also a site of the Laem Phromthep Kanchanaphisek Lighthouse, built on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of King Rama IX’s accession to the throne. The light from the lighthouse can be seen as far as 39 kilometers. Inside the lighthouse is showcased the exhibition about the lighthouse’s construction, keeping standard time, and the calculation and display of the times of the sunrise and sunset. From the top of the lighthouse, visitors can view the endless spectacular scenery.

### **Ko Racha and Ko Mai Thon**

Located in southern Phuket, Ko Racha is composed of two Islands: Ko Racha Noi and Ko Racha Yai. Ko Racha Yai



covers a white sandy Beach shoreline with crystal water. It is known as a paradise for tourists, especially, for those who are fond of diving. Equipped with full facilities, this island is ideal for staying over amidst nature. Ko Racha Noi is a popular diving spot, which is suitable for professional divers only. Divers will also have a chance to meet Manta ray or a great white shark here.

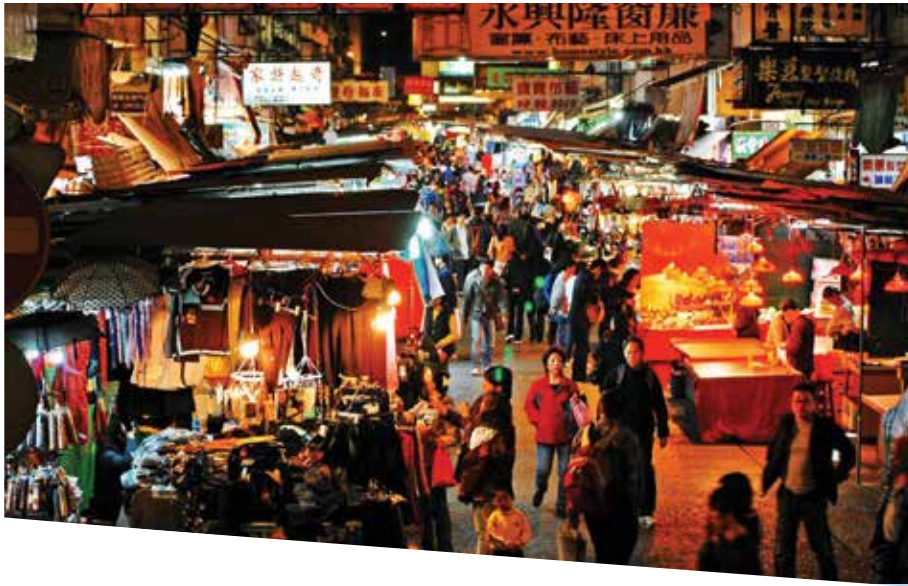
Ko Mai Thon, a small Island located in the *southeast* of Phuket, is rich with nature and features beautiful *Beaches*. It is, therefore, one of the destinations for tourists who have limited time

since it does not take long to *travel* by *speedboat* from a deep water port to get to this stunning island.

### **Hat Patong**

The Beach features a wide curvy bay enhanced by clear indigo *sea* and a beautiful white beach that is suitable for any kind of marine-based sports. It is also internationally well-known and a center of tourists around the world. Patong Beach is almost like a small developed town that is equipped with hospitals, large department stores, a wide range of accommodation, and





lights and lively vibe of Phuket can keep you awake all night long. After dark, there are abundant places to go to, but the ones listed below are fantastic.

**Phuket Fantasea** is one of the most famous shows in Phuket. Inspired by exotic Thai heritages, it showcases the beauty and traditions of the country. With over 400 casts and crews, 44 elephants, and many animals, the extravaganza show impresses the entire audience with a breathtaking Las Vegas-style theatrical show featuring new acrobatics, illusions, fireworks, stunts, aerial performances, and more.

Families are entertained with a carnival Village with games, parades, and a large themed Restaurant with 4,000 seats which offers one of the best buffets in town.

**Siam Niramit** offers a full evening with a fabulous 70-minute show featuring great choreographies, songs, as well as a great international and Thai restaurant. The nonstop fancy show shows the History of Thailand, traditional lifestyle, and beliefs, especially of heaven and hell.

Simon Cabaret is one of the city's most famous "ladyboy" cabaret shows, offering a music show with stunning costumes, expensive sets, and great sound systems.

