

# Travel AND Tour™

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W O R L D

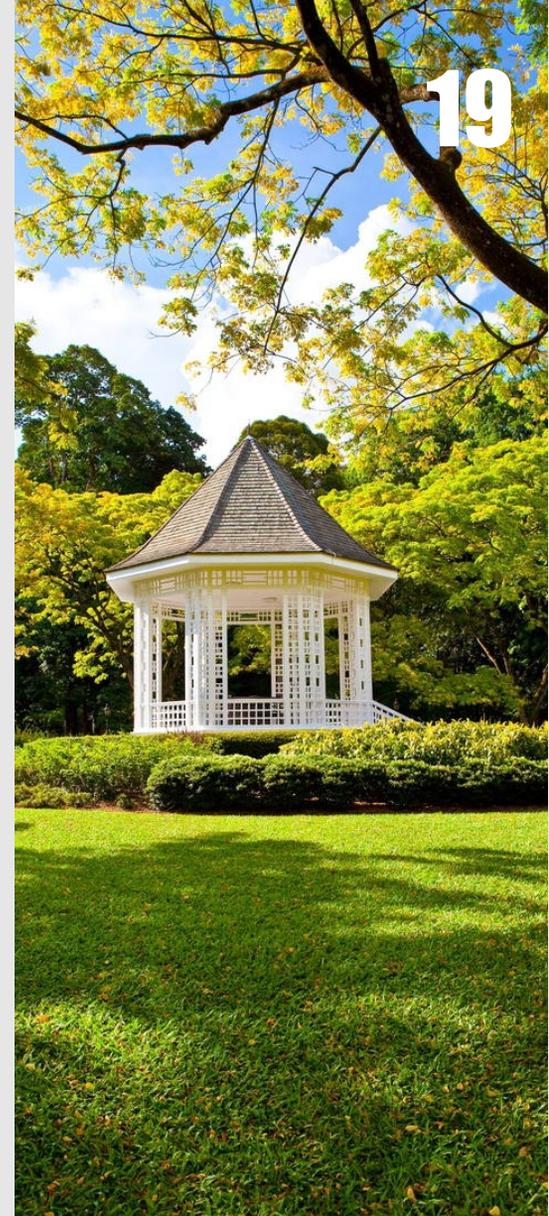
Destination Diary

## *Scandinavian Nations*

Special Feature

# Turkey!

# ASTANA



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## Dear Readers,

According to United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) last year the international tourist arrivals reached 1.4 billion which was two years ahead of the forecast and 2019 is expected to be an enthralling year for travel starting from artificial intelligence-inspired to sustainable holidays.

Travel will reach unexplored heights through technological and groundbreaking developments. Around one-third of the global travellers prefer going for a virtual travel agent and others familiarise themselves with a destination before they arrive via augmented reality. In 2019, orbital spaceflight will see investment as NASA will start the construction of its Lunar Space Station which will be launched in 2022. Travellers want to explore the uncharted territories and would like to indulge in activities that lessen the environmental impact during their stay.

The city of Astana is an economic driver with major industries in oil, gas and energy. Go through our chapter Meetings Point to know more about the robust business scenes in the capital of Kazakhstan. Scandinavian countries are brimming with history, metropolitan atmosphere and a rich tradition. It is welcoming and suits the interest of every traveller. Destination Diary is a low-down on the places one must visit here. You need not worry about your pet while planning a trip as we provide an ultimate guide to Pet Policies for in Cabin travel in our chapter Travel Tendency.

Travel accessories are a must have so that our journey is not just comfortable but free of danger too. Read Tech iT so that you can go far off lands and explore new places. Turkey has a never-dying spirit of culture and adventure inviting all be it history-enthusiast, old or young to discover the mesmerizing place. Special Feature highlights the archaeological finds and the unbelievable diverse scenes. All we need is travel!

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# ASTANA

Meetings Point

Futuristic MICE destination  
for those who write the future

**K**azakhstan's capital, Astana is the world's largest steppe. It is a flat and empty expanse of grassland, dotted with futuristic structures and provincial towns.

In 1997, Kazakhstan's President, Nursultan Nazarbayev made Akmola, the then empty patch of land by the Ishim River, the capital and renamed it Astana. The progressive and neo-futurist structures put Astana on the world's map of business and tourism. Its winter temperature can dip up to minus 40 degrees Celsius making it the second coldest capital city in the world.

Meeting and event organisers can easily access the city from Astana International Airport which lies 11.18 miles from the city centre. Astana spreads over 1,200 sq km.

One of its futurist architectures, Khan Shatyr, a shopping mall that doubles as the world's largest tent, is designed by Norman Foster. Other structures that he conceptualised are the Palace of Peace and Reconciliation, a 60m tall glass pyramid; and the Central Concert Hall which looks like a budding flower from top. His portfolio also includes a flying saucer-shaped circus, a presidential palace replicating the White House; and Baiterek, a 100 m tall tower. With lakhs of square metres as meeting spaces and easy accessibility, this city has loads of surprises for MICE organisers and attendees.





## **Convention Centres – *Defining the future***

### **Astana Congress Center**

Spread over a total area of 43,220 sq m, Astana Congress Center has three floors and is located near the EXPO-2017 Exhibition Complex. It is well equipped with acoustic and lighting systems, mobile video screens, mobile podiums for the presidium and LDP projectors to host conferences, plenary meetings, symposia, and others. Its futuristic design resembling that of a ship will never fail to inspire ideas and vision amongst the MICE attendees. This conference/meeting venue can accommodate about 1000 convention attendees. The Congress Centre's major hall (2,659 m<sup>2</sup>) can hold about 2,214 people. The 29 m tall building has 4 conference halls – each accommodating 400-600 attendees. The lobby with glazed roof provides space to plan exhibitions, fairs, receptions and banquets and more.

## Astana Congress Hall

Known as the Tsellinikov Palace, the Astana Congress Hall can accommodate 5,000 people over a space of 50,000 m<sup>2</sup>. It can host events across different industries providing an area of common facility for training, seminars and business promotional activities. The centre has VIP halls, exhibition halls and museums — the museum of art and the Astana museum of history. Its restaurant has a capacity for 700 guests.



## Palace of Independence

Spread over 40,000 sqm, the Palace of Independence hosts official state functions, forums, meetings and conventions. It has a Congress Hall (seating capacity for 3000 people), Press center (200 seats), restaurant (400 seats) and exhibition pavilions.

Palace of Independence has top organisers such as The Economist, Iteca Kazakhstan, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, B2B Conference Group, Atakent Expo and more. It hosts seminars, meetings, conferences, networking events and exhibitions across several domains such as finance, business services, environment, minerals, logistics, health, retail and more.

Apart from these convention centres, some other notable meeting venues are Hilton Congress Center Astana, Nazarbayev University, and Korme Exhibition Center.

The Central Concert Hall, one of the largest in the world, has seats for 3,500 spectators, while the Astana Arena has 30,000 seats. The popular hotel brands are Radisson, Marriott, Park Inn, Hyatt Regency and Hilton Garden Inn.

# Attractions spangling Astana's skyline

*Silhouetted and looming against the Astana's skyline are modern architectures that no visitor can escape. The two most prominent structures are Baiterek and Khan Shatyr.*



## Bayterek (Baiterek) Tower

Bayterek Tower is the monument and observation tower in Astana. Bayterek means 'tall poplar' as in a tree. The 105 m tall structure embodies a legend about a mythical tree of life and a magic bird of happiness. The bird Samruk laid its egg in the crevice between the two branches of a poplar tree. The base of the tower has an exhibition space. The lift takes the visitors to the observation deck within the 'egg' on the top – connecting the old world to that of the future aspirations.

## Khan Shatyr Entertainment Center

Built in the neo-futurist style, Khan Shatyr (Royal Marquee) is a transparent 150 m high tent in Astana covering 140,000 sqm. Under the tent lies an area larger than 10 football stadiums, shopping and entertainment venue with streets, a boating river, urban-scale internal park, shopping centre, mini golf and indoor beach resort.



Attendees can also visit the Palace of Independence, the Circus Arena, and Ak Orda. The various modern architectural marvels of Astana support the sustainable economic development of Kazakhstan and help to achieve goals set in their 2050 strategy. The climate makes construction difficult and yet the Tree of Life and other futuristic designed convention centres have come up in the vast swathe of steppes, inspiring the meeting attendees to forge even the most impossible synergies.

It is amazing to visit the Scandinavian nations for common historical insights, cultural-linguistic heritage and attractive natural landscape. These make the Scandinavian countries more attractive and beautiful to experience.

The term “*Scandinavia*” is usually used as a cultural term, but in English usage, it is occasionally confused with the geographical term Scandinavian Peninsula, which took its name from the cultural-linguistic concept. Extending from the Arctic Circle to the North and Baltic Seas, the Scandinavian Peninsula is the largest peninsula in Europe.

The natural beauty of these nations influences everybody who has seen it from close range. The forests, fjords and North European vineyards cast a miraculous spell on the onlooker and heal the troubled mind. The Norwegian fjords conjure in the mists of time, offering a unique experience.



