

TRAVEL TALK Asia

#1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP - SRI LANKA'S ONLY TRAVEL TRADE MONTHLY

VOL 22 NO 05 2023 24 PGS



There's nothing
else quite like it

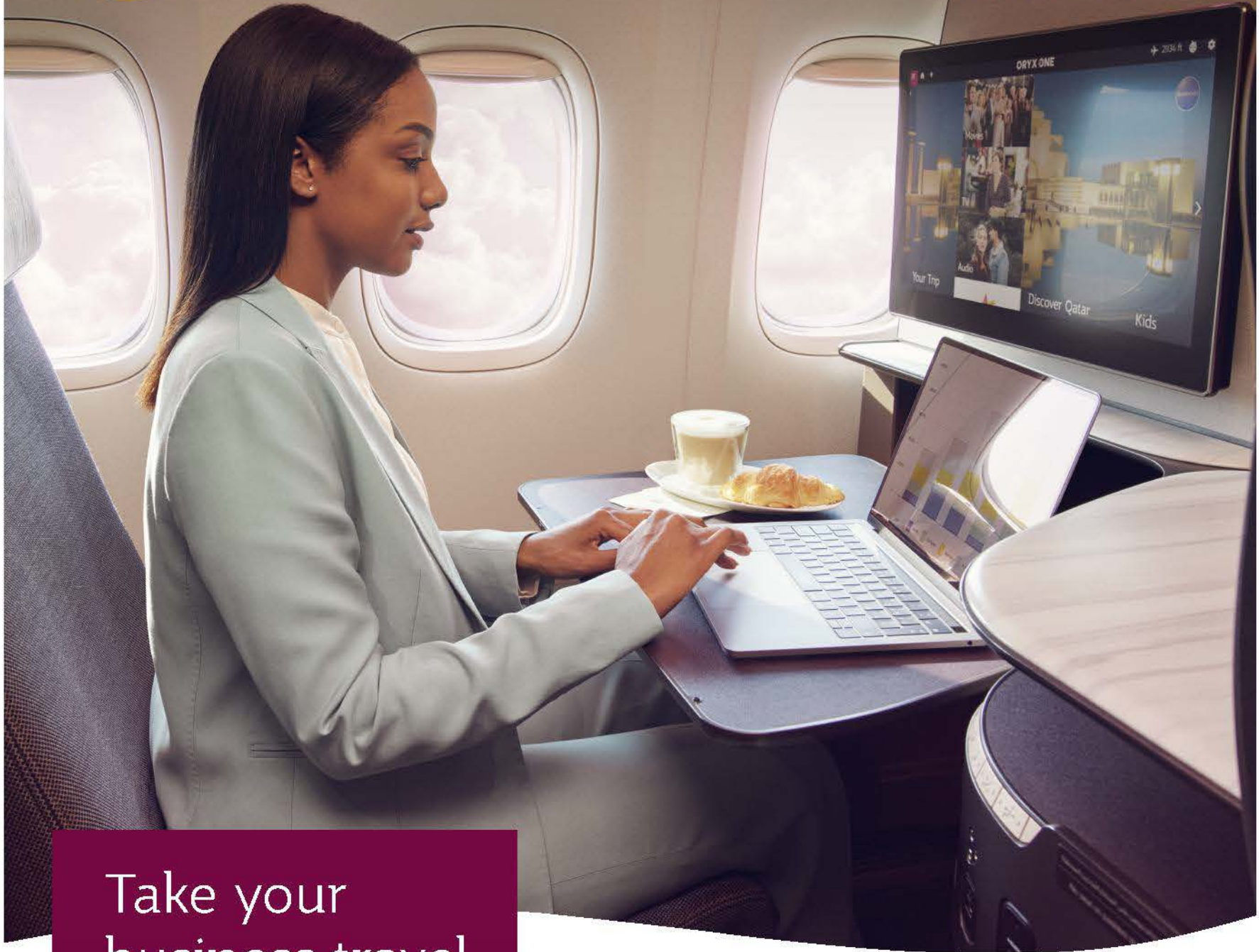
*Deepika
Padukone*

Qsuite
The World's Best Business Class





BEYOND
BUSINESS
By Qatar Airways



Take your
business travel
further

qatarairways.com



GOING PLACES TOGETHER

TRAVEL TALK

Asia

#1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP • SRI LANKA'S ONLY TRAVEL TRADE MONTHLY

VOL 22 NO 05 2023 24 PGS



Emirates reaffirms commitment to Sri Lanka

Award-winning airline has served the destination for 37 years

TTA BULLETIN

Emirates has been connecting Sri Lanka to the world for more than 37 years, and is delighted with the recovery of the destination's tourism industry. The picturesque Indian Ocean island is charting a post-pandemic revival of visitor numbers and export-led economic growth, says Chandana de Silva, the award-winning global airline's Manager - Sri Lanka and Maldives in an exclusive interview with Travel Talk.

Excerpts:

Q: Sri Lanka's tourism industry has shown signs of recovery in the first three months of 2023. How does Emirates view this?

A: We are greatly encouraged by Sri Lanka's arrivals figures of 300,000 plus for the January – March period. Emirates celebrated 37 years of operating to Sri Lanka on 1st April this year, and for an airline that has played an integral role in the country's tourism



Chandana De Silva

industry for nearly four decades, this revival is significant. Sri Lanka's potential as a destination has never been in doubt, but tourism is an industry that is vulnerable to the vicissitudes that most countries go through at some point, be they natural disasters, pandemics, economic downturns, military conflicts or social unrest. Emirates has supported Sri Lanka's tourism industry as well as the country's exporters through ups and downs, and our commitment to the destination has been unwavering. We look forward to supporting the projected growth of visitors to Sri Lanka in the post-pandemic period and as the country embarks on its roadmap for economic recovery.

Q: How did Sri Lanka's foreign currency crisis and the resulting economic downturn impact Emirates?

A: Emirates is a global airline and we take short-term challenges of this nature that individual destinations may face, in our stride. They do not detract from a destina-

tion's fundamental potential. We do have to make operational adjustments to respond to a decline or an increase in the demand for travel, but we view these as par for the course. International connectivity is a vital element in a country's economic growth, and Emirates has always looked at the bigger picture. Colombo was in fact, the fourth destination on the Emirates network, way back in April 1986, and remains an important destination for us. Our continuing support to Sri Lanka has already been vindicated, going by the rising visitor numbers and the endorsements the destination has been receiving, including the most recent one from Forbes magazine, which ranks Sri Lanka one of the top 23 destinations to visit in 2023.

Q: Can you provide some figures to illustrate the role Emirates has played vis-à-vis Sri Lanka?

A: Emirates launched operations to Colombo in 1986 with a Boeing 727-200 aircraft. Since that first flight, we have carried more than 11 million passengers to and from Colombo, operating more than

87,000 roundtrip flights. In 1997, due to increased passenger demand, we upgraded our operations and introduced the wide-body Boeing 777-200LR aircraft in a three-class configuration. Today, Emirates is the only international airline to serve Colombo with First Class services – offering passengers superior services and comfort that illustrate our brand promise of Fly Better. Emirates SkyCargo, our freight division, continues to play a crucial role in maintaining vital trade links and driving economic activity, helping local businesses connect to more than 140 cargo destinations worldwide. Over the 10-year period (from 2013 – 2022), Emirates SkyCargo has carried more than 275,000 tonnes to and from the country including the main commodities of seafood, fruits, vegetables, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, consumer electronic goods, and medical equipment.

Additionally, more than 150,000 Sri Lankan nationals and residents are enrolled in Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai.

Cont on Pg 2

Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort set to boost the Tourism Landscape of Sri Lanka

Iconic cityscape scheduled to open in 2024

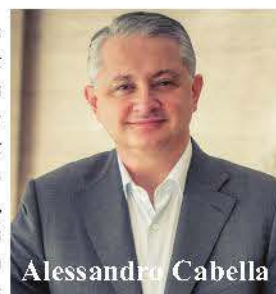
DINUSHKA CHANDRASENA

Colombo's urban lifestyle concept Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort, the flagship property of Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts, is set to become an important landmark boosting the tourism landscape of Sri Lanka scheduled to open in 2024. Developed by John Keells Holdings PLC, one of the largest conglomerates in Sri Lanka, the 4.5 million sq. ft. mixed-use development is designed by internationally renowned artist, engineer, and architect Cecil Belmond OBE who encapsulates the confluence between old and new Colombo, with its non-linear architecture.

The lifestyle destination features two hotels with 687 rooms in the five-star category and 113 in the luxury hotel, six speciality restaurants and upward of 12 unique food & beverage concepts as well as a dedicated wellness centre with its own vitality pool, themed kids' club and 3 swimming pools. The resort will also comprise 427 luxury apartments, a 30-floor office tower, and a mall.

"Retaining authentic flavours, which reflect the destination, is central to our new offering. It's the perfect opportunity to reinterpret traditional recipes, using the country's wealth of home-grown spices, teas, and spirits to create a unique and truly Sri Lankan showcase, that reimagines and enhances the sense of place and culture" said Alessandro Cabella, Senior Vice President & General Manager, who is overseeing the project as well as the opening of the resort.

"Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort will represent the best of the best: our bars and restaurants will be managed as standalone restaurants extending their full concept. They will be sought-after by epicureans and will transform into nightlife hotspots in their own right, with authentic fare and live entertainment in the evenings."



Alessandro Cabella

Reflecting the colourful dynamism of a city where colonial buildings and lively street markets meet a post-modern skyline and chic shopping promenades, Cinnamon Life Integrated Resort is set to become South Asia's most iconic lifestyle destination and invites travellers from across the globe to embark on a journey of discovery and adventure, which would bring the vibrant spirit of Colombo to life.

The hotel complex will have a fine array of water-themed outlets. "The resort's four swimming pools offer unique appeal: an exclusive access-only pool, situated on the 25th floor of the luxury hotel offers privacy and relaxation, the pool on the 10th floor overlooking the ocean – will up the stakes in terms of entertainment and poolside dining, and we think this will be an excellent venue for our MICE leisure guests. We also have a dedicated pool on the 9th floor, enriching the rejuvenation and privacy available at our spa pavilion. We're

creating a unique spa concept which also pays homage to Sri Lanka's rich history of well-being."

Another exciting plan in progress is a casino within the integrated complex.

Setting the tone for the MICE sector, Cabella says, "Cinnamon Life will offer the most extensive meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions venues within the island country, seating upwards of 5,000 guests at any given time. Two mega cantilevers, part of the integrated resorts' architecture, will offer a spectacular setting for weddings – particularly destination weddings from the Indian market and sizeable Sri Lankan weddings.

