

Travel AND Tour™

Volume: 12, Issue: July 2020

WORLD

Travel Association



Tech iT

A look into
new airport
technologies
in a
post-pandemic
world

Special Feature

SALOU

Advancement of airport safety and security



05- Meetings Point: Discover New Zealand's capital city with deep nature and water ports. The location has created a walk-able central business district that encourages a now-famous café and craft beer culture. Read here to know about **Wellington's** rich business and tourism sector that upheaval country's economy.

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24- Cover Story: National parks across the globe are considered to be one of the most popular tourist destinations. These parks also serve as conservation and protection areas. However, there are few national parks that are underrated as compared to others. Read on to know about some of the lesser-known national parks in the world.





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Dear Readers,

The world is now gearing to open the travel industry by embracing “new normal”. Most of the tourism body and convention bureaus after having close collaboration with governments are introducing new safety and hygiene protocols for the tourists. For this, we are highlighting different aspects of tourism development in post-COVID-19 times. In this issue, we have listed some of the lesser-known national parks around the world. These bio reserve areas offer you easy accessibility, an abundance of wildlife, camping opportunities, and breathtaking natural landmarks. Next is the travel trends which are now gradually changing while the whole world is embracing “new normal”. Our travel trends are changing due to the high influence of digital technology. Whether it is a MICE centric incentive travel or leisure travel, we are discussing here with our think tank and factual research about the new traits in travel.

As New Zealand has zeroed down its coronavirus cases, we are featuring here the MICE and tourism opportunity of its capital city Wellington. Here you can discover this city with its flourishing business and tourism infrastructure, which boosts the country’s economy. On the other hand, you can get to know about the most extreme destinations to visit, where you can end your adventure thirst. In Europe, Spain has already opened its borders to welcome European Union tourists. For this, we are focusing on Salou, which one of the most popular holiday beach destinations. We are featuring an all exclusive interview of Terry Dale, the President and CEO of the United States Tour Operators Association where he discussed how they are taking precautions to fight against deadly COVID-19 pandemic. He also shared his views on how the United States is opening its doors to welcome tourists. There have been a vast amount of interesting technological developments in airport security and the need for quicker, more seamless processing and baggage checks has led the likes of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to explore new safety, hygiene, and security lanes. There have also been the most noteworthy efforts to develop the accuracy of threat and disease detection. In this issue, we are focusing on these new technologies, which not only provide better safety and security but can also help to improve the passenger experience.

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Wellington

Meetings Point

Exploring city's MICE Opportunities

Discover New Zealand's capital city, Wellington that brims with deep nature and water ports. The city has an easily accessible central business district that encourages a now-famous café and craft beer culture. Read here to know about the Wellington's rich business and tourism sector that boosts country's economy. Surrounded by nature, Wellington has compact design with a powerful mixture of culture, history, nature and cuisine. You can fuel up your visit with a cup of strong coffee and state-of-art beer.



Image Courtesy@ Hayden Bishop

Strong Economy

The economy of Wellington is primarily service-based, with an emphasis on finance, business services, and government. New Zealand is the centre of film and special effects industries and is increasingly a hub of information technology and innovation, with two public research universities. Wellington is one of the popular seaports that serve both domestic and international shipping.

Best Convention Centers

Most of the conference and convention venues in this capital city have flexible space, the most updated audio-visual technology, sumptuous catering serving local cuisine and a superb location. Below are listed the best conference venues in Wellington.

Grand Mercure Wellington

The Grand Mercure is a top-rated exhibition and convention venue in Wellington. Grand Mercure Wellington offers four versatile conference spaces— The Port Room, The Starboard Room, The Nautical Room and the Abel Tasman Room.

Wallaceville House

It is a massive and stunning palatial venue located about 25 minutes outside of the Wellington CBD. Wallaceville House offers onsite accommodation for multi-day conferences to keep your guests conveniently in one place. The thriving and well-manicured gardens in this architectural delight serve to spark creativity in your attendees. Wallaceville House has two main conference rooms, both with generously sized areas and stunning views of the surrounding estate.





Cliftons

Cliftons is a fantastic conference venue in the city that boasts the best views of Wellington. They are all about hosting corporate and educational events. Cliftons also offers acoustically treated walls, whiteboards, 360-degree magnetic strips and ergonomic furniture.

Terrace Conference Centre

This conference and exhibition centre has 14 rooms spread over four levels. They can fit up to 100 people in a room depending on the style of the event. Each level is a fully equipped conference space with high-speed wifi connectivity and client-controlled air-conditioning. Terrace Conference Centre firmly supports a successful conference which requires good food, good space and reliable equipment.

TSB Arena

TSB Arena has more than 2,186 sq.m. of open space that can be arranged in almost any setup for an event. This flexibility makes TSB Arena as one of Wellington's most favoured venues for large scale conferences. The vast space makes for easy flow in, out and around the venue. The dramatic black curtains can be draped as a backdrop in the venue to convert the arena from a daytime conference space to a themed gala dinner venue. This multifunctional conference and exhibition venue can host up to 6000 people depending on the type of the event.

Doubletree By Hilton Wellington

Situated in Wellington's Central Business District(CBD), Doubletree By Hilton Wellington offers guests a city escape. Dine at Spring restaurant featuring Asian and European inspired cuisine. Doubletree By Hilton Wellington is close to several noted attractions like 60 m from Wellington Cable Car and 270 m from TSB Arena. The Te Papa Museum is 950 m away. At the hotel, each stylish room is equipped with flat-screen TV and WiFi. After a day of exploring, relax in your rain shower. The reception can offer helpful tips for getting around the area. A modern fitness centre is available for guests to enjoy.

Sofitel Wellington

Centrally located in Wellington CBD , Sofitel Wellington offers stylish accommodation with picturesque views of hillsides and Botanic Gardens. The guests can visit a variety of local restaurants and cafes, all of them located within walking distance. Beehive Parliament Building is 100 m from Sofitel Wellington, while Parliament Buildings is 300 m from the property. The nearest airport is Wellington Airport, 6 km from the property. This hotel features 129 guest rooms, each with vintage-inspired gold and bronze coloured decor and a luxurious rain shower. They offer an LCD TV and the most modern sound system.



Luxury Accommodations

Quest on Thorndon

Quest on Thorndon offers art deco-style apartments with free WiFi and a fully equipped kitchen. Guests receive free access to the CityFitness gym located next to the property. Quest on Thorndon Apartments are located in the government district of Thorndon, just 2 minutes' walk from Sky Stadium and Central Station. It is one of the closest accommodation options from the Interisland Ferry Terminal, just 8 km away.

U Residence Hotel Wellington

U Residence Hotel Wellington is located in downtown Wellington, a 3-minute walk from the Te Papa Museum. It offers a fitness centre and free Wi-Fi access. The modern apartments come with a balcony. All apartments feature air conditioning, laundry facilities and an en suite bathroom.

Edgewater Lodge B&B

Located on the waterfront, Edgewater Lodge B&B offers rooms with sea views. Edgewater Lodge B&B is 2 km from Lord of the Rings Studios and a 15-minute walk from The Weta Cave. Wellington Airport is 3 kms away. The guests can enjoy a gourmet New Zealand breakfast while overlooking the ocean. Free on-site parking is provided.



What to do in Wellington after hectic work

Unwind yourself at Oriental Bay, Wellington's city beach and dig into the many museums, art galleries and theatre shows that make up the pulsing cultural scene of the city. Wellington also has some adventure activities like mountain biking and sea-water kayaking, as well as beautiful walks around the harbour and surrounding hills.

Go to Mount Victoria

Located in between a stunning harbour and protected green belt, there's nothing quite like the view from Mount Victoria Lookout in the central city of Wellington. Here you can drive all the way up or walk through the nature trails. You can grab some fish and chips and sit on the grass as the sun goes down and the lights come up.



