

# TravelScapes

Our Robust  
**DNA**  
ensures safe travel.

**ASEGŌ**  
Global  
Assistance  
& Travel  
Insurance



#### EMERGENCY GLOBAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

- ▶ Doctor-on call
- ▶ Emergency evacuation & more...



#### TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

- ▶ Domestic roadside assistance
- ▶ Family protection & more...



#### CUSTOMISABLE TRAVEL INSURANCE

- ▶ Covid-19 & quarantine cover
- ▶ Trip cancellation protection
- ▶ Non-emergency OPD consultation
- ▶ Cruise cover & more...



#### DEDICATED ASSISTANCE TEAM WORLD-WIDE

- ▶ 24X7 claims and emergency assistance support



Multiple Insurance  
Companies



Fast Track  
Claims Support



Customisable  
Plans

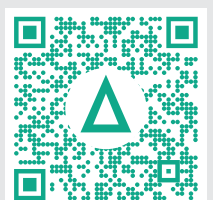


Cutting-edge  
Technology Platform

**For partnership and more details, contact: +91 22 6787 2037**

Insurance is a subject matter of solicitation. Content expressed in this poster does not accept any liability of any sort unless confirmed by an authorized representative of Asego. All Insurance policies are sold under the Corporate Agency of Asego Insurance LLP. bearing IRDAI registration no. CA0776, with insurance underwritten by IRDAI authorised Insurer.

24x7 helpline: +91 22 6787 2037 | [customercare@asego.in](mailto:customercare@asego.in) | [claims@asego.in](mailto:claims@asego.in)





MEDHUFUSHI  
island resort



Hotels & Resorts

**AAA HOTELS & RESORTS**

Mobile : +94 764 401 144 | Direct : +94 114 323 724

E-mail : [dmarketing@aaaresorts.com](mailto:dmarketing@aaaresorts.com) | Web : [www.aaaresorts.com](http://www.aaaresorts.com)



www.travelscapeonline.com

# TravelScapes

SEPTEMBER 2022, PAGES 64, ₹100

VOL. 10, ISSUE. 09

The Increasingly Mounting  
**MICE INDUSTRY**

**MALAYSIA**

A Truly Asian land...





**The Standard**

For sales and events inquiries, please contact:  
[mv.sales@standardhotels.com](mailto:mv.sales@standardhotels.com)



01st Floor, Ma. Nailoanuge  
 Jamaaludhdheen Hìgun, Male, Maldives  
 Email id: [bhushan@one-above.com](mailto:bhushan@one-above.com)

Huruvalhi Island Raa Atoll, Republic of Maldives | [standardhotels.com](http://standardhotels.com) | +960 658 5555



# PUBLISHER'S NOTE



**Varun Malhotra**  
Publisher & CEO

## Dear Readers,

"Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." – Mark Twain

Travellers are now up and about doing all the everythings with destinations opening up, airlines in the skies spreading their wings and vessels sailing on the expansive seas. The travel industry is working together in full force, making it accessible for the globetrotters to venture upon promoting the agenda of responsible travelling. TravelScapes takes you on the journey to the truly Asian land of Malaysia and inside India to the marvellous state of Madhya Pradesh.

Furthermore, there has been an upswing in the MICE market domestically and internationally. The MICE industry has proven to be a multidimensional business, where tourism, trade, tour operators, exhibition and convention centres and other tourism facilitators operate comprehensively to generate revenue. Associations like TAAI and OTOAI have organised successful conventions and events promoting regional tourism and outbound tourism. Tourism boards, cruise lines, and airlines have supported organising MICE events, as is evident through their cooperation in strengthening and enhancing the infrastructure. Additionally, providing the best possible provisions to the travel industry members to ease the post-pandemic economic transition.

To make more and more outbound destinations popular, One Above DMC hosted a FAM Trip having VietJet Air as its Co-host. Several tour operators came forward to make it a success by actively becoming a part of the FAM tour to Vietnam, adding it to the list of places worth having a peek at. German Tourism board promoted outbound tourism by listing down a hundred popular tourist attractions that make Germany a destination worth visiting by organising a Press Conference showcasing it as a country with rich history, culture and natural beauty in abundance. Keeping India as one of its favoured markets, Visit Finland organised a workshop in India centring on B2B interactions between trade partners and suppliers from across the globe.

Speaking to the tourism industry delegates, we have collated their insights on the uptick in the tourism market. In addition, aggregating a plethora of MICE destinations, we bring to you a few countries and regions which are putting their best foot forward to becoming an eminent source of economic revenue. The past month displayed visibility of the MICE industry in abundance, and we are certainly hopeful that 2022 will prove to be a game-changer for tourism and the MICE industry.

Share with us your valuable feedback and suggestions at [varun@versatilemedia.in](mailto:varun@versatilemedia.in)

Happy Reading!

Varun Malhotra

## TravelScapes

### VERSATILE MEDIA

#### PUBLISHER & CEO

Varun Malhotra  
[varun@versatilemedia.in](mailto:varun@versatilemedia.in)

#### DIRECTOR

Pranav Khullar  
[pranav@versatilemedia.in](mailto:pranav@versatilemedia.in)

### EDITORIAL

#### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Aanchal Sachdeva  
[aanchal@versatilemedia.in](mailto:aanchal@versatilemedia.in)

#### DIGITAL MARKETING HEAD

Kritika  
[kritika@versatilemedia.in](mailto:kritika@versatilemedia.in)

### ADVERTISING SALES

#### AGM SALES & MARKETING (MUMBAI)

Aarti Rajkheva

#### CONSULTANT

Anindya Malhotra, Jitin Mann

### DESIGN & PRODUCTION

#### ART DIRECTOR

Rakesh Kumar

#### ADMIN HEAD

Premlata

#### EXECUTIVE-CIRCULATION

Jagdish

#### ACCOUNTS

Chandan Kumar Jha, Swati Jauhari, Sameer

**Editorial & Marketing Office:** Versatile Media: 207, Satya Mansion, Commercial Complex, Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008 Contact: 011 - 45530380/83 [varun@versatilemedia.in](mailto:varun@versatilemedia.in). All information in TravelScapes is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. Opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract or interviews are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced in whole or in part(s) without prior permission. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Indian Advertisement Code. The publisher will not be liable for any loss caused by any delay in publication, error or failure of advertisement to appear. Owned and published by: Varun Malhotra, Editor & Publisher, EB-63, Maya Enclave, Hari Nagar, New Delhi - 110064 and printed at in-house facility.

# CONTENTS



SEPTEMBER 2022    VOL. 10, ISSUE. 09

Page: 12

## THE INCREASINGLY MOUNTING MICE INDUSTRY

MICE industry, prominently being a service industry, helps provide access to trade, transportation, finance and travel. It has a significant impact on the economy by creating and increasing job opportunities adding to the exposure of the region hosting the event. A plethora of places is developing rapidly, making the list of the most preferred destinations for their rich culture, warm hospitality, and exotic business hotels offering the best infrastructure and technological advancement. They have been organising exhibitions, events and roadshows to escalate their presence in the outbound market. The significantly active MICE industry is witnessing many countries and cities accommodating internationally renowned events to promote themselves as hot MICE destinations



### OPINION FEATURE OUTBOUND

#### 24 THE UPSWING IN SUSTAINABLE SOJOURNS

The pandemic has changed our ways of travel and sustainable travelling is becoming a driving force. Even though the hangover of the pandemic-stricken years still prevails, the industry's resilience to travel and promote the newer, sustainable aspects of travel is certainly unbeatable

### REGULAR UPDATES

8.....	Inbound
24.....	Trade
40.....	Hospitality
56.....	Outbound
60.....	Aviation
62.....	On the Move





## EVENT INSIGHT

### 20 COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATIONS AT CORDELIA CRUISES

Cordelia Cruises hosted a terrific travel trade experience for two nights from August 29 to August 31, witnessing 200 of Cordelia's top and most influential travel partners



## SPOTLIGHT

### 22 NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL HOLIDAYS AT SEA

Ardent travellers are breaking the shackles and shifting to the cruise lines to explore the world. With Norwegian Cruise Line, travellers set sail on new ventures



## IN CONVERSATION

### 33 JAZEERA EXPANDING ITS NETWORK

JAZEERA AIRWAYS POSITIONING AS LOW-COST CARRIER STEERING TO PROVIDE SEAMLESS TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Established in 2004, Jazeera Airways is renowned as an easily accessible carrier. The airline is a distinguished service provider in the Middle East, India and Europe, focusing on providing seamless travel experiences to its travellers



## GLOBETROTTER

### 36 MALAYSIA

Malaysia is truly a crossroads for many Asian civilizations therefore the popular tourism tagline "Malaysia, Truly Asia" continues to ring true. Home to vibrant big cities, delectable cuisine, stunning sandy beaches, charming islands, and national parks with abundant wildlife, the country has it all

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

Thank you all  
for making us  
the preferred choice.



57 Hotels, 13 States, 2 Countries, Millions Of Guests, Countless Joyful Memories...

## • LOCATION •

Ahmedabad | Amreli | Amritsar | Ankleshwar | Belagavi | Bengaluru | Bharuch | Bhavnagar | Chotila | Dahej | Dirang (AP) | Dwarka | Gandhidham | Gir Forest | Guwahati | Jaipur | Jammu | Jammu-Birpur | Jamnagar-Apple Gate | Jamnagar-Moti Khavdi | Jodhpur | Karjat | Lucknow | Morbi | Nathdwara | Panchgani | Porbandar | Rajkot-Kalawad Road | Rajula | Saputara | Shapar-Rajkot | Somnath | Surat | Udaipur | Vadodara | Zirakpur  
Internationally At: Birgunj-Nepal | Kathmandu-Nepal | Nepalgunj-Nepal

Opening Soon:- Ambaji | Basar | Dehradun | Gangtok | Gangtok-Orchid New | Gangtok-Sangrila | Jaipur | Kathmandu- Anukriti | Kathmandu-Boudha | Muduba-Shimogha | Sumerpur | Nepal-Pokhara | Shikrapur-Pune | Rajkot-Garden Inn | Rajkot-Mahadev Chokdi | Vrindavan | Vyara

  
**Lords**  
HOTELS & RESORTS

57 Hotels, 13 States, 2 Countries

Toll Free Reservation : 18008 912 912 | follow us on: f in t w



## Rediscover India's Legacy at the first-of-its-kind Red Fort Centre

**R**ed Fort's Monument Mitra - Dalmia Bharat Ltd. - takes pride in announcing the opening of a world-class visitor centre at the Red Fort. Showcasing the rich heritage of the Mughal-era fort, the multistoried centre has been designed and curated in close collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and is now open to public. Visitors can now discover Incredible India's glorious history through mesmerizing key attractions including immersive experiences and unique exhibitions at this transcendent centre. Puneet Dalmia, Managing Director, Dalmia Bharat Limited, said, "We welcome our fellow citizens and guests from across

the world to visit and experience Delhi's old-world charm through the best-in-class Red Fort Centre. It aims to provide a first-hand understanding of how the transformation and history of Delhi and the majestic monument's grand opulence have left a mark." Red Fort Centre is divided into two floors. The ground floor features attractions such as a unique, 10-minute 360° immersive viewing experience with wall, ceiling and floor projections and an augmented reality photography room for visitors. Tourists can also visit the Souvenir Shop run by Luv Indiya Concepts and the Snack Point run by Café Delhi Heights with a specially curated menu.



## IntrCity SmartBus achieves profitability & poised to achieve \$100 Mn ARR

**I**ntrCity SmartBus, the tech-enabled fleet of inter-city buses, grew 1.8x in the first half of 2022, with revenues nearing \$45 million annualised run rate and business achieving operational profitability.

The brand has established itself as a clear category leader in terms of size, coverage, revenue, earnings and all of this with healthy margins. The company recorded over 2 lakhs monthly seat capacity and 80% increase in revenue. The founders' theory that intercity bus passengers will pay more for a consistent service quality that is safe, reliable, and punctual has been validated by the company's success and ongoing expansion.

Within the next 12 months, the brand's next goal is to reach \$100 million in annualised revenue and maintain EBITDA level profitability. Over the next five years, the company plans to convert 5000+ regular buses to 'Connected SmartBus Network' by leveraging Mobility Platform's technological capabilities.

## Kerala prepares for grand Onam celebrations after two low-key years

**A**fter two years of keeping Onam low-key owing to the pandemic, Kerala Tourism is geared up to bring alive the vibrant festivities to the streets and homes of Kerala with carnivals, arts and artforms.

Inviting tourists and those who would like to witness and partake in the celebrations, Sri Rupesh Kumar, Responsible Tourism Mission Coordinator, Government of Kerala says, "The Responsible Tourism Mission is providing an opportunity for tourists to be a part of Onam celebrations in villages too. Onam procession will be resumed as a grand celebration in Thiruvananthapuram and the champions boat league was announced by Hon'ble Tourism Minister P.A. Muhammad Riaz."

The collection of 16 uniquely different holiday resorts and 4 curated wellness retreats, draw inspiration from the knowledge and practice of the local community. From backwaters and beaches to mountains and historical towns; from traditional Ayurveda and Yoga to forest trekking, CGH Earth has a variety of experiences to offer.

They have Spice Village, Wayanad Wild, Coconut Lagoon, Spice Coast Cruises, Marari Beach Resort, Brunton Boatyard, Chittoor Kottaram, Eighth Bastion, Beach Gate Bungalows, David Hall art Gallery and cafe, Casino Hotel, Quiet by the River in Kerala, Visalam and Mantra Koodam in Tamil Nadu, Maison Perumal and Palais de Mahe in Pondicherry, Tilar Siro in the Andamans.





# ABU DHABI



## Abu Dhabi with Yas Island Adventure

04 Nights / 05 Days

FROM **US\$ 519\*** PP

### Inclusions:

- ❖ 02 Nights Stay in Abu Dhabi City Hotel & 02 Nights in Yas Island Hotel with Breakfast
- ❖ Return Airport Transfers from Abu Dhabi International Airport on Private Vehicle
- ❖ Inter City Hotel Transfers on Private Vehicle
- ❖ Desert Safari Abu Dhabi with BBQ Dinner on SIC
- ❖ CLYMB Abu Dhabi on Yas Island (2 Flights) Ticket only
- ❖ Polaris Drift Sprint (Drive Experience) or YAS KARTZONE on Yas Marina Circuit Ticket only
- ❖ Yas Island 2 Days 2 Parks (Select from Ferrari World or Warner Bros. World or Yas Water World)

**Remarks:** Rates are based on Per Person in DBL/TWN sharing basis & are Commissionable to Agents. Rates and Offers are subject to change without prior notice & are subject to availability. Tourism Dirham Fees & Room Municipality fee are not included. Valid till 31st October 2022. Applicable for India Market. \*T&C Apply.



### Ottila International Pvt. Ltd.

**Network:** Mumbai (Registered Office & Corporate Headquarters): 022 6720 5000 | Ahmedabad: +91 93761 20982 | Bengaluru: +91 80 4165 6324 | Chennai: +91 44 4555 8582 | Coimbatore: +91 99527 17750 | Hyderabad: +91 40 4020 0301 | Indore: +91 731 4911 374 | Kochi: +91 75938 63903 | Kolkata: +91 98301 19561 | New Delhi: +91 11 4151 5885 | Pune: +91 20 4002 6960 | Nasik: +91 253 231 0044

For Enquiries & Bookings, please contact any of our offices.





## Initiative for presenting rural life to tourists in Assam's Golaghat district

Villagers in Assam's Golaghat district have joined hands to present a taste of their life to visitors, looking to explore rural tourism. The locals, led by their MLA Mrinal Saikia, have come up with a novel concept of a day-long journey for tourists through the villages by enjoying a bicycle ride along the alleys, angling at the local pond, and eating in the lap of nature. The initiative, named 'Destination Khumati', will be pilot-tested on August 14. "We want to showcase village life without any filters," Saikia told.

"The NGOs are helping with registration for car and cycle rallies. The arrangements are being made

mainly by the villagers themselves."

The BJP leader said online registration has been good so far and they are expecting a good footfall.

Partha Pratim Das, a consultant with Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC), said the Agro and Rural Tourism (ART) initiative is being launched by the ATDC to bring together entrepreneurs in this sector.

Three rounds of discussions have been held with 18-20 stakeholders so far and suggestions are being taken from them to meet their requirements. "Assam has a lot of potential for rural tourism and we want to tap it in a manner advantageous to all stakeholders," the consultant added.



## Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approves setting up of tourism board

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on Tuesday gave its approval for setting up an eco-tourism development board to fully utilise the tourism potential of the state. The board will be headed by the state chief minister with ministers of 10 departments as its members, Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh told newsmen here.

The need for the board was being felt for long and a decision to set it up was taken at the meeting presided over by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The minister said the board will help the state attract domestic and international tourists. There are vast historical, cultural, religious heritage and natural resources in the state needing proper publicity, which will be done through this board, he said.

Ten departments included in the board are tourism,



forest, AYUSH, rural development and irrigation, urban development, agriculture, horticulture, sport and transport. The chief secretary of the state will be its member secretary and experts from prominent institutions will also be included in this. The tourism minister said the state has a forest cover of 16, 582 sq km with beautiful landscapes, flowing rivers, waterfalls, availability of endangered birds and animals. The state has 36 wildlife sanctuaries, 12 bird sanctuaries, nine state eco-tourism circuits which can be fully exploited, he said.

## Maharashtra Tourism department invites tourists across India, to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi

Ganesh Chaturthi being one of the most important festivals celebrated across Maharashtra, the tourism department has taken an initiative to make it all the more special for tourists. With a purpose of making tourists familiar with Ganeshotsav, its significance and give them the best possible guided tour of the most popular Ganesha pandals in Mumbai and Pune, the Directorate of Tourism (DoT) is organizing guided tours in association with registered tourists' guides, commencing on August 31, 2022 and culminating on Ananta Chaturthi i.e. September 9, 2022.

