

Travel AND Tour™

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WORLD



PLACES WITH PRICELESS LITERARY VALUES



Meetings Point

NARA

Face To Face

Bernd Neff

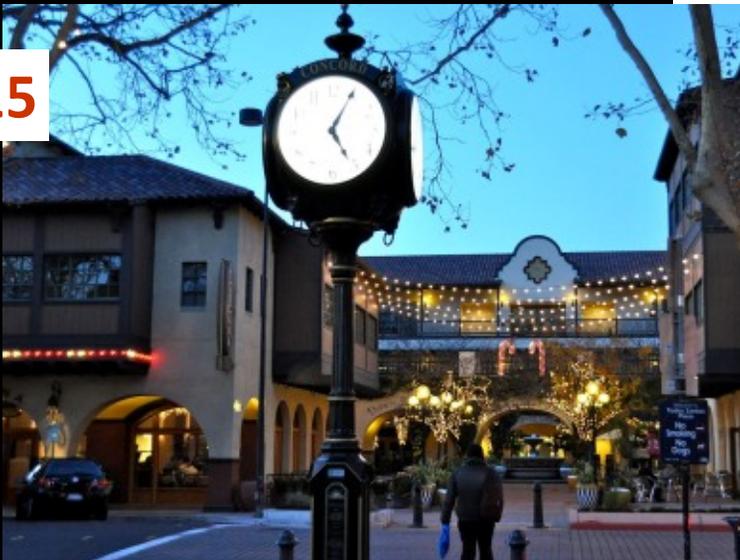
Co-founder and managing director
of the Berlin Travel Festival

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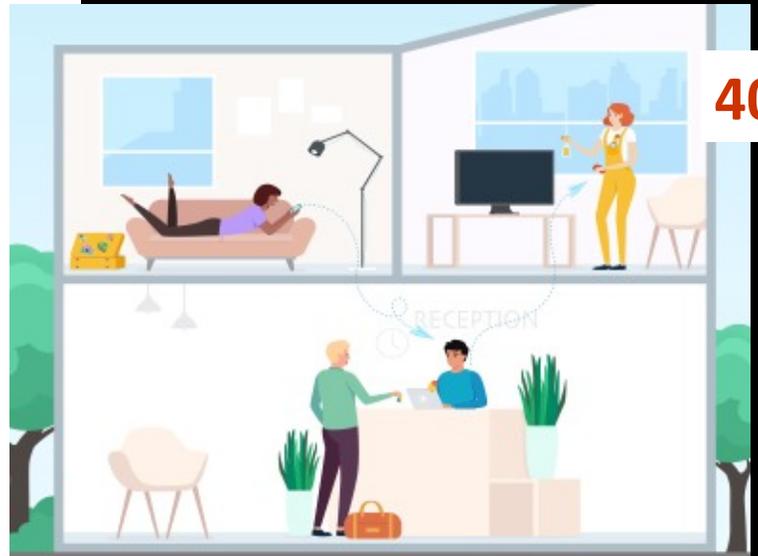
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Dear Readers,

As the world has slowly started to take steps towards an eventual recovery from the harsh impact of the coronavirus pandemic, various countries have reopened the tourism sector with enhanced safety measures. Travellers around the world have also started to make plans for future leisure and business trips. One such destination that currently offers excellent opportunities for MICE tourism is Japan's Nara, the capital and the largest city of Nara Prefecture. Take a look at our Meetings Point to witness the incredible conference centers and convention hotels as well as the ample tourism spots that makes up the venue.

In this issue, we also list down some popular destinations for literary tourism as our Cover Story. These venues possess immense literary value and are home to some of the world's best literary treasures. Another destination that has recently reopened for tourism with enhanced safety protocols is the beautiful island of Saint Kitts. Read our Destination Diary to know about the various mesmerizing tourism attractions and delights the island country has to offer. Our Special Feature talks about the joys of being on a trip with your furry friend and discusses the needs, tips and requirements essential for travelling with your pet. In this edition, we have also highlighted the details about PMS or Property Management System in our Tech It. The tool helps in monitoring hotels and helps in maintaining a seamless reservation system. Our Travel Tendency lists down some recognised virtual museums from across the globe that would allow you to virtual explore some finest examples for history and heritage right from the comfort of your own home.

This issue also features an exclusive conversation with Bernd Neff, Co-founder and Managing Director, Berlin Travel Festival where he talks about the changes in tourism industry in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic and “We Love Travel” event. We have also indulged in an insightful interview with Keith Henry, President and CEO, Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada where he shared insights about the indigenous tourism industry of Canada, the challenges posed by the COVID-19 outbreak and the road to recovery.

Editor-In-Chief

Mr. Anup Kumar Keshan

Editorial Desk



RESETTING THE WORLD WITH WELLNESS

2020 Global Wellness Summit

The Breakers Palm Beach, Florida, November 8-11

Wellness Real Estate & Communities Immersion

Serenbe, Georgia, November 11-13



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Meetings Point

The capital and largest city of Nara Prefecture, Nara was established back in 708 AD as the first permanent capital of Japan. Known as the home of some of the most important temples, shrines and heritage sites in Japan, Nara also serves as an important MICE destination in the country.

Over the years, Nara developed its position as a business event destination with some great state-of-the-art conference venues, royal convention hotels and even a dedicated MICE promotion office. With its natural landscapes, history, cuisine and top business facilities, Nara can be considered as one of Japan's prominent business tourism venues.

ARA

Japan's old capital with top meeting facilities



06 TTW World



TOP CONFERENCE VENUES

Located at the heart of Nara City between Nara Park and Heijo Palace Site with easy access to the Kansai International Airport, the Nara Prefectural Convention Center is an ideal venue for organising international conferences, conventions, meetings, seminars, exhibitions and business negotiations. The convention centre consists of 14 conference rooms as well as indoor and outdoor multi-purpose spaces and tourism promotion facilities. The centre is also home to Nara Prefecture's largest convention hall with a total area of 2,100m² and a ceiling height of 9.9 m. The high quality meeting rooms are capable of hosting conferences and meetings of international standard. There are also separate set of smaller meeting rooms specifically constructed for small and intimate events. The centre also provides waiting rooms for larger events. In addition, there is another hall for film screenings, performances and concerts with flexible and tiered seating arrangements. It also comes with a 1,100 m² roofed space for open-air events.

*Nara Prefectural
Convention Center*

Nara
Prefectural
Convention
Center

Nara Kasugano International Forum

IRAKA

Considered to be one of Nara's key convention venues, the Nara Kasugano International Forum (IRAKA) is located at the centre of Nara National Park. Built back in 1987 during the 100th anniversary of Nara Prefecture, the convention centre is known for its wide roof adorned with Japanese tiles. The convention centre opens with an elegant and spacious entrance hall. It is followed by the Noh theatre situated on the first floor that is capable of hosting corporate events like lectures, conferences and formal ceremonies as well as special traditional performances. The second floor contains another multi-purpose hall ideal for receptions, lectures, exhibitions and special events. It also comes with a separate conference room suitable for international meetings and conventions. The conference room can be further partitioned into different smaller meeting rooms. The venue also has a private lounge and an annex that was built recently in 2015. The annex alone can accommodate up to 204 guests and consists of 4 meeting rooms, a reception hall and a general assembly hall. The convention centre is also surrounded by a beautiful Japanese garden that can organise open events and parties for hundreds of people.

Nara Centennial Hall

The Nara Centennial Hall is a multi-use building constructed back in 1998 and opened in 1999 as a part of the centennial celebrations of the municipality of Nara. The name of the convention hall stands for the 100-years-old memorial building in Nara City. The main exhibition hall can accommodate up to 1,720 people and is an ideal venue for conferences, conventions, concerts, exhibitions and similar events. The hall also comes with a separate outside square area that can be used as an outdoor market or for organising outdoor events and activities.