## Destination Diary



# North Europe's Hidden Gems Scandinavian Nations



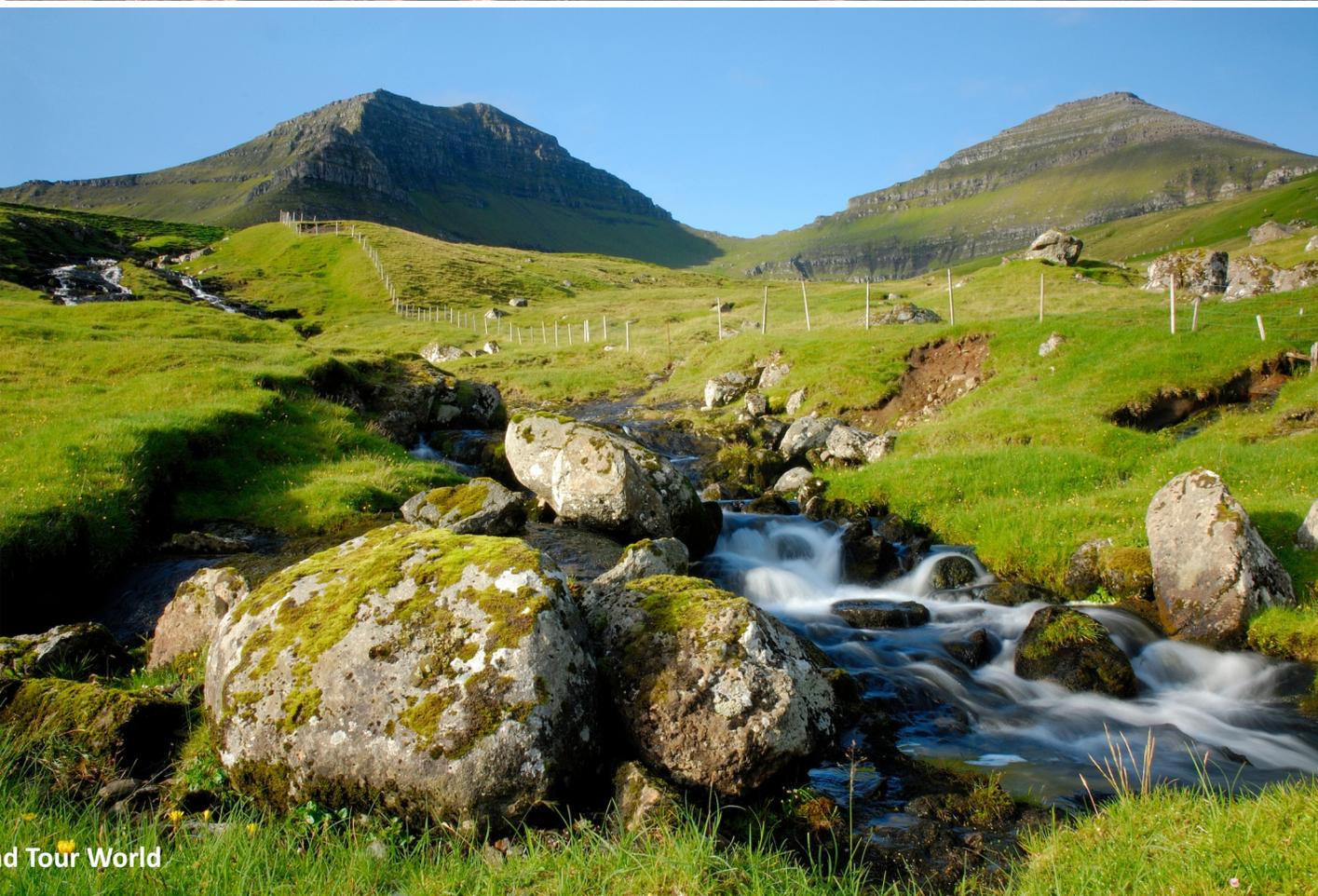
# Denmark

*World's most peaceful country*

Denmark consists of the Jutland peninsula and over 400 islands, some of which are linked to the mainland by bridges. Almost all of Denmark is low and flat, but there are many low hills as well. The Faroe Islands and Greenland are the cynosure of the Kingdom of Denmark. This small country has wide landscape and vast areas of stunning natural beauty. There are 18 uneven volcanic islands that make up the Faroe Islands and resemble a handful of rocks scattered haphazardly in the deep-sea ocean. Faroe Islands create a sole and incomparable destination at the edge of the world. Denmark's another attraction is its capital city, Copenhagen. Renowned for its gastronomic efforts and Danish iconic buildings, Copenhagen is cited for its social values, sustainability and work life balance.



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# Norway

## *Nurtured with Nature*

Known as "The Land of the Midnight Sun", this northernmost country in Europe, Norway has the vast area of islands and fjords. Its diverse culture, natural beauty and local cuisine draw you towards the Norwegian lifestyle. The country covered with dramatic waterfalls, majestic glaciers and vibrant city life gives you the unrestricted right of free access in the countryside, including national parks. You may put up a tent to stay or to sleep under the stars anywhere in the countryside, forests or mountains. If you want to explore Norwegian art and culture, visit the museums, see the exciting architectures and explore the grand fiestas.



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

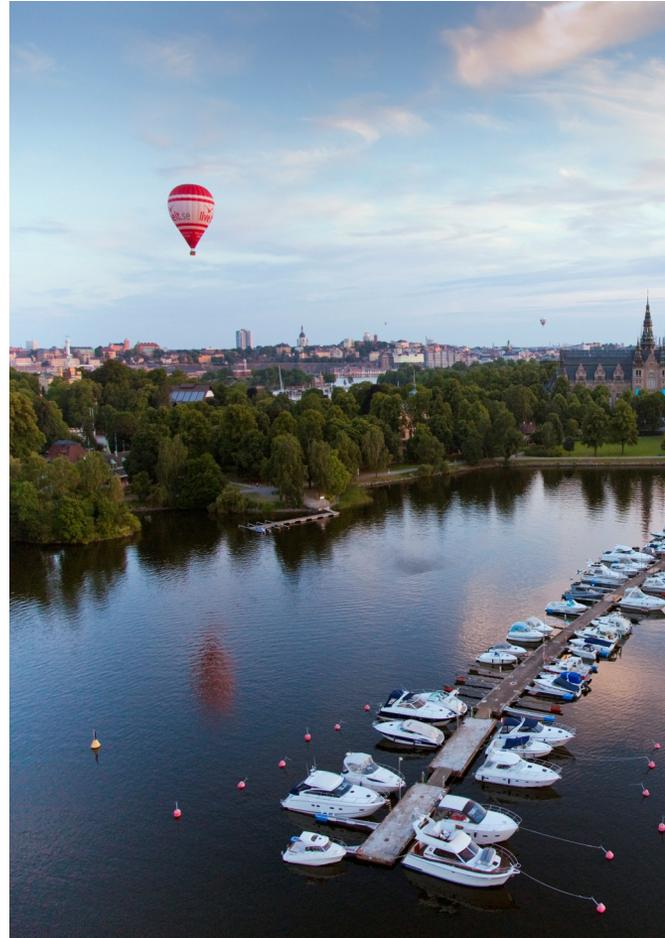
Norway- a geographical rarity for people who love the outdoors



# Sweden

## The Land of 100,000 lakes

Sweden is known as the land of numerous lakes. The natural beauty of Sweden stands on a group of its own. With its glaciated mountains and coastal islands, Sweden is perfect for an outdoor vacation. One of its greatest attractions is Sigtuna, Sweden's most popular commercial town founded in 980 AD. The greatest engineering feat of Sweden can be seen at the Gota Canal, which dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Sweden is one of the largest Scandinavian nations, both in land size and population. This country is known as traveller's paradise. Its tourist attractions range from magnificent palaces, beautiful museums and ancient towns to vast Arctic landscapes to the most popular, Ice Hotel. This ice hotel has ten luxury suites, twelve art suites designed by selected artists, an ice bar and gallery, all running on solar powered electricity. Another major attraction here is its food. The "**semla**" is a wheat flour bun, flavoured with cardamom and filled with almond paste and whipped cream. It has become something of a carb-packed icon in Sweden. If you want to explore Sweden in summer, do canoeing and kayaking in the Stockholm or Gothenburg archipelagos, cycle along the Kattegattleden från Skåne to West Sweden or go for hiking in Swedish Lapland.



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# BREATH TAKING BOTANICAL GARDENS OF THE WORLD

*Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better* — Albert Einstein.

Botanical gardens are of great interest to the general public. A natural source of science and culture, these gardens act as outdoor laboratories and are institutes of research on the native flora of the region.

They conserve tropical and temperate ecosystem and serve as centres of gene pools of economically important plants. It also helps to maintain the less attractive and abandoned ornamental plants. Arboretums are botanical gardens that specialise in different tree types.

The earliest botanical gardens were established during the late Renaissance period at the University of Pisa and the University of Padua in Italy. Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) catalogues the world's best botanic gardens and has more than 800 participating gardens.

We list some of the splendid botanical gardens where you can find great solace.



Home to more than 6,500 species of plants, the vast 140-hectare Jardim Botânico was founded in 1808 by King John VI of Portugal. It was originally built to accommodate spices like nutmeg, pepper and cinnamon from West India before being imported to Europe.

In 1822, it was opened to the public and is regarded as the most important botanical research site in Brazil. It is located under the divine Christ the Redeemer at the foot of the Corcovado Mountain. Rare white-necked hawk is mostly found here and the garden keeps alluring birdwatchers.

## JARDIM BOTÂNICO, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



Founded in 1910, it receives more than 900,000 visitors each year and has over 200 cherry trees. There are 42 different species and cultivated varieties. It is one of the best places outside Japan to get a feel of Cherry Blossom.

