

TravelTM AND Tour

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W O R L D

*Ideal Destinations
For
Wellness Retreat
& Spa*





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Dear Readers,

The new year is beginning with new hope and vigor to recover and re-establish the travel and tourism industry after the massive disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic last year. However, the face of the tourism industry has largely changed in the wake of the pandemic. Hence, our Cover Story highlights the expected travel trends of 2021 to showcase how travel is likely to be this year.

Similarly our Travel Tendency focuses on the various creative and innovative approaches undertaken by governments and travel planners across the globe to restart tourism while maintaining social distancing measures during travel. In this issue you can also learn about the ideal destinations across the globe for spa and wellness tourism in our Special Feature. Wellness tourism tends to the body and mind and rejuvenates the soul of travellers.

Our Meetings Point covers Brno, Czechia's second largest city that boasts beautiful natural landscape and is home to several luxurious convention venues and facilities ideal for business meetings and corporate events. In this edition we also highlighted the architectural heritage of Toronto in Destination Diary and the various places to perfectly capture the city's skyline. Also read, Tech It to know more about the various advanced airport screening technologies and how they shape the future of airport security.

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Chhari Dhand

❖ A Hidden Gem for Photographers ❖

PLEASURES THAT CAN TURN INTO A PROFESSION

Chhari Dhand wetland conservation reserve is located on the edge of arid Banni grasslands and the marshy salt flats of the Rann of Kutch. Spread over 80 sq. kms, the wetland is home to nearly 2 lakh birds of 370 migratory and endangered species including the Flamingo, Common Crane, Black Stork, Spoonbill and Pelican. If you are looking for a peaceful one-day outing, Chhari Dhand is a fun, offbeat location away from the hustle and bustle of the city.



Disclaimer: The details and pictures contained here are for information and could be indicative. Some of the activities listed may be unavailable due to seasonal and technical reasons.



Czechia's second largest city, Brno is a fabulous place for meetings and events. Whether it is a business or personal event, Brno offers beautiful urban scene and popular tourist attractions, outstanding cafes, bars & restaurants and some of the most luxurious conference zones.

BRNO

The Land of Wonderful Surprises

Brno lies in the eastern foothills of the Bohemian-Moravian Highlands, at the confluence of the Svatka and the Svitava rivers. It is the traditional capital of Moravia. In the north of Brno is the Moravian Karst, a region famous for caves, grottoes and gorges. Here, Brno Exhibition Centre ranks among the largest exhibition centres in Europe. It established the tradition of large exhibitions and trade fairs held in Brno. Brno hosts motorbike and other races on the Masaryk Circuit, a tradition established in 1930, in which the Road Racing World Championship Grand Prix is one of the most prestigious races.

Best Rated Conference Centres and Hotels



Brno Exhibition Center

Brno Exhibition Center was established in 1928. The centre is built on a space of 667,000 square metres (7,180,000 sq. ft) and provides a total exhibition area of 125,496 square metres (1,350,830 sq. ft) including open-air space and exhibition halls with an exhibition area of 61,479 square metres (661,750 sq. ft). The centre has 15 exhibition halls with a visitor capacity of 25,000 – 30,000 people a day.

Regus Brno

Located in Spielberk Office Centre, Regus Brno is the first large-scale office park with balancing state-of-the-art office facilities with the charm of a natural environment, 118 fully equipped workstations and 3 ready-to-use meeting rooms.



Best Western Premier Hotel International Brno

The Best Western Premier Hotel International Brno is centrally located right below Špilberk Castle in the city centre. Two restaurants here serve international as well as Czech-Moravian cuisine. The bar offers refreshments and cocktails. Free WiFi is available. It offers free access to the fitness centre. The wireless internet access is available in the entire Premier Hotel International free of charge.

Grand Hotel, Brno

With 140 years tradition of hospitality, this centrally located hotel in the heart of Brno's picturesque historic quarter is close to all major sights. It features the Garden Restaurant Le Grand serving Bohemian and international cuisine, and a lobby bar with light snacks and drinks. After a complete refurbishment, the building houses cozy and stylish rooms, fully equipped with modern amenities including high-speed internet access. Each of the air-conditioned rooms features a unique charm of its own and provides maximum comfort for guests.

Orea Hotel Voronez

Orea Hotel Voroněž Convention Centre is one of the largest in the region with the most modern facilities, wide variety of services and free Wi-Fi access in all areas. The hotel provides accommodation in 368 rooms and boasts 9 fully air-conditioned conference rooms with capacity for up to 1,000 people.

Quality Hotel Brno Exhibition Centre

Quality Hotel Brno Exhibition Centre is the ideal place for organising all types of events. Conference premises can be utilised for events ranging from small seminars to large international congresses.





Old Town Hall Observation Tower

The 63-metre high Old Town Hall offers some great panoramic views of the city below, including many of Brno's top attractions. As you enter, look out for a preserved crocodile hanging from the ceiling.

Astronomical Clock

If anything captures the quirky nature of Brno best, it's this astronomical clock (Brněnský orloj). The controversial monument, made of black marble, took three years to build at the cost of 12 million Czech crowns. Designed in the shape of a bullet, the clock is a must watch.

Museum of Romani Culture

Museum of Romani Culture is an organization dedicated to the history and culture of the Romani people (Gypsies). Founded in 1991 by members of the Czech Romani intelligentsia, led by Jana Horváthová, in the period of freedom, this museum exhibits the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia.

Špilberk Castle

Špilberk Castle was built on a commanding hill by Czech King Přemysl Otakar II and has served many roles over the years, including those of royal castle, fortress and prison. Today, the castle, is home to the Brno City Museum and was established in 1904. It is home to many excellent exhibitions.



Moravian Karst and Caves

Moravian Karst and Caves are a must-visit when in Brno. Located 25 kms northeast of Brno, the Karst area covers some 100 sq.kms and contains more than 1,000 known caves and gorges, five of which are open to the public for self-guided tours.

Dietrichstein Palace and the Moravian Museum

Dietrichstein Palace built in the early 17th century for Cardinal Dietrichstein is typical of Brno's splendid Baroque architectural style. Today, the palace houses the excellent Moravian Museum, the country's oldest museum, which is home to more than six million historical artifacts.

Church of St. James and the Brno Ossuary

Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, Brno's other most important religious structure, is the pretty 14th-century Church of St. James. Now a national cultural landmark due to its important architecture and historical artifacts, the church features an old Gothic crucifix; early 16th-century reliefs, including one of the crucifixions of Jesus Christ and a number of interesting tombstones; and a Baroque organ.

