

Travel AND TourTM

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W O R L D

Destination Diary
World's Most
Picturesque
Palaces

Meetings Point

TOKYO

@JNTO

Special Feature

Keibul Lamjao





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Dear Readers,

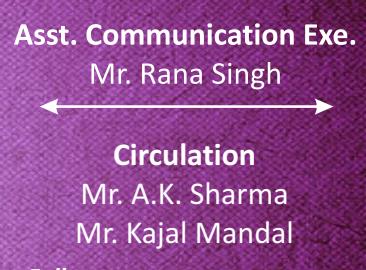
In our previous editions, we covered mostly the condition of the travel and tourism industry that has been ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. But this month's edition, we are highlighting some of the beautiful destinations around the world that have a sustainability concern. Our Special Feature includes world's only floating national park and wildlife sanctuary located in Indian state, Manipur. You can also get to know about world's most picturesque palaces which truly are magnificent examples of history.

In this edition, you can also read some of the exceptional theme parks and amusement areas that are playing a major role in building the economic infrastructure for the country. We are also focusing on Japan's capital city Tokyo as a meetings' destination.

We also have a segment discussing on technology upgrading travel sector. In this category, we are highlighting on IoT essentials in travel sector. Also, you can find here micro-cations which is a rising trend among millennials.

Editor-In-Chief
Mr. Anup Kumar Keshan

Editorial Desk



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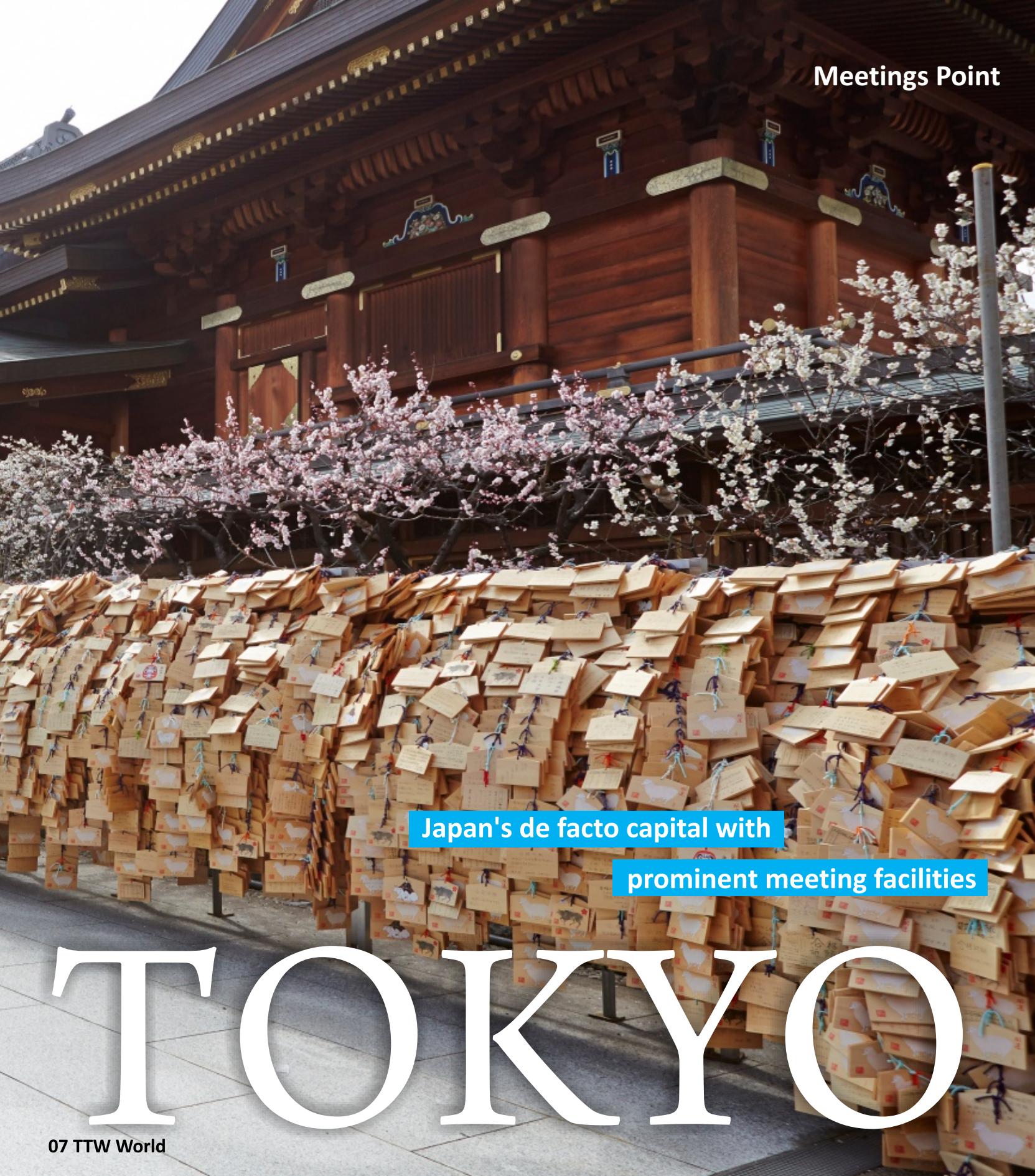
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The most populous prefecture and de facto capital of Japan, Tokyo is the economic and political centre of the country. It is the seat of the Emperor of Japan and the Japanese National Government. As of 2020, the Greater Tokyo Area is also the most populous metropolitan in the world.

The city also serves as a great tourist attraction and has welcomed innumerable business and leisure tourists over the years. Tokyo has a well-established MICE market and offers some of the best meeting and conference facilities in Japan.



