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Editor's Letter

"A little more persistence, a little more effort, and what seemed hopeless failure may turn to glorious success."

- Elbert Hubbard

These lines by Elbert Hubbard are truer in the context of the travel trade reeling from the aftermath of the lockdowns than any other situation. At Travel Turtle, it brings us immense joy to see cheery faces of trade professionals, business transactions happening at unprecedented levels, conventions and familiarisation trips being conducted at a rapid pace; all positive indicators of the travel trade on a trajectory towards attaining the pre-covid tempo.

Team Travel Turtle has witnessed the most strenuous schedule since the onset of the pandemic, seesawing between coverages, events and traveling overseas all at the same time; but no whining! On the contrary, struggling to meet deadlines paired with the 'busy days are back' feeling has only kept us on our toes, and elated. This issue is special for us in more ways than one; stepping into the festive season, both the travel industry and travellers are bustling with high spirits.

We're featuring the much anticipated TAFI convention being held in the enchanting cities of Kuala Lumpur and Kuching. The International feature of the issue needs no introduction; Iceland is one of the most captivating destinations and features in the bucket list of every traveller in search of natural bliss and tranquility. Compiling an article on the destination is as unwinding for the story-teller as much as it is for the reader.



Hold on to the balustrade and get ready for experiencing opulence as we take you on an uncharted voyage in the high seas with Resort World Cruises' Genting Dream. Every flip of a page will fill you with fresh emotions and open up portals of new experiences.

We sincerely trust that you will have as much pleasure reading this edition of Travel Turtle as much as we enjoyed compiling this for you, our dear readers. Do share your feedback at bharti@travelturtle.world.

Happy Reading!



Bharti Sharma
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ROCK IN RIO



Transform your business make it big!

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Data access
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Convert every
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business
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Elevated marketing
platform offering an
opportunity to network
with trade partners

Reach out to your
extreme potential
partners

Key decision makers
and stakeholders
under one roof

Educating partners
about latest tourism
products & offerings

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all inclusive
multi-city roadshow

Technology
driven platform
with pre-fix
meetings

Single price
and allinclusive
road show

Highly scrutinised
buyers profile

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	OCT 26-29 2022				

Chalo Kazak - Chalo DMC forays into Kazakhstan to leverage potential the Destination holds for Indian Travellers

After the huge success with South Africa and the Domestic tourism vertical ChaloDMC, the leading destination management company having a philosophy to specialise in key destinations now expands to add Kazakhstan to their ever-growing range of product offerings.

Siddharth Jain - Founder & Director Chalo DMC, already having a strong persistent association with Kazakhstan is extremely excited to re-launch his alliance with the destination. With his profound knowledge and proficiency in Kazakhstan, the team at Chalo DMC intend to capitalize on the strong and growing travel opportunity the region offers for travel from India.

He shared, "There is a strong pent-up demand to explore the unexplored. Along with easing travel restrictions, having free Visas on arrival for Indian traveller and the commencement of direct flights from Delhi, all work as great stimulating factors for driving a positive consumer sentiment towards the Destination. Along with an enthusiastic team, we are looking forward to welcoming the Indian Traveller to explore this hidden Central-Asian gem."



Jamaica earnings and arrivals expected to exceed pre-COVID-19 levels: Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett

Jamaica Minister of Tourism, Hon. Edmund Bartlett, says there is every indication that 2023 will be a great comeback year for the country's hospitality sector, where both earnings and arrivals are expected to exceed pre COVID-19 levels.

The Minister, who was speaking at the World Travel Awards Caribbean and Americas ceremony, at Sandals Montego Bay, on August 31, said that as it stands, tourism earnings (over the same corresponding period) have already exceeded 2019, while arrivals are just a trifle behind.

"Based on the trajectory, we have every reason to believe that 2023 will be an unbelievable year for tourism," the Minister noted.

"We have recovered faster than anybody could have imagined, and for this I must commend the team at the Ministry of Tourism and also all of our international partners," he added.

The Minister also noted that the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) saw a jump in earnings from April to July, pulling in more than \$2.4 billion over the period, and representing a 20 per cent increase when compared to pre-COVID-19 earnings.

Qatar Tourism launches Stopover campaign featuring David Beckham

Qatar Tourism has launched a new stopover holiday campaign featuring David Beckham. The campaign reveals Beckham's action-packed adventure around the country over the course of 48 hours, showing how Qatar can be a great stopover break for all visitors.

From exploring the winding spice markets of Souq Waqif, soaking up local street art, cooking tacos, camping in the desert, and sightseeing around Doha by motorbike, Beckham accompanies local personalities to discover a country of countless surprises.

More than 80 per cent of the world's population live within a six-hour flight from Qatar, making the destination an excellent place to turn a stopover into a mini break. Through this new campaign, Qatar Tourism seeks to raise awareness of the world's best value stopover packages, which are on offer from Qatar Airways. Packages start from £12 GBP per person per night for a 4-star hotel, and £17 GBP per person for a five-star hotel. Holidaymakers can book now at: qatarairways.com/stopover.

Qatar Tourism's through-the-line campaign will see content across digital advertising, social media channels, Qatar Tourism's website, and selected partners. The campaign video will also be hosted on Qatar Airways' in-flight entertainment system Oryx.

Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "It has been a pleasure to welcome David to Qatar, where he has immersed himself in the culture and experienced first-hand the warm hospitality of the people. I encourage the millions who transit through Qatar every year to follow in David's footsteps and create their own exciting adventure and memories. We have something for everyone at incredible value, whether it's sun sea sand, rich heritage and culture, surprising nature, or a modern and fun city break."



GNTB presents the 100 most popular tourist attractions in Germany

Between December 2021 and June 2022, around 15,000 international visitors from 30 countries chose their favorite tourist destinations in Germany. The current TOP 100 ranking is now online.

Last year's winner, Miniatur Wunderland Hamburg, received the most votes. EuropaPark Rust was also able to defend its second place. Rothenburg ob der Tauber took third place for the first time. Neuschwanstein Castle, Phantasialand Brühl, our capital Berlin, the Black Forest National Park, the Rothenburg ob der Tauber Criminal Museum, Dresden, and the Moselle Valley followed.

Petra Hedorfer, CEO of the Board of Directors of the GNTB: "For ten years in a row, the TOP 100 ranking presents Germany's tourist destinations and sights. The ranking not only provides a snapshot of international awareness and popularity. The lively participation is also a vote for the appeal of the destination brand, Germany in the international competition."



Hyatt Celebrates the opening of Grand Hyatt Gurgaon

Hyatt Hotels Corporation announced the opening of Grand Hyatt Gurgaon in Delhi NCR today. The 442-room luxury hotel is the first Grand Hyatt property in Gurgaon, and is a dynamic luxury destination that will provide business and leisure travellers with an inspiring place to meet, work, celebrate and stay.

With awe-inspiring architecture, smart, sophisticated design, and exceptional service and amenities to match, Grand Hyatt hotels deliver a luxury travel experience beyond all expectations. Each Grand Hyatt property offers superior service within a multicultural backdrop of dramatic architecture, inventive restaurants, luxury spas and sophisticated meeting spaces. With the opening of Grand Hyatt Mumbai in 2004, followed by Grand Hyatt Goa in 2011 and Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty in 2018, the addition of Grand Hyatt Gurgaon marks the first in the city and the fourth Grand Hyatt-branded hotel in the country.

Grand Hyatt Gurgaon is conveniently located in the commercial hub of the National Capital Region, amid high-end residential and commercial spaces. The hotel is part of a 29-acre complex and, the bold and vibrant design and architecture have been created by Foster+Partners, London – the globally renowned architectural, engineering, and integrated design firm. The site includes a unique high street shopping center and an office tower making Grand Hyatt Gurgaon an ideal location for visitors to the city.



Cygnett Hotels & Resorts announces their first resort in Rajasthan

Homegrown Indian hospitality chain Cygnett Hotels & Resorts is pleased to announce its first resort property in Bharatpur Rajasthan with an opening scheduled in October this year. Cygnett Resort Bharatpur is a beautifully landscaped resort built in 5 acres with 64 well-appointed rooms and suites spread across the property located mostly on the ground floor with lawn access. The upscale resort boasts 10000 square feet of beautiful, landscaped lawn area for outdoor events. The resort has 20000 square feet of indoor meeting and event spaces along with other leisure activities like gymnasium, expansive spa to unwind, swimming pool and a multi cuisine restaurant.

Expressing happiness about the latest addition to the portfolio, the Managing Director, and the Founder of the company, Sarbendra Sarkar said, "Cygnett Hotels have been looking at opening resorts in various leisure destinations across India. We are pleased to continue our growth in Rajasthan with the addition of this tranquil property and we will be opening a few more properties in such beautiful and scenic locations. This new resort marks Cygnett's first resort property in the region and adds to the brand's robust development pipeline of properties across India."

"With wedding season at the corner, we will be keen to provide our guests a great option to host destination weddings at Cygnett Resort Bharatpur," Mr. Sarkar added. Cygnett Hotels & Resorts have signed strategic partnership with Bansal Automobiles Pvt Ltd who are also the developers and the owners of the resort.

COMMUNIQUÉ



One Above DMC and Vietjet organise FAM trip for leading tour operators.

With an agenda to make Vietnam one of the most popular outbound destinations for Indian travellers in the coming years, the nine-member delegation of travel experts from India recently conducted a FAM trip co-hosted by One Above DMC and VietJet Air.

Members of the fam trip are founders and directors of leading tour operators in Mumbai, specialised in luxury tour, high-end tour, MICE, FIT and leisure comprising One Above, In Time, Tourister, Vinaayak Holidays, Kesari Travels, Jain & Jain Travels, Whiteboard, Plutus Voyages and Digital Travellers (media) experienced the best of Vietnam. The Indian delegates, welcomed by the Vice Chairman of Vietnam National Administration of Tourism at VNAT head office, met the Director of Quang Ninh Tourism to discuss possibilities and opportunities to increase tourism from India to Vietnam.

"This Fam trip surveyed Vietnam's tourism – an opportunity to strengthen connectivity and exploit the Indian market. We can feel the keenness of Vietnam in approaching and marketing to India and we are also enthusiastic in promoting this destination for the high-income spenders." Said Rahim Aslam, Director and Founder, One Above DMC.



Seven boutique properties in various parts of India join the RARE Community

RARE India, which is at the forefront of promoting unique conscious luxury hotels in the Indian subcontinent, has added seven properties to its portfolio. The new additions to the RARE Community of 100 owner-led, sustainable-luxury, small and boutique hospitality brands include Blue Book at Gethia in Kumaon (Uttarakhand), Camp Kooncha in Sariska (Rajasthan), Cranganor History Café & Riverside Retreat in Muziris (Kerala), LUNGMÄR Remote Camp (Ladakh), Qayaam Gah in Srinagar (Jammu & Kashmir), Rann Riders by Kaafila in Dasada (Gujarat) and The Mirage in Andretta (Himachal Pradesh).

Regarding the new additions to the RARE Community, RARE India's Founder Ms Shoba Mohan said, "The last couple of years have witnessed the emergence of RARE 2.0, where our focus is to create a community of owner-led, sustainable, boutique properties and travel experiences. The RARE Community is made up of like-minded partners who excel at creating destination specific design, personalised hospitality and offer great service even as they journey towards a sustainable future. We welcome on board these little gems spread across India from the Trans Himalayas to hidden valleys in the lower Himalayas right down to the salt-pans of Western India."





Jumeirah Bali, the global luxury hospitality company's debut property in Indonesia

Early in 2022, the Jumeirah Group expanded its international portfolio with Jumeirah Bali, the global luxury hospitality company's debut property in Indonesia. Jumeirah Bali, is a visual and sensory celebration of the island's romantic allure. Blending spectacular nature and references to Hindu-Javanese history, the resort's striking architecture reinterprets Bali's legends for the modern-day traveller.

The vision for the all-villa luxury resort was to connect Bali's past and present in a verdant water-based sanctuary of luxury. In response, Martin Grounds created an overall design narrative centred on the golden era of Majapahit empire and its role as a sanctuary for Bali's ruling elite. The last Indianised kingdom in Indonesia, it reached its apogee in the mid-14th century, becoming a significant power in the region while maintaining regular relations with China, Champa, Cambodia, Annam, and Siam.

South African Tourism sector bounces back, witnesses 147 per cent growth in arrivals

Minister of Tourism, Lindiwe Sisulu, told the media that "the South African tourism sector is poised for a tremendous bounce back and positive growth after the first half of the year (2022) figures show a staggering 147 per cent in arrivals reaching an impressive 2,285,746."

Sisulu was speaking in Johannesburg during a media briefing where she presented the domestic and international tourism performance for January to June 2022. "We are particularly pleased that the arrivals from the Americas increased by 331 per cent and represented 128,991 arrivals," Sisulu said.

According to the Minister, Europe remains South Africa's key overseas market and despite external shocks such as the war in Ukraine, it still "had the most considerable percentage increase in arrivals of 563."

