VENICE

PROHIBITING CRUISE SHIPS
04-Meetings Point: If you are in love with ravishing alpine scenery and quaint villages oozing storybook charm, it's hard to beat Switzerland. The soaring snow-capped peaks of the Alps Mountain Range, glittering blue lakes, emerald valleys, glaciers, and picturesque lakeside hamlets imbue this landlocked nation with a fairytale beauty.

11-Cover Story: The Italian government has announced on April 1, the permanent ban of large cruise ships in the Venetian lagoon, after several years of protests, petitions, and threats of being put on UNESCO's endangered list. The entry ban will be effective as of August 1st, 2021, and will prohibit ships exceeding 180 meters in length or weighing 25,000 tons from entering the lagoon, hoping to sustain Venice's historic canals, waterways, and public squares.

14-Destination Diary: The capital of Latvia, Riga, showcases immense potential for international tourism and is one of the offbeat tourist destinations in Europe. The city is known for its history, culture, architecture and vibrant nightlife.

19-Special Feature: The U.K. government's traffic light system for travel segregates countries into red, amber and green lists based on maximum and minimum risk of COVID-19. It establishes different set of entry regulations for each country based on their risk factor.
Dear Readers,

After a long time, our Europe edition resumes from this month. As we all are going towards normalcy and moving forward to revitalize Europe’s MICE and leisure tourism market, this edition will be as an add-on for you about your planning to travel in European nations. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the meetings, events, and travel industry in 2020. Before that Europe was a huge market in the tourism business. We are now looking to wheel up this market. Our edition will also deliver some highlights on leisure tourism destinations and also its immense MICE market. Switzerland is a paradise for nature lovers. But this country also serves as a meeting place for business industry leaders. Read here to know how Switzerland empowers itself as a meeting and event destination.

This renewed edition also will serve to know you about the cruise market in Italy and how after the pandemic the government is trying to go sustainable. If you are planning to travel to any Baltic metropolis, then our recommendation is Riga. Known as the cultural capital of Latvia, Riga offers stunning views and spectacular museums to you. Also, see the UK’s plan how they are opening international tourism in a safe and most-controlled way.

Editor-In-Chief
Mr. Anup Kumar Keshan
If you adore ravishing alpine scenery and quaint villages oozing storybook charm, Switzerland should be your next destination. The snow-capped peaks of the Alps Mountain Range, glittering blue lakes, emerald valleys, breathtaking glaciers, and picturesque lakeside hamlets imbue this landlocked nation with a fairytale beauty. Snuggled amid the mountain valleys and lakes lie world-class international resorts and a long list of adventurous things to do, including hiking, biking, climbing, paragliding, skiing, and tobogganing.
SwissTech Convention Centre was opened in April 2014 and is currently one of the largest meeting spaces in the Lake Geneva area. The easily accessible venue is only a short trip from both Geneva and Zurich airports, making it an ideal location for international visitors. SwissTech Convention Centre offers a wide range of meeting tools that allows visitors to tailor their event to their exact needs, depending on its size, type and duration. The centre can accommodate up to 3,000 people and can be booked for up to 10 days.
Congress Centre Basel

Congress Centre Basel, with its 25 modern rooms, is located in the heart of the city, right next to the Messe Basel exhibition complex and is just a short walk away from a large number of hotels. Messe Basel, designed by the world-renowned architecture firm Herzog & de Meuron, reflects the city’s ideal combination of functionality and aesthetics. This modern building boasts a multifunctional event hall on the ground floor, which has a direct walkway to the Congress Centre Basel. With a pillar-free surface of some 3,300 sq m, plus 1,500 sq m in the foyer, the event hall can accommodate up to 3,000 participants, with banquets possible for up to 2,000 delegates.

Gstaad Palace first opened its doors in 1913. Celebrated as a modern hospitality icon, the hotel offers its guests the most luxurious and innovative amenities available. More than a century later, the hotel has now become a classical masterpiece that continues to deliver some of the finest services in the region.
Carlton Hotel St Moritz

Carlton Hotel is a haven of luxury located in the centre of St Moritz. Declared Switzerland's Best Ski Hotel for the third year in a row at the World Ski Awards, the Carlton Hotel St Moritz is a hub of indulgence in every way. This luxury five-star establishment beguiles the senses with its offering of extravagant colours, luxurious décor and culinary creations of the highest standard.