Meetings Point

Japan's de facto capital with

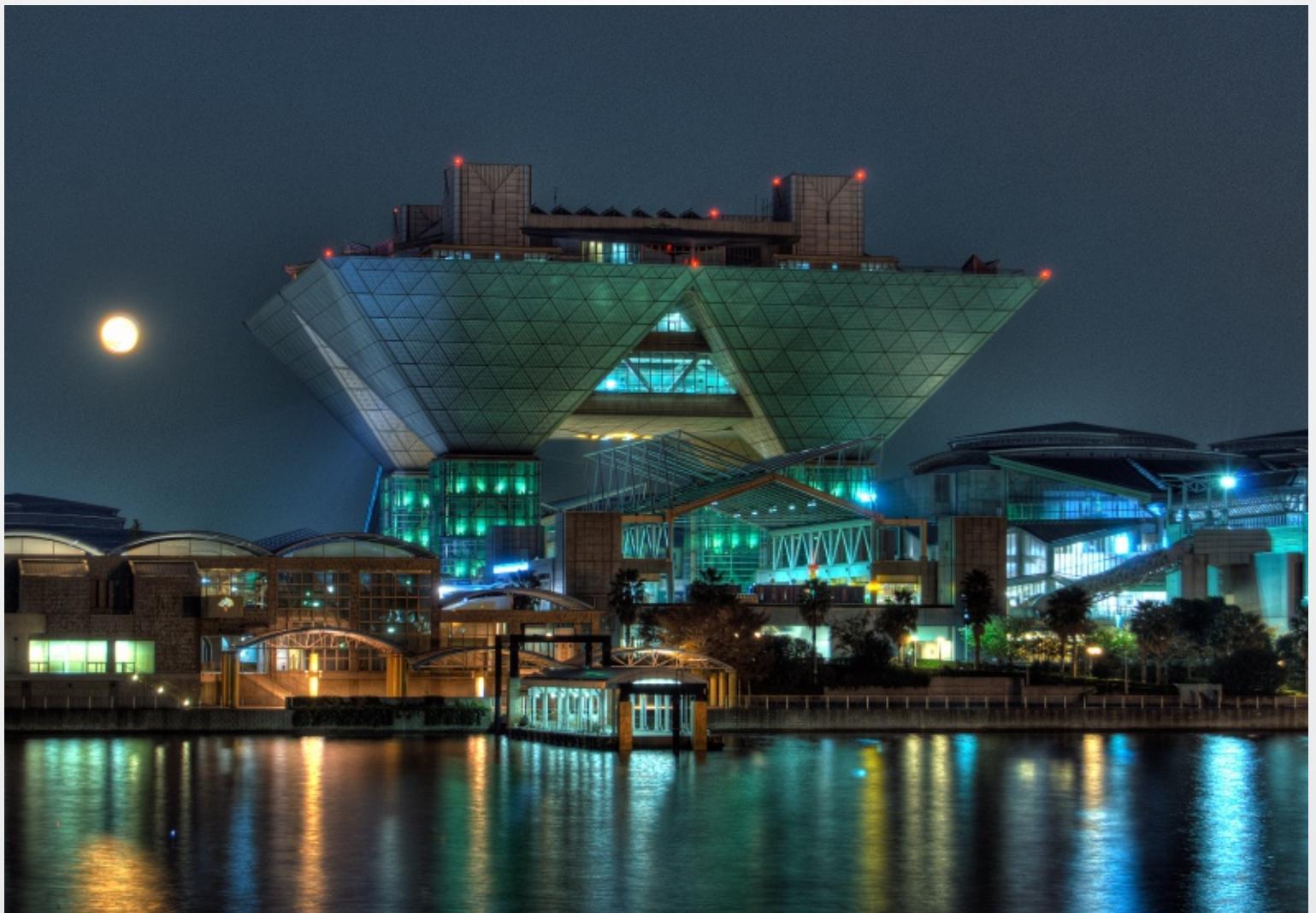
prominent meeting facilities

TOKYO

TOP CONVENTION CENTRES AND MEETING VENUES

TOKYO BIG SIGHT CONFERENCE TOWER

Tokyo Big Sight, also known as the Tokyo International Exhibition Centre, is one of the largest convention centres in the country. Located in the Ariake Minami district of Tokyo Waterfront City on Tokyo Bay, the centre was opened in 1996. The centre consists of a total 102,887 sq. m. of space and is divided into the East Exhibition Hall and the West Exhibition Hall. While the former consists of six halls with 553,000 sq. ft. of total area, the latter consists of four halls with 315,200 sq. ft. of total area. The centre also comes with an 18,000 sq. ft. ballroom space. The most significant feature of the centre is the 58m high, eight-storey Conference Tower, adorned with glass and titanium panel appearing like an inverted pyramid. The tower consists of two halls and 22 meeting rooms with 55,290 sq. ft. of total area. The centre hosts some of the biggest international conventions, conferences, meetings, exhibitions and grand events.



TOKYO CONFERENCE CENTRE

Located in the southern section of the city, the Tokyo Conference Centre Shinagawa offers 18,632 sq. ft. of total area including executive boardrooms, eight breakout rooms and a large hall for up to 500 individuals. The centre is recognised for being flexible and innovative and provides a variety of meetings and conference facilities. The centre stands adjacent to Shinagawa station for easy access to JR trains and Airport Express. The Tokyo Conference Centre is run by Benchmark Hospitality International of Japan, a leader of off-premises meetings market in the US and international pioneer of the Conference Center Concept. The conference experts provide state-of-the-art meeting facilities and exclusive business support services to meet the need of organisers. The centre also focuses on a green architectural foundation that calls for extensive use of recycled and recyclable materials. All rooms come with ergonomic chairs, audio-visual services and state-of-the-art meeting and conference facilities. The centre has hosted several prominent MICE events and has been certified by the IACC (International Association of Conference Centers) for surpassing global standards.



TOKYO MIDTOWN HALL & CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Tokyo Midtown Hall & Conference Centre offers elegant spaces for meetings, conferences and all kinds of business events. The venue consists of two halls with a combined 1,310 sq. m. of total area. Hall A has an area of 770 m² and Hall B has a total space of 540 m². It also consists of seven different conference rooms ideal for hosting an array of MICE events. Each room in the conference centre comes with state-of-the-art audiovisual technologies including projectors and screens. The Tokyo Midtown is the hub of MICE facilities and the city and attracts business and leisure travellers alike.

BEST ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES

HILTON TOKYO

The Hilton Tokyo hotel is situated over the heart of Shinjuku, Tokyo's largest business, entertainment and shopping district. The hotel offers luxurious accommodation facilities and comes with deluxe guest rooms and executive suites. It also provides 2,305 sq. m. of total event space including seven meeting rooms, multiple banquet rooms and a large ballroom. The largest event space has nearly 968 sq. m. of total area.





THE PRINCE SAKURA TOWER HOTEL

The Prince Sakura Tower Tokyo offers guests relaxing stays amid a lush and verdant setting alongside the seasonal atmosphere of the Japanese garden. The hotel is located approximately 3 minutes walking distance from the Shinagawa Station. It is ideal for business and leisure travellers as it offers quality hospitality and great meeting facility. The conference floor in the hotel is a multi-purpose space exclusively made for guests staying at the hotel, featuring 20 meeting rooms, which can be customised as per clients' needs. Advanced equipment, including simultaneous interpretation facilities for international conferences, are also available at the hotel.

IMPERIAL HOTEL TOKYO

The Imperial Hotel Tokyo brings nearly 13 decades of experience to provide incredible accommodation options through its carefully planned and designed guestrooms and suites. The hotel represents the world of Japanese finesse and refinement. The hotel has welcomed several large-scale international conventions through its 120-year long history. The three ballrooms can host between 300 and 3000 individuals for international exhibitions and symposiums. It has nine banquet rooms that can hold between 100 to 300 people. It also comes with eight small banquet rooms that can accommodate up to 100 individuals each and is perfect for intimate meetings, workshops and seminars.

PLACES TO VISIT POST WORK

Tokyo offers some of the best tourist facilities in the world. Make sure to visit **the Shinjuku Guo-en National Garden**, a large garden and picturesque national park that consists of more than 20,000 trees with nearly 1,500 cherry trees that blossom during spring. Take a look at the **Meiji Shrine**, a Shinto Shrine in Shibuya dedicated to the spirits of Emperor Meiji and his wife Empress Shoken. Also visit **Senso-ji**, the oldest temple in the city dedicated to the goddess of mercy and compassion.