However, she maintains that the African land market is our bread and butter, and it also showed impressive growth, dwarfing the Europe and Americas arrivals numbers. She added: "The African air market brought in 1,634,244 arrivals."

Tourism's upward trajectory is overwhelming on the domestic front; where between January and June 2022, 15.2 million domestic trips were taken. The Minister described this as "A major win for the tourism sector as this is higher than pre-pandemic levels, indicating that South Africa's domestic tourism sector has also experienced a revenge travel trend."



LIVE WIRE

FILM TOURISM

A DRIVER OF LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

A tourism influx to destinations where the movie is shot – enabling a connection with the world of films. Film Tourism; A concept rising with ever-growing popularity.

- Bharti Sharma





Film Tourism – the business of attracting visitors by portraying a place or a place's storylines in movies. We generally see a particular location in a movie and start getting a major FOMO. "I so want to go there," – is the first thought that pops into our minds. This may be due to many reasons. Maybe because we think that the destination is very happening or trending, or because we 'really' enjoyed the film and want to experience a little more of it in some way. Film tourism has the ability to motivate viewers to visit a specific film site through the destinations represented on screen.

CINEMA- AN ABSOLUTE MEDIATOR OF TOURISM

Cinema is generally seen as a mediator of leisure and recreation,

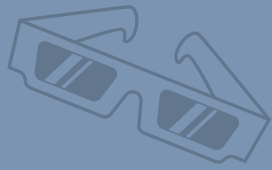
social messages and cultural beliefs. Hence, it can be often used as an instrument to influence in terms of tourist attractions. Off lately, this has worked quite positively for the tourism sector of India. Even though the main purpose of films is to serve entertainment to the viewers and earn profits, but over time, the role of films has expanded quite a lot. Along with the basic role, nowadays films have also become the medium of bringing opulence to new destinations. Films decide their shoot locations in such a way that the viewers get attracted and undergo a sudden urge and dire need to visit these marvellous destinations. Another reason for undertaking Film Tourism is that people want to follow in the footsteps of their favourite stars. The plot of movies also serves a lot in this direction – if a movie is able

to connect with the minds of its viewers at an emotional and mental level, it gives rise to Film Tourism.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FILM-INDUCED TRAVELS

After watching different locations in a movie and their representation in the most attractive and alluring way, the viewers find it extremely hard to resist visiting those destinations. This serves as an instrument in the process of marketing the possessions of our country. It helps in building the country's image across the globe. Film Tourism eliminates the barriers of seasonality from the minds of the travellers as they feel an urge to visit a particular destination only after watching the film. They are no longer skeptical about the peak season of tourism and at times, may not be willing to





wait. Knowledge of culture and heritage also increase among viewers through Film Tourism. Along with the innumerable other benefits, Film Tourism also serves good to the transportation and hospitality departments.

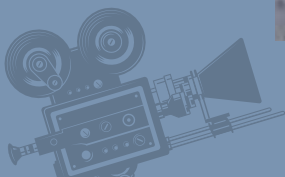
INDIAN CINEMA - AVENUE FOR INCOME CREATION

Speaking of India, it is the largest producer of films in the world. Bollywood has a great bunch of the finest actors of all time. The Indian film industry has always been popular among entertainment lovers. The country holds the potential to receive up to 1 million film tourists by the end of this year. With a diverse culture, India produces movies in a wide range of languages. These movies leave a huge impact on the minds of their viewers. When a viewer gets induced to visit a particular destination after seeing it in a movie, it may become as contagious as it gets.

Movies affect tourism by offering another reason for a person to visit a particular location. Another way films affect the tourism industry is by offering more avenues for income to be created.

FILM TOURISM POLICIES

Owing to the increase in growth of the tourism industry because of films, the Rajasthan Government unveiled attractive incentives up to 2 crores for film producers. In July 2022, the government announced the policy to motivate producers from outside the state and also internationally, to shoot at their destinations. A few policies also consisted of special incentives to promote and encourage the local film industry as well. Similarly, the Gujarat Cinematic Tourism Policy scheme decided to offer several financial and non-financial incentives for film infrastructure development projects and to facilitate film-making projects in the state. Governments from all across the world are establishing ground policies for the film industry to boom, in turn concomitantly skyrocketing the tourism industry.





SKYFALL © 2012 DANIEL CRAIG. WRITERS: JOHN HOGAN AND JOHN HOGAN. JAMES BOND TRADEMARK. TM 007/008

THE ENTERTAINMENT-TOURISM CONNECTION

Bollywood flicks like Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani and Jab Tak Hai Jaan, which showed the oh-so-thrilling experience of adventurous activities like trekking and mountaineering in wonderful destinations across the country. Coorg in Bangalore was an unexplored and inexperienced site in India till the mid-90s but as of today, it is one of the topmost preferred destinations for famous tourist spots like Madikeri Fort, Nagarhole National Park and many majestic waterfalls. Films like Ravaan and 7 Khoon Maaf were shot in the alleys of Coorg.

Going international, James Bond fans flocked to Thailand in order to visit Khao Phing Kan. This island was featured in the 1974 movie, 'The Man with The Golden Gun.' Tour operators from all around the travel industry were quick enough

to rebrand the island as 'James Bond Island' and almost overnight, Thailand became the most popular destination for fans of 007. New Zealand is heaven for all Lord of the Rings fans. You may have had absolutely no interest in visiting New Zealand – until you saw Lord of the Rings and found out it was filmed there, and that there are specific locations you could visit as a fan.

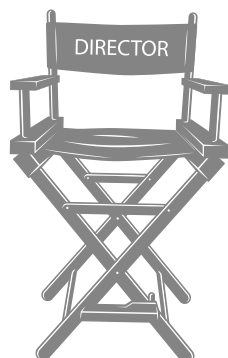
FILMS- A FREE PR FOR DESTINATIONS

The biggest positive impact is on the location itself and the surrounding areas. People are now visiting destinations they may not have otherwise been interested in – and that means they are spending money. Whether that is with tour companies, local businesses or hotels, money is flowing in. From this comes better employment opportunities, a better standard of

living and a sense of pride in the area. By promoting themselves as a film destination, places are able to create a positive and fun image of themselves. The film is free PR for them – and it is something which will continue to have an impact as more and more people watch the movies over time. We're talking years, especially if the film is a blockbuster, particularly successful or a classic.

Most importantly it encourages the governments and citizens to work towards protecting the destination, specifically environmentally but also in terms of infrastructure. This is not only great for the tourists, of course, but for the locals too.

The travel industry is evolving fast and so is the film industry. The alliance between the two is profiting both simultaneously. The trend is not only significant but also growing potentially.





TAFI: To Building Back Better

TAFI (Travel Agents Federation of India) was established 36 years ago in 1986 with the idea to bring the travel trade together to talk about ideas, think, raise issues with the relevant authorities, and seek appropriate solutions.

- Naina Nath



Currently, TAFI boasts 1500+ members across the country which includes IATA agents, Non-IATA agents, and travel services providers like visa facilitators, transporters, tourism boards, and airlines. They have 12 chapters across the country with the most recent chapter being J&K which was established in August 2022.

Setting themselves apart -

With multiple associations in India, what sets TAFI apart? TAFI and TAAI have a certain amount of common membership and they work together on issues that impact the entire travel industry. In 2012, TAFI was one of the founding members of FAITH – Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism and Hospitality. Over the last 2 years, they have observed that there is a need to revamp the way their members are doing business. The consumers have changed radically and hence trade and its practitioners also need to adapt to the 'new normal'. Things are changing very quickly and therefore our industry needs to up-skill and reorient its approach to business. It's also very evident that going forward 'sustainability' is going to be a key. The new consumer is much more aware of the environmental impact of travel and therefore travel companies also need to factor this in because if you're not 'with it' you're going to be left behind

hence these are some of the initiatives that TAFI undertakes to upgrade its member's skills, and product portfolios.

TAFI to host its 13th Convention at Kuching in Sarawak, Malaysia -

The renowned TAFI convention is to be held on September 20–23, 2022 at Kuching in Sarawak, Malaysia with the theme "Build Back Better". The convention which is taking place after a four-year hiatus aims to rebuild Tourism in a more responsible and sustainable manner.

Commenting on the choice of destination, Ajay Prakash, National President, TAFI said,

"The destination, Kuching in Sarawak, Malaysia is relatively unexplored by the Indian traveler and is not on the radar however it is a fabulous and beautiful destination which is being promoted for eco-tourism as it has a phenomenal rain forest experience. It is also a great destination for weddings and family holidays and we are taking our members there to experience this unknown destination for themselves". The package will be inclusive of a 3 Night Pre or Post Convention Tour to beautiful places within Malaysia.



The 2022 TAFI convention will have speakers from across the world that are going to be talking about topics like building their brands back after the pandemic, and the new niche avenues for revenue generation which helps agents look beyond Airlines and Leisure travel. The convention will provide a platform for B2B networking where approximately 200 travel service providers from Malaysia will interact with members of TAFI to explore the possibilities of collaboration in both directions.

"This business is all about the people and it's important for us as TAFI members to connect with each other and share new ideas and avenues when we interact", he added.

The convention will be held at the Borneo Convention Centre Kuching (BCKK) which is the first International purpose-built Convention Centre in Kuching Sarawak and has state-of-the-art facilities and equipment and can host up to 5000 guests. TAFI expects over 750 delegates to travel to Malaysia to participate.

Strengthening ties between the two nations -

Tourism Malaysia is looking at India as a major source market and they have been very proactive in helping put the convention

together. At the event, they will welcome the Federal Tourism Minister, the Director General of Tourism; and ofcourse the senior team from the official airline partner Malaysia Airlines. The guest of honor will be the Indian ambassador to Malaysia.

"People to people connection is the most important for sustainable and long-lasting relationship development of two countries. Yes, government to government is what makes it possible but when we meet people in their homes and eat their food and observe their customs, we realize that no matter what the color of our skin or our religion is, at the end of the day there is more in common between us than there is to divide us and that's the true power of tourism and that's what we as an organization hope to achieve"

Ajay Prakash concludes.



Being decked with numerous wildlife hotspots that include 6 tiger reserves, 11 National Parks & 24 Wildlife Sanctuaries, Madhya Pradesh is an absolute wonderland and a wildlife destination without compare. The state is not only known as the "Tiger State of India" but also gained the tags of "the Leopard State, the Vulture State, the Ghadiyal State, and the Wolf State of the country.

The state is blessed with national parks and Tiger Reserves in Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Panna, Satpura, Sidhi (Sanjay Dubri) and Pench. It also has Madhav National Park, Van Vihar National Park, Kuno National Park, Dinosaur Fossil National Park and Ghughwa Fossil National Park.

Through this article, we will take you to the four most visited national parks of the state

Kanha National Park & Tiger Reserve

The world famous Kanha National Park has been the source of inspiration for Rudyard Kipling, a famous writer for his outstanding creation- "The Jungle Book". It houses one of the rarest species of deer- the Barasingha. It has not only hiked the population of the tigers but also brought back the swamp deer (Barasingha) from the brink of extinction. Located in the Mandla and Balaghat district, this national park is also home to large herds of antelopes, bison and leopard. You would also be able to find Asiatic leopard, Indian wild dog, sloth bear, Indian bison or gaur, jungle cat, Asian palm civet, honey badger, Indian porcupine, smooth coated otter, greater false vampire bat, Indian pangolin, mouse deer, leopard cat, and rare birds as well.



Pench National Park & Tiger Reserve

Pench National Park and Tiger Reserve lies in southern Madhya Pradesh bordering Maharashtra. The teak forest of Pench is rich in wildlife and is especially famous for wild dogs. Jackals, wild dogs and rhesus monkeys can be seen foraging for food in the densely-wooded jungles. One can also see herds of gaur (Indian bison), chital, sambhar, nilgai, and wild boar etc. Cheetal, sambar and neelgai are found grazing in the forests and the banks of the river. Large herds of gaur are often spotted in the bamboo patches.



Panna National Park & Tiger Reserve

Spread across the Panna and Chhatarpur districts in Madhya Pradesh, Panna National Park and Tiger Reserve is located about 32kms from the World Heritage Site of Khajuraho. Panna received the Award of Excellence in 2007 as the 'best maintained national park of India,' by the MOT, GOI. Panna has an enviable reputation as a Tiger Reserve, with its high density of tigers; it rarely disappoints those coming to see the big cat. Leopard, wild dog, wolf, hyena and caracal and smaller cats can be seen easily. Sloth bears have their favourite home in the rock escarpments and undisturbed vales. The avifauna comprises more than 200 species including a host of migratory birds. Ghariyal, a huge reptile found only in the Indian subcontinent can be spotted at Ken Ghariyal sanctuary which lies about 25 km north of Panna Tiger Reserve's entry gate at Madla.



Bandhavgarh National Park & Tiger Reserve

Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh is the place to visit if you want to spot the big cat. India's top dwelling for tigers, it has the highest density of Royal Bengal tigers in the world. All the white tigers of the world trace their roots to Bandhavgarh National Park. This National Park is first in India to launch 'The Hot Air Balloon Safari' for tourists. The sight of the majestic tiger up close can trigger a sense of awe in you.

