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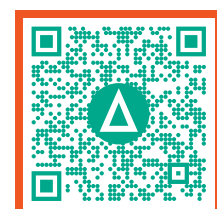


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EDITOR'S LETTER

India is the biggest market for Sri Lanka in terms of tourism arrivals

The 67th Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI)'s three-day annual convention reiterated Sri Lanka as a peaceful, tourist-friendly destination.

Sri Lanka President H E Ranil Wickremesinghe officially inaugurated the TAAI convention at Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall (BMICH), said: *"Gathering 600 delegates for the convention brings back faith in Sri Lanka's Tourism. We are restructuring our debts. Tourism can help in getting back the economy. We are an island nation with good beaches and have the scope to develop high-end tourism products like in Maldives."*

There are so many natural and heritage attractions in Sri Lanka. Dakshin Kashi and 2000-year old Velu Murugan temple at Kataragama are

testimony to historical ties between India and Sri Lanka." H. E. also suggested attractions to look out for, like the Galle Festival in January, Jaffna's traditional Festival, where thousands of people gather and also some unique experiences like a Russian chef running a Japanese restaurant in Colombo, plantation bungalows, boutique hotels, Sri Lankan cuisine and many more.

573 delegates, including 50 media members, attended TAAI Convention from the 6th to the 9th in Colombo. The event's business sessions and B2B meets were held at Cinnamon Grand on the 7th and Shangri-La Colombo on the 8th.

Chalaka Gajabahu, chairman of Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), *the government body*

responsible for handling all marketing and promotion activities for the island nation, said: *"It's reassuring to have so many delegates descending here on our Island nation that has all attractions of tourism, with only the exception of snow. It had seemed like a challenge when the idea of hosting the event in Colombo came up three months ago. Sri Lanka is on the right path of recovery, and we are developing a 360 campaign to reassure tourists worldwide."*

India is the biggest market for Sri Lanka in terms of tourism arrivals and that is likely to be the case in the long term as well.

"In terms of numbers, right now, India is the number one source market for us and I'm pretty sure it's going to stay there for the next couple of years and for our long-term plans as well," he said.

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GAURA G BAHL Group Editor
ANURADHA M Associate Editor
JYOTSNA MALIK International Sales Director

RASIKA MATHUR Events Coordinator
RAJESH MAURYA Head of Finance
JITESH GANDHI Creative Director

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Gajabahu said the country has already got over 600,000 incoming tourists till June 30. "Our last year's overall figure was 720,000. Our target is to get 1.55 million tourists. 2018 was the best year in terms of travel for us as we got 2.3 million tourists. If we can get close to 2 million, it will be a massive recovery for us," he said.

Referring to the economic crisis, he said the country is moving forward in terms of the economic situation and debt restructuring. "We are moving forward through support from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IMF, and the EU programmes that are all in process. Yes, there is criticism about it but even though there is criticism, there is no solution. If there is criticism, there should also be solutions. Right now, the current government is offering solutions and we are moving forward," he said ..

"The economic situation has improved drastically. The fuel crisis and the medicine crisis are not there any more. The dollar rates for us are not where they were. Without a proper campaign, the little bits that we did starting with India, China, London, Germany and the Middle East paid off. We participated in travel shows and roadshows. The numbers are coming in," he added.

Jyoti Mayal, President of TAAI, said: "We all go through ups and downs, whether in professional or personal life. The tourism industry becomes vulnerable during a crisis, but it's also an industry that is resilient and stands for peace. We are happy to extend our domestic market to our neighbouring island of Sri Lanka and help the country bounce back." Ms Mayal added that previous conventions of TAAI had proven that the host country's arrivals increase many folds following the event as it gets media coverage followed by members' selling the destination better after their first-hand experience.

Jyoti Mayal said there are certain things that the government has done which have not come into the limelight. "The Indian currency is going to be accepted here. You can spend your money here. The governments have



agreed to do that. As the oldest nodal travel and tourism association of India, we are collaborating with each other to bring out the best products for the country," she said.

"We will stand by them to say that we all prosper together in this. Whenever we travel as a convention, the interest of the general people also rises, she added.

Nishad Wijetunga, president of the Sri Lanka Association of Inbound Tour Operators (SLAITO), said, "We wanted to change the perception of Sri Lanka worldwide with this event. We have enough food, medicines and everything needed to handle tourists. Inflation came down 14 per cent last month along the road to recovery. Tourism is our country's second most economic earner, and we welcome tourists to experience the warm hospitality of our people and help rebuild our economy.

He said, said out of the 600,000 tourist arrivals, at least 30-40% would be from India.

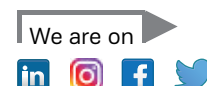
"India has been the biggest source market. Even going back in time, every time we have had a crisis when we have come to a real crunch, it is India that has come to our rescue. At the moment the top markets are India and Russia.

The UK was a very big market. Hopefully, it should come back," he added.

Wijetunga said a lot of MICE projects have come to Sri Lanka in the past three months and he is hoping this will continue. "We had a forex crisis in this country. We spent six months from June to December last year trying to convince our generative markets that the situation was improving. That we had food and medicines and that our people were okay," he said. "But the future is looking good. The cruises have started. The new ferry from Pondicherry to Sri Lanka will be a huge game changer. That means crossing over to Sri Lanka at a very nominal price, he added.



DEVENDER GROVER





Importance of Travel Ancillary Services in Today's World

Dev Karvat, Founder & CEO, Asego

In today's fast-paced life, when it comes to travel requirements, a hassle-free and smooth trip is at the top of the traveller's mind. However, that doesn't just happen on its own! It is important to make the right choices, one of which includes investing in a reliable travel assistance and insurance plan that travellers can bank on at any time throughout their trip.

Post the pandemic, many countries have made it mandatory for visitors to travel with a travel protection plan, and over 60 percent of travellers from countries like Australia and New Zealand travel with a travel protection plan. Even though the general attitude towards travel assistance and insurance services in India has been slightly different, I am happy that travellers' perception towards Travel protection is now witnessing a positive shift.

Scope of Travel Ancillary Services

Gone are the days when it was enough for travel insurance services to be limited to reimbursing costs and settling claims. With the emerging demand for comprehensive travel

protection services, a customised plan like Asego's travel assistance and insurance can go a long way for travellers. Asego's protection plans, backed by strong global assistance capabilities and a proven track record of bailing travellers out of acute emergency situations across the world can be a traveller's ideal companion.

A dedicated travel ancillary service provider doesn't just protect travellers, but also ensures their family back home is protected while they are away. While in an unknown country, a traveller may need help with locating the nearest health care provider, seek lifestyle assistance services, or need their flight delays/cancellations to be covered. A holistic travel risk management solution like Asego's that can keep up with their demands 24*7 is the need of the hour!

Bespoke Travel Protection

The Indian travel and tourism sector has seen a makeover of sorts in the past two decades. And with that, the demands of an average Indian traveller

have also gone up. So, it is safe to claim that one size fits all approach when it comes to travel assistance & insurance plans is passe.

For instance, today, young travellers are increasingly inclined towards holiday spots that offer adventure sports activities or destinations where they can explore the place in a self-driven car, which calls for plans that cover risks associated with such activities. On the other end, senior citizens are looking at travel risk management plans that can protect them from possible complications of pre-existing ailments.

Personalised support

Asego's services are backed by personalised support and 24X7 customer service helping travellers avail of global assistance services, fast-track claims, and round-the-clock support during emergencies.

So, in today's uncertain times, a dependable travel assistance and insurance plan can be an asset in a traveller's kitty.

Vistara celebrates a landmark milestone with 50 million customers in eight years of operations



Vistara, India's full-service carrier and a joint venture of the **Tata Group** and **Singapore Airlines**, achieved the momentous milestone of flying 50 million customers in just eight years of operations. This achievement signifies Vistara's exponential growth and demonstrates the trust that customers have placed in the brand.

Since its inception, Vistara has continuously strived to redefine air travel in India by delivering the highest standards of service, safety, comfort and reliability. Over the years, Vistara has won over millions of passengers by offering them the 'new feeling of flying' with a world-class product while rapidly expanding its network and fleet. Vistara today operates over 280 flights daily, with a fleet of 61 aircraft, connecting 32 airports across India and 15 international destinations.

Celebrating the milestone, **Vinod Kannan**, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara said, *"We are filled with gratitude and joy as we celebrate this remarkable feat of serving over 50 million customers. This milestone stands as a testament to the trust and confidence reposed in us by millions of customers. In a short span of time, we have also emerged as the '16th Best Airline' globally, and this extraordinary success is credited to the passion and dedication of our employees reflecting in every aspect of their work, regardless of the challenges they faced. We would like to thank our valued customers for their continued support and patronage over the years which has played a vital role in establishing us as a world-class airline. As we continue our journey, we are resolute in our commitment to deliver exceptional service and memorable experience to our customers."*

To celebrate this significant milestone, Vistara has launched a special campaign – #50MillionFeelings, that aims to capture the fond memories, emotions, journeys and experiences that the brand has become synonymous with. As part of the campaign, Vistara has created an original song that complements a celebratory video that tries to encapsulate its customers' memorable expressions. As part of offline promotions, Vistara has deployed an anamorphic 3D installation at Bengaluru, Delhi, and Mumbai airports, in addition to innovative billboards in Gurugram, Delhi and Mumbai. Furthermore, Vistara will be serving themed desserts on-board select flights, run contests on social media in addition to many other surprises.

With community service deeply rooted in its DNA, since inception, Vistara has always strived to support communities in the areas where it operates. To commemorate this big milestone, network-wide community engagement activities are planned spanning all three focus areas of Vistara Nurtures – the CSR strategy of Vistara – namely, Children and Education, Environment & Sustainability, and Employability Skills.

Vistara is India's highest-rated airline on Skytrax and TripAdvisor, and it has been the winner of several 'Best Airline' awards, besides being lauded for world-class cabin cleanliness and upholding high safety standards. The only Indian carrier to feature amongst World's Top 20 Airlines, Vistara has been named '16th Best Airline' globally while also being recognised as the 'Best Airline in India and South Asia' for the third time in a row, 'Best Airline Staff in India and South Asia' for the fifth consecutive year, 'Best Cabin Crew in India and South Asia' for the third time in a row and 'Best Business Class Airline in India and South Asia' for the second time in a row at the coveted World Airline Awards 2023 by Skytrax. Vistara also received the ch-aviation Asia's Third Youngest Airline Fleet award for the second consecutive year.

VFS Global sets new benchmarks in its sustainability reporting

The report indicates consistent improvement in the organisation's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance in 2022



VFS Global has shared new milestones in its sustainability journey. The new findings were published in the fourth edition of the organisation's Integrated Sustainability Report 2022, released on July 4, 2023. The report indicates consistent improvement in the organisation's Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance in 2022. The report has been prepared following the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards and Sustainability Accountability Standards Board's (SASB).

"The report documents measurable improvements in our sustainability journey in 2022, as well our continued commitment towards achieving higher targets this year. Based on the five fundamental pillars of our Sustainability strategy – Contributing to Sustainable Economic Growth, Delivering Good Governance, Nurturing our Colleagues, Protecting our Environment, and Supporting our Communities, the report reiterates strong alignment to our business strategy and the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals," said Shireen Mistree, Head – ESG, VFS Global.

IR 2022 highlights

Protecting environment

- More than 2 lakh trees have been planted across the globe, as part of VFS Global's contributions to reforestation and nature regeneration initiatives providing 10,000 tCO₂e in VCS carbon credits. This has also resulted in addressing social issues like poverty alleviation while contributing to women's empowerment. Over 70% of the planting staff are women who now have a steady source of income to provide for the everyday needs of their families.
- Marked a reduction in carbon emissions of 40 percent in 2022, compared to the base year of 2019, due to the greater

usage of renewable energy, energy efficiency initiatives as well as the use of carbon credits.

- Certified eco-friendly paper was used for more than 90% of VFS Global's marketing material.
- Continued commitment to responsible e-waste disposal in accordance with local regulations resulted in 10,035 kg of waste being treated, in India alone.
- Target for 2023 is to reduce the organisation's carbon footprint intensity by 10%.

Nurturing colleagues

- Maintained a strong gender balance with a ratio of 57:43 for women to men in 2022. Women hold 27% of the leadership positions. The goal is to exceed 30% representation of women in leadership in the next 3 years.
- Introduced the inclusive language guide with inclusive terminologies and Dos and Don'ts as a tool to develop sensitivities and enable mindful behaviour among colleagues.
- Globally, more than 129 nationalities work with VFS Global, bringing the benefit of a wide variety of world views.

Supporting communities

- Undertook over 80 community initiatives touching the lives of more than 59,000 individuals across 35 countries in partnership with more than 40 charitable, social and community organisations.
- Set social priorities of caring with empathy, promoting education, and preserving the environment guide investment in community programmes throughout the global network.

Sustainable Economic Growth

- Visa Application Centres around the world create local jobs, and as of end of 2022, VFS Global employed 8,883 colleagues worldwide.
- Digitise the end-to-end Visa application processing including Digitisation of Visa Application, which leads to reducing carbon footprint
- In 2022, local suppliers accounted for 86% of total procurement spend for engagement exceeding CHF 20,000.

Delivering Good Governance

- Updated employee and supplier code of conduct to include ESG criteria ensuring that as users and providers of services, all operate in a socially responsible manner.
- Mandatory ESG training for all employees in 2022 and for suppliers in 2023
- RSA Archer, enterprise risk management tool includes ESG questions for suppliers as part of the due diligence process.



Unveiling Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh: A spectacular retreat in the heart of Rajasthan

Nestled on the foothills of the Aravalli Range, Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh is a serene oasis spread across 5.18 acres

Radisson Hotel Group has unveiled Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh in the heart of Rajasthan's best-kept secret. Nestled amidst the majestic Aravalli Range, this exquisite resort is poised to redefine the region's hospitality landscape by delivering a comfortable and stylish experience to guests backed by the Group's unparalleled service standards. Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh

showcases a perfect blend of luxury and serenity in a breathtaking natural setting. The resort's architecture pays homage to the rich heritage of Rajasthan, seamlessly combining traditional elements with modern design to create a truly captivating ambiance. Set in a spectacular location with a mountainous backdrop, the resort is accessible from Maharana Pratap Airport Udaipur and Udaipur

City Junction Train Station within two hours.

Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh is located in proximity to the illustrious Kumbhalgarh Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its architectural splendor. The resort's strategic location ensures convenient access to other prominent attractions, including the revered Ranakpur Jain Temple and the captivating wildlife of Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary. Just a 2-hour drive away from Udaipur, life at Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh is all about the simple pleasures – waking up to warm sunshine, strolling through lush gardens, savouring local culinary delights, and exploring tales of bravery with guided treks and trails to sites undiscovered.

“We are thrilled to unveil Radisson Blu Resort Kumbhalgarh, a true gem in our growing portfolio. With its captivating setting, thoughtful amenities, and Rajasthan's warm hospitality, we are confident that Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh will become a preferred destination for travelers seeking an unforgettable experience. Radisson Hotel Group, in the past 25 years of operations in India, has become a part of the country's social fabric. We derive deep inspiration from this and will continue to add more such magnificent hotels to our portfolio that are an embodiment of India's rich heritage,” said Zubin Saxena, Managing Director & Area Senior Vice President - South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group.

Nestled on the foothills of the Aravalli Range, Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh is a serene oasis spread across 5.18 acres. Surrounded by diverse flora and fauna, including multiple-aged banyan trees, it offers a refreshing change of pace. It is the only IGBC-certified property in the region. The resort boasts spacious rooms and suites that are elegantly designed with thoughtful touches offering stunning views of the picturesque landscape, ensuring a tranquil retreat for every guest. The resort offers three unique dining options, comprising a pizzeria, an all-day diner, and a lounge bar.

The resort also features a fitness



center, a rejuvenating spa, and an outdoor pool for relaxation. It provides expansive meeting and banquet facilities with advanced technology. Guests can engage in self-rejuvenating recreational activities such as artisanal, puppet, and pottery workshops, guided treks led by naturalists, jungle visits, and cultural trails. The resort further enhances the guest experience with a royal welcome, performances like Nagada and Flute recitals, Ghoomar dance, and Sandhya aarti.

“We are delighted to collaborate with Radisson Hotel Group for the opening of Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh. This partnership marks a significant milestone in our journey as a hospitality brand, as we join forces with a renowned global leader in the industry. Through this collaboration, we are confident in delivering an exceptional experience that allows our guests to immerse themselves in the rich culture and heritage of Rajasthan. We are committed to providing unparalleled hospitality and ensuring that every guest enjoys a memorable stay,” said Sharad Mishra, Director and Owner of Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh.

Gourav Deb, General Manager of Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh said, “Radisson Blu Resort, Kumbhalgarh

is designed to offer a perfect blend of tranquility, luxury, and cultural immersion. We are dedicated to crafting memorable experiences for our guests with exceptional services and recreational activities, making it a perfect cultural holiday spot. The resort ensures spectacular hospitality amidst the UNESCO world heritage site, and we are excited to host our guests with the Group's signature Yes, I Can! Service ethos.”

Radisson Hotel Group continues to command a leading presence in the Indian market and is one of the country's largest international hotel operators with over 150 hotels in operation and development. It continues to be the largest hotel operator in tier-1 markets like Delhi NCR and at the same time, more than 50% of its portfolio is in tier-2 and 3 markets where it has benefitted by being the first mover. With hotels dotted across 64+ locations in India, there is a Radisson Hotel Group property in every 4 hours of the drivable distance across the length and breadth of the country operating under brands, including Radisson Blu, Radisson, Radisson RED, Park Inn by Radisson, Park Plaza, Park Inn & Suites by Radisson, Country Inn & Suites by Radisson and Radisson Individuals.

Collinson Announces Partnership with Blue Sky Group to Enhance Lounge Access for Priority Pass Members in Indonesia



- *Priority Pass Members now have access to 13 premium airport lounges, managed by Blue Sky Group, in Indonesian airports; eight of which are exclusive to Priority Pass Members*
- *Blue Sky Group's commitment to providing high-quality services and facilities aligns with Collinson's vision to provide premium travel experiences to travellers, including buggy transfer services within the airport space, plus locally roasted coffee and local dishes within lounges*

Collinson, a global leader in the provision of airport experiences, loyalty and customer engagement solutions, and owner and operator of Priority Pass, announces a

new partnership with Blue Sky Group, a hospitality provider in Indonesia that manages premium executive lounges in airports across Indonesia, alongside hotels and restaurants.

This partnership will allow Priority Pass Members to access 13 airport lounges, eight of which are exclusive to Priority Pass Members, in Indonesian airports. This includes Soekarno-Hatta

International Airport (CGK), Sultan Aji Muhammad Sulaiman Sepinggan International Airport (BPN), and Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin II International Airport (PLM).

Blue Sky Group's airport lounges offer comfortable spaces for travellers to relax pre-flight and VIP rooms for informal meetings. Lounges at Balikpapan (BPN) and Terminal 2 of Soekarno-Hatta (CGK) airports provide complimentary buggy services that transport guests from the lounge to immigration. In addition to curated lounge spaces, members will be able to enjoy Ippolito coffee – Blue Sky's in-house brand, roasted locally – as well as sample Indonesian cuisines, such as Pisang Goreng and varieties of Jajanan Pasar.

"This is an exciting time for the travel industry in Indonesia, as the country has set a goal of attracting nearly 7.4 million international arrivals in 2023; almost double the number of arrivals when compared to last year," said **Todd Handcock, Global Chief Commercial Officer and Asia Pacific President at Collinson**.

"We are delighted to partner with Blue Sky Group, one of the top hospitality providers in Southeast Asia, to vastly enhance our Priority Pass Members' experience when visiting Indonesia, through inventory that both provides a taste of the local culture, and a memorable airport experience."

Linan Kurniahu, CEO of Blue Sky Group said, "We are thrilled to partner with Priority Pass to provide their members with access to our premium airport lounges in Indonesia. Our airport lounges combine the best of local culture and cuisine with the highest levels of international travel service. This partnership represents a significant milestone for us as we continue to expand our footprint across Asia Pacific's travel industry."

Indonesia has a rapidly growing economy and is fast becoming a major international business and leisure travel destination. Recognising the importance of this market to Priority Pass Members, together, both partners will make travel to and within

This partnership will allow Priority Pass Members to access 13 airport lounges, eight of which are exclusive to Priority Pass Members, in Indonesian airports. This includes Soekarno-Hatta International Airport (CGK), Sultan Aji Muhammad Sulaiman Sepinggan International Airport (BPN), and Sultan Mahmud Badaruddin II International Airport (PLM).

the Indonesian archipelago more comfortable and relaxing than ever before.

Priority Pass Members will be able to access these 13 premium airport lounges (eight of which are exclusive to Priority Pass Members), managed by Blue Sky Group, in Indonesian airports.

Airport Code	Lounge Name and Location
AAP	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge
BDO	Sapphire Blue Sky Lounge
BPN	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge
BTH	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge
CGK	Sapphire Blue Sky Premier Lounge T3 Gate 13
CGK	Sapphire Blue Sky Premier Lounge T3 Gate 18
CGK	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge T2
CGK	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge T1
KNO	Sapphire Blue Sky Lounge
PGK	Sapphire Blue Sky Lounge
PKU	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge
PLM	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge
PNK	*Blue Sky Premier Lounge

**Exclusive to Priority Pass Members*

Priority Pass is the world's original and market-leading airport experiences programme. We provide travellers with access to 1,300 airport lounges and travel experiences in over 650 airports in 148 countries. Members can access an ever-growing range of premium experiences – from spas to sleeping pods to dining – that help elevate every journey into something special. By

building partnerships with other leading brands, we help to bring a better travel experience to the world. Priority Pass is operated by Collinson, the global, privately-owned company dedicated to helping the world travel easily and confidently.

Collinson is a global, privately-owned company dedicated to helping the world travel easily and confidently. It works with the world's leading payment networks, over 1,400 banks, 90 airlines and 20 hotel groups worldwide. We deliver market-leading airport experiences, loyalty and customer engagement, and insurance solutions for over 400 million end consumers. Collinson is the operator of Priority Pass, the world's original and leading airport experiences programme. Travellers can access a network of 1,300 lounges and travel experiences, including dining, retail, sleep and spa, in over 650 airports in 148 countries, helping to elevate the journey into something special.

Blue Sky Group is a nationwide company focusing on hospitality, property services and restaurant management. Blue Sky Group started in 1973 as one of the few hotels in Balikpapan, Indonesia. Since 2003, Blue Sky Lounges have served in major cities in Indonesia, such as Balikpapan, Jakarta, Pekanbaru, Pontianak, etc. It is the sole privately owned brand with multiple outlets that have partnerships with major banks and corporate & government entities in Indonesia. Our aim is to continue to be the destination for travellers before their journey, with the goal of going to the international market in the future.

Sailing into Paradise

Advantis Welcomes Cordelia Cruises at Hambantota

- *Advantis and Cordelia Cruises partner to pioneer cruise sailing operations around the island*
- *The MS Empress arrives with 1,600 passengers onboard*
- *Anticipates 80,000 tourist arrivals in the first 4 months alone*
- *Advantis appointed General Sales Agent and Port Agent in Sri Lanka for Cordelia Cruises*



Ushering in a new wave of inbound luxury cruise tourists to Sri Lanka, Advantis, the transportation and logistics arm of the Hayleys Group, welcomed the Ms Empress of Cordelia Cruises recently. Leveraging the newly forged partnership with India's top cruise line Cordelia Cruises, the Advantis

The team warmly welcomed 1,600 tourists from Chennai, as they made their inaugural stop at the Hambantota International Port. Disembarking passengers were garlanded with flowers and treated to a warm Sri Lankan welcome complete with Kandyan dancers and traditional drummers.

"We are delighted to welcome Cordelia Cruises and embrace a

completely new segment of luxury cruise tourists. Today marks a significant milestone in our efforts to revitalise and unlock substantial commercial opportunities for the tourism value chain, as well as capitalise on our island's vast untapped potential as a global hotspot for cruises," **Hayleys Group Chairman and Chief Executive Mohan Pandithage** said.

With Advantis and Cordelia Cruises combining their expertise and resources, their shared mission is to unlock the full potential of Sri Lanka and position the country as a top destination for luxury travellers seeking exceptional experiences.

"Our partnership with Advantis is the first step in positioning both Sri Lanka and India as premier destinations for discerning travellers across South Asia. By seamlessly integrating these unique and diverse holiday destinations, we aim to chart new horizons for tourists and stimulate economic growth for both nations," **Cordelia Cruises President and CEO Jurgen Bailom** stated.

The MS Empress boasts 796 cabins across five distinct categories, each filled with state-of-the-art amenities, providing unparalleled luxury and comfort to its 1,600 passengers. Setting the stage for an unforgettable journey around the island for passengers, the vessel embarked on its inaugural sailing to Sri Lanka from the Port of Chennai on 5th June 2023.

Commenting on the partnership,

Advantis Managing Director, Ruwan Waidyaratne said, "As an island nation, Sri Lanka has attracted maritime trade and travel for centuries. However, in the modern age, our nation is yet to leverage its natural advantages to the best of our ability. Through our alliance with Cordelia Cruises, we are able to facilitate the first-ever cruise sailing operation around the island, offering a remarkable opportunity for travellers to explore the rich heritage, breathtaking natural beauty, and vibrant cultural diversity of Sri Lanka. We look forward to working in close partnership with the Cordelia team to attract at least 80,000 visitors within the next four months alone."

The Travel and Aviation arm of the Advantis Group will serve as the General Sales Agent, while Clarion Shipping, a subsidiary of the Advantis Group, will act as the Port Agent for Cordelia Cruises in Sri Lanka.

Advantis is Sri Lanka's most diversified transportation and logistics provider, with over six decades of experience and operations spread across Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Singapore, and Thailand. Backed by the blue-chip multinational conglomerate Hayleys PLC, Advantis is at the forefront of the transportation and logistics industries providing end-to-end solutions covering Integrated Logistics, Projects and Engineering, Marine and Energy, International Freight Management, and Travel and Aviation.





It should come as no surprise that California makes 81 per cent of all U.S. wines and is the world's 4th leading wine producer. And while Napa and Sonoma are typically the kings of the hill when it comes to California wine regions.

Like the magnificent Tri-Valley - one that's become an amazing road-tripper dream.

Located just 30 minutes east of the San Francisco Bay area, Tri-Valley is a grouping of three picturesque bucolic valleys - Amador, San Ramon, and Livermore. The area also encompasses the charming towns of Danville, Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton, all within easy driving distance of one another.

This is where a small-town vibe, history, a diverse culinary scene, and a



Tri-Valley

California's Surprising **Hot and Trendy Wine Country**





host of quality wineries and breweries blend the past with the present and reveal what the destination's amazing future holds.

From breathtaking natural landscapes to world-class wineries, and captivating cultural attractions to thrilling outdoor activities, the Tri-Valley offers a diverse array of experiences to suit every interest and passion. Whether you're seeking outdoor adventures, culinary delights,

family-friendly fun, or a serene escape, you can find it all in the Tri-Valley.

Liquid Assets Creating Quite a Stir

Wine may have put the Tri-Valley on visitors' radars, but there's much more to this region than its award-winning wineries. Here winemakers, brewers, and distillers are at the top of their game, extremely devoted to their craft, and passionate about their products.

Livermore is California's oldest

wine-growing region and their wineries have been family owned and operated for generations. Many are organically certified. There are an impressive 55 wineries with tasting rooms within the Livermore Valley. How to choose? Well, one trip won't be enough.

Also, there's such an impressive number of craft brewers in the area that Tri-Valley now has a **beer trail** - a collection of breweries, alehouses, and



tea rooms in the Tri-Valley, each with its own special set of peps and perks. Sip on craft coffee creations, sweet boba tea, and steamy artisanal teas as you explore the most creative caffeine connoisseurs of the Tri-Valley.

The Tri-Valley Ice Cream Trail is a delicious year-round activity fit for all ages. Visit 5 stops on the Tri-Valley Ice Cream Trail to earn a souvenir ice cream scooper!

The Tri-Valley is a great destination for biking whether you're an avid cyclist or if you're

dusting off your training wheels. Take a cruise on our winding country roads past vineyards and rolling hills or ride through the bike-friendly downtowns to reach most of the region's best local attractions.