Explore to Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

The Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa is one of the most incredible museums in New Zealand. Here you can discover some of the greatest treasures of the country— its unique natural environment, Māori culture, art, heritage and its fascinating history.

Ride to Wellington Cable Car

The cable car allows all tourists an easy access from the central business district to the Kelburn lookout and the top entrance of the Botanic Garden. Take this trip to enjoy eye-catching views and harbor Te Whanganui-a-Tara. From here you can have an easy access to many of Wellington's top attractions—the Cable Car Museum, Botanic Garden, Space Place (Carter Observatory & Planetarium) and Zealandia Eco-sanctuary.



Image Courtesy@ Tourism New Zealand



Image Credit: WellingtonNZ.com



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Special Feature

*Enjoy a summer
holiday in*

An aerial photograph of a bustling beach in Salou, Spain. The beach is filled with people, colorful umbrellas, and lounge chairs. Palm trees line the shore, and modern buildings are visible in the background under a clear blue sky. The water is a vibrant blue, with many people swimming and playing in the surf. A large green oval with a white border is overlaid on the bottom right of the image, containing the word 'SALOU' in a bold, dark blue, serif font.

SALOU

Salou is one of the tourist-friendly beaches in Spain. Situated on the Costa Dorada coast, this pristine sea beach is just 80 km south west of Barcelona offering you a wide range of water sports activities and dazzling nightlife.

As Spain has reopened its doors to the European Union travellers from June 21, based on the reciprocity and similar epidemiological conditions of the nations, the country is trying to recover its tourism infrastructure.

The Iberians were the first to establish settlements at Salou, followed by the Romans, when the town was known as Salauris. Later, the medieval King Jaume I set sail from these waters as he and his troops headed off to conquer Majorca. Several centuries later, the natural port's heavy trading activity ended making it the target of numerous pirate attacks.

Crystal clear beaches

The centre of attraction of Salou is its peaceful beaches. Here most of the visitors head for the large main sandy beach called Playa Llevant. The holidaymakers like it because the waters are generally calm and shallow. This beach is ideal for kids too. There are lifeguards and a first-aid station on hand. You can hire sun-beds. There are plenty of bars, cafes and snack bars for ice-creams. The pedestrianised promenade lined with palm trees and gardens is called Passeig Jaume I. There is a monument celebrating this Catalan king who sailed from Salou in 1229 to recapture Mallorca from the Moors. The Font Llumiosa is a beautiful fountain designed by Carles Buida. People gather here at night when it is lit up in spectacular fashion. Other beaches and coves such as Playa de Ponent, neighbouring Cambrils and the Playa de Capellans overlooked by cliffs as well as Cala Llonguadets Cove, Llarga Beach, Penya Tallada Cove, Font Cove, Vinya Cove and Crancs Cove. You can opt for scuba diving, water-skiing, windsurfing, jet-skiing, sailing or kayaking and make the most of your time with adventure.



Customs House and Harbour Master

The old Customs House and Harbour Master's Office are 19th century buildings worth seeing. The Church of Santa Maria del Mar was built in 1766 for sailors. Inside are paintings by Josep Grau Garriga.

Watchtower

It makes a nice walk to go to the watchtower built in the 16th century to look out for signs of pirates approaching. Today it houses a museum. The gardens have Adoma Puig's sculpture of three maidens.

Masia Catalana

This is a faithful reproduction of a Catalan farmhouse giving you a glimpse of what it must have been in the olden days in this region when there was no such thing as tourism. The farming methods and tools are on display inside.



Dazzling Nightlife

While exploring here, head for the main street of Carlos Buigas where many of the vibrant bars are to be found and also the popular nightclub Kiss. There are plenty of English and Irish pubs and bars such as Murphy's Sports Pub, 007, Tropical, Bus Stop, Flash Back and Underground.

Playing Golf

Stay at any luxury hotel and play golf at the Lumine Golf Club where there are three courses to choose from—two of which (north and central) were designed by the famous Australian golfer, Greg Norman.



TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

In an exclusive interview with **Terry Dale, the President and CEO of the United States Tour Operators Association**

speaks about how United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) is taking necessary steps to fight against deadly coronavirus outbreak that shattered the global travel-trade industry. Here, he also explains how the U.S. travel industry is reopening in this post- COVID-19 time.



Terry Dale, President and CEO, USTOA

Representing nearly \$19 billion in revenue, the member companies of U.S. Tour Operators Association provide tours, packages and custom arrangements that allow more than 9.8 million travellers throughout the world with unparalleled access, insider knowledge, peace-of-mind, value and freedom to enjoy destinations and experiences across the entire globe.

Each member company has met the travel industry's highest standards, including participation in the United States Tour Operators Association's Travelers Assistance Program, which protects consumer payments up to \$1 million if the company goes out of business. As a voice for the tour operator industry for more than 40 years, United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) also provides education and assistance for consumers and travel agents.

Travel And Tour World: What are the necessary precautions United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) have taken to fight against this deadly pandemic? What are the safety protocols United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) maintaining to reopen travel trade industry.

Terry Dale : Recognizing the complexity of tour products, United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) collaborated with its counterparts in Canada (Canadian Association of Tour Operators (CATO) and Europe (European Tourism Association (ETOA)) to develop a set of health and sanitization guidelines specifically for our tour operator members called “TOURCARE” Guidelines for Tour Operators. The guidelines establish recommended procedures for tour operators to provide protection for travellers against the transmission of COVID-19, and include recommendations for staff, suppliers, and the traveling public.

TOUR CARE GUIDELINES FOR TOUR OPERATORS

STAFF TRAINING AND SANITIZATION:

- Promote frequent hand washing among staff and passengers.
- Provide hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol to be available for passengers and staff at all possible times.
- Recommend the use of face masks and gloves to staff when interacting with passengers where appropriate.

- Promote the use of face masks to passengers.
- Exercise physical distancing, where viable and in line with the latest official guidance or requirements, including motor coaches and other modes of transportation.
- Train all staff that may interact with passengers to ensure they are familiar and compliant with these guidelines and those set out by the public health authorities mentioned above.



SUPPLIER GUIDELINES

- Comply with applicable government and health authority requirements as well as these guidelines.
- Employ touchless solutions when possible – and reduce touch points at operational
- levels, such as ticketing, payments, identification, check-in, etc.
- Where possible, use face masks and gloves when interacting with passengers.
- Sanitize high-touch areas frequently using products and disinfectants approved by
- the EPA and local health authorities for effectiveness against COVID-19.

PASSENGER COMMUNICATION AND RESPONSIBILITY:

- Passengers may be required to declare prior to departure that if they are
- exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, have tested positive or have been in
- contact with a COVID-19 patient within 14 days of departure.
- Passengers will be advised of and asked to adhere to recommended hygiene
- procedures, such as traveling with and wearing a face mask and/or gloves when asked to do so, or limiting physical contact wherever possible.
- Prior to departure, passengers may be asked to complete a pre-boarding questionnaire or declaration confirming they have familiarized themselves with health and safety guidelines and requirements related to their tour.

TOUR OPERATORS WILL ENDEAVOR TO:

- Have personal protection equipment, such as face masks, hand sanitizer, and wipes available for passengers, as needed, or advise passengers where such items may be required for their tour.
- Provide oversight of and ensure compliance with the TOURCARE Guidelines for Tour Operators related to staff, suppliers, and passengers.
- Provide a downloadable leaflet to all passengers describing these guidelines and recommendations or direct passengers to where such information is available.

➤ Communicate the health and sanitization procedures passengers will encounter throughout their trip as far as reasonably possible.

Travel And Tour World: Do you expect any tourism boom in United States in post COVID-19 time?