Located in the Prospect park neighbourhood, the Steinhardt Conservatory holds an extensive collection of indoor plants in three controlled pavilions that have controlled climate for tropical, warm temperate and desert floras.

For kids, it has the oldest operating children's garden and an art gallery.

## BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN, New York City, USA



It is the only tropical garden listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. It is a Mecca for orchid lovers with more than 20,000 delicate flowers. It is located on the edge of the busy Orchard Road for more than 158 years. It joins the rank of iconic landmarks like the Cambodia's Angkor Wat and the Great Wall of China. It has a heritage museum that features interactive and multimedia exhibits providing details of the garden's rich heritage. The CDL Green Gallery has botanical related exhibits.

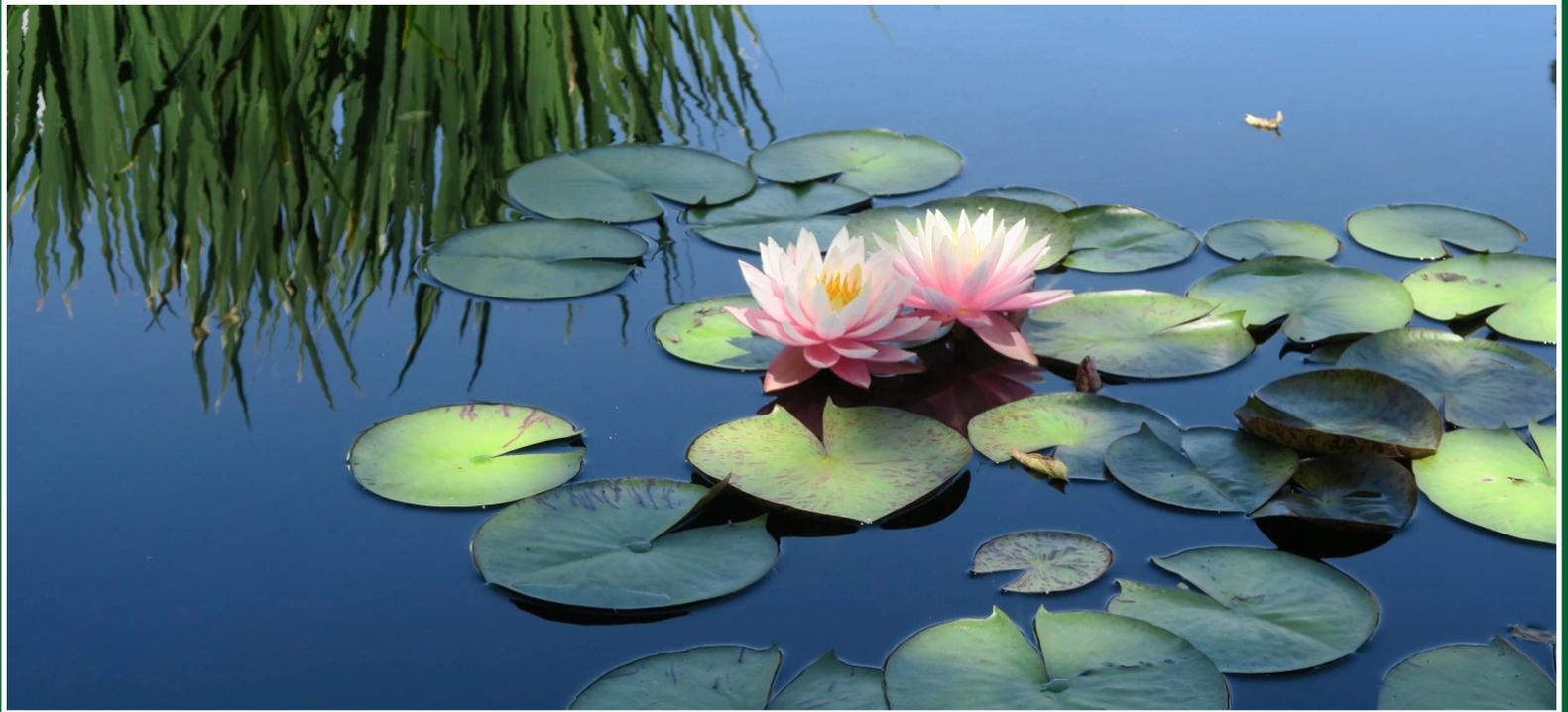
The 183-acre botanical garden has a children's garden called the Jacob Ballas Children's garden , ginger garden and troops of wild monkey.

## SINGAPORE BOTANIC GARDEN, Singapore



Located on the top of the old Prospect Hill Cemetery, its 23 acre gardens have North America's largest collection of plants from cold temperatures. In 1893, the bodies of the notorious bandits from the days of the Wild, Wild West were removed from here. It has a sunken amphitheatre that hosts concerts during summer. One has the option of grooving post a recce of the alpine wildflower.

## DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS, Colorado, USA



It is one of the most beautiful gardens in the world and the first to be listed as a UNESCO world heritage site. It is among the few to cultivate indigenous plants. It is located in the eastern slopes of Cape Town's Table Mountain.

In 1913, the centenary of the founding of the park was celebrated. A Centenary Tree Canopy Walkway, which is a curved steel and timber bridge, carves its way over the Arboretum trees.

It took inspiration by a snake skeleton and is also called as the 'The Boomslang' (tree snake).

## KIRSTENBOSCH NATIONAL BOTANICAL GARDEN, Cape Town, South Africa



Research, conservation of the flora in natural habitat and training the city arborists in the plantation of trees in urban areas are among the key functions of the botanical garden. Garden therapy is ideal for relieving mental stress.

***In every walk with nature one receives far more than he seeks — John Muir.***

## **NYC welcomed 65.2 million tourists in 2018 with increased Chinese visitors**

New York City welcomed 65.2 million tourists in 2018, by marking a ninth consecutive year of the growth. The city tourism board has confirmed this information. According to the latest statistics released by New York City & Company, 51.6 million of the 65.2 million visitors came from the United States and 13.5 million were international tourists, mostly from the United Kingdom, China, Canada, Brazil and France. Notably, the number of tourists from China rose to 1.1 million from 1.04 million in 2017, despite a months-long trade friction between the two countries which had concerned some tourism insiders.



## **Frankfurt Airport served 69.5 million passengers in 2018**

Frankfurt Airport welcomed more than 69.5 million passengers in 2018. It recorded a 5 million passengers or 7.8 percent increase over that of last

year. There were 512,115 takeoffs and landings in 2018 – a rise by 7.7 per cent. The accumulated maximum takeoff weights (MTOWs) also increased by 5.1 percent to some 31.6 million metric tons. The cargo throughput posted a slight 0.7 percent decline to about 2.2 million metric tons, reflecting growing uncertainties in global trade, particularly during the second half of the year.

## **Luxembourg makes all public transport free**

Luxembourg has announced that by March 2020 – all public transport — trains, trams and buses will be free. Luxembourg is one of Europe's smallest countries with a population of 602,000; but it suffers major traffic jams. Dany Frank, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Mobility and Public Works said that this move will bring environmental benefits and minimise dense traffic congestion. Luxembourg is one of the richest countries in Europe, with the highest per capita GDP in the European Union. It is roughly the size of Rhode Island. Belgium, France and Germany can all be reached by car in half an hour from the capital of Luxembourg City.





### **North China's Harbin Ice festival allures millions of global visitors**

China's huge "ice city" Harbin is drawing tens of millions of visitors as it hosts month-long winter festival Harbin Ice Festival. Harbin has built its tourism sector into a ten-billion dollar industry and is renowned as one of the China's top winter destinations. The city received more than 77-million tourists in 2017 and made a total revenue of about \$17-billion.

### **World's first driver less trains to be launched by China**

China will introduce the world's first driverless trains to run at speeds of up to 350kph on the Beijing-Zhangjiakou railway line. The China Railway

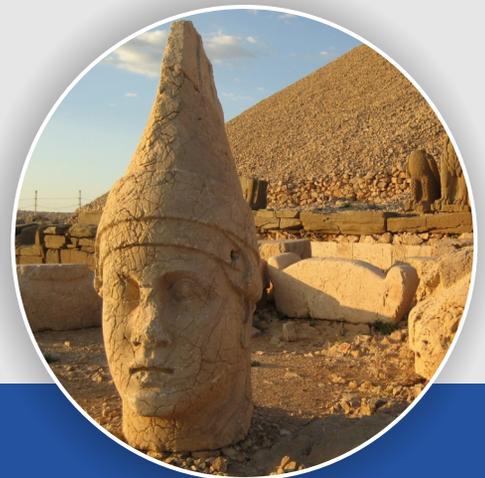
Corporation (CRC) in 2018 trailed the automatic operation bullet trains on a section of the Beijing-Shenyang line. The bullet train passed all safety tests. On the high-speed trains a driver is currently employed to perform the operations and it is expected that the automatic train operation (ATO) will be replacing the human drivers in China. Earlier the ATO was rolled out on tow intercity lines in the Pearl River Delta region and the trains run at maximum speed of 200kph. In June 2017 the Beijing-Shanghai line the new Fuxing trains debuted which could travel up to 350 kph. For the 2022 Winter Olympic Games the Beijing-Zhangjiakou line also known as the Jing-Zhang line currently under construction to offer easy travel between Beijing and the Winter Olympic Village.



# travel back in time when in Turkey!

The charm of history and its enigmatic lesson consist in the fact that, from age to age, nothing changes and yet everything is completely different.

