

TTW Europe



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Cover Story

LIGHTOPIA

Building interaction between space and form



Meeting Points: Zaragoza is considered to be one of the most offbeat destinations which offer ample opportunities for both leisure and corporate travellers. This city also has a blooming meetings and events scene.



Cover Story: Lightopia is a visually dramatic and spectacular lantern festival promises visitors an immersive experience with interactive lanterns, colourful lasers and water-screen multimedia shows.



Special Feature: Up Helly Aa festival is the main symbol to mark the conclusion of Christmas festival. Read here to know more about this spectacular extravaganza.



Destination Diary: Genoa is Italy's hidden gem and is also famous for its mystical architecture. The city has been a popular destination for events and meetings. The city gives us multiple reasons to explore it.

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Dear Readers,

Europe fascinates all with its scenic beauties and historical magnificence. In this month, we highlight more on European destinations attracting huge amount of international tourists.

If you planning to visit Europe, read this edition to get an idea on different places in Europe and its tourists attractions. Here, you can also get to know about Lightopia, one of the fabulous light festivals in UK and also Up Helly Aa festival which marks the conclusion of Christmas festival.

In this edition, you can also have to know more about Zaragoza, one of the most offbeat MICE destinations in Europe. There you can also get idea about the event planning scenario in that place.

So, keep surfing and enjoy reading.

Editor-In-Chief
Mr. Anup Kumar Keshan

Editorial Desk



Zaragoza, the capital city of the Zaragoza Province and the autonomous community of Aragon, Spain, stands by the Ebro River and its tributaries. Considered to be one of the most offbeat destinations in the country, the city offers ample opportunities for both leisure and corporate travellers.

Recognised mainly for its folklore, heritage and historical architecture, the city also has a blooming meetings and events scene. It hosted the Expo 2008 and has since then attracted business travellers and event organisers from across the globe.

ZARAGOZA

Spain's offbeat
meetings destination

TOP MEETING VENUES

Palacio de Congresos de Zaragoza (Congress Palace Zaragoza)

The Palacio de Congresos de Zaragoza or Congress Palace Zaragoza was initially built to celebrate the International Exhibition EXPO ZARAGOZA 2008. The centre stands out for its enigmatic architectural design characterised by the singularity of shapes and its size with a length of 167 metres and a maximum height of 34 metres.

The venue is located on the banks of the Ebro and surrounded by some of the most relevant artistic elements of modern international architecture. The Zaragoza Conference Center has a total area of 22,000 sq. m. and is considered the largest and most prominent meeting, event and conference destination in the Spanish City.

The building has three large spaces consisting of Exhibition Area, Lobby and Meeting Rooms and an Auditorium. The central hall has 2000 sq. m. of space and the auditorium can hold up to 1400 people. The 19 meeting rooms are also capable of holding between 30 and 300 individuals. An additional multipurpose area offers 2,000 sq.m of space and facilitates performance of any type of corporate activity.

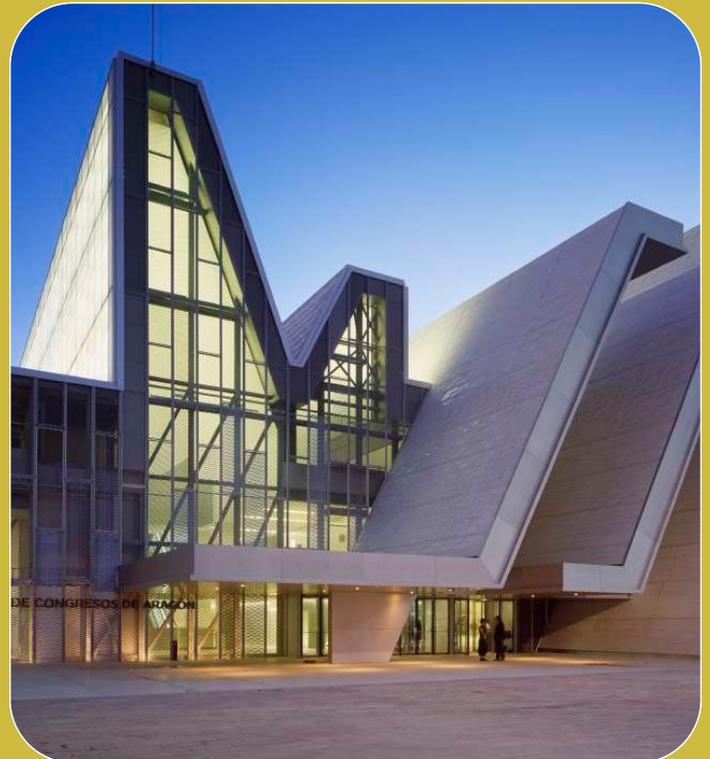
La Almozara Civic Center

The La Almozara Civic Center is a municipally owned facility operated by the Civic Centers Regulation with a territorial scope that provides citizen participation services, with programmes of

educational, cultural, corporate, social or citizen service nature.

These centres bring together 22 different spaces that offer an ensemble of meetings and events facilities. It consists of a multipurpose room with the capacity of holding 500 people standing or 250 seated and a seminar room with accommodation capacity for up to 70 individuals.

It also has a meeting room that can hold nearly 14 people, two classrooms that can accommodate 20 people and two workshop rooms with the capacity of hosting around 10 people. The spaces are ideal for hosting any social or corporate events including meetings, seminars, workshops, presentations and other team-building activities.