*Hot air balloon safari booking at
Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve :
www.skywaltz.com*



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• Walking and cycling in the buffer zone • Take a safari in an open jeep • Camping (Tree and Gypsy Camping at Satpura National Park) • Trekking

Safari Booking: <https://forest.mponline.gov.in>

OFFSHORE BINOCULARS



Iceland THE LAND OF ICY BLISS

From geysers and volcanoes to hot springs and glaciers, Iceland, a Nordic Island nation, boasts its snow blanketed landscapes not only as iconic but also unique to the rest of the world. There is so much to do in Iceland, enough to fuel a lifetime of experiences. A place of surreal beauty, there's no place on earth like Iceland... The land of ice!

- Naina Nath

Iceland has been ranked as the safest country in the world for the 13 years in a row by the Global Peace Index 2022. The country ranks the highest in social safety and security, democracy, equality, and so on. They have no army, no air force or navy, and have been maintaining the peace for years on end.

The country is home to some of Europe's largest glaciers and active volcanoes, a large number of waterfalls, black sand beaches, steaming lava fields, and much more! Iceland has been always been diverse and beautiful, one of the most stunning places in the world, with natural wonders on every corner.

The Nordic island is relatively untouched by humans. Iceland has an average of around 3 persons per kilometre and like most sparsely populated countries in the world, most of Iceland's population lives in the main cities. Iceland's population is about 366,000 people, which is 1/10th of the population of India's capital city, New Delhi. Reykjavik, the largest city and the country's capital, is home to roughly 1/3rd of the total population. The capital city runs on geothermal power and is home to the National and Saga museums which trace back to Iceland's Viking history.

Iceland has quickly become one of the leading travel destinations in the world, as a country of not only natural wonders but also a thriving local culture. Currently, tourism is in full swing and it's easy to see why. Iceland is the perfect destination for any and all segments of travelers, be it families, honeymooners, adventure enthusiasts, solo travelers, women travelers, and the list goes on! This year-round destination has something out-of-the-ordinary for everyone! Simply driving in any direction for 30 minutes from the capital city Reykjavik can give access to dramatic landscapes, lava fields, mountain valleys, mysterious black sand beaches, and black porous rocks.

WHAT CAN YOU DO IN ICELAND?

From relaxing in a natural hot spring river, snorkeling between tectonic plates, and exploring lava tube caves. The mysterious experiences that Iceland has to offer are simply out of the world! Watch the Northern Lights, a.k.a Aurora Borealis –

Like lasers in the sky, or a display of neon-colored silk scarves waving across the sky. The Aurora Borealis is Mother Nature's most spectacular light show with a truly unique display of vibrant reds, oranges, whites, purples, and green hues in the night sky. The peak viewing season for the northern lights is September through March, but the country also gets quite cold during this time and daylight lasts only about five hours.



OFFSHORE BINOCULARS



VISIT THE GLACIERS AND VOLCANOES AROUND THE RING ROAD –

Iceland is famously referred to as 'The Land of Fire and Ice' owing to the extreme contrast in Iceland's natural phenomena. Iceland is home to Europe's largest and distinctly beautiful glaciers, as well as most of the world's active volcanoes. The period between June and August sees ideal weather for visiting natural wonders and experiencing the entire Ring Road which is the one main highway of Iceland. As the name suggests, it goes all the way around the country. Many of Iceland's most famous and beautiful natural wonders can be found near the Ring Road. There are several smaller roads off the route, but the Ring Road is by far the most traveled and central.

SOAK IN THE GOODNESS OF NATURAL SPAS –

No visit to Iceland is complete without a revitalizing plunge into one of the geothermal pools. The Blue Lagoon is the most popular choice among tourists and is famous for its incredible skin treatments and skin products.

TAKE A GUIDED HIKE -

There are plenty of hiking trails all around Iceland that suit different fitness levels. It is however very important to

organize your hike along with a reputed organization as Iceland has very unpredictable weather.

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ICELANDIC CULTURE –

Iceland has a very vibrant and active culture where they celebrate festivals all year round. Be it a walking festival, art festival, fashion, lights, sports, food, design, and of course, Viking festivals!

SHOPPING TO SUPPORT LOCAL TALENT -

Icelanders are a group of very creative people and here you will find innovative product designs and jewelry made out of lava stones and locally sourced minerals. Iceland not only has a number of unique fashion stores but also has shopping malls! The country is a tax-free shopping haven, which means that regular high-ticket items can be found at a heavily discounted price!

A FRESH CULINARY EXPERIENCE -

Iceland has developed a reputation as one of Europe's top 'foodie' destinations. The country's pristine environment makes it a hospitable environment for fishing, while also harnessing the raw power of geothermal energy which cultivates year-round vegetable crops. Iceland has over 15 Indian restaurants and Indian food is easily available here.

The Best Hotels in Iceland –

- *Icelandair Hotel Reykjavik Marina*
- *Hotel Laxá, Hotel Kea*
- *101 Hotel*
- *Ion Adventure Hotel*
- *Hotel Rangá*
- *Hotel Katla*
- *Frost & Fire Boutique Hotel*
- *Hotel Egilsen*

There are new hotels constantly coming up in the country. In downtown Reykjavik, 1000 new rooms were added last year. Iceland has a larger number of 4-star hotels than 5-stars simply because a 5-star hotel requires a lot of staff and at such an expensive destination high-quality 4-star hotels with lesser staff are preferred.





*Thorleifur Thor Jonsson, Senior Area Manager, Asia CEE & Nordics, Visit Iceland**

What kind of marketing activities does Iceland want to conduct in India?

We are simply putting our focus on establishing good connections with the travel agencies as they are the key people in play and we don't have the resources to do mass marketing in a huge market like India hence our focus is on travel agents to educate and inform them about the offerings of the destination so that it makes it easier for them to sell the product better.

What are the covid-related updates?

Iceland is entirely open to tourists. All the citizens of Iceland have been vaccinated with 3 doses each, including young children. We are now in discussions to roll out the 4th dose for citizens over the age of 60 by this autumn. Tourists are

welcome to come and go as they please.

What are the Airline connections and Visa requirements between India and Iceland?

Unfortunately, there are no direct flights between India and Iceland as yet however we are strongly connected to all major cities in Europe and UK. As Iceland is part of the European territory, a Schengen visa is required to enter the country.

What are your top source markets and where does India stand?

Our key inbound markets are the USA, the UK, Scandinavia, Germany, and the rest of Europe. It highly depends on where we have direct flights coming in from. In reference to Indian visitors, pre-covid in 2018 and 2019 we saw 20,000+

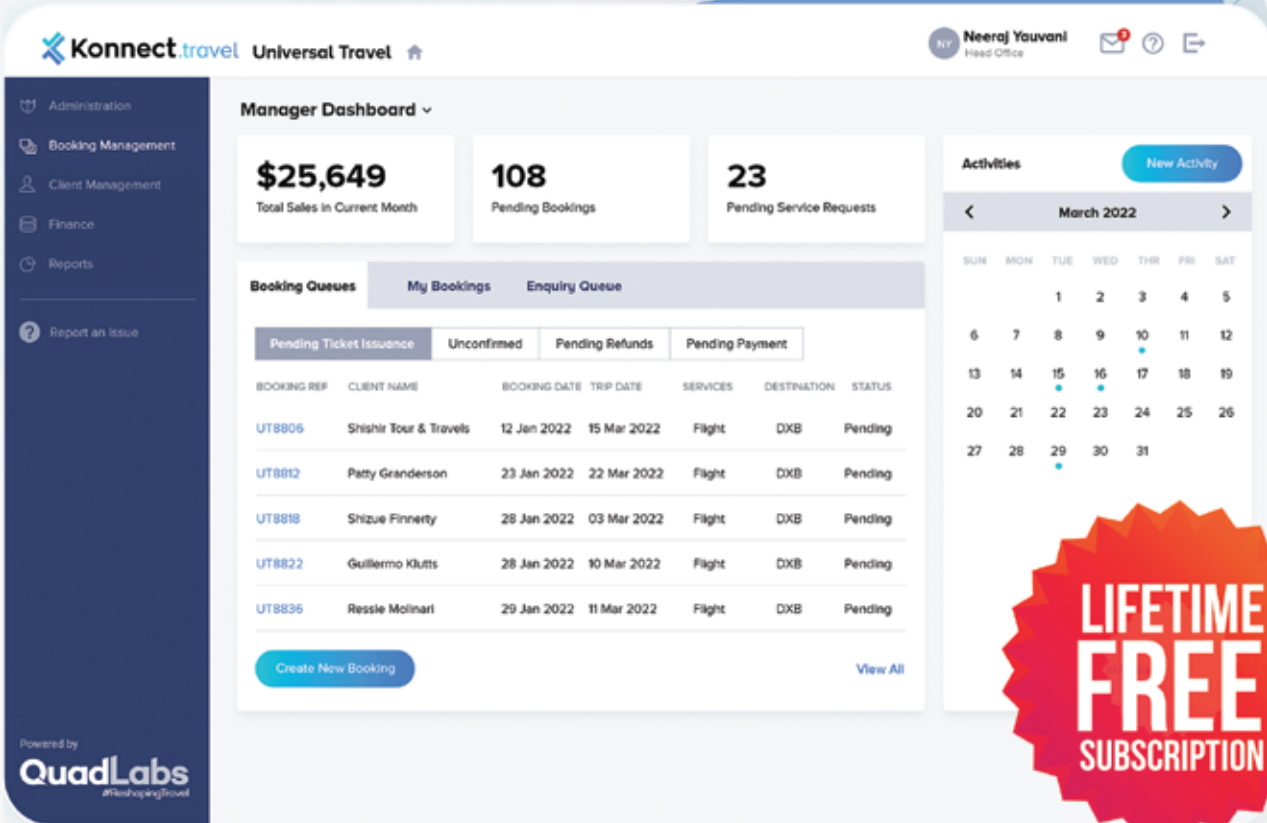
tourists in both years. However, with Covid, it went down to as low as 2000. The first 6 months of 2022 have seen a boost of travelers from India and we are already at 6000 tourists. Since the majority of Indians visit us in the later part of the year, the numbers look hopeful and we are expecting them to surpass pre-covid arrival numbers.

A message for the Indian Travel Trade

"Iceland has a unique opportunity so don't be afraid. We can supply you with delicious Indian food and we can do everything that is required to provide you with a rounded holiday experience. We are of course a unique country and have many things that are extraordinary. Iceland is a very safe destination with the highest gender equality in the world. We welcome you to our icy paradise to come over and explore and see things you would never otherwise dream of seeing."



TRACK YOUR SALES AGENT'S PRODUCTIVITY



Manager Dashboard

\$25,649
Total Sales in Current Month

108
Pending Bookings

23
Pending Service Requests

Activities [New Activity](#)

March 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

BOOKING REF	CLIENT NAME	BOOKING DATE	TRIP DATE	SERVICES	DESTINATION	STATUS
UT8806	Srishir Tour & Travels	12 Jan 2022	15 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UT8812	Patty Granderson	23 Jan 2022	22 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UT8818	Shizue Finnerty	28 Jan 2022	03 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UT8822	Guillermo Klutts	28 Jan 2022	10 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending
UT8836	Ressie Molinari	29 Jan 2022	11 Mar 2022	Flight	DXB	Pending

[Create New Booking](#) [View All](#)

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BIZ

Island Life Travels

Powerful, Progressive and the Next Big Thing

Mazin Mohamed, Founder and CEO along with his very efficient team has nurtured a brand – the only destination-specific DMC in India for the Maldives. From growing with the changing times to adapting to the latest trends in the travel industry, Island Life has been acing it all.

- Shivangi Tomar



The extremely pragmatic and zestful DMC in India for the Maldives, Island Life has been constantly leaving a strong impact on and within the trade. Speaking about what facilitated Island Life's growth, Mazin Mohamed states, "Being a DMC, offline marketing plays a very important role for us. As we are a wholesaler, publishing rates on B2C channels will disrupt the chain of the DMC-Agent - Customer. Using WhatsApp Channels and Telegram Groups for promotions helps us reach the right market at the right times. Along with this, we host road shows with the most exclusive resort partners and this helps in promoting the Maldives as the no.1 destination. Being the only destination-specific DMC in India for the Maldives we focus highly on promoting the destination as much as we can and more." Sanket Mishra and Puneet Gera, Associate Directors along with Nausheen Ahmed Patel, MD, and the entire team of Sales, Operations and Reservations have put together a business flying high in the travel industry.

Direct Contracts of 125+ Resorts

Island Life highly caters to India, the Middle East and South East Asian markets. With the constant changes within the travel industry, this DMC makes sure to offer the best-customized b2b services focusing on more than 125+ Maldives Resorts. Island Life is currently based out of Maldives, Mumbai, Gurugram and Malaysia. Apart from being a member of MMPRC (Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation), Island Life has the most dynamic contract portfolio, with resorts ranging from city hotels followed by 3-star, 4-star and luxury high-end properties.