*Aldous Huxley*



**W**alk through the historical landscapes in Turkey to know more about the rich stories. Get fascinated by the archaeological sites that reflect the world's earliest civilisations from the Neolithic Age to the Roman Empire!

Palaces, mosques, churches, castles and districts here have incredible history as the meeting point between Europe and Asia saw waves of people, states, eras and empires leaving footprints on the coastline and the mountains, people and culture setting a dialogue between the civilisations and the human links.

The bustling metropolis of Turkey apart from being a centre of business, finance, real estate and culture attracts many to re-embark on the days of the Byzantine rule to the eras of the Ottomans. A testimony of man's greatness and the meeting point between Europe and Asia, Turkey has rich ancient ruins which still remain intact. Imagine the scenes that unfold the history of a thousand years. Here's a list of some of the mesmerising historical sites.

**Göbeklitepe-** It is the oldest man-made religious structure. It is a Neolithic sanctuary near Sanliurffa. It means 'Potbelly Hill' in Turkish. The limestone pillars on the top of the mountain ridge are adorned with pictures of animals and abstract pictograms. It is located 760 m above the sea level and has a height of 15 m and diameter of 300 m.



**Çatalhöyük** -It was discovered in the late 1950s in the Konya province. This world-famous site is large in size and has beautiful wall paintings, reliefs and other symbolic and artistic features. Located on the Southern Anatolian Plateau, it brings forth the evolution of social organisations and cultural practices giving evidence of the transition from settled village to urban agglomerations. There are unique settlements of streetless houses clusters with roof access into the buildings.

**Troy-** Dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC its remains are evidence of the first contact between the then civilisation of Anatolia and the burgeoning Mediterranean world. It is located in the mound of Hisarlik overlooking the plane along the Turkish Aegean coast and is 4.8 km from the southern entrance to the Dardanelles. It has acted as a cultural bridge between the Troas region and the Balkans, Anatolia and the Aegean and Black Sea regions. Moreover, Homer's The Iliad immortalised the siege of Troy by Mycenaean warriors from Greece in the 13<sup>th</sup> century BC.



**Yenikapı-** It is one of the world's largest archaeological digs with the largest group of Byzantine shipwrecks found during the construction of Marmaray Metro in 2004. More than 35,000 objects and 36 ships were unearthed during the excavations from 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. Built by the Byzantine emperor Theodosius I, it is mainly connected to the Constantinople's Theodosian Harbour.

**Ephesus-** During the 1<sup>st</sup> century it was the largest city in the Mediterranean in the city of Selcuk in Izmir. It has successive Hellenistic and Roman settlements founded on new locations on the coastline retreating westward. It has grand monuments of the Roman Imperial period – the Library of Celsus and the Great Theatre and the remains of the famous Temple of Artemis –one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The House of Virgin Mary has been drawing pilgrimage from across the world since 5<sup>th</sup> century; it is adorned with cruciform chapel 7 km from Ephesus.



**Mount Nemrut-** Built by Antiochos I, the personal funerary monument has large statues of the king, two lions, two eagles and various Gods. It is a part of the Taurus Mountains and is located 2,552 m above sea level. The statue of Gods and the sanctuary formed along the three aspects of tumulus were inscribed in the UNESCO list of world heritage site.

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**In-Cabin Pet Policies To Keep You & Your Pet Together**



**“ We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals. ”**

*Emmanuel Kant*

**K**eeping the pulse on the sensitivity of the pet owners, airlines are allowing them to take pets from one place to another. More than half (56 per cent) of the world have at least one pet living with them, as per 2016 online survey by global research firm, Gfk, Germany's largest market research institute which build world-class research, powered by high technology. In the U.S. alone, about 85 million families or 68 per cent households own a pet, as per the 2017-2018 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association (APPA). Apart from cats and dogs, other animals that are popular among the U.S. citizens are birds, reptiles, horses, rabbits, turtles, poultry and fish.

Pets teach us what unconditional love is. Pets are considered part of the family and at times it becomes mandatory to take your pet on the trip whether you travel for business or leisure. There are several airlines which give the freedom to carry pets with you. However, this freedom is guided by certain in-cabin pet policies.

Pets can travel on a commercial airline in one of these ways — in-cabin, checked baggage and manifest cargo. Pets travelling in the cabin must be accompanied by an adult passenger. They travel in airline compliant carrier which is stowed under the seat. If you are carrying pets, which are not permitted in the cabin, they can be transported as checked baggage in the cargo hold. Unaccompanied or very large pets can travel as manifest cargo in the hold.

Some of the pet-friendly airlines that allows travel in-cabin include Air France, Air Canada, America Airlines, Avianca, Turkish Airlines, Lufthansa, AirEuropa, Vueling, Aegean Airlines, Aeroflot, Delta, Alaska Air of the many.



## Air France

With prior approval from customer service, a dog or a cat weighing no more than 8 kg / 17 lb (including the bag) can be transported in the cabin. Your pet must be at least 10 weeks old and have all required vaccines. On flights within metropolitan France (including Corsica) and between metropolitan France and Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion Island, the minimum age requirement for your pet is 8 weeks. On flights between metropolitan France and French Guiana, your pet must be at least 15 weeks old.

**Your dog or cat can travel in a special closed travel bag that does not exceed 46 x 28 x 24 cm. / 18 x 11 x 9 in. Depending on the flight, the rates range from euro 30 to euro 125.**

## Turkish Airlines

If the combined weight of your pet and carrier is within 8 kg and have dimensions within **23 x 40 x 55 cm**, they can travel in the cabin of Turkish Airlines. Birds like parrots and canaries and pets such as cats and dogs can be brought into the cabin in a special carrier as long as they are at least 8 weeks old. Excess baggage charges are applied according to the route you are travelling.





## Air Canada

On Boeing 777-300ER and 777-200LR aircraft, the pet carrier cannot exceed the dimensions of **21 x 28 x 43 cm**. In other cabins, soft-sided carriers are recommended, with dimensions not exceeding **28 x 21 x 41 cm**. Only one cat or small dog at least which is at least 12 weeks old and fully weaned is allowed in the cabin per passenger.

**One way charge per pet is U.S. dollars 50 - U.S. dollars 59 within Canada and Canada/U.S. (except Hawaii) and U.S. dollars 100 - U.S. dollars 118 internationally.**

## Alaska Air

Pets such as cats and dogs which are at least 8 weeks old and weaned, household birds and domesticated rabbits weighing no more than 20 pounds including their carrier can travel in the cabin of Alaska Air. Passengers must be 18 years or older to travel with a pet in the cabin. A passenger may travel with a maximum of 2 pet carriers in the main cabin, only when the adjacent seat is purchased by the same passenger.

**Pet in-cabin costs U.S. dollars 100 each way. The dimensions for hard-sided are 17 x 11 x 7.5 in. while that for soft-sided is 17 x 11 x 9.5 in.**

## Air Europa

Dogs, cats, birds (except birds of prey), fish, aquarium turtles and some rodents (hamsters, guinea pigs or small rabbits) with required vaccinations can travel in Air Europa. The maximum permitted size for the carrier is **55 x 35 x 25 cm with the weight limitation being 8 kg (pet + carrier)**.

For flights operated by the ATR aircraft, the weight cannot exceed 6 kg (pet + container). Only cats and dogs are allowed to be transported. The rates for carrying pets in the cabin are euro 50 for Europe and Africa; euro 25 for Mainland, Canary Islands and the Balearic Islands; euro 9 for Inter Canary / Balearic Routes; and euro 150 for long haul.

Pets prove to be life-long, true friends. They do not judge nor pass criticisms. How we care for them speaks volumes of our character. According to Comparethemarket (the site that provides comparison across various products), the top banned dogs are terriers, mastiffs, pitbulls and Rottweilers. You can check with the airlines of your choice about their in-cabin pet policies with respect to types of pet, charges, size and other factors.



Tech iT



# travel gadgets

**new realms  
in the world  
of technology!**

**G**adgets are life savers for modern travellers. These add extra conveniences to their experience, solve problems and keep things organised. From meeting incredible people, witnessing nature's profound beauty or being carried away in the path of new discoveries, these technologies act as a major support system.

We list some of the impressive travel gadgets that will make communication, navigation and connection a lot easier while on road.



**Travel steam iron** - Carry the world's smallest travel steam iron which is the size of a computer mouse. It has a 420-watt motor and three fabric heating levels. It proves extremely useful for business travellers to shun away the wrinkles from clothes.

**Portable Wi-Fi Hotspot & Power Bank**-Some of the devices available in the market offers ingenious connectivity and unlimited services in more than 130 countries around the globe. The devices are also known to support up to 5 connections and can serve as a portable charger for a phone or tablet while one is moving.



**Travel Drone**- Sharing adventure can get immortalised by capturing the beauty of the surrounding by getting flawless HD videos or photographs via travel drones. These days they come with an intuitive smartphone control and a decent flying time in a very compact and foldable format. The sleek and silent high-tech flying cameras are GPS enabled and have optical sensors which can easily trace obstacles. These also have copious flight modes, tripod and selfie settings.



**goTenna Mesh-** It helps the travellers communicate even off the grid and is specifically designed to keep the Android and iOS devices connected even when there is no cellular service. It is made up of rugged material and can fit into the pocket. Within a range of up to 4 miles in open areas through its Bluetooth, LE it can be easily paired with a smartphone and users can share messages and locations instantly.