Auditorium de Zaragoza (Zaragoza Auditorium)

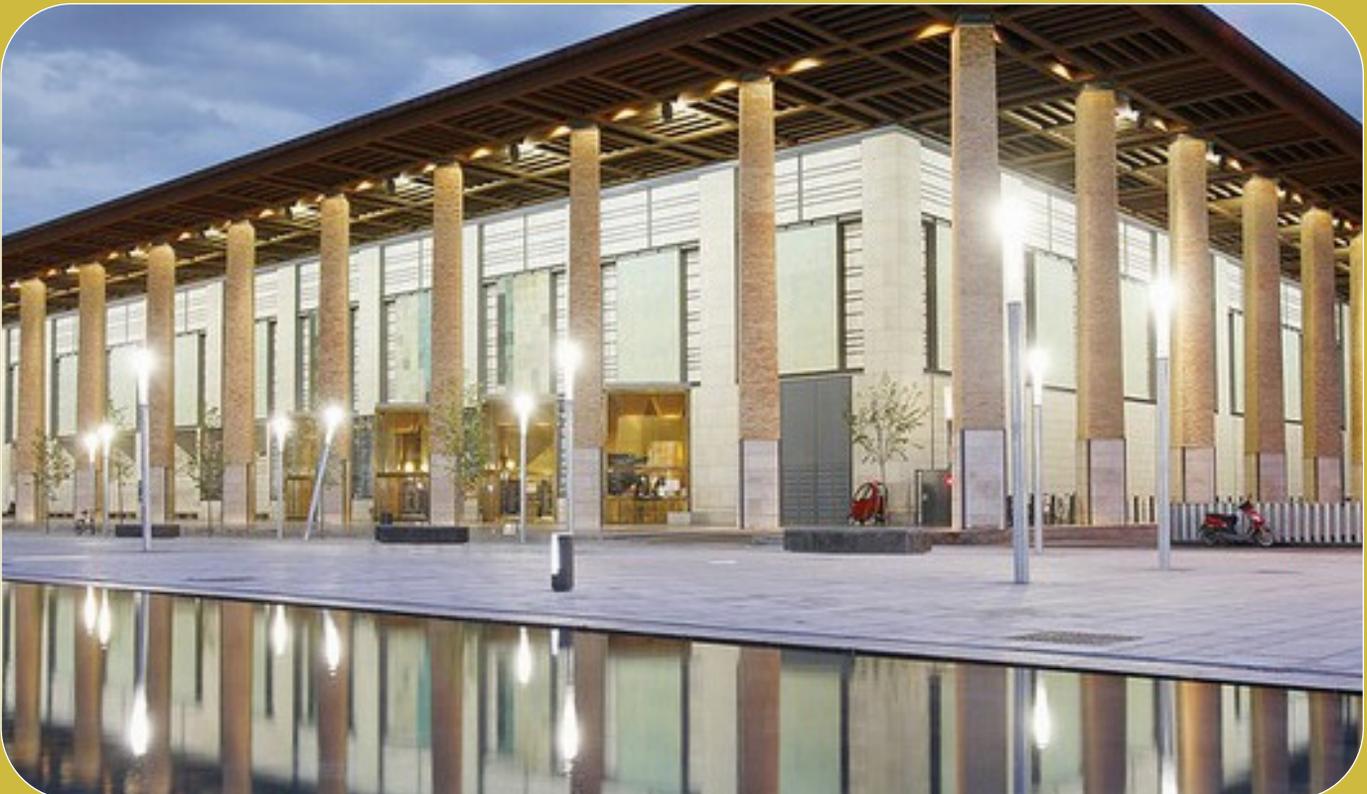
The Auditorium de Zaragoza is another ideal place for organising all types of corporate events with its versatile rooms and spaces. The building was designed by Aragonese architects, José Manuel Pérez Latorre and Basilio Tobías and was inaugurated on October 5, 1994 with a concert by the National Orchestra and Choir of Spain.

The centre is located in a strategic enclave of the city and consists of 25,500 m² of total space. The venue is perfect for hosting congresses, conferences, meetings, seminars and similar other events. The centre also has a great capacity to adapt all its facilities, allowing wide possibilities

and versatile solutions.

The main concert hall or Mozart room has a maximum capacity of holding 1,992 people and comes with a stage of 340 sq.m. used during large conferences and events. Meanwhile, the Luis Galve Room has capacity of 429 seats and the Mariano Gracia Room has a maximum capacity of 200 seats. These rooms are used for smaller congresses, meetings, workshops and seminars.

The centre also has a Hypostyle Hall often used for exhibitions, trade shows and stands or product presentations. It even consists of an additional Multipurpose Room with a floor space of 2,215 sq.m. and a stage of 425 sq.m. It has the capacity of holding 6,500 people standing or 2,500 seated.



HOTELS WITH MEETINGS FACILITIES

NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza

The NH Collection Gran Hotel de Zaragoza stands in the heart of Zaragoza, just walking distance from some of the city's best museums. The hotel features 133 rooms with stylish hardwood floors and contemporary bathrooms. Besides providing fine accommodation options, the hotel also has incredible meetings and events facilities. It offers five meeting rooms that can hold up to 325 people for all kinds of corporate and social events.