Terry Dale : According to a recent survey of Active Members, half (52%) of the tour operator respondents anticipate United States operations restarting between September and October 2020. Respondents also showed new optimism for an October 2020 return to business, with the response jumping to 15%, compared to 0% reported in the May survey.

Travel And Tour World: How are you working with hotel and airlines to reopen tourism business?

Terry Dale: United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) members are working together with partners on the ground to determine when each destination is ready to welcome travelers back. Making sure that the community will feel safe is a priority. These relationships will also be more important than ever as tour operators work with hotels, airlines, ground operators, museums and more to ensure the safety of their guests and that any new guidelines and health safety protocols are being met.

Travel And Tour World: Tell us about the losses you are right now facing due to COVID-19 outbreak.

Terry Dale: The travel and tourism industry is trending to be one of the hardest hit industries as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19). The industry will be seeing the effects of this pandemic for months, if not years, to come. According to a U.S. Travel analysis, COVID-19 and the associated travel restrictions will result in an \$809 billion hit on the United States economy and a loss of 4.6 million travel-related American jobs this year, nearly doubling the unemployment rate in the US. Additionally, total spending on travel in the United States, which includes transportation, lodging, retail, attractions, and restaurants, is expected to fall by \$355 billion.

Travel And Tour World: Are you getting any aid from the government to boost travel and tourism industry?

Terry Dale: United States Tour Operators Association (USTOA) has been closely monitoring COVID-19 aid, relief, and the security act. By gathering intelligence from Washington, DC on a daily basis, USTOA has shared resources to ensure that members are getting all the help they can.

Since March when a group of leaders from 10 travel and tourism associations convened in person and by phone in Washington, DC, collectively we've kept the pressure on to ensure our vast combined membership and the millions of jobs represented have a voice as further government relief is discussed.



“Sustainability as the New Normal” a Vision for the Future of Tourism

To mark World Environment Day, the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme led by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) announces its new vision for global tourism– growing better, stronger, and balancing the needs of people, planet and prosperity. The One Planet Vision for the Responsible Recovery of the Tourism Sector builds on the UNWTO Global Guidelines to Restart Tourism, with the aim to emerge stronger and more sustainable from the COVID-19 crisis. This combined effort comes at a time when several destinations around the world begin to ease restrictions on travel and mobility and the tourism sector is getting ready to resume its activity with the lessons learned from the pandemic.

Kenya launches new virtual safari campaign

Kenya cabinet secretary for tourism and wildlife, Najib Balala, recently launched a virtual live stream safari campaign. The platform would be used to showcase game safaris in parks and reserves across Kenya. It has been introduced with the aim of ensuring the connection of the world with Kenya amid the present COVID-19 pandemic, nationwide lockdowns and travel restrictions all across the globe.

The brand new campaign will be broadcasted for six weeks all around the world. The initiative will

also be part of the ongoing 'Magic Awaits' campaign led by the Kenya Tourism Board. The tourism ministry has mentioned that the campaign comes as a response to one of the trends that saw an increasing demand for indoor activities as countries across the globe continue to observe isolation in their own homes. As the quest for discovery and enthusiasm for travel took a digital turn, several countries and tourist organisations came with online tours and virtual travel experiences.



Etihad Airways launches health and hygiene programme to fight against COVID-19

Etihad Airways has launched 'Etihad Wellness', an expanded and more comprehensive health and hygiene programme and customer guide. This builds on the stringent measures already put in place by the airline to deal with COVID-19. The programme will be championed by the introduction of specially trained Wellness Ambassadors, a first in the industry, who will provide essential travel health information and care so guests can fly with greater peace of mind. Etihad Wellness initiatives will be communicated through an easy-to-use online guide highlighting the high standards of cleanliness, health and hygiene being applied at every stage of the customer journey. This includes culinary hygiene at the airline's catering facilities and food testing laboratory, aircraft cabin deep-cleaning, check-in, health screening, boarding, in-flight experience and product, crew interaction, arrival, and ground

transportation.

Israel offers million dollar aid to hotel sector

The Israel ministers of finance and tourism, Israel Katz and Asaf Zamirn recently announced that the government will be providing a NIS300 million (£67 million) aid package for the domestic hotel sector. The decision arrived after a meeting between the ministers and representatives of the tourism industry. The move comes in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic that has harshly impacted the hotel industry across the globe.

The ministers addressed the effect of the border closures and travel restrictions on the hotel sector. The widespread termination of employees was also discussed. As a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Israel too closed its borders to foreign arrivals back during March in order to curb the spread of the deadly coronavirus. This in turn, disrupted the tourism industry as well as the hotel sector.



Israel's Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Health outlines “Purple Standard” for hotel operations

Israel's Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Health have outlined a new “Purple Standard” for operating hotels in the country. For hotels to remain in compliance with the new standard, they must reach and maintain several benchmarks outlined by Ministry of Health officials that will deem the property safe for travelers. Asaf Zamir, Israel's Minister of Tourism said that it is extremely important that hotels across their country maintain a high level of health and sanitation standards to ensure travellers' safety when visiting Israel. When they are able to open their borders to international travelers again, they want tourists to feel confident that Israel is taking every precaution to ensure they have a safe, pleasurable vacation in the beautiful and vibrant country.



Czech National Museum opens face mask exhibition

In a sign that the coronavirus will one day be history, the Czech National Museum has opened an exhibition of face masks worn to protect against the infection. The Czech government was one of the first to make it compulsory to wear a mask outside the home. With 8,725 cases and 304 deaths so far, the country has been less badly affected than some in Europe, although opinions differ on what difference masks have made. When the crisis began, industrially made masks were in short supply, which prompted a nationwide effort to make them at home. Museum Curator Mira Burianova said that there is a huge amount of products today, it is tough to say what should be left for future generations. With masks, it is clear cut, they are a symbol of the situation.

