

TTW Europe

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Ploudiv

*European Capital of
Culture 2019*



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Dear Readers,

Europe is considered to be the product of history, even as it embraces the pace of future. Our Special Feature Windsor Castle and the Queen's zone offer a leaf from the annals of history.

Home to millennia-old ruins and cloaked in antiquity, Plovdiv has evolved as emerging Meetings Point with several congress and conference centres - Congress Centre at International Fair, Ramada Princess Plovdiv Conference and other meetings space.

February and Valentine's Day have become synonyms. Those smitten by love bugs can buzz around the romantic retreat destinations in Europe, which we have cherry picked for you. These include Norwegian Fjords, Sweden, Mykonos, Tuscany and Paris.

Those who aim for the skies and love the altitudes will find the five high mountains of Scotland 'calling' them.

Tourism plays an important role in Europe's economy. In 2017, the top 5 countries where non-residents spent nights are Spain (305.9 million), the United Kingdom (213.4 million), Italy (210.7), France (133.5 million) and Greece (89.3 million).

We have reflected Europe in a new set of colours, hope you like it.

At the same time, stay updated with the upcoming travel and tourism events taking place across the world in the following days.

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Windsor Castle

A haven for history lovers



The largest and oldest occupied castle in the world is a sight to behold! Windsor Castle standing at the ridge at the northeastern edge of the district of Windsor and Maidenhead in the country of Berkshire, England is the home of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It occupies 13 acres of ground above the south bank of River Thames.

During the World War II the castle had a major role when the German bombed England. The British public believed that the royals were sleeping at Buckingham Palace but actually they were at the Windsor Castle. As a part of the war effort the castle's famous deer were moved up to Balmoral to make room for crops to be grown on the land.

It encapsulates 900 years of British history and reflects the bygone eras of the successive kings and queens. There are two-quadrilateral-shaped building complexes or courts separated by the Round Tower, a massive circular tower built on an artificial mound. There are lower and upper ward in the west and east.

More than 100 rooms at the castle were destroyed due to the devastating fire in 1992 but some of the finest craftsmen in Europe put it back together in 1997. Throughout April and June the queen is officially in residence during the annual Garter Service held in St George's Chapel. For any history, art and royalty enthusiast the magnificent attraction should be a visit. Last year it drew a huge fanfare just to see the royal wedding between Prince Harry and Meghan Markel. The Prince of Wales introduced a tour where one can see the castle through the eyes of a royal with a free audio guide available. The commentary shows the highlights of the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel. The staffs from the Royal Household discuss the work involved in running the castle like arranging a State banquet for 160 guests. Apart from that there is a family multimedia tour for little ones, guides for blind and partially sighted-people. Read on to know more of the hidden secrets and major highlights in the queen's zone:

In **Royal Wedding Exhibition** to be held between 19 January to 17 February, the wedding outfits of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex will be on display. One can get a chance to admire the details of Markle's Givenchy dress, the five-metre long embroidered veil, boat neckline bodice and diamond tiara. Also see the frockcoat uniform of the Household Cavalry similar to the one worn by Harry on the d-day.

Waterloo chamber was constructed to celebrate the victory at the Battle of Waterloo. The portraits lining walls shows the allied monarchs, statesman and commanders involved in the defeat of Napoleon. It has a monumental picture of the Duke of Wellington. It also houses the largest seamless carpet in existence woven by the inmates from Agra prison for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1894. It took the help of 40 men to move it inside the castle. The wedding venue of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle took place in Gothic architecture at George's Chapel which was established by Edward III in 1348. The chapel is the spiritual home to the Order of the Garter which is the most senior order of the British Chivalry. Currently there are 24 knights chosen in recognition of their work for the nation by the Queen. There are tombs of 10 monarchs Charles I, Henry VIII and his third wife Jane Seymour inside.



Queen Mary's Dolls' House was built by the renowned architect Edwin Lutyens and has diminutive treasures. It has a library of 700 miniature books that brings for the artistic and cultural life of the 1920s. The house is complete with electricity, running hot and cold water and working lifts.

Watch the **changing the guard** which is a 45 minute ceremony, the guards in their blood red uniforms and bearskin hats move in immaculate formation. It is formally known as Guard Mounting and the official handover of the responsibility of guarding the royals take place.



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Plovdiv



A panoramic view of a city, likely Athens, Greece. In the foreground, the ancient ruins of the Theatre of Dionysus are visible, featuring a semi-circular stone seating area and a stage with several standing columns. The middle ground shows a mix of modern urban buildings, including a prominent skyscraper, and lush green trees. In the background, a range of blue mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear sky. The overall scene illustrates the blend of ancient culture and modern business infrastructure.

City with culture and
business connections

The history of Bulgaria's second biggest city, Plovdiv dates back to 4,000 years BC. Originally situated on seven hills, like Rome, the ancient and medieval Plovdiv combines millennia-old ruins along with 19th century mansions and palaces. Displaying rich history of the Antiquity, Middle Ages and Revival periods, Plovdiv Old Town has the Revival style architecture that anyone can see all around.

Plovdiv is filled with ancient Roman ruins, beautiful sceneries, luxurious hotels, lavish convention centres and hospitable people. Nominated as 2019 European Capital of Culture with Matera, this oldest inhabited city has cobbled-stoned streets, Ottoman Empire architecture and beautiful nightlife. This city also earns reputation in MICE industry as it is the home to manufacturing and service based industries.



