

LUXURY AND LIFESTYLE TRAVEL MAGAZINE

travel

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EDITOR'S LETTER

Changi Airport takes flight with the "Shall We Just Go?" campaign – your ticket to spontaneous travel adventures



With the launch of its new travel campaign 'Shall We Just Go?' Changi Airport Group aims to show that one can

enjoy the thrill of travelling without the hassle of planning every minute of the trip. Featuring six enchanting mystery destinations, anyone who is ready to fly

within 30 days can participate and the lucky winners will be whisked away to a mystery destination for the payment of just S\$1. This prize package includes a pair of return air tickets and S\$500 of Trip.com vouchers for accommodation.

Each of the six mystery destinations in the 12-week 'Shall We Just Go?' campaign is served by direct flights from Changi Airport within a four-hour flying radius. Competition participants simply have to indicate that they can take off in the next 30 days and will be in the running for the draw. Two lucky winners will be selected every week, with one of them being a Trust Bank customer. Two additional winners will be selected towards the end of the campaign, and they can choose their holiday destination from any of the six

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features. The campaign is open to all Singapore residents.

Launched in partnership with Trip.com and Trust Bank, 'Shall We Just Go?' features offerings by Trip.com, the Singapore-headquartered online travel agency owned by Trip.com Group, and travel solutions by Trust Bank, the first of Singapore's digitally native banks which have established itself among customers of all ages to maximize their savings on everyday spending, including travel.

Mr. Lim Ching Kiat, Changi Airport Group's Executive Vice President for Air Hub and Cargo Development said, "Here at Changi Airport, we believe that travel should be an exhilarating adventure. 'Shall We Just Go?' aims to capture the joy of spontaneity and anticipation of travel, blended with the ease of embarking on journeys without preconceived notions and meticulous planning.

"We see this campaign as the start of a movement aimed at promoting 'simpler' travel, leveraging the wide connectivity that Changi Airport offers as an air hub, affordable airfares, and

the numerous lesser-known destinations in the region waiting to be uncovered for that unique experience you can call your own. The campaign also supports our airline partners and the myriad destinations they fly to."

'Shall We Just Go?' is part of a broader campaign under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between CAG and Trip.com Group to spur travel. The MOU deepens the long-standing partnership between the two companies, tapping into Trip.com's reach in the world's largest outbound travelling market and Changi Airport's strong connectivity to cities in the Southeast Asian region, many of which are popular with both Singapore and Chinese travellers. Other campaigns in the pipeline aim to promote travel between Singapore and China, with one of them geared towards inspiring Singaporean travellers, especially the younger demographic, to discover the lesser-explored secondary cities in China.

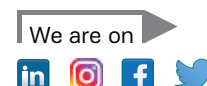
To further entice travel bugs, attractive deals will be available on Trip.com as each destination is unveiled.

Trust Card members enjoy 8% off flights capped at \$50. Those seeking travel inspiration can also find curated travel content and itineraries of the six destinations on the 'Shall We Just Go?' campaign website (<https://changi.me/justgo>).

Changi Airport Group's 'Shall We Just Go?' campaign is redefining spontaneity by making travel more rewarding and accessible than ever before. The world is just a flight, and a click away, and the adventure begins now!



DEVENDER GROVER



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."

Vistara accepts 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.

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

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."

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 will launch A321LR flights to Bali

Vistara will operate its Airbus A321 neo aircraft featuring a three-class configuration on Delhi-Bali. The flights will depart from Delhi at 0030, arriving in Bali at 1105. The return flights leave Denpasar airport at 1210, arriving back in Delhi at 1745.

The Vistara A321 neo aircraft feature 12 lie-flat business class seats configured 2-2, 24 premium economy seats in a 3-3 layout, and 152 standard economy seats, also in a 3-3 configuration.

The airline currently has 10 of these aircraft in its fleet, with more on order. Vistara also operates 46 A320 neos, and five Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners.

"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 and are confident that customers will appreciate having the option to travel on India's finest full-service airline on the route," commented Vistara chief executive, Vinod Kannan.

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



Vistara Inaugurates Daily, Direct Flights Between Delhi and Hong Kong



Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of the Tata group and Singapore Airlines, inaugurated daily, non-stop flights between Delhi and Hong Kong. The inaugural flight, operated on Vistara's A321neo aircraft, commenced from Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi at 21:05 Hours (IST) on 29 October 2023 and arrived at Hong Kong International Airport at 05:55 Hours (HKT) today. Vistara's A321neo is distinguished for its exceptional features, including comfortable three-

class seating with full-flat beds in Business Class, contemporary interiors, in-flight wireless connectivity, and a state-of-the-art entertainment system with Live TV, among others.

Mr. Vinod Kannan, Chief Executive Officer, Vistara, said, "The launch of direct connectivity to Hong Kong is in line with our strategy of steadily growing our international network. Hong Kong being amongst the world's top commercial hubs, attracts a lot of business, MICE and VFR travel from India, besides being a popular

leisure destination. We are delighted to offer the option of flying India's finest airline to customers travelling on this route and we are confident that they will appreciate our world-class product and services."

Vistara accepts 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.

SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND HONG KONG EFFECTIVE 29 OCTOBER 2023

Sector	Flight No.	Days of Operation	Departure	Arrival
Delhi – Hong Kong	UK 0101	Daily	21:40 Hrs	05:55 Hrs
Hong Kong – Delhi	UK 0102	Daily	08:55 Hrs	13:10 Hrs

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

Vistara

Introduces Complimentary Wi-Fi Service Exclusively for Club Vistara Members

Vistara, India's finest full-service carrier and a joint venture of the Tata group and Singapore Airlines, has begun offering complimentary Wi-Fi internet connectivity onboard its international flights (operated on Boeing 787-9

Dreamliner and Airbus A321neo aircraft) for all members of its loyalty program, Club Vistara. This complimentary Wi-Fi service is available to all Club Vistara members, regardless of their membership tier, accumulated points, tenure of membership, etc. This makes

Vistara the first Indian airline to offer free unlimited Wi-Fi to its customers onboard. Enrolment in Club Vistara does not require any charges or fees.

This offering includes unlimited data ideal for messaging apps (WhatsApp, Messenger, iMessage, and similar



SCHEDULE OF FLIGHTS BETWEEN DELHI AND HONG KONG EFFECTIVE 29 OCTOBER 2023

Club Vistara Base	Club Vistara Silver	Club Vistara Gold	Club Vistara Platinum	Business Class (If not a CV member)
Messaging Apps (such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, iMessage, etc) without attachments	Messaging Apps (such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, iMessage, etc) without attachments	Messaging Apps (such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, iMessage, etc) without attachments	50MB data package for browsing, social media, messaging and email + Messaging Apps (such as WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, iMessage, etc) without attachments	50MB data package For browsing, social media, messaging, and email

services) for all Club Vistara members. Furthermore, Platinum members and Business Class customers get an additional 50MB of data, which can be used for web browsing, engaging on social media, and staying connected through messaging and email services. To enjoy both benefits, Platinum members must activate the 50MB surf package before enabling the unlimited messaging service.

Mr. Deepak Rajawat, Chief Commercial Officer, Vistara, said *“At Vistara, we recognize that staying connected is an essential aspect of modern-day life. We are delighted to offer complimentary Wi-Fi to our loyal, Club Vistara members on select international flights. This initiative also reiterates our unwavering commitment to continuously enhance the proposition of our loyalty program. We are confident that this will significantly add to*

the world-class experience we offer onboard.”

This exclusive offering is aimed at enhancing the overall travel experience for the Club Vistara members. To activate this service, Club Vistara members need to ensure their contact numbers and email addresses are verified in their Club Vistara account. Furthermore, they are required to add their Club Vistara ID to the booking either at the time of check-in or before boarding the flight. For members enrolling after booking or at the airport, providing their ticket number/PNR will associate the CV ID with their booking. This service is accessible to members on a single device.

Terms and Conditions:

- Club Vistara members are entitled to unlimited data for messaging services on international flights

(operated on Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and Airbus A321 aircraft).

- Members must have completed their enrolment and verified their contact details- both email and mobile number.
- Members must ensure their CV ID is added to the booking before boarding the flight to avail of the benefit.
- Members can use this service for themselves only and can access it on a single device.
- CV Platinum members are entitled to receive an additional 50MB of data which can be used for surfing, in addition to the unlimited messaging service. Members must activate the 50 MB surf package before activating the unlimited messaging service to avail of both benefits.
- All other Club Vistara Terms and Conditions apply.

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Cricket fever is back with **Emirates as the Official Airline Partner of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**



As Global Partner of the International Cricket Council (ICC), Emirates is once again in full swing as Official Airline Partner of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, taking place across India and running from 5 October to 19 November.

Kicking off the 13th edition of the tournament, Emirates is sharing its excitement for the game with a playful video featuring Indian wicket-keeper batsman, Dinesh Karthik. In the clip, the famous cricketer is seen enjoying the action of the matches live in the

air on Emirates' inflight entertainment system, while seated in the comfort of Premium Economy. Seats in Emirates Premium Economy will be available on its routes to Mumbai and Bangalore from 29 October.

[Click here](#) to watch the video which is running on the airline's social media channels.

Hosted across ten cities in India, the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup will bring together ten teams from across cricket-playing nations, including 2019 defending champions,

England, to battle it out for the coveted Cricket World Cup Trophy. The silver and gold trophy has already made its way to India ahead of the tournament.

The first 45 matches are scheduled across Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Dharmshala, Delhi, Chennai, Lucknow, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune, and Mumbai in the run-up to the semi-finals, taking place in Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai and Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The final will be played on 19 November at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad,

deemed to be the largest sports stadium in the world with a seating capacity of 132,000 spectators.

Emirates and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup

As Official Airline Partner of the 2023 Men's Cricket World Cup, fans of the sport travelling onboard Emirates flights during the tournament can tune in to Sport 24 and Sport 24 Extra and never miss the action. At the 48 matches taking place across India, Emirates will enjoy a strong presence at the stadiums, with hospitality and ticketing rights, in addition to select in-stadium activations to build on the excitement.

Cricket lovers can follow #CWC23 as well as the ICC's Instagram and Facebook pages to see a new and exciting Emirates Fly Better Moment of the Day, capturing the best catches, hit and runs outs and more after each match.

The Men's Cricket World Cup is held every four years and is the most popular global cricket event on the sporting

calendar. This edition will be the first to be held solely in India and will feature Dinesh Karthik making his commentary debut in a World Cup.

Emirates has a long-standing association with the ICC and all its major events including the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, ICC Women's Cricket World Cup, ICC Men's T20 World Cup, ICC Women's T20 World Cup and the ICC World Test Championship.

The ICC partnership also sees Emirates featured on the official kit of the ICC Elite and International Panels of Umpires, having been the main sponsor of the Emirates Elite and International Panels of ICC Umpires since 2002, when the panels were formed to officiate Test Matches and One Day Internationals around the world. Alongside the Umpires, Emirates sponsors the Elite and International Panels of ICC Match Referees. Together with branding and media exposure to cricket fans around the world, Emirates also transports umpires and referees to international events as the Global Partner of the ICC.

Connecting cricket lovers across the globe

Emirates is committed to supporting cricket worldwide, connecting with fans and communities across Asia, Australasia and the UK. Besides its major partnership with the ICC and associated events, Emirates also engages with cricket lovers through its long-standing partnership with Durham County Cricket Club in the UK, since 2010, and as title sponsor of the Durham Lancashire Emirates Trophy. The airline also began a ten-year naming rights sponsorship in 2013 for Emirates Old Trafford, one of England's most historic and premier cricket grounds also home to Lancashire County Cricket Club.

Emirates launched its services to India in 1985 and since then has grown its India operations to serve a total of nine destinations across the country. Emirates currently operates 167 flights per week from Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Thiruvananthapuram.



Kunal Pahwa returns as General Manager of ITC Grand Central

ITC Grand Central will once again have Kunal Pahwa as its General Manager.

A graduate from the first batch the Welcomlegionnaire Programme (Year 2000), at ITC Welcomgroup Management Institute, Pahwa's dedication to the hospitality industry has been unwavering. He served as the Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage at ITC Grand Central, Mumbai, from June 2004 to June 2007, contributing three years of superlative service. Following that, he continued to excel, assuming the role of Food & Beverage Manager at ITC Mughal, from May 2013 to February 2016.

In February 2021, he took on the mantle of General Manager at Welcomhotel Jodhpur. After almost three years at this property, Pahwa makes a nostalgic return to Mumbai as he rejoins ITC Grand Central, a place close to his heart where he once began his career at the young age of 18. Born into a family with a Defence background, he inherited the values of discipline and adaptability. His love for travel has been a driving force in his career, making him highly adaptable to diverse environments.

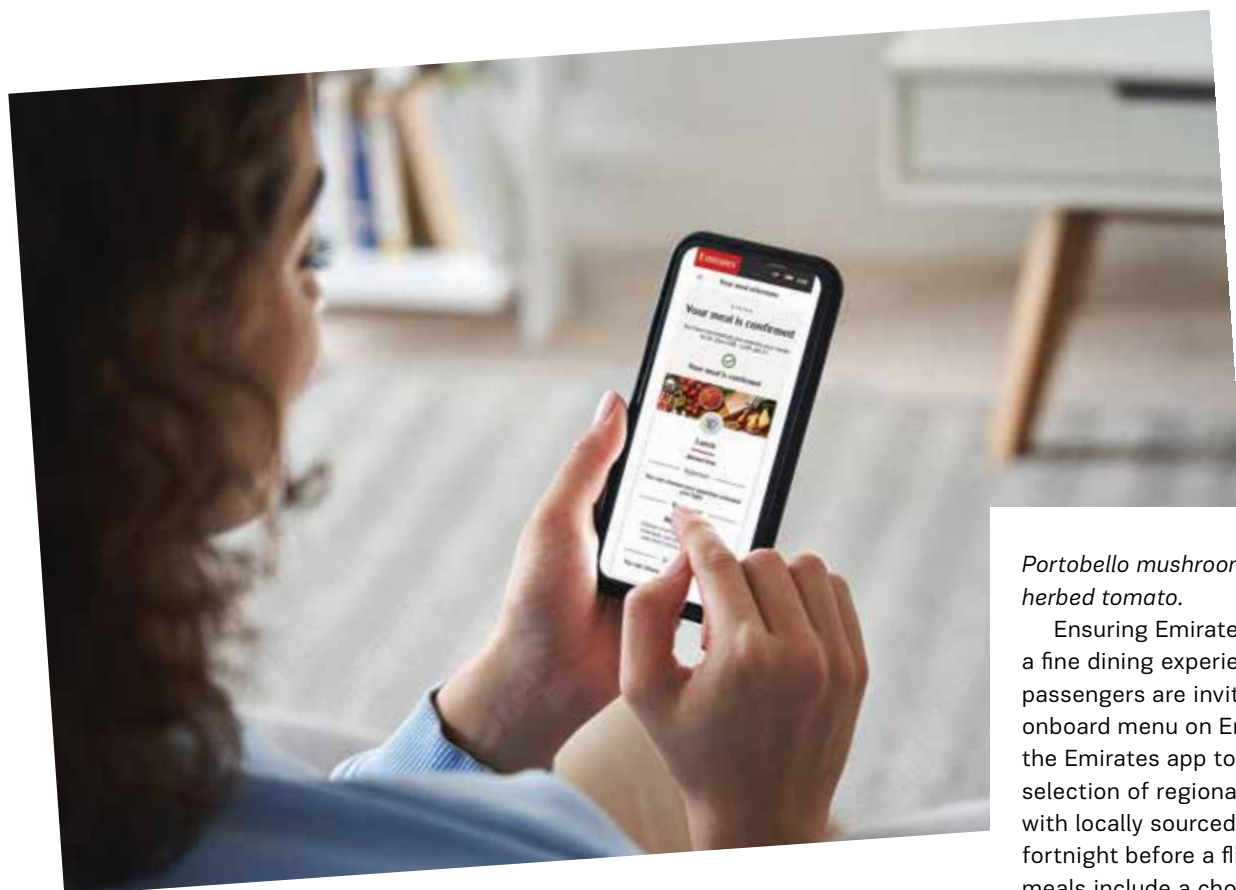
Emirates

now offering **Inflight Meal Preordering Service** across 92 destinations

Emirates Inflight Meal Preordering Service is now live across 92 routes globally, with 30 new routes including Riyadh, Jeddah, Delhi, Mumbai and Kuala Lumpur offering the service from today. More than 10,000 pre orders have already been delivered on over 3,000 flights, and more than 600 meal preorders are made by Emirates customers daily.

The new service allows passengers in Business Class to preselect their main course between 14 days and 24 hours in advance of their flight

departure, ensuring they get their preferred choice every time as well as helping to reduce food wastage. The most popular preorder dishes so far are *pan-fried beef tenderloin with thyme jus, roasted new potato wedges and steamed asparagus*, as well as the *grilled beef tenderloin with creamy wild mushroom sauce, Kenya beans and potato gratin*, and finally *Suffolk roasted chicken with black garlic and potato fondant*. The most popular breakfast dish so far is *cheddar cheese and chive omelette with creamy spinach, sauteed*



Portobello mushroom and roasted herbed tomato.