LESSER-KNOWN NATIONAL PARKS

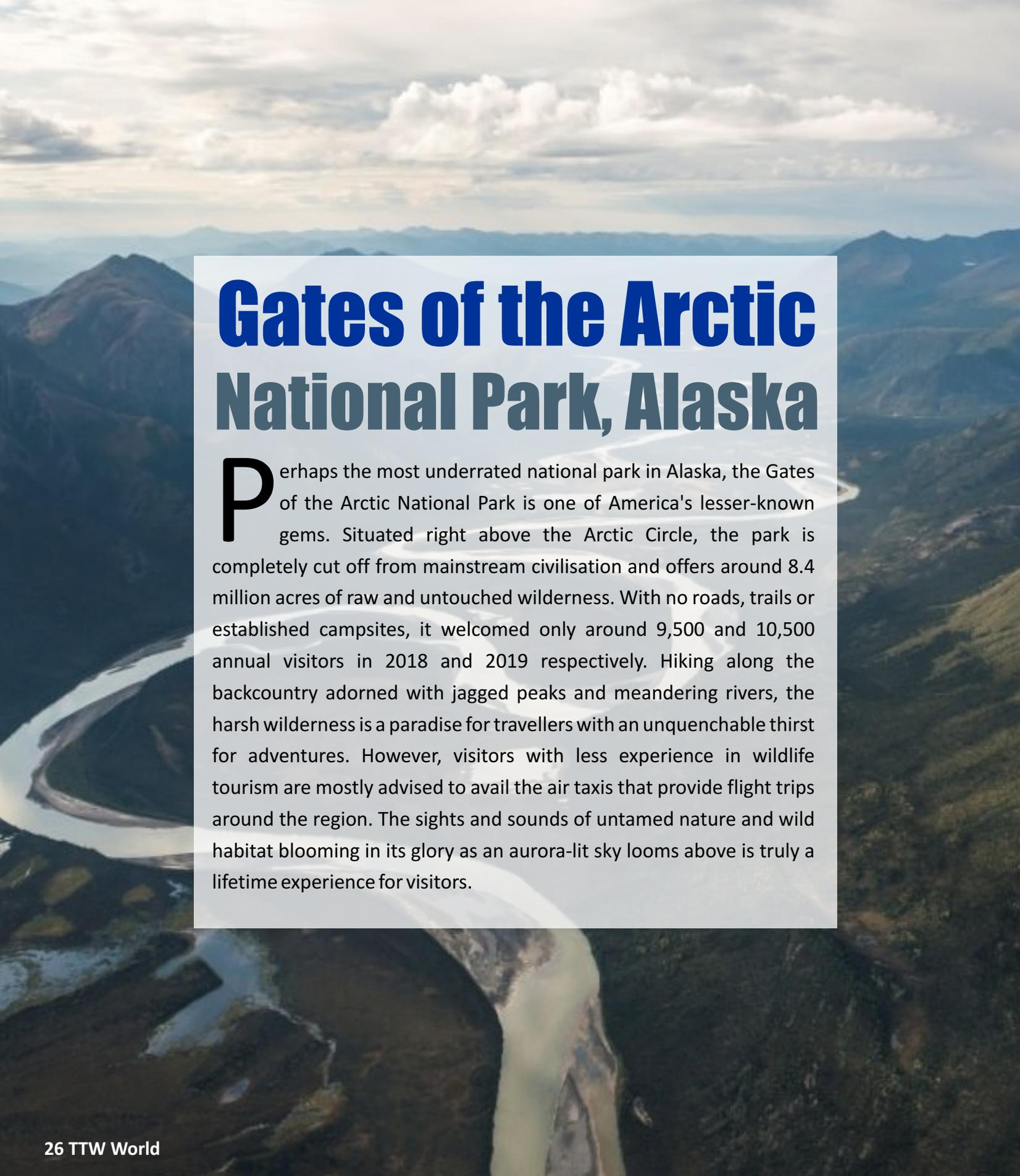
National parks have long served as conservation and protection areas for Mother Nature and its vast flora and fauna. Over the years, national parks gained immense popularity as tourist destinations and attracted tourists from far and wide. Travellers with love for adventure and wildlife find national parks extremely satisfying. The world is home to numerous national parks and most of them welcome millions of visitors each year.

There are parks which are not as popular as the Yellowstone or the Grand Canyon but these too provide unimaginable fun. These underrated parks are mostly situated in remote and pristine areas away from the cacophony of daily modern life. But they are also enriched with abundance of natural bounties, some unique wildlife collection and extraordinary environmental features. Read on to know about some of the most spectacular yet lesser-known national parks around the world.



Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida

Located around 113km west of Key West, Florida, this national park is a conglomeration of 7 small islands and is mostly an open water space. The islands are part of the Florida Keys reef system. The remote location of the park has kept it away from the public eye. Accessible only by seaplane or boat, the park attracts only 70,000 to 80,000 attendees every year. The total number of annual visitors in 2019 was approximately 79,200. The national park is home to Fort Jefferson, the largest all-masonry fort in the U.S. It was initially built to combat Caribbean pirates even before the Civil War era but serves as a night sky gazing and camping zone for visitors at present. The park consists of 99% water but the vast underwater life is still unknown to many. The water shelters magnificent coral reefs and deepwater shipwrecks. Besides the rich marine life, the park also welcomes numerous varieties of tropical birds.

An aerial photograph of a vast, rugged landscape in Alaska. A wide, winding river with a light-colored, silty water flows through a valley, surrounded by dark, forested mountains and hills. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall scene conveys a sense of wild, untouched wilderness.

Gates of the Arctic National Park, Alaska

Perhaps the most underrated national park in Alaska, the Gates of the Arctic National Park is one of America's lesser-known gems. Situated right above the Arctic Circle, the park is completely cut off from mainstream civilisation and offers around 8.4 million acres of raw and untouched wilderness. With no roads, trails or established campsites, it welcomed only around 9,500 and 10,500 annual visitors in 2018 and 2019 respectively. Hiking along the backcountry adorned with jagged peaks and meandering rivers, the harsh wilderness is a paradise for travellers with an unquenchable thirst for adventures. However, visitors with less experience in wildlife tourism are mostly advised to avail the air taxis that provide flight trips around the region. The sights and sounds of untamed nature and wild habitat blooming in its glory as an aurora-lit sky looms above is truly a lifetime experience for visitors.

A photograph of a mountain ibex with large, curved, brown horns. The ibex is standing on a rocky, grassy slope. In the background, there are green mountains and a blue sky with white clouds. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent white box.

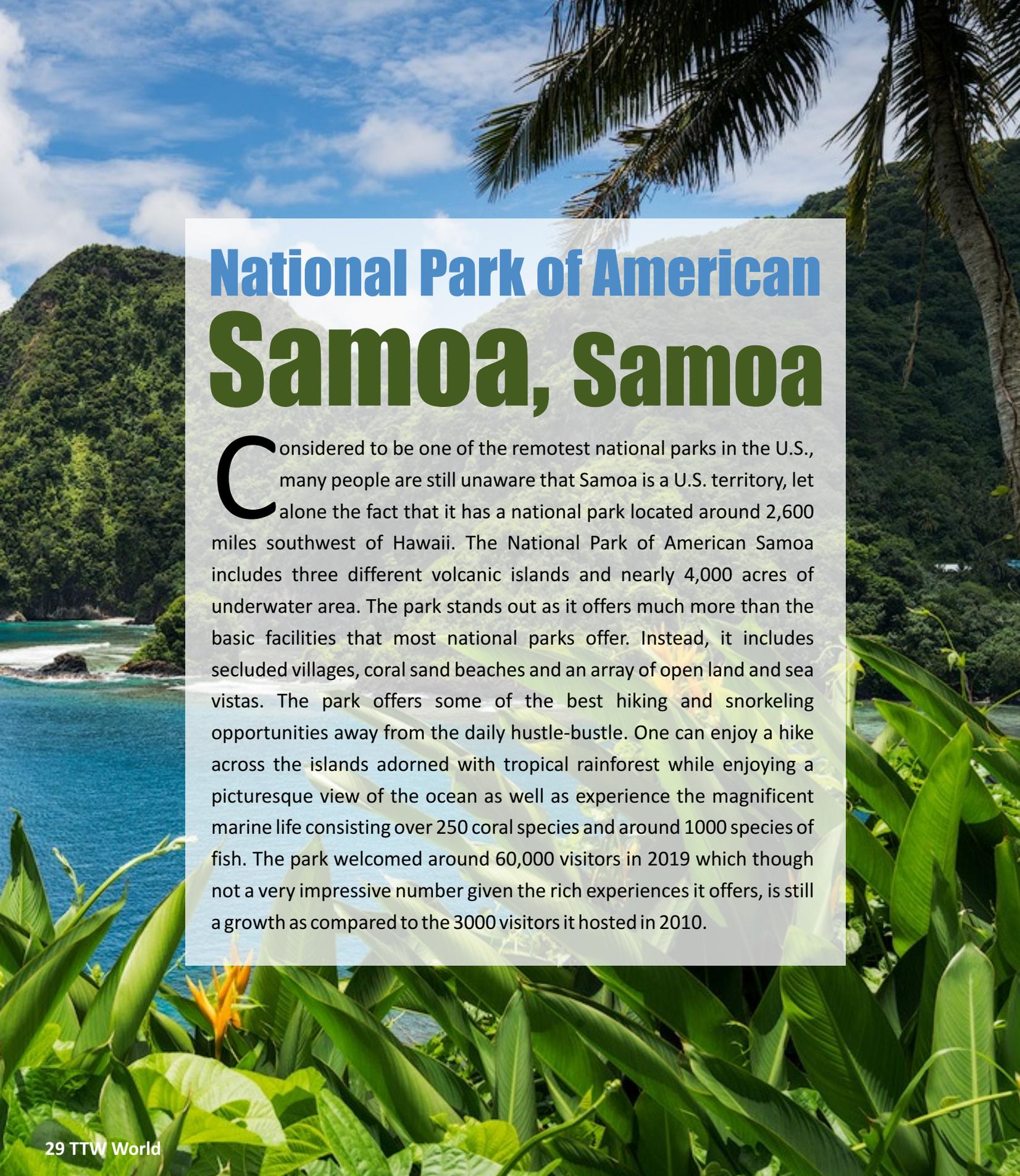
Gran Paradiso National Park, Italy

This park stands as one of the oldest protected areas in the Alps but is still unknown to the general public or tourists. Situated in the Graian Alps, the park was initially built to protect the Alpine ibex but currently protects numerous other species. It also shelters a vast collection of flora and fauna nestled between the 703 sq. km. of pristine alpine terrain. The park is also ideal for hiking activities during summer and skiing during winter. One can also enjoy the picturesque views of the dense green forest amid the beautiful mountain range or spot hundreds of birds, butterflies and other wildlife residing in the park.