"The five pillar-less ballrooms, 800 guestrooms and suites, will seamlessly lend themselves to large-scale and complex MICE and wedding events. Our ambition is to secure an average of three weddings per day within the first six months of opening."

Cont on Pg 2



Sri Lanka's tourist arrivals reached 400,000 in the month of April exceeding the anticipated numbers and placing the industry on an upward trajectory for the year 2023. The overall economic stability and post IMF program will further enhance visitor confidence in the country and plans are underway to continue with an aggressive marketing campaign targeting both traditional and non-traditional markets for the summer period and beyond.

As the industry gears up to highlight the best of Sri Lanka's tourism offering to the Middle East market, it is reassuring to note that in the recent past, members from the visiting Saudi delegation has identified Sri Lanka as an 'ideal tourism centric destination' and negotiations are underway to develop the luxury segment in the Central highlands.

Tourism has traditionally been one of the key sources of Sri Lanka's foreign reserves and in 2018 earned \$4.4 billion, contributing 5.6 percent to the gross domestic product. Post pandemic and the economic crisis in 2022, officials embarked on developing niche projects and identified specific strategies aimed at attracting visitors from the GCC countries.

Geographic proximity and good weather are other key enablers. Sri Lanka is easily accessible from the Middle East due to its proximity, and there are many direct flights from the region.

The road to recovery is heightened by the many accoladed and global publicity the numerous tourism products have been receiving in the recent past. One such feat is Jetwing Vil Uyana being featured as one of the Top 15 Eco Hotels in the world by Conde Nast Traveler.

One of the key elements to drive tourism is air connectivity and global flagship carriers such as Emirates have reassured the destination of its commitment to continue operations as they move towards four decades of serving the island from its hub in the heart of the UAE.

Globally tourism is challenged on multiple fronts with the ongoing war in Ukraine and the economic challenges of rising costs of fuel and energy in most of Europe, UK and the US. However, Asia is showing a steady pace of growth and most Asian air carriers are moving towards recovery post pandemic.

Tourism will remain a key player in reviving the global economy. Driving the industry towards a more sustainable model will undoubtedly bring in the necessary results to create job security and revenue growth for both international and national industry stability.



undoubtedly bring in the necessary results to create job security and revenue growth for both international and national industry stability.

Dinushka

Dinushka Chandrasena
Editor

DoubleDee
PUBLICATIONS

Editor
Dinushka Chandrasena

Directors
Firoze Munzeer
Dinesh Chandrasena

Head Of Marketing
Anoj Tillekeratne

Lead Designer
Eshan Perera

Web Designer
Navodh Jayasundara

TravelTalk Asia is a Monthly publication
of DoubleDee Publications Private Limited

15A, Swarna Road, Colombo 6, Sri Lanka
Phone / Fax: +94-115345346
Mobile: +94-777756726,
+94-777756762,
E-mail: Dinushka@doubledee.lk
Anoj@doubledee.lk
Web: www.traveltalkasia.com

TravelTalk Asia is a publication of DoubleDee Publications. All information in TravelTalk Asia is derived from sources, which we consider reliable and a sincere effort is made to report accurate information. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. Similarly, opinions/Views expressed by third parties in abstract and/or in interviews are not necessarily shared by TravelTalk Asia. However, we wish to advise our readers that one or more recognized authorities may hold different views than those reported. Material used in this publication is intended for information purpose only. Content of this publication are protected by copyright laws. Material appearing in TravelTalk Asia cannot be reproduced whole or in part without prior permission. The same rule applies when there is a copyright or the article is taken from another publication. Publications reproducing material either in part or in whole, without permission, could face legal action. The publisher assumes no responsibility for returning unsolicited material nor is she responsible for material lost or damaged in transit. This publication is not meant to be an endorsement of any specific product or service offered. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw or amend or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation. All advertisements must comply with the Sri Lankan and International Advertisement Code. The publisher will not be liable for any damage or loss caused by delayed publication, error or failure of an advertisement to appear.

NEWS

Contd from Pg 1

Emirates reaffirms commitment...

This allows them to redeem exclusive benefits and rewards including flights with partner airlines, hotel stays, retail outlets and lifestyle experiences supported by Emirates.

Q: In terms of Emirates' global operations, what are the latest developments that will benefit Sri Lanka?

A: We have boosted operations by 31% in terms of total Available Seat Kilometres in the just-concluded financial year and have plans to further ramp up seat capacity in the year ahead. In just the past few months, we reintroduced services to five cities and launched flights to Tel Aviv, a new destination, adding 251 weekly flights onto existing routes; and continuing the roll-out of service enhancements in the air and on the ground. Global connectivity and increased frequencies are important for a country like Sri Lanka which is seeking to build its tourism industry and grow its export economy.

In the coming months, established routes to Europe, Australia and Africa will be served with more Emirates flights, while in East Asia, more cities are seeing route restarts. The strengthening of our network and increased flight frequencies will boost Sri Lanka's connections to the rest of the world, especially to and from cities such as London, Amsterdam, Venice and Cairo, and to Melbourne from Singapore.

Q: Besides the connectivity, how does Emirates support Sri Lanka's tourism prospects?

A: Emirates entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau in March last year. This agreement reaffirmed the airline's commitment to Sri Lanka and outlined mutually beneficial initiatives that will help revive the country's trade and tourism industry. Under the agreement, Emirates and Sri Lanka Tourism benefit from joint activities that help enhance trade and tourism, including trade shows, trade familiarisation trips, exhibitions, and workshops.

Additionally, Emirates Holidays, the tour operating arm of Emirates, actively promotes Sri Lanka through package tours marketed worldwide via its catalogue. We offer a wide range of beach holidays at top notch hotels and resorts on the southern and eastern coasts of the island, excursions to historic sites in the cultural triangle, opportunities to cool off in the scenic hill country of Sri Lanka, and great wildlife experiences such as safaris in the Yala National Park, and whale and dolphin watching in the waters around Trincomalee, Mirissa and Kalpitiya.

In short, our involvement with Sri Lanka goes beyond only operating flights to and from the country. We take a holistic approach to supporting the destination, and are with Sri Lanka for the long haul.

Contd from Pg 1

Cinnamon Life Integrated...

For guests who desire to extend their journey beyond Colombo, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts boasts of 15 properties in Sri Lanka and the Maldives and is Sri Lanka's largest hotel group. Located in some of the most picturesque locations in the region, including pristine beaches, lush forests, and historical sites, each property provides a bespoke and unique offering aimed to amplify and complement the guest experience as they discover and immerse themselves in the treasures of each locale.

Combining modernity, culture, and heritage, Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts offers a wide selection of properties, including luxury hotels, boutique villas, and eco-resorts, each designed to cater to everything a traveller needs to curate their own remarkable Sri Lankan adventure.

Sister brand Cinnamon Air is on hand to fly visitors to nearby Sri Lankan destinations to complement well-rounded itineraries.

Forbes lists Sri Lanka as one of the 23 best places to visit in 2023

TTA BULLETIN

US based international travel influencer Juliana Broste, a 12x Heartland Emmy Award-winning travel filmmaker and host, showcasing adventures and fun things to do around the world, recommended Sri Lanka to be listed as one of the best places to visit in 2023, and as a result of her continuous effort, Sri Lanka has been listed in the Forbes list as one of the 23 best places to visit in 2023. This was a result of her visit to Sri Lanka in 2022, under the Visiting Blogger Program of SLTPB 2022. Julianna, who explored the destination on a photo tour, says that even with inflation, visitors will find Sri Lanka a spectacular, affordable destination worth the long haul.

"Loop around the island and you'll see why this land will keep you guessing—from the hustle and bustle of capital city Colombo to beautiful beaches, rice fields, waterfalls, plains, and mountains." She says. "There's a lot to see in a relatively short distance, so have your camera at the ready. "Spotting the wildlife in Sri Lanka is really special". She further adds.

"You can go on safari to an Elephant Sanctuary, go whale watching on the Indian ocean and spy on birds, lizards, jellyfish and monkeys in a mangrove." Broste has selected spotting Leopards at the Yala National park on her bucket list for next time. Sri Lanka is an ideal destination to explore the cultural attractions, including the ancient cities of Anuradhapura and Kandy.

"Be sure to pack an all-white outfit that covers your shoulders and legs when visiting religious sites," says Broste. "Catching a traditional Kandyan dance performance is a highlight, seeing men and women in traditional dress telling stories through dance."



Broste also mentions Nuwaraeliya, known as "little England" as another must see location to visit. Tucked away in the misty mountains, where the region's most iconic export item, Ceylon Tea is produced.

"Winding roads reveal rows and rows of tea bushes on the hillside—be sure to stop in for a cup of tea on your visit to a tea factory and plantation," says Broste. "Equally as fun: sampling a king coconut on the side of the road along your adventure."

Finally, Broste has pointed out another two iconic monuments which are renowned for their breathtaking view and architecture. These include the Lotus Tower, Colombo, and Sigiriya. "It's a symbol of the city and just a touch taller than the Eiffel Tower," says Broste. "Another famous viewpoint worth the hike is the ancient city of Sigiriya known as Lion's Rock, with the ruins of an ancient stronghold located atop a dramatic rock outcrop. It's wild to think how an entire civilization lived here centuries ago."

Mesmerized with the galore of Holiday opportunities Sri Lanka has to offer, Broste has endorsed Sri Lanka as one of the best places to visit in 2023, adding another feather to its cap.



Magnificent Jetwing  Magnificent Sri Lanka

Experience the wonder of Sri Lanka, whose welcome is as warm as its ocean and smile as bright as the tropical sun. It's a simple pleasure straight from the heart and we'll give you the space to enjoy it all.

 Jetwing Saman Villas - Bentota

For more information, please contact
+94 11 4709 400
or email us at reservations@jetwinghotels.com
www.jetwinghotels.com

TRULY THE HOME OF AUTHENTIC SRI LANKAN HOSPITALITY.

Jetwing
HOTELS
SRI LANKA

China makes welcome return to Arabian Travel Market, Middle East on the cusp of a surge in Chinese tourists

TTA BULLETIN

Chinese exhibitors and travel professionals are making a welcome return to Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023 which is being held at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) for its 30th edition from 1-4 May, for the first time in three years.

China lifted its covid-related travel restrictions on 8th January 2023, allowing Chinese tourists to travel abroad, without having to quarantine upon their return. Bookings for overseas travel during Chinese New Year, soared by 540% compared with the same period in 2022, according to data from the Chinese travel site Trip.com.

