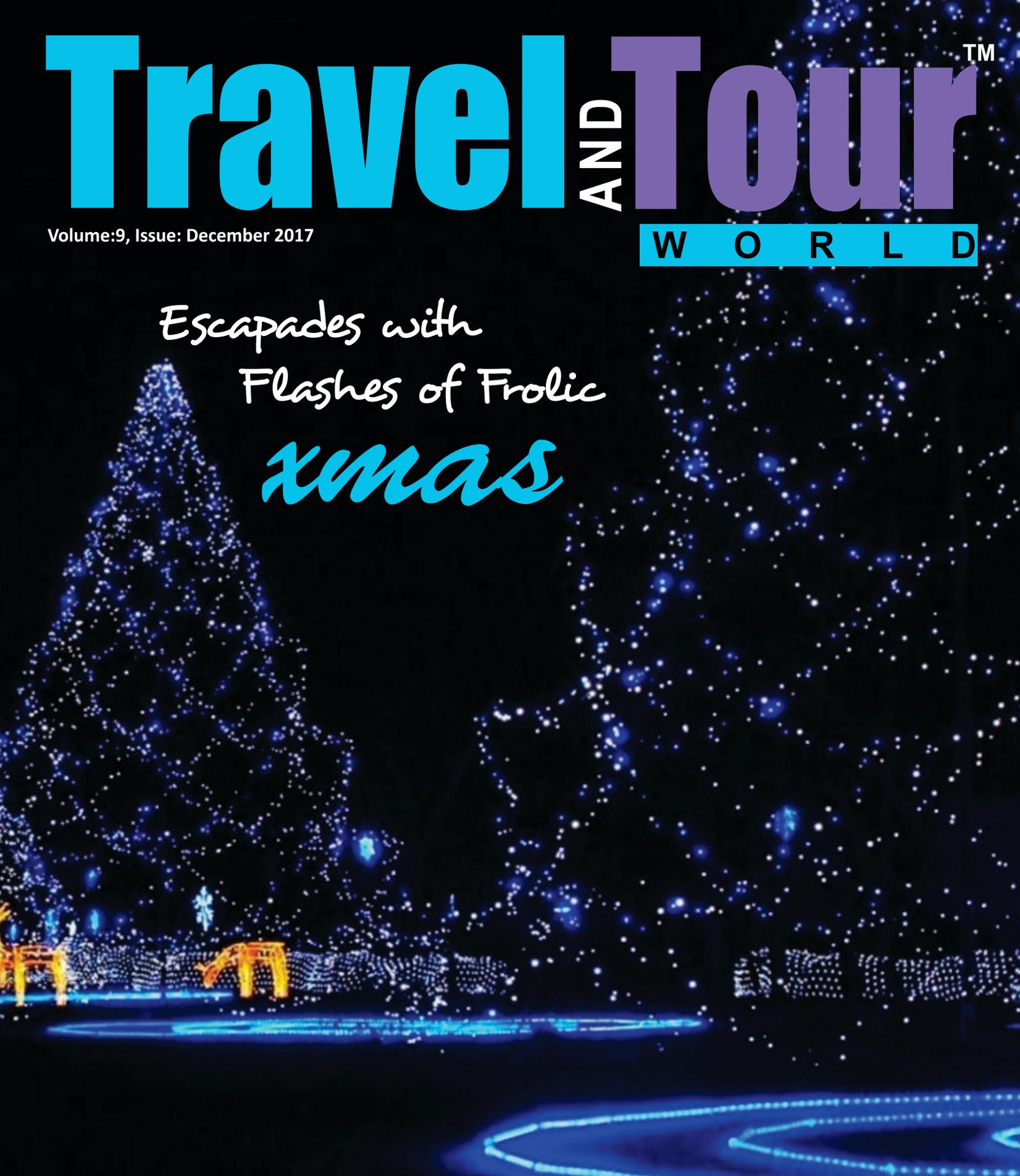


Travel AND Tour TM

Volume:9, Issue: December 2017

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Flashes of Frolic
xmas



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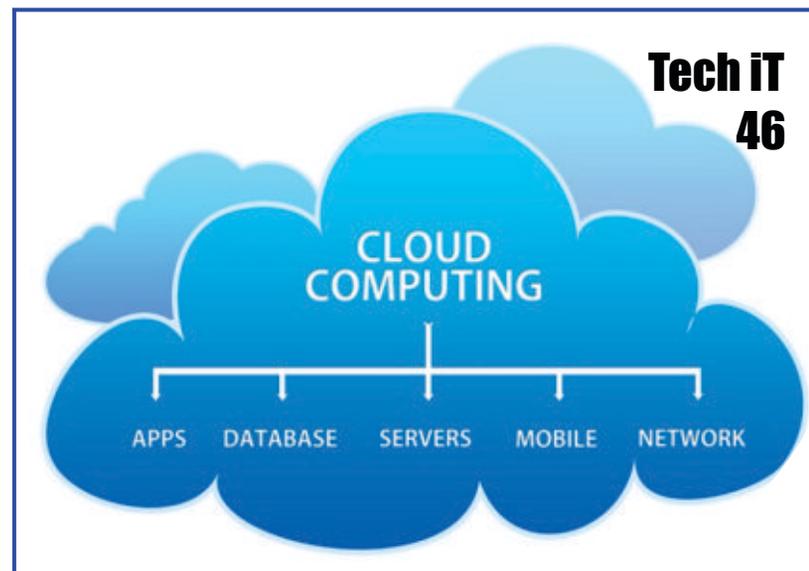
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Dear Readers

On the last month of 2017, tourism industry is all set to welcome a new year with better and advanced trends in the sector for a more effective revenue generation. Amidst all the geo-political turbulences, including the devastating hurricanes, major airline strikes, post-Brexit complications, the tourism industry did better than the last year.

Our cover story is on Christmas, the favourite time for the global travellers. Find out the best places to go for a Christmas break and where to enjoy there. The destination diary is about the wildlife tourism which has been one of the most popular genres of this sector. The growth of wildlife tourism has proliferated and that has given rise to some concerns one of which is animal cruelty. Thankfully the authorities are recognising some of the effects but a lot more remains to be done.

Moving on, we focused our special feature on the different caves of the world. While they have the heritage and intangibility linked with them, it also is a hobby for some travellers to explore the caves of the world. Wrapping up, we have the major trends that affected the travel industry as a whole and looked into what are the features that might be rolled into 2018.

Some interesting interviews along with the regular features like festivals, show highlight and review are also listed. Travel And Tour World wishes all its readers a very happy Christmas season. Enjoy the read!

Editor-In-Chief

Mr. Anup Kumar Keshan

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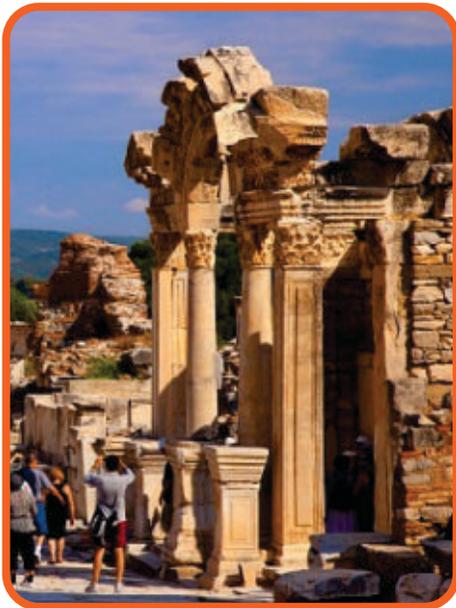
Meetings Point

The culturally rich and fascinating heritage city of Izmir, located along the Aegean coast in western Anatolia, is the third-most populous city in Turkey. The modern metropolis of more than 3 million people is an important centre of trade and commerce due to its harbour. The Greek city of Smyrna has been home to Armenians, Jews, Levantines and Turks over the centuries.

Its seafront kordon is lively. Visitors can relax at the hot spa resorts or shop at the Kemeralti Market, spend time in the beach or dine in the districts of Alsancak and Karsiyaka. Izmir, the second largest commercial centre of Turkey, creates a vibrant ecosystem for investors with 13 organised industrial

zones, 2 free zones, 4 technology development zones and 4 commercial ports. It constitutes 6% of the total employment of Turkey, housing more than 4500 export companies. It has a share of 4.1% within total imports and 6.1% within total exports in Turkey. It has a high manufacturing potential in both traditional products and high tech industries like aerospace, medical devices etc.

The city is full of compelling attractions with its fascinating bazaars, museums and local lifestyle; however, the foreign visitors are mostly restricted to business. Being a global gateway to the Aegean Region, the Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport is located in Gezemir, which is 11 miles south of the city.



A brimming business centre _____

IZMIR

Meeting points in **Izmir**



The Ephesus Convention Center

The first modern, large-scale convention centre offers state-of-the-art design and cutting-edge technology in Turkey's popular destination of Ephesus and Kuşadası. The convention centre provides a full range of services and boasts of interior spaces that are adaptable to a wide range of functions. Built over an area of 43,000 sq.m., it hosts international events featuring the latest technology and is backed by experienced staff. Outside the meeting facilities and exhibition halls are large foyers with cathedral ceilings

which are ideal as registration points and reception areas. It also serves as supplementary exhibition space for large exhibitions. These can also be opted for coffee breaks and after-session cocktail parties. Kuşadası provides a wide range of accommodation, a major Mediterranean turn-round port for some of the world's top cruise lines. Within a stone throw's away from the convention centre, there are over 1,000 quality guestrooms.



Kaya Izmir Thermal and Convention

The Kaya Izmir convention centre is bustling with business. It has all amenities and infrastructure for hosting any kind of reception, congress or meeting. Spread over 5.800 sq.m. area, it has 14 convention halls of varying sizes, an entrance area of 1,600 sq.m. along with a Venus Roof of 1,300 sq.m. providing a

view of the Izmir bay.

The congress saloon can be easily divided into four parts having a total area of 2000 sq.m. It has a height of 8 m without any pillars. The centre has all the latest technology and is only 9 km from Izmir Fair Centre.



Movenpick Hotel Izmir

Movenpick Hotel Izmir offers outstanding service and facilities and brings different perspectives to meetings and conferences. It has 10 meeting rooms to accommodate from 10-350 delegates, apart from a fully modular Ballroom. It has the latest audio-visual technology to complete meeting supplies and enhance the productivity of the meetings, seminars and workshops.

It is Green Globe certified and was voted as the 'Turkey's Leading Business Hotel' by the World Travel Awards. There are 185 modern hotel rooms inclusive

of 36 executive rooms and 17 suites offering a gorgeous view of the picturesque square in front of the hotel. It located in the heart of the city and within walking distance from the business and shopping districts and the trade-fair grounds.

The International Adnan Menderes Airport is only 18 km away and the airport shuttle bus halts near the hotel. The hotel provides a wonderful view of the Izmir Bay and is located in front of the Pasaport Ferry Quay.

Amazing places to visit

Ephesus

The ancient city of Ephesus is known to be an important centre for early Christianity. According to the book of Revelations, Ephesus was one of the seven churches addressed by Christ in a vision. The Temple of Artmeis, considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, is located here and also the Great Theatre, the Library of Celsus and many other temples. On the way to Ephesus, one can stop at St John's Basilica atop Ayasuluk Hill that was built in honour of the saint who wrote gospel on the hill.

Pamukkale

The spectacular natural site has a thermal spring water laden with calcareous salt that plunges down the mountain side creating a natural formation of stalactites, cataracts and basins. The thermal water is said to have therapeutic powers since the Roman period.