Mutawintji National Park, New South Wales

Australia is considered to be one of the regions with the maximum number of national parks in the world. The Australian state of New South Wales has the second largest collection of national parks in the country but only a handful of them are popular among the visitors. There are still many parks in the state that stand away from the general limelight. One such national park is located in the northwest of New South Wales, amidst the endless arid and deserted stretches, approximately 130km from Broken Hills and White Cliffs. A maze of valleys and open gorges leads to the land adorned with shades of red and brown with patches of green here and there. The park is home to hundred years of Aboriginal history and is an important site for indigenous Australians. Besides the rugged natural bounties, the park also allows one to explore heritage and cultural sites like rock engravings, ochre paintings and hand stencils. One can also enjoy bushwalking trails, camping or picnic activities as well witnessing the local wildlife and outback birdlife. Rare reptiles and endangered species can also be spotted here.



National Park of American Samoa, Samoa

Considered to be one of the remotest national parks in the U.S., many people are still unaware that Samoa is a U.S. territory, let alone the fact that it has a national park located around 2,600 miles southwest of Hawaii. The National Park of American Samoa includes three different volcanic islands and nearly 4,000 acres of underwater area. The park stands out as it offers much more than the basic facilities that most national parks offer. Instead, it includes secluded villages, coral sand beaches and an array of open land and sea vistas. The park offers some of the best hiking and snorkeling opportunities away from the daily hustle-bustle. One can enjoy a hike across the islands adorned with tropical rainforest while enjoying a picturesque view of the ocean as well as experience the magnificent marine life consisting over 250 coral species and around 1000 species of fish. The park welcomed around 60,000 visitors in 2019 which though not a very impressive number given the rich experiences it offers, is still a growth as compared to the 3000 visitors it hosted in 2010.

Travel researches, studies and statistics over the years have often showcased that travel traits and trends vary from one generation to other. Numerous travellers around the globe belong to different generations and possess certain common as well as distinct travel characteristics.

The oldest generation of travellers is the Baby Boomers born between 1946 and 1964. They are often the elderly and retired individuals looking for relaxation and rest in their trips. They are followed by the Gen X travellers born somewhere between 1965

and 1980. These travellers often look for family-oriented trips that can take them away from the daily hustle of corporate life. The youngest generations of travellers belong to Gen Y and Gen Z. Highly influenced by digital and technological changes, they are the most spontaneous, adventure-seeking and frequent travellers. The travel traits of these two groups are mostly similar. However, Gen Z travellers take the trends of Gen Y travellers another level higher.

Travel traits of Baby Boomers succeeding generations

*A look into travel habits
of Baby Boomers,
Gen X, Gen Y
and Gen Z*

Purpose of Travel

Most Baby Boomers are either retired individuals or approaching towards retirement. Hence they mostly seek pleasure and relaxation in their trips. The destinations they select are often places they have wished to visit in their lifetime. Sometimes they are also “bucket-list” oriented and their trips are a part of their wish list.

On the other hand, Gen X travellers mostly include people who are presently settled and are running a family. Their purpose of travel is mostly to spend a quality time with family. It can often be noticed that travellers from this generation are either travelling with family and friends or travelling to visit family members and friends. They also look for rest and relaxation in their trips. According to MMGY Global Travel Intelligence, around 35% Gen X travellers revealed unwinding as the primary purpose of their travel.

As the generation born between rapid cultural and technological changes, the travel trends of Gen Y travellers or Millennials span across a variety of purposes. The purposes of their travels range from once-in-a-lifetime travel experiences, cultural tours, outdoor activities, family trips and romantic getaways. They mostly travel to have new experiences and adventures. Millennials often travel for work- or business-related activities.

Gen Z consists of the youngest generation of travellers who often travel for curiosity, adventure, new experiences, exploration, learning and making memories. They are the virtual backpackers of travel and take the most spontaneous travel decisions. These travellers also rely on their bucket-lists and travel to unique destinations where they can completely immerse themselves. This generation also has the most open-minded travellers who value local connections and social experiences. Besides mainstream travelling, the Gen Z travellers also travel for public events like concerts and programmes. Lately, they have also started indulging in the concept of 'solo travel'.

Travel Duration

According to multiple studies, Baby Boomers take the maximum trips out of all the generations. With no corporate inhibitions, no time barrier, an increased urge of spending time alone or with immediate close ones and usually a lesser restriction on budget as compared to other generations, they do not shy away from travelling multiple times a year. Reports also show that boomers often opt for longer trips ranging somewhere between 7-10 days.

On the contrary, Gen X travellers are considered to be the group that travels the least out of all generations. With majority of them having corporate responsibilities and commitment towards older

parents and kids, they often opt for trips that are short in nature. Weekend getaways are the most popular kind of trips among the Gen Xers. As they have to constantly maintain the work-life balance, they only travel once or twice a year. Their trips are often in line with family availability and so they tend to travel during popular holidays or vacations.

It is often considered that Millennials are frequent travellers. However, the duration of their trips is the shortest among all. Their trips are spontaneous in nature and they opt for short 2-3 days of break rather than long ones. The travellers from Gen Z also opt for similar travel duration. In fact, this generation plans for the shortest trips out of all generations and travel only once or twice in a year.



Nature of Travel

Given their age and outlook of life, most Boomers like to take one step at a time during their trips. They mostly avoid rushed travel and spend time contemplating every step from planning to return. Personal sightseeing, relaxing activities, good cuisine, comfortable accommodation, cultural experiences and a constant assurance of safety and security are some of the key necessities of their trips. Travellers from Gen X also seek relaxation and mostly go for destinations that can help them unwind from the hustle-bustle of the daily work life. Studies show that beach vacations and wellness travel are highly popular among Gen X. They also look for destinations and activities that are kid-friendly and can keep the kids engaged. A research by Expedia group found that Gen X travellers are also attracted towards cultural experiences and enjoy museums, art galleries and historical sites.

The nature of travel for Gen Y travellers is as varied as their purposes. While some look for exhilarating adventures, others seek relaxation on the beach. Reports also show that majority of Millennials look

for “offbeat” destinations to travel. Their necessities often consist of the best of both worlds and include fun activities, adventure, sightseeing, food and drink as well as cultural experiences, local connections and relaxing getaways.

As the most advanced set of travellers, the Gen Z individuals look for places that can offer them the most unique and authentic experiences. They are also seekers of adventures, local flavours, interactive experiences, fun activities, more exploration options and venues that can be considered 'instagrammable'. Similar to Gen Y travellers, they also look for once-in-a-lifetime experiences and picturesque destinations where they can create memories.



Travel Planning

As compared to other generations, Baby Boomers are often dependent on other sources for their trip planning. Studies show that more than 50% Boomers resort to help and support from Online Travel Agencies to arrange their trips. These travellers also largely rely on reviews from other individuals. However, they are also the generation that is least influenced by advertisement. They do not resort to ad-based travel.