BEST CONVENTION HOTELS



Nara Royal Hotel

Located close to the Nara Prefectural Convention Center, the Nara Royal Hotel is one of the classic accommodation venues in the region. It offers a variety of accommodation options with multiple Western-style rooms for solo, group, business or family travellers. Each room is designed with a bright yet gentle colour palette and is based on the theme of calm and peace. The hotel also comes with three main banquet halls including the largest banquet hall in the prefecture that can accommodate nearly 820 people and is capable of organising various business and leisure events like large-scale conferences, conventions, seminars, exhibitions, parties and weddings.

Nara Hotel

Recognised as one of the most historic hotels in Japan, the Nara Hotel was designed by renowned Japanese designer Tatsuno Kingo. Over the years the hotel has welcomed various notable guests including crowned and uncrowned heads of state as well as members of royal families. The large variety of guest rooms are linked to the main building that was built around 1909 and the new building was constructed in 1984. The main building alone is home to 62 guest rooms. In addition, the hotel has seven large and small banquet or meeting halls as well as a terrace garden that can be used for hosting meetings, seminars, events, conferences and parties. It also has its own restaurant and catering service that offers a wide variety of cuisines to choose from for any particular event.

TOURISM DELIGHTS

Besides providing some great MICE opportunities, Nara also offers various tourist attractions to enjoy after a hard day at work. Situated near to the two big convention centres, the lush green **Nara Park** adorned with cherry blossoms is home to more than 1000 deer. The park is also decorated with thousands of lanterns and contains ancient temples and shrines within its territory.

Recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, **the Kofukuji Temple** contains four national treasures— a five-story pagoda (the second largest in Japan), a three-story pagoda, the Hokuendo and the Tokondo. The ancient temple also has the best collection of Buddha statues in Japan as well as various cultural relics of the Fujiwara Clan.

Similarly, the **Kasuga Taisha Shrine** also belongs to the Fujiwara Clan. The interiors are decorated with numerous bronze and stone lanterns that lead one to the main shrine. Around 3000 lanterns are scattered along the entire way and provides a magnificent site when ablaze.



Another important must-see venue is the **Nara National Museum**, the most important museum in the city. It is noted for the vast collection of Buddhist art including images, sculptures, paintings, altar articles and calligraphy. One can also take a look at the permanent gallery displaying various archeological findings.

Located near to the museum is the **Isuien Garden**, the only garden for strolling in Nara. The garden offers beautiful picturesque views and allows visitors to enjoy a stroll along the greenery with the backdrop of Nara's Mountains and the South Gate of Todaiji Temple. The garden is divided into two parts. The front garden consists of a villa and a tea house and the back garden has the main walking area. Both the sides are connected by a large tea house that provides lunch and sweets.



FACE TO FACE



Bernd Neff

*Co-founder and managing director
of the Berlin Travel Festival*

Travel And Tour World: What are the changes you have seen in post COVID-19 time in travel, tourism and MICE industry?

Bernd Neff: I think that it is still too early to know what travel, tourism and the MICE industry will look like "post COVID". For now, we can only take guesses and develop different scenarios regarding this topic. Maybe people will only travel to their near surroundings, maybe they will have a stronger desire to visit the most remote and distant places than ever before. Maybe the actual future will lie somewhere in the middle between those two extremes.

But I am sure that since the tourism industry has been disrupted like never before, it is very important to take an early look at these various possible outcomes and what they will mean in terms of priorities, security needs, sustainability and other considerations. This crisis has the chance to fuel innovation if we find a way to turn the current challenges into new opportunities and work on innovative strategies together.



Travel And Tour World: What will be the main focus of "We Love Travel!"?

Bernd Neff: Our main goal is to offer the entire tourism industry as well as media representatives and travelers a platform to meet and (re-) connect again after the crisis and tackle the road to recovery together. On the one hand, we want to look back and give an initial assessment of events. On other hand, we also want to look forward and gain inspiration for new ideas. We Love Travel! is also supposed to provide a platform for an open and constructive discussion on what the future of travel may look like after this disruption.



Travel And Tour World: What are the topics you will discuss at "We Love Travel!"?

Bernd Neff: The agenda of We Love Travel! features exhibition areas, networking formats, presentations and discussion panels which will depict a variety of topics. The program of the first day of our tourism recovery pop-up is curated by ITB Berlin and will focus on relevant subjects for a B2B audience such as the travel business of the future or sustainable innovation and transformation in tourism. On Saturday and Sunday, the program will be designed by Berlin Travel Festival and target the interests of consumers and travelers. We will inform about the changes and new requirements that impact travelling for example. But we will also hear stories from fellow travelers and adventurers from the Berlin Travel Festival community and learn from them in Workshops, Master Classes and DIY sessions.

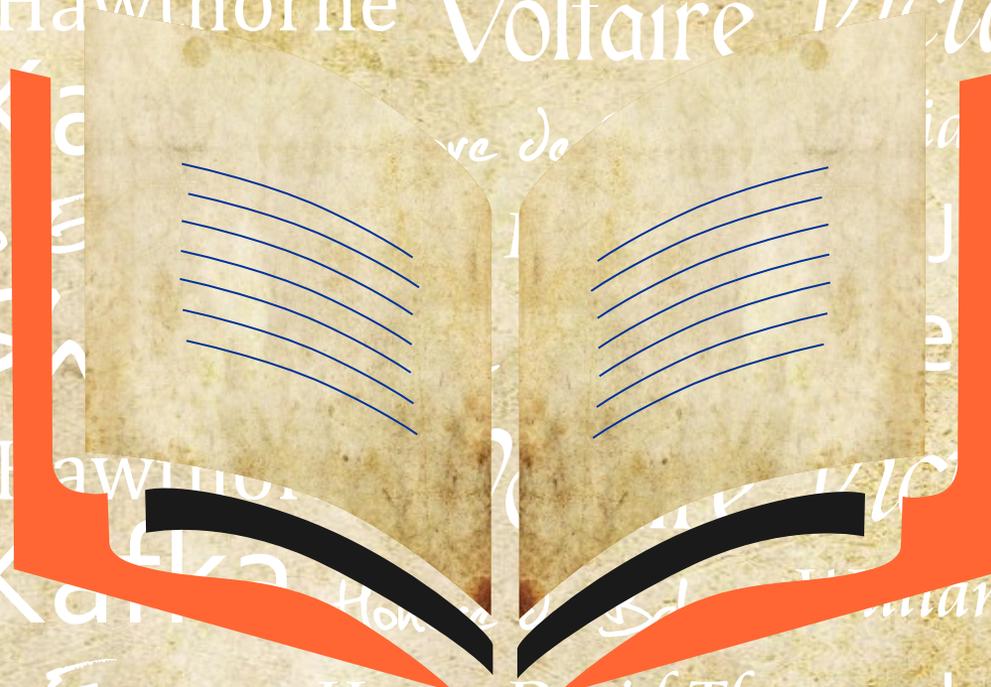
Travel And Tour World: Do you think that "We Love Travel!" will regenerate Europe's travel and tourism industry?

Bernd Neff: That is our hope at least! We are of the opinion that now is not the time to give up. Instead, we should all use this period to re-consider our business, find new partners and target new markets. Both the Berlin Travel Festival as well as the ITB Berlin are keen on inspiring the different industry members and give the necessary impulses to kick-start the recovery process.

Travel And Tour World: What are the challenges you are facing to organize this event?

Bernd Neff: The parameters for our tourism pop up are anything but static. In fact, there are a lot of unpredictabilities that we have to consider during the entire planning process. Our entire event sort of reflects the current zeitgeist in the (travel) world. Because the only thing certain at the moment is that nothing is really certain. We are meeting this challenge with a maximum of flexibility and openness. But the safety and health of all participants is, of course, our top priority. Therefore, we are in close contact with the authorities at all times, are constantly monitoring developments and are working on a comprehensive concept for hygiene rules and safety measures. In addition to this, we have come up with a hybrid event concept, meaning that we will combine in-person and virtual formats. This way, visitors can participate both in person and in a virtual space. Our exhibitors also have the option of presenting themselves in person and in digital form.