The Tri-Valley offers plenty of things to do outdoors from hiking along the rolling hills of Pleasanton Ridge with its spectacular views to swimming, boating, paddle boarding, or fishing at beautiful Lake Del Valle, the jewel of Del Valle Regional Park.

With its miles of trails, dozens



taprooms. Visitors can sign up for a digital passport and begin sampling among 20 places on the map.

Don't want to sip and drive? You can go first class and in luxury with one of Black Tie Transportation's **wine and brewery tours**.

THE TRI-VALLEY Caffeine Trail

Rise and grind, caffeine lovers! The Tri-Valley Caffeine Trail is a unique collection of cafés, coffee houses, and





of parks, plenty of sunshine all year round, and clean, fresh air, the outdoor lifestyle awaits in the scenic beauty of the Tri-Valley. The views can be breathtaking and so peaceful.

SHOPPING

Are you ready to go shopping? The Tri-Valley is home to Northern California's largest luxury outlet center, a modern shopping mall, and adorable downtowns with one-of-a-kind boutiques. Located in Livermore, you'll find more than 180 premium outlet stores open and ready to delight, featuring designers like Coach, Gucci, Prada, Kate Spade, and more of your favorite luxury brands.

San Francisco Premium outlet mall - Even if you have expensive



taste, this is a great place to go if you're on a budget. Stoneridge Shopping Center, Pacific Pearl Shopping Center, The Livery, Hacienda Crossings, and local boutiques make it a great shopping experience.

Foodie Scene Is Exploding

Tri-Valley has become one impressive culinary adventure. It's no secret that wine, brews, and good food go together, and this region embraces it with finesse. Visitors' only regret is that they run out of time trying out all of its global-inspired and contemporary California foodie gems that make this destination a standout.

Breakfast fans must try Nonni's Bistro in Pleasanton. This European eatery creates everything from scratch, and it's divine. Oyo represents the diverse cultures found in South America with fare rooted in indigenous dishes and oh, is this place impressive. And the Pleasanton Farmers Market is open on Saturdays year-round. Their wholesome selection of seasonal fruits, vegetables, artisan cheese, and other local goods is quite impressive.

If you love Burmese fare, Burma! Burma! in Danville is one amazing restaurant that's ideal for group foodie sharing. Without a doubt, Danville Harvest has to be one of our favorite lunch venues. This farm-to-fork eatery is passionate about only using local sustainably sourced ingredients. Everything about their food is creative, inspiring, and delicious.

Garré Café in Livermore features freshly tossed wood-burning pizzas, freshly baked focaccia, and other European-inspired foodie gems in a warm and hospitable setting. And you can even pair foods with their spectacular wines.

Locanda Wine Bar in the heart of Livermore is owned by an Italian family that emigrated from Southern Italy. It is comforting to get true-blue authentic Italian food and to interact with the family.

Surrounded by Natural Beauty

If the rolling verdant hills with miles of vineyards in this valley aren't

picturesque enough, the vistas from Mount Diablo are stunning. It's only about an hour's drive to the picturesque Mt. Diablo State Park sitting at almost 4,000 feet elevation. The park is surrounded by idyllic rolling hills and broad valleys. On a clear day, you can see San Francisco Bay. Standing on the Diablo Valley Overlook, the Golden Gate Bridge glitters in the distance.

The mountain is a popular hiking, biking, horseback riding, and sightseeing destination. There are multiple trails crisscrossing the mountain.

The Must-Do Blackhawk Museum

Visit to the Blackhawk Museum in the Tri-Valley area is a must. It is best known for its collection of classic, rare, and unique automobiles, the museum features the Classic Car Collection, all vintage automobiles in absolute shimmering pristine condition.

Other "worlds" of the museum include The Spirit of the Old West, World of Nature, Art of Africa, and The Into China Gallery. Don't miss this jewel!

Travelling Through History

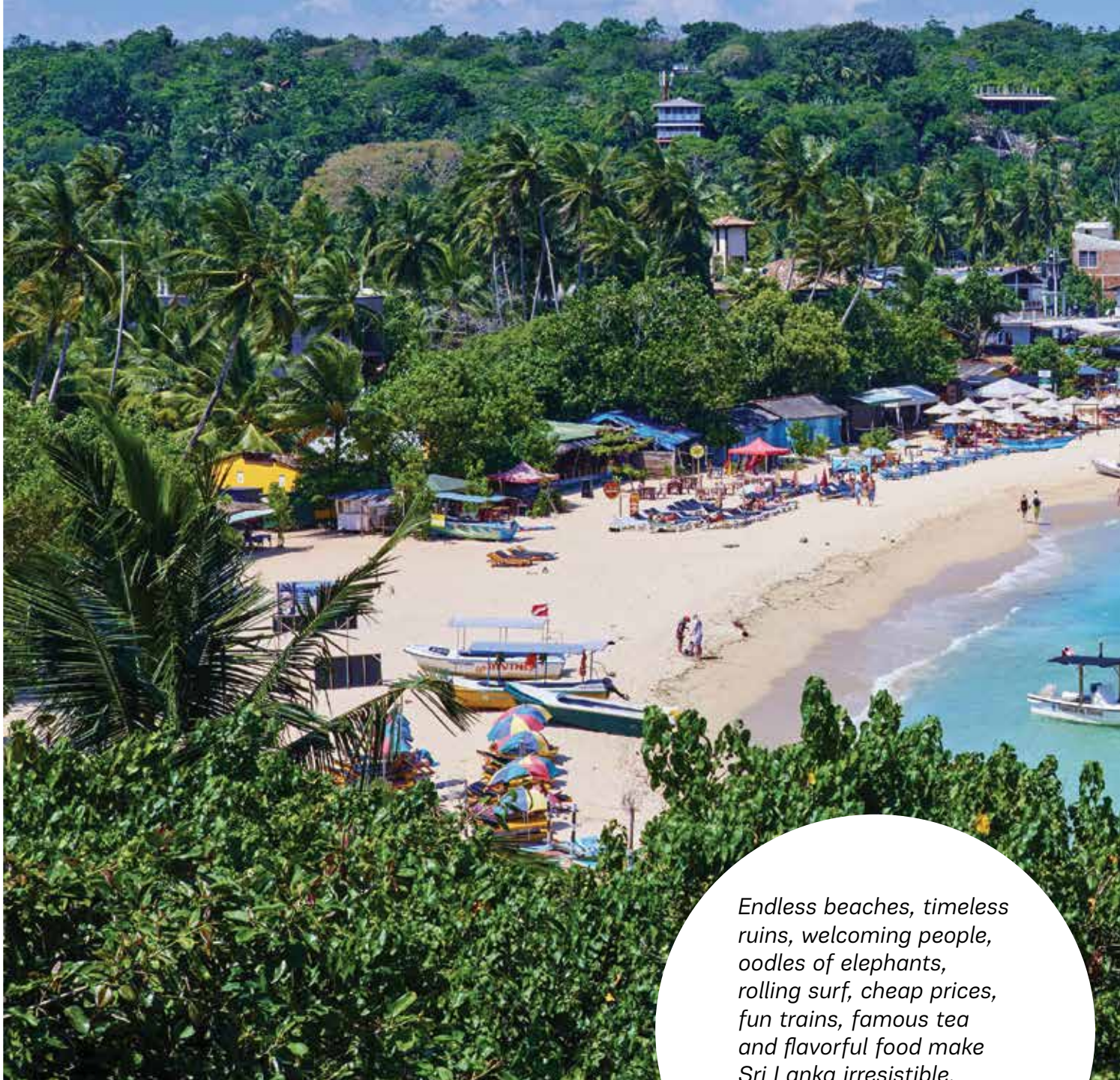
Everything in the Tri-Valley is deeply connected to the past. Even its wines are richly steeped in tradition.

C.H. Wenthe came to the U.S. in the late 1800s from Hamburg, Germany, and learned to make wine from another German, Charles Krug, in Napa Valley. In 1883, Wenthe established his estate and winery in Livermore. He produced the first labeled Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, and Semillon in the entire country. Today most of the Chardonnay grapes in the region are descendants of Wenthe clones. Must visit this historic property and its wine cave and wine taste among the picturesque vines or in the barrel room with its impressively Old-World hand-carved wine barrels.

Dublin's Heritage Park and Museum is a journey through time sporting the region's oldest Catholic church, a schoolhouse, the historic Kolb House, and the pioneer cemetery. The 10-acre park was designed to capture and share the history of Dublin which once served as the crossroads of two important stagecoach routes.



This is what makes Sri Lanka a Perfect Exotic Tropical Paradise



Endless beaches, timeless ruins, welcoming people, oodles of elephants, rolling surf, cheap prices, fun trains, famous tea and flavorful food make Sri Lanka irresistible.



With beaches where you can swim and surf and spiritual places where you can meditate for hours, Sri Lanka is more than just an island country. Its ferocious, yet fascinating wildlife lures travellers from across the globe. So do its vast tea gardens.

Its gorgeous palm-fringed beaches, verdant jungles, towering mountains, ancient temples and several UNESCO World Heritage sites, make for a perfect tropical paradise. Shaped like a teardrop, this pretty island nation enjoys 8 hours of sunshine almost every day! For those looking for their next beach destination for holidays, Sri Lanka is the best place to be for them!

Let's check out the reasons that make Sri Lanka a perfect tropical paradise:

1 Unawatuna Beach for the stunning sunset views

The horseshoe-shaped beach in Sri Lanka, Unawatuna attracts visitors from all over. The beach is also known as the face of the country. The beach has several spots to laze around and relax. The crystal clear beach is lined with some incredible eateries and cafes.

Top tourist attractions in Unawatuna: Unawatuna Beach, Dalawella Beach, Japanese Peace Pagoda, Jungle Beach, Rumassala Sanctuary, Yatagala Raja Maha Viharaya, Mihiripenna Beach, and Sea Turtle Hatchery

Best things to do in Unawatuna: Rope swing, enjoy brunch at Skinny Tom's Deli, beach party, surfing, exploring forts, and shopping fresh fruits

2 Trincomalee for whale and dolphin watching

The pretty town of Trincomalee is prized for two beaches, namely Nilaveli and Uppuveli. These two beaches are absolutely pretty and are known for their crystal clear waters, and are home to a number of blue whales and dolphins. Opt for whale-watching and dolphin-watching tours.

3 Tangalle for solitude seekers

Tangalle is a beautiful tropical town





in the Hambantota District of Sri Lanka perfect for solitude seekers. This serene town at the southernmost tip of the island offers perfect settings for laid-back travellers. The place remains serene and silent most of the time.\

4 Negombo, fishing village

Sri Lanka is also renowned for its many fishing villages but Negombo here is absolutely famous. Set on the west coast of Sri Lanka, this peaceful coastal destination is adorned with white sandy beaches and turquoise waters. Negombo is also among the biggest open-air fishing villages in Sri Lanka. Visit these villages and learn the art of fishing from the local fishermen and assist them. Imagine learning fishing skills from those who were born close to the sea.

5 Koggala Beach for turtle watching

This is basically a deserted beach but that's what makes this place more beautiful and a must-visit offbeat spot in the country. One can sit here at any spot without being disturbed. Koggala is noted for its sound of waves and there's also a turtle farm nearby.

6 Hikkaduwa, a seaside beauty

Hikkaduwa in Sri Lanka is an ideal destination for sea lovers who love to wake up to the sound of waves. The gorgeous beach is noted for its calm waters and sunset views. Besides, the place is surrounded by pretty hotels and nightclubs, making it perfect for partygoers as well.

7 Galle, a gorgeous coastal city

Situated some 130 km from Colombo, the coastal city of Galle is all about Dutch architecture, boutique properties and old shops. A romantic tropical getaway in Sri Lanka, visitors can chill at the pristine beach here, or enjoy the rich marine experiences in the region. Everything about this town is picturesque and appealing. The lighthouse is one of the best places to visit in Galle.

Top tourists attractions in Galle: Galle Dutch Fort, National Maritime Museum, Lighthouse Street

Best things to do in Galle: historical walks, scuba diving, dolphin watching, and bike tour.

8 Arugam Bay, a surfer's heaven

This is the best spot for surfing in Sri Lanka. Surfers from across the globe visit Arugam Bay to enjoy and practice surfing. This beautiful and secluded beach is home to some lovely guesthouses, where people can stay and relax. The lush green countryside is packed with national parks and mangroves.

9. Kandy – The Cultural Capital Of Sri Lanka

Kandy is the cultural capital of Sri Lanka and has been deservedly given the title of UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The second-largest city of Sri Lanka, Kandy is surrounded by mountain ranges and tea plantations. Due to its 3-hour distance from the capital Colombo, Kandy is a favourite for





travellers wanting to spend a day or two visiting its colonial buildings and religious sites.

Originally called Senkadagala after the hermit Senkada, this city is a sacred Buddhist site. The Royal Palace was the capital from 1592 until 1815 when it came under British rule. Built by King Vikramabahu III of Gampola, it lies in the centre of the island, surrounded by a large lake and the Mahaweli, the longest river in Sri Lanka.

The best-known monument in Kandy is the sacred pilgrimage site of the **Temple of the Tooth**, said to house one of the Buddha's teeth.

The relic of the tooth of the Buddha symbolizes fourth-century traditions that used to be linked to royalty since the protector of the relic was seen to be fit enough to rule the land. Thus, the Royal Palace and the Temple of the Tooth were associated with the administrative and religious functions of the capital city. During July or August every year, Sri Lanka's grandest



celebration takes place, the Kandy Esala Perahera. The ten-day festival ends on the night of the full Moon, its highlight is a procession of drummers, dancers, and decorated elephants carrying a duplicate of the Buddha's sacred tooth.

Surrounded by a loop of the beautiful Mahaweli River, **Peradeniya Botanical Gardens** are well worth a visit. From the 14th century and

the reign of King Vikramabahu III, the garden is known for its orchid house, spice garden, and magnificent tropical trees.

Kandy Lake - Also known as the Milky Sea, Kandy Lake is one of the notable places. Colourful geese, exotic green bushes, tall trees, and flashy canoes make Kandy Lake a uniquely picturesque place. The lake creates a perfect environment where you can



peacefully relax away from the bustling city's noises.

Giragama Tea Plantation - is worth visiting.

