

LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

travel

SPAN

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British Airways
unveils its
new lounge in
San Francisco

Air Canada
Opens Maple
Leaf Lounge
Express

**J W
Marriott**
Debuts in
the Heart of
Edmonton

Gujarat
expects over
six crore
tourists to
visit the state
this fiscal



HILTON DALAMAN SARIGERME RESORT & SPA INVITES HONEYMOON COUPLES

to रिह व वेदाल in व इपेन्द्री वलरुइफेद



A landscape showcasing the splendid beauties of Aegean and Mediterranean... A hotel that blends architecture with the surrounding nature, offering an environment of luxury and comfort...sunbathing and relaxation areas in the form of small-scale beach houses on a beach exclusive to the hotel...A dedicated spa centre, where you can leave all tiredness of your wedding behind, designed with a particular manner...A swimming pool where you can enjoy special moments under the bright blue sky from your private terrace...Romantic restaurants that delight the palate.....Bars and performances illuminating your evenings with festivity...An exclusive service manner...

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Services dedicated to honeymoon couples at the Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort & Spa are extraordinary... with the Honeymoon Duplex Suite option other than the standard honeymoon package. In the Honeymoon Suite, you'll find a Jacuzzi, a sauna and a terrace as well as a living room and a plush bedroom. But this is not all: When



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Editor's Letter

Interest among global airlines likely in Air India divestment: **CAPA**

Aviation advisory expects govt to fast track divestment process Interest among global airlines in the upcoming divestment of Air India is likely to be strong this time, the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) recently said.

In a statement, CAPA said that it does "not rule out the possibility of some leading carriers including those from the Gulf participating in the tender in a joint venture with large Indian conglomerates."

The aviation advisory, however, cautions that the current global and national economic environment and geo-political instability may have some impact on investor sentiment. "However, the outlook for the performance of Indian carriers remains," it adds.

CAPA expects that Air India's privatisation process will be fast-tracked, but cautions that if serious bidders are to be attracted, they should be given sufficient time to conduct appropriate due diligence. "Assuming that the tender is launched in August, it should be feasible to select the successful bidder by December-end," the report says.

The proposed privatisation process cannot start till Air India's accounts for fiscal 2018-19 are finalised. While

the government had asked Air India to finalise the results by June-end, the airline is yet to finalise its financials. Sources say that some audits were on to finalise the financials though it is not clear how long this will take.

It is expected that the divestment process will begin about a fortnight after the results are finalised.

The aviation advisory has maintained for long that the Indian market can only sustain two full service carriers, and that the operations of three such airlines – Air India, Jet Airways and Vistara – were not sustainable. "The suspension of operations by Jet Airways since April this year has removed the largest full service competitor to Air India, increasing the chances of a successful divestment this time around. Nevertheless, bidders will be conscious of the possibility – although remote – of the revival of Jet Airways," it adds.

CAPA feels that the divestment process has the potential to be a distraction for Air India executives. "It is critical that the Ministry allows Air India's senior management to remain focussed on optimising the carrier's commercial, operational and financial performance. A separate team may need to be established to handle divestment," the report says.

We are on



DEVENDER GROVER

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Etihad Airways, the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, has upgraded services on three key Asian routes this week, introducing larger aircraft to accommodate growing demand.

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"Projects will be developed over a total area of around 79.5 acres out of which Government has decided to allot around 42.5 acres. Some project proponents have arranged balance land on their own,"



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Buoyed by increasing tourist footfalls and development of various destinations in the state, Gujarat is expecting tourist inflow to cross six crore in the current fiscal

66 INDIA : The Deltin Daman : The Hotspot Getaway this monsoon

The Deltin, Daman. Three hour drive from Mumbai, the 5 star property is a must visit to have a short break and enjoy the monsoons. Having beaches close-by gives one even more reasons to spend a weekend chilling at the property with friends and family.



Mumbai Airport now connects India and Tanzania with direct Air Tanzania flight

Further boosting tourism and trade between India and Africa, GVK led Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL) managing Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) has restarted flights with Air Tanzania between Mumbai and Dar es Salaam after over 20 years. The new service commenced on July 18, 2019.

Dar es Salaam to Mumbai service will be operated thrice a week on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, and Mumbai to Dar es Salaam on Monday, Thursday and Saturday.

CSMIA is the currently the only airport in the country with permissions to operate Air Tanzania's newest non-stop route. The airline is deploying its Boeing 787-8 that has a capacity of 22 business class seats and 240 economy seats.

The estimated travel time for the direct flight is seven and half-hours.

This is the second non-stop route introduced by MIAL in the last 30 days with the earlier one expanding RwandAir's connectivity from Mumbai to China's trade capital Guangzhou.

Air Tanzania has a small fleet of just seven aircraft. It has 1 Bombardier

Q300, 3 Bombardier Q400, 2 Airbus A220-300 and 1 Boeing 787-8. The airline took delivery of their first 787-8 in July 2018. It has another Boeing 787-8 on order which will arrive in January 2020.

The airport is also expanding its operations to Egypt, Rwanda, Seychelles, Mauritius, Kenya, Cape Town, Johannesburg, Nairobi among other prominent destinations in Africa.

Fares start at INR 30,000 (USD 440) for round trip economy and INR 1,25,000 (USD 1870) for round trip business class.

Emirates takes Indian cuisine to Auckland with Chef Manish Mehrotra



Emirates has partnered with Auckland Tourism and Economic Development along with Eat Drink Love Ponsonby to bring India's renowned chef Manish Mehrotra of Indian Accent restaurants to New

Zealand next month. He will be joined by local chef and restaurateur Sid Sahrawat from July 17 to 18, 2019.

This collaborative dining experience is part of the Elemental AKL — a region-wide festival showcasing

cuisine, art, entertainment and culture in Auckland. The event will be presented by Auckland Tourism and Economic Development (ATEED) and featured by Ponsonby's Eat Drink Love Ponsonby.

"Emirates is proud to support and partner with chefs who share our ethos and dedication to delivering best-in-class dining experiences, whether on the ground and in the air. We're thrilled to bring chef Manish Mehrotra of Indian Accent, which has restaurants in New Delhi, London and New York to Auckland on Emirates for this once in a lifetime collaboration," said Chris Lethbridge, regional manager for New Zealand.

Emirates operates a daily non-stop service from Dubai to Auckland, New Zealand and all travellers will enjoy a selection of the finest cuisine.

IndiGo enhances international connectivity from Mumbai and Delhi; introduces flights to Jeddah, Dubai and Kuwait



Effective July 25, 2019, IndiGo to operate flights connecting Delhi with Jeddah; the airline will add its third frequency on Mumbai–Dubai route - Effective August 05, IndiGo to connect Mumbai with Kuwait

IndiGo, India's leading carrier, continues to enhance its international connectivity by announcing 06 new flights. Effective July 25 and August 05, IndiGo will launch daily nonstop flights connecting Delhi with Jeddah, and Mumbai with Kuwait. Additionally, to cater to the increasing demand from the sector, the airline will also launch its third non-stop daily flights between Mumbai and Dubai.

Mr. William Boulter, Chief Commercial Officer, IndiGo said, "These new routes once again reflect our unflinching commitment towards expanding our international operations. Our mission is clear; to boost economic growth in India, and help promote trade, tourism and mobility. These are exciting times for the industry and we are optimistic of the many opportunities

that will enable us to contribute towards India's socio-economic growth."

Mr. Boulter further added, "IndiGo will continue to expand its network to meet the requirements of both business and leisure travellers. It is our constant endeavour to offer affordable fares to our customers fares, along with a courteous and hassle-free flying experience."

Flight schedule:

Flight no	Departure	Arrival	Time of departure	Time of arrival	Frequency
6E 83	Mumbai	Dubai	1230	1405	Daily
6E 84	Dubai	Mumbai	1505	2005	Daily
6E 1766	Mumbai	Kuwait	0530	0710	Daily
6E 1767	Kuwait	Mumbai	0810	1510	Daily
6E 1741	Delhi	Jeddah	2200	0210	Daily
6E 1742	Jeddah	Delhi	0300	1115	Daily



Emirates'

US-bound passengers soon to have **Wi-Fi, mobile connectivity and Live TV** over the North Pole

Emirates' passengers bound for the US will soon be able to enjoy Wi-Fi, mobile service connectivity and Live TV broadcast, even when flying 40,000 feet over the North Pole and Arctic circle.

Emirates has led the world with inflight connectivity, with every aircraft connected for Wi-Fi, voice and SMS services. However on its flights to the US, which often travel over the polar region, passengers can find themselves without connectivity for up to 4 hours. This is due to the fact that most satellites that connect aircraft are geostationary, located over the equator, and aircraft antennae cannot see the satellite when in the far north, due to the earth's curvature.

Emirates partner Inmarsat will soon solve this problem with the addition of two elliptical orbit satellites, thus providing coverage over the North Pole by 2022.

The new satellites will also provide Live TV broadcast on Emirates flights allowing customers to watch live news or sports over the polar region. Emirates' Live TV is currently available on 175 aircraft including all Boeing 777 and select Airbus 380s.

Adel Al Redha, Emirates' Executive Vice President and Chief Operations Officer said: "We are very pleased with this development, which will ensure Emirates continues to lead the

industry in providing our customers a seamless inflight connectivity experience across geographies, on all of our flight routes. Over the years, we have worked closely with Inmarsat and our supply partners to continually raise the bar on inflight connectivity, and we



look forward to further enhancing that experience, taking advantage of new technologies and infrastructure.”

Philip Balaam, Inmarsat Aviation President, said: “Inmarsat has an extremely successful track record of working with Emirates to ensure their inflight connectivity requirements are met on a global basis, both in the cockpit and the cabin. We are delighted to continue that tradition with the rapid development of our Global Xpress (GX) satellite network. In the past month alone, we have announced even more capacity being added to the network with five additional payloads, including these latest two for flights over the northern latitudes and Arctic region. This is a great fit for Emirates and once again they have played an important

role in our decision for these latest expansions.”

A popular service amongst Emirates’ customers, over 1 million Wi-Fi connections are made onboard the airline’s flights in an average month.

Wi-Fi connectivity is available on all Emirates aircraft. Customers in all cabin classes receive 20MB of free Wi-Fi data or unlimited use of messaging apps for 2 hours allowing them to log on and stay in touch with friends, family or colleagues. Emirates Skywards members enjoy special benefits depending on their membership tier and class of travel, including free Wi-Fi when travelling in First Class or Business Class.

Emirates continually invests in improving bandwidth on board by

upgrading the connectivity solution on the fleet. The airline has been at the forefront of innovation when it comes to inflight connectivity and entertainment. It was the first airline to allow mobile phone use inflight in 2008, and the first to install TV screens in every seat on every aircraft in its fleet in 1992. Today, the airline provides one of the most comprehensive and state-of-the-art entertainment and connectivity services in the skies. ice, Emirates’ award-winning inflight entertainment system, offers over 4,000 channels of entertainment, including over 1,000 movies from around the world. This unmatched variety of content will continue to grow, offering Emirates customers even more choice.

IndiGo to start daily flights from Mumbai to Singapore, Bangkok from 22 August

- The daily flight on Mumbai-Bangkok route would depart from Mumbai at 9.30 pm (local time) and would land at 3.35 am (local time) at Thailand’s capital
- The return flight would depart from Bangkok at 3.25 pm (local time) and arrive at Mumbai airport at 6.30 pm (local time)



IndiGo has announced that it will start daily non-stop flights on Mumbai-Singapore route and Mumbai-Bangkok route from August 22.

The daily flight on Mumbai-Singapore route would leave at 8.25 am (local time) from Mumbai and would land at 4.40 pm (local time) at Singapore.

The return flight would depart at 7.30 pm (local time) from there and land at India’s commercial capital at 10.30 pm (local time), the airline said. “Effective August 22, 2019, IndiGo will operate non-stop flights from Mumbai to Singapore and Bangkok.”

The daily flight on Mumbai-Bangkok route would depart from Mumbai at 9.30 pm (local time) and would land at 3.35 am (local time) at Thailand’s capital.

The return flight would depart from Bangkok at 3.25 pm (local time) and arrive at Mumbai airport at 6.30 pm (local time), the low-cost carrier said.

“Connections between Mumbai and Singapore and Bangkok are highly significant from a trade perspective as it connects key commercial hubs in the region, **William Boulter, the chief commercial officer of IndiGo, said.**

British Airways

unveils its new lounge in San Francisco



British Airways unveils its new lounge in San Francisco, the third US lounge to benefit from the airline's investment plan for its customers, following the recent opening of its First and Club lounge at New York JFK's Terminal 7.

The new contemporary lounge is spread across 665 square metres with fantastic views of the runway, thanks to floor to ceiling glass windows that run along the side of the lounge letting natural light flow in.

The airline has created a number of zones throughout the lounge to cater to its customers' needs. For those wanting to unwind ahead of their flight, they can

do so at the beautifully crafted granite feature bar, that forms the centre piece of the lounge. Customers wishing to catch up on some work ahead of their flight will be able to use a new study area with wireless printing facilities.

In the main seating area there is a deli bar where customers can help themselves to a wide range of food and drink options. For the airline's customers traveling in First, there is a new exclusive Boutique Dining room, where customers can enjoy fine wines and menus inspired by some of world's top chefs.

Carolina Martinoli, British Airways' Director of Brand and Customer Experience, said: "We know that lounges form an important part of the journey for some of our customers, so we're delighted to be able to open this new space in San Francisco, the third lounge in the US to benefit from our investment program.

We think customers will love the new look and feel. We have had such

positive feedback from customers who have experienced our New York lounge and they both follow the same design concept."

British Airways worked alongside British designers Graven on the interior scheme in collaboration with San Francisco based WDA | William Duff Architects, who led the architectural design to carefully design a lounge that maximises space. The lounge also features a number of pieces of artwork from Bill Jacobsen, Doug Hall and Ruth Root, who are all local artists.

San Francisco is an important destination, not only is it the gateway to the technology hub of Silicon Valley, the beautiful sites and rich cultural history of the city itself are a magnet for UK business and leisure travellers alike.

This is the fifth lounge to open under the new design concept after the airlines Club and First lounges in New York's JFK, Rome in Italy and Aberdeen in Scotland. The British Airways lounge in Johannesburg will be next, with

further investment planned in Geneva, Chicago and at the airline's hub, London Heathrow.

2019 is British Airways' centenary year. The airline is investing £6.5 billion for its customers over five years, including the installation of the best quality Wi-Fi and power in every aircraft seat, fitting 128 long-haul aircraft with new interiors and taking delivery of 72 new aircraft. This year the airline is also introducing its Club Suite, a new business class seat with direct aisle access.

Flight from London Heathrow to San Francisco start at £1570 in Club World (business class) and £306 in World Traveller (economy).

Sample First First Boutique Dining Room menu:

Selection from the Charcuterie Board

- Busseto Prosciutto, Chorizo El Ray, Olli Salumeria Salame,
- Columbus Coppa
- Mitica Drunken Goat, Esperanza Manchego, Don Juan Mahon
- Served with Marcona Almonds, Marinated Olives, Cornichons, Sourdough Toast and Fallot Grain Mustard

Soup

- Garden Vegetable, Lemon Orzo Chicken

Entrees

- Seafood Cioppino with Shrimp, Scallops, Sea Bass, Haricot Vert and Rouille

- Rigatoni with Heirloom Cherry Tomato Sauce, Ricotta and Parmesan
- Add Grilled Chicken, Shrimp or Scallops

Mezze Plate

- Mini Vine Roasted Peppers, Grilled Local Shiitake Mushrooms, Marinated Heirloom Tomatoes, Hummus Warm Pita

Dessert

- Blackberry Granola Yogurt Parfait

Cheese

- Laura Chenel, Goat Cheese, Sonoma County CA,
- Bellwether Farms Point Reyes Blue Cheese, San Andreas, CA
- Fresh Pita Crisps, Fig Spread



British Airways

Executive Club Extends £1 Reward Flight Fare to UK and Europe

British Airways Executive Club Members can now book a reward flight using Avios and pay as little as £1 return. With the trial starting today, the new Avios pricing options can be redeemed on flights in the UK and Europe.

The additional Avios options follows a successful trial in May on select European destinations. With the new option, Members can fly* to destinations such as Edinburgh or Venice for only £1 and 16,000 and 22,000 Avios respectively. For

these same destinations, flying return, customers with a lower Avios balance have the option to use 9,000 Avios and pay £31 to Edinburgh and 15,000 Avios and £35 to Venice.

Niall Rooney, British Airways' Loyalty Manager said: "We're always looking for ways to give our Executive Club customers more options to redeem their Avios. Trialing £1 Reward Flight Saver prices means Members can explore the UK and Europe on very little cash and use more Avios. It's easy to join Executive Club, sign up for free and start collecting Avios."

To book a Reward Flight Saver ticket, customers need to have collected at least one Avios in the last 12 months. British Airways is testing this pricing option in addition to the previous flat rate of £35 for taxes, fees and carrier charges along with the Avios needed for their destination.

Avios can be collected on flights with British Airways and its oneworld® partner airlines. Customers can then spend Avios on flights, upgrades, hotels, car hire and other travel rewards. As well as reward flights customer can choose Avios Part Payment – reducing the cash amount paid on flights. When using Avios Part Payment, customers can pick from a range of savings by destination and cabin. Members will still collect Avios and Tier Points on these bookings. Avios can also be collected on a range of travel, shopping and lifestyle partners including hotels, car hire, parking and currency exchange.





Air Canada

to resume full India schedule

- *Daily Toronto-Delhi flights restart Oct. 1; additional capacity added beginning Oct. 27 with Boeing 777*
- *Vancouver-Delhi flights resume usual flight times starting Aug. 1*
- *Toronto-Mumbai seasonal flights return on Oct. 27*

Air Canada has announced it will resume its daily, non-stop Toronto-Delhi flights on Oct. 1, 2019 (eastbound) and Oct. 3, 2019 (westbound). All flights are available for purchase now at www.aircanada.com or through Travel Agents.

"We are very pleased to resume our daily, non-stop Toronto-Delhi flights in time for Diwali celebrations, and with additional capacity going forward to meet expected demand. With our Delhi flights returning to normal together with our seasonal return to Mumbai for fall firmly demonstrating our long term commitment to this vibrant market, we look forward to operating our full schedule to India," said Mark Galardo, Vice President, Network Planning at Air Canada.