TRAVEL NEWS

Japan planning to resume inbound tourism

The Japanese government has started planning to consider the resumption of inbound tourism in Japan on a limited basis starting from the spring. The decision is being undertaken as Tokyo continues to prepare to host a delayed summer Olympics. According to reports, Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's administration is leaning toward allowing small tour groups from Asian countries where coronavirus infections are well under control. However, Japanese government officials are yet to comment on the matter.

Suga's government has also launched a subsidy program to revive domestic tourism, a key driver of economic growth in recent years. Unfortunately the scheme has been criticised because Japan is struggling with a third wave of COVID-19 infections. New coronavirus cases have spiked to record highs in major cities such as Tokyo and Osaka and number of serious cases nationwide has also risen to a record.



ITB Berlin publishes new results of the second COVID-19 study of IPK international

ITB Berlin publishes new results of the second COVID-19 study of IPK international – Germans were very satisfied with their outbound travel experiences in times of Corona – Increase in travel intentions abroad for the next 12 months – Travel security remains a central topic. For the second time in 2020 and with the participation of ITB Berlin, IPK International conducted a special survey on international travel behavior in times of Corona. The evaluation of the German market revealed the following interesting results: In the summer months Germans traveled abroad more than the average. Thereby the experiences gained were significantly better than expected. Also, both travel destinations and touristic offers improved their safety image in the last four months.

Victoria events to attract MICE tourists for a strong recovery of tourism sector

Victoria has secured six new international business events, underlining the state's standing in the high-yield global market and providing confidence of a strong recovery for the sector.

The events will attract more than 4,500 delegates and fill almost 17,000 hotel room nights, enabling an economic impact of \$30.6 million. Taking place between 2021 and 2024, the events cover varied fields and demonstrate Melbourne's ability to host thought-provoking and informative conferences for local and international experts. All events have been secured by the Melbourne Convention Bureau, with the F1 in



Schools World Finals taking place in March next year the first cab off the rank. F1 in Schools is the premier global STEM education challenge and operates in 23,000 schools in 52 countries with international competitors participating virtually.

England exempts business travellers from quarantine restrictions

England has decided to exempt all business travellers from quarantine regulations under new rules from the government. Restrictions will be eased for the leaders of foreign multinational firms visiting English branches and bosses at firms planning to invest. Returning executives will also be exempt from quarantine.

According to the department for transport, in each case the business trips must result in a deal which creates or preserves 50 jobs or lead to a £100,000 investment or order. The new rule will allow business people to travel to England from countries that are not on the list of travel corridors without having to isolate for 14-days on arrival.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the most devastating incident in the history of the travel and tourism industry. However, as the world has gradually started to recover from the pandemic, the tourism industry is looking forward to reintroduce itself and start afresh in the new year.

Although the future of travel is still uncertain, it can certainly be said that the coronavirus pandemic has completely changed the face of the travel and tourism industry. With more demand for travel safety and an increased consciousness about sustainability, here is what travel is likely to be in the post-pandemic year.

Travel Trends 2021

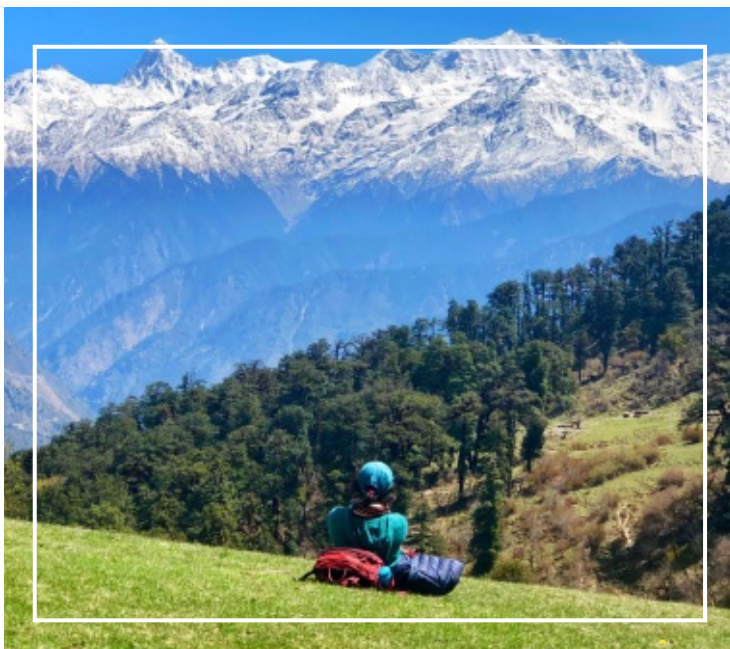
Tourism post COVID-19 pandemic



Travel Safety: Safety will be at the forefront of the travel industry in the post-pandemic world. Maintaining travellers' safety will be the utmost priority for holidaymakers. Almost every sector of the travel industry will continue observing social distancing measures. Travellers are also likely to show interest in travelling to far and remote locations that would allow them to avoid crowds and enjoy socially-distanced trips. Social distancing rules, usage of face coverings and maintenance of proper hygiene by constant sanitisation will continue and become the new norm at airports, airplanes, destinations, local transports, hotels, restaurants and tourist attractions. In addition, contact tracing and COVID-testing will also continue to be active phases of the travel process.

Sustainable Tourism : The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in a much lower rate of emissions in 2020 as compared to the previous year. This has created environment consciousness among travellers with more and more individuals seeking the recovery of travel in a sustainable way. Travellers are now looking at the newer ways where they can travel with a lower carbon footprint from low-carbon aviation fuel to eco-friendly hotels and minimal usage of electricity.

Going Local: Considered to be a part of sustainable tourism plans, travel in 2021 will emphasise more on supporting local initiatives. In a bid to support tourism recovery, travellers will look out for active ways to support and give back to local communities, both close to and far from home. Countries affected by the pandemic have already started focussing on promoting domestic tourism. With the restrictions associated with international travel in the post-pandemic world, the demand for domestic tourism will be highly prominent and noticeable more than ever.



Digitisation of Travel : Similar to various other industries, the travel industry has also embraced digital advancement. A new era of virtual travel was uncovered in 2020 amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Several international destinations turned to virtual tourism and digital travel with the help of artificial intelligence and virtual reality. Virtual tours now allow people to reach various destinations of their choice right from the comfort of their own rooms. Some virtual travel facilities even appoint a digital tour guide who can be controlled according to the viewer's convenience. However, virtual travel comes with its limitations. Though it cannot replace traditional travel, it is here to stay at least until people start travelling again like pre-COVID times.