Hierapolis

Located on solid limestone layers formed by limestone water that flowed for centuries over the raised plateau is the Roman city of Hierapolis. It means 'sacred city' and as per the Stephanus of Byzantium, it was given the name due to the large number of temples it contained. The Apollo Temple competing with Delphi, Monumental nymphaeum and the theatre is a must see.

Pergamum

The capital of East Roman Empire is known for culture and is one of the finest archaeological sites. Discover the numerous remains on the Acropolis – the celebrated Library, the steepest Theatre of Anatolia, Temples of Trojan and Dionysos, palace of the monumental Altar of Zeus, Sanctuary of Demeter and many more.



The multi-faith structures with synagogues, mosques churches and ancient structures in Izmir welcome the visitors from across the globe. Izmir is one of the UNESCO world heritage sites, an attraction centre for investors receiving 8.5 million domestic and foreign tourists annually.

Escapades with Flashes of Frolic

Cover Story

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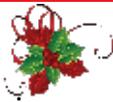
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Charles Dickens had elaborated his intense yearning for Christmas, as he once claimed his extreme eagerness to retrieve the Yuletide magic in his heart forever. The globally celebrated English author was passionate about indulging in the evergreen light of Xmas as a perennial fountain of joy!

After all, Christmas ushers an aroma of delicate delights. And of course, the sweetest flavor of eager anticipation. A plethora of fun activities await revelers, be it embellishing the dear Christmas tree, shopping for the pleasantries or pampering homes with a cute makeover. The golden element of the festival is: Santa can just find you anywhere! So, time to greet that wanderlust lurking in your soul. Just pack your bags and GO.



Ideal Yuletide Getaways...



A glint of glamor abundantly spices up Christmas vacations.

No wonder, right from northern lights to sunny skies, the planet plans to surprise backpackers in myriad avatars. Indulging in a generous amount of globetrotting at this time of the year instills fresh warmth in relationships, leaving families and friends blissfully rejuvenated.

New York, USA

The city that never sleeps never fails to stun!

The famed ice rink of Rockefeller Center, dating back to over 80 years, screams of Christmas with its magnificent charms! Ever since 1931, the elaborately adorned Christmas tree here is a breathtakingly beautiful holiday tradition.

Right across the street, Radio City hosts the annual Christmas Spectacular. And, for the gift shoppers all agog with excitement, Columbus Circle at the corner of Central Park overwhelms visitors with clothes, gifts, drinks and snacks. And not to mention, the horse-drawn carriages and skating ponds are quite popular too.



Quebec City, Canada

Cool Canada, as usual, is seldom at the backseat. Quebec City in Canada is a marvelous haven for the environment-conscious people. During Christmas it transforms into a pretty little Xmas village, seemingly straight out of the pages of a Charles Dickens' tale. Roast chestnut lovers can be promised of some memorable treats here, as well as the aficionados for sausages! Sentier des Caps de Charlevoix located nearby is renowned for its family-friendly skiing, hiking, and other activities for adrenaline junkies. Once Christmas bells have chimed and it finally bids farewell, travellers can choose to head to Quebec Winter Carnival!



Lapland, Finland

The mysterious homeland of Father Christmas is always enticing for the Christmas holidaymakers, albeit a fantasy-come-true for youngsters!

The Santa Park and Santa Claus Village are some of the treasured destinations here.

Rovaniemi, located close by, is also known for its special delights. This region is located just north of the Arctic Circle. This part of the world is an absolute stunner for children. For, it is here that they can make gingerbread cookies with Mrs. Claus, enjoy a calligraphy class and create their Christmas wish lists with a traditional quill.

The Arctic Snow Hotel, composed entirely of snow and ice and flaunting saunas with hot tubs, is yet another vibrant charm of this place.

Salsburg, Austria

Salsburg is the birthplace of Mozart, the internationally reputed musician blessed with amazing talent! It is also the filming location for the famous movie 'The Sound of Music'.

I bet you do not need any other reason to visit this spectacular place! It is the abode of traditional Christmas markets. Furthermore, the popular hymn 'Silent Night' had been performed for the very first time in nearby Oberndorf on Christmas Eve 1918.

The region also boasts of another awe-inspiring Yuletide tradition.

Across Bavaria and Austria, people dress up as Alpine beasts known as 'krampuses', rampaging through the streets looking for mischievous children in need of punishment.



Reykjavik, Iceland

Iceland is ever-ready to startle visitors, thanks to a few peculiarities.

Among them, some scruffy Santas or 13 'Yuletide Lads' are said to bring gifts for children for the 13 nights that lead up to this festival. One can catch sight of long rows of small, lovely huts that make up the Yule Town Christmas market on Ingolfstorg, waiting to sell off interesting and bright Christmas goodies and gifts to shoppers. And, needless to state, the effervescence of the northern lights always adds a dash of shimmer to the festive feel of Reykjavik.

Nuremberg, Germany

'Christkindlesmarkt' (Christmas market) lights up Nuremberg, Germany.

As many as 180 stalls on the Hauptmarkt entice passers- by with their fantabulous treasures of trinkets, toys, and gingerbread treats. As darkness descends, it looks quite an enchantress, to say the least! More than 2 million international visitors travel to this market every year. And the happy news for children is: it hosts the Toy Museum and

even the German Railway Museum, immensely popular among people of different ages.

Yuletide frenzy, is however, restricted to the above parts of the globe. Copenhagen in Denmark, Dublin in Ireland, Rome in Italy, Berlin in Germany, Montreal in Canada, Edinburgh in Scotland, Boston in USA, and Prague in the Czech Republic are a few of the other stretches of earth offering the most cheerful Christmas charisma!

Merry Christmas!

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US Hurricane season causes \$202.6 billion damage

It was reported that 2017 U.S. Atlantic hurricane season was the most expensive resulting in \$202.6 billion damages since the formal start from June.

Disaster modelers Chuck Watson and Mark Johnson tallied the costs and found that it surpassed their observations from the previous years. Hurricane Harvey slammed the Gulf Coast and wreaked tremendous havoc upon the heart of America's energy sector. Then the Caribbean islands got devastated when Irma struck Florida. While Hurricane Maria followed and wiped out the entire Puerto Rico.

There were 17 named storms, 10 turned into hurricanes and killed hundreds across the Atlantic basin.

Brexit pound slump results sharp decline in hotel insolvencies

UK hotel insolvencies reduced upto 18 per cent in the last year owing to the fall in the pound value which attracted more tourists both domestic and international, as revealed by a new study.

Accountancy firm Moore Stephens published the research showing that fewer than 1 per cent of hotels are now deemed to be at significant risk of becoming insolvent – majorly for the influx in tourism.

The pound has lost around 10 per cent of its value against the US dollar, and around 13 per cent of its

value against the euro, since the June 2016 Brexit vote. Office for National Statistics showed that this translated into a 9 per cent increase in international visitors to the UK during the first six months of the year. What added to the fact is that British people also opted for staying at their home destination for holidays as travelling involves a higher cost now.



China lifted travel ban on South Korea for group travel

The Chinese government issued the guidelines at the meetings with the local travel agencies on November 27th and November 28th to allow the travel to South Korea through group visas.

In the individual visa application, Chinese tourists pay a processing fee and apply for review and issuance by South Korean government offices in China – group visas are issued when a travel agency recruits three or more tourists as part of a group, which is reported to the South Korean Ministry of Justice and China

National Tourism Administration (CNTA).

The lifting of the travel ban from China to South Korea is subject to some restrictions. To begin with, it only applies to group travel from Beijing and Shandong Province, while departures from other locations are reportedly still disallowed, along with any itinerary related to the Lotte Group, charter flights, passenger airlines and cruises.

The global tourism industry observers predict that the tour group departures from other locations will be phased back in.





Global travel experts increasingly focus on managing overtourism

Overtourism has now become a buzzword in some popular destinations such as Venice and Barcelona where the former one is planning to divert the passenger cruise liners while the latter is all set to cut down on the apartment rentals. “Overtourism” is a phenomenon which is disrupting communities while imperiling cherished buildings and harming the experience of travelers and local residents alike. Rightly called the 'tourism phobia', this incident is becoming more and more prevalent, specially in the European destinations. The major reason for this is for the fact that visitors crowd at the same places at

the same time. This even took to slogans such as 'tourists go home'.

Many destinations rely on tourism as a primary source of jobs and prosperity while 10 percent of the world's annual GDP comes from the travel industry. Greece, for instance, is heavily dependent on its tourism industry. Overtourism, thus was a prominent topic of debate in the industry and a central theme World Travel Market. Efforts to manage overtourism are becoming more innovative and increasingly tapping new technologies. There are now apps to help tourists visit popular destinations at less busy times. And while critics say Airbnb has priced out locals, its supporters say home rentals can ease pressure on cities by spreading visitors far and wide.

Wildlife tourism, in its simplest sense, is interacting with wild animals in their natural habitat, either actively (e.g. hunting/collection) or passively (e.g. watching/photography). Experiencing wildlife is in no way related to animal abuse. Being a young and growing industry gaining up to \$250 billion each year, tourists are showing increased interest in spending their holidays close to nature.



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Best places for wildlife tourism

Mon Repos Beach - Australia : The Mon Repos Beach Conservation Park, where tourists can see sea turtles, is a promising example of wildlife tourism. Visitors are provided with guides, displays and presentations.



Galapagos Islands - Ecuador : About 600 miles off the coast of Ecuador, these are possibly the most famous of the planet's animal menageries. It wouldn't be wrong to call it the treasure trove of unique species, such as penguins, swimming vegetarian iguana, giant tortoises and more.

Churchill, Manitoba, Canada: Churchill is one of the richest wildlife destinations in the world. June is the perfect time to visit Churchill. Interestingly, one can see the polar bears during summer.

Jim Corbett National Park, India: Located in the beautiful valley of Uttarakhand, this is one of the brilliant spots to witness endangered species of tigers.



Corcovado National Park, Costa Rica: Touted to be the most biologically intense wildlife destination in the world, it is indeed a wildlife cum adventure tourism destination. Located in the remote area of Osa Peninsula of Costa Rica, it is home to many rare species of animals and birds.



Lesser known choices of wildlife tourism

Whale watching: Whale watching is a rapidly growing industry and is incredibly widespread. Whaling, which means whale hunting, is majorly carried out in Japan, Norway and Iceland, specially for academic purposes but recently Japan has resumed commercial whaling. However, whale hunting and whale watching are two widely different ways of adventure. There have been major protests across the globe to end the cruelty towards these animals. Whale watching is a far more reliable and sustainable addition to the economy than whaling.



Gorilla tracking : One of wildlife tourism's greatest successes is the survival stories of mountain gorilla. Living only in the forests where Uganda, Rwanda and the Congo meet, mountain gorillas have never successfully been kept in captivity, and the preservation of their natural habitat is essential to ensure their survival. However, it is strongly regulated in these three countries where only eight tourists are allowed to visit each gorilla family per day.