Ensuring Emirates passengers enjoy a fine dining experience in the sky, passengers are invited to browse the onboard menu on Emirates.com or on the Emirates app to choose from a selection of regionally inspired dishes with locally sourced ingredients, up to a fortnight before a flight. Business Class meals include a choice of chef crafted



dishes such as chocolate hazelnut pancakes with apricot compote and ricotta sour cream for breakfast, Moroccan-style Pacific cod served with coriander pesto, moghrabieh with saffron tomato salsa, broccoli and roasted pumpkin with cardamom for lunch, and pan-fried salmon trout with saffron cream, blanched green beans, braised beetroot and polenta with spring onions for dinner.

Onboard the aircraft, cabin crew will use Apple devices to view the pre ordered selection and serve the passenger their choice of dish. Meal preordering is an addition to the existing suite of AI-enabled customer preference tracking data and cabin crew reports onboard Emirates, which facilitate menu planning, optimal food loading and waste minimization.

Digitally enabled journeys and

innovation are a core focus at Emirates. The preordering meal service is complemented by website check-in and app check-in, the option of digital boarding passes and itinerary management, access to digital inflight menus, easy sign up to Skywards to immediately access free Wi-Fi messaging onboard, and *ice* inflight entertainment playlist curation in advance of a flight.

Emirates previews Premium Economy in India

- Airline executives engage stakeholders from Mumbai's aviation, travel and media sectors on exclusive tour of A380 aircraft featuring new cabin class, prior to launch in India this month
- Emirates becomes first Middle East carrier to offer Premium Economy experience on flights to and from Mumbai



Mohammad Sarhan

Emirates' Vice President for India and Nepal at the Premium Economy tour in Mumbai

Emirates recently celebrated the upcoming launch of its Premium Economy offering in India, with an exclusive tour of its four-class A380 aircraft in Mumbai. When the new cabin class debuts on its A380 flights later this month, Emirates will be the first Middle East carrier operating in Mumbai to offer the understated luxury experience.

The aircraft featuring Premium Economy cabins, and operating as EK506, arrived at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (MIAL) to enable MIAL airport officials, VIPs, travel agents, key corporate customers and media to preview the soon-to-launch offering. Guests were given a guided tour of the Premium Economy cabins that will debut on Emirates' A380 service to Mumbai and Bangalore from 29 October and outbound flights from the two cities to Dubai from 30 October.

In attendance at the premiere event were Prakash Tulsiani - Chief Executive Officer of Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), Ashwin Noronha - Chief Operating Officer of Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), Dinaz Madhukar - Chief Commercial Service Officer at Adani Airports, other local dignitaries from the airport authorities, and Mohammed Sarhan - Emirates' Vice President for India and Nepal.

Emirates executives onboard the flight which arrived in Mumbai included Adnan Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer and Ahmed Khoory, Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations - West Asia and Indian Ocean.



From left to right is: Mohammed Sarhan - Emirates' Vice President for India and Nepal; Dinaz Madhukar - Chief Commercial Service Officer at Adani Airports; Adnan Kazim - Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer; Prakash Tulsiani - Chief Executive Officer of Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL); Ahmed Khoory - Emirates' Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations - West Asia and Indian Ocean; and Ashwin Noronha - Chief Operating Officer of Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL) at the exclusive preview of Emirates Premium Economy in Mumbai.

On the highly-anticipated launch of the Premium Economy product in India, **Mohammad Sarhan, Emirates' Vice President for India and Nepal** said: "Emirates Premium Economy has revolutionized travel for a growing segment of travellers looking to enhance their flying experience. We've received an immense response from customers, who have opted to trade up to Premium Economy and embraced the new levels of comfort and luxury it provides at great value. In line with the demand we have seen on the ten routes where the product is already available, we anticipate it will be highly-popular in India as well.

"With the ongoing surge in travel across our network, Premium Economy allows passengers to savour the perfect blend of luxury and affordability. This underscores our ongoing commitment to customers and delivering on our 'Fly Better' promise. As we incorporate Premium Economy cabins across a growing number of aircraft, we hope to extend this option on more routes."

On this occasion, **CSMIA Spokesperson** said: "We are delighted

to welcome Emirates as they reconfigure and upgrade their service offering from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA). As Emirates extends its diverse range of services and extensive connectivity, CSMIA stands prepared to meet the modern-day mobility requirements with implementation of newer technology & digitalization, thus contributing to a seamless passenger experience. With Mumbai Airport's world-class offerings, combined with Emirates' commitment to premium comfort and excellence on board, we are excited to provide passengers with the finest experience from CSMIA."

Premium Economy cabins on the Emirates A380 feature 56 plush cream leather seats, located at the front of the main deck, and laid out in a 2-4-2 configuration. The new cabin class provides seats with a generous recline, more legroom, and an elevated dining experience, amongst other thoughtful and luxurious touches. Passengers seeking a premium dining experience can explore a diverse selection of regional menus, featuring an array of local flavours and an extensive beverage

selection for Premium Economy customers.

Furthermore, the inflight entertainment system *ice*, with over 6,500 channels, has undergone significant enhancements, now boasting a larger screen and an extensive collection of movies, TV shows, and albums in India's regional languages, including Hindi, Marathi, and Kannada.

Emirates has undertaken one of the largest-ever fleet retrofitting initiatives in aviation history. Emirates' Engineering team embarked on a pioneering project to revamp 67 Airbus A380s and 53 Boeing 777 aircrafts. Along with offering a refreshed look, the project will see the installation of nearly 4,000 Premium Economy seats across 120 aircraft.

Meanwhile, Indian passengers travelling between Dubai and Mumbai can book Emirates' Premium Economy seats on flights EK500/501, while those flying between Dubai and Bengaluru can secure their seats on flights EK568/569. Seats can be booked immediately via [emirates.com](https://www.emirates.com), Emirates sales offices, and travel agencies, for outbound travel from the two Indian points from 30 October.

Emirates places US\$ 52 billion wide-body aircraft order at Dubai Airshow 2023



- 55 additional Boeing 777-9s and 35 777-8s bring Emirates' total 777X orders to 205 units.
- Signs deal for 202 additional GE9X engines to power its new 777X fleet, bringing Emirates' total order for GE9X engines to 460 units.
- Emirates updates Boeing 787 Dreamliner order to 35 units: 15 787-10s and 20 787-8s

Dubai, UAE, 13 November 2023 – Emirates opened the Dubai Airshow 2023 today with a significant order for 95 additional wide-body aircraft, taking its total order book to 295 aircraft.

Already the world's biggest operator of wide-body passenger aircraft, Emirates has committed to additional Boeing 777-9s, 777-8s, and 787s,

worth US\$ 52 billion, to power its growth plans, maintain a modern efficient fleet, and deliver the best flying experience to its customers.

In the presence of HH Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Dubai Executive Council, HH Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, and Deputy Ruler of Dubai and HH Sheikh Mansour bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairman of the Dubai Sports Council; the orders were signed by HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates airline and Group; with Stan Deal, President and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes; and Larry Culp, Chairman and CEO for GE, and CEO of GE Aerospace.

HH Sheikh Ahmed said: “From day 1, Emirates’ business model has been to operate modern and efficient wide-body aircraft capable of carrying large numbers of travellers comfortably and safely, over long distances to and via Dubai. Today’s aircraft orders reflect that strategy.

“These additional aircraft will enable Emirates to connect even more cities, supporting the Dubai economic agenda D33 set out by HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to add 400 cities to Dubai’s foreign trade map over the next decade. By the early 2030s, we expect the Emirates fleet to be around 350-strong, connecting Dubai to even more cities around the world.”

Emirates’ Boeing order

Emirates, already the world’s largest operator of Boeing 777 aircraft, has signed firm orders for 55 additional 777-9s and 35 777-8s. This takes the airline’s 777-X order book to a total of 205 units.

Emirates also confirmed an order of 202 GE9X engines to power the additional 777X aircraft ordered today, taking its total GE9X engine order to 460 units.

From its previous order of 115 units, the first 777-9 is expected to join Emirates’ fleet in 2025. Today’s additional orders mean Emirates will

induct new 777-9s to its fleet until 2035.

With this latest order, Emirates is also set to be one of the launch customers of the 777-8 passenger variant, with first deliveries expected in 2030.

HH Sheikh Ahmed said: “Emirates is the biggest operator of Boeing 777 aircraft, and today’s order cements that position. We’ve been closely involved in the 777 program since its start up until this latest generation of 777X aircraft. The 777 has been central to Emirates’ fleet and network strategy of connecting cities on all continents non-stop to Dubai. We are pleased to extend our relationship with Boeing and look forward to the first 777-9 joining our fleet in 2025.”

“This order is an incredible vote of confidence in the efficiency and versatility of the 777X family to meet

Emirates’ needs for global long-haul travel,” said **Stan Deal, President and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes**. “The 777-9 and 777-8 are the perfect airplanes to support Emirates’ growth plans, improving environmental performance and unmatched payload capability.”

The 777 remains the backbone of Emirates’ operations, capable of missions of up to 18 hours that enable the airline to connect Dubai non-stop to cities on six continents. The new 777-9s and 777-8s will replace Emirates’ retiring 777 aircraft, and provision for the airline’s future growth plans.

Emirates has also updated its previous order of 30 **Boeing 787-9s**, increasing its commitment to a total of 35 Dreamliners comprising: 15 Boeing 787-10s, and 20 Boeing 787-8s.



Qatar

Airways Expands Its Presence in Saudi Arabia With the Opening of Two New Gateways: AlUla, Tabuk and The Reopening of Yanbu



Qatar Airways has announced its expansion in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with the launch of services of two new gateways: AlUla, Tabuk, and the reopening of Yanbu. These additions to the airline's rapidly growing network mark a significant milestone in Qatar Airways' commitment to connecting travellers across the globe.

Effective 29 October 2023, Qatar Airways commences its operations

to AlUla, followed by Yanbu on 06 December 2023, and Tabuk on 14 December 2023. These new routes will offer passengers even more options to explore the rich cultural heritage and natural wonders of Saudi Arabia.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: *"We are thrilled to introduce AlUla, Yanbu, and Tabuk as our newest destinations in Saudi Arabia. These cities offer a wealth of cultural,*

historical, and natural experiences, and we are proud to connect travellers from around the world to these remarkable places."

AlUla, known for its breath-taking landscapes and historical treasures, will be serviced with two weekly flights. Travelers can look forward to experiencing this UNESCO World Heritage Site's wonders, including the ancient rock formations and archaeological marvels.



Yanbu, a vibrant port city, will be connected with three weekly flights. With its beautiful beaches and diverse marine life, Yanbu is the perfect destination for those seeking sun, sea and adventure.

Tabuk, nestled amidst stunning mountains and valleys, will see Qatar Airways operate three weekly flights. Travelers to Tabuk will have the opportunity to explore its natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

Qatar Airways now operates to nine cities in Saudi Arabia, operating more than 125 flights weekly. These cities include AlUla, Dammam, Gassim, Jeddah, Medina, Riyadh, Tabuk, Taif, and Yanbu, providing travellers with a comprehensive network to explore the diverse landscapes and cultures of this dynamic country.

Passengers in Saudi Arabia traveling from these exciting new gateways will enjoy seamless

connectivity to over 160 destinations worldwide, including China, Europe, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand and the United States. Qatar Airways continues to be a global leader in connecting travellers to some of the most sought-after destinations across the globe.

Qatar Airways' new routes to AlUla, Yanbu, and Tabuk are expected to facilitate business and leisure travel, further strengthening economic ties and cultural exchanges between Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The airline is dedicated to providing passengers with the highest level of service and comfort during their journeys.

Tickets for flights to AlUla, Yanbu, and Tabuk are now available for booking through the Qatar Airways website, mobile app, and travel agencies.

Flight schedule to AlUla:

Saturday (local time)

Doha (DOH) to AlUla (ULH) flight number QR1202 departure 08:05 arrival 10:45

AlUla (ULH) to Doha (DOH) flight number QR1203 departure 11:45 arrival 13:55

Thursday (local time)

Doha (DOH) to AlUla (ULH) Flight QR1202 Departure 07:30 Arrival 10:10

AlUla (ULH) to Doha (DOH) flight number QR1203 departure 12:15 arrival 14:25

Flight schedule to Yanbu:

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday (local time)

Doha (DOH) to Yanbu (YNB) flight number QR1216 departure 07:25 arrival 10:15

Yanbu (YNB) to Doha (DOH) flight number QR1217 departure 11:20 arrival 13:40

Flight schedule to Tabuk:

Monday, Wednesday, Saturday (local time)

Doha (DOH) to Tabuk (TUU) flight number QR1220 departure 06:20 arrival 09:20

Tabuk (TUU) to Doha (DOH) flight number QR1221 departure 10:20 arrival 12:40.

Qatar Airways Announces its 10-year Anniversary of Joining oneworld

Qatar Airways marks a decade of excellence as oneworld alliance member



Qatar Airways proudly commemorates its 10-year anniversary as a member of the award-winning oneworld alliance, alongside 12 of the world's leading airlines that collectively provide an exceptional customer experience. During this journey, Qatar Airways has grown to become the alliance's second largest member, by expanding its online network from 125 to 163 destinations and doubling its fleet from 125 to 259 aircraft.

Through its competitive connectivity, Qatar Airways substantially strengthens oneworld's global network and provides alliance passengers with superior routing alternatives across hundreds of city pairs. Hamad International Airport, the airline's hub and winner of the Skytrax Award for the World's Best

Airport in 2021 and 2022, has evolved into a leading hub for oneworld with ten alliance members operating there by 2024.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "Qatar Airways is a key driver of the oneworld alliance as a testament to the excellence and determination we believe in. We strive to provide oneworld passengers with a world-class travel experience within our extensive global network, with key connectivity to Europe, Australasia, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Indian subcontinent. Our alliance's achievements and efforts are nothing short of industry-leading and I firmly believe in our ability to develop a dynamic future led by a new generation of aviation professionals and pioneers

in sustainability. This valuable milestone reinforces our dedication to connecting people, destinations and cultures. Qatar Airways looks forward to future joint milestones and remains committed to delivering the highest standards and quality of service to travellers worldwide."

Throughout oneworld's history and as the alliance approaches its 25th anniversary, it has continually succeeded in pioneering approaches to innovation, customer service delivery, and traveller satisfaction.

As Qatar Airways commemorates its first decade with the Oneworld alliance, the airline stays committed to delivering on its promise to customers by making travel more accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable for all passengers.



Finnair

renews the cabins of its Embraer fleet

Finnair will renew the cabins of its Embraer aircraft in the coming years. The renewal gives the Embraer fleet a fresh and inviting interior with familiar elements from the previously redesigned Finnair long-haul aircraft cabins.

“We want to improve travel comfort and provide our customers with a high-quality travel experience across our route network”,

says **Ole Orvær**, Chief Commercial Officer for Finnair. “We will bring similar elements and feeling to our Embraer fleet as we have used in our previously redesigned Airbus wide-body aircraft”.

The renewal will be implemented during 2024–2025. The first renewed aircraft are expected to operate at the end of 2024.

Embraer jet engine aircraft flies to Finnair’s



domestic and European destinations. The renewed Embraer aircraft has 100 seats and there are 12 aircraft in the Embraer

fleet in total. Finnair flights with Embraer aircraft are operated for Finnair by Nordic Regional Airlines.

Atmosphere Core announces India's entry with eight distinctive properties

Building on its Maldives success, Atmosphere Core unveils plans for 25 new properties in India by 2025, emphasizing unique guest experiences and sustainable development.



Atmosphere Core has announced its India entry, aiming at heralding a paradigm shift in the Indian hospitality landscape through unique and unforgettable experiences. Leveraging on its award-winning resort experiences in the Maldives, the company looks at delivering on the values of Anticipating, Crafting, and Elevating the guest journey at the distinctive new properties opening in India.

Following a successful journey in the Maldives, of launching 3 brands and 8 resorts within 10 years, Atmosphere Core unveiled an aggressive plan of 25 in 2025 for India. Making headway with

the announcement of 8 remarkable hotels and resorts within two brands:

- Ozen Mansion, Kolkata
- Ozen Privado, Goa
- Ozen Nandi Hills, Bangalore
- Sadar Manzil Heritage by Atmosphere, Bhopal
- Stillwood Retreat: A Signature Atmosphere, Coorg
- Varsā: Elements of Nature by Atmosphere, Kannur
- Atmosphere, Bhubaneswar
- Atmosphere Lake View, Kolkata

These properties embody Atmosphere Core's commitment to creative storytelling and curating exceptional guest experiences.

*"Atmosphere Core has always stood for redefining hospitality experiences, and today, we're taking this legacy to India," said **Mr Salil Panigrahi, Managing Director of Atmosphere Core.***

"Our commitment to organic growth, sustainable development, and distinctive brand experiences has transformed the Maldives, and we are thrilled to bring this transformation to India."