If these shows are not your favorites, then Muay Thai Boxing is probably the right choice. Phuket hosts stadiums and shows where you can enjoy watching the sport at its best. The main venue in Phuket is the Boxing Stadium at Saphanhin District.

Bangla Boxing Stadium is another interesting choice. Although its unusual decoration and beer bars, which give the impression that this is another tourist trap, the stadium offers the right fights.

### How to get there

Phuket is 690 kilometers south of Bangkok. Many airlines operate several daily flights from Bangkok.



restaurants, which offer from seaFood, Thai to international food. To get there: the Beach is 15 kilometers from Phuket town. Take Highway No. 4019 or Wichit Songkhram Road for about 9 kilometers, then turn left along the Highway (following the signpost of Hat Patong) for about 6 kilometers. The road is quite meandering and sloping.

### Phuket Fantasea

Located at Hat Kamala, the show is one of the famous attractions in Phuket and the world's first Thai cultural theme park. The show's highlight is

the Performance called the "Amazing Kamala", which is a combination between Thai arts and Culture and cutting-edge special effects of light and sound including over 10 Thai elephants and other animals on the stage of the grand theatre. The services also include Dinner in an international Buffet style.

### Phuket Night Shows: A fantastic night on the Island

When darkness covers the stunning sea, Phuket's attention shifts to the nightlife and night entertainment. The colorful

# 25+ New Reasons to Visit Orlando



Universal's Islands of Adventure





*Get the scoop on more than 25 brand-new reasons to visit Orlando in 2022, including fresh adventures, dining options, places to stay, and much more.*

**O**rlando is set to welcome an amazing array of wondrous experiences in 2022, including a brand-new theme park, an acoustically perfect theatre, fresh dining options, and a hotly anticipated theme park hotel property that will transport you to a galaxy far, far away — among other wonders you won't want to miss.

#### **NEW EXPERIENCES BEYOND ORLANDO'S THEME PARKS**

Discover fresh experiences beyond Orlando's legendary theme parks, including Can't-miss attractions and incredible new ways to celebrate the arts!

#### **STEINMETZ HALL**

This long-awaited aural wonder opened at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts in the heart of downtown Orlando on Jan. 14, 2022. The facility has earned an N1 sound rating — the lowest level at which humans can detect sound — which means you'll be able to hear performances like never before ... literally! Steinmetz Hall opened with a two-week Grand Celebration featuring performances by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, superstars such as Jennifer Hudson and Lyle Lovett, and the best Orlando's performing arts scene has to offer, with much more on tap for 2022 and beyond.



### **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL — DRAWN TO LIFE**

New at *Disney Springs*® at *Walt Disney World*® Resort, Cirque du Soleil — Drawn to Life presents a combination of Disney animation and awe-inspiring performances, including 10 unique acrobatic acts. What's more, it's the first-ever collaboration between Cirque du Soleil and Disney!

### **GATEWAY: THE DEEP SPACE LAUNCH COMPLEX**

Coming to Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex in 2022, this 50,000-square-foot, multi-level attraction will feature a showcase of NASA and commercial spacecraft hardware with immersive displays, as well as a “journey” through space, and unique launch viewing opportunities, and more. Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex is on Florida's east







coast, about an hour from the main tourism districts.

#### ART<sup>2</sup>

Also known as “Art Squared,” this urban park is coming to downtown Orlando in 2022. Utilizing a 2-story shipping container structure, the park will incorporate a cafe, art gallery, stage, seating, digital video walls, and a gift shop, as well as an artificial turf courtyard, a concrete patio, picnic tables, hammocks, and two food truck spaces.

#### NEW PLACES TO STAY IN ORLANDO

With more than 450 hotels and resorts to choose from, plus vacation home and condo rentals, you’ll always find perfect accommodations in Orlando — especially once you factor in new options in 2022. They join other

fresh properties that debuted earlier in 2021, including AC Hotel by Marriott Orlando Downtown.

#### STAR WARS: GALACTIC STARCRUISER

The Force is with you now that *Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser* has opened at *Walt Disney World*® Resort. After booking your stay, you’ll “board” the starship *Halcyon* for an all-inclusive experience that will make you a part of the immersive *Star Wars* galaxy. Choose your path, learn to wield a lightsaber, and travel to Black Spire Outpost on the planet Batuu, where your journey continues at *Star Wars: Galaxy’s Edge* at *Disney’s Hollywood Studios*®.