Hotel Palafox Zaragoza

The five-star Hotel Palafox Zaragoza is located in the centre of Zaragoza capital, just 800 m from the Basilica del Pilar. The building is also close to the commercial area of the urban centre and stands out for its careful interior design. It provides

luxurious accommodation options, quality service and commendable MICE facilities.

The La Compania Real de Zaragoza Business Centre is located on the first floor of the hotel designed to hold a meeting, seminar or presentation. It has meeting rooms for up to 70 people and offices suitable for a business event. Meanwhile, the Cervantes Auditorium offers a space for 373 people and is ideal for congresses and conventions.

The ground floor comes with Victoria Rooms for meetings, events and conferences. The main characteristic of these rooms is the flexibility to adapt to any setting due to the panel-capable system of the rooms. In addition, the atrium and the forum serve as the anterooms for exhibitions or dining.



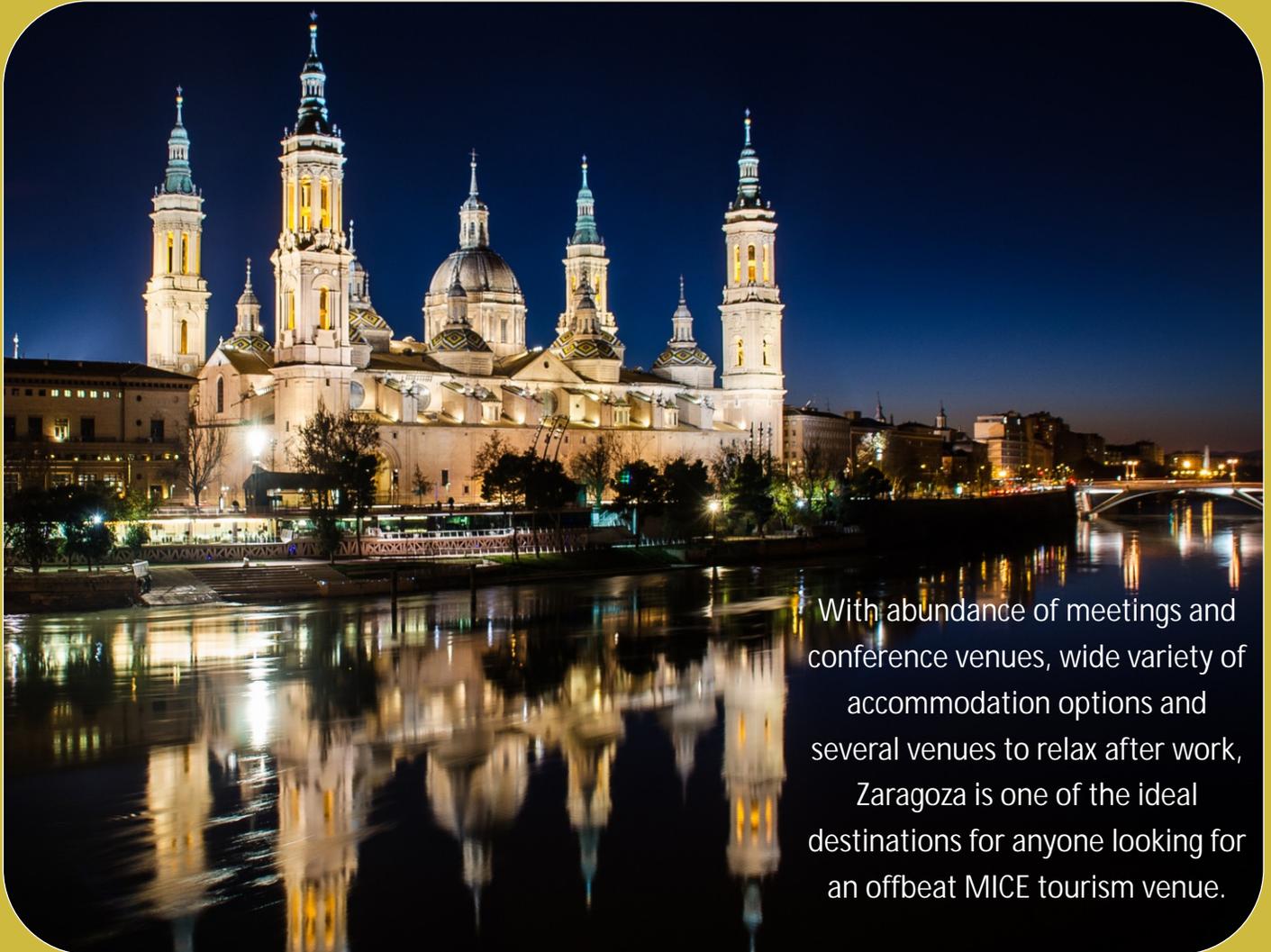
THINGS TO DO BEYOND WORK

Visit the Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, a Roman Catholic Church known as the first church dedicated to Mary in history. The baroque style building is one of the two minor basilicas in the city of Zaragoza.

Explore the Aljafería Palace, a fortified medieval castle built during the second half of the 11th century and is considered to be one of the best examples of Hispano-Muslim architecture.

Take a look at the Pablo Gargallo Museum, a renaissance-style palace & art gallery featuring original artworks from 20th century Spanish sculptor Pablo Gargallo.