Furthermore, in a CNN report, Steve Saxon, a partner at McKinsey, based in Shenzhen, predicted the Chinese outbound market would recover to around six million per month by the summer of 2023, driven in part by the pent-up demand especially from young, affluent Chinese.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market commented, "China became the world's top source market in 2019, with 155 million tourists spending more than \$250 billion overseas. However, its isolation from the global market over the past three years has set the industry back by an estimated \$840 billion, equivalent, to 16% of the \$1.7 trillion spent annually on global tourism, according to UNWTO."

Dubai received almost one million Chinese visitors in 2019, which was an increase of over 15% compared with 2018. And while the 154,000 Chinese visitors Dubai welcomed over the first 11 months of 2022 was down 83% compared to the same period prior to 2020, it was up 115% year-on-year, which bodes well not only for Dubai, but also for the wider Middle East tourism sector.

Popular destinations such as Dubai, Saudi's AlUla, Egypt and Jordan, which have consistently marketed to Chinese outbound business-to-consumer and business-to-business, should be in a strong position to benefit from the predicted rebound of Chinese visitor numbers.

"We have noticed a considerable amount of enquiries recently from travel professionals in China. Although we would not expect the same volume of Chinese exhibitors and visitors we received in 2019, we are confident of healthy participation numbers this year," she added.

Considering the short notice, ATM 2023 has already confirmed the participation of key Chinese exhibitors such as FLIGHTROUTES24 Travel, Shenzhen GoodLuck Trip International and Travel World China, with many more bookings anticipated ahead of the show.

ATM is also organising a dedicated conference session on its Global Stage, entitled 'China is back on the map: Macro and micro impacts', in partnership with Dragon Trail International.

An expert panel of speakers including Sienna Parulis-Cook, Director, Marketing and Communications for Dragon Trail International, Peggy Li, CEO & Chief Trouble shooter at sp:affinity and Winnie Chiu, President, Dorsett Hospitality International, will discuss the latest trends that are driving the recovery of Chinese tourism to the Middle East.

Business travel will be integral to the tourism revival. According to a recent survey by the Shanghai Institute of International Studies and PwC China, over 75% of Chinese businesses polled were looking to enter or expand their presence in the Middle East over the next three to five years, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia top destinations for investors.

"I am convinced that the Middle East will experience a surge in Chinese tourism, reminiscent of the rebound we witnessed from Europe and India in late 2021 and early 2022," said Curtis.

Other highlights at ATM 2023 include exploring the future of sustainable travel in



line with its theme of 'Working Towards Net Zero'. Having officially initiated its journey to net zero, the conference programme will explore how innovative sustainable travel trends will likely evolve. It will enable delegates to identify growth strategies within key vertical sectors while providing a platform for regional experts to explore a sustainable future ahead of COP28, which will take place in November 2023 at Expo City Dubai.

The conference will also feature a sustainability category at its annual exhibitor awards for the first time. Exhibiting organisations will be recognised based on the extent to which they have considered the environmental impact of their stands and their efforts to reduce their carbon footprint.

ATM 2023 is held in conjunction with Dubai World Trade Centre, and its strategic partners include Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) as the Destination Partner, Emirates as the Official Airline Partner, IHG Hotels & Resorts as the Official Hotel Partner and Al Rais Travel as the Official DMC Partner.

TAT launches 'Vijitr' lighting extravaganza across Thailand's 5 regions

TTA BULLETIN

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is organising the 'Vijitr' extravagant light-and-sound events across the five regions of Thailand between April and June 2023, in line with the strategy to promote meaningful travel experiences and the drive towards more sustainable tourism.

H.E. Mr. Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn, Minister of Tourism and Sports, said "This 'Vijitr' lighting in 5 regions extravaganza leverages event marketing to provide a more immersive and memorable event experience to domestic tourists, and inspire more travel and overnight stays in different provinces. Ultimately, the project is expected to help distribute tourism income in all five regions through storytelling and the use of light, colour and sound attractions."

The 'Vijitr' project is initiated in response to a recent survey on domestic tourists' travel behaviour during the third quarter of 2022 which found the pandemic's impact on travel had lessened, and that events were a good way to stimulate travel between different provinces around the country.

TAT has scheduled to stage the 'Vijitr' extravagant light-and-sound events in the five regions of Thailand – Central, Northeastern, Northern, Southern, and Eastern Regions.



With a colourful atmosphere by the famous Mekong River, this event includes a light and sound show with mapping and light up features, together with many other fun activities.

This exciting light and sound event features 3D mapping, light up, light installation, city tour and storytelling techniques, and various other activities at various landmarks.

Filled with the charm of the Lanna civilization, this grand event features light and sound performance activities with 3D mapping, light up, light installation, and 3D projection techniques.

This exciting light and sound extravaganza includes projection mapping onto an island in the water, the colourful underwater world of jellyfish, lighting show at the Bridge of Fine Way, fireworks display, and music performances by leading artists, over an area of more than 2 sq km and designed to be 'a land beyond imagination'.

Oman is to be the Official Host Country of ITB Berlin 2024

TTA BULLETIN

The Oman Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and ITB Berlin have announced that the Sultanate of Oman will be the official host country of the World's Leading Travel Trade Show in 2024. "ITB Berlin is a potent platform for showcasing the variety of the many offerings that Oman can provide in the growing tourism industry," says His Excellency Salim Al Mahrouqi, Minister of Heritage and Tourism of the Sultanate of Oman. "We are pleased that in 2024, the Sultanate of Oman will be the hosting country and we are committed to provide the event with an impressive and lasting experience covering all possible senses and expectations," H.E. added.

The minister had previously signed a declaration of intent during an informal ceremony at ITB Berlin 2023 in order to seal the partnership at an early date. Afterwards, the official signing of the agreement took place with David Ruetz, senior vice president, Messe Berlin.

"Oman has been strongly represented at ITB Berlin for many years and we are very impressed by the tourism attractions and diversity this travel destination has to offer", said David Ruetz. "With the Sultanate, we are delighted to have secured such an attractive partner for next year's show."

The country in the southeast of the Arabian Peninsula boasts an impressive history spanning 5,000 years and is known for its many different attractions. Travellers can look forward to a welcoming destination and a nature paradise of many contrasts that attracts visitors in search of relaxation and activities alike. Besides golden sand dunes and green oases, the Sultanate boasts high mountains and impressive caves as well as sandy beaches and cliffs that stretch for miles. Outdoor activities such as snorkelling, hiking and climbing round off the tourism attractions on offer.

As the official host country of ITB Berlin 2024, Oman will organise the opening ceremony on 4 March 2024 at the CityCube Berlin, among other events. From 5 to 7 March the Sultanate will present trade visitors with a wide-ranging programme featuring numerous events.

ITB Berlin 2024 will take place from Tuesday, 5 to Thursday, 7 March. Since 1966, ITB Berlin has been the World's Leading Travel Trade Show. As in previous years, the internationally acclaimed ITB Berlin Convention will take place parallel with the show as a live event on the Berlin Exhibition Grounds.





DISCOVER A LUXURIOUS
TROPICAL SANCTUARY.

Explore the island's wildlife, rainforests, pilgrimage sites and fishing ports.

Dine cliffside, embark on surf adventures, or retreat to the sanctuary of Anantara Spa with award-winning Ayurvedic treatments.

Enjoy serenity and tranquillity with spacious interiors blended with modern amenities. Dine atop a stunning cliff edge, shoreline or poolside with indulgent experiences with Sri Lanka's distinctive flavours, cultural traditions and refined international tastes.

Connect with genuine places, people and stories through personal experiences, resonate with our commitment to nature with our globally recognized sustainability initiatives and explore so much more.



Take a journey with us



LIFE IS A JOURNEY. Visit anantara.com



For enquiries and reservations: (0) 34 722 6060 Email: reservations.srilanka@minor.com | Anantara Peace Haven Tangalle Resort, Goyambokka Estate, Tangalle, Sri Lanka.

ITIC session to shine spotlight on industry financing at ATM 2023, with more than 150,000 pipeline hotel rooms currently under contract in GCC

TTA BULLETIN

Industry experts will gather in the UAE to discuss sustainable decision-making and financing during the International Tourism & Investment Conference (ITIC) Middle East Tourism Investment Session at Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2023, which will take place at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from Monday 1 to Thursday 4 May.

Saudi Arabia is leading the GCC's tourism development activities with a pipeline of 100,071 hotel rooms, according to data released by STR. Dubai is the region's second most active market with 27,095 rooms under contract, followed by Qatar (17,145), Oman (10,292), Bahrain (3,452) and Kuwait (1,369). In total, there are 159,424 pipeline rooms under contract in the Gulf at present.

Related opportunities and challenges will be placed under the microscope throughout ATM 2023, thanks to a range of panel discussions and events related to industry financing. In addition to the ITIC panels, this year's show will feature sessions highlighting industry-critical issues such as travel tech investment, the contemporary geopolitical landscape, urban regeneration, future markets, space tourism and more.

Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director ME, Arabian Travel Market, said: "With nearly 160,000 hotel rooms under development

across the GCC, this region is undoubtedly a global hotspot for industry investment right now. Thanks to the participation of ITIC and a host of other finance-related sessions, ATM 2023 represents the ideal forum for travel, tourism and hospitality professionals from around the world to explore the latest investment opportunities and novel financing models with some of the biggest names in our sector."

Taking place on day three of ATM 2023, the 'ITIC Tourism Investment Session: Making Sustainable Decisions' will feature insights from an array of industry experts. The sessions will begin with a tourism economic outlook for 2023 from Gerald Lawless, Director of ITIC Ltd, Invest Tourism Ltd and Ambassador for the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC).

ITIC's opening session will be followed by a panel discussion on the increasing correlation between sustainability and investments in travel and tourism projects, moderated by Sameer Hashmi, Middle East Business Correspondent at BBC News. Speakers will include HE Ahmed Issa, Egypt's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities; Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's Minister of Tourism; Raki Phillips, CEO of Ras Al Khaimah Tourism Development Authority; and Maher Abou Nasr, Vice President, Operations – Kingdom

of Saudi Arabia at IHG Hotels & Resorts.

ATM 2023's ITIC sessions will conclude with an interview between Elizabeth Maclean, Co-Managing Director of Herdwick Communications, and Dr Lubna Bader Salim Al Mazroei, Manager – Economic Diversification Investments at Oman Investment Authority, during which the two will discuss growing opportunities for women across the Middle East's tourism industry.