Convention Centres and Hotels

Congress Centre at International Fair: Plovdiv Congress Centre at International Fair – Plovdiv with 352,000 sq.m. area is the best choice for any event organizer holding multi-branch fairs and trade exhibitions. It covers key sectors of Bulgarian economy. One of the largest exhibition venues in Southeast Europe, this exhibition complex consists of 17 multifunctional pavilions and is best equipped for the arrangement and display of any exhibits.

Ramada Princess Plovdiv Conference: The Congress Centre of Hotel Trimontium Princess Hotel is located conveniently on the panoramic floor, adjacent to the hotel's Panorama bar and restaurant. Its spaciousness and layout combine well with its versatility.

Imperial Park Hotel Plovdiv: Located 120 km from Sofia, Imperial Park Hotel Plovdiv provides conference facilities with 6 conference rooms of 950 sq.m. space. The stylish decoration of the flexible exhibition halls and hotel rooms combined with their functionality make them the perfect place for any event.





Grand Hotel Plovdiv: Located in the heart of Plovdiv, Grand Hotel Plovdiv has 321 spacious rooms, each with a space of 30 sqm. The hotel offers unparalleled views of the city life and the left bank of the Martiza River. Located just 10 km from Plovdiv Airport, this conference centre has multifunctional event spaces of different size and capacity — from 15 to 600 seats, depending on the type of room arrangement.

Kendros hotel: Kendros Hotel is one of the most modern hotels in the town. This hotel has the combination of local colour, international standard services and excellent location in the central part of Plovdiv. This hotel offers elegant and distinguished atmosphere, luxurious rooms and high comfort to ensure a pleasant stay.

Hotel Leipzig: Hotel Leipzig is located in the busy area of Plovdiv, at the foot of one of the Seven Hills – Bunardzik Hill with the Alyosha Monument. Set within the centre of the administrative, business and commercial area of the city, Hotel Leipzig is just 30 m away from the newest shopping mall – Mall Markovo Tepe and 650 m from the Central Railway Station. This hotel offers the convenience of being in central location and the comfort of a 4-star hotel with sophisticated, state-of-the-art interior and impeccable services.

Best time to visit

Plovdiv is the first Bulgarian city chosen to be European Capital of Culture in 2019. The city was host to the Month of Culture in 1999. The city is celebrating the most prestigious cultural initiative of the European Union. With its 6000 years of long history, this city highlights partially unearthed Roman stadium below the main street. Its 600-year-old Dzhumaya Mosque still serves the Turkish families which stayed behind after the collapse of the Ottoman rule.



Did you know?

The longest pedestrian zone in Europe is in Plovdiv. A total of 15,000 sqm. of new paving has been laid in the pedestrian zone.



Reasons to visit Plovdiv: Plovdiv is ancient and eternal. The city lives in its history. Go to the top of Nebet Tepe (Nebet Hills) and take a snap of the city. You can get good Bulgarian food from any local café or bistros. Here, you can find lots of art, labyrinthine sprawl of hipster cafes, flower shops, jazz bars and lots of appetizing craft beer. Also, see the special dance of the ‘Singing Fountains’ in Tsar Simeon's Garden. See the stunning Rhodope Mountains in the morning. Just 15 miles from Plovdiv is the Asen's Fortress on the cliff top of Rhodope foothills. It is an impressive medieval structure successively occupied and expanded over the years by Byzantines, Crusaders and finally in its present form by the Bulgarian Tsar Ivan Asen II in 1231. You can also visit any cultural event at the Ancient Theatre or have a lazy walk in the Old Town. You can also go to Kapana where many of the city's musicians and artists hang out in evening, hobnobbing with students and young professionals.



What makes Plovdiv special

Plovdiv is exclusive for its Odeon of Philoppopolis. It was the site of the ancient Plovdiv city council, which was formed in 2nd century A.D. discovered in 1988, the remains of the ancient city, can still be seen in Plovdiv today.



Try to adopt aylyak : Try to adopt the locals' philosophy of aylyak, an untranslatable Bulgarian word which means to be relaxed and happy by enjoying the moment without having to care in the world. The aylyak lifestyle originated in Plovdiv, where it has been practiced intensely for decades.

He: Sorry, I don't think we are doing presents this year can't get you anything!

She: Sighs!
Who wants to be bombarded with PDA (public display of affection)? Shopping, going out for drinks, grabbing dinner is a passé.

He: Chin up girl, booked a trip to Europe! I organized way back never realized that it clashed with Valentine's Day.

She: All smiles!

Making memories you never forget boosts your love life. The starry-eyed romantics should travel to the exotic destinations in Europe to unleash their passion and sparkle their love quotient!

*Romantic
retreats
in Europe for the
perfect
valentine
pursuit*

Staying at Ice Hotel in Sweden: The Ice Hotel in Sweden is built out of blocks of ice and packed snow in different shapes and size where the temperature ranges from 0 to -6 degrees celsius. Get a truly arctic experience in the world's first ice hotel located in Jukkajarvi, built 20 years ago.

Thermal clothing and sleeping bag are provided and a bed of ice topped with a warm reindeer blanket serve as the bed here. A nighttime dog sledding under the northern lights is very romantic!

The ice hotel is generally open from January to April depending on the weather. Spending an entire trip at ice hotel is uncommon as it is a special experience.