You can also spend some time in **Tokyo DisneySea** theme park or climb up the **Tokyo Skytree** observation deck. In addition, you can also enjoy shopping at the Tsukiji Market.



The Shinjuku Guo-en National Garden,



Meiji Shrine



Tokyo DisneySea



Tokyo Skytree

INTERVIEW ZONE

In an exclusive interview with Travel And Tour World, **Masashi Imai, the Director of Marketing / Promotion, Tourist Promotion Dept. Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau** shares his thoughts on the Tokyo's leisure and MICE tourism infrastructure and also explains how the city and the country as well is moving towards normalcy.

Travel And Tour World: What are the challenges Tokyo Tourism facing during this COVID-19 pandemic?

Masashi Imai: There are restrictions on activities related to tourism and cross-border travel. The challenge is that the number of tourists has plummeted and the tourism industry in Tokyo is facing very difficult conditions.



Travel And Tour World: How the Tokyo Tourism playing a major role to promote the city's tourist attractions?

Masashi Imai: The goal of Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau is to build economic prosperity and support community development through tourism. We effectively market the city and communicate the ever-evolving image of Tokyo to global audiences in the aim of attracting visitors and business events. This is achieved through the coordinated group efforts of community, partners, and staff working together.

Travel And Tour World: Can you please mention the countries you are attracting?

Masashi Imai: In order to promote Tokyo as a premier destination for international leisure travel, we have established the Tokyo Tourism representative (Reps) in Europe, America, Australia and Asia. The surrounding areas are also important to us. We are also attracting tourists from Los Angeles, New York, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, China, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Travel And Tour World: What are the future planning of promotion of Tokyo to Europe, Asia and United States ?

Masashi Imai: In order to recover the number of tourists that dropped significantly during COVID-19, we will continue to conduct PR activities for overseas markets such as Europe, the United States, Australia, and Asia, do promotion by participating in travel expos, and exposure in the media etc. We will also work to create business opportunities for the tourism industry in Tokyo.

In addition, we speculate not only on "quantity" such as the number of visitors, but also on "quality". In this moment, many people perceive to learn or do something good by even travel. Tokyo, where tradition and technology are well harmonized and generate new things every day, will offer and provide vivid information by introducing variety of experience in Tokyo to fulfill their demand.



Travel And Tour World: What kind of tourists you are expecting in this tourism season?

Masashi Imai: This year, with the impact of COVID19 and restrictions on travel, honestly, we perceive it is tough to expect many visitors. During those difficult times, we would like to continue to promote by exposing positive image of Tokyo, like exceptional charms and breathtaking efficiency.

The world's only floating national park, the Keibul Lamjao National Park was founded as a wildlife sanctuary. Situated in the Bishnupur district of Manipur in India, the wildlife sanctuary was created back in 1966. It was later gazetted as a national park in 1977.

The national park is the conservation area for the endangered Eld's deer and is recognised for its natural collection of *Phumdi*, a floating decomposed plant material. The park is spread across 40 sq. km. of area and is a part of the Loktak Lake in North East India.

The quaint sanctuary is dotted with patches of green and is home to distinct fauna. The picturesque landscape, the sense of peace and calmness and the call of the wildlife make it one of the most ideal destinations for nature lovers.



Keibul Lamjao

World's Only Floating Wildlife Sanctuary & National Park

Creation of the sanctuary

In 1951, the brow-antlered deer called *Cervus eldieldi* was declared an extinct species. The deer was first found in Manipur around 1839. However, it was rediscovered by the environmentalist, E.P. Gee near the Keibul Lamjao park area. The park was then marked as a reservation venue for the brow-antlered deer. It is also the state animal of Manipur.

Significance of the Phumdis

The Keibul Lamjao National Park is characterised by a typical type of swamp called Phumdis. It is basically a form of floating vegetation mass. Soil particles combined by organic garbage and biomass thicken into a solid form becoming Phumdis that transformed the park into a “Ramsar Site” or wetland area. The swamp stands encompassing the hills of Pabot, Toya and Chingjao. The swamps make the park unique as it is not shallow enough to be a lake or deep enough to be a marsh. The Phumdis form two thirds to three fourths of the total area of the park and are important to the life on the lake. Fishermen accumulate the molasses for farming carp and perch. Many also live in huts situated atop the Phumdis. It is also the key habitat for the dancing deers with hooves, which are specifically ideal for the sponge-like terrain.





Flora and Fauna

The Keibul Lamjao National Park has a rich collection of flora and fauna. The aquatic flora of the park consists of two types of *Phumdis*, floating and sinking. The floating *Phumdis* are composed of reeds, grasses and several plants that grow on the surface of decaying vegetation floating on the waters. Meanwhile, the sinking *Phumdis* are composed of underwater reeds and grasses that grow on vegetation present at the bottom of the lake. The swamp also has buckwheat and water caltrop. The most popular animal of the region is the endangered brow-antlered deer or Sangai. Also known as the dancing deer, the Sangai making its way through the floating wetlands is one of the most memorable wildlife sights at the park.

The park is also home to other species of deer like hog deer, muntjac deer, sambar deer and muntjac deer. It also shelters wild boar, large Indian civet, fox, flying fox, jungle cat, bamboo cat, marbled cat, Asian golden cat, musk shrew, common shrew, slow loris, Assamese and stump-tailed macaques, hoolock gibbon and rhesus monkey. Previously, the park also had a significant population of jackal, wild dog, leopard, tiger and panther but the number has significantly reduced now.

There are also a large number of aquatic animals like python, Russel's viper, garter snake, cobra, krait, water cobra, viper, banded krait, Asian rat snake, tortoises and frogs. The swamp also has fishes like helicopter catfish, common snakehead, common carp and pool barb.

In addition to aquatic and terrestrial life, the sanctuary also welcomes a range of avifauna. Prominent bird species seen in the park are both migratory and resident including East Himalayan pied kingfisher, hill myna, pied myna, jungle crow, sky-lark, bamboo partridge, Shaheen falcon, spotbill duck, shell duk, hooded crane, sarus crane and woodpecker. Various species of hornbills can also be seen in the park like brown-backed hornbill, rufous-necked hornbill, wreathed hornbill and the great pied hornbill.

Tourism

As the only floating national park and wildlife sanctuary in the world, Keibul Lamjao is one of the most popular tourist places in Northeast India. The park is visited every year by both domestic and international tourists.

As it is a sensitive border state, previously foreigners entering Manipur had to possess a Restricted Area Permit. However, the rule has now been lifted. No permit is required for foreigners coming to Manipur but tourists are required to register themselves in the established check points, i.e. Imphal Airport and Mao and Jiribam for those coming by road. Ideal visiting timings for tourists is between 6AM and 10AM and 3:30PM and 6PM. It is during these hours that the Sangai deer usually comes out to feed in herds. The ideal way to tour the park is to take a boat trip along the labyrinthine boat routes passing through colourful water plants.

For tourists seeking an adventurous trip, it is perfect to take a walk through the park but you should remember that the *Phumdis* are not a firm ground. The official Keibul Lamjao Park tour is organised by the Manipur Tourism Department.