#### LAKE NONA WAVE HOTEL

Having arrived in December 2021, Lake Nona Wave Hotel is a leading-





edge property featuring 216 guest rooms, 16 one-bedroom suites, and two penthouse suites. One can enjoy three restaurants and bars; tech-forward amenities such as voice-automated in-room controls; a focus on holistic wellbeing including access to the world's first Chopra Mind-Body Zone located at the nearby Lake Nona Performance Club; over 400 pieces of art; and a 50,000-square-foot sculpture garden.

#### **WALT DISNEY WORLD SWAN RESERVE**

Walt Disney World Swan Reserve is a 14-story, 349-room hotel tower that opened at Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort in late 2021. The property — just a short walk to *Disney's Hollywood Studios*® and *EPCOT*® — features

meeting rooms with rooftop terraces, a restaurant, a full-service health club, a 90-foot-long pool, and more.

#### **ETTE HOTEL ORLANDO**

This Tuscan-inspired, 126-room ette Hotel Orlando is scheduled to open in May 2022 near *Walt Disney World*. Focusing on wellness as an alcohol-free property, the hotel will offer culinary experiences in partnership with Michelin Star Chef Akira Back, along with The Spa at ette, with services for everyone from the modern minimalist to the unruly naturalist.

#### **NEW PLACES TO EAT & DRINK IN ORLANDO**

Many high-profile eateries have recently opened in Orlando and more are on the way

#### **FOUR FLAMINGOS, A RICHARD BLAIS FLORIDA KITCHEN**

New at Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress close to Walt Disney World, Four Flamingos from *Top Chefs: All-Stars* winner Richard Blais features cuisine inspired by tropical flavors and ingredients from Florida, including native fruits, vegetables, seafood, and more.

#### **AVA MEDITERRAEGEAN**

A new Mediterranean restaurant and lounge, AVA MediterrAegean opened in early 2022 on Park Avenue in Winter Park.

#### **NEW RESTAURANTS AT ICON PARK**

In the second half of 2021, ICON Park welcomed Gordon Ramsay Fish





& Chips, marking the celebrity chef's first restaurant venture in Orlando ... and hopefully not the last! The legendary Key West saloon Sloppy Joe's debuted in December 2021, offering live music and island-inspired food and libations.

#### **NEW RESTAURANTS AT POINTE ORLANDO**

Located on International Drive, Pointe Orlando will welcome Kavas Tacos + Tequila in spring/summer 2022 and JoJo's Shake Bar in fall/winter 2022. Kavas features a menu paying tribute to Mexico's rich culinary history, featuring savory comfort food, fresh tableside experiences, and recipes hand-crafted from the freshest ingredients. A Chicago original, JoJo's offers over-the-top sweets and an old-

school diner ambiance with a modern-day vibe.

#### **THE MILKHOUSE**

New to downtown Orlando's Milk District, this unique dining space houses some of Central Florida's most notable food and beverage brands, including The Ravenous Pig Brewing Co., Foxtail Coffee Co. and Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream.

#### **NEW YORK BEER PROJECT**

Built to resemble a 1900s-era indoor beer garden in New York's Lower East Side, will open in 2022 in Winter Garden just a short drive from Walt Disney World. The venue will feature a gastropub, indoor beer garden, tap room, brewery, sidewalk bistro, and three New York City-themed event spaces.

#### **CAFE-BOUTIQUE PIANO**

Coming to Winter Park's historic Hannibal Square in 2022, this restaurant will feature European cuisine and nightly live piano shows.

#### **THE HALL ON THE YARD**

Part of downtown Orlando's Ivanhoe Village, this new, full-service food hall delivers nine diverse culinary offerings, five curated event spaces, and three premium cocktail bars in an eclectic environment.

#### **THE BANDBOX — ORLANDO**

Central Florida's first alcohol-free speakeasy, cocktail lounge, and collectibles/vintage shop will open in June 2022 at Ivanhoe Village in downtown Orlando.

## NEW EXPERIENCES AT ORLANDO'S THEME PARKS

Orlando's open-air theme parks in 2022, include fresh attractions, shows, and more — not to mention a whole new theme park.