Sailing on the Norwegian Fjords : With the mountain as the backdrop, the fjords are ideal for scenic drives and are best seen from water. The steep mountain ranges, deep lakes with majestic waterfall and stunning scenery make a picture-perfect location.

In 2005, the fjords of western Norway were granted the UNESCO World Heritage status. Watch the fjord farming and glaciers in the distance on your way from Alesund and down Hjørund fjord .

You can also arrange for sea safaris or cross country ski across the peaks of fjords to get a feel of the fresh snow untouched by human activity or experience the magic of the northern lights that reflect off the water of fjord.

Beach strolling in Mykonos : The renowned party island in Greece is perfect for carefree beach strolling with the one you love exploring the cobble-stoned streets of the white-washed Chora (main town). With blissful beaches, turquoise seas and magnificent beaches, it is home to some unforgettable sunsets. It has a beautiful pedestrian street with shops and restaurants.

Choose Agia Anna if you are looking for peace; lie in the sun listening to the sound of the sea. There are two beaches of the same name, one is located in the east and another in the south by Paraga. Super Paradise is a much livelier beach mostly covered with sun beds. However, there is not much privacy and space. Those who enjoy swimming nude can head to the Panormos which has a perfect beach club atmosphere for gay couple.



Romantic spots in Tuscany: Tuscany has some of the most iconic and romantic spots for both short and long holiday. Visit Vitaleta located in the heart of the city amidst the gentle hills and cypress trees of Val d'Orcia. It was built between 1867 and 1870. It rests on the monastery of Saint Francis.

Pienza has maze-like narrow alleys. It served as the setting of Franco Zeffirelli's movie 'Romeo and Juliet'. Explore the Kiss Street, Love Street and Fortune Street to sink in the feeling of love. Those who prefer peace and silence can go to Vallombrosa which is 30 km south-east of Florence to discover peace and tranquility.

Paris – the epicenter of Love : Get a breathtaking panoramic view of the city as you cruise through the Seine River. Wander around and enjoy the city by night near the Seine banks and relish the charm of the Louvre Museum. The perfect thing to do on the Valentine's Day is to visit Montmartre and take picture with your loved one beside the 'I love you wall'.



Call of the Mountains

Highest five mountains in Scotland

“The mountains are calling and I must go.” — John Muir

Visitors travelling to mountain tops exude love for oblivion and serenity. They show the courage to tread new routes, to explore new perspectives and to see the world and life from the wide top view. Walk deeper into the beauty of the five highest mountain peaks of Scotland.



Ben Nevis

The highest mountain in the British Isles, Ben Nevis, stands tall at 1,345 metres. 'Mountain with its head in the clouds' stretches at the western end of the Grampian Mountains, close to the town of Fort William. Ben Nevis was born from the cataclysmic collapse of the active Devonian volcano within itself about 350 million years ago. This famous peak attracts 1.25 million walkers a year. The name of the mountain literally means 'venomous mountain'. Ben Nevis is shrouded with mist.

The route up the North Face is very challenging. John Keats climbed the mountain in 1818 and compared the ascent to 'mounting ten St. Pauls without the convenience of a staircase'.

There are four main ridges on the Northern face — the Tower Ridge (difficult), the Castle Ridge (moderate), the Observatory Ridge (very difficult) and the North-East Buttress (very difficult). The North-East Buttress is the southernmost and bulkiest of the four ridges. The north face is also one of Scotland's leading venues for mountaineering and ice climbing even though the towering precipices and narrow gullies make it the most challenging of all.



There are two main walking routes up Ben Nevis. The Mountain Track (sometimes called the Tourist Track or the Pony Track) is the easiest route used by most walkers.

The Carn Mor Dearg Arête route is a more challenging climb of 10-11 hours through the boulders. Visitors can also enjoy Mountain Gondola.

The town of Fort William situated at the foot of Ben Nevis is the closest. Visitors can reach it from Glasgow and Edinburgh by road or by direct train from Glasgow or the Caledonian Sleeper from London Euston.

Ben Macdui



Ben Macdui is the second highest mountain (1309 m) in the United Kingdom and the highest in the Cairngorms National Park. The easiest route of ascent (7 km) is from the Coire Cas car park at the foot of Cairngorm Ski. Visitors can walk across Cairn Gorm plateau from the summit of Cairn Gorm mountain.

Another route follows the path coming up from Loch Etchachan. Other routes include coming through Derry Cairngorm, or via the Lairig Ghru pass, which lies to the west of Ben Macdui. It can be ascended from both Deeside and Speyside. The summit is believed to be haunted by the wraith-like Old Grey Man.

Summer allows for panoramic view of Scotland's highest peaks. Ben Mac Dui overlooks the famous Glen of Lairig Ghru which runs right through the Cairngorm range. Visitors should carry compass and map to prevent being lost in wild isolation. There are bus and rail services to Aviemore from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Braeriach

The third tallest (1,296 m) mountain in the U.K., Braeriach is the highest summit in the western Cairngorms. It offers amazing views of the Lairig Ghru and Ben Macdui. The summit has a crescent shape, with several corries. Out of the several routes, the most common route up Braeriach starts from Sugar Bowl car park, on the road leading to the Cairn Gorm ski area. Braeriach is easily accessible by train, bus, road or plane.



