

LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

# travel

Volume 19 | Issue 10 | November 2019 | ₹250 / \$8 US

A Profiles Media Network Publication

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

## SPAN

# 10

cool and  
unique ways  
to see

## Britain's cities

## Snowy Rovaniemi

Must see places

## Arippara Waterfalls

A Hidden Gem

The best  
thermal  
spas in  

## Turkey

## Rann Utsav

The Festive land of Gujarat





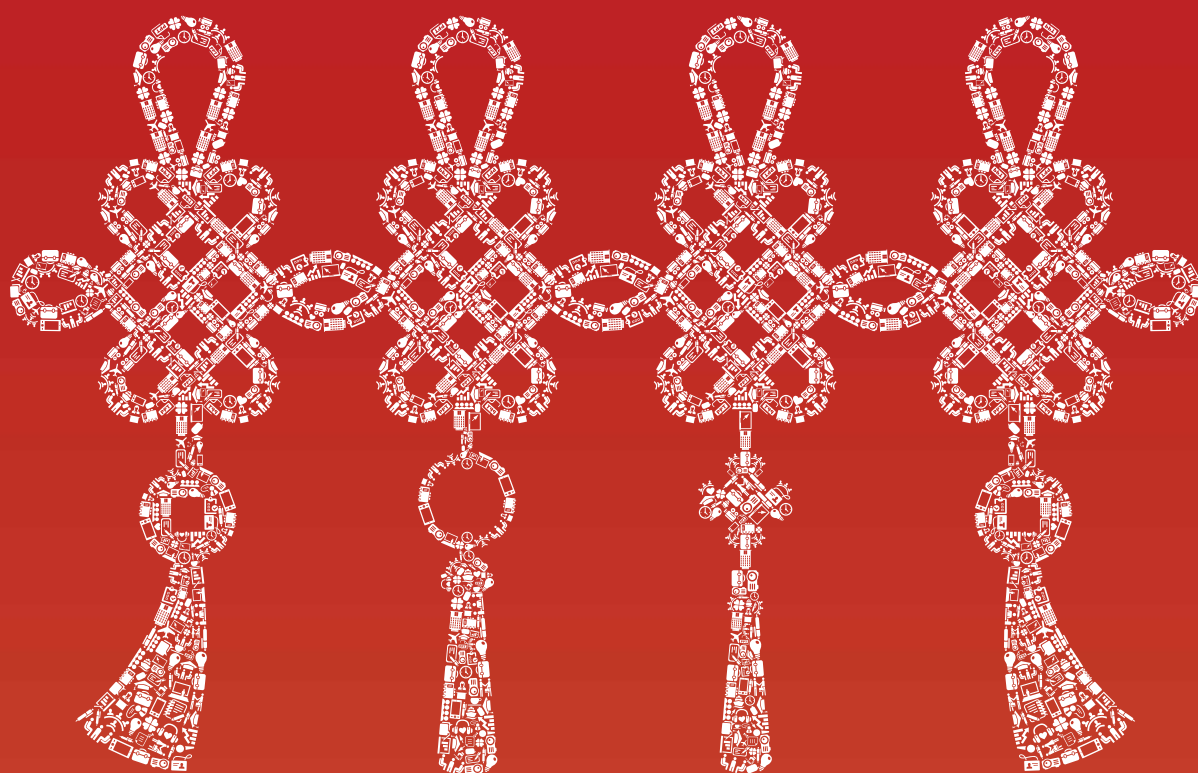


**ITB**  
CHINA

The Market-  
place for  
China's Travel  
Industry

# WE CONNECT THE WORLD OF TRAVEL

13 - 15 May 2020 · Shanghai · [itb-china.com](http://itb-china.com)



Organizer:



Messe Berlin  
Shanghai

Co-Host:

**环球旅讯**  
TravelDaily

# Statue of Unity, World's Tallest Statue standing tall at 182 meters Proudly gets listed in



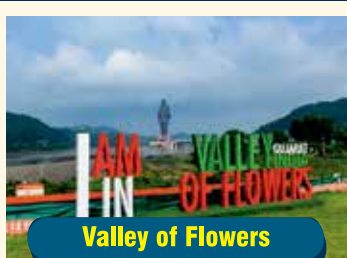
**Time Magazine's  
World's Greatest Places 2019**



**Zarvani Water Fall**



**River Rafting**



**Valley of Flowers**



**Have you visited India's  
destination of pride, yet?  
Plan your visit now**

## Exceptional Attractions

Shrestha Bharat Bhavan | Museum & 3D Projection Mapping | Research Centre | Monument View Point | Tent City  
Valley of Flowers | Zarvani Water Fall | Eco – Tourism Bus Tour | Ekta Nursery | River Rafting | Homestay at Kevadiya  
Vishwa Van | Jungle Safari | Children Nutrition Park | Greening Of Kevadia | Cactus Garden | Butterfly Garden

**Location: Statue of Unity, Sadhu Bet, Sardar Sarovar Dam, Kevadia, Dist. Narmada, Gujarat**

**Best time to Visit:** The Statue of Unity site entry opens at **08:00 AM** and closes at **06:00 PM** From Tuesday to Sunday  
The site remains closed on Monday, so you can plan your trip accordingly.

For Further Information log on to: [www.gujarattourism.com](http://www.gujarattourism.com) | [www.statueofunity.in](http://www.statueofunity.in) For Ticket Booking, log on to: [www.soutickets.in](http://www.soutickets.in)



# contents



## 9 INDIA / STATE TOURISM / KERALA: Arippara Waterfalls - A Hidden Gem

The mighty Iruvanji river cascades down the rocky hills to form the gorgeous Arippara waterfalls. ... This waterfall is situated around 15 kms from Thiruvambady town in Kozhikode. The name Arippara means 'rock of rice' and a lot of small and huge rocks can be seen nearby.

## 28 MICE / ITB ASIA: ITB Asia continues to break records with exhibitor numbers at all time high

To meet demand, Asia's leading trade travel show opens with an expanded two floors and introduced a dedicated MICE Show Asia 2019... Record number of over 1,300 exhibitors and more than 1,250 buyers at this year's show...



## 32 HOSPITALITY AND FOOD: Discover tranquility amidst Nature at WelcomHeritage Tadoba Vanya Villas Resort and Spa

Spread across 65 acres, WelcomHeritage Tadoba Vanyavillas Resort & Spa is located in 1.5 kms radius of the Tadoba Forest, which is home for the highest number of tigers and cubs in central India; making it one of the major tourist attractions.



## 34 HOSPITALITY AND FOOD: In the foothills of magnificent Aravalli's, Discover a magical vacation at Welcomheritage Inderpura Resort, Udaipurwati, Rajasthan

Spread across 1.73 acres of land surrounded by hills on three sides, with a clear view of sunset, WelcomHeritage Inderpura Resort is located near a very famous Shakambhari Mata Temple. Adjoining is a Kot Dam, which has a former hunting grounds (Shikarbagh) of Shekhawat Rulers.





# WelcomHeritage

Palaces • Forts • Havelis • Resorts

*Indulge in a Mystical Experience by Reliving the  
Indian Heritage with WelcomHeritage Hotels.*



WelcomHeritage Taragarh Palace, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh



WelcomHeritage Kasmanda Palace, Mussoorie, Uttarakhand



WelcomHeritage Judge's Court, Pragpur, Himachal Pradesh

38 Hotels • 16 States • 34 Cities

Ahmedabad | Amritsar | Coorg | Corbett | Delhi | Dharamshala | Gangtok | Hansi | Jaipur | Jaisalmer | Jodhpur | Kasauli | Kota | Leh-  
Ladakh | Manali | Mount Abu | Mussoorie | Nainital | Nawalgarh | Ooty | Pachmarhi | Palampur | Panchkula | Panjim | Pench |  
Pragpur | Prayagraj | Ranakpur | Ranikhet | Ranthambore | Sandur | Srinagar | Tadoba | Udaipurwati

**Contact Us :** 011 46035500 | **Email :** [holidays@welcomheritagehotels.in](mailto:holidays@welcomheritagehotels.in) | **Website :** [www.welcomheritagehotels.in](http://www.welcomheritagehotels.in)



# contents



- 35 **INTERNATIONAL: NYC & COMPANY Announces larges ever global marketing campaign as New York City looks to welcome nearly 14 Million International visitors in 2019**

As New York City looks to welcome a record 13.9 million international visitors in 2019, this week NYC & Company kicked off its most expansive global tourism marketing campaign to date.

- 37 **INTERNATIONAL: Snowy Rovaniemi - Must see places in Rovaniemi**

Bordering on the Arctic, Rovaniemi is an exotic place of snow and ice in winter – There are scores of sights and attractions in the Official Hometown of Santa Claus



- 44 **INTERNATIONAL: The best thermal spas in Turkey**

The thermal springs are known for natural body recovery. The thermal springs in Turkey have healing water that attracts many people.

- 50 **INTERNATIONAL: 10 cool and unique ways to see Britain's cities**

Searching for an alternative to a walking tour of Britain's cities? Here's how you can turn city sightseeing into an immersive experience, whether it's via water sports, from the sky...or even in a hot tub!



- 59 **INDIA / GUJARAT TOURISM: Rann Utsav - The Festive land of Gujarat**

Rann Utsav. ... of music and dance, all together in the arid lands of Kutch creates a mosaic of exquisiteness which reflects the identity and spirit of the region.

- 66 **INTERNATIONAL: Azerbaijan - A world Class Golf Destination**

Land of fire, Land of dreams: Azerbaijan is an exotic golf destination that surprises and impresses in equal measure

# RAPIDLY GROWING DESTINATION MANAGEMENT COMPANY

## OUR NETWORK



- Customized Packages & Tour
- Best Deal on Luxury & Budget Travel
- One Stop Travel Partner Across the World
- Local On-Ground Support at All Destination
- Cater to Leisure Travels, Families & Social Groups
- Comprehensive understanding of Indian buyer behavior

Website: [www.tbodmc.com](http://www.tbodmc.com) | Phone: +91-7400198849 | Email: [info@tbodmc.com](mailto:info@tbodmc.com)



islandHopper.in



MAURITIUS



MALDIVES



SEYCHELLES



GREECE

## HIGHLIGHTS



Option to **book ferry tickets** between Greek Islands



Direct contracts with **100+ resorts**



Dedicated **TBO Account Managers**



Package based online system with **option to book in INR or Forex**



Showcasing **2 new inclusions** in our standard itineraries at no extra cost in **Mauritius**

[www.islandhopper.in](http://www.islandhopper.in)

Phone: 0124-4986123 | Email: [Offline@islandhopper.in](mailto:Offline@islandhopper.in)





## LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MAGAZINE travel SPAN

**DEVENDER GROVER**  
Editor in Chief & Publisher

**GAURA G BAHL**  
Group Editor

**JASMINE GROVER**  
Associate Editor

**JYOTSNA MALIK**  
International Sales Director

**RASIKA MATHUR**  
Events Coordinator

**RAJESH MAURYA**  
Head of Finance

**JITESH GANDHI**  
Creative Director

Address changes and subscription  
order to [travelspace@gmail.com](mailto:travelspace@gmail.com)

Registered with Registrar of  
Newspapers of India under  
RNI No. DEL/ENG/2000/03308

**PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY**  
Profiles Media Network Pvt Ltd.  
BA-306, Tagore Garden  
New Delhi 110027, India  
Tel - +91 (124) 4111182  
Mob- +91 98107 15900  
Website: [www.travelspace.in](http://www.travelspace.in)

**PRINTED BY**  
STUDIO 9 PRODUCTIONS  
502, Jeevan Tara Apartments  
Sector 43, GH 7, Gurugram  
122009, India

VOLUME 19, Issue 10, November 2019

Content may not be reproduced in any  
format without written permission from  
**Profiles Media Network Pvt Ltd.**

## WTM London unveils Sri Lanka as Premier Partner for 2019

Sri Lankan Tourism will be the Premier Partner at WTM London 2019 as the island's tourism industry continues its resolute for recovery. The high-profile partnership will ensure global coverage for the Indian Ocean destination, which has also teamed with legendary Sri Lankan cricketer Kumar Sangakkara to help tourism bounce back. As a spokesman for Sri Lanka Tourism and the first non-British to be elected to the Presidency of Marylebone Cricket Club MCC based at Lord's, Sangakkara will promote the destination's key tourist attractions which are being marketed under the new brand 'So Sri Lanka'.

Sangakkara said: "I am very confident that tourists who come to Sri Lanka will have a wonderful time. I have seen the country recover very well in terms of ensuring the security of both its nationals and tourists from all over the world. Those who come to Sri Lanka want to experience the country in full." The Premier Partnership deal with WTM London will mean thousands of international travel trade professionals and buyers will see the new 'So Sri Lanka' branding, and hundreds of journalists and influencers will hear about the country's culture, scenery and heritage.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau will share its exhibition space at WTM London (Stand AS200) with 67 travel trade partners, including hotels, travel agencies, resorts and operators – all united in their mission to help the country rebuild its tourism trade.

Tourist numbers plunged by 70% in the wake of April's tragic events, but concerted efforts by the Sri Lankan tourist industry mean the recovery is happening faster than expected, with these efforts, in September the drop was narrowed to just 20%, the destination outlook is positive to bounce back at the end of the year.

According to the Minister of Tourism Development, Wildlife & Christian Religious Affairs Hon. John Amarasinghe: "The government has done everything possible

to regain the popularity for the destination by building confidence carrying out various aggressive promotional campaigns. We are fortunate to have the world unitedly supporting us and rallying around to help the tourism industry, this has helped spread economic benefits far reaching to many other important economic sectors too; and also to local communities who need it most. "Tourism is a lifeline to Sri Lanka's economy, unlike in the past, it has become connected to everyone in the country. Before long, tourism will definitely be the number one revenue earner for Sri Lanka". Tourist arrivals in 2018 had reached a record 2.3 million – worth almost \$4.4 billion – and numbers still look set to top two million in 2019.

Coverage of the island's remarkable natural beauty, rich heritage and welcoming locals are certainly playing a role in supporting its recovery. It has almost 1,600 kilometres of palm-fringed coastlines, while the interior offers the chance to explore tea plantations, spice gardens, national parks, lush jungle and waterfalls. Sri Lanka is one of the top places in Asia for spotting wildlife, such as elephants, sloth bears, leopards, wild buffaloes and even the elusive blue whale, in their natural habitat. Along with natural wonders, the island has thousands of years of history for visitors to discover, including six cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites, plus palaces, temples and monasteries.

Visitors can also experience the benefits of Ayurveda, Sri Lanka's traditional art of healing, and restore their body and soul at the island's many wellness retreats and resorts. Furthermore, food and hospitality play a crucial role in the country's culture, with tourists able to enjoy a wide variety of curry and meat dishes, soups, seafood and vegetarian cuisine. Coconut milk is a distinctive ingredient in many meals, and the island is world-renowned for its tea.

We are on



**DEVENDER GROVER**

RNI No. DEL/ENG/2000/03308 Travel Span is Printed Published Edited and Owned by Devender Grover. Printed at G S Graphic Arts. A-18, Naraina Industrial Area, New Delhi - 110028

Editor: Devender Grover. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is strictly prohibited. All information is correct at the time of going to press but subject to change. Editorial material, views and opinions expressed in Travel Span are those of authors. Editor(s) assume no responsibility of any errors or omissions. Neither is any liability assumed resulting from the use of this information. The Publisher will not be responsible for any damage or loss caused by the late Publication, errors or failures of advertisements to appear. Products and services mentioned are subject to change without prior notice.



# Arippara Waterfalls

## A Hidden Gem

*Want to enjoy some summer splashes out in the open?*

**S**tart your vehicle and take a long drive to Arrippara falls, tucked deep in the Kozhikode district, Kerala, India.

The mighty Iruvanji river cascades down the rocky hills to form the gorgeous Arrippara waterfalls. This is an eight-level waterfall with Sullukallu, Vattakkuzhi, Nirannapara, Olichuchaattom, Shwasakkuzhi and Neelakkayathadaakam as its companions.

This waterfall is situated around 15 kms from Thiruvambady town in Kozhikode. The name Arrippara means 'rock of rice' and a lot of small and huge rocks can be seen nearby. Several natural water pools between them make for great swimming experience for tourists, with the pristine water gushing through cracks in the rocks creating a wonderful musical backdrop.