PLACES WITH PRICELESS LITERARY VALUES



Literary tourism is a very popular concept that celebrates the reading culture of classics and new books. Travel And Tour World picks some of the popular destinations around the world, which have priceless literary value.





Stratford-upon-Avon, U.K.

TThere are only few people around the world who have never heard of the famous English littérateur William Shakespeare, who was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, a town that has thus become one of the most visited literary destinations worldwide. Now more than three million international tourists visit Stratford-upon-Avon every year. Here, you can visit Shakespeare's birthplace, museum, theatre and many other attractions.





Dublin, Ireland

Ireland has always been the centre of new ideas. In modern times, Dublin is the hub of English culture. You are reminded of James Joyce's Dubliners or Ulysses. Joyce is of course not the only Irish innovator. In the 20th century, Samuel Becket introduced the absurd drama concept. Along with visiting the Dublin Writers' Museum and the National Library of Ireland, international visitors should definitely go for the Dublin Literary Pub Crawl.





Concord, United States

Concord is a small town in Massachusetts. It is a town of just 20,000 people, but this place played a significant role in the history of American literature and American Revolutionary War. The most important writers of their time, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne lived here in the 1800s and Henry David Thoreau, American philosopher and writer, was born here in 1817. In the 20th century, Concord developed into an affluent Boston suburb and tourist destination. This small city draws visitors to Old North Bridge, Orchard House and Walden Pond. The town retains its literary culture and is home to notable authors, including Doris Kearns Goodwin, Alan Lightman and Gregory Maguire.





Paris, France

Paris has a long and rich literary history as it has long been a centre of French and European culture where artists from near and far gathered to live their lives the way they wanted to. Beginning with the giants of French literature such as Voltaire, Victor Hugo, Alexander Dumas or Honore de Balzac and ending with American natives who fled to Paris for sexual, religious or personal freedom, such as Gertrude Stein, Ernest Hemingway or Francis Scott Fitzgerald to name a few, Paris has been home to such a plethora of literary gems.





Prague, Czech Republic

Prague is the setting for many famous novels, including the “Unbearable Lightness of Being” and “Prague Tales”. This UNESCO City of Literature's part in bolstering the written word unfolded in its cozy cafes, literary salons and scholarly circles that included the likes of Franz Kafka, Milan Kundera and Bohumil Hrabal.





Tangier, Morocco

This region is famously known as the home of Paul Bowles and is the partial setting for his novel, "The Sheltering Sky". Tangier captures the imagination of travellers looking to understand how "in Tangier the past is a physical reality as perceptible as the sunlight." The Beat generation were moved to explore Tangier, thanks in large part to Bowles' descriptions. William Burroughs, for instance, wrote and set "Naked Lunch" in the Blue and White City.



Travel News

Tobago Tourism Agency plans safe tourism reopening

The Tobago Tourism Agency Limited (TTAL) has decided to eventually reopen its borders and prepare the island for increased activity once again. The work centres on product development initiatives focused on collaboration, health and safety has also been established. During the time when the COVID-19 pandemic brought the global tourism industry to a standstill around March, the tourism authorities of Tobago grasped the opportunity to prioritise the developmental needs of the travel and tourism industry that was hit hard by the pandemic.



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Virgin Atlantic launches recapitalisation plan

Virgin Atlantic recently announced that it has decided to undertake a recapitalisation plan in order to step towards a secure future. The five-year business plan has been planned with the support from shareholders of Virgin Group and Delta as well as new private investors and existing creditors. It is likely to pave the way for the airline to rebuild its balance sheet. Virgin Atlantic said that it hopes to return to profitability from 2022 and mentioned that the move was necessary following the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on global economy.

Singapore and Malaysia will open green lane for cross-border travel from August 10

Singapore and Malaysia will implement a reciprocal green lane for cross-border travel between both countries from August 10, according to a press statement from both ministries of foreign affairs. In a joint statement by Malaysian Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan, both sides agreed to implement what they called the “Reciprocal Green Lane” (RGL) and “Periodic Commuting Arrangement” (PCA). The Reciprocal Green Lane” (RGL) allows cross-border travel for essential business and official purposes only but remains subject to Covid-19 preventive guidelines, including undergoing polymerase chain reaction swab tests.



Bali begins gradual reopening of tourism after three months of lockdown

Bali has finally decided to reopen its tourism sector. The island will now allow local people and stranded foreign tourists to resume public activities before foreign arrivals begin in September. Though the partial reopening began on July 9, Bali Governor Wayan Koster has announced that the island's reopening will be gradual. It has also been announced that Ngurah Rai International Airport will start welcoming international tourists from September.

WTTC launches campaign for mandatory usage of face masks during travels

The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) recently called upon all travellers to wear protective face masks as a part of their 'wear to care' campaign urging travellers to show care for themselves and others as a part of the new normal of travelling. The move comes following the ease of lockdown restrictions across various countries around the globe as they have slowly started reopening their borders. The advice from WTTC in favour of mandatory usage of masks comes from evidence that countries which are recovering faster and have successfully avoided the second wave of COVID-19 infections are the ones where use of face masks have been widely enforced and encouraged. WTTC is of the opinion that wearing of face masks acts as a signal of the return of safer travels, while also providing personal protection for users as well as those around them.



Eastern Airways introduce new route from Southampton Airport to Dublin

Eastern Airways recently confirmed that it has decided to introduce a new route from Southampton Airport to Dublin starting from August 17, 2020. The launch will be a part of the airline's expansion plans at the south coast of England airport. As the U.K.'s regional airline, Eastern Airways is expanding the number of routes it operates from Southampton to seven after reconnecting the airport with the Irish capital Dublin. The services will begin with a round-trip each day and the frequency will increase according to the rise in demand. The move comes after air travel slowly started to resume after COVID-19 travel restrictions were eased.



Travel Association

INDIGENOUS
TOURISM ASSOCIATION OF CANADA



AUTOCHTONE
ASSOCIATION TOURISTIQUE
DU CANADA

In an exclusive interview with Travel and Tour World, **Keith Henry, President and CEO of the Indigenous Tourism**

Association of Canada (ITAC) talks about the indigenous tourism industry of Canada, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the sector and the organization's efforts to step towards an eventual recovery of indigenous tourism industry in the country.

As the leading organization of the indigenous tourism industry in Canada, the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) focuses on creating partnerships between associations, organizations, government departments and industry leaders from across the country to support the growth of Indigenous tourism in Canada.

It includes more than 20 indigenous tourism industry organizations and government representatives from every province and territory in Canada. It also addresses the demand for development and marketing of authentic indigenous experiences among travelers.

Travel And Tour World: Tell us something about the Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC).

Keith Henry: The Indigenous Tourism Association of Canada (ITAC) is the principal organization with the aim of growing the indigenous tourism industry across the country. Guided by a vision to create and foster a thriving Indigenous tourism economy, ITAC establishes relationships with other groups and regions with similar mandates to form a network of operators across the country offering rich, transformative travel experiences that showcase a modern, authentic culture. By uniting the Indigenous tourism industry in Canada, ITAC works to enable collective support, product development, promotion and marketing of authentic Indigenous cultural tourism businesses in a respectful protocol.

Travel And Tour World: Share how the indigenous tourism sector functions in Canada. What are the authentic indigenous experiences travelers can look forward to while visiting Canada?

Keith Henry: Today, ITAC has 863 members; however, it acts on behalf of the best interest of the Indigenous tourism industry as a whole (1700 SMEs) to deliver authentic, memorable and enriching experiences. In order to do so, and help the industry rebuild post-COVID-19, ITAC launched 'Destination Indigenous' a domestic marketing campaign specifically encouraging, highlighting and educating travelers about the Indigenous experiences across the country that are welcoming Canadians as travel restrictions are loosened.

Travel And Tour World: How has the coronavirus pandemic impacted the indigenous tourism industry in Canada?