Cairn Toul

The fourth highest mountain in the United Kingdom is Cairn Toul (1291 m) which is often climbed along with other peaks. On the North, the climb can be combined with Braeriach and Sgor an Lochain Uaine. In the South, the visitors can climb the Devil's Point as well. They can start from Coire Cas above Speyside, or Linn of Dee to the south. The route in the west, starting from Achlean in Glen Feshie is shorter with 27 km for the round trip but involves large expanse of the undulating boggy plateau. The six Munros on the high plateaux west of the Lairig Ghru can be covered in a single day.

Sgòr an Lochain Uaine

Sgor an Lochain Uaine is located in the heart of the Cairngorms. Also known as Angel's Peak, it overlooks the magnificent Garbh Choire. Stretching out to 1258 m, it is the fifth-highest mountain in the U.K. Being a very remote mountain, the route on the northeast ridge is very long. In the south, it may be combined with Cairn Toul and The Devil's Point.



Visitors can opt for walking tours of one or more of Scotland's highest peaks. After all, every mountain top is within reach, if one continues climbing — inspiring one to never give up in life.

The best time to enjoy a festival is in the month of February. Everything from folk art to metal music and modern art to natural beauty, Europe is always in focus for celebrations. Europe offers each year thousands of vernal festivals. TTW Europe has selected top 4 festivals happening in this season.



CIDER FESTIVAL

Date: 1 – 3 February 2019

Place: Pontins Sand Bay Holiday Park, UK

Cider Festival is an indoor musical fiesta happening at Pontins Sand Bay holiday park, near Weston-super-Mare in Somerset. All the 3 days will be filled with an amazing line-up of live music and Bluecoat entertainment.

One of the most important Sicilian religious feasts, Saint Agatha's Feast Day is dedicated to the patron saint of the city, Saint Agatha, who was martyred during the persecution of Decius, around the year 251 AD. Locals used to have a traditional religious procession with the relics of St. Agatha. During the middle age, the relics were brought to Constantinople, but in the year 1126 they returned to Catania, so, nowadays they are the highlight of the feast.



SAINT AGATHA'S FEAST DAY

Date: 3-5 February, 2019

Place: Catania, Sicily



LEMON FESTIVAL

Date: 16 February - 3 March, 2019

Place: Menton, France

One of unique festival in France, Lemon Festival is now an internationally renowned event involving more than 300 professionals and drawing more than 40000 visitors to a joyful fruity jamboree every year. Huge floral processions are organised on the Promenade du Soleil, with a mixture of citrus-themed floats, confetti, dancers and folk groups. Displayed in giant floats, Citrus Limonia is saluted by entertainers and brass bands full of divine charm.

CARNIVAL OF VENICE

Date: 16 February -5 March 2019

Place: Venice, Italy



One of the grandest cultural affair in Italy, the two weeks long Venice Carnival steals your mind with stunning Italian dance and shows. This extravaganza is all about parades, concerts, markets, and of course the ornate Venetian masks.

NYC welcomed 65.2 million tourists in 2018 with increased Chinese visitors

New York City welcomed 65.2 million tourists in 2018, by marking a ninth consecutive year of the growth. The city tourism board has confirmed this information. According to the latest statistics released by New York City & Company, 51.6 million of the 65.2 million visitors came from the United States and 13.5 million were international tourists, mostly from the United Kingdom, China, Canada, Brazil and France. Notably, the number of tourists from China rose to 1.1 million from 1.04 million in 2017, despite a months-long trade friction between the two countries which had concerned some tourism insiders.



Frankfurt Airport served 69.5 million passengers in 2018

Frankfurt Airport welcomed more than 69.5 million passengers in 2018. It recorded a 5 million passengers or 7.8 percent increase over that of last 31 TTW Europe

year. There were 512,115 takeoffs and landings in 2018 – a rise by 7.7 per cent. The accumulated maximum takeoff weights (MTOWs) also increased by 5.1 percent to some 31.6 million metric tons. The cargo throughput posted a slight 0.7 percent decline to about 2.2 million metric tons, reflecting growing uncertainties in global trade, particularly during the second half of the year.

Luxembourg makes all public transport free

Luxembourg has announced that by March 2020 – all public transport — trains, trams and buses will be free. Luxembourg is one of Europe's smallest countries with a population of 602,000; but it suffers major traffic jams. Dany Frank, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Mobility and Public Works said that this move will bring environmental benefits and minimize dense traffic congestion. Luxembourg is one of the richest countries in Europe, with the highest per capita GDP in the European Union. It is roughly the size of Rhode Island. Belgium, France and Germany can all be reached by car in half an hour from the capital of Luxembourg City.





North China's Harbin Ice festival allures millions of global visitors

China's huge "ice city" Harbin is drawing tens of millions of visitors as it hosts month-long winter festival Harbin Ice Festival. Harbin has built its tourism sector into a ten-billion dollar industry and is renowned as one of the China's top winter destinations. The city received more than 77-million tourists in 2017 and made a total revenue of about \$17-billion.

World's first driver less trains to be launched by China

China will introduce the world's first driverless trains to run at speeds of up to 350kph on the Beijing-Zhangjiakou railway line. The China Railway

Corporation (CRC) in 2018 trailed the automatic operation bullet trains on a section of the Beijing-Shenyang line. The bullet train passed all safety tests. On the high-speed trains a driver is currently employed to perform the operations and it is expected that the automatic train operation (ATO) will be replacing the human drivers in China. Earlier the ATO was rolled out on tow intercity lines in the Pearl River Delta region and the trains run at maximum speed of 200kph. In June 2017 the Beijing-Shanghai line the new Fuxing trains debuted which could travel up to 350 kph. For the 2022 Winter Olympic Games the Beijing-Zhangjiakou line also known as the Jing-Zhang line currently under construction to offer easy travel between Beijing and the Winter Olympic Village.