### WALT DISNEY WORLD ® RESORT

The World's Most Magical Celebration at *Walt Disney World Resort* continues in full swing all through 2022 and into early 2023. The resort invites you to visit and be immersed in shimmering *EARidescence* and experience special touches, from embellishments on Cinderella Castle to decor throughout the theme parks and beyond. The 50th Anniversary celebration features new experiences at all four theme parks and beyond, including Remy's Ratatouille Adventure attraction at *EPCOT* ® and new

nighttime spectaculars courtesy of Disney Enchantment at *Magic Kingdom* ® Park and Harmonious at *EPCOT*. And, there's more on the way including the newly enhanced "Mickey's Magical Friendship Faire" stage show and the return of the "Festival of Fantasy" parade!

### GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY: COSMIC REWIND

Opening this summer, the first "other-world" pavilion at *EPCOT* will include a thrilling new family-friendly coaster that matches the grandiosity and fun of the blockbuster films in what will be one of the longest fully enclosed coasters in the world.

### FINDING NEMO: THE BIG BLUE... AND BEYOND!

Coming in 2022, this exciting stage

show will invite you to discover the familiar tale of Nemo and friends from a whole new point of view at *Disney's Animal Kingdom* ® Theme Park.

### SEAWORLD ® ORLANDO

SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment has new experiences coming to SeaWorld Orlando and Aquatica ® Orlando in 2022!

### ICE BREAKER

SeaWorld Orlando's first launch coaster features four airtime-filled launches, both backward and forwards, culminating in a reverse launch into the steepest beyond-vertical drop in Florida — a 93-foot-tall spike with a 100-degree angle!

### REEF PLUNGE

This new water slide at Aquatica







Orlando gives you the chance to zoom past a vibrant array of marine life that includes Commerson's dolphins, leopard sharks, and a variety of other aquatic wonders.

#### **LEGOLAND® FLORIDA RESORT**

Fans of Peppa Pig and pirates won't want to miss the fresh additions coming to LEGOLAND Florida Resort, starting with an all-new theme park.

#### **PEPPA PIG THEME PARK**

Already the Theme Park Capital of the World, the Orlando area added another jewel to its crown with the Feb. 24, 2022, debut of the world's first Peppa Pig Theme Park! The standalone park features multiple rides, interactive attractions, fun live shows, themed playscapes, and water play areas, among other reasons to visit.

#### **PIRATE RIVER QUEST**

Starting in 2022, set sail on a family-friendly treasure hunt adventure, where you'll journey through the uncharted waters of the legendary Cypress Gardens at LEGOLAND Florida Theme Park and discover the secrets protecting its canals as this all-new story unfolds brick by brick.

#### **UNIVERSAL ORLANDO RESORT**

In summer 2021, Universal Orlando Resort has added a brand-new ride that thrill-seekers and dinosaur fans alike will not want to miss!

#### **JURASSIC WORLD VELOCICOASTER**

Based on the blockbuster movie franchise, this new species of coaster has arrived at Universal's Islands of Adventure! Spanning more than 4,700 feet of track, it is now Florida's fastest and tallest launch coaster, featuring a story that expands what you've seen on the big screen. It also boasts a series of intense maneuvers that will catapult you up to 70 mph and 155 feet in the air with the swiftest of prehistoric predators, including two pulse-pounding launches and a 360-degree barrel roll, a zero-gravity inverted stall, and going airborne during the towering "Top Hat," propelling you 155 feet in the air before an 80-degree drop. Brave the hunt!

#### **BUT WAIT ... THERE'S MORE!**

It's not just Orlando's theme parks, attractions, restaurants, and accommodations that get better with each passing year. The forward-thinking destination offers much more.

#### **TERMINAL C AT ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

Marking the largest construction project in the facility's history, work is well underway on Terminal C, aka the South Terminal Complex, a \$3.82 billion, the multi-year project at Orlando International Airport (MCO). In addition to new shops, restaurants, and lounge facilities, Terminal C will add 15 gates and high-tech features such as interactive digital media, a state-of-the-art radio frequency baggage system, and the Intermodal Terminal Facility (ITF), which is designed to accommodate up to three train systems including the forthcoming Brightline high-speed rail with service to Miami.

Founder of 4 Rivers Restaurant Group, John Rivers, will open the first phase of the 4Roots Farm Campus in late 2022. When complete, the 18-acre urban farm, located in The Packing District west of Orlando's College Park neighborhood, will include classrooms, a community green space, a farm-to-table restaurant, and more than 49,000 square feet of greenhouses and a diverse range of growing systems focused on innovation, sustainability, and education.



