

# Travel Tour™

Volume: 9, Issue: November 2017

AND

WORLD

## London





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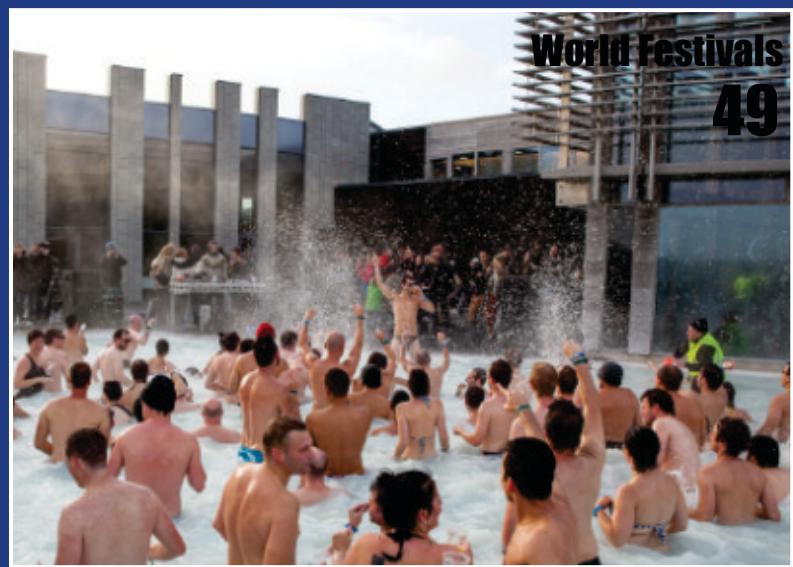
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**36- Tech iT:** Technology has been introducing its smartest avatars in the twenty-first century, ‘speed networking’ being one of them. It enables the seamless interaction of the concept of networking with supercool ‘swiftness’.

**41- Travel Association:** James Pelham, one of the founders of The Independent Food Tour Association (TIFTA) and Managing Director, Founder of Singabites attempts to trace an outline of TIFTA

**45- Travel Tendency:** The brownie point about solo travel is that you choose your own adventures and need not ponder about anything else. Solo travel has been on rise especially for women they have turned more independent, educated and economically sound

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Dear Readers,

Approaching almost the tail end of the year, international tourism has gone through multiple challenges this year, specially the ones owing to natural calamity and political incendiaries. But overcoming all that, October has been a fulfilling month and we are back with our new issue for WTM London.

Enabling the growth and development of the global travel industry, World Travel Market (WTM) London has been a grand name in the travel industry. Through many years of experience and by embracing innovation, the event is one of a kind and helps to shape the future of travel industry. We focused our meetings point in London which, even after the much talked about Brexit chaos remains as one of the finest destinations for MICE industry experts.

Any travel industry, irrespective of its niche needs to think about the sustainability. Responsible tourism is a major segment in global tourism industry. Enjoy a wholesome read on the same in our cover story.

Moving on, we have listed the best places for the Instagrammers across the world. The impact and influence of social media needs to special introduction, specially to the millennials. Solo travelling is also the new trend, which is more specifically evident amongst the women travellers.

The other regular features with interviews, interesting discussion, travel news of the month and festival are also there. Hope you enjoy a good read!

## Editor-In-Chief

Mr. Anup Kumar Keshan

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## Meetings Point

If you want to experience the exploration of a city while you are in business travel, visit London. Because, it is the only metropolis in the world offering the luxurious convention centres, comfy hotels and the points of interest surrounding the city, making the best place of bleisure with leisurely fashion. Surely, London will be in your wish-list.

# London

Your Favourite

Meeting Destination



Busy life, wide skyline of Victorian and Elizabethan architecture and the city of miscellaneous culture-London becomes world's most visited city filled with vibrant history and most recognisable landmarks. Back to the ancient times aka no-internet era, London developed gradually near River Thames with the hands of Romans later with its "own sweet will", London decorates itself with ornate building, "temples", "domes" and "theatres".

# *London*

**is the best choice**

Now London is a little wonderland attracting more than 15 million visitors each year. The city's rich architectural marvels allure you with a majestic touch and make your soul filled with ecstasy, while you stroll on the streets of London, witnessing the breathtaking views during day, dusk and night. This Victorian city makes great for both the tourists finding the buzzing urbanscape and the business tourists finding the best convention centres or hotels for meetings or events.



As London is the place of great culture and business in United Kingdom, creative business event planning will be the best bet here. This financial city has small residential area (over 8000 Londoners), but over 40000 people here commute into this busy metropolis for work, business and tourism. London develops into the focal point of business meets, which results the leading global event WTM London organising by Reed Exhibitions Ltd with an endeavour to attract the global travel and its allied industry leaders.



**through business lens**

# *London*



## Meeting Points in

# London

**Barbican Centre:** It is a centre of performing arts in the city of London; Barbican Centre is an ideal place for holding international class meetings, events, art exhibitions, films and music. Maintained by City of London Corporation, this 4000 square meter cultural convention centre is a finest example of modernist architecture. Opened by Queen Elizabeth in 1982, Barbican Centre is proud of having art gallery, theatre hall, film centre, 3 restaurants, 7 conference halls and 2 exhibition halls.



**Kensington Town Hall:** Kensington Town Hall is ready for any events or meetings, set within a series of green courtyards along with the ambient architecture, making one of the largest venues in Central London. It has 8000 square ft exhibition space offering wide zone for any meeting along with all modern and updated technological skills with expert hospitality management team.

**Four Points by Sheraton London:** A haven of international meetings with world class hospitality features and open space, Four Points helps any entrepreneur to have a successful and innovative meeting in 18,000 square feet of meeting space with high speed internet access and vast range of international food and drinks. Located in Ontario the capital of business and leisure, Four Points offers golf, entertainment, wineries and many other which are beyond the business language.



**London Convention Centre:** London Convention Centre's aim to become a pioneering and exclusive meeting point giving a commitment of customer satisfaction, corporate social responsibility and environment. Its 70,000 square feet of meeting, conference and exhibition space offer for the superlative conferences, trade shows and events with incredible staff hospitality in striking architectural layout.



# *What to see in London*

## **The London Eye**

The 443 feet tall London Eye pulls the crowds for evening hangout, with the offering 32 sealed and air-conditioned ovoidal passenger capsules. See the breathtaking view of South Bank from London Eye, regarded as the highest public viewing point.



## **Buckingham Palace**

UK's most iconic architectural wonder, Buckingham Palace is the residence of the monarchs of United Kingdom. It is royal symbol showing the artistic and sculptural excellence in its grandeur to the tourists.



## **British Museum**

Located in the Bloomsbury area, British Museum is dedicated to the global history of humans, art, science and culture. Established in 1753, this museum is a grand house of rare items and books collected in different era from different parts of the world.





## ZSL London Zoo

An abode to more than 750 incredible species from plant and animal kingdom, ZSL London Zoo opens to the tourists with an innovative way of learning the nature and a complete package of day tour. Home of rare Asiatic lions, this zoological garden also has western lowland gorillas, Chapman's zebras, tiger and humboldt penguins.



## Westminster Abbey

One of the finest examples of Gothic architecture, Westminster Abbey bears the 12th Century Kirk sculpture along with the cenotaphs and epitaphs of Renaissance time dignitaries till modern era. A walk in the midst of silence will give solitude and isolation at the heart of dazzling city.



## Gabriel's Wharf

Explore the all day food fiesta in South Bank's Gabriel's Wharf, a place known for the mix of restaurants, pubs, cafes and bars which will give surely a fashionable experience in shopping and gastronomic hunting.



London is a city where something is happening. This place has top attractions, exhibition halls, quirky restaurants, accommodations for city tourists and business travellers with highly developed transportation system. London as meeting destination with an opportunity for the flourish of small and big business. Truly a place where dream comes true!



# EAST AFRICA TOURISM & HOSPITALITY EXPO 2017

**"The Only B2C Tourism  
Expo in Tanzania"**

**Venue:**

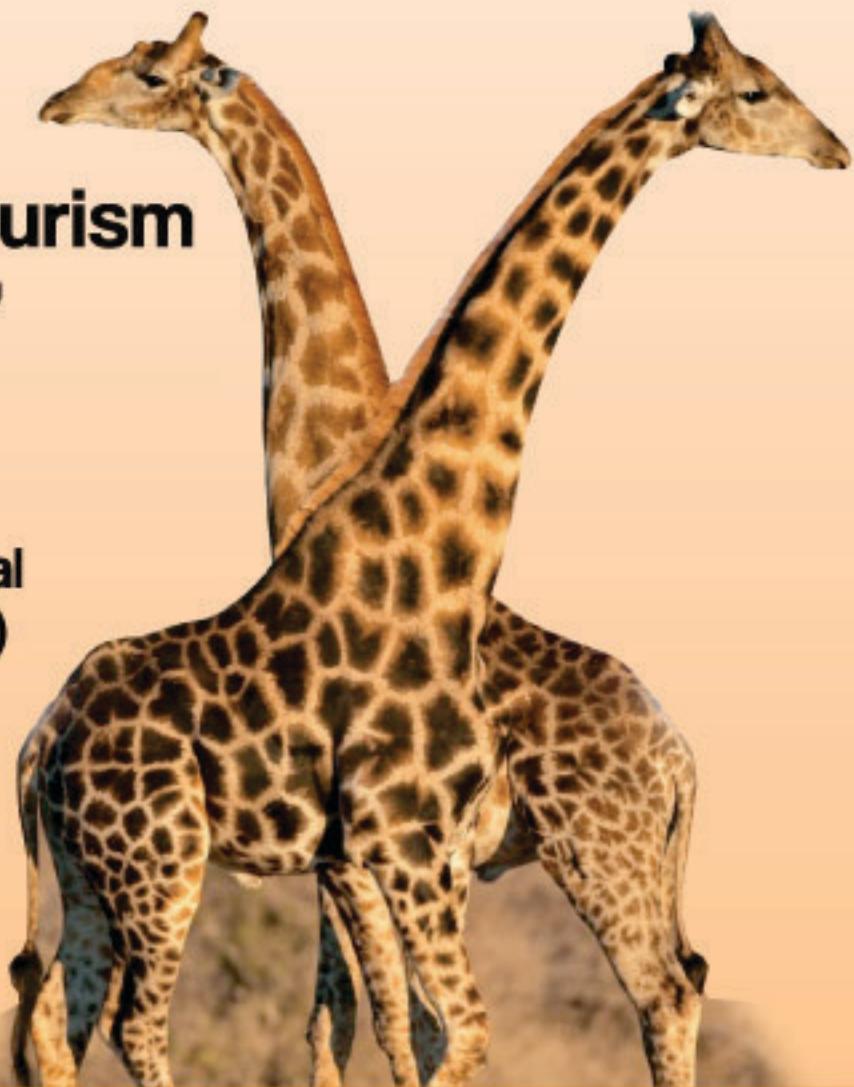
**Julius Nyerere International  
Convention Centre (JNICC)**

**Date:**

**17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**Time:**

**8:00am to 6:00pm**



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## Special Feature



# Committing to ECOTOURISM



In 2002, The UN declared it as "International Year of Ecotourism." Whether following the declaration or not, the immediate next decade saw an upswing the in the number of ecotourists among the travellers. Theoretically, an ecotourist is supposed to have a strong environmental conscience with a set of open values in environmental protection.