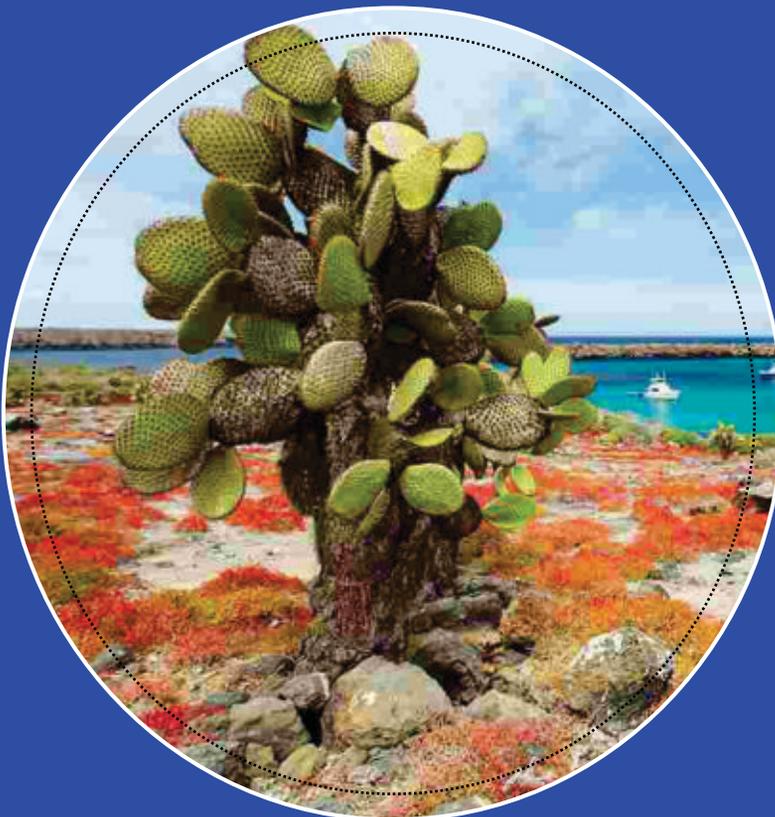
Dolphin watching : Watching and swimming with dolphins is becoming increasingly popular for which the countries with this popular wildlife tourism choice has come up with established codes of conduct. Fortunately, the value of wildlife tourism has already been recognised in the Amazon, and the unusual pink dolphins are in well tender.



Being responsible : Responsible wildlife tourism has an important role to play in stopping the detrimental activities by encouraging people to relish rather than ravage the natural environment. Although there are efforts at international levels to enforce the conservational rules, it seems to be more effective if these steps are taken at more local strata to change the views.

What can we do?

- Never accept riding wild animals
- Never encourage kid wild animals to perform tricks
- Don't buy endangered species souvenirs
- Support organisations and sanctuaries that rescue and look after wild animals
- Do not look away when witnessing animal abuse



Conservationists in the recent years view local peoples' support for protected areas management as an important factor for biodiversity conservation. Wildlife tourism is restricted and mostly controlled by state and private agencies. Wildlife conservation policy does not view tourism in protected areas as a source of revenue for the local communities.



Getting Candid

In its simplest sense, wildlife tourism is interacting with wild animals in their natural habitat in either active or passive form. Arguably the fastest growing sector of tourism, this segment has immense potential to educate, conserve and offer employment. Whether wildlife tourism can physically enhance the quality and quantum of habitat available to wild species has grappled people for a long time. Chair of Wildlife Tourism Australia, proprietor of Araucaria Ecotours and adjunct research fellow in the Environmental Futures Research Institute, Griffith University, **Ronda Green** shares an insightful interview with Travel And Tour World.



Travel And Tour World : Can you share a quick look about the history of the wildlife tourism industry?

Ronda: There have always been people interested in seeing or interacting with wildlife while traveling, whether viewing animals from elsewhere in captivity, hunting and fishing, seeking particular animals of interest in the wild, or enjoying the wilderness with wildlife being one component of this. All still occurs, but the emphasis has in many ways changed. With expanding human populations, dwindling wilderness and endangered species, there has been increasing desire by travellers to connect with nature, including wildlife, and there has been increasing emphasis on the need for wildlife tourism to minimise negative impacts, add to positive impacts, and educate travellers about conservation issues.

Zoos have been changing over the centuries, and also in recent decades. When I was a child, the chimpanzees at Taronga Zoo were housed in bar-and-cement cages and would be dressed up to have tea parties for entertainment of the public, which was cute but not natural behaviour and not very educational. Nowadays instead, about 25 chimps are housed in a large open air grassy enclosure with trees, rocks and logs and artificial termite mounds, and provided with bamboo shoots which they break to size and strip of leaves to 'fish' for the mustard in the holes of the mounds, and daily commentary explains their natural

behaviour to the public. This is echoed in many zoos around the world, replacing small, highly unsuitable cages with larger, more natural enclosures and providing enrichment activities. Veterinary care for zoo animals also appears to have improved vastly over the past few decades, and most modern zoos claim to be interested not only in entertainment and commercial success, but in research, conservation and public education, although some obviously do better than others in these fields. Growth of social media has added to public knowledge of animal abuses, leading to improved conditions in some quarters. Not all have improved unfortunately and there are still quite a few that should be vastly improved or closed down.

Seeing wildlife in the wild has also changed. The original wildlife safaris were focused on hunting for trophies, and there are still some that do this in Africa and elsewhere, but the trend in recent decades has been towards viewing and photographing. When I travelled in Malaysia in the 1970's, it was hard to find any books other information on the country's wildlife, and tourism information staff seemed perplexed that I wanted to visit wild places, not just the cities or landscaped parks they were so proud of. This seems to be changing, as more tourists express interest in contact with nature in many countries. Guides have noticed that with so much information now available, not only in books but on the internet, travellers often seem better informed and ask

more sophisticated questions. Birdwatching, at one time was looked upon by many as something to laugh at, has become extremely popular in America, Germany, Britain and many others countries, with enthusiasts traveling the world to watch their favourite birds or add to their life-lists of sightings.

We are nowadays also more aware of some the negative impacts of tourism on wildlife, and legislation and guidelines have reflected this, advising for instance the correct distance that whale-watching vessels should keep between them and the whales (unless the whales themselves decide to come closer) or not using bright lights on beaches where turtles are nesting. Again, there are many very responsible tour operations that respect and follow such guidelines, but others that still don't. Things have unproved, but we have a way to go.



Travel And Tour World: Wildlife tourism industry is an eco-friendly endeavor. But having said that, does it also not act as an artifact of bringing people closer to wildlife which might otherwise create disturbance in their ecosystem?

Ronda: Animals can certainly be disturbed by tourists, and if they are repeatedly disturbed from feeding, resting or breeding areas, they can change to other, less suitable areas.

Sometimes disturbance is deliberate. Birdwatchers will sometimes deliberately flush rare birds from where they are hiding just to add them their life-list of sightings, or constantly play recorded calls that waste the energy of birds coming out to attack the intruder in their territory. A coach driver in Africa was seen to deliberately drive into a flock of flamingos to give his passengers a chance to film them in flight. Tourists in Antarctica have been seen to pick up penguins for photos, causing cold air to reach chicks and eggs, which could be lethal.

Tourists have also been known to pay guides to drive off-road alongside hunting cheetahs to get action photos, thus interfering with the pursuit and depriving the cheetah of a meal.

Other times tourists and their guides have no intention of disturbing the animals but may unintentionally do so, or may cause disturbance to other, unseen creatures that share the habitat.

Noise and lights at large tourism complexes at the edge of wildlife habitats could also affect the animals, and we need more research on this.

Habitat alteration and clearing is another problem when tourism is growing, and demands are made for bigger hotels, more roads and other amenities. Tourists often demand air-conditioning, golf courses and other facilities that add to the environmental costs. Deliberate and unintended direct killing of animals is another problem. On at least one of Australia's tropical islands, wallabies, cockatoos and other wildlife are culled by management as they are seen as disturbing some tourists. Snakes are often killed, even the harmless species, if tourists don't like seeing them. There are still of course also hunting and fishing holidays. Accidental killing also occurs as vehicle collisions with wildlife in tourism areas, and when trees with hollows are felled to make way for tourism facilities and these hollows are housing nesting possums, birds or other species. And considering the effects of tourism, we should also consider what might happen to some areas otherwise, such as total clearing of habitat for agriculture or urban expansion.



Travel And Tour World: Animal cruelty is a harsh reality in the name of wildlife tourism. Please share your comments on the scenario.

Ronda: There is much that should be stopped. Lonely chimpanzees and other social animals kept alone in tiny cages, animals that are beaten into submission or drugged so that they will accept close proximity of humans for photos or being ridden by them - these are things that should not be allowed to happen. It would seem a shame though to throw out good operations with the bad. I've heard calls to never patronise any operation that allows photographs with animals. If the animals are mistreated in any way I would thoroughly agree. But there are others which take very good care of them and use photo-taking to raise money to look after not only their own animals but injured and orphaned wildlife brought to them by the public, and I would not like to see them closed down because of other institutions that treat the animals badly. . Some also call for all animal rides to be closed down. I certainly want to see an end to all that rely on cruel treatment of their animals, whether in their early training (as with many Asian elephants) or their housing (chained instead of roaming free in large enclosures) or treatment immediately prior to or during the ride. It would seem unfair though to call a ban of every institution offering rides and thus close down establishments that love their animals, train them only with gentleness and consistently treat them well, and give positive messages to their

customers about human-animal interaction and welfare. Wildlife Tourism Australia is holding a conference in Tasmania in October 2018, and one of our major themes is determining what really matters to the animal, and how to balance the needs of wildlife, tourists, operators and local residents. Deliberate cruelty is definitely unacceptable, but we will also be discussing impacts that may be less obvious, including those of feeding or petting animals, noise levels and other tourism effects that may or may not be stressful to particular species or individuals within a species. How do we find out what really matters to the animal, and what should we then do about it?

Travel And Tour World: Is there any certification and standardization that the wildlife tourism industry follows?

Ronda: I don't know of any specifically for wildlife tourism, but there are certifications such as Australia's Eco-certification, which includes quite detailed specifications for minimal-impact wildlife-viewing.



Travel And Tour World : What does the future hold for wildlife tourism?

Ronda: There is still a focus on the big, powerful animals, but a growing awareness that there are many smaller fascinating creatures, and of the roles played by wildlife species in their ecosystems, and much scope for guides to emphasise this further in their talks. More awareness of this type could also open more potential for tourism in remote regional areas, where unemployment is an on-going problem. Technological advances also allow us to view animals remotely, so for instance more use could be made of video cameras in bird nests, waterholes visited by shy and rare species, and hollows of nesting possums and other tree-dwelling creatures, so visitors could absorb the general atmosphere of the surrounding habitat while viewing animals indirectly but not disturbing them with close approach. Some zoos are now adopting this method to show animals that have sought the shelter of their burrows or other hiding places, so visitors can have the satisfaction of viewing the animals while the animal enjoys some respite from being continually on show in the traditional way.





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**John Tanzella, IGLTA
President/CEO of
International Gay & Lesbian
Travel Association (IGLTA),** a

leading member-based global organization dedicated to LGBTQ tourism and a proud Affiliate Member of the United Nations World Tourism Organization, speaks about the changing trends in the LGBT travel industry.

Read on to know more...



Photo credit: Rachel Stevenson/OUTCOAST

INTERVIEW ZONE

Travel And Tour World: Which are the most welcoming and least welcoming countries for LGBT travelers?

John Tanzella : Western Europe has led the way in terms of laws supporting the LGBT community. Canada ranks high on the list, with Toronto hosting the IGLTA 35th Anniversary Global Convention in May 2018. Places within the United States, like New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles. Also, Brazil and Argentina have made great strides. Cape Town, South Africa is the most welcoming place in Africa, a continent that has had major challenges with homophobia.

Travel And Tour World: How has the gay travel market evolved over the years?