A man is lying on his side in a bed inside a glass-walled cabin, looking out at a dense forest of tall evergreen trees. He is wearing a grey blanket. On the bed in front of him is a breakfast spread including a wooden cutting board with fruit, a plate with a croissant, a bowl of porridge, and a bottle of juice. The cabin's structure is made of dark metal frames and glass panels.

**The 7 most beautiful  
hotels to stay in**

# Lapland

Visit Finland offers a wide range of  
spectacular accommodations





As the darkness swallows the snowy landscapes, the magical glow of the aurora borealis illuminates the unique natural landscape. Visit Finland offers a wide range of spectacular accommodations with an unobstructed view of nature and the magical Northern lights and the Midnight Sun.

#### **Magical Pond, Ruka-Kuusamo**

**Magical Pond** is a collection of luxurious and sustainable igloos in Lapland. What do these twenty accommodations have in common? A pure Scandinavian decor and a breathtaking view of the wilderness. If lucky, travelers will be able to spot a reindeer and maybe even the splendor of the Milky Way illuminated by the colors of the Northern Lights. Magical Pond has not only been awarded the Sustainable Travel Finland label, but also the Green Key certificate, as it is highly dedicated to social, cultural, environmental, and economical responsibility, as the electricity is obtained from hydropower. Situated only 8 km from the Ruka Ski Resort, it is also a highlight for ski fans.

***Prices start from 375€, including breakfast in the restaurant, a welcome drink, and free use of a fireplace and snowshoes (if available).***

#### **Arctic Skylight Lodge, Ylläs**

Nestled in the hollow of a river valley in Pallas-Ylläs National Park, **the Arctic Skylight Lodge** unfolds

**V**isit Finland has introduced some of the most beautiful accommodations in the midst of nature without any noise or light pollution.

Embracing the silence, observing the pure nature, immersing in the arctic night, and dancing Aurora Borealis on

a clear-sky day – covered over 75% with forests while having the world's cleanest air makes Finland one of the last great wildernesses in Europe.

Irrespective of the destination and the season, the promise remains the same: unforgettable moments that will stay forever.





with ten glass cabins, a lodge, and a restaurant. Whether you enjoy the high-class sauna that is located down by the Kukaslompola lake, the great variety of different activities in Äkäslompola, or the warm and welcoming restaurant offering three-course choices menus – the Arctic Skylight Lounge is a place to reconnect with nature and oneself.

And because well-being and nature are intimately linked, a glass-enclosed sauna immersing itself in nature offers a moment of absolute relaxation to experience the power of “löyly”, which is not only the name for the evaporating hot steam that rises from ‘kivas’ stoves after the water has been carefully poured on top of them, but also refers to the feeling of the heat as it envelopes you. The adjacent outdoor jacuzzi down by the river offers the perfect setting to enjoy the wonders of Lappish nature.

**Prices start from 475€, including breakfast. Sauna and jacuzzi can be booked for 100€ + 20€/person, minimum of 1,5 hours.**

#### **Aurora Queen Resort, Ivalo**

Opened on December 1st, 2021, **Aurora Queen Resort** comprises 14 beautiful glass igloos with glass ceilings and panorama windows for a full-immersion view of the surrounding nature and northern lights without leaving the comfort of the bed. No gimmicks – just pure nature.

Not only is the igloo designed to maximize the view of the night sky, but all the details are carefully designed for comfort and indulgence. Premium-quality materials are used on every surface for a flawless stay. All igloos are fully equipped with their own bathrooms and other comforts. The resort uses geothermal heating and solid wood materials. The resort can be reached within 45 minutes from Ivalo airport. The hotel also offers activities such as a visit to the nearby reindeer farm, aurora hunting on snowshoes, frozen ring ice karting, and husky safaris.

**Prices start from 595€ for a Glass Igloo with a king-size bed and panorama suite, including breakfast.**











**Arctic TreeHouse Hotel,  
Rovaniemi**

Like nests nestled among fire trees, the 32 suites and 5 chalets of **the Arctic TreeHouse Hotel** offer an experience like no other. Providing a panoramic view of the surroundings with their huge bay windows, they are the perfect haunts to admire the Lappish Forest in the Arctic Circle.