In brief - The top tourist attractions in Kandy are, The Temple of the Tooth, Bogambara Lake, Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage, Royal Botanical Garden, Bahirawakanda Temple, New Ranweli Spice Garden, and The Tea Museum

Best things to do in Kandy: Elephant riding, trekking, hiking, jungle safari, nature walk, and meditation in Nilambe Buddhist Meditation Centre

10. Nuwara Eliya – Little England With Lush Tea Plantations

Nuwara Eliya, or Little England – as people also call it, is blessed with the oldest tea estates in Sri Lanka. Undoubtedly, a paradise for the tea-lovers, Little England is where you can cycle through as you take a tea-tasting tour.

Top tourist attractions in Nuwara Eliya: Tea plantations, Hakgala Botanical Garden, St. Clairs Fall, Devon Falls, Galway's Land National Park, and Nuwara Eliya Golf Club.

Best things to do in Nuwara Eliya: Cycling, tea garden visit, golfing, and trekking

11. Bentota – A Beach Town With Turtle Hatchery

A town with exotic beaches with the ocean and river; that's Bentota. As per the legends, Bentota is named after Bem, a demon who ruled the town in the erstwhile era. Besides mesmerizing with its beaches, Bentota showcases the heritage and history of the country through its Galapatha Raja Temple. This is among the top tourist attractions of Sri Lanka, mainly because of the Koskoda Turtle Hatchery, which also houses rare albino turtles. It is one of the must-see places in the 5 days in Sri Lanka.

Attractions in

Bentota: Koskoda Turtle Hatchery, Chaplon Tea Center, Brief Garden, Galapatha Raja Maha Vihare Buddhist

Best things to do in Bentota: Beach hopping, water activities, river cruise, Ayurvedic therapies, and temple visits.





12. Colombo – The Capital City

Sri Lanka's capital city of Colombo seamlessly combines the incredible culture and history of the island with modern tourist attractions and amenities. The city's unique colonial history (Portuguese, Dutch, and British) adds additional layers to the mix. As the country's capital city, it's also filled with museums and places to visit that illustrate Sri Lanka's rich history.

The top places in the capital city are:

Lotus Tower - (368 meters/1,168 feet), also called the Nelum Kuluna, is designed to replicate a lotus bulb and flower, simultaneously representing the historic culture of the country and its focus on the future. It houses an esports arena and a 5G VR Innovation Center, a shopping mall (at the base), a revolving fine dining restaurant, and indoor and outdoor observation areas.

The National Museum, also called the Sri Lanka National Museum, is the official museum of Sri Lanka and takes you on a journey over the thousands of years of Sri Lankan culture.

Sri Lanka Planetarium - The large auditorium has 570 seats with a domed ceiling, and the night sky and its constellations are projected onto it. Aside from the exhibits and programming, the structure itself is architecturally striking and a must-do for Instagram. The lotus flower design shares elements with iconic modernist cathedrals in Liverpool, England, and Brazil.

National Zoological Gardens - One of the oldest zoos in Asia, it's

home to almost 3,000 different animals of all shapes and sizes.

Other top tourist attractions in Colombo are Galle Face Green, Gangaramaya Temple (This Buddhist temple complex was constructed in the late 19th century), Beira Lake, National Museum of Natural History, Excel World Entertainment Park, Colombo Dutch Museum, Pettah Floating Market, Red Mosque etc.

13. Trincomalee

The Paradise Of Sri Lanka - Looking for a perfect place to indulge in water activities in Sri Lanka? Look no further than Trincomalee which is a haven for adventure seekers. From scuba diving to exploring age-old temples, Trincomalee has a lot to offer to a traveller. Make sure that you visit some of the top temples here as their architecture is worth seeing once.

Top tourist attractions in Trincomalee: Koneswaram Temple, Fort Frederick, Pathirakali Amman Temple, Marble Beach, and Trincomalee Beach

Best things to do in Trincomalee: Scuba diving, snorkelling, shopping, and tasting local dishes.

14. Batticaloa

A Relaxed Visit - Enveloped within the vast Indian Ocean and lagoons, Batticaloa is considered to be one of the best places to visit in Sri Lanka. This city is admired for its beaches, ensuring an extremely laid-back and relaxing experience for tourists. Moreover, the architecture here is worth witnessing, for it depicts the colonial influence beautifully.

15. Jaffna – For A Cultural And Spiritual Getaway

Journey to the captivating city of Jaffna, nestled in the northern region of Sri Lanka, it offers an unparalleled cultural experience. With its deep-rooted history, vibrant festivals, delectable cuisine, and traditional arts, Jaffna offers a glimpse into the rich tapestry of Sri Lanka's cultural heritage.

16. Tissamaharama

Town With Ancient Vibes -

Tissamaharama was once the capital of Sri Lanka during the reign of ancient kings. Reeking of peace and prettiness from every nook, this town acts as a gateway to the national parks in the present day. This town is home to a stunning architectural marvel that was built around 2300 years ago, a white stupa of Yatala Vehra. Tissamaharam is sitting on the shores of an artificial lake named Tissa Wewa which was actually constructed during the third century BC.

Top tourist attractions in Tissamaharama: Tissa Lake, White Stupa of Yatala Vehera, Wirawila Lake, Wirawila Tissa Sanctuary, and Yoda Lake.

Best things to do in Tissamaharama: Safari, bird watching, dinner in the jungle, local cooking, and exploring.

Besides many interesting things one can do in the cities mentioned above, here are some more exciting things to do in Sri Lanka.

Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage – Play With The Elephants

Hikkaduwa – Go Surfing

Knuckles Mountain Range – Try Trekking

Trincomalee – Enjoy Scuba Diving

Nuwara Eliya – Be Part Of The Rail Sojourn

Dambulla – Go For Hot Air Balloon Flight

Kaudulla National Park – Get A Safari Experience

Ella – Hike The Adam's Peak

South Coast – Go Road Tripping

Anuradhapura – Explore Ritigala Caves

Holiday Inn & Suites across from Universal Orlando completes multi-million-dollar renovation



Inside the hotel's renovated 239 guestrooms and 151 suites, new seating creates a home-like feeling in the living space, as well as new lighting, headboards, nightstands, built-in closets, dressers, 55-inch TVs, and desks.

ORLANDO, FLA. – **Holiday Inn & Suites Across from Universal Orlando, a Universal Partner Hotel**, announced the completion of its multi-million-dollar renovation. The renovation encompassed modernizations to all guest rooms and suites, the lobby, and all meeting and event venue spaces.

"We are thrilled to invite new and returning guests to a warm and welcoming environment as they explore all that Orlando has to offer," said **Carlos Adorno**, general manager of Holiday Inn & Suites Across from Universal Orlando. *"These renovations deliver the hotel into the modern era and provide a comfortable stay at an exceptional price, which is a valuable opportunity for those visiting our local theme parks and attractions."*

Upon arrival at the hotel, guests are welcomed by a revitalized modern and contemporary lobby, featuring abstract art and accent décor blended with signature brand elements. A new communal table is centralized in the

lobby, surrounded by other ample seating areas for guests to kick back and relax. Guests are also introduced to the new 'coral coastal' color palette, which carries throughout the hotel with shades of neutral gray complemented by pops of deep blue and bright coral to provide a bright and fresh atmosphere.

Inside the hotel's renovated 239 guestrooms and 151 suites, new seating creates a home-like feeling in the living space, as well as new lighting, headboards, nightstands, built-in closets, dressers, 55-inch TVs, and desks. Accommodations also boast new modern kitchenettes with mini-fridges, microwaves (suites only), and Keurig machines. Visitors can also relax in the hotel's courtyard patio and embrace the tropical, modern feeling embodied by the updated landscaping, which includes river rock and wood bark grounding spotted with colorful flora.

The hotel's 13,000 square feet of meeting and event space, including the Grand Ballroom and Junior Ballroom, was completely redesigned with new

paint, carpet, lighting, furnishings, and window treatments. From corporate meetings to weddings, the hotel's event spaces can be arranged in various ways to host up to 500 guests. In addition, modern cabinetry and stone tops were added to the Star Quarter's Boardroom and Actor's Room, perfect for small gatherings.

Located in the heart of Orlando's entertainment district at 5916 Caravan Ct. Orlando, Florida 32819, Holiday Inn & Suites Across from Universal Orlando™ lies within walking distance of Universal CityWalk™ and is conveniently located near many of Orlando's popular attractions and other theme parks including Walt Disney World Resort®, SeaWorld® Orlando, and ICON Park™. The hotel also provides complimentary scheduled shuttle service to Universal Orlando Resort™ for all registered guests and is just a short drive from International Drive, where visitors can explore the best shopping, dining, and entertainment in the city.

11 reasons to visit San Antonio

REAL EXPERIENCES. TRUE ADVENTURES

With over 300 years of history, there are millions of reasons why you should visit San Antonio. From the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in Texas to one of only two Creative Cities of Gastronomy in the United States, San Antonio has much to offer.

We are a confluence of cultures, San Antonio has authentic historic locations, unique culinary fusions, experience thrills at fantastic





attractions, and everything in-between. This destination offers Real Experiences and True Adventures.

San Antonio traces its roots a lot farther back – to May 1, 1718 – when Spanish padres and soldiers began construction of the fortified mission.

But a rich history is only one thing that makes this sultry, sunny Texas metropolis appealing.

San Antonio offers plenty to see and do no matter when you travel here.

1. Tour the Alamo -

Although celebrated for the 1836 battle that spawned modern Texas, the famous Alamo traces its roots to 1718 when Franciscan padres founded a Spanish mission that was originally

called San Antonio de Valero. You've heard about the Battle of the Alamo, seen the movie, and perhaps even own a Davy Crockett hat, but only when you step inside the ruins of the Alamo finally make it worth a visit. Living history encampments are often staged in the lush gardens in the back.

2. Stroll the River Walk -

First conceived in the 1920s, this restaurant-and-bar-flanked route through downtown San Antonio is still the city's most popular attraction.

A slice of Europe in the heart of downtown San Antonio, River Walk has expanded a further 13 miles along the San Antonio River via the northerly Museum Reach and southbound

Mission Reach – portions where hiking, biking and kayaking are the main activities

3. Visit the Pearl -

Home to unforgettable cuisine, rich history, curious articles, and all the charm of South Texas. Pearl is a thriving and vibrant community, home to many spirited visionaries who each paint a unique portrait of the South Texas past, present and future. From culture to cuisine, Pearl is a heart's content.

Pearl has a rich history dating back to 1883. Here's how the brewery transformed over the course of a century to ultimately become the crown jewel in revitalization efforts



of southern Midtown and northern Downtown San Antonio. The old brewery complex was transformed into an eclectic entertainment, dining, residential, hotel and retail destination. The weekend Pearl Farmers Market attracts thousands, as do annual events such as the Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival in October.

4. Roam around Southtown

It's hard to find a neighbourhood cooler than Southtown. Picturesque scenery, walkable streets, great restaurants, a bustling art scene and a deeply rooted community — this San Antonio neighbourhood has it all.

San Antonio's other great urban renewal story, Southtown, has transformed from a derelict industrial



area into a thriving art, eating and historical district. Spend an afternoon touring Ruby City, a world-renowned contemporary art museum designed by starchitect Sir David Adjaye, or support local art with a stop at Blue Star Arts Complex, a mix of studios, stores, and cafes. The San Antonio Art League & Museum, located in an 1896 house, boasts 600 pieces in its permanent collection, and mostly features works by Texas artists. The St. Mary's Strip, a bustling boulevard that runs from Southtown north through downtown and Tobin Hill, is brimming with the restaurants, shops and cafes that make this neighbourhood so popular.

5. Have a drink in downtown bars

There's no denying that San Antonio's a fantastic place to sip on a margarita on the city's iconic River Walk or drink a spicy michelada while floating in the pool at one of the many





great hotels and resorts. But San Antonio has cultivated a sophisticated cocktail culture over the past several years that rivals any other major city in Texas—or the U.S. At least if you know where to look. Several new spots have opened in the past couple of years and you'll find those here, along with a handful of can't-miss mainstays for everything from beer and wine to elaborate flaming tiki cocktails. And everything in between.

La Ruina, Double Standard, Bar Loretta, The Moon's Daughters, Hugman's Oasis, Re: rooted Urban Winery, Amor Eterno, The Lounge at Hopscotch, Maverick Whiskey, The Esquire Tavern, Cellar Mixology, Otro Bar en el Balcón, Havana Bar, Sternewirth are some of the San Antonio's Best Bars to Watch.

6. Savor San Antonio cuisine -

Enjoy a feast for all the senses in diverse, vibrant San Antonio. San



Antonio is one of just two cities in the US that have been designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy – so you're sure to have not just an impressive meal but a true culinary adventure. This is the spiritual home of Tex-Mex cuisine so expect fusion to be ingrained in the gastronomic offering. Cult street eats sit comfortably next to haute cuisine while next-level steakhouses impress as equally as cool breweries. The city's food scene is continuously evolving and growing with new restaurants of every imaginable style and cuisine opened.

Texas is brimming with Mexican marvels, and El Mercado – the largest Mexican market in the United States – is in San Antonio. With local crafts, live music, potteries and pastries, the city's Historic Market Square is where it all comes to life at the outdoor plaza and Farmer's Market stage. Expect dancing, music and more as the city descends into a mini fiesta each weekend.

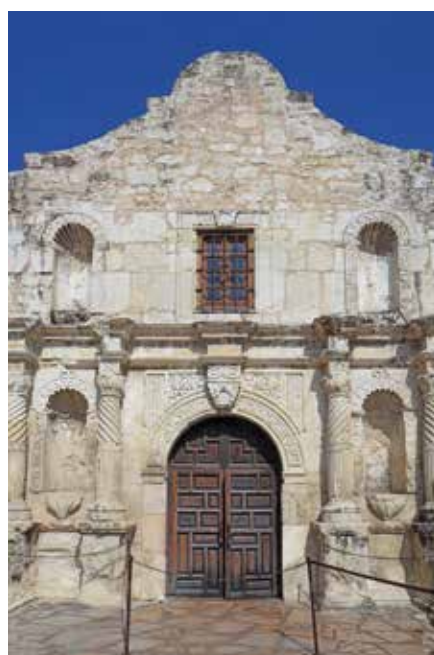
7. See historic missions -

Four of San Antonio's old Spanish missions are now preserved within the confines of a national historical park and UNESCO World Heritage Site in a park-like setting on the south

side of town. From mariachi services and ranger-guided historical tours to stargazing sessions and family archaeology days, the missions offer a wide range of activities and events.