International Conference Center

International Conference Centre can host large events and is equipped with the latest technical facilities. Every year, the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) hosts gatherings of international importance: medical congresses, for example, as well as other public and private events.
Congress Centre Kursaal Interlaken

Congress Centre Kursaal Interlaken has a total event area of 5,000 sq.m. and a capacity for over 1,500 people. The Congress Centre has 19 different rooms, of which three are halls of over 900 sqm. All the halls are flooded with daylight.
airBaltic launches new connections between Manchester and Riga

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

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

According to the new annual Economic Trends Report from the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), Asia-Pacific was the region hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic. The report reveals the full dramatic impact of travel restrictions designed to curb COVID-19 on the global economy, individual regions, and its job losses worldwide.

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

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

The WTTC estimated that six million jobs in the travel and tourism industry and more than US$110 billion in contribution to GDP were lost in Latin America and the Caribbean alone in 2020. From a national perspective, Bartlett said, the Jamaican economy has been haemorrhaging from the sharp decline in tourist arrivals experienced over the past 14 months.

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

According to an UNCTAD report published on June 30, the crash in international tourism due to the coronavirus pandemic could cause a loss of more than $4 trillion to the global GDP for the years 2020 and 2021. The estimated loss has been caused by the pandemic's direct impact on tourism and its ripple effect on other sectors closely linked to it.

The report presented with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), says international tourism and its closely linked sectors suffered an estimated loss of $2.4 trillion in 2020 due to direct and indirect impacts of a steep drop in international tourist arrivals. The report warns that a similar loss may occur this year noting that the tourism sector's recovery will largely depend on the uptake of COVID-19 vaccines globally.
VENICE PROHIBITING CRUISE SHIPS
Italy announced the permanent ban on large cruise ships in the Venetian lagoon on April 1, after several years of protests, petitions, and threats of being put on UNESCO’s endangered list. The entry ban came into effect from August 1st, 2021. In accordance with the ban, ships exceeding 180 m in length or weighing 25,000 tons are now banned from entering the lagoon. This measure is expected to sustain Venice's historic canals, waterways, and public squares.

**Why this Banning?**

This ancient city has been battling rising water levels and floods for centuries. In November 2019, Venice has been inundated with the city's worst floods in half a century. Last time, the people of Venice has seen city's iconic St Mark's Square underwater, with a 2-meter-high surge threatening irreparable damage to historic sites such as Saint Mark's Basilica. There are several factors that make Venice particularly prone to flooding, such as rising sea levels around the coastal city due to climate change, and the sinking of the city itself by approximately one millimeter per year due to the soft, moving terrain on which it is built. For this the government banned the entry of cruise ships. Now the large cruise ships can dock to industrial port of Marghera.
Rerouting
Now the cruise ships are scheduled to keep docking within the lagoon until a new port is constructed and the city authorities are pushing for the industrial port within the lagoon, though not in the city centre, as the permanent solution. The commercial port is not ready for cruise ships either, meaning the first ships to take to the water this summer is docked in the city centre, sailing past the iconic city centre through the Giudecca Canal. But although sending the ships to Marghera reroutes them away from the city centre, it does not diminish the environmental impact of their presence in the lagoon.

Source of Controversy
The Venice cruise ships have been a source of controversy for years, with an ongoing campaign led by the No Big Ships protest group and petitions by international architects and artists. Many regulations have been put in place over the years to reduce the number of ships arriving in Venice. However, as these ships provide significant contributions to economy, there was never a substantial decision.

A Collaborative Decision
A few years ago, more than 50 leading figures from architecture, art, film and fashion - including Norman Foster, the director of London's National Gallery Nicholas Penny, and the director of the Guggenheim Foundation Richard Armstrong, signed a petition pleading Italian Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi and the Italian Minister of Culture and Tourism, Dario Franceschini to keep large cruise ships out of Venice.

The petition was created by the UNESCO-backed Association of the International Private Committees for the Safeguarding of Venice, and explains that not only the ships are an "aesthetic intrusion" to the city, but also create a "probable risk of catastrophe" to the fragile lagoon surrounding Venice.
The capital of Latvia, Riga is the country's primate city. It is also the largest city of the Baltic States and houses one third of Latvia's total population. Founded in 1201, the city is a former member of the Hanseatic League. Known for its history, heritage, culture and architecture, the city attracts tourists from across the globe.

Riga is characterised by a vibrant nightlife, attractive dining venues and interesting alternative scenes. However, it is still considered as an offbeat tourist destination in Europe showcasing immense potential for international tourism.
Situated on the bank of the Daugava River, Riga’s Old Town district is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city. The rich history and prominent examples of the Art Nouveau architecture has made the area a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tourists spend hours walking along the old town streets adorned with cobblestone pathways, ancient buildings, traditional cafes and restaurants. The area is home to some of the most historic buildings in the city like Cat House, Swedish Gate, Riga Castle, Three Brothers and the Freedom Monument.
Another key tourist attraction of the city is the St. Peter's Church known for its iconic Bell Tower. The church was constructed around 1209 and is one of the oldest buildings in the city. The tower is located on top of the 130 metres high building and provides one of the most spectacular views of the Riga's skyline to tourists. Visitors can reach the tower in an elevator and experience a panoramic 360-degree view of the city from the top.