The 30th edition of the show will also feature 'Plug and Play: Sustainable Tech – Startups Pitch Battle', which will see seven entrepreneurs pitch their innovative solutions in front of a panel of independent industry experts at ATM 2023's brand-new Sustainability Hub. This year's judges will include Natalie Seatter, Chief Product Officer at OAG; Jalil Mekouar, Founder and CEO of inHovate Solutions; Kristi Choi, Early Stage Tech Investor at Plug and Play; Winnie Chiu, President of Dorsett Hospitality International; and Essam AlZahrani, Tourism Startup Studio Programme Manager at Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Tourism. The winning startup will receive a range of industry support, including access to Plug and Play's Startup Accelerator cohort and exhibition space at ATM 2024.



Other investment-related highlights at ATM 2023 will include sessions on financing sustainable travel, backing green technologies, strengthening the supply chain, future-proofing the travel sector against geopolitical turmoil, the power of urban regeneration, future markets and space tourism. These panels will be attended by a variety of high-profile speakers, such as Haitham Mattar, Managing Director – IMEA at IHG Hotels & Resorts; Guy Hutchinson, President and CEO of Rotana Hotel Group; Johan Eidhagen, Managing Director of Wizz Air; Robert Willock, Director MENA & Regional General Manager at The Economist Intelligence Corporate Network; Saleh Al Geziry, Director-General for Tourism at the Abu Dhabi Department of Culture and Tourism; Christian Delom, Secretary General of A World For Travel; HE Ghada Shalaby, Egypt's Vice Minister of Tourism and Antiquities; and Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's Minister of Tourism.

The 30th edition of ATM will explore the future of sustainable travel in line with its theme, 'Working Towards Net Zero'.

Korean media personnel highlights Sri Lanka as a 'Must Visit' Tourist Destination

TTA BULLETIN

Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau, in collaboration with the Embassy of Sri Lanka in the Republic of Korea and Sri Lankan Airlines, hosted a Media FAM Tour for 7 journalists belonging to 6 Media houses, namely BTN TV (Buddhist Television Network), BBS TV (Buddhist Broadcasting System), Arirang TV, Hyundai Bulgyo Newspaper, Beopeo Newspaper (Bulgyo newspaper). Overall, the group consisted of 3 TV Channels and 3 Newspaper publications. The Media FAM Tour started from the 30th of March to 4th April 2023. The main purpose of this tour was to focus on the Sri Lankan tourist attractions with special emphasis on Buddhist attractions since there is an increasing interest from the Buddhist population in the Republic of Korea to explore Buddhist sites in overseas destinations, especially in South Asia, mainly considering the emerging market to create awareness of Sri Lanka Tourism among the Korean high-end travelers. The crew was accompanied by SLTPB officials and also Mr. Justin Hong, Deputy General Manager, Sri Lankan Airlines, GSA Korea, who facilitated and represented Sri Lankan Airlines on the tour.

The Media crew also focused on the Sri Lankan culture, heritage, cuisine, Wildlife and nature. They travelled to areas such as Galle, Ella, Nuwaraeliya, Kandy, Anuradhapura, Sigiriya, Dambulla, and Colombo. All these locations were filmed with a few interviews included at some places. Several



interviews were done at the Nelligala International Buddhist Center, Dalada Maligawa, Alu Viharaya, Matale, Ruwanweli

Maha seya and Sri Maha Bodhi, along with a special interview with Mr. Chalaka Gajabahu, Chairman, Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau.

Mentioning about the Media houses which were represented on this tour, the group consisted of 3 TV channels, namely BTN (Buddhist Television Network) which is one of the two major Buddhist TV channels operated in South Korea. Being both online and in printed version, and it caters to a viewership of 20 million. It also had BBS TV (Buddhist Broadcasting System) which is a radio channel with a 2 million viewership. The other channel was Arirang TV, directly connected to promoting Buddhism and Culture in Korea. It provides information on Korean current events, Culture, and history to the region around Korea.

The Media was also represented by 3 Newspapers including Hyundai Bulgo, which has a readership of 80,000 each month, published both online and printed formats, Beopeo, another publication which publishes a z4 page newspaper every day, and the Bulgyo newspaper, which is one of the oldest Buddhist newspapers in Korea, published in both print and online every Thursday.

Sri Lanka Aims to Strengthen its Presence in Far East Asia

Sri Lanka in its journey to revive the tourism to its former glory, is always in the look out for new source markets. With the resumption of travel between Sri Lanka & China post covid; we have an opportunity to expand our presence in the Far East Asia.

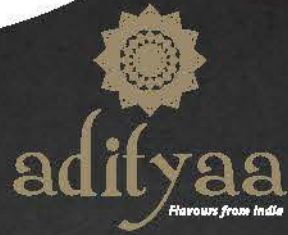


Ms. Orgilmaa Doloonjin, Honorary Consul of Sri Lanka in Mongolia and a group of 20 delegates consisting of Mongolian Travel Agents & other key tourism decision makers visited Sri Lanka last week for a 6 day tour of Sri Lanka. While in Sri Lanka they visited Dambulla, Sigiriya, Kandy & Welligama to familiarize them selves with some of Sri Lankas tourism hot spots.

Ms. Orgilmaa Doloonjin, met with Honorable Tharaka Balasooriya State Minister of Foreign Affairs to pursue possible opportunities to develop ties between the two nations. The delegation also met Sri Lanka Tourism officials for discussions related to promotional activities in the Far East.



The visit was endorsed & initiated by H. E. Palitha Kohona, Ambassador of Sri Lanka in China & all ground arrangements were organized by leading destination management company Connaissance De Ceylan (Pvt) Ltd.



Meet the New Indian in town



There's a brand new Indian in the city to spice up your gastronomic experiences. Introducing adityaa the latest culinary feather in Movenpick Colombo's cap. Headed by the renowned Chef Mangal Singh, his culinary prowess will serve the aromatic world of North Indian cuisine onto your plate.

Thai & Japanese Flavours at Robata



A world of Thai and Japanese flavours await your tastebuds at Robata. With the experts of Japanese and Thai cuisine, Chef Heenkenda and Thai Mama orchestrating a symphony of gastronomic pleasures, you will experience delicacies like never before. Come take a magical and exotic trip with us.

AYU Seafood Market Unlimited Seafood Buffet

Dive into an infinite selection of the most succulent assortment of your seafood favourites! Prepared fresh from the sea or right in front of you at our live stations, to suit your discerning palette. Experience an incomparable pescatarian dining experience at Ayu!

Every Friday 7 - 11pm

Live Fusion Buffet

Indulge in our exciting Live Fusion Buffet at AYU, as our talented culinary team skilfully curate a vibrant dining experience. From traditional Sri Lankan favourites to South Asian delights and action-packed live stations.

Saturday to Thursday 7 - 11pm

China to Promote Cultural Tourism to Sri Lanka



Mr. Qiu Xinjian, President of the China Art Association and a 16-member delegation arrived in Sri Lanka last week for a 6-day tour of our island nation. Their tour consisted of visits to some of Sri Lanka's cultural hotspots in Sigiriya, Dambulla, Kandy, Hambantota & Weligama, a meeting with Honorable, Vidura Wickramanayake, Minister of Budhasasana, Religious and Cultural Affairs along with ministry officials & a meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Peradeniya; for discussions on promoting cultural tourism / cultural exchange programs between the two countries. The visit was endorsed & initiated by H. E. Palitha Kohona, Ambassador of Sri Lanka in China & all ground arrangements were organized by leading destination management company Connaissance De Ceylan (Pvt) Ltd.

China to boost investment opportunities in Sri Lanka



Chairman of the CZK Huarui International Economy and Trade Development (Beijing) Co. Ltd & The Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of CZK International Resources Investment Corporation Mr. Liu Yafei, visited Sri Lanka last week with 12 delegates, all belonging to various industries with investment potential in Sri Lanka. During their brief stay in the country, they conducted extensive meetings with Mr. Sagala Rathnayaka, Chief of Staff for H. E. the President, Honorable Harin Fernando, Minister of Tourism & other Sri Lanka Tourism Officials, Honorable Prasanna Ranaweera, State Minister of Small & Medium Enterprises, Chairman & officials of the Board of Investment of Sri Lanka, Chairman & officials of the Export Development Board, Chairman & officials of the Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce; in an effort to view / assess potential investment opportunities in Sri Lanka. The visit was endorsed & initiated by H. E. Palitha Kohona, Ambassador of Sri Lanka in China & all ground arrangements were organized by leading destination management company Connaissance De Ceylan (Pvt) Ltd.



Colombo by Jeep – A unique visitor experience in the city

TTA BULLETIN



Colombo by Jeep is a novel concept introduced by Nishantha Abeyssekara who has been actively involved in the hospitality industry for several years. The need to add value to our tourism offering and give tourists a unique experience is the thinking behind "Colombo by Jeep" and one, which has gained immense popularity among both locals and tourists alike.

Adding colour to Colombo and the tourism industry is a fleet of open-to-air vehicles, which were used in the World War era, and includes the 1948 Land Rover series 1.

"At present the Sri Lankan road transport for tourists consists of several conventional transport systems, air-conditioned coaches, Minibus and vans, cars. The open top, double decker bus operated by a leading travel agent on a fixed route on all city tours is also a viable option for tourists and a major transformation has taken place in every part of the country with foreigners and Sri Lankan expatriates who are looking at ways in which to experience our island's diversity".

Colombo by Jeep off-road adventure trips will bring together outdoors, nature, wildlife and down to earth people who prefer something different to common sightseeing in an antique World War 2 Jeep with fantastic tours fit every budget that takes one to other worlds, in terms of nature and adventure on private trails.

The City tours in two open 1942 world war Jeeps with tailor-made tours to any part of Sri Lanka City tours, off-roading, water crossing, and adventure safaris on private trails from extreme to moderate conditions.

Aththidiya Bird Sanctuary is one of the unique tours offered by Colombo by Jeep. This Bird Sanctuary was declared as a National Park in 1990, consists of 372 hectares, Surrounded by Bolgoda Canal and Katu Canal. This sanctuary,

full of lush greenery and waterways, gives shelter to about 100 species of birds - migratory and endemic

Another interesting excursion is Fishing in Aththidiya Fishing can be arranged on a 24-hour prior notice. You can experience and practice typical Sri Lankan style fishing using the Kithul palm rod and the casting net in the inland waterways as done by the rural villagers for their daily consumption.

At the end of the Aththidiya tour, the guest will be taken to a typical Sri Lankan wayside tea boutique where they will enjoy hot hoppers, rotis, Sri Lankan spring rolls and a cup of local Ginger tea.