John Tanzella : In the beginning, it was centered on major cities with large gay communities and didn't address specific niches within the LGBT community. Now we see LGBT adventure travel, family travel, and same-sex destination weddings. As countries have changed laws to protect people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, we've also seen more and more destinations – smaller and more off the beaten path – reach out to welcome LGBT travellers.

Travel And Tour World: What makes a destination gay-friendly?

Any destination that makes an effort to promote inclusivity and a welcoming

atmosphere for LGBT travellers can be known as gay-friendly but that is elevated when complemented by laws that support equality for all citizens.

Travel And Tour World: What has changed the gay traveler's choice of destination?

John Tanzella : They aren't limiting their choices so much. You see LGBT travellers venturing out in more countries than ever before.

Travel And Tour World: Which is a dream gay destination?

John Tanzella : That is an individual choice same as for a straight traveller. Some might say a cruise; others might say a safari or a city break. It depends entirely on the person.

Travel And Tour World: Which country or city will be the next gay spot?

John Tanzella : We recently did a survey of our buyers globally and Israel and Cuba came in at the top of the list.



Travel And Tour World: How has hotels and travel brands established itself in the LGBT travel market?

John Tanzella : Many hotels are incorporating diversity training for their staff to ensure LGBT guests have a good experience. They've created marketing imagery that is inclusive of LGBT travelers, promoted offerings that speak to their interests, such as Pride packages, and they have engaged with LGBT community events to show their support. Also, joining IGLTA allows companies to use our globally recognized logo in their marketing to show LGBT travelers that they will be welcome.



Travel And Tour World: What are the challenges the industry is currently facing?

John Tanzella : Homophobia is definitely a challenge to LGBT tourism. Every traveler wants to feel safe and welcome and there are still more than 70 countries in the world where same-sex sexual contact is a criminal offense. Lack of education and understanding about LGBT people is also still an issue.

Travel And Tour World: Hong Kong became the first Asian country to host the 'Gay Olympics' in 2022. Your comments? Is IGLTA having any such plans?

John Tanzella: We are encouraged to see more LGBT tourism activities in Asia. We have hosted several educational seminars in Japan and have participated in ITB Asia. We also have an organizational partnership with PATA, the Pacific Asia Travel Association, and collaborate on a scholarship for a tourism student from the Pacific Asia region to attend our Annual Global Convention. We will continue to grow our outreach in Asia as much as possible.



Special Feature

EXPLORE THE CAVES OF WORLD

Want to feel the adventure, mystery and darkness?

Want to feel the adventure, mystery and darkness? Go to the caves, the natural wonders of the world and experience the extreme adventure with rock climbing, plunging into natural dungeon and exploring what is inside.

The exploration of caves is not a new addition in tourism. Since 1980s, it has been a form of geological exploration. Cave tourism is now regarded as a vital part of tourism industry with profitable earning.

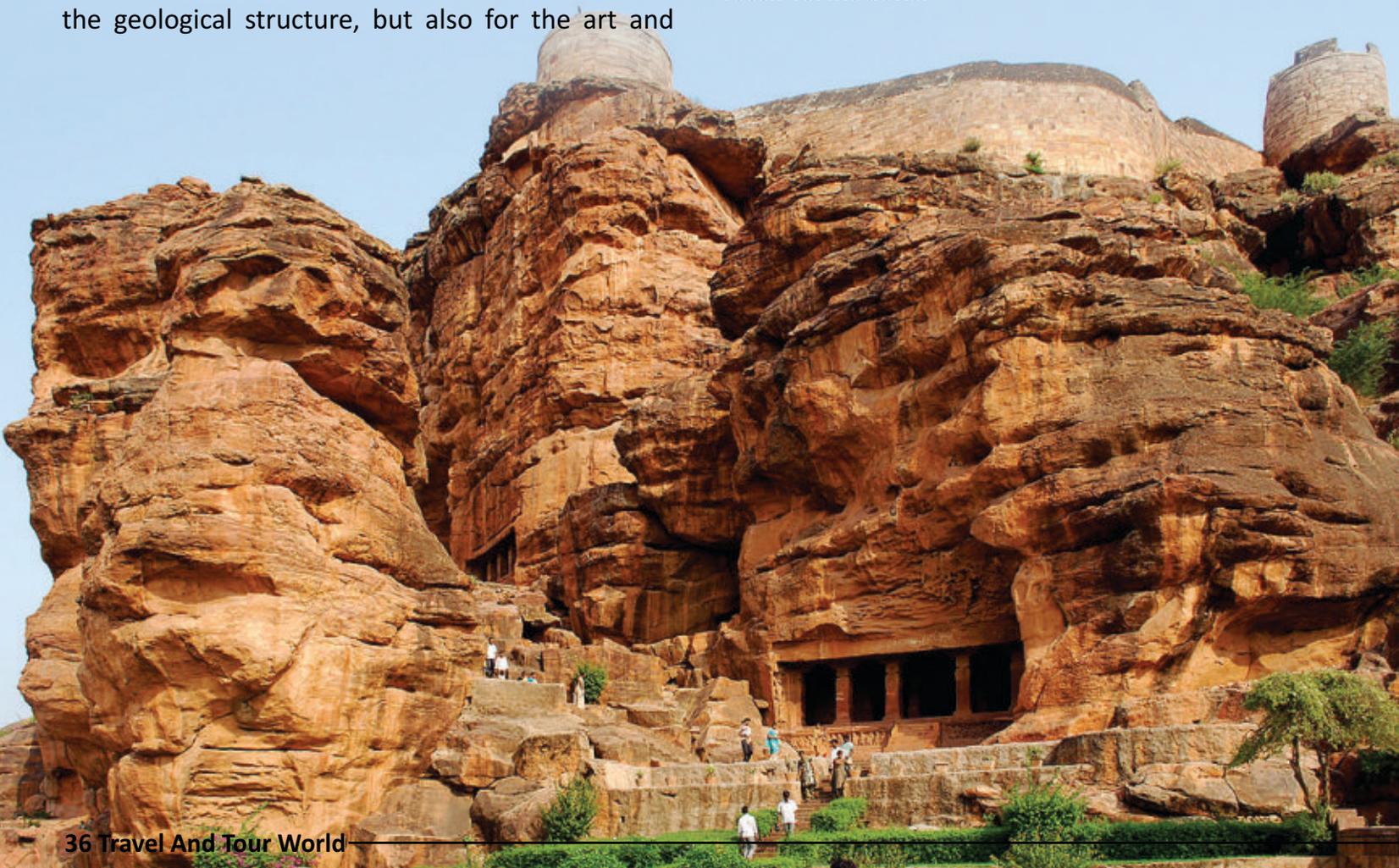
Why caves are popular

Caves throughout the world are popular not only for the geological structure, but also for the art and

architecture that primary men did. Eco tourists, adventure tourists and curiosity seekers want to explore the deep underground world of lightless corner giving an eerie sensation and creating a feel of Harrison Ford's Indiana Jones emulation.

Exploring caves as a hobby

As these are natural wonders, mostly located in the dry and moist topography of the world, the exploration here can call “spelunking”— a hobby for any sincere adventure lovers. Most of the caves around the world turned into tourism hotspot making cave-scapes. The handrails and illuminative lights at the corners allow the tourists to visualise the fossil-formations.



Most Preferred Caves in World

Discover the darkness beauty of nature with glowworm, *Arachnocampa luminosa*, which is unique to New Zealand. See the thousands of tiny creatures radiate their unmistakable luminescent light in the midst of history and geological significances.

Waitomo Glowworm Cave

New Zealand

Located in the remote part of northern Mexico, an hour or so south of Chihuahua, this underground crystal palace is filled with world's largest selenite crystals, making the most scenic spot for adventurers. Discovered in 2000, this cave is accessible by a van through a winding mine shaft. Within this cave, the temperature rises up to 112 degree Fahrenheit with 90-100% humidity.

Giant Crystal Cave

Mexico

Callao Cave, Philippines

One of the most popular caves in Cagayan Province, approximately 30-minute ride from Tuguegarao, this seven chambers cave has the Column, Chapel, Skeleton, Elephant's Head, Praying Angel, Rocket, Lion's Head and Dog's Head Formations, forming a dramatic image as the skylight illuminates the hall. Also, try the wooden boat trail in Pinacanauan River and see the rock cliffs, bat caves and the crystal clear waters, ideal for swimming.



Badami Caves

India

Located in southern India's one of the most beautiful states, Karnataka, Badami Cave is the finest example of Dravidian Hindu rock cut architecture evolved during 6th Century. Visit the caves of exquisite art of Badami Chalukya times and find the Kannada and Sanaskrit language scriptures and the temples dedicated to Hindu and Jain Gods.

Majlis Al Jinn

Oman

World's second largest cave chambers located in the southern part of Muscat in the remote area of the Selma Plateau, Majlis Al Jinn draws innumerable tourists for its myths and different rock formations formed from sand erosion. It is now the world's largest unclimbed roofs.

Tadrart Acacus Desert Cave

Algeria

Feel the pre historic era rock paintings and art at UNESCO's World Heritage Site, Tadrart Acacus Desert Cave which reflects the history of Sahara. Visit here to imbibe not only with the history, but also with the adventurous exploration of the entire cave.

Jabal Qarah

Saudi Arabia

A major tourist attraction in Saudi Arabia, Jabal Qarah has a labyrinth of caves and caverns with little shafts. The fascinating beauty of the rocks and sedimentation offers wilderness to the tourists.



Revenue from cave tourism

Countries like Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Malaysia, India, Mexico and Algeria have maximum number of desert caves and have the capability to earn from tourism point of view. The Kingdom of Saudi is the abode of great natural caves with a region of 89,000 sq km in a volcanic lava field. These contribute significantly to the national revenue by attracting tourists from all corners of the world.

Delve into the deep darkness of the desert caves and walk with the boondocks and wilderness of yellowish nature amidst rough windy weather. The underground journey will surely rejuvenate you to find new way of living with adventure.

India's Biggest Travel Show Network

www.ttfofm.com



Since 1989, it provides annual marketing platform and opportunity to network with the travel trade in all major cities.

OTM is India's biggest travel trade show on the basis of number of participants, visitors and rented area. It is held every year in February, in Mumbai, the largest source market of Domestic and Outbound tourists. This is in addition to the TTF Mumbai in pre-diwali high season in September.

More than 2,500 Exhibitors from 80 Countries and 36 Indian States / Union Territories have participated in our TTF and OTM branded shows, making us the leading travel trade show organisers, with about 50% market share.



TTF is one of the most successful tourism promotion platforms bringing together all stakeholders of India tourism under one roof to realise the true potential of domestic tourists.

Ganpatinh Vasava
Tourism Minister of Gujarat



TTF has evolved over the years with improved networking facilities. Under a single roof, one can explore a wide range of travel opportunities and get updated on the latest developments and trends in tourism.

Saraya Homchuen
Director - Mumbai Office, Tourism Authority of Thailand



TTF as a show is very well organised and has a mix of both domestic and international players. I was quite surprised to see the huge turnout of people at TTF, especially the travel companies.

Vasundhara Gupta
Sales Manager - Corporate & Trade, Costa Cruises



TTF is a great opportunity for us to market our airline to the customers. The response that we got at the show was more than what we expected.