The grand unveiling took place in New Delhi, where Atmosphere Hospitality Private Limited's visionary **Chairman, Mr Dipti Ranjan Patnaik**, expressed his dedication to establishing Atmosphere as a prominent hotel brand in India, with a focus on delivering 'Joy of Giving' to guests. *"India's rich cultural tapestry and diverse landscapes offer immense potential for extraordinary hospitality," Mr. Patnaik emphasized. "With our commitment to sustainability and the 'Joy of Giving,' we aim to create a hospitality legacy in India."*

Mr. Souvagya Mohapatra, Managing Director of Atmosphere Core – India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, & Bhutan, highlighted the company's expansion plans in South Asia, echoing the ethos of giving joyfully from the heart and soul, and refining and elevating the individual experiences crafted for guests. Under Mr. Salil Panigrahi's leadership, Atmosphere Core has forged new standards for hospitality in the Maldives, and this legacy is set to continue in India.

IPL-model boat race revs up Kerala's standing as all-season destination



The third edition of the annual 'Champions Boat League' which commenced earlier last month, is expected to enhance domestic footfall across Kerala

Kerala, known for its stunning natural beauty and captivating culture, is once again in the spotlight as it embraces innovative products like the IPL-model Champions Boat League (CBL) to draw travellers year-round. After experiencing a significant increase in domestic tourists, the southern Indian state is reinforcing its status as a highly-preferred tourist destination.

Following a spectacular week of Onam celebrations that attracted a surge in tourists, the third edition of the annual IPL-model CBL, which commenced earlier last month, is expected to enhance domestic footfall across Kerala.

The Champions Boat League offers a unique spectacle as magnificent snake boats, known as Chundan Vallam, powered by numerous rowers, race through the emerald backwaters, creating a vibrant atmosphere of enthusiasm and energy.

Tourism Minister P. A. Mohamed Riyas, while commenting on the influx of domestic tourists, emphasized the state's efforts to further boost post-pandemic tourism. He noted that the Champions Boat League season, closely following the Onam Week celebrations, provides a captivating time for visitors

to explore Kerala's diverse attractions.

"Rising to the demands and tastes of tourists of our time, Kerala has launched quite a few attractive products, besides widening the scope of existing ones and projecting the distinct features of the state. This year, we are looking for the next-level fillip by attracting more domestic tourists to experience the novel tourism products," he added.

In recognition of its innovative initiatives, Kerala Tourism recently received the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award for its **"Make up for lost time, pack up for Kerala"** campaign. The campaign, targeting domestic tourists transitioning to post-COVID normalcy, made a splash across various media platforms.

To further entice tourists from within the country, Kerala Tourism is planning a series of travel trade networking activities, including participation in trade fairs and organizing B2B trade meetings. These initiatives have received encouraging responses from the industry.

As part of these efforts, a familiarisation trip called 'Go Kerala' is offered to selected tour operators from the host city, aiming to develop destination awareness and experience

new products in Kerala. In addition to these accolades, the STREET project, a part of Kerala's Responsible Tourism initiative, won a global award at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London. Kerala was also voted the best wedding destination by readers of Travel Plus Leisure.

Tourism Secretary K Biju stated that trade fairs and roadshows serve as ideal platforms to showcase the variety of experiences Kerala has to offer tourists. Recent trends have highlighted Kerala as a glamorous wedding destination, with its natural beauty, picturesque locales, excellent accommodations, and connectivity making it one of the best wedding destinations globally.

Tourism Director P B Nooh emphasized that Kerala offers a wide range of experiences, from houseboats and caravan stays to jungle lodges, plantation visits, homestays, Ayurveda-based wellness solutions, countryside walks, and adventure activities like trekking in verdant hills, providing a unique experience to visitors.

The state's core assets, including beaches, hill stations, houseboats, and backwater segments, enhance the overall visitor experience. In 2022, Kerala made a significant impression at major tourism and travel fairs in India and abroad, including SATTE Delhi, OTM Mumbai, TTF Ahmedabad, BIT Milan, IMTM Tel Aviv, ATM Dubai, WTM London, and ITB Berlin. The state received recognition from TIME magazine, Conde Nast Traveller, and Travel Plus Leisure, solidifying its place as a top global tourist destination.



Maldivian Airlines Inaugurates new route to Bangalore

Departing from Velana International Airport, the Male-Bangalore flight will gracefully touch down at Kempegowda International Airport

Maldivian, the national airline of the Maldives, announced the commencement of their inaugural flight to Bangalore, India, starting on October 30th, 2023. This development aims to strengthen the connections between these two vibrant destinations, offering travellers a direct link to one of India's major cities from the picturesque Maldives.

The airline's two weekly flights, scheduled for every Monday and

Thursday, will be operated using their trusted Airbus A320 aircraft. Departing from Velana International Airport at 9:35, the Male-Bangalore flight will gracefully touch down at Kempegowda International Airport at 12:15. The return flight from Bangalore will take off at 13:15 and arrive in Male at 14:50.

This new air route opens up a world of possibilities for travellers, whether they are seeking a leisurely escape or are on a business mission. Tickets for

these flights became available for purchase on August 16th, and the flight schedule caters to the diverse needs of passengers, accommodating both mid-week and weekend journeys.

Furthermore, passengers will have the convenience of connecting to 17 domestic destinations within the Maldives using Maldivian's expansive domestic network. This not only provides a gateway to the exotic beauty of the Maldives but also facilitates seamless travel within the country.

Maldivian's full-service offering includes 138 economy class seats and 14 premium economy class seats, showcasing their dedication to serving all segments of travellers. Premium economy class passengers will also have the privilege of complimentary lounge access at both Bengaluru and Male airports, enhancing their overall journey experience.

To celebrate this momentous occasion, Maldivian hosted a grand route launch event at Bengaluru's prestigious Chancery Pavilion hotel on October 9th. Over 100 travel trade professionals from across India attended the event. Speaking at the launch event, **Mohamed Mihad, Managing Director of Maldivian**, expressed his excitement about this new route, saying, "Bangalore is one of India's leading markets for high-quality leisure travel to the island nation of the Maldives. Maldivian, with its high-quality service and perfect scheduling, will further help to bring in more tourists from India to the Maldives and vice versa."

The event also saw the presence of other dignitaries, including Ibrahim Hamdhan, General Manager of Commercial at Maldivian; Mohamed Rishan, Manager of Route Development and Revenue Management; Nazeera Shihab from the Commercial Department; Ajay Udeshi, Director of Passenger Sales; and Gita Menon, Regional Director, South India.



IndiGo unveils heritage flight to Khajuraho

IndiGo offers a one-stop daily flight between Delhi and Khajuraho via Varanasi, providing travellers with enhanced travel options

IndiGo has embarked on a new journey into the heart of history and culture with the inauguration of daily flights to Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh. Commencing operations on October 10, 2023, the airline's new routes expand its extensive 6E network to the 80th domestic and 112th overall destination.

Additionally, IndiGo offers a one-stop daily flight between Delhi and Khajuraho via Varanasi, providing travellers with enhanced travel options and exciting opportunities to

explore the beautiful temple towns of Khajuraho and Varanasi. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales at IndiGo, expressed his enthusiasm about the new routes, stating, "These new routes further enhance accessibility and interstate connectivity. These new routes will also contribute to bolstering economic growth and tourism in the states."

Khajuraho, formerly known as Kharjuravahaka, holds deep roots in Madhya Pradesh's history. Constructed during mediaeval times by the Chandela

Dynasty, the grandeur of its statues and temples makes Khajuraho one of Madhya Pradesh's most popular tourist destinations. The mediaeval Hindu and Jain temples, celebrated for their intricate and, at times, provocative sculptures, form the country's largest group of such temples. They are divided into three groups: Eastern, Western, and Southern. Apart from its temples, Khajuraho offers a wealth of attractions, including the Panna National Park, Raneh Waterfall, Kalinjar Fort, Dhubela Museum, the Archaeological Museum of Khajuraho, and more.

Pullman & Novotel Aerocity welcomes Himanshu Sharma as Director of Sales and Marketing

Pullman and Novotel New Delhi Aerocity announced the appointment of Himanshu Sharma as its new Director of Sales and Marketing. In this key leadership role, Sharma will be responsible for overseeing the sales, marketing, and brand communication efforts for the hotel, with a focus on achieving commercial objectives and enhancing brand positioning.

Bringing more than 21 years of experience in the hospitality industry

to the table, Himanshu Sharma has a proven track record of demonstrating strong analytical abilities to monitor market trends, performance metrics, and competitive landscapes. His career includes stints with renowned players in the industry such as JW Marriott Aerocity, Shangri-La New Delhi, Leela Ambience Gurugram, The Westin Gurugram & Westin Sohna, and Le Meridien Gurugram.

Commenting on his new appointment, Sharma expressed his



enthusiasm: "Together (with the team), we will not only redefine hospitality standards but also craft experiences that resonate with our guests on a profound level. With a commitment to innovation, collaboration, and guest-centric strategies, we are poised to create a new era of excellence in the industry."

Kareena Kapoor Khan

rebrands Goibibo's social media as 'Go-i-Bebo'



By blending cues from Kareena's most iconic film roles, Goibibo aims to merge the brand and its brand ambassador seamlessly

Goibibo unveiled Kareena Kapoor Khan, aka Bebo, as its new brand ambassador in a move that marks a remarkable fusion of Bollywood charm and the travel platform's identity. The announcement comes hand-in-hand with the launch of Goibibo's fresh marketing campaign, titled "Hotels aise on Goibibo, full marks by Bebo," and a revamped social media presence.

By blending cues from Kareena's most iconic film roles and her real-life persona, Goibibo aims to merge the brand and its brand ambassador seamlessly, promising a unique and engaging customer experience. To complement this exciting announcement, Goibibo has premiered

a new brand of film featuring Kareena Kapoor Khan. In this film, the beloved character "Poo" from one of Kareena's iconic movies serves as the voice of every Indian traveller, creating a relatable connection with the audience.

Kareena Kapoor Khan expressed her excitement about the partnership, stating, "It's a delight to be the new face of Goibibo, or should we call it 'Goibebo'? Among all the roles I've played on screen, Poo has been one character that has remained an audience favourite, even after all these years." Khan also conveyed her joy of playing the character of Poo again; she said, "Becoming Poo again, twenty years later, was such fun, and it reminded me that there's a bit of 'Poo' in every Indian traveler."

Raj Rishi Singh, Chief Marketing Officer at Goibibo, explained, "We all possess a '**main character energy**' within us, which becomes particularly prominent during our travel experiences. Our broader campaign addresses the evolving expectations of Indian travellers and the growing demands within the travel industry. We are excited about this new chapter for Goibibo and hope that our audience shares our enthusiasm.»

The brand film was conceived by the creative minds at Talented and executed by Dharma 2.0. **Priyanka Borah, Founding Partner, and Binaifer Dulani, Founding Member and creative at Talented**, shared their insights, stating, "When we discovered that Indian consumers aspire to be treated like main characters from movies while on vacation, it instantly resonated with us and led to the creation of Goibebo. While the Poo character is iconic and has been leveraged in different ways, the strategic soundness of this collaboration makes it special, and its familiarity in a new context makes it memorable."

Punit Malhotra, Founder of Dharma 2.0, added, "The names 'goibibo' and 'bebo' have an inherent stickiness that will remain etched in the minds of the audience. Poo is an unforgettable character, and it's an honour to revive her quintessential sassiness in a brand-new context to connect with the masses across India."

Çelebi India secures US-Bangla Airlines ground handling contract at Chennai Airport

Çelebi India fortifies its presence at Chennai Airport by securing a ground handling contract with US-Bangla Airlines, enhancing operations and service quality for airlines and travel professionals.



India for the ground handling services for our daily passenger flights from Dhaka to Chennai. We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Çelebi India for their commitment to providing world-class services and state-of-the-art infrastructure at Chennai Airport. This collaboration marks the beginning of a promising journey, and we look forward to a successful partnership across our existing network and upcoming stations in

Çelebi India extended a warm welcome to the US-Bangla Airlines passengers at Chennai Airport. US-Bangla Airlines awarded the contract to Çelebi for its ground handling operations at Chennai Airport, cementing a partnership initiated in August 2023.

Çelebi secured the contract to provide ground handling services in Chennai in December of last year. Çelebi has established a world-class state-of-the-art infrastructure at Chennai airport to provide high-quality ground services to passengers and airlines. Çelebi is actively expanding its workforce and plans to employ over 750 dedicated professionals to guarantee seamless and punctual service to both airlines and passengers. Both scheduled and non-scheduled airlines at domestic and international terminals can avail themselves of Çelebi's comprehensive ground handling services. Airlines have started awarding ground handling service

contracts to Çelebi. Recently, YTO Cargo has also selected Çelebi for their Chennai ground handling.

Speaking on the occasion, **Mr. Tauseef Khan, CEO, of Çelebi Ground Handling – India**, said, *"We are thrilled to offer our ground handling expertise in Chennai. It was our immense pleasure to welcome the US-Bangla Airlines flight on Sunday, October 1, 2023. The much-awaited quality and punctual ground handling services are now available for passengers and airlines at Chennai Airport. We are committed to continuing to provide seamless services at Chennai airport."*

Speaking on the partnership, **Mr. Jitendra Pandey, Head – of Commercial & Contracts, US-Bangla Airlines Ltd** said, *"US-Bangla Airlines is the largest full-service private airline of Bangladesh and we are currently expanding and strengthening our operations across important markets like India, Middle East and Europe. Recently, we have partnered with Çelebi*

India like Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai etc."

Chennai International Airport is the ninth airport in India for Çelebi after successful operations at major airports like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Cochin, Ahmedabad, Goa (Manohar International Airport, Mopa), and Kannur.

Çelebi India has been at the forefront of sustainability practices in the Indian ground handling industry. They are dedicated to helping the Indian aviation sector achieve its carbon neutrality goals. As part of sustainability initiatives, they have introduced eco-friendly services such as 100% electric, air-conditioned tarmac coaches, electric baggage and cargo towing tugs, taxi-bots, and bridge-mounted equipment services.

Çelebi India confidently expands into Chennai, showcasing an unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional services and promoting a greener and more efficient future for aviation in India.



Hilton's 2024 Trends Report reveals cultural explorers redefining travel

*Research identifies a new generation of Asian travelers -
The 'GenerAsian' traveler*

Hilton's third-annual trends report looks at how each generation views travel, from the digital-native Gen Zer to the experienced Baby Boomer. This Trends Report for the year 2024 unveiled some of the emerging trend poised to redefine the future

of travel: the rise of the 'GenerAsian' traveler. This new generation of Asian travellers is driven by a deep desire to understand their cultural heritage, and they are making their mark on the global travel landscape.

In a global survey conducted in

partnership with Ipsos, one of the world's leading market research and polling companies, the findings say that the 'GenerAsian' traveller is marked by a strong sense of pride in their country of origin as a travel destination. An astounding 85 percent of Indian respondents expressed this pride, reflecting a growing global appreciation for Asian culture, food, and design.

This shift can be attributed to globalisation, where Asian culture and traditions have become more accessible and appealing to international audiences through pop culture and social media. The world has witnessed greater representation of Asian culture in various industries, from matchmaking traditions featured on popular reality shows to international recognition of Asian innovation, design, and cuisine.

The 'GenerAsian' traveller's priorities differ from those of conventional travellers. They seek unique local

experiences over convenience or price. In fact, 77 percent of Indian respondents indicated that they are likely to book accommodations based on access to these unique experiences, surpassing the global average of 65 percent.

Indian travellers are also passionate about exploring local and traditional food and beverages, with 91 percent ranking it as their top priority. Connecting with the local community (90 percent) and gaining a deeper understanding of the destination's history and heritage (87 percent) are also crucial to them. This suggests a strong desire for authentic travel experiences.

Culinary experiences emerge as a unifying passion point among Asian respondents in the survey, with respondents from China, India, Japan, and Singapore all prioritising food and beverage in their travel plans for the next year.

In their pursuit of self-discovery and cultural immersion, 82 percent of Indian travellers are reducing spending in other areas of their lives to prioritise

travel, significantly higher than the global average of 64 percent. Moreover, 81 percent of Indian travellers plan to increase their travel spending in 2024, outpacing the 65 percent global average.

This inclination for travel goes beyond pent-up demand; it reflects India's economic growth story. The middle- and upper-class consumers in India have accumulated savings during the pandemic, enabling them to fulfil their travel aspirations.

These insights are part of Hilton's comprehensive 2024 Trends Report, which delves into the profile of the 2024 traveller and their desires and preferences. After surveying over 10,000 travellers from nine countries and conducting in-depth interviews with Hilton travel experts, the report identifies four key themes driving change and innovation in travel for 2024 and beyond:

Investing in sleep: Gen Z travellers prioritise winding down, with considerations like regulated workout routines and alcohol avoidance. In India, listening to music or podcasts and

choosing trusted hotels with quality mattresses are top sleep priorities.

Value of connectivity and personalisation: Globally, 80 percent of travellers find it important to book their trips online, with Millennials and Gen Z leading the way. In India, 85 percent of travellers share this sentiment.

Culture and experiences: Culinary experiences and exploration top the list of travel priorities across generations. In India, dining and adventure experiences are particularly significant.

Business travel redefined: travellers are committed to maximising their time on the road, blending work, family, friends, and leisure.

Hilton's Trends Report is the result of qualitative and quantitative research, including stakeholder interviews across various divisions of the organisation and research phases conducted with Ipsos, one of the world's largest market research companies. It offers a glimpse into the evolving landscape of travel and the emergence of the 'GenerAsian' traveller as a significant force in shaping the industry's future.