Communication, Trust and Flexibility

In this technology-driven world, Island Life Travels makes it a point to stay authentic and yet support its clients in the best way possible. When asked about their client support system, Mazin says, "We have a wide range of properties to select from to cater for all budget and accommodation types. Not only do we provide these choices but also - arrival assistance, departure assistance, and personalised individual experiences upon request i.e. floating breakfasts, private dinner arrangements, customized honeymoon and birthday setups, and dinner and proposal dates. We plan to offer the highest quality and value products and services within the Maldives. Having a strong relationship with each property helps in providing competitive rates and wide choices. We visit all the properties first-hand to get the closest experience and build the best package for our clients to experience the inexperienced."

Island Life offers payment solutions and professional services to its customers, ensuring mutual trust and effective communication throughout their trip. Flexibility is the key for them - flexible payment terms, on-date changes or postponement of plans, flexible cancellation terms and conditions. A strong and competitive team around the globe is what helps in constantly re-inventing and successfully catering to the needs of its discerning clients.

Growth and Development

Island Life has been providing adequate services to its clients

and has witnessed remarkable growth within the past few years. A 30 per cent revenue growth year on year in 2019 pre-pandemic, 70 per cent revenue growth in 2021 versus 2019 post-pandemic. The daily number of enquiries grew up to 70 per cent to 75 per cent. Majorly, India accounts for 80 percent of their overall revenue. In order to expand the business furthermore, the DMC has lined up Road Shows in tier II & III cities. Along with this, conducting agent workshops and imparting the latest knowledge of the destination helps in the development of this evolving DMC.

Awards and Accomplishments

The DMC constantly keeps adding feathers to its hat with successful appearances and accomplishing the unaccomplished. Island Life has been a part of major B2B travel expos and roadshows across the globe. They have actively participated in TTM Maldives - conducted in the Maldives at Crossroads - won the award for Top producers of Maldives 2022, hosted a roadshow in Kolkata for the Bengal travel fraternity, participated in SATTE in collaboration with Centara Resorts Maldives, attended the Maldives Roadshow in Bengaluru 2022, networked at OTM Dubai 2022 and attended Maldives Riyadh Fair 2022. Recently, the DMC organized a FAM trip for their top agents - the first FAM trip to W Maldives and Westin Maldives, the second FAM trip to LUX South Ari Atoll and the third FAM trip to Heritance Aarah and Adaaran Hudhuranfushi.

Island Life plans to continue progressing at the same pace and looks forward to growing every day with the changing times - A DMC for all your Maldivian travels.



DTCM

*The potential
of innovation
and evolution*

Dubai recorded 858,000 Indian tourists in H1 2022, making India the no. 1 source market for the emirate. As compared to H1 2021, Dubai witnessed a 100 per cent growth in visitor arrivals from India. Moreover, this number was close to the number of tourists achieved in the first half of 2019, which saw 996,000 Indian arrivals. In an exclusive conversation with Travel Turtle, Bader Ali Habib, Head of Region- South Asia, DTCM talks about the significance and growth of the India market.

- Bharti Sharma



OFFSHORE BINOCULARS

The emirate's ability to quickly return to near pre-pandemic tourism levels is even more remarkable given the impact of unprecedented challenges and other macroeconomic factors on the global economy and tourism sector. Dubai has an incredible array of memorable experiences for every explorer. Supporting the city's commitment to always offer something new, unique and world-class to every global traveller, many new attractions including. From culture to cuisine, entertainment, and outdoor adventures to beach activities, family-oriented experiences to shopping as well as the iconic festivals such as Dubai Shopping Festival and Dubai Fitness Challenge, Dubai offers a great portfolio for travellers.

Robust India market

During the pandemic, Dubai witnessed a surge in luxury travel from India, leading them to further explore and engage with key niche segments, curating tailor-made itineraries offering exclusive experiences and world-class hospitality for the HNI Indians. "As the Indian outbound travel grows, the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET), hosted a series of four city roadshows in Kolkata, Bengaluru, Kochi and Chennai with the objective of introducing the travel trade fraternity in key tier II cities to new offerings in Dubai. The Roadshow offered an excellent networking and engagement opportunity with a wide delegation of Dubai Tourism stakeholders ranging from mid-segment to luxury hotel brands, attractions, DMCs, airlines and cruise liners," tells Bader.

The more, the better!

As travel confidence increases, Dubai is anticipating a sustained visitation from India in 2022 and beyond, as more and more travellers discover and re-discover the city and the emirate's diversification of offerings and experiences. Bader

acknowledges the growth Dubai has been witnessing from the India market and thus, plans to engage even more with the b2b network as he shares, "From a b2b perspective, this year we have taken a more aggressive route in terms of b2b engagements, visits and outreach to ensure we can continue building relationship with the trade in smaller cities across all regions of India. We have partnered with leading travel agencies, OTA's and b2b travel platforms. These strategic tie-ups have calendar plug-ins to ensure packages are dynamically pushed throughout the period addressing different audience segments and profiles."

Evolution is the key

With the continued support of Dubai Tourism's stakeholders and partners, Dubai is committed to always offering something new, unique and world-class for the sophisticated global traveller. Bader mentions, "Early on this year, the emirate witnessed the inauguration of the beautiful building, the Museum of the Future, by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Many other mega projects are in the pipeline as Dubai continues to build on the destination pillars- whether it is culture or gastronomy, entertainment, wellness and relaxation, outdoor adventures or beach activities, family-oriented experiences and shopping in line with the emirate's visionary leadership's goal to make Dubai the most attractive destination and the best city in the world to live in and work."

The best is yet to come...

The drive to make Dubai the city of the future will be largely through the Dubai 2040 Urban Master Plan, which aims to expand Dubai's offering and place a reimagined focus on

enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors to the city, while further consolidating Dubai's reputation as a global destination for business, investment and tourism. In a city renowned for its relentless drive and commitment to breaking new ground, the 2040 Urban Master Plan, represents one of the largest urban development strategies ever launched by a major global city. Under the plan, Dubai will be further transformed into a green oasis, with parkland and recreational spaces accounting for 60 per cent of the city's total area by 2040, more than double the allocated space today. Sharing further Bader tells, "The strategy

will also help consolidate Dubai's reputation as a leading business and tourism destination. In a move that will further enhance Dubai's status as one of the world's top beach holiday destinations, the Master Plan calls for the total length of public beaches to increase by as much as 400 percent in 2040. Dubai has evidently become a popular first-choice as a safe tourism destination. As we move forward, we are confident that the momentum will significantly accelerate further to not only attract tourists, but also entrepreneurs, investors and innovators making Dubai a favorable destination for all."



Bader Ali Habib, Head of Region- South Asia



EVENT AFFAIR



The Travel Marketplace powered by Travel Turtle kickstarts with a power packed event at Indore & Raipur

The Travel Marketplace TTM 2022 powered by Travel Turtle, Central Region, marked a glorifying a success in Indore and Raipur from August 31- September 3, 2022.

The B2B networking event witnessed the presence of the biggest associations of the travel industry such as TAAI, TAFI and CGTTA. Destination Partner, Saudi delivered an intriguing presentation and added to the succes of the event along with the 12+ sellers from all over the world and more than 150+ buyers from the specific regions.

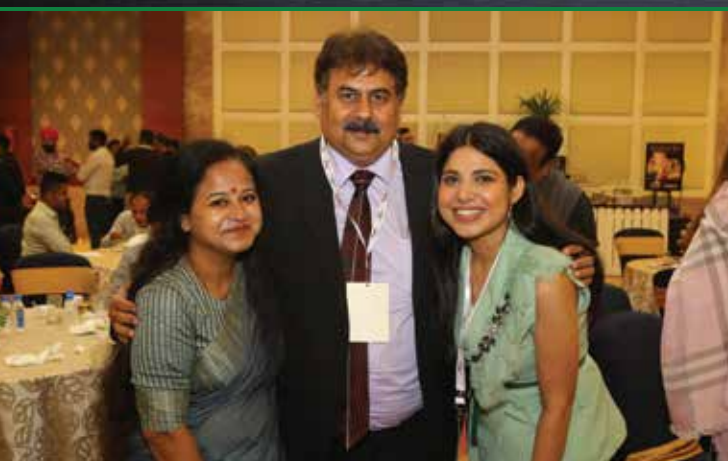
Travstack, Jazeera Airlines, Saffron World DMC, Salvia Travels, Tourism Enterprises, Ark Travel Group, One Above, Inspiring Vacations, Resort World Cruises and Yorker Holidays were a part of this business event.

The event took place in Sayaji Indore and Sayaji Raipur with some powerpacked networking.

TTM plans to host many such events in the coming months covering all the regions across the country.



INDORE



EVENT AFFAIR



RAIPUR



EVENT AFFAIR



HEADS IN BEDS

The Exotica Life

From a sensorial culinary journey across the resort's seven dining and bar options, rejuvenating wellness sojourns to bringing spectacular Indian hospitality to the shores of Dubai, Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm is sure to reign over hearts and how.

- Misbah Mansuri



HEADS IN BEDS



As someone who has travelled extensively across the UAE, staying at some of the best properties, I have often pondered over the warmth and familiarity components which I often see lacking in the service. That makes me want to miss the genuine hospitality at hotels back home. But not when it's the Taj. It has proved to me time and again that Taj hospitality is indeed legendary. So when I checked in its latest outpost, little touches and personalization reinforced that sense of being looked after.



As I marvel at the central art installation and the head-turning Preciosa flow chandelier featuring 11,000-plus crystal pieces, welcome drinks, chilled flannels and a garland crafted from tiny shells accompany my gracious check-in. The patterned carpets, stellar lighting creations and eye-catching bubble and pebble wall art continue to set stage for a decadent staycation experience ahead.

Taj Exotica has 258 rooms and 67 suites with balconies. On the reverse, room balconies yield views of the resort's pool, private beach, spacious courtyard garden and the Palm's central fronds and calm waterways. In the room, wooden floors run through a lounge with a sofa, coffee machine, TV, dining table and chairs, plus a separate marble washroom, into a bedroom with similar beige padded panelling and wooden wall detailing.



My sumptuous bed faces another widescreen TV and a blue Dubai-themed wall, complemented by turquoise and green fabrics. A generous walk-in closet flanks a marble bathroom with twin sinks, dedicated walk-in shower and toilet areas, plus a bathtub. I love the refillable ceramic jars, rather than plastic miniatures, dispense the Molton Brown wash products. And the best part? A personalized dessert amenity with my picture on it, waiting to be savoured. The attention to the personalization is just spot-on!



HEADS IN BEDS



At 70 metres, the swimming pool here is the Palm's longest. As for dining, there are seven restaurants and bars. I love the international buffet and a la carte venue Palm Kitchen which serves breakfast until 10.30am in spacious indoor and terrace settings, accompanied by a violinist. Salad, cereal, fruit and hot items, including shakshuka and Indian staples, are supported by a live cooking station for eggs, omelettes and dosa.

However the restaurant that stole the show during my time at the property was fine-dining restaurant Varq (named after the gold leaf garnish and symbol of royalty). Indian favourites like achari haldi fish tikka, Hyderabadi sunheri nalli lamb shank, complete with varq, smoky chicken dish murgh sirka pyaz and the stunning dessert platter with piping hot gajar ka halwa, gulab jamun and sinful rabdi tantalisingly tease my tastebuds. Roaring Rabbit, a British-influenced pub serves a mean Shepherd's Pie, juicy meats and some inventive drinks.

Apart from the two culinary adventures, I found my Zen at Jiva Spa with all-natural products,

tranquil surroundings and complimentary poolside yoga sessions. A 60-minute rejuvenating massage later, I was ready to take on the world.

Overall, here is a place where smiles, sparking conversations with guests and going out of the way to make their stay spectacular is a norm that every staff member does with so much diligence! A bastion of modern luxury, champion of local heritage – Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm wears both caps comfortably and effortlessly casts its magic while at it.



HEADS IN BEDS

How have the opening months been for Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai?

We are delighted with the results so far. We have seen consistent bookings; our occupancy level has been growing month on month from our key feeder markets (UK, Germany, USA, GCC, India, and UAE), which is a testament to the hard work of our dedicated team of professionals. We are encouraged by the positive response and feedback we have received from our esteemed and loyal Taj guests, international tourists and local UAE residents, and expect to grow our business further in the coming winter season. Furthermore, we have established ourselves as a great property for MICE and Social events within a short period of time.

As a GM, what will your approach, strategy and leadership style be like for this new kid on the block, Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai?

I believe a leader should be visible, inspire others by his or her own example, and be able to recognize and act on both the weaknesses and strengths of his or her team. Be consistent and transparent, be genuine and have a clear sense of purpose. Establish timelines and deadlines that will help you and your team stay on track.

I also strongly believe that if I take care of my associates, trust them and have complete confidence in what they do, they will take care of the guests and their efforts will contribute to the company's success.

The Emirate is inundated with hotels, what gives Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai an edge over the rest?