As per The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Outbound Travel Market', a report prepared by UNWTO and ETC with the support of Value Retail finds that per-capita international tourism spending from the GCC was 6.5 times higher than the global average last year, with expenditure estimated to be more than USD 60 billion. Emphasizing on the potential of outbound travel from the Middle East, the 7th Annual MICE Arabia and Luxury Travel (MALT) Congress 2019, the regions' exclusive business platform, will bring the world of outbound business and luxury travel from the Middle East under one roof. Given the potential of the increasing travelers and disposable income from the Middle East, 'Halal' tourism is clearly a growing market segment. It has become imperative for the hospitality industry to adapt to changing halal requirements to meet their needs to attract these travelers. By 2020, the number of Halal traveller numbers are projected to grow to 150-156 million, with Amadeus projecting a collective spend of USD200 billion. According to an Allied Market Research report, the global luxury travel market may garner up to USD1,154 billion by 2022. Changing trends in the outbound luxury travel and tourism now include a great demand for new experiential travel and exotic destinations, in sync with the changing role of travelers into adventurers.

7th Annual
MICE Arabia and
Luxury Travel (MALT)
Congress 2019



When: 26-27 Feb 2019
Where: Rixos Premium
Dubai JBR, UAE

GCC travellers are increasingly giving more preference to engaging leisure with business while exploring new exciting and affordable destinations. Alina Drutman, Managing Partner, DMW Travel said, "MICE travel trends are dynamically changing and countries like Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia havenow become the top destinations for their luxurious stay offerings while being great hosts to business needs. Additionally, these destinations have been preferred for its close proximity to

language and cultural similarities."

Exploring emerging markets is a top trend witnessed from the Middle East region, RavshanTurakulov, CEO Silk Road Destination, Central Asia Tours Incoming Agency, said "Uzbekistan is emerging as a top destination as Middle East buyers are continually looking to invest in new economies and offer new destinations as options for their MICE and Luxury travel requirements."

MICE travel is not just restricted to the meetings and events but to provide valuable employees family vacation as well. The MICE industry is one of the fastest growing segments in the travel sector generating millions of dollars in revenue every year. Offering Poland as an emerging market for MICE, Agnieszka Borowska, Managing Director, Visit Poland DMC said, "We are seeing an upward trend in Poland for Corporate Leisure travelers. We expect a high growth in number of tourists from the Middle East visiting Poland demanding for luxury accommodations."

He also adds, “Security, family friendly locations, comfort, direct flights, and more flexible pricing options allows Poland to be one of the preferred destinations.”

Attendees at the MALT Congress include high caliber industry professionals, government policy makers, senior decision makers and MICE and luxury suppliers from different regions such as Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS, Uzbekistan and Poland, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan along with MICE buyers and specialists from the top GCC companies.

The future of MICE travel can also be summed up as personalization being the key trend. The desire for greater personalization, individualization and face-to-face contact is on the rise, creating challenges and great potential at the same time for event planners and venue operators. Vittorio Marsiglio, CEO, Intercontinental Travel Company, “We have seen 7% increase in the number of travellers from Arabia. This, we learn is a great result of customer satisfaction, through the high standard quality of chosen services, the personalization (a unique selection of tailor-made offers), its experience and the deep knowledge of the products we are keen to offer.”

Visa-free travel also becomes very important to attract GCC travelers, as they factor in this aspect

while planning their itinerary.

Commenting on the congress, Sidh NC, Director, OnA International said, “As the Middle East sees a surge in outbound travel, there is more emphasis to recognize the importance of MICE and making MICE friendly destination offerings and unique experiences available. As Middle East buyers are continually on the lookout for new destinations and novel experiences, this year the key highlight at the 7th Annual MICE Arabia & Luxury Travel Congress will be to explore new destinations as well as address local, regional and global trends and challenges in the MALTMICE and luxury travel sector.”

The MALT congress for seven consecutive years is touted as the “global meeting point” of influencers from the world of conferences, meetings, incentives, events, business and luxury travel who gather for two intensive days of making connections, learning, innovation & networking. Building on the tremendous potential of the growing outbound travel and luxury travel market in the MEMiddle east region, the 7th edition annual of the MALT Congress will focus on driving business success, benefiting from all year-round opportunities to making connections, exploring trends and technologies from around the world and deep dive into every aspect of travel.

The largest and most popular in Russia and CIS 26th International tourism exhibition MITT 2019 will be held from 12 till 14 March 2019 in Moscow, Expocentre.

Thousands of representatives of tourism industry in Europe and the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Asia, America, Africa and island countries, as well as CIS countries will present their products for the coming season. Visit the show to be in industry trend!

MITT 2019 is:

- 20,000+ professional visitors from 80 regions of Russia and 90 other countries
- 1,700+ companies
- 230+ countries and regions of the world
- 40,000 sqm of exhibition space
- 7 halls and pavilions
- 3 full days of business programme
- 110+ speakers
- 12 conference sessions

For the first time, such areas as Qatar, Bahrain, Mongolia, Tanzania, Seychelles, the

Galapagos Islands, Cambodia and others will be presented at MITT. Among the regions of Russia: Saratov Region, Sverdlovsk Region, Kemerovo Region, Kursk Region, Tyumen Region and Khanty-Mansiisk autonomous district.