Keith Henry: Prior to 2020, Indigenous tourism was outpacing Canadian tourism activity overall and international demand for Indigenous experiences was at an all-time high but COVID-19 has put the industry and individual operators in jeopardy.

ITAC partnered with the Conference Board of Canada (CBOC) to survey Canada's Indigenous tourism sector and research shows that, due to COVID-19 and the global tourism industry grinding to a halt, there will be a 59.4 percent decline in employment (down to 14,624 jobs) in 2020 and a 65.9 percent decline in direct GDP (down to \$555 million), compared to 2019. The CBOC findings also estimate that around 714 Indigenous businesses could be at risk of closure in 2020-2021.

For a full picture of how COVID-19 has affected the Indigenous tourism sector, ITAC released a report on the financial challenges facing tourism operators and recommended stimulus solutions. It has also been working with government and regional partners to develop plans to sustain and recover Indigenous tourism in the face of COVID-19, releasing a revised 2020-2021 action plan and 2020-2024 recovery strategy.

Travel And Tour World: What are the challenges faced by ITAC due to the coronavirus pandemic?

Keith Henry: Travel restrictions and community safety protocols have both impacted the Indigenous tourism sector these past few months – with no one allowed to visit and participate in Indigenous tourism experiences. We have spent much of our time recently advocating for federal funding relief for our tourism operators who have lost financial stability; working with governments, financial institutions and other partners to provide for the members of our community. Ensuring their wellbeing, both physically and financially, has been the biggest driver of our efforts and we are committed to helping the community as a whole recover from COVID and building a more resilient future.

Travel And Tour World: As the world has finally started taking steps towards reopening the tourism sector, how has the ITAC planned to recover indigenous tourism in Canada?

Keith Henry: While in the past, International visitors have been the biggest economic contributors to Indigenous tourism, this year we have turned our focus to promoting domestic travel – what better time than now to learn about the history and culture of Canada's original inhabitants? We launched a new direct booking platform where travelers can learn about the Indigenous experiences available across the country that they can experience right now as internal restrictions loosen. We are working with individual operators and communities across the

country to determine when and how each will be open to visitors and the site will be continually updated as new experiences become available.

Travel And Tour World: How will the indigenous tourism industry of Canada function as a part of the 'new normal'?

Keith Henry: Community safety will always be our number one priority – we will never encourage or promote travel to or within our communities without tribal or community approval. Once an operator does open, they will follow all health and safety regulations recommended by federal, provincial and regional agencies to ensure safe experiences for guests.

Travel And Tour World: How does the future of indigenous tourism industry look like in Canada in the post-pandemic world?

Keith Henry: The future is bright. While the pandemic was certainly a setback for the industry, our people and communities are resilient, and we will rebuild to pre-COVID levels and beyond – although we know it will take some time. If there can be a silver-lining to this difficult time, we hope that this will refocus Canadians' travel appetites to looking within Canada to find the beauty that this country has to offer rather than travelling abroad. While we hope to one day be able to welcome international visitors once again at Indigenous tourism experiences, we are excited at the prospect of sharing our history and culture with more Canadians than ever before.

New Faces



Stefan Willensdorfer is the new General Manager for Intercity Hotel Graz Austria

Stefan Willensdorfer has been appointed as the General Manager of the new IntercityHotel Graz in Austria. In his new role he takes over the management of the pre-opening phase of the property. He will be responsible for the development of all areas of the hotel until the opening of the hotel in Styria and then take over the management in the company. The hotel will feature approximately 229 rooms and is set to open for autumn 2020.



David Federico appointed Director of Resort Activities at Nemaclin Woodlands

David Federico has been appointed as the new Director of Resort Activities at Nemaclin Woodlands Resort. He comes with nearly 20 years of experience as a discerning hotelier with a passion for serving guests and creating memorable experiences. Living and working coast-to-beyond-coast in New York City, Texas, Nevada, Arizona and Hawaii, he holds a luxury-resort mindset and is an ideal candidate for the role.

David Federico has been associated with brands such as Fairmont, MGM, Hyatt and Ritz Carlton over the years. He also holds a breadth of experience in food and beverage, stewarding, rooms division and in operations. All of this experiences combined together has been a part of his drive for success. He holds immense for travel, swimming, and water-activities. He also loves to spend time and travel with his family.





Sable Hotel Navy Pier welcomes Laurent Boisdron as the new GM

Laurent Boisdron has been appointed General Manager of Sable Hotel Navy Pier, a Curio Collection by Hilton in Chicago. The announcement was made by Robert Habeeb, Founder and CEO, Maverick Hotels & Restaurants. The hotel is the leading firm's flagship property and future staple in the city of Chicago.

Boisdron comes with more than 25 years of experience and is considered to be an industry powerhouse. He has been long associated with the hospitality space as an incredible innovator and has acquired extensive experience leading teams at upscale and luxury hotels worldwide. Prior to his latest role, he was leading the staff at Conrad Hilton Manila.



Jerre Fuqua appointed as the new President of Holiday Vacations

Jerre Fuqua has been appointed as the President of the recognised Wisconsin-based tour company Holiday Vacations. He is likely to begin his term on July 13 and will be reporting to Andrew Todd, CEO, Holiday Vacations and President and CEO of Xanterra Travel Collection, the holding company of Holiday Vacations.



Barb Wilson takes the chair of Chief of Staff for Port of Seattle

Barb Wilson has been appointed as the Chief of Staff for Port of Seattle's five-member elected body, the Port of Seattle Commission. She brings with her 25 years of experience in the private, public, and non-profit sectors in Seattle. Prior to her latest role, she served as the Director of Government Affairs at Vulcan Inc., the investment and project management firm founded by the late Paul G. Allen.



The island of history, heritage
& natural bounties

Saint Kitts



Recognised as the destination where history, heritage and abundance of natural bounties meet, Saint Kitts (St. Kitts) is an island in the West Indies. The first island of the Caribbean to be colonised by the British, Saint Kitts is known as the “mother colony of the West Indies” and stands as an example of the Caribbean struggle for freedom. In addition to the antique historical monuments and unique heritage sites, St. Kitts is also home to several mountains, rainforests, pristine shores and warm waters. Tourism forms an important part of the island and has reported a significant boom over the past few years. Though the COVID-19 pandemic harshly affected the tourism industry of the island, authorities are already planning to reopen the borders and implementing various safety measures to welcome back tourists in the island.

Things To See

Brimstone Hill Fortress and National Park

The UNESCO World Heritage Site stands as an important historical, cultural and architectural venue in St. Kitts. The fortress is an example of exemplary military architecture, built by African slaves under the directives of British military engineers. The construction began in 1690s and was completed around 1790s. The prominent monument is one of the earliest surviving constructions of the British polygonal fortification system. Visitors can get a deeper insight into the military lifestyle of 16th century as well as walk to the vantage point to experience some panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and the neighboring Caribbean islands.



Romney Manor

Initially owned by Thomas Jefferson's great-great-grandfather Samuel Jefferson, the manor was mostly run by the successive Earls of Romney over the years. Another key historic building in the island, the majestic manor is now home to Caribelle Batik Craft. Visitors can witness live demonstration of Batik designing in clothes, pillows and similar souvenirs as well as buy products from shops during their visit. The manor also has a vast 12 acres of beautiful garden surrounded by lush green trees and features a more than 300-years-old Saman tree.

Treasury Building and National Museum

The Treasury Building (erstwhile Old Treasury Building) is located in downtown Basseterre and is one of the most well-known architectural buildings in the island. The two-story building is also known as “The Gateway to the Island” as the archway of the building opened to the streets of Basseterre for many visitors arriving by boat. Since many years, a dome situated on the top of the building has served as a lighthouse for ships and boats that docked in the treasury landing pier. The building is also home to the National Museum of St. Kitts that features a huge collection of artifacts showcasing the culture and heritage of the island.