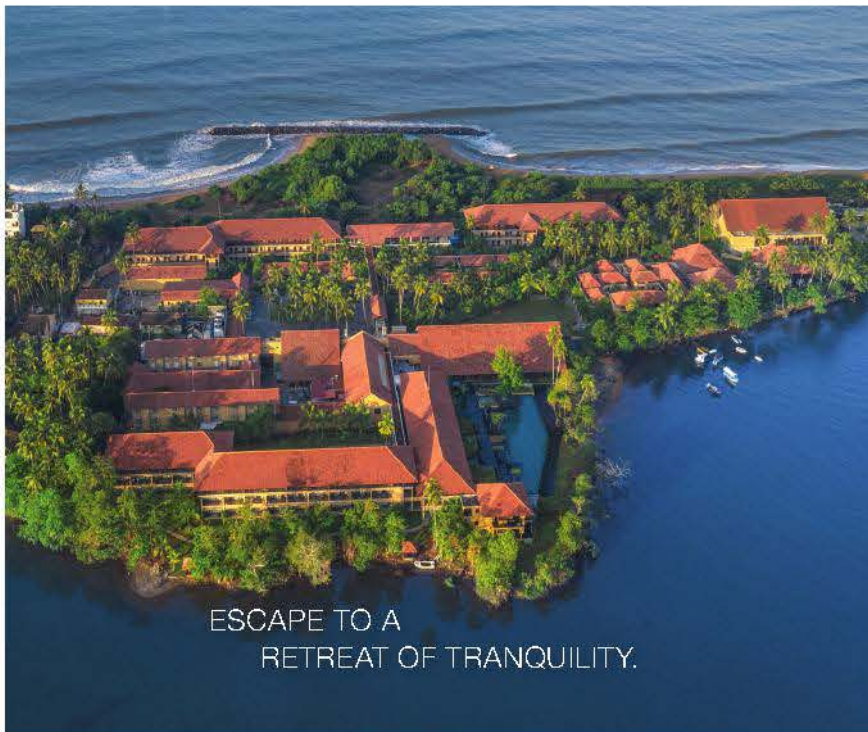
As this is the first time in history of world tourism this type of antique Jeeps is used in tourism industry, Nishantha said it took nearly ten years, to collect and restore these antique war beauties, and those have all the amenities used in the World War II still intact.



"I wanted to preserve these vehicles and give the driving experience to who really care for them. I started collecting these War Jeeps to build a fleet to cater to the tourists who are fed up of the usual air-conditioned cars and vans, who would prefer to compromise a bit of comfort to something adventurous and unique which they will only enjoy in Sri Lanka. I'm looking forward to tie up with any hotel or tour company who is interested in this project," he said.

All guests are provided with free Wi-Fi to share their experience live and the newest addition is the ability to sing Karaoke while on tour. Lady drivers also can be provided on request





ESCAPE TO A
RETREAT OF TRANQUILITY.



A tropical hideaway shaped by the creative vision of renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa, Anantara Kalutara is located only an hour from the Bandaranaike International Airport.

Perched above the river in a rustic treehouse, guests will be served a Ceylonese dinner featuring locally caught seafood accompanied by spicy sambals, Ceylon teas and traditional desserts such as treacle, buffalo curd and coconut milk pancakes.

With a host of inspired dining options, recreation - including for children - and an Ayurvedic spa retreat, we welcome you to enjoy island life at one of the most sought after Kalutara hotels.



Take a journey with us



LIFE IS A JOURNEY. Visit anantara.com



For enquiries and reservations: (0) 34 722 6060 Email: reservations.srilanka@minor.com | Anantara Kalutara Resort, St. Sebastian's Road, Katukurunda, Kalutara, Sri Lanka.

AVANI

Kalutara Resort

Vibrant, upscale, relaxed comfort and contemporary style in the city of Kalutara.

Laze by the pool, bounce around on the beach with some games, go with the flow in a yoga class or burn off calories in the gym. If you've got cravings to explore, hop in a kayak to see local river life.



Explore Kalutara



For reservations, please contact: +94 347 226060
Avani Kalutara Resort,
St. Sebastian's Road, Katukurunda, Kalutara, Sri Lanka

AVANIHOTELS.COM

THE CLARKS

HOTELS & RESORTS

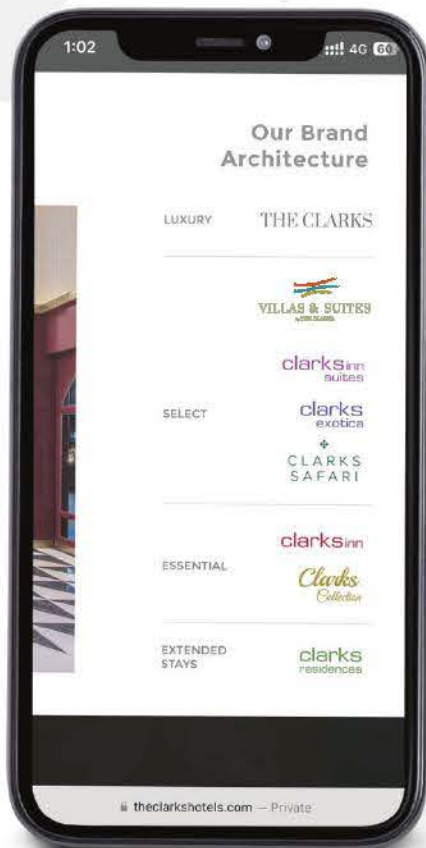
To be present
globally and be
the feeling of
vacation to all

8
Brands

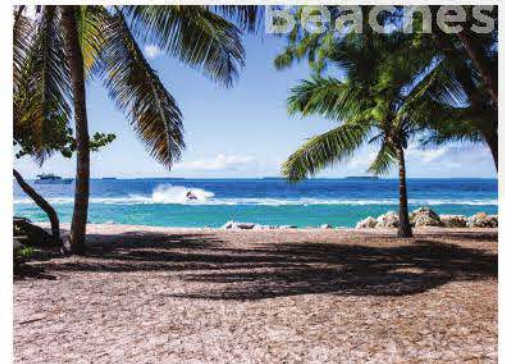
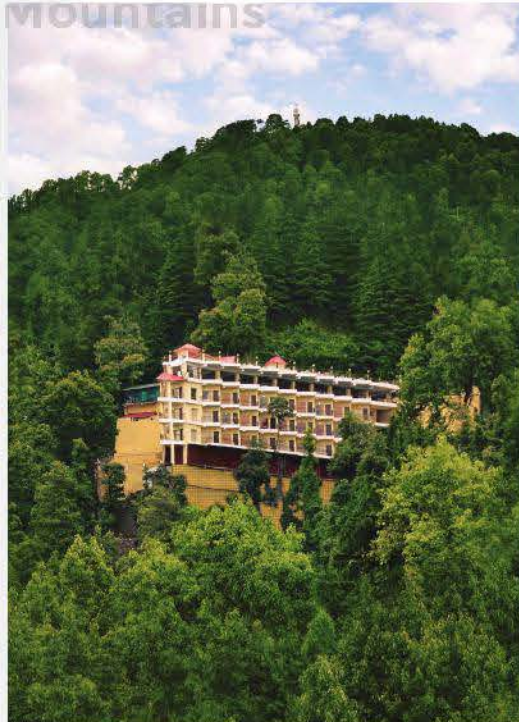
4
Countries

98
Destinations

100+
Hotels



India | Sri Lanka
Maldives | The Netherlands



Partner
with us



India

Corporate Office: 707 Emaar Capital Tower,
Mehrauli - Gurgaon Road, Gurugram, Haryana
+91 (0) 124 4197707, +91 95990 83785
rupamdass@theclarkshotels.com

India's leading
hotel chain is now
in **Sri Lanka and
Maldives**

"Creating an
everlasting impact by
serving with passion."



Clarks Exotica,
Kamadhoo Maldives



Albatross
Villas & Suites
by The Clarks,
Kandy Sri Lanka



Maldives

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka

Level 26, East Tower, World Trade Centre,
Echelon Square, Colombo 00100 - Sri Lanka
+94-71 132 1270, +94-77 756 5012
malinda@thec Clarkshotels.com

www.thec Clarkshotels.com

18002027707

thec Clarkshotels&resorts



Minor Hotels announces Craig Cochrane as new Chief People Officer

TTA BULLETIN

Craig Cochrane has been announced as the new Chief People Officer of Minor Hotels effective from January 2023. The hospitality veteran joins the Bangkok-based group from his former role as Senior Vice President of Talent & Culture – Turkey, India, Middle East & Africa at Accor Hotels, a position he held from 2018.



Craig Cochrane

In his new role, the British national will oversee people and culture functions for Minor Hotels, including, employee engagement, maintaining a strong company culture during Minor Hotels' rapid expansion phase and leading learning and development programmes for the group.

Between 2012 and 2018, Cochrane was Senior VP Human Resources with Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts based out of Zurich and Dubai – an executive role he was promoted to after serving as the group's VP of Human Resources, Middle East and Asia for almost five years, overseeing 32 operating hotels and 20 under development. Prior

to joining Mövenpick Hotels & Resorts, Cochrane held key executive Human Resources positions for the Jumeirah Group in Dubai and in Shanghai, including the post of Resort Director of Human Resources, Madinat Jumeirah, which employed 3,500 people at the time.

"I'm delighted to welcome Craig on board at this crucial time for the company when we are pursuing an aggressive expansion strategy," Mr. Dillip Rajakarier, Group CEO at Minor International and CEO at Minor Hotels, commented on the announcement. "With his vast international experience and innate understanding of the hospitality industry, I know he will deliver great value and drive Minor Hotels' employee strategies in line with the company's future plans."

Craig Cochrane has a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Hotel and Tourism Management from Sheffield Hallam University in the UK.

UNWTO and Global Tourism Economic Forum plot stronger collaboration

TTA BULLETIN



Since the first Forum was held in 2012, the two organizations have partnered around promoting closer links between governments and tourism's private sector. Building on this success, UNWTO and GTEF have announced plans for a revamped and enhanced annual Forum to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the event in Macau, China (21 September). The location of subsequent Forums will then alternate between Macau and a different host country, to be jointly selected by UNWTO and GTEF.

Announcing the plans in Lisbon, UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said: "UNWTO is proud to work with the Global Tourism Economic Forum to unite governments and private sector leaders and address the biggest challenges and opportunities facing our sector today. We look forward to building on our successful partnership in 2023 and beyond."

Pansy Ho, Vice Chairman and Secretary-General, GTEF, said: "In response to China's policies in supporting enterprises to 'go global', we will stage the GTEF, an international platform, overseas every other

year. Looking forward to the future, we believe that mainland China, Macao, and even the world can benefit from the event."