Touchless Technology : Artificial intelligence and technological advancement have also introduced paperless and touchless facilities to help during the travel process. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, touchless facilities like facial recognition and biometrics technology have become the new normal for the aviation and hospitality industry. Self-check in kiosks, automated security checks, AI robots, paperless booking and contactless payments would be largely around in the new year for maintaining better safety and security during travel.

Increase in Road Trips: With various regulations, restrictions and uncertainty attached to air travel due to the pandemic, road trips are likely to take a centre stage this year. Many travellers will turn to travelling on the road via car to local destinations as well as use local transportation to support communities. Road trips are likely to ensure a cheaper and safer way of travel until travellers have the opportunity and confidence to travel like pre-pandemic times.



Lesser Business Travel: Besides leisure travel, the business travel industry has also witnessed a sharp decline due to COVID-19. With advanced technological solutions like videoconferencing, digital and hybrid events, rise of work from home culture and similar collaboration tools that can connect people across the globe from their own homes, business travel is likely to be less frequent in the post-pandemic world. Various companies will carry out meetings and conferences online and avoid business travel unless absolutely necessary.

Longer Trips : The work from home culture and changing quarantine-on-arrival policies will mostly result in an increase in trip durations and witness longer stays. Quick trips even beyond the border will no longer remain the same as pre-COVID times. With majority of destinations adhering to quarantine or self-isolating policies and the need of physical presence at work or schools being minimised to nil, travellers will mostly opt for longer trips.

Rise of Travel Bubbles : Several countries around the world have already started establishing travel bubbles with selected countries of their choice. The year after the pandemic will witness a rise in such travel bubbles. More nations will open up their borders for tourism for their preferred countries where coronavirus has been contained while keeping the borders closed for other countries with higher risks of the virus outbreak. People will be allowed to travel freely within the bubble but not outside. This will not only boost tourism but also allow for more safer and responsible travel.

Importance of Travel Insurance : In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of travel insurance has gradually increased with majority of destinations making travel insurance mandatory for travellers. Many countries are likely to make travel insurance compulsory in order to cover COVID-19 costs or other medical expenses in order to help travellers avoid any financial crisis during an emergency.



In an exclusive
interview with Travel
And Tour World,
Claude Blanc,
Portfolio Director,
IBTM Events and
WTM shares his
insight on IBTM's
role to boost travel
and tourism industry.
He also shares his
views on future plans
to reshape the travel
& tourism industry.



Travel And Tour World: What are the challenges we are facing now for the travel and event industry?

Claude Blanc: There's no denying that 2020 has been, and indeed continues to be, a very challenging year for the travel and event industry. However, the recent positive news about potential vaccines has left many of us feeling significantly more confident about what 2021 and beyond holds.

Domestic tourism, or 'staycations', will help drive some of the recovery, however we are likely to be living with ongoing travel and quarantine restrictions in many countries around the world, together with some reluctance on the part of consumers to resume air travel and tourism. The challenge will be restoring traveller confidence to support the safe return of international tourism, which will in turn support jobs and businesses in the sector, and all the inter-related businesses which rely on the travel and tourism industry.

In terms of events, our research shows that there's still a huge appetite to meet face-to-face, when it is safe to do so. The greater adoption of virtual and hybrid events is likely to have a long-term impact on the sector. It's accelerated some of the technology around virtual and hybrid events, and for many now the challenge will be driving physical attendance at events while still ensuring hybrid options.

On a practical level, COVID-19 has of course brought about changes to the way that meetings and events are designed, with smaller event sizes and venues

with outdoor space becoming more commonplace as we all strive to find ways to adapt to the new reality.

Travel And Tour World: What are the future plans IBTM has taken to boost the industry and the path to recovery?

Claude Blanc: Early on in lockdown, we quickly recognised the need to provide a platform for our customers, partners and the wider events industry to help them stay connected. A couple of weeks after lockdown began, we launched IBTM Connect, an online resource hub for business events professionals to share knowledge and practical guidance. It has proved incredibly popular with event professionals around the globe and therefore it is something we are planning to take forward into next year. We're all really looking forward to what promises to be a hugely enjoyable and productive three days when IBTM World Virtual begins on the 8th December. It will be fantastic to get together as an industry and share our experiences of the last year, and we know that many exhibitors are planning to share the adjustments they have made in terms of physical distancing and health and safety measures, to assist Hosted Buyers in planning their future events. The knowledge programme at IBTM World Virtual is packed with outstanding content, reflecting the key themes relevant to event professionals as our industry rebuilds and recovers post pandemic, including sessions focusing on leadership through change, technology and sustainability.

Then in June next year we have the rescheduled IBTM Asia Pacific, which will take place from 8 – 9 June 2021 in Singapore, at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre. The team is hard at work planning an exciting itinerary that will ensure customers can benefit from an itinerary that combines high quality one-to-one business meetings with inspiring educational content that will provide the insights and knowledge delegates need to rebuild and recover post pandemic. As a business we are constantly evaluating and evolving our events in what is an incredibly fast-paced industry. We'll continue to do the same post COVID-19 to ensure our events continue to deliver for our partners and customers.

Travel And Tour World: Tell us about the new opportunities for the upheaval of travel and meetings industry?

Claude Blanc: It's difficult to predict where this virus will take us, but we've already seen that the

event and travel industries are incredibly nimble and creative, with the qualities needed to enable them to adapt to the challenges ahead. In the short-term, some adjustments will be necessary to ensure that we can continue to meet safely, and face to face events are likely to be supplemented by some form of virtual or online content in the future. Ultimately, we believe the acceleration of this type of event and the associated technologies will have a positive impact on the industry, allowing broader attendance of events, amongst other benefits. In terms of travel, in the short-term people may prefer to travel to destinations which are closer to home, and which don't require air travel. However, we believe there will be a real appetite to resume travelling again, when it is safe to do so. Ongoing restrictions and potentially an element of nervousness on the part of consumers may mean we're not back to normal straight away, but the advent of the vaccine and quick turnaround testing together with pent up appetite to get away are all good news for the travel industry.





Rhushboo Gujarat Ki



Thol

Witness God at His Artistic Best




❁ Thol - A Nature Lover's Delight. A Hidden Gem ❁

Just an hour away from city's busy lanes and honking cars is a quiet paradise that makes you feel as if time has stood still. Thol Lake bird sanctuary is a perfect weekend escapade from our busy lives, that provides us a glimpse into nature's many delights. This place is not only a must-visit for nature and bird lovers, but also music lovers, because there's music and beautiful sounds in the air and everywhere!



Disclaimer: The details and pictures contained here are for information and could be indicative. Some of the activities listed may be unavailable due to seasonal and technical reasons.