Trip To Mexico Appoints Global Destinations as Sales & Marketing Representative in India



Trip to Mexico is a tour operator in Mexico, specializing in the creation of unique trips, offering high-level transportation, direct contracts with hotels and special rates, partners, trained personnel, and personalised attention for each client.

Ksenia Tarasova (Vice Director) and Ramon Delgado (Director) have over 20 years of experience in the luxury and VIP agency markets of Russia, Ukraine, the United States, and Europe. Trip to Mexico is a family-owned business providing VIP-level care to agency partners.

Ksenia and Ramon possess a



wealth of expertise in bringing to life unforgettable journeys to Mexico's renowned landmarks and its best-kept secrets. Moreover, their proficiency extends to crafting exceptional

experiences in Cuba.

Ksenia Tarasova and Ramón Delgado – Spokespersons for Trip to Mexico, commented on the partnership.

"Understanding the importance of the Indian outbound market, we are excited to appoint Global Destinations as our representation company".

Pranav Kapadia, Founder, of Global Destinations comments *"With our expertise in Latin America, re-entering Mexico was a key priority for us. We are indeed very excited to partner with Trip2Mexico and once again open our doors to Mexico".*

Interglobe Hotels and Accor launch Ibis Styles Goa Vagator



With 142 contemporary and modern guest rooms featuring balconies and French windows, guests can enjoy the scenic beauty of the surrounding area

In an exciting collaboration, InterGlobe Hotels and Accor announced the unveiling of their newest hotel gem in the heart of Goa: ibis Styles Goa Vagator. Nestled amidst the backdrop of mediaeval forts, picturesque beaches, and North Goa's most renowned tourist attractions.

Strategically positioned just a short ride away from Goa MOPA airport and near Goa's premier nightlife, famous restaurants, and popular cafés, ibis Styles Goa Vagator offers a blend of historical charm with

modern comforts, making it the ultimate haven for travellers seeking to explore Goa. Kedar Dighe, Cluster GM, ibis Styles Goa Vagator and Calangute, said, "with 142 contemporary and modern guest rooms featuring balconies and French windows, guests can enjoy the scenic beauty of the surrounding area."

Guests at ibis Styles Goa Vagator can look forward to an unforgettable stay, featuring the signature 'Sweet Bed' for a restful night's sleep, exceptional service from dedicated hotel personnel, and delectable cuisine that will tantalise the taste buds. The property boasts an all-day dining restaurant, fully equipped gym facilities, an amphitheatre, an outdoor

swimming pool, unlimited Wi-Fi, and access to entertainment channels in each guest room. Notably, the 'Spice It' restaurant offers an extensive breakfast service from 4 a.m. to 12 p.m., catering to early risers and late starters alike.

Puneet Dhawan, Senior Vice President of Operations—Accor India & South Asia, added, "Anticipating a substantial influx of both domestic and international tourists this season, the hotel promises a distinctive and immersive experience tailored for business and leisure travellers alike. With a focus on creating a welcoming environment for families, the property boasts a bold design elements and an inclusive atmosphere."

For those in need of event and conference facilities, ibis Styles Vagator offers modern and stylish venues that can accommodate up to 100 guests. The garden-facing conference room provides an ideal setting for social gatherings, corporate events, and team-building activities.

Ibis Styles Goa Vagator proudly celebrates contemporary art and artists through carefully curated pieces adorning its rooms and public spaces. Original artwork by local artists is showcased in the lobby, while stylish rooms feature wallpaper reproductions complementing the curated art, photographs, and images from emerging artists. The hotel's modern and lively interiors, inspired by Goa's vibrant culture, create an artistic atmosphere throughout the property for guests to savour.

Commenting on the grand opening, JB Singh, President & CEO of InterGlobe Hotels, expressed his delight: "I am thrilled to announce the grand opening of our second ibis Styles in Goa and the 23rd ibis in India. Like all our properties across the country, ibis Styles Goa Vagator is meticulously crafted to cater to the lifestyle preferences and aspirations of modern travellers, with a special focus on providing a top-notch design experience to the younger generation."



Virgin Atlantic unveils new Inflight autumn/winter menu

The airlines is introducing more vegetarian and plant-based options.

Virgin Atlantic is gearing up for the cooler months with a fresh and inclusive menu, set to take flight across their network starting October 4th. The airline's cosy season menu promises a delightful array of choices, ranging from succulent dishes in upper class to upgraded snacks for all passengers.

In response to evolving dietary preferences, the airlines is introducing more vegetarian and plant-based options, ensuring that all travellers can indulge in delicious inflight offerings.

Corneel Koster, Chief Customer and Operating Officer at Virgin Atlantic, expressed his excitement, saying, "At Virgin Atlantic, we're always looking to create memorable moments onboard, which is why we strive to offer an unmatched, contemporary, and extensive selection of dishes across our cabins."

Upper-class passengers will be treated to a delectable menu that combines British classics with global flavors. Highlights include succulent serrano ham with roasted squash, pickled red onion, and feta cheese; herb-roasted chicken breast; and roasted trout fillet. The Extra Bites menu takes centre stage with a mouthwatering cream tea featuring both sultana scones and white chocolate and orange scones, complete with clotted cream, morello cherry jam, and lemon curd. Also featured are a delightful bao bun with cashew satay chicken and a spiced lamb flatbread.

In Upper Class, passengers can now 'build their own breakfast' with choices including yoghurt, fresh fruit, warm pastries, and a new cereal range featuring artisan granola or fruit and iber. For those looking to catch up on rest, an Express Breakfast, served 40 minutes before landing, offers options

like a bacon roll or sweet pastry. New wellbeing drinks make their debut with Real sparkling tea, Perfect Ted matcha, and Lo Bros kombucha. The wine selection showcases a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc, a Côtes du Rhône Rosé, and an Italian Villa Borghetti Valpolicella Classico.

Premium Class passengers will be spoiled for choice with an enticing menu featuring options like a homely chicken lasagna, sage and thyme pork stew, and panko-coated tofu with katsu vegetable curry. A British cheese plate with vintage cheddar, blacksticks blue, fig jelly, grapes, olive oil, and sea salt crackers joins the menu. Passengers can also opt for either a sweet or savoury Mile High Tea, with choices such as coconut and blueberry financier and pistachio macaron mini patisseries or mini quiche Lorraine and smoked salmon blini.

Economy Delight passengers now have the convenience of pre-ordering their entrees, a feature already available in Premium and Upper Class. The upgraded Economy menu includes tantalising options like a chicken, leek, and tarragon casserole, creamy spinach and butternut pasta, Cathedral City cheddar and crackers, and a Pots & Co. plant-based chocolate pot.

Virgin Atlantic has also elevated its snack game. Economy passengers can choose from an array of delectable treats, including Walker's shortbread fingers, vanilla Oreos, Cadbury mini fingers, and Penn State sour cream and chive pretzels. Meanwhile, Upper Class and Premium passengers can indulge in Savoursmiths bubbly and serrano chilli crisps, Yumma peach-flavoured gummy sweets, Creative Nature blueberry muffin bars, Love Raw Vegan caramelised biscuit bars, and more.



New wine lounge ‘Captain’s Cellar’

unveiled at Taj Mahal New Delhi

The restaurant’s design is equally captivating, boasting engineered timber flooring, vaulted brick ceilings, and cast-iron details.



Taj Mahal, New Delhi has introduced its latest venture, “Captain’s Cellar,” a wine lounge restaurant brand. The Cellar is set to redefine the gastronomic experience

in the capital city, offering a blend of tastes and textures.

Satyajeet Krishnan, Area Director, Operations, and General Manager, Taj Mahal, New Delhi,

highlighted the significance of this addition to the hotel’s esteemed food and beverage portfolio. He stated, “Taj Mahal, New Delhi has a rich culinary history spanning over four decades, known for pioneering global and regional cuisines and concepts. With the addition of Captain’s Cellar, the hotel strengthens its world-class food and beverage portfolio of much-loved and celebrated brands.”

The restaurant’s menu is a true exploration of global and domestic wines, featuring both old and new world selections. Innovative technology, such as Enomatic equipment and the Corvin selection, is used to preserve the wines at their finest. To complement the extensive wine offerings, a tantalising array of tapas celebrates culinary traditions with a modern twist.

The restaurant’s design is equally captivating, boasting engineered timber flooring, vaulted brick ceilings, and cast-iron details. Thoughtfully paired with a variety of furniture, eclectic art, a patio, and informal seating, it offers a relaxed, homely, and elegant atmosphere. The spotlight at “Captain’s Cellar” is on delivering “the perfect pour,” combining the art and science of wine with small plates, cheese, meat platters, and an exquisite tasting experience in the specially designed tasting rooms.

Jumeirah's

spectacular India expansion quest

While India's inclusion in Jumeirah's development landscape remains uncertain, the Group is acutely attuned to the burgeoning market of potential Indian travellers

In an endeavour to double its property portfolio by 2030 through its Vision 2030 campaign, Dubai's luxury hotel chain, the Jumeirah Group, is making significant strides. During their annual roadshow in the National Capital, **Kirti Anchan, General Manager of Jumeirah Emirates Towers, and Mohamed Ashraf, General Manager of Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island**, shed light on the Group's expansion strategies and underscored the distinctive features that set the brand apart.

With a current tally of 27 luxury hotels globally, including 11 in the United Arab Emirates, the Jumeirah Group maintains a strong presence in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The Group is presently nurturing four new hotels, including two in Dubai and one each in Geneva, Switzerland and Saudi Arabia. In an exclusive chat with BW Hotelier, Anchan exuded confidence in these ongoing projects, affirming, "To usher in the next phase of growth, we have projects that are already well underway."

A paramount goal for the Jumeirah Group is to capture the hearts of Indian globetrotters. The GM of the Jumeirah Emirates Towers highlighted the significance of the Indian market, stating, "India holds a pivotal position for the Jumeirah brands. Our hotels and resorts have long been adored in India and we've witnessed a remarkable 24 per cent year-over-year surge in Indian visitors to our Dubai locations." He noted the positive shift in the market post-pandemic, observing, "As the market reopens following the Covid-19 outbreak, there's a surge in airline connections; more flights equate to more tourists."

In addition to the already popular crowd-seeking destination weddings and honeymoon experiences, the Group is strategically targetting key customer segments, including independent luxury travellers, corporate and business travellers, and families seeking serene escapes. Ashraf, discussing the allure of Jumeirah Maldives Olhahali Island, stated, "Maldives, the pinnacle of romantic getaways, offers a visual feast with our resort's unique private rooftop dining experience combined with special deals that transform the trip into a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

Highlighting the competitive edge that sets the Jumeirah Group apart, Anchan pointed to the Jumeirah Emirates



Towers in Dubai, which exert a particular allure on the Indian market. He emphasised the Emirates Towers, a fixture in every Indian visitor's night-time photograph of Dubai's skyline, embody an unmistakable identity. With over 400 rooms and suites, this sleek skyscraper sits 3 km from Burj Khalifa, promising an unforgettable experience.

When probed about the prospect of Jumeirah properties gracing India, both Ashraf and Anchan acknowledged the brand's ongoing exploration of growth avenues in diverse geographic markets. They made it unequivocal that, as of now, concrete plans to enter the Indian market were not on the immediate horizon. However, the GM of Jumeirah Maldives articulated the brand's objective, stating, "Our immediate goal is to enhance brand recognition in key Indian cities, with a renewed emphasis on Tier II cities." Anchan went on to elaborate, "India is evolving and it's not just about the metropolitan cities anymore. Similar opportunities are flourishing in Tier II cities. As we observe the increasing revenue streams from these markets, it will pave the way for further investments and unlock greater potential."

As the Jumeirah Group charts an ambitious course towards doubling its property holdings by 2030, one thing remains abundantly clear: the brand's relentless pursuit of growth. While India's inclusion in Jumeirah's development landscape remains uncertain, there's no denying the growing number of Indian wanderers who are eager to explore the world. The Group is acutely attuned to this burgeoning market and is poised to seize the opportunity to cater to these discerning travellers.



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

LOT Polish Airlines has announced plans to overhaul its fleet of Boeing 787-8 aircraft, with new RECARO seating in all classes.

The carrier will fit RECARO's CL6720 seat in business class, with features including a sliding privacy door, a 17.3-inch 4K screen, wireless charging, additional storage, a 1-2-1 configuration, and design by British firm Tangerine (which recently worked on Finnair's new business class seat).

The CL6720 seat model is the same as the one installed on Iberia's newest A350 aircraft.

Meanwhile, LOT's 787-8s will feature RECARO's PL3530 seat in premium

economy (the same model adopted by Emirates for its premium economy cabins), and the CL3810 in economy (which was also chosen by Qatar Airways for its A321 neo aircraft back in 2021).

Both economy and premium economy will offer a 13.3-inch screen, and customers in all classes will benefit from USB-C ports, Bluetooth connectivity for headphones, and Wi-Fi internet access provided by Viasat.

LOT said that the retrofit would initially cover its Boeing 787-8 fleet

– no details were given as to whether it would eventually extend to other aircraft including the carrier's 787-9s. The airline said that "passengers will be able to board LOT Polish Airlines aircraft with a completely modernized cabin in 2026".

Commenting on the news Izabela Leszczynska, director of the product development and customer experience department at LOT Polish Airlines, said: "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 recognizable Polish brands in the world, we do not forget to include touches from our cultural heritage.

"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."

Finnair

launches centenary-inspired inflight menu



Finnair has launched a special inflight menu in the latest initiative to mark its centenary.

The Finnair 100 menu is inspired by Nordic classics, combining traditional dishes with modernised recipes, and represents different time periods and decades in Finnair's culinary history.

The menu is available in business class cabins on long-haul flights departing Helsinki until 23 January 2024.

Customers can pre-select their main course in the 'Manage Booking' portal, with 1960s and 1970s-inspired choices including reindeer meatballs, mashed potatoes with mustard and port wine sauce or beef chuck roll with potato gratin, chorizo ragu and blackcurrant sauce.

Appetisers inspired by the 1980s and 1990s include roasted beetroot with beetroot purée, beetroot mousse and goat's cheese cream, or wasabi salmon roll with apricot miso and seaweed caviar.

Centenary desserts, meanwhile, include blueberry pie and sea buckthorn mousse, regarded as "timeless classics" by the carrier.

The food is served alongside new red and white wines, curated

by international expert and wine consultant, Ken Chase.

These include Castilla la Mancha White 2022, named 'Destination North', and Castilla la Mancha Red 2022, named '100,000 islands'. In keeping with the carrier's heritage, the labels for the bottles are based on Finnair's original posters, designed by Erik Bruun in the 1950s and 1960s.

Over the coming weeks customers travelling premium economy and economy will also be served a variety of centenary dishes.

Juha Stenholm, head of Product Development at Finnair Kitchen, said:

"Finnair is proud to unveil our reinvented classics to mark our centennial milestone. Our reimaged dishes combine traditional favourites and iconic recipes with a modern twist as our chefs deliver contemporary cuisine for our customers. 'They can indulge in familiar flavours elevated to new heights, and celebrate our rich heritage by joining us on this culinary journey – where the past meets the present, creating a remarkable dining experience that honours Finnair's 100 years of excellence.'"

Lauri Ahonen, Finnair Concept & Category manager, added:

"Finding the perfect wine for a Finnair flight for our customers to enjoy at 30,000 ft is always a challenge, but even more so during our centenary."

"That's why we have made the perfect pairing with Ken Chase, who has carefully selected some topflight wines to tantalise the taste buds and we are excited to serve them onboard to ensure a unique experience for Finnair customers."

Ken Chase, International Wine Consultant, also commented on his selection:

"When selecting the wines for this crucial undertaking, we sought after three key elements in the wines prior to the final blend. 'The first element was seduction, which required the wine to have an enticing aroma that immediately captivates our customers, with a fresh and varietally typical scent being essential. The second element was structure, necessitating a wine with a rich mid-palate that enables flavours to linger throughout the palate, leaving a gratifying aftertaste. 'The third element was overall balance, which we refer to as the yummy factor. It's an all-encompassing sensation that leaves one feeling satisfied after indulging in a glass of wine. Each wine must possess all three of these elements before being considered for the final blend.'"



Akbar Al Baker

After 27 years, Akbar Al Baker steps down as Group CEO of Qatar Airways



Badr Mohammed Al-Meer

His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, has announced his intention to resign as Group Chief Executive effective 5 November 2023. He will be succeeded in this role by Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer.

The blockade of Qatar, the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently, a high court battle with Airbus over the A350, all of which he oversaw as CEO of Qatar Airlines but ultimately settled diplomatically.

Qatar Airways, led by H.E. Mr. Akbar Al Baker, has risen to become a household name worldwide because of its commitment to outstanding customer service and the highest standards in the industry. The national airline of Qatar has won the “World’s Best Airline” title a record-breaking seven times, and its airport, Hamad International Airport, which it manages and operates, has also won the “World’s Best Airport” award.

The Qatar Airways Group demonstrated its competence, dedication to quality and enthusiasm for bringing people together by playing a pivotal role in putting on the finest FIFA World Cup ever.