## The Definition

Ecotourism is now defined as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education" (TIES, 2015). Education is meant to be inclusive of both staff and guests.

Millennials, being the youngest generation with disposable income have secured their status as leaders in travel and tourism. With such a status quo to maintain, it is also important that they take the right decisions as and when required with the changing trends in the geopolitical and environmental situations. Sustainable tourism is a positive phenomenon that has been going on for some time, but in recent years it has been gaining more traction with millennials.

# Best places for ecotourism

## THE AMAZON

Sprawling over more than 1.4 billion acres of land across Brazil, Colombia, Peru and other areas of South America, the Amazon Rainforest is every ecotourist's dream destination. Proper conservation effort would help to preserve the natural resources of this place.

## SWEDEN

As part of its commitment to sustainability, Sweden has introduced not one but two different organizations dedicated to ecotourism: an eco-tourism charter and Nature's est', an eco-label that certifies travel companies.

## KERALA

Squeezed between the divine shoreline of the Arabian Sea and the luscious mountain ranges of the Western Ghats, this tropical paradise in Southern India is one of the major ecotourist destinations in the world.

**“Take nothing but pictures.  
Leave nothing but footprints”**  
*this saying derived from Chief Seattle's quote is perhaps the perfect adage for ecotourism.*



## GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS

The famous creatures on the island have made the area much popular with tourists making this fascinating archipelago and the fragile ecosystems within it under threat. Working alongside WWF, the Galápagos Islands now encourage ecotourism which might help in the long run to conserve and sustain the natural wonders.



## TORTUGUERO IN COSTA RICA

The tiny village is sustained almost entirely by ecotourism which is nicknamed as the Land of the Turtles. There is no denying of the positive sustainable effect on tourism.



## NEED FOR ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES

- create cultural awareness along with environmental responsibility
- should result in positive experiences for both hosts and guests
- recognize and acknowledge the spiritual rights and beliefs of the local people
- should be gainful in terms of monetary transaction, specially for the local folk
- trivialize impact in terms of social, physical, and psychological aspects



Ecotourism's idealistic goal is to improve the world through responsible travel; while its effects will probably never match its ideals, travelers can offer very real benefits to local communities.

Ecotourism is a valuable economic tool for people in the travel industry and they should understand that this is the way of the future. Direct, indirect, and induced are the three categories in which the impacts of ecotourism, or any economic activity, can be grouped into. Although most of the benefits are intangible, identifying the leakages, or conversely the linkages within the economy, induced impact can be measured by the direct and indirect impacts.

# Travel NEWS

## Singapore boasts the world's strongest passport

According to the index developed by the global advisory firm, Arton Capital, Singapore passport is the 'most powerful' in the world holding a visa-free score of 159. Paraguay had removed visa requirements for Singaporeans. Philippe May, the managing director of the Arton Capital's Singapore office commented on the development that it was a testament of the Singapore's inclusive diplomatic relations and effective foreign policy.

The passports of 193 United Nations member countries and six territories were considered, the index ranked national passports on the basis of cross-border access they had. A 'visa-free score' was assigned for those who could visit a number of countries a passport holder could visit visa-free or with a visa on arrival. It was reported that the top 10 most powerful passports in the world tend to be European while Germany held the lead position from the last two years. But Singapore steadily moved up the ranks and the number one position will be shared with Germany. South Korea, Japan and Malaysia were among the top 20.

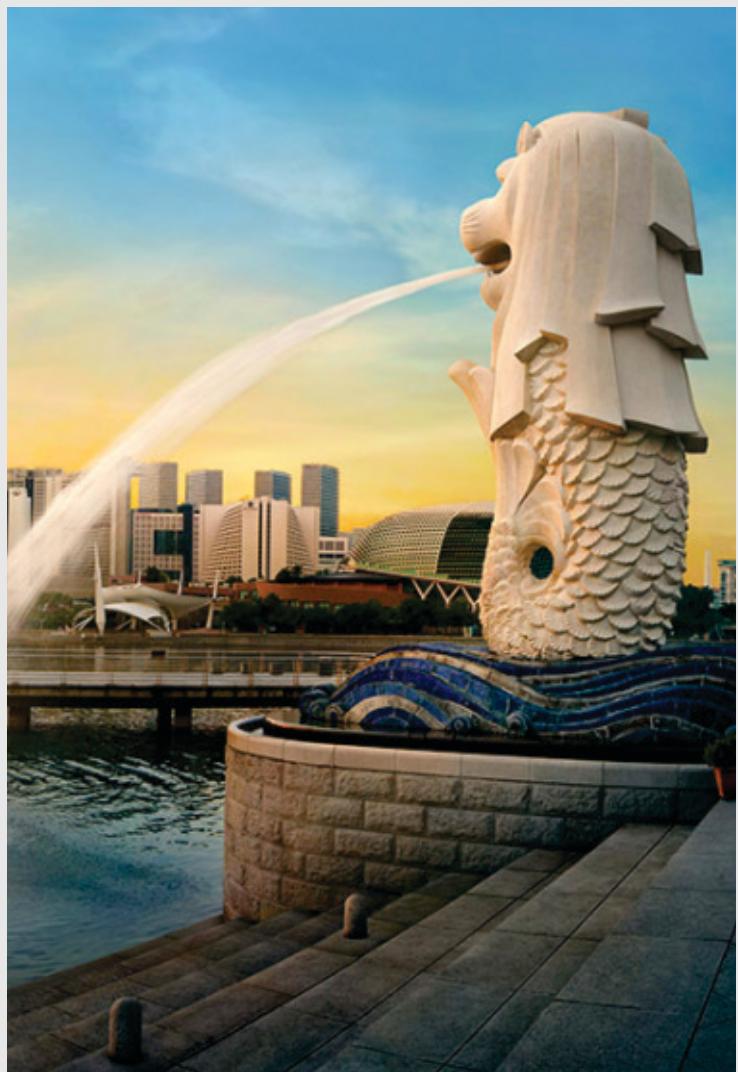
## Ryanair to introduce cabin baggage rule in January

Ryanair has decided to delay the cabin baggage rule change so as not to impact the busy Christmas period. The cabin two-bag ban will be introduced in January. Post the implication of the changes only the

priority boarding customers will be allowed to take two bags inside the cabin with them.

Other passengers will have to surrender the second bag at the boarding gate, where it is expected to be placed in the hold free of charge.

Further there will be a reduction in the baggage check-in fee from £35 to £25 while the allowance for the said bags will increase from 15kg to 20 kg in September.





## World's largest cruise ship to flaunt 10-storey slide, laser tag and more

The world's largest cruise vessel would be five times the size of the Titanic by volume and capable of holding 2,774 staterooms on 16 guest decks, when it hits waters in April 2018.

Royal Caribbean's freshest efforts to impress cruise travellers and it seems to make shore excursions obsolete include the robot bartenders, a 10-storey-high slide and duplex family suite with its own movie theatre and also a floor-to-ceiling Lego wall. Symphony of the Seas ship would be featuring these grand characteristics.

In addition, the cruise vessel would also flaunt a glow-in-the-dark laser tag arena that Royal Caribbean feels is the largest at sea.

For instance, the 1,346-square-foot Ultimate Family Suite has a slide that runs from the kid's room to the living room, a wall for Lego play, wraparound balcony with a child-friendly pool table, full-size hot tub, a climbing feature, a theatre-style television room with popcorn machine and several gaming systems.

Royal Caribbean is yet to announce the price of the two-bedroom suite.

However it has said that it would be able to accommodate eight guests.

## **China ready to welcome three new Six Flags theme parks**

The world's largest regional theme park company Six Flags Entertainment Corporation and Riverside Investment Group, its development partner has announced that it would be adding three more parks that would be constructed in China.

Six Flags Kids World would be the first park of its type and created particularly for families with young

children.

It would be based adjacent to both Six Flags Zhejiang and Six Flags Chongqing. In addition the freshly built Six Flags Adventure Park offers intensive outdoor thrills and would be joining the complex of Six Flags Chongqing complex.

It is expected that the new properties would open in 2020.



## DISCUSSION

# 'THE IMPACT OF OVER TOURISM AT POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATIONS'

Every destination has an optimum capacity as to the number of tourists that create a feel good factor in the destination and generate income without changing the nature of the destination.

We don't believe protests are the answer, but tourists and travel companies specialising in Europe do need to take action to minimise the impact they are having on local communities.

There are of course ways to limit the number of tourists with quotas and by creating laws through government, but there is also a responsibility with the tourists and travel companies themselves. We specialise in areas off the beaten track and our travellers are warmly welcomed, as these destinations need tourists to survive. Here, tourists enrich the area rather than depreciate it.

We help to make this happen with our sustainable tourism policy of using local people for all our tourist services so all tourist income stays in the area. We also educate our clients through our carefully chosen welcome gifts, local information and advice so our clients appreciate and respect the destination they are visiting.

We are a small tour operator which makes this level of service possible. Larger companies would not have access to the many small suppliers that we do, they would need to choose large hotel chains and global suppliers to accommodate their larger numbers.

Additionally, we are based in the destination we serve and so we know the impact tourists have on the area and the optimum number of tourists the area can handle. Choosing to holiday with a small operator with local access to an area can avoid many of the problems that are leading to these protests."

**SALLY GUILLAUME**  
Director,  
Undiscovered  
Mountains



"'Over-tourism' is certainly making it harder to find hotel beds in popular destinations, forcing people to book earlier in order to guarantee their preferred accommodation. Additionally, with the supply of beds being unable to meet the increase in demand, this has inevitably led to higher prices in these destinations."

**COSTAS ANASTASI**  
Director,  
Cypion Holidays

Across Europe, a wave of anti-tourism sentiment has been overheating this summer. We gathered some bytes from the popular tourism heads of various tour operators. Read on to know more.



"I can see how tourism in hotspots is becoming unsustainable and I believe that travel companies should be doing more to brief their clients on how to ensure that they are having a positive impact on the places they visit. Travel companies should also look at how many people they are sending to these places and whether the numbers are sustainable for the local economy. We tensions

between tourists and locals not just in European capital cities but also in developing countries around the world with rich historical cultures. For example, in many parts of Asia, walking down the road holding hands with your partner can sometimes be viewed as a sexual act. Whilst tourists may not get into trouble for this, it certainly doesn't help ease tensions between tourists and local people.

At Oyster, our aim is to ensure that all of our participants have a positive impact on the communities where they are spending time. We send small groups of participants who have been well prepared before departure. Everyone is briefed on environmental considerations, local customs, laws and social norms to enable them to become more responsible travellers.

Most of our programmes are based a little more off the beaten track and are not in the tourist hotspots. As volunteers, our participants are there to contribute to the project that they are working on. They are encouraged to immerse themselves in the local culture as far as possible. The money that participants pay to join Oyster, is spent on the ground to support the programme. This also helps to benefit the local economy with the need for local volunteer coordinators, cooks and cleaners to be hired."

"The dialogue regarding over-tourism is a double-edged sword, but with bookings increasing 30% YoY, our travellers are more often opting for off the beaten track destinations and leaning less towards the city experience. As great as city breaks are, there are so many better ways to experience European cultures – avoiding

the overzealous crowds is merely just a bonus! Granted, countryside breaks deliver well-deserved rest, but they also offer the chance to experience your chosen destination like a true local. The live like a local experience is a trend we've seen grow slowly amongst the travel industry, and our customers are gradually breaking away from the 'typical tourist destinations' to visit hidden gems they never knew existed."