A trip to Arrippara falls allows you to feel Kerala's countryside charm and watch its rich biodiversity. Another popular waterfall named 'Thusharagiri' is located nearly 12 kms from this falls.

Arrippara is most impressive in the monsoon season when it is in full glory, and showers unending streams of white pearls from its majestic heights. Since





this is a lesser-known waterfall, the site is secluded most of the year.

Arippara is one location in God's Own Country that the Nature enthusiast in you would want to visit. The peaceful environs and the rich greenery amidst huge black boulders make it so enticing that your head will spin with wonder.

#### Getting there:

##### Nearest Railway Station:

Kozhikode, via National Highway 766, about 47 kms away

**Nearest Airport:** Kozhikode, via Edavannappara - Airport Rd, about 49 kms away

## Kerala Tourism conferred two National Tourism Awards

- Kerala's 'Come Out and Play' adjudged Best Tourism Film
- Five more awards for Kerala's private players in tourism and hospitality sector

Barely days after it was conferred three PATA gold awards, Kerala Tourism covered itself with more glory as it bagged two prestigious National Tourism Awards 2017-18 for the Best Tourism Film 'Come Out and Play' and the third prize in the category of 'Best State/UT: Comprehensive Development of Tourism - Rest of India' at an impressive function in New Delhi.

Private players like hoteliers and tour operators in Kerala's travel and hospitality industry substantially increased the awards tally of the state as they were given five more awards. Overall, Kerala received seven awards at the function, organised at the imposing Vigyan Bhavan in the national capital.

Kerala Tourism Minister Shri Kadakampally Surendran and Tourism Secretary Smt. Rani George received the awards from Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism & Culture, and Mr. Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

The 'Come Out and Play' film, developed and produced by Stark Communications which is the advertising and marketing agency for Kerala Tourism, is an invitation to India to come out of the routine 'everydayness' of urban spaces - and the isolation that gadgets induce - to connect with each other and nature. It offers tourists a wide array of options

to rediscover nature by activities such as trekking, Aurvedic massage, river rafting, yoga lessons, visiting a spice plantation, learning the basics of Kerala cuisine, climbing a coconut tree, sailing on a houseboat, and many more.

'Kerala is blessed with a unique set of geographical features that have made it one of the most sought after destinations in Asia... Blessed with a pleasant and equable climate throughout the year, Kerala is truly God's Own Country,' read the citation for Kerala Tourism's third prize in the category of 'Best State/UT: Comprehensive Development of Tourism - Rest of India'.

"It is a welcome recognition of our sustained efforts to strengthen the tourism and hospitality sector that has become a mainstay of Kerala's economy. It will further bolster the state's profile as a coveted destination for the inbound tourism market," Shri Surendran said.

"A defining feature of our tourism policy is a close-knit relationship between the government and private players. We have laid proper emphasis on the PPP mode for growth of tourism in the state. I am extremely happy that five private entities from Kerala figured in the 2017-18 National Tourism Awards," he added.

Mrs. George noted that the highly-acclaimed awards are a robust



validation of the innovative measures and campaigns launched by Kerala Tourism, and it would help energise tourism business in the state in a big way. "It will spur us to devise innovative measures to further boost tourism potential of the state," she said.

As for the five awards for Kerala's private players, International Pilgrimage Revolution Pvt. Ltd. received the first prize for 'Best Inbound Tour Operator/Travel Agent (Category V)' while Kalypso Adventures Pvt. Ltd. won the award for Best Adventure Tour Operators (Inbound).

Rose Gardens Homestay, Karadippara (Munnar) was given the award for 'Best Incredible India Bread & Breakfast Establishment approved by Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India (Gold & Silver Category)' while Coconut Creek Farm & Homestay, Kumarakom was the proud recipient of the 'Best Bread & Breakfast Establishment approved by State government / Union Territory Administration'.

The fifth award received by a private player of Kerala was Manaltheeram Ayurvedic Hospital & Research Centre Pvt. Ltd., Thiruvananthapuram, which won it in the category of 'Best Wellness Centre'.

On September 19, Kerala Tourism was conferred three PATA gold awards at a glittering function in Nur-Sultan (Astana), Kazakhstan during the PATA Travel Mart 2019.





## Kerala Tourism Bags three PATA Gold Awards 2019

Kerala Tourism was bestowed three prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold awards, including the one for an ethnic food restaurant run by women at Kumarakom under its Responsible Tourism Mission, at a glittering function at Nur-Sultan (Astana) in Kazakhstan last evening.

The awards were received by Tourism Minister Shri Kadakampally Surendran and Tourism Director Shri P Bala Kiran from Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, Director, Macau Government Tourism office and Dr Mario Hardy, CEO, PATA, during the PATA Travel Mart 2019.

The two other gold awards were for an advertisement campaign of Kerala Tourism — Come Out and Play — and for its website ([www.keralatourism.org](http://www.keralatourism.org)), respectively. While the ad campaign was run by the Stark Communication, the Kerala Tourism website has been designed and maintained by Invis Multimedia.

“It is a big honour for Kerala Tourism and also a strong validation of the state’s image as an alluring tourist destination. I am sure these awards will give a huge traction in showcasing the touristy charms of the state to a wider international

audience,” Shri Surendran said.

“I am particularly happy for receiving the gold award for the women-run ethnic food restaurant at Kumarakom under the Responsible Tourism Mission (RTM), which has become the mainstay of our tourism policy and initiatives. Out of the 15,500 RTM initiatives, 13,500 units are led by women,” the minister added.

Shri Bala Kiran said that over the years PATA awards have emerged as a prestigious recognition of achievements in the travel and tourism sector. “Kerala Tourism has won the highest number of PATA awards in South Asia this year. India Tourism has won one award. The three gold awards are yet another acknowledgement of our commendable success. It will give a fillip to the destination pull of Kerala and elevate the state into a coveted destination for the inbound tourism market,” he noted.

The ‘Come Out and Play’ campaign is an invitation to India to come out of the routine ‘everydayness’ of urban spaces - and the isolation that gadgets induce - to connect with each other and nature. It offers tourists a wide array of options to rediscover nature by activities such as trekking, Aurvedic massage, river rafting, yoga lessons, visiting a spice plantation, learning the basics of Kerala cuisine, climbing a coconut tree, and sailing on a houseboat.

The website [www.keralatourism.org](http://www.keralatourism.org) has been conceived, designed and developed to provide Kerala Tourism an online edge, befitting a premier travel destination in India. The website had 10 million visits during FY2018-19 and is one among the top 10 tourism websites in Asia. It also hosts almost one lakh web pages and major sections of the site are available in 23 languages. The portal now competes with the tourism websites of countries like Hong Kong, New Zealand, South Korea, and Australia for higher ranking.

The highly-contested awards, selected by an eminent international jury, were announced in Bangkok in July. This year’s awards attracted 197 entries from 78 organisations and individuals worldwide.

Last year, Kerala Tourism bagged two PATA gold awards for its Yalla Kerala print media campaign in the Gulf countries and for an innovative poster it had made for the third edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB), the biggest contemporary art show in South Asia. The poster showed a colourful boat and fishermen.

Founded in 1951, PATA is a not-for-profit membership association that acts as a catalyst for the responsible development of travel and tourism to, from and within the Asia Pacific region.





# Lufthansa Group

Airlines  
welcome  
around  
14 million  
passengers  
on board in  
September  
2019

- Number of passengers rises by 2.3 percent year-on-year
- Strongest passenger growth again at Zurich hub with 6.8 percent
- Seat load factor increases by 0.1 percentage points to 84.7 percent
- The airlines of the Lufthansa Group carried a total of 111.6 million passengers in the first nine months (+3.1 per cent)
- The seat load factor rose by a total of 0.7 percentage points to 82.8 per cent in the first nine months of the year
- In September 2019, the Lufthansa Group airlines welcomed around 14 million passengers. This shows an increase of 2.3 percent compared to the previous year's month. The available seat kilometres were up 2.2 percent over the previous year, at the same time, sales increased by 2.4 percent. This results in a seat load factor of 84.7 percent, 0.1 percentage points higher than in the same month last year.

In total, the airlines of the Lufthansa Group carried around 111.6 million passengers in the first nine months of 2019 – a new record for this period. The seat load factor of 82.8 percent also marks an unprecedented figure for the first three quarters of the year.

Cargo capacity increased by 4.1 percent year-on-year, while cargo sales decreased by 3.6 percent in revenue tonnekilometre terms. As a result, the Cargo load factor showed a corresponding reduction, decreasing by 4.7 percentage points to 59.3 percent.

### **Network Airlines carry more than 10.1 million passengers**

The Network Airlines including Lufthansa German Airlines, SWISS and Austrian Airlines carried around 10.1 million passengers in September – 3.0 percent more than in the prior-year period. Compared to the previous year, the available seat kilometres increased by 3.8 percent in September. The sales volume was up by 4.0 percent over the same period. The seat load factor increased by 0.1 percentage points

to 84.5 per cent compared with the previous year.

In total, Network Airlines carried around 81.9 million passengers in the first three quarters of 2019, 3.8 percent more than in the same period last year.

### **Zurich hub again with strongest passenger growth**

In September, the strongest passenger growth of the network airlines was recorded at the Zurich hub with 6.8 percent. The number of passengers increased by 4.3 percent in Vienna and 1.7 percent in Munich. In Frankfurt, the number of passengers during this period remained unchanged at the previous year's level. The underlying offer also increased to varying degrees: in Munich by 11.8 percent, in Zurich by 3.2 percent, in Vienna by 1.0 percent and in Frankfurt by 0.8 percent.

Lufthansa German Airlines transported around 6.7 million passengers in September, a 1.7 percent increase compared to the same month last year. A 4.4 percent increase in seat kilometres in September corresponds to a 4.6 percent increase in sales.

Furthermore, the seat load factor was with 84.2 percent 0.2 percentage points higher than in the same month last year. In total, Lufthansa welcomed around 54.6 million passengers on board in the first nine months of 2019, 2.8 per cent more than a year earlier. A 4.1 per cent increase in capacity in the first three quarters was offset by a 5.1 per cent increase in sales, resulting in a seat load factor of 82.6 per cent (+0.8 percentage points).

### **Eurowings increase capacity utilization to 85.6 percent**

Eurowings (including Brussels Airlines) carried around 3.8 million passengers in September – around 3.6 million on short-haul flights and 264,000 on long-haul flights. This amounts to an increase of 0.3 percent in comparison to the previous year. September capacity was 4.3 percent below its prior-year level, while its sales volume decreased by 4.0 percent, resulting in an increase of seat load factor by 0.3 percentage points to 85.6 percent.

On short-haul services the capacity fell by 0.4 percent and the sales volume by 0.6 percent. This results in a 0.2 percentage points decreased seat load factor of 86.6 percent compared to September 2018. The seat load factor for the long-haul services increased by 1.1 percentage points to 83.2 percent during the same period, following a 12.7 percent decrease in capacity and a 11.5 percent decrease in sales volume, compared to the previous year.

In total, Eurowings (including Brussels Airlines) welcomed around 29.7 million passengers on board in the first nine months of 2019 – 1.4 percent more than in the same period last year. The seat load factor increased by 0.6 percentage points to 82.8 per cent in the first three quarters. During this period, the capacity increased by 0.9 percent and sales by 1.7 percent.

# Verkehrszahlen Traffic figures

**LUFTHANSA GROUP**



# SpiceJet launches 46 new domestic flights



## Adds Rajkot as its 54th domestic destination

- New UDAN flight on Chennai-Durgapur sector introduced
- First and the only airline to launch direct flights between Pune-Jodhpur
- Connects Mumbai with Rajkot & Jodhpur, Bengaluru with Guwahati, Chennai with Vishakhapatnam & Jaipur and Hyderabad with Aurangabad for the first time on its network with direct non-stop flights
- Announces a host of other additional flights and frequencies

**S**piceJet has announced the launch of 46 new non-stop flights on its domestic network. The new flights will start in phases starting 27th October, 2019.

The airline has announced the on-boarding of Rajkot as its 54th destination on the domestic network with the introduction of a daily non-stop flight on the Mumbai-Rajkot route. The airline will also launch services on the Chennai-Durgapur UDAN route. Flights on both these sectors will start from 27th October 2019.

In line with SpiceJet's commitment to enhancing regional connectivity, the airline will be the first and only carrier in the country to launch non-stop flight services on the Pune-Jodhpur and Chennai-Durgapur routes. Besides, SpiceJet has also introduced new flights on the Mumbai-Jodhpur, Bengaluru-Guwahati, Chennai-Vishakhapatnam, Chennai-Jaipur, Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam and Hyderabad-Aurangabad sectors. The airline will also operate flights on the Chennai-Patna, Ahmedabad-Jodhpur and Surat-Udaipur sectors.

The airline will also enhance its operations with additional frequencies on the Hyderabad-Varanasi (2nd frequency), Bengaluru-Shirdi (2nd frequency), Chennai-Ahmedabad (2nd & 3rd frequency), Chennai-Guwahati

(2nd frequency), Hyderabad-Bengaluru (3rd & 4th frequency), Delhi-Ahmedabad (3rd frequency), Kolkata-Chennai (3rd frequency), Chennai-Bengaluru (5th frequency) sectors besides re-instating its services on the Bengaluru-Varanasi route.

**Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet** said, "We are excited to announce the launch of 46 new domestic flights and the addition of Rajkot, one of the prime industrial centres of Gujarat, as our 54th domestic destination. As we add newer cities and flights to our network providing affordable air travel options to more and more people, our focus remains firmly on connecting the unconnected parts of the country. We are absolutely bullish on the growth potential of the smaller cities and towns of India and see great demand on the routes we have announced today."

All the new flights introduced will be operational daily, except the flight on Pune-Jodhpur sector which will operate on all days except Saturday, Delhi-Ahmedabad (except Sunday), Bengaluru-Guwahati (except Tuesday), Bengaluru-Varanasi (except Tuesday), Bengaluru-Shirdi (except Tuesday), Chennai-Vishakhapatnam (except Tuesday), Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam (except Tuesday), Ahmedabad-Jodhpur (except Sunday) and Chennai-Bengaluru (except Tuesday). Out of the two new frequencies introduced on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru sector, one will operate daily and the second one will operate on all days except Tuesday.

The airline will deploy a mix of its Boeing 737 NG and Bombardier Q400 aircraft on all these routes.

With the new flights, passengers from cities such as Rajkot, Aurangabad, Jodhpur, Varanasi, Shirdi, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam etc. will be able to easily travel to a host of other cities both on SpiceJet's domestic as well as international network.

# Vistara

## to Launch Service to Colombo, Opens Bookings

### Direct service to Colombo from Mumbai

- Colombo to become Vistara's fourth international destination
- First to bring Premium Economy Class on India-Sri Lanka route

Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, today announced a daily (except Wednesdays) direct service to Colombo, Sri Lanka from 25 November 2019 onwards, making it the fourth international destination in its fast-expanding network. The airline will fly its Airbus A320neo aircraft with three-class cabin configuration between Mumbai and Colombo, which makes Vistara the first airline to offer the choice of Premium Economy class for travel on the India and Sri Lanka route, in addition to Economy and Business Class. Customers can also take convenient one-stop connections to/

from other cities beyond Mumbai.

**Mr. Leslie Thng, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara**, said, "Sri Lanka is a very promising destination for Vistara, given the growth it continues to record in trade and tourism, especially as India is the largest tourism source market for Sri Lanka. As we bring India's only five-star airline on the India-Sri Lanka route, we are confident that our entry will further fuel the travel appetite among people."

Bookings for flights to and from Colombo are progressively opened on all channels, including Vistara's website [www.airvistara.com](http://www.airvistara.com), Vistara's iOS and Android mobile apps, and through Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) and travel agents.

Vistara is India's highest-rated airline on Skytrax and TripAdvisor and the winner of several 'Best Airline' awards. It has consistently raised the bar for operations and service delivery in the Indian aviation industry in a short span of time to be today known as India's only five-star airline (per 2020 APEX OFFICIAL AIRLINE RATINGS™). Vistara continues to grow rapidly across India and abroad, as it is poised to induct as many as 56 narrow-body and wide-body aircraft over the next four years, including 50 aircraft from the Airbus A320neo family for domestic and international short and medium-haul operations and 6 Boeing B787-9 for long-haul international operations.