The 10th edition of GTEF will be held around the theme of "Destination 2030: Unlocking Tourism for Business and Development". It will bring together Governments as well as leaders from across the public and private sectors to further establish the Forum as the premier annual event for public-private partnerships and tourism for business growth and development.

Also in Lisbon, UNWTO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Tourism Economy Research Centre (GTERC), the coordinator of GTEF, to work together to identify areas of future cooperation. Joining UNWTO Secretary-General Pololikashvili for the announcement were Ho Iat Seng, Chief Executive of Macao SAR; Zhao Bentang, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Portuguese Republic, and Nuno Fazenda, Secretary of State for Tourism, Trade and Services, Portugal.

Madubhani Perera awarded Corporate Professional – Tourism Sector



Madubhani Perera Director PR at Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau won the award under the tourism category at the Sri Lanka Vanithaabhimana awards held recently at Stein Studios Rathmalana. This is an awards program to empower the women of Sri Lanka launched for the third consecutive year by NDB Bank together with News 1st. The Competition was carried out in two categories such as Provincial Level Competition and Corporate and Professional Sector Competition.

The Award was presented to Madubhani Perera by H.E. Michael Appleton, High Commissioner of New Zealand and by Ms. Ishani Palliyaguru, Vice President, Project Finance and Corporate of NDB.

Aitken Spence Travels welcomes 4,000 cruise passengers for April 2023

TTA BULLETIN

Aitken Spence Travels welcomed 4,000 cruise tourists to Sri Lanka on the eve of Sinhala and Tamil New Year. The luxurious cruise ships, MSC Poesia and MSC Magnifica, docked into the port of Colombo with the atmosphere filled with excitement and celebrations.

The shore excursion teams from Aitken Spence Travels were on site, ready to delight these visitors with an array of experiences that showcased the very best of Sri Lanka during the holiday season.



From exploring the vibrant local culture through traditional dance shows to enjoying the wonderful Tuk-Tuk rides to experiencing the city life and visiting a variety of attractions to enjoy an unforgettable trip to Sri Lanka were on offer to the visitors.

"Sri Lanka was recently ranked in the Forbes list as one of the 23 best places to visit in 2023 and it's crucial that we maintain our position and become one of the most popular destinations not just in South Asia but in Asia. I am delighted that Aitken Spence Travels (Destination

Management segment of Aitken Spence) has played an instrumental role in growing the cruise tourism operation which has evidently had a positive impact on other key industries such as hospitality, shipping, ports businesses to support the economy", commented Ms. Stasshani Jayawardena, Executive Director Aitken Spence PLC, Head of Tourism and Leisure sector for the company.

Further commenting on this significant contribution to Sri Lanka tourism's arrival numbers, Mr. Nalin Jayasundara, Managing Director of Aitken Spence Travels stated, "we are delighted to be in the forefront of bringing in large volume of tourists to Sri Lanka. As a leading DMC we will continue to work directly in convincing cruise operators to dock in Sri Lanka to enjoy the

natural beauty the country has to offer". Needless to say, these are efforts that are seeing results today due to the active role we played in building confidence of the destination whilst ensuring the shore excursion itineraries were attractive and unique". "We are thankful for the support extended by all the stakeholders for a smooth operation and for our cruise guests to have a



positive experience of Sri Lanka.

One delighted visitor of on an excursion exclaimed, "I did not know Sri Lanka was this beautiful. I was thrilled to see how my favourite spice, cinnamon, is made in Sri Lanka. I have always used cinnamon as a powdered product but didn't know that its mainly a bark of a tree"

Aitken Spence Travels enjoyed a tremendously successful 2023 cruise season with over ten cruise calls that have docked at all the ports of Colombo, Galle, Hambantota, and Trincomalee.



Jetwing Vil Uyana featured as one of the 15 Best Eco Hotels in the world by Condé Nast Traveller

TTA BULLETIN

The benchmark of eco-luxury hotels located in the heartlands of north-central Sri Lanka, Jetwing Vil Uyana's story from concept to operations is a testament to the positive impact a hotel can have on the planet. Drawing inspiration from the Barnes wetland on the outskirts of London and from ancient Sri Lanka, Jetwing embarked on a mission in the early 2000s to convert 28 acres of abandoned paddy fields into a thriving wetland, the first of its kind in present-day Sri Lanka. A daunting task, as surveys carried out at the site prior to construction returned paltry results. However, with Jetwing's persistent commitment and passion, the dream of making it a wetland teeming with wildlife has come to fruition.

Jetwing Vil Uyana's doors opened in 2006, and as of 2022, the faunal diversity has swelled from pre-construction numbers along with the stabilisation of the wetland over time. The property currently boasts over 157 species of birds and over 29 mammals, with the numbers of butterflies, reptiles, and amphibians also showing significant growth. Alongside the overall increase in biodiversity at the hotel's premises, the story of the Grey slender loris has garnered special consideration since being discovered on site in 2010 in an area earmarked for expansion; their existence prompted the management to abandon the development plans and declare the area as a loris research and

conservation site – the first of its kind in the world. And today, the conservation project of over 12 years has seen the birth of 29 lorises, the development of a research center, and the publication of 2 books.

Sustainability is typically associated solely with the environment; however, Jetwing Hotels is guided by a comprehensive six-fold sustainability strategy that involves the community and nature alike. From the thatched roofing, which was inspired by traditional Sri Lankan architectural concepts, to sourcing and producing everything possible in-house utilising space within the property, opting for in-house grown and locally sourced produce, to award-winning community initiatives such as the Jetwing Youth Development Project and Second Careers, which provides work opportunities for middle-aged women to achieve financial independence, Jetwing Vil Uyana sets the benchmark for responsible travel in all aspects.

Jetwing restored a wetland that fits with their business model through simple planning and the desire to make a difference. The resounding success of the project has been acclaimed locally and globally in the past, and this time, by Condé Nast Traveller, as they named Jetwing Vil Uyana as one of the 15 best eco hotels in the world. Chairman of Jetwing Symphony PLC, Hiran Cooray, had the

following to say in relation to this achievement: "Jetwing Vil Uyana has been our flagship resort since 2006. The ambitious project designed by a acclaimed environmental architect Sunela Jayewardene, along with a team of experts in various fields, set a new tone for eco-luxury hotels in Sri Lanka and the region. We are honoured to receive this recognition by Condé Nast Traveller, one of the leading travel publications in the world, and the opportunity this gives to take our island forward as a leading sustainable travel destination."

As the pioneer of sustainable tourism in Sri Lanka, Jetwing operates under the firm belief and ethos that tourism cannot exist in isolation and can only function effectively when integrated with the environment and local communities, which was the philosophy of the founder, Herbert Cooray. With this fundamental conviction in mind, Jetwing is dedicated to carrying on with operations while making every effort to enhance the surroundings of their homes of authentic Sri Lankan hospitality across the emerald isle.



Family owned and in the tourism industry for the past 50 years, Jetwing Hotels has surpassed expectation in every aspect. Building on their foundation of being passionate, as well as the experience of true, traditional Sri Lankan hospitality, constantly pioneering discoveries captures the essence of the brand. Such a strong statement and direction have enabled Jetwing Hotels to imagine, create and manage marvels and masterpieces, where distinctive design and elegant comfort complement each other and the environment. In line with the Jetwing Hotels Sustainability Strategy, across all properties sustainable and responsible practices are given precedence with resource efficiency, community upliftment and education, and awareness being some of the key focus areas.

London's iconic Wolseley pops up in Bangkok with Grand European flair

TTA BULLETIN

The Wolseley Hospitality Group, owner and operator of some of London's best-loved restaurants including the famed The Wolseley on Piccadilly and The Delaunay in Aldwych, is bringing its distinguished European fare to Bangkok for a limited time.

From 18 April 2023, Café Wolseley, the group's first international venture and a reference to its London flagship, will delight Bangkok gastronomes and foodies in European grand café tradition when it opens at Madison Restaurant at Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel for three months.

The restaurant combines British heritage with European grandeur and serves Wolseley classics together with contemporary additions. Diners can expect a menu brimming with quintessential European classics from Dressed Dorset Crab with brown crab mayonnaise and lemon; to The Wolseley's Coq au Vin of red wine braised chicken with pancetta, pearl onions and button mushrooms; and Crème Brûlée, a Muscovado caramelised set vanilla custard.



Starter highlights include Petit Plateau de Fruits de Mer, a selection of oysters and shellfish from Rungis Market in Paris served on crushed ice with lemon and shallot vinegar; Steak Tartare, a hand chopped rump steak with a spicy relish, cornichons, and capers; and Escargots à la

Bourguignonne, escargots in the shell with garlic and parsley butter, finished with Pernod.

A Wolseley menu staple of egg dishes include Omelette Arnold Bennett, a parmesan glazed flat omelette with smoked haddock and cream; and Soufflé Suisse, a twice cooked cheese soufflé with mushroom and parmesan cream sauce and chives.

The main course dishes feature classics from France to England and from Germany to Hungary: Fillets of Lemon Sole Grenobloise, a pan roasted salmon fillet with wilted spinach and Nantua sauce; Whole Native Lobster, a steamed whole English lobster with sea vegetables, parsley butter and medium cut chips; Wiener Holstein, a pork schnitzel with a fried egg, anchovies and a lemon and caper butter; and Goulash and Spätzle, a diced beef casserole with pancetta, peppers, tomato and hot paprika, finished with sour cream and gherkins.

Desserts are deliciously presented with classic Apple Strudel of spiced apples and dried fruits encased in filo pastry with a Calvados cream; Mixed Berry Pavlova, a light and chewy meringue filled with fresh seasonal berries with a strawberry



Chef David Stevens

compote, strawberry purée, and whipped cream; and Coupe Lucian of decadent pistachio, hazelnut and almond nougatine ice creams, whipped cream, and butterscotch sauce.

A fixed price menu of two or three courses with choices is also available. In the restaurant's private dining room, groups of up to eighteen diners can sample a five-course private menu of Classic Wolseley Canapés; Prawn and Avocado Cocktail; Heritage Beetroot Salad; Roast Anjou Chicken with Morels; and Baked Vanilla Cheesecake.

The restaurant's cocktail menu takes its cue from some of Café Wolseley's favourites, with an added playful twist, including the Mai O' Mai Tai of light rum, aged Jamaican rum, lime juice, pistachio orgeat, milk and orange Curaçao; and Whiskey Velvet with Rye whiskey, lemon juice, milk liqueur, and egg white.