Unlike other airline CEOs who preferred to keep a low profile and toe the party line, Akbar Al Baker never hesitated to speak about what he felt of any given circumstance.

Recently, Al Baker was at the centre of a two-year legal battle with aircraft

company Airbus. The dispute reached the High Court in London. More than \$600 million in compensation was being sought by Qatar Airways from Airbus. This year has seen the ultimate resolution of the conflict. However, the details of the settlement are being kept secret.

Badr Mohammed Al-Meer is the new Group CEO of Qatar Airways.

Badr Mohammed Al-Meer is not new to the Airline field. Since 2014, he has served as Hamad International Airport’s Chief Operating Officer.

Badr Mohammed Al-Meer received his engineering degree from the American University of Beirut and his undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado.

Over the last nine years, he has played a crucial role in developing Hamad International Airport into a primary international gateway, providing travellers with one of the best airport experiences anywhere. In 2021 and 2022, Skytrax ranked this airport as the “World’s Best Airport.” Hamad International Airport received the second-best airport in the world award and the “Best Airport in the Middle

East” title for the ninth year in a row at this year’s ceremony.

Al-Meer also guided the airport’s operations during the pandemic, using cutting-edge technology to ensure passengers enjoy a safe and clean experience. An indoor tropical garden of 60,000 square feet replete with its waterfall, The Orchard, was opened in 2022 as part of the airport’s multiphase development plan.

In his new position as Group Chief Executive, Al-Meer will have some large shoes to fill. His predecessor, Al Baker, deserves all the credit in the world for building Qatar Airways into the globally recognised brand it is today. Under Al Baker’s leadership, Qatar Airways has won Skytrax’s “World’s Best Airline” award a record-breaking seven times.

Qatar Airways, now led by Al-Meer, will shortly restart service to various destinations without it since the pandemic began. These cities include Osaka (KIX), Penang (PEN), and Venice (VCE). Additionally, he will be responsible for taking the delivery of many aeroplanes, including the Boeing 737 MAX 10, Boeing 777-9, and Airbus A350-1000.

Philippines named Asia's Best Cruise Destination 2023 by World Cruise Awards

The Philippines captures the title of Asia's Best Cruise Destination 2023 at the World Cruise Awards, signaling a monumental step in establishing itself as a key player in the global cruise and tourism market.

The Philippines clinched the title of Asia's Best Cruise Destination 2023 at the prestigious World Cruise Awards. This notable achievement marks the first time the Philippines has received this recognition, building the country's reputation as an emerging powerhouse in the global cruise and tourism sector.

The World Cruise Awards, an annual program celebrating excellence in the cruise industry, is affiliated with the renowned World Travel Awards. The awards program recognizes outstanding contributions to the cruise industry and is a highly anticipated event for cruise professionals, media, and consumers worldwide.

Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the award noting that "This first-time recognition as Asia's Best Cruise Destination 2023 is a big win for Philippine tourism as it reflects a resounding global preference for our island destinations.

"We extend our sincere appreciation to all our tourism stakeholders for their hard



work and collaboration. The shared tourism governance between the government and the private sector espoused by the Marcos Administration is bearing fruit. We are committed to maintaining and enhancing the Philippines' standing as an outstanding cruise destination in Asia and the world," the tourism chief added.

Other countries that vied for the award include India, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam.

As of October 16, 2023, The Philippines is projected to have 128 ports of call or cruise calls in 2023 across 33 destinations across the country. These cruise ships are expected to bring in more than 101,000 passengers and some 50,000 in estimated crew.

"The Philippines is world-renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty, pristine beaches, diverse marine life, and warm hospitality. Our archipelago of 7,641 islands offers a wide array of cruise experiences, from exploring picturesque coastlines and coral reefs to immersing in local culture and traditions," enthused the tourism chief.

Among the arriving cruise ships include the Seaborne Encore, Silver Shadow, MSC Poesia, Queen Elizabeth, Norwegian Jewel, Coral Adventure, MS Seven Seas Explorer, MS Star Breeze, Silver Whisper, Oceania Cruises, Aidabella, and the Blue Dream Cruise which has made its maiden voyage to the Philippines this month.

"With Boracay, Palawan, and Siargao having recently garnered Conde Nast Travel's Best Islands in Asia Award,

the Philippines' recognition as Asia's Best Cruise Destination complements and reaffirms our status as a must-visit destination for cruise enthusiasts. This prestigious award is not only a testament to the Philippines' allure as a cruise destination but also a validation of the collective dedication of the tourism industry and the Department of Tourism. This augurs well for our strategic objective to equalize tourism development, as we put the spotlight on lesser-known destinations by expanding our cruise tourism portfolio to include new tourism destinations in time to come. We are grateful that the country's potential to offer exceptional cruise experiences is now acknowledged on a global scale," added the Secretary.



Newly launched WelcomHeritage Santa Roza promises surreal Kasauli experience

Sprawling across 2 acres of pine forests and plum orchards, the hotel welcomes guests to a Victorian-styled estate that offers an idyllic getaway.



Nestled in the pristine, forested hills of Kasauli, just 65 kilometres from Chandigarh, a brand new retreat has made its grand debut. WelcomHeritage Santa Roza, the latest addition to WelcomHeritage's prestigious luxury boutique hotel collection, has officially opened its doors to guests and visitors this month, promising a surreal escape from the bustle of urban life.

Sprawling across 2 acres of pine forests and plum orchards, WelcomHeritage Santa Roza welcomes guests to a Victorian-styled estate that offers an idyllic getaway. It features 12 deluxe rooms, 20 suites, and cozy cottages, each equipped with modern amenities. Families can enjoy the exclusive 3-bedroom family suite with a spacious lounge area.

The hotel celebrates the age-old culinary traditions of Himachali culture at its in-house restaurant, 'Nirvana,' offering a delectable array of local, Indian, and global dishes. Guests can also savour freshly baked treats, artisanal coffee, and pizzas at 'Milo,' a charming café nestled in the estate's verdant gardens. For those who enjoy a good cocktail with panoramic woodland views, 'Aviary,' the lounge bar, has you covered.

In addition to these culinary delights, the retreat boasts a well-equipped gym, a spa and salon offering rejuvenating massages and beauty treatments, and an indoor all-weather swimming pool. There's also a supervised children's centre with engaging activities, ensuring parents can truly unwind. For those eager to explore Kasauli's attractions, Mall Road, Gilbert's Trail, Sunset Point, and Christ Church are just a few minutes' drive away.

The property boasts an elegant banquet hall, 'The Empress Hall,' equipped with modern facilities like high-speed Wi-Fi and audio-visual equipment. Additionally, the lush 'Eden Lawns' provide a splendid outdoor venue for various events. Both spaces can accommodate more than 100 guests each and come with a range of catering offerings, making them ideal for celebrations, dinners, cocktail soirees, and corporate events.

Air France-KLM and Sabre sign NDC distribution agreement



Air France-KLM and Sabre Corporation, a software and technology provider that powers the global travel industry, announced completion of a strategic multi-year NDC distribution agreement as well as the renewal of their existing EDIFACT agreement. Collaboration between the partners has been extended with New Distribution Capability (NDC) enriched offers, which will be marketed and sold alongside EDIFACT content, through Sabre's global distribution system (GDS). The Air France-KLM NDC offers will be rolled out to Sabre-connected travel agencies in a phased approach next year.

The agreement demonstrates Sabre's continued commitment to driving value and serving the diverse interests of the various stakeholders participating in the global travel marketplace. It helps agencies to efficiently shop and compare increasingly sophisticated offers, while their travelers will benefit from an enhanced experience with more choice and transparency. It also enables Air France and KLM to distribute their customized NDC offers, thanks to continuous pricing and tailor-made bundles, to the global network of Sabre-connected agencies.



"Choosing the right travel technology partners with which to collaborate is essential. Hence, we are pleased to extend our cooperation with Sabre. This will support our travel agent partners to provide the Air France-KLM enriched and attractive NDC offer, giving the travelers a wider range of options to enhance their

journey, from start to finish," said Angus Clarke, Chief Commercial Officer, Air France-KLM.

"Our partnership with Air France-KLM reflects our commitment to modern travel retailing and a big step forward for our presence in Europe," added Roshan Mendis, Chief Commercial Officer, Sabre Travel Solutions. "From

the beginning, Sabre has been committed to go beyond NDC to help build a new travel ecosystem that is more efficient and personalized, meeting the dynamic needs of today's travelers. We are delighted to bring our customers EDIFACT and enhanced NDC content as we transition to a new world of Offers and Orders."

Discovery Princess

to Call Sydney Home for the 2025/26 Australian Summer Season



Princess Cruises announced that its current flagship, the Discovery Princess, will call Sydney home for the summer season of 2025/26.

The 145,000-ton ship, which measures 330 metres in length and 19 decks high, completed in 2022, will be the largest ship Princess Cruises has ever homeported in Australia in its 50-year history of sailing down under. The 3,660-guest ship will debut in Sydney in October 2025, offering a variety of voyages from Australia.

Princess Cruises' President John Padgett, in Sydney officially welcomed Royal Princess on her debut summer season in Australia, shared the news

in an early reveal of the line's 2025/26 program.

"It has been nearly half a century since Princess Cruises introduced the Pacific Princess ship to Sydney's shores." "To commemorate this milestone, we are delighted to unveil the Discovery Princess's future deployment today, further solidifying our belief in the Australian market," said Padgett. "We are confident that our international and Australian guests will be excited about the spectacular experience aboard Discovery Princess as she sails from

Sydney in late 2025."

Discovery Princess, the third vessel designed from the ground up with Princess MedallionClass and the sixth Royal-Class ship to be built, shares all of the magnificent flair and luxury of her sister ships, Enchanted Princess, Sky Princess, Majestic Princess, Regal Princess, and Royal Princess.

Among the many spectacular features are 270-degree sweeping views from the largest balcony in the Princess fleet with the Sky Suites, unwind in the ultimate comfort at

the Sanctuary, and world-class dining options, including new to Australia 360: An Extraordinary Experience is now available to all Discovery Princess guests. The award-winning 360: An Extraordinary Experience takes guests on a sensory journey through world-class cuisine with a blend of master story-telling and visual entertainment and is only available on Discovery Princess and Enchanted Princess.

Furthermore, Discovery Princess enhances the guest experience by providing many amenities, including 14 restaurants, 10 bars, additional lounges, and entertainment options. The Catch by Rudi, Crown Grill, Sabatini's Trattoria, and Gigi's Pizzeria are among its dining options. The SeaWalk, a breathtaking glass-bottomed covered promenade that stretches approximately 9 metres beyond the ship's edge, provides guests with incredible vistas while suspended 39 metres above the sea.

Private poolside cabanas, four main pools, including two top deck pools, Retreat Pool and Wakeview Pool, ten hot tub spas, the Enclave and Lotus Spa with Princess' largest-ever thermal suite, and an exquisite Chef's Table Lumiere dining option, where a curtain of light magically surrounds guests, are also unique amenities. Meanwhile, over 82% of the ship's staterooms include a private balcony.

Apart from the excellent facilities on Discovery Princess, guests also enjoy the Princess unique MedallionClass experience, which provides a degree of service customisation previously only possible on small ships but is now provided on a big ship, amenity-rich platform.

The connected guest experience maximises guests' time by providing a variety of onboard conveniences such as contactless payment for anything on board, expedited embarkation, keyless stateroom entry, muster anywhere, friends

and family locator, and ordering food, drinks, retail items, or requesting service from their smartphone or tablet or a crew member and having their order delivered directly to them even if they move.

Padgett added that the cruise line is thrilled to announce the addition of Discovery Princess to its Australian fleet for the summer season 2025/26. The ship will sail in local waters with the Crown Princess and Grand Princess as part of the summer programme, which will be unveiled in full next month, including the longest World Cruise ever.

"When she sails from Australia in the summer of 2025/26, Discovery Princess will continue to set new standards for premium cruising." She's an extraordinary ship with an array of excellent amenities for our guests to enjoy, from superb dining to world-class entertainment and facilities."

The programme will be fully revealed on 15 November 2023 and will go on sale on 29 November 2023.

Shangri-La Eros New Delhi appoints Asim Mamgain as Resident Manager

Shangri-La Eros New Delhi has announced the appointment of Asim Mamgain as its new Resident Manager. Mamgain has an impressive background in the hospitality industry, particularly in the realm of food and beverage operations.

With a career spanning over two decades, Mamgain has consistently proven himself as a seasoned hospitality executive with a remarkable track record in leadership and innovation at world-class luxury establishments. Notably, his achievements include the successful implementation of business process improvement initiatives that streamlined requisition procedures and improved operational efficiency, all while maintaining a steadfast



commitment to delivering top-notch quality.

Throughout his career, he has been dedicated to nurturing talent development and fostering cross-departmental collaboration. His unwavering commitment to customer satisfaction and loyalty has consistently translated into business growth for the establishments he's worked with.

Prior to joining Shangri-La Eros New Delhi, Asim held pivotal roles at renowned hospitality establishments, including the JW Marriott, The Westin Gurgaon, Taj Hotels Resorts and Palaces, Hotel Intercontinental Marine Drive Mumbai, and the Grand Hyatt in New Delhi. Mamgain holds an MBA from IMT Ghaziabad and a Diploma in Hotel Management from the Indian Institute of Hotel Management in Lucknow

Inaugural Malaysia Truly Asia Tourism Golf Challenge 2023 promotes golf tourism

Tourism Malaysia and KOPPEMA host a prestigious golf tournament to attract golf enthusiasts and strengthen the country's travel industry collaborations.

Tourism Malaysia, in collaboration with Koperasi Kakitangan Kementerian Pelancongan dan Kebudayaan Malaysia Berhad (KOPPEMA), hosted the inaugural Malaysia Truly Asia Tourism Golf Challenge 2023 held in Saujana Golf & Country Club.

The tournament attracted 200 players comprising corporate sectors and government agencies, including local and international golfers from

China, Singapore, Thailand, and Japan, competing for a purse of RM500,000.

With more than 40 esteemed organizations joining as strategic partners and sponsors, the primary objectives of the tournament are to strengthen collaborations within Malaysia's travel industry and attract local and international golf enthusiasts to promote Malaysia as the ultimate holiday destination.

Organized in conjunction with the

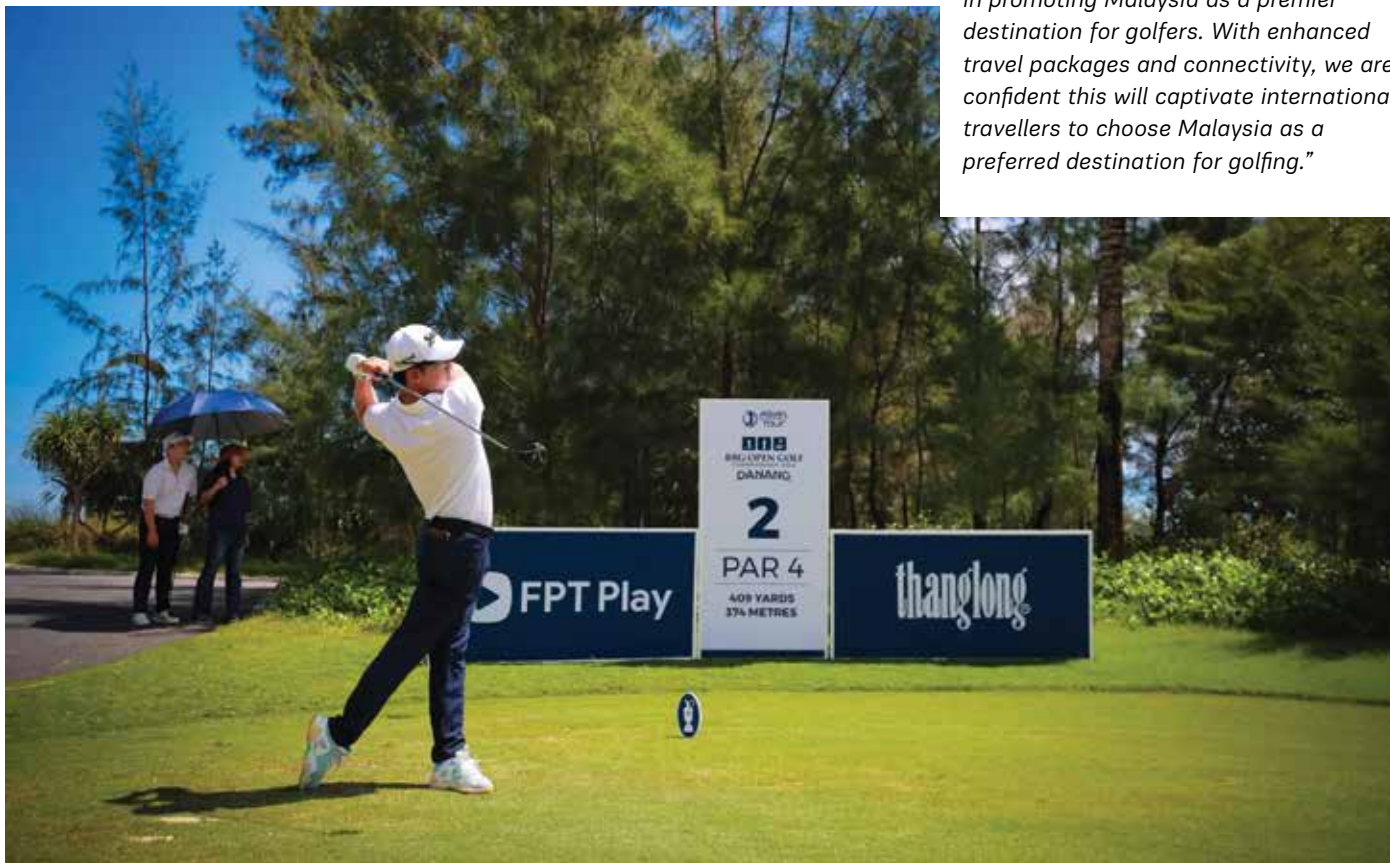
50th anniversary of Tourism Malaysia, this exciting tournament featured three distinct sessions, each designed to offer a comprehensive view of what makes Malaysia special, which included System 36 Handicap of the Day format and a shotgun start.