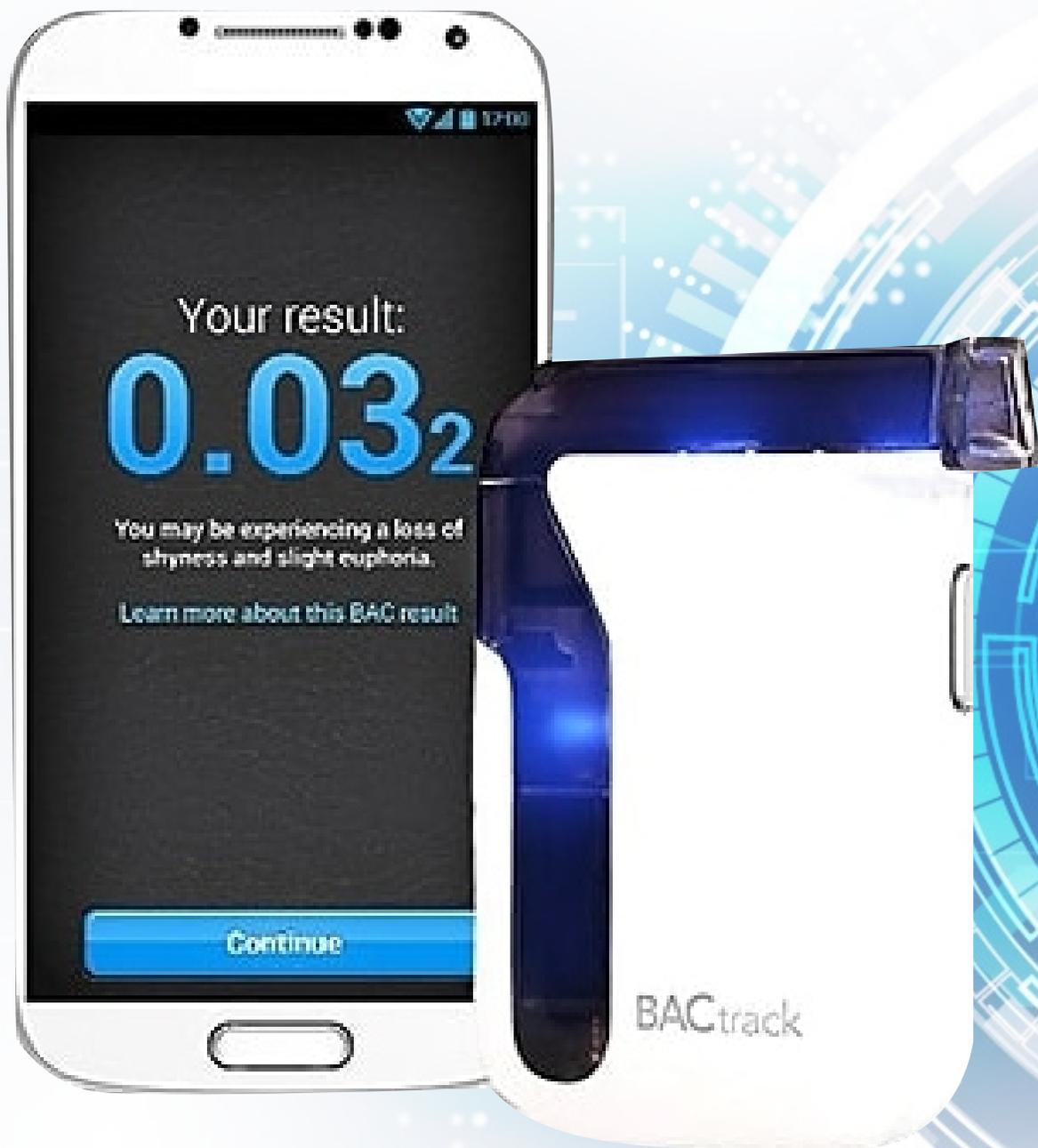
The updated version has a revolutionary mesh networking technology which permits private 1:1 group chats or public broadcast messages through other devices. This will help in facilitation beyond point-to-point range.

**Smallest Automated Travel Vacuum-** The ultimate travel packing gadget has a pressure detecting sensor that clears the suitcase of the existing air. This helps in condensing the clothes to half the size creating room for more. This comes very handy if one adds shopping to the trip.



**Water Purifier Bottle-** Contaminated drinking water is a major concern while travelling abroad. A water purification system is extremely useful when exploring the remote parts and in destinations with harsh environmental conditions. Clear natural water source can be converted into pure drinking water with the help of Water Purifier Bottle. It has a replaceable purifier cartridge that protects against viruses, bacteria, heavy metals and other chemicals.





**Smartphone Breathalyzer-** Through this one can estimate the Blood Alcohol Content or the BAC. It looks like a USB flash drive and easily connects to the smartphone through the BACtrack app. However, it lacks professional-grade sensor integration so one cannot use it to judge how far one is sober to drive.

# NEW FACES

## Amadeus welcomes Stefan Ropers to its office



Stefan Ropers has been appointed as Amadeus' Strategic Growth Businesses. Stefan Ropers has more than 20 years of industry experience, holding various senior tech roles in his career to date, including at Microsoft, McKinsey, and most recently Adobe. Amadeus has announced the key strategic appointment of senior business and technological savvy Stefan Ropers to lead its Strategic Growth Businesses, effective February 1 2019. Ropers, who most recently was Head of Adobe in Central Europe, joins Amadeus to drive growth across the company's diverse Strategic Growth Businesses portfolio, which includes its airport, rail, and payments customer units. As part of his new role, Ropers will also take on responsibility for Amadeus' Innovation function.

## Tourwriter appoints its new Chief Revenue Officer



Tourwriter, tour operator software company have started 2019 with the introduction of a Chief Revenue Officer, Adam Sirota to their global team. Adam joins Tourwriter following 5 years with Xero, the internationally renowned and award-winning accounting software company, founded in Wellington, New Zealand. During his time at Xero, Sirota was a key senior member of the Management team during several of the company's key milestones, most notably his position in the revenue unit, where he played a significant role in driving Xero's unprecedented revenue growth, from \$60 million to \$600 million.

## Richard Haddad named as new CEO of Jannah Burj Al Sarab



Jannah Burj Al Sarab, luxury halal hotel in Abu Dhabi has appointed Richard Haddad as its new chief executive officer. With more than 25 years of experience in hospitality sector, including his most recent role as director of product development in Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority, Haddad's mandate includes driving the company's growth strategy, increasing operational efficiency and overseeing the next phase of development for the property. Richard Haddad previously held managerial positions across various hotel groups in the Middle East, including Monroe Hotels and Vision Hotels.

## Massachusetts Governor welcomes Warren Fields to Massport Board of Directors



Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has appointed Warren Fields, Chief Investment Officer and founding partner of the Pyramid Hotel Group to the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) Board of Directors. His appointment comes as L. Duane Jackson, Managing Member of Alinea Capital Partners, fulfills his seven-year term on the Board, most recently serving as

Vice-Chair and Chair of the Real Estate and Strategic Initiatives committee for the past four years. He supported the maritime mission, particularly in regard to advancing the seafood cluster industry in South Boston and preserving those jobs for the local workforce and helped to define Massport's diversity and inclusion initiative, which made diversity and inclusion an equally weighted criteria in development projects.



*World  
Festivals*



**F**estivals give an opportunity to have a great time for fun and relaxation. In February, people celebrate vernal fiestas through religion, art and culture. Check out these exciting festivals which are going to happen.

Festival on the Niger (*Festival sur le Niger*) is Ségou's annual heritage celebration with both traditional and contemporary music, puppetry, dance, arts and boat races on the river. This festival has become an event of national importance, which attracts a lot of international visitors.

## **Festival sur le Niger**

**Place: Mali, Africa**

**Date: 2 – 9 February, 2019**



## Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria

Place: : Peru, South America

Date: 2 – 12 February, 2019

Peru's most important religious fiesta, Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria is widely celebrated in Puno. The city astounds the visitors with amazing surroundings such as Lake Titicaca and the Altiplano. This colourful cultural event offers dancing, music, masks and insane fireworks that display the true Peruvian cult. It is closely linked with pre-Hispanic agricultural cycles of sowing and harvesting, as well as mining activities in the region. It is the result of a blend of respectful Aymara gaiety and ancestral Quechua seriousness.

**Chinese New Year**  
**Place: : All over China**  
**Date: 5 February, 2019**

It is the biggest Chinese festival celebrated throughout the country with huge dragon installations, fireworks, symbolic clothing, flowers, lanterns, and sumptuous foods. This year will be the **year of pig**. See the traditional performances like dragon dances, lion dances, and imperial performances like an emperor's wedding.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**YEAR OF THE PIG**



One of the grandest cultural affair in Italy, 2 week long Venice Carnival steals your mind with stunning Italian dance and shows. This extravaganza is all about parades, concerts, markets, and of course the ornate Venetian masks.