Though Gen X travellers also depend on Online Travel Agencies at times, they mostly plan their trips based on word-of-mouth recommendations from friends and families and their shared interests. They also depend on reviews like the Boomers and often take

travel decisions based on informative content about destinations and brands.

Most travellers from Gen Y depend on self-planning and arrange for their own trip. They often seek authentic experiences and take self-guided booking with the help of search engines, OTAs, online information and communication with brands and select the most beneficial deals and offers.

The most tech-savvy generation of travellers, Gen Z individuals are self-planners and arrange for their own travels with high dependency on technology. They are also the generation most influenced by advertisements and plan their travels based on online inspirations and reviews.



Travel Budget

According to AARP, Baby Boomers are likely to spend more on their travels than other generations. Not only do travellers from this generation have a better financial stability but they also tend to spend more to find more comfort and reliability. Better qualities of travel, prolonged stays and more expensive destinations result in Baby Boomers spending more on travelling. Similarly, Gen X travellers also tend to spend a generous amount for their trips though it is still less as compared to Baby Boomers. Travellers of this generation mostly seek value for money. They often consider special offers and deals while taking their trips. Their travel budget stands in the intermediate state, making it slightly less than the preceding generation and slightly more than the succeeding ones.

The Gen Y travellers consist of individuals who are still relatively new to settlement. Some of the Millennials are employed, some are fresh to the corporate world and a few continue to look for changes while some are still unemployed. This makes them a budget-conscious generation who are often careful about budget during travels. They often spend their budget for experiences rather than things and believe in peer-to-peer economy.

Meanwhile, the Gen Z travellers are presently considered to be the most budget-conscious travellers. As the youngest travellers, Gen Z has only started to arrange for their own travel expenditures. They often select the cheapest travel options and refrain from undertaking expensive

accommodations or other traditional travel-related luxuries. Restricted budget is the primary concern for Gen Z travellers.



Digital Influence on Travel

Although the present Baby Boomers are not completely away from digital influences, it certainly does not play an integral role in their travel plans as compared to other generations. However, Boomers do seek technical support for travel plans and bookings as well as prefer using smartphones during their travels. But they are not the travellers influenced by social media and often lack the tendency of sharing travel experiences on social media.

Social media and digital assistance has slowly started making its way into the travel behaviour of Gen X travellers but have not completely infiltrated them yet. This generation takes help of OTAs, travel review sites and search engines while also depending on word-of-mouth and real time experiences. They have also started using social media channels to share travel their own stories but do not prioritise the same over actual experience.



Gen Y travellers are at the helm of travel digitisation. Digital influences shape their travel decisions to a large extent. Travel statistics from Virtuoso show that around 90% Millennials resort to online travel booking and nearly 87% of travellers from this generation use digital tools to compare different options. They also show an affinity towards sharing online travel experiences much more than the generations before them. Usage of smartphones before, during and after travel is also another key trend among Millennials.

However, the maximum digital influence can be noticed on the Gen Z travellers as they are the generation born in an age equipped with technology and digitalisation. This generation of travelers uses digital technologies much more than the Millennials. They are highly influenced by advertising and social media experiences of other individuals. They often rely on smart technologies while planning their trips and are the first group of travellers to excessively share their experiences in digital platforms.

Advancement of airport safety and security

**A look into
new airport
technologies
in a
post-pandemic
world**

The outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has completely changed the face of air travel and airport operations. As passenger traffic and international travel demand plunged, aviation industry became one of the worst-hit sectors due to the COVID-19 crisis. However, as the world has slowly started to recover and travel operations have begun once again, airports have started adapting to the 'new normal'.

Numerous airports across the globe have undertaken advanced safety and security measures with the help of the latest technologies to ensure safety of passengers as well as employees. Read on to know how these technologies would facilitate safe and secure travel through airports in a post-pandemic world:

SANITISATION

In the wake of the coronavirus crisis, sanitisation and hygiene has become an integral part of all walks of life. Airports across the globe soon embraced various advanced sanitisation methods to maintain the safety and hygiene of passengers. The Hong Kong International Airport became one of the first airports in the world to launch a disinfection channel, named 'CleanTech'. The latest technology offers a full-body disinfection facility in an enclosed space. The channel is expected to destroy 99.95 germs in a 4-second disinfection process. In a similar attempt, the United Airlines has introduced 'United CleanPlus' solutions at the Denver International Airport and other hubs of the airline. Various Clorox products like sneezing guards and sanitisation wipes have been introduced for passengers alongside electrostatic spraying technologies for enhanced cabin sanitisation. Similarly, nearly every airport around the world have deployed sanitisation stations and introduced new technologies to desterilise luggage like fogging, Ultraviolet light or X-ray security machine.



MONITORING

In an effort to curb the transmission of the COVID-19 virus, many airports have decided to monitor passenger behaviour and movement. Several airports have installed additional cameras and sensors for monitoring purposes. Thermal screening has become a mandatory part of the 'new normal'. Various airports have taken a step ahead and launched symptom questionnaires and thermal cameras. The Abu Dhabi International Airport now has testing kiosks by Etihad Airways capable of monitoring body temperatures as well as heart and respiratory rates. The busiest airport in the U.S., the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport has joined hands with TRAX Analytics to introduce 34 technologically advanced restrooms that have sensors to monitor traffic flow, restrooms and staff status and location on a facility map. The technology can also display cleaning information via digital signage outside each location and send real-time alerts to custodial staff and inform them about required service in a restroom via the mobile application. An advanced monitoring system has also been embraced by the U.K.'s Gatwick Airport that is using the technology to specially monitor planes arriving from countries majorly affected by the deadly coronavirus. Doha's Hamad International Airport has also undertaken an enhanced monitoring system. All staff at the airport is now wearing smart helmets that can monitor body temperature using thermal imaging, Artificial Intelligence and augmented reality.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

One of the biggest advancements undertaken by various airports to enhance safety and security is the incorporation of Artificial Intelligence into airport operations. Autonomous vehicles, robots and other AI equipment have started playing a key role in maintaining safety and security in airports. These technologies help in dispersing crowds, maintaining hygiene and disinfecting. The Intelligent Sterilisation Robots at the Hong Kong Airport feature an ultraviolet light steriliser and an air steriliser and operate at all times in public bathrooms and key operating areas in the terminal building. These robots are capable of destroying up to 99.9% of bacteria in the airport's vicinities within ten minutes. Similar autonomous robots have also been deployed in Doha Airport that emit a concentrated UV-C light and can eliminate majority of infectious microorganisms. The robots at Pittsburgh's airport have started to try robotic floor cleaners that can work all day long. The robots use disinfectant and use a burst of UVC light as an enhanced layer of sanitation. On the other hand, Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport has installed virtual information booth with a representative who can virtually speak to any customer through a live video feed. Meanwhile, Japan's Haneda International Airport has started using WHILL autonomous drive system to transport passengers with reduced mobility without the need of any physical contact. The self-driving machine can also return to its base automatically after transporting the passengers to the designated boarding gate.



CONTACTLESS OPERATIONS

It has been a while since the aviation industry adapted to the usage of voice-activated mobile technology for various operations from ticket booking to flight assistance. Due to the recent unprecedented course of events, airports across the world have started relying on contactless operations to a large extent. The airports are encouraging the use of contactless technologies. Facial recognition and biometric scanning have started replacing driving license and passport verification to monitor passengers' identities. Mobile phones are used beyond digital ticket booking and will soon serve as a remote control device to interact with check-in or baggage kiosks and further help in eliminating contact with surfaces. Dubai International Airport is already using a smart gate and biometric tunnel for immigration control. Similar smart technology for avoiding queuing and facilitating rapid passenger verification is used across airports in Orlando, Miami, Boston, Doha and Athens among others. The Abu Dhabi International Airport became the very first in the world to launch a Touch-less Keypad Technology across 53 elevators in the airport to avoid contact with elevator buttons and eliminate the risk of virus contamination from the surface. Similar technology is also deployed in China's Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport. The airport has also adapted QR code scanning technology to facilitate paperless travel. The newly transformed LaGuardia Airport in New York also introduced contactless technology recently.