Enjoy a stroll through the Parque Grande José Antonio Labordeta to relish the green landscape in the large city park with botanical gardens, sculptures, fountains, cafes and bicycle rentals.



With abundance of meetings and conference venues, wide variety of accommodation options and several venues to relax after work, Zaragoza is one of the ideal destinations for anyone looking for an offbeat MICE tourism venue.

up helly aa festival

Witnessing Scotland's Most Favourite Extravaganza

Everybody knows Scotland for its tall mountains, picturesque beauty, brisk forests and woodlands, and enchanting wildlife. However, there is something else that Scotland is incredibly popular for—the Up Helly Aa festival. It's a grand fire festival that reeks of the culture of Lerwick residents in the Shetland Islands of Scotland.

The Up Helly Aa festival is also called the Up Holly (Day) All festival. The main symbolism of the event is to mark the conclusion of Christmas.

origin

You might be interested in knowing or exploring the origin of one of the biggest festivals in Scotland, so here it is:

The origin of the festival can be found in the 19th century, resonating with the 'tar barrelling' tradition. It typically involved young men on the streets of Lerwick, rolling the burning barrels of tar. It was believed that men from the Napoleonic war had started the tradition as they began to have an inclination towards firearms. The festival was banned in 1874, courtesy, the harm, and risks it involved. However, it revived back in 1881, where men refined their activities from burning barrels to a torchlight procession.



getting there

Getting to the Shetland Islands requires taking a ferry from mainland. Ferries are very comfortable and well-run, with a smooth overnight passage from Aberdeen to Lerwick.

marking the end of yule season

Up Helly Aa Festival is a magnificent performance that celebrates Shetland history and displays the skills and spirit of the islanders. This splendid event lasts just for one day, yet it takes 365 days to plan and organise the event.

Imagine the pomp involved in the festival! Preparations are very secretive. The biggest mystery surrounds the clothing of the festival's head, the 'Guizer Jarl' (the Viking chief), and the character from the Norse Sagas he will represent. Over 1,000 heavily-disguised men form ranks in the darkened streets of Edinburgh's capital on Up Helly Aa Day when group of men, known as 'squads,' form ranks as they march through the dark streets. Only the head, Jarl Squad, is found wearing the Viking dress. All of the rest are wearing costumes ranging from the sublime to the outrageous. Lerwick's women are heavily involved in the festival - they organise, host, prepare, and cater, as well as enjoy the festival, which many find being the highlight.



the characters

Up Helly Aa becomes way more exciting when you understand the characters well. There are a variety of them; let's unravel each one of them –

Guizer Jarl is the central character of the festival. He takes up the name of a Norse personality for the festival. Whoever wishes to be the Guizer Jarl should fulfill only one criterion, and that is being a member of the special committee for 15 years straight. Jarl Squad is those supporting Guizer Jarl. The squad consists of all the Jarl supporters and is the only lead squad in the entire event.

Galley is a replication of a dragon ship that follows the pattern of the boat that was designed by a local builder back in the 1950s. The only variable is the paint color and decorations on the boat. The preparation of such majestic events takes about a year, with over a thousand volunteers working to make the event special and memorable. For the residents of Shetland and visitors from across the globe, find the festival the most highlighting part of the entire year.



event in 2022

The committee responsible for the festival has announced that the dates for Up Helly Aa in 2022, which was originally meant to be 25th January, will witness a delay.

Since the COVID-19 protocols and guidelines remain unclear, the committee has decided to delay the event a bit. Since the festival is a massive gathering of thousands of people, involving great preparations, and numerous factors, it wouldn't be a safe option amidst the pandemic. The committee hopes to see the return of the event in 2023.



Travel News

WHO warns Europe once again at the epicentre of pandemic

Europe is once again “at the epicentre” of the COVID-19 pandemic, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned, as cases soar across the continent.

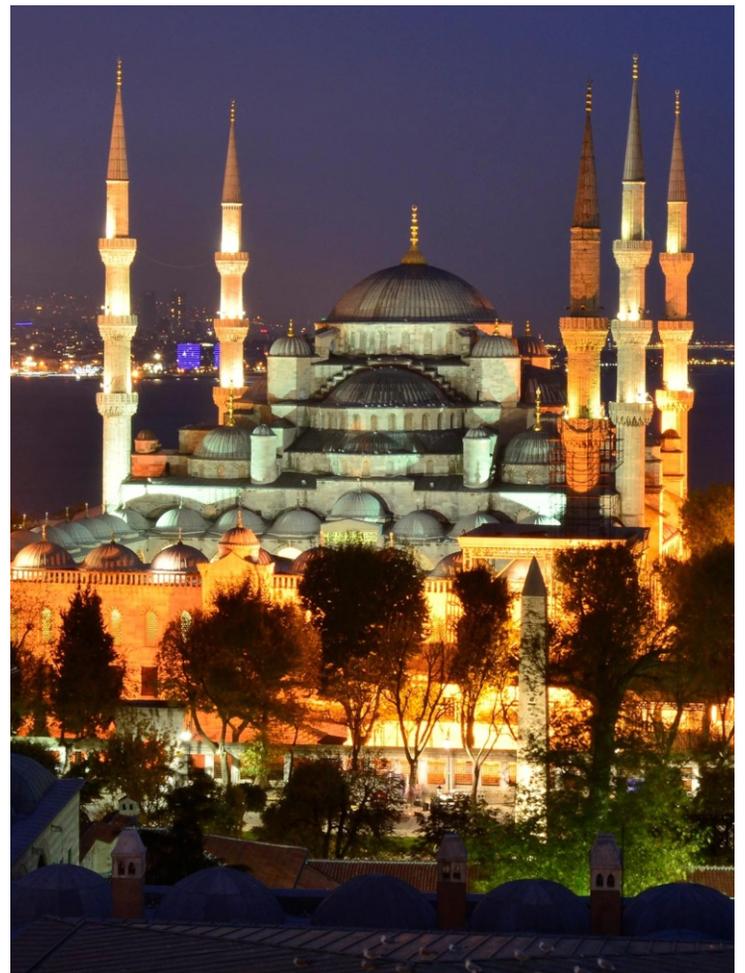
At a press conference WHO, Europe Head, Hans Kluge said, the continent could see half a million more deaths by February. He blamed insufficient vaccine take-up for the rise.