Riga is often known for the abundance of museums present in the city. One such popular museum is the Ghetto Museum. The museum has an outdoor exhibition depicting the details of the terrifying Holocaust in Latvia. The large wall displays more than 70,000 names in honour of individuals who tragically succumbed to death during the horrific period. The museum also documents the history of the Jewish ghetto with the ground composed of cobblestones from the original event. Visitors are also allowed to visit a house inside the museum that was once a part of the ghetto with more than 12 people living under the same tiny roofs.
Standing across the Town Hall Square, the House of the Blackheads is the most popular landmark in Riga. The magnificent brick building was built in 1334 as a meeting venue for unmarried merchants and cruise-owners. The Blackhead Brothers were recognised as the lifelines of the Riga neighbourhood and they used the building for parties and celebrations. It is believed that these brothers were the first in the world to build a Christmas Tree. The large stone marker in Town Hall Square situated in front of the House of the Blackheads stands as a mark of the history. The legendary house was bombed by the Germans and reconstructed by the Soviets in the late 90s. However, the basement remained untouched by the incidents. It consists of classic remnants even today.
Known as one of the largest and most visited markets in Easter Europe, the Riga Central Market hosted nearly 100,000 visitors each day before the pandemic. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was constructed in the late 1920s by converting the German zeppelins into pavilions. The titanic buildings are divided into five different hangars that offer their respective specialties. The Central Gastro Market is the ideal venue to taste traditional Latvian food and exotic international cuisines.

**POST-PANDEMIC TRAVEL TO RIGA**

 Like several other destinations in Europe, Riga is also gradually reopening its tourism scene. Latvia has reported a decreasing number of COVID-19 cases and has focused on easing travel restrictions. All former COVID-19 patients and vaccinated travellers are now allowed to travel with restrictions.

 However, requirement of COVID-19 test, self-isolation including vaccinated and recovered individuals and ban on non-essential travel continues to remain in place for tourists from high risk countries.

 Travellers from the E.U., E.E.A, the U.K., Switzerland and low-risk third countries are allowed non-essential travel without non-COVID-19 certificate or vaccinations. But those individuals are require undergo COVID-19 testing and self-isolation upon arrival.
After months of consistent lockdowns and COVID-19 related travel restrictions, the United Kingdom has decided to gradually reopen for international tourism. The country is slowly working towards welcoming international travellers from all across the globe. However, the UK is also making sure for a safe and controlled reopening of the nation as coronavirus cases continue to remain active. Therefore, authorities decided to introduce the traffic light system to determine countries with maximum and minimum risk of COVID-19 and establish different set of entry regulations for each country based on their risk factor.

THE U.K. TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM FOR TRAVEL
What is the traffic light system for travel?
The UK government introduced the traffic light system for travel in May ahead of the country’s tourism reopening plan. The system includes a list of red, amber and green list of countries. While the red list includes countries with high risk of COVID-19 infection, the amber list includes countries with moderate level of risk. The green list includes countries with low risk of infections. Every destination is designated to a particular list based on a few factors including several COVID-19 health metrics like percentage of the country's total vaccination rollout, rate of variants, prevalence of variants of concern and the country's accessibility to reliable scientific data and genomic sequencing.

Red List Countries
The red list contains nearly 60 countries from across the globe including Brazil, South Africa, India, the UAE, the Philippines, Indonesia, Argentina and the Maldives. All individuals in the UK have been asked to refrain from any form of travel to the red list countries. Travellers are allowed to enter the UK from any red list country or territory only if they are a British or Irish National, or they have residence rights in the UK. All travellers have been asked to undertake a pre-departure test before travelling to England except children aged 10 or below. Passengers from red list countries need to undergo mandatory 10 days of quarantine in a hotel at their own cost. They also need to pay for the quarantine package before leaving for the UK. The package includes COVID-19 tests on arrival, which is to be done on the second and eighth day after arriving in the UK. Travellers even need to fill a passenger locator form before starting their journey.
Amber List Countries

The amber list consists of more than 100 countries around the world with several countries within Europe. It includes countries like Spain, France, Greece, Canada, China, Denmark, Italy, Japan, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Korea, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, Thailand and the USA, among many others. As per the update on July 19, 2021, UK residents and fully-vaccinated travellers from the amber list countries need not go for self-isolation. The rule also applies for under 18 travellers from the amber list countries. Meanwhile, all travellers who are not double vaccinated require a pre-departure COVID test, mandatory 10 days hotel quarantine and two COVID-19 tests upon arrival on 2nd and 8th days. According to the latest update, it is now mandatory for travellers from France to follow the above rules even if they are fully vaccinated.