8. Go to cutting-edge museums-

San Antonio's museums have redefined themselves over the past decade, making the transition from



stagnant collections to fully interactive adventures. Among the many choices are The Witte Museum (dinosaurs!), the Institute of Texan Cultures (which recently featured exhibits on the history of Texas beer and local Day of the Dead traditions), and the outer-space-focused Scobee Planetarium and Challenger Learning Center.

9. Enjoy rooms with a view

The 750-foot-high Tower of the Americas – and its Flags Over Texas Observation Deck – might be the city's most celebrated perch.

But there are plenty of other places in San Antonio to snatch a bird's view of the city, including the cool outdoor pool deck at the St. Anthony Hotel, the wooden tower in Eisenhower Park (which looks out over the entire city and the Hill Country), and the rooftop Paramour Bar overlooking the Museum Reach of the San Antonio River.

10. Listen to live music

There are plenty of places to see live music in San Antonio thanks to the city's eclectic music scene. Some of the country's best musicians have toured in San Antonio, including legends like Willie Nelson, Elvis Presley, and Bob Dylan. However, you can find local bands performing various genres as well, from alternative rock to country pop.

Downtown, especially the famous River Walk, has a high concentration of live music bars with outdoor patios. Classical concerts take place in San Antonio's ornate theatres, many of which date back to the 1920s. Enjoy world-class performances by the San Antonio Symphony, Opera San Antonio, and Ballet San Antonio. Whether you're a fan of classic or contemporary music, check out our guide to the best places to see a concert in San Antonio.

11. Tour Hill Country

Located just north of San Antonio, the celebrated Texas Hill Country boasts some of the only lush hills in the entire state, as well as dude ranches, recreational lakes, rodeos and historic towns.

Turkiye is gearing up to welcome the highest ever number of Indian travellers in 2023



Turkiye has emerged as a top holiday and wedding destination for Indian visitors over recent years. According to the latest reports, the country has broken all previous inbound travel records from India this year as it saw an increase of 88.03% in travellers until April 2023 alone. The two most visited cities this year that left tourists mesmerised with their scenic beauty were, Istanbul and

Nevsehir. The country has emerged as an ideal destination for the FIT and MICE segments amongst Indian travellers, leading to an uptick in the number of Indians visiting Türkiye, this year.

Having a lot to offer in terms of beautiful historical landmarks, rich local cuisine, vibrant nightlife, and exuberant art and music, Türkiye expects to host an even higher number

of Indian visitors by the end of 2023 as the wedding season approaches. With many Indian couples choosing to get married in the country's scenic destinations, Türkiye is expected to host a significant number of Indian weddings this year. Istanbul, Antalya, Bodrum and Cappadocia are amongst the most preferred cities by Indian couples to host their destination weddings. Moreover, the upcoming

Rank	Destination	International tourist arrivals (2022) ^[2]	International tourist arrivals (2021) ^[2]	Change (2022 to 2021) (%)	Change (2021 to 2020) (%)
1	France	–	48.4 million	-	16.1
2	Spain	71.7 million	31.2 million	130	64.7
3	United States	50.9 million	22.1 million	130	15
4	Turkey	50.5 million	29.9 million	69	88.3
5	Italy	49.8 million	26.9 million	85	6.7
6	Mexico	38.3 million	31.9 million	20	31.2
7	United Kingdom	–	6.3 million	-	41.3
8	Germany	28.5 million	11.7 million	144	5.2
9	Greece	27.8 million	14.7 million	89	99.4
10	Austria	26.2 million	12.7 million	106	15.7

festive and holiday seasons combined will also add up to the number of Indian travellers visiting the country as most of them prefer taking leisure vacations around the end of the year.

Turkiye ranks as the *fourth most popular destination* for tourists

worldwide after hosting 51.4 Million international visitors in 2022. The country aims to surpass all the previous records by hosting a significantly higher number of Indian and international visitors in 2023.

Most visited destinations by

international tourist arrivals

In 2022 there were 963 million international tourists, with a growth of 111% compared to 2021 but a drop of -34.3% compared to 2019. The top 10 international tourism destinations in 2022 were:





The Awe-Inspiring Natural Sights in Qatar

There are some spectacular natural wonders in the beautiful country of Qatar, which are sure to leave travellers refreshed and rejuvenated. While the stunning coastline, breathtaking cultural attractions, and modern architecture are at their finest, those who want a break from the city can explore the bounty at some of the most iconic and photographed spots, throughout the country.

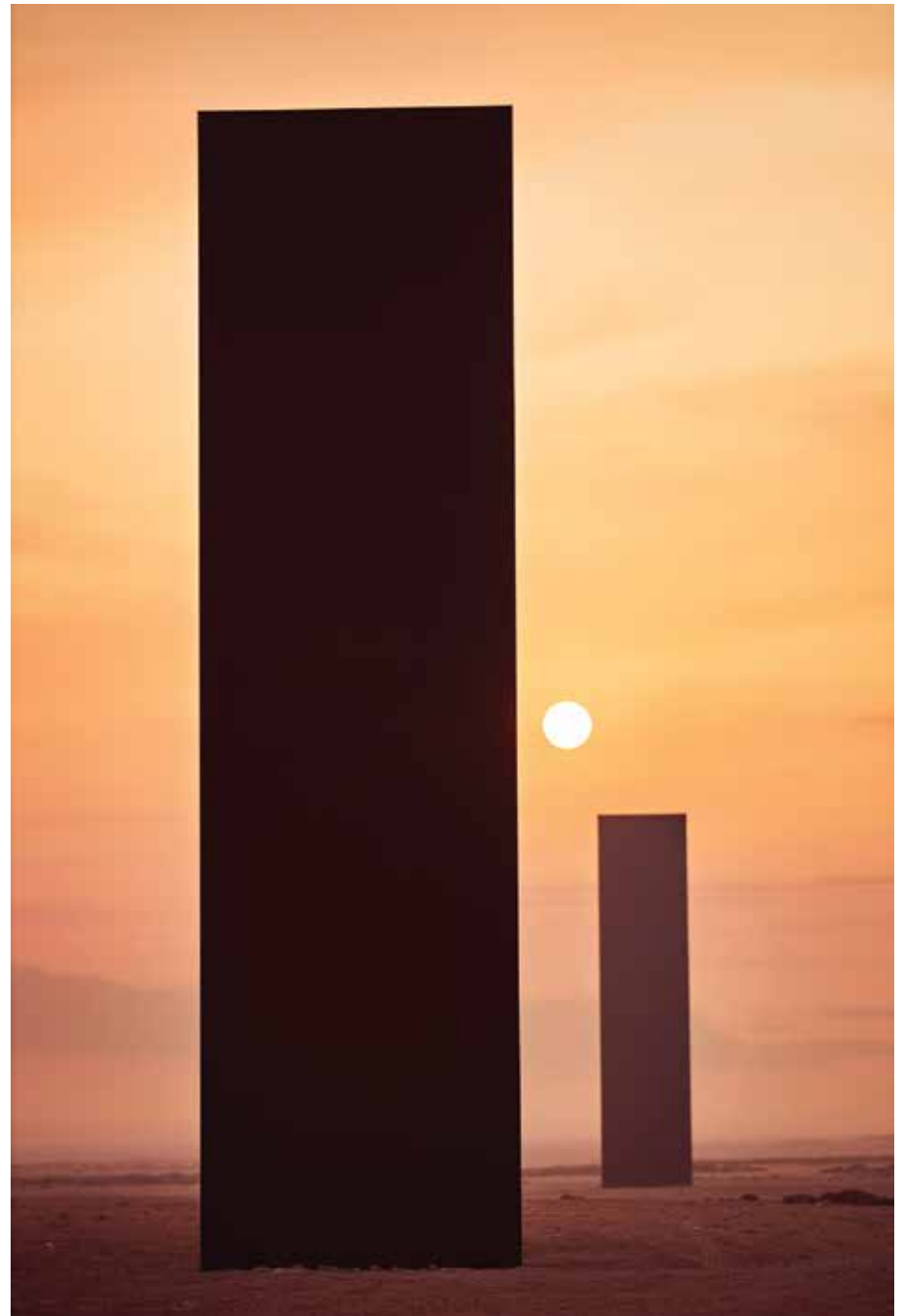


Here is a list of activities and spots to reconnect with nature and enjoy the picturesque view in Qatar.

Khor Al Adaid (Inland Sea)

A UNESCO-recognized natural reserve with its own ecosystem, Khor Al Adaid, also known as the Inland Sea, is a breathtaking destination, where the sand dunes meet the shores of the sea.

One of the major attractions in Qatar,



the Inland Sea is soothing to the eyes, to just observe or fun to drive around with the dunes reaching thrilling heights of up to 40 meters. Families can make the most of this attraction by spending an afternoon in the desert, dune bashing, making a stop along the way to ride camels, and posing with the country's famous national bird, the falcon.

Sand Dunes

The sand dunes in Qatar are a major

draw for tourists and residents alike. The desert is enjoyable for a leisurely safari and to take in the breathtaking scenery.

Al Thakira Mangroves

Al Thakira mangroves provide a special contrast of greenery, from the desert landscape. This location forms an adventure off the beaten track, with Kayaking as a key fun activity, surrounded by vegetation that attracts

DESTINATION

a variety of bird species, including herons and flamingos.

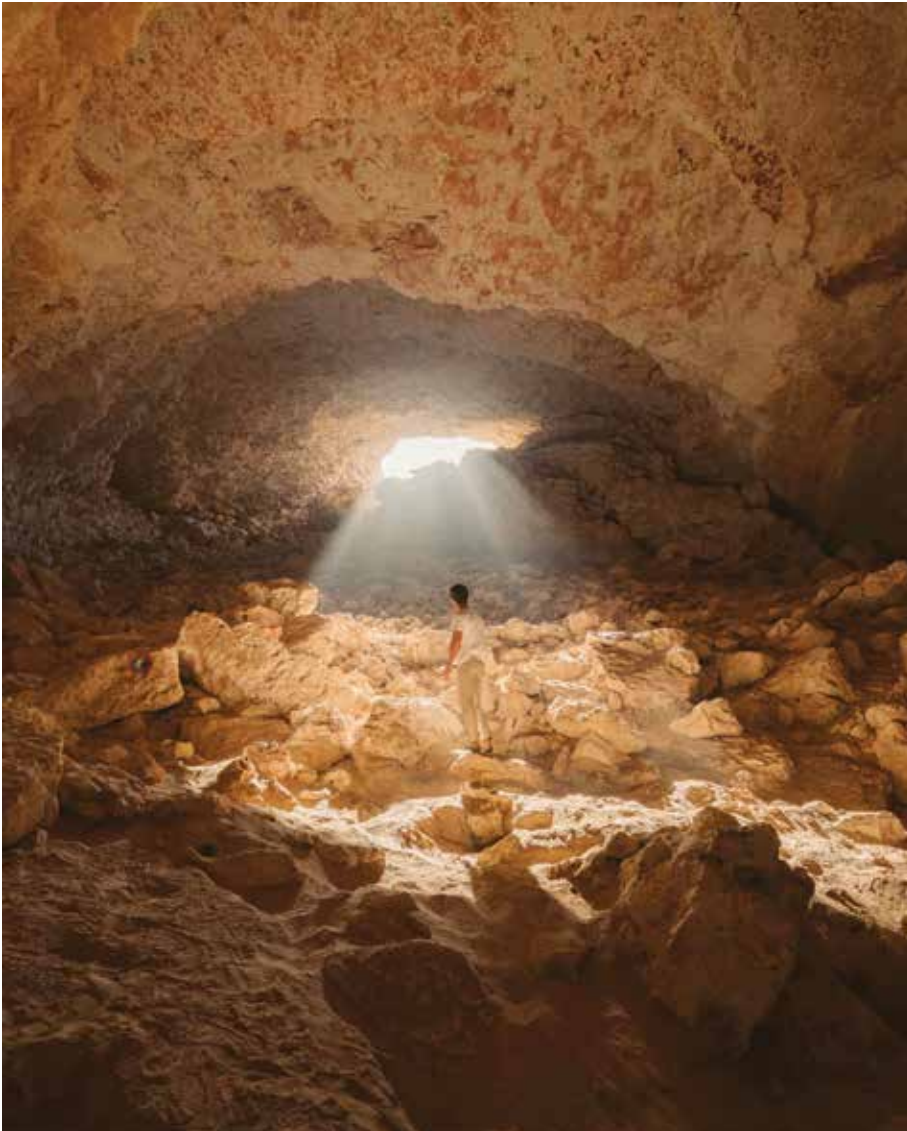
Dahl Al Misfir Cave

A fascinating, 40-meter-deep gypsum-fibrous cave, the Dahl Al Misfir Cave sometimes emits a phosphorescent glow that resembles the moon. The peninsula is also covered in gypsum crystals that resemble roses, or desert roses. As one descends inside the cave and steps onto the path, the temperature begins to drop.

North Sarda and the Heenat Salma Farms

An enchanting experience for families is exploring the North Sedra Farm, the first agritourism destination in Qatar. The farm has a mini zoo with





various animals, including Arabian Oryx, zebra, ostrich, lama, and camels with a variety of fresh fruit and vegetables to handpick. The farm also sells top-quality Sedra honey produced in-house, in the winter.

Heenat Salma Farms is another nature-led experience that promotes communal living and lush sights. The farm attracts eco-conscious, sustainable living and farming enthusiasts who enjoy organic natural produce. Heenat currently grows around 30 different crop varieties, along with organic fruits, vegetables, dairy, eggs, honey, and meat.

Ras Abrouq (Zekreet)

These are limestone rock formations that have been formed into mushroom-shaped lunar-like landscapes by the wind. Although the Ras Abrouq peninsula is somewhat remote, it is home to beautiful sandy beaches and a wild deer reserve. Nearby, visitors can also enjoy a fort called Film City, the ancient 9th-century Murwab Fort, and Richard Serras' famous steel sculpture called East-West/West-East.