MITT annual exhibitors are also confirmed: Greece, Italy, Spain, Turkey, Bulgaria, Israel, Morocco, Vietnam, Venezuela, Thailand and many others.

The largest tour operators will present new flight programs and destinations in Russia and around the world. Representatives of inbound tourism will make large-scale offers for recreation, MICE-opportunities and wellness in the Russian regions.

Altai region has confirmed its status as a MITT 2019 Partner Region.

Schedule meetings with representatives of the tourism industry in this and other regions of Russia and get full information about the direction and conditions of cooperation for the coming season.

MITT 2019

Mitt

When: 12-14 March
Where:
Expocentre Moscow,
Russia



The next edition of the WTM Latin America event, which will take place on 2 – 4 April in Expo Center Norte in São Paulo, will have a space dedicated to women who want to give a boost to their careers in the travel and tourism industry.

The Women in Travel program is already taking place in the WTM London and WTM Africa editions of the shows and with its personalized content and mentoring will become part of the Latin American edition, its core objective being to provide guidance for women who work in the market, invest in their careers and are entrepreneurial.

The project, which is led by Alessandra Alonso, the founder of the company of the same name, empowers women and helps them develop more incisive strategies and activities in the global travel, tourism and hospitality industry.

In Brazil, Alessandra is supported by Mariana Aldrigui, who looks after her business interests. Mariana is a tourism professor and researcher at the University of São Paulo and a member of the Advisory Board of WTM Latin America.

“I’m very happy to bring the Women in Travel Meetup to the most important travel event in Latin America and to extend our reach to cover all WTM platforms.

Women play a critically important role in this industry, whether as professionals or entrepreneurs, but they don't always have the chance to be recognized for their contributions, or to simply get together to learn

and inspire.

Women in Travel provides a platform for encouraging discussion, involvement and networking for women and men who think about highly relevant topics so that this sector continues to thrive and grow,” says Alessandra.

This is the first time this Women in Travel programme is going to be held in Brazil and it will last for three hours and be divided into a panel on training, mentoring and a cocktail party. It is worth mentioning that it is not necessary to register beforehand to participate in the panel and attend the cocktail party. For the mentoring programme, however, registration on the WTM Latin America website is necessary; this facility will only be available in 2019.

Women in Travel will take place on 2 April, the first day of the event, in the Networking Area starting at 3pm. Registration for the mentoring programme will be open shortly.



Digital Travel APAC 2019 has already over 80+ speakers already confirmed. Here check out why over 400+ Heads of eCommerce, Digital Marketing and Customer Experience in travel, hospitality and leisure are headed to Resorts World Sentosa, Singapore this 1-3 April.

Today's travelers are more digitally savvy than ever before and Digital Travel APAC 2019 is the one-stop shop where leaders in APAC's travel industries can discuss the evolution of digital customer engagement, master customer personalization and boost omni-marketing strategies.

2019 Topic Highlights:

- Delivering a seamless travel experience – How to meet the needs of the domestic and outbound traveller with AI, big data and intelligent hardware
- Mastering Localisation and Personalisation – How to diversify your offerings and create a truly frictionless and tailored customer experience
- Social media marketing in an experiential world – How is social media influencing today's 'experiential' travellers and how to adapt and profit from this new global trend to boost conversions
- Mobile site optimization - How to effectively

adapt your overall e-commerce strategy given the vital importance of mobile in Asia, improving speed and efficiency

- The future of money and loyalty – How to deliver smooth and innovative engagements with your customers
- Advances in ancillary technology – How to offer seamless transition between online and offline activity, whether that's before, during, or after a trip.



Here's a snapshot of some of the digital travel innovators and disruptors speaking:

- Jerome Thil, VP Digital Innovation, Singapore Airlines
- Candice Iyog, VP of Marketing & Distribution, Cebu Pacific
- Michael Perera, Head of Loyalty & Product Owner of GO-POINTS, GO-JEK
- Yuki Huang, Chief Marketing Officer, KKday
- Rotsen Quispe, Head of International Marketing, Traveloka
- Spencer Lee, Head of Commercial, AirAsia
- Anita Ngai, Chief Revenue Officer, Klook
- Mindy Teo, VP of Brand, Marketing & Digital Innovation, The Ascott
- Azran Osman-Rani, TEDx Speaker, Ex-CEO, iflix & AirAsia X


BLTM 2019
When: 18-19 January, 2019
Where: Leela Ambience
Convention Hotel, Delhi, India


Launched in 2016, India's first full-fledged travel mart BLTM is dedicated to Business, MICE and Luxury Travel. Recently concluded BLTM 2019 was held on 18th and 19th January at the Leela Ambience Convention Hotel, Delhi. Qualified buyers from the capital and the rest of India were hosted at the event.

115 exhibitors from 26 Countries and 13 Indian States and Union Territories showcased at the two-day event. BLTM Delhi experienced an unprecedented footfall of 1,225 B2B visitors and more than 200 buyers from India. All participants were fully hosted at the show venue hotel. The 2:1 Hosted Buyer to Seller ratio and additional footfall ensured the travel mart was always abuzz.