How to reach

The Keibul Lamjao Park can be reached by road, rail and air through Imphal, the capital of Manipur. By road, it is 53 km (32.9 mi) from Imphal and 522 km (324.4 mi) from Guwahati (Assam) on the National Highway No. 53. Public and private transports are also available on these roads. The nearest railway station head is at Dimapur on the broad gauge line of the Northeast Frontier Railways, 215 km (133.6 mi) from Imphal by road. Another railhead on the Manipur border is Jiribam, 225 km (139.8 mi) from Imphal.



In an exclusive interview with Travel And Tour World, **Jaki Ellenby - Executive Director-Marketing & Events at Global Village**, share more about Global Village and the unique experiences offering to global tourists.

FACE TO FACE

Image Credits:Global Village

Travel And Tour World: Tell us about how Global Village become most visited leisure and multicultural entertainment destination in the region.

Jaki Ellenby: Global Village strives to bring peoples and cultures of the world together in one unique destination redefining how we experience culture. Since day one, we have promoted diversity and inclusion, and this has enabled this homegrown park to offer exceptional cultural, shopping, and entertainment experiences from across the globe. We also renew our diverse offerings each and every season which keeps Global Village fresh and ensures that guests return year after year.

Today, Global Village is the most visited leisure and multicultural entertainment destination in the region and we rank fourth worldwide for average daily footfall. One of the reasons behind our regional and international reputation is the approach we employ to support our travel and trade partners. Entry tickets are exceptional value for money and Global Village also offers the flexibility of creating more complete tailor-made packages for tour groups with options like food vouchers, tickets for attractions and funfair passes. Once partners have a contract with us, the travel trade ticketing portal makes purchase and fulfilment easy. We also have a dedicated team on the ground to welcome tourist buses and support tour guides at our bespoke tour bus parking area. Then our award winning guest services team make sure our guests, wherever they are from, have

everything they need for a wonderful day out. Our ratings of 4.5 on TripAdvisor and 4.6 on Google, are tribute to the quality of this unique destination. Travel-trade professionals need simplicity, flexibility, assured value for their clients – and that is what we offer.



Travel And Tour World: We all know, Global Village is a heaven for any tourist. How the Global Village become more attractive to the tourists ?

Jaki Ellenby: Over the years, it's become clear to us that the diversity and uniqueness of our offering are why Global Village intrigues tourists. It's not one thing that captures people's curiosity and inspires them to visit, but the sheer variety of experiences that we offer. For example, Global Village is a paradise for souvenir shoppers, with hidden gems from every continent and the best bargains in over 3,500 retail outlets. Foodies love the selection at the region's biggest street food experience at Global Village with over 200 dining

options. Our entertainment line-up is second to none with 40000 world class shows every season and stunning firework displays every weekend. For the young and young at heart, a trip to Carnaval is a must with more than 160 rides, games and attractions. Global Village also hosts the only Ripley's Believe it or Not! Odditorium in the region. Last but most certainly not least, visitors to the UAE can get an understanding of the UAE culture past and present with a trip to the beautiful Heritage Village or a visit to the UAE pavilion to meet local artisans.



Travel And Tour World: What challenges Global Village has faced following the COVID-19 outbreak?

Jaki Ellenby: As soon as we closed the previous season, the team at Global Village undertook an intense and comprehensive audit on the health and safety measures that needed to be implemented. Working closely with both international and local organisations we set new standards in HSE and redefined what was possible in our industry. By putting our guest front and center, the measures we implemented not only allowed us to safely welcome 4.5 million guests in under 200 days, but also enabled us to significantly improve the guest experience under these “new normal” conditions. From dramatically accelerated digital transformations including a brand new app and GVPay e-wallet, to innovative social distancing measures, a raft of measures were put in place in record time to ensure our guests comfort and wellbeing. In fact Global Village teams won multiple awards this year including HSE Initiative of the Year, three Stevie innovation awards, the British Safety Council's Sword of Honour, Best Service Performance of the year and many more.

Travel And Tour World: How does Global Village contribute to local economic progression?

Jaki Ellenby: For more than two decades, Global Village has provided a destination for everyday escapism through our evolving shops and attractions, excellent entertainment programme and delicious food options across the park. As the

UAE was seen as a beacon of hope during this difficult time, we wanted Global Village to be the epitome of this hope: culturally inclusive, safe to visit and always delivering the WOW moments our loyal guests have come to expect. From October through to May, Global Village showed itself to be a mainstay of the travel, tourism, and hospitality industry, breaking barriers and establishing new standards while showcasing Dubai's 'open for business' message to the world. In addition over 5000 commercial partners and exhibitors operated at Global Village during our Silver Jubilee Season supporting the artisans and SMEs at a critical time. We are proud of our role in supporting the economy during this difficult period as we continue to work with partners across the globe to grow their business and to further Dubai's positioning as both a tourist and business hub. The robust conclusion of our Silver Jubilee and the exciting events surrounding the upcoming Expo gives us cause for renewed optimism for our coming season.



Travel And Tour World: Do you have any expansion plans in future?

Jaki Ellenby: Global Village is always evolving so that we can offer exciting new experiences to our guests every time they visit. We will open Season 26 in October, and are currently working hard on the great content we have planned for the new season. Beyond that, we have an ambitious

development programme over the next 5 years that will transform Global Village and take it to the next level. We want to redefine how people experience culture and by putting our guest at the heart of everything we do, we can ensure that every trip to Global Village will be more special than the last.



airBaltic launches new connections between Manchester and Riga

airBaltic recently launched new scheduled flights between Manchester and Riga, Latvia. The Latvian airline now connects both cities with two weekly flights. Flights between Manchester and Riga are operated by the Airbus A220-300 aircraft. In addition to the new route, airBaltic also continues to offer three convenient and safe connections between United Kingdom and Riga – London, Aberdeen and Edinburgh.

WTTC Economic Trends Report reveals COVID-19's dramatic impact on travel & tourism around the world

According to the new annual Economic Trends Report from the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), Asia

Pacific was the region hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report reveals the full dramatic impact of travel restrictions designed to curb COVID-19 on the global economy, individual regions, and its job losses worldwide.

Asia-Pacific was the worst performing region, with the sector's contribution to GDP dropping a damaging 53.7%, compared to the global fall of 49.1%. International visitor spending was particularly hard hit across Asia Pacific, falling by 74.4%, as many countries across the region closed their borders to inbound tourists. Domestic spending witnessed a lower but equally punishing decline of 48.1%. Travel & tourism employment in the region fell by 18.4%, equating to a shocking 34.1 million jobs. However, despite this decline, Asia-Pacific remained the largest region for the sector's employment in 2020, accounting for 55% (151 million) of all global Travel & Tourism jobs.





Jamaica plans to establish itself as a green destination

Jamaica will seek to reinvent itself as “cleaner and greener” destination in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Only by doing so can the Caribbean destination insulate itself from future shocks to the global tourism industry, the minister explained. The remarks came during an online address to the Jamaica Money Market Brokers (JMMB). Minister Bartlett argued that the Caribbean had been among the hardest hit regions of the world during the pandemic, due largely to its reliance tourism. Caribbean tourism-dependent nations lost an estimated 12 per cent of their GDP last year, compared to 4.4 per cent global economic contraction over the same period.

