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Ottila International Pvt. Ltd.

Mumbai (Registered Office & Corporate Headquarters): 022 6720 5000

Ahmedabad: +91 93761 20982

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Bengaluru: +91 96 0648 4182

Indore: +91 731 4911 374

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Kolkata: +91 98301 19561

For Enquiries & Bookings, please contact any of our offices | Website: www.ottila.com | B2B Portal: www.ottila.net



CONTENTS

Editor

Priyanka Saxena Ray

Director-Business Development

Gunjan Sabikhi

gunjan@bottindia.com

Design Director

Rajesh Chhetri

Consulting Editor

Aishwarya Srivastava

Senior Correspondent

Anjali Pokhriyal

Social Media Correspondent

Pallavi Sharma

Mumbai Correspondent

Shreya Shimpi

Circulation & Desk

Ashish Sarthak

Vishal Maurya

Published and Printed by

Rai Umraopati Ray on behalf of

More Media Pvt. Ltd., B6, Ground Floor,

Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110 019

BOTT House

Top Floor, E-40, Anand Niketan,

New Delhi: 110021

Email: info@bottindia.com

Phone: 011-8800437575

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CRUISE AWAY

CRUISE AWAY

The global cruise industry has been on an 11-30 impressive growth trajectory, with passenger numbers increasing by 4.3% annually, reaching an estimated 32 million in 2023. Closer to home, India has emerged as a significant market for cruise tourism. In this issue, we delve deep into the perspectives of 10 cruise specialists who are at the forefront of selling and marketing cruises in India. Read on to know more...

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Saudi

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AL Qarah Mountain



From the

*Editor's
Desk*

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the June edition of BOTT, a cruise special issue that promises to transport you into the captivating world of cruise tourism. As the peak holiday season in India unfolds, there's no better time to explore the growth and dynamism of the cruise industry both globally and locally.

The global cruise industry has been on an impressive growth trajectory, with passenger numbers increasing by 4.3% annually, reaching an estimated 32 million in 2023. Closer to home, India has emerged as a significant market for cruise tourism. The Indian cruise passenger numbers are expected to grow from 0.4 million to 4 million by 2030 as per the Maritime India Vision 2023 report, underscoring the immense potential and interest in cruising among Indian travellers.

In this issue, we delve deep into the perspectives of 10 cruise specialists who are at the forefront of selling and marketing cruises in India. Their insights reveal the evolving preferences of Indian travellers and the innovative strategies being adopted to cater to this burgeoning market.

Sustainability is another critical theme this month, with cruises increasingly adopting eco-friendly practices. From reducing single-use plastics to investing in cleaner fuel technologies, the cruise industry is steering towards a greener future.

We also bring you extensive coverage of major travel and tourism events, including the Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB) and the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) in Dubai, which highlighted key trends and opportunities in the travel trade sector. Additionally, our team was on the ground at the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's (CHTA) Caribbean Travel Marketplace in Jamaica, bringing you the latest developments from this vibrant region.

This edition also features detailed reports on our familiarisation trips to Sri Lanka and Ranthambore, providing fresh insights and experiences from these exciting destinations.

Don't miss our latest news section, new appointments in the industry, and a special horoscope segment to guide your travel plans.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Here's to a summer filled with unforgettable cruise adventures!

Happy Reading!

Priyanka Saxena Ray
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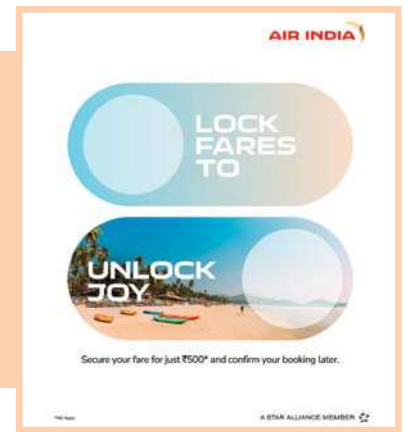
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Air India introduces 'Fare Lock' for flexible travel planning

Air India has introduced 'Fare Lock', a new feature for customers to the ticket booking flow on airindia.com and the Air India mobile application, that lets them plan their travel with greater flexibility and ease. Fare Lock enables customers to lock in or reserve a selected fare for 48 hours for a fixed, nominal fee, while they simultaneously firm up their travel itineraries.



Turkish Airlines launches "Tomorrow On-Board" Sustainability brand

Turkish Airlines has launched its sustainability brand "Tomorrow On-Board" on June 5, World Environment Day, with a special event at the carrier's hub, Istanbul Airport. In line with "Tomorrow On-Board," the event presented a display of sustainable in-flight products and services, along with the exhibition of items made from repurposed aircraft parts.

Vistara enhances in-flight dining menu with regional delicacies

Vistara has elevated its inflight dining experience by adding popular regional flavours to its onboard menu. The additions celebrate India's diverse culinary heritage, offering an exquisite gourmet dining experience to customers onboard Vistara flights. Customers departing from Delhi and Mumbai to international routes can now savour epicurean treats like 'laal maas', 'anjeer kofta' and 'apple badam kheer'.



Japan Airlines and IndiGo agree on codeshare partnership

Japan Airlines (JAL) and IndiGo has announced that they have agreed on codeshare partnership which will greatly benefit the customers by providing more travel options between Japan and India. The cooperation will allow Japan Airlines to strengthen its connectivity into India initially, while enabling more travel options for IndiGo customers on JAL's extensive domestic and international network in later phases.

Jazeera Airways launches direct flights to Batumi starting June 14

Jazeera Airways will launch seasonal flights to Batumi, Georgia, starting 14 June 2024. With three flights a week, Jazeera is the only carrier to fly direct from Kuwait to Batumi. Batumi, a beautiful seaside city, is the second destination Jazeera will serve in Georgia, after the capital city of Tbilisi. "As we continue to expand our network, we strive to add destinations that are unique, affordable, and convenient" said Barathan Pasupathi, CEO, Jazeera Airways.



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Tourism Seychelles hosts FAM trip for Indian Travel Trade

Tourism Seychelles recently wrapped up 2 exhilarating familiarisation trips tailored for the Indian travel trade and media partners in 2024. Held in May, these adventures showcased the rich local experiences and unmatched hospitality of Seychelles. The trips aimed to amplify the allure of the islands, ensuring that the stories and promotions created reflect the true essence of this paradise.



Bird Travels appointed GSA for Armenia Airways in India

Bird Travels is delighted to announce its appointment as GSA for Armenia Airways in India. The airline - Armenia Airways is also starting new direct services from Delhi to Yerevan effective July 15, 2024. The airline will depart every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from New Delhi and Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from Yerevan. For login credentials and reservations travel trade can contact Bird Travels.



Aeroprime Group appointed GSSA for Cambodia Angkor Air

Aeroprime Group has announced its appointment as the exclusive Cargo General Sales and Service Agent for Cambodia Angkor Air, the flag carrier of Cambodia, effective June 1, 2024. Currently, the airline boasts a fleet comprising A320, A321, and ATR aircrafts, serving over 11 destinations across Cambodia, China, Laos, Singapore, and Vietnam. Starting June 16, 2024, Cambodia Angkor Airlines will operate 4 weekly flights from Delhi (DEL) to Phnom Penh (PNH).



TRYP by Wyndham unveils fresh new look

TRYP by Wyndham is rolling out a fresh new look and feel for its portfolio of hotels across EMEA. Rooted in a deep understanding of today's traveller needs, the new guidelines, crafted by the Company's expert in-house design team, addresses the evolving demands of modern hospitality and offer creative direction for both new builds and refurbishments.



The Fern Hotels & Resorts signs new hotels in Uttarakhand

The Fern Hotels & Resorts has announced the signing of two new hotels, 81 keys Debu's The Fern, Jim Corbett & 46 keys Grand Legacy Beacon, Dehradun. The company has operational properties in Mussoorie, Haridwar and Bhimtal in Uttarakhand. The addition of these new properties will reinforce the brand's position in this key market and underline its commitment to exemplary guest experiences.



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CRUISE SPECIAL



‘India is a significant and sizeable market for Cruise Tourism’: Isha Goyal

Historically, cruising has always been seen as a slower paced, and more relaxed way of experiencing a destination or region. While this may still hold true for a large segment in the years to come, Cruising today is witnessing massive growth in the experiential, adventure and fast paced luxury space. Isha Goyal, CEO of STIC Travel Group, shares her thoughts on the evolving Cruise segment in India in light of a wide spectrum of Cruise liners that the company represents in India.

Priyanka Saxena Ray



Isha Goyal,
CEO of STIC Travel Group

Unique Selling Points

The unique thing about cruising is that the journey is almost as important, if not more, than the experience. Across our portfolio of six brands, each one has something unique to offer to its target customer groups:

- **Holland America Line:** Known for their mid-size ships and immersive onboard service, provides the elegance of a luxury cruise in an optimal size for ocean cruising. With exclusive and unbeatable offerings in places like Alaska and the Yukon, where the next best experience can't come close to matching their destination guarantee. Besides Alaska, HAL provides one of the most balanced luxury experiences in Europe, with 20% more cabin size than competing cruise lines and a higher crew to passenger ratio than any other cruise line in the same category.
- **A-Rosa River Cruises:** Offers a relaxed, casual cruising experience on Europe's most beautiful rivers, elevating family friendly experiences to provide affordable luxury in the best locations possible. With most itinerary stops in the heart of Europe's capital cities, or the most popular tourist spots, guests enjoy the best of land and sea at excellent price points without having to compromise on space or quality of experience. And the best part is that children under 15 travel for free*.
- **Windstar Cruises:** Known for their small luxury cruise ships and intimate, yacht-style voyages, Windstar provides an exquisite onboard luxury experience for the discerning traveller. Highly personalised butler service with gourmet meals and quieter ports, Windstar ships are smaller and able to use size to their advantage by accessing more remote destinations in popular locations.
- **Albatros Expeditions:** Specializes in expedition cruises to remote, exotic locations around the world. Known for their exclusive polar expeditions with their signature ice breaker vessels that break through icebergs to bring guests as close as possible to the polar ends of the earth, Albatros experiences are like none other on Earth.
- **Celestyal Cruises:** While Celestyal has been known for providing authentic experiences in the Greek Isles and the Eastern

Mediterranean, their upcoming Gulf sailings are what we are most excited about for 2024-25. At an attractive and affordable price point and a fresh approach to cruising, Celestyal has a very promising road ahead in India.

- Variety Cruises: Also, from Greece, but so niche and unique in their offering, they challenge a lot of the conventional perceptions on the cruising experience. With an intimate yacht cruising experience and a free and easy vibe on board, Variety focuses more on attracting a younger audience searching for immersive and active experiences in remote destinations across the Greek Isles and other archipelagos around the world

Important of India Market

The Indian market is very important for the growth and success of these cruise lines. The increasing disposable income and evolving travel preferences of Indians make India a significant and sizeable market for cruise tourism. We have observed a growing interest in unique, immersive travel experiences and a willingness to explore new destinations via cruises, which is what has also encouraged us to expand our repertoire and offer a wider variety of specialised experiences. Today, the demand for polar expeditions is higher than ever before and we're seeing a growing shift in the traditional travel trends and preferences. For example, Indian travellers have been known to have a late booking profile, but with expedition travel, we are discussing inquiries for November 2025 and even 2026. Indians are open to longer itineraries with more engaging shore excursions which is a clear sign of how the market is maturing and developing into a serious cruising segment.

Young Traveller Appeal

Across the board, we are seeing cruise lines tailoring their offerings by providing more adventurous itineraries, fun and engaging onboard activities, and flexible dining and entertainment options to attract a younger demographic onboard. Specifically,

brands like Variety have done away with the formal dinner settings and replaced them with more relaxed barbecues and social dining experiences that allow for more engagement and interaction. A-Rosa offers more time at city ports, allowing guests to stay out late and have the flexibility to enjoy nightlife in the city before returning back to the ship as per their own timing. With Windstar, the enhanced focus on providing more sports and wellness experiences allows us to open up the brand to a wider audience that can choose their pace of discovery on board. Additionally, brands like HAL provide a lot more options for younger families traveling with toddlers and little kids so that there is something on board for every age group.

the host to provide a wide variety of experiences in a floating venue – packed with entertainment, F&B, sightseeing, bucket list experiences, and much more. Increased supply of cabins, coupled with India's burgeoning upper middle class has made celebrations-at-sea a more affordable luxury choice than ever before. Significant growth in "Celebrations at Sea" as the destination of choice.