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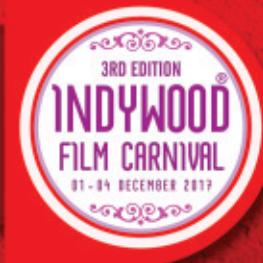
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MEDIA INTERACTIONS	FILM BUSINESS QUIZ	



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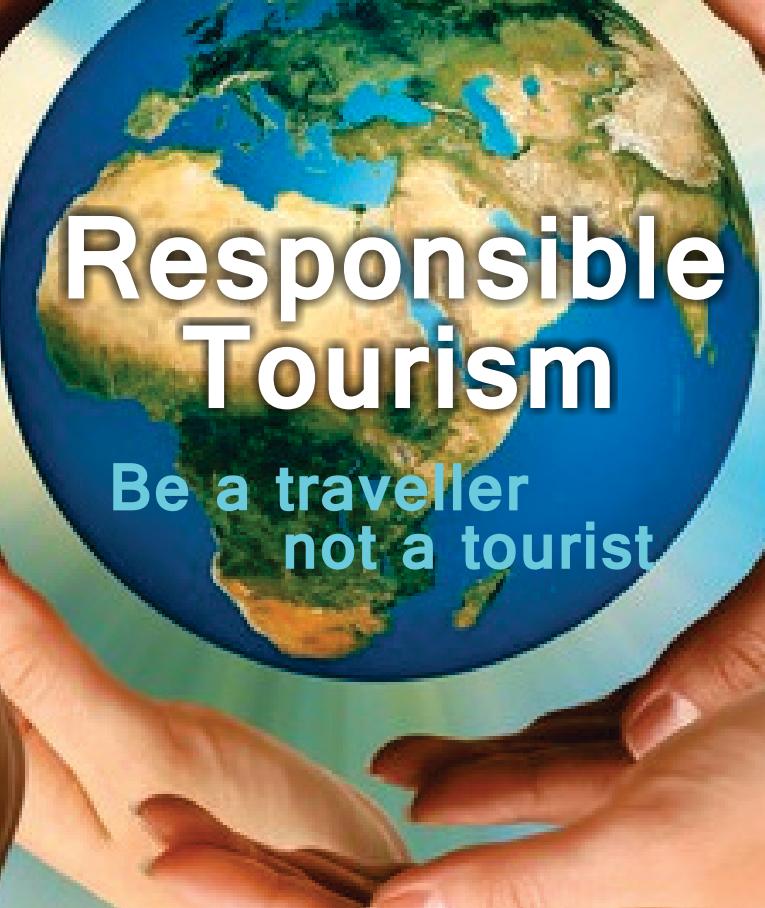
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# Responsible Tourism

Be a traveller  
not a tourist

Fostering a positive interaction among the tourism industry professionals, the local communities, and the travelers and exerting respect towards the environment is Responsible Tourism. It actuates towards minimizing the environmental impact created by tourists and giving the local population a key role in the development of their own regional tourism. Apart from promoting respect towards local culture and creating an awareness of its tradition, lifestyle, local gastronomy, and handicraft, regional tourism also intends to generate equally distributed economic benefits for the local population and its hosting territory. Responsible travel is good for the economic bottom line. With the growing trends, travel companies are beefing up their services to attract more customers

looking for a 'green' experience. Sustainability is at the forefront, both for travel professionals and consumers. Travel that minimizes negative impacts promotes long-term values through their businesses. Implementing green practices pays off in the long run.

The Travel and Tourism sector contributed US\$2.3 trillion and generated 109 million jobs across the world in 2016. If we consider the indirect and induced impacts, the sector generated US\$7.6 trillion to the global economy generating 292 million jobs in the same year. Approximately, this resulted in 1 in 10 of all jobs, equaling to 10.2 % of the world's GDP.

The total contribution of the Travel and Tourism to the world's economy is expected to grow by 3.5 % by 2017.

# How responsible tourism impacts the economy

The World Tourism Organization, a United Nations Agency concerned with the promotion of responsible, sustainable, and universally accessible tourism, declared 2017 as the year of sustainable tourism.

The tourism sector will continue to grow at an average of 3.3% until 2030 according to the United

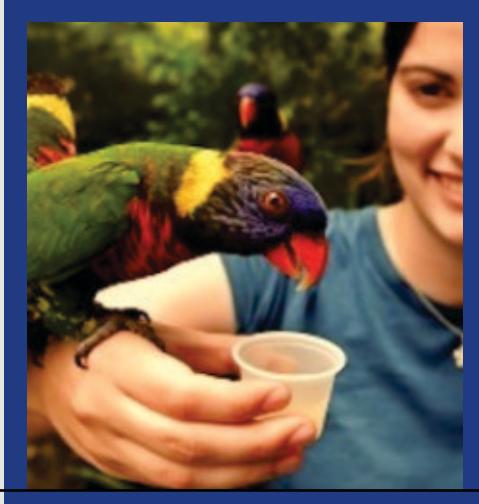
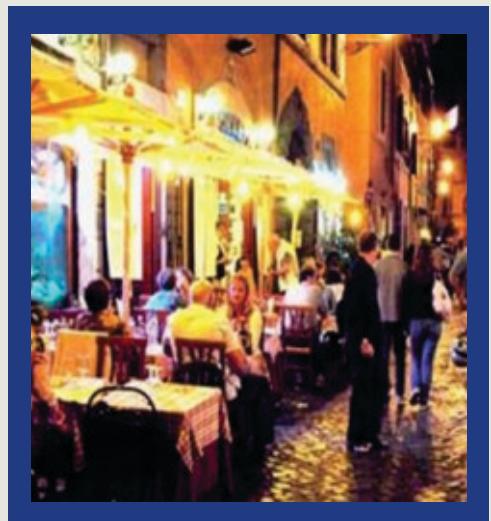
Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Barometer.

When travelling is practiced by individual and collective fulfillment with an open mind, it leads to self education, mutual tolerance, and awareness of local people and the region's diverse culture.

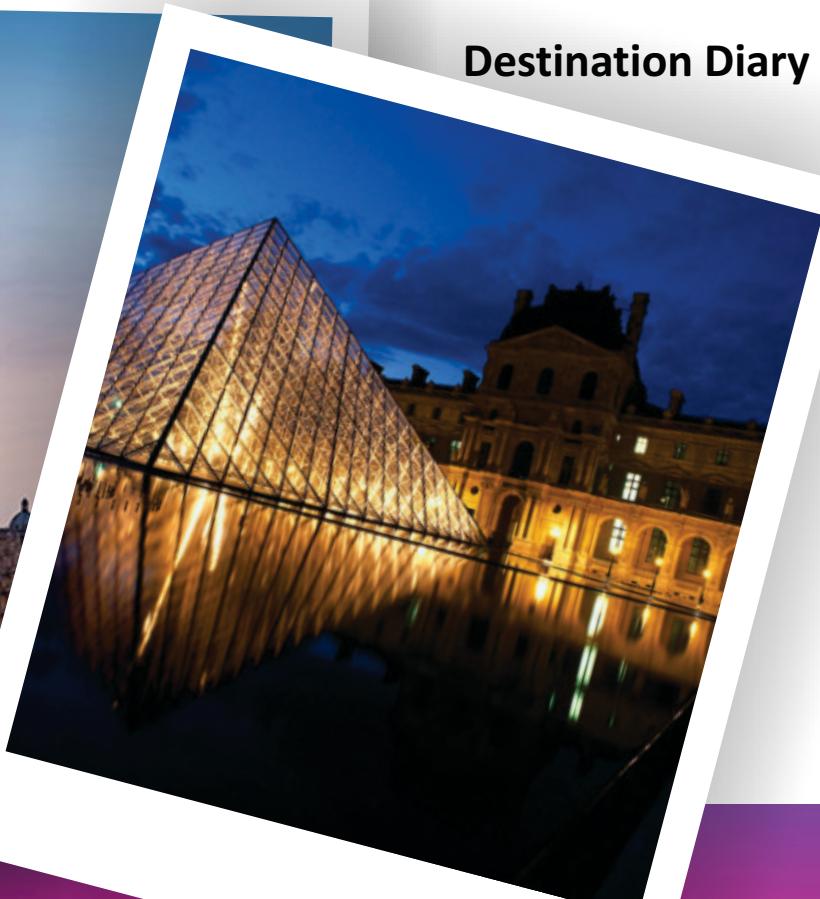
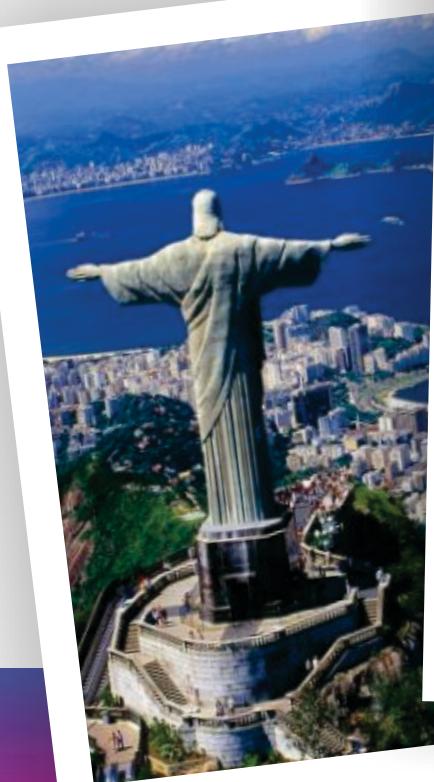


## Adapting sustainable ways of travelling

- Marvel at the indigenous product which the destination offers., While on a holiday, taste the local herbs and spices and be a part of the new destination.
- Opt for innovative and eco-friendly ways. Opt for community-run or individually- owned home stays instead of the usual hotels. Apart from having an authentic homely experience, it also helps in reducing the carbon footprint.
- Avail the opportunity of discovering the daily life of the local people here either on foot or rent a bicycle instead of opting a motor vehicle.
- Try to live like a local; use their local handloom and handicraft product to promote their socio-cultural heritage.
- Be gentle with animals. Remember, we are meant to co-exist. Let them roam freely and do not cause any disruption in their habitat. Take your safaris but watch them from a distance; interact only if you sense that they like it
- Interact with the locals, listen to their stories, participate in their daily chores and activities, encourage the natives to take care of the environment by keeping it clean and green.



Despite the economic and political challenges, the eagerness of people to travel continues, and the travel industry has already a major share in the global economy. The outlook for responsible tourism remains robust in the long run. The industry will overcome major constraints and continue to grow with the support from the local government and key industry players.



# Instagramming the world

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the passion for travel amongst millennials is strongly influenced by the travel updates from their peers on the social media.

There's no denying about the power of visual persuasion, and more millennials indicated that social media is an influencing factor in travel choices than travel agents. Instagram is one of the most popular photo sharing platforms where the iconic vista of the place is more focussed than the real piece of information.

## Most instagrammed places

To curate a whole new experience through the images and to spread a sense of curiosity amongst their peers is one of the major goals of the Instagrammers. While over-editing the natural places sometimes create unnecessary hype, any responsible travellers should at least keep in mind to post the approximate accurate representation of the place they are clicking.

