

LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

travel

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**Blue Lagoon
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Nature's Geothermal
Paradise

Vineyards of Anatolia
in Turkiye Rhapsody of Grapes



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EDITOR'S LETTER

New Exhibitors Sign Up to WTM London 2023

WTM London 2023 will be 20 % larger than last year

- World Travel Market will be 20% larger in 2023 – versus 2022 show;
- 14% of exhibitor bookings are new;
- Compared to pre-pandemic figures (2019), private sector exhibitor numbers are up 23%, African exhibitor numbers are up 27%, Caribbean exhibitor numbers are up 10% and representation from the Middle East region will be up a whopping 60%;

World Travel Market London 2023, the world's most influential travel & tourism event, has signed up more than 14% new exhibitors, ranging from household names to specialist firms and niche brands.

They will make up around 4,000 exhibitors at ExCeL London (6-8th November) to exchange ideas, drive innovation and accelerate their businesses.

High-profile names debuting this year include **Eurostar** – the high-speed



international rail service connecting the UK with mainland Europe – and **ABBA Voyage**, a live concert staged in London with virtual 'Abbatars'.

Also exhibiting for the first time is the **Bermuda Tourism Authority**, which is heading to WTM London to highlight its culture, heritage, cuisine, wellness, and sustainability offerings.

Other tourism boards making their first appearance at WTM London come from destinations as diverse as **Sabah** – promoting travel to northern Borneo, in Malaysia – and **Almaty**, the largest city in Kazakhstan.

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Other new exhibitors from Asia are **Ayana Hospitality**, which offers luxury resorts and hotels in Indonesia, and Vietnam's **Thien Minh Group**, showcasing its wide range of services, such as destination management, hospitality, online solutions and aviation.

Rapidly growing global online travel agency **Trip.com Group** will be attending to target growth within the European market, while UK-based package holiday specialist **HolidayBest** will promote its worldwide range of destinations and vacation styles.

Other new exhibitors will be travelling from Turkey, such as the Turkish travel agency association **TURSAB**, and **Salkantay Trekking** will be visiting from Peru, where it is a leading tour operator offering treks and adventure tours to Machu Picchu.

Delegates in the technology zone will be able to meet new tech exhibitors such as search marketing agency **Vertical Leap**, and payments specialist flywire – which exhibited with WTM for the first time this year at WTM Africa and is now coming to WTM London.

Jamari Douglas, VP of Marketing & Communications at Bermuda Tourism Authority, Bermuda Tourism Authority said: *“We are beyond excited to be returning to WTM London 2023, bigger and better than ever before. As the market-leading international travel event, there is no better opportunity for us to showcase our special island and we look forward to sharing our latest news and offerings with the trade, alongside fresh perspectives from the organization’s first-ever female CEO, Tracy Berkeley.*

“Our presence at WTM reaffirms our commitment to strengthening Bermuda’s presence in the UK market, demonstrated by our ongoing investments, such as our recent House of Bermuda event and brand new Lost Yet Found Campaign. “The UK is our third largest market after the US and Canada and we’re extremely confident that Bermuda will take its place on the global stage as a leading tourism destination.”



Eurostar Group – formed by the merger of Eurostar and European operator Thalys last year – will be at WTM to showcase its services as well as new branding and livery.

Paul Brindley, Eurostar B2B & Indirect Sales Director, said: *“We are excited to be at WTM in 2023 with our new brand for Eurostar, a vision for growth and providing high-speed rail connectivity throughout Northern Europe to 30 million passengers by 2030! “It’s an exciting time for sustainable rail travel and, with our new distribution tools, we are looking forward to meeting existing and new partners from around the world and continuing to build strong ethical partnerships.”*

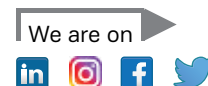
Launched in May 2022, ABBA Voyage is now booking until May 26th, 2024.

Bernie Patry-Makin, Travel Trade Manager at ABBAVoyage.com, commented: *“We are excited to be exhibiting at WTM London 2023. “It presents us with a fantastic opportunity to showcase the spectacular ABBA Voyage in front of a large community of international travel and tourism industry buyers. We look forward to meeting with clients old and new over the course of the three days.”*

Juliette Losardo, Exhibition Director at World Travel Market London, said: *“We are delighted to welcome new exhibitors to this year’s event, ranging from major destinations and well-established international brands to niche operators and hi-tech firms. “They’ve all seen how they can play their part at the world’s most influential travel and tourism event. “The list of new exhibitors – as well as the thousands that we’re welcoming back to our stands – shows how we help the global travel community to come together to shape the future of the industry. “Buyers attending WTM London can meet new and established clients, seal business deals and be inspired with fresh ideas for 2024 onwards.”*



DEVENDER GROVER



PATA Travel Mart 2023: Embracing Responsibility for Sustainable Tourism

At PATA Travel Mart 2023, PATA Chair Peter Semone emphasized the imperative of addressing global challenges while seizing growth opportunities in the travel industry. He highlighted climate change and geopolitical unrest as looming threats and stressed the significance of sustainability. Semone proposed declaring 2026 as the Year of Peace Tourism and urged collective responsibility for a sustainable future.

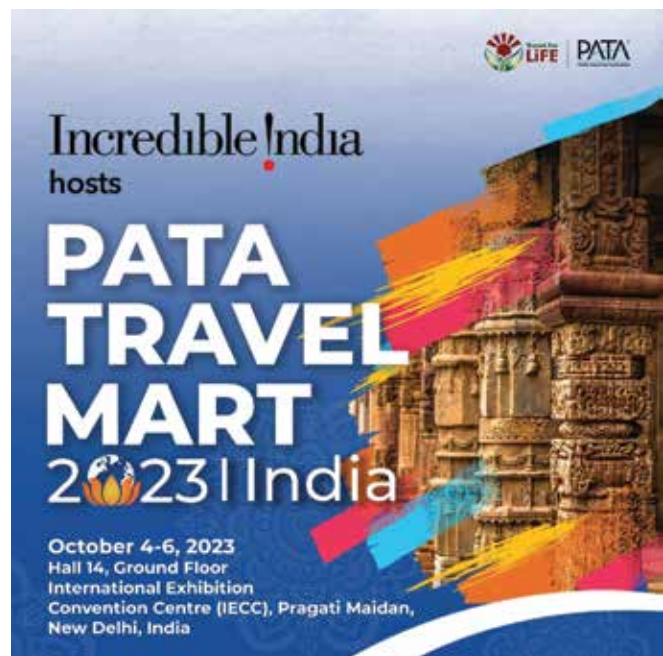
The **PATA Travel Mart 2023** which is held these days in New Delhi, India, commenced with an enlightening keynote address by PATA Chair **Peter Semone** during the inaugural PTM Forum. In his thought-provoking speech, Semone delved into the theme of the event: **“Where Responsibility Meets Opportunity.”** The essence of his message centered around the critical need for the travel and hospitality industry to recognize its role in addressing global challenges while harnessing opportunities for growth and innovation.

Semone’s keynote began by emphasizing the significance of the theme. “Where Responsibility Meets Opportunity” symbolizes a pivotal moment in our modern world. It signifies the convergence of responsibilities held by individuals, organizations, and nations to address pressing global issues, while simultaneously unlocking vast opportunities for sustainable growth and economic prosperity. This intersection serves as a guiding principle for those committed to ethical and sustainable practices.

As industry professionals gathered at the PATA Travel Mart, the world finds itself at a crucial juncture. While opportunities abound, there is a looming threat posed by two existential crises: climate change and geopolitical and social unrest. Semone reminded the audience that without nature, there can be no tourism, and without peace, tourism cannot thrive.

Furthermore, Semone stressed the importance of recognizing the connection between tourism and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Failing to meet these goals could result in political instability, economic turmoil, and irreversible damage to the environment, ultimately leading to the decimation of the tourism industry.

Sustainability, Semone asserted, is no longer a mere buzzword but an imperative of our time. It is the bridge connecting ethical obligations to the vast opportunities ahead. Sustainability isn’t a question of whether it’s good for business; it’s about integrating it into the core of business models and practices.



Minister of Tourism from Jamaica, H.E. Edmund Bartlett, echoed the call for personal responsibility. Taking accountability for one’s actions and decisions, he argued, is crucial in mitigating the twin crises of climate change and geopolitical/social unrest.

Semone emphasized the role of the Pacific Asia travel and tourism community in effecting change. This region, with its rich natural and cultural assets, has a unique opportunity to lead the way in sustainable tourism practices.

Recent high-level discussions, including the UN World Tourism Organization’s World Tourism Day celebrations, have highlighted the urgency of addressing these crises. Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Tourism, Ahmed Al-Khateeb, called for a new course for global tourism centered on sustainability, job creation, and economic resilience.

The event also saw Israel’s participation, emphasizing the potential of tourism as a bridge between nations. Tourism can foster mutual understanding and economic flourishing.

Semone concluded by introducing the **“Five Ps”** – People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnership (to enable SDGs), and Peace. He proposed declaring 2026 as the Year of Peace Tourism and suggested collaboration with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to reduce cross-cultural tensions.

Sustainability, Semone emphasized, must be interwoven into every aspect of our lives, from economic growth to environmental protection. It is a collective endeavor that requires the concerted efforts of governments, businesses, and communities.

Semone’s keynote message serves as a poignant reminder to the travel and hospitality industry that the responsibility for a sustainable future lies in our collective hands. By embracing responsibility, we can turn challenges into opportunities and pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

As travel and hospitality professionals, let us heed this call to action and work together to ensure that our industry not only survives but thrives in the face of global challenges. By championing sustainability, we can create a more harmonious world, one that benefits both society and the environment while driving economic prosperity.



PATA Travel Mart 2023 draws global delegates, focuses on sustainability

PATA Travel Mart 2023, hosted by India's Ministry of Tourism, gathers over 1,000 global delegates to discuss sustainability, responsible practices, and emerging opportunities in travel and tourism.

PATA Travel Mart 2023 (PTM 2023), hosted by the **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**, has attracted over 1000 delegates from 46 global destinations. The delegate numbers embraced 159 sellers from 92 organizations and 15 destinations, along with 196 buyers from 191 organizations and 38 source markets.

The **Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA)** welcomed over 350 local and international students and young tourism professionals. The students from 10 local and international universities are part of the *PATA Youth Symposium*. The Youth Symposium is organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; the **Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management**, and **Amity University Noida**.

"The Ministry of Tourism for the Government of India has been one of our most valuable members and active partners for more than 60 years. Based on their commitment and enthusiasm in organising PATA Travel Mart, we at PATA are excited to facilitate engagement between India and the rest of the world through this event," said PATA Chair **Peter Semone**. *"Even after a three-year hiatus in-person, PATA Travel Mart continues to provide unparalleled networking and contracting opportunities for our delegates from all over the world."*

PTM 2023 officially opened in New Delhi, India with the PTM 2023 Inauguration Ceremony & Welcome

Reception, presided by **Sh. G Kishen Reddy**, Minister of Tourism, Government of India, taking place at the Ashok Hotel.