The WTTC estimated that six million jobs in the travel and tourism industry and more than US\$110 billion in contribution to GDP were lost in Latin America and the Caribbean alone in 2020. From a national perspective, Bartlett said, the Jamaican economy has been hemorrhaging from the sharp decline in tourist arrivals

experienced over the past 14 months.

Global economy likely to lose over \$4 trillion due to COVID-19 impact on tourism: UNWTO

According to an UNCTAD report published on June 30, the crash in international tourism due to the coronavirus pandemic could cause a loss of more than \$4 trillion to the global GDP for the years 2020 and 2021. The estimated loss has been caused by the pandemic's direct impact on tourism and its ripple effect on other sectors closely linked to it. The report presented with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), says international tourism and its closely linked sectors suffered an estimated loss of \$2.4 trillion in 2020 due to direct and indirect impacts of a steep drop in international tourist arrivals. The report warns that a similar loss may occur this year noting that the tourism sector's recovery will largely depend on the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines globally.



The most unusual theme and amusement parks take different themes to a whole new level of entertainment. In this article, check out some of the exceptional theme parks around the world.

Exceptional Theme Parks across the Globe



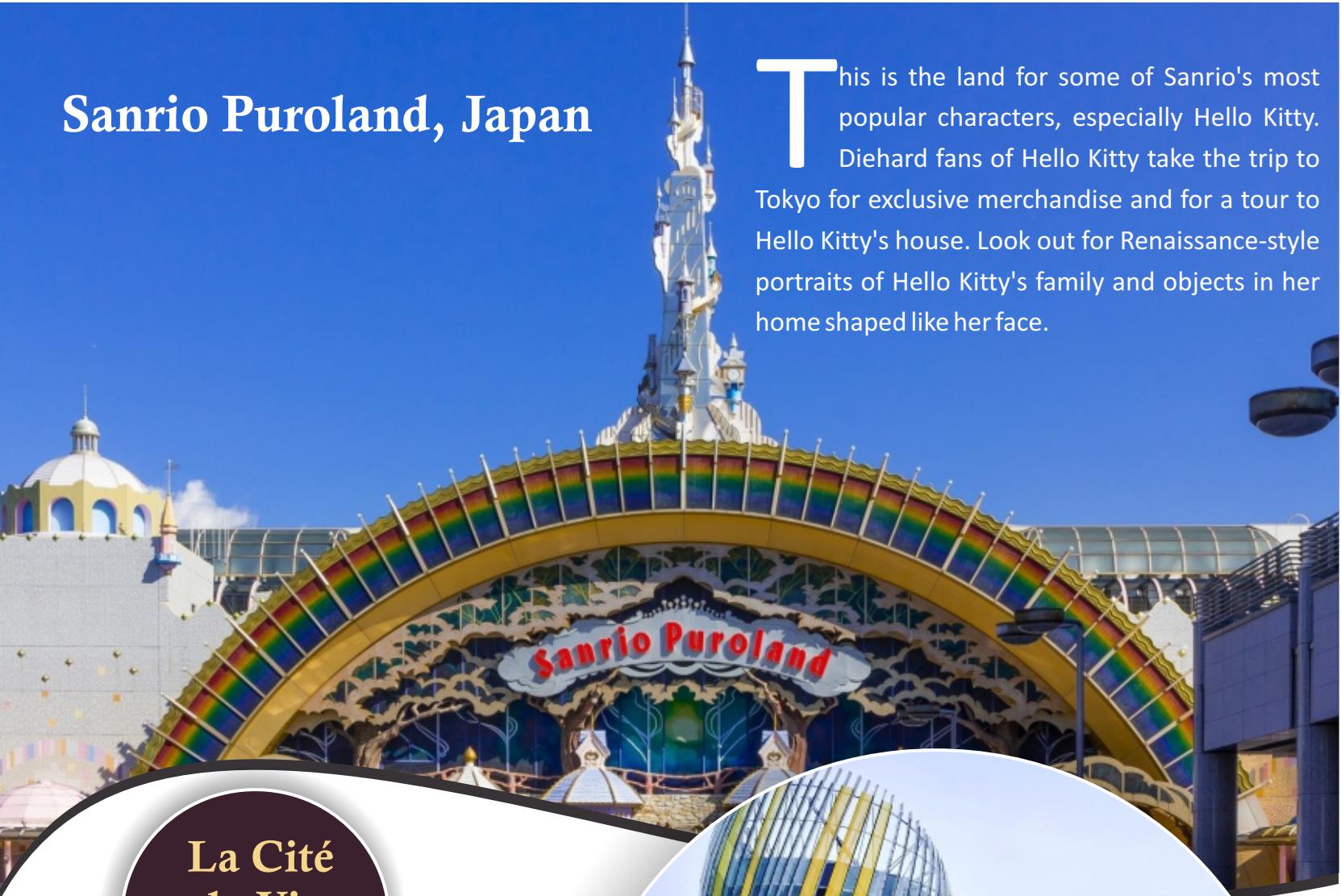
Global Village Dubai



Global Village is a family destination for multicultural entertainment, dining, shopping and attractions and is amongst the most visited ones worldwide. Since its inception, it has embodied different aspects of the world and created a smile on the faces of millions of guests every season. This unique and integrated open-air destination offers guests the largest and most varied range of events, shows and activities in the region. Global Village takes guests on a journey rich in culture, cuisine and awe-inspiring entertainment.

Sanrio Puroland, Japan

This is the land for some of Sanrio's most popular characters, especially Hello Kitty. Diehard fans of Hello Kitty take the trip to Tokyo for exclusive merchandise and for a tour to Hello Kitty's house. Look out for Renaissance-style portraits of Hello Kitty's family and objects in her home shaped like her face.



La Cité du Vin France

If France wasn't already associated with wine, it has a theme park to prove it now. Meaning "*The City of Wine*," the Bordeaux museum-theme park hybrid celebrates wine culture and offers attractions such as interactive boat rides and, of course, wine tasting tours.





Rush Mountain Adventure Park, South Dakota, United States

Located close to Mount Rushmore, this theme park has something most parks don't: a real cave. After you've tried the new Rushmore Mountain Coaster, don a headlamp and explore the stalactite-filled caverns for more adventure.

Dwarf Empire China

Dwarf Empire is an eco-urban village filled with little people who put on shows for anybody who desires to see dozens of dwarfs dancing in unison (the place is packed every day). The 2-4 feet performers live in colourful mushroom-shaped houses and emerge twice a day to perform various shows, sing songs and engage in sport contests.





Suoi Tien Amusement Park Vietnam

It is a gigantic Buddhist-themed park with temples, gardens, go-karts, rides and slides. Suoi Tien Amusement Park in Ho Chi Mien City is a trip of epic visual proportions. Colourful big-bellied statues will smile at you everywhere you turn as a nod to the bliss of Buddhist nirvana. You can find a bay of 1500 crocodiles, a boat ride through hell and a cave of uncountable bats to remind you that the ongoing cycle of samsara isn't always pleasant.



Use of IoT Technology in Tourism Industry

One of the most important and powerful emerging technology trends, which every professional in travel, airline and hotel industry needs to understand and explore, is Internet of Things (IoT).