The world's largest museum and a central landmark of Paris, Louvre Museum is one of the most instagrammed places in the world. With a footfall of over 10 million visitors a year, it is world's second-most-visited museum after the Palace Museum in China.



Possibly the most prominent symbols of the United Kingdom and among London's most iconic sites, Big Ben finds its worth amongst the Instagrammers as one of the best places to click. Nicknamed as the Great Bell for the immense clock in the tower, it has been instagrammed for almost 2.2 million times.

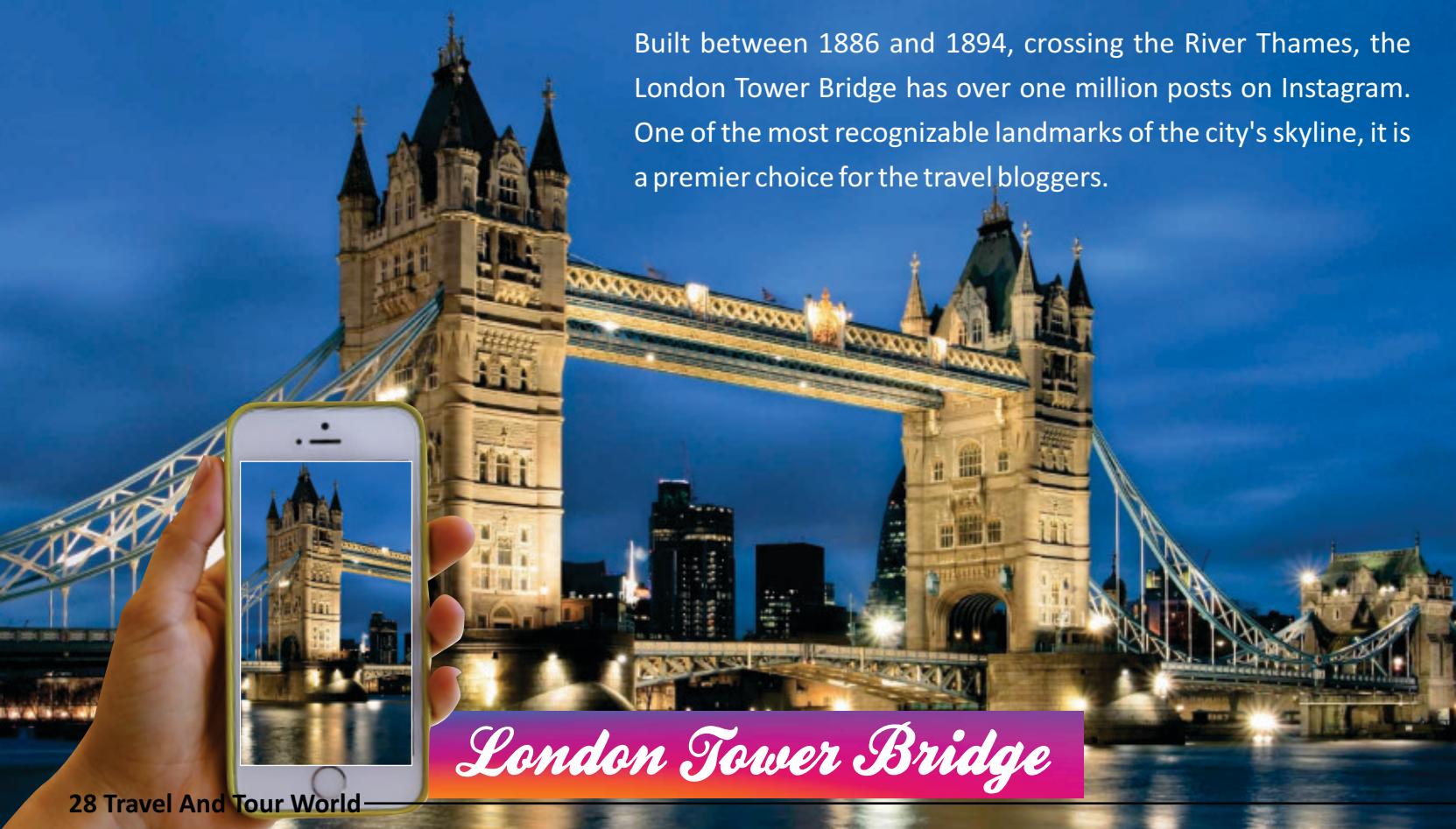


Earning the distinction of being the single most-instagrammed location, The Eiffel Tower, is one of the finest monuments for camera lovers. As France's symbol and showcase of Paris, it welcomes almost seven million visitors a year, 75% of them being foreigners.



## *The Eiffel Tower*

Built between 1886 and 1894, crossing the River Thames, the London Tower Bridge has over one million posts on Instagram. One of the most recognizable landmarks of the city's skyline, it is a premier choice for the travel bloggers.



## *London Tower Bridge*

This UNESCO World Heritage site boasts of unique collection of artistic and architectural masterpieces and claims to be a perfect choice for the Instagrammers.



## Vatican City



The magnificent intersection of carpe diem beach of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil booms with vibrant, kinetic energy. The breathtaking scenic beauty can be captured on your iphones and can be edited to create even more magical images.

## Rio de Janeiro

## How can Instagram help?

The travel brands and the tourism authorities can make the most out of these user-generated contents. Tagging the photos while sharing and linking them on Instagram (and also on other active social media platforms) can help to create a buzz about a certain destination or tourism product. Engaging with followers directly on Instagram gives the sense of ownership to the travellers and consequently gains popularity through word-of-mouth.

In its seventh year, with more than 800 million users, it might somewhere feel that Instagram travel bloggers give a more genuine expression than what's shown on the tourism brochures. Instagram's effectiveness as a marketing tool is growing in effect. We can all relive through the snaps of the vacation but it is unwise not to live the moment and spend it all on snapping.

recommendation. It can also be used to target advertising to reach customers and friends.

Reports of tourists ignoring official signage and safety warnings in search of their insatiate selfie-clicks have been in news since the past couple of years. Though the authorities try their best to keep the tourists updated and warned about the probable signs of danger, it still lies with the person not to incur an unfathomable loss for the sake of a clearer picture.



# NEW FACES

**Mr. Saurabh  
Bakshi is the new  
leader of Sheraton  
Grand Macao  
Hotel and St.  
Regis Macao**

In October, 2017, Mr. Saurabh Bakshi is appointed as the General Manager of Operations of Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel and The St. Regis Macao of Cotai Central. Mr. Saurabh Bakshi will directly report to Ms. Janet McNab, Managing Director of Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel and The St. Regis Macao. Hailing from Jammu and Kashmir Mr. Saurabh Bakshi moved to Macao most recently from Bengaluru, India to oversee the operations of Sheraton Hotels, which is known as one of the prime luxury hotel chain operating world wide..





**Euan Blake takes  
position of Sales  
Director for  
COMO Cocoa  
Island and COMO  
Maalifushi**

COMO Hotels and Resorts has appointed Euan Blake as Regional Director of Sales for its two Maldivian resorts. He will be based at COMO Maalifushi on the Thaa Atoll, South of Male. He will hold the responsibility for the MEA and APAC regions. Euan Blake started his career in food and beverage before moving into cruise lines and later shifted in corporate real estate, working on commercial, retail and leisure projects. He played the fundamental role in communications strategy for the construction of W Hotel London, before he started his career in sales and marketing.



**Cycas Hospitality  
appoints Chris  
Thomas as General  
Manager for  
Staybridge Suites  
London - Vauxhall**

Cycas Hospitality has recently chosen Chris Thomas as General Manager of Staybridge Suites London – Vauxhall. Chris Thomas has 10 years of working experience in sales and hospitality and now become an accomplished sales leader. Staybridge Suites London - Vauxhall is a 93-suite hotel offering the best hospitality services worldwide. This award-winning hotel is located in Spring Mews, just off the Albert Embankment and minutes from Vauxhall tube, bus and rail links.



**Jean-Paul Georges  
Manzac is new New  
Executive Chef  
appointed at  
Corinthia Hotel  
Prague**

Jean-Paul Georges Manzac, one of the noted celebrity chef has been appointed as Executive Chef at the luxury, five-star Corinthia Hotel Prague. His career spans over 35 years in the hotel industry, including an early experience as Executive Sous Chef on Celebrity Cruise Line. There Jean-Paul Georges Manzac led a culinary team of over 100 cooks appointed from 74 different countries and the preparation of over 55,000 meals each day for passengers as they cruised between Miami and the Caribbean. He also spent two years in the Chaine des Rotisseurs, the International Association of Gastronomy. Corinthia Hotel Prague is a luxury hotel offering the panoramic views of the city of Prague.



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# CONNECTIONS AT A FLASH SPEED NETWORKING

**B**ruce Lee, the globally celebrated martial artist and movie actor, believed that if man loves life, he should ensure optimum utilization of time.

After all, time and tide has never ever waited for anybody. Millennials from various nooks and corners of the world, no wonder, look forward to technology in its various avatars – in a determined attempt to save this precious commodity.

## Introducing Speed as a Networking Ideal

Contemporary entrepreneurs and business leaders always aim to be a master of time. Effectual time management ushers in intelligent rewards.

Firstly, it enables one to reap the maximum return on

investment. Next, it accelerates the process of creating influential associations. Then, it builds on your good will. And, much more! Of late, several corporate leaders have started exploring the genre of 'speed networking'. It evolved from the 'speed dating' model of interacting with numerous people in a short span of time. In a nutshell, it represents a structural process for facilitating speedy introductions and conversations between people who are yet to know each other.

Sounds intriguing? It certainly is. In fact, this model is often employed at various events for college alumni groups, professional organizations, chamber of commerce groups, or other corporate orientations to establish relationships among participants.



## Probing Deeper into the concept..

Different methods might be utilized to initiate interactions. One among them is the common thread of the rotation of participants. The process makes it possible for every person to interact closely with every other person who has been attending the event. Thereafter, each participant is allotted a certain duration of time, for introducing himself.

The period might vary from 30 seconds to 5 minutes depending on the size of the group.



## WTM London's Tryst with Speed Networking

WTM 2017, the leading global event for the travel industry, plans to experiment with the smart notion of speed networking this year. An additional 'speed networking session' would kick start each day of the event, prior to the opening of the exhibition floor. Simon Press, the Senior Director of WTM London, said that the idea of speed networking has proved to be exceptionally popular since its launch way back in 2010. This time, he feels, adding a few additional sessions to the program might prove to be interesting.

He feels that such a networking process would expand opportunities for exhibitors to negotiate better deals.

On 6th November, the first day of WTM London, the speed networking event would bounce off. Over 200 buyers are scheduled to be taking tables, split by the exhibition floor geographies they purchase. In 2016, approximately 1,000 exhibitors had personally

attended the networking session of Monday morning.



This would be followed by the sector-specific speed networking session on 7th November. The niches include food tourism, responsible tourism, adventure tourism, wedding tourism covering honeymoon destinations across the planet, and so on. The final day of this world-renowned travel trade show would witness the highly successful WTM Digital Influencers' Speed Networking (formerly referred to as WTM Bloggers' Speed Networking). In this grand event about 100 leading digital experts will discuss about how they can contribute in promoting the destinations of the exhibitors and their products to their legions of loyal admirers.