The airline announced introductory, all-inclusive, round-trip fares as follows:

Sectors	Economy	Premium Economy	Business
Mumbai-Colombo-Mumbai	INR 18, 599	INR 24, 399	INR 35, 599
Colombo-Mumbai-Colombo	USD 329	USD 399	USD 459

#### SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN MUMBAI AND COLOMBO

(All timings shown are in local times)

Flight No.	From	To	Departure	Arrival
UK131	Mumbai (BOM)	Colombo (CMB)	1100 Hours	1325 Hours
UK132	Colombo (CMB)	Mumbai (BOM)	1425 Hours	1700 Hours

Above mentioned flight details are subject to final regulatory approvals.



# GoAir announces Malé winter schedule

from Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru for as low as Rs 9,999 return fares all inclusive



- Connects Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru with direct flights 5 days a week
- Bookings open for travel during December 2019 and January 2020

GoAir, India's most trusted, punctual and fastest growing airline, today announced the winter schedule for Malé, Maldives. Effective 1st December 2019, GoAir will operate direct flights to Malé five days a week from Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru. Bookings are now open for travel, effective 1st December 2019 to 31st January 2020 and is timed ahead of the upcoming holiday and wedding season in India. For the winter schedule, GoAir is offering return fares as low as Rs 9,999 all inclusive.

## 1. Mumbai – Malé – Mumbai:

GoAir's direct flight G8 23 will depart from Mumbai at 09:00 hours and

arrive in Malé at 11:15 hours, every Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday. On its return journey, flight G8 24 will leave Malé every Wednesday and Sunday at 12:10 hours and on Thursday it will leave at 12:20 hours to arrive in Mumbai at 15:40 hours.

**Fares:** Return flight for Mumbai-Malé-Mumbai sector are Rs 11,999/- all inclusive.

**2. Delhi – Malé – Delhi:** Flight G8 33 will take off from Delhi at 10:35 hours and arrive in Malé at 14:15 hours, and flight G8 34 depart from Malé at 15:15 hours and arrive in Delhi at 19:45 hours on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday.

**Fares:** Return flight for Delhi-

Malé-Delhi sector are Rs 15,999/- all inclusive.

## 3. Bengaluru – Malé – Bengaluru:

Flight G8 will take off from Bengaluru at 13:10 hours and arrive in Malé at 14:40 hours, and on its return journey flight G8 44 will leave Malé at 15:45 hours and reach Bengaluru at 18:10 hours every Wednesday and Sunday.

**Fares:** Return flight for Bengaluru-Malé-Bengaluru sector are Rs 9,999/- all inclusive.

Flight tickets can be booked through the official website of GoAir, [www.goair.in](http://www.goair.in) or through the GoAir mobile app.

The Maldivian capital known for its scenic white sandy beaches, azure sea waters and exotic, colorful coral reefs is a popular tourist destination. Malé is the throbbing, mercantile heart of Maldives. Yet its laid-back lifestyle on scenic beaches with fresh produce from the island is a hot favorite for honeymooners as well as

**Flight Schedule effective 1st December 2019 to 31st January 2020:**

Flight no	From	Departure (Local time)	To	Arrival (Local time)	Frequency	Return Fares (in Rs)
G8 23	Mumbai	09:00	Malé	11:15	Wed, Sun	11,999
G8 24	Malé	12:10	Mumbai	15:40	Wed, Sun	
G8 23	Mumbai	09:00	Malé	11:20	Thu	11,999
G8 24	Malé	12:20	Mumbai	15:40	Thu	
G8 33	Delhi	10:35	Malé	14:15	Mon, Wed, Sat	15,999
G8 34	Malé	15:15	Delhi	19:45	Mon, Wed, Sat	
G8 43	Bengaluru	13:10	Malé	14:40	Wed, Sun	9,999
G8 44	Malé	15:45	Bengaluru	18:10	Wed, Sun	

families looking for a relaxing get-away destination. Ahead of the upcoming holiday season the new flights connecting Malé to Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru will aid travelers to enjoy all that this beautiful tropical island has to offer.

GoAir currently operates 330 daily

flights and carried around 13.27 lakh passengers in the month of September 2019. GoAir flies to 25 domestic destinations including Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad,

Jaipur, Jammu, Kochi, Kolkata, Kannur, Leh, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Port Blair, Pune, Ranchi and Srinagar. GoAir flies to 8 international destinations, including Phuket, Malé, Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Bangkok, Kuwait and Singapore.

## Vistara Starts Codesharing on SIA and SILKAIR Flights to 35 Destinations Across APAC and Oceania; U.S. and Japan to follow soon

As part of the expansion of its codeshare agreement with Singapore Airlines (SIA) and SilkAir, Vistara has now implemented codeshares on SIA- and SilkAir-operated flights to as many as 35 destinations spread across countries in Asia Pacific, Australia and New Zealand. Codesharing on flights to the United States and Japan will follow soon.

Vistara will now add its 'UK' designator code to SIA- and SilkAir-operated flights beyond Singapore to various cities in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia,

Thailand, Malaysia and Cambodia.

Commenting on the occasion, **Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Strategy Officer, Vistara**, said: "We are committed to providing a global network to our customers. Our codeshare agreement with SIA and SilkAir helps us to do this consistently to over 40 destinations around the world, given the high standards of product, service and operations that we share with them in common. We are sure that customers from India will appreciate the five-star flying



experience to Singapore and beyond to their final destinations with us."

Implementation of Vistara's codeshare with SIA and SilkAir will soon include flights to four cities in the US and five in Japan, namely, New York (Newark), Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagoya and Fukuoka.

Vistara had signed the codeshare agreement with SIA and SilkAir in 2017, the scope of which was expanded in August 2019 to international flights once Vistara started international operations.





# Vistara

## Receives Three New Airbus A320NEO with Enhanced Performance and Cabin Features



Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, has received three new Airbus A320neo from its latest order of 50 aircraft from the Airbus A320neo family, placed last year in July. The new aircraft come with enhanced operational performance and cabin features including in-seat AC Power Outlet, USB Charging Ports and PED (Personal Electronic Device) holders. These aircraft also come with

higher range capability, enabling the airline to fly them on longer regional international routes. A majority of Vistara's new A320neo aircraft that will be subsequently inducted will feature enhanced performance, and all of them will offer the enhanced cabin features. One of the new aircraft enters into service today and two in the next few days. As Vistara continues to receive new aircraft in the next few weeks, it will deploy them on the Delhi-

Singapore and Mumbai-Singapore routes with effect from 24 November 2019, replacing the Boeing 737-800NG being used currently on these routes.

All Business Class seats in the new aircraft come with added features such as in-seat AC Power Outlet, USB Charging Port, height-adjustable armrests, a cocktail table extension to the meal tray and an additional literature pocket. In Premium Economy and Economy Class cabins, all seats get USB Charging Ports, PED holders and an additional literature pocket. The new seats also offer more space and comfort with better ergonomics in all three cabins.

Mr. Leslie Thng, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, "The cabins of our new A320neo aircraft have been designed with even greater thought to passenger comfort and convenience. The charging ports and PED holders are simple, yet very useful conveniences that we are happy to provide to our customers on all our new A320neo aircraft that will be deployed on domestic as well as international routes. This will also help our customers to use our wireless in-flight entertainment streaming service, 'Vistara World', to access their favourite movies, TV shows, music, etc. conveniently without having to worry about their phone battery strengths. The new seats will further complement the comfort and joy of flying India's only five-star airline for our customers."

Vistara's complimentary wireless streaming service for in-flight entertainment, 'Vistara World', offers more than 70 hours of entertainment content of various genres for customers to access on their own smart devices or laptops. It also features a live 'moving map' display that allows one to track their aircraft as it flies.

Vistara is the highest-rated Indian airline on Skytrax and TripAdvisor, and the winner of several 'Best Airline' awards. It has consistently raised the bar for operations and service delivery in the Indian aviation industry in a short span of time to be known as India's only five-star airline (per 2020 APEX OFFICIAL AIRLINE RATINGS™).

# Vistara Inaugurates Service to Jodhpur and Udaipur

Vistara recently inaugurated daily flights between Mumbai and Jodhpur, and Delhi and Udaipur. This follows the airline's launch of flights between Mumbai and Udaipur on 4 October 2019.

Vistara's flights also enable customers from Udaipur and Jodhpur to take convenient one-stop

connections via Mumbai and Delhi to destinations across India as well as to cities abroad that the airline flies to.

On this occasion, **Vistara's Chief Strategy Officer, Mr. Vinod Kannan**, said, "We are delighted to bring India's only five-star airline to Rajasthan with flights to and from Udaipur and Jodhpur, two cities that

have significantly contributed to putting Indian tourism on the global map. Both these cities continue to see demand for more connectivity for domestic as well international travellers. We firmly believe that Vistara's much sought after product and globally-awarded service makes just the right combination to suit the market need and demand."

## FLIGHTS BETWEEN MUMBAI AND UDAIPUR

Flight No.	From	To	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
UK613	Mumbai (BOM)	Udaipur (UDR)	1215 hrs	1355 hrs	Daily
UK614	Udaipur (UDR)	Mumbai (BOM)	1430 hrs	1600 hrs	Daily

## FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND UDAIPUR

Flight No.	From	To	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
UK627	Delhi (DEL)	Udaipur (UDR)	1300 hrs	1445 hrs	Daily
UK628	Udaipur (UDR)	Delhi (DEL)	1520 hrs	1645 hrs	Daily

## FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND JODHPUR

Flight No.	From	To	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
UK683	Delhi (DEL)	Jodhpur (JDH)	1350 hrs	1500 hrs	Daily
UK682	Jodhpur (JDH)	Delhi (DEL)	1535 hrs	1655 hrs	Daily

## FLIGHTS BETWEEN MUMBAI AND JODHPUR

Flight No.	From	To	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
UK655	Mumbai (BOM)	Jodhpur (JDH)	1430 hrs	1610 hrs	Daily
UK656					



# GoAir launches non-stop flights from

## Singapore to Bengaluru

## and Kolkata in India

- Singapore becomes 3rd in Southeast Asia, 8th international and 33rd sequential destination for GoAir
- Direct flight from Singapore to Bengaluru - 4 times a week
- Direct flight from Singapore to Kolkata- 3 times a week
- Fares start from SGD 137.35
- Inaugural flight from Singapore will take off on 19th October 2019

GoAir has announced direct flights to Singapore from India. GoAir will directly connect Singapore to two cities of India - Bengaluru; four days a week and Kolkata; three days a week. Flight operations from Singapore will commence on 19th October 2019. Singapore becomes the 3rd in Southeast Asia, 8th international and 33rd sequential destination for GoAir.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Jeh Wadia, Managing Director, GoAir, said: "The introduction of flights to and from Singapore is a turning point in the history of GoAir. Singapore carries the distinction of being an important leisure destination as well as an established business hub. It is in this regard that GoAir will work closely with the Singapore Tourism Board and all such like minded organizations that can

further the cause of tourism in India as well as Singapore."

Mr. GB Srithar, Regional Director (India, Middle East & South Asia), **Singapore Tourism Board** said, "We are excited and happy to welcome GoAir to Singapore. In expanding its flight network by connecting Kolkata and Bengaluru with Singapore, it will give wider flight choices and travel time options to travellers from two of our very important visitor source cities. India is the third largest visitor source market for Singapore and flight connectivity from 15 points across India has enabled the good number of travellers. In 2018, Singapore received more than one million visitors from India for the fourth time in a row. India is also the top source market for cruise travel. As we enter the year-end holiday and festival season, it is a great time to visit Singapore. While travellers can enjoy Little India decked out for Deepavali celebrations and Orchard Road soon to be lit up for Christmas, they could also experience new offerings like Jewel Changi Airport, Rainforest Lumina at the Singapore Zoo and a variety of tours to see Singapore up close and personal."

India has a wide variety of tourist

### Effective 19th October 2019, flight schedule Singapore – Bengaluru – Singapore:

Flight	From	Departure (Local Time)	To	Arrival (Local Time)	Frequency	Fare in SGD
G8 28	Singapore	04:50	Bengaluru	07:35	Mon, Tue, Thu, Sat	153.6
G8 27	Bengaluru	19:45	Singapore	03:20	Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun	138.44

### Effective 19th October 2019, flight schedule Kolkata – Singapore – Kolkata:

Flight	From	Departure (Local Time)	To	Arrival (Local Time)	Frequency	Fare in SGD
G8 36	Singapore	04:40	Kolkata	06:25	Wed, Fri, Sun	153.6
G8 35	Kolkata	20:45	Singapore	03:35	Tue, Thu, Sat	138.44

attractions that it has to offer.

Right from the pristine beaches of Kerala and Goa to the picturesque Himalayas. GoAir has a strong network of connecting flights from Kolkata and Bangalore to cities across India, which will aid flyers from Singapore to explore India with ease. As for Indian travelers, Singapore is a famous tourist destination majorly because of the hassle-free convenient visa regime and a long list of tourist attractions across the country.

GoAir's inaugural flight - G8 28 - will depart from Singapore Changi Airport on 19th October 2019 at 04:50 hours and arrive in Bangalore's Kempegowda International Airport 07:35 hours. Flight

G8 27 will depart from Bengaluru on 20th October 2019 at 19:45 hours and will arrive in Singapore on 21st October 2019 at 03:20 hours.

The flight G8 36 from Singapore Changi Airport will depart on 20th October 2019 at 04:40 hours and arrive in Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Airport at 06:25 hours. Flight G8 35 from Kolkata to Singapore will depart on 22nd October 2019 at 20:45 hours and reach Singapore at 03:35 hours, on 23rd October 2019.

Introductory fares from Singapore to Kolkata start from **SGD 153.60** and from Kolkata to Singapore start at **SGD 138.44**. And fares from Singapore to Bengaluru start at **SGD 184.32** and

from Bengaluru to Singapore start at **SGD 137.35**.

**GoAir** currently operates 325+ daily flights and carried around 13.91 lakh passengers in the month of August 2019. GoAir flies to 25 domestic destinations including Ahmedabad, Aizawl, Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kochi, Kolkata, Kannur, Leh, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Port Blair, Pune, Ranchi and Srinagar. GoAir flies to 8 international destinations, including Phuket, Malé (seasonal), Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Dubai, Kuwait and now Singapore.

## GoAir connects Mizoram with India, introduces 25th domestic destination Aizawl

- Starting 15th October 2019, GoAir will operate daily flights to the capital of Mizoram
- Introductory prices start from Rs 1249 onwards
- Bookings open now

**G**oAir continues its expansion spree and launched daily flights to and from Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram. Sequentially, Aizawl is GoAir's 32nd destination and in the domestic market, it is the 25th destination. GoAir flies to Ahmedabad, Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jammu, Kochi, Kolkata, Kannur, Leh, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna, Port Blair, Pune, Ranchi, Srinagar, Phuket, Malé

(seasonal flights), Muscat, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Bangkok and Kuwait.

Effective 15th October 2019, GoAir flight G8 248 will depart from Guwahati at 06:50 hours and arrive in Aizawl at 07:50 hours. The return flight G8 249 will depart from Aizawl at 08:40 hours and arrive in Guwahati on 09:50 hours. GoAir also announced introductory offer price of Rs 2498 return fares.

GoAir's daily flight to and from Aizawl will connect the city's capital to Guwahati which is the northern bank of the Brahmaputra river on the foothills

of Shillong plateau. This connectivity will also enable people to reach the major business hub of the east, namely Kolkata.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Jeh Wadia, Managing Director, GoAir, said: "GoAir is very excited to launch flights to and from Aizawl as part of our growing network. GoAir has added 16 aircraft to the network in 11 months – ever since we went international – resulting in 90 new flights. We have added 8 new airports to our network, namely, Phuket, Male, Abu Dhabi, Muscat, Dubai, Bangkok, Kannur, Kuwait and Aizawl is the 9th airport. The launch of Aizawl is in sync with the Government's vision for the seven sister of Northeast aptly described as 'transformation by transportation'."