"The resumption of Air Canada's direct flights is a most welcome development", said Kasi Rao, President & CEO of the Canada-India Business Council. "At a time of increasing commercial activity between Canada and India, Air Canada's direct flights represent a very important element in connecting the business communities in both countries as well as the growing number of tourists, students, families and cargo traffic," said Rao.

The Toronto-Delhi flights will be operated initially with Boeing 787 Dreamliners and beginning Oct. 27, additional capacity will be added to this route with 400-seat Boeing 777-300ER aircraft, featuring Air Canada's award-winning Signature Class, Premium Economy and Economy

classes of service.

Air Canada's seasonal Toronto-Mumbai flights will operate four times weekly from Oct. 27, 2019 until March 28, 2020 with Boeing 777-200LR aircraft.

Air Canada will have up to 18 weekly flights conveniently connecting a multitude of cities in North America to Delhi from both Toronto and Vancouver, and to Mumbai from Toronto. All flights feature multilingual crews and offer personal in-flight entertainment including multilingual films at every seat. Customers can also collect and redeem Aeroplan Miles through Canada's leading loyalty program when travelling with Air Canada, and eligible customers have access to priority services, Maple Leaf Lounges and other benefits.

Flight Number	Depart	Arrive	Days of Operation
AC 42 Toronto-Delhi	YYZ at 22:10	DEL at 21:35	Daily
AC 43 Delhi-Toronto	DEL at 00:10	YYZ at 05:05	Daily
AC 44 Vancouver-Delhi	YVR at 01:15	DEL at 03:50	Daily
AC 45 Delhi-Vancouver	DEL at 05:55	YVR at 07:30	Daily
AC 46 Toronto-Mumbai	YYZ at 20:45	BOM at 22:10	Mon/Wed/Fri/Sun
AC 47 Mumbai-Toronto	BOM at 23:45	YYZ at 05:25	Mon/Tue/Thu/Sat

ANA launches limited “Hello Blue Sale”



All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan's largest and 5-star airline for seven consecutive years, announced today to launch a limited sales event called “HELLO BLUE SALE” running from July 26, 2019 to July 30, 2019.

The 5-day promotion will offer economy class flight discounts on flights from 17 cities in Asia and Oceania to Japan. The scale of this event makes it ANA's largest sale ever for cities in Asia and Australia.

“By offering a wide range of potential destinations during the HELLO BLUE SALE, ANA hopes to meet the expanding need for air travel from Asia and Australia to Japan,” said Isao Ono, Vice President of Marketing

and Sales, Asia and Oceania, ANA. “In addition to our high standards for customer service and hospitality, we strive to make our flights as accessible as possible by offering affordable prices. This sale is part of our efforts to continue improving the air travel experience while encouraging tourism and travel.”

The 17 eligible departure cities during the sales period include: Singapore, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Manila, Phnom Penh, Yangon, Hong Kong, Taipei, Seoul, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai (commencing on October 27, 2019), Sydney, and Perth (commencing on September 1, 2019).

The sale will start on July 26, 2019, and will last until July 30, 2019. Passengers can make flight reservations via their countries' ANA website or through travel agencies.

ANA HELLO BLUE SALE:

- Applicable travel period differs by the city of departure. Blackout period is applicable.
- Fares shown are subject to change without prior notice.
- The number of seats is limited and may not be available on the day and some flights.
- Terms and conditions apply.



Qatar Airways

to Launch Direct Flights to Gaborone, Botswana from 27 October 2019

- *Qatar Airways will be the first Middle Eastern airline to operate to the capital of Botswana*
- *Three-times weekly flights to Gaborone will be operated by an Airbus A350 aircraft*

DOHA, Qatar – Qatar Airways is pleased to announce the launch of its new service to Gaborone, Botswana, starting 27 October 2019. The capital and largest city of Botswana will be the airline's first destination in the African country.

The three-times weekly flights will be operated by an Airbus A350-900 aircraft, featuring 36 seats in Business Class and 247 seats in Economy Class.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "We are excited to be launching three-weekly flights to Gaborone, another highly sought after destination in Africa. Qatar Airways is committed to growing our presence in Africa and adding to the 22 destinations in 15 countries we already offer. Our new service to the enchanting city of Gaborone will enable us to provide a seamless journey to and from Botswana, for passengers connecting

from our extensive network of more than 160 destinations worldwide."

Gaborone is the capital and the largest city in Botswana, a landlocked country in Southern Africa, bounded by Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The nation's vast nature and wildlife have made it a renowned destination for adventurous tourists from across the globe.

Qatar Airways currently operates a modern fleet of more than 250 aircraft via its hub, Hamad International Airport (HIA) to more than 160 destinations worldwide. The airline has recently launched an array of exciting new destinations, namely Rabat, Morocco; Izmir, Turkey; Malta; Davao, Philippines; Lisbon, Portugal; and Mogadishu, Somalia. The airline will add Langkawi, Malaysia to its extensive route network in October 2019.

Qatar Airways was named 'World's Best Airline' by the 2019 World Airline

Awards, managed by international air transport rating organisation Skytrax. It was also named 'Best Airline in the Middle East', 'World's Best Business Class' and 'Best Business Class Seat', in recognition of its ground-breaking Business Class experience, Qsuite. Qatar Airways is the only airline to have been awarded the coveted "Skytrax Airline of the Year" title, which is recognised as the pinnacle of excellence in the airline industry, five times.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE (Sunday, Wednesday, Friday)

Doha-Johannesburg

QR1377: Departs DOH 06:55hrs,
Arrives JNB 14:50hrs

Johannesburg-Gaborone

QR1377: Departs JNB 15:55hrs,
Arrives GBE 16:50hrs

Gaborone-Johannesburg

QR1378: Departs GBE 18:35hrs,
Arrives JNB 19:30hrs

Johannesburg-Doha

QR1378: Departs JNB 20:40hrs,
Arrives DOH 06:35hrs+1

Dubai International Airport welcomes first GoAir flight from Kerala



Indian airline has launched daily direct flights between DXB and Kannur Airport

Dubai International Airport (DXB) has added Go Air to its portfolio of 70 international carriers.

This was marked by Go Air inaugural flight from Kannur, Kerala on July 25, 2019, which forms a part of the Indian airline's slew of new international routes announced earlier this month. Other new international routes of Go Air are Mumbai – Abu Dhabi, Delhi –

Abu Dhabi, Mumbai – Muscat, Delhi – Bangkok, Kannur – Kuwait and Mumbai – Bangkok.

Dubai is Go Air's sixth international destination. The carrier is operating daily direct flights between DXB's Terminal 1 and Kannur International Airport.

With Go Air, the Dubai International Airport is now served by a total of five Indian airlines, operating around

360 weekly flights to 21 destinations across India. Other Indian carriers flying between India and Dubai include Indigo, Spicejet and Air India.

India is the single largest destination country for DXB in terms of contribution to traffic volumes with 12.3 million passengers recorded in 2018.

*dubaiairports.ae
goair.in*

IndiGo introduces flights to Myanmar from Kolkata



Indigo has added Yangon, Myanmar as its 18th international and 77th overall destination. Starting from September

20, the low-cost carrier will operate daily non-stop flights between Kolkata and Yangon.

Commenting on this news, **William Boulter, chief commercial officer, IndiGo** said, "In line with our international expansion strategy, we are excited to announce Yangon as our new international destination.

"We see significant traffic coming from Yangon to the Buddhist circuit

thereby enhancing economic growth and tourism in India. This new route will strengthen the cultural relationship between the two countries and will boost trade, tourism, and mobility."

This is the second international route added by IndiGo, this week — Effective from August 22, the Interglobe Aviation-led carrier will also start daily non-stop flights connecting Delhi and Dhaka, Bangladesh.

International flight schedule:

Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Time of Departure	Time of arrival	Frequency
6E 1398	Kolkata	Yangon	1130	1430	Daily
6E 1399	Yangon	Kolkata	1530	1630	Daily



Air Canada Opens Maple Leaf Express Lounge: Another Convenient Way to Work or Relax Before Taking a Flight to the United States at Toronto Pearson Airport

Second Toronto-Pearson Cross-Border Show is adjacent to boarding gates

Air Canada recently unveiled another convenient way for its branded customers to work or relax before their flight: the Express Maple Leaf Lounge, located in the departures area for trans border flights in Terminal 1 of the Air Canada. Toronto-Pearson International Airport. This new show is the second high-end Maple Leaf product available to customers who want to travel to the United States from Toronto-Pearson. Business Class customers, Air Canada Altitude customers and Star Alliance Gold members who are scheduled to fly on Air Canada or United Airlines will be admitted to Express Maple Leaf.

"We are pleased to welcome Air Canada customers and Star Alliance carriers traveling to the United States into our new Express Maple Leaf Lounge. This unique space was

created to enhance the overall travel experience of our branded customers and demonstrates our commitment to enhancing our cross-border product," said Andrew Yiu, Vice President, Air Canada Products. This brand new lounge is adjacent to the doors of Air Canada Shuttle flights, and therefore conveniently located for a comfortable break before departing for the United States. Guests will be greeted warmly by a priority agent, and they will be able to work or relax in peace before their flight from Air Canada."

The Express Lounge, close to doors F84 to F99, can accommodate 50 customers. This new space includes a self-service bar that offers a wide selection of drinks and beverages, including Canadian wines and Lavazza specialty coffees, as well as a selection of light snacks. Business travelers who plan to work on site can also take advantage of free Wi-Fi.

New commuter facilities have recently been inaugurated at Terminal 1 of Toronto Pearson Airport to provide additional access to single-aisle aircraft for cross-border shuttle flights and to facilitate routine servicing. Developed by the Greater Toronto Airports Authority, they provide efficiencies in the new Terminal 1. The new Express Maple Leaf Lounge further enhances the customer experience in this boarding area.

As a leading global carrier, Air Canada offers eligible customers access to 23 Maple Leaf Lounges worldwide, 17 of which are located at Canadian airports, in addition to the Signature Suite at Toronto's hub, which offers a five-star menu. Guests traveling abroad can enjoy the New York LaGuardia, New York Newark, Los Angeles, London Heathrow, Frankfurt and Paris lounges. More information on Air Canada's award-winning Maple Leaf Lounges can be found here.



Fiji Airways and Air India Announce Codeshare Agreement

Fiji Airways, Fiji's National Airline and Air India have recently announced a new codeshare agreement which will provide convenient connections between three Indian cities and Fiji. From 1st of August, guests of both airlines can seamlessly connect from Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai to Fiji via Hong Kong or Singapore. The agreement will allow Fiji Airways to place its "FJ" designator code on flights operated by Air India from the three Indian cities to Hong Kong and Singapore. It also allows Air India to place its "AI" designator code of Fiji Airways flights from Hong Kong and Singapore to Nadi, Fiji.

Mr. Andre Viljoen, Fiji Airways Managing Director and CEO said: "We're delighted to add Air India to our growing list of international

airline partners, and look forward to welcoming their guests onboard with our renowned hospitality and service onboard. With our direct services from Hong Kong and Singapore to Nadi, there really is no better way for Indian visitors to travel to Fiji from three of their largest cities. Equally, our guests from Fiji and the South Pacific will have many more options to connect to Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai for leisure, business and medical travel on Air India." Fiji Airways was recently awarded the coveted Skytrax 4-Star rating.

Ms. Meenakshi Mallik, Commercial Director of AI said, "We are happy to establish codeshare partnership with Fiji Airways thereby expanding our network and offering wider connectivity to our esteemed passengers. This

partnership launches Air India's first services into Nadi, Fiji which will offer connectivity to Air India's esteemed passengers travelling between India and Fiji over Singapore and Hong Kong."

"Air India pioneered India's aviation sector and its history is synonymous with the history of civil aviation in India. Air India embodies the spirit of India by extending warm hospitality and the urge to satisfy its guests, an inherent characteristic of the country's culture."

Flight tickets under the codeshare agreement can now be purchased effective 1st August 2019 from our guests preferred travel agents or through both Fiji Airways and Air India sales offices, call center and websites; via www.fiji Airways.com and www.airindia.in.

IndiGo

plans to enter Vietnam, expand in China



IndiGo airlines is also reviewing its strategy for Europe whilst making full use of its Turkish Airline codeshare agreement which allows passengers to fly through Istanbul on a '6E code'.

After rapidly expanding its presence in Asia, Europe and the Middle East, India's largest air passenger carrier IndiGo plans to add destinations such as Hanoi and Chengdu to its flight schedule from September quarter onwards. IndiGo's Chief Commercial Officer William Boulter told IANS that the airline has received clearances from the Vietnamese authorities to commence operations from India to Hanoi. The airline will soon "be putting the flight out for sale". Besides Hanoi, the airline plans to operate flights to Ho Chi Min City.

The airline is also reviewing its strategy for Europe whilst making "full use" of its Turkish Airline codeshare agreement which allows passengers to fly through Istanbul on a '6E code'. The agreement between the two airlines allows for a seamless travel experience for passengers through an extended global network. In 2019, IndiGo entered

into its first codeshare agreement with Turkish Airlines, which provides passengers with extended connectivity to 12 destinations in Europe.

At present, the airline is rapidly expanding its international presence, it will deploy capacity to Chengdu in China, Singapore, Bangkok and Yangon. IndiGo will operate daily non-stop flights between Delhi-Chengdu-Delhi effective September 15, 2019. In the Middle East sector, the airline has expanded services to Jeddah, Dubai and Kuwait. "Of our total expansion this year, roughly 50 per cent will be on international operations," Boulter said.

The airline currently offers 18 international destinations out of which 11 were announced in 2018-19. In addition to destinations, the airline has been growing its fleet size as well, by adding at least one aircraft every week. IndiGo has a fleet of over 230 aircraft including

A320ceos, A320neos, A321neo and ATRs. The airline has already deployed its new acquired A321 aircraft on various international sectors. The aircraft has an endurance ranging from six-and-a-half to seven-and-a-half hours.

Apart from international operations, IndiGo recently expanded its domestic operations new routes under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) which are serviced via ATR aircraft. On the financial front, India's biggest airline by market share recently posted its highest ever quarterly net profit at Rs 1,203 crore for the first quarter of 2019-20. The company's profit grew to Rs 1,203.1 crore from Rs 27.8 crore in the year-ago quarter.

IndiGo has a market share of almost 50 per cent in India. At present, the airline offers around 1,400 daily flights and connects 56 domestic destinations and 18 international destinations.

AmEx's Hotel Monitor 2020 report predicts highest room rate growth for APAC in Bangalore



The recent Hotel Monitor 2020 report by American Express Global Business Travel (GBT) with the support of Global Business Consulting (GBC) predicts highest room rate growth for Bengaluru among the key cities in the Asia Pacific region next year. The report predicts up to 5% room rate growth in the IT capital of India next year.

As the country's hi-tech hub, the Hotel Monitor reports a huge demand for business travel into the city next year. Despite the double-digit supply growth, the report hopes the city hotels to lead the APAC hotel rate growth at 5%.

The report predicts up to 4% room rate growth for Tokyo, 3% for Hong Kong, 1% for Beijing and 1% for Sydney. Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai, Melbourne and Singapore are expected to have a hotel rate growth of 2%, according to the report.

The study says that although inbound leisure and business are key drivers for hotels in the Asia Pacific, increasingly domestic travellers are

filling hotel beds, compensating for any falls in international visitor numbers. The report, according to GBC has been compiled taking into account historical booking data for every city and region for the past seven years.

One interesting trend for traveller behaviour in many regions, observed by GBT local experts, is that modern business travellers are increasingly looking for lodging options that offer shared working spaces and a more relaxing environment. In response, hotel brands are investing in lifestyle formats that feel less corporate.

Key new additions for Bangalore going forward are the Four Seasons, Radisson Red and The Fern, the report says. At the same time, the Indian Machine Tool Manufacturers' Association will organize its flagship IMTEX Forming 2020 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre in January 2020. Billed as the largest event of its kind in South East Asia, IMTEX is expected to bring more than 80,000 visitors to the city, the report notes.

The report, according to GBC has been compiled taking into account historical booking data for every city and region for the past seven years.

Among the other regions, Johannesburg (4%) and Tel Aviv (6%) are the two cities in the Middle East and Africa which are expected to see growth in rates. While Dubai rates are expected to remain same at current levels, cities like Doha, Riyadh, etc. are expected to register a sharp fall in hotel rates in 2020.

Across much of the world, the hotel industry is booming. Business and leisure volumes are growing, even as international trade tensions continue to dampen the economic outlook. A healthy global hotel construction pipeline will mean, in most cities, hotel rates remain stable or see only modest rises, the report says.

One interesting trend for traveller behaviour in many regions, observed by GBT local experts, is that modern business travellers are increasingly looking for lodging options that offer shared working spaces and a more relaxing environment. In response, hotel brands are investing in lifestyle formats that feel less corporate.

Digital innovation is driving change across the hotel landscape, creating new opportunities to drive savings and improve the traveller experience, the study notes prominently.

Yes bank acquires 18.5% stake of Cox & Kings by invoking pledged shares

Yes Bank on July 26 said it has acquired 18.55 per cent stake in Cox & Kings by invocation of pledged shares. The bank has invoked pledge on 3.27 crore equity shares having nominal value of Rs 5 per share, constituting 18.55 per cent of the post-issue paid-up share capital, of Cox & Kings, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing. Cox & Kings Limited has a consolidated turnover revenue of Rs 5,693.5 crore as on March 31. Besides, the bank invoked pledge on 34,080 equity shares having nominal value of Rs 10 per share, constituting 30 per cent of an unlisted company Ezeego One Travel & Tours Limited.

YES Bank has become the second-largest shareholder in tour operator Cox & Kings after it acquired a 18.55 per cent stake from the invocation of pledge. The private-sector lender has also picked up a 30 per cent stake in Cox & Kings sister concern ezeego1 following a loan default.

The 260-year-old travel firm is owned by the Kerkar family through domestic and overseas entities. The firm has been facing a liquidity crisis, resulting



in loan defaults and rating downgrades in the past few months. This has led to promoters pledging additional stake to raise funds. Lenders have also invoked pledges following default. The promoter stake in the company fell 10 percentage points to 39.73 per cent between April

and June, and has now been reduced to 21.18 per cent following YES Bank's action. Over 69 per cent of the promoter stake was pledged as of June end.