## Tips for the Smartest Speed Networking

Keep reading to unlock your maximal potential in speed networking:

**Be frank:** First and foremost, it is a wise idea to be fair and frank. Business leaders should be absolutely honest about the services provided by their brand.

**Come prepared:** Preparation equals success, and practice always makes perfect! Since it is speed networking, one has little time for small talk. And, the first impression is everything. So, one needs to come prepared with a few talking points and probable questions the audience is likely to come up with.

**Remember to share business cards:** Next, it would be truly foolhardy to miss your business cards.

A one-pager about your exclusive services and extra business cards should be kept handy. People are more likely to develop an interest in your brand and remember you once they are able to exchange their cards with you.

**Take notes:** Last but not the least, corporate exhibitors and event attendees must spend a few moments jotting down some brief notes about a certain person. This goes a long way in analyzing the business objectives of one's fellow buyers and other business brands.

Speed networking programs are quite often hosted by Chambers of Commerce and various networking organizations. In a fast-paced swift world lately governed with different facades of technology, being hand and glove with speed is the best mantra for success!





**Simon Press,  
Senior Director,  
World Travel Market (WTM) London**

Speed Networking has proved incredibly popular since we first launched it at WTM London back in 2009 that we have continued to add extra sessions to the program. The aim of WTM London is to facilitate business between exhibitors and the industry's senior buyers and the Speed Networking has played a significant role in WTM London generating £2.8 billion in industry deals in 2016. For the first time, WTM London 2017 will offer three speed networking events before the exhibition floor opens on each day, expanding the opportunities for exhibitors to negotiate and conclude business deals at the event. With the extra speed networking session we expect WTM 2017's to facilitate a record value of business for the travel and tourism industry.

The first day of the event – Monday 6 November – will start with the traditional regional speed networking event, with more than 200 buyers taking tables split by the exhibition floor geographies they purchase. In 2016 around 1,000 exhibitor personal attended the Monday morning speed networking session. Tuesday 7 November sees the introduction of the new sector-specific speed networking event, with niches including responsible tourism, food tourism, adventure tourism and wedding and honeymoons covered. Buyers will be seated based on the sectors they purchase. Furthermore, the key for speed networking at WTM London is that it takes place before the exhibition floor opens, increasing the time that exhibitors can talk to buyers. These mini-meetings can then help to fuel further discussions during the event. The final day of WTM London – Wednesday 8 November – sees the highly successful and re-named WTM Digital Influencers' Speed Networking (formerly WTM Bloggers' Speed Networking) return for its fourth year. The event will see 120 leading digital influencers discuss how they can help promote exhibitors' destinations and products to their legions of loyal followers.

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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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In a unique interaction with Travel And Tour World, **James Pelham**, one of the founders of The Independent Food Tour Association (TIFTA) and Managing Director, Founder of Singabites attempts to trace an outline of TIFTA. Singabites, a member of The Independent Food Tour Association is a brand new local organization in Singapore offering authentic food tours. Furthermore, he enlightens us about the innovative concept of food tours and how it has started influencing the scope of millennial travel across the world. The Independent Food Tour Association (TIFTA) is a non-profit association of expert food tour operators, representing the best independent food tours internationally.



**Travel And Tour World:** What inspired the concept of TIFTA?

**James Pelham:** TIFTA came about when I approached Wai Zhou of Eating Adventures Hong Kong to arrange for some clients of mine to enjoy a food tour in HK. Me and Wai got chatting and we both shared the same opinion that if there was some kind of reputable organization of independent food tours we could all work together to promote each other's business as

well as keep standards high in the industry. It would also make it easier for food tourists to choose a food tour on their travels as by choosing a member's tour they have peace of mind in terms of quality of experience.

We floated the idea to a few food tour operators that we knew and they were all keen to join in so we got started.

**Travel And Tour World:** How does TIFTA aim to enable food connoisseurs to locate the best food tours?

**James Pelham:** Another reason for us starting TIFTA was due to the increase in food tour operators around the world recently. Food tourism is the fastest growing sector of the tourism industry and as a result, food tours are popping up all over the place. On my travels I have probably done about 50 food tours and not all of them are of a very high standard. Before becoming a member of TIFTA every operator is questioned about their business. We look at independent reviews and evaluate the experience that they offer. We want to have the best of the best as members of TIFTA which will keep standards high for us all and make the TIFTA mark a reputable sign of excellence for food travellers to look out for. The last thing we want as food tour operators is for a new traveller to try a food tour for the first time and have a bad experience and never try one again. By looking out for the TIFTA logo food travellers know that they are going to the best.

**Travel And Tour World:** Can you hint about some interesting features of your food tours?

**James Pelham:** At Singabites we are really proud to showcase not just the food but also the people behind the food. We have close relationships with hawkers, chefs and producers which allow our guests to get closer to the action and enjoy more exclusive experiences. The food traveller these days is very educated about their destination already so you can't just take them from one restaurant to another, there has to be a story and there's none better to tell those stories than the people involved themselves.

We've found that our guests love the interaction with our local food heroes.

**Travel And Tour World:** What makes culinary tourism a popular trend across the world?

**James Pelham:** I think the world has woken up to the fact that the best way to get to know any destination is through its stomach. Wherever you are in the world a visit to the local market tells you everything about the place. Religion, culture, ethnicities - you can even tell how good the local economy is doing just by sitting down at a market and watching the activities. We have TV food channels, magazines dedicated to food and travel and constant social media photos of people eating and drinking at cool and exotic places around the world. Travellers are looking for real local experiences these days and there is nothing more real and local than sitting down and eating with someone. Food evokes all your senses and creates memories and forges relationships. Today's traveller knows this and wants more. What better way than to have a food tour where you can be assured of visiting local gems and eating with the residents!



**Travel And Tour World:** Please comment on the food tourism industry in Asia.

**James Pelham:** I think Asia is the best continent in the world to eat. There is such a difference in flavours and techniques from one city to another. But Asia can also be intimidating to people. I remember when I first moved to Singapore in 2003 and I would walk into a hawker centre excited to try something new and exotic. But at times I had no idea what was on offer. The noise, smells, everyone shouting to get their orders. Often I found myself sitting down with a plate of chicken rice as that was easy, I was in my comfort zone.

One of the reasons I started Singabites was to help visitors in my situation. Food tours operate a bit like a personal food concierge. We take you into those places and guide you through what's what. We make decisions about what to eat for you sometimes, so we encourage you to get out of the comfort zone and try. Just yesterday we had an Australian group who were curious about 'Durian', we went and visited a local durian salesman and he talked to us about his product and gave us all a try. It is something they would never have ordered if it wasn't for a food tour. Not to say they all loved it, they didn't, but they tried it and that's what it's all about. Asia offers so many challenges to food travellers with so many different options. As a result food tourism in Asia is thriving.

**Travel And Tour World:** How do you plan to come to the aid of corporate event planners, since the meetings industry across the world is steadily growing?

**James Pelham:** At Singabites we often run MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) event right from evening team nights out with a hawker twist, to team building exercises based around Singapore's fantastic food scene.

**Travel And Tour World:** What are your growth strategies?

**James Pelham:** We all eat, and most of us enjoy it and many corporates are realizing that one of the best ways to keep all the team excited and involved is to host a food event. No one corporate experience is the same though so we've found it vital to meet and listen to what the client wants to achieve and then we can add value. Food tour operators have great contacts in their local cities and are the best source of inspiration for a foodie event. We are looking at better ways to connect with millennial foodies as well as grow our existing customer base. Also a lot of what we are doing at TIFTA is about educating the public to what can be achieved. We have a lot of work to do to grow our membership as well as to reach further than just Asia. We want to be a global name for food tours.

**Travel And Tour World:** What, according to you are the challenges and how can you overcome them?

**James Pelham:** A big challenge for a lot of our members is the fact that often they are competing for business against the big guys. Sometimes large travel agents and even government-run tourism boards are our competitors.

TIFTA is trying to help the small independent guys. If we all work together for the common good of the food tour industry and the foodie traveller, we can educate the traveller that independent, locally run businesses are the way to go, but we need to help each other out.

**Jacob** who is associated with Taste of the Thailand Food Tours, a founding member of the TIFTA that operates food tours across Thailand as well as on a global scale, offers his opinion about special initiatives to lure millennials to experiment with foods in Thailand, sharing his views exclusively with Travel And Tour World.

*(Thailand has celebrated Thailand Live Gastronomy Festival from 25th to 27th August, 2017)*



“

**Jacob:** One of TIFTA's main goals is to create a community of great food tour operators which will be a trusted source for travelers worldwide—this includes millennials. With the proliferation of social media and an increased appetite for authentic experiences – rather than touristic ones – millennials

don't simply want to visit their destination, they want to taste it through an immersive experience. This trend combined with the surge of the 'foodie culture' and social media picture mania of all things you can eat, culinary tourism is ripe for millennial consumption.

The TIFTA community offers millennials various benefits. As millennials often backpack through multiple countries along their journeys, the TIFTA network and membership rules for operators – proven operational experience, 5-star TripAdvisor review requirements and independent food tour status – enables travellers to easily identify the most authentic and high-quality culinary tourism experiences in each city. Millennials also receive a 10% discount by touring with TIFTA-operated tours (after they have completed at least one TIFTA tour), which helps them save money during their multi-country travel experiences. As a founding member of TIFTA, Taste of Thailand Food Tours looks to inspire others by creating communities that speak to millennials in their own language and where they are already are – online. It is our job to then transfer the online connection with our brand and the TIFTA community to delicious and immersive offline experiences when they travel. Taste of Thailand's commitment – along with that of the wider TIFTA community – to share culture, local stories and delicious food with an increasingly savvy millennial customer ensures this new wave of travellers will connect with local cultures in fun, intimate ways not possible via other means of travel.

”

# Solo Journ



The idea of a perfect holiday is changing. We want something different from our time, something more authentic and meaningful.

Stepping out alone sounds scary but moving out of the comfort zone is a completely immersive experience. It sharpens your focus, allows you to discover language cuisine and ways of life on your own which will be far more rewarding.

First timers can join with fellow travellers with similar interest and share their journeys. The brownie point about solo travel is that you choose your own adventures and need not think about anything else. Solo travel has been on rise in recent times, especially for women as they have grown to be more

independent, educated and economically sound. Risk is everywhere; you need to be mindful about your safety. If a place has restrictions, then it should ring alarm bells but do not let the security concerns put you off from the magical moments they might lead to. Learn a few basics to impress the locals and make your journey more fulfilling.



Letting your feet take you wherever you desire gives you a lot of freedom, but for an incredible experience these audio guides and intuitive safety app comes handy:

**Smart 24x7** makes you aware of your surroundings and dressing styles. It helps to keep local emergency contacts on hand. You can create five emergency contacts beforehand. In case of an unsafe situation, a 'panic alert' can be generated by pressing the button thrice. The emergency contacts will be immediately informed, and the information also goes to the Smart 24x7 call centre as well as to the local police who can track your real-time location.

**AudioCompass**, an official tour partner of the Ministry of Tourism for UNESCO heritage sites in India, provides a 30-90 minutes guide that one can listen at one's own pace and even download and listen offline.