### Go Air Aizawl departures and arrivals:

Flight Number	Departure	Time	Arrival	Time	Frequency	Introductory Return Fares in Rs
248	Guwahati	06:50	Aizawl	07:50	Daily	1299
249	Aizawl	08:40	Guwahati	09:50	Daily	1249



# Twintastic

## GoAir adds two state-of-the-art A320 aircraft

- GoAir has doubled its fleet in less than two years
- Aims to achieve 100 million passenger mark in the next two years
- Rapid growth in the domestic and international network



It's Twintastic for GoAir – two new aircraft got added to its ever growing fleet. One A320 aircraft arrived from Germany's major port city Hamburg and another A320 aircraft from Toulouse in France, making it a rare twin delivery in the history of Indian aviation. GoAir has doubled its fleet in less than two years, earning itself the coveted title

of India's fastest growing airline that operates 325+ daily flights connecting 24 domestic and 7 international destinations.

**Jeh Wadia, Managing Director, GoAir,** said: "The induction of twin aircraft in the GoAir fleet is in sync with our strategy of aggressive growth and expansion of our network. Our plan is to add at least one aircraft on

average every month – GoAir has flown 76 million passengers since inception and our aim is to achieve 100 million passengers in the next two years. Our daily flights have grown by 41% to 325+ as compared to 230 daily flights same time last year. These two additional aircraft will offer greater flexibility to add new routes – Aizawl and Singapore – as well as cater to seasonal demand.

The airline plans to start operation to its 8th international destination and 25th domestic destination in India, subject to regulatory approvals. In August 2019, GoAir achieved the highest on-time-performance as 85.1% amongst the scheduled domestic airlines, 12th month in a row. During the same month, GoAir flew 13.91 lakh passengers with barely 0.85% cancellations as against an industry average of 1.61% for scheduled domestic airlines. Also, the airline had 0.4 complaint rate per 10,000 passengers in August 2019.

According to the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation** data, during the April to August 2019 period, GoAir's cancellations are the lowest in the industry – at 0.4% against an industry average of 1.5%, which is almost 4 times higher than that of GoAir. During the same period GoAir's average OTP is 88.1 % against an industry average of 79.3 %. As a consequence of this reliability combined with smart fares, GoAir has achieved an average load factor of 90.8% as compared to an industry average of 85.7%.

# Linkin Reps bags the PR and Marketing mandate for Sochi Tourism in India

*Often called the unofficial ‘Summer Capital’ of Russia, Sochi is Russia’s biggest and busiest summer sea resort town*

Adding one more feather to its cap, Linkin Reps recently bagged the PR marketing & Media representation account for Sochi Tourism in India. A leading travel representation company in India, through this association, Linkin Reps, through a well thought strategy and year long plan will work towards highlighting Sochi as a destination for Indian travellers and create awareness about the destination in India market.

Sochi is often called the unofficial ‘Summer Capital’ of Russia, or the Black Sea Pearl. This is the country’s biggest and busiest summer sea resort, attracting more than four million visitors annually with its amazing mountainous coastline, endless shingle beaches, warm sunny days, and bustling nightlife. From May to September Sochi’s population at least doubles with tourists, including celebrities and the political elite of the country.

The average temperature in Sochi ranges between +10°C in Winter to +30°C in Summer. Subtropical climate, never freezing sea, natural diversity of mountain landscape of the Main Caucasian mountain range makes Sochi the ideal tourist destination. It is one of 3 cities included in official Gaming Zones in Russia. Soon direct flight from Delhi-Sochi-Delhi will be operated soon by Russian carrier called Ural Airlines. Flight duration will only be 5 hours one way, with 2 frequencies per week.

Speaking after the announcement, **Timur Rasulev**, Culture & Tourism Counsellor, Sochi Tourism Office in India, said, “Sochi is a beautiful



sea side town and is very popular amongst domestic tourists. However, despite of winter Olympics being held in 2014, Sochi hasn’t received its due share of visibility from global travellers and International tourists. The International tourist arrival to Sochi is very less despite of it being an idyllic tourist destination. Our partnership with Linkin Reps is to ensure that we have visibility in India market and have Indian travellers visit Sochi to experience its rich culture and beauty”

Commenting on the appointment, **Komal Seth**, Director, Linkin Reps. Pvt. Ltd. said, “We are elated to have entered into the partnership with Sochi Tourism. Sochi is an unexplored destination for Indian travellers and we aim to derive greater



awareness & engagement for the destination through PR partnerships and working closely with the media as well as Travel Trade in India. With a series of campaigns planned, we will push the outbound tourism and create impactful visibility for the destination in India.”

She further added, “Sochi is an ideal place for welcoming MICE groups. Up-to-the-minute technology, original catering offers, adapted and flexible work spaces, uncompromising comfort are all in place for successful conventions. Sochi also has plenty of vegan & vegetarian friendly Restaurants with many Indian restaurants coming up. Sochi has a rich nightlife with bars, nightclubs, parties, live music and shows. So there is something for everyone.”





# Etihad Airways Celebrates Boeing 787 Dreamliner Services to Milan

*Exclusive event held to showcase the importance of the Italian market, and airline's partnership with iconic luxury Italian brand ACQUA DI PARMA*



Etihad Airways (Etihad), the national airline of the UAE, has celebrated the deployment of the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner on its daily scheduled services to Milan by hosting an exclusive reception at the Palazzo Clerici, the spectacular Baroque former residence of the influential Clerici family, located in the heart of the Italian city. The occasion was attended by leading figures from the UAE and local government officials, diplomats, corporate partners, members of the travel industry and social influencers.

Etihad introduced its Abu Dhabi to Milan Malpensa service in September 2007, its first destination in Italy. To meet demand for a more comfortable and personalised travel experience, state-of-the-art Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner services were launched in September this year, demonstrating the airline's commitment to the Italian market.

Robin Kamark, Chief Commercial Officer, Etihad Aviation Group, said: "Since the launch of flights between Milan and Abu Dhabi in 2007, Etihad has carried over 1.4 million guests to and from the city, and the route continues to enjoy strong demand from

both business and leisure travellers alike. The tremendous support and recognition Etihad has received in recent years from Italian guests, partners and stakeholders, has been instrumental in strengthening our position as a leader in this important market."

The 787-9s serving Milan currently feature industry-leading cabins with 28 Business Studios and 271 Economy Smart Seats, and will soon be among the first Dreamliners in the fleet to feature new Economy Space seating.

Etihad also used the event as an opportunity to highlight its unique partnership with Italian luxury brand, ACQUA DI PARMA, showcasing the airline's refreshed First and Business class amenity kits. The redesigned First bag features a new shape and is offered in black, while Business amenity kits have evolved into a convenient zipper pouch in yellow, the colour synonymous with the Italian brand and a grey valet tray.

Etihad's association with ACQUA DI PARMA began in 2014, when the airline started offering the brand's luxury toiletries in The Residence cabin on its Airbus A380 fleet. Founded in

1916 in the historic city of Parma, and part of the LVMH Group since 2001, ACQUA DI PARMA has worked closely with Etihad to tailor its unique products to each stage of the guest experience, on the ground and in the air, using its signature Colonia, a perfume with a formula which has remained unchanged for 103 years, along with a selection of additional fragrances in The Residence.

CEO & President of ACQUA DI PARMA, Laura Burdese, said: "After 103 years, ACQUA DI PARMA has become an icon of Italian style. We are extremely selective when choosing brands to associate with, but partnering with a world-leading airline like Etihad was a natural choice due to its premium services and high-end inflight experience. I see this partnership as an enhancement of a relationship founded on the same shared values of excellence and quality."

The astounding 'Mirror Ballroom' of the Palazzo Clerici was used by ACQUA DI PARMA to create a 'fragrant universe' featuring workshops on the making of the perfumer's iconic yellow hatboxes and the complex process of hand-making the perfume crystal caps of Note di Colonia.

# Qatar Airways Touches Down for the First Time in Langkawi, Malaysia



to fly to this beautiful island. The inclusion of a new international airline to Langkawi will definitely spur our Visit Malaysia 2020 campaign by increasing the number of tourists into Langkawi.”

The new service to Langkawi will be operated by the airline's state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft, featuring 22 seats in Business class and 232 seats in Economy class, with spacious cabins and specially designed interiors. As well as enjoying

**F**our-times-weekly service via Penang operated by a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, expanding to five-times-weekly from 27 October 2019

Eighth new destination added to the airline's growing network in 2019

The first Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Langkawi, Malaysia touched down at Langkawi International Airport on Tuesday 15 October 2019. To celebrate the launch of the popular new destination, an extra special flight was operated from Doha to Langkawi on Wednesday 16 October 2019, in which a number of VIPs, international media and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker were on board.

The special flight was greeted by a VIP celebratory ceremony at Langkawi International Airport which was attended by the Ambassador of the State of Qatar to Malaysia, His Excellency Mr. Fahad Mohammed Kafoud; Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Malaysia in Qatar, Mr. Mohamad Shahir Sabarudin; Chief Operating Officer of Malaysia Airport Holding Berhad, Mr. Mohd Shukrie Mohd Salleh; Chief Executive Officer, Langkawi Development Authority Dr.

Hezri Adnan; and Qatar Airways Senior Vice President Asia Pacific, Mr. Marwan Koleilat, as well as senior airport officials.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker said: “I am thrilled to have been on today's special flight to Langkawi and to be here celebrating our arrival to this stunning archipelago. Langkawi marks the eighth new destination added to Qatar Airways' rapidly expanding network in 2019. With its forested hills, stunning white-sand beaches and glimmering turquoise waters, Langkawi is fast becoming one of South East Asia's most highly sought-after destinations and the reason why we knew we had to launch our flights here. Beginning with a four-times-weekly service that will grow to five-times-weekly from 27 October 2019, we look forward to welcoming business and leisure travelers alike on board so that they may experience the ‘Jewel of Kedah’.”

Chief Operating Officer of Malaysia Airports, Dato' Mohd Shukrie Mohd Salleh said: “I would like to welcome Qatar Airways to Langkawi International Airport, the first middle eastern airline

the award-winning in-flight service on board, passengers travelling to Langkawi will also have access to Oryx One, Qatar Airways' in-flight entertainment system, offering the latest blockbuster movies, TV box sets, music, games and much more.

The National Carrier of the State of Qatar has launched a host of exciting new destinations in 2019, including Lisbon, Portugal; Malta; Rabat, Morocco; Davao, Philippines; Izmir, Turkey; and Mogadishu, Somalia; and will add Gaborone, Botswana to its extensive network in December 2019 with Luanda, Angola; and Osaka, Japan, following in 2020.

A multiple award-winning airline, Qatar Airways was named ‘Airline of the Year’ for the fifth time by the 2019 World Airline Awards, managed by international air transport rating organization Skytrax. It was also named ‘World's Best Business Class,’ ‘Best Business Class Seat,’ and ‘Best Airline in the Middle East’.

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.



## Finnair continues to grow in Japan, with daily flights to Haneda Airport as of March 2020



**F**innair is adding capacity to Japan with daily flights to Tokyo's Haneda Airport as of the start of the 2020 summer season, subject to slot availability. The new frequencies to and from Haneda will be in addition to Finnair's daily flights to Tokyo's Narita Airport.

"Finnair has operated over 35 years between Japan and Finland. With the new flights, we are happy to offer even better connections between Tokyo and over 100 destinations in Europe," says Ole Orvér, Chief Commercial Officer at Finnair. "We also have a strong commitment to Narita Airport and will continue flying from there as well."

Haneda Airport is conveniently located in the city center of Tokyo. The new flights from Haneda will be codeshare flights with Finnair's long-term partner, Japan Airlines, which has a wide network of connecting flights from Haneda onwards to other destinations in Japan.

The planned schedule for Finnair's flight from Haneda is at night time which complements Finnair's morning flights from Narita, offering more options and flexibility to passengers. The exact timetable is subject to slot approvals.

The new flights can be booked from 7 October 2019 at Finnair.com or with travel agents.

Finnair currently operates to four destinations in Japan – Tokyo Narita, Osaka, Nagoya and Fukuoka – and Japan is Finnair's largest market outside its home market Finland. The latest addition to Finnair's network in Japan is Sapporo in Hokkaido, where Finnair will start operating on 15 December 2019.

## Finnair starts codeshare cooperation with Fiji Airways, extending its network in the South Pacific



**F**innair and Fiji Airways have agreed on a new codeshare partnership between Helsinki (HEL) and Nadi (NAN) in Fiji via three gateways served by Finnair. Finnair's AY code will be added to Fiji Airways' flights between Hong Kong (HKG), Singapore (SIN), Narita (NRT) and Nadi, offering an exotic new destination for Finnair customers in the South Pacific. Finnair's flight numbers will later be added to Fiji's flights between San Francisco (SFO), Los Angeles (LAX) and Nadi, subject to applicable government approvals. With this addition, it will now be possible for Finnair customers to complete an around-the-world trip with Finnair flight numbers.

Fiji Airways' FJ code will also be added to Finnair's flights to Helsinki via Singapore, opening access for Fiji Airways' customers to Finland and points beyond in Europe.

The new codeshare flights can now be booked on Finnair.com, for travel starting from October 27, 2019 onwards.

"We are excited about this cooperation with Fiji Airways and are delighted to offer this wonderful new destination in the South Pacific to our customers," says Ole Orvér, Chief Commercial Officer at Finnair. "This cooperation is unique as it will allow Finnair customers to purchase around-the-world routings under Finnair's code for the very first time, using a combination of gateways in Asia and on the US West Coast. We would also like to warmly welcome Fiji Airways' customers to enjoy the wonders of Finland and the Nordics."

"We welcome our fellow oneworld partner Finnair in our family of codeshare partners," says Mr. Andre Viljoen, Managing Director and CEO of Fiji Airways. "Through this partnership, we are adding the wonderful city of Helsinki to our network, making Fiji and the entire South Pacific more accessible for Finnair customers. We look forward to working with Finnair and introducing Finnair customers to Fiji, one of the world's most welcoming and authentic cultures."



# Tourism Authority of Thailand & Thai Airways organize Luxury Agents FAM Trip

**T**AT New Delhi along with airline partner Thai Airways hosted a Luxury FAM trip for 8 agents, to the Rose of the North Chiang Mai & capital city of Bangkok from 19 th to 23 rd September 2019. Six travel agents from Delhi & two from Kolkata, focusing on luxury travel, were invited for this FAM Trip. The purpose of this was to promote Thailand as the ideal luxury holiday destination for Indian travelers and to showcase high end hotels & resorts as well as luxury products & offerings in Amazing Thailand. During the 4 day

trip, the agents visited luxury hotels and boutique resorts in Chiang Mai and Bangkok and gathered more information on the high end holiday experiences and activities that they can offer to their clients. They also enjoyed activities like luxury Oasis Thai spa, learning the art of umbrella painting at Borsang Umbrella Village, experiencing a traditional Khan Toke dinner with cultural show and visiting famous attractions like Doi Suthep temple in Chiang Mai.

In Bangkok they visited the new attraction - ICON SIAM (Thailand's biggest and fanciest shopping Mall with

indoor floating market, Museums and 1000+ stores) which they can promote to their clients. Apart from this, the agents got an opportunity to meet and discuss business with representatives of luxury hotels, resorts, DMCs, tourist attractions and products in Chiang Mai through a networking session organized by TAT. From the renowned hotel brands to world class spa resorts, from high end shopping to luxury cruises Thailand has a lot to offer for the discerning travelers looking to pamper themselves with only the best and most exclusive holiday experiences.



# ITB Asia



- To meet demand, Asia's leading trade travel show opens with an expanded two floors and introduced a dedicated MICE Show Asia 2019
- Record number of over 1,300 exhibitors and more than 1,250 buyers at this year's show

ITB Asia, 'Asia's leading travel trade show' opened its doors today at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre in Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. Over the next three days from 16 - 18 October 2019, the show will see organisations from across the travel industry gathering to establish high-quality contacts and conduct business.

The opening ceremony today was graced by four guests-of-honour: Mr Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Education, Republic of Singapore, who was attending for the second year running; Mr Michael Müller,

the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Federal Republic of Germany, who is attending ITB Asia for the first time; Dr Christian Göke, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Messe Berlin GmbH and Mr Keith Tan, Chief Executive of Singapore Tourism Board.