Delegates had the chance to gain insights into the dynamic landscape of global sustainability trends, shedding light on how responsible practices are shaping industries worldwide during the half-day PTM Forum. Moreover, the speakers also illuminated the vast opportunities that sustainability offers, driving economic growth, innovation, and prosperity. Speakers included **Aashish Gupta**, Consulting CEO, FAITH; **Supawan Teerarat**, Senior Vice President, MICE Capability and Innovation, **Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB)**; **Jyothi Varma**, Consultant for Travel Related Services Online And Offline; **Noredah Othman**, CEO, Sabah Tourism Board; **Amaresh Tiwari**, Vice Chairman, Indian Convention Promotion Bureau; **Peter Richards**, Project Manager, Tourlink SwitchAsia Programme; Prof. **Monika Prakash**, Nodal Officer, Central Nodal Agency – Sustainable Tourism; **Alisara Sivayathorn**, CEO, Sivatel Bangkok Hotel; **Kanokwan Homcha-aim**, Cluster Naturalist, Anantara Layan Phuket Resort; Prof. **Veena Sikri**, Convenor, South Asia Women's Network; **Shradha Shrestha**, Manager, Tourism Branding, Marketing & Promotion- Nepal Tourism Board; **Rupesh Kumar**, Coordinator, Responsible Tourism Mission Kerala; Dr **Manoj Kumar Singh**, Nodal Officer, Responsible Tourism Madhya Pradesh; Dr. **Shikha Jain**, Founder Director,

DRONAH; **Sachin Bansal**, Founders – India City Walks; **R B Santosh Kumar**, Vice President & Head Government Engagement, South Asia, Mastercard; **Rajeev Jain**, Founder and Managing Director, Rashi Entertainment; **Tara Naidu**, Chief of Commercial, Air India Express; **Santosh Kumar**, Country Head – Indian sub-continent & Indonesia, Booking.com; **Wipawadee Niyomthai**, Senior Manager, TCEB; Bharat Nagpal, Enterprise Sales Director, ADARA, Inc., and **Sriram Gopalswamy**, Vice President, Site Reliability Engineering & MD, Sabre Bengaluru.

Topics included

'Where Responsibility Meets Opportunity', 'Driving Change: Sustainability in MICE Tourism', 'Increasing Sustainability in the Tourism Supply Chain Through Standards and Certification', 'Waste Management in Tourism: The Challenges and Best Practices Towards Food and Plastic Waste Reduction', 'Bridging the Gender Gap for Community Empowerment and Sustainability', 'Preservation of Cultural Heritage Sites: Leveraging the Benefits of Responsible Tourism', 'Travel Industry Trends', 'Weddings & Wanderlust: The Statistics of Indian Wedding Industry, What Next', 'Examining Aviation's Path in India and its Impact on Travel and Tourism', 'How India Travels', and 'AI and the Future of Tourism'.

During the Travel Mart buyers and sellers will have the opportunity to engage in one-on-one networking and contracting opportunities to explore potential collaborations and business opportunities.

Centara Hotels:

Leadership changes for global expansion goals

Centara Hotels & Resorts reshuffles leadership to reinforce its commitment to service excellence and reach its goal of becoming a top 100 global hotel operator by 2027.



promotion to Director of Operations for all Middle East and Maldives properties

• **Chaiphun**

Thongsuthum has been appointed General Manager of Centara Grand Mirage Beach Resort Pattaya

• **Bernd Rudigier** has been appointed as General Manager of Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket

“Congratulations to each of our team members for their remarkable accomplishments. At Centara, our success is driven by the dedication of our people, and we take immense pride in cultivating an environment where individuals evolve and grow within our organization,” said

Siriwan Wangthamrong, Executive Vice President – Human Resources of Centara Hotels & Resorts. *“As we continue on our journey to becoming a leading global hotel operator, we remain committed to creating the best possible workplace for our employees.”*

This new structure reflects Centara’s dedication to internal mobility and cultivating a dynamic work culture supported by family values, enabling the company to provide a seamless and consistent guest experience at each of its properties worldwide.

BANGKOK, THAILAND – **Centara Hotels & Resorts** announces strategic leadership changes within the organization to further reinforce its commitment to delivering the highest standards of service across all its brands across Thailand and overseas.

Centara’s strong family values have been at the core of its success for the past 40 years, and the company believes that internal mobility is crucial to driving business success. By nurturing its employees’ talents and affording ample

opportunities to grow within the organization, Centara has positioned itself not only as *The Place to Be* for its guests, but for its employees as well.

As part of Centara’s goal of becoming a top 100 global hotel operator by 2027, the company has made the following internal personnel movements:

• **Robert Maurer-Loeffler**, General Manager of Centara Grand & Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World, has been promoted to Vice President of Operations for Centara Grand properties in Thailand

• **David Martens** has been promoted to Senior Director of Operations for Centara properties and also assumes the position of General Manager of Centara Karon Resort Phuket

• **Wuthisak Pichayagan**, General Manager of Centara Grand at Central Plaza Ladprao Bangkok, takes on additional responsibilities as Director of Operations for all Central Pattana hotel properties in Thailand

• **Sebastien Scheeg**, General Manager of Centara Mirage Beach Resort Dubai, expands his scope with

Air India and Bangkok Airways forge interline partnership to expand Southeast Asia connectivity

Air India collaborates with Bangkok Airways to enhance customer convenience, offering streamlined services, boutique lounge access, and extended route options across Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.



GURUGRAM, INDIA – **Air India** has entered an interline partnership with **Bangkok Airways**. The partnership enables Air India guests to take convenient connections via Air India's Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Singapore gateways to and from 10 destinations in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia on Bangkok Airways' route network.

The scope of the agreement between the two airlines includes **Inter Airline Through Check-In (IATCI)** implementation, which enables guests to receive their boarding passes at the first point of departure for all the travel

sectors on a single ticket, and have their baggage checked-in through to their final destinations.

Air India guests taking connecting flights on Bangkok Airways will also receive complimentary access to Bangkok Airways' Boutique Lounges and Courtesy Corners at available airports, regardless of the cabin class they fly.

Air India and Bangkok Airways have also entered a Special Prorate Agreement, which allows both carriers to file 'through fares' on routes covering each other's networks.

Nipun Aggarwal, Chief Commercial

& Transformation Office, Air India, said, "One of our strategic priorities at Air India is to offer our guests the choice of flying to more places through our own as well as an augmented global network. We are happy to join hands with Bangkok Airways as part of that effort to provide our guests greater connectivity within Thailand and other countries in Southeast Asia."

Chulin Kocharoen, Vice President – Network and Product Development of Bangkok Airways PLC, said, "Air India is a leading global airline with a major presence in India and across the world. We are pleased to enter an interline partnership with Air India to strengthen our respective route networks and offer business and leisure travellers with unprecedented and convenient access to new gateways. Moreover, Air India passengers traveling on Bangkok Airways flights will enjoy the boutique airline's unparalleled services such as lounge access at available airports, in-flight meal and much more."

Air India guests can connect to the following points in Thailand through Bangkok Airways: Chiang Mai, Lampang, Sukhothai, Trat, Koh Samui, Phuket, and Krabi. The points outside of Thailand include Luang Prabang in Laos; and Phnom Penh, Siem Reap in Cambodia.

In addition to the Bangkok gateway, Air India guests can also choose to fly to Koh Samui via Singapore and Hong Kong.

Air India operates daily flights to Bangkok from Delhi and Mumbai, to Singapore from Delhi (twice daily), Mumbai, and Chennai, and thrice a week to Hong Kong from Delhi.

Vistara announces daily non-stop flights between Delhi and Hong Kong starting October 2023

Vistara expands its global network by launching daily flights between Delhi and Hong Kong, a key financial hub. This move aims to meet the growing demand for direct connectivity and is slated to commence on October 29, 2023.



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Return fares starting at INR 25499 ALL IN

Rights operating from 29-October-2023

Fight details are subject to regulatory approval. T&C Apply

GURUGRAM – Vistara, India’s full-service carrier and a joint venture of **Tata Group** and **Singapore Airlines**, announced daily non-stop flights between Delhi and Hong Kong, starting 29 October 2023. The airline will operate its A321neo aircraft featuring a three-class configuration on this route. Bookings for the flights are being progressively opened on all channels, including Vistara’s website, mobile app, and through travel agents.

Mr. **Vinod Kannan**, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, “We are delighted to add Hong Kong to our fast-growing global network. Hong Kong is one of the world’s most premier financial and commercial hubs that continues to draw significant corporate traffic from India. It has also been a very popular destination for Indian tourists. With the addition of Hong Kong, we are now able to offer our customers direct connectivity to and from three of the world’s top financial centres, the others being London and Singapore.”

Vistara will accept all eligible customers meeting visa/entry

requirements in both countries, as specified by the respective government bodies. Vistara strongly encourages its customers to fully understand these guidelines before making their bookings.

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.

Over 20 million visitor arrivals recorded for the first eight months of the year in Hong Kong

Hong Kong's tourism rebounds with a 14% MoM increase in August, reaching 84% of pre-pandemic levels. HKTB plans flagship events to sustain momentum.



The **Hong Kong Tourism Board** (HKTB) announced that, benefitting from the peak season of summer holidays, Hong Kong recorded preliminary visitor arrivals of about 4.1 million for August, representing a 14% month-on-month increase. The figure is equivalent to 84% of the pre-pandemic level (i.e. average figure of the same months in

2017-19). Cumulatively, over 20 million visitor arrivals were recorded from January to August this year.

Overall, Hong Kong's tourism industry is recovering at a steady and gradual pace. However, factors such as currency exchange rates, airline capacity and the global economic outlook will continue to affect the actual pace of the recovery.

The HKTB will organise a series of flagship events in the coming months, including mega events held in the evenings, including the Hong Kong Wine & Dine Festival, Hong Kong WinterFest and Hong Kong New Year Countdown Celebrations to create a city-wide festive ambience and entice participation of both visitors and the public.

Provisional visitor arrivals for August 2023

Markets	July	August	January to August
Mainland	2,975,846	3,434,202	16,520,798
Non-Mainland*	612,684	643,544	4,029,357
Short-haul	306,477	312,810	1,971,142
Long-haul	163,649	165,026	1,056,013
New markets	28,623	30,111	184,178
Total	3,588,530	4,077,746 (+14% from last month)	20,550,155

Note: Because of rounding, the total may differ from the sum of the individual figures.

*Includes figures from long-haul, short-haul, and new markets, as well as the Macao SAR. (Full details of August 2023 visitor arrivals will be released in due course)

British Airways signs new codeshare with IndiGo



IndiGo, India's largest airline and British Airways, the UK's second-largest, have announced a new codesharing partnership, expanding the number of destinations accessible to customers of the UK flag carrier flying from London Heathrow.

Eight destinations are included in the partnership, all from London Heathrow via New Delhi or Mumbai, with three being new to British Airways: Thiruvananthapuram, Rajkot (Hirasar) and Vadodara, all via Mumbai.

With Imperial Airways, one of the companies that would become British Airways, conducting flight routes to India during the British Empire in the 1920s, the airline described the UK as one of its "longest-served and most valued destinations".