Personalization

One of the most widespread uses of IoT technology within the travel industry so far has been to enable a greater degree of personalisation within hotels and on flights, and this is primarily provided by enabling customers to control more appliances or services through a centralised device, such as a tablet or even their own phone.

By implementing internet-enabled heating, lighting and television, customers can turn them on and off from one place. They may even be able to choose a specific temperature and light level and have the devices maintain those levels automatically. Similar technology can also be used in flights for regulating seat temperature or air conditioning.

Error free Travelling

There is another great use of the Internet of Things which involves streamlining as much of the customer experience as possible, across all areas of the travel industry. In airports, this may mean using sensors and sending information to passengers' smartphones, alerting them when their baggage is nearby and allowing them to locate it faster. In hotels, the check-in process can be made seamless, with hotels sending electronic key cards to guests' phones which, when used, automatically check them in without having to stop at the front desk. Sensors can also be used to alert restaurant staff when a guest arrives and automatically send them the right table number.



Energy Sustainability

While the IoT can enable personalisation, it can also offer businesses financial benefits through automated or smart energy saving. In a hotel, for instance, internet-enabled devices and sensors can allow the room temperature to be adjusted continually, meaning heating is only used when it is really needed.

GPS and location

Most of the companies operating in the travel industry can also use the Internet of Things to send location-specific information to customers and to gather valuable data. By combining smartphone capabilities with beacon technology or other sensors, messages can be sent to tourists to locations they are most relevant.

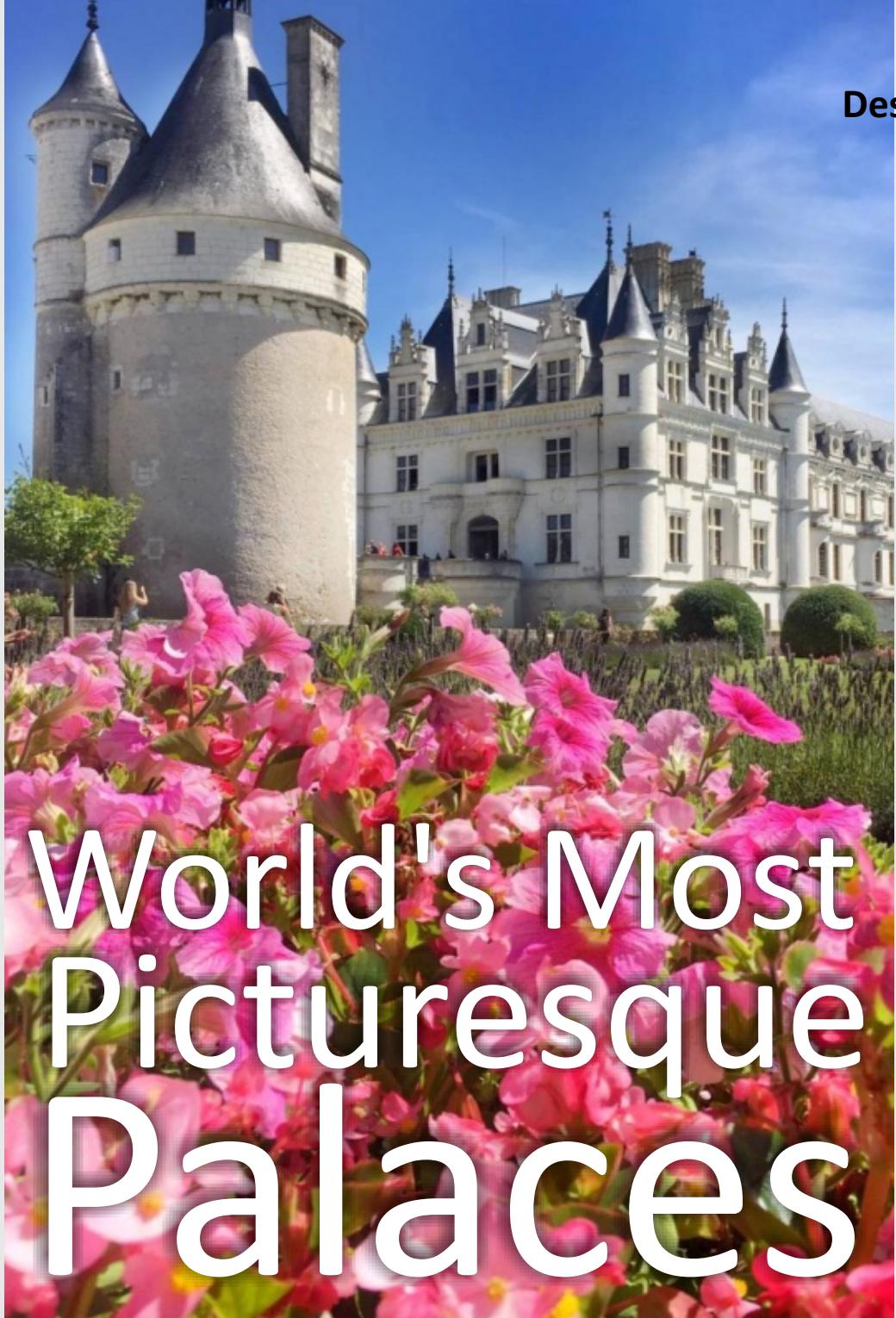
For instance, messages about local attractions and times when they are least busy or about the nearby public transport services can be sent to the tourists. The IoT can also be used to gather accurate data

about the number of people using specific hotel facilities at different times, so that staffing levels can be optimised.

Allowing Essential Device for Replacement

Finally, the Internet of Things can also be used to directly benefit IoT devices, by providing valuable, real-time information about their current status and working order. This can be vital for many of those operating in the travel and tourism industry, allowing essential devices to be repaired or replaced before they stop functioning.

For example, hotel staff can be alerted if a radiator or light bulb starts to deteriorate. Away from hotels, the Internet of Things can also be deployed to allow airlines to fuel aeroplanes more efficiently, or replace parts at the right time, striking the ideal balance between gaining maximum value and maintaining safety.



World's Most Picturesque Palaces

Considered to be the most magnificent examples of history, palaces now serve as one of the most popular tourist attractions around the globe. The world is home to numerous such palaces that stand as the foremost mark of royal dynasties, ancient heritage, art, architecture and culture of several civilisations from the past. Read on to look at some of the world's most picturesque palaces.



FORBIDDEN CITY PALACE, CHINA



Located at the centre of the Imperial City of Beijing, the Forbidden City is the largest palace complex in the entire world. It consists of 980 buildings with 8,886 rooms that cover 720,000 sq. m. of total area. Built in 1406, the palace acted as the imperial home for emperors of both Ming and Qing dynasties. Every building in the complex stands as an embodiment of splendid Chinese architecture. The Hall of Supreme Harmony and the Palace of Heavenly Purity are two of the key tourist attractions inside the palace. The amalgamation of over 2,000 years of Chinese and East Asian art and architecture makes the Forbidden City one of the most important venues in China. The palace is also considered as the world's most valuable palace and the most valuable piece of real estate with nearly US\$70 billion market value. The palace was declared as an UNESCO Heritage Site in 1987 and currently serves as the Palace Museum with more than 10,000 priceless Chinese artwork and artifacts adorning its courtyards and halls.