Commenting on this year's show, Katrina Leung, Managing Director of Messe Berlin (Singapore), ITB Asia's organiser, said, "ITB Asia continues to maintain its position as the leading travel trade show in the region. Working in close collaboration with international exhibitors, travel companies and international buyers from across the

MICE, leisure and corporate travel markets, we look forward to unveiling this year's engaging and exciting programmes that will benefit all. With the expansion of the show and the launch of MICE Show Asia, we're delighted to welcome our visitors to this 2019's edition!"

#### **Show expanded to meet sustained growth and demand**

Now in its twelfth year, ITB Asia has continued to enjoy support from destinations and businesses from across the world, with over 1,300 exhibitors and more than 1,250 buyers

# continues to break records with exhibitor numbers at all time high

welcomed at this year's show. To accommodate its growth, ITB Asia 2019 has expanded its space and will now occupy two floors of the Sands Expo and Convention Centre.

Emphasising the global reach of ITB Asia, this year's show has attracted ever widening international interest and participation. Over 110 National Tourism Organisations (NTO) and Regional Tourism Organisations (RTO) are exhibiting this year, including first-time appearances for NTOs from Armenia, Czech Republic, Malta, Russia and the Balkan States – Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, and RTOs from Busan, Frankfurt, Los Angeles and more.

In addition, with the fast-growing demands of the MICE and corporate travel sectors, ITB Asia has this year launched the inaugural MICE Show Asia, a MICE-dedicated show to which all ITB Asia attendees have full access. Launched by Messe Berlin (Singapore), the team behind ITB Asia, it will strengthen the MICE component of the show. Attendees will hear about forecasts for the global meeting and events industries in 2020, as well as

how digital transformation is impacting the industry.

## **Conference keynoters and partners to push boundaries of the travel industry**

Under the overarching theme of "Bold Thoughts, Bold Moves," key industry leaders will share innovative ideas and knowledge on practical applications to keep pace with industry changes.

As part of today's (16 October) keynote line up, Booking.com and IBM will address the industry's common challenges such as readying businesses for their next wave of growth; rethinking and reinventing distribution strategies; and how the travel industry can capitalise on the digital revolution to succeed. Tomorrow (17 October), attendees can look forward to hearing from Agoda, Expedia, Google, TripAdvisor and Wego, who will discuss actions to adapt to the ever-evolving market. On Friday (18 October), the final day of the show, Booking.com, OYO China, and Tujia will lead the conversation on maximising opportunities to meet the needs of a new generation of Chinese travellers.

Other noteworthy sessions during the show include those led by ITB Asia's partners in the Destination Marketing and Muslim Travel conference tracks.

The Destination Marketing track will feature a series of tours and activities led by iVenture Card, Rezgo, TourRadar and Trip Ninja. They will discuss topics ranging from multi-city travel, what experiences can learn from hotel distribution and how to get the most for brands via online travel agencies (OTAs).

In the Muslim Travel track, CrescentRating, in its fourth year of partnership with ITB Asia, presents "Halal In Travel Asia Summit". Attendees of ITB Asia 2019 will gain key insights from the official release of Mastercard and CrescentRating's Muslim Women in Travel Report, and CrescentRating's report on Gen Z Muslim Travelers.

New initiatives in response to the travel industry's ever-growing demands

In addition to the launch of MICE Show Asia, ITB Asia 2019 has also introduced the Buyers Elite Partner Programme. 41 partners are part of the programme that provides a forum to develop stronger trade ties with recommended buyers and to maximise business opportunities together.

Finally, ITB Asia has announced that it will launch Travel Tech Asia in 2020. A complement to the existing ITB Asia and MICE Show Asia, it will be part of Asia Pacific's largest travel trade show dedicated to travel technology. New buyers in charge of purchasing travel technology will be introduced to the latest innovations, emerging trends, leading industry brands and innovative startups that are gathered at one place to create new possibilities of travel.



**TB Asia, 'Asia's Leading Travel Trade Show', came to a close today at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands in Singapore, having attracted a record number of 13,000 attendees from 132 countries and territories. The show saw strong participation this year with over 1,300 exhibitors and more than 1,250 buyers. The three-day exhibition also saw more than 27,000 business appointments made, a 7.4% year-on-year growth.**

Dr. Christian Göke, Chief Executive

BORIS (21B) FROM 2050 TO 2055: We say 2042 and the Singapore Tourism the strategic partnership with Marina Messe Berlin is delighted to continue work as the must-attend event in Asia, according to the industry around the demonstrates that the show is well growth again. This new record clearly leads, ITB Asia experienced strong officer, Messe Berlin said: After 15

30 TRAVELSPAN / NOVEMBER 2019 [www.travelspace.in](http://www.travelspace.in)



(L-R) Dr Martin Buck, Senior Vice President Travel & Logistics, Messe Berlin GmbH; Ms Katrina Leung, Managing Director, Messe Berlin (Singapore); Dr Christian Göke, Chief Executive Officer, Messe Berlin GmbH; Mr Mike Lee, Vice President, Marina Bay Sands and Mr Ong Wee Min, Vice President of Conventions & Exhibitions, Marina Bay Sands commemorating the signing of the MOU with MBS.

can walk away with new inspiration, cultivating relationships and tangible takeaways.”

Marina Bay Sands will see a renewal of its partnership with Messe Berlin (Singapore) as the show’s official partner hotel while the extension of the relationship with STB will see Singapore as the host country for ITB Asia for the next three years of the show.

Mr Keith Tan, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, said: “Since its inaugural show in 2008, ITB Asia has strengthened the travel industry in Asia. It has introduced new ideas, challenged prevailing mindsets, and provoked countless important connections and discussions. The travel industry in Singapore and throughout

Asia has benefited immeasurably from ITB Asia. With the extension of our partnership with Messe Berlin (Singapore), STB looks forward to growing ITB Asia even further and making it even more relevant to Asia’s travel trade.”

Mr George Tanasijevich, President and Chief Executive Officer, Marina Bay Sands, said: “Building communities is core to what we do at Marina Bay Sands. We are privileged to have contributed to the success of ITB Asia, which has been staged at Marina Bay Sands since 2014. We look forward to another three years of partnership with Messe Berlin, offering creative solutions and flexible venue spaces to elevate the show experience and to enable deeper engagements for all delegates.”

The next three editions of ITB Asia will take place from 21 to 23 October 2020, 27 to 29 October 2021 and 19 to 21 October 2022.

Great interest is already being expressed for ITB Asia’s 2020 edition with more than 3,500 square metres of exhibition space being booked for next year’s show. Among others, these will include Korea Tourism Organization, Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Indonesia, Singapore Tourism Board, Spain Tourism Board and Visit Finland. In addition, ITB Asia 2020 will be introducing Travel Tech Asia as a new show under ITB Asia’s umbrella of events. Travel Tech Asia will provide the travel-tech community with a platform to connect, create and enhance the way people travel, meet and do business, with technology.





## In the periphery of Tadoba National Park, Discover tranquility amidst Nature at **WelcomHeritage Tadoba Vanya Villas Resort & Spa**



**S**urround yourself with pristine nature and inspiring ambience at WelcomHeritage Tadoba Vanya Villas Resort & Spa. From adventure trails, nature walks or simply relaxing, find your leisurely indulgences and create happy holiday memories.

Spread across 65 acres, WelcomHeritage Tadoba Vanyavillas Resort & Spa is situated at Chimur Taluka of Chadrapur District in Maharashtra State, has its own private and calm lake. The property is located



in 1.5 kms radius of the Tadoba Forest, which is home for the highest number of tigers and cubs in central India; making it one of the major tourist attractions.

WelcomHeritage Tadoba Vanyavillas comprises 36 exquisitely designed rooms that are segregated into 3 categories - Premium Cottages, Tents and Deluxe Cottages.

Magnificently designed individual cottages offers a spectacular view of the lush landscaped gardens amidst Tadoba forest, home for the highest number of tigers in central India.

There is no better place to soak in the true wilderness experience amidst the Tadoba pristine landscape and dwell in the spectacular sights of the rich flora and fauna

The resort features two in-house restaurants and a bar near the swimming pool. Grill Restaurant which is partly covered and partly open is surrounded by a beautiful and

illuminated swimming pool. The Main Restaurant primarily serves buffet meals. The property has a 2290 Sq. Ft. conference hall that can house up to 300 people in floating style.

**Services & facilities** at the property include a swimming pool, Landscaped Gardens, kids/Indoor activity room, outdoor activities (Nature Walk, Bird Watching, Cycling, Jogging), Spa

Banquet & Conference (size: 2300sqft. Theatre Style 200, Cluster Sluster 100, U Shape 120, Floating Crowd 300.**Excursions**

**Tadoba Tiger Safari-** Guests can take a safari to the Tadoba National Park and experience the view of the majestic tiger for real, as Tadoba Forest has the highest probability of spotting tigers in India.

**Shrihari Balaji Temple (Chimur) -** This is a 300 Year old Shri Balaji's Temple in Chimur. This is very famous for Ghoda

Yatra held on the Full Moon day in the Hindu calendar month of Magh (Maghee Purnima) (in February/March).

**Anandwan** - Anandwan literally, Forest of happiness, located around 5 kilometers from Warora in Chandrapur district in the state of Maharashtra, India, is an ashram and a community rehabilitation centre which was mainly started for leprosy patients and the disabled from downtrodden sections of society. It was founded in 1952 by noted social activist Baba Amte. The project is run by the organization Maharogi Seva Samiti. Two of its other projects are Lok Biradari Prakalp and Somnath, a village for cured leprosy patients.

From picturesque views, jungle adventures through curated experiences to simply rejuvenating amidst modern services and warm hospitality in middle of wilderness, your adventure begins the moment you arrive at the resort.

## Hilton Expands And Strengthens India Leadership Team

*Hospitality leader appoints senior executives as Regional Directors of Operations*

**H**ilton recently announced the appointments of Rohit Dar and Ranjan Malakar as Regional Directors of Operations in India, aiming to further strengthen the company's India operations. With India's travel and tourism sector continuing to show significant growth potential, Hilton has appointed more than 10 senior leaders from across industries in the last two years to lead different functions and roles in India. The company also moved into new custom designed offices in Gurgaon earlier this year as it continues to invest in expanding its business and hiring the best industry talent.

Navjit Ahluwalia, Senior Vice President and Country Head, Hilton India, said, "As we seek to capitalise on the enormous opportunity for

the hospitality sector in India, in our 100th anniversary year we continue to attract top talent from across a wide spectrum of industries and enhance our leadership team. "As such, we are delighted to welcome Rohit and Ranjan into these new positions which will help us further improve how we operate our business and drive market leading owner returns. Their experience will enable us to continue our spirit of innovation and performance."

Rohit Dar brings with him over 25 years of experience in the hospitality sector with a strong all round knowledge of hotel operations, with his most recent position being as General Manager of Westin Hyderabad Mindspace. Ranjan Malakar has over two decades of hospitality experience

in multi-functional roles across locations in India, Maldives, South East Asia & Middle East. His latest assignment was as Director Operations, IHG Holiday Inn Express & New Projects.

As Director Operations for Hilton India, Rohit Dar and Ranjan Malakar will be based in the India Regional Office (Gurgaon) and will report into Navjit Ahluwalia – SVP and Country Head, Hilton India.

Hilton currently operates 19 hotels across five brands in India and is one of the fastest growing hospitality companies in the Asia Pacific region. Hilton reached the mid-year point of 2019 having signed 120 new hotels in Asia Pacific, taking its total estate to 850 hotels open and under development across the region.



# In the foothills of magnificent Aravalli's, Discover a magical vacation at **WelcomHeritage Inderpura Resort, Udaipurwati, Rajasthan**



- Spread across 1.73 acres of picturesque vista, surrounded by hills on three sides immerse yourself in bespoke experiences at WelcomHeritage Inderpura Resort, Udaipurwati, Rajasthan.
- The resort is a unique amalgamation of grandeur and modern comfort

**S**ituated at the foothill of Aravalli range, spread across 1.73 acres of land surrounded by hills on three sides, with a clear view of sunset, WelcomHeritage Inderpura Resort is situated on Delhi road State highway 37B at Udaipurwati of Jhunjhunu District in Rajasthan, India. It is located near a very famous Shakambhari Mata Temple. Adjoining is a Kot Dam, which has a former hunting grounds (Shikarbagh) of Shekhawat Rulers. The Resort also falls on the route from Delhi to very famous Salasar Balaji Temple.

The resort offers 21 well-appointed Rooms with inspiring views of hills and landscaped gardens.

## Services & Facilities

- Multicuisine restaurant serving authentic Indian cuisine
- Barbecue by the poolside
- Swimming Pool
- Indoor activities – Chess, Carom, Table tennis
- Outdoor activities & adventures include – Camel riding, nature walks, trekking, jogging, bird watching, kite flying, bicycle ride, star gazing and much more.

- Live Classical music and Puppet show in the evening

The resort also offers **Banquet and Conference** facilities.

It has well-equipped meeting room can easily accommodate a floating crowd of 60 guests.

It also offers beautifully landscaped gardens ideal for weddings, social gatherings and corporate events for upto 1000 guests

Soak the splendour of traditional architecture, inspiring views and fine hospitality as you unwind and explore the history and traditions of the royal state of Rajasthan.

## Excursions

- Camel ride with sand dune dinner
- Village tours (Enroute Explore havelis, Rural life, Chai over Charpai)
- Historic Shakambhari Mata Temple is 15 kms from the resort
- Famous Khatu Shyma Ji Temple 45 Kms from the resort
- Famous Salasar Balaji temple is 90kms from the Resort Khamagani!

# NYC & COMPANY Announces largest ever global marketing campaign as New York City looks to welcome nearly 14 Million International visitors in 2019

- Refreshed “Famous Original New York City” Campaign to be Unveiled Across 22 Countries Including First-Time Markets Singapore and Ireland
- New Personalized User Experience to Launch on NYCGO.com

**A**s New York City looks to welcome a record 13.9 million international visitors in 2019, this week NYC & Company kicked off its most expansive global tourism marketing campaign to date. The refreshed “Famous Original New York City” initiative is valued at approximately \$20 million (USD) and will reach 22 global markets including, for the first time ever, Ireland and Singapore. This promotional effort reinforces New York City’s incomparable welcoming spirit with the iconic Statue of Liberty depicted in original in-house creative that has a distinct and diversified new look and feel. NYC & Company will also soon launch a more personalized experience on NYCGO.com.

“Starring the iconic and emblematic Statue of Liberty, this campaign unequivocally reminds international travelers that New York City welcomes them always,” said NYC & Company President and CEO Fred Dixon. “As we round out what is set to be another record-breaking year for tourism, we invite visitors from around the globe to discover their own Famous Original New York City.”

NYC & Company has strategically partnered with tour operators and airlines to offer packages and flight-only deals driving visitation in the first quarter of 2020. In addition to out-of-home media through an ongoing in-kind partnership with media provider JC Decaux, digital, partner-owned, and paid promotion contribute to an approximate campaign value of \$20 million (USD) to date. This week in the United Kingdom, the City’s leading source of international visitation,

digital out-of-home advertisements rolled out in collaboration with British Airways. Additional partners include Aeromexico (Mexico), Asiana Airlines (South Korea), CVC (Brazil), El Corte Inglés (Spain), FTI (Germany), HIS (Japan) and SAS – Scandinavian Airlines (Denmark, Norway and Sweden), with more to be announced.

The redesigned campaign continues to promote the tagline “Welcomes You. Always.” and presents travel partners with several colorful iterations from which to choose, with further design executions featuring other uniquely-NYC imagery still expected to come. New to this year’s initiative is a toolkit that will be given to all partners, designed to empower them to promote New York City in a visually cohesive way and an editorial voice that is aligned with “Famous Original New York City.” Resources provided as part of the toolkit include five-borough imagery, video and other creative assets.