SECURITY CHECKS

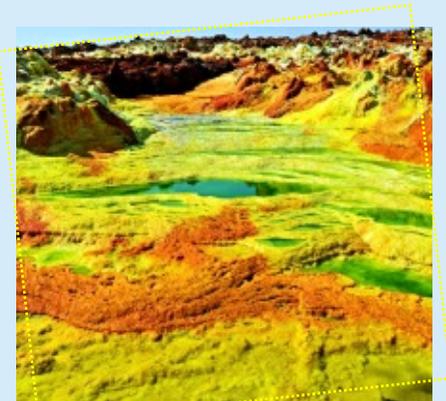
Advanced technological support has become equally important for security checkpoints at airports. More and more airports are trying to introduce technologies that can facilitate faster security checks with ensured physical distancing. The Montreal-Trudeau International Airport allows passengers to book their own screenings. Therefore, smart technology can enable passengers to book a particular timeslot to enter security checkpoints and maintain physical distance with other passengers as well as surfaces. The TSA PreCheck program in the U.S. is specifically designed for airport security lines and uses biometrics for checking. Similarly, other technologies like 3D imaging, computed topography and computer vision systems are also gradually emerging to further introduce advanced safety in airports during security checks.



Extreme Destinations To Visit

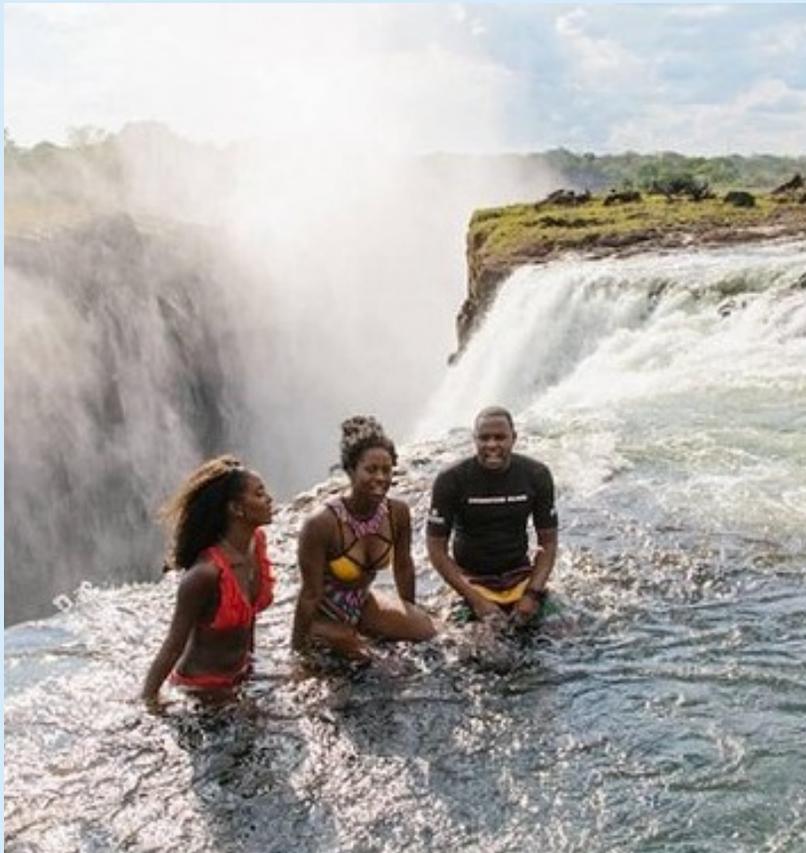
If you want to explore the world's harshest places and their most hostile environment, this article will prove helpful. Here you can find the extreme places on the Earth where you can enjoy nature at its best. There are travellers who defy the ordinary and seek out to find new places that are less explored. These places are only for adventurous thrillseekers and not the faint-hearted ones.

“ The wilderness is the blank space
Where the minds can roam free
A canvas for us to paint our imagination
Happy minds devoid of any anxiety
Fresh breath of life in the empty space
Where do we take refuge if destroyed?
Wilderness is the bank space to treasure
Explore and find all the answers
For the unimaginative they have no relevance
Among the wilderness we embrace life.”
Amitav Radiance



Devil's Pool, Zambia

Victoria Falls is home to the dodgiest place, the Devil's Pool that is dubbed as the world's "most dangerous pool." A naturally formed infinity pool, the Devil's Pool is relatively safe for swimmers during the dry low water levels wash rocks closer to the surface, forming a lip that just barely stops tourists from tumbling over the edge and down the 360-foot drop.



Death Valley, United States

Located in California, the Death Valley is regarded as the hottest place on the Earth with temperature as high as 56.7 degrees Celsius. Although nearly 1,600 kilometres of paved and dirt roads provide access to popular and remote locations, 91% of the national park is protected as officially designated wilderness.

Mount Chimborazo, Ecuador

Mount Chimborazo is the highest spot above the centre of the Earth, making it the closest place to outer space. By venturing on an adventure to Mount Chimborazo, the explorers and trekkers can put themselves in a position closest to outer space than any man can ever reach on foot. If you want to test your limits, there are several routes for brave climbers.



Gansbaai, South Africa

Gansbaai in South Africa has the most treacherous waters on the Earth, as it is prime great white shark territory. With the densest population of these beasts, Shark Alley – a small channel of water between Dyer Island and Geyser Rock – has become a popular destination for tourists who want to get a close view of these deadly creatures by jumping on board one of the many shark cage diving tours.

Tristan da Cunha, South Atlantic Ocean

It is the most isolated and remotest inhabited place on the Earth. Discovered by the Portuguese explorer Tristao da Cunha in 1506, the small island of Tristan da Cunha is home to fewer than 250 citizens. Located approximately 2,431 kilometres off the coast of Cape Town, Tristan da Cunha has no airport. In order to visit the secluded island, you must have prior approval of the island council and obtain a local police certificate before boarding a ship. Tristan de Cunha has established a number of attractions with visitors and tourists in mind, such as Café da Cunha, the Thatched House Museum, Volcanic Park and Love Island.



Danakil Depression, Ethiopia

Danakil Depression looks like that it could be Mars. Its yellow and orange landscape is a cauldron of burning salt, volcanic rock and sulfuric acid. The springs around the Dallol volcano, one of the numerous volcanoes inside the depression, have hydrothermal properties that are toxic hazardous to life.



New Faces



Diversity Travel appointed Russ Ferguson as Senior Vice President

Diversity Travel has appointed Russ Ferguson as Senior Vice President of its North American business. Russ Ferguson has held more than a few leadership roles across a career spanning 24 years in the travel industry including Travelbag and North America Travel Service. He most recently spent almost a decade with Key Travel in the USA and will lead Diversity Travel's client partnerships in the Americas. Russ explains that the global non-profit community that Diversity Travel supports is crucial to the short and long-term Covid-19 recovery effort around the world. So, while the travel market faces possibly its biggest ever challenge, it's important we are here to help those organisations manage and futureproof their travel programmes.



Malaysia Aviation Group welcomes Wan Zulkiflee as Group Chairman

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) has welcomed Tan Sri Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin as Non-Executive Group Chairman of the Board of Directors effective July 1. The Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin had announced the appointment of the Petronas chief executive officer and president of Petronas to head the national carrier.