The prize-giving ceremony was graced by **Dato' Dr Ammar Abd Ghapar**, **Director General Tourism Malaysia**.

Dato' Dr Ammar said: "The tournament is a golden opportunity for us to promote our country as a premier golfing destination as we believe the propulsive thrust that tourism generates from the organisation of major sporting events."

"Golfers will never have to travel far to find a memorable new golf experience with over 200 golf courses across the nation. Our diverse culture, rich history, scenic golf courses, astounding choice of food, beautiful natural attractions, and home to a melting pot of Asian races will surely make for a lasting memory to bring home."

"We are excited to collaborate with KOPPEMA to showcase Malaysia's beautiful courses and attractions in promoting Malaysia as a premier destination for golfers. With enhanced travel packages and connectivity, we are confident this will captivate international travellers to choose Malaysia as a preferred destination for golfing."



HKTB Chairman Dr Pang Yiu-Kai endorses new policies boosting Hong Kong tourism



Dr Pang Yiu-Kai, Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, applauds the newly announced Policy Address, outlining plans for thematic tours, smart tourism, and MICE development, aimed at shaping Hong Kong's post-pandemic tourism landscape.

Dr Pang Yiu-Kai, Chairman of the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) welcomed the policies supporting the tourism industry in the



newly announced Policy Address.

Dr Pang said, *"The Policy Address suggests the formulation of the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong's Tourism Industry 2.0 with a series of consultations with the trade to update the measures and make enhancements in various aspects to complement the latest visitors' travel behavior after the pandemic and the long-term development of the industry. As a member*

of the tourism industry, the HKTB will continue to do our best in our capacity, providing full support and adequate advice."

Dr Pang added that the Policy Address encourages the travel trade to develop more thematic tours, enhance cruise tourism development, promote smart tourism and establish Sha Tau Kok Cultural Tourism Zone, which will help further enrich Hong Kong's tourism assets and reinforce the city's status as a world-class tourism destination. Moreover, the Policy Address also notes that the government will expand the convention and exhibition facilities and open applications for **"Multiple-entry Visa"** to the Mainland for Foreigners Working in Companies Registered in Hong Kong. The HKTB gathers that such measures are beneficial for promoting business travel and the development of MICE (meeting, incentive, convention and exhibition) tourism.

The HKTB will also fully support the measures in the Policy Address and boost tourism development. For instance, we fully supported the staging of the 2023 Seatrade Cruise Asia Pacific, a significant industry event of the global cruise sector, in Hong Kong. The annual gala "Hong Kong Wine & Dine Festival" will also be staged in the Central Harbourfront for four days starting from tomorrow (26 October). The HKTB will continue to demonstrate Hong Kong's appeal to the worldwide audience through a series of mega-events.

Luxury Tribe India 2024

Unveiling India's Luxury Travel Market Dynamics



Set to return at New Delhi's prestigious The Imperial, Luxury Tribe India 2024 promises an elite confluence of global luxury travel brands and India's industry frontrunners.

The luxury travel showcase, Luxury Tribe India, is set to return for its second spectacular event at the prestigious The Imperial, New Delhi, from 11-14 March 2024. With its unwavering commitment to fostering connections in the luxury travel niche, Luxury Tribe India signifies an unparalleled convergence of global luxury brands, elite buyers from India, and industry forerunners.

The importance of India's growing prominence as a market for luxury hospitality brands to promote themselves to, cannot be understated. According to Knight Frank's 2023 Wealth Report, the number of UHNWs in India is set to rise by 58% in the next five years, while its HNW population will increase by 107%. All of this equates to a class of Indian traveller with a huge disposable income, and the means and propensity to travel.

"I am delighted to announce the second in-person edition of Luxury Tribe India at The Imperial, New Delhi," expresses **Sheetal Rastogi, the visionary founder of Luxury Tribe.**

"The Imperial is more than just a hotel; it stands as a living legacy, having played host to India's most pivotal moments and grand events. Hosting Luxury Tribe India within its storied walls is emblematic of the event's grandeur and exclusivity."

Building on the momentum of its successful virtual shows and landmark inaugural in-person event in March 2023, Luxury Tribe is set to host the elite gathering of international luxury hospitality brands under one roof, providing an unrivalled gateway to India's leading travel designers, influencers, bespoke luxury travel agencies, and tastemakers from over

20 cities across India.

At Luxury Tribe India, exhibiting brands will spotlight a diverse range of destinations to this selective Indian audience. The show roster includes luxury hotels, high-end destination management companies, exclusive jet and yacht charter operators, expedition cruise lines, tourism boards, local attractions, and independent boutique hotels.

Highlighting what sets Luxury Tribe India apart, Sheetal asserts, “Our distinction lies in our deep-rooted understanding of the Indian luxury market. Through our ILLUME conference, we offer in-depth insights and market trends facilitating seamless market entry.”

Delving into the affluent Indian consumer profile and their inclinations, Sheetal shares, “Our event caters to a segment known for its formidable spending capability. The sophisticated Indian consumer is drawn to unique boutique accommodations and seeks truly authentic experiences. Their passion for gastronomy and cultural immersion is evident. When we look at their travel preferences, the classics of the UK, the US and Europe — Italy, France, Switzerland, Spain — consistently dominate the charts. Locales like Bali, Vietnam, the Maldives, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka are emerging as top picks for shorter trips. Moreover, we’re noting a growing interest in destinations like Kenya, Tanzania, Japan, Finland, and Australia.”

Sheetal wraps up with a forward-looking statement, “India stands out as a multifaceted, burgeoning hub for luxury travel. At Luxury Tribe, we’re sculpting a passionate community where international brands can delve deep into the nuances of the affluent Indian traveller’s preferences. We aim to pave the way for luxury hospitality and travel brands to forge lasting relationships and secure repeat bookings.”

Louis Sailer, Senior Executive Vice President of The Imperial, shares his thoughts on hosting this truly exclusive event: “We would like to express our gratitude to Luxury Tribe India for partnering with our iconic hotel



in Delhi. The Imperial, being the capital’s landmark hotel, is known for hosting the city’s most important events since time immemorial. The staging of this luxury travel trade rendezvous, which brings together hand-picked luxury travel buyers at this exclusive address, will be quintessentially unique for the attendees while being aligned with the hotel’s repertoire. It’s an honour for us to welcome the crème de la crème of prominent luxury travel representatives in this exquisite travel show.”

Sailer further adds “India is vast, diverse and one of the top emerging markets in luxury travel with a demand for bespoke experiences tailored to individual needs. A show like Luxury Tribe will be an extraordinary opportunity to showcase exclusive luxury travel trends with inspiring sessions and will be a platform for international suppliers to present an unparalleled gamut of offerings to high-net-worth clients. The energy certainly seems progressive and promising for the Indian travel sector.”

Yeishan Goel, Group CEO for THRS – Travel & Hospitality Representation Services, believes Luxury Tribe is pivotal for facilitating strategic discussions. “As the Indian luxury travel market continues to garner

sustained global interest, platforms such as Luxury Tribe are instrumental in catalysing this growth trajectory. As the show brings forth more diversity in the buyers and exhibitors base ahead, it will become a pivotal space for strategic discussions every year. I am looking forward to welcoming the expanded consideration of diverse luxury tourism brands in the 2024 edit.”

Federico Caligaris Papa, from the Tuscan estate Il Borro Relais & Chateaux, says that his property is joining Luxury Tribe India to elevate its positioning in the market with increased demand. “Over the last two years, our brand has been expanding throughout India, and Luxury Tribe India is the lever to achieve further notoriety and visibility among luxury operators,” he says.

Yulia Gordeeva from The Mall Luxury Outlets reveals that she is most excited about returning and connecting with travel agents at the second edition of Luxury Tribe. “India is a huge country, and Luxury Tribe helps us to create awareness about our offer among Indian customers – it is one of the best shows I have ever attended. The organisation, and especially the level of the buyers, are superb.”

PATA: International arrivals across the Asia Pacific grew in 2022 and strengthened significantly during the early periods of 2023

Explore the Asia Pacific's Travel and Hospitality Revival in 2022-2023. Discover the latest insights from the **'Annual Tourism Monitor 2023'** report by PATA. Learn about the resurgence of international travel and the pivotal role of mainland China in fueling visitor growth. Stay prepared for the upcoming wave of change in the industry.

After a series of annual contractions in international visitor arrivals (IVAs) in recent years, calendar year 2022 saw 44 destinations across the Asia Pacific region end with a collective annual gain of almost 124.2 million foreign arrivals, to return a collective inbound count of nearly 265.5 million, according to a report released today by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA). The **'Annual Tourism Monitor 2023'** report, released recently, shows that IVA

numbers in 2022 were the strongest since 2019 and, as such, herald the much-awaited resurgence of the international travel and tourism sector for the Asia Pacific.

There were wide differences at the three Asia Pacific destination region levels. The Pacific had the strongest growth rate in 2022 year-over-year, whereas Asia received both the largest number of arrivals and the greatest annual increase in absolute numbers from 2021.

Even so, the number of IVAs into and across Asia in 2022 reached only 27% of 2019 levels. The Americas had the strongest recovery in that regard, with 69%, followed by the Pacific, with over 57%.

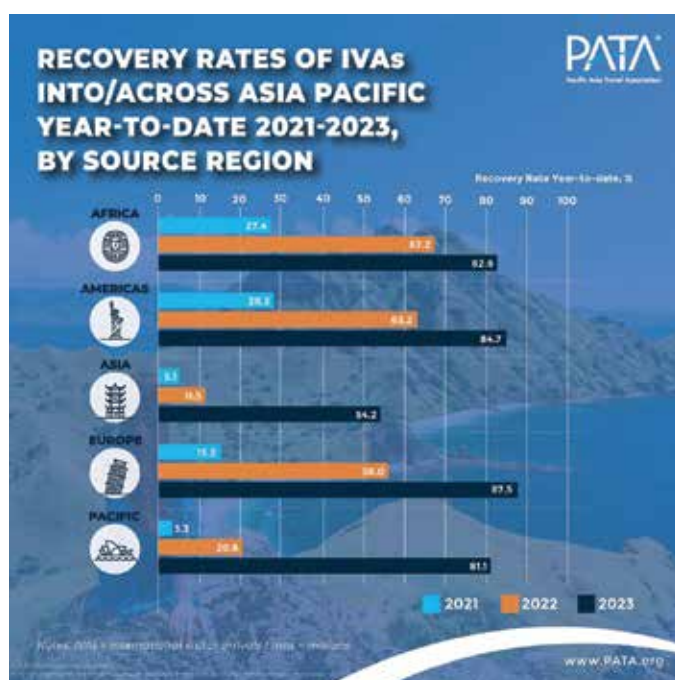
These are generally very positive results, but even more heartening are those for the early periods of 2019



to 2023, where the strengthening of international arrival numbers which began in the first periods of 2022, continued in early 2023.

Every year-to-date figure is consistent for each of the 38 destinations with early period arrivals data and their respective months covered between 2019 and 2023. This data therefore gives a solid indication of how arrival numbers into and across Asia Pacific are trending over time.

The IVA growth that began in



early 2022 has gained momentum in early 2023, with the addition of more than 93.3 million foreign arrivals, a volume increase of more than double compared to the previous period. This has boosted the recovery rate for early 2023 to more than 68% of the early 2019 IVA levels.

Although Asia may have been slower in returning to growth up until 2022, the early 2023 figures show a very powerful return to dominance in the Asia Pacific mix of arrivals. Asia had the strongest performance of the three destination regions against the metrics of IVAs year-to-date, period-to-period growth rate and period-to-period increase in absolute numbers of IVAs. Even the recovery rate for Asia, while still the lowest at 62.4%, is a 35 percentage point improvement over calendar year 2022 and is only six percentage points below the Asia Pacific average.

Of particular interest is the mix of source markets fuelling these recovery rates. Most source regions have achieved recovery rates above 80% in early 2023. The exception is Asia, which has improved its arrival numbers for the Asia Pacific to just a little over 52%.

That raises a critical issue because in 2019, Asia was the dominant

supplier of international visitor arrivals to the Asia Pacific, accounting for nearly 63% of total arrivals in the region. Therefore, any decline in those source markets poses an obvious challenge for the Asia Pacific as a whole.

Although Asia's recovery rate as a source region in early 2023 is relatively low, at just over 54%, it marks a dramatic improvement of almost 43 percentage points compared to early 2022. This demonstrates significant growth momentum, and the results for the full calendar year 2023 are eagerly awaited.

Among all the source markets in the Asia Pacific region, mainland China is understandably the most significant in terms of volume. In 2019, it accounted for almost 30% of the IVAs from Asia and 19% of the total aggregate visitor numbers to Asia Pacific destinations.

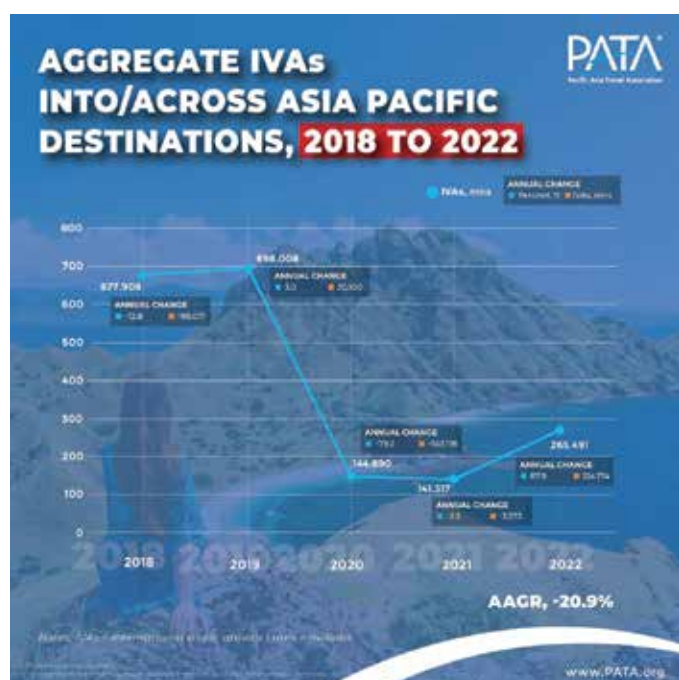
In early 2023, visitor numbers from mainland China saw a dramatic increase, surpassing 23 million. This marks the strongest early-period performance since early 2019. However, it still represents only 34% of the early 2019 level of arrivals. With the recent relaxation of restrictions and the reintroduction of group travel, a significant improvement can be expected by the

end of calendar year 2023.

PATA Chairman Peter Semone, noted that *"the overall growth in international visitor arrivals within the Asia Pacific is primarily fueled by Asia, serving as both a source and destination region, with mainland China playing a dominant role in visitor flows."*

Mr. Semone added, *"Visitor growth from China has been relatively subdued until now. However, with the relaxation of most pandemic-imposed restrictions, we can now expect rapid change. Experience shows us that when change occurs in China, it is both rapid and impactful. The question, however, is whether the destinations in Asia Pacific are prepared, as change involves not only an increase in visitor numbers but also evolving expectations and demands from these visitors."*

Peter concluded that, *"PATA forecasts of visitor demand indicate that, under the medium scenario, international visitor numbers by the end of 2023 are predicted to exceed 516 million, approaching 76% of the pre-pandemic levels of 2019. This is expected to further increase to 107% in 2024 and 116% in 2025. The wave is coming, and we must prepare ourselves to ensure that we have a better, stronger and more resilient tourism and travel industry."*



A Honeymoon to Remember at **The Residence Mauritius**



The first post-wedding getaway is special for every couple. The Residence Mauritius, a scenic beachfront retreat, offers newlyweds a memorable vacation, blending luxury, privacy, and authentic island experiences. With visa-on-arrival for Indian citizens, it's the ideal escape for couples after the wedding frenzy.

Celebrating Life's Many Memories

Couples can stroll along the pristine white sand of the mile-long beach, bordered by the azure Indian Ocean, where The Residence Mauritius is nestled. They can reflect on their wedding day and envision a bright future while relaxing in its spacious

gardens, savouring tropical fruits. The little nooks around the property provide perfect settings for shared moments of togetherness.