## **Carnival of Venice**

**Place: Venice, Italy**

**Date: 16 February -5 March 2019**

## Charleston Wine + Food

Place: Charleston, S. Carolina, USA

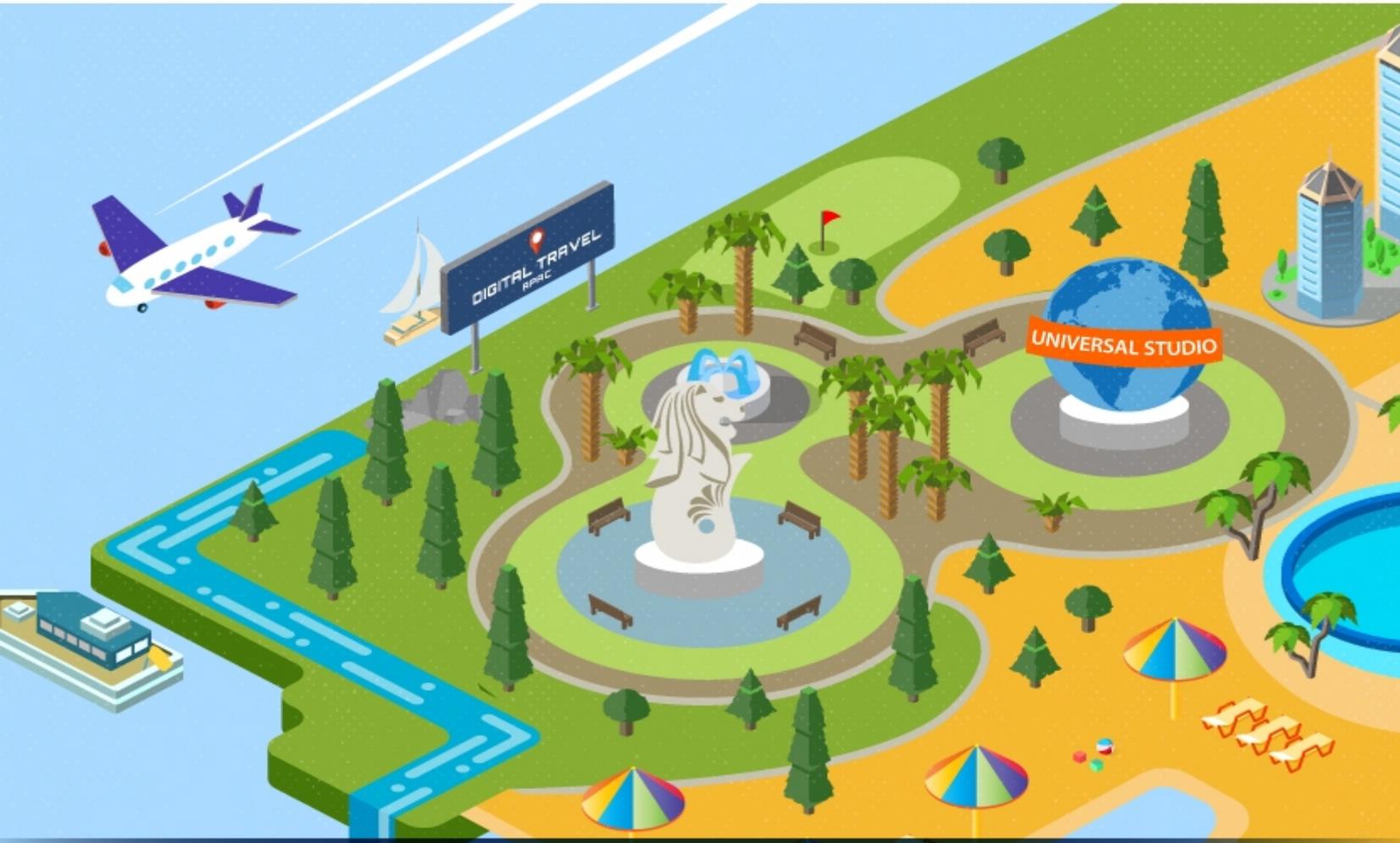
Date: 28 February – 4 March, 2019

Most of the globally acclaimed chefs like Sean Brock, Mike Lata and Matthew Niessner have transformed Southern staples such as shrimp and grits into high-dollar dishes, and Charleston transforms into a city for connoisseurs. 2019 will be the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of this festival. It will feature over 100 exclusive lip-smacking culinary experiences that will bring your gastronomic peace.





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# SHOW HIGHLIGHT

As per The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Outbound Travel Market', a report prepared by UNWTO and ETC with the support of Value Retail finds that per-capita international tourism spending from the GCC was 6.5 times higher than the global average last year, with expenditure estimated to be more than USD 60 billion. Emphasizing on the potential of outbound travel from the Middle East, the 7th Annual MICE Arabia and Luxury Travel (MALT) Congress 2019, the regions' exclusive business platform, will bring the world of outbound business and luxury travel from the Middle East under one roof. Given the potential of the increasing travelers and disposable income from the Middle East, 'Halal' tourism is clearly a growing market segment. It has become imperative for the hospitality industry to adapt to changing halal requirements to meet their needs to attract these travelers. By 2020, the number of Halal traveller numbers are projected to grow to 150-156 million, with Amadeus projecting a collective spend of USD200 billion. According to an Allied Market Research report, the global luxury travel market may garner up to USD1,154 billion by 2022. Changing trends in the outbound luxury travel and tourism now include a great demand for new experiential travel and exotic destinations, in sync with the changing role of travelers into adventurers.

## 7th Annual MICE Arabia and Luxury Travel (MALT) Congress 2019



When: 26-27 Feb 2019  
Where: Rixos Premium  
Dubai JBR, UAE

GCC travellers are increasingly giving more preference to engaging leisure with business while exploring new exciting and affordable destinations. Alina Drutman, Managing Partner, DMW Travel said, "MICE travel trends are dynamically changing and countries like Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia have now become the top destinations for their luxurious stay offerings while being great hosts to business needs. Additionally, these destinations have been preferred for its close proximity to language and cultural similarities."

Exploring emerging markets is a top trend witnessed from the Middle East region, RavshanTurakulov, CEO Silk Road Destination, Central Asia Tours Incoming Agency, said "Uzbekistan is emerging as a top destination as Middle East buyers are continually looking to invest in new economies and offer new destinations as options for their MICE and Luxury travel requirements."

MICE travel is not just restricted to the meetings and events but to provide valuable employees family vacation as well. The MICE industry is one of the fastest growing segments in the travel sector generating millions of dollars in revenue every year. Offering Poland as an emerging market for MICE, Agnieszka Borowska, Managing Director, Visit Poland DMC said, "We are seeing an upward trend in Poland for Corporate Leisure travelers. We expect a high growth in number of tourists from the Middle East visiting Poland demanding for luxury accommodations."

He also adds, “Security, family friendly locations, comfort, direct flights, and more flexible pricing options allows Poland to be one of the preferred destinations.”

Attendees at the MALT Congress include high caliber industry professionals, government policy makers, senior decision makers and MICE and luxury suppliers from different regions such as Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS, Uzbekistan and Poland, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan along with MICE buyers and specialists from the top GCC companies.

The future of MICE travel can also be summed up as personalization being the key trend. The desire for greater personalization, individualization and face-to-face contact is on the rise, creating challenges and great potential at the same time for event planners and venue operators. Vittorio Marsiglio, CEO, Intercontinental Travel Company, “We have seen 7% increase in the number of travellers from Arabia. This, we learn is a great result of customer satisfaction, through the high standard quality of chosen services, the personalization (a unique selection of tailor-made offers), its experience and the deep knowledge of the products we are keen to offer.”

Visa-free travel also becomes very important to attract GCC travelers, as they factor in this aspect

while planning their itinerary.

Commenting on the congress, Sidh NC, Director, OnA International said, “As the Middle East sees a surge in outbound travel, there is more emphasis to recognize the importance of MICE and making MICE friendly destination offerings and unique experiences available. As Middle East buyers are continually on the lookout for new destinations and novel experiences, this year the key highlight at the 7th Annual MICE Arabia & Luxury Travel Congress will be to explore new destinations as well as address local, regional and global trends and challenges in the MALTMICE and luxury travel sector.”

The MALT congress for seven consecutive years is touted as the “global meeting point” of influencers from the world of conferences, meetings, incentives, events, business and luxury travel who gather for two intensive days of making connections, learning, innovation & networking. Building on the tremendous potential of the growing outbound travel and luxury travel market in the Middle East region, the 7<sup>th</sup> edition annual of the MALT Congress will focus on driving business success, benefiting from all year-round opportunities to making connections, exploring trends and technologies from around the world and deep dive into every aspect of travel.

The next edition of the WTM Latin America event, which will take place on 2 – 4 April in Expo Center Norte in São Paulo, will have a space dedicated to women who want to give a boost to their careers in the travel and tourism industry.

The Women in Travel program is already taking place in the WTM London and WTM Africa editions of the shows and with its personalized content and mentoring will become part of the Latin American edition, its core objective being to provide guidance for women who work in the market, invest in their careers and are entrepreneurial.

The project, which is led by Alessandra Alonso, the founder of the company of the same name, empowers women and helps them develop more incisive strategies and activities in the global travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

In Brazil, Alessandra is supported by Mariana Aldrigui, who looks after her business interests. Mariana is a tourism professor and researcher at the University of São Paulo and a member of the Advisory Board of WTM Latin America.

"I'm very happy to bring the Women in Travel Meetup to the most important travel event in Latin America and to extend our reach to cover all WTM platforms.

Women play a critically important role in this industry, whether as professionals or entrepreneurs, but they don't always have the chance to be recognized for their contributions, or to simply get together to learn

and inspire.

Women in Travel provides a platform for encouraging discussion, involvement and networking for women and men who think about highly relevant topics so that this sector continues to thrive and grow," says Alessandra.