CHATEAU DE CHAMBORD, FRANCE



Considered to be one of the grandest among French Renaissance castles, the Chateau de Chambord is also one of the most recognisable chateaux (manor) in the world. Known for its distinctive architecture, the palace blends traditional French medieval forms of art with classical Renaissance structures. Situated in the quaint Loire Valley, the palace was commissioned by Francis I to serve as his hunting lodge. The palace was originally designed by the Italian architect Domenico da Cortona with possible inputs from Leonardo da Vinci. It is believed that Leonardo Da Vinci advised the king to design the one-of-its double-helix spiral staircase inside the palace. However, Francis I could not live in the castle for long and left it behind as a symbol of his wealth and power. The Chateau de Chambord consists of 440 rooms, 365 fireplaces and 84 staircases. The elaborate design and elegant interiors of the palace help it to stand out. The turrets and towers of the palace in contrast with the lush lawns and reflective moat still create one of the most spectacular sights of all time.



ALHAMBRA PALACE, SPAIN



Standing amidst the hills of Grenada in Spain, the Alhambra Palace is one of the most recognised palaces in the world. Constructed by the Nasrid Sultans in the mid-13th century, the building appears to be a palace, a fortress and a garden. The complex includes the Alcazaba fortress, the Nasrid palace and the Generalife ancient summer palace, featuring Arabic writings and motifs. The magnificent Court of the Lions showcases carved columns and pretty pavilions while the Museum of Fine Arts displays a spectacular collection of artworks. With several courtyards, gardens, fountains, intricate designs and the Sierra Nevada Mountains as its backdrop, the Alhambra has become one of the most picturesque palaces in the world. It also stands as an example of Arab influence on the architecture of Southern Spain. The Alhambra stands as one of Spain's major tourist attractions today with many visitors coming to Granada only to see the palace.



SCHONBRUNN PALACE, AUSTRIA



The Schonbrunn Palace is located on the outskirts of Vienna, Austria and has been a major tourist attraction of the country since 1950s. The palace was initially commissioned by Emperor Leopold and later constructed under the supervision of Maria Theresa, the only female Habsburg ruler and mother of Marie Antoinette. The palace served as a summer residence of the Habsburg rulers and consists of 1440 rooms. At present only 40 rooms are open for tourists. Each room of the magnificent Rococo palace is splendidly decorated with beautiful ballrooms alongside resplendent and refined artworks, tapestries and sculptures. The palace is characterised by many attractions especially the Privy Garden, the oldest zoo in the world, a maze and labyrinth and the Gloriette marble summerhouse situated on the top of a 60 m high hill. The history of the palace and its vast gardens spans over 300 years and documents the changing tastes, interests and aspirations of successive Habsburg monarchs. It is certainly one of the most important architectural, cultural and historic monuments in the country.



PETERHOF PALACE, RUSSIA



Known as the “*the Russian Versailles*,” the Peterhof Palace is a series of palaces and gardens located in St. Petersburg, Russia. The palace was constructed between 1709 and 1756 and commissioned by Peter the Great. It is recognised around the world for its Petrine Baroque style architecture designed by Domenico Trezzini. The palace symbolizes modernisation and westernisation of Russia with exquisitely designed and decorated rooms including the Throne Room and the Chesma Hall, two of the most popular tourist attractions inside the palace today. The complex stands on the shores of the Gulf of Finland, just outside the Saint Petersburg with the Grand Cascade and Samson Fountain marking the grand entrance. The picturesque exterior of the palace contains numerous fountains and flowerbeds making the grand building an excellent example of Russian artistry and architecture. The palace has been marked as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

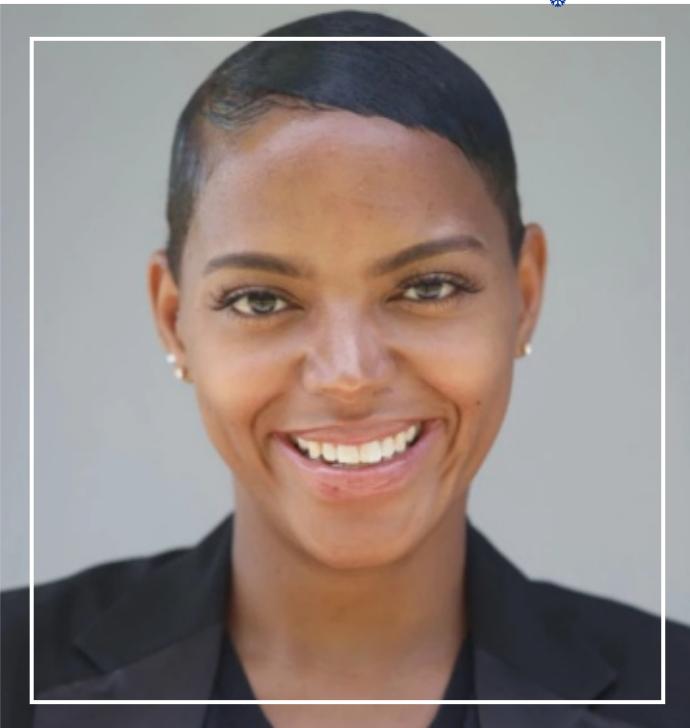


GRAND PALACE, THAILAND



Situated at the heart of Bangkok, Thailand, the Grand Palace stands on the banks of the Chao Phraya River. The construction of the palace began in 1782 at the order of King Rama I and served as the official seat of the Kings of Siam and Thailand over the years. The rectangular palace complex has a combined area of 218,400 sq. m. and consists of numerous buildings, halls and pavilions set around open lawns, gardens and courtyards. The asymmetry and eclectic styles are due to its organic development, with additions and rebuilding made by successive reigning kings over 200 years of history. Besides the royal and throne halls, the complex consists of many government offices and sacred temples including the popular Temple of Emerald Buddha. While the magnificent palace stands as an example of Ratanakosin style, certain European influences can be seen in a few halls that blend Italian Renaissance and traditional Thai architectural designs. The Grand Palace is partially open for tourists as a museum, but it remains a working palace, with several royal offices still situated inside the complex.

New Faces



Flint Downtown Development Authority appoints new Executive Director

Flint's Downtown Development Authority has hired a new executive director. Kiaira May, who has worked at Quicken Loans and Bedrock Real Estate in Detroit, was unanimously named to the post by the DDA Board of Directors and started her work this week, the DDA said in a news release.

A Wayne State University graduate, May becomes the first African American woman to ever lead the DDA, which was established in 1977 and which promotes the revitalization of the city's core and manages paid downtown parking.



Ryan Mack named as Director of Media & Communications for Visit Saltlake

Visit Salt Lake (VSL) appointed Ryan Mack as its Director of Media & Communications to support VSL's mission and promote Salt Lake as an intriguing travel destination for tourism and conventions.

In his new role, Mack manages public relations and communication efforts for VSL, targeting local, national and international media sources to build awareness of Salt Lake's vibrant, diverse culture to key markets, publications and media while supporting meetings and conventions.