Detour offers offbeat audio tours, the focus being mainly on documentary-style storytelling. The guide has a built-in GPS which means you will never hear about a place before you actually arrive.

**Airbnb** offers a more customised experience. It gives a sense of owing a place with all the amenities that can be availed at home, transforming the trip to a more personal experience.

The Travel Solo app helps you to connect with solo travellers who may be travelling to your destination. There are times when the urge to share seeps in, and this app helps in mingling with like-minded people

whenever you feel like. This also helps in creating a community of fellow solo travellers with whom you can share the photos, videos and travel stories.



## Quick Facts:

- ★ Europe is the chosen destination for 50% of the female solo travellers
- ★ Americans are number one in solo travelling with an average of 3 trips per year and an average of 9 million travelling overseas each year
- ★ 65% of the women feel more confident when they travel alone and prefer vacationing without partner.
- ★ Female vacation every 10 months versus men who travel every 12 months
- ★ 70 % decisions are made by women when booking cruises, group travel or through an agency, the percentage shoots to 92 % when we include online travel purchases.

## Checklist while going it alone

- ★ Opt for a specialist tour operator that arrange trips for singles that are more exotic with no romantic pressure
- ★ Join a solo travelers group, common goals increases camaraderie
- ★ Head to a traveller hubs, it might help you connect with instant friends
- ★ Get a travel insurance
- ★ Use ATM in busy areas and during daytime
- ★ Try to arrange flight or train schedules during day time
- ★ Stay alert and aware, keep someone updated of where you are and where you are heading
- ★ Plan your currency



*New Zealand*



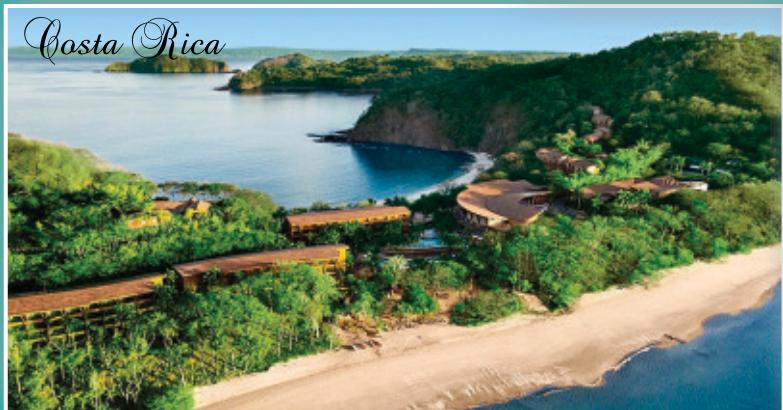
*Norway*



*Switzerland*



*Costa Rica*



*Austria*



## Top 5 Solo travel destinations

**New Zealand** – Get lured by the adventures on glaciers, in rainforests and on peaks of the Southern Alps or indulge in activities like bungee jumping, jet boating and hiking on the Milford track.

**Norway** – Experience some of the country's most beautiful fjords halting at dozens of ports along the way in a country that is 1,000 miles long. Rejuvenate in the Hurtigruten coastal steamers that will sail up the coast of Norway into the city of Bergen.

**Switzerland** – Don't miss out on the hiking boots and a Swiss Rail Pass. Start off with the pedestrian-friendly Zurich and then move on to the shores of Lake Geneva for the bistros, nightlife and museums of Montreux and Lausanna.

**Costa Rica** - It is known as the world's happiest country which has drawn visitors for decades to surf on the Pacific coast or to go for rafting on the white water of the Revrntazon or Pacuare rivers.

**Austria** – It is one of the easiest European countries to be explored as a solo traveller. One can start off from concert halls, dozens of museums and cafes.

A single trip is a powerful, life-changing experience that makes you a super smart person as you dare to overcome fears and test your resourcefulness. The lone time is an ideal opportunity for hedonism. All one needs is to be open-minded and a bit cautious.

# WORLD FESTIVALS



November is the month when the pre-winter festivals fall with the celebration of rock music, fireworks, arts portrayal. People celebrate it with great pomp, gaiety, ritual and zest. Here is our hot picks from many festivals of the world which will be amazing to experience.

**Place:**  
**Reykjavik, Iceland**  
**Date:**  
**1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November**

## Iceland Airwaves

2017 Iceland Airwaves will bring the performances of cluster of hottest superstar musicians and instrumentalists that will wave with musicafy, solo performances, rock music, and new music of both Icelandic and international.

Popular to the musicaholics and music addicts, Iceland Airwaves will host in different venues from the musical bars, pubs, bistros, record houses, open air theatres, and the churches with a an energy of 16 hours long musical performances to entertain the spectators.



Guy Fawkes Night or Bonfire Night is the largest extravaganza of different kinds of fireworks, celebrating in the cities of Great Britain like London, Manchester, Windsor, Liverpool and Birmingham. It has an historical significance as on November 5, 1605, Guy Fawkes, a member of an English Catholic group planned to murder King James I, a protestant, with the aim of restoring a Catholic kingship to the throne. But his plan was foiled and for the survival of King James I, the people of England celebrate it by lighting the effigy and bonfires. Now, this fiesta is celebrating with a wide array of fireworks, events and bonfire night food & entertainment.

## **Guy Fawkes Night 2017**

**Place:**  
**Cities in Great Britain**  
**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November**

Here is the comedy carnival that will rock the world with laughter by the participation of many stalwart comedians of the world. Co-founded by Jarrod Moses and Caroline Hirsch in 2004, New York Comedy Festival is the platform of more than 200 comedians, raising the money for the charitable cause. This year, New York Comedy Festival will welcome the comedians like Vir Das, Bridget Everett, Tracy Morgan, Trevor Noah and many more making a five days greatest laughter bonanza of hilarious shows.

## New York Comedy Festival

**Place:**

**New York City, USA**

**Date:**

**7th to 12th November**





# **2017 ART021**

## **Shanghai**

## **Contemporary**

## **Art Fair**

This year is the fifth edition of Shanghai Contemporary Art Fair, showing the participation of 84 leading art galleries from all over the world, portraying the contemporary art, high quality art works and the impressive sculptural works to more than 60000 visitors, promoting for the development of the world art market challenging the political and cultural boundaries to make new breakthroughs and trends.

**Place:**  
**Shanghai, China**  
**Date:**  
**9th to 12th November**

**Place:**  
**Tocumwal, New South Wales, Australia**  
**Date:**  
**17th -19th November**

This is a three days musical move with the adventure of wild Australian bush with unlimited fun, booze, food, entertainment, drink and party night that will make you addict in alcoholic music in the midst of the drum beats, DJ boost, disco, techno music, reggae, hip hop and the rock metal wild music.

Here the decor and style is perfect in hippie culture with the performances of more than 100 international and local artists.

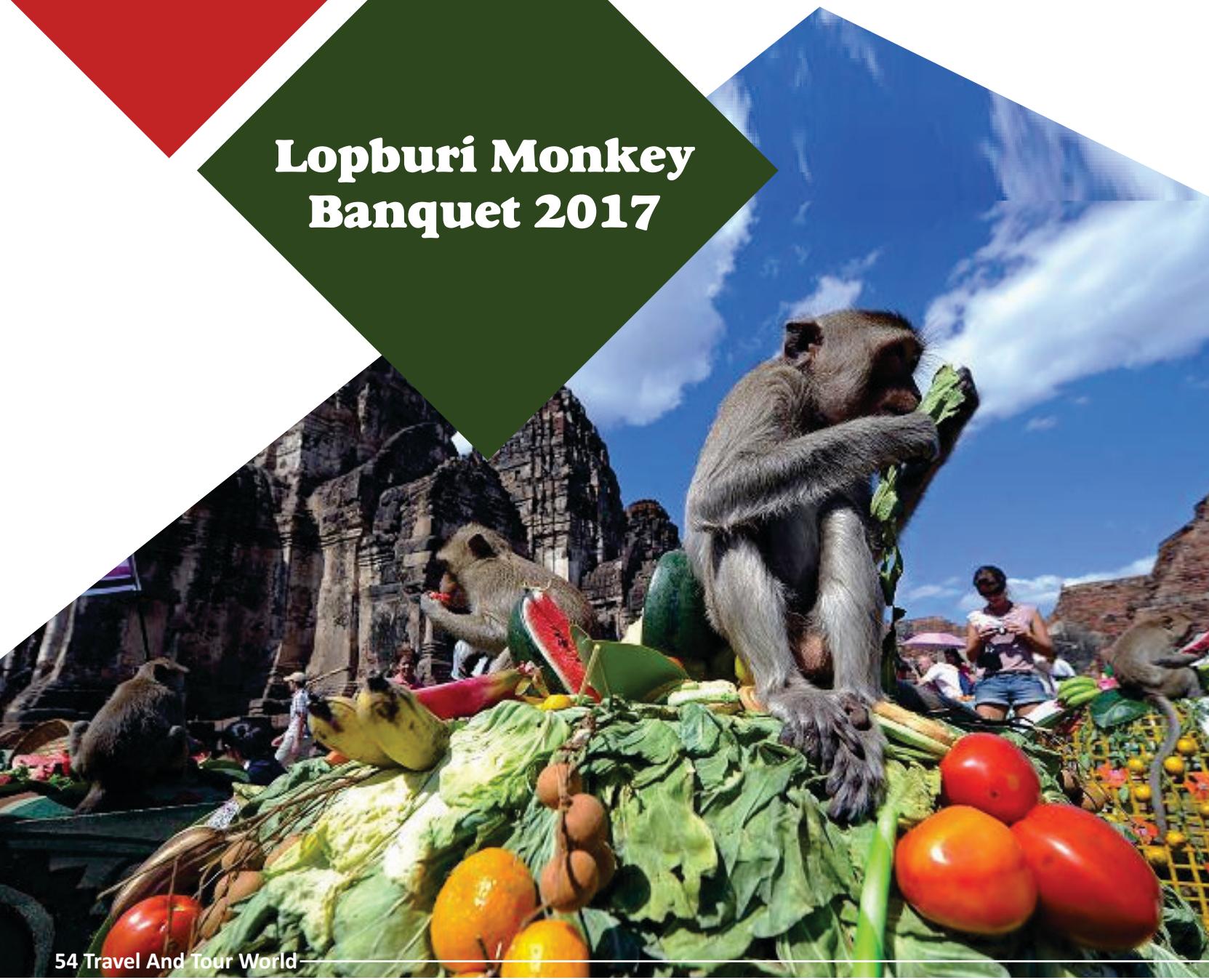
## **Strawberry Fields**



**Place:**  
**Lopburi, Thailand**  
**Date:**  
**25th -26th November**

It is a feast festival for the macaque monkeys, celebrated in the premises of San Phra Kan & Phra Prang Sam Yot Temples in Lopburi Province, 150 km from Bangkok. It is a world's bizarre wildest food party for the long tailed monkeys, which are best known for pick pocketing from the tourists visiting the Khmer edifices. The festive will start at 10am with the monkey themed processions, dancing and largest congregation of food chariots and trucks decorated with monkey's favourite bananas sweets and grapes.

## **Lopburi Monkey Banquet 2017**



**31 Jan - 2 Feb 2018**

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# SHOW HIGHLIGHT

## International Hospitality Awards



In 2017 International Hospitality Awards expands its borders and invites participants from 21 European countries: Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Georgia, Slovakia, Moldova, Ukraine, Austria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia, Slovenia, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Participation for all hotels is free of charge. Each hotel can submit the application in one or two nominations from 28.