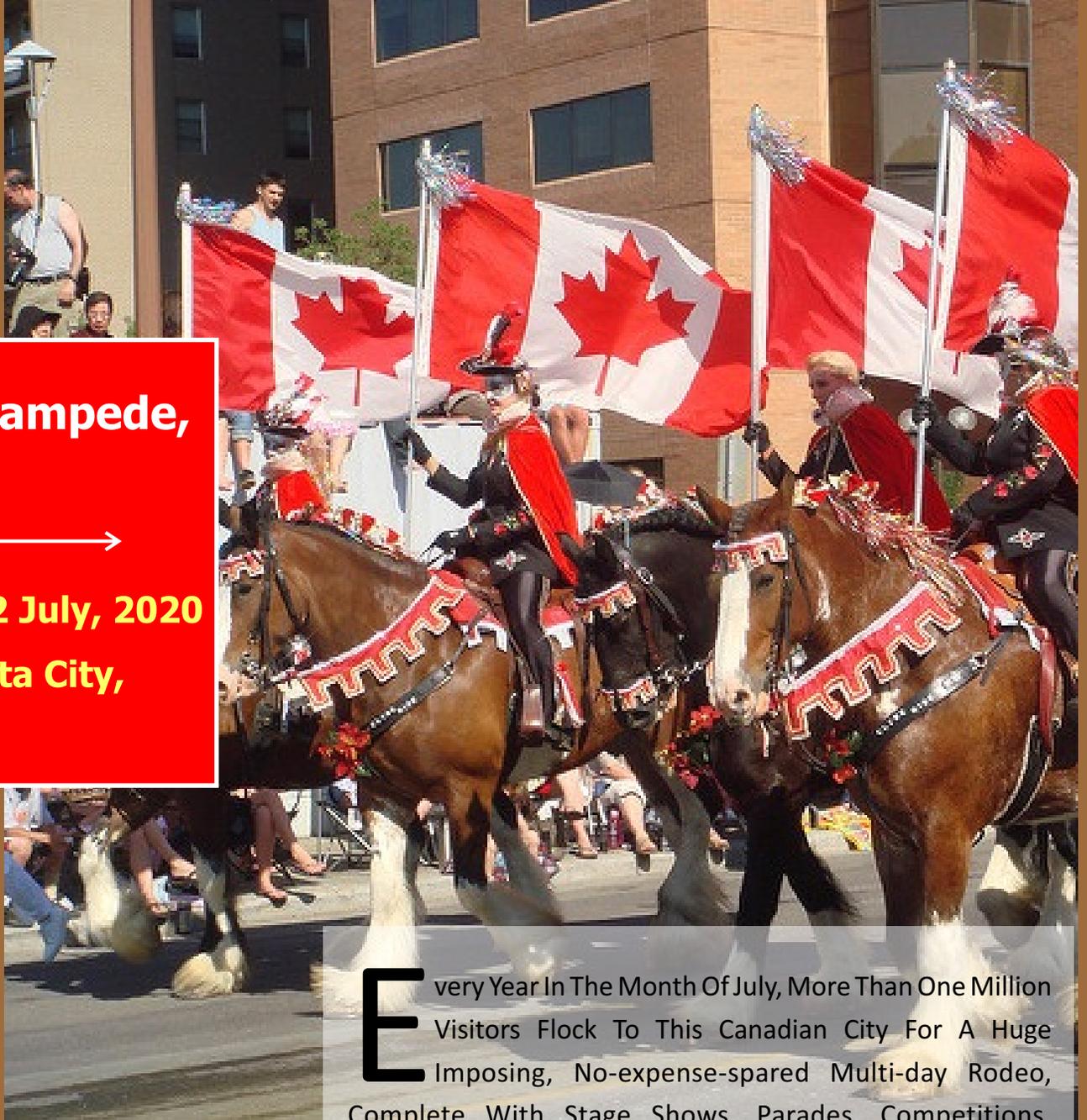
Cycas Hospitality welcomed new officers to overlook its new property

Cycas Hospitality set to open its first two French properties this autumn. This hospitality industry lead has appointed five regional experts across France and Germany in recent weeks to further accelerate its European growth. The French recruitment drive follows the appointment of Luc Vicherd as Regional General Manager earlier this year, with three new team members reporting directly into him from Hyatt's first dual-branded property in mainland Europe.

Béatrice Puma joined Cycas in April as the company's first Director of Sales for France, and will be a key part of the pre-opening team for the double-decker Hyatt Place and Hyatt House hotel at Charles De Gaulle Airport. With over ten years' hospitality experience, including six focused on the Charles de Gaulle and Roissy region, Béatrice is well placed to capitalise on the growing market for aparthotels around the airport, of which Hyatt House will be the first. The French team is further strengthened by the appointment of Operations Directors for each of its two new Paris properties. Looking after Hyatt House Paris Charles De Gaulle Airport, Nicolas Dubas previously spent eight years working for Cycas's first dual-branded hotel in London and graduated last December from the company's in-house 'Cyfari' leadership development programme.



WORLD FESTIVAL



Calgary Stampede, Canada



When: 3 to 12 July, 2020

**Where: Alberta City,
Canada**

Every Year In The Month Of July, More Than One Million Visitors Flock To This Canadian City For A Huge Imposing, No-expense-spared Multi-day Rodeo, Complete With Stage Shows, Parades, Competitions, Festivals And Concerts. Here The Highlights Of This Festival Include The Chuckwagon Races And The Funfair.



Kyoto Gion Matsuri



When: 1 -31, July, 2020

Where: Kyoto, Japan

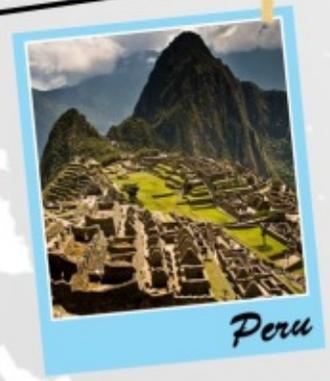
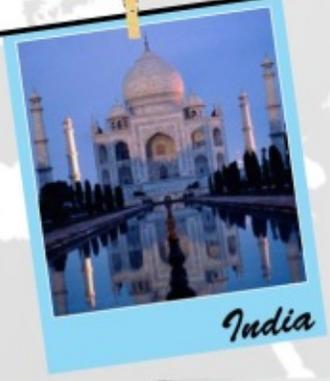
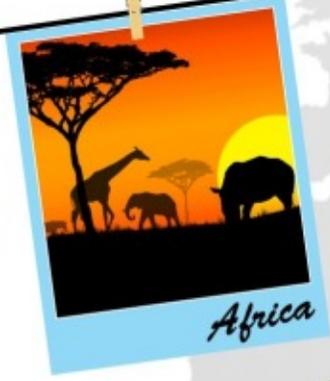
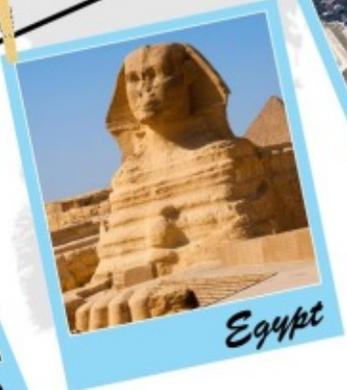
Kyoto's Gion Festival is the Japan's biggest festival. Centered around Yasaka Shrine, it has roots dating back to 869 when the people of Kyoto held a festival to pray for respite from a plague that had befallen the city.



**Fiesta de Santa
Marta de Ribarteme**
←→
When: 29, July, 2020
Where: Spain

The festival of Near Death Experiences or Fiesta de Santa Marta de Ribarteme is a celebration for those people who have had a near death experience and lived to tell the tale. Saint Marta de Ribarteme is the patron Saint of resurrection. The lucky 'survivors' attend the festival in a coffin. It is a very good place to go if you want to take a grasp up of the folk tales of different near death experiences.

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