Basseterre Circus and the Berkeley Memorial

One can head to the Basseterre Circus after visiting the museum and explore the bustling streets of Basseterre and the Independence Square. The square is a reminder of the region's struggle for independence as slaves were auctioned in the same space for centuries. One can look around and notice the cellars in the colonial buildings even today. Inspired by London's Piccadilly Circus, the Basseterre Circus also has the Berkeley Memorial Clock with four faces in four directions of the circus and a drinking fountain.



Bloody Point and River

Considered to be a dark tourism site in the island, the Bloody Point is the spot where nearly 2000 Carib Indians were massacred by the joined French and British forces in 1626. The incident is considered to be one of the largest massacres in the history of the Caribbean. It is also believed that blood of the victims who died in the massacre flowed through the Bloody River for three consecutive days.

Fairview Guest House and Botanical Garden

Set on just 2 acres of land, the beautiful Fairview Guest House and the Botanical Garden were first established in 1701. One can enjoy a walk around the mansion that is full of antique furniture with the original kitchen and bath kept unchanged to the day. Each room of the mansion is painted with a different colour and the dining room has a mahogany table with silver service dining. The adjoining Botanical garden is large and filled with abundance of flora and fauna.



Things To Do

Ziplining in Central Forest Reserve National Park

Go ziplining with the Central Forest Reserve National Park, nearly 1,000 feet above the sea level. The two and half hours of tour covers five different zip lines providing the finest elevated views of the rainforest valley as well as the sea.

St. Kitts Scenic Railway Tour

Perhaps the best way to experience St. Kitts is to take the Scenic Railway Tour that allows travellers to ride along the old sugar railways, sugar plantations, open landscapes, churches and old buildings of the island providing the warmth and charm of St. Kitts at its finest. One can also enjoy traditional songs, drinks and desserts in their journey.



Hang out at the Beach

St. Kitts is also home to some of the amazing white beaches in the Caribbean. Visit the South Friars Beach, Cockleshell Beach or South Frigate Bay to relish the stunning waters and surrounding views. One can also enjoy various water sports at these beaches or try snorkeling at the Dieppe Bay Beach.

Hike to Mount Liamuiga Experience a great adventure by hiking up the Mount Liamuiga – a dormant volcano and trek along majestic waterfalls, tropical rainforest and even a cloud forest at a high altitude. Also spot colourful hummingbirds, monkeys and mongooses along the way.



Getting There

Saint Kitts is easily accessible by airways and waterways. The Robert L. Bradshaw International Airport connects to major destinations around the globe with several daily non-stop flight services. The Basseterre Ferry Terminal connects St. Kitts with sister island Nevis through waterways. Additionally, the St. Kitts Scenic Railway offers passenger service from its headquarters situated near the airport and mostly serves the tourists.

To plan a trip along with your furry best friend is perhaps one of the best travelling experiences of all time. Just like humans, pets can be great travel buddies and a good companion on the road. In fact, you may find nothing as satisfying as seeing the world with the little buddy you hold so dear to your heart. However, many people often worry about the risks and complications involved in travelling with pets and eventually end up cancelling a travel plan. It is true that pets adapt to the outside world differently but that does not mean one has to leave behind their favourite pets to quench their wanderlust. In order to travel with a pet, all it needs is a little bit of attention, care and responsibility. Read on to know the major requirements and steps that are necessary to make the travel plan with your pets a success.





Preparation

Before embarking on a journey with your pet, it is highly important to undertake some proper pre-travel preparations beforehand. Firstly, it is important to consider the age, health conditions and temperament of one's pet in order to ensure if it is fit for travelling. On the other hand, if the pet is relatively new to travel or has not been on a journey for a long time, it might be helpful to give it some light training like walking around the locality, going for local drives or placing it in crates often so that it gets used to the outside atmosphere and familiarise itself with sight, smell and sound of the outer world. It is also important to keep the pet calm and relaxed before taking it out for travelling.

Research

Every country and state across the globe has different rules and regulations for pets. Therefore, it is extremely essential to do an in-depth research about pet rules and protocols before travelling either internationally or even between the states. Every destination has its own requirements for pet travel and one can always research through government sites that provide pet immigration information. Some countries require health information, vaccinations (months before the travelling date), parasite testing 1-2 days prior to arrival, quarantine and even microchipping in some cases. Therefore, adequate research and expert advice are important points to consider when travelling with pets.

Documentation

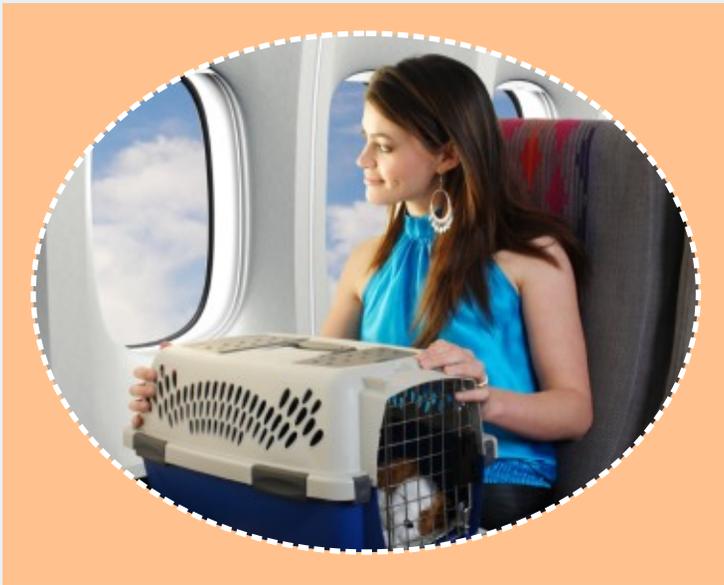
It is important to keep important documents of your pet all through the journey. Keep a copy of your furry friend's vaccination history and other medical documents during travel as it can be useful during any emergencies, medical or otherwise. Some countries in the European Union as well as United States, Canada and New Zealand have adapted a Pet Travel Scheme that allows pets to travel between member states without any quarantine requirements. These destinations also offer a Pet Passport that records official information about a particular pet and makes frequent travels with pets much easier. Certain countries even require specific documentation like Certificate of Veterinary Inspection, Official Health Certificate or Proof of Rabies Vaccines – which should be mandatory for the pet owners to carry to avoid any kind of hassle.

Vet Appointment

Taking your pet for a veterinary visit is also deemed essential before hitting the road. Besides giving any required health certification and vaccination, a vet can also provide health and fitness advice to keep pets safe and healthy during a trip. A pre-travel vet appointment has been long advised by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for all pet owners. A vet can also prescribe emergency medicines, simple exercises and various calming products for your pets – all of which are useful while travelling.

By Air

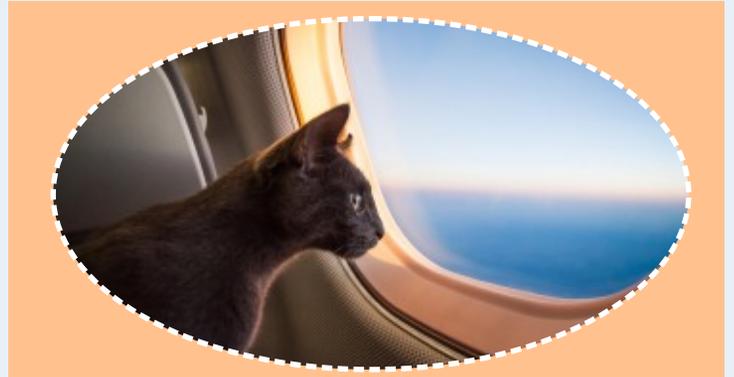
Just as it is important to know the pet rules of the destination you are travelling to, it is also necessary to be completely aware of the pet policies of the airline when taking the sky with your pet as policies and regulations regarding pets vary from one airline to the other. It is mandatory for pets to undergo screening rules that is often set by the Transportation Screening Administration at airports. Owners should know that they have to take out pets from the carrier and carry them during the screening process. Certain airports even offer private room facilities if pets are too scared.