Next month, new digital promotion will appear across Facebook, Instagram and YouTube platforms in Brazil, India, Mexico and the UK. In conjunction, visitors will soon discover a new personalized experience on NYCGO.com, the official guide for everything to see and do across the five boroughs. Whether they are still considering a trip to NYC or have already booked their travel, this “My Famous Original New York City” personalization hub will help users gather inspiration, plan their visit and navigate the destination, by offering ‘favoriting’ tools and providing

information (including in-language content in French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish) in response to their behavior and feedback while using the website. The hub will also offer visitors the option to book New York City restaurants, hotels and attractions directly on the website.

“We are pleased to launch the latest and largest installment of our ‘Famous Original’ global tourism campaign to inspire visitors to choose New York City now for their next holiday,” said NYC & Company Chief Marketing Officer Nancy Mammana. “This latest iteration not only features engagement with a multitude of travel trade partners, but also an enhanced and more personalized digital experience for visitors planning their next visit to The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island.”

NYC & Company’s city-to-city tourism partnerships are being leveraged to support this global tourism marketing effort, spotlighting New York City via in-kind media in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Cape Town, South Africa; and Toronto, Canada. Starting this autumn, NYC & Company will also collaborate with global corporate partner MasterCard on out-of-home advertisements in key Latin American markets Chile, Colombia and Mexico, promoting Priceless New York City.

2019 is expected to be the tenth consecutive year of tourism growth for New York City, with 66.9 million visitors expected including 53 million domestic travelers and 13.9 million international visitors. Last year, the destination welcomed 65 million visitors. New York City has the most active hotel development pipeline in the nation, with approximately 123,000 hotel rooms currently with another 20,000 rooms on the way.



INTERNATIONAL

Off to  
S N O W Y  
**ROVANIEMI**  
Must-see places in Rovaniemi



**R**ovaniemi in Finland is a true winter wonderland. From witnessing the Northern Lights to Lapland safari tours, there are so many things to do in Rovaniemi that you will need at least 4 days to explore the Finnish Lapland. Every year thousands of people travel to Rovaniemi to see the northern lights. The Aurora Borealis is just one of the top things to do in Rovaniemi, there are plenty of activities for couples, group of friends and families.

Rovaniemi is the perfect destination for travelers who want to combine adventure, culture and northern lights in





only one trip. Most of the activities are outdoors, so be prepared with warm clothes and woolen socks.

13 exciting things to do at the North Pole in Rovaniemi

There is so much to discover at Rovaniemi, a Finnish city through which the Arctic Circle passes. The enjoyable things one can do in Rovaniemi during the winter are :





## 1 Watch the Northern Lights

Rovaniemi is a prime location to watch the Northern Lights. The best time to observe the natural splendor is anytime between December through to February. Also prepare yourself for possible surprises. You may not be at the right place when the Northern Lights may appear. That is why some companies have designed special software to ensure that you won't miss the magical sight. These apps which you can download on your phone for a certain price notify you the moment the Northern Lights appear in the sky. Hotels also offer further information about this service.

The Northern Lights can be enjoyed from a variety of places. From a snow-covered forest, a hotel roof terrace or on a lake of ice! How? Head out on the icy lake, wearing a special outfit, lie back on the frozen frosty lake and gaze up at the sky. This is the most unique and relaxing way of seeing the Northern Lights.





## **2 Go on an ice fishing excursion**

Try ice fishing in Rovaniemi. All you need is fishing gear. Once you have your fishing gear, look for small holes in the ice floes and dip your fishing rod in the first hole you come across. In the evening you can cook and eat your fish on a campfire.

## **3 Enjoy a warm sauna on an icy day**

If you are looking for an authentic Finnish experience, you must arrange a visit to a sauna. Discover the prominent spa culture of Finland at a special spa, 20 kilometers away from Rovaniemi. Warm-up in the warm pool after stepping into the spa from freezing -20-degree temperatures. You can enjoy warm beverages and ginger biscuits at the sauna.

## **4 Send cards to loved ones from the Santa Claus Village**

Don't forget to send a card to your loved ones all the way from the Santa Claus Village post office. If you visit coincides with Christmas time, what is a nicer way to celebrate the Christmas spirit with your loved ones and reminisce on all Christmases you have shared?









### 5 Go on a husky and reindeer tour

Leave the city, head for the snowy wilderness and go on a husky dog and reindeer tour escorted by guides dressed in local wear. A thrilling sleigh adventure awaits with the rapid maneuvers of the huskies and reindeer and the open treeless spaces that are icy lakes. On certain tours, provided you have a driving license from a designated place, you can take the reins on your husky and reindeer sleigh ride.

### 6 Explore the reindeer farms

The reindeer of Finland are national treasures and you can visit local farms to meet some. Feed the elegant reindeers and learn some interesting facts from shepherds that work there. The farms offer delicious local delicacies and warm coffee and biscuit after the trip.

### 7 Walk in the snow

Breathing in the fresh air and hearing the snow crunch under your boots as you take in the beauty of the forest may seem like a calming activity during the day but a bit scary by night. Yet,

why not try something new? Grab your snow boots and go on a night walk tour. All you need is warm clothes, balance and snow boots as they make it easier to walk in the snow.

### 8 Visit the snow tower

To visit the snow castle, which is rebuilt in January each year, head to Kemi, 115 kilometers from Rovaniemi. Surrounded by the castle walls, which are 12 meters high, the area also includes a hotel, art gallery, and Chapel.

### 9 Go on an icebreaker ship

Board an icebreaker for a pleasant journey through the frozen waters of Lapland's Bothnian Sea. Enjoy being on the ice in your warm clothes and drinking special local hot beverages during the journey. You can reach the ship by special shuttle buses departing from Rovaniemi.

### 10 Snowmobile on icy lakes

Another exciting activity you can try in Rovaniemi is snowmobiling on the ice lakes. There are many lakes in the region, but the lakes only freeze over when the temperatures drop and the

snow begins to fall from the start of autumn until mid-April. If you are there during this time frame, grab the opportunity and rent a snowmobile. Snowmobiling is difficult so remember to follow the instructions carefully.

### 11 Join in the Christmas festivities

You will feel like you are living in a fairytale in Rovaniemi, surrounded by snow-covered forests, shops with red ornaments, multi-colored lights, and cookie-scented streets! If you plan to be in Rovaniemi for Christmas, make sure to find out what Christmas events are on. One can discover the Christmas markets that hold lively events. Don't forget to visit other quaint shops selling local products. Such as items made from the horn of the reindeer, a symbol of the country and the city. Don't worry, it's a natural process because deer's antlers fall off at certain times of the year. After exploring the markets, it is time for a Christmas feast. Book in advance for this special night at one of the many specialty restaurants that serve a delicious Christmas menu. Don't miss





the fireworks at the end of the night where you will view double the amount of fireworks, on the arctic circle, on the border of two countries, with two different time zones!

### **12 Visit or stay at the Igloo or ice hotels**

One can either visit or stay at the igloos and ice hotels, depending on ones preference, for a fee. Imagine how incredible it would be watching the Northern Lights from an igloo. The ice hotels even have beds made of ice for those that enjoy the cold.

### **13 Go on a Laponian cuisine food course**

At picturesque local houses learn the secrets of Finnish cuisine with professional chefs. Serve your family all the lovely dishes you learn to cook when you return home.

### **14 Santa Claus Village**

You can meet Santa Claus and cross the magical Arctic Circle every day at the Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi. There are many souvenir shops as well as Santa's Main Post Office, programme service companies and cafes and restaurants in the Santa Claus Village. And of course, Santa is there too, in his chamber every day of the year.

**Explore Finnish culture and see the creatures of the northernmost part of the world.** Unforgettable experiences await you at this winter wonderland.

### **1 Meet Father Christmas**

This city has so much to offer, but the best time of year to plan a holiday is around Christmas time. Feel the Christmas spirit at the Father Christmas village. Take a look at the many exciting activities to try; Explore igloos (Eskimo houses), train at elf school and discover a time machine. You won't believe how many beautiful sights there are to photograph at the Father Christmas Village.

Some of the best restaurants are in this part of the city. Discover Finnish cuisine at the hotel restaurants and small local establishments of the Father Christmas Village. Book a hotel at Rovaniemi, which is largely popular due to the village and all the exciting activities on offer.

### **2 Discover natural wildlife**

A one-hour drive away from Rovaniemi lies the Ranua Wildlife Park, famously known as the northernmost Zoo in the world! View the wide range of animals roaming freely in their natural habitat. At Ranua Wildlife Park there are up to 50 different species of animals, such as bears, lynxes, foxes, oxen and polar bears.

### **3 Explore the historic Rovaniemi Church**

People do not spend so much time in the city center as Many sights and places to discover, especially during the winter are situated outside of the Rovaniemi. In any case, it is well worth visiting the Rovaniemi Church when you drop by the city center. The original





church was destroyed in 1944. The church was later renovated in 1950.

#### **4** *Get acquainted with Finnish culture at the museum*

Arktikum, including both the Arctic Center and the Lapland Museum, was opened in 1992, was opened to honor the 75th Anniversary of the Independence of Finland. Visiting this museum in Rovaniemi one can learn the history, culture, and life of the Arctic region.

#### **What to eat at Rovaniemi?**

Taste delicacies of the Lapland region, Rovaniemi. The main ingredients are used in these refreshing dishes per the season are fish and forest fruits. Try the local cuisine on

the Husky and reindeer tours, at local restaurants made from ice. These ice-made restaurants are rebuilt each year during the winter so make sure to book in advance.

Here are the dishes one can try in Rovaniemi:

#### **1** *Start the day with forest fruits*

Forest fruits are a Rovaniemi breakfast specialty. Prepare for a jam-packed day by indulging in cakes and jams made from blackberries, blueberries or raspberries. Drink forest fruit tea that will warm you up as you take a break from sledding down the snowy slopes.

#### **2** *Try the pea soup Hernekeitto with mustard*

Hernekeitto, a type of pea soup, once ensured the wartime survival of Finnish soldiers. Hernekeitto, which is even tastier when mustard is added, is usually served on Thursdays.

#### **3** *Experience the Lapland Barbeque*

On the reindeer and Husky sleigh tour, make sure to taste the fish and meat cooked on wood at the special Laponian barbeque.

#### **4** *Try the Salmon and Herring fish*

Rovaniemi is home to a must-try Northern European herring and salmon dish. We recommend that you eat herring fish with onions and pickles. A hearty salmon soup will warm your bones during the winter.



#### **Don't forget to pack these**

Rovaniemi is better during the winter, but don't forget that this cold region drops to temperatures of -40. Therefore, it is important to take precautions before going to the region. First of all, the right choice of clothes. Wear clothes that cover your mouth and nose completely and wear thermal underwear. Don't forget to take cold and waterproof boots with you. Wind and waterproof coats are also a must. Keep accessories such as hand and foot warmers, snow glasses, hand cream with you. Each will protect you from the cold and provide the comfort necessary for a perfect holiday.






INTERNATIONAL

The best  
thermal spas  
in  
Turkey





When you think of holidays, do summer, sea, sand, and the sun come to mind? There's no use staying at home all winter long. Winter holidays usually entail skiing but there is another alternative: thermal centers, thermal springs. The hot, mineralized waters of these spas will relieve your stress, soothe your soul and nourish your body. Before making any plans, take a look at our piece on the best thermal centers in Turkey.

① **Escape from chaotic city life at the relaxing hot springs of Ankara**

Ankara has been hiding a secret treasure underground for centuries. These are the precious waters that extend from the Roman and Seljuk times to the present day, that are said to rise from beneath the Earth and distribute healing properties. This city offers 37 alternative thermal centers. The thermal centers lie in the most important regions of Kızılcahamam,





Haymana and Ayaş Karakaya. It is said that spa waters, with an average of 47 degrees temperature, are good for the liver, kidney, stomach, intestines, respiratory tract, skin, heart and blood circulation disorders. The common feature shared by these three spas is that the drinkable water can cure the stomach, intestines, pancreas, liver, kidney, and gallbladder.

If you are living in Ankara and need a city getaway, then thermal spas might be a good holiday option for you. If you

are not a citizen of Ankara and prefer to visit the thermal springs, make sure to explore Ankara. Our Ankara city guide can help you to discover places for sight-seeing and to eat.

## ② The warmest waters at Afyon

Another hotspot for thermal springs in Turkey is Afyon. Afyon, boasts the warmest waters in Turkey that are above 60 degrees. In the regions of Sandıklı, Gazlıgöl and Heybeli you

can find up to 22 thermal hotels. The waters are said to be effective in relieving rheumatic diseases, calcification, issues in the heart and circulatory systems, skin, bone and gynecological diseases, kidney and liver disorders. Sandıklı differs slightly with its world-famous mud bath, that has a distinct feature of mud that is obtained by mixing a special soil with healing water that is 68 degrees warm. The mud bath is said to be good for respiratory infections, psychological





disorders, and skin diseases. Reach Afyon by booking a flight to Kütahya and enjoy the hot springs.

### ③ **Springs of Bursa that will soothe your soul**

Healing waters that were believed to heal queens and sultans in Rome, Byzantine, Seljuk and Ottoman times, Bursa is another city rich in thermal centers. It is known that the healing waters of Bursa, with 27 thermal centers, aid in the treatment of many

physical ailments, especially mental illnesses. The disorders include rheumatic syndromes, painful diseases of the locomotor system, chronic inflammatory, painful gynecological diseases, and vascular blockages. The Oylat thermal springs are the oldest most favored spa area in the city. The water of this spa, close to İnegöl, is drinkable and also known to be effective in the treatment of obesity. The oylat spa waters are also believed to be good for the stiffening,

calcification and severe pains in the kneecaps.

If you visit the thermal springs during the winter in Bursa, then make sure to visit Uludağ, the most famous skiing center in Turkey. Uludağ is home to some nice places to visit and tasty cuisine. It's time to discover Bursa.

### ④ **The healing properties of Pamukkale that date back 2,800 years**

One of Turkey's most famous tourist



centers, Pamukkale, is renowned for its pristine white thermal waters. The travertine that creates the special formula miracle, results in cascades of white water. The water and its distinct healing properties date back 2,800 years, to the ancient city Hierapolis. Travertines and Hieropolis are favored by people that struggle with heart, vascular, stroke and nerve diseases. Denizli is also home to the Karahayit thermal spa. Karahayit is famous for its unique red-colored healing thermal waters that are beneficial for orthopedic, neurologic, rheumatic, stomach and dermatological illnesses. To visit these thermal spas, book a flight to Denizli.

### ⑤ **Yalova, the closest thermal spas to Istanbul**

There aren't as many thermal center options in Yalova, but two great thermal centers in Yalova that stand out. The first is Armutlu, where the water temperature is 55-60 degrees. Due to its high radioactivity, this

spa is thought to be effective in the elimination of heavy metals from the body, nerve diseases, the healing of wounds and the regulation of hormones. Another great spot is 12 km from the city center of Yalova in the Thermal region, as the name suggests. The thermal springs here aid as an alternative method in the treatment of muscles, bones, the digestive system, liver, gallbladder, kidney, urinary tract, skin, and gynecological diseases. To reach Yalova, book a flight to Istanbul, then take a ferry.

### ⑥ **Healing fishes in Sivas**

Sivas has an unusual healing practice at thermal spas, distinct from the other places we have listed – special healing fish. These toothless fish at Çermik spa, are 2-10 long and treat skin diseases in 36-37 degrees heat. They also treat skin wounds, eczema, acne, and psoriasis. It takes around 20 days to see effective results from this treatment. Meanwhile, discover the natural beauty and historical places in Sivas.

### ⑦ **The centuries-old healing waters of Bolu**

The bounteousness of the geothermal springs is a result of the fault structure of Bolu and its geological positioning. Bathe and drink the 42-degree warm Bolu spring waters at Evliya Çelebi, Seyahatnamesi, which has healing properties for rheumatism, dermatological, nervous system, kidney, blood, gallbladder, respiratory and gynecological illnesses.

### ⑧ **Thermal Springs and more**

The thermal springs of Balıkesir with its drinking water, mud, and sand pools are one of the richest thermal springs in Turkey in terms of healthy natural spring waters. The modern thermal spas are located in the Edremit, Bale, Bigadiç, Gönen, Manyas, and Susurluk districts. It is said that these hot spring waters provide effective results in the treatment of many diseases ranging from diabetes, stomach, kidney and rheumatic diseases to skin, waist, neck and back ailments.