In Mumbai, tourists/devotees will be taken to Fort cha Raja in Fort, Keshavji Naik chawl Ganapati in Girgaon, Lalbaughcha Raja in Lalbaug, Mumbaicha Raja of Ganesh Galli in Lalbaug and GSB Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav Samiti, Wadala. Additionally, they will also get an opportunity to attend 'Ganesh idol making workshop' in Parel, where the group will be

able to participate in idol making and interact with the professional idol maker.

Similarly, the group in Pune will be taken to the following Navsache pandals/temples: Kasba Ganpati in Kasba Peth, Kesari Wada Ganpati of Kesari Wada in Narayan Peth, Tambdi Jogeshwari Ganpati in Budhwar Peth, Tulsi Baug Ganpati in Budhwar Peth, Guruji Talim Ganpati in Budhwar Peth, Shrimant Dagdusheth Halwai Ganpati in Budhwar Peth and Shrimant Bhausaheb Rangari Ganapati in Budhwar Peth.

A separate Familiarization tour will also be organized for national level tour operators, influencers and media to make them familiar with the high spirited festival celebration in, both, Mumbai and Pune. All the participants will be based in other states. The itinerary will include the same popular pandals as followed for guided tour, along with the visit to the visarjan ceremony held at Girgaon Chowpaty. The FAM will be planned for 2 nights and 3

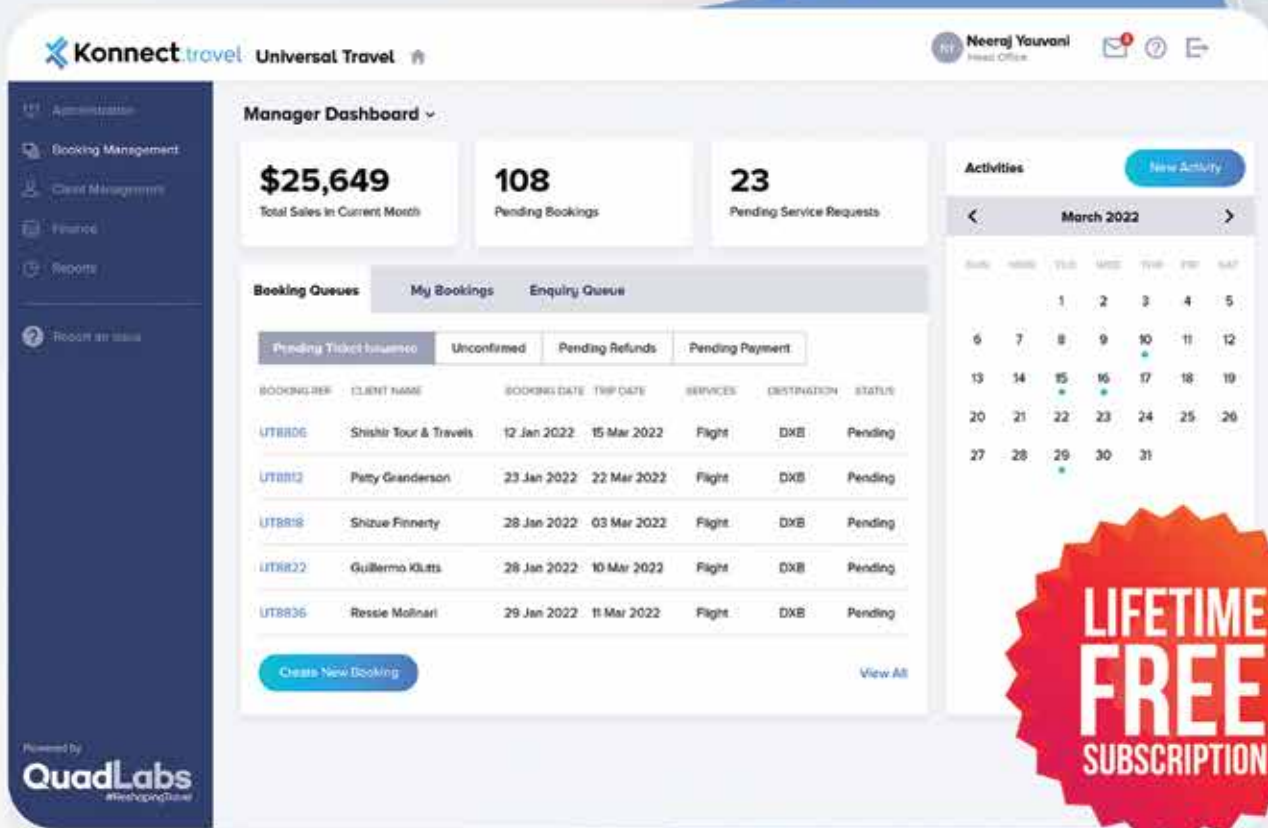


days. Through this, Maharashtra Tourism department wants to give a fillip to such Ganesha darshan tours that the domestic tour operators can plan in future.

Valsa Nair Singh, Principal Secretary, Tourism department, Maharashtra Tourism expressed, "This is a great opportunity for tourists and devotees who want to pay a visit to these famous Ganesha pandals and, experience the positive vibes & energy of cultural celebration which this particular festival brings along."



# HAVE AN INTEGRATED PLATFORM TO COLLABORATE BETWEEN YOUR TEAMS



The screenshot displays the 'Manager Dashboard' for 'Universal Travel'. It features a sidebar with navigation links: Administration, Booking Management, Client Management, Finance, Reports, and a 'Report an Issue' button. The main dashboard includes three summary cards: '\$25,649 Total Sales In Current Month', '108 Pending Bookings', and '23 Pending Service Requests'. Below these are tabs for 'Booking Queues' (My Bookings, Enquiry Queue) and a table of pending bookings. The table has columns for Booking Ref, Client Name, Booking Date, Trip Date, Services, Destination, and Status. A 'Create New Booking' button is at the bottom left, and a 'View All' link is at the bottom right. On the right side, there's an 'Activities' section with a 'New Activity' button and a calendar for March 2022. A red starburst badge in the bottom right corner of the dashboard area reads 'LIFETIME FREE SUBSCRIPTION'. The footer of the dashboard mentions 'Powered by QuadLabs #ReshapingTravel'.

Booking Ref	Client Name	Booking Date	Trip Date	Services	Destination	Status
UTBR06	Shishir Tour & Travels	12 Jan 2022	15 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UTBR12	Patty Granderson	23 Jan 2022	22 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UTBR18	Shizue Finnerty	28 Jan 2022	03 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UTBR22	Guillermo Klutts	28 Jan 2022	10 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UTBR36	Ressie Molinari	29 Jan 2022	11 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending

## REGISTER WITH KONNECT FOR

- ✓ Integrated Platform(CRM, Bookings & Finance)
- ✓ Centralized Customer Profiles
- ✓ Tracking Leads, Quotes & Bookings
- ✓ Automated invoice
- ✓ Posting Automated BSP & GST Reconciliation





# THE INCREASINGLY MOUNTING

# MICE INDUSTRY

**MICE industry, prominently being a service industry, helps provide access to trade, transportation, finance and travel. It has a significant impact on the economy by creating and increasing job opportunities adding to the exposure of the region hosting the event. A plethora of places is developing rapidly, making the list of the most preferred destinations for their rich culture, warm hospitality, and exotic business hotels offering the best infrastructure and technological advancement. They have been organising exhibitions, events and roadshows to escalate their presence in the outbound market. The significantly active MICE industry is witnessing many countries and cities accommodating internationally renowned events to promote themselves as hot MICE destinations Listed below are some of the countries and cities across the globe becoming hot favourite MICE destinations**

By Aanchal Sachdeva

## Dubai

One of the emirates, Dubai is undoubtedly the leader in the MICE industry. Ranked the world's top MICE destination in 2021 by a statistics report, it has a stimulating presence in the Middle East region. Glancing at the frequency of flights increasing with time to the

Middle East, the gulf has become more accessible for travellers to reach. World-class attractions such as Burj Khalifa, IMG World of Adventure, Dubai Butterfly Garden, The Dubai Mall and Dubai Opera have positioned Dubai as a cosmopolitan destination.



### Convention Centres and MICE Venues

It is the caterer of an array of global travel and business events hosted at its unique and vibrant convention centres, such as Dubai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Dubai World Trade Centre, Ritz Carlton Dubai International Financial Centre and Dubai Airport Expo Centre. All the centres are equipped with state-of-the-art conveniences and features assimilating international standards, making them ideal for conducting conferences, exhibitions and other events.



# Singapore

Being at the innovative forefront of business and leisure, Singapore is one of the top-notch destinations for the MICE segment. It is a concoction of culture and colonial architecture. From singing in the diverse pot of its cultures, savouring at all things modern and super stylish at the Universal Studios, Marina Bay Sands, Gardens by the Bay, Esplanade- Theatres on the

Bay, to feeling alive in the lush greenery of Sentosa Island, Pulau Ubin, Night Safari, and Singapore Botanic Gardens, Singapore is a dynamic wonderland of bold, fresh and memorable experiences. The government's sturdy support has aided the MICE industry to grow in leaps and bounds in the Asia-Pacific region.



## Convention Centres and MICE Venues

With its offering of many event and meeting venues, Singapore has claimed its popularity in the international MICE market. It has hosted some major eminent international events at Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Singapore EXPO Convention and Exhibition Centre and MAX Atria and Raffles City Convention Centre. With a safe and reliable public transportation system, Singapore boasts many meeting hotels such as Shangri-La Hotel, Pan Pacific Singapore, Singapore Marriot Tang Plaza Hotel, Hilton Singapore and many more.

# Thailand

Thailand is a stellar destination for travellers yearning to witness a productive and opulent MICE experience. Thai hospitality and a world-class infrastructure can take any business to the skies, leading Thailand to play host to numerous leisure travellers and

MICE professionals. Having no dearth of flying options, Thailand is one such charming country with countless attractions in the cosmopolitan cities of Bangkok, Pattaya, Phuket, Khon Kaen and Chiang Mai.



## Convention Centres and MICE Venues

Pattaya has been claimed as the 'City of MICE' enriched with incredible accommodations, an assortment of locations and a wide variety of exhibition centres. One of the most versatile venues is the IMPACT Arena, Exhibition and Convention Centre in the mad city of Bangkok, having a pulsating nightlife. Other avant-garde venues include Chiang Mai International Convention and Exhibition Centre, Bangkok Convention Centre, Bangkok International Trade and Exhibition Center, Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre and Pattaya Exhibition Centre, renowned for service excellence throughout and accommodating up to 20,000 delegates.



# Vietnam

Unlike other regular MICE destinations, Vietnam has its charm. Boutique towns, sprawling skyscrapers, and seven UNESCO world heritage sites have amplified the country's worldwide visibility as a MICE destination. Vietnam pulls out fresh and new destinations,

moving away from its signature attractions. Hoi An is one such attraction where one can breathe fresh air, away from the hustle of the central city. Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, Nha Trang, and Hue are a few cities brimming with vitality and bliss.



## Convention Centres and MICE Venues

From being home to three international airports to significant infrastructural development, Vietnam's tourism contributes a major share of revenue to the country's economy, making it a preferred MICE destination. Whether it's about holding a board meeting, an exhibition, or a grand convention, the majestic Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center, Vietnam National Convention Centre, Crown Convention centre, Gem Centre and White Palace Convention Centre with all the modern amenities are ready to serve and fulfil your needs.

# Malaysia

Malaysia 'Truly Asia' promises to provide guests with a safe and tranquil time with its extraordinary MICE expertise, full-figured infrastructure, exceptional economic development and pleasant weather. Numerous factors

contribute to making it a value-for-money destination. Popular attractions in magnetic Malaysia are inclusive Kuala Lumpur having the most colourful nightlife, Johor Bahru for adventure seekers and Ipoh catering to family experiences.



## Convention Centres and MICE Venues

An array of expressways and well-structured transport has eased the commutation for people, exhibition articles and artefacts around the convention centres. An innovative creation is one such convention centre is Borneo Convention Centre Kuching, located near the city centre in Kuching, Sarawak. Well equipped with the latest technology in other wide variety of spaces. Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre is one of the largest of all Putrajaya International Convention Centre and Putra World Trade Centre in a convenient location, offering modern facilities and multi-purpose halls.



# Bengaluru

India is becoming the most sought-after MICE destination for obvious reasons. Where else can one find diversity in culture and heritage? Bengaluru, considered to be the centre of India's high-tech industry, has gradually evolved from being solely the Garden City. Claimed to be 'the most livable city', it is home to illimitable

vibrant attractions. MG Road is one of the busiest roads swarming with people interminably. Bangalore Palace, Cubbon Park and Lal Bagh add to the epitome of rich architecture and beauty. Away from the city's hustle, one can soak in serenity at the Art of Living International Centre.



## Convention Centres and MICE Venues

Being well-connected by flights on a regular basis within and outside the country makes it an ideal location for small or large conferences and seminars, employee engagement programmes, meetings and conferences. Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, NIMHANS Convention Centre, White Orchid, MLR Convention Centre, and Balan Farm Convention Centre are some venues providing modern conveniences and spacious comfort, making to the list of hosts for the MICE industry.



# Goa

Goa is a mélange of bustling streets and blissful beaches, making it a preferred destination for all age groups. It is an ideal destination for adventure junkies with an array of leisure and working spaces. Goa is gradually becoming a hub for the MICE industry at a rapid pace as its home to endless serene beaches and who isn't fond of

tasting a bit of pleasure with business. Candolim, Mandrem, Arambol and Singuerim are a few beaches along the Northern coastline, allowing you to soak yourselves in the sundowners. Flea markets, Forts displaying rich history, and other religious sites make Goa a popular tourist hub.



## Convention Centres and MICE Venues

Goa has domestic and international carriers flowing in and out of the city, with at least two dozen arrivals from India and other countries. Panjim Convention Centre, The Byke Old Anchor, The Taj Exotica Hotel & Resort's Conference Hall and Panjim Community Centre are some accessible venues for conferences, exhibitions, weddings and massive parties. They will ensure to bring that extra exotic touch to your requirements.





## Germany

Berlin, the capital of Germany, is a global centre for culture, politics, trade and science. The economy is highly supported by advanced technology. Europe is a concoction of modern landscapes and unique cultural offerings, making it a perfect MICE destination. Germany's

most visited and iconic places are The Rebuilt Reichstag, Museum Island, Berlin Wall Memorial, Charlottenburg Palace and Park, Munich Residenz, The Olympic Park and other innumerable attractions with the most impressive architecture.



### Convention Centres and MICE Venues

Besides extravagant attractions, Berlin is a great facilitator for value-for-money venues for meetings, conferences, exhibitions and conventions. With the government's competent support, meeting planners can adequately organise and stage an event. The Cube, CityCube Berlin, Estrel Berlin, and Waldorf Astoria Berlin are utilised for conference rooms, conventions, hotel accommodations and meeting spaces.

## Istanbul

Istanbul, Turkey, is one popular MICE destination straddling Europe and Asia. The region where east meets west is one of the most travelled metropolia offering vibrant cultural life. In Istanbul, visitors can have a

wide variety of experiences such as visiting palaces, museums, excursions, sightseeing at historical places and a plethora of other activities savouring the city's rich culture.



### Convention Centres and MICE Venues

Istanbul is a world centre with extravagantly built convention centres, exhibition centres, and other five-star and deluxe hotels. Offering a wide variety of options with unparalleled flexibility and new and advanced technology, the meeting planners find it easy to choose from world-class accommodations. Halic Congress Centre, Istanbul Congress Centre, Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Centre, and The Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Centre feature spacious auditoriums, meetings and function rooms. The city is expanding its luxury hotel rooms from JW Marriot Istanbul Bosphorous to Hagia Sofia Mansions and Curio Collection by Hilton. State-of-the-art airports and ports make Istanbul one of the world's best cities for conferences.



Visit Finland launches its brand  
new E-Learning Platform

# Become a Certified Finland Travel Pro

Register on [www.finlandtravelpro.com](http://www.finlandtravelpro.com)



# The GNTB presents the 100 most popular tourist attractions in Germany

**B**etween December 2021 and June 2022, around 15,000 international visitors from 30 countries chose their favorite tourist destinations in Germany.

Petra Hedorfer, CEO of the Board of Directors of the GNTB: "For ten years in a row, the TOP 100 ranking presents Germany's tourist destinations and sights. The ranking not only provides a snapshot of international awareness and popularity. The lively participation is also a vote for the appeal of the destination brand,

Germany in the international competition."

"History, culture, and natural beauty perhaps best describe the essence of vacationing in Germany. With its many historic cities and quaint small towns, along with an abundance of forests and mountains, Indian visitors are spoiled for choice when it comes to choosing unique places to visit in this beautiful part of Europe.," said Romit Theophilus, Director German National Tourist Office, India (GNTO).

In addition to the overall ranking, the survey results

are structured into clusters: UNESCO World Heritage Sites, cities, urban highlights, natural highlights, leisure & animal parks, museums, national parks, regions, castles & palaces.

The GNTB promotes responsible tourism, a key growth area, by showcasing Germany as a sustainable and inclusive destination in the international travel market. This is particularly important as the pandemic has accelerated the global shift in travellers' values towards greater social and environmental responsibility.







## THE LAP OF LUXURY

### Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre

Enjoy a revitalizing break from the routine in India's largest convention-complex. Our resort-like ambience, surrounded by lush greenery in the hustle and bustle of Hyderabad makes us a natural choice for business travellers and other delegates from across the world.

Enjoy a drink, feast on the delicious food and pamper yourself in our safe and serene setting. Your comfort, convenience and safety is our priority.