The Arctic TreeHouse Hotel received several international awards. It has been granted with the Green Key eco-label and is the first labelled company in Rovaniemi that received the Sustainable Travel Finland label.

Outside, nature is a real playground: ice-water fishing, dog sledging or reindeer rides, snowshoeing, northern lights hunt, meeting Santa Claus... At the hotel, travelers can relax with the benefits of the Finnish sauna and indulge in the cuisine of the Rakas restaurant, meaning beloved in Finnish







and whose menu was created by chef and artist Petteri Luoto.

In perfect harmony with the environment, do the suites not only have green roofs which are suitable for rainwater management. They have all been closely designed to a philosophy of sustainability using sustainable materials such as Finnish pine.

**Prices start from 250€, for an Arctic TreeHouse Twin Suite with a nest-Like Bed (27 m<sup>2</sup>), including breakfast.**

#### **Apukka Resort Lappish kamit suite, Rovaniemi**

Step inside the marvelous tales of Northland in Rovaniemi. As the seasons change, the resort evolves and offers wilderness experiences like no other. The history of **Apukka Resort** revolves around the North and all the stories it carries. Without respect, without sustainability, Lapland would not be the same. The idea is to highlight the country's heritage and the rich stories of the past told around a campfire. Many old hand-built log homes have found new life on the Apukka premises. Here, these architectural masterpieces, all telling their own stories from the pages of history, will live on for decades.

Among the different sustainable actions of the hotel, and instead of using thousands of plastic key cards per year, Apukka trusts in the old-fashioned metal keys. These keys last throughout the years, create less plastic waste, and are easier to spot from the snow if dropped. The Lappish Kammi Suites are authentic, ecological, and most importantly, filled with stories from the past. Equipped with a kitchenette and comfortable twin bed under a sky view window, the Lappish Kammi Suites provide a perfect setting for the unfolding of your own, unforgettable story.

**Prices start from 261€ for a Lappish Kammi Suite (32 m<sup>2</sup>).**









### Arctic Fox Igloos, Ranua

In southern Finnish Lapland, **Arctic Fox Igloos** unveils glass igloos with an impressive view of nearby Lake Ranuanjärvi. Although close to the small town of Ranua, Arctic Fox Igloos are located in the heart of nature on the peaceful shores of the lake. The Igloos have been built in such a manner that each offers an unobstructed view across the open lake to the far-reaching northern horizons. On the edge of the wilderness, outdoor activities abound all year long, including swimming, hiking, and snowmobiling. The Arctic Fox Igloos teams also offer husky- and reindeer safaris.

Near the igloos, not far from the town of Ranua, the Arctic Wildlife Park can be found, where travelers

can see authentic Arctic foxes, the only polar bears in Finland, and more than 50 other Arctic animals. The animals live in huge enclosures amidst the northern forests in their natural environment. The park is open every day of the year.

**Prices start from 269€ per night, breakfast included.**

### Northern Lights Village, Levi

The Aurora Cabins at **the Northern Lights Village** are a magical way to experience the wintry star-filled sky and the Northern lights while lying comfortably in a warm bed. The laser-heated glass roof opens up into the northern sky, directly above the bed. There, all the snow will be removed from the glass roof at the touch of a button for the best view of the sky. The

private fireplace in each suite gives an impression of extreme comfort and coziness.

With the activities and packages offered by the village, it is possible to live all the Finnish experiences even in a short stay: skiing, snowshoeing, husky rides, reindeer safaris, northern lights photography, or visiting the farms of the resort. Everything is done to live a fantastic moment in a Finnish way. Whether a couple, a group of friends, or a family (children under three years old can stay for free), Northern Lights Village will welcome all those who want to live an out-of-the-ordinary experience far from the city and the urban pressure.

**Prices start from 299€ for an Aurora Cabin (29 m<sup>2</sup>), breakfast and dinner included.**





## The Red Sea Development Company hosts gala Curtain Raiser in Delhi & Mumbai

Kicking off its ambitious expansion plans in India, The Red Sea Development Company (TRSDC), the developer behind the world's most ambitious regenerative tourism destinations, The Red Sea and AMAALA, hosted a gala curtain raiser in Delhi and Mumbai on 10th and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

With its India market representative Think Strawberries as the event facilitator, TRSDC was introduced in an intimate gathering of a select group of top travel agents, OTAs, industry association heads, leading airlines operating in the sector and other prominent industry stakeholders. The exclusive event offered an opportunity

for attendees to get acquainted with the spectacular destinations The Red Sea and AMAALA and get a closer look at the grandeur and scale of the exceptional luxury destinations. Representing TRSDC at the curtain raiser were Ms. Loredana Pettinati, Senior Travel Trade Director; and Ms. Reema Almokhtar, Destination Communications Director.