Tejpreet Singh
Manager - Passenger Sales & Marketing, Korean Air

Schedule

2017

TTF Kolkata	: 7, 8, 9 July
TTF Hyderabad	: 14, 15 July
TTF Ahmedabad	: 1, 2, 3 Sept
TTF Surat	: 8, 9, 10 Sept
TTF Mumbai	: 15, 16, 17 Sept
TTF Pune	: 22, 23, 24 Sept
BLTM Gurgaon	: 26, 27 Oct

2018

OTM Mumbai	: 18, 19, 20 Jan
TTF Chennai	: 16, 17, 18 Feb
TTF Bengaluru	: 23, 24, 25 Feb
TTF New Delhi	: 7, 8 April

* Co-located with BLTM South India

To book your vantage stand at TTF write us to contact@fairfest.com or visit www.ttfofm.com

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The **big** trends, challenges & opportunities that drive the **travel world**

Destinations worldwide witnessed 901 million international tourist arrivals between January and August 2017, reported to be 56 million more than the same period of 2016, leading to a robust 7% increase.

The later half also continued with solid growth for international tourism. 2017 was the year of technological innovation and proliferation — artificial intelligence, mobile application and the Internet of things (IoT) which removed the pain points of travel.

It is expected in the future IoT sensors will facilitate travel and hospitality companies to integrate advanced analytics and machine learning to adapt to customer's behaviour in real time.



Travellers now expect a personalised experience, and travel brands are aspiring to meet high expectations. Companies are capitalising on products outside their traditional offerings. In the coming year, travel companies can be optimistic about demand for all types of trips. The economic fundamentals for consumer spending grew in 2017. There is influx of more private accommodation aggregators in the marketplace with new inventory giving warning to the hoteliers to sustain growth. The rising oil prices might put a pressure on the operating cost of the legacy airlines. The United Nations declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development. However, natural calamities, external events, attacks turned the travel and hospitality companies more vulnerable.

The latest fads ...

Sustainable Tourism

Tourism often leads to social dislocation, loss of cultural heritage, economic dependence and ecological degradation. This has led many people to look for more responsible holidays.

Sustainable Tourism seeks to provide an educational holiday benefitting the people of the host country. It respects both the people and the travellers, cultural heritage and environment.

It is not just about the green footprint aspect but also the social and economic benefits in destinations throughout the world. It develops critical awareness and a personal commitment that can enhance the welfare of the people.

Unlike eco-tourism, it is mostly aimed at helping people than the environment. Apart from entailing the duties of a volunteer, the tourists get to explore new places, experience a foreign culture and learn more about people in different parts of the country.

It turns out to be an exciting and immersive experience along with helping those in need and engaging with them.



Voluntourism

When people travel with the motive of improving lives or go out on a particular mission/project-contributing to sustainable development while travelling is voluntourism.

One gets responsible for the growth and change of others, which makes the trip something more than just 'having fun'.

Transformational Travel

Millennials are looking for something new, seeking an experience of being connected and alive. The age of digital addiction has cut us off not just from ourselves but also from our family and community. Modern life is consistent with turmoil and global unrest.

Mobile Tourism

It allows tourists to experience cities and attraction through smartphones and tablets. The tourists can follow guided tours, manage itineraries, use interactive maps and receive information everywhere.

Tour and activity operators are helping the travellers document their experience and notable moments in their mobiles. This brings value to the customers, adds to the marketing efforts of the operators and helps in building user-generated content.



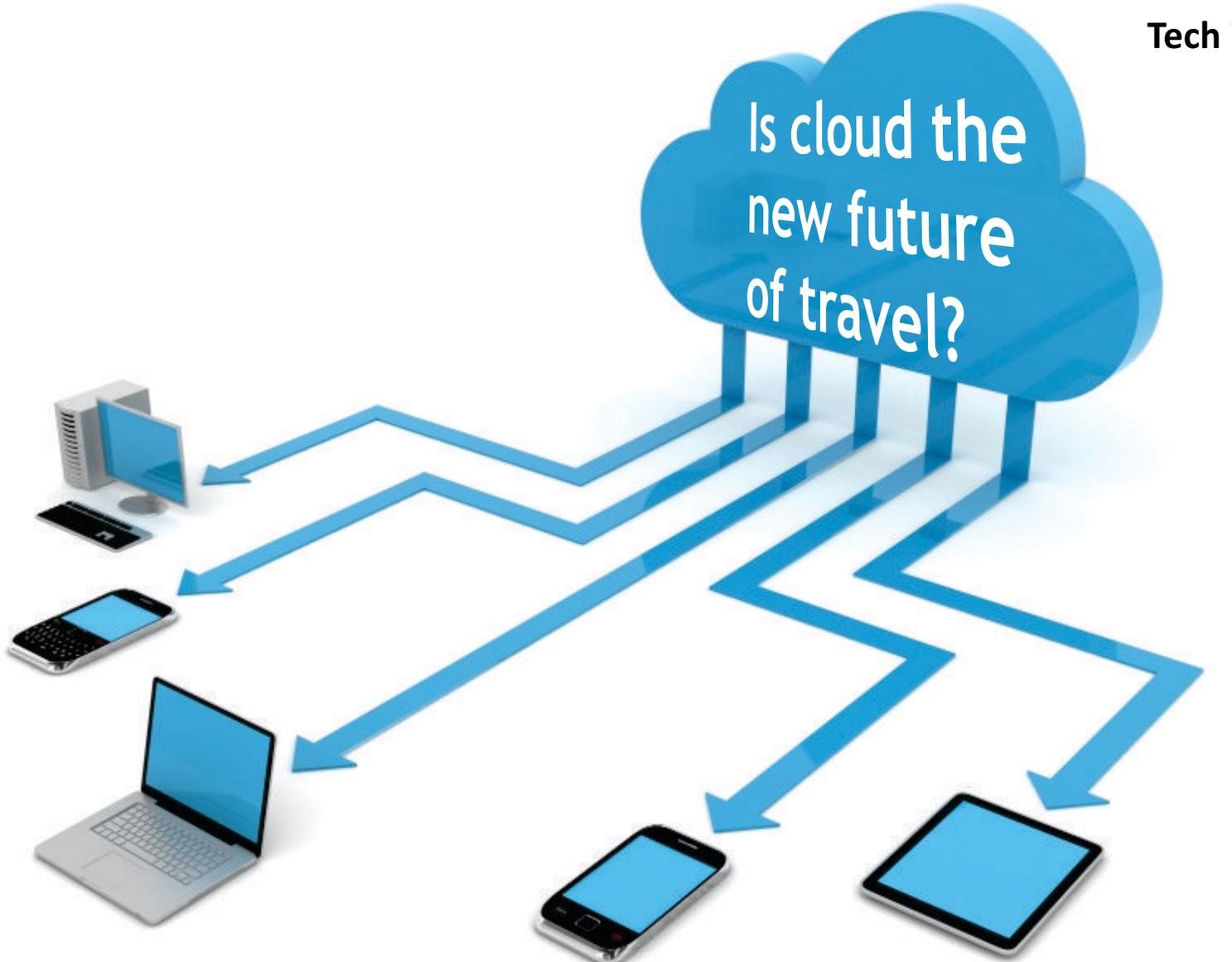
Food tourism

When you get to know a city, while exploring an area, through its food is what is called food or culinary tourism. It develops a new angle instead of following the usual trail of landmarks to taste the unique diversity of different destinations that brings a new perspective to familiar places.

The story behind each kitchen is revealed as you learn the hidden history around the neighbourhood while you whet your appetite by sampling different cuisines.



Millennials are the leaders in travel. They decide the major trends and tastes and are not shy about what they want. They look for the options available, research and book their trips and tours online on what catches their fancy.



Is cloud the
new future
of travel?

Gone are the days when people visited local travel agents for information about destinations and tour packages and returned home with a bunch of brochures and discussing over it for few days before arriving at a conclusion. With revolution in web, now everything is just a mouse click away. Starting right from reservation confirmation (hotel, airline, and train), car booking engine, and channel management system etc. this boom in online landscape has altered

the functioning of travel industry forever. With the advent of Smartphone, proliferation of online travel search and explosion in social media has taken travel world by storm. And when it comes to cloud computing, travel sector is one of the forerunners is adopting this cutting-edge technology. Travel companies with the help of cloud computing are successfully managing their travel software. Cloud has enhanced productivity of the companies by developing business prospect with less investment.

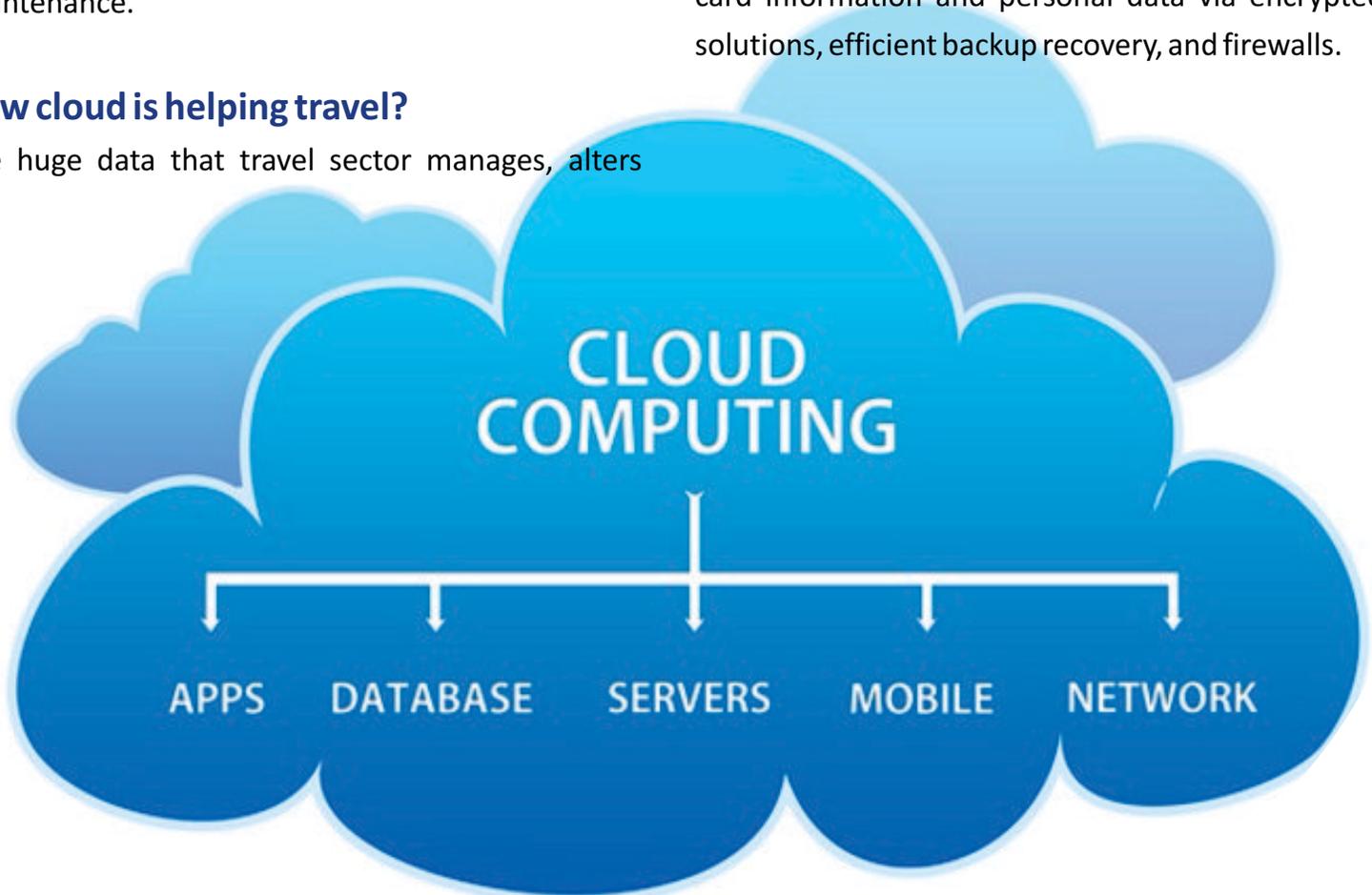
Cloud Computing - One of the most powerful trends in tourism technology!