It should also be noted that pets can fly in different directions during the flight. Smaller pets weighing around 20 pounds or the ones that can be tucked under seats with carriers are allowed to travel in cabin with an accompanying adult. However, larger pets are mostly put in air cargo. It is highly essential to consider the environment and safety factors before placing your pet in cargo flights as there are



various risks and complications associated with health and security of animals in cargo. One should also make sure to put the 'live animal' sticker and detailed contact information in the pet crate before flying.



It is also necessary to inform the cabin crew about one's pet so that they are open to adjusting the pressure and temperature of the cargo accordingly. Make sure that the crate has enough space to provide basic movement comfort to the pet during flight alongside proper ventilation. One can also put a frozen water bottle inside the crate to keep a pet hydrated and avoid spillage. Some airports often have pet relief areas but owners should also put potty pads in carriers for airports that do not have separate options.

In addition, one should always be prepared for delays and keep extra food packets and necessary pet toys. Experts advise to opt for direct flights to avoid stopovers when travelling with a pet to eliminate the complications of moving your pet from one flight to another. One should also keep in mind that travelling with a pet in cabin would incur additional charges and a separate pet ticket is required in case of cargo travel.



By Road

If you are planning to travel with your pet by road, it is always better to practice with short drives before starting a long journey in order to make your pet comfortable with the outdoor environment as well as the car. Arrange for a pet car seat and safely buckle up your pet in the back seat. Make sure that the temperature inside the car is controlled and adequate air is available in the back seat. However, do not keep windows and sunroof open while travelling with a pet and be careful about keeping the paws of your fur buddy inside. Do not let the pet wander around in the car and do not cuddle them while driving as it can be dangerous. Try to keep the sound system of the car to minimal and limited to front seat as most animals are often sensitive to loud music. Carry necessary pet items and accessories like carriers especially for long journeys. Do take breaks between long trips and never leave your pet alone in the vehicle. Additionally, you can also arrange for other means of pet travel by road through cabs, rented vehicles and taxis but make sure to discuss with owners and fulfill required formal necessities of travelling with a pet. There are also various boats, ships, buses and trains that allow special place for the furry travel partners.

Pet-Friendly Accommodation

Upon arrival at your destination, it is important to opt for an accommodation that is suitable for both you and your pet. Research, review and book pet-friendly hotels that come with properly arranged

amenities required for your pet. Note that most hotels levy additional charges for providing accommodation to pets. It is mostly convenient to rent ground floor rooms while travelling with your pet as it provides easy access to outdoors. Even pet-friendly hotels have several pet rules that owners should abide by and adhere to. Also, make sure to never leave your pet unattended in a hotel room.



Pet Travel Kit

Travelling with pet requires some must-have items alongside your own luggage. Invest in a good crate and always carry that during trips. Carry dry food items for your pet as well as essential medications and first-aid. Also carry small toys and pillows or blankets for comfort. You can also buy some calming products like pheromone collars, lavender oil or pet calming vests to relieve stress and trigger a relaxing sensation in pets. You can also carry items like safety vests, collars and muzzles for abiding by restraining requirements of any venue or destination.

PMS stands for Property Management System. This is a local hotel administrative structure which is used for reservation, checking availability and occupancy. The Property Management System can be connected with other hotel applications such as the hotel point-of-sale (POS) or the CRS. This hospitality interface to a CRS is an additional option to transfer availability, reservations and guest profile information. In addition, you can also know about the other interfaces, which are available to create further links to internal and external systems such as room key systems, restaurant and banquet cash registers, minibar, telephone and call centres, revenue management etc.

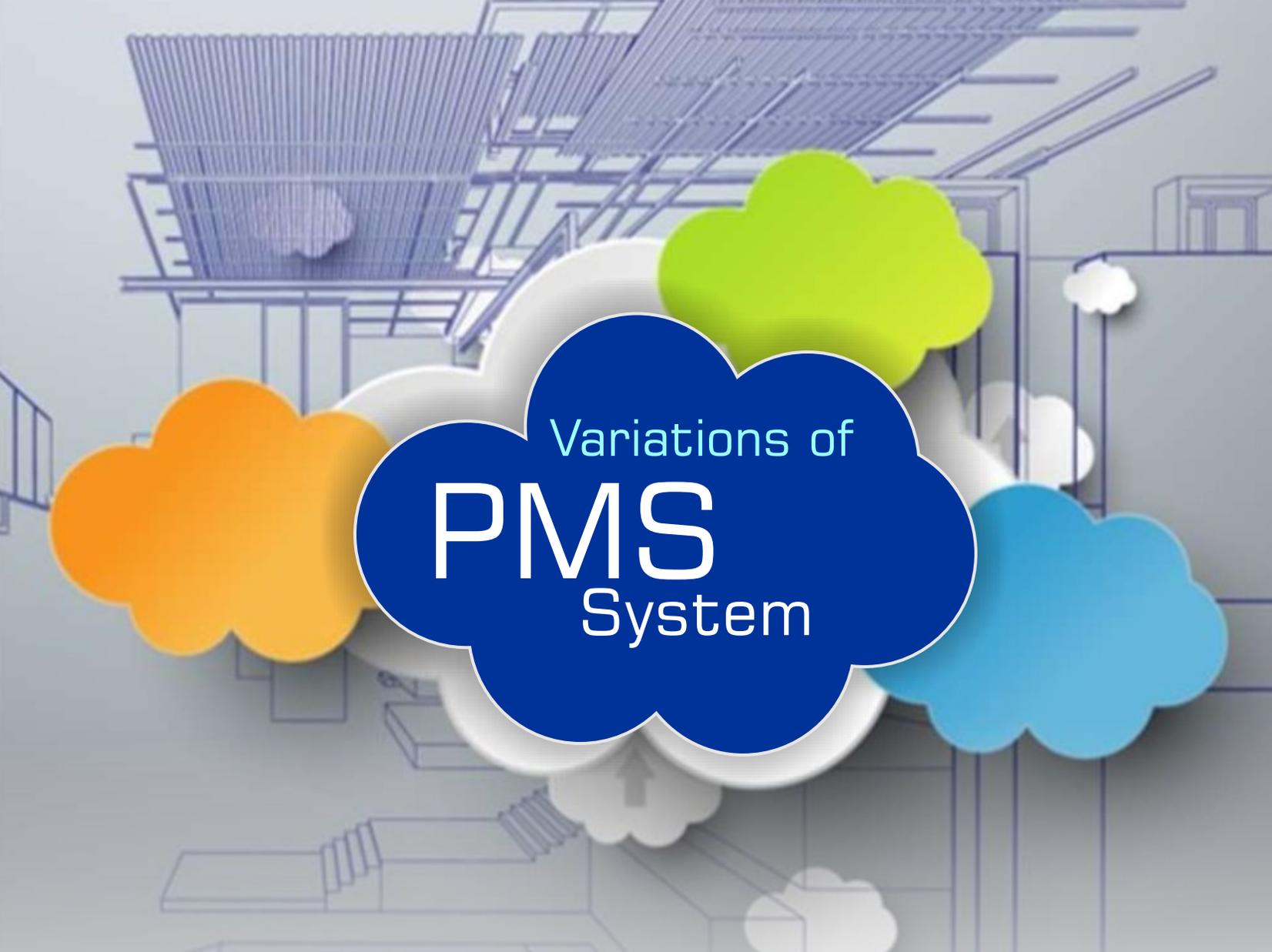
It's really a smart one

While using a smart Property Management System, a hotel's front desk staff can update the whole room and meetingreservation process – right from accepting bookings (coming via walk-ins, OTAs, travel agents), assigning rooms, confirming the same and sending out a confirmation mail to the guests. They can also take requests for cancellation or modification of bookings and upgrading of rooms.

PMS also includes Guest Registration, Check In/Check Out, Night Audit and Room Management.

Understanding Hotel Property Management System





Variations of PMS System

Local Server Hotel PMS

It is typically installed via a local server at the hotel level which could be accessed via desktops. The hotel staff needs to take care of capital investment in hardware, servers and license fee. They also need to pay for upgrades and must have a dedicated IT team to manage everything.