YES Bank recently informed the stock exchange that it acquired 32 million shares in Cox & Kings, amounting to 18.55 per cent of the paid-up capital. It also took 34,080 shares in ezeego1, taking a 30 per cent stake in the firm. It said the pledge was invoked following a loan default by ezeego1, a B2B travel firm owned by the Cox & Kings promoters. Cox & Kings had a debt of Rs 3,238 crore at end of FY19, comprising of both short-term and long-term debt.

The business of ezeego1 has come to a halt since late last month after the International Air Transport Association suspended the firm from selling tickets on credit and it laid off over 100 employees.

All Nippon Airways to start direct Tokyo-Chennai flight from October 27

Japan's largest 5-Star airline All Nippon Airways (ANA) will begin serving a route connecting Tokyo's Narita International Airport and Chennai International Airport from October 27 onwards. The route will be the first direct connection between Japan and southern India.

The new Tokyo-Chennai flight is part of ANA's global strategy and the airline will deploy Boeing 787-8 aircraft from October 27, 2019, for the route. This expansion will bring ANA's total number of cities serviced to 46.



This will be ANA's third route offering service to India, along with flights from Narita to Mumbai and Delhi, the airline added.

The airline will be deploying its Boeing 787-8 aircraft on this route.

Seiichi Takahashi, senior vice president, ANA said "It is always exciting to add a new destination, but it is even more significant to be the only carrier offering connecting this growing region with Japan. "International passenger service is the main revenue generator for the ANA Group, and we hope to continue improving our market share in this dynamic sector as outlined in our Mid-Term Corporate Strategy for FY2018-2022. The new Chennai route will bring ANA's world-class quality travel service to a beautiful and underserved region that is home to millions of potential new customers."

The Narita-Chennai service forms a part of ANA's move in increasing its Asia/ Oceania network.

Flight Schedule:

Flight No.	Departure	Arrival	Time of departure	Time of Arrival
NH 825	Narita	Chennai	1110	1745
NH 826	Chennai	Narita	2030	0725(+1)

Finnair flies its first “Push for change” biofuel flights from San Francisco to Helsinki



Finnair recently announced that it will fly the first biofuel flights backed by its “Push for change” carbon decreasing initiative this week.

On both August 5th and 7th, the Finnair flight departing San Francisco Airport bound for Helsinki, Finland, will be flown with a biofuel mix of 12 percent, reducing the total CO₂

emissions for the two flights by approximately 32 tons.

“The launch of our Push for Change initiative was an important step for Finnair in order to provide our customers with the opportunity to conveniently offset or decrease the emissions from their travel,” says Arja Suominen, SVP, Communications &

Corporate Responsibility at Finnair.

“We have been pleased with the early phases of the initiative so far and we are now excited to move forward and fly our two first biofuel flights supported entirely by the Push for change contributions. We naturally hope that customers will be increasingly willing and interested in using the service in the future as well.”

Finnair’s biofuels partners in San Francisco are SkyNRG and World Energy; Shell Aviation has provided logistics and supply chain support for the project. The sustainable biofuel is produced from used cooking oil in California, which does not compete with food production or the agriculture industry.

THAI Celebrates 15th Anniversary of Flights to Bengaluru

Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI) recently celebrated the 15th anniversary of flights to Bengaluru, India. THAI celebrated 15 years of roundtrip flights from Bangkok to Bengaluru at the “Vibrancy of the Garden City” event that was held at the Shangri-La, Bengaluru to thank partners for their continual support and to introduce Thai smile to the Bengaluru market. More than 200 guests were in attendance, which included travel agents, cargo agents, airport authorities, and corporate customers. In 2004, THAI inaugurated flights to Bengaluru with initially four flights per week. Currently, THAI operates daily flights from Bangkok to Bengaluru. THAI has remained the preferred choice for passengers who travelled from Bengaluru to Thailand, Bali, Japan, Singapore, Philippines, China, and cities in the Indo-China region. THAI and Thai Smile operate flights from a total of eight cities in India, with flight connections in Thailand and beyond.



From left to right: Mr. Saravuth Wongsomnuk (second from left), Manager of Corporate and Government Sales, Thai Smile Airways, Mr. Thamanoon Kuprasert (third from left), THAI General Manager of India, Thai Airways, Ms. Cholada Siddhivarn (fourth from left), Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand, Mumbai Office, H.E. Chutintorn Gongsaksi (fifth from left), Ambassador of Thailand to India, and Mr. Phiromtis Thongthaem Na Ayutthaya (sixth from left), THAI General Manager of Bengaluru. Read more at <http://www.etbtravelnews.global>



Vistara to Fly Daily to Dubai

from 21 August, Bookings Open

- Vistara presents the first Premium Economy Class between India and the UAE
- Starting with inaugural all-in return fare of INR17820 from Mumbai and AED765 from Dubai

Vistara recently added Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) as the second international destination to its network and opened bookings for daily flights between Mumbai and Dubai starting 21 August 2019. The airline will use its Airbus A320neo aircraft with three-class cabin configuration to fly to and from Dubai, making Vistara the first airline to offer the choice of Premium Economy class for travel between India and the UAE in addition to Economy and Business Class.

Customers can also take convenient one-stop connections to/from other cities beyond Mumbai, namely Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Goa, Hyderabad and Kolkata, as well as Singapore.

Vistara announced introductory, all-inclusive, round-trip fares to/from Dubai as follows:

Mr. Leslie Thng, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, "We're delighted

to add Dubai to our growing network, a city that has been constantly thriving for decades and always has something new to offer. With the continuous influx of international trade, business and tourists all year round, especially given the strong economic and cultural ties between India and the UAE, Dubai makes a key addition to our growing network. We're very excited to offer India's finest flying experience to travellers from both the countries."

Vistara is poised to inaugurate its international operations with flights to Singapore from Delhi and Mumbai, starting 6 August 2019 and 7 August 2019, respectively. Bookings for flights to and from Dubai are being progressively opened on all channels, including Vistara's website www.airvistara.com Vistara's iOS & Android mobile apps and through Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) and travel agents.

As an award-winning airline with global accolades, Vistara is rated the highest on Skytrax and TripAdvisor and has been the winner of several 'Best Airline' awards. In a short span of four and a half years, Vistara has raised the bar for operations and service delivery in the Indian aviation industry by offering the finest flying experience to its customers. The airline now connects 26 destinations, operates over 1200 flights a week served by a fleet of 23 Airbus A320 and six Boeing 737-800NG aircraft, and has flown more than 16 million customers since starting operations in 2015.

Last year, Vistara placed its aircraft order of a combination of purchased and leased aircraft totalling 50 from the Airbus A320neo family (including the A321neo) for domestic India as well as short and medium-haul international operations, with deliveries scheduled between 2019 and 2023. Additionally, the airline has purchased six Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft that are scheduled to be delivered between 2020 and 2021, and will be used for long-haul international operations.

airvistara.com, singaporeair.com

Sectors	Economy	Premium Economy	Business
Mumbai-Dubai-Mumbai	INR 17820	INR 24900	INR 37465
Dubai-Mumbai-Dubai	AED 765	AED 1085	AED 2315

SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN MUMBAI AND DUBAI

(All timings shown are in local times)

Flight No.	From	To	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
UK201	Mumbai (BOM)	Dubai (DXB)	1625 Hours	1815 Hours	Daily
UK202	Dubai (DXB)	Mumbai (BOM)	1915 Hours	0015 Hours (+1)	Daily

(+1) indicates arrival on next calendar day. Above mentioned flight details are subject to final regulatory approvals.

Etihad Airways

introduces larger aircraft to accommodate growth of three key Asian routes



Etihad Airways has upgraded services on three key Asian routes this week, introducing larger aircraft to accommodate growing demand. Flights between the UAE capital, Abu Dhabi, and major two Chinese cities, Shanghai and Chengdu,

have been upgraded with next-generation Boeing 787 Dreamliners, while the South Korean city of Seoul has been boosted from a Dreamliner to an Airbus A380 'super jumbo'.

"Asia-Pacific is the fastest growing air transport region in the world, and

China is the fastest-growing individual market," said **Robin Kamark, Chief Commercial Officer of Etihad Airways**. "As we continue to modernise our aircraft fleet, and as we work with tourism partners to increase visitor numbers to Abu Dhabi, we are deploying newer, larger planes to key markets throughout our network."

Chengdu, in south-central China, is a city of 7.4 million people. Etihad has upgraded its daily Abu Dhabi – Chengdu flights from 262-seat Airbus A330-200 aircraft to 299-seat Boeing 787s, a 14 per cent increase in seats. Shanghai, China's largest city, with a population of more than 24 million, has been upgraded

from Boeing 787-9 aircraft to larger Boeing 787-10 jets, seating 336 passengers, up 12 per cent.

And Seoul, the capital of South Korea, with a population approaching 10 million, has been upgraded by Etihad from the Boeing 787-10 to the 494-seat Airbus A380, a massive 47 per cent increase. With the upgrades of the Shanghai and Chengdu routes, Etihad now operates Dreamliners to all four of its China gateways, having introduced these planes to Hong Kong and Beijing earlier this year. Recently, Dreamliners have also been deployed to London and Rome, and still to come this year, Etihad will introduce these aircraft to markets including Frankfurt, Milan, Dublin, Johannesburg and Lagos.





VisitMalaysia 2020 Roadshow launched in Amritsar

Malaysia kicked off the much anticipated VisitMalaysia 2020 campaign, in a roadshow covering three main cities of India, namely Amritsar, Mumbai & Hyderabad from 22nd to 25th July 2019. **Mr. Sulaiman Bin Suip, Director, Tourism Malaysia** launched the roadshow in Hyatt Regency Hotel, Amritsar which welcomed the biggest tourism event in Malaysia, starting next year.

A total number of 37 participants from Malaysia comprising a combination of 18-travel agents, 4-product owners, 9-hotels, 3 airlines and 3 others combine together to share the latest development of Malaysian tourism, and also to announce the Visit Malaysia year in 2020.

The VM2020 roadshow emphasizes India as main potential market for the country. In 2018, 600,311 (+8.6%) Indian tourists visited Malaysia and

spent almost RM 2.7 billion. Statistic from January until May 2019 show that a total of 295,609 with the growth of 15.5% Indian visited Malaysia compared to same period last year. For record, Malaysia is aiming a target of 728,000 Indian tourists to visit Malaysia, assisted by three Tourism Malaysia's offices in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai.

Tourism in Malaysia is doing well with good arrivals and tourism development, stated Mr Sulaiman. International tourist arrivals from January to May showed a +4.8% positive growth from 10,545,447 (2018) to 10,954,014. Both short (ASEAN) and medium haul markets were the strong performers with increment of +4.7% and +7.6% arrivals respectively. Meanwhile, the long haul market saw a slight decline in arrivals (-0.2%) due to limited direct flights.

Many development took place from south to north of Malaysia, in

addition to Borneo's wonderful natural landscape. For instance, in state of Johor, there are new attractions in Desaru Coast – an integrated beach destination spanning 3,900 acres where tourists can enjoy golfing at the renowned Els Club, stay in Hard Rock, the Westin or other beach hotels, or have fun at the water theme park with one of the biggest wave pools in the world! In latest addition, the interactive sea aquarium in Legoland Malaysia, the Sea Life has some 13,000 fishes and 120 types of species on display.

More fun await families or thrill-seekers, as many new indoor entertainment parks are booming, like Superpark in Avenue K, My Best Box in Berjaya Times Square, Futureland Fun Zone in Sunway Pyramid, and VR's hotspot the Rift in Mid Valley Mega Mall and Skytropolis in Genting.

“In term of visa, the Malaysian government always facilitates Indian tourists' entry at ease, since the introduction of eNTRI and eVISA,” he added.

Mr Sulaiman reiterated that Malaysia is going full-force in reaching out to the world using the help of the web. “The campaign's focus is on digital marketing through a dedicated VM2020 website, the use of hashtags for VisitMalaysia2020, VM2020 and MalaysiaTrulyAsia,” he added.

Recognizing the importance of digital marketing, Tourism Malaysia had also engaged with a group of more than 50 social media influencers from India attending the recent Digital Influencer Convention 2019 in Sabah. A competition was held for them to post about Malaysia on their social media platforms utilizing the hashtags.

International tourism fairs' participation as well as Mega Familiarization programmes are already in place, as Malaysia hopes to reach Indian solo or business travelers, families, honeymooners, or film makers to choose Malaysia as a preferred destination.

For VM2020, Malaysia targets 30 million international tourist arrivals and RM 100 billion in receipts.



TAT launches 'Give Me 5' off-peak season shopping campaign

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has launched a new shopping campaign, 'Give Me 5', to entice an additional 200,000 visitors from India and six ASEAN countries during the off-peak season of July-September.

The campaign will target families, women and incentive groups from 19 cities in India, Indonesia, Lao PDR., Vietnam, Myanmar, Malaysia and Cambodia, which are served by TAT's campaign partner airlines, Thai Airways International and Thai Smile Airways.

Visitors travelling on the partner airlines on any of their flights between now and 30 September, 2019, will be eligible to receive discounts of 5-50% on a broad range of products and services along with many other privileges at the campaign's partner retail shopping outlets, The Mall Group, Central Group and the Ratchprasong Business District Association in Bangkok.

To overcome the baggage weight restrictions, the partner airlines will give the shoppers an extra allowance of five kilogrammes per person on the return sector to their home cities.

TAT Governor Mr. Yuthasak Supasorn said, "The 'Give Me 5' tactical campaign is being launched in countries which have their school holidays and a number of long weekends during these off-peak months. It is expected to generate an estimated 200,000 visitors and 6.2 billion Baht in additional revenue.

"We are delighted to have received strong cooperative support from our national carriers and members of the Ratchaprasong Square Trade Association (RSTA) for this campaign."

The countries chosen for the campaign generated a total of more than 10 million arrivals and 337 billion Baht in tourism earnings in 2018. All are growing strongly this year, compensating for what is expected to be a temporary

slowdown in arrivals from China.

The 19 cities included in the campaign are all located within four to five hours flying time to Thailand. They are:

The retail outlets included in the campaign are all the 13 Bangkok malls and shopping centres of the Central Group including CentralWorld, Central Embassy and Zen, all the outlets of The Mall Group including The Emporium, The Emquartier and Siam Paragon, and exclusive upmarket outlets of the Ratchprasong Business District Association; such as, the Gaysorn Village, Erawan Bangkok and Tabtim Dreams.

In addition, many other smaller independent retail outlets ranging from watches and fashion as well as restaurants are included.

Mr. Yuthasak said, "The range of products and services included in the discount offers is truly staggering. Visitors will also enjoy good accessibility as all the shopping areas are accessible by Skytrain stations and pedestrian walks."

The shopping discounts will complement the off-peak season special offers already featured by numerous Bangkok hotels and credit cards, thus enhancing the overall value-for-money factor. The campaign will be prominently marketed by TAT via online and offline media, and its overseas offices.

Cambodia: Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

India: New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, and Jaipur.

Indonesia: Jakarta and Denpasar-Bali.

Lao: Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

Malaysia: Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

Myanmar: Yangon

Vietnam: Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.



TAT welcomes Bangkok's newest sightseeing bus service Siam Hop

The launch of Siam Hop, a new hop-on hop-off sightseeing bus service that covers many of Bangkok's major tourist sights and entertainment, business and shopping locations, is much welcomed by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

The service is designed to help tourists plan trips in Bangkok with comfort and safety, as well as provide greater use of their time. There are four different routes available:

HOP Heritage: The Irresistible Charm of Siam: comprising 15 stops, this route focuses on the famous landmarks of Rattanakosin Island, which is Bangkok's historic district and home to such icons; as the, Grand Palace and Wat Pho.

HOP CBD: The 10 stops on this route offer flexibility to explore the urban charm and vibrancy of the Silom, Suriwongse and Charoen Krung business districts.

HOP Entertainment: This route also of 10 stops makes its way through the Ratchadaphisek and Ladprao areas, making it an ideal choice for those tourists with entertainment on the mind.

HOP Shopping: Perfect for indulging in the shopping wonderland that is Bangkok, there are 14 stops on this route along the famed Sukhumvit shopping district.

Tourists can choose from three convenient Siam Hop packages at varied prices, including a one-day package for 799 Baht, two-day package for 1,300 Baht, and three-day package for 1,700 Baht. Further flexibility is provided with the tickets having a validity period of six months.

Along their chosen route, Siam Hop passengers will find the Siam Hop stops are clearly displayed. Most of the stops are situated on the roadside.

The Siam Hop application provides useful information on the different routes operated and their schedules, details on tourist attractions in the eight languages of English, Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia, Japanese, Korean, Russian, German and Thai, and updates on hot dining and shopping spots at each location.

Free Wi-Fi and USB ports for smartphone charging are also available on the buses, which are air-conditioned and certified by the Department of Land Transport.

Sartha LLP retains Visit California account for India

Sartha Global Marketing LLP has retained the Visit California account. Sartha has been working Visit California since 2010 and the renewed contract is for the next 5 years, with the mandate of delivering an integrated marketing campaign to maintain California as the premier destination, in the USA, for Indian travellers.

Visit California is a nonprofit organisation with a mission to develop and maintain marketing programs – in partnership with the state's travel industry – that inspire travel to California.

Sheema Vohra, MD, Sartha Global Marketing said, "We have been privileged to work at promoting

the Golden State of California, and are very excited to have a renewed mandate. California is known for its iconic gateway cities but, over the last decade, we have been able to introduce many more unique tourism destinations and attractions to Indian travellers. Today the state leads in arrivals from India and we plan to ensure that we retain that position in future."

Visit California has an integrated strategy for India, working simultaneously with the travel trade, media and relevant influencers, highlighting the range of experiences that the state has to offer. These range from unique urban landscapes to the great outdoors, culinary delights to awe-inspiring road-trips, and a full gamut of luxury experiences.



Sartha Global Marketing is a full service representation company, offering trade and consumer marketing, integrated with public relations, and now full service tourism and aviation focused digital marketing services- via its recent joint venture Sartha Grapes Digital LLP.