George Tziallas appointed Regional Director for Europe and North Africa at WTTC

George Tziallas has been appointed the Regional Director for Europe and North Africa at the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). He has previously served as Secretary General at the Greek Tourism Ministry and as a tourism expert on digital transformation and investments at the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

With some 30 years of professional experience in management consulting and development projects, Tziallas is a technical tourism consultant at the Region of North Aegean.



WestJet announces Diederik Pen new heads to its executive leadership team

WestJet today announced the appointment of a new Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Diederik Pen, who will join the airline's executive leadership team in the early fall, following the completion of the immigration process. At that time, acting interim COO, Robert Antoniuk will take on a new role as Chief Safety, Health and Environment Officer. Mr. Pen has more than 25 years of aviation-industry experience in the Asia-Pacific and European regions, and joins WestJet most recently from Wizz Air, a fast-growing, ultra-low-cost business, where he was chief operations officer.

Micro-cations

A New Trend of Travelling



Finding the perfect date and destination for your next journey can be a nerve-breaking experience. It can be any either you and your companions don't match in the vacation agenda or your holidays are not enough to cover everything that you want in your trip. To avoid this annoying situation, try micro-cations, a popular rising trend among young travellers that is here to stay because it represents a new way of taking a quick vacation instead of long-planned trips. According to this type of travel, weekend getaways are less expensive and stressful, require a much simpler preparation, and help you to do away with waiting until your vacation period to take the trip. If you're one of those persons who have an adventurous spirit and loves travel and see the world, you will love micro-cation because it allows you to take trips and discover new places constantly.

Get an easy-to-get destination

The micro-cations have increased interest in travelling to national destinations over international ones because it's less expensive, easier and faster to visit these places during a weekend. You can consider any place close to your home or a hub city with many available transportation options as your destination place. You can even plan to start your trip as soon as possible, directly after work or school so that you can spend more time in your destination.



Make your plan for journey

Sometimes just packing a few things and embarking on a journey without any itinerary to follow can be really exciting. Nonetheless, for a successful micro-cation you should take time to plan every aspect of your getaway. Book your tours and activities in advance, print the tickets in advance or save your boarding passes and entrance tickets for events in your electronic wallet. This will save your precious time and you can have a hassle-free, peaceful trip.

Packing only Essentials

For a weekend getaway, you don't need a huge bag, expert globetrotters suggest a carry-on luggage especially if you are traveling by plane. Avoid the long lines to check or pick your suitcases at the airport, or any kind of discomforts of heavy luggage.

Finding cool accommodations

Booking a place that is centrally located can help you make the most out of your time. You need to be closer to the attractions that you aim to visit and this simple trick will make your trip more comfortable. However, accommodation near the main interest spots may burn a hole in your pocket. You can move around and find some cheaper and better options for entertainment, bars, restaurants, and other local favourites.



World Festivals



Tauron Nowa Muzyka

Date: July 29-August 1, 2021

Place: Katowice, Poland

The former mining city of Katowice in Poland will roar with the DIY music festival scene, when Tauron Nowa Muzyka host. Tauron Nowa Muzyka is a boutique fest focused on creativity and cutting edge electronic artists. Here you can find a wide lineup of electric music performance to charge yourself.



Milkshake Festival Amsterdam 2021

Date: July 31-August 1, 2021

Place: Amsterdam, Netherlands

The annual Milkshake Festival in Amsterdam offers you to see a heavy rave utopia cult, you feel 'life is just a party' thanks to the great diversity of skin colours, religions, sexual preferences and male and female forms.



Aomori Nebuta Festival

Date: 2nd–7th August 2021

Place: Aomori, Japan

Nebuta Festival is one of the biggest Japanese festivals held in Aomori Prefecture. This spectacular and dynamic festival attracts over 3 million people every year. The festival features gigantic floats called "Nabuta", in brave warriors figure. Every evening during the festival, there is a parade with illuminated NEBUTA floats carried thorough the city by carriers and dancers in traditional costumes (Haneto). There is no parade on the last night (7th), but there will be spectacular fireworks.



Winelands Chocolate Festival 2021

Date: 29-30th August, 2021

Place: Stellenbosch, South Africa

Winelands Chocolate Festival dedicates to a chocolate line up of gastronomical proportion. The usual plus of a handful of artisanal gems and more. Loads of chocolate, macaroons, decadent chocolate brownies, indulgent donuts, deliciously creamy (and dreamy) ice-cream, liquorice, marshmallows, candyfloss and so much more, here you can find.

The Lodging Conference 2021

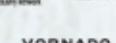
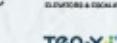
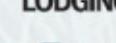
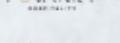
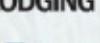
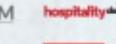
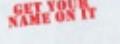
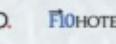
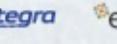
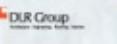
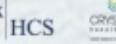
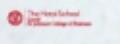
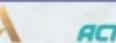
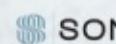
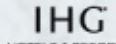
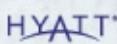
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27, 28 Aug 2021

Bengaluru
01, 02 Sep 2021

Delhi
25, 26 Oct 2021

Mumbai
29, 30 Oct 2021

Ahmedabad
12, 13 Nov 2021

Pune
26, 27, 28 Nov 2021

Hyderabad
03, 04, 05 Dec 2021

Kochi
27, 28, 29 Jan 2022

Kolkata
04, 05, 06 Mar 2022



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Calendar of Events

ITE Hong Kong

29th July – 1st Aug

Hongkong, China

itehk.com/travelexpo



The Arizona Governor's Conference on Tourism

Aug 2- 4,2021

Scottsdale, USA

azgcot.com



Tourism Export Council 2021

2-6 Aug 2021,

New Plymouth, New Zealand

tourismexportcouncil.org.nz/events/annual-conference



Travel Meet Asia 2021

4-5 Aug 2021

Digital

travelmeetasia.com



Guangzhou International Travel Fair

5- 7 Aug 2021

Guangzhou China
gitf.com.cn/en



Virtuoso Travel Week 2021

8-13 Aug 2021

Online

Nevada, Las Vegas
VirtuosoTravelWeek/2021.aspx

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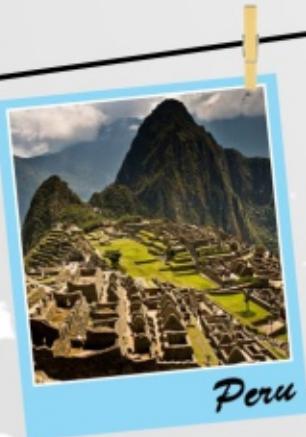
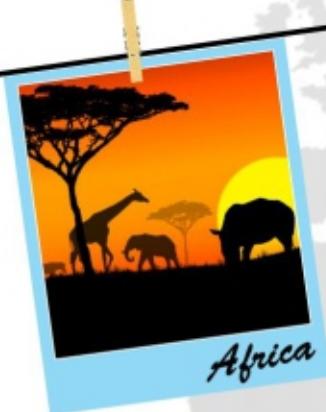
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