9

Sultaniye Thermal Springs draws in plenty of visitors due to its 2 thousand-year history, mineral values, and ideal water temperature. Situated within the Köyceğiz district of Muğla, the Sultaniye Thermal Springs have been in use for thousands of years and attract tourists with the healing waters and mud baths. The thermal springs are beneficial for rheumatism, kidney, urinary tract, metabolism disorders, exhaustion, dermatological and gynecological illnesses. Book a flight to Dalaman to explore the thermal springs like the Sultaniye Thermal Springs in districts like Dalaman and Milas.

10

### **Plateaus and thermal springs at Rize**

The lush natural splendor of the Black Sea region is famous for its picturesque plateaus and natural springs. Rize is home to a fertile underground water source hence its importance in thermal tourism that is used for bathing and drinking, particularly the Ayder Plateau and İkizdere Valley. The waters of İkizdere Valley are 72 degrees below the ground are considered to be the world's highest quality waters containing 4515 minerals and used as a complementary treatment for chronic back pain, joint disorders, neurological and stress disorders, sports injuries and those that remain sedentary after brain and nerve surgery. The Ayder Plateau is favored as a treatment for diseases such as rheumatic and joint pains.





# 10 cool and unique ways to see Britain's cities

**S**earching for an alternative to a walking tour of Britain's cities? Here's how you can turn city sightseeing into an immersive experience, whether it's via water sports, from the sky...or even in a hot tub!

## **1 In a hot tub – London**

Yes, you read that correctly – you can now step into a freshwater hot tub that sails down London's River Thames, passing by some of the capital's most iconic sights. The 90-minute Skuna Boats experience sets sail from two different locations. Its original site in Angel, north London, takes you through the cute and calm waterways of Regent's Canal, while a newer experience launched in summer 2018 glides through the Docklands area around Canary Wharf/West India Quay. Book the VIP Experience and receive sailors' hats, robe and towel rental and an essential ice bucket to keep drinks cool. You can also hire a BBQ boat from the site at West India Quay, a new activity that launched in June 2019.











## 2 Kayaking by night – London

London's landmarks are emblazoned with light come nightfall, delivering an atmospheric glow as you view them from double kayaks on the River Thames. On board the Night Kayak Tour you'll paddle past the Houses of Parliament, St Paul's Cathedral and Tower Bridge, a journey that takes you from pretty Battersea and ends in the historic maritime neighbourhood of Greenwich. Waterproof clothing, paddles, buoyancy aids – and instructors – are included.

## 3 Singing in the back of a taxi – London

Black cab taxi driver – and professional singer – Aiden Kent had been driving customers around London for 20 years when he decided to combine his love of singing with his love for performing. The 'Singing Cabbie' fitted out his cab with a red carpet, Italian red leather seats and a bottle of champagne for guests, alongside a specially-



adapted PA system to experience an extraordinary performance as you zip past London's sights.

## 4 On the run – London

Don't just walk around London – run through it! City Jogging Tours offers both specially designed tours and

customised versions; all you need to do is bring your running shoes and be ready to explore. An experienced guide leads you to the city's attractions and the tours cater for all running abilities, from newcomers to endurance runners. A great way to keep fit and fit in essential sightseeing.





### **5 Stand-up paddle boarding – Bristol, south-west England**

Bristol is renowned for its historic harbours and waterways but why not explore its iconic waterside via the contemporary sport of stand-up paddleboarding with SUP Bristol? The professional team there will show you



the ropes and take you out to float past Brunel's SS Great Britain, the historic dockside and the multi-coloured houses of the leafy and elegant neighbourhood of Clifton, with sunrise being a particularly lovely time to head out.

### **6 Meandering through canals – Birmingham, central England**

Did you know that Birmingham has more miles of canal than Venice and that they are lined with beautifully restored industrial heritage landmarks and intriguing contemporary buildings? See all of this on board a canal boat tour; there are several to choose from, ranging from tours of the more modern developments of Birmingham to the city's pretty suburbs and further out into the countryside.

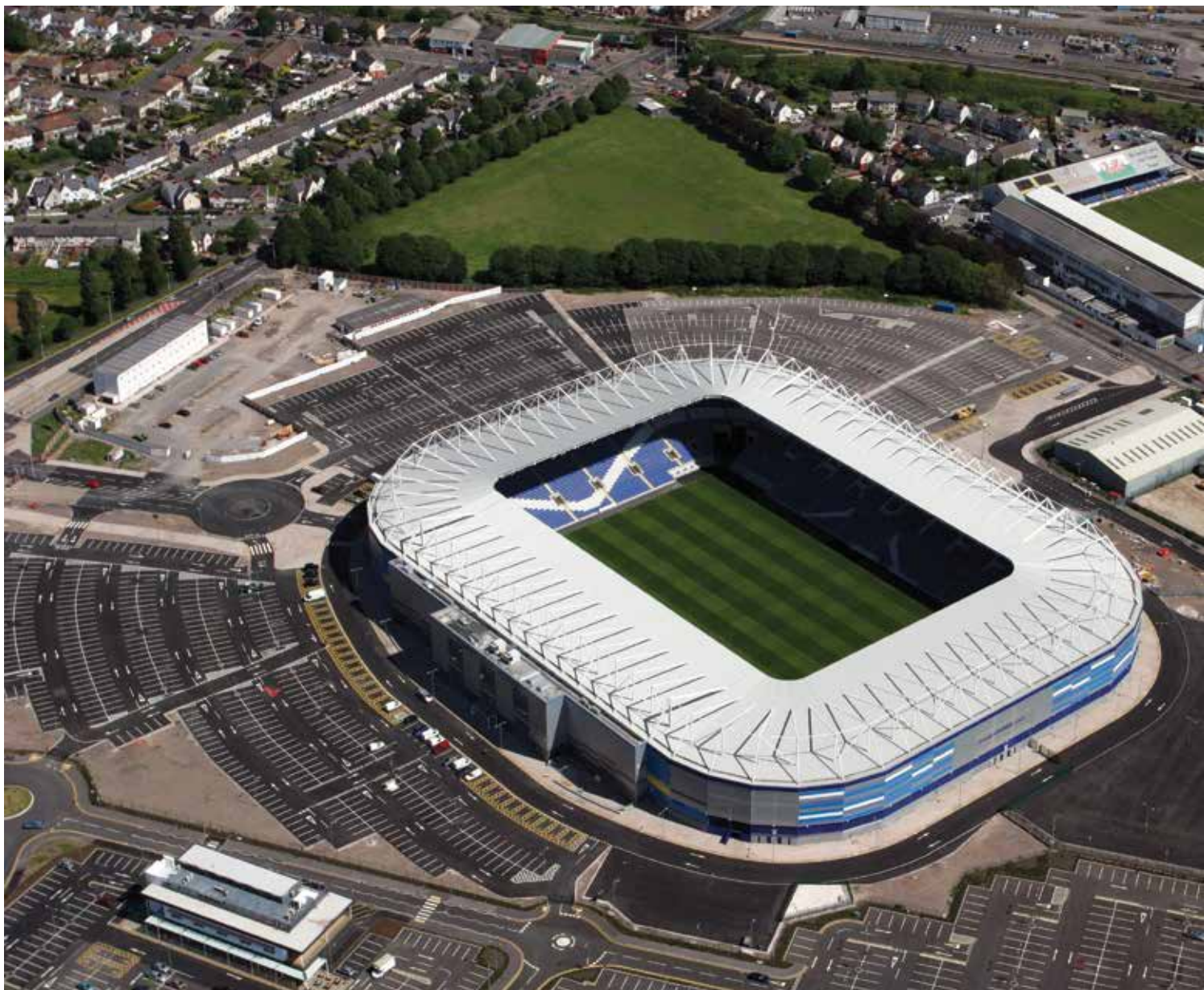
### **7 From a bird's eye perspective – Cardiff, south Wales**

Wales' capital is packed with legendary landmarks – and one thrilling way to experience them is from the air! Hover Helicopters fly you up more than 1,000 ft/300 metres above Cardiff and over the Cardiff Bay, Cardiff Castle and the majestic Principality Stadium. Flights take place between March and October and the company can also take you over south Wales and its striking coastline. City skyline flights are also available over Manchester and Liverpool in north-west England.





INTERNATIONAL







### **8 Out on the river – Liverpool, north-west England**

The legendary landmarks of Liverpool – the Liver Building, Albert Dock and the two stunning cathedrals that tower above the city skyline – can be seen from a different perspective from the River Mersey, on board the Dazzle Ferry. Itself an attractive sight, the ferry was created by Sir Peter Blake, as part of the First World War centenary commemorations, with the design commissioned by Liverpool Biennial, 14-18 NOW - the First World

War Centenary Art Commissions, and Tate Liverpool in partnership with Merseytravel and National Museums Liverpool. Learn about the city as well as the history behind the 'dazzle' ship.

### **9 On a ghostly tour – Edinburgh, Scotland**

Enjoy the thrill of a fright? Ghost Bus Tours in Scotland's capital takes you on a spooky theatrical experience around one of the UK's most haunted cities, on board a classic 1960s Routemaster bus. Both entertaining and educational – it's billed as a comedy horror show – you'll learn all about the city's former grisly sites where historic executions took place and hear eerie tales of supernatural occurrences. Tours are also available in London and York.

### **10 By group cycle – Belfast, Northern Ireland**

Chat face-to-face with your friends at the same time as cycling around Northern Ireland's capital, on a specially adapted cycle with Wee Toast Tours – and enjoy a drink or two en-route! An hour or two allows you to cruise around the city centre at gentle speeds, taking in such sights as City Hall and the Opera House. Wee Toast Tours also offers a Cathedral Quarter tour, through Belfast's vibrant cultural heart.





# Asia remains the largest tourism growth market

*Asian outbound travel grows by six per cent – International trips within Asia a significant growth driver – City breaks report highest growth – ITB to present the latest findings of the IPK World Travel Monitor® exclusively at ITB Asia 2019*

• teTrips abroad from Asia are continuing to increase. After surging by seven per cent in 2018, during the first eight months of 2019 they rose by a further six per cent. This is in part due to international trips within Asia, which are a significant growth driver. Despite an anticipated decline in year-on-year growth, the prospects for 2020 remain good. These are the findings of the first trend analysis of the World Travel Monitor®, to be presented by IPK International at this year's ITB Asia (16 - 18 October) in Singapore. The report was commissioned by ITB Berlin. The World Travel Monitor® is based on the results of representative interviews with more than 500,000 people in over 60 global travel markets. It has been compiled for more than 20 years and is recognised as the most widescale continuous survey of global travel trends.

## **Growth in Asia's outbound travel market exceeds global average**

According to the World Travel Monitor®, between January and August 2019 outbound travel from Asia rose by six per cent, once again making Asia the biggest growth driver in the international tourism market. "Growth in Asia's foreign travel market continues to exceed the global average, which during the first eight months of the year was only four per cent", said **Julia Mühlberger, marketing consultant, IPK International, at ITB Asia 2019.**



A closer look at the latest figures shows a further upward trend in trips to destinations within Asia. During the first eight months of 2019, for the first time foreign trips within Asia accounted for nearly 80 per cent of the market. During the same period European countries registered a slight increase in travellers from Asia. At 15 per cent, they occupied a sound share of the market. In contrast, America's popularity with Asian travellers fell for the third year running. The country now accounts for only eight per cent of the market.

Per trip, Asian travellers spend considerably more than other nationalities, despite shorter stays. According to the World Travel Monitor®, Asians stayed for an average of 5.9 nights on outbound trips. This was a

slight increase over last year's figure (5.6 overnights). However, the figure was much lower than the global average (eight nights). Despite this, at 1,570 euros per trip spending by Asians abroad during the first eight months of 2019 significantly exceeded the global average (1,280 euros).

## **City breaks are booming. Round trips have recovered slightly.**

Among Asians, city breaks remain by far the most popular form of outbound travel. They recorded the highest increase, as in the year before, and between January and August 2019 grew by a further nine per cent, occupying 35 per cent of the market. Following a downturn last year, round trips recovered. Asia's second largest holiday market grew slightly

by three per cent and accounted a market share of 24 per cent. Beach holidays continued the previous year's upward trend, rising by 6 per cent and occupying 21 per cent of the market.

#### Rising MICE segment

Asia's growing economy is having a positive impact on the business travel market. From January to August 2019, 17 per cent of Asians travelling abroad were on business / MICE trips, which compared to the previous year was an above-average increase of eight per cent. The MICE segment, with incentive travel and trips to trade fairs, was largely responsible for this growth, whereas traditional business trips were in decline.

#### Travel agencies continue to play an important role

While Asians continue to rely heavily on the internet for information and bookings, nearly 50 per cent of Asian

travellers still attach great importance to the personal advice offered by travel agencies. Furthermore, they make much greater use of this individual service than the global average. The World Travel Monitor® shows that during the first eight months of 2019 85 per cent of Asian outbound travellers booked over the internet but also 40 per cent at travel agencies.

"Asia is playing an increasingly important role on the world's tourism markets, as the World Travel Monitor® impressively shows. Together with ITB Asia in Singapore, ITB China and ITB India we are making our presence felt on the strongest growth markets, so that we are always in touch with this extremely dynamic travel market", said **Dr. Martin Buck, Senior Vice President, Travel & Logistics at Messe Berlin.**

#### Slower growth expected in 2020

According to IPK International,

in 2020 outbound travels by Asians will grow by five per cent, outpacing the forecasted global trend. Against the backdrop of global economic developments, the experts anticipate slightly lower growth rates for next year. These forecasts are based on the findings of the "World Travel Confidence Index" of IPK International, which as part of World Travel Monitor® polls people's travel intentions for the next 12 months.

Additional information on specific topics based on World Travel Monitor® data from IPK International will be published soon by ITB Berlin. Conclusive travel trend findings for 2019 will also be presented by the end of the year.

Rolf Freitag, CEO of IPK International, will present the findings of the World Travel Monitor® for 2019 at the ITB Future Day during the ITB Berlin Convention as well as forecasts for 2020.



# SUBSCRIBE

**travel**  
SPAN

## Amazing Subscription Offers

GET YOUR COPY OF TRAVEL SPAN  
DELIVERED FREE TO YOUR DOOR  
BEFORE IT HITS THE SHOPS +  
FREE ACCESS TO THE IPAD +  
IPHONE EDITIONS!

#### PRINT

SUBSCRIBE AND RECEIVE  
6 MONTHS ISSUES AT Rs.1499/-

#### DIGITAL

SUBSCRIBE AND RECEIVE  
6 MONTHS ISSUES AT Rs.999/-

## HOW TO SUBSCRIBE

online: [www.travelspan.in](http://www.travelspan.in) / call: +91 124 411 1182

All Payments in favour of Profiles Media Network Pvt Ltd.

Contact: **Studio 9 Productions** - 502, Jeevan Tara Apartments, Sector 43, GH 7, Gurugram - 122009, India





# The Festive land of







Amidst the breathtaking and divergent landscape, during the full moon night of the winters, the three-month long festive event - Rann Utsav brims with dynamism, hospitality, vigor and traditional flavor of the splendid Kutch. The annual event offers the opportunity to visit the expanse of white desert that lies along the India-Pakistan border.

The most sought-after time to explore White Rann is the full moon night hours after witnessing the enchanting sunset. Transcending through the plain terrain of the white desert at the sunset hours and watching a full moonlit folk concert offer an unrivalled travel experience. And the camel-cart rides to the white desert append the exciting pursuit to discover the nature's most exclusive creation.

Rann Utsav is not only the festive extravaganza but also the celebration of life that crams colors into the salt-encrusted desert plains. The soul-stirring splendour of nature, calm & serene surrounding, rich Kutchi culture, intricate handicrafts and outdoor activities make this desert carnival a perfect holiday destination. With traditional dance forms and musical moments, many thrilling activities like cultural act shows, camel safari, parasailing and dirt biking enhance different colors of the festivity.

# Rann Utsav Gujarat





Rann Utsav is synonymous with distinctive celebration of life and the memories, colors and rawness, acculturation and isolation.