Taj is The Indian Hotels Company Limited's (IHCL) iconic brand for the world's most discerning travellers seeking authentic experiences in luxury. It has been rated as the World's Strongest Hotel Brand and India's Strongest Brand as per

Brand Finance 2022. From world-renowned landmarks to modern business hotels, idyllic beach resorts to authentic grand palaces, each Taj hotel offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury.

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai, strengthens the Taj brand portfolio in the UAE and complements the other two city hotels as an upscale luxury resort. With our three distinctive hotels in the region, we are now able to cover all segments of business and leisure. We also have a loyal following from our Indian guests and NeuPass members.

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai, is a distinctive island oasis located on the East Crescent of the world's largest man-made island, The Palm Jumeirah. The resort offers incredible panoramic views of the Dubai skyline and the Palm's shoreline, it is the only resort that can offer views in two directions, which really gives a full "island oasis" feel. All 258 rooms and 67 suites feature balconies and are designed with the guests' comfort and enjoyment in mind. Those staying will be fully immersed in "Tajness" including the renowned rituals which complement the stay. The 6 rituals cover the arrival (welcome), morning, afternoon, sunset, sleep and departure with specially curated experiences. You are sure to leave with memories and a long-lasting impression of every stay at Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai.

Guests are taken on a sensorial culinary journey across the resort's seven dining and bar options. With everything from contemporary Indian fine dining at Varq, a unique gastropub experience at the Roaring Rabbit, and the stunning lifestyle destination Raia Rooftop Restaurant & Lounge offering panoramic views of Palm Jumeirah.

When you step outside, you are greeted with the largest pool on the Palm Jumeirah, measuring just over 70m, and a private 230-meter exclusive beach with pristine



Ranjit Phillipose, Area Director - Middle East

golden sands and uninterrupted views of the glorious sunsets.

The resort features the award-winning spa, JIVA. Inspired by traditional healing methods, the ethos of the carefully curated Jiva treatments is drawn from the rich and ancient Indian wellness heritage. A major attraction for our young guests is the Popsicle Kids club and a Game Room for teenagers and the young at heart.

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, The Palm, Dubai is truly a resort that has something for everyone. Whether you're looking for a romantic or family getaway or wellness destination to truly unwind, there's an immersive experience for everyone.

The UAE is constantly evolving, and the UAE has done an incredible job of managing the COVID crisis. We have seen this in the rapid return of tourists to the UAE, and we have definitely benefited from this boom.

If you were a guest at the property, what would your 24-hour itinerary look like?

Wake up early and join our morning

wellness ritual before having a healthy breakfast at Palm Kitchen, relaxing in your room, and then enjoying lunch at Roaring Rabbit. Experience Ayurvedic treatment at Jiva Spa after a swim at the Palm's longest pool. We'll then have sundowner drinks at Raia, followed by dinner at Varq.

What are your big plans and focus areas for 2022?

We need to keep evolving, improving and ensuring that we stay current and relevant. The primary focus is always on our guests' experience - exceeding their expectations, ensuring they have an unforgettable stay, and keeping them coming back.

We take a responsible and serious approach to the environment and giving back through our corporate social responsibility and sustainability programs. Innovation and new technologies are critical to stay ahead of the competition, and improve guest service levels and experiences. The UAE is a highly competitive market, so you cannot afford to stand still.



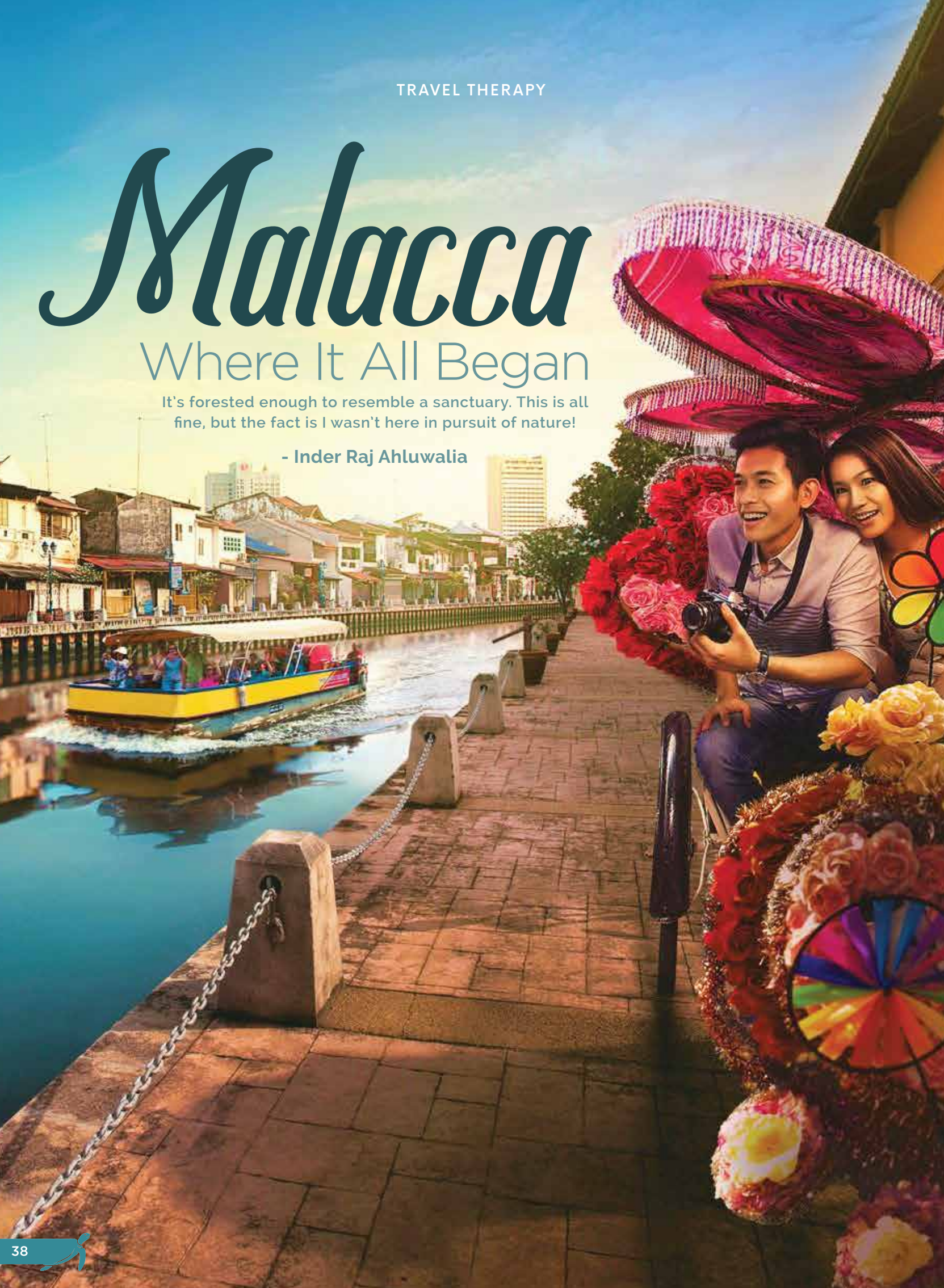
TRAVEL THERAPY

Malacca

Where It All Began

It's forested enough to resemble a sanctuary. This is all fine, but the fact is I wasn't here in pursuit of nature!

- Inder Raj Ahluwalia



TRAVEL THERAPY

They call it Malaysia's historic city for the simple reason that it all started here. This is where the country's history began, and this is where there was plenty of action.

Founded in 1396 by Parameswara, an exiled prince from Sumatra, Malacca thrived as a 'port-of-call' for ships and merchants from India, China, Europe and Arabia. In 1511, it was conquered by the Portuguese, and subsequently in 1641 by the Dutch. In 1795, the Dutch relinquished control to the British to prevent it from falling into the hands of the French, when The Netherlands was captured during the French Revolution. Returned to the Dutch in 1818 under the Treaty of Vienna, it was later exchanged by the British for Bencoleen, Sumatra. How's that for 'action'.

From 1826 onwards, Malacca was ruled by the English East India Company in Calcutta together with Singapore and Penang under the Straits Settlements

Administration. However, the post World War II era saw nationalistic sentiments prevail, culminating in the proclamation of independence in 1956 by Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, Malaysia's first Prime Minister.

The 'city state' today bears this deep historical heritage as one sees the architecture of several cultures over several centuries, with distinct sights and sounds that combine to give it a special character.

Call it coincidence, but my city tour started off at 'Little India', which was typical enough, with all the trappings of the sub-continent. But there's a whole world waiting to be discovered on Temple Street, also called Harmony Street, an interesting district comprised of little streets that cut into and hedge one another. Here, amidst temples, mosques, and Chinese shrines, one melts into the fascinating cultures of Indians, Chinese and Islam. Built in 1646, the country's oldest Chinese shrine, Cheng Hoon Teng Temple shows fine workmanship through ornately decorated mythological figures, carvings and lacquer work. The shrines apart, there is also a bit of Europe lurking in smart little cafes.



TRAVEL THERAPY

Other notable shrines nearby add value. Built in 1849 by the French Reverend Farve, the Gothic-towered St. Francis Xavier's Church is dedicated to the missionary whose work of spreading Catholicism to Southeast Asia in the 16th Century earned him the title 'Apostle of the East'. Flanking the 270-year-old building are newer structures.

Before long I landed smack in the city-centre. Fronting a square with a clock tower, standing exactly as it always has since 1753, Christ Church is testimony to Dutch architectural ingenuity, featured in handmade pews, joint-less ceiling beams, the Brass Bible, a tombstone written in Armenian and the 'Last Supper' in glazed tiles.

On its left stands the Stadhaus, similarly red coloured. Built in 1650 as the official residence of Dutch Governors, the building is preserved in its original structure

and form, and now houses the History and Ethnography Museum that sports a collection of traditional bridal costumes and relics from Malacca's glorious past. In true tourist mode, I climbed the little hill to the ruins of St. Paul's Church, guarded by a statue of St. Francis Xavier. Apparently, he was briefly enshrined in the open grave in 1553 before being shipped to Goa.

The breeze was strong and the view as good as it gets. At last I saw the sea, with a couple of berthed cruise ships, and a few small boats bobbing on the water.

All this done, I found myself at the local hallmark and most photographed spot. A 'Famosa' is pure tourist turf. Built by the Portuguese in 1511 as a fortress, it sustained severe structural damage during the Dutch invasion. Timely intervention by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1808 saved what remains of the site

from Dutch destruction.

Moving on, descending a hill, I stopped in the shadow of a regal-looking building sporting a host of flags, a couple of armoured cars and a 1957 Buick in its courtyard. Housed in the former Malacca Club, the 1957 Proclamation of Independence Memorial, contains invaluable exhibits like relics, manuscripts, tapes and films of Malaysia's struggle leading to independence.

Fronting the memorial is a vast ground that features a large stadium, hosts events like the Sound & Light Show, and serves as a general-purpose meeting area for the masses. For me, it was just a place to buy a mug full strong coffee.

Driving around town you'll see an old ship dry berthed by the road. This is the Maritime Museum constructed after 'Flor De La Mar', the Portuguese galleon that sank

in the Straits of Malacca, laden with treasures seized from Malacca. Stop by! You'll get a glimpse of the region though various eras.

Concerned that we might bypass the region's Portuguese heritage, my good guide steered our vehicle to Portuguese Square, or 'Mini Lisbon', located within the Portuguese settlement just by the sea. The culture's rich enough but that's about it, with the beach silted over and nothing else to see.

An interesting local facet is the Baba and Nyonya Heritage. 'Straits Chinese' or the Baba and Nyonya are Chinese who have adopted Malay culture, seen at their private museum. And Baba and Nyonya cuisine, a mix of Chinese and Malay, can be an exciting experience.

Unravel the cultural layers, and take Malacca as it comes! It's the best way.



TRAVEL THERAPY



The Facts

- Malacca is ninety minutes' scenic drive from Kuala Lumpur, the national capital and air gateway.
- The city features an assortment of hotels, ranging from deluxe to standard.
- Eating out can be exciting. The wide cuisine range includes everything from Malay food to Satay, Roti Canai, Nasi Lemak, Tomyam, Portuguese, Indian, and Nyonya food.
- The best time to visit is from October through March.



About the author

Inder Raj Ahluwalia is a world-renowned international travel journalist & author. His professional profile features awards from several European and Asian countries, among others.

The unique
airport experience
with

Encalm Hospitality

Encalm Hospitality that specialises in curating and delivering standout experiences in Airport meet and greet services is working vigorously to improve customer experience at airports and make journey memorable. Vikas Sharma, CEO, Encalm Hospitality shares more on the offerings and how they intend to provide comfort to travelers commuting through the ever changing circumstances at airports.

- Sudipta Saha



How do you plan to deliver standout experiences in Airport meet and greet services?