The intricate network of remote servers in cloud computing is used in storing information and comprehensive data on web and not in any local server or PC. In terms of travel industry, in current scenario, cloud model is taking things to next level. In travel, an online visitor's flexibility, reliability, and scalability play dominant role which make cloud so exclusive in this sector! Cloud makes certain that scalable infrastructure can be easily accessed by the travel sector in terms of pay-per-use and on-demand basis which averts the sector from investing enormous amount in infrastructure and maintenance.

How cloud is helping travel?

The huge data that travel sector manages, alters

every second. Also, it has accounting and finance section that cloud effectively administers. In addition, it's a seasonal industry with huge rush on festive occasions. As a result, cloud's scalability plays an intrinsic role. Being one of the most competitive sectors, the travel industry cannot buy any downtime in server which cloud assures 24*7 availability. As enormous amount of transaction takes place, cloud turns out to be an unmatched solution for travel industry. As long as a user has internet connectivity, he/she can access websites, different booking tools, and shared applications from any corner of the globe seamlessly. Besides, cloud computing allows companies to preserve sensitive user data like credit card information and personal data via encrypted solutions, efficient backup recovery, and firewalls.



Cloud travel ERP software

The travel ERP system automatically upgrades operations of different businesses by reducing hard work and alleviating issues right away, which in turn has made it popular among big and small level companies all over the world.

Advantages of ERP in travel

- The ERP software in travel provides data deduplication. Therefore, it lessens storage cost at the same improves information accuracy.
- Starting from sales averages to conversion rates, cloud travel ERP system offers exact reports which helps the travel companies in managing their cash flow and marketing efforts capably, and reduce expenses by enhancing profitability.

- It helps in creating work schedules, supervises information related to payroll and guarantees staff distribution as per the work requirement.

Thus, cloud computing in travel industry is enormous in demand, cost efficiency, offering boundless storage facility along with new age search tools like Apache Hadoop, permitting companies to store mammoth internal as well external data along with models to prepare 'search opinion' of the user during an online trip search. So, it can be rightly said that with cloud technology, travel companies and agents can access information in a better and flexible way by improving employee productivity, reduced expenditure followed by greater agility!





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Registration and entry to SATTE 2017 exhibition as well as seminars on all 3 days



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FAMILY TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

Travel Association

Changing Lives Through Travel

In an enriching conversation with Travel And Tour World, **Rainer Jenss, President and Founder of the Family Travel Association** shares with a glimpse of the interesting concept of 'family travel' as well as a few popular trends of this rapidly emerging travel concept. Mr. Jenss also enlightens us about what inspired him to create this organization and its aims. Family Travel Association represents a fresh coalition of family travel suppliers, resources and stalwarts joining hands to create a collective effort on behalf of the travel industry and the companies serving beautifully the needs of travelling families. In short, the organization makes travelling convenient for the millennial travellers who prefer nourishing their wanderlust accompanied by their families!



Rainer Jenss



Travel And Tour World: What really inspired you to conceive a plan to create Family Travel Association?

Rainer Jenss: After taking a year off to travel around- world with my wife and two young boys (ages 8 & 11 at the time), I realized that far too many families have no idea about all the fantastic, family-friendly experiences they could be having with their children. And that's not just overseas. That includes right here in the U.S. So rather than launching a new commercial magazine or website, I decided to bring the leaders in family travel together to create programs that would help inspire more families and to travel more.



Travel And Tour World: What are the aims of Family Travel Association?

Rainer Jenss: We are building a coalition of the leaders in family travel - including suppliers, destinations, travel agents, and media outlets – and initiating programs through the collective power and

influence of our members to help inform consumers on the variety of options families have when planning their travels. Our primary goal is to increase the demand for family travel and change the way people think about traveling as a family by expanding their understanding of what family travel is making sure traveling with family is a priority.



Travel And Tour World: Please comment on some of the recent family travel trends of 2017, or some new alterations/additions in family travel trends observed this year.

Rainer Jenss: One of the big trends to emerge in 2017 is the popularity of River Cruises for families. This was started by Adventures by Disney three years ago and other river cruise companies are adding family itineraries in response to Disney's success. Also, there's a rise in families using vocational rentals such as HomeAway, Vacatia(.com), Wyndham Vacation Rentals, Airbnb, etc. I see this use of these 'alternative' accommodation options only increasing.



Travel And Tour World: How do you think Trump's travel ban might impact family vacationing to the States?

Rainer Jenss: It is already having an impact on overall travel to the U.S. How that specifically impacts family decision-making, I'm not sure. The strong dollar also compounds it this decision – probably more so than Trump.

Travel And Tour World: Which places across the globe are the most highly favored family travel destinations this year, according to you?

Rainer Jenss: According to our research, the most popular destinations (those places families WANT to visit) in the U.S. are Florida, California, Hawaii, New York, Colorado, and Alaska – in that order. Overseas, the Caribbean, Canada, Europe and Mexico top the list respectively.

Travel And Tour World: Can you please comment on the steadily emerging trend of 'multigenerational travel'?

Rainer Jenss: That's easy – multigenerational travel has been, and will be one of the biggest growth areas of the industry. Why? Because the baby-boomer market (i.e. grandparents) is growing, and will for years to come. This demographic has the money, time, and desire to travel. They would rather spend money to travel with their own children and grandkids rather than just hand it down with financial inheritance. Furthermore, only 14 percent of the American families have not taken a multigenerational trip before and are not planning one in the future. While it is often presumed that grandparents are the driving force behind multigenerational travel, this study has found that in 45 percent of cases, the parents plan the multigenerational trip.

Ethan Gelber, Director of Editorial board, Family Travel Association offers us some more insight on the idea of family travel, particularly about 'responsible family travel' and how families might incorporate the ideals of sustainable tourism.



Ethan Gelber

Travel And Tour World: How can the concept of responsible family travel impact local communities as well as the environment?

Ethan Gelber: Responsible travel is about making wise choices that factor in — and perhaps even favor — respect for local values and resources, especially including local culture and the environment. The idea is to protect and preserve the beauty of today for tomorrow's travelers. So what better way is there to teach about responsibility and respect than for parents to demonstrate it to their children? When families plan and pursue responsible travel together, the older generations are consciously placing a

premium on conscientious travel, thereby teaching the younger generations its importance. Hopefully it's the start of a family tradition of responsible actions. It matters more than you may realize. I feel that people might not be around for their kids to thank them later, or for the children of the people they visit today to acknowledge how their few thoughtful actions altered the courses of their lives, but that should never be a reason not to do the right thing.



Travel And Tour World: Since 2017 is the International Year for Sustainable Tourism as declared by the UN, how can family travel be oriented to meet sustainable tourism goals?

Ethan Gelber: In light of the United Nations having declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, the best way for traveling families to meet sustainable tourism goals is to tie them in to best practices that have grown out of overarching Sustainable Development Goals set by the UN General Assembly. These include the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. In short, traveling families should actively insist on and then choose travel options that support the responsible, long-term development of the places they visit. These options should emphasize the creation of local jobs and promotion of local culture and products.

December is the month of Christmas and New Year. Throughout the world, these are celebrated with much glamour and pomp. But this page will inform you other festivals which will happen in different places of the world, showing the vivacity and culture.

WORLD FESTIVALS



CHICHIBU NIGHT FESTIVAL

Place: Tokyo, Japan

Date: 2- 3 December, 2017

Locally known as Chichibu Yomatsuri, this night festival is considered as Japan's most famous floating event. During this festival, the city is decorated with lights and the display of fireworks, offering an opportunity to taste authentic Japanese cuisine and to see the floats, ornately decorated with lanterns, tapestries and gilded wood carvings, showing the deep rooted Japanese culture.

Celebrated in Austria, Krampusnacht feels more like Halloween than Christmas, giving and eerie feelings to the children, chasing to them and hit by sticks. The folklore of Krampusnacht comes from pagan times, (pre Christian era), with the origin of Krampus, later into a play format during medieval format. Now, it has turned into a festival with mischievous, child-terrorizing ghoul.

KRAMPUSNACHT

Place: Tyrol, Austria

Date: 5th December, 2017



MEVLANA WHIRLING DERVISHES

Place: Konya - Turkey

Date: 10- 17 December, 2017



Treat yourself with the Turkish fiesta of music and dance originated from the medieval era, commemorates the death anniversary of 13th century Sufi poet and musician Mevlana or Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī. This cultural show will give a trance while you watch and explore in the world of peace and humanity.



JUNKANOO PARADE

Place: Nassau, Bahamas

Date: 26th December, 2017

Bahamas' one of the ultra popular fiesta with colourful costumes, music and dance parade having its 500 years long history with a most impressive, liveliest and largest of sensational party. Experience the intoxicating carnival atmosphere on Grand Bahama Island with jump, beat and fun.

It is a splendid night party where world meets in the city center of Edinburgh, Scotland for the maximum fun and unlimited street party with iconic torchlight processions, New Years' celebration, and the fireworks portraying the vivacious culture of Scotland.



HOGMANAY

Place: Edinburgh - Scotland

Date: 30 December 2017 - 1 January 2018



SYDNEY NEW YEAR'S EVE

Place: Sydney, Australia

Date: 31st December, 2017

Come and enjoy this New Year in the world's most popular New Year's Eve capital, Sydney with the largest display of fireworks and technologically advanced lightning effects & smoking ceremony which make Sydney Harbour Bridge look gorgeous and stunning, reflecting the vibrant mood and cultural diversity.



2018: Jan 18, 19, 20
2019: Jan 23, 24, 25

FOCUS ON BUSINESS VISITORS

OTM is the leading travel trade show in India

With more than a thousand exhibitors from 60 countries, OTM is the largest travel trade show in India, on the basis of number of sellers, buyers and rented area.

OTM is held every year in Mumbai - the largest travel source market of India. Mumbai, together with its hinterland markets of the West and South India, potentially caters to 61% of all outbound travellers from India. In comparison, New Delhi, the national capital, accounts for just about 22%.

Participation Package

	Per sq m Tariff *	Early Bird Offer **	
		Before 31 May '18	1 June to 31 Oct '18
OTM Mumbai	US\$ 395 INR 24,000	US\$ 295 INR 18,000	US\$ 345 INR 21,000

Firm contract for 3 years with rate freeze: US \$ 275 per year***

* Add GST @ 18%

** Payment is due at the time of booking

†† Early Bird Offer is strictly as per date of payment

*** 3 year firm rate contract on the basis of negotiated advance payment terms

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Some of our Partners & Supporting Organisations at OTM 2017

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Feature Countries Maldives, Taiwan, Kenya, MALAYSIA, Singapore, JNTO, the Seychelles, Vietnam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, RWANDA, Philippines	Official Travel Partner Singapore	Feature States Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand	Hospitality Partners TAJ, ORCHID	
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OTM is a trade show, visitors below 15 years are not allowed during Trade Hours. Rights of Admission reserved with Fairfest Media Ltd.