Abhijit Dasgupta, senior vice-president of Network Planning and Revenue Management for IndiGo, added: "This partnership expands the choices available to British Airways customers for journeys to/ from London Heathrow, using IndiGo's extensive network in India. "This step to provide seamless connectivity will

not only support trade and commerce between the two countries but also offer convenient travel options to students and tourists."

The partnership also expands on British Airways' post-pandemic growth in the country, with the number of flights by the airline from London to India now exceeding pre-pandemic levels at 56 flights a week.

British Airways customers connecting onto IndiGo codeshare services will benefit from a complimentary inflight meal and two pieces of checked luggage up to 23kg.

BA also provided an update on its flights to India, which now exceed pre-pandemic levels with a total of 56 flights per week to Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Customers on routes to Mumbai, Delhi and Bangalore now benefit from the carrier's Club Suite business-class product.

IndiGo recently placed a record order for 500 Airbus A320s, with the aircraft set to be delivered between 2030 and 2035.

Commenting on the news **Neil Chernoff, British Airways director**

of network and alliances, said:

"British Airways has been flying to India since 1924, making it one of our longest-served and most valued destinations. "Our partnership with IndiGo means that customers will be able to book their entire journey on one ticket, allowing seamless travel all the way from London to their final destination, offering more choice and flexibility for customers."

The full list of new codeshare routes is as follows:

- London Heathrow to Amritsar via New Delhi
- London Heathrow to Kochi via Mumbai
- London Heathrow to Ahmedabad via Mumbai
- London Heathrow to Goa via Mumbai
- London Heathrow to Thiruvananthapuram via Mumbai
- London Heathrow to Kolkata via Mumbai
- London Heathrow to Rajkot (Hirasar) via Mumbai
- London Heathrow to Vadodara via Mumbai

Vistara Commences Daily, Direct Flights Between Delhi and Maldives



Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of the Tata group and Singapore Airlines, today inaugurated daily, non-stop flights between Delhi and Maldives. The inaugural flight, operated by an Airbus A320neo aircraft, departed from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi at 10:45 Hours (IST) and arrived at Velana International Airport, Maldives Airport

at 14:20 Hours (MVT). With this, Vistara now offers direct daily flights connecting Maldives with two Indian airports – Delhi and Mumbai.

Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, "In addition to the 7x weekly service between Mumbai and Male, which has been getting very good response since its launch in March 2021, we are pleased to introduce our second

route connecting this exquisite beach destination with Delhi. Maldives has evolved as one of the most popular leisure destinations for Indian travellers and we are happy to be able to offer more choices and flexibility to our customers on this route. We are confident that customers will appreciate having the option of flying with India's most loved airline when travelling to or from Male."

SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND MALDIVES EFFECTIVE 01 OCTOBER 2023

Sector	Flight No.	Days of Operation	Departure	Arrival
Delhi – Maldives	UK 0273	Daily	1045 hrs	1420 hrs
Maldives - Delhi	UK 0274	Daily	1520 hrs	1955 hrs

* All timings shown are in local time zones, exact timings may differ slightly for respective days of operations

** Subject to regulatory approvals

Vistara Adopts SITA'S eWAS and Sita Opticlimb® Solutions to Optimize Flight Paths and Reduce Fuel Consumption



SITA eWAS will help Vistara flights avoid weather disruptions, while SITA OptiClimb will reduce carbon emissions by 15,000 tons yearly

Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of the Tata Group and Singapore Airlines, has become the first Indian airline to deploy both SITA eWAS and SITA OptiClimb® solutions. With this, Vistara aims to significantly improve efficiency in flight planning and operations, reducing fuel burn and thereby reducing carbon emissions by 15,000 tons yearly.

Using SITA eWAS, Vistara will be able to enhance overall flight safety and efficiency by providing pilots with better weather awareness data. It serves as a highly effective mechanism for delivering OptiClimb data.

SITA OptiClimb® leverages historical flight data to predict fuel burn during the climb out and is the industry's only machine-learning solution providing customized climb profile optimization for every flight. This will enable Vistara to save 80 tons of fuel per year per aircraft on average and reduce carbon emissions by roughly 250 tons yearly. For Vistara's entire fleet, yearly fuel savings are estimated to be more than 5,000 tons, leading to a reduction in

carbon emissions of more than 15,000 tons.

Sumesh Patel, President, Asia Pacific, SITA, said: "India's aviation industry is accelerating at lightning speed, and we're excited to help leading airlines like Vistara with solutions that supercharge their efficiency, significantly reduce fuel consumption, and support efforts towards more sustainable air travel. We're now seeing

an increasing number of Indian airlines looking for smart solutions to optimize operations and enhance the passenger experience."

Captain Hamish Maxwell, Senior Vice President – Flight Operations, Vistara, said: "Continuous improvements in operational efficiency and safety remain key focus areas for us. Advanced technology solutions, such as SITA OptiClimb and SITA eWAS, enable clear enhancements in these areas, which ultimately help us to reduce our carbon footprint. We are committed to continuing on this path and will keep evolving as a future-ready, world-class airline."



Vistara Announces Daily Non-Stop Flights Between Delhi and Bali



All-inclusive return fares start at INR 39,999 for Economy, INR 54,999 for Premium Economy, and INR 129,999 for Business Class

Gurugram, 20 October 2023: Vistara, India’s finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of Tata group and Singapore Airlines, today announced daily non-stop flights between Delhi and Bali, starting 01 December 2023. This makes Vistara the only airline offering direct connectivity between the two cities currently. Vistara will be deploying its A321LR aircraft, with a three-class configuration, giving its customers the option to fly in Business, Premium Economy, or Economy cabins

when travelling on the route. Bookings for the flights are being progressively opened on all channels, including Vistara’s website, mobile app, and through travel agents.

Bali has become an increasingly sought-after holiday destination for Indians due to its accessibility, proximity, and hassle-free visa on arrival facility.

Commenting on the introduction of the new destination, **Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara said**, “India is the second-

largest source of foreign tourists to Bali, and with hassle-free visa-on-arrival, Bali remains one of the preferred holiday destinations for Indians, besides being popular for MICE traffic. Additionally, as the second largest trading destination for India in the ASEAN region, Indonesia exhibits great potential for business travel as well. We are delighted to be the only airline offering direct connectivity between Delhi and Bali. We are confident that customers will appreciate having the option to travel on India’s finest full service airline on the route.”

Introductory all-inclusive, round-trip fares

Sector	Economy	Premium Economy	Business
Delhi – Bali – Delhi	INR 39,999	INR 54,999	INR 129,999
Bali – Delhi – Bali	IDR 6,900,999	IDR 13,500,999	IDR 29,000,999

Schedule of flights to/from Bali effective 1 December 2023

Sector	Flight No.	Days of Operation	Departure	Arrival
Delhi – Bali	UK 145	Daily	00:30 hrs	11:05 hrs
Bali – Delhi	UK 146	Daily	12:10 hrs	17:45 hrs

* All timings shown are in local time zones, exact timings may differ slightly for respective days of operations

** Subject to regulatory approvals

Air India Uniform Makeover By Designer Manish Malhotra

Manish Malhotra will be designing new uniforms for over 10,000 Air India employees on the frontline, including cabin crew, cockpit crew, and ground and security staff.

This is a further step in the manifestation of Air India's new global brand identity as part of its ongoing modernization programme, the airline said. Air India expects to commence rolling out the new look for its uniformed employees by the end of 2023.

The Tata Group-backed Air India will launch new uniforms designed by fashion designer Manish Malhotra for the staff by the end of 2023. The designer will create new uniforms for over 10,000 Air India employees across the frontline, including cabin crew, cockpit crew, ground and security staff.

"This is a further step in the manifestation of Air India's new global brand identity as part of its ongoing modernisation programme. Air India expects to commence rolling out the new look for its uniformed employees by the end of 2023," the airline said in a statement.

"Air India is delighted to be collaborating with Manish Malhotra to realise our shared ambition of representing the very



best of a vibrant, bold, and progressive India on the world stage. We are working closely with Manish and his team to combine elements of our brand, our heritage and our culture, together with the unique requirements of the airline environment, for what we hope will be a fresh and exciting new look that supports and represents the new Air India," Chief

Executive Officer Campbell Wilson said.

"Our shared ideology is simple yet profound: to evolve without erasing, to modernise without forgetting. Together, we aim to intertwine tradition with the future, crafting uniforms where comfort meets authenticity, wrapped in timeless elegance," Malhotra said

In August, Air India unveiled a new brand

identity and aircraft livery as the airline moves ahead with its transformation plan since being taken over by Tata Group more than one-and-a-half years ago.

The new look re-imagines the iconic Indian window shape, historically used by Air India, into a gold window frame that becomes central to the new brand design system. It symbolises a 'Window of Possibilities'.

Turkish Airlines

carried 7.9 million passengers with an increase of 9.2 per cent in September 2023



In the September 2023 traffic results, it's noted that the number of passengers carried saw a significant 9.2 per cent increase, reaching 7.9 million when compared to the same period in 2022. Turning to the January-September 2023 Traffic Results, a robust 18.6 per cent increase in the total number of passengers carried was observed, totalling 63.9 million, when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The number of international to international passengers carried saw an impressive surge of 31.2 per cent,

rising to 22.4 million from 17.1 million in 2022. As of the end of September 2023, the fleet consisted of 429 aircrafts.

Turning to the January-September 2023 Traffic Results, a robust 18.6 per cent increase in the total number of passengers carried was observed, totalling 63.9 million, when compared to the corresponding period in 2022. The number of international to international passengers carried saw an impressive surge of 31.2 per cent, rising to 22.4 million from 17.1

million in 2022. The overall load factor displayed a notable increase of 3.4 percentage points, reaching 83.1 per cent, with international load factor at 82.9 per cent and domestic load factor at 84.9 per cent. Moreover, available seat kilometers (ASK) grew significantly by 16.6 per cent to 176 billion from 150.9 billion in the same period in 2022. However, cargo and mail volumes experienced a slight decrease, falling by 5.7 per cent to 1,187 thousand tons from 1,259 thousand tons in the corresponding period of 2022.

Dreamliners of LOT Polish Airlines will get new Interior Design

LOT Polish to fit 787-8s with new business class seats featuring sliding doors



LOT Polish Airlines has announced a major upgrade of the cabins of its wide-body Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner aircraft. The retrofit will feature a new cabin design, replacement of seats in all classes, installation of a new in-flight entertainment system as well as the deployment of Internet connectivity. The new interiors will be the product of collaboration with brands such as RECARO Aircraft Seating, Safran Passenger Innovations, Viasat, and Tangerine. The new cabins of the Dreamliners are set to include a Polish touch. The

LOT Economy Class seats will be manufactured at the RECARO Aircraft Seating factory in Poland.

LOT Polish Airlines is putting a completely new spin on travel. The new Dreamliner cabins have been designed while respecting the company's nearly 95-year history, incorporating the spirit of Polish hospitality yet being modern.