- Fun for All – the focus of multi-generational travel is rapidly shifting from the seniors to the kids. We expect to see a lot more brand messaging focused on the comfort and convenience of travelling with

Today, the demand for polar expeditions is higher than ever before and we're seeing a growing shift in the traditional travel trends and preferences. For example, Indian travellers have been known to have a late booking profile, but with expedition travel, we are discussing inquiries for November 2025 and even 2026. Indians are open to longer itineraries with more engaging shore excursions which is a clear sign of how the market is maturing and developing into a serious cruising segment.

Future Trends

Historically, cruising has always been seen as a slower paced, and more relaxed way of experiencing a destination or region. While this may still hold true for a large segment in the years to come, we see massive growth in the experiential, adventure and fast paced luxury space, with cruising taking centre stage in three key ways:

- Accessibility – bringing adventure and experience enthusiasts to some of the remotest spots in the world in a comfortable and convenient way while still allowing for a thrilling and immersive experience. Increased demand for polar experiences, bucket list destinations, remote islands.
- Value for Time – With a significant increase in MICE, particularly celebratory events, cruising allows

kids on a cruise and a consequential surge in Indian young family travel on cruises globally – particularly in markets like the Middle East and Singapore.

Sustainability Efforts

Our cruise lines are taking several steps to ensure the sustainability of cruise tourism. Each brand is governed by their own specific policies and priorities on the path to sustainability. These include implementing waste management strategies, reducing energy consumption, using sustainable materials, and educating passengers about responsible tourism practices on board. While some have already switched to zero plastic, others are actively adopting to sustainable materials and practices in their back of house to minimize wastage and environmental impact. ■

Cruising is fun with Carnival Cruise Line

“The World’s Most Popular Cruise Line”- Carnival Cruise Line is known for leading the way in innovative and sustainable cruising. Dipti Adhia, Director, Discover the World – India shares more in an exclusive chat with BOTT.

Shreya Shimpi

Importance of the India market.

As a global company, we strive to deliver fun and memorable cruise vacations to all who seek them. Our guests from India enjoy sailing from Florida primarily, but we’ve also seen increased popularity in our Alaska sailings, Mexico, the Caribbean and our cruises from Australia as well.

The India market is a burgeoning market with immense potential for us. With an increasing disposable income, a rising interest in travel, etc. India presents a lucrative opportunity for expansion. We are actively present at major trade events, collaborate closely with our preferred partners and leverage various marketing opportunities to strengthen our presence. By continuously engaging with the local market, we aim to capitalize on the significant growth prospects India offers.

Enabling Experiential Travel

We are the first cruise line in the world to put a roller coaster on a cruise ship. Mardi Gras debuted BOLT, the Ultimate SeaCoaster, as the first roller coaster at sea in 2021 and the sister ship Carnival Celebration and Carnival Jubilee also features BOLT. In Alaska, we introduced new shore excursions including the Khutzeymatten Grizzly Bear Expedition, where guests board a 72-foot catamaran designed for wildlife viewing for a full-day adventure through towering cliffs and dense forests.

Use of Technology

Carnival added a new feature on the HUB App. Instead of picking up zone tags for their luggage, guests can indicate a debarkation time via the app and list the number of bags to be placed outside their stateroom so the tags can be delivered directly to them. VIFP members and suite guests will still receive special tags with priority debarkation as normal.

Our Hub App is extremely user-friendly and it enhances the entire experience for our Guests. We’ve also continued to expand the use of facial biometric technology to expedite the debarkation process and its partnership with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Nine of Carnival’s 14 U.S. homeports are using this secure, streamlined technology, including Miami, Port Canaveral, Tampa, Jacksonville, New York, Baltimore, Mobile, Galveston and Long Beach. Across the homeports where facial biometrics is being used, the debarkation process



Dipti Adhia,
Director, Discover the World – India

has been expedited by an average of 30 per cent in the largest deployment of the technology in the cruise industry.

Sustainability in Cruise Tourism

Carnival Corp. released its latest Sustainability Report, which describes significant progress made by the company toward its aspirations of carbon-neutral operations by 2050 and a circular economy model focused on waste reduction, recycling and management. We are setting the pace with the industry’s smartest solutions for sustainable cruising that will help deliver on our aggressive roadmap to reduce our carbon impact, maximise our use of resources and further enhance our operations to be even more efficient by 2030. ■



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November onwards explore the mystique of the Middle East with Celestyal from where ancient wonders and modern marvels converge in a breathtaking voyage.

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Saturday	Doha Qatar	08:00	17:00
Sunday	Bahrain	08:30	17:00
Monday	Dubai UAE	14:00	

* Tendering weather permitting.

2024 Sailing dates: November 15, 22 | December 13, 20, 27

2025 Sailing dates: January 03 | February 21, 28

Desert Days

4-night inclusive cruise onboard Celestyal Journey

Day	Ports	Arrive	Depart
Monday	Dubai UAE	19:00	
Tuesday	Dubai UAE		19:00#
Wednesday	Khasab* Oman	08:00	18:00
Thursday	Sir Bani Yas Island* UAE	13:00	20:00
Friday	Abu Dhabi UAE	08:00	

* Tendering weather permitting. #10 Dec 2024 departs Dubai at 22:00.

2024 Sailing dates: November 11, 18 | December 9, 16, 23, 30

2025 Sailing dates: January 06 | February 17, 24 | March 03

*Itineraries, pricing and availability subject to change | Terms & conditions apply

Desert Days

7-night inclusive cruise from Doha onboard Celestyal Journey

Day	Ports	Arrive	Depart
Saturday	Doha Qatar		17:00#
Sunday	Bahrain	08:30^	17:00
Monday	Dubai UAE	14:00	
Tuesday	Dubai UAE		19:00
Wednesday	Khasab* Oman	08:00	18:00
Thursday	Sir Bani Yas Island* UAE	13:00	20:00
Friday	Abu Dhabi UAE	08:00	19:00
Saturday	Doha Qatar	08:00	

* Tendering weather permitting. #November 09, 2024 departs 21:00.

^ 10 Nov 2024 & 16 Feb 2025 arrive Bahrain at 11:30.

3/4 night cruises can also start in Dubai or Abu Dhabi.

2024 Sailing dates: November #09, 16 | December 14, 21, 28

2025 Sailing dates: January 04 | February 15, 22 | March 01 | November 15, 22, 29 | December 06, 13, 20, 27



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For Princess Cruises, India is a strategic source market

Princess Cruises is considered one of the best cruise lines for multi-generational vacations. In India, Princess Cruises is involved in educating the travel trade as a knowledge partner and can be regularly seen conducting webinars and trade interactions to ensure that the travel associates remain updated about new ships and connected in this new journey to create memories at sea. Nishith Saxena, Founder & Director, Cruise Professionals LLP, which represents Princess Cruises in India, shares more.

Priyanka Saxena Ray

Importance of India market

Princess Cruises is considered one of the best cruise lines for multi-generational vacations. Our focus in India remains on friends & family groups travelling together. More often these guests belong to the HNI and super HNI strata who plan their vacations very meticulously as a result of which they get better value than the last-minute travellers. In India, such guests are not restricted to just main metros and mini-metros. We find them coming from all over the country – at last count, we have guests booking on Princess Cruises from 45 different cities in India. This is also the outcome of extensive market coverage by our sales team during last 23 years since Princess established its presence in India.

Promoting Cruises

We believe is consistency in relationships and service delivery - this

has proved to be our biggest strength and we would never lose the sight of bigger goals which is the foundation of marketing strategy. Broadly speaking, we work on an inclusive style of marketing strategy where we connect and include all the stake holders – the consumers, the distributors and the cruise lines. In this, we keep generating marketing material and tactical promotions with the help of the cruise line and keep sharing with the distribution at all times. Many agencies use the marketing material – posts, EDMs and promotional videos of Princess Cruises to further their own direct reach to the consumer – therefore the end consumer gets a standardised and focus message from all sources which help them in making up their mind faster.

Adopting new Technologies

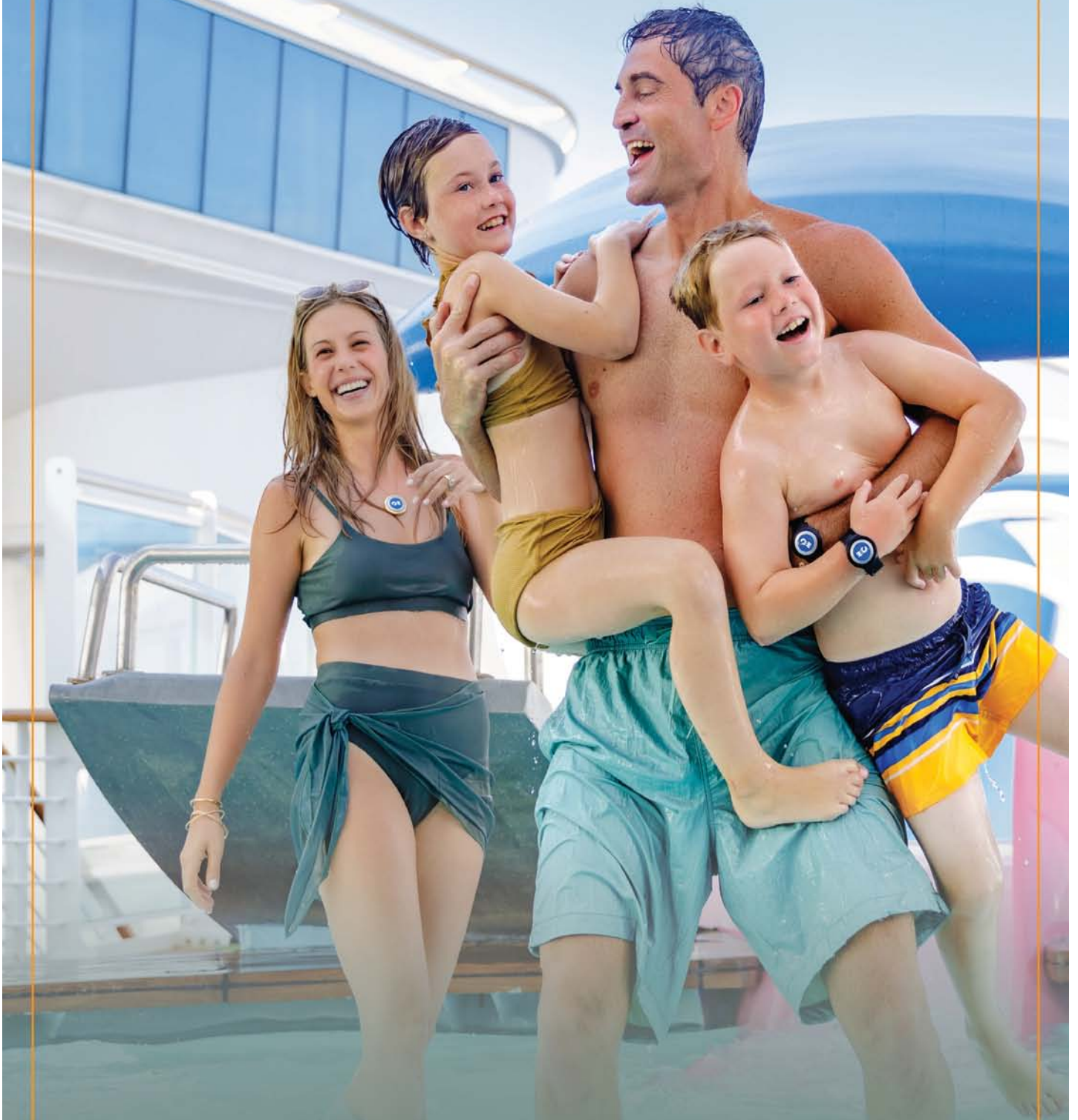
Princess Cruises has always been in the fore-front of technological evolutions onboard their ships.