Ans - We launched Encalm Hospitality Pvt. Ltd in 2021 with the aim to provide air travellers a rich and unique airport experience. Encalm specialises in curating and delivering luxurious experiences in the arena of airport hospitality. To give the travellers an extravagant airport experience, we are currently providing Meet & Greet services under the brand name "Atithya" at Delhi and Hyderabad airport. The offerings continue with special access to lounges under the brand name "Encalm Lounge" at the Delhi Airport. As a brand we are focusing on overall customer experiences and soon will be coming up with a spa under the brand name of "Encalm Spa" at the International airport in August 2022 and at the domestic airport by October 2022.

Atithya which is our airport meet and greet service is on the path to change the airport service dimensions. With Atithya, guests can just handover all their worries about airport formalities to us and can enjoy a seamless airport experience. With trained professionals greeting the guests at the entrance to taking them through all the procedures until they board the flight, Atithya is there to serve guests at each step.

It has only been a year and already we are known for curating and delivering luxurious experiences in the field of airport hospitality.

Can you throw some light on Atithya service?

Ans - Atithya has a deep cultural significance in our culture, 'Atithi Deva Bhava' (Guest is God). It takes the concept of hospitality a step further by making guests feel at ease and relaxed. This is a tailor made service which is specially designed to make one's airport arrival and departure as pleasant as possible. One can be on a business trip or a leisure one, Atithya is always there at every step to guide and accompany the traveller. It could also be a scenario where one needs to fly out their

parents or unaccompanied children. Atithya takes care of everything – from doorstep pick up/drop, to baggage handling, buggy service, wheelchair assist and exclusive lounge access. We have thoughtfully curated these services keeping in mind the specific requirements of each traveller. Taking this thought ahead, Atithya has fine-tuned their services into various categories i.e.; Silver, Gold, Elite and the flagship, Buddy Service. The exclusive 'Buddy Service' is designed to assist travellers from their home, accompany them through the journey and drop them off safely at the designated destination.

How do you aim at delivering a memorable lounge to travellers in India?

The airport lounges are becoming a lifestyle choice for Indian travellers. Lounge serves a place for people stuck in layovers, kids get a place to play and chill while waiting to board a flight and moreover, businesses never stops if one has an access to lounge. With a varied range of offerings, people can now enjoy gourmet food, ultra-comfortable seating zones and various other add-on amenities like plug-in points, high speed internet access, live food counters etc. With the vision to take lounge experiences to international levels, we will offer premium bar, buffet meals, spa, fitness centers, and showers among several other offerings. Encalm has gone above and beyond to serve travellers and thus, on boarded globally celebrated chefs to curate specialized menus catering to the palates of travellers from all over the world. It's still a long way to go because travellers' preferences are constantly changing, and as service providers, we're always on the lookout for new opportunities.

Also, would like to share that we will be launching our second branded lounge at Terminal 2 and a premium lounges at Terminal 3 of Delhi Airport within the next few months. There will be multiple lounge at T3 catering separately to premium card holders and business class

travellers. All our lounges are in tune with Encalm's vision of providing an international lounge experience in the country. The 30,000 sq ft unified business class lounge has spacious seating area with contemporary designs to soothe the soul of the travellers. The lounge is also going to offer a fully functional gym for the fitness enthusiasts who don't want to compromise with their health even if they are on a tight schedule. While for a business class traveller who wants to just relax and unwind can now enjoy a bar and a dedicated cigar room. The corporate travellers will never miss a meeting or lose a deal while being on the go as our lounge at T3 hosts a business center as well for the workaholics. The concept of the lounge is to provide comfort and wellness to the travellers at airports; thus, we are curating services like a Spa area, a shower room and sleeping pods, keeping in mind the overall well-being of our guests at our business class lounges. The lounges will also host a gaming zone for kids and adolescents to keep them entertained during those long and strenuous lay-overs in international flights. Moreover, the lounge will also have live food counters serving scrumptious gourmet food prepared by renowned chefs.

What are the services offered by you?

Like I mentioned earlier, our services have been specially

designed to make the travellers feel relaxed and comfortable during their airport transit. We intend to create one of India's most memorable airport hospitality experiences with Encalm Hospitality.

Atithya (Welcome and Assist Service) – The service ensures that travellers are treated like a VIP all through the airport journey. Atithya's executive is assigned with each traveller under this service to make them stress-free during all immigration and customs formalities.

Encalm Lounge - Travelling for business or leisure, airport lounges are the perfect treat for everyone. Relax, eat, or catch up with work at Encalm's exclusive and partner lounges as the world rushes past.

Encalm Spa - Encalm Spa is built as part of our ongoing efforts to provide the guests relaxing experiences at the airport. We believe that a good spa session is known to enhance moods and promote emotional and physical well-being. Our objective is to provide luxurious airport experiences through, numerous therapies that will be available at Encalm Spa.

Porter service – With the porter service, travellers need not worry about carrying multiple baggage. Avoid delays in your travel and relax as we carry your world for you.



Genting Dream

Reigning over the Asian seas

A sophisticated cruise ship that delivers a plethora of experiences, in the most effortless way with an environment that is inviting and relaxing.

- Bharti Sharma



TRAVEL THERAPY

I believe all of us have heard anecdotes of legendary sea voyages in our childhood, delivered in the most pronounced fashion by our parents and grandparents. Growing up, we've read stories of 'Sinbad the Sailor' and studied 'Vasco Da Gama' and his mysterious voyage to India via the Cape of Good Hope establishing the first ocean route between Europe and Asia. In short, our childhoods are marked with fantasies onboard large sea vessels, seafaring adventures and spotting marine life from the decks of a floating marvel. If given a chance to transform these fantasies into a reality, it's an easy pick for the most and in my case the Resorts World Cruises' Genting Dream came knocking at my door. No points for guessing, Genting Cruise is back under the banner Resorts World Cruises, with the same trust and quality but with added entertainment and everything plush. The sight of the majestic cruise line at the embarking point; the Marina Bay Cruise Centre in Singapore is all you need to get that adrenaline rushing through your veins.

A floating resort

The Resort World Cruises' Genting Dream lives up to its name, and the experience is nothing short of a fairytale. It's not just a cruise, it is a floating resort replete with opulence and something for everybody, irrespective of their age or preferences. My Genting Dream was a 3-night Kuala Lumpur-Penang Cruise from Singapore. However, depending on your idea of a holiday in the seas and your budget, there are several options to choose from ranging between 2-night options to 5-night itineraries. But, irrespective of which itinerary you pick the amenities and mesmerising panoramas will surely serve as a memory for a lifetime.

Commencing the journey of senses

As I embarked upon the 18-deck gigantic cruise line, the thrill and excitement of spending the next 3

nights in the oceans was an unparalleled feeling. The same sentiment I used to bear while listening to stories of sea voyages during my childhood. The check-in process was hassle-free and straightforward, made even more seamless by the helpful staff, prepped and ready to help you with every stage of your check-in until you make your way onboard the ship. Post boarding the vessel I would recommend making reservations of your favourite activities (trust me when I say, you'd be spoilt for choice as there are plenty of activities to choose from) and restaurants.

The Genting Dream lets you choose from a variety of cabin options varying in sizes, amenities and most importantly the view from the cabins. There are categories of staterooms, all loaded with amenities and amazing views but if you really want a larger-than-life experience, their Palace Villa or the Palace Suite is the epitome of luxury and opulence paired with breathtaking views of the ocean and marine wildlife. My bunker for the 3-nights while cruising in the seas was the balcony stateroom. The cabin was cozy, had all the amenities I could ask for, and it came with a personal balcony rendering spectacular views of the sea and perfect for my chilling sessions with cool sea breeze and natural vistas.

Spoilt for choice with plenty of culinary delights

Once settled-in, the first thing that crosses our mind is food. Let's not allow the hunger pangs to worsen and get some lip-smacking food while we're at it. The Genting Dream is stocked with dining options for patrons, both in terms of cuisines and venues. There are several feasting choices spread across decks of the ship. Based on the preference of cuisine, music, ambiance and mood preferences, you can choose between more than 30 diners and bar options. Numbers are great, but the choice between restaurants is complimented by variety of cuisine options from Mexican to Chinese, Thai to Italian,

Continental to authentic India cuisine and more. So, no matter your palette preference, the cruise has plenty of options to satisfy all your gastronomic cravings.

In fact, I was surprised to see the variety in Indian cuisine as the menu was even more exhaustive than one can find in Indian restaurants in India itself. It would not be wrong to say that Genting Dream is a little biased towards its Indian patrons, while there is plenty of dining options for Indians aboard, special attention has

been given to Jain cruisers with provision for 100 per cent vegetarian Jain food options on board. No matter if you're onboard for 2 nights or 5 nights, given the variety of grub options one can never possibly have it all. We're not done yet, there's more in store for you if you've chosen the Palace Villa or Palace Suite for your cruise vacation. The Palace comes with additional privileges in the form of exclusive dining and bar venues reserved exclusively for Palace guests.



TRAVEL THERAPY

Never a dull moment

With your tummy full and well-pleased, let us check out what's in store for your entertainment at the Genting Dreams. Well, cruises have always been synonymous with and an epitome of luxury, plush, comfort and upmarket vacation. With time, there have been more and more additions to elevate the entire cruising experience to a whole new level. The Resort World Cruises' Genting Dream is a destination in itself, and more. In fact, the plethora of entertainment activities onboard this cruise, ranging from outdoor adventure to theater performances are more than what many full-fledged destinations can offer.

Whether you're a solo traveler, a family with kids, group of colleagues, large family group, or a couple, there are plenty of entertainment avenues for every category of guests. I would not categorize myself as an adventure seeker, but the idea of enjoying water slides on a cruise amidst the blue ocean somehow managed to bring out the bold side of me and I found myself atop the most difficult slide of the 6 waterslides onboard, and boy it was heart pumping. Just imagine how would you feel gliding above the ocean on a 35-metre zipline? You'd have to experience it yourself to put it in words, sadly the ziplining was closed during our stay for some technical reason. For those who want to keep things easy, choose a leisure activity that suits your mood; mini golf, table tennis, bowling and billiards or test your singing skills at the decked-out karaoke room with friends and family.

How can a cruise or luxury vacation be complete unless one can relax and rejuvenate their body and spirit in a spa? Head to the crystal life spa to pamper your body and spirit with the well-deserved body massage and spa.

Where's the party tonight?

The Zodiac Theatre is a highlight of the cruise and is a must visit if you're a theatre admirer or looking for an immersive experience. I was astounded by the grandeur of the setup, the stage, the costumes and

the captivating performances of the artists, which I'm sure left every spectator dumbfounded. The entertainment quotient of the cruise is raised by the Zouk and Zouk beach club. If your eyes gleam at the mention of club and partying awakens your senses, the Zouk's foam party is the place to be. Groove your body to the beats, enjoy water gun attacks rad lights with your company, and let yourself loose with refreshing drinks.

The foam party was definitely my high point of the cruise. That's not all, the Genting Dream will not let you keep your shoes aside if you're up for some more. There are special events taking place every day, from workshops to game shows to salsa nights and celebrity performances. To sum up, it is impossible for any cruiser to experience everything the cruise has to offer even if they opt for the 5-night itinerary. It was practically impossible for me to experience everything the cruise had to offer and even more difficult to pen the real experience for you all. No number of pages are sufficient to describe the time I spent on the cruise and pen down the memories I created during my vacation with Resort World Cruises' Genting Dream.



The main objective to organise the mega fam along with Resort World Cruises was to showcase the grand 'Genting Dream' cruise to our potential partners. It is always easier to sell the product once you experience it, especially something like Genting which has so much to offer to its guests. Genting has always been a very popular product in India and our partners are super excited to sell the products to their customers.

Vineet Srivastava



Cruising with Luxury: Resort World Cruises

Resorts World Cruises is a new but well-established Asian luxury and lifestyle cruise brand that is rich in Asian heritage, offering a personalized cruising experience to its guests. 'Resorts Cruising At Sea' aims to redefine the cruising experience, by providing an array of exciting and unique offerings. Resorts World Cruises is a brand extension of 'Resorts World', a global brand with over 46 properties in 8 countries and 4 continents. RWC debuted on 15th June 2022 in Singapore by commencing the operations of 'Genting Dream', the fabulous 3600 passengers and 150,695 gross ton ship. They aim to position themselves as the leading cruise line in Asia. Naresh Rawal, Vice President - Sales & Marketing, Royal World Cruises shares more...

– Naina Nath

Genting Dream set its first sail on 15th June connecting Singapore to Malaysia and back. What has been the overall response?

Since the time that we launched, we have received a very strong response from the Indian market. Considering that we only operate on a travel agent platform, the number of cabins that have already been booked are close to 20,000 from June 2022 until April 2023, which is brilliant!

The MICE segment is the largest contributor because they have been deprived of incentive travel for a few years now. FIT is also doing well; we see great success in groups travellers mainly for the purpose of celebrations, birthdays, anniversaries, and friend reunions.

What is the demographic of cruisers on your ship?

We are an Asian home-grown brand; headquartered and we operate Genting Dream out of



Mr. Naresh Rawal, Vice President - Sales & Marketing

Singapore. Our key contributing geographies are Singapore, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

Can you elaborate on the capacity, F&B, and entertainment on board?