Mission of the Awards - is not only awarding of the best hotels, but also development of professional and competitive hospitality industry through promoting achievements of local hotels and resorts. The Awards assists in the development of

the quality of hotels' services and stimulates the growth of the competitiveness in hospitality industry of local markets as well as abroad.

The nominees are proportionally assessed on the basis of the professional opinion of the Jury Members (50%) and consumers' rating in the international online Booking systems: Booking.com (25%) and TrustYou.com (25%). Thus, not only opinion of the Jury Members will influence on results but also guests' impression.

The main values of the Awards are independence and impeccable reputation. Official Auditor of International Hospitality Awards is the international auditing company Deloitte.

The gala ceremony of International Hospitality Awards 2017 will be held in January 2018.

The Awards is held by HOTELIERO Club that used to organize Ukrainian Hospitality Awards since 2011. After 5 years of honoring the best hotels in Ukraine it has been decided to withdraw to the international level and launch International Hospitality Awards.



**INTERNATIONAL  
HOSPITALITY  
AWARDS**

When : January 2018  
Where : Europe



## The Asia-Pacific Incentives and Meetings Expo

(AIME), 20-21 February, will attract over 400 MICE industry suppliers and over 4,000 event professionals to Melbourne, for two packed days of business, networking and education.

Angela Sciacca, Project Manager, Reed Travel Exhibitions, will lead the Reed team for next year's production of AIME and commented on what's new for 2018.

The biggest changes for AIME 2018 can be seen in the enhanced Hosted Buyer Program. Last year, AIME attracted attendees with a buying power of \$1.2 billion, for 2018 AIME have taken a targeted approach to find the ideal buyers for exhibitors, with applications being invitation only. The application process is robust and is very well resourced by their team to ensure everyone who is invited into the program meets the strict criteria.

Ms Sciacca said that the AIME Knowledge Program will be rebooted with a series of education seminars, drawing inspiration from their global ibtm events portfolio. The Knowledge Program will deliver the latest in quality

information and global intelligence – with a reinvigorated program of speakers and industry insights. They will also debut an “AIME First Timers” area, a designated zone for exhibitors who are new to the expo and will feature an all-inclusive package to welcome them to the AIME community.

AIME 2018 sees numerous improvements to ensure a superior experience for all. Opening hours have been extended to allow exhibitors to spend more time with Hosted Buyers, a new show floor layout with the introduction of many exciting feature areas, including an all new location for the AIME Knowledge Village, new exclusive Hosted Buyer Lounge and a new restaurant offering with extended space enabling greater interactions during breaks and changes to the education with hands-on and interactive workshops.

Returning to AIME 2018 are some great destinations, brands and bureaux, including Business Events Australia, New Zealand, Perth Convention Bureau, ICC Sydney, Hyatt Hotels, TFE Hotels, Centium Software and Harry the Hirer.

AIME is where inspiration begins, 20-21 February 2018 at Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

When : February 20th – 21st , 2017  
Where : Melbourne, Australia

# 2nd Annual Aviation MRO Summit



The 2nd Annual Aviation MRO Summit will take

place in Berlin and will be co-located with the e-Aircraft Summit. This year's event will emphasize the meaning of connectivity and new technologies that are helping the ever-changing aviation industry to push the MRO operations to the next level, as the airline industry is achieving record profitability and the global MRO market keeps growing. This event will provide a platform for key professionals from all over the world to discuss fresh perspectives, forge essential contacts and learn how to strengthen their businesses. The purpose of the summit is to create an ideal atmosphere conducive to developing strategies and learning about new technologies for future success, while encouraging active networking with the attendees from both events.

Here are a few of the case studies that will be discussed during the summit:

- AFI KLM's supply chain management and insights into predictive demand
- Data, real-time analytics and predictive maintenance by Turkish Technic

- Industry manpower dynamics and future of workforce by JorAMCo
  - How new technology in the engines have an impact on the MROs by GE Aviation
  - TAP Maintenance & Engineering's repair management services
  - eOPS and implementation of aircraft connectivity by AeroLogic
  - In-flight connectivity and development of customer engagement by Deutsche Telekom
- Together with the co-located e-Aircraft Summit, the events will introduce 25 speakers from some of the leading companies within MRO and connectivity markets, such as AFI KLM Engineering & Maintenance, Transavia, Luxaviation Group, NetJets Europe, IBM, Turkish Technic and GE Aviation. Besides numerous case studies from industry leaders, the summit will be packed with networking opportunities. Furthermore, they have prepared special social activities in order to provide a greater opportunity for contact-building in a tie-off informal atmosphere.

When : November 23rd -24th, 2017  
Where : Berlin, Germany

Between 23-25 November, one of the most important tourism events in the Central-East Europe will take place – 25th International Travel Show TT Warsaw 2017. The entire tourism industry and travel enthusiasts will meet in Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, and the partner country of the anniversary edition is Poland.

Palace of Culture and Science is a well-known venue for everyone professionally related with tourism. Inside the building, 14 editions of the fair have taken place, and its extraordinary character is very memorable. Urszula Potęga, the CEO of MT Targi Polska said that they want to take on a walk down the memory lane and dedicate the 25th anniversary edition to all the people of tourism and they would like to invite everyone for co-operation.

## A fair with a beautiful history

The history of TT Warsaw is also a story of dynamic development of tourism in Poland. Since 1993, the fair has supported the tourist-friendly travel destinations and has been a place for industry discussions. 134 exhibitors from 16 countries have participated in the first edition. These were mainly states from the Central-Eastern Europe region. The following years were marked by a steady increase in the number of exhibitors, visits of state and local government authorities, as well as diplomats and visitors.

Presently, the entire world presents itself at TT Warsaw. Last year, there were 450 exhibitors from 50 countries: from Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia, both Americas and the Caribbean. 26 countries have prepared national expositions.

Over 25 years, TT Warsaw has become a renowned brand. The fair contributes to the development of tourism industry, sets trends and facilitates promotion of countries and regions. During the event, foreign and Polish partners make valuable business contacts and successfully reach their customers. The visitors, on the other hand, receive comprehensive knowledge about the world, so they can successfully plan and make their travels.

## Poland - TT Warsaw 2017 partner country

Domestic tourism offer has always been an important part of TT Warsaw, and Polish exhibitors have eagerly presented it to the visitors both from Warsaw and abroad. This year, the tourism potential of our country, its beauty and diversity shall be presented in all their glory. Poland is a partner country of the 25th edition of the fair, which allows for presenting its tourist value to the entire world.

When : November 23rd - 25th, 2017  
Where : Warsaw , Poland

The 4th annual Hotel Management Singapore Summit(HMS), organized by international conference producer Questex Hospitality Group, concluded on Oct 12, 2017 after welcoming over 31 international speakers and over 150 delegates at the Sofitel Singapore City Centre.

Themed, “Inspire Viable Strategies to Boost Revenue and Profit for Vibrant Hoteliers ” the closed-door forum allowed delegates and speakers discussed all operational and management challenges that Singapore hoteliers have experienced throughout the year from multiple new hotel openings that have put pressure on financial performance to implementing hotel technology from changing food and beverage business models to shrinking hotel room sizes.

Acacia Leroy, Asia Pacific Trend Strategist, TrendWatching, kicked off the Summit with a presentation entitled “Consumer Trends Shaping the Future of Travel ” in which she highlighted four essential trends for hoteliers.

From start to finish, seven interactive panel discussions were staged by veteran hoteliers and subject-matter experts in various fields.

**The key topics of these thought-provoking sessions include :**

- Envisioning the future of guest experiences

- Leveraging future-looking demand intelligence to drive better revenue and stronger competitive position

- Navigating the blurred line of B2B and B2C

- Driving direct bookings to enhance yields and loyalty Adopting latest technologies to boost productivity and efficiency

- Boosting profitability through technology while maintaining quality and consistency

- Reviewing space allocation for higher profitability.



Sandra Widjaja, VP – Finance of YTL Hotels expressed his views that it was an excellent topic and it is on the trend now. He also said to keep up with what in the trend that would definitely be more interesting.

Sylvia Chua, Procurement Director, Resorts World Sentosa said that it was a good platform for networking and is set to know the technology that other hotels have adopted.

Nick Ng, General Manager, Ambassador Row Hotel Suites by Lanson Place informed that the pre registration was well handled with personalized follow up and the event was over all was carried out in the well organised manner.

On 19-21 September Euroexpo hosted OTDYKH International Travel Market. A new format for OTDYKH was introduced to travel professionals. This concept combines Exhibition and International Tourism Forum, an open and dynamic platform for government officials, regional authorities and businesses.

The exhibition was attended by a record-breaking number of qualified visitors and regional buyers. Over 130 hosted regional travel agencies from all big Russian regions incl. Samara, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, St. Petersburg, Ufa etc. attended the fair.

With 861 exhibitors from 44 countries and 40 Russian regions , over 16300 unique trade visitors , more than 110 media partners and an exhibition area of 15 000 sq. m OTDYKH 2017 was pleased to welcome a number of newcomers - Greece, Armenia and Karnataka as well as a few traditional exhibitors who returned to the exhibition after a short break - Finland, Slovak Republic and Kerala.

Traditionally strong participation was showed by Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

On the eve of Russia-India Cross-Tourism Year, a record-breaking number of Indian companies participated at the collective stands of India Tourism and regional exclusive stands of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa. The highlight became a round-table meeting between big Russian Tour operators and

representatives of the Ministry of Tourism of India.

The opening day of OTDYKH was declared as the day of Day of the United Arab Emirates sponsored by the "Natalie Tours" a leading Russian tour operator. The highlight became the conference "UAE: a million tourists from Russia is now a reality".

The Ministry of Tourism of the Dominican Republic became an official sponsor of OTDYKH 2017. 12 co-participants incl. tour operators, resorts and hotels participated at the 100 sq.m booth of the Dominican Republic. Next year the Ministry is planning to increase the size of the stand to present a comprehensive cultural programme.

European countries intensified their advertising campaign to win more Russian travellers.

Large and exclusive expositions were demonstrated by Georgia, Armenia, Spain, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Finland, Romania etc.

Greece's participation in OTDYKH gave a start to the recently announced Year of Tourism between the two countries. On 19 Sep A.Y. Manilova, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation and Elena Kountoura, Minister of Tourism of Greece signed a co-operation agreement. In 2018 OTDYKH International Travel Market will celebrate its 24th edition.



SAHIC 2017, held September 13-14, 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, brought together the leading movers and shakers for hotel investment and development in South America. Returning to the city of its inaugural edition, SAHIC South America celebrated its 10th Anniversary with much news to come out of the region.

At an industry leaders press conference:

● Philippe Trapp, Executive Vice President, Luxury Brands, South America for Accor Hotels explained that Accor is shifting from a hotel business to something much bigger – a travel company. They are focusing not just on hotels but rather on the overall experience.

● Ted Middleton, Senior Vice President of Development in Latin America for Hilton, indicated that the company currently has more than 100 properties open in South America with 17,000 rooms. In the next 12 months, Hilton is adding 20 properties to the pipeline. Nearly 40% of the development is in Mexico, 15% in Colombia and another 15% in Central America.