Dignitaries who graced the BLTM inauguration were H.E. John A.E. Amaratunga, Minister of Tourism, Sri Lanka; H.E. Austin Fernando, High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in India; Kumar De Silva, Chairman, Sri Lanka Convention Bureau; Dr Trust Lin, Director of Taiwan Tourism Bureau; Ismail Amer, Egyptian Tourism Counsellor; Subhash Goyal, Chairman, STIC Group; Suresh M, Chairman, EEMA; Sanjiv Agarwal, Chairman and CEO, Fairfest Media Ltd and V Suresh, President, Fairfest Media Ltd and others.

Dr Trust Lin, Director of Taiwan Tourism Bureau said that they have been participating at BLTM for the past two years and the show has grown enormously since then. Last year, we received some great response from the travel trade sector and this year too our co-participants were glad to be a part of BLTM. The buyers here at BLTM mean business and they have great potential as well. I would love to be a part of upcoming BLTMs.

The show opens doors to India's 6.5 million outbound luxury and MICE tourists, as well as the fastest growing business travel market in the world. Gracing the largest country pavilion at BLTM was Sri Lanka Convention Bureau, returning participant from last year. The tourist mart also saw enthusiastic participation from National Tourist Organisations (NTOs) from Dubai, Egypt, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Spain, Greece and Philippines.

Spain Tourism added a distinct flavour to BLTM by hosting an entertainment evening for Hosted Buyers together with Warq Tourism and Palladium Hotel Group. The evening was marked by dancing, sangrias, tapas and dinner.

Major Indian Tourism Boards matched up to their international counterparts. The Indian State Tourism Boards (STBs) of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh,

Jharkhand, West Bengal and Punjab ensured their representation with a large number of sellers to showcase India at its best.

Some of the star exhibitors of BLTM 2019 include Hotel & Restaurant Association of Bhutan, Ambuja Neotia, Leisure & Luxury Hotels and Resorts, RailYatri.in, Denzong Leisure and Spiceland Holidays.

Some of the event partners put their best foot forward and put on a stupendous show. Cox and Kings, BLTM's knowledge partner organised a destination workshop on Georgia and Azerbaijan on the inaugural day. Air India and Ethiopian Airlines were the Partner Airlines while the Ground Transportation Partner was Eco Rent A Car - Europcar. Just Click Karo.Com was the online B2B Travel Partner.

Some exhibitors who attended another prominent travel mart in Greater Noida and then shifted to BLTM opined that the event provided a better Return on Investment (ROI) while others concluded the event was just as good.

The onsite meeting was one of the most anticipated features of BLTM. Buyers and sellers interacted face-to-face, fresh appointments were made on the floor and pre-made appointments were hosted with ease.

Hosted buyers at BLTM included corporate travel planners with purchasing authority, travel companies catering to business, leisure, MICE and luxury travel, MICE travel managers and buyers, MICE organisers and managers, business travel managers and buyers, film destination companies, associations, wedding planners and event management companies.

One of the Hosted Buyers, Preeta Venugopal, Executive Office Administration, Bekaert Industries Pvt Ltd said, "This was my first time at BLTM and I think organisers have put in a lot of effort to make the show look perfect. I got to see many different exhibitors from all over the world and India. I was amazed to see so many new destinations in India. BLTM will definitely help me in planning my next travel as it has provided me with perfect suppliers. I want to thank the organisers for giving me a chance to see a great show like BLTM."

"BLTM filled a vacuum in the evolution of travel trade shows in India by sustaining an event focused on business travel and MICE buyers. This year, the show attracted a large number of B2B visitors from leisure sector as well. However, presence of more than a 100 corporate buyers is what makes it unique," remarked Sanjiv Agarwal, Chairman & CEO of Fairfest Media Ltd, the organisers.

Many of the buyers and sellers at BLTM Delhi will be also participating in OTM Mumbai a couple of days later, from January 23 to 25, at the Bombay Exhibition Centre.

OTDYKH Leisure

When: 11-13 September 2018

Where: Expocentre Fairgrounds, Russia



The 24th edition of OTDYKH Leisure, took place on 11-13 September 2018 at Expocentre Fairgrounds in Moscow. The event brought together 870 exhibitors from 41 countries and 44 Russian regions, covering the total area of 15 000 sq. m with over 38 300 visits during the 3 days of the Expo.

The key feature of OTDYKH 2018 edition was a significant increase of the Russian domestic travel exposition as well as the strong advertising campaigns of well-established exhibitors.

Traditionally strong participation was shown by Asia and Latin America. European countries intensified their marketing efforts to attract more tourists to their destinations.

Large and exclusive expositions were demonstrated by the top destinations such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, Georgia, Spain, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Cuba, Tunis, Egypt and many others.

A record number of Russian regions took part at the event to introduce their tourist attractions to the exhibition's guests, increasing their exhibition area by 26% compared to 2017.

The exhibition was accompanied by a comprehensive business programme, featuring more than 40 business events in 11 conference halls with 200 speakers and over 2.000 participants including representatives of

government authorities and travel industry. During the exhibition, 15 governmental agreements have been signed.

The highlights in the field of outbound tourism became a Hosted Buyers Programme 2018 and a series of roundtable meetings between Russian large tour operators and international authorities in total of 4 roundtable meetings dedicated to Serbia, India, Indonesia and Japan. The meetings were co-organized by ATOR (Association of Tour Operators of Russia).

The key event in the area of inbound tourism became the conference on the domestic tourism development in Russia. The so-called "All-Russia Meeting on Inbound and Domestic Tourism Development" was held on 11th of September and attracted over 200 participants incl. key decision-makers, governors, heads of tourism-related ministries and authorities.

The Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation, the Association of Russian Tour Operators, the Russian Union of Travel Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation and other national and regional authorities have, once again, extended their support to OTDYKH, noting that the exhibition is well-established and high-demanded B2B platform.

Exhibition

- 870 exhibitors
- 41 Countries and 44 Russian Regions
- 38 303 Visits
- 15 000 sq.m Exhibition Area
- 287 Media Attendees
- 80 Media Partners

Business Programme

- 40 events in 11 conference halls
- Over 200 speakers
- Over 2000 participants
- 15 signed governmental agreements

OTDYKH 2018 welcomed numerous newcomers as well as a series of returning exhibitors. Among newcomers were Palestine, Andhra Pradesh, Taiwan and Sintraas well as the Republic of Bashkortostan, Omsk and Penza regions. Maldives and Japan returned to the leading travel exhibition with collective stands after a short break.

Numerous Russian regions, 44 in total, participated in OTDYKH 2018 edition. The extended exposition were demonstrated by the Republic of Tatarstan, the Republic of Komi, the Kaliningrad, Perm and Vologda regions. The highlight became a new photo and video contest, capturing top travel destinations across Russia. The competition featured 62 artworks from 28 Russian regions.

The European exhibitors for example Georgia, Spain, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria and Cyprus arrived to

OTDYKH 2018 with collective pavilions. Thanks to a rich history, culture, heritage, architecture and cuisine, the European countries continue to market themselves successfully as year-round destinations with the tourism offerings that suites different tastes, culture and budget.

The long haul and exotic destinations, with traditionally strong participation at OTDYKH, such as Cuba, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand, Egypt, Tunisia, and India, showed an outstanding participation with an intensive advertising campaign, choosing once again this event as an annual platform to meet business partners and to promote new products and services to the lucrative Russian outbound travel market.

The OTDYKH business programme was of great interest among experts, industry associations and companies actively engaged in the Russian tourism industry and covered a large number of events including conferences, seminars, work-shops, case-study presentations, roundtable meetings and other networking events. The business programme reflected the major industry trends and combined all relevant sectors of the tourism value chain, from MICE and Luxury Travel to Health and Gastronomy.

One of the key events of OTDYKH Leisure 2018 became the Conference on domestic and inbound tourism development in Russia, which was held on 11th of September. The outcome of the Conference became a draft resolution with practical proposals for tourism development in Russia.

The resolution will be submitted to the tourism-related ministers for their consideration and approval. The Hosted Buyers Programme 2018 received special interest. The high-level buyers, tour operators and travel agencies from 23 Russian regions attended the exhibition to conduct meetings with exhibitors.



The 14th International Conference Medical Tourism, SPA & Health: “Health tourism as a source of professional longevity. Global trends and international experience exchange” brought together leading experts in health tourism and resort industry. The Conference covered a broad spectrum of topics including health-improving programmes, disease prevention & health improvement of the population, corporate healthcare initiatives, redevelopment of recreational tourism facilities and many others.



In 2019 OTDYKH International Travel Market will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Don't miss out the opportunity to enter one of the largest tourism markets in the world with over 20 million outbound travellers per year. Become part of OTDYKH 2019- where the world of travel is at home.



31st Jan- 3rd Feb

Emitt Istanbul
Istanbul, Turkey
<http://emittistanbul.com/>

Emitt
23rd East Mediterranean International Tourism & Travel Exhibitions

1st - 3rd Feb

Balt Tour Exhibition
Kipsala , Rīga, Latvia
www.balttour.lv/?link=10000000

BALT 2019 TOUR

7 - 8 Feb

**Forum Sur L'Investissement
Hotelier Afrcain**
Marrakech, Morocco
<https://fiha-conference.com/>

Forum de l'Investissement Hôtelier Africain
7-8 February 2019 - Movenpick Hotel Mansour Eddahbi Marrakech, Morocco

8 - 10 Feb

TTF Chennai
Chennai, India
www.ttfofm.com/

India's Biggest Travel Show Network
TTF

13 - 15 Feb

PATA (ATRTCM)
Uttrakhand, India
www.pata.org/atrtcmm

PATA
Pacific Asia Travel Association

13 - 15 Feb

**Jeddah International Trade
and Tourism Exhibition**
Jeddah Hilton, Saudi Arabia
<https://www.jttx-sa.com/>

**JTTX9**

15 - 17 Feb

TTF Bangalore
Bangaluru, India
www.ttfotm.com/



17 - 20 Feb

Connections Luxury
Malaga, Spain,
<https://weareconnections.com>



18 - 20 Feb

AIME Australia
Melbourne . Australia
<https://aime.com.au/>



20 - 22 Feb

ACE of MICE Exhibition
Istanbul, Turkey
<http://ameistanbul.com/>



25 - 27 Feb

Global Restaurant Investment Forum

NH Collection Grand Hotel
Krasnapolsky, Amsterdam
www.grif.com



22 - 24 Feb

IITM Kolkata
Kolkata, India
<http://iitmindia.com/>



22 - 24 Feb

TTF Kolkata
Kolkata, India
<https://www.ttfotm.com/>



26 - 27 Feb

**MICE Arabia & Luxury Travel
Congress**
Dubai, UAE
www.mice-arabia.com/about.html



27 - 28 Feb

Aviation Festival Asia 2019
Singapore
<https://www.terrapinn.com>



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