The new cabin space in all classes is inspired by the Polish landscape. Vibrant, deep blues emanate perfectly from the LOT brand, while the addition of copper alludes to the warmth of the Polish sun. The design follows business trends, however, as

one of the oldest and most recognisable Polish brands in the world, we do not forget to include touches from our cultural heritage”, Izabela Leszczyńska, Director of Product Development and Customer Experience Department at LOT Polish Airlines, talks about the experience of future travel in the upcoming 787-8 cabin interiors.

Tangerine, a multi-award-winning British design agency, created the design of the new cabins for LOT Polish Airlines. The company has been in business since 1989 and has served brands such as Apple, British Airways, Finnair, Huawei, and Toyota.

Enjoy even more comfortable journeys with the new seats

The entire cabin of the Boeing 787 fleet will be equipped with new seats from RECARO Aircraft Seating in LOT Business Class (CL6720 model), LOT Premium Economy Class (PL3530 model) and LOT Economy Class (CL3810 model).

“By choosing RECARO Aircraft Seating as the exclusive supplier of seats for our wide-body fleet, we prioritised passenger comfort and innovation. Our partnership marks a milestone for both LOT Polish Airlines and RECARO, with whom we are working

on a wide-body aircraft cabin design for the first time. The CL6720, PL3530 and CL3810 series seats materialise our commitment to providing comfortable travel experience in all classes. We are confident that this collaboration will establish new standards and reflect our dedication to making the journey even better for passengers”, adds **Izabela Leszczyńska.**

The seating configuration in LOT Business Class will change to 1-2-1, thus giving each passenger access to the aisle at any point during the journey. Each and every seat will be furnished with an individual door, offering the utmost degree of privacy. Passengers will enjoy more space and additional storage for small items. Likewise, there will be more space for personal items in LOT Premium Economy Class, whereas the new seat shape and spacing

will make aisle access easier. In LOT Economy Class, the journey aboard the Dreamliner will be even more convenient owing to increased legroom and advanced cushions in the seats.

Recaro Aircraft Seating is a leading German manufacturer of seats for aircraft and passenger trains. Seats of the CL3810 series (LOT Economy Class) will be manufactured at the factory in Poland. LOT Polish Airlines and Recaro cooperation is a long-term one, as the company will be supplying seats for all wide-body aircrafts’ including those that will join Polish flag carrier’s fleet in the future.

New generation of in-flight entertainment system

LOT passengers on long-haul flights will benefit from access to a state-of-the-

art entertainment system. The Boeing 787-8 fleet will be upgraded to feature 4K resolution screens of 17.3 inches in LOT Business Class and 13.3 inches in LOT Premium Economy and LOT Economy Class. Passengers travelling in all classes will have the opportunity to connect their headsets to the in-flight entertainment system using Bluetooth technology. All seats will come equipped with the modern USB-C charging port standard, while LOT Premium Economy Class and LOT Business Class seats will boast universal power sockets and the LOT Business Class seat will additionally feature a wireless charging built-in the console.

The entertainment system will be supplied by Safran Passenger Innovations, a California-based company and a leading supplier of in-flight

entertainment systems for a number of global carriers. LOT passengers travelling on long-haul routes will be able to benefit from wireless Internet access aboard all of the LOT Polish Airlines wide-body aircrafts. Internet connectivity will be provided by Viasat, offering global coverage.

In the first place, the retrofit will cover Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner fleet. Passengers will be able to board LOT Polish Airlines aircraft with a completely modernised cabin in 2026.

“This will be a brand new quality of travel – from boarding and the overall experience, to the comfort of the seats and the enjoyment of the in-flight entertainment, right down to the tiny details that we hope our passengers will appreciate. We are looking forward to welcoming you to this experience”, promises Izabela Leszczyńska.



British Airways

launches its new uniform for cabin crew, pilots and airport teams

Customers travelling with British Airways will now see its customer-facing colleagues including cabin crew, pilots and airport teams wearing the airline's new iconic uniform collection across the globe.

The airline gave the first glimpse of its new uniform in January, with operational ground colleagues beginning to wear their new uniforms in May. The collection has been designed by British-Ghanaian fashion designer and master tailor, Ozwald Boateng OBE, with the help of more than 1,500 colleagues from across the business who were involved in the end-to-end process, including design workshops, prototype feedback and wearer trials.

Combining style with functionality, 96 individual garments feature in Boateng's collection; the largest choice of garments the airline has ever offered its people. The female wardrobe for cabin crew and airport colleagues offers the option of a dress, skirt, trouser suit, or in an airline first, a stylish jumpsuit. A sleek three-piece tailored suit with the option of slim or regular fit trousers is available as part of the male wardrobe.

A staggering 850,000 uniform items have been manufactured for the airline's more than 30,000 colleagues, with British Airways disclosing that most popular garments ordered are the dress and trench coat. When it comes to blouses and shirts, the short sleeve option has proved more popular than long sleeved shirts.

Calum Laming, British Airways' Chief Customer Officer, said "We're really excited to start the final phase of the rollout of our brand-new uniform for more than 30,000 colleagues. The stylish and modern collection offers our



colleagues more choice than ever to help them display more of their original personalities at work. Our people have always been at the forefront of our brand, so this launch celebrates them and the work they do to look after our customers."

The airline's uniform features bespoke fabrics and patterns that weave throughout the entire collection. The suits, a fundamental element of the customer-facing uniform, are made with a jacquard fabric that features a subtle nod to the airline's heritage with a pattern indicative of the airline's iconic speedmarque. Elsewhere, the scarves and ties feature an airwave design inspired by air moving over the

wing of an aircraft, creating a signature feature of the uniform.

Sustainability has played an important role in the development of British Airways' new uniform, as well as in plans to repurpose its current uniform as part of its BA Better World commitments. More than 90 per cent of the garments are produced using sustainable fabric from blends of recycled polyester, and the new uniform's cotton has been sourced through the 'Better Cotton Initiative'. This is the world's leading sustainability initiative for cotton, with a mission to help cotton communities survive and thrive, while helping to protect and restore the environment.

Air India Express and AirAsia India announce interline arrangement covering over 100 routes

In another milestone ahead of their eventual merger, **Air India Express** and **AirAsia India** announced the commencement of interline bookings. Guests can now book a single itinerary across both airlines, including a single PNR on the common website, airindiaexpress.com and other OTAs (Online Travel Agents) and Travel Partners.

Guests travelling on connecting flights on the AirAsia India (I5) and Air India Express (IX) airline codes can now check-in up to their final destination and receive boarding passes for all segments at the start of the journey.

For instance, with the interline arrangement, guests can book a Lucknow – Delhi – Sharjah itinerary under a single PNR (Passenger Name Record) and receive their boarding passes for both Lucknow to Delhi and Delhi to Sharjah, at the beginning of their journey in Lucknow itself. However, customs and immigration formalities will need to be done at Delhi, while baggage can be labelled up to the final destination.

With a combined fleet of 54 aircraft, both airlines connect 44 destinations, operating over 250 routes across

India, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. The airlines have harmonised a range of ancillary add-on services and sub-brands, such as Gourmair in-flight dining, Xpress Prime seating, and Xpress Ahead priority services.

Talking about this development, **Aloke Singh**, Managing Director, Air India Express and AirAsia India, commented, *“Our ongoing efforts towards integrating Air India Express and AirAsia India, even as we proceed with the full merger, is now bearing fruit, with a strong, integrated network emerging. The network footprint stretches across India, Gulf & the Middle East, and Southeast Asia and will be further strengthened with our forthcoming fleet expansion. The interline arrangement enables guests to seamlessly book and connect across sectors operated by the two airlines, as if it were already one network. This is just the beginning of the remarkable value proposition we aim to deliver, and we look forward to further enriching travel experiences.”*

Earlier this year, Air India Express and AirAsia India unveiled a unified website enabling users to book, manage services and check-in to flights

Flyers can now travel seamlessly on the entire domestic and international network of Air India Express and AirAsia India.

from both airlines across domestic and international routes with an integrated backend passenger service system.

AirAsia India flies over 50 direct and over 100 connecting routes across 19 destinations in India: Bengaluru, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Kochi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam, Imphal, Guwahati, Goa, Jaipur, Lucknow, Surat, Bagdogra, Ranchi, and Srinagar.

Air India Express operates to 14 international destinations: Abu Dhabi, Al Ain, Bahrain, Dammam, Doha, Dubai, Kuwait, Muscat, Salalah, Sharjah, Singapore, Ras-Al-Khaimah, Riyadh, & Jeddah, from 18 Indian cities: Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangalore, Chennai, Tiruchirappalli, Mumbai, Amritsar, Lucknow, Jaipur, Varanasi, New Delhi, Chandigarh, Madurai, Vijayawada, Bengaluru, Kannur, Surat, & Hyderabad.

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The Ancient Town of Si Thep is inscribed UNESCO World Heritage Site

Bringing the number of World Heritage Sites in Thailand to seven, including four cultural heritage sites and three natural heritage sites.



The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has listed “The Ancient Town of Si Thep and its Associated Dvaravati Monuments” in Phetchabun province as a cultural world heritage site, bringing the number of World Heritage Sites in Thailand to seven.

The Ancient Town of Si Thep was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List during the World Heritage Committee’s 45th extended session held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

According to the World Heritage List, “The Ancient Town of Si Thep and its Associated Dvaravati Monuments is a serial property of three component parts: A distinctive twin-town site, featuring an Inner and Outer Town surrounded by moats, the massive Khao Klang Nok ancient monument, and the Khao Thamorrat Cave ancient monument.