For More Details Please Contact : Raj Kapoor Singh +91 - 9987615640

Show Highlight

OTM Mumbai



Date : January 18th – 20th 2018

Venue : Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai

OTM 2018 all set to be the largest travel trade show in India. Widely recognised as India's leading travel trade show, OTM is all set to be the largest ever meeting place for the global sellers and buyers of the tourism industry.

OTM 2018 will be held in Mumbai, the largest source market for leisure and MICE travel in the the country, from 18–20 January, at the Bombay Exhibition Centre. More than a 1000 seller from 50 countries are likely to exhibit at the OTM 2018.

These include National and State Tourism Organisations, Hotels, Airlines, Destination Marketing Companies and other suppliers serving leisure as well as MICE markets.

More than 4000 qualified buyers and travel trade visitors have already registered for visiting OTM 2018. There are 814 fully and partly hosted buyer registrations, which is the largest number of hosted buyers in any travel trade show in India. The hosted buyers will be matched with the sellers and appointments will be scheduled in advance for face to face meetings during the show. The total number of visitors is likely to cross 10,000, as in previous years.

According to data published by India's Ministry of Tourism, 21.87 million Indians took foreign trips out of India in 2016 (7.3% higher than 2015). The number of domestic trips within India was a whopping 1613 million (12.7% higher than in 2015). In contrast, the number of foreign tourist arrival

was 8.80 million (9.7% higher than in 2015). OTM caters to all of these markets.

Mumbai is the biggest source market for the outbound and domestic tourists in India. Together with its hinterland markets in the West & South India, it commands 60% of the total outbound tourists from India. It is also the strongest market for Business, Luxury and MICE travel for international as well as domestic segments.

The Egyptian Tourism Counsellor in Mumbai said at OTM 2017: "OTM is one of the most prominent travel trade events in India and and he could see even more interest from the Egyptian private sector to participate in the show."

OTM 2018 is all set to become the home of Indian as well as international tourism. Visit us and explore the infinite possibilities of partnering with the biggest players of travel trade fraternity.

Africa Hotel Investment Forum

Date : October 10-12 2017
Venue : Rwanda , Kigali



The Africa Hotel Investment Forum was held at the Kigali Convention Centre and Radisson Blu Hotel in Rwanda on 10-12 October, with support of Rwanda Development Board and AccorHotels, Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, Hilton, Marriott International amongst other industry leaders. The conference was a high-level, investor-driven event and brought together over 450 key players in the real estate and hotel industry: developers, investors, hotel operators, owners, as well as representatives of the banking and legal sectors.

Key topics that were amongst others that were discussed at the event included investors views on the opportunities in Africa, safety and security, hotel performance in Africa, air travel trends and an

overview on the hotel pipeline in Africa.

Emphasis was placed on finance and investment, transactions that have already take place on the continent and a discussion on the sources of finance available.

Extended networking opportunities through receptions, organized speed networking and round table sessions and the collaboration with the World Travel Awards elevated the Africa Hotel Investment Forum and confirmed its position as the premier event for those looking to invest in Africa.

The Africa Hotel Investment Forum announced plans to hold the 2018 edition in Nairobi, Kenya.



AviaDev

Date : October 10th – 12th 2017

Venue : Rwanda, Kigali



The second AviaDev Africa took place in Kigali, Rwanda on 10-12 October 2017. Attended by 140 aviation professionals, the event delivered a conference programme providing a toolkit for route development in Africa, interactive, knowledge sharing workshops and facilitated over 500 one-to-one meetings.

AviaDev Africa is designed to catalyse connectivity to, from and within Africa and takes place alongside the Africa Hotel Investment Forum. As far as we know, we are the only forum globally connecting the aviation and hospitality industry for mutual benefit. Airlines can gather intel on where future hotels will be built, whilst hotel operators and investors can understand the network expansion plans of the airlines, plus meet airports that offer hotel development opportunities onsite.

AviaDev sessions included an interview with Ato Girma Wake, former CEO of Ethiopian Airlines and former Chairman, RwandAir discussing what the future holds for African aviation, other industry leaders shared how to harness the power of e-commerce, what an airline wants to hear from an airport when considering new air services and how to improve stakeholder collaboration to drive new air services and hearing from Cape Town Air Access on how they have galvanised their stakeholders to



attract over 10 new routes in the last 2 years. Presentations from AviAssist on the role safety plays in the route development process and 2 new airline entrants, JetWest and Jet Afrique outlined their plans ahead of launch in the West African market.

AviaDev exists as a deal-making forum and we know of at least one new route that will be launched as a result of the meetings. Every element of the event is designed to provide education, stimulate debate and ultimately create new business opportunities.

The location of the 2018 edition will be announced by the end of 2017 and we look forward to playing our part in Advancing Africa's connectivity.

Hospitality Qatar

Date : November 7th – 9th , 2017
Venue : Doha, UAE



Recording a large increase in footfall combined with the signing of strategic new partnerships between industry players have marked a successful conclusion to the 2017 edition of Hospitality Qatar, the country's premier International Hospitality and HORECA Trade Show, which ran from November 7 to November 9, 2017 at the Doha Exhibition and Convention Center (DECC).

The huge increase in visitors and participants at this year's show has not only helped in measuring the success of the event but has also reaffirmed Hospitality Qatar's position as a strategic platform for business and networking opportunities for the hospitality and Hotel/Restaurant/Café (HORECA) industry in the Middle East. This year's edition saw the participation of more than 153 local, regional and international HORECA companies and hospitality professionals, including 46 hotels and restaurants and 202 chefs that took part in the 25 competitions. All participants came together to throw the spotlight on their world-class products and services for an ever-growing sector in Qatar. Industry analysts have shared that the show has managed to give a strong boost to the local tourism and hospitality industry, which is viewed as one of the major pillars and drivers for economic growth and also as an essential element to country's efforts towards economic

diversification, falling in line with the agenda of Qatar National Vision 2030.

The trade show highlighted three zones--Food & Beverage, Supply & Design and Hotel & Franchise Investment. All three helped pave the way for an interactive Business-to-Business (B2B) matchmaking platform that aimed towards linking all participants wishing to explore potential partnership and growth opportunities. During this edition, Hospitality Qatar introduced 'Food Qatar,' a new dedicated platform for the food sector focused on providing a meeting point for local, regional and international suppliers and manufacturers of food products to establish links with buyers in Qatar's market. With the food sector anticipated to grow by USD 1.6 billion by 2020, this new addition was designed to open investment prospects and present innovative solutions that will help the country achieve food security.

Salon Culinaire also took place on the sidelines of the show, which was made more prestigious with the presence and participation of a large number of widely-celebrated international chefs. Salon Culinaire featured various creative techniques in food preparation through live cooking demonstrations and competitions.

Live cooking of signature dishes, creative presentations of celebration and wedding cakes, Arabic mezza and Qatari festive foods, as well as barista and mocktail competitions, were among the activities that took place during the three days, and culminated by an awarding ceremony.

Harout Bedoyan, High-end gifts, awards & accessories division at GulfCrafts commented by saying that they were very active at Hospitality Qatar just like every year as one of the show's sponsors.

The organizers of Hospitality Qatar showcased their products, explored new opportunities and affirmed support for Qatar's economy through their locally-made crafts that meet international standards. They received so many visitors and leading decision-makers from the hotel industry.

Naveed Abdulla, Business Director, added that this year's edition of the show was truly amazing from

the presentations and talks to the exciting product demonstrations and competitions. It was also a great experience to see neighboring countries participating and affirming their support for Qatar. The organizers really did a wonderful job successfully consolidating Hospitality Qatar's position as a strategic platform for the HORECA segments. They are now upbeat about participation next year.

Karim Raffoul, Project Manager, IFP Qatar, concluded by saying that this year has been a major success for Hospitality Qatar and it is very clear that this sector is an important part of the country's economic agenda. Every aspect of the event has shown exemplary performance and has received positive remarks both from customers and clients. As the ideal meeting point for suppliers and buyers in the HORECA industry

and they feel from the responses and initial business results that stakeholders have truly found the most suitable avenue to further develop business networks and expansion activities and are positive that next year will be bigger and brighter and look to present even more creative ways to facilitate sector engagement.”



Hotel Management Indonesia Summit 2017



Date : November 16th 2017

Venue : Jakarta , Indonesia

The Hotel Management Indonesia Summit (HMI), organized by powerhouse international conference producer Questex Hospitality Group, concluded on 16 Nov 2017 at the Mandarin Oriental Jakarta. HMI welcomed over 120 international and speakers at the much awaited event after two years of hiatus.

Delegates heard the industry's latest trends under the theme, "Inspire Viable Strategies to Boost Revenue and Profit for Vibrant Hoteliers." Acacia Leroy, Asia Pacific Trend Strategist, Trend Watching, in her presentation entitled, "Consumer Trends Shaping the Future of Travel," highlighted four essential trends for hoteliers. For one, the use of social media like Instagram has put Jakarta on top of the most geo-tagged city on Instagram Story in the world, beating other major cities like Sao Paulo, New York, London, and Madrid (August 2017, Instagram).

From start to finish, six interactive panel discussions were staged by veteran hoteliers and subject-matter experts in various fields. The key topics of these thought-provoking sessions include Boosting Profitability through Rate Growth and Cost Control, Future Hospitality IT Trends and Why Hotel Wifi Has Become More Important Than Before Game Changing Technologies in Hotel Operations, How to Use Mobile Technology Training to Increase RevPAR and Improve Guest Satisfaction; Managing Performance Expectations in Adjustment Periods, Modifying Work Processes to

Boost Productivity and Efficiency, Business vs. Social Sharing on Networks and the importance to Build Your Online Reputation: Investigating the Successful Future F&B Concepts and marketing Efforts, Exploring Latest Talent Retention and Development Practices to Reduce Turnovers and The Road to a Brighter Financial Future for Hotels in Indonesia. Fiskarani S. Sugandi, Managing Director, Samali Hotels & Resorts said that the event is a very good opportunity for hoteliers to know the trends. Talking so much on the profitability, the finance, where there is usually a big gap between the hoteliers and the owners and its quite rare for them to have an event that discusses heavy topics and many are interested in how to keep the bottom line especially when the growth is not increasing. Sachin Moudgil, Director Business Development, Knowcross mentioned that they have had good discussions with distinguished panels and its a must go as there are a lot to learn from these events especially from the industry partners. HMI Summit 2017 is part of the Hotel Management Asia summit Series, Asia's only truly regional hotel management conference series. The series have rotated through Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Indonesia this year by leveraging regional experiences, insights, and innovations to address market-specific challenges.



ITB Asia

Date : October 25th – 27th , 2017
Venue : Marina Bay Sands , Singapore



Asia's leading travel trade show, ITB Asia 2017 has completed its milestone anniversary event with record-breaking numbers. The tenth edition of ITB Asia came to a close today at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, Marina Bay Sands in Singapore.

Over three days, the event hosted about 940 exhibitors from 113 countries, an 11% increase over the previous year. ITB Asia 2017 also welcomed its strongest ever buyer participation across the Corporate, MICE and Leisure sectors. Since 2014, ITB Asia has experienced a 1:1 ratio for exhibitors and buyers. This year, there were over 22,000 business appointments recorded during the show. Unveiling its largest exhibitors showcase yet, ITB Asia 2017 reported a spectacular 77% growth from its inaugural edition, featuring new exhibitors such as the Rwanda Development Board, Tourism Tunisia, Promote Iceland, Tourism & Foreign Affairs Department of Almaty City, Republic of Kazakhstan, Jeju Convention and Visitor Bureau, amongst others. Exhibitors also invested more in the quality of their booths, with Greece, Japan, Russia and Korea putting up impressive and engaging experiences. This year's conference programme looked at the role of technology, setting the tone for the changes that the industry is likely to see in the next ten years. Speakers from big names IBM Asia Pacific and Google delivered insights on the potential of Artificial Intelligence, Ctrip presented its global strategy, while fast-growing start-ups Hiverlab, Zebra Design and Savioke shared on the exciting realities and opportunities for augmented reality and

virtual reality in hospitality and tourism.