Genting Dream is one of the largest cruising ships around Asia. It is 19 decks high, 150,695 tons, and can host close to 3600 guests on twin occupancy and up to 4200

guests on a full load which includes triple and quad occupancy. The ship houses 142 suites known as "The Palace" – which is a luxury ship-within-a-ship concept and offers its guests a priority check-in and out, a private pool, exclusive restaurant and spa, private sundeck, and their own private butler and concierge service. The luxury accommodation ranges from a

regular suite up to Villas. We house close to 35 F&B concepts on board and this is the only HALAL and vegetarian-certified ship. This certification requires a lot of commitment from the ship and the management but it certainly builds trust with our guests, especially the Muslim community. In terms of entertainment, we have our own production shows as well as international performances which we showcase at our in-house Zodiac theatre. We have activities in which the crew gets involved along with the guests; it is quite an interactive experience. For the adventure-loving guests, we have our very own theme park, with 6 water slides, rock climbing, and a Zip-line which is 19 decks high!

What are your predictions for the future of cruising?

The cruise industry is the fastest growing segment, and that's clear by the number of ships that have been ordered and are in the making as we speak. I think there is a huge market available for every possible brand. It directly relates to the fact that the guests today recognize the beauty of being on the ship as an all-inclusive holiday; where you don't need to worry about your next meal or entertainment and you get to experience seeing the world from the comfort of your bed. The future of cruising looks extremely bright and strong!

You recently arranged back-to-back FAM trips from India. What was your vision behind this?

A great chunk of our business comes from our travel partners and they are one of the key drivers of our business. Since it has been over 2 years that they have not been on the cruise ship, we arranged a refresher for them to come back, understand and experience cruising all over again. This is an exclusive message to all our travel partners, 'You are the most important customer to us and all we can ask of you is that you continue to support us and we make it a win-win for all!



The hilltop fort experience HILTON GOA RESORT

That land of beaches has a new playground for the travellers, the hilltop delight by Hilton is a breath of fresh air other than the beachside hotels.

- Naina Nath

Sitting on a white beach chair overlooking the sunset, and listening to the sounds of the waves while sipping margaritas, a perfect Goa evening looks something like this. The state has become a go-to for almost all working people after the pandemic, be it for a fun vacation to distress yourself or a workstation to enjoy the best of both worlds. Travelling to a destination like Goa is becoming a treat for people and the hotel chains are bagging this opportunity to introduce new properties and stays. Hilton Goa Resort is one of the most unique and well-situated resorts for travellers from and around the world.

Hilltop location

You don't typically picture yourself spending your vacation in Goa on a hill. The uniqueness of a stay at the Hilton Goa Resort, the company's third establishment in the state of beaches, doesn't end there. The property is a variation from the conventional seaside resorts in Goa and is located in the charming neighbourhood of Saipem, near Candolim Beach. The resort is on a hilltop, high above Goa's beautiful

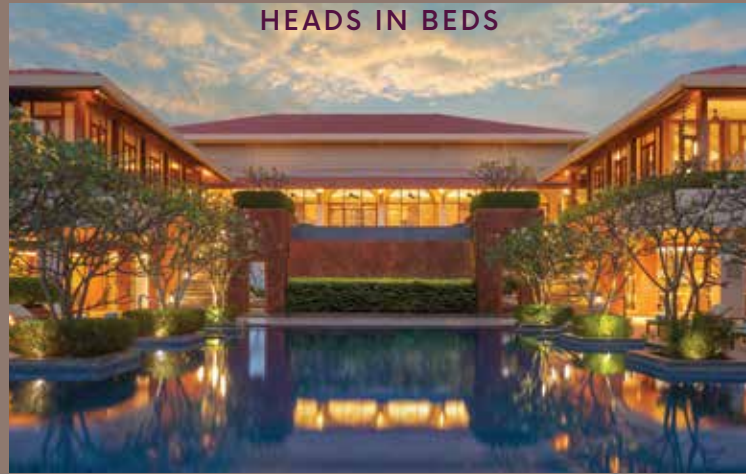
landscape overlooking the Nerul River. It provides a kids' club, four outdoor pools, and exclusive concierge services. Visitors can delve into the modern amenities of the resort while interacting with the locals from time to time. The resort is well within reach and is only four kilometres from Candolim Beach and ten kilometres from Panaji. A 60-minute trip will get you to the Goa International Airport.

Luxurious stay

The resort overlooking the gorgeous sights of Goa is built to resemble a fort, there are no elevators to take you to and from your rooms. The picturesque sundowner, which is served on the private balcony of the Presidential Suite on the top floor and features views of broad green fields, Goa's backwaters, and the hypnotic waves of the infinity pool is everything you can ask from a vacation.

The resort offers both pleasure and business travellers well-appointed hotel rooms and suites, cutting-edge culinary options, and recreational amenities. The resort hopes to combine business and leisure thanks to the current trend





HEADS IN BEDS



of "staycations," "workcations," and its closeness to the airport and tropical beaches. The hotel has Fun N Frolic, a kids' club with an aquatic theme, Hilton Fitness, a 24-hour fitness facility, and special local concierge services.

in Goa. Each room has a balcony with views of the river or lush landscaping, as well as a roomy bathroom with four fixtures, a freestanding tub, and upscale amenities. A separate living and dining area, French windows, a bathroom with a skylight, and a private plunge pool on the balcony are all features of expansive suites.



Wedding destination

This resort follows the trend of couples choosing Goa as their wedding location in India, whether they want a big or small wedding. All events held here, whether weddings or other celebrations are guaranteed to be unforgettable because of the stunning river views, flexible location options, delicious cuisine, and individualised service. The resort provides 17,600 square feet of banqueting space, which includes a 3,700 square foot Grand Ballroom without pillars, four adaptable conference rooms, and three roomy outdoor settings.

Foodie trip

The resort has provided at your balcony experiences like cooking classes, cocktail/mocktail sessions, barbecues, yoga sessions, and similar things for visitors who want to spend more time relaxing in the comfort of their rooms. Everyone who visits the resort enjoys curated experiences like this.



Rooms and Suites

There are eight large room types at the Hilton Goa Resort, some of which have private balconies and showcase modern Indo - Portuguese design elements. These rooms are some of the largest

The resort's guests have a wonderful time while staying at the Hilton Goa Resort, which unquestionably checks all the necessary boxes. Food that will astound you, meticulously curated authentic Goan dishes. The Hilton Goa Resort is worth repeated visits because it has an all-day restaurant that offers excellent food and drink options, a lovely design, a special location, and most importantly, a fantastic staff in place!



OTOAI organises members meet in Mumbai

OTOAI (Outbound Tour Operators Association of India) organised a 'Members Meet' evening on 20th August, 2022 at Sofitel, BKC, Mumbai in association with the Saudi Tourism Authority. Attended by close to 200 members, the event proved to be an excellent platform not only for OTOAI members to know about "The Kingdom of Saudi" as an upcoming destination for leisure travel but also a quality networking of travel trade. The event was well supported by Saudi Tourism Authority India team and they presented the destination with all new dimensions about The Kingdom and educated the travel fraternity on various aspects of Saudis culture, adventure, heritage, cuisine and much more. Saudi has immense potential to attract tourist in the coming years and it has some mega projects coming up like Red Sea & Amaala in 2023.

Riaz Munshi, President, OTOAI said, "We are an Association committed to improving our members' knowledge and expertise and at the same time intend to provide exposure to new and trending outbound destinations from India. Saudi Tourism Authority has always been a religious destination for Indians but now it has emerged as a brilliant tourism destination in the Middle East region. We are happy with our partnership with Saudi Arabia and the success of the event has proved that it was indeed a mutually beneficial partnership."



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Sharjah

THE LAND OF POSSIBILITIES

With the world finally opening up borders, travelers are ready to dive head first into the unique experiences and diverse offerings of countries that are waiting to welcome tourists. The post-covid trends see more and more Indian travelers looking for a hassle-free, pocket-friendly, close-to-home, and safe vacation destination.

- Naina Nath



TRAVEL THERAPY

Sharjah is the perfect spot for family fun! It is the third largest of the seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sharjah is further divided into 3 regions; Sharjah City, Central Region, and East Coast, each of which offers different and unique experiences for families. From numerous f&b experiences to cultural programs and events, Sharjah as a destination is focused on providing families and children with endless memories to go home with.

THE GREAT INDIAN ROADSHOW

Sharjah held its recent multi-city road show in India, for the first time since the pandemic outbreak. Khalid Jasim Al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority (SCTDA) is leading a

large delegation throughout India, with road shows being held in metro cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai. The objective of the roadshow is to build back relations with the Indian trade. Khalid Jasim Al Midfa confirmed that during the pandemic Sharjah went under 'development mode' which means during this time, the infrastructure, connections between cities, new experiences, products, and attractions were developed in a rapid pace.

DEVELOPMENT BOOM

India is Sharjah's largest international source market with 14 per cent of the market share. Sharjah has seen a high demand with domestic travelers comprising 17 per cent of the market, especially for niche products, resorts, natural mangroves, beach properties, and safaris. The Sharjah Safari is the biggest safari outside Africa; they

target to house 50,000 species and are already providing a home to many endangered animals like the black and white rhinos that are under the care of professionals. The safari is built on a 9sqkm land with a further expansion plan. Besides this, Sharjah has a lot more new offerings. They have added resting areas and café's in the mountains, where hikers can stop to enjoy a meal with a view of the entire coast. A new clock tower has been developed in the city of Kalba, which includes a restaurant within the tower that offers a 360° panoramic viewing deck.

According to Khalid Jasim Al Midfa, Indian travelers love to learn. Indian families, even on vacations, want to learn about different cultures and educate themselves on the history of the destination that they are traveling to. Sharjah is rich in heritage and culture, and offers value in everything they do, from archaeology, history, museums, art, culture, and traditions.



Khalid Jasim Al Midfa
Chairman of Sharjah Commerce and
Tourism Development Authority
(SCTDA)





FAMILY FOCUSED FUN

Sharjah is a family-orientated destination that was built as a cultural hub. This title has been recognized by UNESCO and the UN. Sharjah as a tourist destination is focusing on segments like Family Tourism, Eco-Tourism, Adventure Tourism, and Sports Tourism. As they don't have any nightclubs or bars, everything is destined for families and all age groups. Sharjah is host to some of the most elaborate festivals in the world. Some large-scale and most medium scaled events take place here. The Sharjah Light Festival, which is their biggest event was held earlier this year. Sharjah also hosts the F1 World Championship week. They also host a new adventure-related event known as the Sharjah Paragliding International Championship.

A TRUE SUCCESS STORY

The tourism Industry in Sharjah has been booming over the last 7 years. After the pandemic, UAE succeeded in building back the confidence of the Indian market, and Sharjah is one of the best countries in the world to overcome the aftermath of the deadly virus. Today tourists are free to enter Sharjah without the need for a Covid test. Indian travelers, according to SCDTA, prefer to visit museums, art galleries, installations, and innovation parks. Sharjah is

authentic and genuine about human development. Sustainability is an important aspect for them. Recently, they have launched a 0 waste to landfill, which is an initiative that no other country in the Middle East has adopted. Sharjah has great success stories and a diverse portfolio with steady growth. The strong connection between India and Sharjah makes it a great destination for your next holiday!

AIR CONNECTIVITY

Airline connectivity to any holiday destination is very important. Air Arabia and Emirates are the two major airlines flying out of India into the Middle East. Air Arabia flies into 13 cities in India, including tier 2 and tier 3 cities. The duration of the direct flight is only 3 hours.

SCDTA informed us about the expansion plans of the Sharjah International Airport. They plan to expand the airport capacity from 8 million passengers today to 20 million passengers by 2024.

Khalid Jasim Al Midfa concluded by saying, "Sharjah is holding on strongly and preserving the identity that they have built for thousands of years. Indians being the smart travellers that they are know exactly what they want and for us, that's great because we have exactly what they are looking for!"





Gaurav Jeena, Product Manager, Quadlabs

KONNECT.TRAVEL

The must-have for every travel company

The power packed and world's most affordable on-cloud travel CRM and mid-back-office, Konnect.travel has garnered an overwhelming response in a very short span. It has empowered agents to collaborate more effectively with their teams while controlling the leads and most importantly open up more selling opportunities to grow their business. Gaurav Jeena, Product Manager, Quadlabs share more details about the game changing platform.

- Team TT

In what ways Quadlabs stands out to be different from the existing service providers?

Konnect.travel is an absolutely free system for SMEs providing up to 3 free user licenses for lifetime. It provides capability to manage all customers (Retail or Corporate) at one single place, manage and process all bookings centrally with customisable business rules, and have a very comprehensive accounting system with automated BSP and Supplier reconciliation. Very soon we are also launching analytical dashboards in the product. Travel Agents can also sign up for Travog (corporate self-booking tool) or Retails website (Internet Booking engine) to distribute travel products to global audience. Our team of product experts will be available 24/7 to help and train our travel agents to make best use of the technology.

How do you plan to market the product in a diverse market like India?