A night-time photograph of the Toronto skyline. The CN Tower is the central focus, illuminated with warm lights. To its left is the Rogers Centre, a large stadium with a distinctive white, ribbed dome. The surrounding city is filled with numerous skyscrapers, many of which are lit up, creating a vibrant urban scene. The sky is a deep blue, and the city lights reflect on the water in the foreground.

Toronto is noted for its architecture as it has rich treasures dating back to 19th century. This city has witnessed massive architectural revival which includes a condo boom along the shoreline and several buildings such as the Royal Ontario Museum and the Art Gallery of Ontario, all of which are designed by world-renowned architects.

TORONTO

Canada's skyline

The transformation of a city's skyline speaks of the growth of a city. Perhaps this is especially the case with a city like Toronto, where developments have seemed to come in big stages, whether this be the rise of the Royal York Hotel in the late 1920s, the Toronto Dominion Centre in the late 1960s or the addition of the CN Tower in the mid-1970s. From 1880 to till date, Toronto has been witnessing massive change and evolution in architectural engineering. Toronto has some of the most unbelievable buildings and huge architectural structures that appeal not just the Canadians but also the people all over the world.



Exploring City's Architecture Capturing Best Skyline

Architectural Delights



Allen Lambert Galleria

The Allen Lambert Galleria is an atrium that connects Sam Pollock Square with Bay Street. It has six stories and eight free-standing supports on each side that branch out to form a forest-like canopy. This parabolic arched roof is a popular backdrop for many photographers.

Royal Ontario Museum

The Royal Ontario Museum is the largest museum in Canada and one of the largest in North America. The architects Daniel Libeskind, Frank Darling and John A. Pearson designed it over a hundred years ago. There are over 40 galleries and six million items.



Centreville Amusement Park

Centreville Amusement Park is located on the Centre Island, offshore of Toronto. It is children's amusement park with over 30 rides and attractions, along with 14 food joints. It is surrounded by 600 acres of lush greenery.

Canadian National Tower

The CN Tower was the tallest building in the world for 34 years before the Burj Khalifa in Dubai was built. It was built in 1976 by architects Roger Du Toit and John Andrews. Standing at 553.2 m (1,815 feet) high, the CN Tower is visible from every part of Toronto.



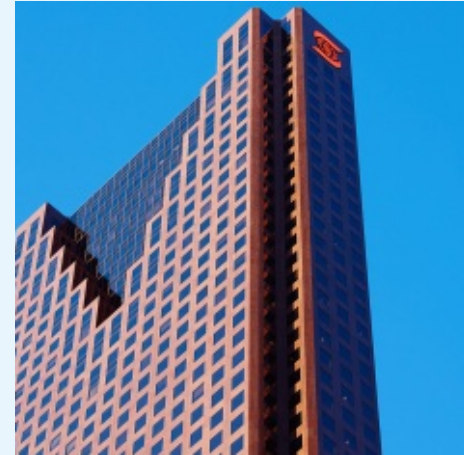
Bata Shoe Museum

The Bata Shoe Museum, as the name suggests, is a footwear museum is immensely popular as it is the only museum in North America that is dedicated to footwear.



Aga Khan Museum

The Aga Khan Museum showcases over 1,000 rare objects of Muslim culture, Iranian art and Islamic art. Famous architects Fumihiko Maki, Vladimir Djurovic and Charles Correa designed it. The architectural prowess of this structure will leave anyone awestruck! It is almost like a sundial, in the sense that all of its sides are exposed to sunlight. There is a constant play of light and shadows on the white Brazilian granite surface of this museum.



Scotia Plaza

Scotia Plaza is Canada's third tallest skyscraper, standing 275 me tall. It is a commercial tower located in the centre of the city's financial district. With 68 stories and its posh location, the Scotia Plaza is unmissable in Toronto's skyline. The tower boasts of approximately 190,000 square m of office space and has 40 retail stores as well.

Casa Loma

Casa Loma is a majestic castle that was constructed in 1914 by architect E. J. Lennox. With five acres of gardens and an underground tunnel that connects the castle with the stables and the Hunting Lodge, Casa Loma will surely impress you.



Art Gallery of Ontario

The Art Gallery of Ontario is spread over 45,000 square miles, making it one of the most extensive North American galleries. It houses an array of more than 95,000 works for you to see, including the world's most comprehensive collection of Canadian art.

Places to capture Toronto Skyline



Humber Bay

A great place for a walk and to see and enjoy the skyline is from Humber Bay. Along this area of the lake, which is west of downtown, you will find a boardwalk and beach area. Further along, there is an arched bridge which is a great location for taking pictures.



Polson Pier

This is one of the classic viewpoints and provides an awesome perspective all year round, including in the winter.

Trillium Park

Trillium Park is one of the city's newest parks and is quite downtown, but is located slightly west and juts out into the Lake Ontario. It's nice to go here both day and night to enjoy this view of the city.

Riverdale Park East

This park offers great views of the Toronto skyline. The view is within the city and slightly east of downtown. The quickest way to get here is to get off at Broadview Station and then take a tram south or walk for around 5 minutes from the station.



Special Feature

In the present digital age and highly hectic urban lifestyle, travellers are often looking forward to a break from the daily hustle bustle in order to reset and relax. The concept of wellness tourism became popular to promote health and well-being through various spiritual, physical and psychological activities. Similarly, as a part of wellness tourism, spa tourism also gained popularity among travellers for relaxations and health improvement.

Wellness and spa tourism tends to the mind and body and creates a new form of mindfulness towards daily life. It allows travellers to step away from the various stresses of daily life so that they can return home rejuvenated with a newfound energy to dive into the fast paced lifestyle. Here we have listed some of the top destinations around the world to experience the best spa and wellness holidays.