Nishith Saxena,
Founder & Director, Cruise Professionals LLP

Introduced in 2019 “Princess Medallion Class Vacations” represent the best ever use of digital and AI technology for a personalized cruise vacation – starting from the pre-embarkation formalities, to smooth touch-less check-in, to pre-ordering special services, to making dinner reservations, to ordering drink from “wherever-you-are” on the ship, to participating in the online games onboard the ships and finding your fellow cruise traveller, to book shore excursions, using “Best-in-Class Wifi@Sea” and finally a smooth check-out, the Princess Medallion is a sort of “butler on the wrist” which makes the entire cruising experience extremely comfortable and enjoyable. ■

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The ARK Travel Group has remarkably strengthened its position in India with ARKCruises. A trusted player in the travel arena since many years, ARKCruises has carved a niche for itself offering luxurious accommodations, remarkable hospitality, delectable dining options and a plethora of entertainment options onboard. ARK Cruises is an accredited Preferred Sales Agent for Dream Cruises, Norwegian Cruise Lines, Oceania, Regent Seven Seas, Silversea Cruises selling 'Luxury' cruise vacations all around the world. They are the prominent sellers for Carnival Cruise Lines, MSC Cruises, Disney Cruise Line, Holland America Line, CroisiEurope, Viking Cruises. Kishan Biyani, MD, The ARK Travel Group shares his thoughts on emerging trends, use of technology, sustainability and more.

Shreya Shimpi

USP of the Cruise ship & importance of the India market

As you know, we are consolidators for various cruise liners and have been one of the largest sellers of cruises in the Indian market since many years. This is a growing segment as we have only touched the tip of the iceberg. As the Indian outbound market is ever-growing and our discerning travellers are exploring new destinations and new experiences, I am confident of exponential growth in the cruise segment.

Evolving Travel Trends

We are primarily a B2B consolidator for cruises, we aim to educate and reach out to as many retail partners as possible. We keep offering them more options in the cruise segment so that they can come to a trusted cruise supplier. We have developed a cruise portal for our retail partners where they can see real-time inventory and book online, as speed is of the essence when it comes to servicing the end customer. We offer a basket of products where there are state-

of-the-art vessels, exotic ports and world-class entertainment to choose from.

Currently, we are offering a variety of cruise options from smaller luxurious vessels to large newer ships with a choice of different activities such as rock-climbing walls and much more. Expedition cruises for the more adventurous ones. Disney cruises for families with young children. The cruise market is ever-expanding.

Tech Friendly

We have developed "Deckpro. in", our cruise portal where we offer real-time inventory and online booking options to our retail travel partners. The agents are extremely responsive to this development.

Cruise Tourism in next 5 years

In times to come, the domestic cruise market will see high demand and growth as more cruise liners will be testing the Indian shores. Our government also has the foresight to improve the facilities at the existing ports and develop the new ports with better infrastructure. ■



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Experience the magical world of Cruising with Resorts

Resorts World Cruises – A dynamic and luxury lifestyle cruise brand which offers a personalised cruising lifestyle showcasing the rich Asian heritage as you soak in a plethora of different international experiences. They are truly ‘Resorts Cruising at Sea’. Naresh Rawal, Vice President – Sales & Marketing (India), Resorts World Cruises shares more in an exclusive chat with BOTT.

Shreya Shimpi

USP of your cruise line and importance of the India market

Resorts World Cruises is the only international cruise line that is homegrown in Asia with multiple homeports and footprints across the region. Since our inception 2 years ago, we have grown with two ships presently, sailing to over 16 destinations and counting with the Genting Dream and Resorts World One cruise ships. India remains a key important source market for us, and we continue to observe a year on year growth for the Indian Fly-Cruise market.

Marketing Strategies / Evolving customer preferences

There is still an enormous potential and growth opportunity for the cruise tourism and FlyCruise sector in India as penetration is minimal and with a large part that remains untapped. To drive

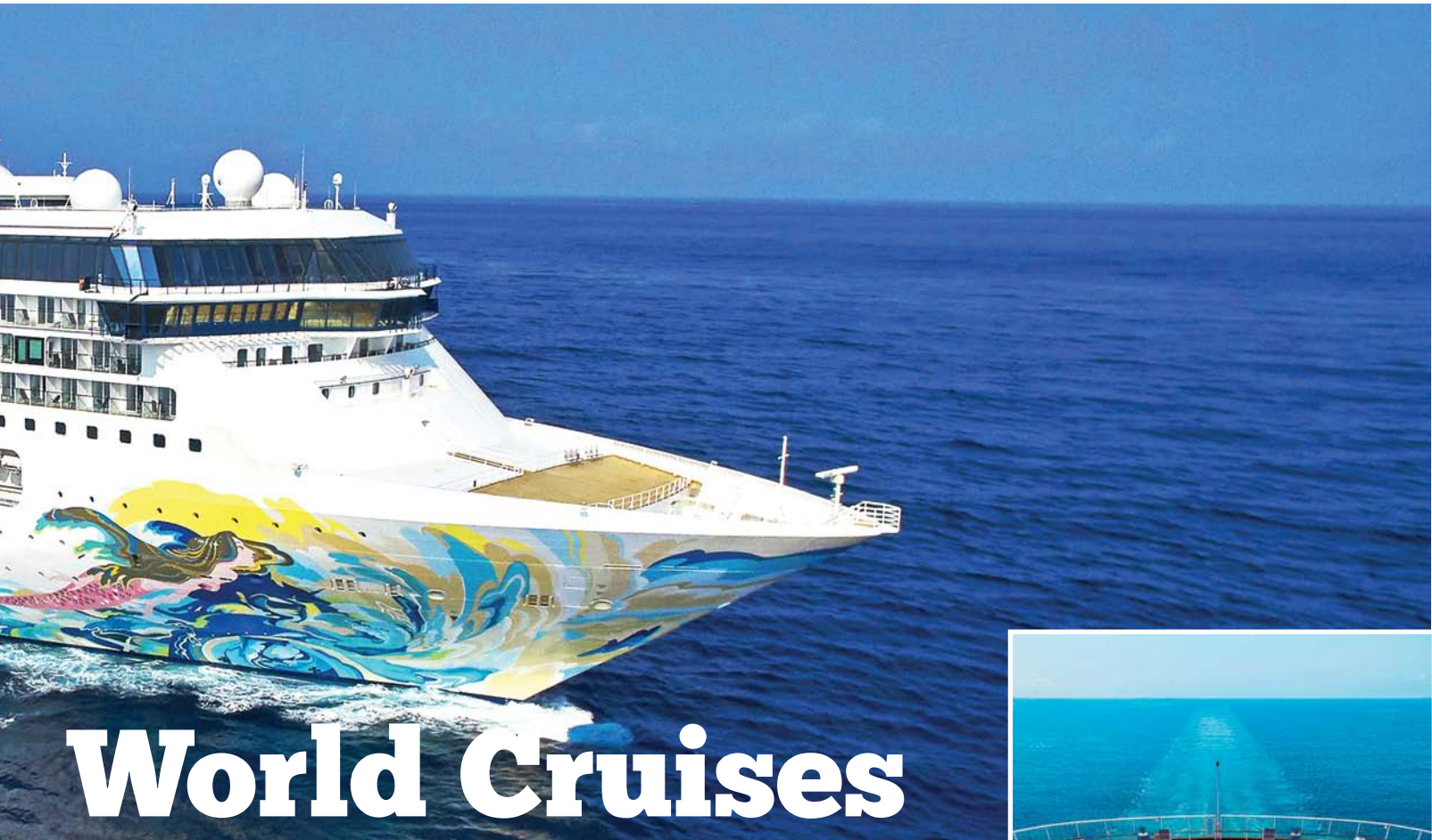
this growth further, we will continue to strengthen our relationship with existing travel partners, providing support with more training and marketing tools to educate and create awareness among consumers.

Demand for Experiential Travel

The demographics for cruising are fast evolving as these days we have a good mix of young and old cruisers, which is a healthy sign. A cruise vacation offers experiential travel that caters to a wide age group in a single sailing.

Using Technology

Striking the right balance of ‘hardware’ and ‘software’ is important for us. We can’t have one more than the other as both are equally important. With the aid of the latest technology, we strive to enhance our guests’ experiences from the start of checking-in to embarking, while on ship as well, payment and checking-



World Cruises



out from your cabin; and disembarking, creating that seamless experience altogether. Also, we are working towards enhancing our connectivity experience at sea for our guests.

The big trends in Cruise Tourism

I think the next 5 years will see a higher percentage of new and repeat cruisers as cruising will become more of an in-trend. Remember globally, especially in Asia penetration is low and so, there is a huge potential with many still not knowing about cruising. With the right resources and partners, we can further elevate cruising as a trend and open up new markets.

Currently, repeat cruises are encouraging and that number is growing. Interestingly with cruising, once you have given cruising a try, there is a

high chance you would want to cruise again and recommend it to friends and families

Sustainability in Cruise Tourism

At Resorts World Cruises, we remain committed to sound environment practices in which a high standard of responsibility has been established. These include increasing energy efficiency, conservation of fuel and water, reducing solid waste generation, increasing recycling, protecting marine life and preventing oil pollution. For instance, the Genting Dream is equipped with Eniram trim optimization; and the exterior hull coating system incorporates the most advanced silicone-based paint to decrease drag in the water and increase fuel efficiency. Also, our ship uses Exhaust Gas Cleaning System (EGCS)

to minimize emissions. In addition, we follow the highest marine industry standard and our Bio Waste Treatment system is equipped with dryers with the ability to incinerate or bag waste materials for offloading and disposal.

Upcoming Cruises

We are also chartering new waters with our upcoming homeport deployment in the Arabian Gulf with a 6-month homeport deployment in Dubai (UAE) and Doha (Qatar) from 18 October 2024 to 13 April 2025 with the Resorts World One. With easy access and regular flight connectivity from India to Dubai or Doha, Indian travellers will also have more travel and vacation options to explore multiple destinations with a cruise vacation, including to Sir Bani Yas, Khasab and Muscat. ■



Get on a Hurtigruten Antarctica Expedition

Do you long for a chance to explore a new place, or just to get away from all the noise of your day-to-day life? If all this describes your ideal vacation, there's no place better than Antarctica. Nishith Saxena, an avid cruiser who has been promoting luxury & experiential cruising to discerning Indian travellers for nearly 3 decades, highlights few reasons you should hop on a Hurtigruten Antarctica Expedition and head toward the South Pole to experience the most elusive of all vacation spots.



Nishith Saxena,
Founder & Director, Cruise Professionals LLP

in the south most part of the world. If you travel to these creature's feeding and breeding grounds, you can get a glimpse into their lives in the wild - something no zoo or aquarium can ever truly replicate.

Nothing compares to Antarctica expedition - For many, exploring this vast, frozen continent is a once-in-a-lifetime dream. To cross the Drake Passage and reach the last great frontier - a place where sun glints off pristine ice and wildlife reigns supreme- is truly life changing. At Hurtigruten, we have been exploring Antarctica for over 20 years and we do so in a sustainable style. Come & Be Inspired. ■

BOTT DESK

The Cold

You probably weren't expecting this to be first on this list - most people who have never been to Antarctica think of the polar cold as being a "con." However, there's something about being in a truly cold environment that wakes up your brain. As long as you're dressed for the weather, you won't be freezing, but the cold air will definitely catch your attention. You'll be amazed how quickly you adjust to the temperatures, and you're likely to ultimately think of the Antarctic chill as one of the best parts of your trip.

Adventure

Adventure is the very nature of an Antarctic vacation. After all, you

certainly don't go to the South Pole to lay out in the sun. Traveling to Antarctica means kayaking, hiking and generally exploring one of the most untouched places on the planet. When you go to this continent, you're bound to have an experience you'll never forget.

Wildlife

That uninhabited quality means the wildlife in Antarctica - particularly the penguins - have no fear of humans at all. They've never had any predators on land, so they're totally confident and completely curious. This means that traveling to Antarctica is your chance to get up close and personal with everyone's favourite flightless bird.

In addition to the penguins, there are also many whales and seals that live

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discover the world

Holiday Moods Adventures promoting experiential travel through sustainable Cruise options

Holiday Moods Adventures (HMA) are the official distributors in India for 3 cruise line companies, namely – Havila Voyages, Norway’s coastal cruise; Swan Hellenic Cruises, a five-star boutique expedition cruise and Viking line cruise, which promote the Baltic Sea countries of Sweden, Estonia and Finland. Arshdeep Anand, Managing Director, HMA shares more about the Cruise lines with BOTT.