**NOVOTEL**  
HYDERABAD CONVENTION CENTRE



HYDERABAD INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE

Managed by **ACCOR**

Novotel & HICC complex, near HITEC City, Hyderabad  
[www.novotelhyderabad.com](http://www.novotelhyderabad.com)

An  **ACCOR** Brand



# COCKTAILS AND CONVERSATIONS AT CORDELIA CRUISES

*Cordelia Cruises hosted a terrific travel trade experience for two nights from August 29 to August 31, witnessing 200 of Cordelia's top and most influential travel partners. The agenda comprised great food, entertainment, hospitality, awards, discussions and a wide variety of other engagement activities. In a rendezvous, Rajeev Narayanaswamy, Head of Marketing- Cordelia Cruises shares insights into the first-of-its-kind event by Cordelia Cruises*

By Aanchal Sachdeva



## Objective behind the organisation of the event

As Cordelia Cruises completes almost one year of sailing, with a grateful heart, we wanted to celebrate this moment with everyone who has been a part of the journey and with the support of whom this has been an incredible journey. The Travel Agents are an integral part of the journey and hence we wanted to celebrate this milestone with them, meeting them in person made all the difference. The event made it possible for us to share a better understanding of the product with our travel partners. We had a session where all the members from Cordelia Cruises and the Travel Agents came together and discussed the journey and our plans. For the newer and younger travel agents, this event has been like a learning experience to better understand the business and functionality. The idea is to figure out the best way to promote domestic cruising in India collectively. One of the main topics discussed was how Cordelia Cruises brought domestic cruising to India and how it differs from the International cruising experience. The event's highlight from these exciting and meaningful conversations shifted to a small award ceremony wherein Cordelia Cruises felicitated the Travel agents for their immense support and help.

## Opportunities offered to the delegates in the travel space

The main objective is to give a better understanding of what cruising is and more over what Domestic Cruising is in India. We wanted to offer a first-hand experience to all our cruising partners with Cordelia Cruises. The idea is for the partners to enjoy the international-level entertainment and food experience customised, especially for Indian audiences, to enhance their memorable trips with us. We also wanted to share a better understanding of the product and the whole experience with the partners and we feel this event has enabled it for us. We have a special private dinner and cocktails with our guests where we interact with them one-on-one.

## Engaging activities and sources of entertainment planned

To celebrate our travel agents' work and give them an experience of a lifetime, they watched five different entertainment shows, and a special cocktail dinner every night followed by an interactive session with the team and other travel agents. Additionally, we had a seminar where we felicitated some of our best-performing travel agents to commend the work they have been doing for us all along.

## Marketing strategies deployed by Cordelia Cruises with the changing market scenario

Social media and overall digital marketing are the pulses. We work closely with our partners to do joint initiatives. Creating awareness of cruising among Indians is a crucial objective. A dynamic, 360-degree communication programme is essential. We think on our toes and are ready to adapt and evolve daily with our strategy. We also feel that social media plays a vital role in speaking of marketing strategies at Cordelia Cruises in promoting the cruising experience in India. We rely heavily on our Travel partners to promote, educate and raise awareness about domestic cruising in India.

## Widening scope of cruise tourism in India

"Yes, we think the scope of cruise tourism in India is widening. India has a vast coastline of more than 7000 kilometres, which is the third-

most extensive coastline in the world, we have a population of 1.4 billion in our country and the fact that 76 per cent of that population live far away from the coastline makes it easier to say that there is a huge potential when it comes to exploring domestic cruising in India.

The need to have something as magnificent as we have on land brings many customers on board. The concept of a unique experience beyond the beach and into the vast seas is something that makes people inquisitive and wants to try it. It's a whole new experience of travel and hospitality that we unlock with cruising.

## Outlook on the event

We see this event as an opportunity to educate many new upcoming travel agents about domestic cruising in India, a chance for us to understand the trade aspect of our brand and to honour the work our existing travel agents have done for us.

## Unique insights about the event

After successfully operating on both the east and the west coast of India, we thought of regularly doing such events where we meet our travel partners and promote domestic cruising in India. This was our first event and we plan on doing more in the future to build relations and educate more people about domestic cruising in India.





## KIDS GO FREE ON YAS ISLAND ABU DHABI



**Kids Stay, Play, & Dine for Free on Yas Island Until 30 September, when you Book a Package with Theme Park Access.**

- Kids under the age of 12 stay for free when booked under the same room with the parents
- Kids can enjoy complimentary access to Yas Island's record-breaking theme parks (Ferrari World Abu Dhabi, Yas Waterworld, and Warner Bros. World Abu Dhabi) with every package
- Kids also dine for free when booked under the same meal plan as the accompanying adults
- For every karting session booked, kids can enjoy a free session too at the Yas Kartzone, Yas Marina Circuit.

Terms and conditions apply

### Additional Benefits



Get Complimentary access to Yas Beach

**20%  
OFF**

Enjoy exclusive discounts on Spa Experiences



Complimentary Yas Island shuttle bus around the Island



Discover more about Yas Island Kids Go Free Offer

**tbo.com**  
TRAVEL SIMPLIFIED





# NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL HOLIDAYS AT SEA

*Ardent travellers are breaking the shackles and shifting to the cruise lines to explore the world. With Norwegian Cruise Line, travellers set sail on new ventures. Post-pandemic, 2022 has been fascinating for NCL. From launching new ships to formulating new marketing strategies in the rapidly transitioning world, NCL has paced up to offer some of the most exclusive and unique experiences to cruisers. Manoj Singh Country Head - India at Norwegian Cruise Line enlightens us in an exclusive interview with the methods they are deploying to position NCL in the market allowing plenty of space and opportunity for people to come together in the world's most incredible destinations*

By Aanchal Sachdeva

## What is your 2022 outlook for the Norwegian Cruise Line?

This year has been very exciting for us with all our ships back on the water and we are back to doing what we do best – delivering exceptional holidays at sea. The highlight for this year would undoubtedly be the launch of the Norwegian Prima, the first of six vessels in our ground-breaking new Prima Class. Norwegian Prima has been getting incredible responses from consumers. Our most in-demand ship ever, Norwegian Prima notched up the single-best booking day and best initial booking week for any of our new-build sales in our 55-year history. In designing her, we innovated with purpose and agents can be sure this ship will push the boundaries of conventional cruising, offering our guests more wide-open outdoor deck space, thoughtful design and world-class service which places our guests at the heart of it all. Her variety of elevated experiences and epicurean delights will include our first upscale open-air food hall – Indulge Food Hall, featuring authentic Indian dishes at Tamara – as well as the longest racetrack and the fastest slides at sea.

## Moving ahead of the pandemic, how are you positioning the cruise brand in the Indian market?

Indian customers love to travel in groups and with their families. Post the pandemic, an increasing number of Indian customers, who are looking to reconnect with loved ones after time spent apart, are looking at cruise holidays. Cruising allows plenty of space and opportunity for groups to come together, bond and celebrate while visiting some of the world's most incredible destinations. The Haven by Norwegian is a top pick for such groups. It offers spacious lodgings, access to all the exciting activities and amenities of a larger contemporary ship, as well as refined offerings reserved exclusively for guests of The Haven, who enjoy exclusive access to a private restaurant, lounge, bar, sundeck, infinity pool, hot tubs, 24-hour butler, priority embarkation, disembarkation and seating at shows and restaurants.

Delectable gastronomical experiences make every holiday all the more special and the culinary offerings aboard our ships ensure there are more dining options than days of

your cruise. And on Norwegian Prima, we've elevated epicurean experiences to incorporate Tamara, which will serve classic Indian dishes and vegetarian food options, which is part of our very first gourmet food market hall, called Indulge Food Hall.

We find that our Indian guests really value the freedom of choice we offer. As the pioneers of Freestyle Cruising, freedom and flexibility are in our DNA. We allow our guests to vacation their way by giving them the choice to decide when and where they dine, what they'd like to wear and the sort of entertainment they'd like to enjoy. There's no schedule to follow but their own.

## What are your other key source markets?

We're a truly global cruise line. With 18 innovative ships in our fleet, we sail worldwide, and most importantly we also source our guests from all over the world. Our other major markets globally include the US, Canada, UK, South America, Europe and Australia.

## Since 2021, what kind of demand have you experienced as the world is recovering from



### the deadly COVID-19 outbreak?

Travellers are looking to make up for a lost time, seeking out authentic, meaningful travel experiences. Often, that means longer itineraries or back-to-back holiday plans to really make the most of their time on a vacation abroad. They are also demanding holiday experiences that provide more in-depth exploration, whether that's a port-rich itinerary with minimum sea days and late-night stays to maximise their time in each destination or shore excursions that allow them to 'Go Local' and really understand the people and places they visit, while also simultaneously giving back to those communities. At NCL, we're in step with all these consumer demands as we're constantly reimagining our itineraries and delivering more port calls and longer stays that allow travellers to immerse themselves more deeply in the destinations they visit. For example, in Europe, many of our 7-day itineraries are now 9, 10 and 11 days in length and also include late-night departures in destinations like Ibiza and Mykonos, which come alive in the evening. Our guests can also now choose to cruise in Europe any time of the year with the introduction of our Canary Island itineraries, sailing from November 2022 to April 2023.

### In view of this changing market scenario, what marketing strategies is NCL deploying?

India is an incredibly important market for NCL. As part of our 'Partners First' philosophy, we're doubling down on our investment in the travel trade in India, developing tools and resources that will help travel partners maximise their selling potential. For example, we have launched our 'Book-A-BDM' platform that allows travel agents direct access to our local Business Development Managers (BDMs) in India, at a time and in a way that suits them. They can quickly and easily book a one-hour personal session with their local BDM, either over the phone or via Zoom to discuss things like group bookings, sales event planning support, marketing and promotions, or a general NCL product, itinerary and destination update, depending on their preference. I look forward to getting to know as many of our valued travel agents in India as I can so that I can better understand how we can support them and understand where the opportunities lie.

At the same time, we're continuing to invest in our consumer marketing in India to help inspire travellers to contact their travel agents to start planning a future cruise. We're doing this by promoting our breadth of destinations offered, range of itineraries to choose from and 18 innovative ships in our fleet to sail aboard, including our game-changing brand-new ship, Norwegian Prima.

To give our current and prospective guests a peek into our offerings as well as our extraordinary destinations and inspire them to start planning their cruise holiday, we created a docu-series called EMBARK that chronicles



## Norwegian Prima will offer guests an elevated experience while remaining true to freestyle cruising concept.

the incredible behind-the-scenes of a cruising experience.

### What can cruise travellers expect in the years ahead? Any new ports/destinations or experiences in the developmental loop?

We've just launched Norwegian Prima, which means 'first' in Italian. It's a fitting title since Norwegian Prima is the first of the six ships in the Prima Class and the first new class of ships for NCL in a decade. She's a ship full of 'firsts' for our brand but also for the cruise industry. Norwegian Prima will offer guests an elevated experience while remaining true to our freestyle cruising concept. Agents and clients alike will be inspired by her bucket-list itineraries to some of Northern Europe's most vibrant destinations like Norway and Iceland, and with the highest staffing levels and outdoor deck space of any new cruise ship in her competitive set, it's no surprise that Norwegian Prima has quickly become our most in-demand ship ever with record bookings on the first day and week of sales!

We're now counting down to the debut of Norwegian Viva next year, the second ship in our Prima Class. She will sail breathtaking

Mediterranean itineraries from Lisbon, Athens (Piraeus), Rome (Civitavecchia) and Venice (Trieste) and will mirror the upscale design and structure of her record-breaking sister ship.

Through 2027, we'll launch six new Prima Class ships in total.

### During the highs and lows that the global cruise industry has experienced over these last two years, what new trends have you observed taking the front seat? Any sustainable practices that NCL is implementing at the moment?

Indian cruisers are avid travellers, and voyages throughout Europe, Alaska and the Bahamas remain popular, including iconic destinations in the Western Mediterranean such as Rome, Venice and Barcelona, as well as Northern Europe where Iceland and Norway top the bucket lists of Indian travellers. Group travel continues to grow – especially among groups of friends and multi-generational family groups making up for lost time, missed milestones and celebrating the long-awaited opportunity to reconnect.

Our guests are also telling us that sustainability is very important to them. We're committed to doing our part in contributing to the transition to a low-carbon economy. We have a long-term climate action strategy with a commitment to pursue net zero by 2050 through reducing carbon intensity, investing in technology including exploring alternative fuels and implementing a voluntary carbon offset program.

Some examples of our sustainability practices in action include the 14 million single-use plastic water bottles we're proud to have removed from our fleet and private island destinations, preventing them from doing potential environmental harm. And we're targeting 70% of our NCL fleet to have capabilities to access shore power electricity by 2025.



## SriLankan Airlines welcomes Travel Agents and Sports Influencers for test series

SriLankan Airlines recently took top Travel Agents and elite sports influencers from India to watch the first match of the test series between Sri Lanka and Australia, which was held at the Galle International Cricket Stadium, Sri Lanka. The visit also served as an opportunity for the influencers and agents to witness normalcy in the country and how inbound tourism is flourishing across the island.

Ever since the easing of travel restrictions following the global pandemic, SriLankan Airlines has steered an extensive content creator campaign #NamastefromSriLanka, in order to build advocacy and familiarity to the

brand SriLankan Airlines and destination Sri Lanka. SriLankan has welcomed over 60 elite content creators/social influencers from India so far.

SriLankan Airlines, Chief Executive Officer, Richard Nuttall said, "We believe that Sri Lanka holds a timeless appeal to the discerning Indian traveller; whether you are travelling solo or with family; or whether you are a seasoned repeater or a first-timer. I am confident that our long-standing affinity with the Indian travel trade partners will pave the way for fruitful results in the days to come." The Airline also offered them a memorable flying experience inclusive of a Business Class service.



## DreamSetGo appoints Sourav Ganguly as first brand ambassador

DreamSetGo, sports experiences and travel platform in India, announced the "Maharaja of Cricket", Sourav Ganguly as its first brand ambassador.

Commenting on his association with DreamSetGo, Sourav Ganguly said, "DreamSetGo has been instrumental in revolutionizing engagement, curating personalized experiences and memories for a lifetime for sports fans. I look forward to supporting DreamSetGo's vision of creating accessibility for the biggest sporting events across the globe."

Welcoming the new brand ambassador, Monish Shah, Founder & Chief Business Officer, DreamSetGo said, "We are thrilled to have Sourav Ganguly as our brand ambassador. His unparalleled love and contribution

to sports will help us reach fans across the country, and promote our ability to create unique and memorable experiences."

As the "Supercaptain" for DreamSetGo, Ganguly will play a key role in promoting DSG's curated experiences offered through its key partnerships with Manchester City, Chelsea FC, ICC Travel and Tours, AO Travel, F1 Experiences and more.

Founded in 2019, DreamSetGo is solving a specific problem - access to worldwide sporting events and experiences for fans. From match-day hospitality, stadium tours, private meet-and-greets with athletes and legends to exclusive access to first team training sessions, DreamSetGo curates the most fulfilling sports travel packages for the most sought-after sports events.



## EaseMyTrip becomes the official co-powered sponsor of the Asia Cup 2022

EaseMyTrip, a travel tech platforms in India, is the official co-powered sponsor of the Asia Cup Cricket 2022. This is the first time that EaseMyTrip is a part of the Asia Cup. This partnership will give immense visibility to the brand participating in the cricket match having an estimated collective reach of more than 4.94 Bn. The brand's logo will be displayed in multiple places like the area behind the wicket pitch mat, trophy table, etc. The brand will be visible on multiple TV spot impressions and OTT channels across the globe encouraging it to have a worldwide reach which is just the beginning and a step

towards going global.

The 15th edition of the Asia Cup cricket is to be played in Dubai and Sharjah from August 27 to September 11, 2022. A total of 13 matches will be played in Dubai and Sharjah and the tournament will broadcast on Star Sports & Hotstar in India. This is the fourth time that the Asia Cup will be held in UAE.

Nishant Pitti, CEO & Co-Founder, EaseMyTrip said, "We are happy to announce that we are the co-powered sponsors of the prestigious Asia Cup 2022. This partnership has given us the opportunity to be part of the most watched and loved cricket tournament."



## Travellers to enjoy eased restrictions within the country

The Indonesian government has once again updated their COVID-19 protocol for domestic travellers. The good news is that they have (finally) aligned the international with the domestic travel regulation and hence simplified the regulation. Rapid or PCR tests are no longer required for our international guests travelling in Indonesia.

Travellers, who are minimum twice vaccinated against Covid and are aged 18 years or older, do not need to present any COVID tests for domestic travel. Children, aged up to 17 years, who are not vaccinated, do not need to undertake any COVID tests for domestic travel. The international arrival protocol remains unchanged.



## The 9th Edition of the Hotel Operations Summit – India (HOSI)

Hotelivate will host the 9th Edition of its Hotel Operations Summit – India (HOSI) at the Indian School of Hospitality, Gurgaon on September 9, 2022.

Unlike the previous hybrid edition, this year, the conference will see a completely in-person format, allowing all professionals to attend physically and be a part of the event. With the most challenging times of the recent years behind us, the hospitality fraternity has been focused on bouncing back, with all its business decisions revolving around hotel operational teams which have gone through turmoil in terms of changing trends, government guidelines, manpower shortages and so much more. The conference is once again returning to the Indian School of Hospitality.

It will have some notable speakers such as Ranju Alex, Area Vice President - South Asia - Marriott International, Ratnesh Verma, Founder and CEO - Pidge, Abhinav Rajput, COO - Greater Than, KB Kachru, Chairman Emeritus & Principle Advisor - South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, Ajay Bakaya, Managing Director - Sarovar Hotels & Resorts, Dipak Deva, Managing Director - Travel Corporation of India, Vikram Madhok, Managing Director - Abercrombie & Kent – India.