The event kicked off with an exhilarating presentation offering a visual insight of The Red Sea that is well underway gearing up to welcome its first guests in 2023. With a combination of unique experiences and attractions expanding over desert dunes, canyons, volcanoes, heritage

sites, monuments, exquisite islands, underwater and some of the world's most luxurious hotels and resorts, the destination aims to set a new standard that will redefine the meaning of luxury and regenerative tourism.

Along the northwest coast is AMAALA, spanning over 4,155 square kilometers of unique terrain. It is an ultra-luxury destination designed to create transformative personal journeys inspired by wellness, arts and culture, featuring the sun and sea, stunning sceneries, mountainous landscapes, golden sands, crystal waters, and untouched coral reefs. Its first phase of development is set for completion by mid 2024.

*"Authenticity is at the core of TRSDC's brand narrative. We aim to develop memorable journeys and personalized experiences. India's luxury travel segment is growing at an admirable pace and exhibiting immense promise,"* said **Ms. Loredana Pettinati, TRSDC Senior Travel Trade Director.** *"Our intention is to engage this market with authentic,*





*immersive and innovative storytelling that rightfully paints a sublime picture of The Red Sea and AMAALA. The Curtain Raiser in Delhi and Mumbai has been a fitting start to a vibrant journey for the brand in India," she added.*

#### **The Red Sea & AMAALA**

Embracing adventure, culture, luxury, and nature, The Red Sea and AMAALA are two tourism destinations being

developed on Saudi Arabia's west coast by The Red Sea Development Company (TRSDC). Spanning over 28,000 sq km of undulating desert dunes, mountain canyons, an archipelago of 90 islands, dormant volcanoes and ancient heritage sites, The Red Sea will feature 16 hotels, residential properties, an 18-hole championship golf course, entertainment, and leisure facilities within phase one. Each element is

designed in harmony with nature and with regeneration at its core. The Red Sea is planning to open in early 2023 and will have increased international access with the opening of the Red Sea International airport (RSI). Leading hotel brands due to open in 2023 include Six Senses, St. Regis and Marriott Ritz-Carlton Reserve.