Together these sites represent the architecture, artistic traditions, and religious diversity of the Dvaravati Empire that thrived in Central Thailand from the 6th to the 10th centuries, demonstrating the influences from India. The local adaptation of these traditions resulted in a distinctive artistic tradition known as the Si Thep School of Art, which later influenced other civilizations



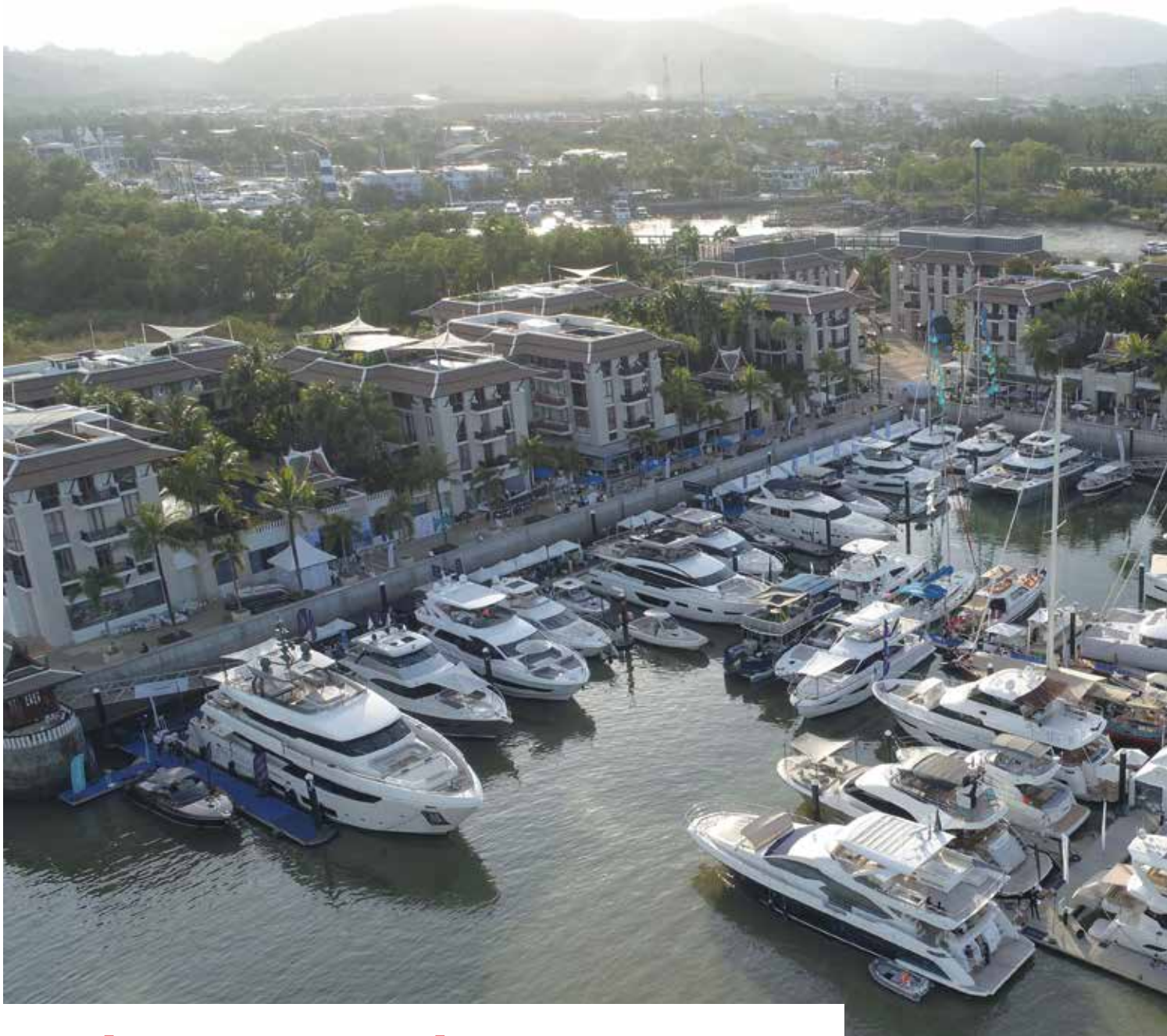
in Southeast Asia.”

The other existing World Heritage Sites in Thailand comprise three cultural sites – Historic Town of Sukhothai and Associated Historic Towns (1991), Historic City of Ayutthaya (1991), and Ban Chiang Archaeological Site (1992) – and three natural sites – Thungyai-Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries (1991),

Dong Phrayayen-Khao Yai Forest Complex (2005), and Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (2021).

The Ancient Town of Si Thep is in Phetchabun province located some 340 km north of Bangkok. Phetchabun is best known for its amazing scenery surrounded by mountains and mist and is a popular destination for trekking and camping.

Among Phetchabun’s famous attractions are several national parks – Khao Kho, Nam Nao, Phu Hin Rong Kla, and Thung Salaeng Luang – and its highest mountain Phu Thap Boek, the five overlapping white Buddha statues of Wat Phrathat Pha Son Kaeo, and That Yai Waterfall – one of the 25 finalists in the ‘Unseen New Chapters’ campaign.



Thailand's premier boat show anticipates boost in Marine Tourism

2024 Thailand International Boat Show to attract 6,000 visitors, elevating Thailand as a global marine leisure hub.

THAILAND – Organisers of Thailand's premier boating and luxury lifestyle platform, the **Thailand International Boat Show**

A Luxury Lifestyle Event, which is set to take place 11 – 14 January 2024 at **Royal Phuket Marina**, expect the expanded format to attract over

6,000 visitors and provide a boost to Thailand's marine leisure industry. Aligned with the Thai government's policy to stimulate yacht tourism,



organisers **JAND Events** are working closely with the **Thai Yachting Business Association**, the **Ministry of Tourism and Sports**, the **Tourism Authority of Thailand**, the **Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau**, as well as industry stakeholders to promote Thailand as a world-class boating hub.

“Many international owners choose to keep their boats in Phuket. The excellent marinas and maintenance

facilities combined with the world-class cruising grounds right on its doorstep make Phuket the marine playground in southeast Asia. And while Thailand’s onshore-offshore appeal continues to grow amongst international boaters, we are also seeing increasing interest amongst Thais who are keen to charter and explore boat ownership, further strengthening the importance of Thailand’s marine tourism as a key economic driver for the country, and

the Thailand International Boat Show A Luxury Lifestyle Event as a key platform for the industry,” said **David Hayes**, CEO of organisers JAND Events.

The 2024 Thailand International Boat Show A Luxury Lifestyle Event will showcase the latest boats, marine products and luxury lifestyle offerings to visitors and High Net Worth Individuals across Asia.

The response from the industry has been extremely positive with more than 80% of the in-water space at the 2024 show already booked. Brokers confirmed to exhibit in-the-water include Simpson Marine, Boat Lagoon Yachting, V Yachts Asia, Derani Yachts, Lee Marine, Asia Yachting, Go Boating, Extreme Marine, The Yacht Sales Co, Leopard Catamarans and Northrop & Johnson who collectively will be representing sail, power and superyacht brands from around the world.

For the 2024 show there will be a new purpose-built air-conditioned exhibition space onshore which will better connect the in-water, onshore and social spaces for visitors and will house a range of businesses from marine products and services to tech and lifestyle, including Hull Co. Ltd, SEA Yacht Sales, FLS Yacht, the ASA Group, Thailand Privilege, Nava by Thaicom, Flexiteek and Marine Services Asia, to name a few.

Also new this year is the Thailand Yachting Conference and the Robb Report “Best of the Best” Yachting Awards, both of which will take place on 10 January the day before the show opens to the public.

“The Thailand International Boat Show A Luxury Lifestyle Event provides the marine industry with an effective platform to showcase their businesses and services. With plans to expand Phuket International Airport, a new airport being considered in neighbouring Phang Nga province, and eased visa procedures for international visitors, Phuket’s future is bright and the Thailand International Boat Show A Luxury Lifestyle Event aims to give a boost to Thailand’s marine tourism and put the country top of mind amongst boaters around the world,” added Hayes.



Vineyards of Anatolia

in Türkiye Rhapsody of Grapes

Türkiye has long been considered the homeland of viticulture and the earliest grape culture in the world. Archaeological evidence shows that the domestication of grape seeds and viticulture began in Northeastern Anatolia between 5000 and 8500 BC. With up to 1,000 grape varieties, Türkiye ranks fourth in the world among countries producing grapes for viticulture.

The wide range of climates and

seasonal variations mean that Türkiye's large agricultural area is ideal for growing grapes. Vineyard Estates are spread throughout Türkiye. Turkish wines are served with local delicacies throughout the country, and of course,

along the various viticulture routes, there is the opportunity to explore and taste the food pairing, especially with local cheese!

The best time to tour one of Türkiye's exceptional viticulture routes



is between April 'Bud Breaking' and early October 'Harvest Time'. Some even offer their guests the chance to help with the grape harvest.

Today, Türkiye is a major player in global grape production with numerous indigenous grape varieties. And five major varieties dominate; Boğazkere, Emir, Kalecik Karası, Narince, and Öküzgözü. Eastern Anatolia, Cappadocia, and the TurkAegean regions have the highest production in the country.

TurkAegean

Bozcaada, a stunning island in the Aegean Sea, is a national treasure and home to a 3,000-year-old heritage of viticulture. With its warm climate and

northern winds, it is the perfect place for viticulture to thrive.

Urla lies between Çeşme and İzmir on a peninsula of moist, rich soil surrounded by the sparkling blue Aegean Sea. With a 6,000-year-old history of viticulture, Urla is now merited with the growth of international trade.

Urla is home to some of the most stunning vineyards in Türkiye. Visitors to the Urla Vineyard Route can enjoy delicious and award-winning produce at chateau-style establishments, stay in boutique accommodations, visit gourmet restaurants, and explore the beautiful green countryside.

In between routes and stops, there is of course the chance to view Dionysus' Temple, an important landmark of mythology, located in the ancient city of Teos in İzmir, commonly known as the God of Inspiration, and the God of Wine.

Thrace

Thrace is a grape-growing region along the Sea of Marmara, known for its balanced and crisp produce. Experience boutique wine producers in four main areas: **Kırklareli, Tekirdağ, Şarköy, and Gelibolu.**

The route passes through mountains, forests, and different microclimates, surrounded by three seas: the Sea of Marmara, the Aegean Sea, and the Black Sea. It is a truly beautiful route and visitors should book early as it is becoming increasingly popular.

Cappadocia

Cappadocia has a rich viticulture tradition and is famous for its white wine specialty made from the local Emir grape. The natural volcanic rock structures of Cappadocia are breathtaking in and of themselves and tasting the local wine with a view of the magical fairy chimneys is an unforgettable experience.

Cappadocia is home to four local viticulture sites; the largest and oldest since 1943 and produces 25 varieties, whilst the smallest still produces an incredible 300,000 liters annually.

Mesopotamia

Today, Türkiye is a major player in global grape production with numerous indigenous grape varieties. Ankara is known for Kalecik Karası and Tokat is famous for Narince. Furthermore, from the red wave of Malatya, Elazığ, and Diyarbakır, the region benefits from the historical heritage of the Hattis and Hittites. Meanwhile, a little further, the Midyat and Mardin varieties are famed for their millennia-old viticulture history in Eastern and Southeastern Türkiye.

Thrace Vineyard Route

Wines of Ancient Times

With its ancient vineyard routes and magnificent vineyards, the Thrace Vineyard Route offers a great alternative for those who seek unforgettable natural and cultural experiences, and the exquisite flavors of local cuisine.

The history of viticulture in Thrace (Trakya in Turkish) dates back to ancient times. In his epic poem Iliad, Homer mentioned the honey-sweet black wine produced here. For thousands of years, generations of local farmers have taken advantage of this fertile soil, flat geography, and the perfect climate to grow the best grapes for wine production. The secret behind the Thrace Vineyard Route might be the land's tectonic character. The early volcanic activity has ensured rich and fertile soil and the perfect conditions for grape cultivation.

The Thrace Vineyard Route brings together boutique wine producers located in four main areas: Kırklareli, Tekirdağ, Şarköy, and Gelibolu. The route passes through mountains, forests, and various microclimates surrounded by three seas: the Sea of Marmara, the Aegean Sea, and the Black Sea.

In Thrace, bud break usually takes place in April and typically harvest occurs in October. Since the Thrace Vineyard Route is very popular, it's better to book ahead for tours, vineyard restaurants, and on-site accommodation.