The conference will also feature many relevant panel discussions



with industry leaders like “Leader’s Panel: Keeping Market Share” – moderated by Vineet Verma, Director - Brigade Hospitality with Abhishek Logani, Chief Business Officer, Hotels – MakeMyTrip, Anuraag Bhatnagar, Chief Operating Officer -The Leela Palaces, Hotels & Resorts, Sunjae Sharma, Managing Director-India & SW Asia - Hyatt Hotels Corporation and Rohit Khosla\*, Executive Vice President - Operations, IHCL as panellists. There will also be some thought-provoking sessions like “Hotel Operations”, “In Search of Talent” - to name a few. At a fireside chat, Anil Chadha, Divisional Chief Executive - ITC Hotels will be interviewed by Dilip Puri, Founder & CEO -Indian School of Hospitality.



## India-based Organizations Win Big in 19th Annual International Business Awards

High-achieving organizations and executives around the world have been recognized as Gold, Silver, and Bronze Stevie Award winners in The 19th Annual International Business Awards®, the world’s only international, all-encompassing business awards program.

All organizations worldwide are eligible to compete in the IBAs and can submit entries in a wide range of categories for achievement in management, marketing, public relations, customer service, human resources, new products and services, technology, web sites, apps, events, and more.

Twenty-three organizations in India impressed the judges in this year’s competition. Other Stevie Award winners in India include Allianz Technology SE (Trivandrum), Analytics Insight (Hyderabad), Aspire Systems (Chennai), Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (Korba), Cactus Communications Pvt Ltd (Mumbai), Datamotive (Pune), EvoluteIQ (Bengaluru), HCL Technologies (Noida), HERE Solutions Pvt. Ltd India (Navi Mumbai), HERE Technologies (Mumbai), Innothera Platform Private Limited (Mumbai), JK Tech (Noida), Kyndryl (Pune), Mar Baselios Institute of Technology and Science (MBITS) (Kothamangalam), MarketsandMarkets (Pune), Microverse Automation Pvt Ltd (Pune), Pennant Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Hyderabad), Refex Group (Chennai), Sensorise Smart Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (Noida), The Judge Group India (Noida), and WNS (Mumbai). The awards will be presented during an awards gala on October 15 in London, England.

## IATO hails Govt. decision to scrap TCS on sale of overseas tour packages to foreign tour operators/foreign tourists

IATO expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government for withdrawing completely 5 percent Tax Collection At Source (TCS) charged on sale of overseas tour packages to foreign tour operators. The same was earlier withdrawn only for individual foreign tourists but now on IATO’s representation, Govt. has announced removal of tax, both on individual foreign tourists as well as foreign tour operators (FTO’s).

According to Mr. Rajiv Mehra,

President IATO, “The impact of this notification is that both foreign individuals and FTOs (buyers) buying overseas tour packages from the Indian Tour Operators will be exempt from TCS provisions. It is not necessary that the foreign tourist should visit India for an onward journey to the neighbouring country. Secondly, the FTO / Corporate entity established in foreign country and not maintaining any permanent establishment / branch in India would also be exempted from TCS provisions.”





## Singapore Tourism Board organises travel trade roadshows in 5 cities

As international tourism picks up momentum, the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) recently hosted a Deepening Connections, Achieving Together! multi-city travel trade roadshow series in India with the largest ever delegation of forty-five stakeholders to reconnect and engage with trade partners-friends. As part of the outreach, Singapore Tourism Board reached out to five key source markets - Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Pune, Hyderabad and Bangalore. Accompanied by the expansive list of delegations, the trade engagements was aimed at deepening Singapore Tourism's existing partnerships and fostering new ones with tourism stakeholders and the local travel trade fraternity.

The roadshow series saw a robust line-up of some of Singapore's most prominent attractions, hotels, tour

operators, cruise lines and destination management companies (DMCs). The strong turn-out from both Singapore tourism trade and local travel agents highlighted the commitment by both sides to recover Indian visitor-ship to Singapore.

The roadshow was attended by the spokespersons of the Singapore Tourism Board including GB Srithar, Regional Director, India, Middle East, South Asia & Africa, Renjie Wong, Area Director, India, Middle-East and South Asia and Raymond Lim, Area Director. Other delegates present at the roadshow included, Sherman LO – Director of Sales Marina Bay Sands, Kian Ann Ong- Director of Business Development at Gardens by the Bay and Alice Thong- Assistant Director, International Leisure, Sentosa Development Corporation.



## BLS International signs contract with Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai for visa services

BLS International, a trusted global tech-enabled services partner for governments and citizens, announced that it has been authorized by the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai recently. BLS will be accepting and processing visa applications on behalf of the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai from 5th August onwards.

Commenting on this, Shikhar Aggarwal, Joint Managing Director, BLS International said, "We are glad to grow our network of services with the Thai Embassy. We recently signed a contract with the Thai consulate in Mumbai, Kolkata and Kenya. We will continue to explore more opportunities and deliver our best-in-class visa application services to provide an accessible and faster customer experience. With new contracts and services, we ensure to give a delighted experience to our applicants in the journey of visa processing."

"The Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai, congratulates the timely opening of a new Thai Visa Processing Centre in Chennai by BLS International Services Limited as Thailand welcomes visitors from India and all over the globe. The opening of this Visa Processing Centre will help to facilitate those wishing to visit and



enter Thailand. Our cooperation with BLS in Chennai is not new since BLS has been working with other Thai missions in New Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. In this regard, we look forward to working closely with BLS in Chennai." – A statement released by the Royal Thai Consulate-General, Chennai.

BLS will be providing Thai visa application services along with several value-added services like form filling assistance, SMS tracking, photocopy & printing, travel insurance and courier services for the convenience of the applicants. BLS centres are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities and can service other countries as well.

BLS has processed over 62 million applications to date globally.

## Dubai Tourism Strengthens Its Presence In Tier II Cities Of India with Four-City Roadshow

As the Indian outbound travel grows, the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), hosted a robust series of four city roadshows in Kolkata, Bengaluru, Kochi and Chennai last week with the objective of introducing the travel trade fraternity in key Tier II cities to new offerings in Dubai. The Roadshow offered an excellent networking and engagement opportunity with a wide delegation of Dubai Tourism stakeholders ranging from mid-segment to luxury hotel brands, attractions, DMCs, airlines and cruise liners.

Bader Ali Habib, South Asia International



Operations Region Head of Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism, said, "Looking at the economic growth trajectory of Tier II cities in India and the growing

purchasing power among consumers, the accessibility that Dubai enjoys into smaller cities as well as the growing appetite for travel in India, we see an opportunity to further penetrate through a more targeted and personalised approach. Tier II audiences have a different travel pattern and behavior and we continue to closely study them and tailor our efforts for them."

Habib added, "As India remains our no. 1 Source Market for the year, a lot of our efforts in the market are tailored, data-driven and dedicated to the tastes and liking of our audiences."





Travel bookings are  
**Incomplete** without **Tripjack**



— India's Leading B2B Travel Platform —



Flights



Hotels



Rail



Visas



Cruise



API / XML

40,000+  
Travel Agents

8 Lakh  
Hotels

750+  
Airlines

\$1 Billion+  
Bookings

27x7  
Support

☎ 022 62506250 | 🌐 [www.tripjack.com](http://www.tripjack.com)



# Visit Finland India Roadshow 2022











# A KALEIDOSCOPIC TAKE ON THE FUTURE OF HOSPITALITY

*The best way to do things is to constantly trot ahead, never doubt anything, and keep moving forward. This very industrious perception of the hospitality industry brought the fighting spirit back to a winning space*

Arbitrary research was conducted to gauge the sustainability vibe of the industry, and this is what is holistically perceived.

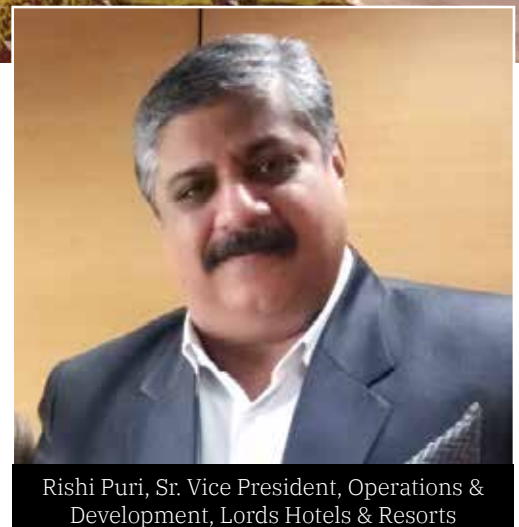
It has been challenging times for the industry, but the growth has been slow and steadily picking up pace as far the revenue is concerned. The challenges have been many, one of which has to do with corporate India's decision to follow the new norm of staying back home and conducting business virtually. With severe budget constraints on travel compared to the pre-pandemic times, cost cutting and people cozing up to this very concept of the management. The Hotel industry per se is now trying to woo corporate India with high-end amenities, discounts and a more comprehensive range of destinations to choose from for a corporate destination event.

In recent times, the hospitality industry has also gone through a technological revolution to keep pace with the rest of the industry. This automation has been the most significant change driver for dynamic pricing and automated revenue management. The paradox of this change was that the team members were not ready to shoulder this revolution because they were still struggling to be on track with the changing trends and best practices. But, now, most hospitality companies have tech

professionals on board to train their staff to be technologically savvy.

These trying times have also been observed as a period of new adaptations, and in fact, Lords Hotels and Resorts has incorporated new tech aides to expedite its productivity; especially with Book on Line (BON), a booking engine from Greece and Rate Tiger, a hotel price intelligence tool that automates management and distribution of the hotel pricing across all channels from a single dashboard. We also intend to install various loyalty programs soon to enhance the customer experience.

From a Sales perspective, the growth has seen a spiral growth. People who never ventured out took to travel with a vengeance. And with the closing of international destinations, the industry has witnessed surface-to-surface Revenge Tourism movements, including a big splurge on vacations to exotic domestic places. We foresee wedding destinations and the MICE movement to take off steadily with regular operations commencing from the October season. And, from November 2022, robust growth is envisioned for the inbound market, student group business and businesses from film production units that scout for new and unexplored destinations. It is also anticipated that the demand-supply in the hotel industry



Rishi Puri, Sr. Vice President, Operations & Development, Lords Hotels & Resorts

will now play an important role in enhancing the ARR of the hotel.

As far as developing business is concerned, the trend is slowly moving towards building hospitality business in the Tier II cities: especially in the Konkan belt. Moreover, we seem to be felicitating various community-based groups who are big-time travellers and love travelling in huge numbers for benefit of a wholesome discount to places like Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Goa.

Last but not least, it's the Human resource department that is the game changer bringing the right talent home for business posterity. Doing the rounds on the Internet this one motivational quote states, "In order to build a rewarding employee experience, you need to understand what matters most to your people." And right now, it's the money that walks the talk. Because of this factor, the hospitality industry is witnessing big-time attrition. To combat this, the management needs to be flexible and find productive ways to retain the best talents in the house; by investing fairly and squarely as per the prevailing market trend.

We need to be the Leaders of the change and change technologically and holistically for a brighter future for all parties concerned.



ABHA

HAIL

NOW  
FLYING

الجزيرة.  
Jazeera.

QASSIM

Ahmedabad +91 07926425014  
Kochi +91 04844863640  
Hyderabad +91 04048529552

Delhi +91 01143640481  
Chennai +91 8056267479  
Mumbai +91 02249701181

        
jazeeraairways.com



## CAPTIVATING GLIMPSES OF THE TAAI'S 66TH CRUISING CONVENTION













# JAZEERA EXPANDING ITS NETWORK

## JAZEERA AIRWAYS POSITIONING AS LOW-COST CARRIER STEERING TO PROVIDE SEAMLESS TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Established in 2004, Jazeera Airways is renowned as an easily accessible carrier. The airline is a distinguished service provider in the Middle East, India and Europe, focusing on providing seamless travel experiences to its travellers. Making business and leisure readily available, Jazeera continues to offer unique services to globetrotters. To know the insights, read the tête-à-tête with **Rohit Ramachandran, CEO of Jazeera Airways**

By Aanchal Sachdeva

### How does Jazeera Airways excel in the low-cost carrier space? What are the USPs?

We ensure we manage our cost base effectively to be able to pass on the benefit of low fares to our customers. Our model is similar to most LCCs – we offer basic flight-only fares. Then passengers can build their travel experience by purchasing Travel Extras like additional baggage, meals and seat preferences.

### How has been the load factor for the airline in 2022?

Loads are up to 74% in the first half of the year – which is up 35% from the same period last year during the pandemic.

### Looking forward to a recovery in 2022, what will be your promotional and operational strategy?

Operationally, we have been expanding our network. We've added two European destinations (Prague and Vienna) in June as well as Chattogram in Bangladesh, Bhairahawa in Nepal, and Salalah in Oman. Over the summer, we launched three destinations in Saudi Arabia: Abha, Hail and Qassim. We will be adding two Airbus A320neos to our fleet in September, totalling 19 aircraft by the end of the year.

### How is Jazeera promoting itself on digital platforms?

We have an extensive program of digital marketing working with programmatic partners, Google for paid search and GDN, and across social media platforms.

### What kind of measures have you taken so far to maintain seat occupancies, both during and post-COVID

The bounce back to full demand post-pandemic started in February and we are now exceeding our passenger numbers since before Covid. We have focused on developing new tourism routes and increasing frequencies on popular VFR routes.

### What's your outlook on the Indian market? How are you positioning the airline in the country?

We are positioning ourselves as a low-cost carrier offering great value from India into Kuwait and across the Middle East, including some new touristic destinations in Europe, such as Prague and Vienna.

We hope to grow in the Indian market once there is an upgrade to the bilateral capacity agreements between India and Kuwait, which are still pending.

### What new routes can we expect Jazeera to add to its portfolio this year? What potential networks/ regions are you looking forward to expanding in?

We have recently added three new destinations to Saudi Arabia: Abha, Hail and Qassim. We continue to explore the potential of unserved or underserved routes from Kuwait within 5-6 hours of flying time.



“ We have focused on developing new tourism routes and increasing frequencies on popular VFR routes. ”



# Malaysia

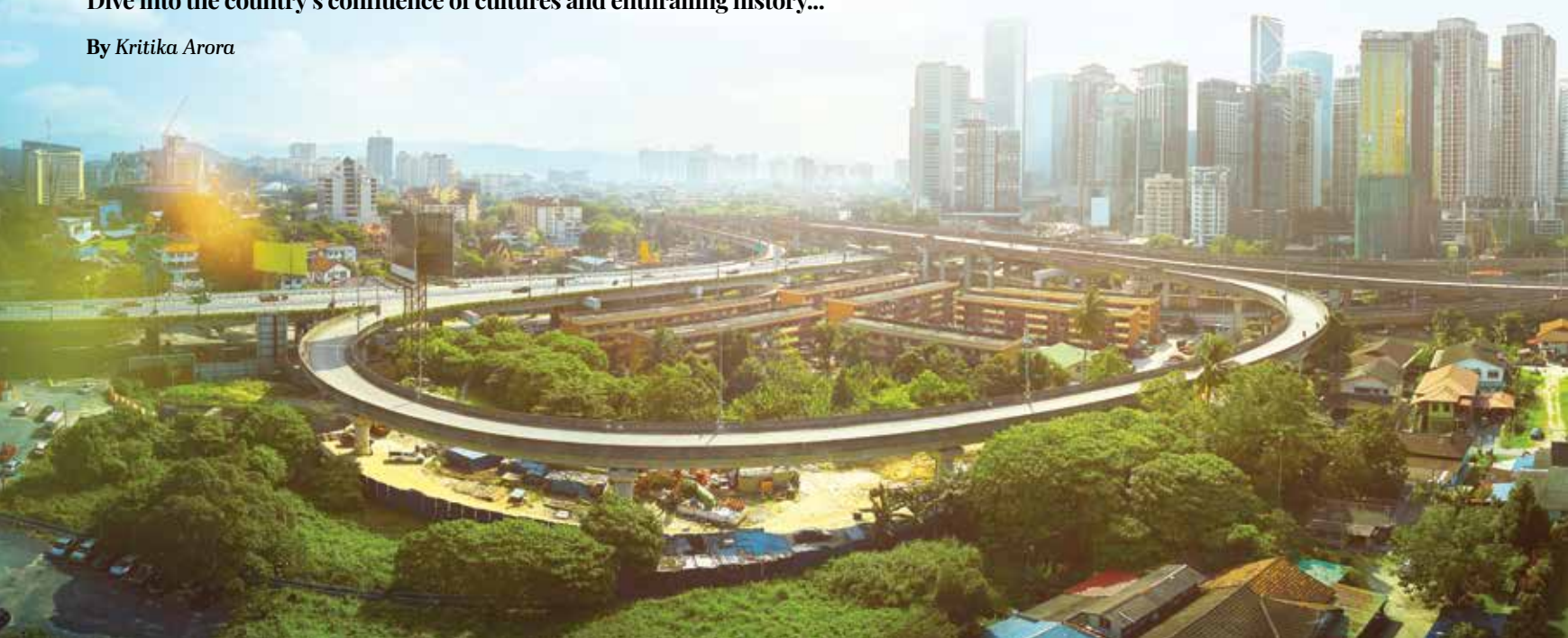
## A Truly Asian land..

Malaysia is truly a crossroads for many Asian civilizations therefore the popular tourism tagline "Malaysia, Truly Asia" continues to ring true. Home to vibrant big cities, delectable cuisine, stunning sandy beaches, charming islands, and national parks with abundant wildlife, the country has it all.

This Southeast Asian nation will put you in an interesting dilemma right away. Ask why? Well, as it is spread across two different land masses, one can definitely get puzzled! So, do you travel to Peninsular Malaysia, which is bordered by Singapore to the south and Thailand to the north? Or you do you want to travel to Borneo, an island that is shared by Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Kingdom of Brunei, across the South China Sea.

Dive into the country's confluence of cultures and enthralling history...