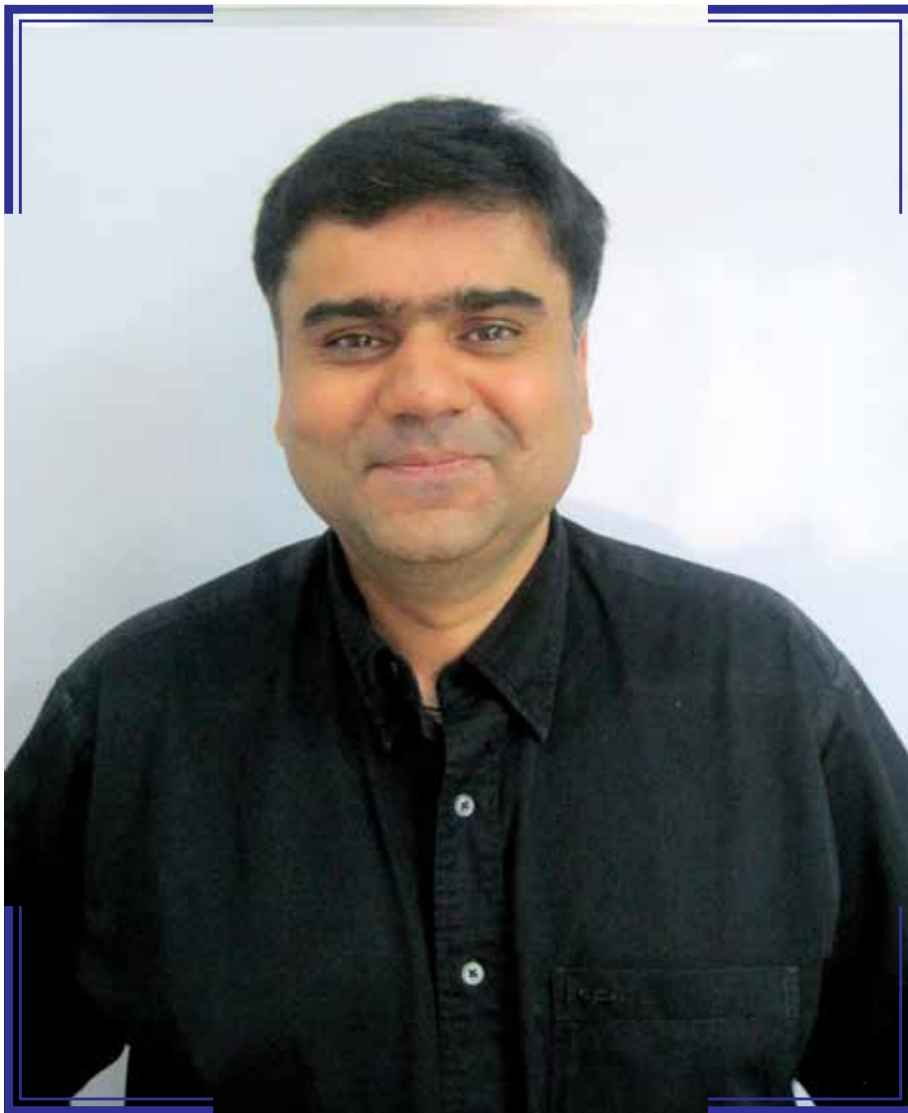
AMAALA is an ultra-luxury destination due to welcome guests in 2024. Set in the Prince Mohammad bin Salman Natural Reserve along Saudi Arabia's northwestern coast, AMAALA will be the first global integrated family wellness destination, set to curate transformative personal journeys inspired by arts, wellness, and the purity of the Red Sea. State of the art facilities and an attractive year-long events calendar will ensure AMAALA is a distinctive wellness destination worldwide. Featuring diverse natural ecosystems and a unique landscape, AMAALA will feature eight resorts, 200 residential units, a marina and yacht club within 4,155 sq km.

#### **The Red Sea Development Company**

Embracing adventure, The Red Sea Development Company (TRSDC) is a closed joint-stock company wholly owned by the Public Investment Fund (PIF) of Saudi Arabia. TRSDC was established to drive the development of The Red Sea and AMAALA, two luxury and regenerative tourism destinations that will set new standards in the tourism and hospitality industry and position Saudi Arabia on the global tourism map.



# Global Destinations announced the launch of their luxury representation vertical 'Wanderlust Marketing', unveiling their premier partner 'The Nanee'.



**G**lobal Destinations has announced the launch of their luxury representation vertical 'Wanderlust Marketing' with a keen focus on luxurious and captivating travel brands and experiences.

As our premier partner on-board we'd like to introduce "The Nanee" a

unique 18 room, bespoke boutique oasis in the heart of Bhaktapur, Nepal, providing stylish, quality and comfortable accommodation with superior purpose handcrafted experiences and services. The boutique property is scheduled to open doors to travellers in early December 2022.

Situated in the world heritage historical city of Bhaktapur - an ancient Newar city in the eastern corner of Kathmandu Valley in Nepal, The Nanee is located about 13 kilometres from the capital city Kathmandu. With uniquely designed rooms, it is dedicated to connecting travellers from around the world and creating a unique memorable experience, in the 'Museum of Life'.

Their key purpose is to provide a comfortable oasis where guests connect, experience the living heritage of Bhaktapur and for their visitors / dwellers to ensure the preservation of the Newar culture within one of the oldest living historical cities in the world.

Under the 'Wanderlust Marketing' vertical Global Destinations aims to curate a compendium of unique and exclusive travel providers offering them comprehensive marketing solutions while delivering the most exclusive, bespoke and memorable experiences from around the globe to discerning luxury travellers.

**Mr. Pranav Kapadia, Director Global Destinations** shared, *"Experiential Luxury travel from India has grown leaps and bounds and continues to be on a rise. The stagnancy of the pandemic has set the pace for many travellers to look for unique and distinguished experiences. The emergence of experiential luxury travel is one of the outcomes of the pandemic, where Indian travellers now look to engage in luxurious at the same time immersive, meaningful, and sustainable travel. With the launch of Wanderlust Marketing, we are glad to be able to cater to this growing niche traveller segment."*



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