Throughout history, Kırklareli has been an important region in terms

EXPERIENCES



of viticulture. The historical vineyard routes, which traverse the inner parts of Thrace, intersect at Kırklareli. This route reaches the ports of İğneada and Midye (Kıyıköy) through the Istranca Mountains. Kırklareli forms an essential part of the Thrace Vineyard Route with its longoz (floodplain) forests, caves, ancient ruins, and beaches. It is culturally and historically rich and abounds in natural beauty.

In the Kırklareli part of the route, the rustic vineyards are worth visiting to





taste wines produced from indigenous and foreign grape varieties. Besides the local Papazkarası, Kalecik Karası, and Adakarası, there are foreign varieties grown here such as Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Gamay, Merlot, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon, Shiraz, and Viognier.

Kalecik Karası is used mainly in a wine that has a red-rose color, a sweet aroma, and is not tannin-dense.

Kırklareli is known for its tasty goat cheese and tandır (tandoori) meat dishes. The region is rich in terms of both history and nature. The İğneada Longoz Forests National Park, famous for its longoz (floodplain) forests, and the beautiful Dupnisa Cave deserve a visit. You can also add the villages of Kiyıköy and Vize to your travel itinerary.

Tekirdağ is one of the route's central points and viticulture is an essential source of income in the villages within the provincial borders.

In the Tekirdağ area, the mature

wines produced by local wineries are delicious and balanced, with distinctive flavors. The Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Gamay, Kalecik Karası, Merlot, Papazkarası, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Sémillon, Shiraz, and Viognier varieties are widespread here. While visiting Tekirdağ vineyards, do not forget to taste the mouthwatering local köfte (meatballs) and to stop by the Tekirdağ Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Rüstem Pasha Mosque, Namık Kemal House Museum, the ancient city of Perinthos, and the Rákóczi Museum.

Uçmakedere has made a name for itself on the Thrace Vineyard Route in recent years and has become famous for its paragliding school. It is located 35 kilometers from Tekirdağ and is perfect for hiking and photography expeditions in nature. Uçmakedere is one of the last surviving examples of modest village life with its wooden houses and the river that runs through



it. The village hosts an international paragliding festival every year. One last tip: do not leave Uçmakdere without having a typical village breakfast.

With its 60-kilometer-long beach, Şarköy is another remarkable stop. During your visit here, you can enjoy the sea together with the sunshine and taste delicious olives and fresh fish. Şarköy vineyards have unique soil and the slopes running perpendicular to the sea make the best of the night and day temperature difference, giving the wine a rich aroma. The history of viticulture here dates back to ancient times: some of the amphora-laden shipwrecks found in Yenikapı (Yenikapı Wreck 11) are thought to have set off from this region.

Mürefte is another beautiful coastal town and the production center of many wine brands. The city, whose settlement dates to ancient times, is 13 kilometers from Şarköy and

the vineyards on its hills produce delicious wines. Mürefte is a popular stop for its beaches, historic houses, and fish. It attracts the attention of visitors with the wine museums that can be found within the wineries. Feyzi Kutman Wine Museum and Aker Wine Museum, which, among others, display photographs, paintings, ancient wine production accessories, Roman amphoras, bottles, and scales, are worth visiting. You can also purchase small batch premium olive oil, vinegar, and grape seed natural soap to take back as souvenirs and gifts.

The last part of the Thrace Vineyard Route is the historical Gelibolu Peninsula. Blending history, mythology, and viticulture, Gelibolu is a perfect location for wine lovers. The local vineyards produce wonderful wines made from the indigenous Karasakız and Kınalı Yapıncak, and the foreign varieties Cabernet Franc, Cabernet

Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Sauvignon Blanc, Shiraz, and Grenache. Gelibolu is the land where the legendary Gallipoli Campaign took place during World War I. Anzac Day, observed on April 25, is a remembrance day originally dedicated to the members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who served in the Gallipoli Campaign. Today, the commemoration has expanded to include all Australians and New Zealanders who have served in wars. In Türkiye, on Anzac Day, the relatives of soldiers from both sides pay their respects to those who sacrificed their lives in the Gallipoli Campaign.

Scuba diving enthusiasts will definitely fall in love with Saros Bay, which Jacques Cousteau visited. Ancient Troy (Troia in Turkish), located on the Asian side of the Çanakkale Strait history, blends with literature and mythology.

11 reasons why Peru should be on your bucket list for 2023 /2024

Grab your bucket list, because there's one dream destination you may not have considered yet.

There's a reason why it keeps ending up on bucket-list travel roundups and the best places to travel. It's known for its amazing food (with some of the top-ranked

restaurants in the world), stunning Inca fortresses and cities (like Machu Picchu), vibrant textiles and fabrics, art, and music. It has major cities like Lima, and cultural ones like Arequipa





and Cusco, along with the Amazon and desert and gorgeous coasts. Best of all, the people are gentle, proud, and wonderful...they love visitors! For many of these reasons, Peru has been named as a top destination for 2023:

The South American country is probably best known by people who want to explore ancient Incan ruins, trekking to Machu Picchu by the thousands every day. While Machu Picchu is certainly a top reason to visit this diverse, rich, and beautiful country, there's even more to discover while you're there.

Adventurers will love the incredible landscape and scores of outdoor activities, from the colorful Andes Mountains to the waterfalls of the Amazon region. Foodies will love sipping on Pisco Sours in local bars and dining on everything from fresh ceviche to Amazonian snails in Lima. History and art nerds will get a kick out of visiting the Nazca Lines or seeing handcrafts made by locals in the Sacred Valley. And there are plenty of luxurious places including world-class hotels and fabulous resorts to relax in no matter where you go.





1. Machu Picchu

It's clear why this ancient ruin attracts more than 5,000 visitors a day. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983 and declared one of the "New Seven Wonders of the World," according to Frommers. Visitors who love the great outdoors can take a four-day Inca Trail hike that leads to the ruins if they really want to see the beautiful scenery that surrounds Machu Picchu.

2. Montaña de Siete Colores (Mountain of Seven Colors)

Vinicunca, also called Montaña de Siete Colores (Mountain of Seven Colors in English), is located in the Andes mountains, near Cusco. So you can take a colorful hike in the mountains and stay in the nearby city of Cusco for a trip that's truly rich in culture, history, and natural beauty.

3. Cusco's Rich Art and History

Cusco is over 11,000 feet above sea level and you won't regret exploring this city. Cusco has so many fascinating features for history and art lovers. You can visit mummies at Museo Inka; visit the city's one-time religious center, the Temple of the Sun; or shop until you drop in San Blas.

4. Lima Is a Foodie Paradise

Lima is home to a diverse cultural heritage, and that makes it an incredible place for food lovers. Street food is certainly budget-friendly and just as delicious as any cuisine you can find in a fine dining restaurant, but there are also lots of spots to grab a good meal that ranges in price and style. Munch on incredible dishes like ceviche, empanadas, butifarra (sausage), and a local Andean delicacy: dry guinea pig meat.

5. Experience Culture and Luxury at Lake Titicaca

Visitors to Peru's Sacred Valley must stop at Lake Titicaca, which is one of South America's largest lakes and the world's highest crossable body of water (sitting at 12,500 feet). Visitors can also tour the area to see the







fantastic sights or hit up the markets to watch locals making traditional crafts. Gaze into the deep blue waters and sunset skies of Lake Titicaca. The natural border between Peru and Bolivia, Lake Titicaca is known as the highest navigable lake in the world. Your catamaran cruise will set sail from Puno on this day trip that will introduce you to the Uros people and the ethereal Uros floating islands. Hop on the Totora reed boats and finish your inspiring Lake Titicaca tour with a sunset hike on Taquile Island. As one of South America’s most rewarding destinations, you’ll be surrounded by beauty and

the historical heritage that makes Lake Titicaca a vital part of Peru’s fascinating story.

6. The Beaches Are Exquisite

With over 1500 miles of coastline stretching from the edge of the Andes to the vast Pacific Ocean, Peru’s beaches and the Peruvian coast in general are as diverse and captivating as the country itself. From secluded coves and surfer’s paradises to resort-filled bays, here are some of the best beaches in Peru that you should explore!

- 1. Barlovento – A Fishing Haven,

- 2. Paracas – A Sanctuary of Marine Wildlife, 3. Cerro Azul – A Surfer’s Paradise, 4. Tuquillo – A Hidden Gem, 5. Puerto Viejo – The Weekend Getaway, 6. El Silencio – A Seaside Escape, 7. Chicama – The Birthplace of Pre-Columbian Civilizations, 8. Lobitos – The Hub for Surfers, 9. Los Órganos – The Complete Beach Experience, 10. Punta Sal – The Tranquil Paradise.

7. The Nazca Lines Are Fascinating

Conspiracy theorists and UFO enthusiasts have to put Peru on their travel bucket lists if only to take a look at the mysterious Nazca Lines, located



in southern Peru. (The Nazca lines are found in a region of Peru just over 200 miles southeast of Lima, near the modern town of Nazca. In total, there are over 800 straight lines, 300 geometric figures and 70 animal and plant designs, also called biomorphs. Some of the straight lines run up to 30 miles, while the biomorphs range from 50 to 1200 feet in length (as large as the Empire State Building).

The lines have been the subject of many theories as to how they appeared — including a few centered around aliens. Take an aerial tour to really get a good look at the fascinating figures.

8. Thrill-seekers Can Get Their Kicks in the Amazon

The Peruvian Amazon takes up roughly 60 percent of the country, so you can't possibly say that Peru is just the Andes. The best part about visiting the Peruvian Amazon is its accessibility. Unlike Brazil, getting to the Amazon is much easier: only a 2-hour flight from Lima to Iquitos, the gateway to the rainforest. From



there, you can take tours, including an Amazon cruise.

The Amazon is the world's largest rainforest with a surface of 550 million hectares and is also known as the single largest reserve of biological resources on land. With such an extensive reach, the incredible ecology of the South American Amazon River stretches across nine countries of the continent: Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana.

A staggering one in 10 known species on the planet can be found in the Amazon rainforest, including 40,000 plant species, 3,000 fish species, 1,500 bird species, and 370 types of reptiles. This area has also become the last remaining habitat where visitors have the opportunity to spot some of the world's endangered species in the wild, such as jaguars, pink river dolphins, and harpy eagles.

The Amazon also represents more than 50 percent of the Earth's



remaining rainforest, where almost 400 billion individual trees, which are divided into 16,000 species, can be found.

Without the 6,437-kilometer-long Amazon River, this complex and lush network of tributaries and forests would be virtually impenetrable by humans. Thankfully, the spectacular waterway that gives the jungle much of its life also offers explorers a chance to experience this wildlife

kaleidoscope by means of an Amazon river expedition.

9. You Can Relax at an Oasis in Huacachina

There's a beautiful lagoon in southwest Peru called Huacachina. It's a popular destination for people looking for a break from the hot, dusty desert, and it's considered one of the most peaceful places in the country. You can relax by the water or enjoy

some sandboarding — kind of like snowboarding, but on sand — while you're there.