The rate of vaccination has slowed across the continent in recent months. While some 80% of people in Spain are double jabbed, that number is lower in France and Germany – at 68% and 66% respectively – and lower still in some central and eastern European countries. Only 32% of Russians were fully vaccinated by October 2021.

EMITT 2022 will open on February 9

East Mediterranean International Tourism & Travel Exhibition – EMITT, which was not held in 2021 due to the pandemic, is preparing to take place at TÜYAP Fair Convention and Congress Center on February 9-12, 2022, after a two-year hiatus. Regional Director of the global exhibition organization Hyve Group, which organizes EMITT, the most important meeting platform of the sector representatives and shaping the world tourism, Kemal Ülgen, underlined that they decided to postpone the event during the pandemic because

they wanted the exhibition to be efficient for all domestic and international stakeholders. He also said that after a 2-year hiatus, at the 25th East Mediterranean International Tourism & Travel Exhibition – EMITT, which take place at TÜYAP Fair Convention and Congress Center on February 9-12, 2022, we intend to carry out collaborations more comprehensively and stronger than ever before. With the extensive program they are preparing, they look forward to welcoming our exhibitors and visitors in the best possible way.



Singapore deemed the smartest city of the world by Smart City Index

Singapore has been deemed as the smartest city in the world for the third time in a row, as per this year's Smart City Index. The Smart City Index takes into account input from the cities' residents of how technology had improved their lives. About 120 residents from each city were surveyed in July this year.

Dr Bruno Lanvin, president of IMD's Smart City Observatory, said in a statement that Singapore's achievement is largely due to the policies it pursued at both the city and national level particularly in e-government services, education and human-centric urban strategies.

He mentioned that the Republic had gone through the Sars crisis and was better prepared to face the current Covid-19 pandemic as compared to other cities around the world. He also mentioned that the higher degree of social cohesion was also a factor, as well as the availability of digital facilities (typically apps) that allowed the close monitoring of how the virus was circulating.

However, he mentioned, that it is still too early to infer from the findings how the pandemic had impacted the survey participants in Singapore. In IMD's evaluation, participants in each city were asked questions on their ideas of existing infrastructure and technological provisions and services available to them. These were broken down into five key areas: health and safety,

mobility, activities, opportunities, and governance.

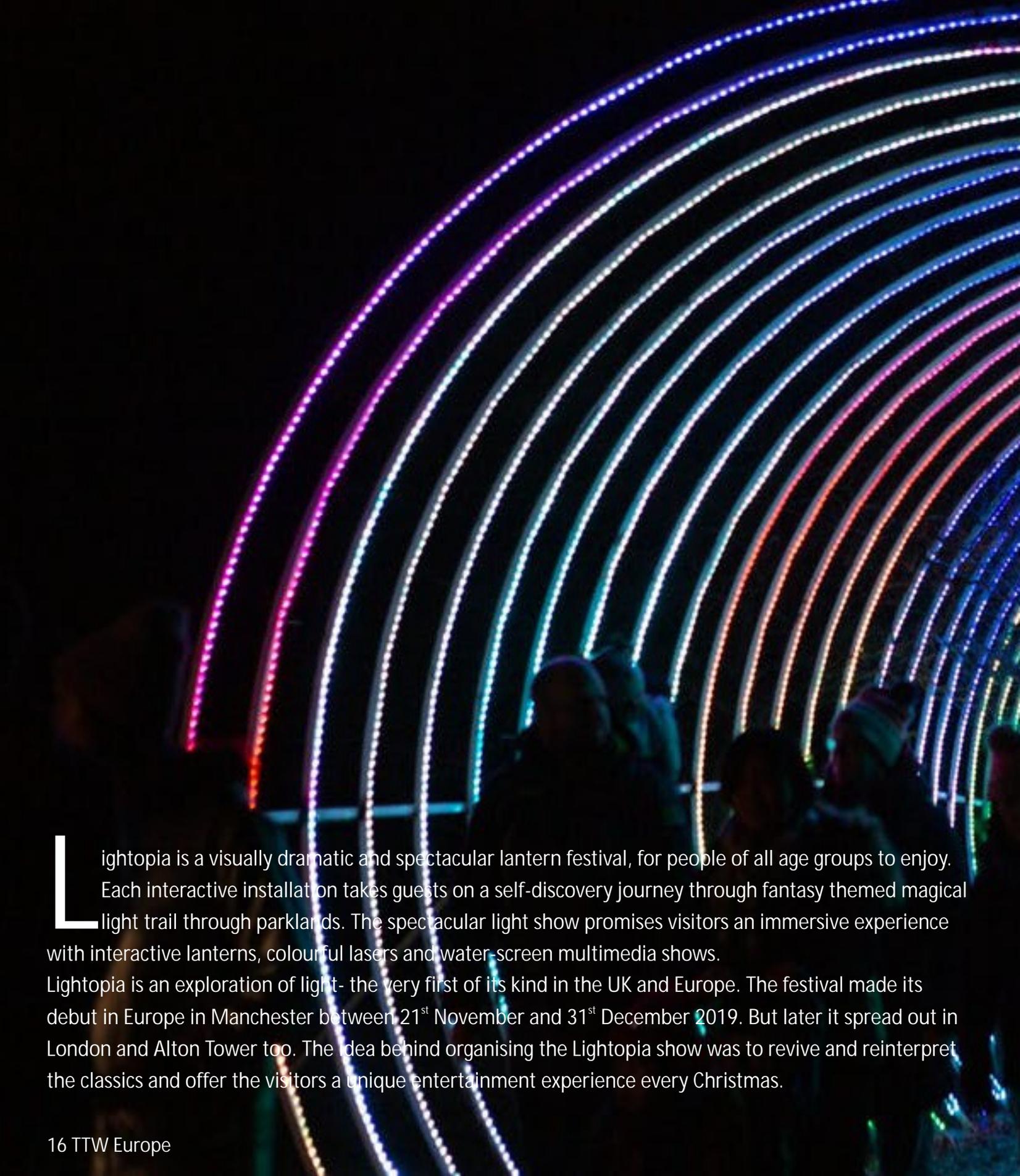
Delta sees 450% increase in bookings from outside U.S.