Priyanka Saxena Ray

Swan Hellenic has 3 luxurious ships and is an all-inclusive 5-star boutique expedition style cruise line company specialising in tours to the Polar regions of Arctic and Antarctica and the rest of the world. Havila Voyage has 4 luxurious ships sailing between Bergen and Kirkenes with the eco-friendliest award-winning sustainable ships. Viking Line Cruises is a ferry operator that offers daily crossings between Finland, the Aland Islands, and Sweden, and between Helsinki and Estonia.

Importance of India market

India is a rapidly growing economy with rising disposable incomes, which has given a boost to experiential tourism. Hence there is a huge demand for luxury products like cruising. Four years ago, Scandinavia was hardly being promoted in India. At Holiday Moods Adventures, we saw this gap in the market and capitalised it. Today, a lot of people who have travelled to mainstream European

countries are very keen to travel to Scandinavia. Norway is the most beautiful country & is also very popular for the Northern lights. I feel that, Havila cruise is one of the best ways to see the beautiful coast of Norway and the Northern lights are best viewed from its deck. Similarly, Indians now want to reach out to the farthest-flung naturally endowed regions of the planet and this is where this Swan Hellenic experience comes in. Indians love exploring the Scandinavian countries of the Baltic Sea with extreme ease by enjoying the luxury of Viking line ships.

Promoting Cruise liners in India

Holiday Moods Adventures is an ISO 9001:2015 accredited, certified experiential travel company top rated by National Geographic



Arshdeep Anand,
Managing Director,
Holiday Moods Adventures

Adventure, a fully licensed, multiple award-winning company since 1997. We take pride in offering unique immersive tours showcasing travel chronicles and



inspiring journeys. HMA is a DMC for Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Antarctica and has recently added Sweden to the portfolio. Our latest strategy of being a DMC along with being distributors of cruise lines is one of the major reasons for driving growth. We understand that Scandinavia is a difficult region to sell as not many operators have knowledge about how to sell. We regularly do physical presentations of our products in various parts of the country throughout the year, where we educate the interested operators on how & what to sell to which client segment. These strategies are helping our retail agents, in turn their customer preferences and also adapting to the travel trends making us a front runner leader.

Today's customers are environmentally, mindful and at the same time luxury conscious & our cruise lines match these attributes being eco-friendly boutique ships with very high customer service levels & tremendous focus on sustainability, a perfect combination!

We also offer non-branded flyers for promotions. We are very happy to handhold them throughout the process till conversion, even talking to their clients to instil confidence. Social media plays a great role in creating awareness and also the advertorials & press releases. WhatsApp groups are amazing for disseminating information.

Adopting Technology

Embracing digitization and

accelerating our knowledge is essential in today's fast-paced world. We have empowered ourselves with Artificial Intelligence, heralding the future. For example, the era of live chat requiring 24x7 human interaction is over. We have implemented a sophisticated chatbot with well-crafted scripts that efficiently guide customers, allowing for quick and impressive responses. Tracking customers' digital footprints and sending automated reminders to re-engage them is another example of our innovation. Virtual Reality tours have become our cutting-edge marketing tools, captivating travellers like never before. Additionally, we conduct Destination Product learning webinars, enhancing our team's expertise.

Trends in Cruise Tourism

The cruise industry has recently faced criticism for being one of the most polluting and unsustainable forms of holidaying. The new generation of travellers are highly responsible and committed to environmental sustainability. This decade will witness a significant transformation in the cruise industry, with most ships adopting ground-breaking technologies. These innovations include using battery packs to achieve zero emissions, harnessing hydropower for charging, and utilising liquid natural gas to reduce CO2 and NOx emissions. These advancements will create a more peaceful and eco-friendly travel experience, aligning with

the evolving priorities of conscientious travellers.

Sustainability in Cruise Tourism

At Holiday Moods Adventures, our mission is to promote sustainable tourism through exceptional "Handcrafted Experiences, Stories & Adventures Across the Globe." Our core values include protecting the environment, respecting local cultures, benefiting local communities, conserving resources, minimising waste, promoting lesser-trodden regions, and facilitating life-changing experiences for both hosts and travellers.

Havila Voyages exemplifies this commitment and aligns perfectly with our beliefs and ethos. Havila Capella, recognized with the Next Generation Ship Award, boasts the world's largest battery pack, enabling zero-emission sailing in fjords.

The 'Havila Food Stories' initiative underscores sustainability as a key ingredient. By eliminating buffets, it targets a maximum of 75 grams of daily food waste per guest. Havila's ships, with a capacity of 640 passengers each, discourage mass tourism and are powered by batteries, fitting our sustainable tourism model perfectly.

Swan Hellenic is committed to conserving the health and biodiversity of the regions that they operate in and are very much committed to being part of the plan. ■



Unravel the magic of Cruising with Costa Cruises

Costa Cruises, the only company to fly the Italian flag redefines the cruising experience with a perfect blend of Italian hospitality and style. They have a rich experience of 75 years and nine ships in service sailing on the routes in the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, the Caribbean, North and Central America, South America, the Arab Emirates and the Far East. Providing immersive cultural experiences to their guests with responsible innovation and sustainability has been their key strength. Nalini Gupta, Managing Director, Lotus Aero Enterprises, GSA Costa Cruise India Direct speaks about the latest trends, marketing strategies, use of technology, sustainability and more in an exclusive interview with BOTT.

Shreya Shimpi

Importance of India Market

The Costa ships stand out for its world class amenities onboard, wide range of food and beverages and well-appointed cabins - all at exceptional value. The Indian market is crucial for us. Hence, all efforts are taken to give the Indian clientele unique travel experiences on Costa itineraries in Europe, Dubai and most recently, along India's beautiful coastline. We in fact, had a successful India season in 2023 and look forward to further expanding our footprint in the local market.

Meeting evolving customer preferences

We focus on giving customised experiences for the Indian customer whether sailing in India or abroad. We have also been very successful in delivering bespoke itineraries, dedicated venues and teams for corporates, wedding groups and high net worth individuals. We are enhancing pre-

cruise services with quicker check-ins in partnership with port authorities in the respective countries. Onboard, we've upgraded dining options, entertainment, and wellness programs on most of the ships to ensure a top-notch experience.

Using Technology

Costa is investing in smart technology for a seamless guest experience, including mobile apps for easy check-ins, enhanced Wi-Fi connectivity and creating more interactive onboard experiences.

Trends in Cruise Tourism

Key trends will include a rise in sustainable and eco-friendly cruises, increased demand for unique and off-the-beaten-path destinations, easy airline connectivity and greater emphasis on health and wellness offerings.

Sustainability in Cruising

We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint through energy-efficient ships running on LNG, waste reduction programs, and partnerships with the travel trade to promote sustainable tourism practices. Our latest ships Costa



Nalini Gupta,
Managing Director, Lotus Aero Enterprises,
GSA Costa Cruise India Direct

Smeralda and CostaToscana are LNG fuelled. It reinforces Costa Crociere's commitment to sustainable innovation by further contributing to the use of LNG applied to ships, a technology pioneered by Costa. Costa is also working on testing further innovations such as fuel cells and batteries with the aim of eventually achieving the first cruise ship with net zero emissions.

We are continuously innovating to provide unforgettable travel experiences while prioritizing sustainability and customer satisfaction. Do stay tuned for exciting new destinations and services that Costa Crociere is continuously launching. ■



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Manoj Singh,
Country Head-India, Norwegian Cruise Line

*The Norwegian Cruise Line has a rich experience of over 57 years and has been the premier innovator in the cruise industry. Guests can enjoy a wide variety of specialty and complimentary dining options, electrifying entertainment shows and a wide range of options for accommodation that is perfect for any type of traveller. **Manoj Singh,** Country Head-India, Norwegian Cruise Line shares more.*

Shreya Shimpi

of the country.

Meeting evolving customer preferences

NCL aspires to give our guests the best vacation they have ever had when they came on board. Across our 19 ships we sail to 400+ global destinations across 50+ departure ports so we offer extensive choice for our guests to experience. We continue to elevate our product and destination offering with our guests in mind most notably, providing more immersive itineraries including longer stays in port and overnight stays. We also continue to evaluate opportunities to deploy ships to meet guest demands, i.e., increasing our deployment in Asia, the Caribbean and Europe. We have a strong pipeline of new product that will continue to evolve and elevate the NCL experience. We are particularly excited about the evolution of our Prima class product with the forthcoming launch of our first Prima-Plus class ship, Norwegian Aqua, when she debuts in April 2025. Other innovations will include the Aqua

Slidecoaster- the world's first hybrid rollercoaster/waterslide – an industry-first and Glow Court - a sports court by day and, nightclub after dark.

Sustainable Cruise Tourism

We're aiming for net zero emissions by 2050 across our operations and value chain and are transitioning towards a low-carbon economy as we speak. Our climate action strategy primarily focuses on three key areas – reducing carbon intensity; investing in technology and exploring alternative fuels; and implementing a voluntary carbon offset program. We're looking at the use of methanol as an alternative fuel source that can be used alongside traditional marine fuel. We are in the process of modifying our upcoming Prima Class ships, slated for delivery in 2027 and 2028, to be methanol-ready and are assessing the feasibility of retrofitting existing engines to operate with methanol. We've established a target for 70% of the NCLH fleet to be equipped with shore power capabilities by 2025. ■

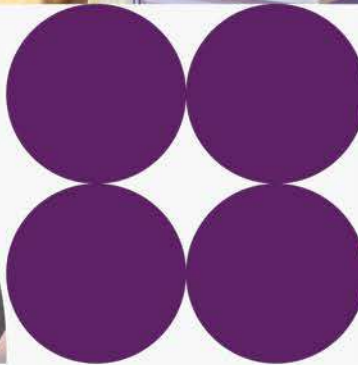
Importance of India market

For NCL, the Indian market, with its huge potential, is vital. As more people explore the perks of a cruise holiday vis-a-vis other kinds of vacations, the demand for cruising is on an upswing. On our part, we're doubling down on our commitment in India and empowering our local travel partners with new tools and resources to enable them to reach customers in every corner



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Ambassador Cruise

Aiming to enhance reach & recognition in India market



Ambassador Cruise is one of the most prominent cruise lines in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam. It offers resort and entertainment services to tourists with a fleet of three large 5-star cruises in Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay. Jandec Travel is part of the Ambassador Cruise ecosystem and is one of the top partners of the cruise system. Vu Cong, Vice President of Jandec shares more info on Ambassador Cruise & its offerings.



Vu Cong,
Vice President of Jandec

BOTT DESK

Ambassador Cruise is the largest cruise in Ha Long Bay, capable of accommodating many MICE groups, events, and weddings. Ambassador Cruise hosted a Bollywood group in August 2023, organised a party for Miss Grand International 2023, and was chosen by an Indian billionaire as the after-party venue following a wedding in Ha Long in 2023. Featuring luxurious amenities and professional services, from upscale cabins and premium restaurants to a 360-degree sundeck, outdoor Jacuzzi, bar, and spa room, Ambassador Cruise always diversifies its offerings to serve tourists.

Growth in Cruise Tourism

Ambassador Cruise is highly focused on developing a diverse resort model that combines multiple experiences, which is increasingly becoming a popular travel trend. Jandec Travel is part of the Ambassador Cruise ecosystem and is one of the top partners of the cruise system. Developing the Indian market has always been part of our initial plan

to foster closer connections between Vietnamese and Indian tourism. In 2023, Jandec Travel collaborated with Ambassador Cruise to organise a fam trip with Indian travel agents and received a lot of positive feedback. Furthermore, in 2024, Jandec Travel will strive to organise more fam trips to enhance our reach and recognition in the Indian market.

Enabling Experiential Travel

To ensure the best experience for our guests, Jandec focuses on understanding the target audience and creating diverse and suitable experiences. By conducting in-depth research on customer needs and preferences, we provide flexible tour packages, including a variety of activities on board and local excursions. Moreover, Ambassador Cruise continually invests in sales calls to understand market trends and customer preferences.

Adopting new Technology

We continuously adopt new technologies to enhance our customers'

travel experiences. In the near future, we plan to integrate VR, AR, CRM, and AI technologies into the cruising experience, ranging from virtual pre-trip experiences to exciting entertainment activities for our guests.