### The Festive Land

The festive land of Gujarat, Kutch is a unique mixture of culture, traditions, people, history, wildlife and nature. One of the largest districts in India, Kutch has something for every traveler. The archaeological site at Dholavira offers an insight into the 5000-year old Indus Valley Civilization, the palaces of Bhuj house incredible art treasures, and scores of fortified villages are worth visiting for their heritage. The northern and eastern areas of Kutch comprise a vast white salt encrusted desert wilderness called the Great Rann of Kutch, while the southwest is fringed

by lovely beaches like Mandvi with soft sands and calm waters. Birds abound at the salt marshes, lakes and grasslands, while endangered mammals like the wild ass, caracal, wolf and chinkara gazelle can be seen in the Rann and the Banni grassland.

Most of all, Kutch is famous for its rich living heritage of handicrafts – embroideries, bandhani tie-dye, block printings, metal crafts, woodwork, pottery and some rare arts thrive in the district.

Rann Utsav is the popular festivals celebrated in Dhordo, a village of Kutch, Gujarat. The area where the festival is celebrated is spread over 5,00,000 sq. mt. The elegant full moon nights give a special landscape and surreal embellishment to this festival as well.

This is a festival that runs for more

than 3 months (This year the event commences from 26 Oct 2019 to 23 Feb 2020).

The Rann Utsav gloriously unites cultural performance, natural beauty of Kutch and various forms of art. Apart from these, the incredible evening and full moon night view of the sun is a unique look of this festival. Tent city situated in the heart of Kutch district has almost 400 tents for accommodation.

### Special Dates (Full Moon Dates):

11, 12, 13 Nov 2019; 11, 12, 13 Dec 2019; 10, 11, 12 Jan 2020 & 8, 9, 10 Feb 2020

### Rann Utsav Attractions

**Handicrafts** - Kutch is considered to be a haven for numerous handicrafts, which are carried on from generation to generation. The traditional basis of its prosperity has been its foreign trade in various handicrafts. The artifacts of Kutch moved not only the length and breadth of the country but also in the overseas markets. The main handicrafts of the district are embroidery of ethnic style, Patchwork, terracotta, pen knives and nut crackers. A brief description of the various crafts is as follows.

**Embroidery** - Inherited by the bequest of craft making the Kutchi people weave their dreams in different forms of embroidery. Kutch is world renowned for its mirrored embroideries.



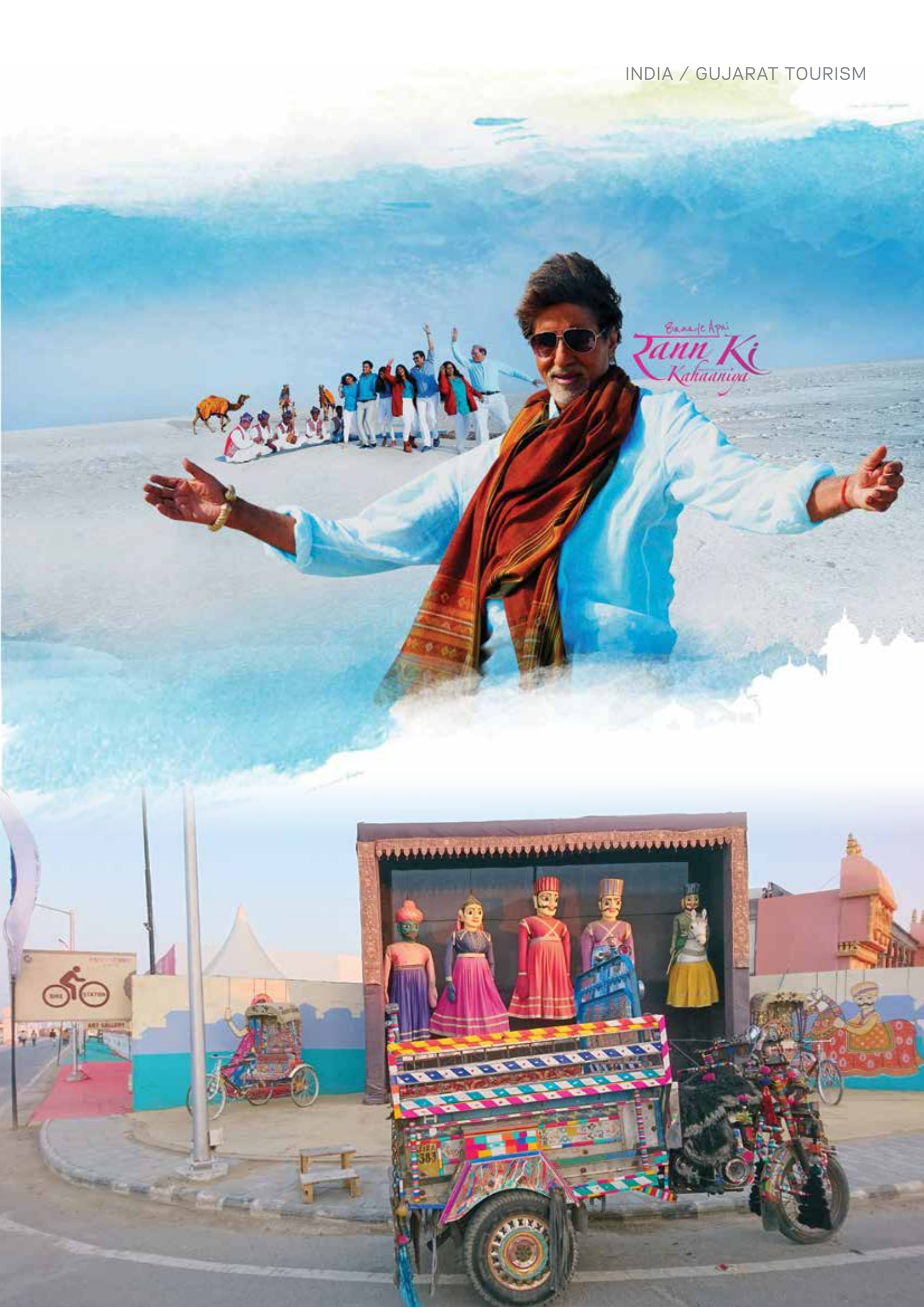
### DID YOU KNOW

#### RANN UTSAV OF KUTCH

Touch the Incredible beauty of nature & Cultural Climate

Kutch is India's largest district located in Gujarat state, covering area of 45,674 sq km. Kutch means something which intermittently becomes wet and dry; a large part of this area is known as Rann of Kutch which is shallow wetland which immerses in water during the rainy season and becomes dry during other seasons. Kutch is known for its diversity and it is well known for its Great Rann of Kutch.











Most of these were traditionally stitched by village women, for themselves and their families, to create festivity, honor deities, or generate wealth. Embroideries contributed to the substantial economic exchange required for marriage and fulfilled other social obligations which required gifts. Be it, thread work or leather every village has a different and a unique style of making embroidery.

**Hand Block Printing** - Kutch is the homeland of a variety of hand printing textiles. Significant among them are Ajrakh prints, Batik prints and Rogan painting.

**Wood Carving** - Wood carving is one of the best handicrafts of Kutch.

The Harijan people living in Dumaro and Ludia are master crafts persons of wood carving. They make various utensils like pastel roller, chapati disc, bottles, small table, glass etc. of the wood doing attractive carving. Generally, they use the teak wood and locally available 'bahuv wood to prepare the fine artifacts.

**Mudwall Painting** - House in the Banni area are living museums of beautiful paintings Rabari and Harijan women folk are traditionally experts in depicting their dreams in painting. They turn houses into homes. The clay collected is mixed with camel dung and kept for a few days. Then it is kneaded to obtain sufficient plasticity

and designs are worked on the mud wall using this clay mixture. Designs of mor (peacock) Popat (Parrot) anghadi (Fingers) Vinjno (Fan).

**Silver Work** - Kutch is famous for its superior silver work, both of the design and engraving of jewellery.

**Pen - Knives and Nutcrackers** - of Kutch have travelled the length and breadth of the country. People of Kutch prefer to present penknives or nutcrackers to their relatives and friends living outside Kutch. The artisans, who made swords during the royal family's patronage, are now producing the penknives and nutcrackers. The iron bars are reduced to workable small pieces. Then the pieces are worked by using a forging machine

**Iron Bell with Copper Coating**

- Without modern Communications the sound of bells helped shepherds and cowherds' communities to locate their flocks from a distance.

**Seashell Toys** - Seashell toys and dolls are made in Bhuj. Seashell is the outer case of soft bodied animals called molluscs. After the animals living inside have dried up, the shells are collected and graded according to colour and shape and used in decorative items. Birds, animals, plants, agarbati stand and figures of Gods & Goddesses are prepared by joining the appropriate coloured shells with an adhesive. Later eyes, nose, ears, garments etc are painted with oil paints.







### WILD ASS SANCTUARY - KUTCH, RANN UTSAV

A safari through the Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary in the Little Rann of Kutch in northwest Gujarat is a unique experience. A safari through this region gives one a chance to come face to face with a wide variety of birds and other wildlife.

Situated in the region of the Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat, the sanctuary is around 150 km off Ahmedabad. The region is well connected to other parts of the state through regular road transport.

### BEST TIME TO VISIT

The climate of the region is extreme with May being the hottest month. The average temperature during this time is around 31°C. January is the coldest month with an average temperature of 11°C.

### FLORA AND FAUNA

The Rann of Kutch is full of dry thorny scrub and there are no large trees. The main vegetation in the region includes many species of grasses that are widely available as the source of food for the wild Asses.

The most famous wildlife of the region includes the Indian Wild Ass, as well as the chinkara, desert fox, jackal, desert cat, caracal, nilgai, wolf, blackbuck, and striped hyena.

### TOURISTS ATTRACTIONS

The Little Rann of Kutch, which covers







an area of roughly 5,000 square km, is primarily known as the Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary. The sanctuary was established in 1972 as the last natural habitat of the Indian Wild Ass (*Equus Hemionus Khur*). One of the three surviving species of the Wild Ass in the world-the other two being found in Central Asia and in and around Tibet-the Khur is high on the list of endangered species. Only 1,800 to 2,000 of the species survive today.

Besides the Wild Ass, the sanctuary is home to a host of other animals and nearly 350 different species of birds, including the common crane, pelican and the lesser flamingo. Apart from this, one can also get a rare insight into the lifestyles of the numerous ethnic groups and local tribes, which live in and around the Rann. The tribes living in the region are the Kolis, Rabaris, Bajanias, Kutchis, Gujjars and the Bharvads. Interestingly, the Little Rann gets a fair number of winged visitors in the winter months. Among these, the blue-tailed bee-eater that comes all the way from Europe; the common crane and the demoiselle crane from Siberia;

the ceraneous vulture from Egypt and the houbara bustard from Iran and Iraq are the ones most commonly sighted.

Zinjuwada, bang on the edge of the Rann, has an old, 11th century fort built during the Solanki era and houses one of the area's largest salt works.

Zainabad, 150 km off Ahmedabad, is the ideal base for a trip into

the sanctuary. Zainabad had been founded in the early part of this century. The ruling family of this place came here from Multan around the mid-13th century to settle down in Dasada. It was only around 1912 that the capital was shifted to a village called Karala, which was later renamed Zainabad.

### PLACES OF INTEREST

**Dholavira** - 295 Km, Siyot Buddhist Caves - 140 Km, Surkotada - 232 Km  
**Wildlife** - Chhari Dhan - 56 Km, Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary - 179 Km, Wild Ass Sanctuary - 417 Km

**Museum and Memorial** - Kutch Museum 82 Km, Shyamji Krishna Verma Memorial - 140 Km, Jesal Toral Samadhi - 119 Km

### OTHER ATTRACTIONS

**Indo Pak Border** - 80 Km, Kutch Fossil Park - 68 Km, Mundra Port - 135 Km,  
**Nature**  
 White Rann - 4 Km, Kalo Dungar - 45 Km, Mandvi Beach 140 Km  
**History**  
 Aina Mahal - 82 Km, Prag Mahal - 82 Km, Vijay Vilas Palace- 140 Km

**Art and Craft**  
 Hodka - 17 Km, Gandhi Nu Gam - 35 Km, Bhujodi - 90 Km  
**Temples and Religion**  
 Mata No Madh - 146 Km, Lakhpat Gurudwara 186 Km, Narayan Sarovar 203 Km.



# Azerbaijan

## a world-class golf destination

**A**zerbaijan has cemented its position as an outstanding golf destination as it joins the International Association of Golf Tour Operators (IAGTO). IAGTO ensures that destinations deliver the highest global standards and experiences in golf tourism.

Azerbaijan is home to two 18-hole international level golf clubs. This includes the luxury 170-acre Dreamland Golf Club located 40 minutes away from the city centre of Baku, and the National Golf Club which is set amongst the lush green forests around Guba Palace Hotel.

Designed by famous American architect Cynthia Dye from Dye Designs, the Dreamland Golf Club offers a premium tournament golf experience with refreshing Mediterranean vibes from the nearby Caspian Sea. The

course features tapered fairways and well-bunkered greens for experienced golfers, and level landscaping with long-range views for beginners. Dreamland Golf Club also offers a golf academy with IMG Golf School, a state-of-the-art clubhouse, and is officially rated and approved by the European Golf Association (EGA).

Those keen to swing and putt can also head to the National Golf Club in Guba which packs in breath-taking views of the Caucasus mountains. Set in the grounds of the Guba Palace Hotel, the golf club was the first to open in Azerbaijan in 2013 and has hosted a series of international competitions including the PGA European Challenge Tour. The 185-acre course was designed by Jon Hunt from International Golf Design, and features rolling hills and deep bunkers

for players across skill levels. The 5-star Guba Palace Hotel also provides fine dining options, a luxurious spa facility, and a fully-fledged business and conference centre - making it the perfect getaway destination for both, business and pleasure.

The diversity of Azerbaijan's offerings gives travellers several reasons to visit throughout the year. High-profile sporting events such as the Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix and the UEFA Europa League Final in 2019 showcased hospitality offerings ranging from luxury collections to B&Bs and a vibrant gastronomical experience. Azerbaijan also boasts spectacular landscapes including summer countryside and winter ski slopes, hiking trails, and cultural events. Every experience is catered for in Azerbaijan, with golf just the start for travellers.



# HILTON DALAMAN SARIGERME RESORT & SPA INVITES HONEYMOON COUPLES

## to live a wedding in a splendid atmosphere



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...

They say, "It continues as it begins". A honeymoon experience where every detail is delicately considered is a unique choice for couples taking their first step in life together at the Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort & Spa, where glorious nature meets maximum luxury. After your wedding, spoil yourself with your one and only...

The Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort & Spa invites you to experience service and offers dedicated to making you feel very special, comfort that embraces you with its details, a delicious culinary journey, sumptuous spa treatments... a joyous adventure filled with colour, and natural surroundings formed by the union of blue and green...all together in

your honeymoon, where you will have the most beautiful moments of your life...

Whether you seek a romantic interlude with just the two of you, or a festive time surrounded by old and new friends, our hotel offers privileged services that will transform your honeymoon into an absolute dream... With five restaurants presenting the best flavours in international cuisine... seven bars where drinks and entertainment are simply redefined, outdoor swimming pools with sparkling water and relaxing pools that promise romance and tranquillity... the Elysion Spa offering 6,000 square metres of luxe treatments... a dedicated 650-metre-long beach and gazebos where you can enjoy sea, sun and sand amid a superior service understanding...all awaits you.

### A SPECIAL CONCEPT FOR HONEYMOON COUPLES

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





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.

Whether you choose to stay in the Honeymoon Duplex Suite or in one of the hotel's comfortable rooms ... all honeymoon couples married within two weeks - without any exceptions - are invited to enjoy dinner in an à la carte

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.

## **HILTON DALAMAN SARIGERME RESORT & SPA: THE NEW HONEYMOON DESTINATION FOR INDIAN TOURISTS**

In recent months, guests from India have joined us at the Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort & Spa, embracing the unique geography of the region. The Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort & Spa was honoured to host a traditional, fabulous Indian wedding, while the happy couple enjoy their honeymoon privileges at the Hilton Dalaman Sarigerme Resort & Spa.



**Hilton**

DALAMAN SARIGERME  
RESORT & SPA

[www.hiltondalaman.com](http://www.hiltondalaman.com)