Delta Air Lines says its bookings from outside the United States have jumped 450% as travellers anticipate America's borders opening next week to vaccinated passengers from 33 countries. The COVID-19 pandemic and international travel restrictions caused Atlanta-based Delta's international business to plummet. Revenue from that segment was only 42% of what it was in 2019, the company reported in its third quarter results. But now, restrictions on travel to the United States from 33 countries are set to ease starting Monday for foreign nationals with proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test result.

Delta Airlines said it expects many of its international flights to be completely full that day. Delta's first flight to arrive will be from Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Hartsfield-Jackson is Delta's busiest international hub, according to the airline, which has 56 international flights a day to 39 cities.





Lightopia is a visually dramatic and spectacular lantern festival, for people of all age groups to enjoy. Each interactive installation takes guests on a self-discovery journey through fantasy-themed magical light trails through parklands. The spectacular light show promises visitors an immersive experience with interactive lanterns, colourful lasers and water-screen multimedia shows.

Lightopia is an exploration of light - the very first of its kind in the UK and Europe. The festival made its debut in Europe in Manchester between 21st November and 31st December 2019. But later it spread out in London and Alton Tower too. The idea behind organising the Lightopia show was to revive and reinterpret the classics and offer the visitors a unique entertainment experience every Christmas.

LIGHTOPIA

Building interaction between space and form

What to know?

Lightopia Festival at London starts from 19th November 2021 and continues till 2nd January 2022. Opening timings are from 5pm till 10pm. Last entry is at 10.30pm daily.





Step into an illuminated world

Lightopia is probably London's finest festival of lights which is held in the Crystal Palace Park. Through interactive displays and a stunning Christmas light walk the park is brought back to life. As one walks through the illuminated pathways of the site, they are wowed by the fantastic animals and other Christmas wonders. The historical landmark of London is recreated in stunning illumination with its own dinosaurs brought to life.

Inside the trail of Crystal Palace

Some of the main installations that will feature at

Crystal Palace, London in this Christmas will be Guardian Gate, Phoenix, Christmas Zone, Butterfly Field, Rainbow Road, Life Balance, Rebirth of Crystal Palace, Hourglass, Life Balance, Kids Zone, Yin and Yang, Magical Animals and Interactive Floor.

Tease your appetite

From Spanish churros to authentic junk, there will be something for everyone to savour at the Crystal Palace Park. Throughout the Christmas Light Walk, there are stalls of delectable international, fusion and traditional cuisines that will take you through an incredible gastronomic journey.



Other attractions

- There are gift shops selling handcraft items and other bric-a-brac from where visitors can buy souvenirs and collectibles for their loved ones.
- The local musicians perform acrobatic performance every night and enthusiastic visitors can even share the stage with them.

In a nutshell

The bedazzling show of Lightopia is all about building interaction between space and form. With impeccable blend of art installations and human experience it captivates one's senses allowing them to create unforgettable memories throughout the festival season.

Genoa is Italy's hidden gem that doesn't usually make it to the visitor's list. However, the reality is it is an oasis of unrivalled and bold travel experiences. With a rich history and an unparalleled culture, Genoa is also famous for its mystical architecture and a revitalised port that was constructed by some of the most renowned architects around the world. The city gives us multiple reasons to explore it.

The city has been a popular destination for events and meetings. It has the largest Medieval Old Town in Europe. In addition, the city is perfectly equipped with everything required for a successful event or meet.