This is the first time this Women in Travel programme is going to be held in Brazil and it will last for three hours and be divided into a panel on training, mentoring and a cocktail party. It is worth mentioning that it is not necessary to register beforehand to participate in the panel and attend the cocktail party. For the mentoring programme, however, registration on the WTM Latin America website is necessary; this facility will only be available in 2019.

Women in Travel will take place on 2 April, the first day of the event, in the Networking Area starting at 3pm. Registration for the mentoring programme will be open shortly.



WTM  
Latin America



When: 2-4 April, 2019  
Where:  
Sao Paulo, Brazil



**T**he largest and most popular in Russia and CIS 26th International tourism exhibition MITT 2019 will be held from 12 till 14 March 2019 in Moscow, Expocentre.

Thousands of representatives of tourism industry in Europe and the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Asia, America, Africa and island countries, as well as CIS countries will present their products for the coming season. Visit the show to be in industry trend!

### **MITT 2019 is:**

- 20,000+ professional visitors from 80 regions of Russia and 90 other countries
- 1,700+ companies
- 230+ countries and regions of the world
- 40,000 sqm of exhibition space
- 7 halls and pavilions
- 3 full days of business programme
- 110+ speakers
- 12 conference sessions

For the first time, such areas as Qatar, Bahrain, Mongolia, Tanzania, Seychelles, the

Galapagos Islands, Cambodia and others will be presented at MITT. Among the regions of Russia: Saratov Region, Sverdlovsk Region, Kemerovo Region, Kursk Region, Tyumen Region and Khanty-Mansiisk autonomous district.

MITT annual exhibitors are also confirmed: Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria, Israel, Morocco, Vietnam, Venezuela, Thailand and many others.

The largest tour operators will present new flight programs and destinations in Russia and around the world. Representatives of inbound tourism will make large-scale offers for recreation, MICE-opportunities and wellness in the Russian regions.

Altai region has confirmed its status as a MITT 2019 Partner Region.

Schedule meetings with representatives of the tourism industry in this and other regions of Russia and get full information about the direction and conditions of cooperation for the coming season.

**MITT 2019**

**Mitt**

When: 12-14 April, 2019

Where:  
Moscow



**D**igital Travel APAC 2019 has already over 80+ speakers already confirmed. Here check out why over 400+ Heads of eCommerce, Digital Marketing and Customer Experience in travel, hospitality and leisure are headed to Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore this 1-3 April.

Today's travelers are more digitally savvy than ever before and Digital Travel APAC 2019 is the one-stop shop where leaders in APAC's travel industries can discuss the evolution of digital customer engagement, master customer personalization and boost omni-marketing strategies.

### 2019 Topic Highlights:

- Delivering a seamless travel experience – How to meet the needs of the domestic and outbound traveller with AI, big data and intelligent hardware
- Mastering Localisation and Personalisation – How to diversify your offerings and create a truly frictionless and tailored customer experience
- Social media marketing in an experiential world – How is social media influencing today's 'experiential' travellers and how to adapt and profit from this new global trend to boost conversions
- Mobile site optimization - How to effectively adapt your overall e-commerce strategy given the

vital importance of mobile in Asia, improving speed and efficiency

- The future of money and loyalty – How to deliver smooth and innovative engagements with your customers
- Advances in ancillary technology – How to offer seamless transition between online and offline activity, whether that's before, during, or after a trip.

## Digital Travel APAC



When: 1-3 April, 2019  
Where:  
Singapore

### Here's a snapshot of some of the digital travel innovators and disruptors speaking:

- Jerome Thil, VP Digital Innovation, Singapore Airlines
- Candice Iyog, VP of Marketing & Distribution, Cebu Pacific
- Michael Perera, Head of Loyalty & Product Owner of GO-POINTS, GO-JEK
- Yuki Huang, Chief Marketing Officer, KKday
- Rotsen Quispe, Head of International Marketing, Traveloka
- Spencer Lee, Head of Commercial, AirAsia
- Anita Ngai, Chief Revenue Officer, Klook
- Mindy Teo, VP of Brand, Marketing & Digital Innovation, The Ascott
- Azran Osman-Rani, TEDx Speaker, Ex-CEO, iflix & AirAsia X

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# SHOW REVIEW

**BLTM 2019**

**When: 18-19 January, 2019**

**Where: Leela Ambience**

**Convention Hotel, Delhi, India**



Launched in 2016, India's first full-fledged travel mart BLTM is dedicated to Business, MICE and Luxury Travel. Recently concluded BLTM 2019 was held on 18th and 19th January at the Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi. Qualified buyers from the capital and the rest of India were hosted at the event.

115 exhibitors from 26 Countries and 13 Indian States and Union Territories showcased at the two-day event. BLTM Delhi experienced an unprecedented footfall of 1,225 B2B visitors and more than 200 buyers from India. All participants were fully hosted at the show venue hotel. The 2:1 Hosted Buyer to Seller ratio and additional footfall ensured the travel mart was always abuzz.

Dignitaries who graced the BLTM inauguration were H.E. John A.E. Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism, Sri Lanka; H.E. Austin Fernando, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India; Kumar De Silva, Chairman, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau; Dr Trust Lin, Director of Taiwan Tourism Bureau; Ismail Amer, Egyptian Tourism Counsellor; Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Group; Suresh M, Chairman, EEMA; Sanjiv Agarwal, Chairman and CEO, Fairfest Media Ltd and V Suresh, President, Fairfest Media Ltd and others.

Dr Trust Lin, Director of Taiwan Tourism Bureau said that they have been participating at BLTM for the past two years and the show has grown enormously since then. Last year, we received some great response from the travel trade sector and this year too our co-participants were glad to be a part of BLTM. The buyers here at BLTM mean business and they have great potential as well. I would love to be a part of upcoming BLTMs.

The show opens doors to India's 6.5 million outbound luxury and MICE tourists, as well as the fastest growing business travel market in the world. Gracing the largest country pavilion at BLTM was Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, returning participant from last year. The tourist mart also saw enthusiastic participation from National Tourist Organisations (NTOs) from Dubai, Egypt, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Spain, Greece and Philippines.

Spain Tourism added a distinct flavour to BLTM by hosting an entertainment evening for Hosted Buyers together with Warq Tourism and Palladium Hotel Group. The evening was marked by dancing, sangrias, tapas and dinner.

Major Indian Tourism Boards matched up to their international counterparts. The Indian State Tourism Boards (STBs) of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh,

Jharkhand, West Bengal and Punjab ensured their representation with a large number of sellers to showcase India at its best.

Some of the star exhibitors of BLTM 2019 include Hotel & Restaurant Association of Bhutan, Ambuja Neotia, Leisure & Luxury Hotels and Resorts, RailYatri.in, Denzong Leisure and Spiceland Holidays.

Some of the event partners put their best foot forward and put on a stupendous show. Cox and Kings, BLTM's knowledge partner organised a destination workshop on Georgia and Azerbaijan on the inaugural day. Air India and Ethiopian Airlines were the Partner Airlines while the Ground Transportation Partner was Eco Rent A Car - Europcar. Just Click Karo.Com was the online B2B Travel Partner.

Some exhibitors who attended another prominent travel mart in Greater Noida and then shifted to BLTM opined that the event provided a better Return on Investment (ROI) while others concluded the event was just as good.

The onsite meeting was one of the most anticipated features of BLTM. Buyers and sellers interacted face-to-face, fresh appointments were made on the floor and pre-made appointments were hosted with ease.

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.

One of the Hosted Buyers, Preeta Venugopal, Executive Office Administration, Bekaert Industries Pvt Ltd said, "This was my first time at BLTM and I think organisers have put in a lot of effort to make the show look perfect. I got to see many different exhibitors from all over the world and India. I was amazed to see so many new destinations in India. BLTM will definitely help me in planning my next travel as it has provided me with perfect suppliers. I want to thank the organisers for giving me a chance to see a great show like BLTM."

"BLTM filled a vacuum in the evolution of travel trade shows in India by sustaining an event focused on business travel and MICE buyers. This year, the show attracted a large number of B2B visitors from leisure sector as well. However, presence of more than a 100 corporate buyers is what makes it unique," remarked Sanjiv Agarwal, Chairman & CEO of Fairfest Media Ltd, the organisers.

Many of the buyers and sellers at BLTM Delhi will be also participating in OTM Mumbai a couple of days later, from January 23 to 25, at the Bombay Exhibition Centre.

## OTDYKH Leisure

**When: 10-11 September 2019**

**Where: Expocentre Fairgrounds, Russia**



The 24th edition of OTDYKH Leisure, took place on 11-13 September 2018 at Expocentre Fairgrounds in Moscow. The event brought together 870 exhibitors from 41 countries and 44 Russian regions, covering the total area of 15 000 sq. m with over 38 300 visits during the 3 days of the Expo.

The key feature of OTDYKH 2018 edition was a significant increase of the Russian domestic travel exposition as well as the strong advertising campaigns of well-established exhibitors.

Traditionally strong participation was shown by Asia and Latin America. European countries intensified their marketing efforts to attract more tourists to their destinations.

Large and exclusive expositions were demonstrated by the top destinations such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, Georgia, Spain, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Cuba, Tunis, Egypt and many others.

A record number of Russian regions took part at the event to introduce their tourist attractions to the exhibition's guests, increasing their exhibition area by 26% compared to 2017.