By Kritika Arora



### Discover Rich Culture

Melaka and George Town (Penang), which are both classified as UNESCO World Heritage sites, have distinctly diverse architectural and cultural townscapes that have evolved through a half-millennium of Southeast Asian cultural and commerce interchange. Both cities represent the cultural melting pot of the area, which is dominated by Muslim Malays, a religiously varied Chinese population, and Hindu and Muslim Indians. Then there are the numerous indigenous Dayak people of Borneo and the indigenous inhabitants of Peninsular Malaysia (the Orang Asli). Each ethnic group has its own language and cultural norms, which you may best appreciate by participating in their vibrant festival schedule and sampling their delectable cuisine.





### Get your food senses tickled in Penang

For tourists, Penang is a gastronomic haven. Travellers swarm to Gurney Drive's seafood eateries from all over Malaysia (and beyond), slurp Penang Laksa at Lorong Baru Hawker Stalls, and follow their noses to Chew Jetties' barbecued fish. But Penang can titillate your senses even without the sizzle of Char Kway Teow (rice noodles with prawns, eggs, and more). At the Tropical Spice Garden, take in the aroma of 500 different herbs and spices. At Penang National Park, the smallest park in the nation, make sure to pay attention to the chatter of macaques. Admire the Khoo Kongsi clubhouse's magnificent architecture and the elaborately carved Pinang Peranakan Mansion. Alternatively, visit Hin Bus Station to see cutting-edge modern art.







### **Wander into the wilderness of Wildlife**

The opportunity to see animals in their native habitat is the cherry on top for the travelers. The most frequent sights will be a variety of insects or vibrant birds, but if you're lucky, you might see a tapir foraging, a silvered leaf monkey playing, or an orangutan swinging through the trees. The oceans are just as abundant; divers and snorkelers can enjoy shoals of tropical fish, coral that looks like it was painted, turtles, sharks, and dolphins. Even if you don't leave the city limits, there are fantastic options for wildlife viewing at locations like the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center or the KL Bird Park.



### **Dazzling Urban Experiences**

Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, is a city where sparkling 21st-century towers stand cheek-by-jowl with colonial shophouses and pockets of lush greenery, while shoppers shuttle from traditional markets to air-conditioned mega malls. Melaka and George Town (Penang), which are both classified as UNESCO World Heritage sites, have distinctly diverse architectural and cultural townscapes that have evolved through a half-millennium of Southeast Asian cultural and commerce interchange. Both Kuching and Kota Kinabalu in the eastern regions of Malaysia provide excellent introductions to life on Borneo.



### **Mesmerizing Ancient Rainforests**

The equatorial rainforest of Malaysia defines the country for many tourists. A sizable portion of primary rainforest, one of the planet's oldest ecosystems, is still intact because of national parks and conservation initiatives. Join a ranger-led nature trek, for example, and you'll be reminded of the mind-boggling menagerie biodiversity all around, from the pitcher plants, lianas, and orchids of the humid lowlands to the conifers and rhododendrons of high-altitude forests. It may seem intimidating to navigate through seemingly impenetrable foliage and muddy, meandering rivers.



# BE THE FIRST TO LIVE IT UP

NORWEGIAN  
**PRIMA**  
NOW SAILING

NORWEGIAN  
**VIVA**  
SAILING IN 2023



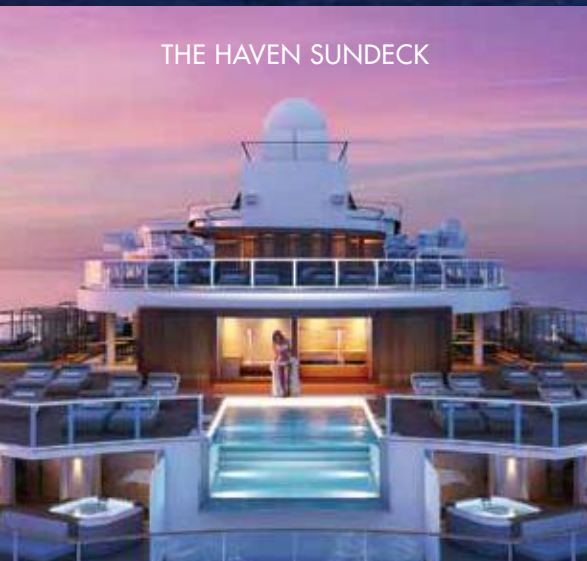
Meet our newest dream team at sea, Norwegian Prima and Norwegian Viva – the first two ships in a brand-new class designed to elevate every expectation. Stay connected to the ocean with experiences that bring you closer to the horizon. Stretch out, way out, in our most spacious accommodation to date. And look forward to first-rate service so you can enjoy every second. Discover an all-new experience at sea in Northern Europe and the Mediterranean on board NCL's newest ships.



SCAN FOR MORE INFO



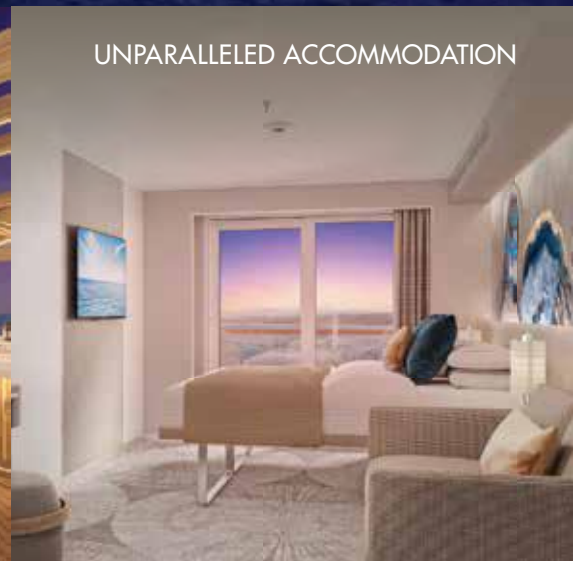
THE HAVEN SUNDECK



VIBE BEACH CLUB



UNPARALLELED ACCOMMODATION



BOOK ONLINE AT **NCL.COM** | CALL US **+91 22 7127 9333** | OR **CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT**

FLEXIBLE CANCELLATION POLICY | ENHANCED HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS





## Fortune Park Durgapur organises Blood Donation Camp

Following its unwavering commitment to serve the community, Fortune Park Pushpanjali, Durgapur, a member of ITC's Hotel Group organized a blood donation camp in collaboration with Durgapur Blood Donors Council to celebrate the leading hotel chain's 27th Anniversary. The blood donation camp was inaugurated by Hon'ble Anindita Mukherjee, Durgapur City Mayor.

With this initiative, Fortune hotels aim to give back to the community and share the delight of contributing to the society. Through donating blood, the team was able to spread the word about the multiple health benefits of blood donation.

To support the compassionate and purposeful exercise, the hotel leadership actively joined in too. Aashish Gawari, General Manager, Fortune Park Pushpanjali, Durgapur said, "This is the 27th year of Fortune Hotels' establishment in India, and what better way to reinforce our commitment to our social and moral duty than blood donation. It is our endeavour to contribute to the community in whichever way possible. Blood donation is a noble cause that saves lives. It is a matter of pride that the entire Fortune family could participate. We hope that our efforts in association with the Durgapur Blood Donors Council help save lives in the Durgapur region."

## Hilton Goa Resort successfully celebrates Poder Culture

Hilton Goa Resort hosted the third year of 'The Poder Chronicles' from August 5 to 7, 2022. The Poder Chronicles celebrated the essence of Goan loaves of bread which are freshly baked country bread sourced and produced locally in Goa. The expert team at Hilton Goa Resort showcased and revived several contemporary, delicious dishes like The Maka Kullyo Zai, the Buff Tart, and Avo's Kakon are among the creations along with Goan-infused cocktails.

The three-day event was a starry affair with remarkable personalities gracing the event with their presence. The first day of the event was graced by local newspaper journalists and lifestyle magazines with Tridha Chowdhury, the bollywood actress. Whereas on the second day of the event, various lifestyle publications from across India graced the event with their presence such as famous personalities like Kamiya Jani (The CurlyTales), Odette, Jade, Goan communities such as Explore Goa, Wahh Goa and Much Food Goa to name a few among other personalities.

General Manager Amandeep Singh Grover said: "The event was an immense success owing to the number of people who turned up this year. I believe that this project will achieve great success in the coming years while accomplishing its vision of supporting the Poders and offering a boost to the ancient bread-making business in Goa."

On the work front, Hilton Goa Resort is all set for the upcoming festive season and is expected to come out with more innovative experiences in the future.



## The Leela Palace Udaipur Creates Culinary Sojourn collaborating with World On A Plate

The Leela Palace Udaipur, in collaboration with World On A Plate has curated an experiential dining pop-up with Celebrity Chef Sarah Todd. Chef Sarah will be curating a 6-course degustation menu that highlights her innovative French Indian cooking style combined with signature flavours for simplicity and elegance.

Chef Sarah's culinary magic, served against majestic backdrop of Sheesh Mahal restaurant overlooking the lake Pichola with the signature Leela hospitality, is sure to create a

memorable experience for all guests.

The Leela Palace Udaipur has introduced a special stay package to extend the experience beyond dining so guests can enjoy staying at this modern palace and savour the flavoursome indulgence of this exclusive dinner. The offer includes photo-opportunity with Chef Sarah, daily breakfast and savings on spa services. World On A Plate (WOAP) Pop-up is format that brings the greatest food to consumers plate.







one-above.com

# **YOUR TRUST OUR SUCCESS**

**30 DMC'S - 95 DESTINATION  
STILL COUNTING**

**WWW.OA195.COM**

**www.one-above.com**

Antariksh Thakur House, Unit no. 104, 1st Floor, makwana Road, Marol Naka,  
Andheri East, Mumbai 400059.T: +91 22 6822 4444



Terms and Conditions Apply.





## Concept Hospitality opens Guruprerna Beacon Resort, Dwarka

**C**oncept Hospitality Pvt. Ltd. has opened Guruprerna Beacon Resort, Dwarka. This is the second resort the management company operates in Dwarka, making this its 22nd hotel under management in the state of Gujarat.

On the occasion of the launch of the hotel, Suhail Kannampilly, CEO, Concept Hospitality-The Fern Hotels & Resorts said “We have been successfully operating The Fern Sattva Resort in Dwarka, and this new Beacon addition will provide our guests with additional availability for their stays in this key temple town. We are presently the largest hotel operators in Gujarat and cover all major business and leisure destinations in the State.”

Hotel owner, Mansukhlal V Barai, Managing Director, Guruprerna Enterprises added, “We are pleased to tie with Concept Hospitality and bring their Beacon brand to Dwarka. Their efficient

operations will enhance the experience of our loyal clients and guests when they now come and stay at our iconic hotel.”

Guruprerna Beacon Resort, Dwarka is ideally situated in the heart of the city, just 500 meters from the Dwarkadish Temple. Offering 57 modern, well-appointed rooms in four room categories to suit all guest requirements, the resort also offers a pure vegetarian multi cuisine restaurant, Sharanam, and an excellent view of the Dwarkadish Temple from its rooftop.

The four categories of rooms are well equipped with all modern amenities and offer in-room facilities of high-speed Wi-Fi internet access, LED televisions, complimentary bottled drinking water, tea/coffee makers, digital safes and eco-friendly room lighting & bathroom amenities.

## ‘Mostly Grills’ At The Orchid Mumbai Hosts ‘Thrill Of The Grill’ Festival

**T**he Orchid Mumbai Vile Parle is hosting ‘Thrill of the Grill’ festival at the hotel’s signature open aired rooftop restaurant ‘Mostly Grills’. The weeklong festival will let diners savor sizzling kebab preparations, rooftop grills and refreshing drinks that add to the monsoon thrill. The sweet aroma of spices from the kitchen, live music and interactive dining elements create an inspiring vibe as you embark on the flavours of medieval India.

Guests can select from choices of vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes prepared and grilled to their preference. The menu will change each day to enable patrons to savor a wide range of enticing grilled culinary experiences. On the platter will be Tandoori Aloo Hare Pyaaz, Grill Mushrooms, Grilled Babycorn, Grilled Cottage cheese, Murg Dunga Jaipur, Rai aur Hare pyaaz ka fish tikka, BBQ Chicken, Grilled pork chops all marinated in rich spices and authentic seasonings.



## Radisson Hotel Group expands its footprint in South Asia

**R**adisson Hotel Group, is delighted to announce the signing of Radisson Biratnagar in Nepal, in partnership with The Centurion Hotel Private Limited, which will further strengthen its leading position in South Asia with over 100 hotels in operation.

The 145-room Radisson Biratnagar is expected to open in Q3, 2024, and is in Biratnagar, the industrial and fastest growing provincial capital of the country that shares its borders with the Indian states of Bihar and West Bengal. Strategically located just 10 minutes from Biratnagar Airport, 15 minutes from the India border, and Jogbani Railway Station in Bihar, the hotel will offer close connectivity for guests traveling for business or leisure. Furthermore, rapid development in the city’s infrastructure such as roads, airports, community projects, and public amenities is set to position Biratnagar as an upcoming destination. Radisson Biratnagar will play an important role in welcoming local and international tourists to experience a new phase of hospitality in Nepal.

Radisson, Biratnagar is set to become the new landmark of the city with its state-of-the-art facilities and strategic location. When open, guests will have access to comfortable and spacious rooms along with amenities including a swimming pool, fitness center,

spa, specialty restaurants, and a 10,000 sq ft of banquet area.

“As we continue our foray towards our ambitious five-year expansion plan for South Asia, we are delighted to sign this new property in Nepal. Being a tourist hub for travelers globally, Nepal is poised to emerge as a strong economic and investment hub for multiple sectors in the years to come. Our growth in the country will continue to be driven by strategic, brand-defining hotel signings and openings that will provide a major uplift to our portfolio and broaden our offerings for guests and owners. Radisson Biratnagar will be the perfect getaway for guests looking for an all-inclusive hospitality experience underpinned by Radisson Hotel Group’s “Yes! I can” service philosophy,” said Zubin Saxena,

The Honorable Moti Lal Dugar, Chairman - Centurion Hotel Private Limited, said, “I am happy to sign this agreement with Radisson Hotel Group and look forward to leveraging the brand’s strong recognition and the team’s deep expertise in the South Asian market to drive the success of the Radisson Biratnagar.”

The signing of Radisson Biratnagar is a continuation of Radisson Hotel Group’s strong expansion across the South Asia region where it’s set to more than double its footprint with 148 hotels and resorts to be added by 2025.





*Rohit Shorley*

MICE Tourism Ambassador for  
Kazakhstan & Founder of Kazin DMC



*Vishal Jain*

(Director CIS)  
with Team Kazakhstan

## We are the Best when it comes to Kazakhstan

Kazin DMC is the most trusted, Innovative & Reliable incoming agency for Kazakhstan with offices in India, Kazakhstan, UAE & Belarus. We are recognised by Kazakh Tourism Board & Kazakhstan Tourism Association. With our own team & fleet of vehicles on ground, our partners are assured of top-end quality

### Specialising in:

- ♦ MICE
- ♦ Leisure tourism
- ♦ Golf tours
- ♦ Adventure tours
- ♦ Eco tours
- ♦ Ladies Tours
- ♦ Milestone celebrations
- ♦ Weddings
- ♦ Ski tours
- ♦ Educations trips

### Trusted by:



over 450 travel partners  
from India & GCC



**CORPORATE OFFICE:**  
M2/32, DLF Phase II, Gurugram,  
Haryana - 122002, India.  
E: kaz@kazindmc.com  
M: +91-9999707517 | +91-124-4200130/31

**KAZAKHSTAN:**  
Office# 1206, 12th Floor,  
Gogol Street 39, Almaty - 050000, Kazakhstan  
**BELARUS:**  
Dzerzhinsky, Avenue 11, Room #806, Minsk, Belarus

Follow us on social media:





## Accor signs deal to open Rixos Marina Abu Dhabi

Since joining forces in 2017, it has been a priority for Accor and Rixos to take on new opportunities to strengthen the brand's footprint across the Middle East and wider region.

Rixos is a hospitality brand whose expertise lies in its 'ultra-all-inclusive' concept, with a vibrant atmosphere and family-friendly facilities.

Accor India, Middle East, Africa & Turkey CEO Mark Willis said: "We clearly see an increasing demand for all-inclusive resorts throughout our destinations. We are always doing our best to meet our guest's expectations. We couldn't think of a better brand than Rixos to bring a new all-inclusive luxury resort to

the marina of Abu Dhabi."

Located on the man-made breakwater Abu Dhabi Marina, Rixos Abu Dhabi Marina will share facilities with the Fairmont Marina Residences.

The resort's F&B offering will include restaurants, lounges, bars and food trucks. An entertainment square, aiming to attract world-renowned DJs and performers, will be a highlight. The property will also be home to a beach club and a bar and lounge dedicated to VIP guests staying in the property's luxury suites.

Additional onsite facilities include a teenager's club where young adults can engage in PlayStation tournaments, and sports academies and enjoy the latest Hollywood blockbusters in a private cinema.

Younger guests can enjoy the spray action pool, a separate kid's pool and an outdoor recreation area with a wellness bar and outdoor gym facilities.

Wellness offerings include a spa featuring a Turkish hammam, an aerobics studio, yoga classes and private fitness sessions.

Accor currently operates 73 properties (23,512 keys) in the UAE alone with 19 properties (5,619 keys) in the pipeline.

## Lords strengthens presence in Sumerpur, Rajasthan

Lords Hotels and Resorts brings you its new True Value offering in Sumerpur destination with Lords Eco Inn, a boutique under construction property located opposite to the Post Office in Jawai Bandh Road, Sumerpur, Distt. Pali, Rajasthan.

This citycentric property is easily accessible from other prominent city attractions and corporate addresses; and is just 7kms from Jawai Bandh Railway Station and 160kms from Udaipur Airport.

The interiors will feature contemporary designs and will include well-designed rooms with high-end amenities; including Suites, Club and Premium rooms. Corporates can look forward to delivering a presentation or hosting an event, at the plush boardroom that is equipped with state-of-the-art technology that guarantees to help make a lasting impression and can be tailored to ones' business event requirements.