GENOVA

An Unique Gem of Italy

Top-Tier Convention Centres In the City

Tower Genova Airport Hotel & Conference Centre

Conveniently situated close to the airport, this convention centre has been a popular choice for MICE travellers. The centre makes high-quality services and facilities easily available and accessible for people. It consists of 21 well-equipped rooms. Among its major highlights are its affordable pricing, high-speed Wi-Fi facility and impeccable facilities. Its 21 modular rooms can be easily converted into 36 effective meeting rooms.

Congress Centre

Congress Centre in Genova is known for its flexibility which makes it a perfect venue for conferences, exhibitions, business conventions, shows, events, and catering. It is among Italy's chief convention destinations. It has 13 rooms with a capacity to accommodate 1500 seats. It also offers a captivating outdoor area that overlooks the sea.





Fiera di Genova

The Fiera di Genova is a much-coveted exhibition venue in Genoa with all the necessary facilities required for a successful event. It expands across a total area of 300,000 square metres. It also consists of a large outdoor area that is an ideal podium for attracting a huge audience. Its largest hall expands across an area of 31,000 square metres.

Starhotels Premium

This is the perfect spot for hosting business and private events. It lies at the heart of Genoa, in front of the Brignole train station. Every room in the centre is well equipped with the latest technology and other facilities. It has 7 meeting rooms that can accommodate up to 400 people. It also includes an in-house event team that ensures the events run smoothly throughout. Catering services and parking facilities are available at the centre.

Top Reasons Why You Should Visit Genoa

Genoa may not be a highly visited site in Italy, but we will enlist a few top reasons to visit the destination –

The Architectural Beauty is Unmatched: Genoa is famous for its magical and grand museums. Among the famous masterpieces made are Palazzo Reale and the Galleria Nazionale di Palazzo Spinola.

The Majestic Palaces: In the 16th and 17th centuries, there were several palaces that were built to attest to the might and power of Genoa. If you are in the mood to explore the greatness and grandeur history of the place, visit some palaces like Palazzo Rosso, Palazzo Bianco, Palazzo Stefano Balbi, and Royal Palace.

The Irresistible Artisans and Eateries: How can one miss the historic eateries and enticing artisans in Genoa? Among a few, old and reputed ones are Antica Farmacia di Sant' Anna.

Never Miss the Street Food: Genoa is known for some of the most amazing street food you cannot miss. Some pancakes, focaccia, fries, and more. Whenever you are in Genoa, do not miss out on its lip-smacking street food.



Top Accommodations

If you think Genoa isn't a place worth traveling to, you should take a look at its luxurious, magical, and comfortable hotels –



Hotel Palazzo Grillo: The exterior and the interior beauty and magic of the hotel will never let you say no. The terrace successfully offers a view of the city, with every room being equipped with Wi-Fi, a TV, and other amenities.

Melia Genova: This 5-star hotel is all things nice! From the tranquillity of its surrounding to the comfort of the rooms, there is nothing not to die for in the hotel. Among other amenities include a gym, swimming pool, Turkish bath, wellness centre, and more.

Hotel Bristol Palace: The most highlighting aspect of this hotel is its mesmerising exteriors. With luxurious toiletries, large bathrooms, comfortable rooms, exotic furniture, etc., everything in this hotel is worth the money.

Despite not being one of Italy's most travelled destinations, Genoa is a much-coveted destination by MICE travellers. In addition, its heritage, culture, and noteworthy facilities make it a fantastic destination in Europe.

Europe Festivals

Hamburg Dom Festival

Date: 5 December, 2021

Place: Hamburg, Germany

Since the 14th century, Hamburg celebrates the seasons with the DOM Festival, one of the largest open-air fun fairs in the north of Germany. It is bring the whole family for Ferris wheels, roller coasters, concerts, and fireworks every Friday.