Wego partners with the Tourism Authority of Thailand

- *Thailand expects 41.1 million foreign tourists in 2019*
- *Wego saw over 5 million searches from MENA travelers to Thailand in 2018*

Wego, the largest online travel marketplace in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), has announced its partnership with the Tourism Authority of Thailand, to increase travel demand to the country from the MENA region.

Under this partnership, Wego will promote Thailand as a friendly, beautiful, cultural and historic destination encouraging the season and off-season bookings as well as repeat visits to the country.

Wego and Tourism Authority of Thailand will also generate destination awareness and promote tourism to Thailand focusing on the great experiences, events and all year-round activities. Travelers will get to try the local traditions and festivities



and explore trending destinations in Thailand such as Ayutthaya, Chiang Mai, Sukhothai, Samut Prakan, Chon Buri, Phuket, Songkhla, Suphan Buri and Bangkok.

The mix between beaches, food, nature and culture along with the diverse activities and the mesmerizing

island escapes that Thailand offers have put it among the top favourite global destinations for MENA travelers.

Mamoun Hmedan, Managing Director, MENA and India, Wego, said: "Last year, we saw over 5 million searches from MENA travelers on Wego to Thailand. The country continues to provide unique leisure and business offerings to travelers all year round. Our partnership with the Tourism Authority of Thailand further supports our strategy to partner with leading tourism boards around the globe and increase the number of bookings and searches to these destinations."

Pichaya Sais, Director of Tourism Authority of Thailand's Middle East office, said: "With the way people are booking holidays becoming more and more digitally-focused, it is important for us to ensure we are creating forward-thinking and digitally-advanced partnerships that make Thailand as easily accessible to visitors as possible. Last year, we welcomed over 550k visitors from the Middle East and we hope that this partnership with Wego will help us build on this."



Azerbaijan

As part of its strategy to present a new portrait of the country, enhance its destination value and double the current in-bound tourism by 2023, Azerbaijan Tourism Board - ATB launched its marketing campaign in India earlier this year at the annual three-day B2B trade show designed to bring together the key travel industry leaders in the region.

The brand positioning and identity is an invitation to attract travellers to consider Azerbaijan from a unique point of view and discover its untold stories and secrets. Situated at the crossroads of Eastern Europe and Western Asia,

invites Indian Travellers

Azerbaijan has nine of the world's eleven climate zones, offering travellers a European experience at affordable prices all year round.

The Caucasus country is currently on the cusp of a tourism boom as it welcomed a record number of in-bound visitors spending more than US\$ 2 billion in 2018, making it one of the

fastest growing tourist destinations in the world.

Azerbaijan's recent investments in tourism and country promotion are testimony to the fact that the country is poised to become a premium MICE destination with a well-developed corporate infrastructure equipped to host large scale business meetings and conferences.

Moreover, Indian passport holders are eligible for E-Visa to Azerbaijan, which is processed online within 3 hours through the new simplified electronic visa procedure. The new initiatives are expected to improve Azerbaijan's ranking among countries with a high tourism contribution towards national GDP, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council 2018 Impact Report. It is forecasted to be at 6% per annum over the course of the next 10 years ranking it amongst the world's top 20 high potential countries.

An Eastern country with a Western outlook, Azerbaijan is an exceptional combination of antiquity and novelty with several sites of interest. From Baku's modern Flame Towers, to the depths of the medieval UNESCO World Heritage site, there's something for everyone in Azerbaijan.

A constantly evolving tapestry of life and energy from bazaars to jazz clubs makes it an ideal destination for family holidays and honeymoon travel as well as a host for destination weddings.

For millennia, Azerbaijan has been at the crossroads of history. As a tourism proposition, Azerbaijan is a safe family-oriented destination that is supported by a rich history that dates back 5000 years and a composite culture that has evolved with the passing through of travellers along the Great Silk Road. The fire-worshipping Zoroastrians left their mark at Ateshgah, where the Fire Temple continues to amaze visitors with its spouts of flames and inscriptions in Sanskrit or Punjabi adorned by 19th century Hindu merchants.

With high-profile sporting events such as the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix and UEFA Europa League Final in

2019; varied hospitality offerings that range from luxury collections to B&Bs; a vibrant gastronomical experience; spectacular landscapes including summer countryside and winter ski slopes; adventure trails; and cultural events; Azerbaijan is in an excellent position to cater to high volumes of tourists seeking authentic local experiences.

Russia, Georgia, Iran, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates, neighbouring countries in the region. With a new brand and the 'Take another look' promotional campaign, Azerbaijan focussed on increasing the number of tourists from a broader pool of countries throughout Europe, the Middle East, China, as well as Central and Southeast Asia.

From Baku's modern Flame Towers, to the depths of the medieval UNESCO World Heritage site, there's something for everyone in Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's unique geography and location have resulted in a cuisine influenced by the land's natural ingredients. It has also assimilated the flavours of travellers that passed through its heartlands. In addition to eateries serving local and international delicacies, Azerbaijan has many Indian restaurants that serve vegan food and a large community of local Indian chefs working in the hospitality sector.

"'Take another look' unlocks Azerbaijan's unique stories and secrets. The Azerbaijani people are excited to share their culture, cuisine and country with visitors from India. We encourage you to indulge your palate with unique flavours and you can expect a plethora of gourmet vegetarian options that will delight food connoisseurs. We look forward to enhancing our tourism proposition in the industry and becoming a leading destination brand in the world, as we continue to provide tourists with unique, authentic experiences that will leave them with lasting memories for a lifetime," said **Florian Sengstschnid, CEO of Azerbaijan Tourism Board.**

Currently, three-fourths of the in-bound tourists to Azerbaijan hail from

By launching its direct flight linking Baku to New Delhi tourism is bound to increase meeting the targets of **Azerbaijan**.

Commenting on this new milestone, **Jamil Manizade, Director of AZAL**, remarked, "India ranks very high in our list of priorities. It offers immense potential due to the high number of international travelers and their growing interest in the region. With the launch of the direct route between Baku and New Delhi, we are confident that it would boost the flow of tourists to Azerbaijan. We expect flights to the country to double by October this year." Manizade further added that Baku is known as the 'Pearl of the Caucasus' combines history, culture and modernity. "It is a vibrant city offering safe and attractive setting along the Caspian Sea. Besides this the destination offers phenomenal shopping experiences, outdoor activities, luxury hotels, and beautiful venues and locations for weddings and honeymoons, Azerbaijan is a perfect destination for couples, families, and friends, Azerbaijan offers the perfect landscape for Indian travellers.

America's Shopping Destination - **Simon Shopping Destinations**

Where Travellers and Americans Love To Shop - Simon Shopping Experiences



Shopping is the No. 1 tourist activity in the US. 90% of all international visitors rank shopping as their top activity. Shopping and dining are also the leading spontaneous activities for U.S. travelers while on the road. The reason is the abundance of great shopping and amazing values.

Simon Shopping Destinations are a select group of more than 100 Simon Malls, Mills and Premium Outlets located in and around major U.S. tourism destinations. Simon Shopping Destinations offer everything from luxury to outlet offerings with designer, value and classic brands.

markets such as New York, Orlando and Las Vegas. Simon® Malls offer the ideal mix of renowned style icons in an unparalleled retail and dining experience. And with a collection of the finest designer names at savings up to 65% every day, savvy shoppers can't miss Simon Premium Outlets®. Plus, The Mills® portfolio of outlet, value retail, dining and entertainment destinations offers shoppers a unique experience.

You have a group visiting the United States OR Toronto, Simon has something exciting to offer.

Shopping experience begins from reserving a parking space for your tour

With the largest collection of shopping destinations in the United States, Simon Shopping Destinations offer three fashionable ways to shop. More than 100 Simon® Malls, Premium Outlets® and The Mills® are located in or near major

buses, to an exclusive in store welcome reception. In addition, enjoy the benefit of personalized welcome signage with your company logo, marking your presence in the foreign land.

Shopping gets exciting when your clients are gifted with a smart branded tote bag with discount booklets – discounts that will attract anybody to never stop shopping.

Simon Shopping Destinations curates experience for your incentive groups, adding to your brand value in the United States and Toronto, offering below benefits:

- Unique in store welcome reception,
- VIP gift bags from our brand partners, Coach, Tommy Hilfiger, Pandora and many more
- Special breakfast welcome OR Personalized lunch package
- Co-branded Welcome signage

Simon Shopping Destinations offer tour operators customized boarding pass to savings, which can be redeemed for Promo Sawg bags and complimentary Destination Passport, the discount booklet, worth hundreds and thousands of dollars in savings.

A shopping trip here, is definitely one to remember!

San Francisco Travel Association reveals Brand Refresh

The San Francisco Travel Association revealed a brand refresh for the organization and the destination at its 109th Annual Luncheon held at The Moscone Center.

Joe D'Alessandro, San Francisco Travel president and CEO, presented the new approach to some 1,000 attendees, saying, "A brand is more than just a logo. It's how we see ourselves. More importantly, it's how others see us—and how others see us is more critical than ever before.... It is our most important asset, and proper management of it is key to our success."

"Regularly reassessing our brand ensures that it remains well-defined, consistent, accurate, and relevant. The nine-month process that we have just completed was not about making drastic changes but fine-tuning and updating – bringing more focus to the most important elements of the way we position the city and allowing us to speak in the most relevant way possible," he added.

The new branding was developed after extensive research and development by Miles Partnership and Destination Analysts, in partnership with San Francisco Travel.

"We wanted to be sure that our brand was reflective of the destination, that it was contemporary and understood by a global audience. And that it reminded people of the promise of San Francisco," said San Francisco Travel Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer Howard Pickett. "We started at home, interviewing members of San Francisco's hospitality industry, our own advisory boards, residents,

and San Francisco Travel staff. We conducted focus groups with travelers and meeting planners, both here and abroad. We monitored social media, analysing trends, preconceptions, and misconceptions."

This led to the development of a new brand description; a narrative that defines San Francisco in an emotional, resonant way.

"We evaluated new logo designs, examining how they aligned with our brand personality and the destination, and updated our colour palette and typography selections to be more evocative of the iconic visuals and distinctive character of San Francisco," said Lynn Bruni-Perkins, San Francisco Travel's vice president of marketing communications. "We tested brand assets in 20 domestic and international markets, asking leisure and business travelers, along with meeting planners and the tourism trade, to respond to them and help us place the finishing touches."

"The result is a new and refreshed brand for San Francisco, a brand that's bold, welcoming, and optimistic. It showcases our scenic beauty and our inner beauty. And it deeply connects visitors to their favourite destination and ours: San Francisco," D'Alessandro said.

San Francisco Travel now has a new suite of assets, including:

A new positioning statement: "For those who embrace the bold and

seek the unexpected, San Francisco's optimistic spirit is a constant celebration of individuality and the belief that here, in the most beautiful city in the world, all things are possible."

A new profile of San Francisco visitors: "Visitors to San Francisco are as diverse as San Francisco itself. Regardless of who they are or where they're from, they share a universal love of free-spirited expression, curiosity, and adventure. They appreciate sophistication without pretension. They embrace the bold and welcome the new. And they engage in being part of change by supporting different views—even those that may vary from their own."

- A brand description outlining San Francisco key attributes
- A new landmark (logo)
- A new color palette
- Brand typography
- Brand usage guidelines

"A strong, relevant brand is critical to our success," D'Alessandro said. "Completing this project helps us to ensure that San Francisco remains one of the top city destinations in the world – relevant, compelling and aspirational. It's a place unlike any other and it's our passion to promote it."





INTERNATIONAL



Universal Studios

Hollywood Marks the Grand Opening of
“Jurassic World The Ride”
with a Star-Studded Celebration -
It Just Got Real!



Indominus rex and the magnificent aquatic Mosasaurus.

“Jurassic World—The Ride” captures the essence of the blockbuster movies and comes to life in collaboration with the award-winning and inspired minds at Universal Creative, the Academy Award® -winning special-effects visionaries at Industrial Light & Magic, a division of Lucasfilm, Ltd., Universal Pictures and acclaimed filmmakers Steven Spielberg, Colin Trevorrow and Frank Marshall.

The experience is further enhanced by the all-new elaborately themed “Raptor Encounter,” where Blue, the beloved Velociraptor from the JURASSIC WORLD movies, engages with guests in daring face-to-face encounters, along with the addition of two new realistic dinosaurs – Baby Raptor with her handler and a life-size, life-like Triceratops. A new interactive “Dino Play” area invites children of all ages to explore and excavate giant dinosaur fossils.

Costa Rican-inspired cuisine and flavorful Tiki cocktails served at Jurassic Café and all-new tropical Isla Nu-bar add to the dynamic guest experience while an array of souvenir collectible, limited edition and one-of-a-kind dimensional dinosaur sculptures from the Jurassic Outfitters store invite guests to savor a piece of this exciting thrill ride even after they’ve gone home.

With so much to see and do at Universal Studios Hollywood, the California Neighbor Pass invites guests to experience 175 days of fun for \$149 when purchased online. Blackout dates and restrictions apply.

www.UniversalStudiosHollywood.com.

Universal Studios Hollywood ushered in its new mega attraction, “Jurassic World—The Ride” with a grand opening celebration attended by stars of the JURASSIC WORLD films and of the new thrill ride, Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard along with the film’s Director/Screenwriter Colin Trevorrow and Producer Frank Marshall. They were joined by Ron Meyer, Vice Chairman, NBCUniversal; Tom Williams, Chairman, Universal Parks & Resort; Karen Irwin, President & COO of Universal Studios Hollywood, and Mark Woodbury Vice Chairman, Universal Parks and Resort & President.

Inspired by Universal Pictures and Amblin Entertainment’s JURASSIC WORLD blockbuster films, this spectacular new adventure features Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard and BD Wong reprising their film roles as Owen Grady, Claire Dearing and Dr. Henry Wu. It soars to new heights with the addition of iconic dinosaurs from the movie, including the colossal

Experience the best of bush, beach and highlands with **Cinnamon in Sri Lanka!**

If you're keen to make the most of incredible hotel deals with Cinnamon whilst exploring the nooks and crannies of the island, there's never been a better time to start planning your getaway. Whether you're an adventure enthusiast, a fan of beach-side lazing or a nature buff, Cinnamon offers a range of unique stays and experiences that will enable you to unwind and kick back whilst rediscovering Sri Lanka.



BACK TO THE BUSH - Owing to the gentle showers, this is the ideal time to visit Cinnamon Wild Yala located at the Yala National Park. The cooler climate works best for game viewing and one can embark on daily jeep safaris in search of the park's leopards, spotted deer, jackals, elephants, sloth bears, crocodiles and an abundance of birds. The resort immerses itself in nature offering the best forest experience with each luxury chalet opening into

one of Lonely Planet's top six wildlife spectacles in the world. If this is on your bucketlist, consider staying at Cinnamon Lodge Habarana or Cinnamon Village Habarana that has great access to the park with a variety of trails, treks and jeep safaris. From July to October, during sunset, hundreds of them come together and one can watch them graze, drink, play and even find mates and socialize in their natural habitat. From Cinnamon Lodge one can also easily explore the

provides the ultimate beach holiday. Savour a delicious seafood spread including freshly prepared lobster and fiery flavoured crabs or explore the clear azure waters of the Indian Ocean, there's always something to do at the Blu. For the adrenaline junkies, head to Pigeon Island for a day of snorkeling. The island is home to hundreds of marine fish, reef sharks and corals. Scuba Diving, tours of the town and fish markets, visits to traditional and historical sites, boat rides and marine mammal safaris can be booked at the hotel.



BEACH ESCAPES - If you're keen to enjoy a mix of water sports and fun in the sun, then consider visiting Hikka Tranz by Cinnamon which is situated in the seaside town of Hikkaduwa. If you are seeking a relaxing and unperturbed time by the beach then stay at Cinnamon Bey Beruwela, the Turkish themed hotel with a range of signature restaurants such as Rock Salt, Ice, Bufe, Tandoor, Fire, Mezz and 800 Degrees Poolside Bar. Both hotels have access to some of the most unique attraction in the Southern coast. Explore the coastal cities with a visit to the Turtle Hatchery, a tuk-tuk ride around Hikkaduwa, explore the unique landscapes of the Bewis Bawa Gardens in Bentota or make a trip to Galle Fort for a stroll and shopping amidst iconic Portuguese architecture.

the jungle. Watch animals wandering through the gardens and hear birds chirping on the tree-tops from the comfort of one's room. Unwind with a cocktail by the Pool Bar, tick across a birding checklist or read your favourite book at the observation deck which offers breathtaking views of the wildlife.

ICONIC ELEPHANT GATHERING - Minneriya National Park, home to the iconic elephant gathering is hailed as

Cultural Triangle, Wilpattu National Park, go bird watching in Habarana or witness the magnificent Sigiriya Rock.

A TROPICAL BLISS, INTO THE DEEP AND ONTO THE BEACH - Trinco Blu by Cinnamon offers the perfect blend of beach-side relaxation and adventure. This chic and contemporary resort with its vibrant interiors, mouth-watering dining experiences and thrilling excursions

HILL CAPITAL EXPEDITIONS - A stay in Kandy offers a scenic escape in the highlands of Sri Lanka and Cinnamon Citadel Kandy with its regal, luxurious décor and striking vistas is the ideal resort for relaxation. Kick start your mornings with a steaming cup of tea or hot chocolate and enjoy your favourite book by the pool or in the comfort of your room. The hotel overlooks the majestic Mahaweli river and is set against the backdrop of misty mountains and rolling hills. One can enjoy quiet walks in the hotel's gardens, explore the town of Kandy at leisure, enjoy a boat ride along the Mahaweli River, visit the nearby Udawattakele Forest Reserve or climb Adam's Peak to witness an unforgettable sunrise.



Sri Lanka

continues **visa-on-arrival** for India

Chamari Rodrigo, consul general of Sri Lanka in Mumbai, has said that the visa-on-arrival scheme for visitors of Indian nationality continues undisturbed. A written statement from the Consulate stated, “We have contacted relevant officials of Sri Lanka Immigration and they too have confirmed that there is no such suspension of on arrival visa facility for Indian nationals.”