Kaushal Singh, Owner of Lords Eco Inn, Sumerpur said, "I believe they deliver what they have promised us and look forward to a productive and fruitful association with Lords Hotels and Resorts."

Rishi Puri, Senior Vice President Operations & Development conveyed "The hotel will be the 6th property of Lords group in this region after Udaipur, Jodhpur, Nathdwara and 2 properties in Jaipur that will provide quality accommodation and services at the best rates, and we hope to ensure a pleasant stay for all our guests travelling to this region".



## Kempinski Hotels takes over Luxurious Beach Hotel in Cancun, Mexico

Starting from September 2022, Europe's oldest luxury hotel group will take over a luxurious beach hotel in the attractive Mexican tourist destination of Cancun on the Riviera Maya. With no closure of operations, this well-known property will undergo various improvements and adjustments to the Kempinski brand standards in the coming months and will be named Grand Hotel Cancun – managed by Kempinski during the transition period.

"To strengthen the North American territory and to extend our footprint in this crucial market is an outstanding opportunity for Kempinski," says Bernold Schroeder, Chief Executive Officer of Kempinski Group and Chairman of the Management Board of Kempinski AG. "During a three-month transitional period, we will ensure that we implement our Kempinski DNA in the operation of this outstanding beach hotel and that we extend our brand recognition by delivering the impeccable service and quality Kempinski is renowned for."

"We are very excited about this new partnership in which Kempinski Hotels will bring a new level of luxury and service to our iconic resort", adds Claudia Molina Basteris, Chief Executive Officer Grupo Inmobiliario Mosa S.A.

Occupying one of the finest beaches in Mexico, the elegant hotel offers 315 guestrooms and 48 suites – all featuring private balconies or terraces with a panoramic view of the Caribbean Sea. Eight dining options including two AAA Five Diamond Award restaurants, an exclusive club lounge, two swimming pools and an oceanfront whirlpool, a spa with relaxation gardens and secluded terraces, a fitness centre with sauna and steam rooms, a tennis centre, private cabanas and lounges on the hotel's 400-metre stretch of beach, a beauty salon and a kids' club offer a wide range of facilities.

For incentive meetings, weddings, galas and conferences as well as events for large groups, abundant indoor and outdoor meeting space can be found around the resort.

"In addition to our presence in Cuba and Dominica, this will be another outstanding option for our esteemed guests to spend their holidays with us in the Caribbean," adds Bernold Schroeder.

Located in Cancun's hotel zone, the luxurious property can be reached in 25 minutes from Cancun International Airport as well as from downtown Cancun. Upscale shopping centres such as the Kukulkán Plaza or the La Isla Shopping Village are within walking distance.



# SPECIAL MONSOON OFFERS

GET READY TO DRENCH  
YOUR WANDERING SOUL  
WITH THE SUMMIT  
MONSOON PACKAGE



THE FIRST, LARGEST AND THE MOST PREFERRED  
HIMALAYAN HOSPITALITY BRAND

Darjeeling | Gangtok | Kalimpong  
Kaziranga | Lachung | Lachen | Lansdowne  
Pelling | Rishikesh | Shimla

RESERVATION HOTLINE NUMBER

**+91 83888 77888**

E: [b2b@summithotels.in](mailto:b2b@summithotels.in) W: [www.summithotels.in](http://www.summithotels.in)







# THE UPSWING IN SUSTAINABLE SOJOURNS

*The pandemic has changed our ways of travel and sustainable travelling is becoming a driving force. Even though the hangover of the pandemic-stricken years still prevails, the industry's resilience to travel and promote the newer, sustainable aspects of travel is certainly unbeatable.*

*With the acceleration of travel growth, India is soon to become one of the most promising remunerative markets for outbound tourism. New-age travellers are adopting the idea of 'slow travel' and TravelScapes expands its horizon to comprehend the shift in the travel pattern of millennial travellers. To collate the insiders on how various travel-related companies are catering to the demands of new-age travellers post-pandemic with heightened international travelling rules and regulations, TravelScapes gathers the views from the experts in travel space about how it is 'the time' for the travel operators to promote particular destinations as true marketers and not just usual sellers- this being encouraged with the aspects of socially and environmentally responsible tourism*

By Aanchal Sachdeva



**SANJAY KUMAR**  
CHIEF STRATEGY AND REVENUE OFFICER,  
INDIGO

Travelling responsibly and with a lesser carbon footprint is of high importance among Indian travellers who are looking for outbound travel.

The demand for international travel has picked up significantly post covid. This sudden demand for outbound travel from the Indian sector can be attributed to several factors such as pent-up demand, discovering new experiences, relaxing, and exploring new destinations with ease of procuring visas for personal and leisure travel.

The dynamics of travelling have changed a lot post-pandemic, as travellers want to have a positive impact on the community that they



**I believe, to support this evolution, we as an industry can further devote our time to listening and understanding the needs of the travellers, leverage big data and machine learning to gauge their likes, dislikes, and preferences and provide them with best-in-class products and services.**

are visiting and want to travel to destinations where they can experience the local culture. Travelling responsibly and with a lesser carbon footprint is of high importance among Indian travellers who are looking for outbound travel.

Traffic is expected to reach pre-pandemic levels this year.

The outbound tourism market has suffered as a result of the pandemic, with most international borders closed. Gradually the world has gained immunity against the virus strains and travellers across the globe are ready again for globetrotting. Vacation plans for Indian globetrotters have become significantly easier with several nations relaxing limitations and a few countries eliminating them entirely like Turkey, Maldives, and South Africa, amongst others.

India has been one of the largest sources of outbound tourism market into Turkey and the current peak travelling season has also been favourable. Turkey has relaxed all covid-related travel restrictions for Indian travellers, with a record high number of travellers from

India in June at over 27,300. Additionally, with IndiGo resuming direct flights to the country, travelling for leisure has become more convenient for Indians.

Maldives and Thailand are also among the most preferred destinations among Indian travellers post-pandemic. In October 2021, the Government of Thailand opened its borders to international travellers from 18 nations including India.

Besides Thailand, Maldives is still one of the favourite destinations to travel for Indians. The Maldives achieved the Safe Travel Stamp in September 2020. Undertaken by the World Travel and Tourism Council, the Save Travel Stamp is a global safety and hygiene campaign that seeks to assure tourists that their travel destination is safe for tourism. There are many airlines that provide direct flights from India to make it more convenient for travellers to reach their destinations in a short interval of time.

IndiGo recently added 'Ras Al-Khaimah' as its 100th destination after Bahrain. These new flights will cater to the high demand for travel between India and the Middle East.





**SANDEEP DWIVEDI**

*COO, INTERGLOBE TECHNOLOGY QUOTIENT*

### **People are becoming more environmentally conscious in their travel choices**

It is no secret that the travel industry was the worst hit by the pandemic, with several countries imposing a complete ban on travel. Before the virus outbreak, tourism accounted for more than 10 per cent of the global GDP. The share then decreased to 5.3% in 2020. However, recovery began in 2021 as the percentage rose to 6.1% and the number has risen this year. UN World Tourism Organization recorded around 250 million international arrivals in the first five months of 2022. Thus, the demand for outbound travel continues to rise and will soon reach the pre-pandemic levels.

Along with the rise in travel demand, people are shifting how they plan their trips. People are becoming more environmentally conscious in their travel choices and are opting for ways to minimise the impact of their vacations on the environment. According to Google, search volume on the term 'Ecotourism' has increased drastically in 2022.

In addition, people are increasing their travel durations and tend to stay in a place for longer. The increase in remote working opportunities during the pandemic has contributed to this trend of 'slow travel', yet another aspect of eco-friendly travel.

All of this reflects that sustainable travel is a priority for people today. Talking about the Indian scenario, in particular, Indians are left with limited choices due to visa restrictions. Moreover, few destinations are doing well due to European countries' visa and ticket price challenges.

### **The 2022 traveller is more conscious, aware, and careful about their choices**

The 2022 traveller is more conscious, aware, and careful about his choices.

Gone are the days when an intent to explore a different place was the only motivation behind planning a trip. Tourists today want to know a lot more before they decide on a particular destination. This is where it becomes

essential for destination sellers to step in and provide the necessary information. The role of a destination seller becomes even more crucial when the travellers have multiple options, offering the same set of experiences. The part of a destination seller is to establish the particular destination as a superior choice over the others, acting more like a marketer to ensure a boost in tourism for the specific place.

### **India is in the ideal position to become one of the world's most 'lucrative outbound tourism markets'**

It would have to be the US. In 2021, as per reports, the USA emerged as the world's largest outbound tourism market.

Meanwhile, according to a recent report titled Outbound Travel and Tourism - An Opportunity Untapped, India is also emerging as the fastest growing market globally. The report also says that India is in the ideal position to become one of the world's most 'lucrative outbound tourism markets'. In 2019, Indians spent 22.9 billion on outbound trips. The number took a hit during the pandemic and came down to USD 12.6 billion in 2021 but the figure is still huge and reflects the country's potential. It has also been predicted that by 2024, the figure will cross \$42 billion.

Also, it would be interesting to note the top outbound markets from India. As per the report, 20% of the travellers from India's outbound traffic travel to Europe, while 10 % travel to Australia and New Zealand. On the other hand, Dubai welcomed 9,10,000 Indians in 2021, while more than 2,19,000 Indians travelled to Singapore in the first half of this year.



**BA RAHIM**

*DIRECTOR, ONE ABOVE DESTINATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES*

### **The new age traveller wants to focus on safety and availability as the foremost**

The pandemic hindered and disrupted the Travel Industry quite hard when it first started and this is even relevant now when it has finally begun to diminish. This is especially showcased in the more rigid and



unyielding new rules and regulations enforced upon travellers now. The new rules make it challenging for the DMCs and travel companies to work with their well-known destinations. Outbound travel has notably taken the hit as it struggles to return to its pre-pandemic boom. With new protocols and restrictions for famous destinations, the travel ratio since 2019 has decreased significantly. This is because the new age traveller wants to focus on safety and availability as the foremost when travelling to a new destination, especially when there are so many new regulations to be followed. The industry has been steadily rearranging and including new ways to ensure that people are not turned away from the idea of travelling during the pandemic.

### **DMCs employ original and innovative advertising methods to provide travellers with the best destinations that meet their demands**

Destinations previously closed off have seen an enormous decline in their economy, especially those countries that rely heavily on tourism as their primary source of GDP. In these cases, the destination sellers must rely on marketing strategies to achieve their goals. Due to the new demands of the travellers, destination sellers need to make their respective destinations look desirable to their customers. Therefore, marketing has been very advantageous in promoting and ensuring profits for the tourism industry these past two years. By utilizing new marketing campaigns and tools, destinations have seen a rise in both inbound and outbound travel. DMCs employ original and innovative advertising methods to provide travellers with the best destinations that meet their demands.



# TravelScapes



## For advertising, contact

☎ 011-45530384/83

✉ [info@versatilemedia.in](mailto:info@versatilemedia.in)

🌐 [www.travelscapesonline.com](http://www.travelscapesonline.com)

📍 207, Satya Mansion, Commercial Complex,  
Ranjeet Nagar, New Delhi-110008



[f@TravelScapes](#) | [/travelscapes\\_vm](#) | [/Versatile Media TravelScapes](#)  
[/channel/UCDITpalSZQdxHwt0FGz7FfQ](#)

**SUBSCRIBE NOW**





# MADHYA PRADESH

**The state of Madhya Pradesh is blessed with marvelous heritage, rich wildlife experiences, architectural wonders, divine pilgrim spots and delicious food that everyone will love. The incredible state which is roughly translated as 'Heart Land' is both exceptional and peculiarly untouched. The spotlight doesn't hit MP with quite the same brilliance as it shines on more celebrated neighbouring states so experience travel riches ranking with the best without the feeling of just following a tourist trail**

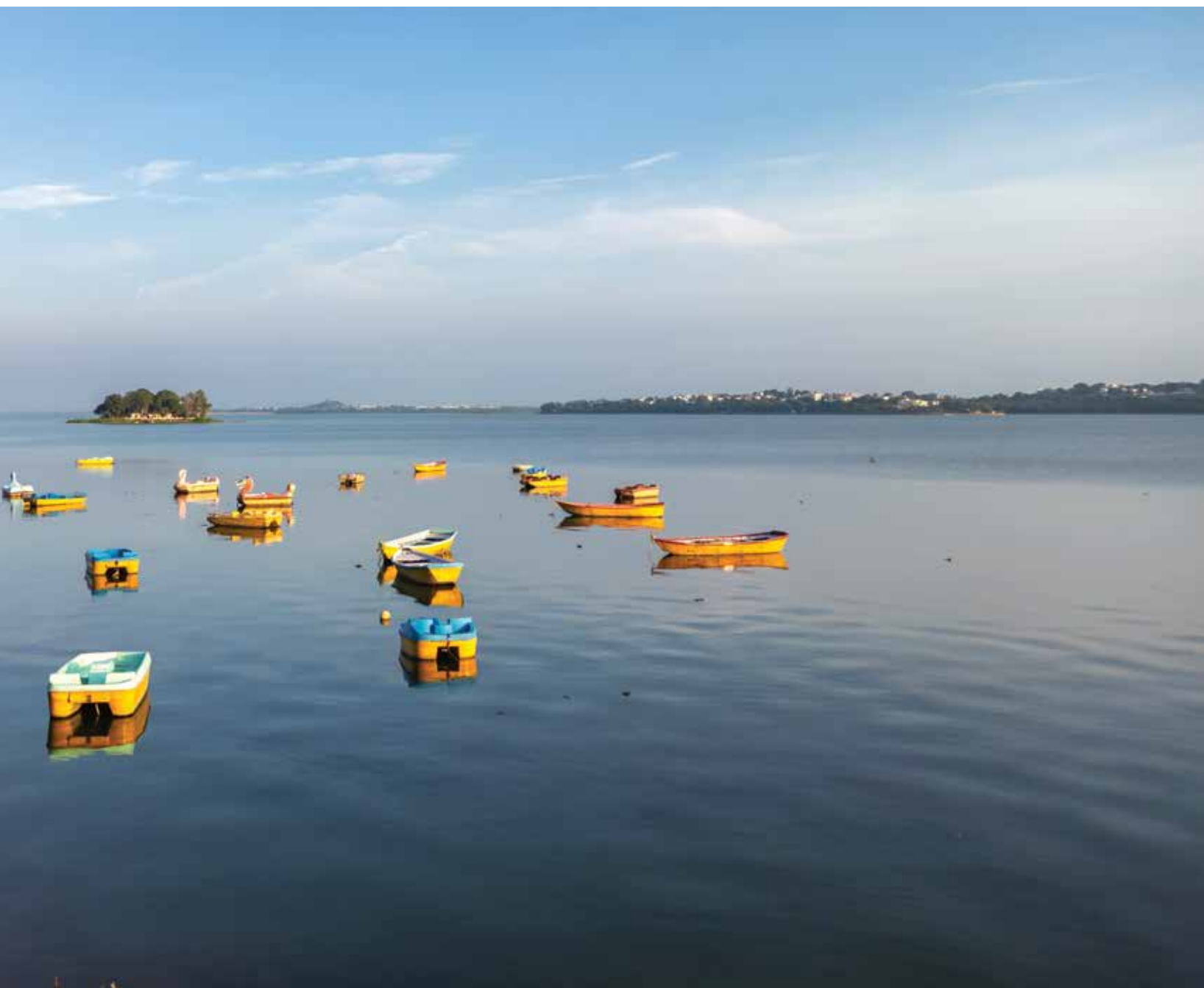
By Kritika Arora



## BHOPAL: CITY OF ROYALS

Bhopal which has been ruled by Begums for over 100 years, has an enthralling history with a remarkable architecture. The Begums gave the city its waterworks, railways, art, and culture and built several great monuments, which still stand as testimonies to the city's celebrated past. Beautiful lakes and breathtaking landscapes beautify the city. You'll be greeted by the old city to the north, which is home to magnificent mosques, winding lanes, mouth-watering food stalls, and bustling chowks. New Bhopal is located on the other side of the upper lake. Modern, featuring broad streets, shopping centres, opulent hotels, and eateries. Each contrast flank has something to offer and is well-connected!





## MAJESTIC ORCHHA WITH MUGHAL TREASURES

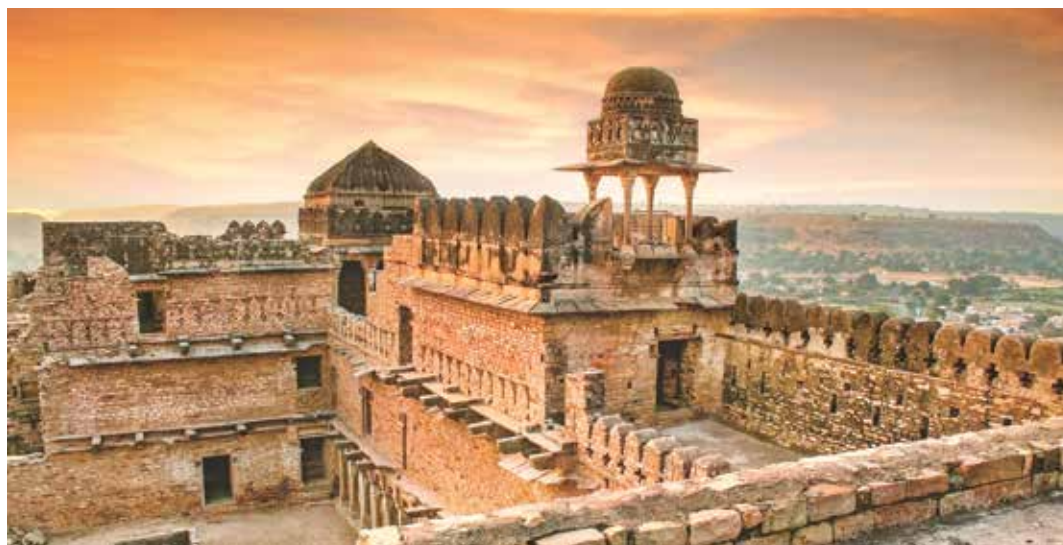
Rudra Pratap, the Bundela Rajput Chief, established the historic town of Orchha in the sixteenth century. It is located on the banks of the Betwa River, which divides into seven channels at this location, also known as the Satdhara. According to legend, this is done in honour of the seven former Chiefs of Orchha. The historic town appears to have stood still through the ages, with many of its monuments still retaining their former splendour. A childhood dream of travelling back in time might be realised here at some of the most interesting temples and palaces. The city has some of the most unique architectural style temples – Laxmi Narayan Temple (which is a mix of a fort and temple), Ram Raja Temple (the only place where Lord Ram is worshipped both as a god and a king), Chaturbhuj Temple to name a few.