Hybrid cloud hotel PMS

This is the newest version of hotel management system application that has evolved from its legacy nature to a web front-end that can be accessed via web browser on a computer, tablet and mobile. This can be hosted locally at the property level or remotely. However, certain PMS functionalities/elements will still stay on the premise. Many on-premise PMS vendors are currently using this approach to retain their market share.



Web-native cloud hotel PMS

This is one of the most advanced forms of cloud-based PMS. Such property management system can be accessed from anywhere, anytime using a browser or mobile phone. It can be hosted either via private cloud or public cloud. Compared to on-premise or hybrid cloud version, this application is more nimble, flexible and open to multi-tenancy. For hoteliers, upgrades are for free. Most importantly, it offers open application programming interface for easy deployment of several third-party solutions.

Working with a cloud-based PMS platform where constant updates are made can help the hotel owner or the management staff to manage their property from anywhere at any time. The capabilities of Property Management System have expanded beyond core functions like room inventory, reservations, housekeeping and assigning guests to rooms, to include all areas of hotel operations.

It is so much easier to integrate with third-party technologies, including channel managers, point-of-sale systems and payment gateways and accounting systems like Xero or MYOB.

EXPLORE WORLD-CLASS

MUSEUMS



Experiencing to see a piece of fine art or important historical artifact with your own eyes is great, but during this pandemic when the whole world is at home, there are some museums around the world that bring to you virtual exploration. Visit some of the popular museums from the comfort of your own home. Here are a few of them.

Guggenheim, Bilbao

The Guggenheim is famous for the stunning titanium and steel building within which it is located. The distinctive structure was designed by Frank Gehry as a tribute to Bilbao's naval and industrial heritage. You can search for extensive collection of modern art through its interactive virtual tour.

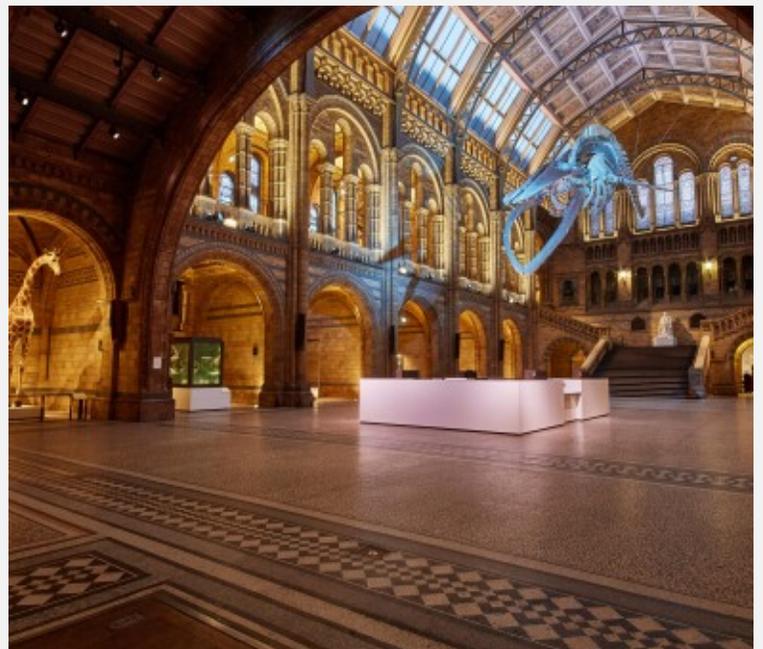
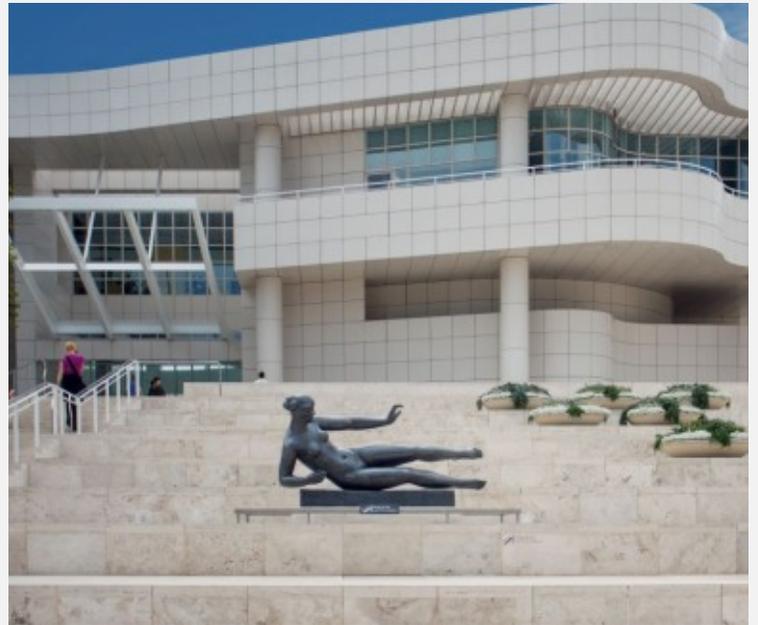


Natural History Museum, London

The Natural History Museum in London is loved by both tourists and locals. Housing hundreds and thousands of treasures, visitors can wander around its storied corridors for hours and still not see all it has to offer. See virtually how the medieval age penguin eggs were brought home in some of the first Antarctic expeditions and see some of the oldest human skeletons ever found in the Darwin Center.

J Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

J Paul Getty Museum offers one of the most complete collections of artistic treasures in the world. Its most prized pieces, Irises by Vincent van Gogh and La Promenade by Renior, both feature on the virtual tour. A museum view is also available on the Google Arts and Culture tool.



Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

Van Gogh Museum is one of the most visited sights in the city. Van Gogh's story of tragedy and genius resonates with millions of people around the world, many of whom come here to marvel at over 200 paintings, 500 drawings and 750 personal letters. The Google Arts & Culture tool now offers admission to the entire museum, allowing you to get up close and personal with some of the most treasured artworks in the world.



Virtual Museum, Malta

The underwater cultural heritage sites are the most thrilling specimen to an enthusiast. The Virtual Museum – Underwater Malta offers an online platform that brings underwater cultural heritage to the surface and into the homes of the general public.



Picasso Museum, Barcelona

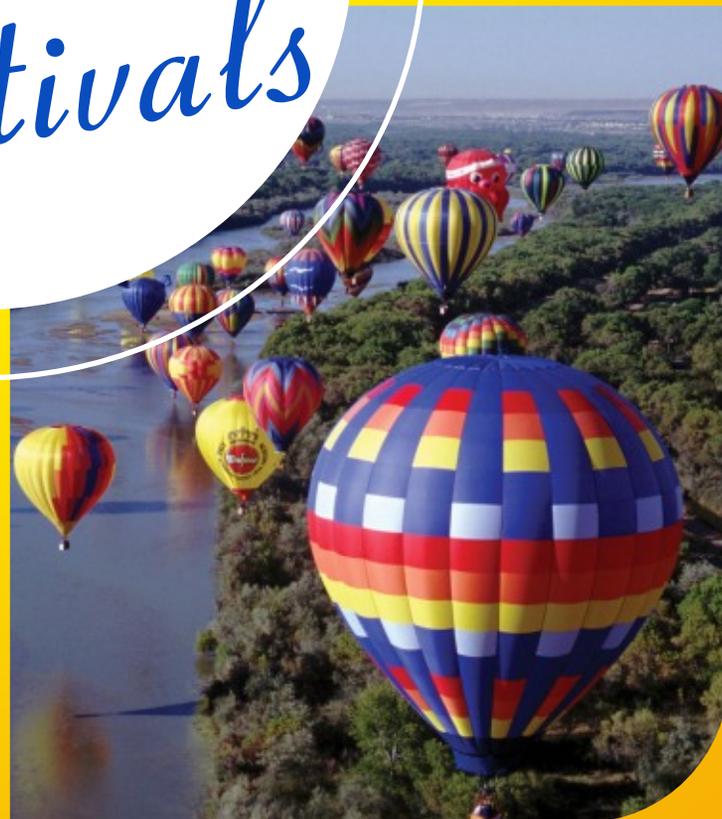
The Picasso Museum, located in the heart of Barcelona's Latin Quarter, is visited by millions every year. They come to marvel at the best works of some of the world's most famous painters, but stay to marvel at the best-preserved medieval architecture in Barcelona. The online tour offers a great selection of Picasso's finest works as well as virtual tours of the museum's beautiful courtyards.