Sri Lanka had suspended its plans to grant visas on arrival for citizens of 39 countries after the devastating Easter suicide bombings. But it was unclear whether India was one of them. The country had started offering free visa

on arrival to Indian travellers as part of its efforts to promote tourism starting 1 May 2019 for six months in its initial run. This scheme was aimed at a total of 36 countries that include India as well as Pakistan.

“The country’s security situation now is normal, stability reigns across the country.”

The Consulate General of Sri Lanka in Mumbai, India along with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB) have started taking measures to ensure that tourists return to the island nation soon. They have already met two travel trade associations – Travel Agents Association Of India

(TAAI) and Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI) – and will soon be meeting the travel trade as well. Rodrigo said, “The country’s security situation now is normal, stability reigns across the country and children are back to school. However, it has had a direct impact on tourism, and we have taken some measures to help revive the industry.”

In 2017, Sri Lanka saw 3,83,000 Indian nationals visiting the country. In 2018, this number jumped to 426,000 but still falling short of their targeted 450,000. Sri Lanka is looking to promote the destination for weddings and film shoots as well apart from leisure.

With **Elev8**, Nijhawan Group moves into **Middle East and GCC markets** for its representation Business



Nijhawan Group has forayed into the growing travel markets of Middle East and GCC with Elev8, offering representations and consultancy services. Seema Pande will be heading Elev8 as one of the co-directors”.

Seema Pande, a seasoned professional is based out of Dubai for nearly 25 years. In an exclusive to Travel Span, she informed, “My experience of opening hotels of brands like Fairmount, St. Regis, W, Westin, will come handy, and Ankush Nijhawan has been a strong support with his vision for Elev8. My strong association with trade partners and corporate clients over two decades will help us establish a niche in these markets. Moreover, the Middle East and GCC have smaller and niche luxury properties that require support to market their offerings and reach a larger base of travellers. This is an apt time to offer them a professionally-run and passionately-driven service.” She further added that Elev8 would involve

“90 per cent of representation and 10 per cent of consultancy services,”

She further added, “My experience of launching several hospitality brands in the Middle East will come handy and Ankush has his vast reach in the India market that would further augment this association.” “Considering the abundant presence of representation companies in the Middle East, what

we would be looking at is to become that niche company who would have the right number of clients in order to stand apart, putting in quality service and undivided attention for them.”

Talking about this expansion, Ankush Nijhawan, Managing Director - Nijhawan Group said, “I am pleased to share that Nijhawan Group will now establish its representation portfolio on a global footprint; the Middle East and GCC to begin with, considering its top growing markets in terms of outbound travel from across the globe after India and China. Considering Seema’s enormous grasp and relationship across the entire GCC market, we are pleased to come together with her. Seema and I would be of equal partnerships and foray into the GCC market for both reputed and emerging accounts.”

Currently, Elev8 is representing Tropical Escape Vacation Homes Orlando. By year end, Pande expects to have a dedicated team of three to four members. “Once we create a ground for Elev8, the next frontier would be Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, which are emerging tourist markets.”



Ebix

to acquire

Yatra



at an enterprise value of USD 337.8 million

The transaction has been approved unanimously by each of Ebix's and Yatra's Boards of Directors, and it is expected to close by the fourth quarter of 2019

US-based software firm Ebix Inc has signed a definitive agreement with Yatra Online Inc to acquire the online travel agency through a merger deal at an enterprise value of USD 337.8 million (around Rs 2,325 crore), according to a statement. Following the completion of the transaction, Yatra will become part of Ebix's travel portfolio, EbixCash, and will continue to serve customers under the Yatra brand, the two companies said in a joint statement Wednesday.

Commenting on the development, Ebix Chairman, President and CEO Robin Raina said the acquisition of

Yatra would lend itself to significant synergies and the emergence of EbixCash as India's largest and most profitable travel services company, besides being the largest enterprise financial exchange in the country.

"We are excited by the cross-selling opportunities that this combination provides us, while further strengthening our future EbixCash IPO offering," he added.

The transaction has been approved unanimously by each of Ebix's and Yatra's Boards of Directors, and it is expected to close by the fourth quarter of 2019, the statement said.

"Assuming a value of USD 4.90 per Yatra ordinary share, the transaction implies an enterprise value of USD 337.8 million at the Ebix collar price of USD 59 per share and post adjustment for indebtedness, working capital, warrants to be converted and minimum cash requirement, a net equity value of USD 239 million," it added.

Commenting on the development, Yatra Online Co-founder and CEO

Dhruv Shringi said: "We are pleased to announce this agreement with Ebix, which provides our shareholders with the opportunity to participate in the significant upside potential of one of the fastest growing multinational On-Demand software and E-commerce services companies in the world."

As part of a larger diversified organisation with the necessary scale and resources to be a leader in today's dynamic travel marketplace, "we will provide more options and an enhanced experience for our joint customers and will be an even stronger partner to the airline, hotel, car rental and other businesses we work with," he added.

In connection with the merger, each ordinary share of Yatra will be entitled to receive 0.005 shares of a new class of preferred stock of Ebix, the statement said.

Each share of Ebix convertible preferred stock received for each Yatra ordinary share will, in turn, be convertible into 20 shares of common stock of Ebix, it added.

National Tourism Organisation of Serbia

expands its footprint in India in partnership with Beautiful Planet

National Tourism Organisation of Serbia has appointed Beautiful Planet Destination Marketing to expand its tourism activities in India. As part of the mandate, Beautiful Planet will be responsible for organising roadshows in Mumbai and Delhi and a group media familiarisation visit to Serbia.

In a move to promote border free tourism, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted the decision on visa exemption for Indian nationals in September 2017.

On engagement with Beautiful Planet – Marija Labovic, Acting Director, National Tourism Organisation of Serbia, said, “Beautiful Planet has an excellent track record in destination representation. Outbound tourism from India is on a growth trajectory and we would like to be part of the growth story. Serbia has everything to offer the discerning travellers and we are geared



up to cater to the needs and demands of the Indian market.”

Commenting on the same, **Huzan Fraser and Beena Menon,**

Directors, Beautiful Planet Destination Marketing, said, “We are absolutely delighted to be chosen as the India representative for the National Tourism Organisation of Serbia to market this new and exciting destination in the Balkans. We would like to enhance the visibility and image of the destination using the culture, history and diversity, to uniquely position the same in the market.”

Some of the features that make Serbia an incredibly attractive tourism destination include: UNESCO World Heritage Sites, National Parks, Adventure Sports like white water-rafting, free climbing, flying, orienteering; diverse Fauna; Nature Parks, Sports and Recreating Activities like hiking, bicycling, walking and hiking, Mountain Resorts and Spa & Health Resorts, Monasteries and Museums.



TBO launches NDC programme

NDC: A Critical component in restoring Travel Agencies competitiveness

TBO Group is again first with the unveiling of NDC (New Distribution Capability) platform that will enable the travel industry to transform the way air products are retailed to corporations, leisure and business travelers, by addressing the industry's current distribution limitations: product differentiation and time-to-market, access to full and rich air content and finally, transparent shopping experience.

NDC is a travel industry-supported program (NDC Program) launched for the development and market adoption of a new, XML-based data transmission standard (NDC Standard) says Ankush Nijhawan, Managing Director, TBO Group.

"The NDC Standard enhances the capability of communications between airlines and travel agents. The NDC Standard is open to any third party, intermediary, IT provider or non-IATA member, to implement and use, Ankush Nijhawan added.

The NDC Standard enables the travel industry to transform the way air products are retailed to corporations, leisure and business travelers, by addressing the industry's current distribution limitations.

The past 20 years have not been the kindest to the global travel agency community. Changes in airline distribution strategies and airlines' abilities to use digital channels to sell directly to consumers have all contributed to a decline in the share of airline reservations processed by the world's travel agencies.

Airline's changes to their business models have affected their distribution strategies, primarily through GDSs. Some airlines, particularly "Ultra Low Cost Carriers" (ULCCs) avoid GDSs altogether. Others may distribute in

only some of the countries where a GDS operates. Some carriers may offer only a portion of their content in a GDS. The result: GDSs are no longer the comprehensive "department stores" housing all airline content.

The way the world searches, plans, and buys air travel is continuously changing as digital technologies and a changing airline commercial environment spur product innovation. A key part of this is the New Distribution Capability (NDC) that consists of a series of XML-based schemas that enables participating airlines to improve how third parties, including GDSs and travel agencies, search for and book flights.

(NDC) is a bold, broad-based initiative which is intended to modernize the way airline products are distributed through third-party channels, including travel agencies. Another objective for NDC is to help the world's travel agency community improve their productivity in selling airline services.

For and by the travel industry

Airlines, travel management companies, online travel agencies, corporate buyers, global distribution systems and other technology players contribute to the NDC Standard, says Ankush. Through a collaborative approach, participants ensure that the supporting schemas are functional and can be used by all regardless of business focus, geographic location, size, target markets and individual commercial policies.

The power of standardization

Adopting NDC platform will enhance industry standard and will facilitate a more efficient airline distribution system, thereby benefitting airlines,

agents, GDSs, IT providers and travel start-ups. Structured around seven distribution-related functions, the NDC Standard provides the opportunity to address the end-to-end airline distribution process, e.g. booking, shopping, etc., and to deliver enhanced customer experiences.

Governance

Bring your skills, knowledge and expertise and help with the development and adoption of the NDC Standard adds Ankush.

TBO platform has over 47,000 travel agents across more than 100 countries. TBO Academy has an innovative learning platform which allows travel bookers to learn about new destinations. We encourage all travel suppliers, and hotels to think about the B2A channel differently from the B2C and B2B channels to reach out to the offline customers without fear of rate abuse", he added.

TBO believes that Travel Agents account for the bulk of travel sales globally. Travel Agents act as a very important link between travel suppliers and the end consumers, educating travelers on new destinations, new hotels and new experiences. Travel Agents provide end to end fulfilment for both leisure and business customers including complex itinerary planning, visa facilitation, forex, and more.

NDC Leaderboard Airlines

Aeroflot Air, Canada, Air France, American Airlines, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, Brussels Airlines, Cathay Pacific, China Southern, Finnair, Iberia, Jet Blue, KLM, Lufthansa, Qantas, Qatar Airways, SAS, Singapore Airlines, SunExpress, SWISS, United Airlines Oman Air.



Embrace Ayurvedic therapies with a new menu at Hibiscus Spa



The monsoon is here and so is the perfect time to indulge in Ayurvedic therapies for unmatched benefits. Make the most of this season with our newly launched menu at Hibiscus Spa with classic Ayurvedic therapies to relax and rejuvenate you. Monsoon, they say, is the best time to indulge in Ayurvedic treatments. Due to moist conditions, the skin during this season is soft and

supple; with open pores that allows easy absorption of medicinal oils and for detoxification.

Ayurvedic therapies offered at Hibiscus Spa at **Crowne Plaza Greater Noida** include *Shiro Abhyangam* (Ayurvedic head massage), *Abhyangam*, *Udwarthanam* (uses dry herbal powder), *Shirodhara*, and *Kizhi* (uses hot herbal compress or potli). These therapies range from

30 – 90 minutes. Ayurvedic spa packages are also available that offer combination of different massages for complete rejuvenation and relaxation. Weight loss and detoxification packages, customized to individual needs, are also available on request.

Price: Ayurvedic therapies start at INR 1250 +taxes. Spa memberships also available. *Timing:* 1000 hrs – 2100 hrs



HUBLOT launches 8th Edition of Classic Fusion Chronograph Mykonos

Hublot recently launched the eighth edition of Classic Fusion Chronograph Mykonos. Over the last seven years, beginning 2012 Hublot it launched the watch in association with its local partner GOFAS Jewellery. Inspired by the Aegean Sea and the Cyclades Archipelago the watch is innovative for the first time featuring a sky blue ceramic bezel and unique rotating windmill, the iconic symbol of Mykonos, “waving” at 3 o’clock. The watch evokes without question the most archetypical of the Greek islands.

In 2019, Hublot dedicates its 45mm Classic Fusion Chronograph Mykonos model to the island and its iconic symbol: the discreet and elegant rotating windmill. Crowned with sky

blue ceramic bezel, the 45-mm case encloses a skeleton self-winding chronograph movement, held on a bi-material strap in black rubber and sky blue alligator leather. The sapphire dial showcases the Hublot logo engraved at the crown in either polished king gold or titanium. The trend Hublot perpetuates, where the mechanical microcosm is not hidden but fully revealed continues to be even more impressive in this collection, available only in Mykonos.

The limited edition of 50 pieces each of the titanium and king gold version represent the combination between the sky and the sea. A true fusion of the elements, born by the international collaboration “filled” with Greek colour.

Maldives sees record 96.4% growth in Indian tourists



Maldives continues to ride the wave of growth with an increasing number of Indian tourists each year. The island nation witnessed a huge growth of 96.4% in tourist arrivals from India from January to May 2019 in comparison to the same period last year. Maldives hosted around 66,265 travellers from Asia’s third-largest economy till May of 2019.

Thoyyib Mohamed, managing director of Maldives Marketing and PR Corporation (MMPRC) said: “The country witnessed tremendous increase in arrivals from India this year. India is an extremely important market to us, showing potential for further growth as increased direct connections

have made it easily accessible to travel to Maldives.”

The Indian market holds third place in terms of arrivals to the Maldives with a market share of 8.8% till May 2019. Moreover, as India ranks within the top five, with great accessibility to the Maldives, Maldives Marketing and PR Corporation (MMPRC) plans to further strengthen the market with additional activities throughout the year.

MMPRC is entering into partnerships with key tour operators and online tour agencies in India. Apart from this, it is looking forward to collaborating with Indian celebrities which are followed by a large number of travel takers in India.

Meetings Mean Business Announces New Advisory Board and Year One Market Strategy for India



Joined by coalition co-chair Julie Coker Graham, Nitin Sachdeva of MMB India previewed plans to foster industry-wide advocacy in one of the world's fastest-growing MICE markets

TORONTO – The Meetings Mean Business (MMB) Coalition hosted a press conference to update industry professionals at MPI's World Education Congress about Meetings Mean Business India. The update came just five months after MMB India was publicly announced at PCMA's Convening Leaders Conference and included new information on the chapter's 23-member advisory board and two-phase plan for market engagement.

"India is poised to be one of the world's fastest-growing markets for outbound MICE tourism," said Nitin Sachdeva, co-chair of MMB India and executive director of Venture Marketing. "We have the sixth largest economy in the world and by 2025, our outbound MICE tourism market is expected to reach \$9 billion (U.S.). From a communications and advocacy standpoint, our opportunity is clear – we must come together as meeting planners, incentive experts, travel providers and destination marketing strategists to advance a shared mission for market growth and business development."

Sachdeva, who began working in travel, tourism, hospitality and aviation 15 years ago, has served as a consultant to numerous convention and visitors bureaus. He is an active member of the Society of Incentive Travel Excellence and Destinations International's Global Development Committee – giving him access to the individuals and insights needed to take the MMB model and tailor it to the needs and opportunities in India.

His near-term priorities include continuing to build MMB India's advisory board and arming different segments of the meetings industry with common messages and programming – a sizeable feat for India's young and rapidly growing meetings market. Sachdeva expects India's MICE industry to triple in the next two to three years and generate more than 2 million outbound MICE tourists by 2020.

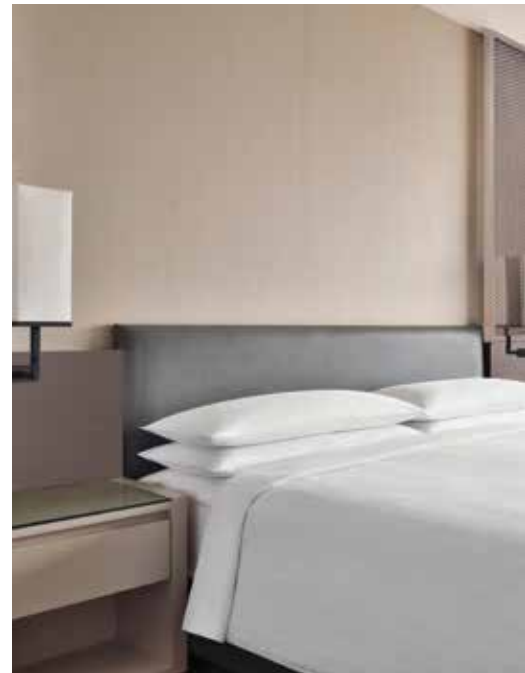
"We are proud to welcome India to the MMB family and thrilled with the work Nitin and his team are doing to ensure their efforts are effective, sustainable and inclusive," said Julie Coker Graham, co-chair of the U.S.

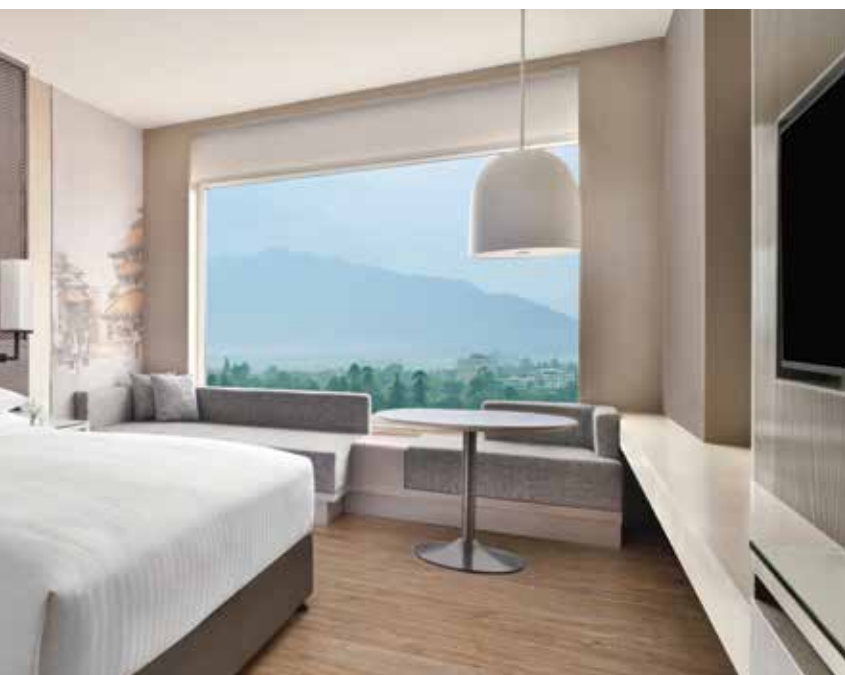
MMB Coalition and president and CEO of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau. "MMB Canada was our first international chapter and the addition of MMB India only strengthens our mission to protect and promote the industry's value."