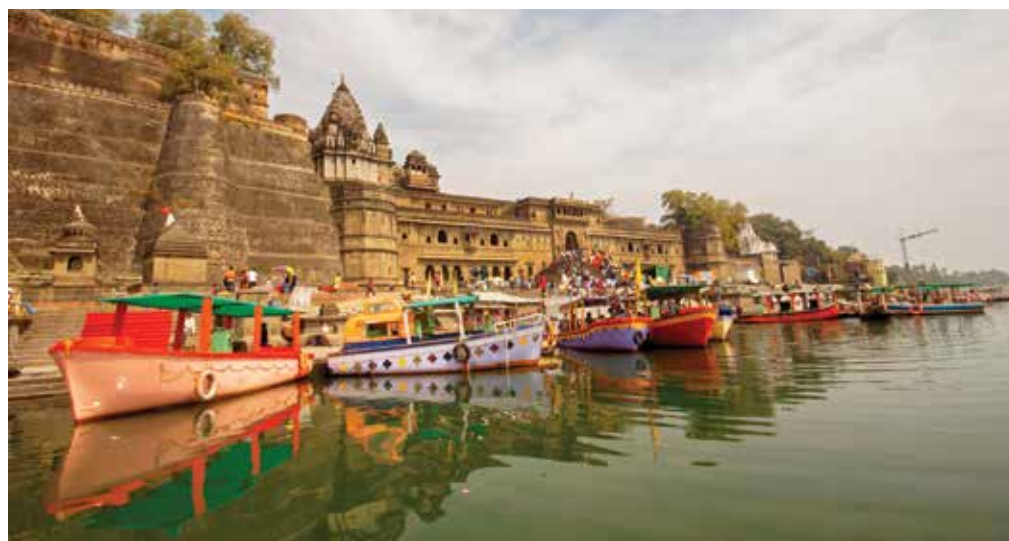
## CHARISMA OF CHANDERI

A little town from the 11th century called Chanderi is found in Madhya Pradesh's northern region. It is well-known for its charming forts, rolling hills, and exquisite hand-woven Chanderi sarees. There are several different weaves available here, ranging from pure Chanderi silk to Chanderi cotton-silk, and each weave is exceptional in its own right. The town will enchant you with its regal brightness in addition to its weaving industry! When you visit this historic city, you can appreciate the Chanderi Fort, Badal Mahal, and Koshak Mahal, three of its heritage attractions.



## INDORE: A FOOD PARADISE

The largest city in the state of Madhya Pradesh offers a mouth-watering culinary experience and is no less than a food paradise for those foodie tourists. Its signature dishes Poha Jalebi, Mawa Bati & Bhutte ki kees are popular across the nation. A visit to Indore is never complete without having scrumptious food at the city's Sarafa bazaar & Chappan Dukan. The metropolitan yet traditional vibe of Indore attracts tourists to fabulous places to visit like The Kanch Mandir (which is made entirely of glass and mirrors), luxurious Lal Bagh Palace and Royal Rajwada. With this, tourists can also visit the exotic natural wonders such as Gulawat Lotus Valley, Choral Ghat and Patalpani on the outskirts of the city.



## MAHESHWAR A MAGNIFICENT ROYAL RIVERSIDE TOWN

Maheshwar, which is located beside the Narmada River, appeals to both the tourist and the pilgrim in you. The town is home to a treasure trove of exquisite temples that soothe the soul and stunning man-made structures that are pleasing to the eyes. Maheshwar has been a centre for handloom weaving since the fifth century, producing the magnificent Maheshwari sarees and cloth. In the eighteenth century, the town also had the distinction of serving as the imperial capital of Rajmata Ahilya Devi Holkar. This ancient town instils in you a sense of amazement that is reminiscent of being a child by fusing spirituality and folklore with the beauty of nature and Maheshwari sarees.





## OTOAI ORGANISES 'MEMBERS MEET' EVENING

OTOAI (Outbound Tour Operators Association of India) organised a 'Members Meet' evening on August 20, 2022, at Sofitel, BKC, Mumbai in association with the Saudi Tourism Authority. Attended by close to 200 members, the event proved to be an excellent platform not only for OTOAI members to know about "The Kingdom of Saudi" as an upcoming destination for leisure travel but also a quality networking for the travel trade.

The event was well supported by the Saudi Tourism Authority India team and they presented the destination with all new dimensions about The Kingdom and educated the travel fraternity on various aspects of Saudi's culture, adventure, heritage, cuisine and much more. Saudi has immense potential to attract tourists in the coming years and it has some mega projects coming up like the Red Sea & Amaala in 2023.

The destination presentation was followed by an exciting Q&A and an interactive quiz. It was a great networking evening, attended by some senior members of the Mumbai travel fraternity.

Riaz Munshi, President, OTOAI said, "We are an Association committed to improving our members' knowledge and expertise and at the same time intend to provide exposure to new and trending outbound destinations from India. Saudi Tourism Authority has always been a religious

destination for Indians but now it has emerged as a brilliant tourism destination in the Middle East region. We are happy with our partnership with Saudi Arabia and the success of the event has proved that it was indeed a mutually beneficial partnership."





# FAM trip to Vietnam co-hosted by One Above DMC and VietJet Air

With an agenda to make Vietnam one of the most popular outbound destinations for Indian travellers in the coming years, the 9-member delegation of travel experts from India recently conducted a FAM trip co-hosted by One Above DMC and VietJet Air. "This Fam trip surveyed Vietnam's tourism – an opportunity to strengthen connectivity and exploit the Indian market. We can feel the

keenness of Vietnam in approaching and marketing to India and we are also enthusiastic about promoting this destination for the high-income spenders." Said Rahim Aslam, Director and Founder, One Above DMC.

Members of the fam trip are founders and directors of leading tour operators in Mumbai, specialising in the luxury tour, high-end tour, MICE, FIT and leisure comprising One Above, In

Time, Tourister, Vinayak Holidays, Kesari Travels, Jain & Jain Travels, Whiteboard, Plutus Voyages and Digital Travellers (media) experienced the best of Vietnam.

The aim was to showcase beautiful cities, covering Hanoi, Cat Ba Island, Halong, Hanoi, Da Nang, and Sai Gon, along with its diverse tourism products and services and promote the MICE and wedding destinations to India.







## Thai tourist arrivals reach 1 million for first time in 2 years

Thailand's foreign tourist arrivals reached one million for the first time since early 2020 as tourism picks up following an easing of pandemic restrictions, bolstering economic growth prospects.

The tourism-reliant country received 1.07 million foreign visitors in July, up from 767,497 visitors the previous month, its Covid-19 task force said.

That was the highest level since the 2.06 million arrivals in February 2020, after which strict pandemic curbs devastated the lucrative sector, which typically accounts for 11 to 12 per cent of Thailand's gross domestic product.

Last year, there were just 428,000 foreign visitors, compared with a record of nearly 40 million in 2019.

With restrictions lifted, foreign arrivals in the first seven months soared nearly 5,300 per cent.

## New Zealand fully reopens borders ending covid controls

New Zealand has fully reopened to international visitors, lifting the last remnants of one of the toughest border regimes introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The country began reopening its borders in February with the lifting of restrictions on New Zealand citizens, followed in May by the return of tourists from more than 50 countries including the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

"It's been a staged and cautious process on our part since February as we, alongside the rest of the world, continue to manage a very live global pandemic, while keeping our people safe," New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said. Most visitors will need to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

## Dubai draws over 7 million international visitors in H1

Dubai attracted 7.12 million international overnight visitors between January and June 2022 (H1), recording more than 183% growth in visitors compared to the 2.52 million tourists who visited Dubai during the same period in 2021, according to latest data from Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET).

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, said: "The vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, to make Dubai the city of the future and the world's best place to live, work and invest

in has resulted in a resurgence of Dubai's tourism sector."

The number of tourists recorded in H1 2022 was close to the numbers achieved in the first six months of 2019, which saw 8.36 million tourists arriving in Dubai. The emirate's ability to quickly return to near pre-pandemic tourism levels is even more remarkable given the impact of unprecedented challenges and other macroeconomic factors on the global economy and tourism sector.

The latest data demonstrate Dubai's ranking as the No.1 global destination in Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2022. It also remains one of the most sought-after cities for international travel, business and events.



## France lifts all remaining covid travel restrictions

France's Ministry of the Interior has announced that all remaining restrictions for foreign travellers have been removed. This updates the previous guidance for international arrivals, under which requirements varied by country of origin with unvaccinated travellers from some countries still required to self-isolate on arrival.

All such conditions have been suspended

so that international travellers, including students, no longer have to complete any formalities before arriving in France, including the presentation of any health pass or proof of vaccination.

"Since the beginning of the crisis, the border health control system has made it possible to protect our health system and to delay the arrival on the national territory of variants with worrying characteristics," said the Ministry.





## Chalo Kazak – Chalo DMC forays into Kazakhstan to leveraging potential for Indian Travellers

After the huge success with South Africa and the Domestic tourism vertical Chalo DMC, the leading destination management company having a philosophy to specialize in key destinations now expands to add Kazakhstan to their ever-growing range of product offerings.

Siddharth Jain - Founder & Director Chalo DMC, already having a robust persistent association with Kazakhstan is extremely excited to re-launch his alliance with the destination. With his profound knowledge and proficiency in Kazakhstan, the team at Chalo DMC intend to capitalize on the strong and growing travel opportunity the region offers for travel from India.

He shared, "Along with an enthusiastic team, we are looking forward to welcoming the Indian Traveller to explore this hidden Central-Asian gem."

Pranav Kapadia Director Sales and Marketing, highlighted, "We are delighted to announce the opening of our new office in Almaty, and this expansion will



augment Chalo DMC's distribution and reach as we are all set to offer our travel agent partners end-to-end travel solutions for Kazakhstan. We intend to accelerate demand with a wide range of travel accommodation options, ground handling services and multiple itineraries for the Destination".

The company's current focus in market is to cater to the specifics of Luxury Travel, Corporate, MICE, Honeymoon as well as niche such as Golf Tours amongst the various other traveller segments.

## Tourists Are Back in Numbers: Minister Lindiwe Sisulu

Minister of Tourism, Lindiwe Sisulu, told the media today that "the South African tourism sector is poised for a tremendous bounce back and positive growth after the first half of the year (2022) figures show a staggering 147% in arrivals reaching an impressive 2,285,746."

Sisulu was speaking in Johannesburg during a media briefing where she presented the domestic and international tourism performance for January to June 2022. "We are particularly pleased that the arrivals from the Americas increased by 331% and represented 128,991 arrivals," Sisulu said.

According to the Minister, Europe remains South Africa's key overseas market and despite

external shocks such as the war in Ukraine, it still "had the most considerable percentage increase in arrivals of 563%."

Tourism's upward trajectory is overwhelming on the domestic front; where between January and June 2022, 15.2 million domestic trips were taken. The Minister described this as "A major win for the tourism sector as this is higher than pre-pandemic levels, indicating that South Africa's domestic tourism sector has also experienced a revenge travel trend."

Sisulu said the most heart-warming aspect of the numbers was that the share of holiday trips has increased by 23.8% compared with the same period in 2021, and the average spend has skyrocketed to 28.6%."



## Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru Launches Extensive Wellbeing Activities

Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru launches extensive wellbeing activities to enhance guest experiences.

The purpose of travel has dramatically changed in the quick span of three pandemic years, and travelers now look not only into getting a digital detox but also to experiencing a sense of place, a sanctuary where self-care is the center of the holiday.

Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru's serene natural landscape and tranquil environment sets the space one needs to start their wellbeing journey or to enjoy a mindful holiday. With spectacular sunrise and sunsets, sparkling cerulean waters teeming with marine life, and swaying palm trees, this island paradise is a sanctuary for the senses perfectly made for a mindfulness retreat.

Led by the resort's Wellbeing Manager, Dr. Tomson Jose, Banyan Tree Vabbinfaru rolls out a variety of wellbeing activities that guests can experience throughout their stay.

Guests can begin their day with Ocean Breath, a guided meditation session at the beach where they can experience the rejuvenating quality of breathing negative ions that pervades a coastal environment.

## Katy Perry joins christening ceremony of Norwegian Prima

The first of six ships in the groundbreaking Prima Class, Norwegian Prima, debuted to more than 2,500 guests who enjoyed an immersive experience in the beautiful Icelandic capital and a christening celebration like no other.



"With her stunning design and unique offerings, Norwegian Prima is in a league of her own," said Frank Del Rio, President and Chief Executive Officer of Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. "As the industry's most spacious new cruise ship featuring 'only-available-

on-Prima-experiences,' she is continuing NCL's legacy of industry firsts."

"We have been eagerly anticipating and preparing for this special event for several years, so we are delighted to embark on NCL's next chapter with Norwegian Prima," said Harry Sommer, President and Chief Executive Officer Of Norwegian Cruise Line.

Guests at the christening ceremony were treated to a show-stopping performance by popular Icelandic group and 2021 "Eurovision Song Contest" fan favorites, Daði og Gagnamagnið, before Norwegian Prima's very own godmother, Katy Perry took to the main stage to officially name and christen the vessel with the ceremonial champagne bottle break across the ship's hull. .





## Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort officially opens doors for travellers

The Outrigger Koh Samui Beach Resort officially opened on August 1 with a group from Germany as its first guests. The fully renovated resort opened with 44 premium category rooms, with the remaining 102 superior rooms to open in November 2022.

Guests can enjoy the resort's main lifestyle features, which are ideal for families, including the beachfront Edgewater beach club with three pool zones and a kids' water slide. Guests can also enjoy the Outrigger's signature Voyager 47 Club Lounge, the Coral Kids Club and game room, a fully equipped fitness center, and redesigned main lobby area.

Depending on the category, premium rooms feature spacious living quarters separate from the rest of the room, a four-poster bed, relaxing tropical decor, and a luxurious marble bathroom with a separate shower and bathtub.

All guests in premium rooms have exclusive Voyager 47 Club Lounge access with all-day non-alcoholic drinks, afternoon snacks, and evening cocktails with the Chef's tasting plate.

"We are really excited by the whole Edgewater family beach club concept, which is the first of its kind in this part of the island," said the resort's General Manager, Leah Matters.

## Wego and Visit Greece partner to offer summer trips

Wego, an online travel marketplace in the Mena region, and Visit Greece have announced an agreement to take travellers on an inspiring travel experience this summer.

Through Wego and Visit Greece, travellers can grab the best deals and get all the information they need to plan their perfect stay in the country.

Among the top destinations from Mena searching for a stay in summer 2022 in Greece are Saudi Arabia and UAE, with 42% and 11% simultaneously. Egypt ranks third followed by Kuwait, Jordan, Turkey, and Oman.

Mamoun Hmedan, Chief Commercial Officer and Managing Director, Mena and India of Wego, said: "We see an increased demand for this vibrant cosmopolitan hub from the Mena region."

Dimitris Fragakis, Secretary General of Greek National Tourism Organization, said: "We are extremely happy to work with Wego one of the most influential platforms for the Arabic audience! Our aim is to promote Greece as a destination ideal for couples, for solo travellers, but also for family vacation."

## Ethiopian Airlines signs New Distribution Agreement with Travelport

Ethiopian Airlines and Travelport, a global technology company that powers bookings for hundreds of thousands of travel suppliers worldwide, announced a new agreement. The renewed deal includes distribution on the Travelport platform and expands the ongoing travel retailing and distribution relationship between Travelport and Ethiopian, which was ranked the number one airline within the African continent by Business Insider earlier this year.

"As we are now investing in our ability to meet the high demand for travel following the pandemic, it is crucial that we deepen our partnership with Travelport as they understand our need to efficiently

deliver simplified access to our growing content," said Lemma Yadecha, Chief Commercial Officer at Ethiopian Airlines.

David Gomes, Head of Regional Air Partners, EMEA at Travelport, said: "Our renewed, expanded agreement with Ethiopian Airlines to include Travelport RC&B participation is a significant step in evolving and modernizing Ethiopian's retailing strategy. Travelport was built to manage multiple sources of content and effectively merchandize personalized and dynamic offers, which will greatly benefit the agency community and provide a better experience for Ethiopian's travellers as the airline pushes its NDC strategy forward."



## Denmark is once again ranked the world's most sustainable country

Ranked at the top on climate and overall, Denmark has introduced a binding Climate Act with the national target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 70% below 1990 levels by 2030. Today, about two-thirds of Danish electricity comes from clean sources, and the city of Copenhagen aims to become the world's first carbon-neutral capital in the next three years. On top, Denmark has decided to end oil and gas exploration in the North Sea by 2050 while introducing 14 Climate Partnerships with the private sector to find ways that individual sectors can contribute to CO2e reductions in a just way, supporting Danish competitiveness, exports, jobs, welfare, and prosperity.

The 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) offers a data-rich sustainability scorecard that translates cutting-edge scientific

findings into policy insights. Using 40 performance indicators, the EPI ranks 180 countries on their national efforts to protect environmental health, enhance ecosystem vitality, and mitigate climate change. These indicators measure how close countries are to meeting internationally established sustainability targets for specific environmental issues.