● David Tarr, Senior Vice President Real Estate & Development for Hyatt Hotels Corporation told the press audience that he is very pleased with Hyatt's growth in the region. Hyatt is focused on growing carefully by identifying strategic hotels to grow the

visibility of its brand. Today there are more than 30 hotels in Latin America, with 10 more under construction. Focusing on regions with a growing middle class, Hyatt will be opening in Peru, Colombia, Mexico – locations impactful for the brand.



● Salo Smaletz, Vice President Development the Americas of InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) says that growth is the key to IHG's relationship with its owners. There is a strong focus on relationships and an appreciation for owners who continue to grow and develop with the brand. They have a strong relationship with their Owners Association and they try to get the best of their idea.

● Luis Mirabelli, Vice President Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for Wyndham Hotel Group says that Wyndham has scaled up with its recent acquisition of Fen Hotels, a Buenos Aires-based hotel management company, that has 26 management contracts throughout South America and the United States, under the Esplendor Boutique Hotels and Dazzler Hotel Brands.

The first edition of the Travel Tech ME Congress concluded on the 17th of October 2017 at Marriot Al Jaddaf in Dubai, UAE. The event gathered 100 technology experts, travel agents, airline operators and airport officials to provide a forum of exchange on the current technologies in tourism.

Organised by Verve Management, the two-day congress opened with Diego Lofeudo, Director of Business Unit, Corporate, Yas Marina Circuit, UAE who made the official welcome address.

Conference Chairman, Albert Fernando, COO, Travelwings opened day two of Travel Tech ME Congress said that it is a great initiative for Verve Management, that has helped tourism stakeholders better

understand and share future trends in travel technology. The industry looks forward to the congress next year, bringing in even more experts in travel technology.

Diego Lofeudo, Director of Business Unit, Corporate, Yas Marina Circuit mentioned that technology is the top subject in everyone's agenda in their region. From well established brands and businesses to international companies making a strong entry to startups and VC's. Travel industry professionals need access to information, latest trends and best practices in order to catalyze the relevant changes to ensure the long-term sustainability of the business. Travel Tech ME has been the perfect place to network, debate, learn and share.



The congress speakers and panelists included: Albert Dias, Co-founder & CTO, Musafir, Albert Fernando, COO, Travelwings, Geet Bhalla, Co-Founder, CEO, HolidayME, Hadi Al Alawi, CEO, Al Hayat Group, Juan Iván Martín, Head of Innovation, FDS, IATA, MamounHmedan, Managing Director, MENA & India, WEGO, Vineet Budki, CEO, Co-founder, Guiddoo.

Albert Dias, Co-founder & CTO, Musafir discussed the importance of sub-second search speed and its effect on a travelers' decision-making process. Juan Iván Martín, Head of Innovation, FDS, from IATA discussed travel blockchain, the introduction of the IATA coin as payment methods and how hackathons such as the IATA-NDC Hackathon-2016

in Dubai have helped the airline industry as well as the hotel and travel industries by introducing innovative ideas, and applications that have been implemented and increased revenue in the travel and tourism industry in the region.

From blockchain, IATA coins being implemented, disruption, the importance of sub-second search speed, web technologies challenging today's relevance and the future existence of mobile apps.

The two-day conference concluded with a panel discussion of the lessons learned and the way forward, on the evolution in the hotel distribution system.



Harikishna Valmiki, one of the organizing members of the SKAL World Congress said that all foreign women delegates looked stunning in traditional Indian clothing and they mentioned how much they loved wearing a saree at the Presidential Dinner held on Sunday, October 7th 2017 at HICC.

Delegates were keen in exploring the city. They not only wanted to explore the tourist destinations of Hyderabad but also experience the culture, traditions, cuisines.

The newly elected world president from Finland, Susanna Saari hosted the Presidential Dinner, which was a gala affair. Delegates in their best formal attires graced the occasion. The outgoing President David Fisher, felicitated members for their outstanding contribution.

The four day 78th SKAL World Congress held second time in India concluded the evening.

As the next SKAL World Congress will be held Mombasa in Kenya.

SKAL World Congress was held in India after a gap of 14 years as the first SKAL World Congress happened in Chennai in the year 2013.

600 delegates from 85 countries took part in this prestigious global meet in Tourism Industry which was themed as “ Together We Can ”

Delegates participated from different countries like Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada,

Spain, Fiji, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Portugal, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, UK, USA, Zimbabwe, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Columbia, Bangladesh, China, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and more.

Over 70 top tourism professionals including Tourism Minister from Kenya have participated in this congress. Australia and USA were represented by a large delegation at the meet. The Congress have elected Susanna Saari from Finland elected as their new World President.

One of the major highlights of the congress was the launch of the young SKAL Hyderabad , the first such club in Telegu States.

12 respective cities from USA and India twinned at the congress and this the first time that an entire nation twinned with another SKAL nation. Meanwhile Hyderabad twinned with SKAL Clubs of Sacramento and San Francisco. 2017 is the named as the “ Indo-US Tourism Year ”. A large continent from USA participated in the SKAL World Congress besides Australia, Mexico and many others.

Other section of the event were the, SKAL International Excellence Awards and Sustainable Tourism Awards .

Speaking of the closing ceremony , Mr Vijay Mohan Raj , president of SKAL World Congress India said that they have brought the world to Hyderabad by hosting the SKAL Congress.

meters. It was held in association with UBM India Pvt. Ltd. UBM is the largest Travel and Tourism exhibition company in Asia. The pillar-less exhibition space at HICC ensured that there is an adequate display of the tourist destinations of India and that of others across the globe.

30 exhibitors have put up the stalls. Two Telugu states besides many state government's tourism



SKAL International is the world's largest Travel Organization of Travel and Tourism Professionals founded in 1934. It is the only international group uniting all sectors of the travel and tourism. It is spread over 87 countries, has 17000 members in 382 clubs in 87 countries. It is the professional organization of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship informed Susanna Saari, newly elected SKAL International President.

The Congress staged the SKAL INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION which is spread over 1455 square

departments such as Kerala, Gujarat Tourism, Union Tourism Ministry, Ramoji Film City, Ark Travels ( a Preferred Sales Agent for Star Cruises), Indigo Airlines, Oman Airlines, Akqua Sun Group (a global destination management company), Riya Travels and many Tour and Travel Operators, Prestigious Properties are showcasing their offerings in the exhibition.

The 78th SKAL Congress served well to the newly formed Telangana state to showcase its Tourism Destinations to the many foreign delegates.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**1-3  
NOV**

**Sea Trade Cruise Asia Pacific**  
Shanghai , China  
[www.seatradecruiseevents.com/asia](http://www.seatradecruiseevents.com/asia)



**1 NOV  
to  
5 DEC**

**Indywood Film Carnival**  
Hyderabad , India  
[www.indywood.co.in](http://www.indywood.co.in)



**6-8  
NOV**

**WTM London**  
London , England  
[london.wtm.com](http://london.wtm.com)



**12-13  
NOV**

**Serviced Apartment Summit MEA**  
Dubai , UAE  
[www.servicedapartmentsummitmea.com](http://www.servicedapartmentsummitmea.com)



**13-14  
NOV**

**SAHIC Costa Rica**  
San Jose, Costa Rica  
[www.sahic.com/costa-rica/en/home/](http://www.sahic.com/costa-rica/en/home/)



**16-17  
NOV**

**PATA New Tourism Frontiers**  
Palau  
[www.pata.org/event/ntff-2017/](http://www.pata.org/event/ntff-2017/)



**16-18  
NOV**

**Beijing International Travel Mart**  
Beijing, China  
[www.bitmchina.com](http://www.bitmchina.com)



**16  
NOV**

**Hotel Management Indonesia Summit**  
Jakarta , Indonesia  
[www.questexevent.com/HotelManagementSummit/2017/indonesia](http://www.questexevent.com/HotelManagementSummit/2017/indonesia)



**17-18  
NOV**

### **East Africa Tourism & Hospitality Expo 2017**

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
[tourismandhospitality.mikonoexpogroup.com/](http://tourismandhospitality.mikonoexpogroup.com/)



**23-24  
NOV**

### **2nd Aviation MRO Summit**

Berlin, Germany  
[www.luxatiainternational.com/Events/2nd-annual-aviation-mro-summit/](http://www.luxatiainternational.com/Events/2nd-annual-aviation-mro-summit/)



**24-26  
NOV**

**IITM**  
Pune , India  
[iitmindia.com/](http://iitmindia.com/)



**23-25  
NOV**

**TTWarsaw**  
Warsaw, Poland  
<http://ttwarsaw.pl/en/>

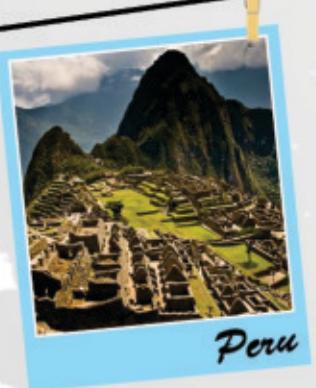
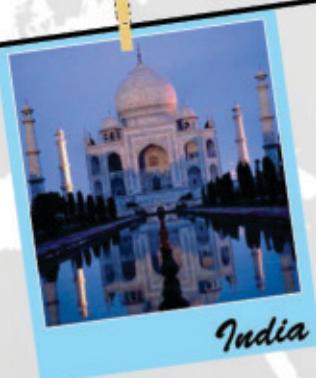
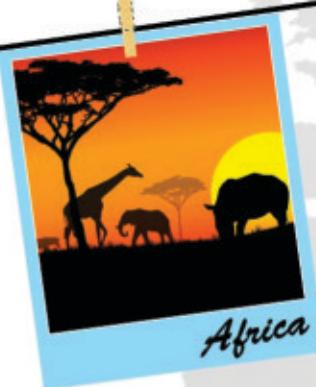


**30 NOV  
to  
2 DEC**

**Chengdu International Tourism Expo**  
Chengdu, China  
[www.citechina.asia](http://www.citechina.asia)



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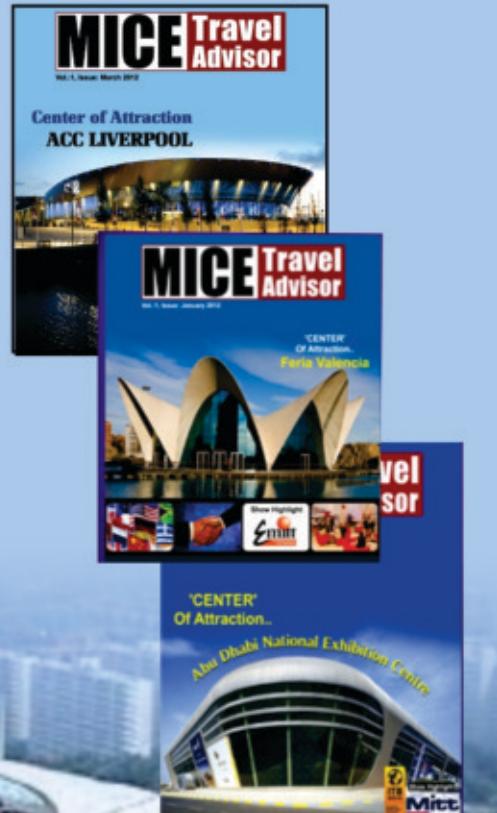
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