Ideal Destinations For Wellness Retreat & Spa



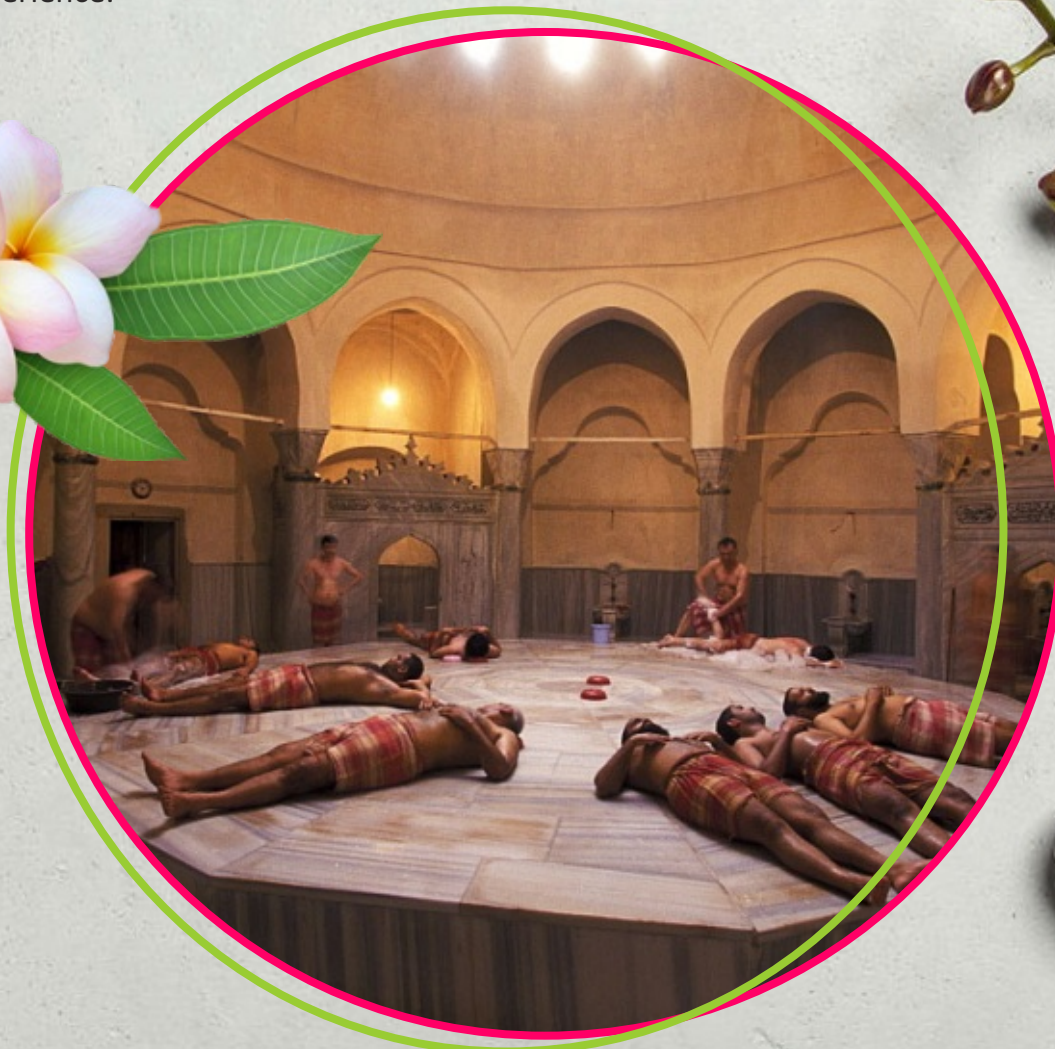
Thailand

Thailand is known as one of the best destinations for spa and wellness tourism. From Chiang Mai to Bangkok and all the way down to Phuket, the country offers a wide range of spa resorts in different budgets. Thailand combines the traditional therapeutic methodologies into modern health and wellness techniques and offers abundance of authentic spa and wellness services. Expert professionals provide luxurious services in exotic locations with warm hospitality. The land of smiles brings together indigenous resources, age-old knowledge and world-class wellness traditions and forms a pathway to natural healing.



Turkey

Recognised for its traditional Turkish baths, the country can certainly be considered as one of the best spa and wellness tourism destinations in the world. Turkey offers unlimited wellness tourism opportunities from Istanbul to Cappadocia, with utmost care and relaxation amid tranquil locations overlooking the turquoise blue waters and green shores. Alongside the best luxury spa resorts with skilled therapists, Turkey is also home to numerous hot springs and thermal facilities that provide visitors with alternative and natural therapies to feel relaxed and rejuvenated. Besides the pampered health and beauty treatments offered in the latest spa holidays, the country also provides wellness through its natural springs. Moreover, the purified and relaxed feeling from traditional and sacred Turkish hammams (Turkish baths) is a once-in-lifetime experience.



Bali, Indonesia

Another Southeast Asian location that offers great scope for spa and wellness tourism is Bali, Indonesia. The island comes with a history rooted in wellness practices and continues to attract wellness tourists to the day. Over the year, Bali has transformed into one of the leaders in luxury spa tourism in Asia. Almost all of Bali's top hotels and resorts offer incredible spa facilities. According to the Global Spa Summit, Bali's wellness and spa tourism attractions includes its natural landscape with spa services in natural settings, highly skilled local therapists and abundance of local ingredients for spa practices. In fact, the town of Ubud with its unique jungle resorts and spas is now considered to be one of the best spa and wellness tourism venues in the world. Bali has also introduced a range of big and small yoga studios throughout the island and also serves as a popular destination for yoga holidays.



Budapest, Hungary

Known as the 'Spa Capital of the World', Budapest is popular among wellness tourists for its thermal springs. These springs have resulted in the formation of many mineral-rich baths that often provide natural healing solutions for various ailments. It was back in the 16th century that Romans built many private luxurious baths around the thermal springs paving the way for the Hungarian capital to become a popular spa destination. While the city has established several modern spa centres, some of the heritage baths continue to flourish offering travellers one of the finest spa and wellness tourism experiences.