The exhibition was accompanied by a comprehensive business programme, featuring more than 40 business events in 11 conference halls with 200 speakers and over 2.000 participants including representatives of

government authorities and travel industry. During the exhibition, 15 governmental agreements have been signed.

The highlights in the field of outbound tourism became a Hosted Buyers Programme 2018 and a series of roundtable meetings between Russian large tour operators and international authorities in total of 4 roundtable meetings dedicated to Serbia, India, Indonesia and Japan. The meetings were co-organized by ATOR (Association of Tour Operators of Russia).

The key event in the area of inbound tourism became the conference on the domestic tourism development in Russia. The so-called "All-Russia Meeting on Inbound and Domestic Tourism Development" was held on 11th of September and attracted over 200 participants incl. key decision-makers, governors, heads of tourism-related ministries and authorities.

The Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation, the Association of Russian Tour Operators, the Russian Union of Travel Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation and other national and regional authorities have, once again, extended their support to OTDYKH, noting that the exhibition is well-established and high-demanded B2B platform.

## Exhibition

- 870 exhibitors
- 41 Countries and 44 Russian Regions
- 38 303 Visits
- 15 000 sq.m Exhibition Area
- 287 Media Attendees
- 80 Media Partners

## Business Programme

- 40 events in 11 conference halls
- Over 200 speakers
- Over 2000 participants
- 15 signed governmental agreements

OTDYKH 2018 welcomed numerous newcomers as well as a series of returning exhibitors. Among newcomer were Palestine, Andhra Pradesh, Taiwan and Sintraas well as the Republic of Bashkortostan, Omsk and Penza regions. Maldives and Japan returned to the leading travel exhibition with collective stands after a short break.

Numerous Russian regions, 44 in total, participated in OTDYKH 2018 edition. The extended exposition were demonstrated by the Republic of Tatarstan, the Republic of Komi, the Kaliningrad, Perm and Vologda regions. The highlight became a new photo and video contest, capturing top travel destinations across Russia. The competition featured 62 artworks from 28 Russian regions.

The European exhibitors for example Georgia,

Spain, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Cyprus arrived to OTDYKH 2018 with collective pavilions. Thanks to a rich history, culture, heritage, architecture and cuisine, the European countries continue to market themselves successfully as year-round destinations with the tourism offerings that suites different tastes, culture and budget. The long haul and exotic destinations, with traditionally strong participation at OTDYKH, such as Cuba, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, Egypt, Tunisia, and India, showed an outstanding participation with an intensive advertising campaign, choosing once again this event as an annual platform to meet business partners and to promote new products and services to the lucrative Russian outbound travel market.

The OTDYKH business programme was of great interest among experts, industry associations and companies actively engaged in the Russian tourism industry and covered a large number of events including conferences, seminars, work-shops, case-study presentations, roundtable meetings and other networking events. The business programme reflected the major industry trends and combined all relevant sectors of the tourism value chain, from MICE and Luxury Travel to Health and Gastronomy.

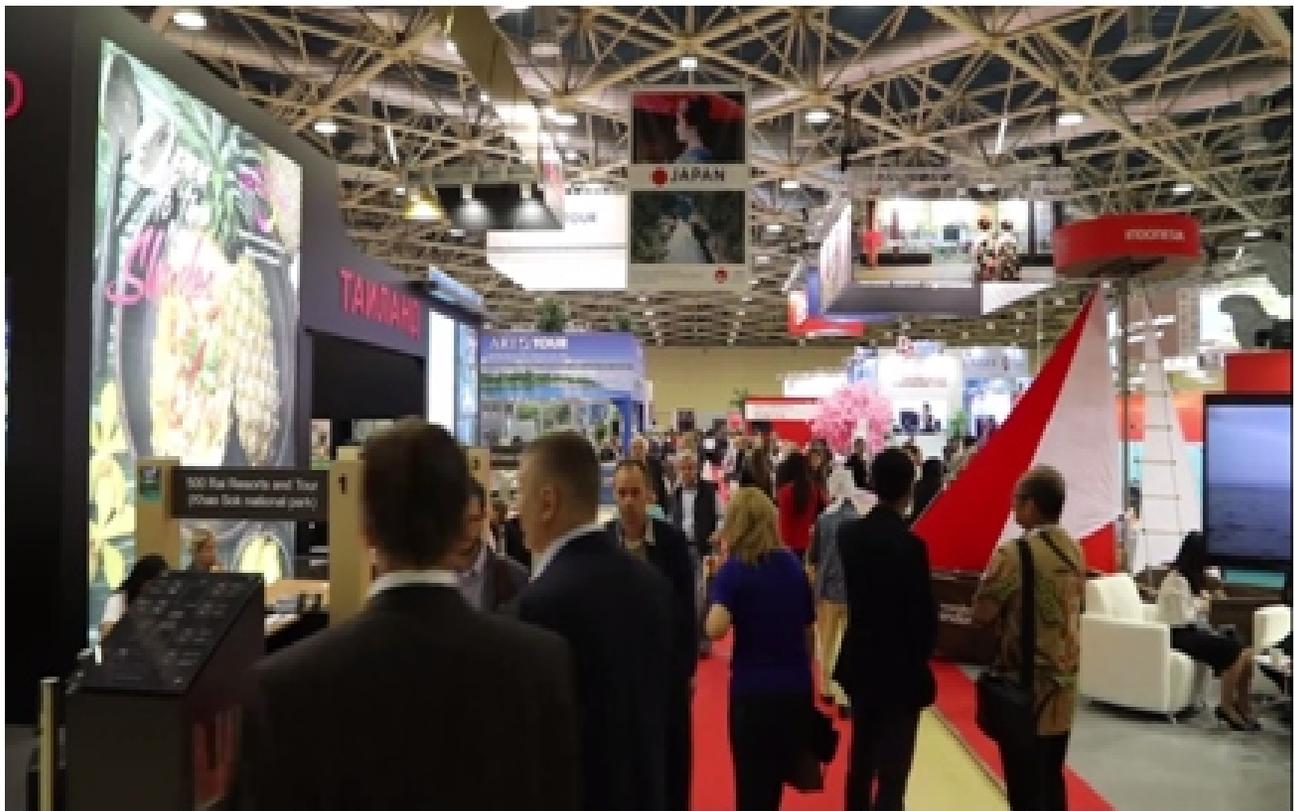
One of the key events of OTDYKH Leisure 2018 became the Conference on domestic and inbound tourism development in Russia, which was held on 11th of September. The outcome of the Conference became a draft resolution with practical proposals for tourism development in Russia.

The resolution will be submitted to the tourism-related ministers for their consideration and approval. The Hosted Buyers Programme 2018 received special interest. The high-level buyers, tour operators and travel agencies from 23 Russian regions attended the exhibition to conduct meetings with exhibitors.

The 14th International Conference Medical Tourism, SPA & Health: “Health tourism as a source of professional longevity. Global trends and international experience exchange” brought together leading experts in health tourism and

resort industry. The Conference covered a broad spectrum of topics including health-improving programmes, disease prevention & health improvement of the population, corporate healthcare initiatives, redevelopment of recreational tourism facilities and many others.

In 2019 OTDYKH International Travel Market will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Don't miss out the opportunity to enter one of the largest tourism markets in the world with over 20 million outbound travellers per year. Become part of OTDYKH 2019- where the world of travel is at home.



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**CHENNAI:** 03, 04, 05 AUG 2018

**DELHI:** 21, 22, 23 SEP 2018

**MUMBAI:** 28, 29, 30 SEP 2018

**HYDERABAD:** 23, 24, 25 NOV 2018

**PUNE:** 30 NOV, 01, 02 DEC 2018

**KOCHI:** 31 JAN 1, 2 FEB 2019

**KOLKATA:** 22, 23, 24, FEB 2019

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Marrakech, Morocco  
<https://fiha-conference.com/>



08- 10 Feb

**TTF Chennai**  
Chennai, India  
[www.ttfotm.com/](http://www.ttfotm.com/)

13 - 15 Feb

**PATA (ATRTCM)**  
Uttrakhand, India  
[www.pata.org/atrtcmm](http://www.pata.org/atrtcmm)



13-15 Feb

**Jeddah International Trade  
and Tourism Exhibition**  
Jeddah Hilton, Saudi Arabia  
<https://www.jttx-sa.com/>



15 - 17 Feb

**TTF Bangalore**  
Bangaluru, India  
[www.ttfotm.com/](http://www.ttfotm.com/)



17 - 20 Feb

**Connections Luxury**  
Malaga, Spain,  
<https://weareconnections.com>



18 - 20 Feb

**AIME Australia**  
Melbourne . Australia  
<https://aime.com.au/>



20-22 Feb

**ACE of MICE Exhibition**  
Istanbul, Turkey  
<http://ameistanbul.com/>



25 - 27 Feb

**Global Restaurant Investment Forum**

NH Collection Grand Hotel  
Krasnapolsky, Amsterdam  
[www.grif.com](http://www.grif.com)



22 - 24 Feb

**IITM Kolkata**  
Kolkata, India  
<http://iitmindia.com/>



22 - 24 Feb

**TTF Kolkata**  
Kolkata, India  
<https://www.ttfotm.com/>



26 - 27 Feb

**MICE Arabia & Luxury Travel Congress**  
Dubai, UAE  
[www.mice-arabia.com/about.html](http://www.mice-arabia.com/about.html)



27 - 28 Feb

**Aviation festival Asia 2019**  
Singapore  
<https://www.terrapinn.com>





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