According to Coker Graham, the coalition's growth strategy has been almost entirely organic, with "industry leaders across the globe raising their hands and requesting information on how to bring MMB to their countries. Their interest is a testament to the appeal and adaptability of the MMB model in other parts of the globe." Much of the intrigue she added, is fueled by the success of Global Meetings Industry Day, which was celebrated in more than 50 countries this year.

"As the coalition grows, we strengthen our role as an insurance policy for the industry by offering more proof points, more spokespeople and more proactive engagement to decision makers in business and government. We are excited for the collaboration, partnership and knowledge-sharing ahead."

HOSPITALITY AND FOOD





Marriott Kathmandu, a **214-room contemporary hotel** in the capital city Kathmandu, combines modern design with local creativity. The elegantly appointed rooms with warm colors add a charm, which is perfectly complemented by caring service. Home to an inviting range of restaurants, the hotel takes a fresh approach to dining experiences. **Thamel Kitchen** offers multi cuisine offerings while the modern Asian specialty restaurant, Edamame serves contemporary interpretation of Thai, Japanese and Chinese cuisine. **Raksi Music Bar** and its extension to the waterfall terrace is an amazing option to enjoy the evening, with exotic collection of beverages coupled with great food. **The 8000 plus sqft of meeting and banqueting space** create the perfect scenery for unforgettable events and conferences. Centered on holistic well-being, the hotel incorporates M-Wellness concept, which includes spa and salon, an outdoor swimming pool and a fully equipped fitness center. The Sprawling banquet hall, Bagmati, that is as perfect for seminars as it is for destination weddings.

The décor is tasteful with local cues everywhere – a thangka painting in the lobby, antique decorations in the lobby area and watercolour painting with local motifs on every floor. Taking cues from traditional architecture, the hotel has an indoor courtyard with water features.

The property offers Comprehensive meeting facilities complemented by expert catering. In short, - the property offers 6 Event Rooms, 8,105 sq ft total Event Space and 600 Capacity Largest Space with 5 Maximum Breakout Rooms.

If you're looking to explore the city, you couldn't ask for a more central location to be in. Landmarks such as Durbar Square, Narayanhiti Palace and Pashupatinath Temple are within a 20-minute driving radius of the hotel.

Whether you are here on business or for leisure, the Kathmandu Marriott Hotel is the perfect gateway to this amazing city and the beautiful country beyond it.

Marriott Kathmandu Hotel is now open

The Property sits in the lap of nature and boasts of an infinity pool



Oyo Hotels

acquires

Innov8,

expands co-working space business



- The acquisition of Innov8 highlights Oyo's increased focus on the fast-growing co-working space segment
- OYO Workspaces is set to open the door to its more than 21 workspaces, with over 15,000 seats

OYO Hotels and Homes, the world's third-largest chain of hotels, homes, managed living and workspaces, on Tuesday confirmed its acquisition of Innov8, a co-working spaces provider, highlighting the company's increasing focus on the fast-growing segment.

While Oyo did not disclose financial details of the Innov8 acquisition, it is pegged to be around \$30 million, according to a TechCrunch report.

Charting out its multi-brand approach to the workspaces opportunity in India, Oyo introduced three co-working brands under Oyo Workspaces: Innov8, Powerstation and Workflo for upper mid-scale, mid-scale and economy segments, respectively.

OYO Workspaces is set to open the door to its more than 21 workspaces, with over 15,000 seats across more

than 10 cities in India, it said in a statement.

Of these, Innov8 is currently spread across six cities—Delhi, Noida, Gurugram, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and Mumbai, with 16 centres hosting over 6,000 employees of brands like Swiggy, Paytm, Pepsi, Nykaa, OLX and Lenskart. Powerstation has one centre in Gurugram with over 1,000 seats and Workflo has set up four centres across NCR, Hyderabad and Bengaluru with a hosting capacity of over 1,500 seats in total already.

"The workplace as a service space presents an exciting opportunity for Oyo to utilize its existing technology and operational expertise. Through a targeted multi-brand strategy, we aim to provide a differentiated experience for co-workers at different price points and help expand access to co-working spaces to more

and more businesses and professionals across the country," Rohit Kapoor, chief executive officer, new real estate businesses, Oyo, said in a statement.

Oyo pegs co-working spaces to be a \$20 billion business opportunity in India by 2020.

"Given our experience in the hospitality industry and investment in core competencies that have helped us scale so fast in the hospitality, housing rental and banquet services business, we believe we are uniquely placed to create a strong offering for the corporates looking for space as a service," said Kapoor.

Oyo's entry into the workspaces business comes at a time when India is already seeing the emergence of several large companies in this segment, including the likes of WeWork India, CoWrks, Awfis and Smartworks.



Oyo's Agarwal

triples stake in company for \$2 billion

Oyo Hotels & Homes Founder/CEO Ritesh Agarwal, through RA Hospitality Holdings (Cayman), has signed a \$2 billion primary and secondary management investment round, increasing his stake in the company from 10 percent to 30 percent.

The company claimed the deal is one of the first founder- and executive-led management purchases in the hospitality and technology sector, and is supported by global institutional banks and his financial partners (subject to regulatory and shareholder approvals).

The deal pushes Oyo, which claims to now be the world's third-largest hotel chain behind Marriott and IHG, close to a \$10 billion valuation.

Lightspeed Venture Partners, and Sequoia India, Oyo's early supporters,

are selling part of their holdings in order to help the founder increase his stake while "remaining invested significantly in the company's long-term mission," and will each receive \$500 million as part of the transaction, the Financial Times reported. Other Oyo funds and businesses that have invested in Oyo since its launch six years ago include Airbnb, SoftBank Vision Fund, Greenoaks Capital and Hero Enterprise.

Confidence in Plans

Munish Varma, managing partner at SoftBank Vision Fund, expressed confidence for Agarwal's growth plans for the company. "It has been an exciting journey so far and we hope to achieve many more milestones together in the time to come," said Varma..

"As the company's first institutional

investor, Lightspeed is fortunate to have been part of Oyo's journey from a fledgling start-up in India to a transformative company in the hospitality industry globally," added Bejul Somaia, partner at Lightspeed India Partners Advisors. "We remain committed to supporting Ritesh and the Oyo team as the company embarks on its next phase of growth globally."

Five years after Sequoia Capital India Advisors first partnered with Agarwal and the Oyo team, Mohit Bhatnagar, managing director at Sequoia, noted the company's milestone of 1 million rooms across India, China, Southeast Asia, Europe and the United States. "This is the kind of stuff start-ups and ventures investing dreams are made of," Bhatnagar said. "We remain committed to supporting this world-class management team as they continue to create living spaces across the world."

Rapid Growth

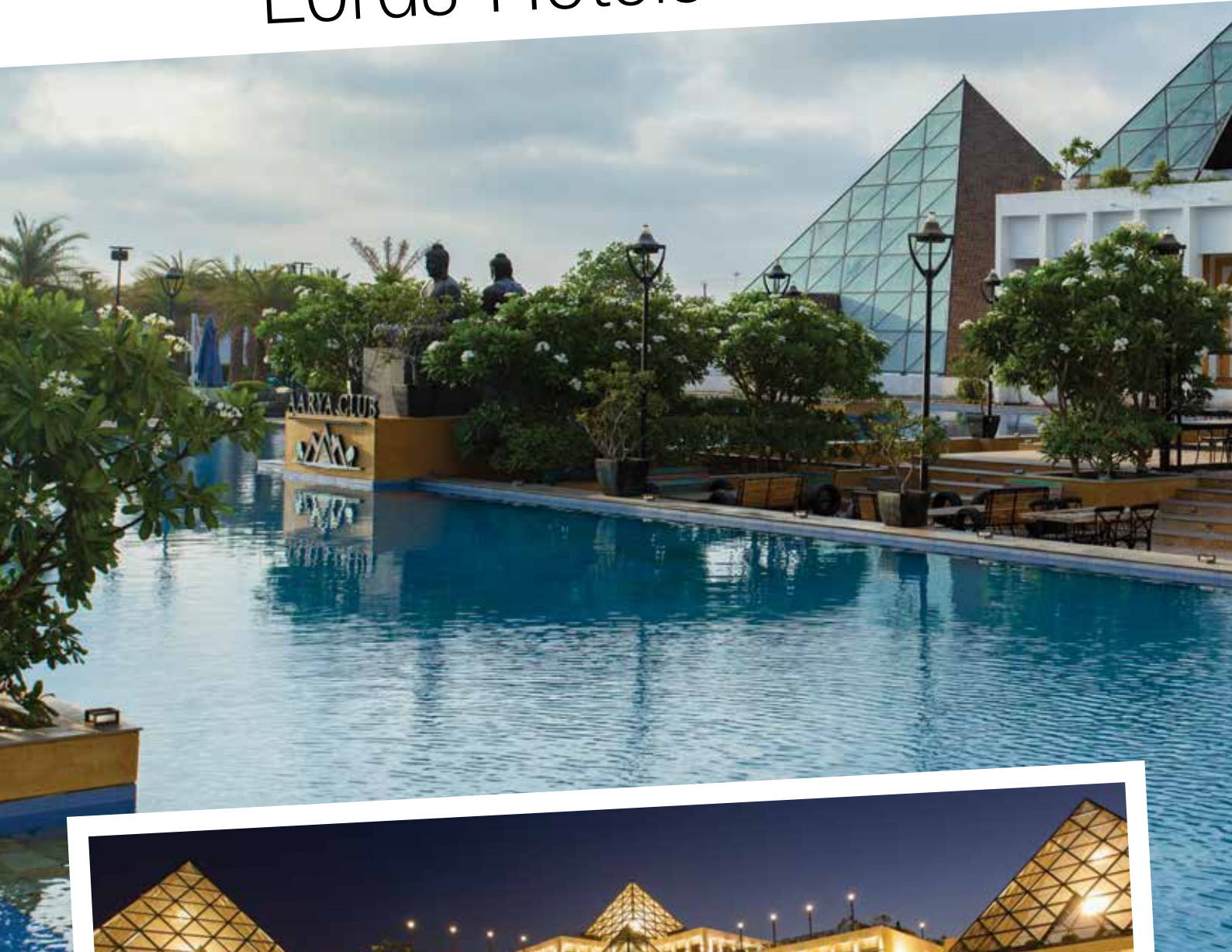
Oyo more than quadrupled its revenue growth in June compared to June 2018. The company has 1 million rooms under management across hotels and homes, 23,000 hotels worldwide, 46,000 vacation homes and more than 200,000 rooms in India alone. The company now has a presence in more than 800 cities in 80 countries.

Earlier this month, Oyo committed more than \$50 million to have 20,000 guestrooms in a minimum of 10 Vietnamese cities by the end of 2020. That plan, in turn, followed the company's announcement that it would invest \$300 million in growth, headquarters talent, competency building and infrastructure development across the United States over the next few years.

Just this week, Oyo moved into the co-working sector to launch Oyo Workspaces through the company's acquisition of India-based co-working company Innov8. The new division will be led by Rohit Kapoor, CEO of new real estate businesses.

HOSPITALITY AND FOOD

Pinnacle of Luxury with Lords Hotels and Resorts





Lords Hotels and Resorts signed up with one of its kind leisure club & resort at Rajkot making its further foray in Gujarat. One of the fastest growing chain with presence in 39 cities, 10 states and 2 countries, this will be Lords 23rd venture in Gujarat adding to its impressive presence in

Ankleshwar, Bhavnagar, Chotila, Dahej, Dwarka, Gandhidham, Gir, Somnath, Surat, Porbandar, Rajula, Vadodara, Jamnagar (2), Morbi, Ahmedabad, Rajkot (4) and Bharuch.

The agreement to this effect was signed recently between Pushpendra Bansal, COO, Lords Hotels and Resorts

and Ishwar Gehi – Promoter, Aarya Raj Club and Resort. Commenting on the occasion Pushpendra Bansal said “We are delighted to announce our latest venture in Rajkot. It will be a fabulous retreat for a traveler with host of amenities”.

“We are delighted to partner with one of India’s premium hospitality chain. It is with success record of managing hotels we see bright prospects in growth of Lords Aarya Club Resort” said Mr. Ishwar Gehi. Rishi Puri further added “Lords Aarya Club Resort captures the essence of Gujarat with its unique architecture. It will differ in a way that it will offer tourist a more relaxed atmosphere”.

Inspired by the architecture of the great Pyramids of Egypt, the resort encompasses seven pyramids which exude grandeur and peace. It is spread over 1, 50,000 sq ft area with abundance of lifestyle. Guest can access seamless meeting and conference services at fully appointed venues, experience a heaven of relaxation and pampering at SPA, workout at well equipped Gym and fitness center, experience nature like never before at largest swimming pool with gondola boat, have fun with family and friends of all ages at play zone, discover elegant halls and outdoor venues for celebrating special days and above all feel the true sense of relaxation in ingeniously designed rooms and suites.

JW Marriott

Located in the Center of Alberta's Capital City, JW Marriott Edmonton will be the Cornerstone of the Up-and-Coming ICE District, Canada's Largest Mixed-Use and Entertainment District



Marriott International Inc., is proud to announce the opening of the highly anticipated JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District. Located in the heart of downtown Edmonton, JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District offers a fresh and welcoming take on luxury and will feature modern guest rooms, specialty wellness programs, enriching dining experiences, and 22,000 sq. ft. of meeting and

conference spaces, which have been named after iconic Edmonton Oilers Alumni.

"We are thrilled to be opening our 250th hotel in Canada as well as bringing our iconic JW brand to the city of Edmonton," said Don Cleary, President of Marriott International's Canadian operation. "Our 250th property underscores the importance of luxury to this market, and the

tremendous opportunity for growth in Canada. Guests of the new JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District hotel can expect to be treated to uplifting experiences that showcase the local pride and warm spirit of Edmonton."

Now the third JW Marriott property in Canada, the JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District was designed with guests' wellbeing in mind. All touchpoints are intentional and inspired by the principles of mindfulness, being present in mind, nourished in body, and revitalized in spirit. This is a new approach to luxury, one that is welcoming and will leave guests feeling recharged after their stay. The hotel's approach to warm-hearted hospitality includes world-class dining and tailored guest experiences.

"JW Marriott is dedicated to providing our guests with enriching experiences in distinctive locations around the world, and JW Marriott Edmonton is the perfect example of this philosophy in action," said Mitzi Gaskins, Global Brand Leader, JW Marriott. "The centerpiece of the city's buzzing new ICE District, JW Marriott Edmonton provides guests the opportunity to experience every moment to the fullest through JW Marriott's individualized approach to luxury."

The hotel is also home to a comprehensive wellness facility, including Spa by JW, Edmonton's only full-service luxury hotel spa,

Debuts in the Heart of Edmonton, Marking Marriott International's 250th Hotel in Canada

and Archetype, a state-of-the-art fitness club. Archetype combines the science of high performance, a team of expert coaches, and a comprehensive health and fitness experience in one exceptional space occupying one and a half floors of the hotel. Spa by JW offers lavish treatments and soothing massages in a serene setting featuring five treatment rooms with rain showers and private balconies in each room.

Archetype, a cutting-edge health club led by Edmontonian Simon Bennett, brings the newest and most innovative experience to the Edmonton market. The club focuses on health coaching and high-performance living in an environment with unparalleled amenities and purposeful luxury. The club will include some of the most innovative equipment brands such as Sorinex rig systems, Keiser compressed air technology, Woodway, ICG 7 spin bikes and a Somadome meditation pod. Hotel guests and members will also have access to four custom curated group studios with experiences ranging from yoga, boxing, spin and HIIT style classes.

"ICE District is unlike anything Edmonton has seen before with its unique and upscale offerings," said Tim Shipton, Senior Vice President, Communications and Government Relations, ICE District. "With today's grand opening of the JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District, we are proud to be home to only the third JW Marriott in Canada, which will certainly be Edmonton's finest hotel, as we continue to set the standard for state-of-the-art living."

JW Marriott Edmonton is proud to collaborate with nationally acclaimed restaurateur Oliver & Bonacini Hospitality to bring expertly orchestrated culinary experiences to its hotel guests and Edmontonians. Executive Chef Jeremy Korten will bring his progressive vision to the hotel's fine-dining restaurant, Braven and lively cocktail bar, Alchemy, while Chef de Cuisine Jason Greene will execute recognizable classics with a playful accent at Kindred, the hotel's all-day dining destination. Guests at JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District will have access to four restaurants and

bars, which offer seasonal menus and curated cocktails in the beautifully designed spaces:

- Braven, a five-star dining destination offering dry-aged steaks, quality chops and fresh seafood
- Kindred Food + Drink, an accessible all-day eatery focusing on locally sourced, seasonal fare
- Alchemy, a destination cocktail bar with a spectacular patio overlooking the ICE District
- Lobby Bar, a hub for business and social gatherings, featuring a selection of signature and classic cocktails

Connected to Rogers Place Arena and within easy walking distance to Edmonton's Arts District, River Valley and the Edmonton Convention Center, the JW Marriott Edmonton has a unique partnership with Rogers Place, allowing the hotel to offer prime access to its guests, such as behind-the-scenes arena tours and meet-and-greet opportunities with Oilers Alumni.

JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District features 346 tech integrated, luxurious guestrooms and approximately 22,000 sq. ft. of meeting and conference space, including Edmonton's largest event ballroom, featuring 9,000 square feet of space with ample natural lighting and soaring 22 ft. ceilings. Situated above JW Marriott Edmonton ICE District is The Legends Private Residences – 262 sophisticated and functional condominium units that occupies floors 23 through 54 of the tower, offering panoramic city views.

ANA Intercontinental Beppu Resort and Spa opens in Southwestern Japan



Located in the Oita Prefecture in Southwestern Japan, the world-class resort opens as the region's first international luxury resort, offering sophisticated travellers a unique fusion of traditional hot spring culture and the InterContinental brand's promise of modern design, award-winning dining and world-class service.