Sustainable Cruise Tourism

To ensure the sustainability of cruise tourism, Ambassador Cruise is implementing effective waste management and wastewater treatment measures on board, ensuring that no hazardous waste or pollutants are discharged into the marine environment. Additionally, we support local environmental conservation activities by partnering with environmental conservation organisations, ensuring that our tourist destinations are protected and the natural environment is maintained sustainably. ■

Unveiling Taipei's Shopping Spots for an Unforgettable Retail Adventure

Taipei, a city where the rhythm of bustling markets and the allure of luxury boutiques create a shopping symphony unlike any other. The thrill of discovery meets the joy of indulgence, promising a retail experience that transcends the ordinary. From the vibrant night markets to sophisticated malls, Taipei's shopping scene is a paradise for those who love to shop till they drop.

Wu Fen Pu

Wu Fen Pu is a treasure trove for bargain hunters. Known as Taipei's answer to Bangkok's Platinum Mall, this wholesale shopping district is packed with over a hundred stores offering incredibly cheap apparel. From chic to stylish, you can revamp your entire wardrobe here without breaking the bank. The best deals are often found on Tuesdays, so plan your visit accordingly.

Guanghua Market

Guanghua Market is the go-to place for gadget enthusiasts. This six-story building offers an astonishing variety of electronic products, from the latest gadgets to essential tech accessories. Remember to bargain hard to get the best prices on your tech purchases.

Ximending

Ximending is where fashion-forward youth flock to stay ahead of the trends. Dubbed the Harajuku of Taipei, it offers a mix of international brands like Uniqlo and local boutiques. While the shoppers shop, non-shoppers can explore tattoo parlours, bars, and even IMAX theatres. It's a vibrant district that caters to all tastes and preferences.

Miramar

In the heart of the city lies Miramar, a vibrant haven for dining and shopping. Its food court features diverse cuisines, and each themed floor—from lifestyle goods to designer brands—adds a unique flair. Taiwan's first hundred-metre Ferris wheel, a favourite among couples for its stunning night views, also makes it a popular spot for memorable wedding photos.

Raohe Street Tourist Night Market

Raohe Street Tourist Night Market, near Songshan Railway Station, offers 600 metres of affordable booths selling popular snacks like oyster vermicelli and stinky tofu, along with various merchandise. It's a must-visit spot in Taipei. There is a decorated archway in front of the entrance. There are various shops and stands in the night market. It presents Taiwanese characteristics and is definitely a place worth visiting.

Taipei 101 Mall

Taipei 101 is not only an architectural marvel but also a luxury shopping destination. The mall houses high-end brands like Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior, allowing you to indulge in a day of extravagant shopping while enjoying panoramic views of the city.

Jianguo Holiday Jade Market

Jianguo Holiday Jade Market, Taiwan's largest jade market, features 800 vendors selling jade, gemstones, antiques, and more. Open on weekends, it has become a world-famous tourist attraction in Taipei.

Longshan Temple Underground Shopping Bazaar

Beneath the historic Longshan Temple lies an underground shopping bazaar filled with traditional trinkets and unique finds. A highlight is the row of fortune tellers ready to offer insights into your future. It's a shopping experience that blends tradition with modern retail therapy.

Shilin Night Market

Shilin Night Market is the heartbeat of Taipei's night market culture. This sprawling market offers a sensory overload with its tantalising street food aromas wafting through the air. Beyond the delicious bites, shoppers can explore an array of stalls selling everything from electronics and accessories to trendy apparel. The market truly comes alive from 9 PM to midnight, making it the perfect spot for a late-night shopping spree.



So pack an extra bag, bring your shopping spirit, and get ready to immerse yourself in the enchanting world of Taipei's retail therapy!

With great networking & business opportunities, 13th GITB Jaipur declared a success!

The 13th edition of “The Great Indian Travel Bazaar” (GITB) was an unforgettable journey filled with incredible experiences and endless travel opportunities! Held from May 5 - 7, 2024, in Jaipur, Rajasthan, the event brought together over 50 countries and more than 300 exhibitors from the tourism sector. Organized by Rajasthan Tourism in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, and FICCI, the event was also supported by the Hotel and Restaurant Association of Rajasthan (HRAR), the Indian Heritage Hotels Association (IHHA), and the Rajasthan Association of Tour Operators (RATO). This year, the focus was on promoting India as a top wedding destination.

Pallavi Sharma



“Wed In India” Expo 2024

Running parallel to GITB, the first edition of the “Wed In India” Expo 2024 was held at the luxurious Hotel Rambagh Palace in Jaipur. From May 5 to May 7, the event showcased India’s beautiful destinations and stunning architectural marvels perfect for weddings. The expo was inaugurated with a lamp lighting ceremony, and the premiere of a promotional film titled “Say I Do in India” received huge applause from the audience.

Enlightening Panel Discussions

The “Wed In India” Expo featured a series of insightful panel discussions on various aspects of India’s wedding industry. Topics including ‘India Awaits you: ‘Evaluating the readiness of India’s wedding ecosystem to face

THE GREAT INDIAN TRAVEL BAZAAR 2024

5-7 MAY 2024, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN, INDIA



international competition', 'Local But Global: India in the NEWS', 'Session with International Wedding Planners' and 'Getting Inspired: Analyzing success stories and challenges' were held, wherein the experts discussed India's preparedness and opportunities for making India a wedding destination. These discussions included inputs

from industry experts, policymakers, and international wedding planners, highlighting India's potential to compete on a global scale and uncovering new growth opportunities.

Inauguration and Cultural Performances

The GITB 2024 was officially

inaugurated on the evening of May 5 at Jai Mahal Palace. The inauguration featured captivating cultural performances by folk artists from Rajasthan, who performed several dance acts themed around weddings. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, hosted a splendid inaugural dinner.



Exhibition at JECC

On the second day, the 13th edition of the GITB exhibition was opened at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Center (JECC) in Sitapura. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was performed by notable dignitaries including Smt. Manisha Saxena, Director General of Tourism, Government of India, and Smt. Gayatri Rathore, Principal Secretary, Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan. The event also saw the participation of Dr. Jyotsna Suri, Past President of FICCI, and Dipak Deva, Chairperson of FICCI Tourism and Culture Committee. ■



UTEN

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UTEN MAY 2024 OFFLINE CONCLUDED EVENTS



Coordelia Cruise Training and Presentation for UTEN with Guidelines Travels on 04th May 2024



UTEN - Dubai and Abu Dhabi Educational Study Fam (Recce) Trip Covering Arabian Travel Mart from 05th May to 12th May 2024 Hosted By Tickat.Com



UTEN - FOREX Guidelines Training and Knowledge Presentation Session by Transcorp Enterprises on 24th May 2024



UTEN - ZARA'S Resort Study Fam Trip for 01, N 02 Days Hosted By ZARA'S Resort and Supported By Travel Dhamaka from 31st May to 01st June 2024



MISTY MEADOWS RESORTS LONAVALA & 7APPLE RESORTS LONAVALA PROPERTY SHOW ROUND ON 31ST MAY 2024 & 1ST JUNE 2024



UTEN with BRAND it Offline Destination Bhutan Training and Presentation by My Bhutan on 30th May 2024



UTEN MAY 2024 ONLINE CONCLUDED EVENTS

- Destination Srilanka Training and Presentation by Walker's Tours supported By Srilanka Tourism on 17th May 2024.
- UTEN - Destination Madhya Pradesh Online Training and Presentation by MP Tours and Supported By Madhya Pradesh Tourism on 21st May 2024.
- UTEN - Azerbaijan Tourism Destination Training and Presentation Hosted by Alison Travel & Supported By Azerbaijan Tourism on 23rd May 2024.
- UTEN - Yas Island, Abu Dhabi Online Destination Training and Presentation by Destination Partner Yas Island, Abu Dhabi on 28th May 2024.
- UTEN - Selina Resort Presentation & Knowledge Session by BRANDit on 29 May 2024.

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For Registration in UTEN Contact

Satyaprakash Gupta 9820165612
Winifred D'souza 9867750707
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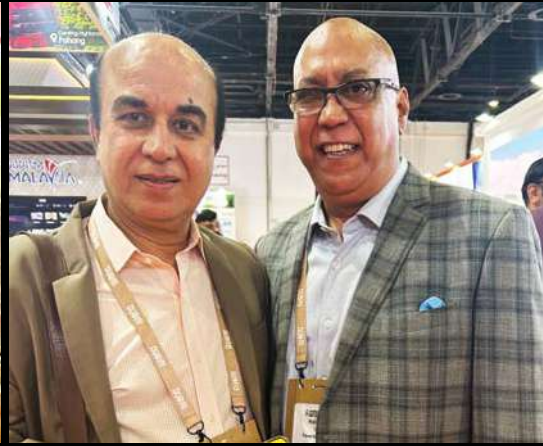
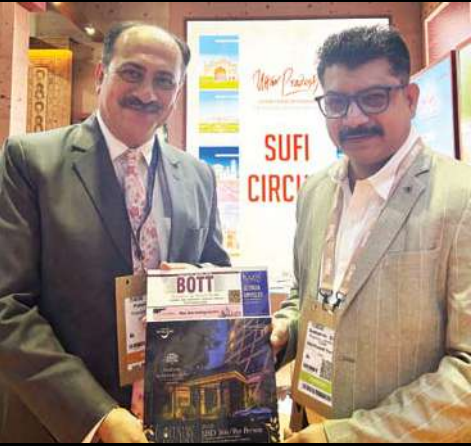
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ATM 2024

sees 15% Y-O-Y growth with more than 46,000 attendees participating this year

The 31st edition of Arabian Travel Market welcomed more than 33,000 visitors from over 160 countries to DWTC from 6-9 May 2024 – an 11% rise over last year. Over 2,600 exhibiting companies took part in ATM 2024, which featured industry professionals from around the world. This year's show explored the drivers behind industry growth in line with the theme: 'Empowering Innovation: Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship'. More than 46,000 industry professionals from over 160 countries – including 33,500 visitors – attended the show.





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 Chennai Laxmi Living (Opening 2021)

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 Chennai Gloucester Park
 Chennai Three Courts
 Chennai Kingdome
 Chennai Trinity Court
 London Garden by Chennai Maison
 Chennai Harrington Court
 Chennai Hyde Park Gate
 Chennai Calico House
 Chennai Emerald House

 EDINBURGH
 Chennai The Edinburgh
 Chennai Old Town
 Chennai Albany Court

 GLASGOW
 Chennai Maison
 Chennai Iqbal





Sri Lanka

Pearl of the Indian Ocean

A tropical paradise destination which offers an enchanting bouquet of options such as pristine beaches, misty mountains, diverse landscapes, divine gastronomical experiences, wildlife safaris, idyllic vistas and a lot more. The hospitality, warmth and smile of the Sri Lankan people aptly resonates with their global campaign 'You'll come back for more'. Here is an overview of this Resplendent Isle.

Shreya Shimpi

Historically known as Ceylon, this treasure island ticks all the boxes for the perfect island getaway. Sri Lanka offers a plethora of experiences such as ambrosial culinary delights, luxury wellness, water sports, adventure activities and so much more.

How to get there?

The award-winning national carrier 'SriLankan Airlines' renowned for its remarkable service, comfort, punctuality and reliability provides you a seamless travelling experience. Their Business Class





offers comfortable seats, great dining options, distinguished service and a relaxing lounge. Operating an all-Airbus fleet, they have great global connectivity. The airline hub is located at Bandaranaike International Airport in Colombo. SriLankan Holidays (SLH), the leisure arm of the National Carrier provides travellers with a wide range of holiday opportunities including customized all-inclusive holiday packages.

Accommodation

The Cinnamon Hotels and Resorts, a luxury hotel chain brand has fantastic properties spread across Sri Lanka. The Cinnamon Grand Colombo radiates an old-world charm blending with modernity seamlessly. It is a great urban venue for meetings, conferences and weddings. Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo is another stunning property with a view of the iconic Colombo Lotus Tower. The Cinnamon Lodge Habarana is nestled in a lush green landscape bordering a serene lake. The luxurious Cinnamon Bentota Beach Resort is an exquisite architectural marvel. The Batik ceiling in the lobby, artistically curated art pieces, exceptional dining options and unparalleled service elevate your holiday experience to another level. The Cinnamon Bey Beruwala is an exotic beach-front property infusing Moroccan elements into its design. Trinco Blu by Cinnamon offers luxurious accommodation during your visit to Trincomalee.

Things to see

Enjoy bird watching at Beddagana Wetland Park in Colombo. The Elephant Safari at the Hurulu Eco Park in Habarana, a biosphere reserve, is where an enthralling adventure awaits you. Watching herds of these majestic creatures in their natural habitat is a surreal experience.