In addition, all travellers are required to fill the passenger locator form declaring that they have been fully vaccinated or are taking part or have taken part in a formally approved UK COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial for COVID-19 vaccine, or are under 18 and reside in the UK. Travellers also need to show proof of vaccination status to their carrier while travelling. People can also use the NHS COVID Pass to show their vaccination status.

Green List Countries

A group of countries with low active COVID-19 cases and death rates, high vaccination rates and low numbers of 'variants of concern' has been placed under the green list. The green list countries include Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malta, Iceland, Israel, Croatia, Japan and Hong Kong, among a few others.

Travellers arriving at the UK from the green list countries do not need to undergo quarantine or self isolation unless they test positive for coronavirus. However, they are required to undertake one pre-departure test up to 72 hours before arriving in the UK. Travellers are also required to take one PCR test on or before the second day of arrival in the UK. However, travellers don't need to take a COVID-19 test or quarantine on arrival in England if they are travelling within the UK, Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and have not been outside of the Common Travel Area in the previous 10 days.
Green Watchlist and Amber Plus Countries
Countries that are recently placed under the green watchlist are those where the government may change the destination's colour to amber or red any time, rather than following the set traffic light review which takes place every three weeks. There is an increased risk in booking a trip or vacation to these countries.
On the other hand, a newly created amber plus list includes some countries which would require travellers to quarantine for up to 10 days, regardless of their vaccination status. They will also have to take a RT-PCR test on or before two days of their arrival, and another on 8th day. Fully-jabbed travellers should take an additional test on 5th day and can leave quarantine early with a negative result but they will still require to take the 8th day test.
The UK government is making changes to the green list every three weeks. However, it has also warned that destinations on the green or amber list can move to red anytime.
Dekmantel is the platform for every DJs and fans for its cutting edge setup, creative and influential lineups, and commitment to innovation. The festival contains a collection of different sounds across six stages, encouraging performers to experiment and smash down genre walls, taking their music away from the mainstream.

Dekmantel
Date: 4-8 August 2021
Place: Amsterdam, Netherlands
Every year, Italy’s top cultural city, Venice bursts into life with fantastic masked balls and profligate street parades. The narrow, enigmatic backstreets and the beautiful Saint Mark’s Square of the city are taken over by mysterious masked revelers, while stylish and elegant gondolas filled with fantasy characters glide up and down its beloved canals.

Les Festes de Gràcia

Date: 14-20 August, 2021

Place: Barcelona, Spain
The Ascension of Virgin Mary is a popular religious festival that marks the death of Virgin Mary and her way to heaven. This is not a day of mourning. It is the day of celebration as Mary has finally joined her son Jesus Christ in heaven.

Ascension of Virgin Mary

Date: 15 August, 2021
Place: Greece
Palio di Siena takes place twice every summer. During this time the people hurl themselves into the traditional revelry of the event with abandon. As Palio day approaches, processions break out across the city, including one in which the famed and treasured banner - featuring the Virgin Mary, to whom the race is dedicated - is held high as it is paraded to the cathedral. Locals belt out passionate good-luck choruses.

**Palio di Siena**

*Date: 16 August, 2021*

*Place: Siena, Italy*
Tourism Export Council 2021
2-6 Aug 2021,
New Plymouth, New Zealand
tourismexportcouncil.org.nz/events/annual-conference

The Arizona Governor's Conference on Tourism
Aug 2-4, 2021
Scottsdale, USA
azgcot.com

ITE Hong Kong
29th July – 1st Aug
Hongkong, China
itehk.com/travelexpo

Travel Meet Asia 2021
4-5 Aug 2021
Digital
travelmeetasia.com

Guangzhou International Travel Fair
5-7 Aug 2021
Guangzhou China
gitf.com.cn/en

Virtuoso Travel Week 2021
8-13 Aug 2021
Online
Navada, Las Vegas
VirtuosoTravelWeek/2021.aspx
Travel AND Tour™
www.travelandtourworld.com

Promote Your Brand With Us...

Subscribe to our daily travel newsletter FREE

Magazine catering to global travel industry

pr@travelandtourworld.com

Get it on Google play
Available on the App Store