The opening strengthens the long-term venture with ANA and IHG in Japan and joins over 200 InterContinental Hotels & Resorts worldwide. Leading the way in luxury, the resort is one of four immersive resorts to open in 2019, with InterContinental Hayman Island Resort opened on 1 July and *InterContinental Maldives Maamunagau Resort* and

InterContinental Phuket Resort opening in September.

Hans Heijligers, Head of Japan, IHG, and IHG ANA Hotels Group Japan, said: "On behalf of IHG and IHG/ANA Japan, we are extremely proud to open the first international luxury hot spring resort and spa in Beppu. InterContinental has been pioneers in luxury travel for over 70 years, delivering the allure of the InterContinental Life in all corners of the world. We are delighted to continue bringing the brand's iconic hospitality, combining international know-how and local wisdom to new destinations as IHG continues to grow its luxury presence across the globe and in Japan."

Stéphane Massarini, General Manager, ANA InterContinental Beppu Resort & Spa, added: "The opening of ANA InterContinental Beppu Resort & Spa presents a new era in travel for Beppu. The resort has been designed to embody the tremendously rich nature and history of the city, bringing to life a meaningful connection to the surrounds and offering a memorable stay for both locals and international guests alike."

Home to a City of Authentic Japanese Experiences

Renowned for its rich culture and distinguished local craftsmanship, Beppu lends itself to offering guests rare access into authentic Japanese



double massage rooms featuring a jacuzzi made from Japanese cypress.

Distinct design inspired by nature and local artisans

ANA InterContinental Beppu Resort & Spa welcomes guests into a distinct design philosophy, steeped in tradition and inspired by the elements. Featured across the resort is work from local artists and craftsmen, using traditional materials from various parts of Kyushu and local Oita prefecture. Beginning in the resort's lobby, the soaring space is reminiscent of an art gallery with its high-quality bamboo art work, ancient pottery and wooden furniture with bold designs.

The 89 guest rooms, including 10 suites, range from a luxurious 62-212 square meters, including large onsen or hot baths, spacious design and an abundance of natural materials for a sense of relaxation. All Suites and Club InterContinental rooms feature private open-air baths on the terrace with views sweeping the Beppu Bay.

Introducing the Restaurant & Bars Experience

Continuing the philosophy of harmonious nature and design, the resort features five restaurants and bars inspired by Japan's five elements: earth, water, fire, wind and void. **Atelier** blends French and international cuisine with high-quality Kyushu and local ingredients, created with local firewood and bamboo charcoal in a modern open kitchen.

The all-day dining restaurant **Elements** offers a variety of Japanese and Western dishes, each enlivened with seasonal ingredients and freshly-made pastries enveloped by stunning Myoban mountain views. At **The Bar**, guests will enjoy a unique selection of whiskey and Japanese shochu, as well as original cocktails using Beppu's unique citrus fruits. For an unforgettable experience, **Aqua** is the pool-side bar surrounded by endless Beppu vistas and complete with large sofas and sun loungers, while a more traditional indoor setting in **The Lounge** offers an authentic afternoon tea experience.



a private English picnic lunch, and a sunset dinner on-board the resort's private yacht. Full inclusions available online; the package is priced from USD\$13,800 for two people.

Introducing a deep connection to Onsen heritage

As the world's second largest volume of hot spring water, the onsen tradition is a synonymous part of the guest experience in Beppu. The resort offers two large outdoor onsens, each meticulously designed with the selection and arrangement of Beppu stones selected by skilled masons, and placed to create a waterfall effect as if the hot spring water is overflowing from the mountain.

The private onsen rooms offer a modern onsen experience within an exclusive space complete with a luxurious day bed, bathroom and minimalist design. The heart of the resort is the iconic infinity pool, designed to unite the sky with the view overlooking Beppu's hot springs below.

Elevating the cleansing and healing powers of myoban water is the resort spa. In partnership with luxury Thai spa brand HARNN, the spa offers a selection of tailor-made treatments and therapies using materials derived from nature, along with rich aroma scent to rejuvenate the mind and body. The spa offers five treatment rooms with private en suites and outdoor garden, and two

experiences. To celebrate the opening, ANA InterContinental Resort & Spa has curated a once-in-a-lifetime package, the *Beppu Luxury Collage*, offering guests immersion into ancient Japanese art and craftsmanship. The Insider Experiences include a demonstration and masterclass from local Shuji Calligraphy Masters where guests learn the wonder of kanji characters and the artistic form of written expression. Guests will also enjoy the art of bamboo weaving – an intrinsic part of the local culture with Beppu being the largest producer of madake (Japanese timber bamboo) – for an unforgettable class on bamboo ware. Elevated dining experiences include dinner at Atelier restaurant with a private sommelier,

Radisson

Rewards Collaborates with

WeHotel,

Jin Jiang's Global Hotel Booking Platform

Radisson Rewards, the global rewards program of Radisson Hotel Group, today announced an exciting new collaboration with WeHotel, the global hotel booking platform for Jin Jiang International.

Effective June 30, 2019, 53 Radisson Hotel Group properties will become bookable on the WeHotel platform, with the remaining 1,100+ participating hotels becoming available by the end of the year. As part of this collaboration, Radisson Rewards and WeHotel Prime, the loyalty program for Jin Jiang's high-end hotels, are working together to provide localized, in-hotel benefits to members of both programs.

Radisson Hotel Group is now part of Jin Jiang International, which currently includes over 8,500 hotels worldwide. By going live on WeHotel, Radisson Hotel Group's properties will benefit from significant exposure in China, the world's largest travel market, access to more than 148 million members of Jin Jiang WeHotel's loyalty programs, local language booking options, Chinese digital payments and more.

WeHotel Prime members will be able to book Radisson Hotel Group properties through the WeHotel platform, while also earning points and elite qualifying nights for all eligible stays. When staying at hotels outside China, WeHotel Prime members will enjoy localized, in-hotel member benefits provided by Radisson Rewards.

Radisson Rewards members will also enjoy localized, in-hotel benefits, provided by the WeHotel Prime program, when they stay at Radisson Hotel Group properties in China beginning June 30, 2019. This complements the Radisson Rewards points and elite qualifying nights they will earn for all eligible stays.

"This global loyalty collaboration marks an exciting and important step forward in the relationship between Jin Jiang International and Radisson Hotel Group. Our companies have a combined loyalty base of nearly 170 million members, so it's vital that we

create consistent benefits for all our members, wherever in the world they travel. Through this integration we are paving the way for a bright future," said Eric De Neef, Executive Vice President & Global Chief Commercial Officer, Radisson Hotel Group.

"Jin Jiang International and Radisson Hotel Group are building an industry-leading hospitality company that combines the best of both our companies. Becoming part of WeHotel puts Radisson Hotel Group's properties literally at the fingertips of millions of Chinese travelers, including WeHotel Prime's huge loyal customer base. By driving deeper synergies, we will continue to create exceptional benefits for our hotels and loyal guests," commented Jin Jiang.

Of the 53 Radisson Hotel Group properties that will go live on WeHotel by the end of June 2019, 18 are in China, with others located in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Fiji, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, UAE, UK, USA and Vietnam. radissonhotels.com/rewards/memberbenefits/china.

*This complements
the Radisson
Rewards points
and elite
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all eligible stays.*

IHCL and Les Roches

Launch a Program to Identify Top Talent in Hospitality in India

– “The Next General Manager of India”



Winners of the program will be offered an MBA in Global Hospitality Management in Switzerland

The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), South Asia's largest hospitality company and Swiss institution Les Roches Global Hospitality Education, ranked number 3 of the world's top institutions for hospitality management by the QS World University Rankings 2019, are joining forces to address the prevalent skills gap and prepare the next generation of leaders to support the growth of the travel and tourism industry in India.

“With its natural beauty and cultural attractions, rich diversity and a unique tradition of hospitality, India is already a popular travel destination. We look back on a long-standing presence in

India and are thrilled to associate Les Roches' Swiss model of education with IHCL, developing the necessary skills and promoting the career opportunities in the hospitality industry,” commented Dr. Christine Demen Meier, Managing Director of Les Roches.

A dedicated initiative titled “The Next General Manager of India” aimed at young hospitality professionals, will award one full scholarship to study at Les Roches' MBA in Global Hospitality Management program in Switzerland, followed by a fast track development program at an IHCL hotel. Additionally, Les Roches will offer 50% scholarships to five runners up. Shortlisted

applicants who meet the program's admission requirements will submit a business case and compete at a final selection event in Mumbai.

“IHCL as custodian of Indian hospitality has played a responsible part in nurturing talent in the industry. India has a huge untapped talent pool which is waiting to be unleashed. With forecasts of India being an over \$5 trillion economy and the robust growth of travel and tourism, there is tremendous opportunity for hospitality professionals. The partnership with Les Roches is one such significant step in creating global leaders of tomorrow,” said Mr. Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, IHCL.

With an innovative curriculum that integrates business strategy, management theory and real-world problem solving, Les Roches' MBA in Global Hospitality Management provides students with the skills and insights necessary for senior managerial positions. The program consists of two semesters of study, culminating in the submission of a dissertation and includes two experiential study trips to Chicago and Shanghai, adding global experience and industry exposure. <https://nextgmindia.com>

IHCL Announces a New Taj Hotel in Dehradun, Uttarakhand

This will be IHCL's Fifth Hotel in the State

The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), South Asia's largest hospitality company today announced the signing of a Taj hotel in Dehradun. This will be the fifth IHCL branded hotel in the state of Uttarakhand.

Commenting on the signing of this agreement, Mr. Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, IHCL said, "This signing is in line with Aspiration 2022 and its strategy of being present in all state capitals. Dehradun has huge potential with its tourism and commercial growth. With the addition of this hotel we will be opening a new Himalayan circuit that

includes Rishikesh, Theog and Corbett. We are happy to partner with Himalayan Retreat India LLP for this hotel."

Spread over 5.4 acres, the hotel boasts of a unique setting with the river Tons that flows through the site and overlooks hills with lush green foliage. The 88 room hotel will have an all-day-diner, a specialty restaurant, a bar, a spa, and banqueting and conferencing spaces. The hotel is slated to open in April 2021.

Mr. Rakesh Inder Singh Chugh, Managing Partner, Himalayan Retreat India LLP said, "We are delighted to partner with IHCL and bring the company's iconic brand Taj to



Dehradun, Uttarakhand's gateway city."

Dehradun, the capital of the state of Uttarakhand is located in the Doon Valley on the foothills of the Himalayas. The picturesque city is well connected to tourist destinations such as Mussoorie, Rishikesh, Haridwar and Auli. Dehradun is also popular for many of its educational institutions.

Zone by THE Park Hotels appoint Vikas Ahluwalia as its New General Manager and National Head

ON THE MOVE

Zone by THE Park, the upscale social-catalyst brand, has appointed Mr. Vikas Ahluwalia as its new General Manager & National Head effective from April 2019.

Vikas brings over 22 years of rich experience in the hospitality segment with expertise in the areas of hotel operations and development. He takes pride in striving for excellence; and in his new role, he will be responsible for heading and growing Zone by THE Park brand. By overlooking operations, sales & marketing, he will be actively focusing on further expansion and development of the Zone.

Zone by The Park, the social catalyst brand by THE Park Hotels has its presence in Coimbatore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Chennai ORR, Raipur, Bengaluru, Jodhpur with upcoming hotels in Gurugram (Delhi), Jammu,



Jaipur, Amritsar and Surat.

Upon joining Zone by THE Park Mr. Vikas Ahluwalia said, "I am truly excited to be associated with Zone by THE Park brand which is one of the fastest growing brands and is known to represent the essence of 'social in design and social in value'. Looking forward to a thrilling journey as it

signifies the idea of new connections and constant activity. In the capacity of my role, my focus will be continuing to drive growth and delivering high quality experience to our valued customers."

Commenting on the joining Mr. Vijay Dewan, Managing Director at Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels Limited said, "We are extremely excited to have Vikas join our team at Zone by THE Park. With a rich experience, we believe he will be able to steer the already aggressive brand that we are, and foster a high performing workforce. With his intimate understanding of running and growing a customer-centric business, we are confident that Zone by THE Park has found a right fit."

As a professional hotelier, in the past he has worked with Indian Hotels Company Ltd., Aloft Hotels, Four Points by Sheraton and Berggruen Hotels.

Hyatt Regency

Delhi appoints Julian Ayers



as the General Manager & Area Vice President for North India

Julian Ayers has been appointed as the General Manager of Hyatt Regency Delhi. Dynamic and motivated, Julian brings with him over twenty years of experience to the role. In his position at Hyatt Regency Delhi will include overseeing the day-to-day operations, sales and marketing activities whilst also managing future growth strategies across nine of Hyatt's properties.

British born, Julian Ayers has a wealth of experience from various international management positions held by him in India, Oman, Indonesia, the Caribbean and UK. Before stepping into his role as a General Manager at Hyatt Regency Delhi, Julian was the General Manager at Alila Jabal Akhtar, Oman and the Regional Vice President at the Alila

Hotels and Resorts, Middle East and India. Having had previous posting with IHG & Hilton Groups in Delhi, he is not new to Delhi. He is not new to Delhi having had previous posting with IHG & Hilton Groups. A graduate of Suffolk College, he honed his skills at Gleneagles in Scotland before driving his career through successful managerial appointments with highly regarded properties all over the world.

Passionate about sustainability, Julian's strengths lie in his ability to develop a strong team of highly motivated professionals to deliver a remarkable luxury experience. He has extensive experience with resorts as well as busy city centres, owing to which he has acquired an in-depth knowledge of the local market. It helps him to

forge lasting relationships as well as the financial skills required to find and negotiate contracts. He aims to bring his global experience to invoke a spirit of innovation and diversity at Hyatt Regency Delhi.

"When we lived in Delhi, the Hyatt Regency was a place we loved to visit, so it is a great honour to become the custodian of this landmark hotel. I look forward to working with the passionate team here, as we push the boundaries of hospitality and create new experiences for guests," said Julian Ayers.

In addition to his responsibilities as General Manager at Hyatt Regency Delhi, he will take on the responsibility of Area Vice President of Hyatt, North India where he will oversee the following area hotels - Hyatt Place Gurgaon, Hyatt Regency Ludhiana, Hyatt Regency Amritsar, Hyatt Regency Dharmshala, Hyatt Regency Chandigarh, Alila Diwa Goa, Alila Fort Bishangarh and Hyatt Centric Goa.

Travelport Announces Greg Webb as Chief Executive Officer



Travelport, a leading travel technology company, announced today that its board of directors has named Greg Webb, a proven leader with over 20 years of experience in the travel technology industry, as Chief Executive Officer, effective 1 August 2019. Mr. Webb succeeds Gordon Wilson, who will step down as the President and CEO of Travelport. Mr. Webb will also join Travelport's Board of Directors.

Greg Webb brings deep industry knowledge and a strong track record of commercial and operational execution. Most recently, Mr. Webb served as SVP and General Manager of Oracle Hospitality, a leading travel technology solutions provider, where he was responsible for strategy, enablement, development, sales, service and support. Prior to Oracle, Mr. Webb was Vice Chairman at Sabre, a global travel technology and services company with over \$3 billion in annual revenue. During his 20-year tenure at Sabre, Mr. Webb served in various executive positions across product development and marketing and ultimately led Sabre's largest business unit, Sabre Travel Network. Mr. Webb has also served as Chief Information Officer of BellSouth and is a member of the Board of Directors of Zyston, a security advisory firm. He earned an MBA with an emphasis in marketing from Louisiana Tech University and a bachelor's degree in advertising from Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Gordon Wilson commented: "I celebrated 28 years with the company in May and have been President and

CEO since 2011. It is time for me to hand over to someone else to run this business and the recent change in ownership of Travelport is the right occasion for this to happen. I firmly believe that Travelport's new investors, Siris Capital and Evergreen Coast Capital, will be good for the company and I am delighted to be handing over to an executive as well tenured and experienced in travel technology as Greg Webb. Travelport is a great business full of great people who will work hand-in-hand with Greg, focusing all their collective skills and expertise to take the company to its next level of growth and success."

Greg Webb said: "I am delighted to be joining Travelport, especially at such an exciting and transformative time for the company. I look forward to working with the Travelport leadership team and employees to continue to deliver innovative solutions and offer our customers great products and great service."

John Swainson, Executive Chairman of Travelport and Siris Executive Partner, added: "Gordon has been great to work with throughout the process leading to Siris' decision to invest in the company and the transition of its leadership. He has made an enormous contribution to Travelport over the years and we wish him well with his next endeavours. I also want to give a warm welcome to Greg, whose industry knowledge, customer-focused experience and understanding of how to best monetize technology platforms will provide Travelport with strong leadership in this new era."





Odisha

**gives nod to 7 hotel,
tourism projects that entail
investment of ₹354 crore**

Odisha government has approved allotment of land for seven hotel and tourism projects, which entail an investment to the tune of ₹354.34 crore.

A high-power committee chaired by Chief Secretary Aditya Prasad Padhi examined proposals and gave its nods stating that these projects would

bring socio-economic benefit to the community. Investors have been asked to commission their projects within three years of the allotment of land.

“Projects will be developed over a total area of around 79.5 acres out of which Government has decided to allot around 42.5 acres. Some project proponents have arranged balance land

on their own,” said Vishal Dev, State tourism secretary recently.