Hakone, Japan

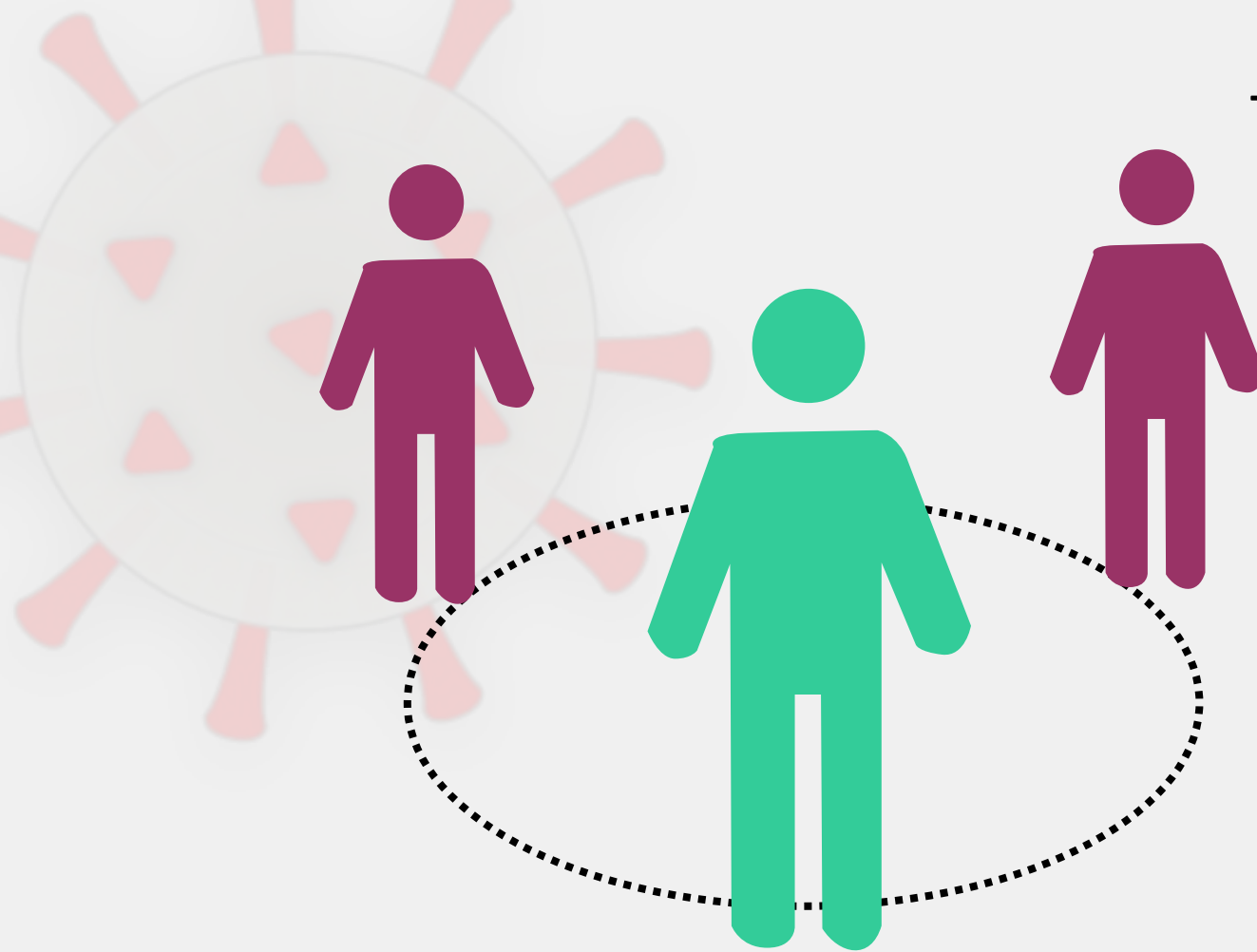
Home to numerous volcanic hot springs, Hakone is the perfect destination to experience Japan's rich spa-going tradition. Besides the massage therapies in luxury spa resorts, Japan's hot springs called "Onsen" attract wellness tourists for their healing nature. Hakone has some of the best onsens in Japan with several baths and inns offering gentle and pure water. It is believed that the waters provide natural solution for various ailments from relieving painful joints and muscles ailments to detoxification and anti-aging. The resorts in Hakone also feature indoor and outdoor baths and saunas for men and women with striking open-air views of the region's forests and mountains.



Switzerland

Besides its beautiful surroundings and magnificent landscapes, Switzerland is also known for its health and wellness tourism industry, the second largest in Europe worth nearly above CHF3 billion and contributing around 17-20% in the overall tourism revenue. The country offers the best spa experience in its spa resorts, saunas and wellness centres. It also has several thermal springs with beneficial therapeutic qualities as well as exquisite thermal baths. Professional doctors, therapists, osteopaths, acupuncturists and nutritionists provide Ayurvedic massages and work magically to detoxify and revive every traveller's body and spirit.





SOCIAL DISTANCING

Innovations Taken By Tourism Industry

Today, the tourism industry is suffering from one of the greatest problems in the decade. The deadly pandemic has crippled travel, airline and hotel industry. Now from our vicinity alarms in museums to al fresco drive-in cinemas, all countries around the world are looking at new and creative ways to welcome tourists in the safest way possible. Now the governments, tourism boards and convention bureaus are scrambling to limit the economic impact, with some of the most populous cities like Greece, Britain, U.K., Italy, Tokyo and many others introducing social distancing technology, barriers and other measures to reassure visitors and keep their borders open. They are also working closely with convention bureaus and tourism organisations.

Tourism industry reopens

In the United Kingdom, after the lockdown lifted on July 4, museums, cinemas and art galleries reopened their doors to visitors. Though coronavirus pandemic is a real concern, people still wanted to be in the fresh air at least for some time. This is why American-style drive-in cinemas from the likes of Luna Cinema are making their debut across the country. In Italy, the rules were lifted a little earlier, in mid-May, giving an indication to other countries as to how visits to tourist attractions could be handled.

New Innovations In Florence, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore – more commonly known as the Duomo – is giving visitors lanyards with devices attached that beep, vibrate and flash when people come within two metres of one another.

Worn around the neck, the gadgets are available at no cost and disinfected before each use. This system guarantees maximum security and comfort during the visit. The compulsory temperature checks and face masks also apply to visitors at each of Duomo's five monuments, including Giotto's Bell Tower and Brunelleschi's dome.

The International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art issued safety guidelines



to its 35,000 members in late April. Along with policies, suggestions include registering visitors for potential contact tracing, enhanced cleaning and suspension of all guided tours, large events and programmes for senior citizens and vulnerable people.



Use of electronic bracelets

In Italy, some of the luxury and mid-scale beach resorts are considering electronic bracelets to monitor crowding, along with one-way flow systems, umbrellas at 5 m intervals and booking apps to assign time slots for sunbathing. Sardinia's La Pelosa beach plans to implement a limited admission ticketing system.

Plexiglass Screens

At a beach bar on the Greek island of Santorini, plexiglass screens have been installed around beach chairs and sun loungers. Bar owner Charlie Chahine hopes that the giant transparent boxes will entice tourists back to the island.



Smart Rings

In the US, staff at the Las Vegas Venetian and Palazzo resorts are being asked to wear “smart rings” that can detect infection before symptoms occur. Designed by Finnish tech start-up Oura, and priced at US\$300 each, the finger rings were originally designed to track sleeping patterns. Two studies indicated that the rings can predict the onset of Covid-19 symptoms by measuring body temperature, heart rate, and respiration. The emergency medical workers at two San Francisco hospitals will also begin wearing the smart rings. Oura is working with the hospitals to urge its 150,000 other customers to share medical data, which they hope will lead to an algorithm for early virus detection.

See exhibits from your own car

In Toronto, an immersive Van Gogh exhibit is welcoming drive-in visitors, in order to maintain social distancing. The first of its kind, the installation projects light and sound that visitors can enjoy from the safety of their cars. In the US, Six Flags amusement park and the San Antonio Zoo have also added drive-through experiences hoping to keep customers safe and entertained.