Katrina Leung, Executive Director of Messe Berlin (Singapore), the organiser of ITB Asia said that in the view of ten years of ITB Asia, they have taken every effort to celebrate the past as well as to provide attendees with a useful view to the future. While the attendees are very pleased with their achievements in terms of the quality and numbers, what brings them most satisfaction is, in bringing all together, the different stakeholders across the industry to network and inspire each other. The relationship built and strengthened will continue to boost their efforts in making ITB Asia the region's go to event and hub for unforgettable content and enriching experiences for many years to come.

ITB Asia will continue to be held in Singapore, following the past ten years of consistent support from the Singapore Tourism Board and the Singapore Exhibition Convention Bureau. Following this year's successful show, ITB Asia has received the highest exhibitor rebookings for ITB Asia 2018. As early as now, the surge in interest for next year's show has been seen from destinations such as Greece, Middle East, Africa, Spain and the Scandinavian region as well as continued strong support from Asian markets such as Thailand and the Philippines. Melia Hotels International and Global DMC Network by the JTB Group have also confirmed their stand bookings for the 2018

SAHIC Costa Rica

Date : November 13th – 14th 2017

Venue : San Jose, Costa Rica



SAHIC, the premier organizer of hotel investment conferences in Latin America just concluded the presentation of the first Costa Rica Sustainable Hotel & Tourism Investment Conference, which was hosted by the Ministry of Tourism of Costa Rica (ICT). For the first time in this region's history, key investors and decision makers convened in one location to identify significant challenges and sustainable hospitality development opportunities for the country. The Conference took place November 13-14, 2017 at the Intercontinental in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Luis Guillermo Solis, president of Costa Rica, welcomed the visitors to the country declaring that the conference "represents a precedent for the country, paving the way for development, sustainability and investment." Costa Rica Minister of Tourism Mauricio Ventura

Aragón stressed that the conference was a great demonstration of the support and commitment of the Costa Rican Government. Ventura officially opened the conference remarking that Costa Rica is being positioned on the world map of tourism investment due to three key factors: The strength and longevity of the airline industry, the ever-increasing number of visitors with disposable income, and the successful development of infrastructure in the region.

Two powerful keynote presentations emotionally impacted the hospitality developer attendees. Author, speaker, social entrepreneur and grandson of the famed

Jacques Cousteau, Phillipe Cousteau delivered a meaningful message about the impacts of climate change on the tourism industry. Additionally, Carlos PaezVilaro, survivor of the Andes plane crash in 1972, shared his thoughts on changing business paradigms in ever-evolving and challenging times. Costa Rica Sustainable Conference speakers and sessions were impressive. The notable presenters included:

- Paul Adan, VP, Hotel Development Latin America & Caribbean, Marriott International
- Louis Alicea, C.H.A., Senior Director, Development Latin America & Caribbean, Wyndham Hotel Group
- Rogerio Basso, Principal Investment Officer - Head of Tourism, IDB Invest
- René Bernard Beil, Managing Director, Beaufort Global Partners LLC
- Patricia Boo, Area Director Central and South America, STR
- Ricardo Bravo, VP Operations, AM Resorts
- Andrew Cohan, MAI, Horwath HTL Miami
- Luca Franco, CEO and Founder, Luxury Frontiers
- Liora Haymann, Managing Director, OBMI
- Fredrick Jonsson, Managing Partner, MEREHA and Director of Beaufort Global Partners
- José Koechlin Von Stein, CEO & Founder, Inkaterra
- Salo Smaletz, Vice President Development Latin America IHG.

Serviced Apartment Summit Middle East

Date : November 12th – 13th 2017
Venue : Dubai , UAE



More than 150 international delegates attended the third annual Serviced Apartment Summit MEA in Dubai in November. Held at a new venue for 2017 - the Address Boulevard in Downtown Dubai, event attracted delegates from Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Kenya, India, US, UK, Italy, Mauritius, Singapore, Russia, The Netherlands and Germany. The first day of the Summit began with property tours of two near neighbours, the Time Oak Hotel and Suites, and the newly opened Tryp by Wyndham Dubai. This second venue then hosted a drinks reception and speed business card swap for delegates, at its bar and terrace area.

Day two kicked off with a welcome from host Piers Brown, then Simon Townsend of CBRE shared his thoughts and his company's research on the economic outlook for the real estate sector, both globally and locally. Middle East sovereign wealth fund investment in real estate in 2016 was \$4.5 billion, he said, down 17 per cent on the previous year. Townsend attributed this drop to Middle East capital not being deployed as aggressively as that from Asia.

A panel of industry leaders was then moderated by Grant Salter of Deloitte. Neme Imad Darwiche, CEO of Jannah Hotels & resorts, predicted that the serviced apartment sector would need to innovate over the next five to ten years, as guests demanded

co-working and co-living spaces. Cheval Residences managing director Mohammed Almarzooqi said that Cheval is looking at a new model which featured basic room units made from pods, and more communal space where younger guests can work and socialise.

A breakout Serviced Apartment Masterclass presented by Omar Eltahry of Colliers, focused on the growth of the serviced apartment sector in Dubai. A session on brand and operator section kicked off with Cheval Residences director George Westwell describing himself as a "MiB" - Baby Boomer in a Millennial's body!

Blurred lines - a session about distribution inevitably over on to the subject of direct bookings and OTAs. Maxxton's Severine Obertelli said operators shouldn't expect to get direct bookings if their website makes it difficult to book the same units that can be booked in just two clicks on an OTA.

The day ended with a debate about Airbnb saw the panel debating the sharing economy's pros and cons. Other sessions covered topics including consumer awareness, marketing, investment, and mixed-use development.

BLTM

Date : October 26th - 27th 2017
Venue : Hyatt Regency Gurgaon



The second edition of the Business & Luxury Travel Mart (BLTM) was held at Hyatt Regency Gurgaon, on October 26-27 2017. Since its debut last year, BLTM has been very well received as India's first full fledged travel mart focused on sellers from Business, MICE and Luxury Travel from all over the world.

Over 250 highly qualified corporate and travel trade buyers, wedding planners and MICE planners from all over India vastly improved upon a 2:1 Buyer to Seller ratio this year, benchmarking BLTM with the best in global MICE focused shows.

Hosted Buyers at BLTM included corporate travel planners with purchasing authority, travel companies catering to business, leisure, MICE and luxury travel, MICE travel managers and buyers, MICE organisers and managers, business travel managers and buyers, film destination companies, associations, wedding planners and event management companies.

In another first this year, most of the Sellers of BLTM were accommodated within the show venue- Hyatt Regency, creating greater opportunities to network with the hosted buyers.

This year's BLTM recorded an increase of 75% in new Corporate Buyers and 80% new Hosted Buyers from Travel Trade agents.

A Hosted Buyer mentioned that BLTM brought something very different to the industry because it was a blend of business and luxury travel which

covered the segment that he was looking for. BLTM provided him with everything under one roof. There were 150 individual Sellers from more than 50 organisations from India and abroad, in their colourful booths and pavilions.

Taiwan, Korea, Bahrain and Peru were among the other countries who participated at the BLTM. Air India and Ethiopian Airlines were the partner airlines for the BLTM.

Peru and Bahrain were the first-timers in the show and were enthusiastic about their participation. Luis M Cabello, Trade councillor of Peru, remarked that it has been an amazing experience to associate with Fairfest Media and participate in BLTM and he would recommend this show to everyone who wants to explore MICE, luxury segment here in India.



New Faces



Matthew Cook is the new Head Concierge at Tamburlaine hotel

Matthew Cook

Matthew Cook has been appointed as Head Concierge at Tamburlaine hotel in Cambridge, a four star rated hotel in United Kingdom, offering the luxurious amenities in the heart of the city. Matthew Cook has been curating the custom-made experiences for guests for 23 years in the hospitality business. He has been previously working at London Hilton Park Lane and Radisson Blue Stansted Airport, marking the highest in the respective files.

Mark Platt joins with Handpicked Hotels as General Manager of St Pierre Park Hotel, Spa and Golf resort

Mark Platt has been appointed as General Manager of St Pierre Park Hotel, Spa and Golf resort in Guernsey, which is under the prolific administration of Handpicked Hotels, having more than 30 years of experience in establishing itself in hotel and hospitality business. Mark Platt commented after taking the responsibility that he is delighted to have joined Hand Picked Hotels to lead the team at St Pierre Park, which has the most complete and exclusive facilities on the island for business, leisure and private functions and a committed and passionate team.

Douglas Waddell, Hand Picked Hotels' Operations Director

on the appointment of Mark Platt that he will bring to the hotel extensive knowledge of the industry and the Channel Islands market and which has a proven track record in driving customer satisfaction and revenue which is key to the role.



Judith Owens appointed as Titanic Belfast's Chief Executive



Judith Owens is welcomed this month as Titanic Belfast's Chief Executive. Titanic Belfast is one of the leading tourist attractions in Belfast, one of the busy and vibrant cities in Northern Ireland, marking the rich legacy and history of maritime. Judith Owens will take over the pedals from Tim Husbands MBE as Chief Executive not only of Titanic Belfast but SS Nomadic and the Titanic Exhibition Centre from December, 2017. Judith Owens has been appointed for the elementary

success for this award-winning tourist attraction and conference venue looking after all front of house operations, including hospitality, events and the visitor experience, as well as recruitment, facilities management, learning and outreach programmes. [\[7\]](#)

30 Nov
to
2 Dec

CHENGDU INTERNATIONAL TOURISM EXPO (CITE)

Chengdu, China
www.citechina.asia



1 - 3
Dec

INDIA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL MART

Hyderabad, India
iitmindia.com



4 - 5
Dec

GLOBAL HOTEL & RESORTS

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
bricsaconsulting.com



4 - 7
Dec

INT'L LUXURY TRAVEL MARKET

Cannes, France
www.iltm.com/cannes



7 - 10
Dec

TRAVEL TURKEY IZMIR

Izmir, Turkey
www.travelturkeyexpo.com



8 - 10
Dec

Greek Tourism Expo
Anatoliki Attiki, Greece
www.greektourismexpo.gr/en



11 - 12
Dec

Brussels Travel Expo (BTEXPO)
Brussels, Belgium
www.btexpo.com



15 - 17
Dec

India Travel Mart-Jaipur (ITM)
Jaipur, India
www.itmtravelmart.com/home-1



15 - 17
Dec

India International Travel Exhibition (IITE)
Madurai, India
www.iiteindia.com



4 - 6
Jan

Colorado RV Adventure Travel Show
Denver, USA
www.corvshow.com



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IITM 2017-18 EVENT'S CALENDER

CHENNAI: 15, 16, 17 JULY 2017

BANGALORE: 21, 22, 23 JULY 2017

DELHI: 15, 16, 17 SEPTEMBER 2017

MUMBAI: 22, 23, 24 SEPTEMBER 2017

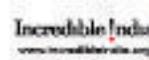
PUNE: 24, 25, 26 NOV 2017

HYDERABAD: 01, 02, 03 DEC 2017

KOCHI: 18, 19, 20 JAN 2018

KOLKATA: 23, 24, 25 FEB 2018

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