Musée d'Orsay, Paris

Musée d'Orsay was originally built as a grand railway station and hotel, but now it houses the largest collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist works in the world. Much of this can now be experienced through its virtual tour, offering a complete history of the Impressionist era through the works of Monet and Gauguin amongst many others.



World Festivals



International Berlin Beer Festival is a paradise for beer lovers. With as many as 2,200 varieties of beer from approximately more than 340 breweries belonging to over 85 different countries, this extravagant extravaganza attracts huge crowd from across the world. Over a 2 km-stretch, apart from the numerous beer tents and stalls, 18 different stages are set up for performers to play live music and participate in stage shows.

International Berlin Beer Festival

When: August 5 to 7, 2020

Where: Berlin, Germany

International Balloon Fiesta welcomes you to a grand festival of balloons. Here you can catch the remarkable mass ascent of over 150 hot air balloons of different shapes, sizes, colours and designs and a few solar-powered balloons as well.

International Balloon Fiesta

When: August 11 to 14, 2020
Where: Bristol, U.K.

A mélange of massive art installations, kite-flying sessions, hula hooping sessions, night-long dance parties and fashion show is the highlight of the annual Burning Man festival in Nevada. The temporary art displays are created which may include replicas of a huge dragon sauntering along the desert or cars which resemble magic carpets. Spread across 5 miles, the camp is arranged in a semi-circle fashion with a wooden effigy (called the Man) in the centre. Strolling at sunset along the surrounding area of Playa, a prehistoric lake, is very relaxing.



Burning Man Nevada

When: Aug. 28 to 05, Sep. 2020

**Where: Black Forest Desert
Nevada, USA**

Notting Hill Carnival has performers dressed in multi-hued costumes, samba dancing, calypso music and other forms of live music ranging from dub to reggae. This two-day festival of the Caribbean community attracts people from all over the world.



*Notting hill
Carnival,
London*

When: August 28 to 29, 2020

**Where: West London,
England**



Messe Berlin (Singapore) announced that this year ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia will go virtual from 21 – 23 October 2020. Originally scheduled on the same dates, the annual travel trade show will instead be held on a virtual platform, due to the uncertainty over continued global travel restrictions and safe distancing measures.

The virtual event will be hosted on a newly developed platform, also known as the ITB Community. ITB Community is set to launch on 12 August 2020. In addition to hosting this year's edition of ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia and the inaugural Travel Tech Asia, ITB Community will also facilitate a year-long virtual engagement programme for key stakeholders which will allow them to continue forging new partnerships and strengthen existing business relationships with important players in the region. Ms Katrina Leung, Managing Director, Messe Berlin (Singapore) said that they undertake a huge responsibility as Asia's leading travel trade show to adapt and serve the travel trade community in recovery. Taking into consideration the need for businesses to connect, it is imperative for them to unite the community to enable business meetings to take place for a seamless knowledge exchange. ITB Community will be the latest permanent addition to a wide variety of offerings we have for their customers to tap into for their business success. The three-day virtual event for ITB Asia, MICE

Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia will incorporate key features such as business matching between buyers and sellers, top notch conference sessions, virtual exhibition and more, creating a marketplace for the travel industry.

ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia, Travel Tech Asia 2020 – A Virtual Experience The 2020 virtual edition for ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia and Travel Tech Asia will be complimentary and serves as a value-add to all confirmed exhibitors of ITB Asia 2021. With over 5,000 pre-qualified international MICE, corporate and leisure buyers invited with a full-access pass to the exclusive virtual event, the three-day event will be available 24/7 to attendees to access business matching, conference sessions and the exhibitor directory.



ITB Asia, MICE Show Asia, Travel Tech Asia 2020 – A Virtual Experience

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Mr Andrew Phua, Executive Director, Exhibitions and Conferences, Singapore Tourism Board, said that ITB Asia is Asia's leading marketplace of ideas, concepts and products for the international travel industry. We are heartened that it is pivoting to a new event model this year, demonstrating the travel trade's ability to innovate and continue forging important partnerships in this challenging time. Virtual and hybrid event formats are likely to continue to complement future physical events, and they are confident that Singapore will continue to lead the way forward in this area.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3-5 Aug
2020



AAA & WCTIE

China Import and Export Fair Complex, Guangzhou, China
www.aaaexpos.com



IT&CM CHINA

China
www.itcmchina.com

3-5 Aug
2020

4-6 Aug
2020

2020 World Cultural & Tourism Industry Expo (WCTIE 2020)

Date: Aug 4-6, 2020
Venue: China Import & Export Fair Complex, Guangzhou, China

2020 WORLD CULTURE AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

EXPOCHINA IMPORT & EXPORT FAIR COMPLEX,
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www.wctiexpo.com



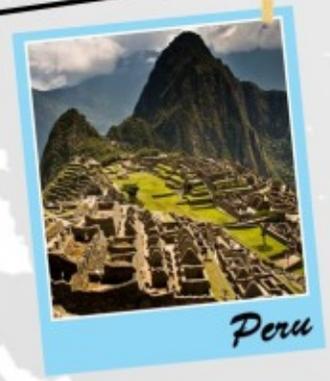
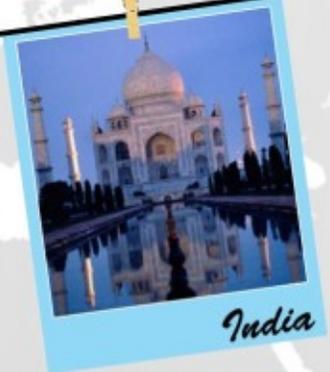
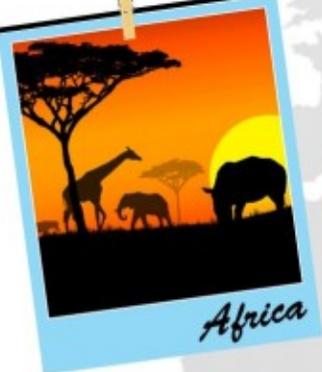
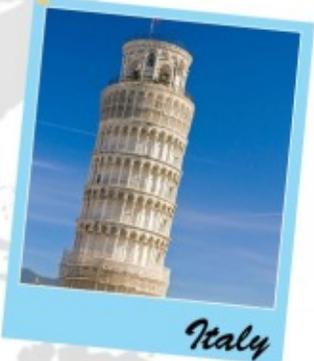
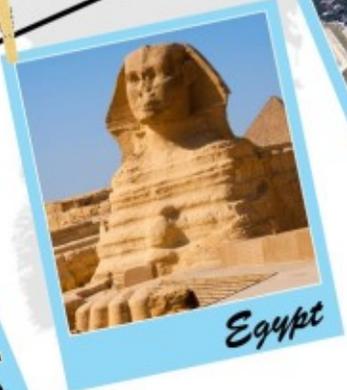
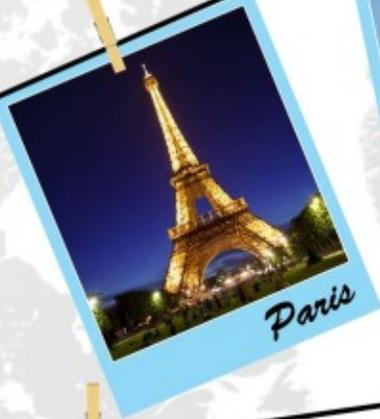
HOTEL DEVELOPMENT CONCLAVE

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20-21 Aug
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Travel AND Tour™ WORLD



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