Fuwairit Beach

Fuwairit Beach, which is 1 hour and 20 minutes outside of Doha, is worth visiting for its fine, white sand and clean waters. A Hawksbill Sea Turtle hatchery may be found at Fuwairit Beach, which is popular with kitesurfers.

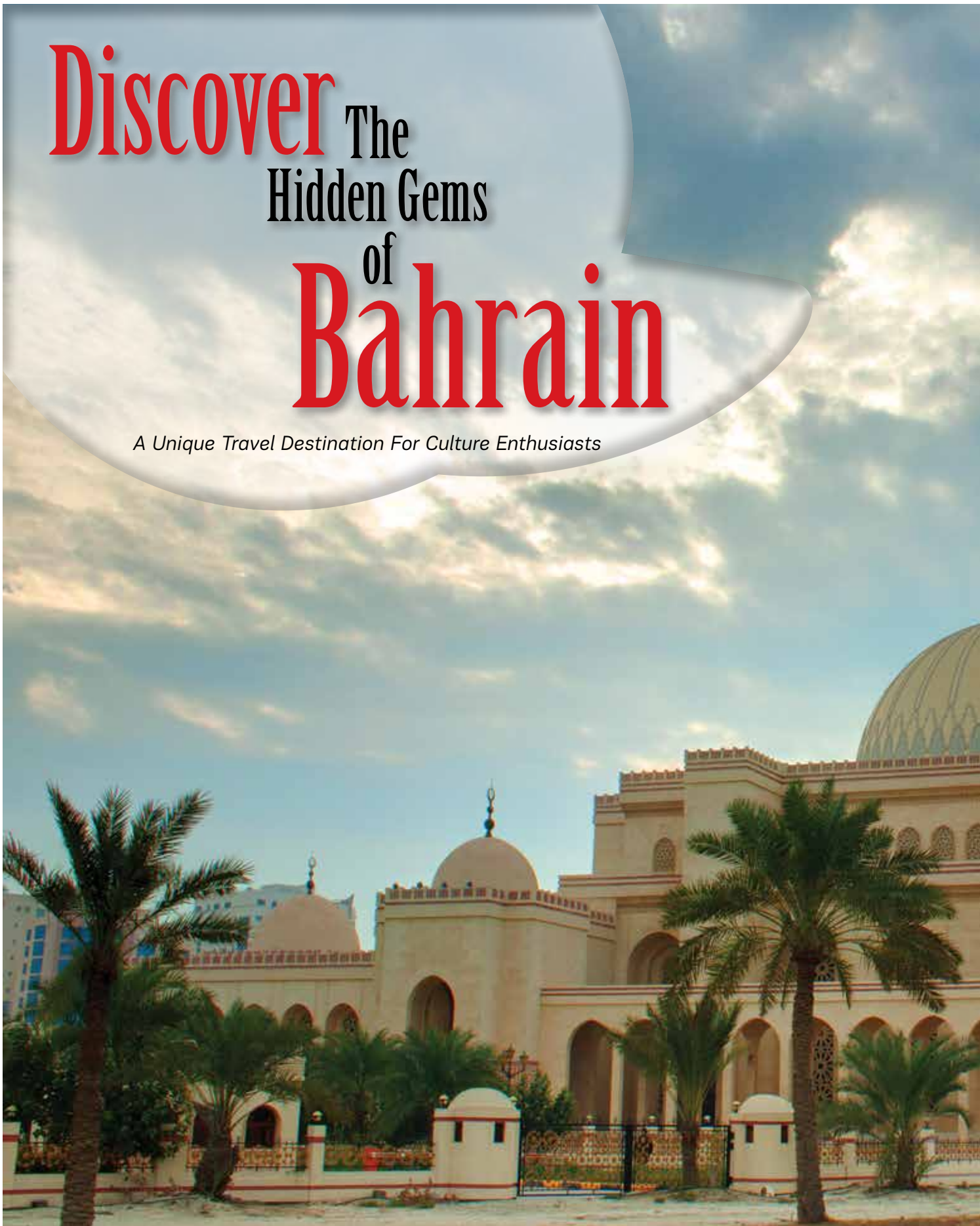
Qatar's Flora & Fauna

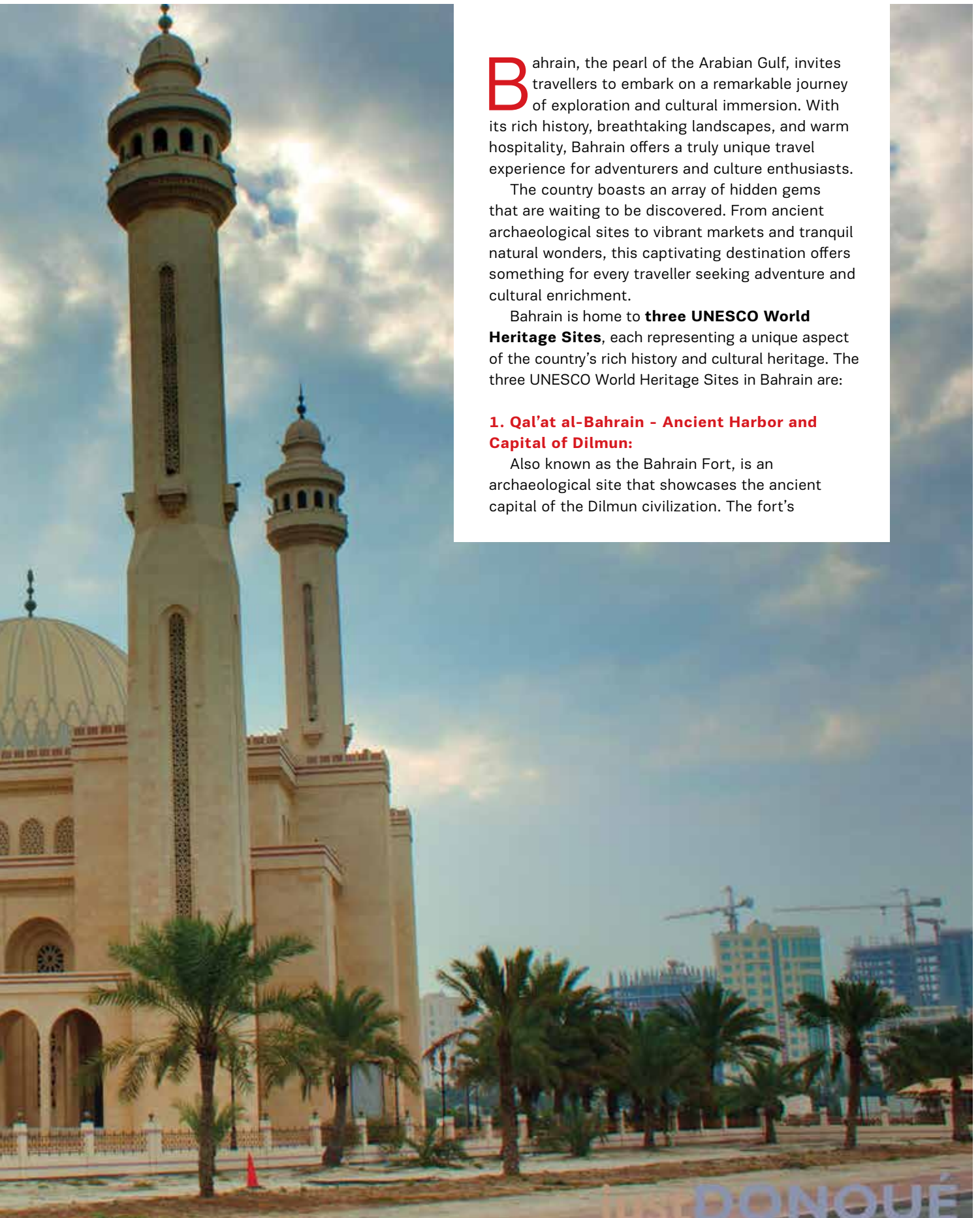
The desert turns into a lush oasis after it rains. There is a wide variety of fauna, including flamingos, foxes, birds, reptiles, and, of course, the Arabian oryx, which is Qatar's national animal. Stretching over a 560km coastline, the sea is an integral part of Qatari life. The water is rich with marine life. There are 'Whale Sharks in Qatar Tours' that have recently opened for public sightings, for those interested in seeing the magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. The destination has plenty of natural attractions and cultural heritage sites to enjoy while taking a break from city life.



Discover The Hidden Gems of Bahrain

A Unique Travel Destination For Culture Enthusiasts





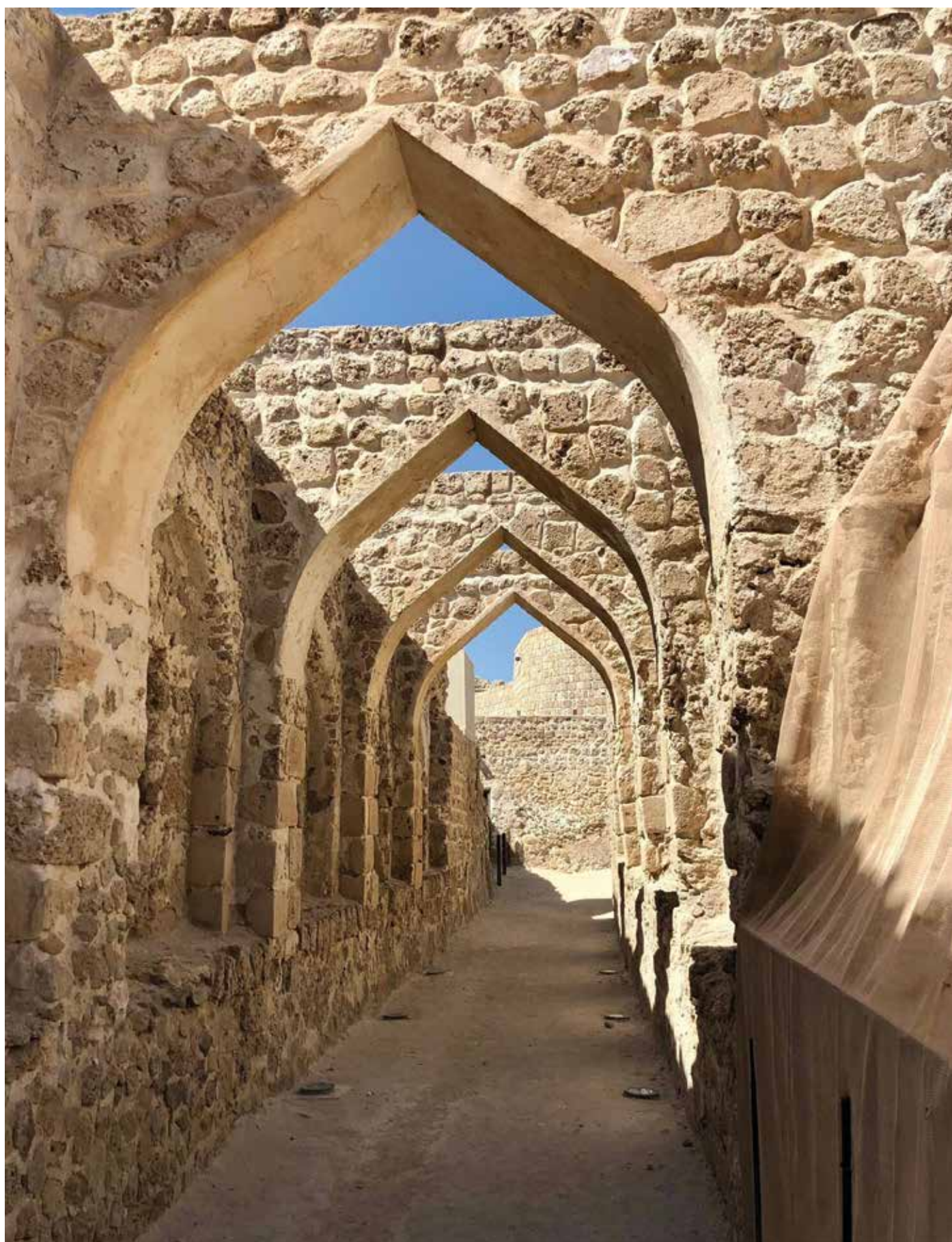
Bahrain, the pearl of the Arabian Gulf, invites travellers to embark on a remarkable journey of exploration and cultural immersion. With its rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and warm hospitality, Bahrain offers a truly unique travel experience for adventurers and culture enthusiasts.

The country boasts an array of hidden gems that are waiting to be discovered. From ancient archaeological sites to vibrant markets and tranquil natural wonders, this captivating destination offers something for every traveller seeking adventure and cultural enrichment.

Bahrain is home to **three UNESCO World Heritage Sites**, each representing a unique aspect of the country's rich history and cultural heritage. The three UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Bahrain are:

1. Qal'at al-Bahrain - Ancient Harbor and Capital of Dilmun:

Also known as the Bahrain Fort, is an archaeological site that showcases the ancient capital of the Dilmun civilization. The fort's





strategic location and well-preserved structures provide valuable insights into the region's history and the maritime trade routes of the time.

2. Pearling Path, Testimony of an Island Economy

For centuries, Bahrain was renowned as a major pearling center, attracting divers from across the region. This cultural site pays tribute to Bahrain's rich pearling heritage, which played a significant role in shaping the country's economy and society.

3. Dilmun Burial Mounds

The Dilmun Burial Mounds are a collection of over 170,000 ancient burial mounds spread across the landscape of Bahrain. These mounds date back to the Dilmun civilization and represent an important archaeological and cultural heritage. The burial mounds offer valuable insights into the burial practices and social structure of the ancient civilization, and their vast

number demonstrates the significance of this culture during that time.

For those seeking authentic cultural experiences, Bahrain's traditional markets, known as souqs, are a must-visit. Lose yourself in the bustling lanes of **Manama Souq**, where you can browse through a treasure trove of spices, textiles, and handicrafts. The **Bab Al-Bahrain Souq** is another vibrant hub where you can soak in the atmosphere, savour local delicacies, and shop for unique souvenirs.

A visit to the **AlFateh Grand Mosque** is a must when in Bahrain to witness its magnificence and grandeur. The lush interior is adorned with marble that was brought from Italy, the glass all around the mosque was individually blown for the different lanterns in Austria, and teak was brought from India which in turn was carved locally to make the majestic doors that are 6 meters (20 feet) high. The huge dome built on top adds to the beauty and glory of the mosque.