Torrox Migas Festival

Date: 17 December, 2021

Place: Andalusia, Spain

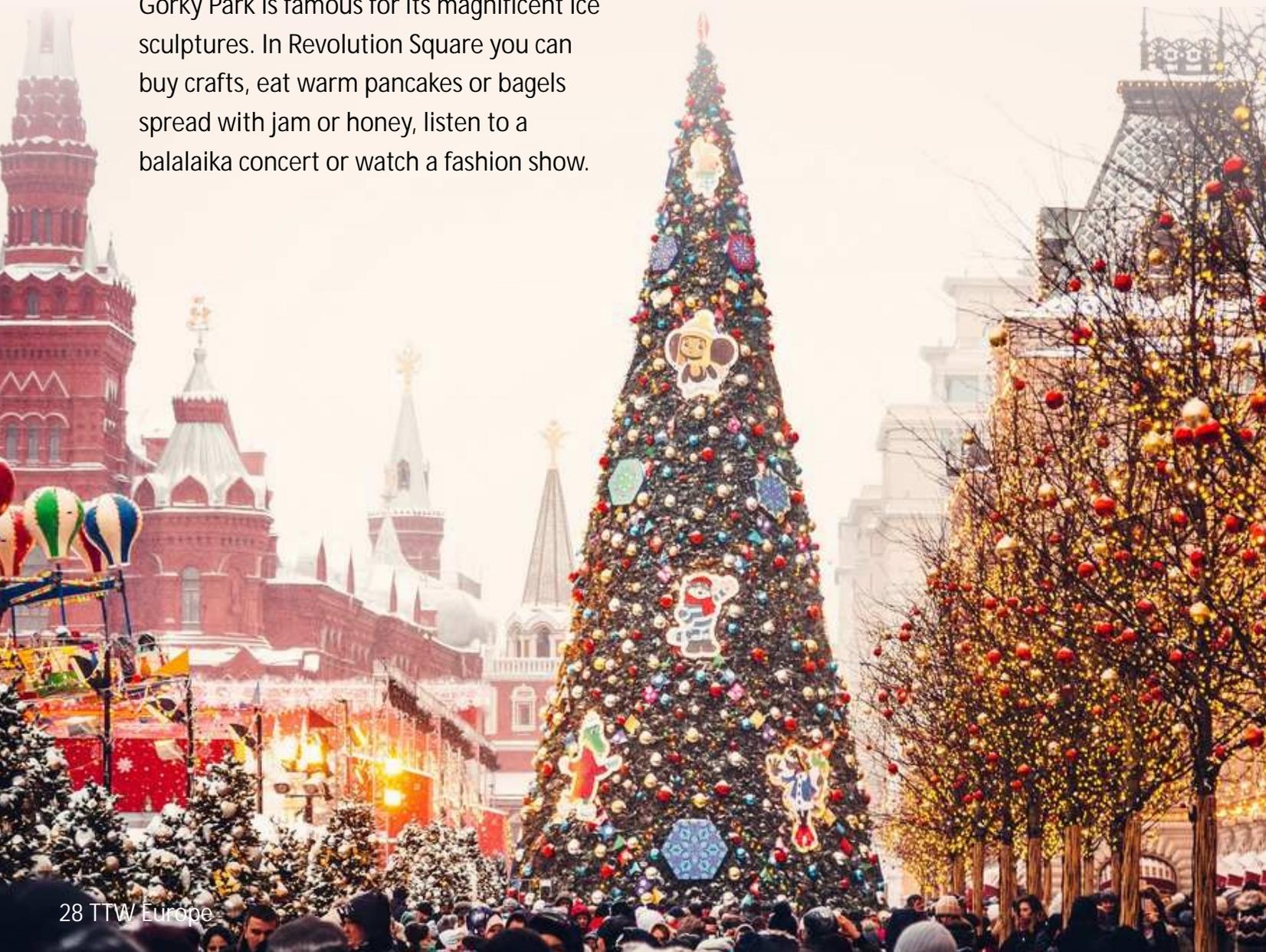
The Torrox Migas Festival is an important gastronomic event in the Axarquía region. Every year, this gala event is held on Christmas Eve. The locals assemble to prepare and distribute the star dish of the day: migas (breadcrumbs fried in olive oil). This is accompanied by the traditional arriera salad (a variety of the Malaga salad made mainly with potato, orange, onion and olives) and a selection of local wines that have been previously selected in a local competition.

Russian Winter Festival

Date: Mid December-January

Place: Russia

All Russian cities celebrate winter festival showcasing the best of Russian culture, but the biggest one is in Moscow. This is a huge annual event with activities all around the city, which is decked with thousands of fairy lights. In Izmailovo Park, you can also watch performances of folk songs and dances, ice skate, sled or take a ride in one of the three-horse sleighs called troikas. Gorky Park is famous for its magnificent ice sculptures. In Revolution Square you can buy crafts, eat warm pancakes or bagels spread with jam or honey, listen to a balalaika concert or watch a fashion show.



Christmas Markets and Festival

Throughout Europe

Christmas takes on a idiosyncratic Scandinavian feel in Norway, which is reflected by the numerous Christmas markets that set up shop across the country at the beginning of December. People purchase small gifts and trinkets that reflect the traditions as you enjoy carollers and sip mulled wine.



**TIAC's Tourism
Congress**

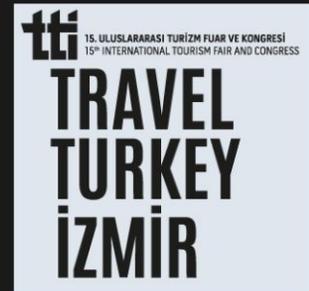
Nov 30 – Dec 1 2021
Ottawa, Canada
tourismcongress.ca



Czech Travel Market
Nov 30- Dec 01, 2021
Czech Republic
czechtravelmarket.cz



Travel Turkey Expo
Dec 2- 4, 2021
Hybrid
travelturkeyexpo.com



IITM Hyderabad
Dec 03-05, 2021
Hyderabad, India
iitmindia.com



India Travel Mart
Lucknow
Dec 03-05, 2021
Lucknow, India
itmindia.in

Calendar of Events

GITF 2021

Dec 4- 6, 2021
Canton, Guangzhou
gitf.com.cn/en/



SITE Global

Dec 12-15, 2021
Geneva & Montreux CH
siteglobal.com/event/incentive-summit-europe

site

Vietnam Aero Summit

Dec 16, 2021
Hanoi, Vietnam
vietnamaerosummit.org



India Travel Mart

Jaipur
Dec 17-19, 2021
Jaipur, India
itmindia.in



India Travel Mart

Delhi
Dec 24-26, 2021
Delhi, India
itmindia.in

Calendar of Events

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Wishing a safe christmas