10. The Belmond Andean Explorer Is One of the Best Ways to See the Sights

Embrace slow travel through the vibrant diversity of Peru

Take your time to explore the breathtaking diversity of Peru's natural wonders aboard South America's first luxury train. From traditional textile patterns to kaleidoscopic sunsets, watch as our surroundings burst into color from your luxury private cabin or the open-air observation car. From peaceful Lake Titicaca to the famous floating island of Uros, marvel at the memorable destinations while sampling cutting-edge Peruvian cuisine using Andean ingredients. Between unique curated tours and serene spa rituals, the Andean Explorer is the most luxurious way to experience Peru in motion.

11. Foodies, rejoice: - Nothing beats an Ice-cold Pisco Sour on a Hot Day

If you haven't tried this quintessential Peruvian cocktail, you're in for a treat. You can find this drink pretty much anywhere in the country. It's made with lime juice, simple syrup, ice, egg white, Angostura bitters, and pisco, a brandy made by distilling fermented grape juice into a high-proof spirit. Kind of like a whiskey sour, only better.

Speaking of pisco sours, pisco itself has a protected designation of origin, much like Champagne or Cognac from France, and only that which is fermented in the coastal valleys of Lima, Ica, Arequipa, Moquegua, and Tacna can be called pisco. Aside from the national drink of Peru, the country is a destination for foodies, from the tantalizing produce in local markets; to the freshest ceviche at casual *cevicherias*, or ceviche counters; to dishes right from the Amazon; to vegetarian delicacies, and much more! How adventurous are your tasting habits? Peru will rise to the challenge!





Swisstainable – Sustainable Travel in Switzerland

Synopsis

Switzerland Tourism unveiled its Swisstainable Strategy back in 2021 to make the country the world's most sustainable travel destination. Here are some of the country's innovative initiatives that attract young travellers from across the world.

Switzerland, with its commitment to sustainability and responsible travel, is an inspiring model for travellers worldwide.

India's median age is currently around 28 years, making it a land where the youth form a majority of the demographic. By embracing their

responsibilities towards planet Earth, the country's young travellers are creating a shift in the way they experience the world. Sustainability, eco-friendly experiences, and conscious-travelling are all part of the evolved itineraries of these young globetrotters. If there is one country that can impart invaluable lessons on how to travel responsibly to preserve the earth and have fun while at it, it is Switzerland!

Switzerland Tourism unveiled its Swisstainable Strategy back in 2021 to make the country the world's most sustainable travel destination. Here are some of the country's innovative



initiatives that attract young travellers from across the world.

Switzerland, one of the most preferred destinations for luxury as well as business travel, is also championing another facet of travel: sustainability. If you're seeking a destination that can impart invaluable lessons on responsible and enjoyable travel while preserving the Earth, look no further than Switzerland.

Switzerland Tourism unveiled its Swisustainable Strategy in 2021 with the goal of becoming the world's most sustainable travel destination. The policy includes some innovative initiatives that attract young travellers from around the globe.

Young Indian travellers are at the forefront of a transformative shift in the way they explore the world, focusing on sustainability, eco-friendly experiences, and conscientious travel, and Switzerland is fast becoming one of the most preferred destinations with young travellers.

Swiss Travel System (STS)

Imagine reducing carbon emissions

and contributing to a healthier planet while embarking on your journey. Switzerland's efficient, punctual public transportation system, known as the Swiss Travel System (STS), is a system that seamlessly integrates air, train, and bus travel, primarily powered by clean hydropower. By doing so, it significantly reduces the carbon footprint, minimizing any adverse effects on the Alpine region.



With a single Swiss Travel Pass, you gain access to an extensive network of rail, bus, and boat routes covering 26,000 kilometres across Switzerland. A train journey in Switzerland generates a remarkable 20 times less CO2 than a car journey on a comparable route. Switzerland's largest transport company, Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), offers eco-friendly transportation solutions and actively encourages shifting major traffic to railways, reducing five million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually, equivalent to 10 percent of the country's overall emissions.

Abundant Fresh Water

Switzerland is often referred to as the "water castle of Europe," holding around 6 per cent of the continent's freshwater reserves. You'll find potable drinking water readily available from taps and fountains maintained by municipalities in all towns and cities. Switzerland boasts above-average water reserves with numerous lakes,

glaciers, and natural groundwater sources to rely on. A mere 2 percent of annual rainfall contributes to the drinking water reserves.

Food: Going Organic

Switzerland leads the way in organic consumption per capita, with Swiss retailers consistently ranking atop international sustainability lists. Swiss cuisine embraces earthy, seasonal organic vegetables and employs technology to reduce food waste. The restaurant industry in Switzerland is dedicated to a more considerate and respectful approach to nature, with over 5,000 restaurants joining the 'Too Good To Go' movement to combat food waste. Every year, the country celebrates World Vegetarian Day with enthusiasm, encouraging restaurants to craft authentic and innovative vegetarian dishes using fresh, seasonal, locally sourced greens.

"Switzerland has been blessed by Mother Nature with its treasure of

natural beauty and resources. The people of the country understand that a healthy, green way of living can only be achieved by protecting nature. As more young Indians travel to Switzerland, we are seeing them increasingly respect the regard the locals have for their environment. As a result, we see a shift in their attitude too as they gravitate more towards natural, experiential, and sustainable travelling experiences. In fact, it is so encouraging to learn that Indian travellers are the highest users of the Swiss Travel System! We look forward to the youth rewriting the new chapter in sustainable travel after their Swiss experiences. As part of our ongoing Swisstainable campaign, we also encourage Indian travellers to stay longer, to explore and immerse themselves in local culture and experiences, and sample seasonal produce sourced locally." said **Ritu Sharma, Deputy Director, and Marketing Head - India at Switzerland Tourism.**







Best of Switzerland

Top 5 Cable Car Excursions

Switzerland's alpine peaks begin to be explored. Wherever you go, you're confronted with yet another spectacular vista with a seemingly endless supply of mountains. Whether you're seeking adventure, stunning photography opportunities, or a peaceful escape into nature, these cable cars provide an unforgettable journey.

Enter the cable car, an engineering marvel that the Swiss have turned into a standard form of transportation in this horizontally challenged landscape. Ride them up, hike among the alpine views to your heart's content, have a sumptuous meal at a mountain station, and move on to the next "peak" experience.

Switzerland, often called the "Land of Cable Cars," is renowned for its stunning landscapes, picturesque mountain ranges, and pristine

alpine lakes. The Swiss Alps, in particular, offer some of the world's most breathtaking vistas, and one of the best ways to experience this natural beauty is by taking a cable car ride. Switzerland boasts an extensive network of cable cars that transport visitors to high-altitude destinations, allowing them to marvel at the mesmerizing scenery. Here, we present the top 5 must-take cable car rides in Switzerland that promise an

unforgettable journey to the heart of the Alps.

Matterhorn Glacier Paradise

The Zermatt Bergbahnen AG will take you to Europe's highest mountain station at 3,883 metres. Offering panoramic views of the largest glaciers of the Alps, the cable car ride will also show you about 38 peaks of the Swiss, French and Italian Alps and Europe's most





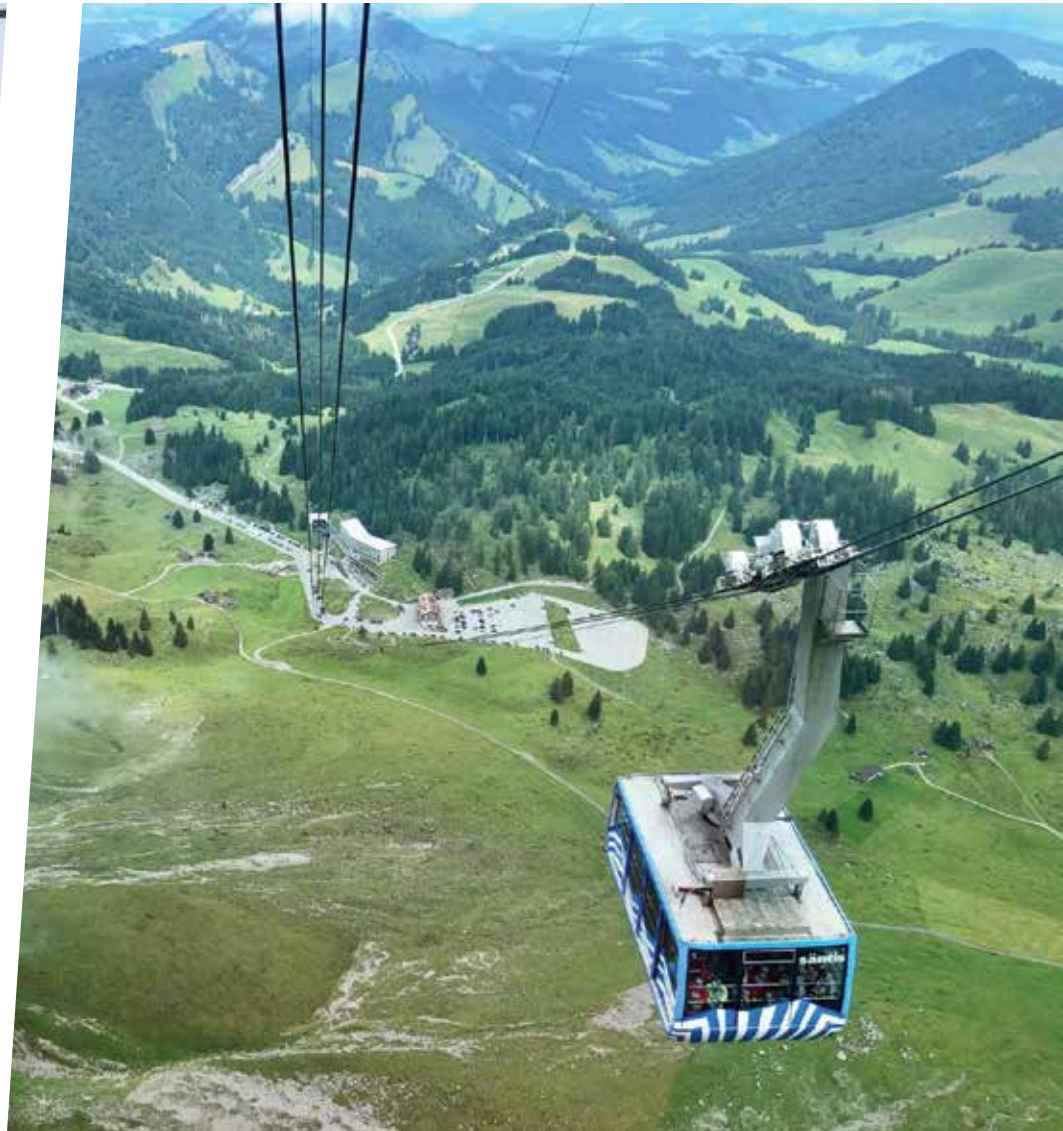


extensive ski region, which operates all year round. You will find that Mont Blanc, the highest mountain of the Alps, will appear close enough to touch. In Zermatt, you are close to the mountain Matterhorn and Switzerland's border with Italy. The other attractions waiting for you at the base are Cinema Lounge, Europe's highest viewing platform, the glacier palace with sculptures and ice chutes, a restaurant, and Europe's highest storage summit wine.