Bahrain also celebrates its vibrant arts and culture scene. The **Bahrain National Museum** hosts a myriad of exhibitions, showcasing contemporary art and cultural displays. The annual **Bahrain International Music Festival** organized every October brings together talented artists from around the world, offering unforgettable performances that ignite the senses.

With its world-class hotels, restaurants, and entertainment options, Bahrain ensures a comfortable and enjoyable stay for all travelers. The kingdom's renowned hospitality is reflected in the warm welcome extended to visitors, creating an inviting atmosphere that makes every guest feel at home.

Discover the hidden gems of Bahrain and embark on a remarkable journey of cultural exploration. Experience the rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and warm hospitality that make Bahrain a truly unique travel destination.



A tourist's guide to London

*It's a city where bygone epochs
and the contemporary converge,
extending a warm invitation
to everyone – from the ardent
history buff to the devoted
gaming enthusiast*

Must-visit casinos and other attractions

Travelling – it's a voyage into the unknown that sparks an intense fascination with divergent traditions, architectural grandeur, historic chronicles, and charismatic sights. Among the diverse mosaic of worldly destinations that beckon the intrepid traveller, London carves out its own



distinctive niche. London isn't merely a city adorned with historical richness and awe-inspiring structures, it also houses a plethora of sophisticated gambling establishments. It's a city where bygone epochs and the contemporary converge, extending a warm invitation to everyone – from the ardent history buff to the devoted gaming enthusiast.

London Casinos: An intriguing fusion of Past and Present

London's gambling arenas are an eloquent testament to the city's spirit, deeply rooted in heritage while simultaneously welcoming the new age. Should you be an explorer with an inclination towards chance games, you'll perceive London's casino realm as captivating as its iconic monuments. Let us delve into some of the finest casinos in London, brimming with exhilarating pursuits ranging from blackjack to poker, roulette, and the perpetually favoured, slots.

The Hippodrome Casino

Located in Leicester Square, the Hippodrome Casino is arguably the most famous casino in London. With a legacy dating back to 1900, the casino has three gaming floors brimming with popular casino games, including slots. Known for its rich history and vibrant atmosphere, the Hippodrome is also famous for hosting regular performances, adding a dash of culture to your gambling experience.

The Ritz Club

Nestled in the pulsating centre of Piccadilly, the Ritz Club provides a gambling haven for the crème de la crème. Once echoing with the rhythm of waltzes, it now resounds with the exhilarating rush of high-stakes gaming. Arrayed before you, a smorgasbord of games awaits, featuring American Roulette, Blackjack, Baccarat, and Three Card Poker. Fans of slot machines aren't neglected; a





selection of devices promises varying levels of stakes.

Aspers Casino

Stratford City's Aspers Casino poses a stark contrast to the timeless majesty of institutions like the Hippodrome and Ritz. It resonates with a fresh, contemporary casino aura. Wearing the crown as London's most expensive casino, it flaunts over 150 slot machines, real-time sports wagering, and a dedicated poker space hosting frequent competitions.

London's bucket list experiences

London pulsates with a vibrant kaleidoscope of attractions that bewitch legions of wanderers annually. Let's explore some essential sights that deserve a prime spot on any tourist's itinerary.

The British Museum

The British Museum, one of the oldest museums globally, is a veritable treasure trove for history aficionados. It safeguards millions of artistic masterpieces, each narrating a distinct chapter from over two million years of human civilization. This museum allows you to journey through the annals of mankind's cultural evolution, from its dawn to the contemporary era.

The Tower of London

Another emblem of historical significance is the Tower of London, adorned with the prestigious title of UNESCO World Heritage Site. A sanctuary to the Crown Jewels, the Tower has undergone numerous reincarnations over the centuries, from a royal dwelling to a forbidding jailhouse, each phase unravelling

engrossing chapters of British chronicles.

The London Eye

Seeking a riveting bird's-eye view of London? Few attractions can rival the London Eye. This colossal Ferris wheel, standing proudly on the South Bank of the River Thames, gives you an unparalleled vista of the city's skyline. It unfolds a striking panorama, framing landmarks like the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben in its sweeping view.

Feasting on London's Epicurean Wonders

London's gastronomic tableau is as vibrant and varied as its plethora of attractions. The city's culinary panorama is a food lover's dream, featuring a tantalizing array of



global cuisines. Whether your palate leans towards quintessential British flavours or yearns for international culinary wonders, London caters to every taste.

Borough Market

Borough Market holds the distinction of being London's most acclaimed food and drink bazaar. This food lover's Eden is a maze of stalls, each brimming with British and global offerings, from handcrafted bread and exotic fruits to artisanal cheese and the day's freshest seafood.

Dishoom

When it comes to sampling Indian flavours, Dishoom emerges as a premier destination. Drawing inspiration from the Irani cafés dotting Bombay's streets, Dishoom crafts an expansive menu that infuses traditional Indian

spices with a contemporary flair. The Breakfast Naan rolls and House Black Daal enjoy a cherished place among local gourmands.

Sketch

Nestled in the heart of Mayfair, Sketch is a gastronomic utopia for those in pursuit of an avant-garde dining escapade. This Michelin-starred establishment offers an extraordinary culinary spectacle, weaving together elements of art and gastronomy in a tapestry that is certain to leave you enchanted.

Concluding Musings

London, a city that orchestrates a seamless symphony of historic splendour and contemporary dynamism, offers an unparalleled voyage of discovery. Whether you find

your bliss in challenging the odds at a high-end casino, immersing yourself in the city's rich historical narrative, or savouring its culinary diversity, London's endless fascinations promise to enrapture you. Venture into its lesser-known bylanes, for these oft-overlooked nooks are where London's authentic charisma and spirit frequently lie hidden.

No matter your predilections, London opens its doors wide to welcome one and all. Keep in mind, the enchantment of this city does not solely reside in its imposing monuments but also in its vibrant history, quaint boulevards, and dynamic cultural scene. Plunge headfirst into all the experiences that London has in store, and you're guaranteed to return, your heart brimming with treasured recollections.

IndiGo soars in 'Airlines Top 50' rankings, achieves impressive climb in 2023 report

Becomes the only Indian airline brand consistently featured in the 'Airlines Top 50' for three consecutive years



IndiGo, the leading airline in India, has risen in the 'Airlines Top 50 2023' ranking list, advancing from the 34th position to an impressive 31st rank. The carrier has maintained its distinction as the only Indian airline brand consistently featured in the 'Airlines Top 50' for three consecutive years. Additionally, IndiGo has received recognition once again in the prestigious 'Brand Finance India 100 2023' report, highlighting its value and progress as it climbed to 45th position from the 55th in the previous year.

Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive

Officer of IndiGo, said, "We take great pride in being acknowledged once again as India's leading airline in the globally respected Brand Finance Report. This achievement serves as proof of the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts of all individuals involved in making IndiGo one of the most admired airlines across the globe. We aspire to continue our upward trajectory in the rank ladder, aiming for even greater heights with each passing year. Our unwavering commitment is to consistently deliver exceptional services to our valued customers, surpassing

their expectations and creating unforgettable experiences."

Brand Valuation Methodology:

Brand Finance calculates the values of the brands in its league tables using the Royalty Relief approach, a brand valuation method compliant with the industry standards set in ISO 10668. This involves estimating the likely future revenues attributable to a brand by calculating a royalty rate that would be charged for its use, to arrive at a 'brand value' understood as a net economic benefit that a licensor would achieve by licensing the brand in the open market.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland CEO experiences Oxfordshire

During the action-packed visit Ms Yates took a tour around the city with award-winning Oxford Official Walking Tours and a cruise down the River Thames and River Cherwell with Oxford River Cruises.



Experience Oxfordshire, the county's Destination Management Organisation (DMO), this week welcomed the CEO of VisitBritain/VisitEngland, Patricia Yates, to Oxfordshire.

Experience Oxfordshire, which recently received Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) status from VisitEngland pulled together a tight itinerary ensuring as much of the county was showcased as possible alongside many opportunities to meet with local businesses for discussion and feedback sessions.

During the action-packed visit, Ms Yates took a tour around the city with award-winning Oxford Official Walking Tours and a cruise down the River Thames and River Cherwell with Oxford

River Cruises. She visited **The Oxford Artisan Distillery** and was given a tour of Blenheim Palace alongside site visits at **The Randolph Hotel by Graduate Hotels, Malmaison Oxford, the Old Parsonage, and The Bear Hotel** where she was joined by **Wake up to Woodstock**. Transport was provided by **Royal Cars**.

The Chair of Experience Oxfordshire, **Joanna Davidson** CBE, led a roundtable discussion at Malmaison Oxford, where businesses were given the opportunity to hear from VisitBritain/ VisitEngland on national priorities and the importance of working with their official LVEP. This direct and open Q&A session with such a high-profile industry leader was a great opportunity to give feedback to

the government on grassroots issues.

Hayley Beer-Gamage, Experience Oxfordshire CEO commented: "We are absolutely delighted that Patricia joined us on territory in Oxfordshire for a visit. It was an action-packed 24 hours and we really did make the most of the opportunity. As well as discussing industry issues it was also important for us to give feedback on all the exciting developments and investments that are happening across the city and county and how we are supporting locally and promoting appropriately, both nationally and internationally. We will continue to work closely with VisitBritain/ VisitEngland to grow back our visitor economy business post-pandemic and drive productive, sustainable growth well into the future".

Experience Oxfordshire is a partnership organisation working with local businesses to grow the value of the visitor economy in Oxfordshire, for the benefit of everyone.

VisitBritain/VisitEngland CEO Patricia Yates said: "It's been fantastic to be in beautiful Oxfordshire, visiting businesses and attractions across the city and county and seeing first-hand the wonderful products and experiences on offer for visitors. It has also been invaluable to listen and talk to local businesses about the current challenges and opportunities and to highlight our work to support the industry.

"Tourism is an industry that can deliver growth like no other and I was delighted to work with Experience Oxfordshire on this visit and see the great activity it's delivering with businesses and stakeholders to attract domestic and overseas visitors. It was also great to see how well engaged, informed, and highly regarded Experience Oxfordshire is locally and its commitment to delivering on its recent VisitEngland LVEP accreditation, driving the visitor economy."

Through its LVEP status Experience Oxfordshire is committed to championing the visitor economy and ensuring engagement and feedback at a local and national level takes place and this was a great opportunity to do just that.

Why Nevada gambling museum is a Must-visit in Reno



Situated in the vibrant core of Reno, Nevada, the Nevada Gambling Museum is a compelling blend of history, allure, and intrigue. Famously known as the “Biggest Little City in the World,” Reno holds high esteem for its exciting gambling culture, encompassing both traditional and digital realms. Despite the rising popularity of online gaming, the charm of physical casinos still remains potent. You can find on lotteryamerica.com a selection of the best US online casino sites that reflect this electrifying atmosphere. Standing as a monumental symbol of the state’s profound and illustrious relationship with the gaming industry is the Nevada Gambling Museum, which serves as a living tribute to this time-honoured tradition.

History of gambling in Nevada: Foundation to fruition

Before we delve into the unique attractions of the Nevada Gambling Museum, it’s crucial to understand the rich history of gambling in the state. The museum plays a vital role in keeping this history alive, drawing from the early days when Nevada was known as the ‘Silver State’ due to the abundant silver deposits.

In 1931, Nevada legalized gambling as a way to stimulate the economy during the Great Depression. This decision had a profound impact, transforming the state into a global gambling hub. The museum takes visitors on this historical journey, showing how the culture of gambling flourished and how it shaped Nevada’s identity over the decades.

Unveiling the casino heritage

The Nevada Gambling Museum aims to unveil the casino heritage that has become synonymous with the state. From the vintage slot machines to the classic poker tables, every exhibit resonates with the spirit of gambling. These age-old artefacts, curated meticulously, allow visitors to witness the evolution of the casino industry. The allure of these tangible connections to the past enhances the museum experience, distinguishing it from online platforms, even the best of them.

The museum also hosts an array of gambling paraphernalia, including chips from different eras and casinos, vintage cards, and roulette wheels, offering an extensive view into the past. There are even exhibits dedicated to the

infamous individuals who shaped the gambling industry, providing a unique window into the human aspect of this vibrant history.

Interactive Exhibitions: Learning by Doing

The Nevada Gambling Museum takes a step beyond conventional museum setups with its interactive exhibits. These experiences enable visitors to engage more deeply with the subject matter, promoting learning by doing. Visitors can handle certain artefacts, allowing them to physically connect with the history of Nevada gambling. From trying their luck at a retro slot machine to shuffling a deck of cards from a bygone era, these hands-on experiences offer an immersive dive into the world of casinos.

Educational outreach and events

The Nevada Gambling Museum extends its mission beyond mere exhibition by conducting a variety of educational outreach programs and events. These include workshops, lectures, and seminars focusing on different aspects of gambling history

and legislation. By engaging with local communities and tourists alike, the museum promotes a broader understanding of Nevada's gaming heritage.

In addition, the museum frequently hosts themed nights, allowing visitors to experience the glitz and glamour of the gambling world of yesteryears. These events offer an excellent opportunity for those interested in social history, architecture, design, and fashion, as they reflect the cultural aspects of the gambling scene over the years.

Pioneers and Legends: The human story

While the Nevada Gambling Museum houses an extensive collection of casino artefacts, it also tells the human stories behind these objects. Visitors can explore the life stories of pioneers and legends who played a significant role in shaping Nevada's gambling industry. This focus on personal narratives adds another layer of complexity to the museum's offering, making it more than just a place to view objects. It becomes a place where

history comes alive, providing valuable insights into the lives of those who shaped this industry.

Conclusion: A nostalgic journey

In conclusion, the Nevada Gambling Museum offers a unique and exciting experience that transcends the traditional expectations of a museum visit. It allows you to travel back in time, immersing yourself in the world of Nevada gambling, which played such a pivotal role in the state's history and continues to shape its present. Whether you're a history buff, a gambling enthusiast, or simply a curious traveller, the Nevada Gambling Museum in Reno is a must-visit, offering a taste of the past that you can't find elsewhere.