Every Moment Enriched

With a design influenced by European elements, the resort has spacious oceanfront or garden-view

suites with earthy interiors and opulent amenities – precisely what couples desire following extravagant wedding celebrations. From the moment they arrive, the resort staff attends to every requirement. A series of leisurely meals amidst picturesque vistas and the soothing sounds of the sea waves await the couple, ensuring a serene experience.

Sumptuous Culinary Experiences

While the chefs work their culinary magic, the resort team arranges intimate dinners beneath the twinkling stars or by the beach. Housed in a planter's house, The Plantation restaurant also provides a picturesque oceanfront ambience and serves authentic island dishes along with innovative recipes. Sample this: succulent seafood like palm heart with lobster, complemented by mango salsa, and delectable crème brûlée infused with litchi. The menu also offers a

delightful fusion of Indian, Chinese, European, and Creole flavours, prepared using local ingredients and enhanced with indigenous exotic spices. Light lunches and homemade ice creams can be enjoyed at The Verandah by the pool.

Couples can take private cooking sessions where chefs share the secrets of Creole cuisine, indigenous spices, and flavours. The experience concludes with a delightful multi-course lunch featuring the famed Creole Cari Poule (chicken curry).

Time to Unplug and Recalibrate

Inspired by the Zen philosophy, the Sanctuary Spa offers tailor-made programmes for couples, allowing them to select from a range of signature treatments and Ayurvedic therapies. Highly recommended is the Grand Bleu outdoor massage, thoughtfully crafted and conducted in a cabana overlooking the Indian Ocean amidst gentle seaside

breezes and the melodic chirping of birds.

A Day Amid Mauritian Sights, Sounds and Spices

The couples can embark on a journey to uncover diverse landscapes and warm-hearted locals. Nature enthusiasts can dive into the vibrant underwater world through snorkelling and scuba diving or set sail for dolphin watching. A scenic drive along the southern coast, a hiking expedition, a leisurely game of golf, or cultural explorations, honeymooners can create memories of a lifetime. The concierge can arrange a full-day excursion that includes Sancho Island, Chamarel, Riviere des Galets Beach, Black River Gorges, Gris Gris, and Vanilla Nature Park on the itinerary. A day wandering through bustling morning markets, selecting the freshest ingredients for your meal can conclude with a traditional Mauritian meal at a local host.



*Exploring the
historic heart
of
Istanbul*
The Sultanahmet District Istanbul





The **Sultanahmet district** is the heart of **historic Old Istanbul**, what 19th-century travelers used to call “**Stamboul**.” Not many cities have such a concentration of historic sights, shopping precincts, hotels, and eateries within easy walking distance. Ideally suited to exploration by foot, the neighbourhood is a showcase of the city’s glorious past, crammed as it is with mosques, palaces, churches, and houses dating from the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods. As a UNESCO World Heritage area, Sultanahmet is Turkey’s and Istanbul’s most popular tourist attraction. The cool thing about all attractions from its Constantinople era is that they are within walking distance of each other.

Istanbul, a city that straddles two continents, is a mesmerizing blend of history, culture, and modernity. Among its many districts, Sultanahmet stands out as the historic heart of the city. This article takes you on a journey through Sultanahmet, uncovering its hidden gems, iconic landmarks, and the vibrant culture that makes it a must-visit destination for any traveler.

Planning your visit to Sultanahmet

Before diving into the wonders of Sultanahmet, effectively planning a trip to Istanbul is essential. Thankfully, companies like Exoticca make this a breeze.

The best time to visit is during spring or autumn, as the weather is pleasant and the tourist crowds are manageable. Sultanahmet is easily accessible via public transport, including the tram and metro services. While there, consider staying in one of the many boutique hotels that offer a blend of Ottoman charm and modern amenities. As you plan your trip to Istanbul, ensure you allocate enough time to fully experience Sultanahmet’s rich history and vibrant culture.

The majestic Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia, a masterpiece of Byzantine architecture, is a must-visit. Originally built as a cathedral, it has served as a mosque and now stands as a museum. Its massive dome, intricate mosaics, and historical significance make it a symbol of Istanbul’s diverse religious history. Walking through its expansive nave, you’re not just





exploring a building but traversing centuries of history.

The Blue Mosque: A marvel Of Ottoman architecture

Just a stone's throw from Hagia Sophia is the Blue Mosque, known for its striking blue Iznik tiles. Its six minarets and cascading domes create a stunning silhouette against the Istanbul skyline. When visiting, be mindful of prayer times and dress modestly as it remains an active place of worship.

The Grand Bazaar: A shopper's paradise

The Grand Bazaar, one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets, is a labyrinth of over 4,000 shops. From intricate carpets and hand-painted ceramics to spices and jewelry, it's a treasure trove for shoppers. Haggling is part of the experience, so don't shy away from negotiating prices.

The Topkapi Palace: A Journey into Ottoman Splendor

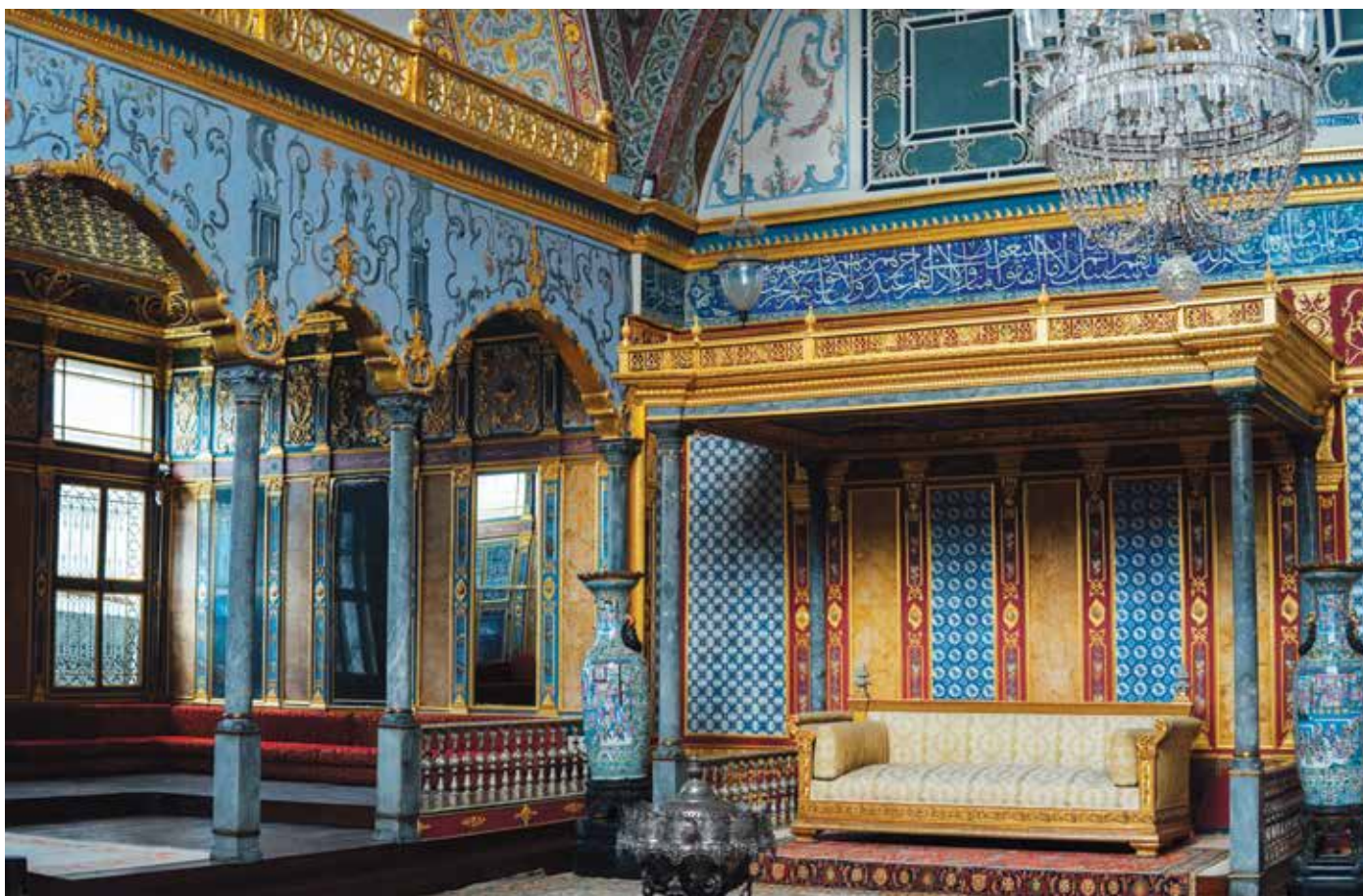
Topkapi Palace, the primary residence of the Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years, offers a glimpse into their lavish lifestyle. The palace complex includes stunning courtyards, the Imperial Council Chamber, and the Harem. The treasury section, displaying an array of jewels and artifacts, is particularly breathtaking.

Enjoying the local cuisine

No visit to Sultanahmet is complete without indulging in the local cuisine. From savory kebabs and mezes to sweet baklava and Turkish delight, the district is a food lover's paradise. Be sure to visit a traditional Turkish café to enjoy a cup of strong Turkish coffee or tea.

Beautiful Gulhane Park in Sultanahmet

Located close to Topkapi Palace, this green landscape and gardens evoke romantic strolls or simply a break from city life. Visit during April to see thousands of colourful tulips planted for the annual Istanbul tulip festival. For a drink or food, visit the Turkish Kandil restaurant, although many



locals prefer to drink tea there and eat elsewhere. Although few guidebooks mention this Sultanahmet area, it is perfect for relaxing, taking a tour or just unwinding from urban vibes.

Basilica Cistern Underground Building

A small entrance door leads down a flight of 52 stone stairs to the beautiful Basilica cistern site that used to supply the Topkapi palace with water and was also featured in the James Bond film, "From Russia with love." The cistern stands out because of the famous heads of Medusa that sit at the back of the cistern. Otherwise, visiting the Basilica cistern of Istanbul is a travel pleasure to feed the fish and wander through the mysterious columns.

The Historic Hippodrome of Istanbul

Sitting in Sultanahmet Square, this historic attraction does not show its former glory as the hub of sports and



social gatherings during the Byzantine Empire. The hippodrome was also most famously the scene of the Nika riots in 532, in which roughly 30,000 people died, and sits next to the Blue Mosque, easily seen from the side entrance.

Istanbul Archaeology Museums

These three museums within the same building have an awe-inspiring collection of ancient artifacts from various civilizations throughout history. Istanbul Archaeology Museums are some of the best museums globally, and history lovers easily spend hours exploring the exhibitions. The great news is that they are a short walk from Topkapi Palace.

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts

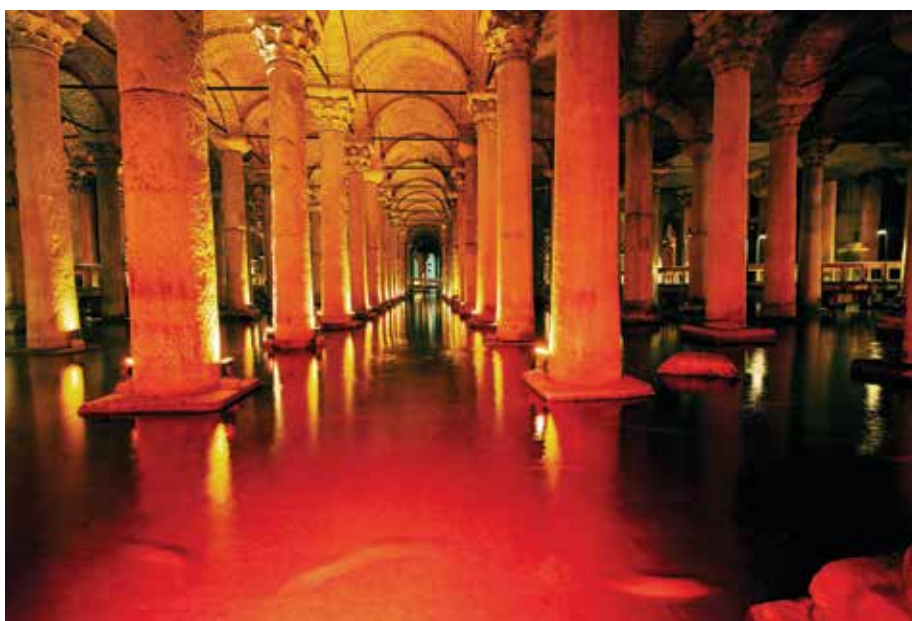
Opposite the hippodrome, this small museum is within an old house that once belonged to an Ottoman vizier. Various artifacts on show include old carpets from the days when Turks were nomadic. This small but impressive museum stands opposite the Hippodrome.

Hamam in Sultanahmet

Mimar Sinan, the Ottoman Empire's most famous architect, built the Hagia Sophia Hürrem Sultan Bath in Istanbul in the 16th century at the request of Hürrem Sultan (Roxelana), the wife of Suleiman the Magnificent. Sitting between the Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque, the Turkish bath closed in 1910 and was later used to house convicts. In 2007 though, the hamam was restored and reopened to the public as an iconic bathhouse of Istanbul.

In conclusion

Sultanahmet is more than just a district in Istanbul; it's a gateway into Turkey's rich history and vibrant culture. Each street, building, and market in Sultanahmet tells a story, waiting to be discovered and cherished. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a culture vulture, or just a curious traveler, Sultanahmet promises an unforgettable experience that will leave you longing to return.



Atul Bhalla takes over as Vice President Operations - North & West, ITC Hotels, India



As a key member of ITC Hotels' leadership think tank, Bhalla has nearly completed three decades donning various senior management roles with ITC Hotels

In the recent re-organization development, Atul Bhalla has been elevated to the office of Vice President of Operations for ITC Hotels North & West region. He would play a critical role in driving operational excellence for the fast-paced portfolio of existing lifestyle and luxury mix brands for the division; and continue to lend strategic support in the successful completion of upcoming projects; with an astute focus on asset-right growth strategy for the brand.

As a key member of ITC Hotels' leadership think tank, Bhalla has nearly completed three decades of donning various senior management roles with ITC Hotels. In the recent leadership announcement, he will wear the new title of Vice President Operations- North & West, ITC Hotels India; from New Delhi. He is responsible for creating and executing a strategic road map working with the Divisional Chief Executive, General Managers, and functional heads to drive stakeholders' value

(for owned, managed, and franchise properties); and continue to gain on brand equity.

Bhalla's journey with the group started in 1998 at ITC Kakatiya, Hyderabad and since then, he has held various Senior Management positions across various ITC Hotels in Bangalore, Delhi, and Mumbai. But it's not all work and no play as his downtime is spent on golf courses improving a handicap; or chasing the adventure off-road with his stick shifts.

Some of the noteworthy achievements of his tenure include the successful launch of ITC Royal Bengal, the 14th luxury hotel of ITC in India, and the metamorphosing the largest complex operation with ITC Sonar. Atul also played an integral part in the pre-opening of ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, two of ITC Hotels' biggest and grandest properties for the group. Latest in the expertise includes successful inception to launch of the newest lifestyle brands Storii & Mementos from the group's stables.

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Fortune Resort

Benaulim Goa appoints

Chaitra Dwivedi as new General Manager

Dwivedi has received the “Outstanding Contributions to the Hospitality Industry” award in 2021, the “Goa’s Best General Manager” award in 2022 and the “Women Achiever Hospitality Award” from IHC London and IIHM Goa in 2023

Fortune Hotels, a proud member of the prestigious ITC hotel group, appointed Chaitra Dwivedi as the new General Manager of Fortune Resort Benaulim, Goa. With a stellar career spanning over two decades in the hospitality industry and a legacy of awards, Dwivedi is set to lead this luxury resort to new heights of excellence.

Chaitra Dwivedi brings a wealth of expertise and experience to her new role, boasting an impressive 16-year journey in the hotel industry and an extensive 20-year career in the hospitality sector. Her impressive career includes pre-opening experiences with four properties and valuable tenures with renowned brands such as Lemon Tree Hotel, The Grand Imperial, Pride, Golden Tulip, Clarks, and Jaypee. Her versatility extends across luxury, budget, mid-scale, heritage, corporate, and resort properties.

Dwivedi’s journey in the world of hospitality commenced in the sales and marketing department, showcasing her ability to build and nurture crucial relationships. Over the years, she has transitioned successfully through various roles, including front office and revenue management, ultimately culminating in her oversight of overall hotel operations.



In recognition of her outstanding contributions to the hospitality industry, Chaitra Dwivedi has received numerous accolades, including the “Outstanding Contributions to the Hospitality Industry” award in 2021 and the “Goa’s Best General Manager”

award in 2022 by the Best of India Biz Awards. Furthermore, she was honoured with the “Women Achiever Hospitality Award” from IHC London and IIHM Goa in 2023, highlighting her remarkable dedication and achievements in the field.

Virgin Atlantic

announces Shivani Singh Deo as the Country Manager for India

Deo brings eight years of experience with Virgin Atlantic, where she previously served as the Marketing and Communications Manager

Virgin Atlantic announced the appointment of Shivani Singh Deo as the country manager for India. Deo, who has a rich history with the airline, will take on her new role effective January 1, 2024.