The Dambulla Cave Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This cave monastery has five sanctuaries and 157 statues with artistic Buddhist paintings adorning its walls. Fort Fredrick and the Koneswaram Lover's Leap in Trincomalee are scenic spots set against the stunning backdrop of the Indian Ocean and Gokarna Bay. The Koneswaram Temple is a classic Hindu temple with deities of Bhadrakali, Ganesha, Vishnu Thirumal, Surya, Raavana, Shiva, Ambal-Shakti and Murukan.

The Galle Fort is another iconic landmark and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Once a prominent port, it has great architectural and historical significance. The major bastions are the "Sun", "Moon" and "Star". The area surrounding the fort has cute boutiques and cosy cafes blending European architecture and South Asian traditions.

Culinary experiences

Sri Lanka is a land of sumptuous curries and rice. It offers a smorgasbord of culinary options. The authentic Sri Lankan cuisine has Lunu Miris, Katta

Sambol, hoppers, milk rice, fish ambul thiyal etc. Long Feng is an authentic Chinese restaurant at Cinnamon Lakeside Colombo serving mouth-watering Chinese delicacies. The Captain's Deck Restaurant at Trinco Blu by Cinnamon is known for its lavish buffet. The dining options across all Cinnamon properties are exceptional and they master both local as well as international cuisines.

Adventure

Cinnamon Bentota Beach offers a variety of water excursions such as Banana Boat and Disco Boat Ride. The mangrove boat ride is another serene yet magical experience. Other activities to explore are wind-surfing, kayaking, scuba diving etc. Trekkers can enjoy a trek to Pidurangala.

Wellness

The luxury wellness treatment at NIJA Spa at the Cinnamon Grand Colombo makes your mind and body feel rejuvenated. Experience tranquillity by indulging yourself in their revitalising massages and facials.

Shopping

Cinnamon, Ceylon Tea, gems, spices, moonstone carvings, cotton clothes, and traditional masks are some things to check out in local markets.

There is something here for every kind of traveller. A trip to this treasure island will leave your heart full of 'Mathaka' (memories in Sinhala).. ■

Jamaica experiences robust tourism growth

Minister Bartlett highlights promising future at CHTA's 42nd Caribbean Travel Marketplace

For 2024, Jamaica anticipates a total of 4.58 million visitors, including 3.23 million stopover arrivals and 1.4 million cruise arrivals.

Rai Umraopati Ray



Jamaica's tourism sector is experiencing unprecedented growth, with the first five months of 2024 alone welcoming 1.7 million visitors, generating \$1.8 billion in revenue. Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett highlighted these impressive figures during Jamaica's media presentation at the 42nd Caribbean Travel Marketplace, hosted by Jamaica and organised by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA). The event, held at Montego Bay, attracted regional and international tourism leaders eager to discuss opportunities and strategies for success in the Caribbean.

Bartlett's presentation opened with a forecast of the future landscape of global tourism, projecting a dramatic increase in international travellers over the next few decades. "In the next 25 to 50 years, 1.5 billion more tourists will be added to the existing 1.4 billion tourists," he announced, stressing the need for the global tourism industry to prepare for a surge in demand. He emphasised the growing potential of new economies, particularly India, which is set to become the third-largest economy within five years, boasting a middle class of 100 million eager to travel.

The minister also pointed out the significant opportunities and challenges posed by emerging economies in Eastern Europe and South America, home to 750 million potential travellers. Additionally, China and other Asian countries, Canada, and Africa are expected to contribute significantly to global tourism growth. "This is the global sketch of new tourists in the coming years," Bartlett said. "The global tourism industry must prepare for 3 billion tourists traveling across the planet. Imagine the level of development required to cater to these

“Global and Caribbean demand for travel is robust, and our region continues to be highly desired by international travellers. Caribbean tourism continues to exhibit tremendous resilience. We anticipate growth ranging between 5.0% and 10.0%, potentially welcoming between 33.8 million and 35.4 million tourists. The cruise sector will continue its upward track, with an estimated 34.2 million to 35.8 million cruise visits expected in the Caribbean. Rapid growth in hotel and other investments requires a comprehensive look at airlift, infrastructure—especially utilities, airport, and transportation capacity—to ensure sustainable growth and to keep over-tourism in check.”

Nicola Madden-Greig, President, CHTA

numbers and meet their demands.”

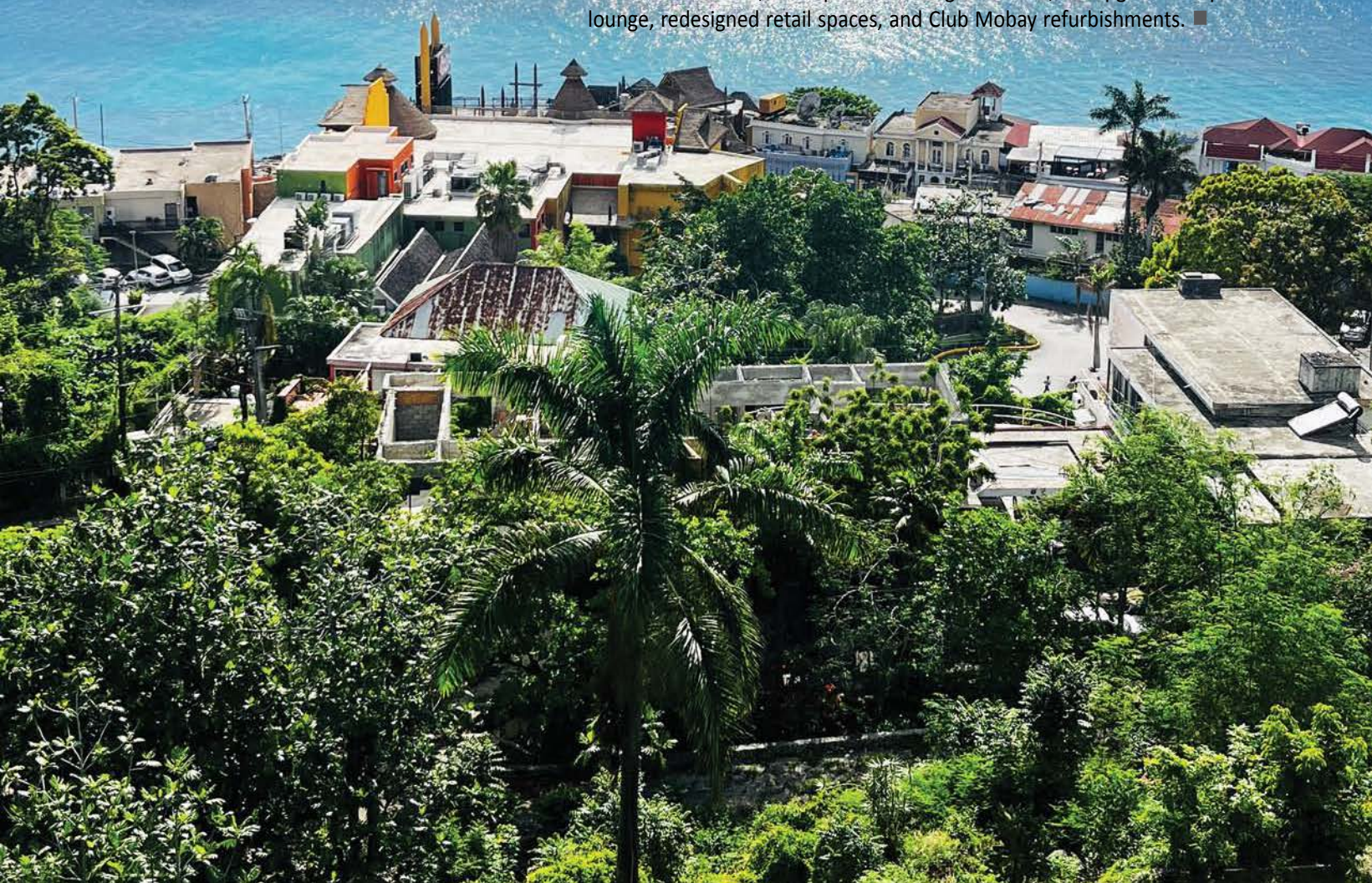
Turning to Jamaica’s tourism performance, Bartlett shared remarkable statistics for the first part of 2024. The island saw over 1 million stopover visitors and more than 700,000 cruise passengers, marking a 4.6% increase in stopover visitors and a 23% rise in cruise passengers year-over-year. For 2024, Jamaica anticipates a total of 4.58 million visitors, including 3.23 million stopover arrivals and 1.4 million cruise arrivals.

Investment in the tourism sector is essential to sustaining this growth, Donovan G. White, Director of Tourism, Jamaica Tourist Board emphasised. He informed, “In 2024, Jamaica will see the opening of 2,000 new hotel rooms, including the first 1,000 rooms of the 2,000-room Princess Grand Jamaica, the 753-room Riu Palace Aquarelle, and the 450-room Unico Hotel in Montego Bay. Over the next five to ten years, approximately 15,000 to 20,000 rooms are slated for construction, with an estimated value of US \$5 billion.”

Airlift growth was another key focus of their brief. Jamaica experienced a 15.4% increase in capacity in 2023, totalling 4,105,313 seats with an average load factor of 83.5%. For the first four months of 2024, the average load factor is expected to match the 2019 levels at 85%, with 1,523,202 seats available.

White also highlighted emerging markets, particularly Latin America, which saw a 40% increase in visitors in 2023. Through partnerships with COPA Airlines, Jamaica now offers daily flights connecting to Colombia, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Efforts to attract visitors from India are also underway, with a local representative appointed to promote travel to Jamaica.

Jamaica’s media presentation concluded with recent updates on the MBI Sangster International Airport expansion and modernisation project. This includes a \$70 million runway expansion, the first Bob Marley branded restaurant and bar, an expanded immigration hall, an upgraded departure lounge, redesigned retail spaces, and Club Mobay refurbishments. ■





Exploring the Vibrant Tri-Valley Region of California

The Tri-Valley is a picturesque region in Northern California known for its stunning landscapes, rich experiences, and vibrant vibes. It serves as a gateway to one of California's oldest wine regions, making it a haven for wine lovers and enthusiasts alike. Beyond its vineyards, the Tri-Valley boasts acres of outdoor recreation spaces, top-notch shopping destinations, and an exquisite culinary scene.

The Cities that make the Tri-Valley

Nestled 35 miles east of San Francisco, the lively Tri-Valley region boasts a rich tapestry of attractions and activities. The Tri-Valley comprises four regions namely Livermore, Danville, Pleasanton, and Dublin, catering to a wide array of interests. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, a culinary adventurer, or a wine enthusiast, there's



something here to captivate every visitor.

Livermore is famous for its wineries and vineyards, offering a taste of California's wine country charm. With places like Wente Vineyards and many boutique wineries, it's a perfect spot to enjoy award-winning wines amidst beautiful hills and views. On the other hand, Danville has a small-town charm with its tree-lined streets, quaint boutiques, and historic landmarks. Visitors can stroll through the downtown area, exploring art galleries, and specialty shops, and enjoying farm-to-table dining experiences at local restaurants.

In Pleasanton, visitors enjoy its vibrant atmosphere, lined with boutiques, cafes, and cultural attractions. The heart of the Tri-Valley, Pleasanton hosts various events and festivals year-round, including the popular Alameda County Fair. Dublin is famed for its picture-perfect landscapes, natural beauty, vibrant culture, and dynamic innovation scene.



The Attractions of Tri-Valley

For those seeking outdoor adventures, family fun, or culinary delights, the Tri-Valley offers a diverse array of experiences. Outdoor enthusiasts can enjoy gentle hikes amid Livermore's picturesque vineyards or explore the extensive trails and open spaces of Danville and Pleasanton, including the majestic Mt. Diablo. There are boating and cycling opportunities abound, catering to all age groups.

For those seeking retail therapy, the Tri-Valley is home to Northern California's largest luxury outlet mall, offering designer brands and discounted prices. After a day of shopping, visitors can unwind with a refreshing pint at one of the region's craft breweries, sampling locally

brewed beers and enjoying live music.

Foodies will delight in the culinary offerings of the Tri-Valley, with its diverse array of restaurants, cafes, and eateries. From farm-to-table cuisine to global flavors, there's something to satisfy every palate. Be sure to indulge in the region's farm-fresh produce and artisanal cheeses, showcasing the best of California's culinary scene.