What are your marketing and promotional strategies?

The product is gaining momentum by word of mouth. We are also running multiple online webinars and showcasing the product in various events.

India is at the cusp of a major transformation and travel & hospitality sectors are emblematic of this journey. How do you see the travel technology sector evolving specifically?

Technology has always been the enabler in the Travel industry. We have seen large companies have

become larger by adopting automation engines and bringing their teams together on a single platform. Customer are more inclined to do book direct unless they need opinions or help in multi-product itineraries. Soon even the complex of bookings will be created and process directly on the technology and it will remove the need of a physical human being on the other side of the phone. Travel agents have realised that without a technology they will not be able to survive for long in this industry. Almost 20-25 per cent of travel agents have shut shop or moved to a different profession during the pandemic. Now when the industry is bouncing back, there is an opportunity for the rest to pick up more business with limited resources. A good technology in an affordable cost can really help them to scale up quickly.

What is your vision for the travel technology segment in India?

Our vision is to provide a great product at an affordable cost to every travel agent in India. we understand that Indian agents need a lot of automation and consolidation in their operations.

What is the next benchmark you're looking at and in what time frame?

We are already started working on developing the upgrades for all the Konnect user to further streamline and seamless booking fulfilment process. Our Target is to have at least 1000 live agencies on the platform by the end of March 2023.

Anything interesting / developments to mention about the company from your perspective?

A lot of coming up... Wait to hear from us soon.

Please shed some light on your latest product, 'Konnect.travel'.

Konnect.travel is an all-in-one suite which provides the capability of a Travel CRM, Mid-office and accounting system in one single interface. Travel agents today struggles to manage their operations, bookings, leads and accounts. They end up buying or subscribing to multiple technologies which creates a big issue of reconciliation and collaboration. Especially when their staff is working from distributed locations, managing operations effectively becomes impossible. Konnect.travel will provide all features of a travel operations system in one place at absolutely no cost.

It's been two months since Quadlabs launched Konnect.travel, how has the response been so far?

The response is great and we have already received more than 200 registrations on Konnect.travel, Travel agents are moving to konnect.travel and it is helping them to increase their productivity.



Rock your world

with

Rock in Rio



The month of September brings out the party animal in everyone and that is when this festival does its wonders. People from all around the world await this fest and we know exactly why! It's an experience you wouldn't want to miss. No wonder Rock in Rio qualifies as one of the craziest festivals ever and is every party-goer's dream.

- Shivangi Tomar



LA LA LAND

Music, lights and favourite stars all in one place? YES! A definite yes. Let's face it, no matter how much we love staying at our homes for some Netflix and Chill, we just can't resist the urge to say YES to the most happening party in town. Most of us have stressful responsibilities which we have to take care of, to the point that having fun feels like an unnecessary luxury. However, including fun activities in life and partying a little now and then may be one of the best stress relief tips you could follow. While several responsible adults have adult-sized responsibilities and roles to fulfil that make it convenient to put fun on the lower end of the priorities list, letting your inner fun self and party animal come out sometimes could really leave you feeling vital and happy. There are innumerable benefits of having good old fun and relaxing every once in a while.

As Mark Black says, "Sometimes the most productive thing you can do is relax". In Germany for instance, over 75 per cent of the population go out partying at least one time a week, whereas 10 per cent even live it up three times a week sometimes. No matter which corner of the world you reside in, the urge and dire need to get some fun time out is internationally the same. The overall happiness factor of party nights is clearly evident. Happiness is one of the best medicines – the best cure and also the best precaution because happiness is healthy! When you are surrounded by lovely and energetic positive people, some pumping music and a vibrant atmosphere, your heart will open up and your body will definitely thank you for that. Rock in Rio doesn't only sound perfect but also feels perfect when it's time for having some wild time and doing some unwinding.





Roots

I am sure we all are wondering how this crazy yet amazing festival originated and where. Well, Rock in Rio is a recurring music festival which has its origin in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It later branched itself into some other locations like Lisbon, Madrid and Las Vegas.

So far, uncountable incarnations of this fest have been held in Rio de Janeiro – 1985, 1991, 2001, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2022, nine of them in Lisbon – in 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2022, three of it in Madrid – 2008, 2010 and 2012 and one in Las Vegas. The man behind this grand festival is a Brazilian entrepreneur and advertiser Roberto Medina. He was accountable for the inception and organization of this fest. Rock in Rio does relocate itself to different locations but with one thing that universally remains the same – the best line-up of singers and some guaranteed fun. Being one of the largest music festivals in the world with approximately 1.38 million people attending the first event, it has till date been the most ‘talk of the town’.

Rocking the month of September

The huge ‘Rock in Rio’ festival is finally back in Rio de Janeiro after a

good three-year break due to the pandemic. It kicked off on Friday, 2nd September and went on till the 11th of September 2022 in Rio de Janeiro with heavy metal bands, Iron Maiden, Dream Theater and Sepultura. The other big names performing were Dua Lipa and Coldplay. It took place across two weekends in September. This festival takes off Rio’s rock side along with rock, pop and hip-hop’s biggest and best artists. The last edition featured the likes of Drake, Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Bon Jovi and P!nk. Over both the weekends, global music artists such as Post Malone, Demi Lovato, Camila Cabello, Green Day, Avril Lavigne and Megan Thee Stallion performed on the two main stages. Rock in Rio is held every two years and this particular one is the 22nd event and the ninth time it has taken place in Brazil. The Rock in Rio passes that you purchase, give you access to every concert at the festival. The general admission passes vary in price depending on each year and destination. They usually range from around \$188 to \$235. Once purchased, these tickets will give you entry to all the outdoor stages as well as tents.



Fun-filled Experiences

More than being just a festival, Rock in Rio full-package entertainment experience. This festival is much more than just music. Here the festival-goers can enjoy a power-packed experience with friends or even family just as if it were the Disneyland of Music. It is a mainstream city festival with globe-spanning artists wherein each day has a program designed for a specific type of audience, depending on your musical taste. There are 12 hours of pure entertainment every day. Over here you can enjoy dozens of attractions and experiences designed for the ultimate festival-goer. Ranging from going down a zip-line which crosses the crowd during your favourite artist's show, or enjoying the view on a Ferris wheel and having a stunning view over the entire city. Exclusive gastronomic experiences or diving into a pool in the afternoon, are some things you can expect at Rock in Rio. They also have an area entirely dedicated to gaming. In addition to these entertainments, do not forget the stages which are dedicated to Music Valley and Street Dance with professional dance performances

and also a digital stage with the biggest phenomena on the internet. All of this is free and is included in the ticket for the festival. People seeking for more exclusive treatment, can opt for the VIP area too and enjoy the privileged view of the public and the main stage with non-stop food and drinks and a shuttle service with a special entrance. Again, all of this will be included in your VIP ticket prices. The main highlight of the festival is undoubtedly the performances by your favourite artists on the world stage. The Rock in Rio world stage is one of the grandest festival stages in the world having an unmatched sound system. All of this leads to a fireworks show that takes place every night.

Major FOMO

I bet you wouldn't want to go all FOMO about this one. A trip worth taking, a party worth going and a festival worth experiencing. Rock in Rio could be your perfect getaway break. On the top and just beneath the stars, that's what this is – A star-studded festival with unforgettable memories - Rock your world with Rock in Rio.

Yorker Holidays Services & Resort World Cruises organises FAM trip for leading tour operators

Recently, a mesmerising and a fun-filled familiarisation trip on cruise was organised by Yorker Holidays Services & Resort World Cruises for the leading tour operators from different cities of India. The fam trip offered a first-hand experience of the offerings available on the cruise, and showcased them all the experiences available on board.



EVENT AFFAIR

TAT's Gala Dinner in India highlights gastronomy, responsible and sustainable tourism

Thailand is betting on India, as it is among the top 5 inbound markets for the Kingdom. The country welcomed more than 320,000 tourists from India between January – July 2022. To bolster tourism in Thailand, the Tourism Authority of Thailand successfully hosted the "Amazing Thailand Gala Dinner" on August 3, 2022, in Mumbai. H.E. Mr. Donnawit Poolsawat, Consul-General, Royal Thai, Mr. Tanes Petsuwan, Deputy Governor for Asia and South Pacific, Tourism Authority of Thailand, and delegates from Thailand graced the evening.

Also present at the event were Mr. Natapol Vanichkul , Team Lead Western & Middle East Area, Ms. Natpawee Rattanakat , Team Lead India - Representative in India from Thai Airways International, Mr. Arjun Dasgupta (VP Business Development) along with Mr. Anirban Ghosh (RGM West India), GO First and Ms. Tekla Maira, Regional Director of Sales- India, Banyan Tree Group, Mr. Jagdeep Bhatia, Property Sales Manager - New Delhi, Mr. Ashish Sharma, Oversea Property Sales Laguna Phuket

Thailand has set a target of 7-10 million international tourists and 160 million trips from the domestic market, with a revenue generation of 1.5 trillion Baht. In the seventh month of the year, international arrivals numbered 2.9 million.

The event promotes the "Visit Thailand Year 2022 - 2023: Amazing Thailand New Chapters" campaign and positions Thailand as a top tourist destination with all health and safety measures in place as the world exits the COVID-19 era. The focus is on putting responsible tourism into practice with all related bodies: travellers, communities, entrepreneurs, and suppliers, as well as promoting wellness and cultural tourism.



Island Life hosts a grand roadshow in Delhi exclusively with Universal Resorts Maldives

Island Life Travels, a DMC for Maldives, hosted a stand-alone roadshow on Sunday, 7th of August, in association with Universal Resorts Maldives for the Indian Market. The resorts which participated in the roadshow were Kurumba Maldives, Kuramathi Maldives, Baros Maldives, Velassaru Maldives, Huvafenfushi Maldives, Milaidhoo Maldives, Dhigali Maldives and Kandholhu Maldives. The representatives of the following resorts were also present this event to directly interact with the trade partners. The CEO, Mazin Mohamed, along with his entire team put together a successful event to expand their horizons in the market. The roadshow was not only a huge hit but also opened the doors to some great business deals. Island Life plans to host many more similar shows across the globe in the near future.

APPOINTMENTS



Sarovar Hotels

Sarovar Hotels announces the appointment of Ankush Sharma as the new General Manager- Development.

Ankush Sharma brings with him more than two decades of diverse experience in the hospitality industry both in India and abroad. He has been associated with pre-openings as well as running hotels and has accomplished operational success in all spheres. His last assignment was as General Manager for The Gaurs Sarovar Portico, Greater Noida.

He possesses a niche expertise in starting new operations – having created restaurant concepts, opened hotels, spas both in India and internationally. His experience encompasses Operations Management, Sales & Marketing, E-Commerce, Liaison, Pre-Opening and Project Management.

Hyatt Regency Dehradun & Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar

Hyatt Regency has recently announced the appointment of Kovid Ummat as the Cluster Director of Marketing for two properties – Hyatt Regency Dehradun, the first 5-star hotel and the largest luxury hotel in the state of Uttarakhand and Hyatt Regency Jaipur Mansarovar, the first Hyatt Regency property in the city.

Kovid, who brings to the brand a rich and diverse experience spanning nine years, will be orchestrating all marketing and communication strategies for both these hotels. While adept in ATL and BTL communication, he also has a comprehensive understanding of surrogate advertising.

He will be responsible for generating market specific-content to drive business growth and profitability and also for planning and executing strategies to strengthen the unrivalled and competitive positioning of the two hotels.

Kovid has worked in agencies such as Ogilvy and Dentsu handling a range of sectors: FMCG, Alco-Bev, QSRs and Automobiles. He has also held positions in both account management and strategic planning in his stint.



Fazlani Natures Nest

With 27 Years of experience garnered in some of the top hospitality brands across India, Onkar Singh has been recently appointed as the Vice President of Hospitality & Wellness Operations at Fazlani Natures Nest. The wellness resort is conveniently situated between Mumbai and Pune.

With an extensive experience in hotel operations, along with diverse associations with a number of hospitality bigwigs, Singh will be responsible for overseeing the entire operations of Fazlani Natures Nest, creating the scope for enhanced revenue share and establishing the resort as a go-to wellness destination for discerning travellers seeking a one-of-its-kind wellness experience. Singh in his new role will bring his proficiency to manage the entire gamut of the wellness resort management operations to achieve desired business targets.

Furaveri Maldives

Faizan comes with 8 years' experience in the travel industry. Having worked across various companies as a sales management professional in Representation Companies for B2B, B2C, Travel agencies and DMC's, Faizan has acquired a broad knowledge and understanding of the field and industry. His passion and strength lie in developing markets.

Previously he has worked with Srilankan Holidays, Asia leisure hotels, The Residence and DMCi.

Furaveri Maldives is a tropical 23-hectare natural and un-reclaimed island situated in the exotic Raa Atoll near 'Hanifaru Bay' a UNESCO biosphere reserve. This sanctuary is just a mere 45-minute scenic seaplane ride from Velana International airport. The very spacious 168 villas offer uninterrupted privacy and indulgence.





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