New Faces

West London Hilton appoints its new area general manager



One of Hilton's longest serving General Managers has taken up a new role as Area General Manager for West London. Oliver Stockland's career with Hilton spans nearly 25 years. During this time he has worked for Hilton in Bristol, Birmingham and the capital. This latest move will see him take charge of a range of key properties, including Hilton Hyde Park – where he held his first ever role as a General Manager for Hilton – as well as Hilton London Heathrow Airport Terminal 4, Hilton Wembley, Hilton Kensington and Hilton Olympia.

Oliver Stockland will be based out of Heathrow, where he will oversee the property's much anticipated refurbishment, scheduled to be unveiled in spring 2021.

The Langham, Hong Kong appoints new officials to enhance culinary art



The Langham, Hong Kong appoints Michael J Donlevy as Culinary Director and Ng Tzer Tzun in his right-hand position as Executive Sous Chef to work for the betterment of culinary art. Both of them will lead the hotel's culinary brigade in overseeing dining operations at the 498-room luxury hotel with six restaurants and bars, private dining for guests in residence, The Langham Club Lounge, as well as catering for various creative events. With a distinguished career spanning over three decades in the culinary arts, the Australian native of Irish descent began his apprenticeship and emerging career posts in the Regent, Marriott and Hilton Hotels in Sydney, Michael then moved to London where he worked at the Marco Pierre White Group between 1998 to 2002 holding positions such as Chef Entremetier.

Ruby Hotels appoints Isabell Fuß as New Group Vice President of Development & Julian Mörs as Group Development Director



Ruby Hotels is expanding its senior leadership team. As of 1st October, Daniella Boeken will complement the Executive Management Team as Group Vice President Commercial. In this newly created position, Daniella Boeken will report directly to CEO and founder Michael Struck. Daniella will oversee the Revenue & Reservations, Sales, and Marketing & PR divisions.

Born in the Netherlands, Boeken joins Ruby directly from the HR Group, where she was Commercial Vice President with responsibility for 35+ hotels. She previously held various management positions at Marriott International. Boris Simm, currently Group Director Operations at Ruby, will be promoted to Group Vice President Operations.

Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) takes the new name in board of directors



Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) held its Annual General Meeting on 9th December, 2020, which was held virtually. CINZ Chair Tony Gardner says members took the opportunity to change the constitution and structure of the Board to reflect the future needs of the industry. At the annual general meeting, Conventions and Incentives New Zealand (CINZ) also announced a name change to Business Events Industry Aotearoa (BEIA), which had already in effect from 1 December 2020. The new board structure sees two seats elected from the Platinum member category, and one seat from each of the Gold and Silver member categories. In a new rule, two seats will be appointed by the Chairman and elected Board Members following the Annual General Meeting, who may or may not be a Member of the Association.

With the advancement of digital technology and the security threats for aviation industry constantly evolving, several companies around the world are focused on introducing advanced screening technologies at airports for enhanced security and better passenger experience. Read on to know about some of the most popular airport screening technologies that is shaping the future of airport security.



ADVANCED AIRPORT SCREENING

Computed Tomography

Similar to the CT technology used in the medical field, Computer Tomography is the latest checkpoint X-ray scanning equipment being used in airports to enhance threat detection capabilities especially in carry-on baggage. According to studies, CT is one of the most important technologies available for airport screening today. CT technology allows for imaging and automated threat detection and gives screeners the available information to identify potential threats and prohibited items in order to keep passengers safe. CT scanners also allows more data collection as compared to conventional equipment and provides a better customer experience by decreasing waiting time and enabling faster processing as checkpoints.



Smart Gates

The concept of Smart Gates began as an automated self-service border control system that was initially operated by the Australian Border Force and New Zealand Customs Service in ten Australian international airports and four New Zealand international airports beginning with the Brisbane Airport. All travellers accessing the Smart Gates require a biometric passport as the ePassport gate scanner scans all the information about the passenger from the passport chip and runs data against numerous databases to check for security risks. After the data verification and facial recognition, doors automatically open upon successful completion of the security check. More recently, Dubai introduced nearly 130 smart gates across two of its major international airports for a more rapid, smooth and comfortable experience for passengers.

Biometrics

Perhaps one of the most popular advanced screening techniques for airports today is biometrics technology. Initially beginning with fingerprint recognition, the technology has now moved towards facial recognition. It has become increasingly popular across airports around the globe especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Biometrics technology was mostly used for check-in and check-outs with a 100 percent match rate and has now expanded to baggage-drops. The self-service technology enables high-level of automatic security scanning and helps in providing a seamless, faster, more-secure and better travel experience for passengers. The technology allows top-level identification in a matter of few minutes only with the use of the traveller's biology. Contemporary biometrics technology can even identify objects including guns and detect all other threats of similar nature easily.

Automated Screening Lanes

Automated Screening Lanes (ASLs) are a state-of-the-art checkpoint technology that enhances screening and security efficiency and decreases the amount of time spent in the screening process. ASLs mostly help in automating the manual process of screening individual belongings and increases the efficiency of security check. Several international airports already use automated screening lanes with more advanced ASLs set to arrive in coming years. TSA is working with American Airlines to introduce new screening lanes that consist of conveyor belts to automatically move the carry-on bags through X-ray scanners. These lanes would also capture images of the bags and items as well as add RFID tags to the bins for further accountability of the items.



C2 Detection Standard

The C2 Detection Standard established by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) is an advanced algorithm that enables easy detection of explosive materials inside complex items and structures. It allows passengers to keep all their electronic devices and belongings inside their hand luggage while going through security checkpoints and can detect threat materials even inside congested bags. It limits human contact at checkpoints and makes the screening process safer and faster. The latest security screening technology has been introduced in the Hamad International Airport and is expected to be launched in several airports across the world in coming years.



Digital Luggage Tags

Checking luggage and belongings is the key step of the screening process. However, passengers are often concerned about their luggage getting misplaced. Therefore, the latest hi-tech digital luggage tags provide better security of luggage and ensure a sense of accountability in travellers. Early last year, Bagtag launched an electronic luggage label for passengers flying in Lufthansa, Swiss and Austrian airlines. The device attaches to any piece of luggage and uses the airline's mobile app to check in and retrieve the boarding pass and luggage label. Bluetooth technology transfers the bag info to Bagtag, which digitally displays the information on an e-reader-type display screen. Similarly, British Airways launched 'TAG', a reusable digital bag tag that seamlessly connects luggage to smartphone upon attaching the personal tag to the luggage before bag drop. Passengers can link it with their BA app to attach details of travel with their bag.