Hotels in Tri-Valley

Accommodations in the Tri-Valley range from upscale hotels to cozy bed-and-breakfasts, offering comfort and convenience for every traveler. In Livermore, guests can enjoy a luxurious stay at the elegant Purple Orchid Resort & Spa or opt for a boutique experience at The Rose

Hotel. Danville boasts charming inns like the Danville Hotel and the Best Western Danville Sycamore Inn, while Pleasanton offers a variety of accommodation options, including the Hyatt House Pleasanton and the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pleasanton at the Club.

The Tri-Valley is a hidden gem waiting to be discovered, offering a perfect blend of natural beauty, cultural richness, and hospitality to be remembered. Whether you're exploring its historic towns, indulging in its culinary delights, or simply relaxing amidst its scenic landscapes, the Tri-Valley promises an exceptional experience for all who visit.

For more information, visit
www.visittrivalley.com



Egyptair

turns 92; pans expansion of Cairo-Delhi service to daily flights

Egyptair, the national flag carrier of Egypt, recently announced its 92nd anniversary, marking nearly a century of providing air travel services. Since its establishment in 1932, Egyptair has been committed to delivering supreme experiences and fostering global connectivity.

Anjai Pokhriyal



Celebrating this significant occasion, Egyptair extended its heartfelt gratitude to their loyal passengers, dedicated employees, and valued partners for their unwavering support throughout the years. To express appreciation to their trade partners and their esteemed customers, Egyptair introduced exciting initiatives and promotions, including special fares and enhanced onboard services. The airline has also announced a 45% discount on IATA agent fares, on travel and sale upto June 30 this year.

In light of the growing Egyptian-Indian relations at all levels, Egypt's national carrier, EgyptAir, plans expansion of its Cairo-New Delhi service to daily flights from current four flights a week. This enhancement follows the successful launch of the route last August, which initially operated with four flights per week.

This milestone comes on the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Egypt last year, which further strengthened the ties between the two nations. Shortly after his visit, EgyptAir inaugurated its first direct flight from Cairo to New Delhi, marking a significant step in bolstering travel and cultural exchange.

"Since the launch of the direct flight last year, we have witnessed a notable increase in travel, business, and cultural exchanges between Egypt and India. This move to daily flights is set to further augment these ties," said Amr Aly, Country Manager, EgyptAir.

The Cairo-Delhi route is operated by the state-of-the-art Airbus A320neo aircraft. EgyptAir's fleet includes eight A320neos, with an average age of just 1.8 years, ensuring a modern and efficient travel experience. Additionally, the airline's fleet boasts six Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, with two more expected in the coming years. ■



EVA Air

Staying innovative while meeting and exceeding the expectations of customers

From being the first to introduce Premium Economy Class back in 1992 to launching direct flights between Taipei and Clark and offering especially curated meals such as Hindu meals as well as vegetarian meals to its Indian clientele, EVA AIR has set the standards high in aviation excellence.

BOTT DESK

EVA Air has consistently received numerous accolades and awards for its exceptional service and quality. What factors do you attribute to the airline's success?

Constant innovation is definitely one of the key factors which define our airline's success in maintaining our prestigious status. We implement the latest technology to provide a seamless experience through all our service touchpoints. At EVA Air, we also focus a lot on the training of our staff, especially our cabin crew, for us to bring a taste of Taiwanese hospitality to our customers. Lastly, having a robust network and flight frequency allows us to connect our passengers to most parts of the world, providing them with added convenience.

The launch of direct flights between Taipei and Clark demonstrates EVA Air's commitment to expanding its route network. Can you discuss the significance of this route

addition and any future plans in the India region?

Launching direct flights between Taipei and Clark provides another means for passengers to connect to Taiwan and other parts of the world while avoiding the congestion at Manila Airport.

India is a nation that has the potential for growth, especially for the business world today. Under the country's new foreign trade policy, many companies are opening their factories and export hubs there. As such, with the growing demand for business travel in and out of India, EVA Air is optimistic about the future development of the Indian market.

With the travel industry evolving rapidly, how does EVA Air stay innovative and ensure that it continues to meet and exceed the expectations?

EVA Air was the first airline to introduce the Premium Economy Class back in 1992. We are not just the pioneer but we have the award by SKYTRAX to show the world that EVA Air's premium economy class is

the best. At EVA, we constantly innovate to differentiate ourselves by monitoring what our competitors are doing as well as putting ourselves in the shoes of our customers to understand how we can improve our product to suit their needs while staying relevant.

To align our inflight catering with being a luxury airline, our team constantly sources for food and beverages made by award-winning chefs. We also look for quality ingredients because food has to be fresh to avoid complications for our passengers. EVA Air also offers specially curated meals such as Hindu meals as well as vegetarian meals.

Could you elaborate on EVA Air's approach to maintaining its impeccable safety record?

Yes, safety is of utmost importance in the aviation industry. There are many parts within our operations where safety plays a huge part. For EVA Air, having a robust network means that our aircrafts require regular maintenance to continue their smooth operation. Our aircraft technicians and engineers are not only well trained but have safety as a focus when maintaining our aircraft. Our cabin and flight crew have gone through multiple hours of training and also go through regular refresher courses to ensure that our passengers are safe during their flight with us. ■

Vietnam Airlines introduces Airbus A350, connecting New Delhi to Vietnam

Vietnam Airlines has introduced its state-of-the-art Airbus A350, connecting New Delhi to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. With spacious cabins, cutting-edge entertainment, and exquisite cuisine, the airline promises a luxurious and sustainable travel experience. Partnering with Meliá Hotels International, it offers exclusive benefits to Business Class travelers, reinforcing its status as the preferred choice for Indian tourists.

Anjali Pokhriyal



Vietnam Airlines announced the commencement of commercial operations of the state-of-the-art Airbus A350 aircraft, connecting the vibrant capital city of India, New Delhi, to the buzzing cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, effective May 15, 2024. The Airbus A350, renowned for its advanced technology and superior comfort has been designed to elevate the travel experience for passengers, offering a harmonious blend of modern amenities and Vietnamese hospitality.

With its spacious cabin layout with 276 economy seats with best-in-class extra legroom and 29 full-flat beds business class with amenities, cutting-edge in-flight entertainment system, and super-delicious food, including specialized Indian meals amongst others; A350 ensures a comfortable and environmentally sustainable journey for travelers across continents.

Nguyen Trung Hieu, Country Manager India, Vietnam Airlines expressed his enthusiasm, stating, "We at Vietnam Airlines are incredibly proud to launch our inaugural commercial flight Airbus A350, symbolizing our commitment to enhancing connectivity and providing passengers with world-class travel experiences. We recognize the importance of delivering exceptional travel experiences to Indian travelers, which is why the introduction of Airbus A350 signifies a journey that goes beyond mere transportation. We look forward to welcoming passengers on board with our renowned Vietnamese hospitality as we embark on this exciting journey together."

To further enhance the holiday experience, Meliá Hotels International, has signed a MOU with Vietnam Airlines, marking a milestone collaboration, having a luxurious seafront retreat, Meliá Nha Trang, in Vietnam. Launched in July 2023, the property features 94 private pool villas, lavish wellness amenities with gorgeous ocean views, and a culinary experience par excellence.

The MoU extends some exciting special offers for all Business Class guests, valid from May 1, 2024, to December 28, 2024, where guests can indulge in the Deluxe One-bedroom Suite Pool Villa for 2 adults and 2 children enjoying exclusive rates with a 15% discount for Vietnam Airlines' bookings made by Indian travellers in Business class. ■

Cambodia Angkor Air pioneers direct flights between Phnom Penh and Delhi

In a significant leap forward in air travel between two vibrant nations, Cambodia Angkor Air has unveiled plans to initiate direct flights connecting Phnom Penh (capital) Cambodia to New Delhi. The flights are scheduled to commence from June 16, 2024.

Anjali Pokhriyal

Cambodia Angkor Air, the National Flag Carrier of Cambodia has announced the commencement of direct flights between Cambodia's vibrant capital, Phnom Penh, and the bustling metropolis of New Delhi, India. Set to take flight four times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday) from 16 June 2024, under the flight code K6760/K6761, this groundbreaking service marks the first-ever direct connection between these two nations, heralding a new era of seamless air travel.

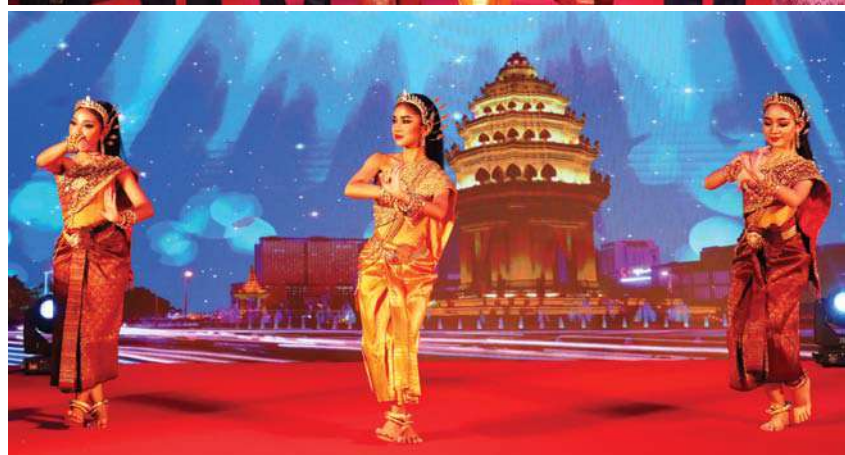
Cambodia Angkor Air's historic launch of direct flights, during the 'Cambodia-India Cultural Tourism Year' of 2024, signifies a profound step towards enhancing economic, cultural and tourist exchange between the two countries.

"It's my honor in deepening the traditional friendship between India and Cambodia through our historic direct service. We commit to warmly show 'Khmer Smile', providing safe and comfortable journeys; with plans to open new routes connecting Siem Reap to Delhi and Phnom Penh to other cities in India soon," says Dr. David Yuhong Zhan, Director of Cambodia Tourism Board (CTB), Vice Chairman and CEO of Cambodia Angkor Air. He also

added, "This new route not only meets the growing demand for direct connectivity between Cambodia and India, but also reinforces our dedication to providing passengers with unparalleled service, comfort, and convenience."

Discussing the importance and expectations from the Indian market, he stated, "Both countries have significant tourism potential as they share similar religious values. Cambodia boasts some of the most ancient temples, reflecting Hinduism and Buddhism. With 90% of Cambodia's population being Buddhist, this translates into a substantial number of religious tourists." By highlighting these cultural and religious connections, we aim to promote Cambodia as a prime destination for Indian tourists, fostering stronger ties between the two countries.

As a tribute to the inaugural flight, Cambodia Angkor Air will offer special promotional fare for travelers booking tickets on this route to experience the best of Cambodian and Indian hospitality. For booking inquiries and further information about Cambodia Angkor Air's Phnom Penh to Delhi route. ■





Yas Island

Brimming with attractions and offerings for Indian clientele

The year 2023 was a phenomenal year of growth for the leisure and entertainment capital of the world – Yas Island. The destinations registered a 55% growth in tourist arrivals as compared to last year. Liam Findlay, CEO - Experience Hub, Miral Destination shares more about the new and exciting offerings by the entertainment hub in an exclusive chat with BOTT.



Year 2023

We welcomed record-breaking numbers of visitors to Yas Island last year, representing highest-ever attendance numbers. With India being a key source market for Yas Island, 2023 saw over 55% increase as opposed to 2022. Yas Island achieved 34 million visits in 2023 (+38% vs last year of 24.9M). Our attractions closed at 83% increase compared to 2022. Regionally, we witnessed a remarkable increase of 125% in park visitation from the GCC in 2023 vs. 2022.

India: An important source market

India for us is our number one source market and I think it will be our number one source market for decades to come. India currently is going through a golden era of economic benefit, which means

it's going through a golden era of travel. It has a high young population and the number of people who have passports is increasing dramatically – almost double-digit growth, thus making it a huge source for international travellers.

Our biggest office overseas with nine people is in India, which is a testament of our commitment towards this market. Last three or four years ago we were talking about T1 cities now we're talking about road shows into T3 cities and we've seen some great success from T2 and T3 cities.