## Jetstar And Indigo Partnership Goes Live

Jetstar customers in Singapore and Southeast Asia have more options to book low-cost direct flights and connections to India as the virtual interline partnership between Jetstar and Indian low-cost carrier, IndiGo goes live today.

As demand for air travel continues to recover, Jetstar customers looking for low-cost travel options can now access IndiGo's low fares from Jetstar's hub in Singapore to key Indian destinations including Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi, and Tiruchirappalli via jetstar.com.

Jetstar Asia Commercial Lead, Mr Poh Tiong Seng, "Today's announcement is a significant milestone for Jetstar as we continue to expand our network via Singapore's Changi Airport

through our partnership with IndiGo. "Jetstar Connect allows us to offer our customers more exciting opportunities to travel and more great value fares all at the click of a button, making travel even more accessible."

Sanjay Kumar, Chief Strategy and Revenue Officer, IndiGo, "This strategic agreement will enable both airlines to tap into the rising demand for international travel, with the upcoming festive season.

"The partnership will enable customers to enjoy seamless connectivity between Jetstar and IndiGo and access to a wide variety of destinations across Asia Pacific. This partnership will also help us to expand our international connectivity to yet another continent through Jetstar's network."



## Gulf Air & RAK International Airport Sign on service commencement to RAK

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, in coordination with Ras Al Khaimah International Airport (RAK International Airport), will commence schedule services to Ras Al Khaimah on October 3, 2022.

The service will commence with a view to establish a year-round scheduled operation between the two airports connecting the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah beyond Bahrain to regional and international destinations on Gulf Air's global network.

Zayed R. Alzayani said, "As the region's leading boutique carrier with a global footprint, we look forward to adding Ras Al Khaimah to our network of seaside destinations and increasing our UAE points to three with Abu Dhabi and Dubai."

Captain Waleed AlAlawi

commented, "We are delighted to add Ras Al Khaimah as third destination on our growing UAE network, and we would like to recognise and thank the proactive cooperation with Ras Al Khaimah International Airport, as we provide our passengers with a new destination known for its quality tourism appeal and attracts tourists from the GCC and Europe."

Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Al Qasimi remarked, "This agreement enhances the services between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UAE; and we are delighted to have this in partnership with Gulf Air."

Atanasios Titonis stated, "Gulf-state and European connectivity is a key factor of our expansion strategy, and Gulf Air is an ideal partner for this mission."

## DigiYatra App's beta version successfully launched at BLR Airport

The beta version of DigiYatra App was successfully rolled out at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru (BLR Airport). Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) has been pioneering the DigiYatra effort from its early concept days and pilot trials have been held since January 2017 at BLR Airport. DigiYatra – the contactless, seamless processing of passengers at airports, based on the use of single token face biometrics for verification of passengers is a significant project led by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Government of India.

For the first phase rollout of the DigiYatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE), BLR Airport is one of the two selected airports in India and passengers experienced this new-age, contactless and seamless process that



commenced on 15th August 2022.

At BLR Airport, the DigiYatra Biometric boarding system at e-gates is operational and being rolled out at full scale for all domestic airlines in a phased manner, covering checkpoints for domestic travel.

Vistara Airlines and AirAsia are the two airlines that are currently integrated with

DigiYatra. The app is currently available on Google Playstore for Android users, and an iOS version will be made available in one month.

"It is our constant endeavour at BIAL to offer innovative ways to simplify the passenger journey and make it as seamless as possible. We are glad to be part of the first phase rollout and value the trust reposed in us by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, and the Government of India. As the new gateway to India, BLR Airport is keen to be at the forefront of change and innovation," said Hari Marar, MD & CEO at Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL).

The DigiYatra Foundation will be a pan-India entity and the custodian of the Passenger ID validation process.





# Travmasters

Ace of Travel Space

## CREATING & CURATING UNIQUE TRAVEL STORIES

## FOR YOU!



### OUR PORTFOLIO INCLUDES:

- Ticketing-Domestic & International
- Holiday Packages-Domestic & International
- Aviation and Charter Services
- Wedding & Events



**Connect with us:**

**Email:** [reservations@travmasters.com](mailto:reservations@travmasters.com), [packages@travmasters.com](mailto:packages@travmasters.com)

**Phone:** 9311959555, 011-45530385

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



## Air Arabia reports solid first half 2022 net profit of AED 451 million

**A**ir Arabia (PJSC), the Middle East & North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier operator, today reported a strong first half (January to June) 2022 as recovery in demand for air travel continued.

Air Arabia reported a net profit of AED 451 million for the first six months ending June 30, 2022, compared to AED 44 million registered in the corresponding first half 2021. In the same period, the airline posted a turnover of AED 2.24 billion, a 110 per cent increase compared to the corresponding first half of last year. During the second quarter ending June 30, 2022, Air Arabia registered a net profit of AED 160 million, compared to AED 10 million net profit reported for the same period last year.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia, said: "The solid financial and operational performance registered in the first half of this year is a testament to the strength of the business model we operate and the appeal to the value driven product that Air Arabia offers



to our customers."

Al Thani concluded: "The global aviation industry continues to face geo-political challenges, the impact of higher oil prices and uncertainty towards full economic recovery. Despite all these challenges, we have full confidence in the business model we operate, and the crucial role that the aviation industry plays in supporting regional and global economic growth".



## Emirates to launch A380 service to Bengaluru

**B**engaluru will soon become the second city in India after Mumbai to be served by Emirates' flagship A380 services. The world's largest passenger airplane will be deployed on the Dubai-Bengaluru route for the first time beginning October 30.

"The aircraft upgrade will allow customers travelling to and from the South Indian city to enjoy its signature services across a broader network," said the airline.

Emirates airlines has been operating between Dubai and Bengaluru through Boeing 777 until now. It will be the first time any airliner will offer A380 services at the Bengaluru airport.

The gigantic airplane weighs between 510 and 575 tonnes and is as long as two blue whales, nearly 73 metre. The double-decker aircraft stands as tall as five giraffes or 24 metre.

Powered by a GP7200 RR Trent 900 engine, the A380 has a maximum flying range of 8,000 nautical miles (roughly 15,000 km). It flies at a cruising altitude of 43,100 feet.

Built with a whopping four million parts, the A380 seats 45 per cent more passengers than the Boeing 777. It has extra legroom and the largest screens across all cabins.

Emirates operates a total of 118 units of A380 and it has flown more than one billion km and over 105 million passengers have travelled in it since 2018.

The A380 offers one of the most luxurious flying experiences in the world with private suites and shower spas in the first class, flat-bed seats in business class.

## Kanpur Airport to have World-Class Facilities by December 2022

**K**anpur city is the commercial capital of Uttar Pradesh and hub for Leather, Textile and Defense production, the city attracts air travelers in large numbers. Currently, Kanpur Airport is directly connected Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Gorakhpur.

Considering the growth in passenger traffic, AAI has undertaken the development work of Civil enclave at Kanpur Airport with enhanced passengers' facilities at a project cost of Rs 143.6 Crores. The development project includes construction of a new terminal building, and apron suitable for parking of three A-321 type of aircraft.

Built in an area of 6248 sq. mt, the new terminal building of the civil enclave will be designed to process 300 passengers during peak hours. Equipped with all modern passenger amenities, the terminal will have eight check-in counters, conveyor belts for arriving passengers. A parking area has also been planned for parking of 150 Cars. The terminal building will be a Four-Star GRIHA rated energy efficient



building with sustainability features. The façade of the terminal will also reflect the local art and heritage of the place inspired from famous JK Temple of Kanpur. The development project is also expected to be completed by December, 2022.

The development of civil enclave of Kanpur Airport with enhanced capacity will improve the connectivity to this City, giving impetus to the overall growth of the region.



## AAI signs MoU with Sweden to facilitate smart and sustainable aviation technology collaboration

Airports Authority of India (AAI) and LfV Air Navigation Services of Sweden (LUFTFARTSVERKET) signed a Memorandum of Understanding today at the Corporate Headquarters of AAI in New Delhi.

The agreement brings together two air navigation service providers, India and Sweden, with demonstrated capabilities in building and operationalizing the next generation of sustainable aviation technology, to explore smart aviation solutions. It will allow the Indian companies to accelerate growth while leveraging Swedish innovation and expertise.

The MoU was signed by M. Suresh, Member (Air Navigation Services), AAI and Magnus Corell, Deputy Director General, LfV Sweden. The event was attended by Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, AAI; Malin Cederfeldt Östberg, State Secretary, Ministry of Infrastructure, Government of Sweden, H.E. Klas Molin, the Ambassador of Sweden to India and H.E. Tanmaya Lal, the Ambassador of India to Sweden.

Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman,



Airports Authority of India, congratulated the Govt of India and the Govt of Sweden for taking this initiative of a collaborative effort towards strengthening India's efforts for the development of an efficient, safe, secure and sustainable aviation sector.

Klas Molin, Ambassador of Sweden to India, "We are looking forward to this addition to the already expansive India-Sweden collaboration, which already include sustainability, health, innovation, energy, and will now extend to civil aviation."

Tanmaya Lal, Ambassador of India to Sweden mentioned, "This MoU covers one more new ground and will facilitate technology collaborations to improve safety, sustainability and efficiency in the aviation sector."

## Saudia Launches Inaugural Flight From Seoul To Riyadh

Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAUDIA), the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, officially launched its first direct flight from the South Korean capital of Seoul to Riyadh. The new flight route comes in line with the Saudi Aviation Strategy, which aims to connect the Kingdom to the world with more than 250 destinations.

The landmark flight successfully utilized SAUDIA's Boeing 787 Dreamliner, a two-class aircraft with 274 seats in guest class and 24 flat beds in business class. The establishment of the Seoul-Riyadh route demonstrates the air carrier's commitment to offering a wide variety of flight options that boosts the Kingdom's connectivity with the world.

"As the Wings of Vision 2030, the

national carrier has the necessary capacity to continually broaden its route network and welcome a wide range of visitors into Saudi Arabia," said Engr. Ahmed Alwassiah, acting Chief Executive Officer of SAUDIA. "To support our strategic objectives, we ensure our airline's 144-aircraft fleet is suited with the latest in-flight innovations and plan to modernize and expand it during the next few years."

"SAUDIA is not only connecting the Kingdom to more of the world touristically, but also helping to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and services, allowing both countries to enhance their local businesses, logistics framework, and manufacturing infrastructure."

## UDAN Scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation completes 5 years of success

Ministry of Civil Aviation's flagship program Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) has completed 5 years of success since the launch of its first flight by Prime Minister on April

27, 2017. The scheme was initiated on October 21, 2016 with the objective to fulfil the aspirations of the common citizen by following the vision of 'UdeDeshkaAamNagrik', with an enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and tier III cities.

In the last five years, UDAN has significantly increased the regional air-connectivity in the country. There were 74 operational airports in 2014. This number has increased to



141 by now.

68 underserved/unserved destinations which include 58 Airports, 8 Heliports & 2 Water Aerodromes have been connected

under UDAN scheme. With 425 new routes initiated under the scheme, UDAN has provided air connectivity to more than 29 States/ UTs across the length and breadth of the country.

220 destinations (airports/heliports/water aerodromes) under UDAN are targeted to be completed by 2026 with 1000 routes to provide air connectivity to unconnected destinations in the country. Under UDAN, 954 routes have already been awarded to connect 156 airports.

## Government mandates aircraft operators to share details on international air travellers to & from India

The government has made it mandatory for airlines to share international passengers' details with the customs department citing 'risk analysis'.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) said that every airline is now required to provide Passenger Name Record (PNR) details to the National Customs Targeting Centre-Passenger (NCTC-P) no later than 24 hours before the departure time. The government said this is being done with an aim to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute offences under the Customs Act. The passenger's name record information will include details like PNR, date of reservation, benefit information (like free tickets, upgrades) and an issue of ticket as well as

frequent flyer. The details will also contain payment or billing information, travel itinerary and the travel agency.

With this move, India has now joined the list of other 50 countries that also collect PNR details of international passengers.

CBIC also stated that a penalty of ₹25,000 to ₹50,000 will be levied in case an air operator does not comply with the mandate.

Abhishek Jain, Partner, Indirect Tax, KPMG in India said, "The objective of said regulations is to obtain relevant passenger data for risk analysis to proactively prevent, detect, investigate or prosecute offences under the Customs law or any other domestic or international law."





**ANKUSH SHARMA**

**PROMOTED AT:** Sarovar Hotels  
**TO:** General Manager – Development  
 Sarovar Hotels has appointed Ankush Sharma as the new General Manager- Development. Sharma has more than two decades of diverse experience in the hotel sector, both in India and abroad. His background includes project management, sales and marketing, e-commerce, liaison, and operations management. In the past, he has served as the General Manager of the Ramee Rose in Bahrain and the Clarion Collection, Qutab in New Delhi



**PRAFUL NARCHAL**

**PROMOTED AT:** The Den Hotel, Bengaluru  
**TO:** Director – Sales and Marketing  
 Praful Narchal has been named the Director of Sales and Marketing at The Den Bengaluru, a Dan Hotels property in Israel. His duties at the Den will include overseeing the company's overall sales strategy, programmes, annual budgets, income, and distribution. With this he will also be in charge of the whole sales and marketing operation for the five-star luxury hotel. Narchal is a passionate and result-driven professional with over 16 years of expertise.



**BARUN GUPTA**

**PROMOTED AT:** Hyatt Regency, Delhi  
**TO:** Director – Sales and Marketing  
 Barun Gupta has been named the Director of Sales by Hyatt Regency Delhi. He will oversee strategic sales, marketing, and business operations in his new position, and he will also develop MICE initiatives. Gupta has extensive expertise working with top worldwide hotel chains over a ten-year period, and also specialises in room and MICE sales. He has previously held the position of Director of Sales for IHG's Crowne Place Greater Noida.



**VANDITA SINGH**

**PROMOTED AT:** The Fern Hotels & Resorts, Hyderabad  
**TO:** General Manager – Marketing and Communications  
 Vandita Singh is appointed as the General Manager – Marketing and Communications at The Fern Hotels & Resorts. She has worked with Qatar Airways and Ogilvy & Mather, across the Middle East, India, and Nepal, and has more than ten years of expertise. Singh has hugely contributed to the global success of Qatar Airways through large-scale events, CSR initiatives, and partnerships with a few organisations.



**LOKENDRA SAINI**

**PROMOTED AT:** EaseMyTrip  
**TO:** Chief Operating Officer  
 Lokendra Saini is appointed as the Chief Operating Officer of EaseMyTrip. To strategically expand the business vertical, Lokendra draws on his 15 years of expertise working with businesses like ixigo, MakeMyTrip, and Golbibo. Lokendra. He will be in charge of directing the company's growth and will design and implement strategies for commercial expansion and advancements in all areas of travel.



**SMITA MUKHERJEE**

**PROMOTED AT:** The Westin Mumbai Garden City  
**TO:** Director - Human Resources  
 The Westin Mumbai Garden City appointed Smita Mukherjee to the position of Director of Human Resources. Her new position will require her to lead all operations across multiple Human Resources specialties. Smita illustrious career has spanned over 14 years, where she has worked as the Director of Human Resources for The Westin Pune before joining The Westin Mumbai Garden City. passion for learning and development.



**WAIBHAV RAWAT**

**PROMOTED AT:** Renest River Country Resort Manali  
**TO:** General Manager  
 Waibhav Rawat is appointed as the General Manager of Renest River Country Resort Manali. Having more than ten years of experience, he will direct property operations at Renest Manali and put growth plans in place to establish and maintain market leadership His duties span all areas of the hotel, such as sales and marketing, human resources, food and beverage, budgeting and forecasting, enabling employees to offer visitors the best service.



**AMITABH SHARMA**

**PROMOTED AT:** Sayaji Hotel, Kolhapur  
**TO:** General Manager  
 Amitabh Sharma is appointed general manager of the Sayaji Hotel in Kolhapur. He will be managing Sayaji Hotels Limited's activities in his new position. He has more than 25 years of work experience and is an enthusiastic professional in the hospitality sector. He graduated from IHM Meerut with a degree in Hotel Management and has worked for prestigious hotel chains including The Oberoi, The Park, Jaypee Palace and Convention Centre, The Grand Bhagwati, Radisson Blu, and Sayaji Hotels.

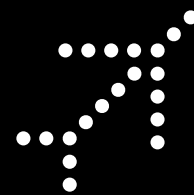


**ISADA SAOVAROS**

**PROMOTED AT:** ITC Windsor, Bengaluru  
**TO:** General Manager  
 Isada Saovaros is appointed as the Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's Mumbai Office (TAT). He will be in charge of Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and western and southern India. Saovros has previously served as the Director of the province of Trat before joining the India office. He has more than 23 years of expertise and is well versed about the travel and trade industry.



# Skip to the good part



Go see the world. Return fares starting at ₹10,899\*.



Malaysia

Singapore

Thailand

Vietnam

Istanbul

Also flying to Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Colombo, Dammam, Dhaka, Doha, Dubai, Jeddah, Kathmandu, Kuwait, Malé, Muscat, Ras Al Khaimah, Riyadh, and Sharjah.

Download the  
IndiGo app



\*Lowest all-inclusive return fare valid on limited seats.





EXPERIENCE  
THE BEST OF  
BOTH WORLDS

FORTUNE  
BUSINESS  
*Stays*

## Book Direct With Us and unlock benefits

- |   |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|---|
|  Best available rates*         |  Additional 10% off on early bird bookings* |  Complimentary Wi-Fi          |  Complimentary buffet* breakfast |
|  15% off on food and beverages* |  Usage of meeting room for 2 hours*         |  2 pieces* of laundry per day |  Same day cancellation by 4 PM   |

Book Now on [www.itchotels.com/fortunehotels](http://www.itchotels.com/fortunehotels)  
Or Call 24x7 Toll Free **1800-102-2333, 1800-419-6444**



\*Offer applicable from Monday to Thursday. T&C Apply