Deo brings eight years of experience with Virgin Atlantic, where she previously served as the Marketing and Communications Manager. Her career has spanned various international market sectors, including retail, media, and lifestyle. Her outstanding contributions to the airline have significantly bolstered Virgin Atlantic's brand presence in India.

Under Deo's leadership, Virgin Atlantic successfully executed high-profile initiatives such as the launch of the Mumbai route,

the second daily Delhi service, and a strategic codeshare partnership with IndiGo. These efforts not only expanded the airline's reach but also generated substantial PR and media coverage.

Deo's promotion to Country Manager reflects her exceptional performance and underscores Virgin Atlantic's commitment to nurturing and rewarding talent from within the organization. In her new role, Deo will spearhead the airline's commercial strategy

in India during an exciting period of growth. "I am excited to be taking on this new role at Virgin Atlantic and leading the dynamic team in India," said Deo. "We will continue to champion the needs of the customer and tap into the incredible growth opportunities in the Indian market."

Virgin Atlantic is set to expand its India network further in 2024 with the launch of a daily London Heathrow to Bengaluru service, scheduled for March 31, 2024. This expansion

reflects the airline's commitment to serving the Indian market and catering to the needs of Indian travelers.

In the interim, Alex McEwan, the current country manager for the region, will continue to manage Virgin Atlantic's India operations until the end of 2023. He will provide a smooth transition for Deo as she assumes her new role. Following his tenure as Country Manager, Alex will embark on a new journey as Senior Manager, of Asia Pacific, in the new year.



Sarita Untawale

appointed Cluster Marketing Manager at JW Marriott Pune & Courtyard Pune Hinjewadi



Untawale will lead the charge in steering marketing and communication efforts for JW Marriott Pune and Courtyard Pune Hinjewadi

years of experience in the hospitality and food and beverage industries, having worked in various capacities in India and Dubai. She is an alumnus of the Swiss Business School in Dubai and holds a diploma in digital marketing from the University of Dubai, making her an expert in digital marketing.

Prior to joining JW Marriott Pune and Courtyard Pune Hinjewadi, Untawale's career included stints with prominent hospitality brands such as IHG, Accor (The Canvas Dubai, MGallery Hotel Collection), Ramada By Wyndham, and Ishraq Hospitality, among others. Notably, she had the privilege of being part of the launch of a groundbreaking new restaurant at the Ramada Hotel in Dubai, which was recognized as an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records.

JW Marriott Pune and Courtyard Pune Hinjewadi have announced the appointment of Sarita Untawale as the Cluster Marketing and Communications Manager. The appointment comes as the hotels aim to further their marketing and communication strategies in

the city.

Taking on her new role, Untawale will lead the charge in steering marketing and communication efforts for JW Marriott Pune and Courtyard Pune Hinjewadi, in collaboration with her dedicated team. Her primary focus will be on preserving and elevating the legacy of

these esteemed city hotels. She is expected to play a pivotal role in the execution of the annual marketing plan, driving key objectives, ongoing initiatives, and relevant marketing activities to achieve departmental goals and maximize revenue.

Untawale comes to this position with nearly eleven

Atmosphere Core's grand India premiere



Renowned for its exceptional services in the Maldives, global hospitality company 'Atmosphere Hospitality Private Limited' extended its presence in India by introducing its prestigious brand portfolio—**THE OZEN COLLECTION, Atmosphere Hotels & Resorts, and COLOURS OF OBLU**—to the subcontinent, marking the beginning of an extraordinary venture. The launch promises to herald a paradigm shift in the Indian hospitality landscape through its unique offerings and unforgettable experiences.

Drawing from its acclaimed resort experiences in the Maldives, the company is committed to delivering exceptional guest journeys at its upcoming distinctive properties in India. In the Maldives, this hospitality giant has successfully introduced three brands and eight resorts within a decade. Atmosphere Core has unveiled an ambitious plan for India, aiming

to establish 25 remarkable hotels and resorts by 2025. The company has taken a significant step forward by announcing eight outstanding properties under two brands: Ozen Mansion Kolkata, Ozen Privado Goa, Ozen Nandi Hills Bangalore, Sadar Manzil Heritage by Atmosphere Bhopal, Stillwood Retreat: A Signature Atmosphere Coorg, Varsā Elements Of Nature by Atmosphere Kannur, Atmosphere Bhubaneswar, and Atmosphere Lake View Kolkata.

The grand unveiling took place in New Delhi, where Atmosphere Hospitality Pvt. Ltd. Chairman Dipti Ranjan Patnaik shared his dream of establishing Atmosphere as a prominent hotel brand in India with a focus on delivering 'Joy of Giving' to guests. "India's rich cultural tapestry and diverse landscapes offer immense potential for extraordinary hospitality. With our commitment to sustainability and the 'Joy of Giving', we aim to create

a hospitality legacy in India," said Patnaik.

"Atmosphere Core has always stood for redefining hospitality experiences, and today, we have brought this legacy to India. Our commitment to organic growth, sustainable development, and distinctive brand experiences has transformed the Maldives, and we are thrilled to bring this transformation to India," shared **Salil Panigrahi, Managing Director, Atmosphere Core.**

Highlighting the company's expansion plans in South Asia and echoing the ethos of giving joyfully from the heart and soul as well as refining and elevating the individual experiences crafted for guests under Panigrahi's leadership, **Souvagya Mohapatra, Managing Director of Atmosphere Core—India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan,** said that Atmosphere Core has forged new standards for hospitality in the Maldives, and this legacy is set to continue in India. "Each of the properties will have unique designs and facilities, exclusive amenities, and a service style. And to ensure the same, we are hiring the right talent set with a strong focus on learning and development," he said.

While Ozen Mansion Kolkata in the uber-luxury segment will have 235 keys and its expected date of opening is Q2 2024, Sadar Manzil in the boutique luxury segment will only have 22 suites and see the light of day in the same period as Stillwood Retreat, which will have 42 villas with private decks and outdoor hot tubs. Atmosphere Lake View is expected to open its doors by Q4 of 2026 and will have 100 villas, whereas Atmosphere Bhubaneswar, with 170 keys, will be operational by Q2 of 2026. With 51 villas, Ozen Privado Goa will open in Q4 2024, and Varsa Elements, with 70 keys, is likely to get operational by Q4 2025. Lastly, Ozen Nandi Hills in Bangalore will have 70 villas and also see the light of day by Q4 of 2025.

Qatar Airways Partners with United for Wildlife

Qatar Airways becomes the Official Airline Partner for The Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife programme



Qatar Airways announced its commitment as the Official Airline Partner of United for Wildlife (UfW), an initiative working to tackle the illegal wildlife trade and protect endangered species, founded by Prince William and The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales in 2014. This prestigious partnership underscores Qatar Airways' unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation. Qatar Airways and United for Wildlife will pursue campaigns around their shared mission to fight the illegal wildlife trade and advance the work of the United for Wildlife Regional Chapters.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer, said: *"The illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade threatens our global biodiversity, and poses a risk to health and safety, particularly in marginalised communities. We are taking measures to disrupt this illicit trade in order to conserve biodiversity and safeguard our delicate ecosystems."*

As the Official Airline Partner, we believe that this ground-breaking partnership with United for Wildlife demonstrates our commitment to the Buckingham Palace Declaration and represents another important step in our commitment to protecting wildlife. United for Wildlife has brought together various businesses in a unique collaborative approach that shares the same mission as ours. We remain committed to collaborating with our stakeholders to raise awareness of the impact on the illegal animal trade, working tirelessly to deliver Qatar Airways Cargo – WeQare Rewild the Planet initiative to protect our planet's most vulnerable species."

Amanda Berry OBE, CEO of The Royal Foundation of The Prince and Princess of Wales, said: *"As a founding member of our Transport Taskforce in 2016, Qatar Airways has a longstanding partnership with United for Wildlife and has consistently demonstrated commitment to tackling the illegal wildlife trade around the*

world. They were the first airline to complete the IATA IEnvA IWT certification and have implemented several initiatives to help prevent wildlife trafficking through their network.

"Qatar Airways' enhanced level of support in their capacity as the Official Airline Partner is another example of their dedication to eradicating this harmful trade and preserving biodiversity for future generations."

Qatar Airways Cargo launched its WeQare chapter: Rewild the Planet corporate sustainability initiative in 2020. As a part of the initiative, Qatar Airways Cargo encourages the preservation of ecological balance by providing free transportation services to organisations involved in returning wild animals to their natural habitat. One of the notable milestones of this initiative was the successful transportation of seven lions from Ukraine in 2021. This operation demonstrated Qatar Airways dedication to supporting the efforts of NGOs and conservation organisations in their vital work to rewild the planet.

Qatar Airways is the official airline to be certified to the industry standard for the prevention of illegal wildlife trafficking in aviation. The certification confirms that an airline has procedures, staff training and the reporting protocols that help with better detection of illegal wildlife products. Qatar Airways Group maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards the transportation of illegal wildlife and products, and has implemented employees to undertake the illegal Wildlife Trade Awareness training. This training serves the dual purpose of enhancing knowledge and awareness about trafficking and equipping employees with skills to identify and respond effectively should they encounter trafficking activities.

The airline's participation in the United for Wildlife Global Summit in Singapore aligns with its sustainability initiatives and responsibilities and encourages other organisations and individuals to join in their commitment to preserving the planet's precious biodiversity.

A True Icon: Hotelier Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi Dies, Age 94



A statement by Oberoi's son Vikram Oberoi and nephew Arjun Oberoi announced the "peaceful passing" of Oberoi on 14 November, describing him as "a luminary in the hospitality industry, [whose] legacy transcends borders, leaving an indelible mark on the global landscape."

Oberoi was the son of the late Rai Bahadur Mohan Singh Oberoi, who founded The Oberoi Group. Oberoi held numerous positions within the company during his tenure, including chairman emeritus of EIH Limited, the flagship company of The Oberoi Group.

He was credited with placing Oberoi Hotels and Resorts on the international luxury travellers map, after leading the development of the brand and opening several luxury hotels in key cities.

During his career, Oberoi received numerous awards and accolades, including the Padma Vibhushan,

India's second-highest civilian honour, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the country in tourism and hospitality. He was also honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at ILTM, recognising his leadership and vision.

The statement from Vikram and Arjun said:

"A visionary leader, Mr. P.R.S. Oberoi's unwavering dedication and pursuit of excellence elevated The Oberoi Group to international acclaim. His influence extended beyond corporate success, touching the lives of countless hoteliers through mentorship and a commitment to unparalleled standards."

"Under his guidance, The Oberoi Group set new benchmarks for luxury and quality, achieving unprecedented success globally. Mr. Oberoi's impact, however, reached far beyond business achievements, as he fostered a corporate culture rooted in compassion, integrity, and genuine care for every member of our organization. [...] As we mourn the loss of a true icon, we also aim to celebrate the extraordinary legacy Mr. P.R.S. Oberoi leaves behind."

Accor's novel campaign: "India All-Ways on My Mind"

This initiative is an extension of the regional activation "Asia: All Ways on My Mind".

Accor Live Limitless, commonly known as ALL, has unveiled its latest brand campaign titled **"India All-Ways on My Mind,"** celebrating the diverse and vibrant culture of India.

This new campaign encourages travellers to embark on an extraordinary journey through the enchanting beauty of India, highlighting the nation's rich cuisine, cultural heritage, and architectural marvels, as well as offering unforgettable experiences at over 50 hotels. This initiative is an extension of the regional activation *"Asia: All Ways on My Mind,"* emphasising Accor's dedication to providing



exceptional hospitality experiences across Asia.

**Puneet Dhawan,
Senior Vice
President of
Operations,**

India and South Asia at Accor, expressed, *"India is a country that is full of life and love. From its flavorful cuisine and beautiful destinations to its warm-hearted people and exceptional hospitality, there is an endless array of discoveries to be made, and through this campaign, we want India to be on your mind. We hope to welcome you to*

our incredible hotels in the country and help you make memories that last a lifetime."

Accor boasts an impressive portfolio of exceptional hotels in India, featuring renowned brands like Pullman, Grand Mercure, Novotel, Mercure, and Ibis. The brand assures that every experience, whether it's an adventure or a spiritual journey, offers comfort and enchantment. Guests are encouraged to explore the wonders of India and experience the renowned hospitality offered by Accor's properties, where modern comforts and thoughtful amenities cater to their every need. To enhance the travel experience, members of ALL—Accor Live Limitless—hotels are offering several lifestyle loyalty programs.

5 stunning travel destinations you need to visit before they disappear

Travel is one of the best ways to gain new experiences. This holds especially true when you wander off the beaten path to explore the unexplored. But if you haven't yet felt that gnawing sense of wanderlust push you to get out and go, the fact that some of the most beautiful places in the world may disappear soon will get you to make travel plans right now.

1. Venice, Italy

Venice, the famous Italian "floating city", may sink completely by the year 2100. In the last century, the city has already sunk 15cm, accelerated by groundwater extraction and rising sea levels.

As it is, the rising sea levels have been managed by building sea walls separating the corner of the country from the Adriatic Sea.

At its peak in 2019, Venice was welcoming 4.8 million international tourists, flocking to absorb the city before it's too late.

The city is hailed as an engineering wonder—it spans 117 small islands, connected by its world-famous canals and magnificent bridges.

Here, you can enjoy the peaceful sights of one of the oldest tourism and cultural hubs on the planet in a romantic ride down Venice's Grand Canal in an authentic gondola. The city can also be explored on foot, specific areas like its pedestrian-only historic centre.

It is also known for its beautiful architecture and intricately designed cathedrals like St. Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace.

Venice is also the capital of the art of glass-blowing. Head to Murano Island to catch a demonstration and maybe even buy a couple pieces of unique Murano glass pieces for yourself.

2. Amsterdam, Netherlands

The low-lying, coastal country of the Netherlands is one of the countries most threatened by climate change. While the country has developed an elaborate strategy for flood prevention, rapidly rising sea levels may swallow the western

area of the country—which includes Amsterdam—by 2030.

A visit to the Netherlands is never complete without a tour of Amsterdam, the country's capital, well-known for its picturesque canals, unique architecture, and exciting nightlife. Spend a day indulging in the city's rich arts and culture by going museum-hopping in the most museum-dense city in the world. One of Amsterdam's most famous museums includes the Van Gogh Museum, which holds the largest collection of some of the Dutch artist's paintings, letters, and drawings.

Or drift along the canals on a relaxing boat ride to admire the colourful and quirky houses that line the street. Try to catch a glimpse of the famous Anne Frank House, a biographical museum dedicated to the famous Holocaust diarist.

3. The Dead Sea, Jordan and Israel

The Dead Sea, a salt lake bordering Jordan and Israel, is drying up because of overexploitation through mineral mining and climate change. Its water level is dropping about 1.2 metres every year and in the last half a century, has lost two-thirds of its surface area.

The Dead Sea is one of Earth's most fascinating natural phenomena. Its glistening turquoise waters hold 10 times more salt content than ordinary seawater, and as a result, cannot sustain any life in its waters.

It's the world's most natural spa. Both tourists and locals flock to it for its healing properties—it's said that its mud can treat skin conditions and that its salt can treat illnesses like osteoporosis and arthritis.

Experience zero gravity on Earth on the surface of the Dead Sea, thanks to its powerful natural buoyancy. It's the perfect place to let the calming water wash all stress and fatigue out of your body as you float weightlessly.

4. Maldives

The Maldives is an independent country consisting of low-lying islands, located in the north-central part of the

Indian Ocean. Rising sea levels threaten to swallow the country and experts predict that 80% of Maldives may be uninhabitable by 2050. The loss of the Maldives means we say goodbye to its white, sandy beaches, clear turquoise waters, and diverse marine life.

Grab your sunglasses and swimwear and dive into the waters of Banana Reef to catch a precious glimpse of the local colourful corals and fish before you lose your chance. The tropical paradise is the perfect destination for a summer getaway. For active travellers, make sure not to miss out on the myriad of water sports activities such as jet-skiing, scuba diving, snorkelling, and canoeing.

But if what you're looking for is a laid-back holiday, Maldives is also home to numerous resorts where you can sit back on sun-kissed beaches and unwind with spas and massages.

5. Ilulissat Icefjord, Greenland

The Ilulissat Icefjord is a long, narrow inlet with cliffs on its sides, created by the Sermeq Kujalleq glacier, found along the west coast of Greenland. As the planet warms, the fjord may become a phenomenon of the past.

The Ilulissat Icefjord is a spectacle because of the glacier's speed. The Sermeq Kujalleq glacier travels almost 40 meters in a day and creates massive icebergs, sometimes the size of a skyscraper, visible from the town of Ilulissat.

See the towering heights of ice up close by booking a kayak or boat tour, or you can even hike and explore the fjord yourself along a wooden boardwalk. For a glimpse of the magnificent fjord in all its glory, take to the air in a scenic flight of the area.

Ilulissat lies on the shoreline of Disko Bay, a whale-watching hub. Complete the full Greenland experience by opting for a day tour to catch sight of minke, fin, and humpback whales.

There is also an occasional sighting of blue whales and killer whales. These tours are usually only available during the summer months, so plan your trip accordingly!

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