The museum takes you on a nostalgic journey that contrasts with the digital experiences offered by even the best US online casino sites. It offers a tangible, interactive exploration of history that captivates the senses and sparks the imagination. If you're planning a trip to Reno, make sure the Nevada Gambling Museum is on your itinerary – it's a gamble you won't regret.





Navigating the Sands of Time

Ancient History and modern adventures in

Egypt



Egypt is one of the most captivating places on Earth, serving as host for some of history's biggest moments and shaping cultures globally.

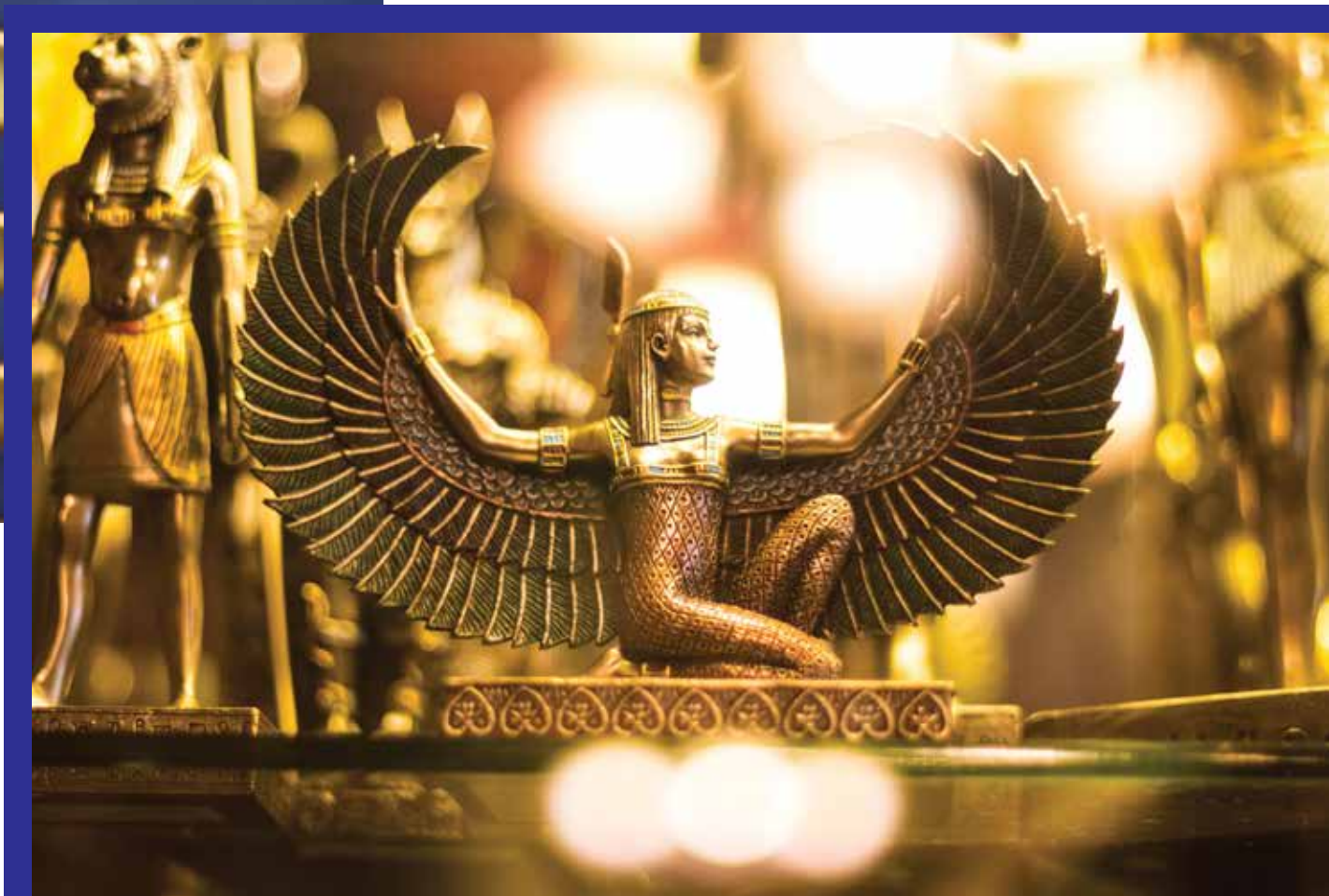
Egypt is among the oldest civilizations on Earth. Stories have long been told of important figures from Egyptian history, such as Cleopatra and King Tutankhamun; other symbols like pyramids have also been symbolically represented throughout time. Many journeys to see these sights for themselves to gain a greater appreciation of this fascinating region's past.

Egypt, one of North Africa's oldest and largest countries, remains an attractive tourist destination today for

various other reasons as well. Notable attractions in Egypt include scenic landscapes and scenery, as well as some of the world's finest beaches. Additionally, there are numerous lively locations to visit and experience some of the best cuisines that the planet has to offer.

Uncovering the Ancient World

Of course, the biggest natural appeal of Egypt is its historical significance and impact on the world. As highlighted, some of the biggest things to have ever happened or to have been created are available in the country. This is what makes the destination one of the most-visited globally.







Visitors from all corners of the globe continue to flock to the sands of this country as they look to take in some of the wonders of the world. Egypt is home to numerous popular tourist attractions, with the Pyramids of Giza being one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and boasting more than 4,500 years of existence. Additionally, many visitors enjoy touring ancient sites, such as the Valley of Kings, Sphinx and temples of Luxor and Karnak, while learning more about ancient historical figures revered by these civilizations.

Ancient Egyptian culture has been revered

To truly understand the influence and the impact that ancient Egypt had on the world, it is possible to take a look at how the culture of the time has continued to be a mainstream theme across various mediums. The entertainment industry has been a key adopter of ancient Egyptian culture, with many different sectors having utilized various themes as part of their design and as a source of inspiration.

The gaming industry is one such prime example, as there are numerous video games and even slots that have featured culture as a theme. Assassin's





Creed Origins and Tomb Raider: The Last Revelation are just two examples of video games that have proven to incorporate the culture successfully, while Eye of Horus Megaways and Egypt Megaways are among the best megaways slots at Unibet UK that have been successes in regard to the theme. Additionally, there have been various films and TV shows that have used ancient Egypt as a theme for their story.

Exploring Modern Egypt

However, while ancient Egypt can offer plenty, visitors to modern Egypt can also experience a plethora of different things that make the location one of the best in the world. As mentioned previously, the location is home to some of the most picturesque locations and the best beaches the planet has to offer.

Aside from these locations, there are various other sights to explore. The capital city of Cairo has plenty of offerings in the form of markets, with the Khan el-Khalili bazaar being among the most lively places in the country. It is also possible to visit Alexandria, or even take a trip along the River Nile, as each of these can give visitors an experience of modern Egypt while also offering an insight into some of its past at the same time. The various desserts can also be visited, offering a new experience unlike anywhere else, while the cuisine is unique as there are flavoursome dishes and beverages to try and experience.

Egypt offers plenty

There is no denying that Egypt has plenty to offer to visitors. Whether you are interested in learning about the ancient culture and its historical civilization, or you want to explore and experience the modern-day features the country has to offer, the North African nation can make sure any trip that is taken is one to remember. If you are planning a visit, be sure to make the most of it, although it would not be a surprise if you had to plan a return trip because of how much is on offer!





best tourist spots in Istanbul for a memorable Vacation



Istanbul, the captivating metropolis of Türkiye, offers a wealth of historical landmarks, vibrant cultural scenes, and delectable cuisine, ensuring an unforgettable vacation experience. The city's unique blend of Eastern and Western influences adds an intriguing flavour to its charm. From the magnificent marvel of Hagia Sophia to the bustling energy of the Grand Bazaar, these renowned tourist attractions promise to create beautiful memories during your time in Istanbul.

To enrich your experience in this captivating city, here are 5 exceptional tourist destinations that are bound to create lasting memories.



Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia, an extraordinary testament to human creativity and architectural brilliance, is an iconic symbol of Istanbul's rich history. It was initially constructed as a Byzantine cathedral in the 6th century. Over time, it transformed into an Ottoman mosque and functions as a museum. Hagia Sophia is a blend of Byzantine and Islamic architectural styles. It carries immense cultural and historical importance, representing the city's vibrant heritage and the transition from Christianity to Islam.

Topkapi Palace

Topkapi Palace stands as the former residence of the Ottoman sultans, having served their esteemed lineage for nearly four centuries. This

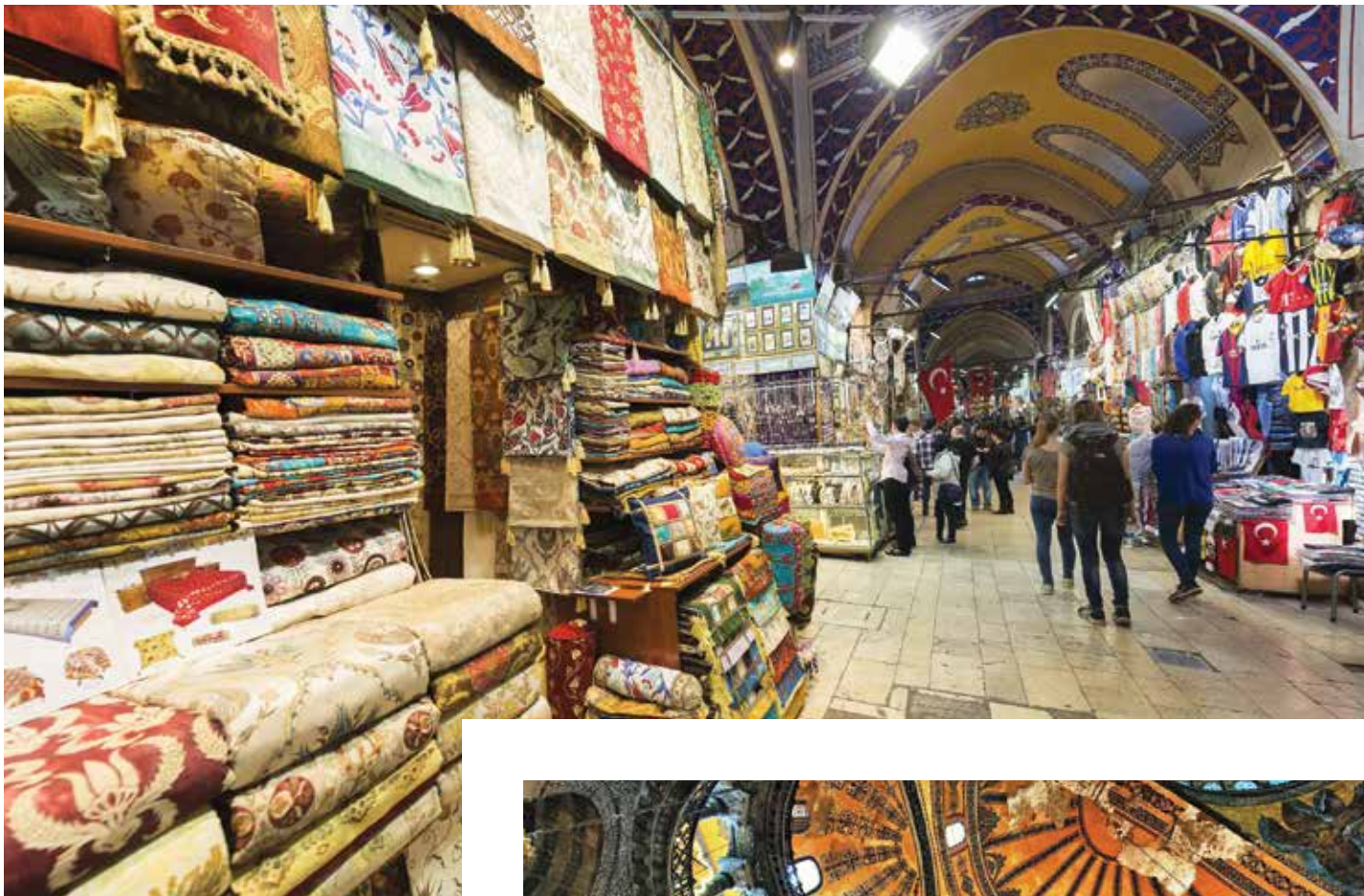
architectural marvel encompasses a sprawling complex adorned with picturesque courtyards, verdant gardens, and splendid pavilions. Visitors can explore the Palace's lavish rooms, marvel at the intricate Ottoman artefacts, and immerse themselves in the rich history of the Ottoman Empire. The Palace is a testament to the magnificence of the Ottoman era and invites all who enter to be swept away by its majestic charm.

The Grand Bazaar

At the heart of Istanbul lies the legendary Grand Bazaar, a timeless shopping destination that stands as one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets. Its bustling ambience and labyrinthine alleys make it a haven for shopaholics. Boasting an







astonishing array of more than 4,000 shops and stalls, the Grand Bazaar beckons visitors to explore its treasure trove of goods. The market showcases a rich tapestry of Turkish craftsmanship, from vibrant textiles and exquisite jewellery to intricately designed ceramics and aromatic spices.

Sultanahmet Square

Sultanahmet Square is a cherished historic square, drawing locals and tourists alike. Positioned in close proximity to renowned landmarks like the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, it serves as a vibrant central hub. The square entices visitors with its rich tapestry of cultural attractions, including the magnificent Obelisk of Theodosius and the elegant German Fountain. Street performances add a touch of liveliness to the square, enhancing the experience and adding to its allure.

Bosphorus Cruise

Embarking on a Bosphorus Cruise is an enchanting journey that unveils

the mesmerising beauty of Istanbul as the vessel glides along the Bosphorus Strait. This legendary waterway serves as a boundary between the European and Asian sides of the city, offering an extraordinary experience. As the boat sails, passengers are treated to awe-inspiring vistas of the city's majestic skyline, adorned with towering minarets and modern skyscrapers. This popular tourist activity allows visitors to witness the captivating blend of

cultures where East meets West and to appreciate Istanbul's beauty from a unique and unforgettable perspective.

Istanbul is indeed a city that ignites the imagination with its historical landmarks, vibrant culture, and culinary delights. Make enduring memories in this enchanting city that straddles continents and weaves the past and present together. Istanbul awaits to offer you a vacation that you will treasure for a lifetime.

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