Café Wolseley in Bangkok is helmed by chef David Stevens, Group Executive Chef at The Wolseley Hospitality Group and former Head Chef at The Wolseley in London. The native Australian's illustrious culinary career began in Michelin-starred establishments including Fleur de Sel in England; Chateau de Montreuil in France; Dolder Grand in Switzerland; and moving to The Ivy in London

before starting his own business, Proof is in the Pudding. Stevens joined The Wolseley in London in 2013 as Head Pastry Chef before becoming Head Chef in 2017.

Café Wolseley is located in the Parichart Court at Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel and is open from Monday to Saturday for lunch from 12.00pm to 2.30pm and Monday to Sunday for dinner from 6.00pm to 10.30pm. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Anantara Siam on telephone 02 431 9497 or email dining.asia@anantara.com.

Anantara is a luxury hospitality brand for modern travellers, connecting them to genuine places, people and stories through personal experiences, and providing heartfelt hospitality in the world's most exciting destinations. The collection of distinct, thoughtfully designed luxury hotels and resorts provides a window through which to journey into invigorating new territory, curating personal travel experiences.



HOTELS

Courtyard by Marriott Colombo introduces Tito's

TTA BULLETIN

The recently launched Courtyard by Marriott Colombo, part of Marriott Bonvoy's extraordinary portfolio of 30 hotel brands, is ready to welcome all tea and coffee lovers at their exclusive coffee shop Tito's.

Conveniently located at the lower level of the hotel where it offers both indoor and outdoor seating arrangements, Tito's has been specially designed to awaken your senses to the pleasing aroma of freshly produced coffee and exquisite teas every day from 7am to 10pm. While the friendly baristas create delicious teas, coffees and fresh juices, the culinary team at Tito's works behind the scenes to create freshly baked bread, scrumptious cakes, and savory treats.

The inviting interior, complete with cozy furnishings, soft music and plenty of natural light, provides the ideal location for any individual seeking to spend a few hours away from the demands of today's fast-paced lifestyles. With high-speed internet and Wi-Fi available to all customers, Tito's is the perfect location to catch up with friends or colleagues while indulging in your favorite beverages. Busy corporate professionals can take a well-deserved break from the stresses of work by sipping on some of the finest coffees in Colombo. Remote working professionals will find Tito's warm ambiance perfect for working on collaborative projects and discussions. Tito's is also designed to welcome students

where they can benefit from its central location and relaxing atmosphere to meet up with friends, work on assignments, while indulging in their favorite snacks and beverages. Whatever the occasion, Tito's is the perfect destination to unwind, socialize, and get work done! There is also a range of interesting merchandise for those who want to take a bit of Tito's home.

Located at the heart of the city's central business district, overlooking the famous Gangaramaya Temple and picturesque Beira Lake, Courtyard by Marriott Colombo provides the best hotel experience for guests to pursue their personal and professional passions while on the road. The hotel provides convenient business connectivity



and stunning views of the city skyline together with 164 immaculately designed and beautifully appointed spacious guest rooms complete with a functional work area, smart amenities, and high-speed Internet access, empowering guests to stay both connected and productive while on the road. It also features a well-equipped 24-hour fitness center, and an outdoor swimming pool and comes fully equipped with state-of-the-art banqueting facilities.

Movenpick announces launch of its latest restaurant 'Adityaa' flavours from India

TTA BULLETIN

In its latest culinary endeavour Mövenpick Colombo introduces the vibrant addition to its culinary repertoire, 'adityaa', Flavours from India which will feature the most delectable array of North Indian cuisine with a range of South Indian Thalis. The menu will present an extensive selection including an aromatic assortment of mouthwatering Biryanis, Chicken Tikka, Mutton Roghan Josh and the crispiest varieties of Naans. With the Hotel offering authentic Japanese and Thai dining experiences at Robata and international fare at its Ayu Restaurant this will be yet another feather in Mövenpick's culinary cap providing guests with multifaceted dining options that will satiate even the most discerning food aficionados. 'adityaa' will be headed by Chef Mangal Singh whose unique flair for Indian cuisine results in the delicately balanced flavours that conjure up the most authentic flavours from India.

Chef Mangal Singh's illustrious Indian culinary background focuses on South and North Indian cuisine. He has been curating flavorsome Indian gastronomy for a decade at Sri Lankan 5-Star resorts and trendy restaurants in Mumbai and Delhi. Chef Singh has also studied under Chef Bruno and Chef Anack during his career stint in Thailand. With 13 years of experience in

preparing Indian cuisine from the North, Chef Singh's Indian repertoire is wide and colourful. Having grown up in the snowcapped misty Himalayas, Chef Singh was inspired by his mother's recipes, many of which will be delightful features at adityaa. His favourite dishes that promise to tantalize guests include, Mutton Biryani, Rasams, Butter Chicken, plus a very special Indian homemade chutney.

For over half a decade the famed Swiss Brand has introduced guests in Colombo from across the world to an intriguing and fascinating gastronomic journey, encapsulated in a luxurious and artistically stunning interior. Mövenpick Globally holds a growing portfolio of more than 80 hotels in 24 countries and is a part of AccorHotels, a world-leading travel and lifestyle Group comprising 5000 hotels, resorts and residences with over 1 million rooms worldwide.



Chef Mangal Singh

All restaurants at the iconic Grand Hotel are ranked the best in Nuwara Eliya

TTA BULLETIN

Most wonder where to dine when travelling out of Colombo whilst vacationing in and around Nuwara Eliya.

The Heritage Grand award recipient, Grand Hotel has a choice of 06 top rated restaurants to choose. Trip Advisor feedback ratings are evaluated based on food presentation, service, ambience and consistency of overall standards.

The authentic Grand Indian is rated as the No: 01 restaurant to dine for lunch and dinner. The Barnes Hall where all main meals are served is positioned 02nd. The Barnes Hall is where all the banquets took place in the 19th century. The refurbished Grand Cafe which is located adjoining the Indian restaurant is ranked 03rd. The one and only Tea Lounge is where a variety of High Teas are served, such as English and sparkling high teas, both indoors and in the prize-winning garden. Tea Lounge is a venue where most visitors gather during the day and is placed 04th. Interestingly, the authentic Grand Thai restaurant is rated 05th.

Finally, the Magnolia All-Day Dining is named after the century old Magnolia tree located in the front garden, serves continental and eastern cuisine, is ranked



06th in the Nuwara Eliya region on Trip Advisor customer feedback site.

All restaurants with its own satellite kitchens follow the highest of health, safety, hygiene standards and best sustainable practices with ISO and HACCP and Travelife certifications.

Once again, the hotel gardens are in full bloom and ready for the 2023 flower show.

Way back in 2012 Nat-Geo Travel rated the Tea Lounge and gardens as one of the best locations in the world to have a tea and CNN Travel rated the hotel as one of the Top heritage hotels in Asia in 2018.

Bespoke Travel with Ease as Anantara Angkor Resort Launches New 'Angkor Ultra Luxury' Package

TTA BULLETIN

Combining an action-packed Angkor Wat adventure with a three-night stay at a top-tier hotel near Cambodia's most sacred site, the new 'Ultra Luxury Package' from Anantara Angkor Resort aims to maximise the enjoyment of bespoke travel by adding a 'travel with ease' element to the experience, with cultural excursions, visa arrangements, dining and spa all part of the package.

A collection of 39 Khmer-style suites circling a serene courtyard pool, the all-suite Anantara Angkor Resort offers the perfect getaway to the temples of Angkor Wat nestled in a vine-tangled jungle just 15 minutes away.



While centred on Angkor Wat discoveries,

the 'Ultra Luxury Package' also features a host of experiences beyond the ruins: scenic countryside rides by bicycle, quad, Vespa or vintage jeep; kayaking through the floating villages of Tonle Sap lake; cooking classes with Anantara's signature Spice Spoons experience; healing Khmer massage therapies; and much more.

To help guests build a luxury Siem Reap itinerary that best matches their interests, the resort's Experience Butler will be on hand to plan everything from private tours of Angkor Wat at sunrise to exquisite meals



at signature Chi restaurant and sunset cocktails by the pool.

The 'Angkor Ultra Luxury' package starts from USD \$950 per night based on two people sharing.

You decide, we provide.

We're SLHC,
the most dynamic hospitality
consultancy service in Sri Lanka.

Tel: +94 779 04 48 89 ,+94 774 76 76 74
Email: administration@slhc.lk

Reach us



SRI LANKA
HOSPITALITY
CONSULTANTS

Tamarind Tree Garden Resort

The Ultimate Destination for Sustainable Luxury

TTA BULLETIN

Tamarind Tree Garden Resort, located in close proximity to the Bandaranaike International Airport is just 30 minutes from the city of Colombo. The location is ideal for travelers who seek a peaceful retreat before or after a long flight. The location of the resort is also perfect for those who wish to explore the city's cultural and natural attractions, as it is situated in close proximity to many historical sites and natural reserves. Additionally, the resort's location amidst lush greenery and peaceful surroundings provides guests with a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. The resort prides itself on its commitment to sustainability and environmentally friendly practices, offering guests a unique experience of 'horizontal luxury'. Tamarind Tree Garden Resort Katunay-



The resort's commitment to sustainability has been a driving force in moving towards a fully eco-friendly resort. As more travelers seek out environmentally friendly accommodations, Tamarind Tree Garden Resort Katunayake has gained momentum as the best alternative as a garden resort.

The resort will also expand its offering for families, MICE tourism and experience-based travel. Currently, the resort has a fully equipped state-of-the-art banquet hall which can accommodate over 250 pax while will expand its facilities more with further investments to facilitate the future demand for MICE tourism in Sri Lanka. The Resort will also develop outdoor/garden venues for MICE and banquet facilities as a part of its development plan. Plans are underway to design and create a range of kid's activities to be introduced as a part of the future development plans. This would include numerous nature-based activities within the premises making it an ultimate destination of its own.

An investment of approximately Rs. 100 million has been approved for the expansion plans which encompasses introducing new facilities, upgrading multiple areas of the property and services while enhancing and improving sustainable practices and staff-related facilities.

Tamarind Tree Garden Resort Katunayake is being positioned as the ultimate destination for sustainable, horizontal luxury. Its luxurious accommodations, an array of facilities make it an ideal choice for travelers seeking a unique and eco-friendly experience away from the concrete jungle.

The leadership to the hotel is by Cyril Perera one of the most experienced General Managers in Sri Lanka with exposure locally and internationally driving the most valuable resource of our staff onsite.