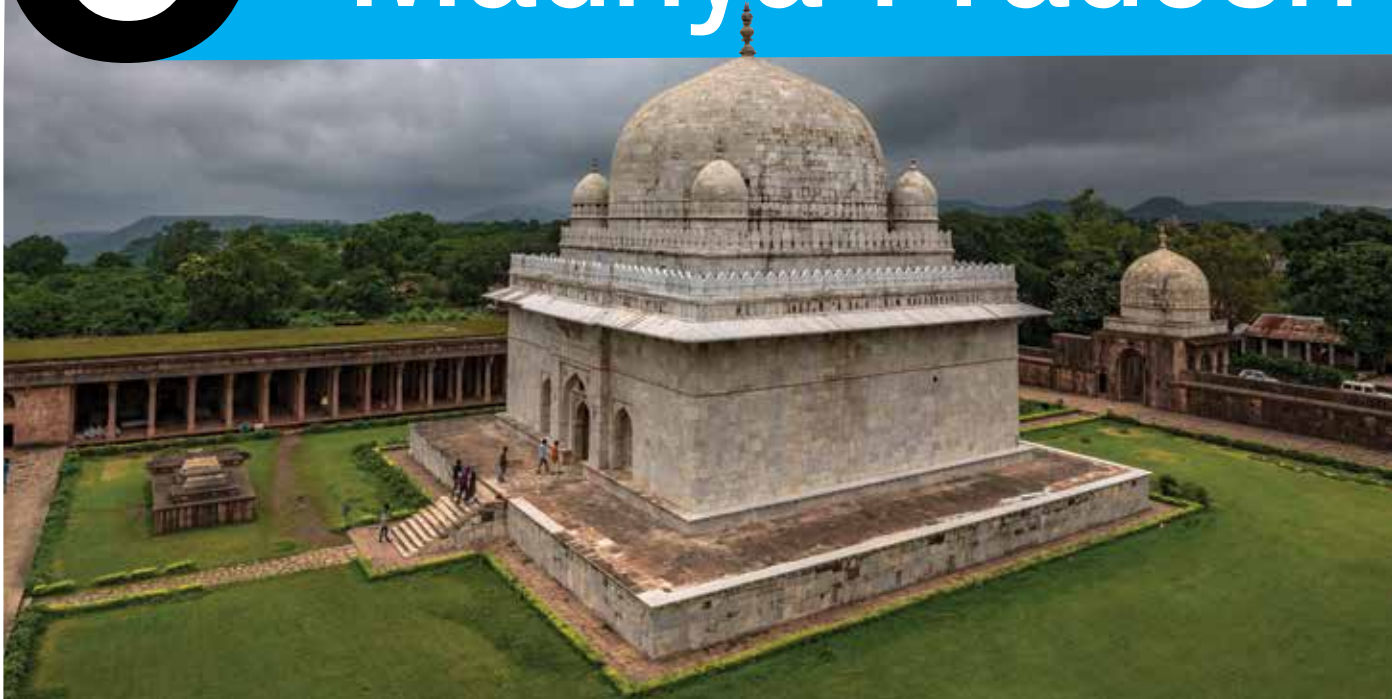
Mr. Dev said, “These tourism projects, apart from creating direct employment opportunities also have potential for large indirect employment.”

The approved projects include a golf resort at Satpada near Chilika Lake Puri to be developed by Mayfair Hotels and Resorts Limited with investment of ₹125 crore, Gopalpur Palm Resort at Udayapur, Ganjam by Swosti Vacations Club Private Limited with investment of ₹64.58 crore, four-star hotel at Trisulia by Lalchand Resort Private Limited with investment of ₹54.50 crore, resort at Gopalpur by Luxurio Assets with investment of ₹49.80 crore and a resort at Tampara, Ganjam by Lifeline Multi Venture Private Limited with investment of ₹49.80 crore.

A water park has been proposed at Basantpur near Sambalpur by Aquamagic Water Amusement Park with investment of ₹7.50 crore and a theme park and resort near Rourkela by Krishna Holdings with investment of ₹3.16 crore.



5 awesome monsoon destinations - in Madhya Pradesh





If you are someone who loves monsoon and enjoys water puddles, damp roads and the aroma of wet soil then monsoon is one of the best times for you to explore the offbeat destinations in Madhya Pradesh. These places will give you the real feel of the heart of Incredible India with cool winds, floating clouds and raindrops to set your mood right! So, what are you waiting for. Just pack your bags and head to Madhya Pradesh.

These 5 best monsoon destinations will surely give you a trip to remember during monsoon:

Mandu

Mandu during monsoon is a sight to behold as it turns romantically beautiful. Abound with historical tales, this city makes for a quaint idyllic hilly dreamland in this season. Nature is at

it's scintillating best & you can see its enchanting beauty adorned with the greenery all around. Before entering in Mandu just take a halt to watch Kakrah Khoh waterfall. A captivating sight during monsoon, this waterfall looks breathtaking. Going further, get mesmerized to see Jahaz Mahal floating on 2 water bodies- Kapur and Munj Talao. It stands beautiful against the lush green grass. During monsoon, the water level reaches the edge of the monument thereby giving it a ship like appearance & hence the name Jahaz Mahal. Don't forget to visit Rani Roopmati Pavilion set at a vantage point. It commands a striking view of Narmada river which can be seen meandering through the plains like a streak of a thin silver lining. Enjoy the glory of a lush green landscape and the canopy of floating clouds from the Pavilion.

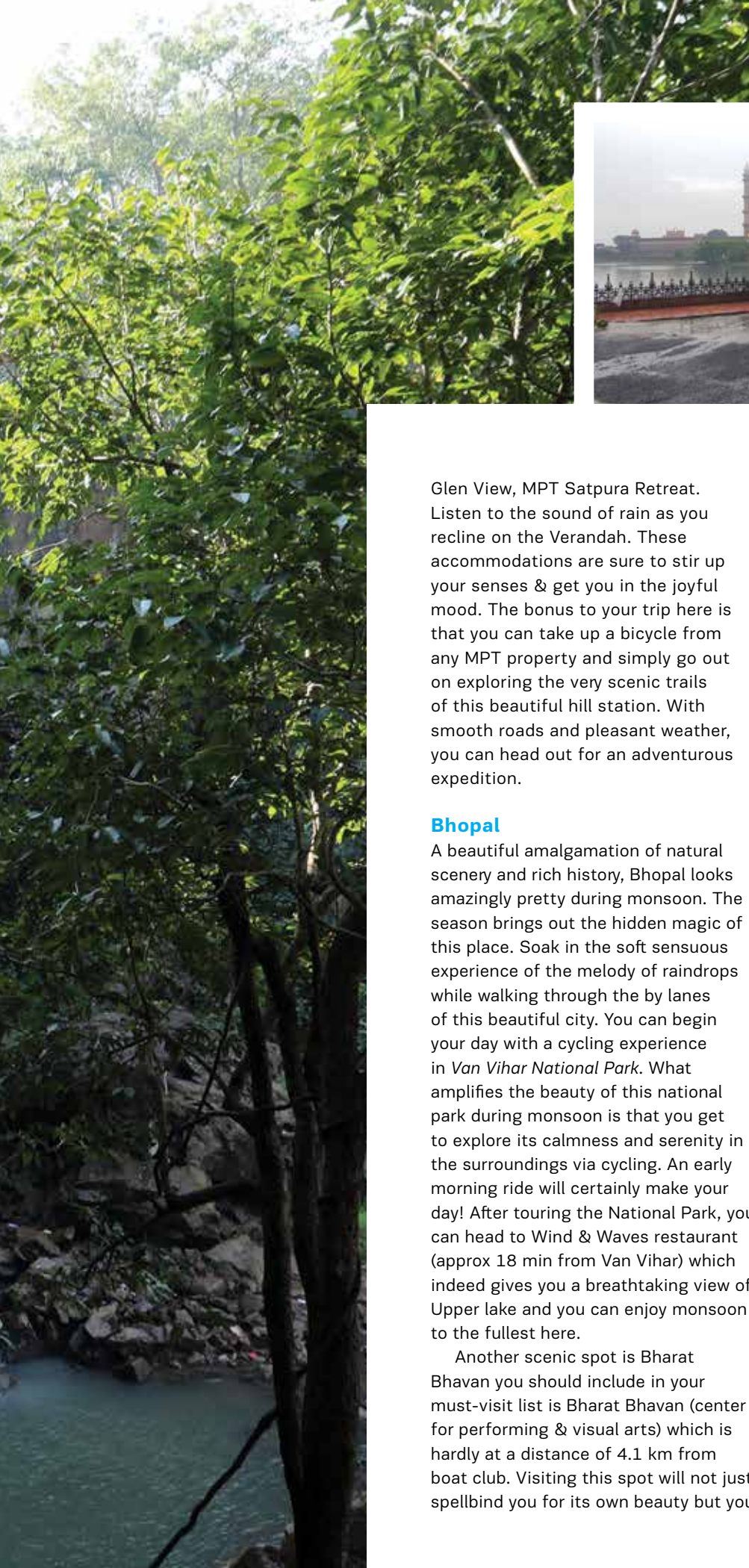
Pachmarhi

Raindrops striking the dry earth, Water droplets adding grace to the leaves waving softly in the breeze, the waterfalls gushing and there is greenery all around.... that's how anyone who has ever visited the queen of Satpura will describe the picturesque *Pachmarhi* during monsoon to you. This season turns out to be the best time to explore the vibrant colors of Satpura. For those who love mist covered and rain-soaked mountains will certainly love spending a vacay in this beautiful hill station.

Apart from many natural wonders and *tourist destinations*, Pachmarhi caters to all kinds of travelers to offer them a rejuvenating holiday experience at comfortable accommodations. Chill out, relax and unwind amidst the scenic settings at MPT Champak Bungalow, MPT Rock End Manor, MPT

INDIA : MADHYA PRADESH





Glen View, MPT Satpura Retreat. Listen to the sound of rain as you recline on the Verandah. These accommodations are sure to stir up your senses & get you in the joyful mood. The bonus to your trip here is that you can take up a bicycle from any MPT property and simply go out on exploring the very scenic trails of this beautiful hill station. With smooth roads and pleasant weather, you can head out for an adventurous expedition.

Bhopal

A beautiful amalgamation of natural scenery and rich history, Bhopal looks amazingly pretty during monsoon. The season brings out the hidden magic of this place. Soak in the soft sensuous experience of the melody of raindrops while walking through the by lanes of this beautiful city. You can begin your day with a cycling experience in *Van Vihar National Park*. What amplifies the beauty of this national park during monsoon is that you get to explore its calmness and serenity in the surroundings via cycling. An early morning ride will certainly make your day! After touring the National Park, you can head to Wind & Waves restaurant (approx 18 min from Van Vihar) which indeed gives you a breathtaking view of Upper lake and you can enjoy monsoon to the fullest here.

Another scenic spot is Bharat Bhavan you should include in your must-visit list is Bharat Bhavan (center for performing & visual arts) which is hardly at a distance of 4.1 km from boat club. Visiting this spot will not just spellbind you for its own beauty but you

can actually enjoy drizzles standing on the rooftop facing the lake.

Kerwa- Kaliyasot: The entire stretch at Kerwa and Kaliyasot turns lush green. You can enjoy a cycle ride or you can even plan long walks here. Also, if there's anything that truly defines the essence of this season then it is 'Bhutta'. You can enjoy munching on Bhuttas (corn) available at the roadside stalls here. The flavor of the charcoaled, lemon and masala squeezed snack can bring water to anyone's mouth!

Tawa

An ideal monsoon getaway, *Tawa* comes alive with picturesque views during monsoon. Everything you see here turns out green, fresh, clean and soothing. You can also enjoy a stay at MPT Tawa Resort. A stay at this accommodation is an experience in itself. Come with your cameras ready and take back a bag full of memories with you as every moment you spend here will turn out special.

Amarkantak

One of the hidden gems in Madhya Pradesh, *Amarkantak* is a must visit spot during Madhya Pradesh. Those who love adoring nature will love to spend a holiday here. Some of the points of interests that you must visit include Sonmuda, Kapildhara & Dugdhdhara waterfalls. Also, if you are in no mood to step out in this weather then worry not. MPT Holiday Homes allows you to enjoy fantastic window views from your room. Get yourself a cutting chai or a piping hot cup of coffee teamed with sumptuous snacks offered at the Hotel.

Gujarat

expects over six crore tourists to visit the state this fiscal

Elaborating on the tourism potential and emerging destinations, State Tourism Minister Jawahar Chavda recently said that Gujarat is “a rich place” in terms of its economy, nature and culture. Buoyed by increasing tourist footfalls and development of various destinations in the state, Gujarat is expecting tourist inflow to cross six crore in the current fiscal.

The western state which is “focusing on attracting foreign tourists” will come out with a heritage tourism policy soon.

“In 2016-17, tourists’ inflow was 4.48 crore and the same went up to almost 5.8 crore in 2018-19. The annual growth rate was 14 per cent. With the trend of increasing tourists’ footfalls, we are expecting that tourist inflow should cross six crores in the current fiscal,” said Jenu Devan, Commissioner of the state Tourism Department.

He said the tourism sector contributes about three per cent of the state’s gross domestic product and its contribution is expected to “improve” in the years to come.



Over Rs 12,500 crore was invested in the sector in the last four years to improve the infrastructure for the sector, he said.

"The state is preparing a heritage tourism policy and approval for this will come shortly. At present, there are 33 heritage properties. With the implementation of the policy, more of such properties will come within tourism map," Devan said.

Elaborating on the tourism potential and emerging destinations, State Tourism Minister Jawahar Chavda said Gujarat is "a rich place" in terms of its economy, nature and culture. "The state offers mountains to desert and sea beach," he said. "Apart from the neighbouring states such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal is an important for Gujarat tourism as over seven lakh visitors travel to the western state every year," Chavda said.

In Gujarat, two prominent tourist sites - Somnath and Dholavira - would be developed into iconic tourism destinations as a part of the Central government's Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Devan said, adding that "big packages" are going to come for these two sites to woo visitors.

The minister said the state is focusing on attracting foreign tourists, which currently comprises roughly one per cent of the annual inflow of travellers.

"NRI comprises about 2-3 per cent of the annual tourist inflow in the state. In addition, about six lakh foreign tourists visit the state last year. We should be able to attract one lakh more foreign tourists this year. We will do road shows overseas in order to attract tourists from foreign countries," Devan said.

Among tourists coming to the state from overseas countries, the UK, the US and Italy are at the top of list, he said.

Around 20-25 lakh tourists visited the Statue of Unity, Devan said, adding that the average tourists' footfalls is 7000-8000 in week days while the same for weekend rises up to 15,000, he said.

The Statue of Unity built at a cost of Rs 2,389 crore is a 182-metre memorial to Sardar Patel in Kevadiya in Narmada district. It is the tallest structure of its kind in the world and was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 31 last year.

9th ADTOI Convention 2019 in Gujarat to promote and attract state tourism trends with the theme - Explore India - Experience India.

The ninth convention and exhibition of the Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India is aptly stated at the Hyatt Regency Ahmedabad from August 16-18, 2019.

In an exclusive to Travel Span, PP Khanna, President ADTOI said Gujarat is rich in its culture, with historical monuments, Temples natural landscape, beaches, wildlife, bird watching, shopping and celebrations. The convention will boost domestic tourism to the states. Familiarization trips post the convention will showcase the tourism potential of the state and give opportunity to explore new places to attract the tourists to make Gujarat a year-round destination.

Senior officials from State Tourism and Ministry of Tourism are likely to attend the Two-day event. Chief Minister of Gujarat along with tourism minister of the state, principal secretary from Gujarat Tourism have been invited for the convention. Khanna claimed that around 400-500 delegates from across the country were expected to attend the convention. Khanna is confident that the convention will attract large numbers from Gujarat including local travel agents and tour operators.

Elaborating on the theme of the convention, ADTOI President, PP Khanna said: "Taking the consideration from Prime Minister's appeal and motivation which says instead of travelling abroad, people of this country must explore rich heritage and culture within the country, this is beneficial for the economy of our country as the revenue generation from tourism will remain within the country."



Talking about the salient features of the convention, Khanna said "our focus would be on finding innovative ways to promote domestic tourism. The conference will discuss various investment opportunities available for the states on PPP model to enhance the tourism infrastructure in the state."

Anil K Rajput, convention Co-chairman said, "To boost the growth of tourism we need to have some comprehensive study on domestic tourism. Apart from the figures provided by WTTC, UNWTO and Ministry of Tourism etc. we need to have some other source of information about the data collected from the Indian states."

Sanjay Saxena, Convention Co-chairman said, Gujarat is undoubtedly the epitome of perfect destination and its tourism is way forward for spirituality. The conference will discuss apt topics related to the convention theme - Explore India - Experience India.

Association of Domestic Tour Operators of India (ADTOI) is a National Body of Domestic Tour Operators, constituted on 7th August 1996 with the express purpose of consolidating the efforts of all those tour operators who are actively engaged in the promotion of "Domestic Tourism" in the country. There are about 780 members of ADTOI across and the numbers are increasing.



The Deltin Daman

The Hotspot Getaway This Monsoon



The monsoons are here and so are the lush green trees and the flowers. The fresh smell of earth, the colorful nature and the grey skies with the sun peaking from the clouds creates a wonderful sight. All of this creates a mood for quick tea breaks and some delicious hot pakodas. Monsoons create a mood for your mini breaks and quick getaways.

A weekend trip with your loved ones is the perfect way to refresh and rejuvenate. Treat yourself by taking a short break and escape to fun filled beaches. Instead of going to the regular hill stations near Mumbai, why not do something new. The new hotspot

for people from Mumbai, The Deltin, Daman. Three-hour drive from Mumbai, the 5 star property is a must visit to have a short break and enjoy the monsoons. Having beaches close-by gives one even more reason to spend a weekend chilling at the property with friends and family.

From multi cuisine restaurants with continental and Indian cuisines to an exotic pan Asian cuisine restaurant, you get it all. Enjoy your exquisite meal with a spectacular view of the pool side. Unwind at The Whiskys over an exotic signature cocktail made by the bartender. Sit back and enjoy the Luxurious ambience over a glass of

fine wine with your loved one. Give yourself a break from the hustle and bustle of the city and enjoy your drink in a dim light and a scenic view of the lawn.

Enjoy a day at The Devka beach and get yourself a sun kissed glow, also take pleasure in the open space and play various outdoor games with your loved ones. Spend some quality time with your spouse; enjoy the intimate experience that is provided at the spa. Bounce back to work and start your week after a relaxing yet fun vacation.

So, wait no more and rush to The Deltin Daman before the monsoon goes away and have a gala time.



you take your first step into your most beautiful journey, you are brought to the hotel with a private transfer service. You are welcomed with Champagne and chocolate as you enter the hotel, and with wine, fruit, and appetizers in your room. As a special treat on to your first day, an in-room breakfast and or breakfast in a private area in the restaurant are just the beginning. Accommodation in a seafront Gazebo House, a massage in your room or the spa centre await you, all there to help you make beautiful memories during your honeymoon and your stay at the Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort & Spa.

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restaurant, accommodation in a Gazebo House for one day, a fruit basket in the room, and other surprises in one day - as you select during your stay, and as you wish.

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