Promotions & Campaigns

One of our oldest and most famous campaign has been 'Kids go free' within the UAE and also beyond as it is the perfect summer product with indoor theme park water park and it gives

opportunity for aspirational travellers to come to Yas Islands. So, for us the kids go free is our number one package for the year with its incredible value where the kids get to stay and eat for free in our hotels and our theme parks. This year too, we will continue working with our trade partners in India. Our campaigns last year were very successful with our Chief Island Officer Jason Momoa last year and this year we have Ryan Reynolds.

New Attractions

I think the key to Yas Island's popularity is that every year there's something new and so visitors keep coming back for more. Few years back there was Rory World and Yas Water World in that time and now in the last five years as a destination we launched Walter Brothers, which is the biggest indoor theme park in the world. Besides that, we have launched Etihad Arena, Yas Bay Waterfront, Culinary Destination and our newest addition – Sea World, which we opened last year. In the next few years we'll be launching Harry Potter, which is the extension to Warner Brothers. So, you see, we are the fastest growing destination in the world when it comes to product offerings and that's why it's a fantastic home for repeat visitation. ■





Shangri-La Al Husn

A breath-taking clifftop ultra-luxury retreat in Muscat, Oman

Overlooking the majestic turquoise waters of the Gulf of Oman, Shangri-La Al Husn is a relaxing, luxury clifftop retreat in Muscat. As Oman's sole adults-only resort for guests aged 16 years and above, Shangri-La Al Husn caters to discerning travellers, offering a tranquil atmosphere and genuine, heartfelt Omani and Asian hospitality. Nick Flynn, Hotel Manager, Shangri-La Al Husn, Muscat shares details of not just Al Husn but three exquisite Shangri-La properties, situated next to each other in Oman.

Priyanka Saxena Ray

The Trilogy

We have what very few hotels in Oman have – our very own Private Beach, which is simple exquisite. The three properties – Al Maha, Al Baddah and Al Husn offer a combined capacity of 640 Rooms. Al Maha is a family focused hotel or resort that has lots of things for the kids to do. Al Baddah is more of meeting, conference and events. And then we have the jewel in the crown, Al Husn, which is for adults – for 16 years and above. This elevated pure luxury property offers 180 Rooms, 12 Suites, 3 Speciality Suites and a Presidential Suite. All three properties are interconnected and together offer a wide gamut of fun and dining options in our 14 restaurants.

Unique Experiences

We are ideally located for celebrity couples looking for a quick getaway trip. Oman enjoys good flight connectivity from Delhi from Mumbai in India and also to many European destinations. There is much that we offer starting from our own marina Dive Centre. We have Dolphin Cruises, Sunset Cruises. We even have one of seven beaches in Oman where the turtles still come and nest so



we have turtle hatchlings in the resort. We also have a beautiful Amphitheatre here we can do sit-down dinners for about 1,000 people, which is also a great venue for Indian Weddings. We also have a helicopter pad so you can come and arrive by helicopter.

Traffic from India

We do get some. Some FITs come over, there are celebrations and weddings of course. We have a large 70th birthday

celebration in November where they're taking the whole Al Husn Hotel – you will read about it in the newspapers!

Around 10% of our clients come from India, which is a small number but I would love to see a lot more. And there's no reason why not because it's a unique destination. The best time to visit is between October to April when the temperature sits around 27, 28, 29 and is much pleasant. ■



Bookmark Jogi Mahal Resort A wildlife haven in Ranthambore

Nestled amidst the breath-taking wilderness of Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan, lies a haven of tranquillity and luxury – Bookmark Jogi Mahal Resort. As travellers seeking respite from the hustle and bustle of city life, we embarked on a journey to this idyllic retreat, eager to immerse ourselves in the serene beauty of Ranthambore.

Anjali Pokhriyal

Tucked away in the serene wilderness of Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan, lies a hidden gem for nature enthusiasts and luxury seekers alike – Bookmark Jogi Mahal Resort. As I embarked on a 400 km journey from Delhi to escape the chaos of city life, this boutique luxury wellbeing hospitality venture welcomed me with open arms, promising an unforgettable

experience amidst the beauty of Ranthambore.

Upon arrival, I was immediately struck by the resort's elegant charm and opulent ambiance. Nestled within a sprawling 3.74-acre area, the newly constructed resort boasts 40 exquisite rooms, each meticulously designed to provide the ultimate comfort and relaxation. From plush furnishings to

state-of-the-art amenities, every aspect of the rooms exuded tranquillity and understated luxury.

The highlight of the accommodation options is undoubtedly the 19 Luxury Rooms featuring heated plunge pools, perfect for unwinding after a day of exploring the nearby Ranthambore National Park. For those seeking a more budget-friendly option, the 21 Deluxe Rooms offer equally comfortable accommodations without compromising on quality.

But it's not just the rooms that impress at Bookmark Jogi Mahal Resort. The entire property exudes an air of opulence, from the massive lobby to the wide corridors and spectacular



banquet hall. Whether lounging by the large swimming pool or indulging in a spa treatment at the Sansha Spa, every corner of the resort is designed to pamper and rejuvenate guests.

One of the highlights of my stay was dining at the resort's multi-cuisine restaurant, where I savoured a delectable array of dishes ranging from local Rajasthani delicacies to international favourites. The bar-cum-games room offered the perfect setting to unwind with a refreshing cocktail after a day of sightseeing.

Speaking of sightseeing, the resort offers seamless arrangements for exploring the nearby attractions, including the renowned Ranthambore

National Park, was a mommy tiger playing with her cute babies. It was like a scene from a movie! As our safari jeep rolled along, suddenly, we spotted them coming out of the bushes. The mommy tiger was all majestic, and her little cubs were full of energy, bouncing around and having a blast. We sat there quietly, just watching them play, and it felt like we were in their world for a moment. It was so amazing to see them up close, just doing their thing and having fun. Definitely a highlight of the trip! With its team of experienced guides and custom-made safari vehicles, the resort ensures an unforgettable wildlife experience for its guests. No wonder why people suggest summers are the best time for

an excellent safari experience.

But perhaps the most memorable experience of my stay was the amazing folk dance performance by a local Rajasthani performer at resort and yes how can we forget an extraordinary stargazing session, where I marvelled at the wonders of the night sky and felt a profound sense of connection with the universe.

Bookmark Jogi Mahal Resort is more than just a place to stay – it's a sanctuary for the soul, where luxury meets nature in perfect harmony. Whether you're seeking adventure in the wilderness or simply craving a peaceful retreat, this hidden oasis in Ranthambore promises an experience like no other. ■



Tarot Card Reading is the art and science which helps understand the present status and the future course. It helps to apply course correction, if required. Tarot Card can be used for shaping Career, Health, Finance, Business,, Relationship, Marriage, Match-making, etc. **Ms. Richa Srivastava, a renowned Tarot Card Reader** conducts exclusive Tarot reading under the banner - Tathaastu. Here are her predictions for June 2024.



March 21 – April 20

This month you will show the best of your skills and creativity will be your strength. You have the ability to manage multiple tasks at the same time. On the work front, the month will be quite busy. Spend some quality time with family.



July 23 – August 21

On the professional front you may find it difficult to achieve set goals on time. It is advised to work hard and if required, seek some help. If you are planning to buy property you should not rush into anything. Your mood swings could affect your family.



November 23 – December 22

It may be a career high point for you if you manage to pull off a particularly challenging task with flying colours. Keep your goals in mind as you move forward while following the rules. You should avoid making crucial financial decisions.



April 21 – May 21

Be cautious in your career and financial dealing this month. Those who are thinking of making a career change should hold off for a while longer. If relations within your family have been tense, it may be a good idea to make plans to spend some time together.



August 22 – September 23

Clear thinking and logical reasoning may assist you in making prudent life decisions this month. You need to remain confident and not lose confidence in stressful situations. Plan to manage your finances well. Follow a healthy routine.



December 23 – January 20

Remove anxiety. Be positive and look on the brighter side. Conflicts at career front will be resolved through honest conversations. Plan to manage your finances. Goal will be achieved and bond will be stronger with partner.



May 22 – June 21

There will be warmth, love and excitement in your relationship this month. You are getting closer to a breakthrough in your career and have a clear vision of the future. Your work will get noticed. This is a good time for investment.



September 24 – October 23

It would be best for you to look at the bright side of things this month. You may have to take an additional responsibility on the professional front. Do not invest in risky ventures. Inculcate healthy habits in your daily routine.



January 21 – February 19

For some of you, a change of career is possible in order to achieve greater success. Open and honest communication is required for successful relationship. Take care of your health. This month you will indulge in spirituality.



June 22 – July 22

This month you need to prioritise yourself and your well-being. Try and be more adaptable and persistent. Your courage and talent will help you progress in your career. You should avoid making crucial financial decisions.



October 24 – November 22

There could be times when you will find it difficult to communicate with your family. Try to express your feelings. Misunderstandings at the workplace might hurt you. Your professional endeavour requires thorough research and planning. Take good care of your health.



February 20 – March 20

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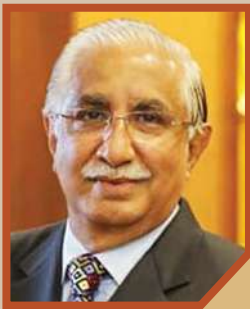
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Tricone Luxury Hotels

Industry veteran Nakul Anand has joined the Tricone Luxury Hotels company as Chairman of its Advisory Board. Tricone Luxury Hotels, a subsidiary of USA-based Tricone Engineers, prepares to launch luxury hotels and real-estate development projects in Alibaug. With a distinguished career spanning over four decades, Nakul Anand is one of Asia most respected and accomplished figures in the hospitality industry.



Air India

Air India has announced the appointment of Sanjay Sharma as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) from 10th June 2024. Sanjay will report to Air India CEO & MD Campbell Wilson, who has more than three decades of experience in the Corporate Finance, Investment Banking and Real Estate sectors and joins Air India from Tata Projects where he was the CFO. Prior to Tata Projects, he was CFO of Tata Realty Infrastructure.



Minor Hotels

Minor Hotels has appointed Puneet Dhawan as Head of Asia as the group plots its growth in Asia and India. From July, Dhawan will be responsible for the performance of all Minor Hotels properties in Asia, working in close collaboration with the Minor Hotels senior leadership team and will report to Minor Hotels CEO Dillip Rajakarier. Dhawan is a seasoned professional with a 30-year hospitality career spanning Asia, Europe, and ME.



Hyatt Regency Ludhiana

Hyatt Regency Ludhiana announced the appointment of Syed Zulfiqar Ali as its new General Manager, effective May 16, 2024. Bringing over 22 years of invaluable experience in the hospitality industry, Syed Zulfiqar Ali joins Hyatt Regency Ludhiana with a distinguished career marked by excellence and innovation. Zulfiqar's appointment signals a new chapter of success for the hotel.



Shangri-La Muscat, Oman

Shangri-La Muscat, Oman has appointed Joakim Af Trolle Velinder as its new Director of Sales and Marketing. He brings a wide-ranging experience within the hospitality industry to bear on his new role. The Swedish national will join the leadership team at the iconic Shangri-La Barr Al Jissah and Shangri-La Al Husn, a complex boasting 640 rooms with 14 outlets.



Moksha Himalaya Spa Resort

Vikas Sharma has been appointed as General Manager at Moksha Himalaya Spa Resort and Timbertrail Heights and Terraces. With over 30 years of comprehensive experience in hotel operations and management, Vikas brings valuable expertise to his new role and is set to elevate the property to greater heights. At the resort he will oversee all operations and work to enhance revenue generation.



The LaLiT Chandigarh

Devinder Walia has been appointed as the new General Manager of The LaLiT Chandigarh. Walia is a seasoned professional with over 25 years of extensive experience in the hospitality industry. He excels in devising and implementing strategic sales initiatives, as well as forecasting and budgeting processes to boost revenues and expand guest bases. His expertise spans setting up new businesses, consolidating existing operations.



Crowne Plaza New Delhi Mayur Vihar and Holiday Inn Katra

Somali Bajpai has been appointed as the Cluster Marketing Manager for Crowne Plaza New Delhi Mayur Vihar and Holiday Inn Katra, bringing a strategic, dynamic, and creative approach to enhance the brand presence and market penetration for both the hotels. Somali is known for her knack for creating strategic collaborations with media and industry partners.

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