WORLD FESTIVALS

When it comes to celebrations, the festivals offer something big for everyone and enlighten a new hope. TTW picks some of the unique celebrations from all around the world that are taking place in the month of January. Now experience life the way it should be lived.

Harbin Ice and Snow Festival



When: 5 Jan, 2021

Where: Harbin, China



It is the largest snow and ice festival in the world. This 37th Harbin Ice and Snow Festival features the carvings towering over 20 feet in height and full-size buildings made from gigantic blocks of ice. The illumination effect on the huge ice sculptures in the Ice and Snow World are technologically sophisticated.

Celebrated in the month of January after the winter solstice, Pongal is South India's harvesting festival. It marks the sun's entry into Tropic of Capricorn from the Tropic of Cancer.

Pongal



When: 14 -17 Jan, 2021

**Where: Tamil Nadu,
India**



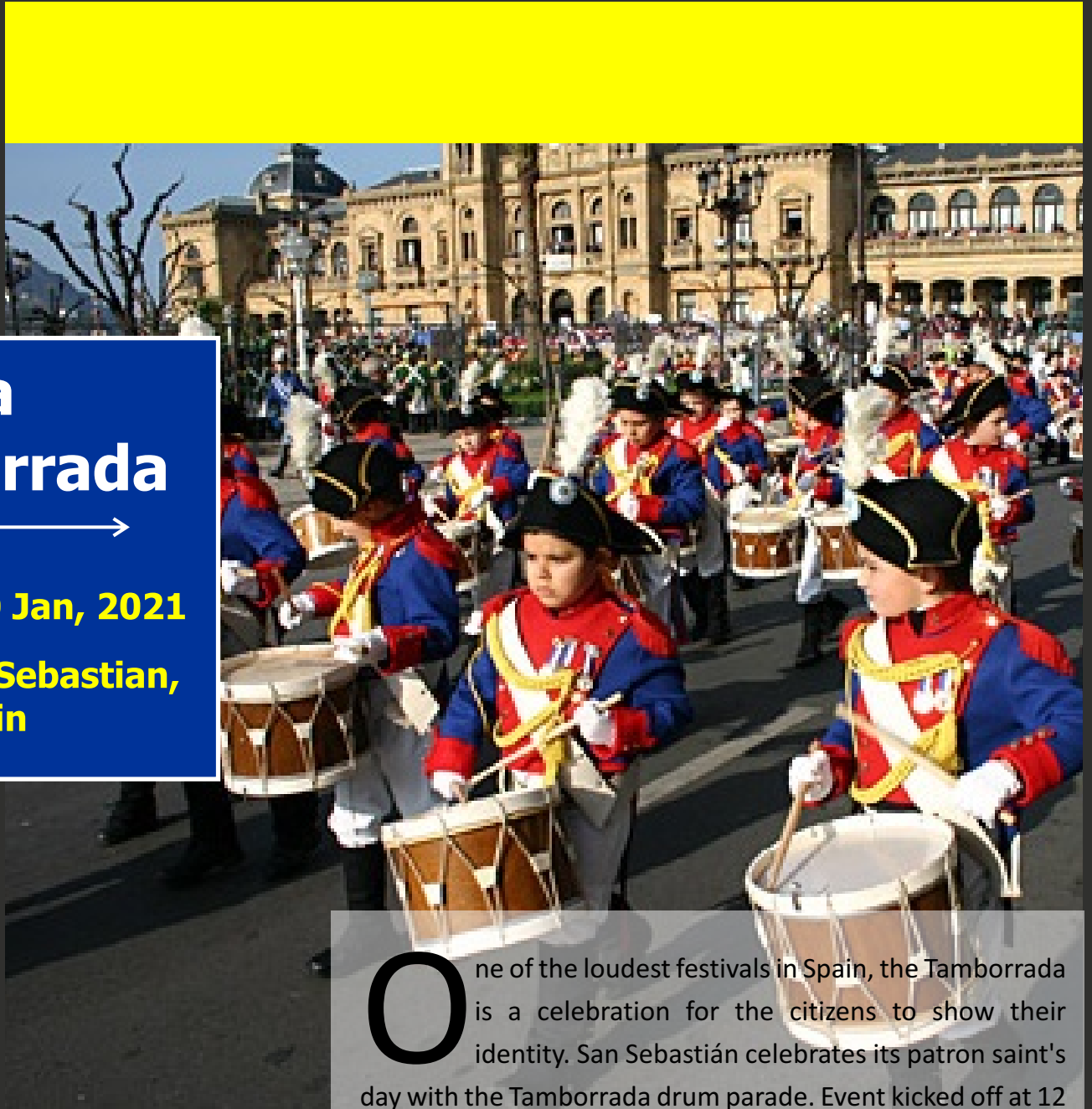
The word Pongal is derived from the Tamil word Ponga, which means “to boil.” The first day is called Bhogi Pongal dedicated to Lord Indra, the Hindu deity. The second day is dedicated to Lord Surya. The ceremonial act requires the rice to be boiled in milk in an earth pot. This rice is then offered to Lord Surya as an offering. The third day is called Mattu Pongal, dedicated to the cows.

La Tamborrada



When: 19-20 Jan, 2021

**Where: San Sebastian,
Spain**



One of the loudest festivals in Spain, the Tamborrada is a celebration for the citizens to show their identity. San Sebastián celebrates its patron saint's day with the Tamborrada drum parade. Event kicked off at 12 o'clock midnight in the Plaza de la Constitución, when the city flag is raised.

Up Helly Aa Fire Festival



When: 29th Jan, 2021

**Where: Lerwick,
Scotland**



It is a traditional fiesta to mark the end of the yule season. Up Helly Aa Fire Festival involves in brilliant processions with torches, tar barreling, parties, flamboyant costumes, and the burning of a replica Viking ship, which make this an exciting festival.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**16-17 Jan
2021**

ADVENTURE TRAVEL SHOW
London, UK
www.adventureshow.com

**ADVENTURE
TRAVEL SHOW**

TRAVEL & TOURISM FAIR (TTF) - CHENNAI
Chennai (India)
www.ttfotm.com

TTF
TRAVEL & TOURISM FAIR

**18-20 Jan
2021**

**20th Jan
2021**

CONVENTA
Ljubljana, Slovenia
www.conventa.si/


CONVENTA

SATTE - MUMBAI
Mumbai, India
www.satte.in

SATTE 
South Asia's Leading Travel Show
By Informa Markets

**20-22 Jan
2021**

**29-31 Jan
2021**

TOURISSIMA LILLE 2021
Lille, France
<http://www.salons-du-tourisme.com/Lille>

Salon du
tourisme
Tourissima

Travel AND TourTM

www.travelandtourworld.com

W O R L D



2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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