Schilthorn Piz Gloria

For some spectacular 360-degree panoramic views of the Eiger and Jungfrau (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and many more





peaks, get to the cable car ride in Schilthorn, set at an altitude of 2,970 metres. In a typical example of Swiss efficiency, the cable car departs every half an hour from Stechelberg in the Lauterbrunnen valley, taking you to the summit in four stages.

Schilthorn became famous when it was seen in the 1969 James Bond film, “On Her Majesty’s Secret Service.” If you are a Bond film fan, you will recognise the revolving restaurant here, which rotates on its axis once every 45 minutes. You can follow in the footsteps of James Bond at the interactive Bond World exhibition or on the 007 Walk of Fame.

Titlis

Take a trip on the world’s first revolving cable car, the TITLIS Rotair. Before you can hop on to it, there is another short but scenic journey on the TITLIS Xpress gondola, which will then lead you to your final destination, the Rotair cable car to the summit of Mount Titlis. At 3,062 metres, a 360-degree panoramic view of the expansive Engelberg Valley waits for you.

Cardada Cimetta

Orselina is where the funicular railway from Locarno will take you so you can take the cable car to Cardada. The chairlift will take you to an altitude of 1,671 metres above Lake Maggiore,

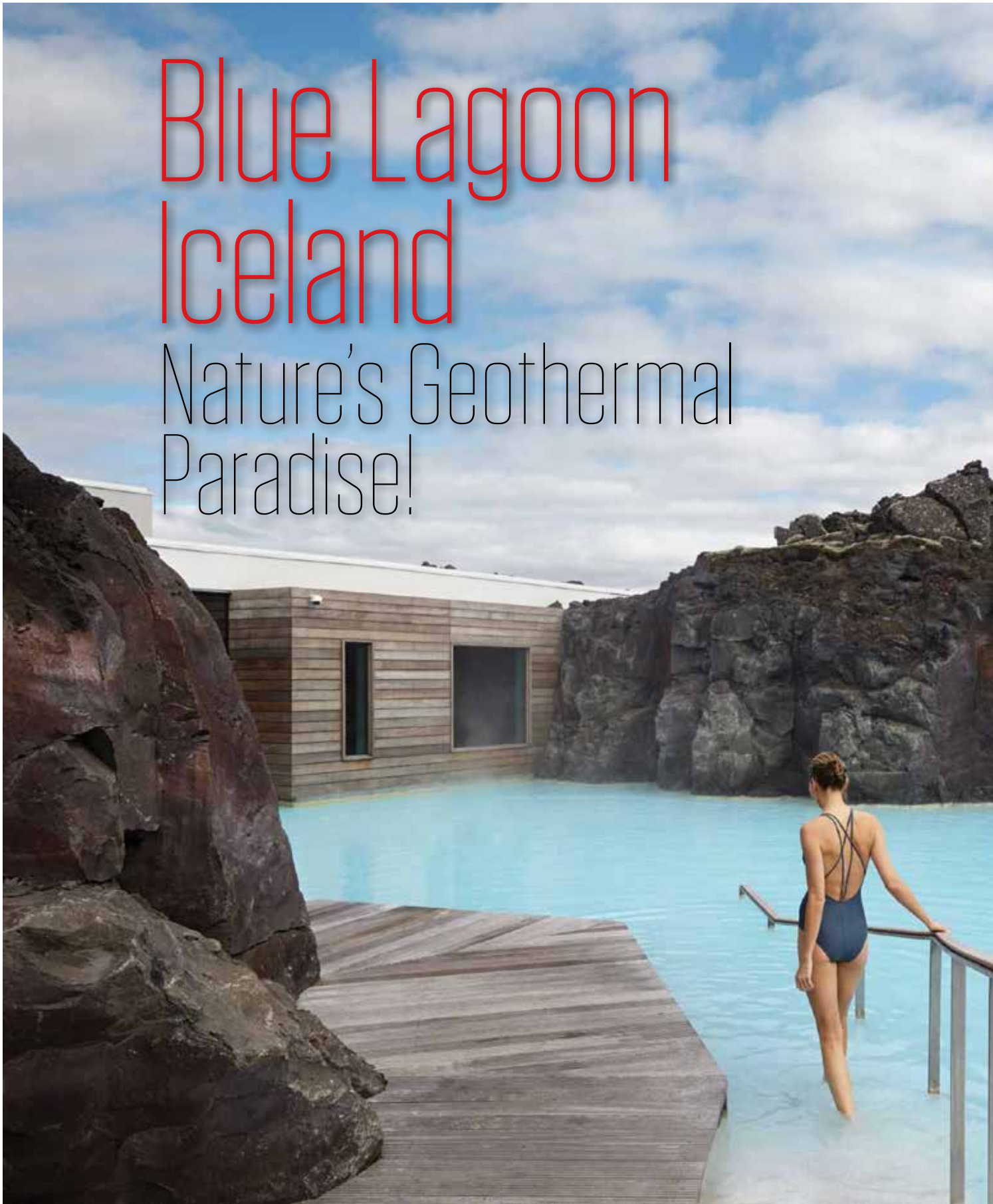
the lowest point in Switzerland. While inside, you can view the highest point of Switzerland, Dufourspitze. And, from beautiful Locarno, all of this only in less than an hour.

Säntis Cable Car

The journey in a cable car to Säntis, the highest mountain in the Alpstein massif of northeastern Switzerland, is extraordinary. The cable car to the summit of Säntis began operating in 1935. Once on top, you will have exhilarating views of six countries: France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland. Also known as the “weather mountain,” Säntis has a weather station that started in 1882.

Blue Lagoon Iceland

Nature's Geothermal
Paradise!





S

Synopsis

The Blue Lagoon is a geothermal spa that looks quite otherworldly to be honest. It is one of Iceland's most popular tourist attractions. The artificial Blue Lagoon is formed by the overflow of geothermal water from the nearby Svartsengi geothermal power plant. The water of this artificial lagoon is rich in minerals, such as silica and sulfur, and the hot water is perfect for a dip.

Iceland is truly the land of fire and ice. Its breathtaking landscapes, unique geology, and remarkable natural wonders have many fans from all around the world. There are many reasons why visitors to Iceland don't mind making multiple visits. And mostly they are natural reasons.

Blue Lagoon being a famous attraction attracts travelers from all over the world. It is a **geothermal spa in Iceland** found on the Reykjanes Peninsula, close to Keflavik International Airport and about a 40-minute drive from Reykjavik. The lagoon's milky-blue water is rich in minerals like silica and sulfur, and its average temperature is around 37-39°C (98-102°F). Visitors can enjoy bathing in the warm waters, surrounded by stunning volcanic landscapes. The Blue Lagoon by **Iceland Tourism** is known for its alleged skin-healing properties and is a popular destination for tourists visiting Iceland.



Why is Blue Lagoon famous?

The **Blue Lagoon in Iceland** is famous for several reasons:

Geothermal Spa: The Blue Lagoon is a unique geothermal spa located in a lava field in Grindavík on the Reykjanes Peninsula in Iceland. It is renowned for its milky-blue, mineral-rich waters, which are heated naturally by volcanic activity.

Northern Lights, Iceland: Blue Lagoon is the best place to view the Northern Lights, Iceland as it combines a visit to the lagoon with a Northern Lights excursion during your trip to Iceland can be a wonderful way to experience both natural wonders. It

is recommended to monitor aurora forecasts and weather conditions. Also, be patient, as Blue Lagoon Iceland at night can be unpredictable.

Proximity to Reykjavik: The Blue Lagoon is conveniently located close to Iceland's capital city, Reykjavik, making it easily accessible for travelers looking for a relaxing escape during their trip to the country.

Skin Health Benefits: The geothermal waters of the Blue Lagoon contain minerals like silica and sulfur, which are believed to have beneficial effects on the skin. Some people claim that the water can help improve various skin conditions like psoriasis, although

scientific evidence for these claims is limited.

Iconic Image of Iceland: The Blue Lagoon has become an iconic representation of Iceland's natural beauty and unique geothermal wonders. It is often featured in promotional materials and travel brochures, further adding to its fame and popularity.

The Blue Lagoon is conveniently located near other popular **places to visit in Iceland**, such as the Reykjanes Peninsula, the Golden Circle route, and Reykjavik. This makes it easy for visitors to combine their Blue Lagoon experience with other sightseeing adventures in Iceland.





How to Reach Blue Lagoon

The best and the most convenient way to reach Blue Lagoon is by car as it is around 15 – 20 minutes away from Keflavík Airport and 50 minutes away from Reykjavik, just follow the signs to Blue Lagoon. One can always hire a car or rent a taxi to get here with ease!

Best Time to Visit Blue Lagoon

Blue Lagoon being a year-round destination attracts travelers throughout the year. But the best time

to visit Blue Lagoon is during winters i.e (November to February) as the **Iceland weather** averages between 33 to 35 degrees. It is always recommended to visit the geothermal spa when the sun goes down because if you are fortunate enough there are chances to witness northern lights from the Blue Lagoon.

Top things to do near Blue Lagoon

Enhance your visit and experience all the finest **things to do near Blue Lagoon Iceland** for a memorable holiday!

Explore the lava fields: The Reykjanes Peninsula where the blue lagoon is located is surrounded by barren landscapes and cone shaped volcanoes. Visit the stunning lava



BLUE LAGOON ICELAND

fields and take a glance at the unique geological formations.

Walk on black sand beaches: Iceland's black sand beaches can be found in other regions like the southern coast and are a result of volcanic activity. One of the **most famous black sand beaches in Iceland** is Reynisfjara, located near the village of Vik. Reynisfjara features striking basalt columns, sea stacks, and powerful waves crashing onto the shore.

Visit the Viking World Museum: The museum offers visitors an immersive experience of the world of Vikings, exploring their history, culture, and way of life. The main highlight of the **Viking World Museum** is the full-

scale replica of the Gokstad Viking ship, named "Íslendingur" (Icelander). This ship is a replica of the Gokstad ship, a well-preserved Viking ship discovered in Norway.

Go Whale Watching: Iceland is a fantastic destination for whale watching due to its rich marine ecosystem and abundance of various whale species. Some of the common whale species you may encounter during a whale-watching tour in Iceland include humpback whales, minke whales, orcas (killer whales), and blue whales, among others. The **best time for whale watching in Iceland** is generally from April to October!

Places to stay near Blue Lagoon

The Blue Lagoon is located in the Reykjanes Peninsula, southwestern Iceland, not far from Keflavik International Airport. There are several hotels and accommodations in the vicinity of the Blue Lagoon that offer convenient access to this **popular geothermal spa**. Here are some of the **Blue Lagoon Iceland hotels:**

- The Retreat at Blue Lagoon Iceland
- Silica Hotel
- Northern Light Inn
- Geo Hotel Grindavik
- Hotel Berg
- Hotel Keflavik
- Courtyard by Marriott Hotel
- The Diamond Suites.





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