Tamarind Tree Garden Resort is currently being managed jointly by Winstone Hotel Developers and Management together with Acorn Leisure Pvt. Ltd (formerly Hemas Leisure).



ake's accommodation options offer guests a luxurious and eco-friendly experience that is both comfortable and sustainable. The resort's commitment to sustainability is evident in every aspect of its design, from the rooms to the surrounding greenery, making it a unique and memorable destination for any traveler. Tamarind Tree Garden Resort offers a range of accommodation options, including Superior rooms, Bungalow rooms and spacious suites, all designed with sustainability in mind. The rooms are elegantly furnished with modern amenities, ensuring maximum comfort and relaxation for guests. Each room boasts a private veranda overlooking the resort's lush greenery.

The organic garden and stables provide



guests with a unique opportunity to experience sustainable farming practices.

In moving towards the future in connecting with the UN guidelines (3 P's of sustainability) and the & R's of sustainability, Tamarind Tree Garden Resort Katunayake is committed to sustainability and environmentally friendly practices. The resort aims to become completely sustainable in all its operations within a year and has already taken significant steps towards achieving this goal. These efforts include the installation of solar panels, waste management practices, and the use of organic produce from the resort's own garden in its restaurants.



Minor Hotels announces strategic expansion of its Avani Brand in Europe & Latin America with addition of seven properties by mid-2024

TTA BULLETIN

Minor Hotels, an international hotel owner, operator and investor with more than 530 hotels in 56 countries in Asia Pacific, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Europe, South America and North America, has announced the expansion of its lifestyle brand targeted at millennial-minded travellers: Avani Hotels & Resorts. Designed for guests that prioritise service, style and value, Avani is characterised by functional design and unique service offerings. Part of a strategic expansion of the brand into new regions of operation, Avani will add five properties in key cities in Europe – one in Spain, two in Italy, one in Germany and next year, one in the Netherlands. Coinciding with the European expansion, Avani will also launch in Central and South America with hotels to be added in Mexico and Colombia.



The first of the strategic additions will see Avani make its debut in Spain in June, with the rebranded 101-key Avani Alonso Martínez Madrid Hotel. In Italy the brand will launch with the rebranding of two hotels – first the 65-key Avani Palazzo Moscova Milan Hotel in June, followed by the 144-key Avani Rio Novo Venice Hotel in the summer. Later in the year Avani will also debut in Germany with the rebranded Avani Frankfurt City Hotel with 256 keys.



Also in Europe, Avani will enter the Netherlands in 2024 with the launch of a 163-key hotel in Amsterdam: the rebranded Avani Museum Quarter Amsterdam Hotel, located in one of the Dutch capital's most vibrant districts, will join the brand's portfolio in Q2 next year.

The company is also preparing to introduce the brand in Latin America, where two additions to the Avani portfolio are planned for later this year with two rebranded properties. Regional operations will begin in one of Central America's leading tourist destinations with the launch of the 140-key Avani Cancun Airport Hotel in Mexico in Q3, followed in Q4 by the 66-key Avani Royal Zona T Bogota Hotel in Colombia.



According to Dillip Rajakarier, CEO of Minor Hotels, the expansion of the Avani brand's footprint into Europe and Latin America reflects the group's strategy of continuing to expand and diversify its hotel offerings in the upscale tourist segment: "Avani is now a well-established brand in Asia, Africa and the Middle East and known for its great value proposition, its design philosophy and unique service offering. The work of recent years has prepared us to commit strategically to the expansion of Avani's footprint into new regions of operation and marks a significant milestone for Minor Hotels."

Avani was created to meet the tastes and needs of millennial-minded travellers – a growing sector of discerning guests who

value comfort and affordability while travelling in style. Conceived with the latest travel trends in mind, including leisure travellers and digital nomads, the Avani experience is markedly modern

and functional, with meticulously designed smart, flexible and social spaces and a genuine passion for service. Care is placed on the small details to ensure guests feel comfortable wherever they go, in urban hotels and beach resorts alike.

Each Avani property has its own unique personality, but they all offer something special tailored to their audiences, so guests can enjoy the distinct Avani experience anywhere from Bangkok and Dubai to Melbourne and soon Madrid. AvaniFit goes beyond the traditional hotel gym offering health and wellness experiences for the body and mind. The Pantry, originally created as a 'grab and go' concept, offers guests flexible dining solutions while staying at their Avani of choice. Other noteworthy concepts include Avani PopUp – a unique al fresco casual dining experience for couples and groups, and Avani Kids, the brand's way of enhancing the stay of younger guests.

Launched in 2011, Avani Hotels & Resorts currently has 38 properties in 20 countries across Asia, Australasia, the Middle East, Indian Ocean, Africa, and one hotel in Europe in Portugal.



Register Now

26 to 28 September 2023 • Bangkok, Thailand



Back With Greater Business Focus, Wider Reach and Even Bigger Value



3 Day 100% In-Person Event
26 - 28 September 2023, Bangkok



Hosting Programme for eligible in-person buyers from around the world!



Largest Collection of Asia-Pacific MICE Destinations, Product & Service Suppliers and Buyers



Attractive Buyer Incentives that are among the industry's most generous



Distinct Event Programmes including perennial IT&CMA and CTW APAC favourite segments that deliver on Business, Learning and Networking objectives



Not 1 But 3 Valuable Buyer Segments MICE, Association and Corporates with dedicated programme for each different delegate profile

itcma@ttgasia.com

www.itcma.com

ctwapac@ttgasia.com

www.corporatetravelworld.com/apac

Organised By



Strategic Destination Partner



Supported By



Partner Event



Official Technology Partner



AIRLINES

Qatar Airways Holidays launches ultimate Travel Packages for the Formula 1 Qatar Airways, Qatar Grand Prix 2023

TTA BULLETIN

Qatar Airways, the Global Partner and Official Airline of F1®, in partnership with Qatar Airways Holidays, announced today the launch of its exclusive travel packages for the upcoming F1® races this season. The travel packages allow fans to be up-close to high-octane action, and exclusively enjoy unique experiences including pit lane walks, guided track tours, and special events with select F1® drivers.



Fans have a one-of-a-kind opportunity to purchase an array of flexible packages for all of the 2023 F1® race destinations, including the forthcoming Azerbaijan Grand Prix, Crypto.com Miami Grand Prix and Qatar Airways Gran Premio del Made in Italy e Dell'Emilia-Romagna. In addition, the airline's Privilege Club members can also earn Avios points - the world's leading loyalty rewards currency, based on the total value of these Ultimate F1® Fan Travel Packages.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "We are thrilled to introduce our F1® Travel Packages to motorsports fans around the world. We have worked hard to create these affordable packages that offer unbeatable value. The Formula 1® Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix packages offer fans the additional experience to attend the superlative Geneva International Motor Show that is taking place in Qatar from 5-14 October. The access to the most highly anticipated auto show of the year makes the Qatar Grand Prix Travel Package a guaranteed unforgettable experience and the most affordable travel package for fans."

From start to end of their journey, the packages are designed for fans to enjoy a seamless motorsport extravaganza, with the inclusion of return flights, hotel accommodations, F1® Paddock Club or Grandstand race tickets, and much more. Motorsport enthusiasts planning to attend the Formula 1® Qatar Airways Qatar Grand Prix 2023 are encouraged to purchase the Early Bird Offer by 31 May 2023. To guarantee this unique personalised experience, fans can choose their most convenient travel package, with prices starting at \$1,110 USD, by visiting: qatarairways.com/F1

Qatar Airways as a brand is committed to supporting sports globally, helping fans travel to their favourite events around the world. The airline is the Official Airline of Concacaf, Paris-Saint Germain, The Royal Challengers Bangalore, the IRONMAN and IRONMAN 70.3 Triathlon Series, the United Rugby Championship (URC) and European Professional Club Rugby (EPC), the Global Kitesports Association (GKA) and GKA Kite World Tour, and multiple other disciplines including Australian football, basketball, equestrian, motor racing, squash, and tennis.

Oman Air announces Double Daily flights to Istanbul and Daily flights to Trabzon

TTA BULLETIN

With summer approaching, Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, has announced the expansion of its flight offerings to Turkey. In response to the growing demand for travel to this popular destination, the airline has re-launched its popular Trabzon route and is increasing the frequency of its flights to Istanbul, providing guests with more options and flexibility during the peak season.

As of June, holiday-goers can choose from twice daily flights to Istanbul as well as daily flights to Trabzon, at convenient timings. Whether travellers are seeking to explore the cultural and historic sites of Istanbul or soak up the breathtaking landscapes of Trabzon, the airline is committed to delivering a seamless and enjoyable travel experience. With the new flight options, guests can plan an unforgettable trip to Turkey with ease.



Guests travelling to Turkey should ensure they are aware of official requirements to enter or transit through the country. Those wishing to enhance their stay can also book a customised Turkey holiday package through Oman Air Holidays by visiting holidays.omanair.com.

Saudia Group announces International expansion with 25 New Destinations in 2023

TTA BULLETIN

All new routes are set to begin throughout 2023. The airline will publish more schedule details on announced destinations soon.

SAUDIA Group Director General, H.E. Engr. Ibrahim Al-Omar commented on the international network expansion: "SAUDIA Group has been carrying the kingdom's ambitions, values and traditions across every corner of its network, as it flies the nation's flag around the world. These new destinations will offer greater access and choices to our guests. Given the increase of demand in international travel, this is the right time to expand our global network in new, exciting ways,

SAUDIA has recently launched "Your Ticket Your Visa" in January. The first-of-its-kind service provides guests with even easier access to the Kingdom through a digital integration system that links transit visas with flight tickets. The new service is aimed to encourage passengers to perform Umrah, visit key destinations and attend events during their transit in the Kingdom. The new service, which covers all international airports in the Kingdom, will allow guests to stay in the Kingdom for up to 96 hours, during which they can travel around the Kingdom and perform Umrah. The digital integration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitates the issuing of the transit visa and links it to SAUDIA flight ticket within three minutes.

SAUDIA started in 1945 with a single twin-engine DC-3 (Dakota) given to King Abdul Aziz as a gift by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This was followed months later with the purchase of two more DC-3s, forming the nucleus of what would soon become one of the world's largest

NEW DESTINATIONS IN 2023

- Beijing, China
- Birmingham, United Kingdom
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Djibouti
- Chittagong, Bangladesh
- Johannesburg, South Africa
- Kano, Nigeria
- Baghdad, Iraq
- London Gatwick, United Kingdom
- Nice, France
- Lisbon, Portugal
- Malaga, Spain
- Mykonos, Greece
- Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt
- Tbilisi, Georgia
- Baku, Azerbaijan
- Trabzon, Turkey
- Izmir, Turkey
- Antalya, Turkey
- Bodrum, Turkey
- Sarajevo, Bosnia
- Heraklion, Greece
- Rhodes, Greece
- Larnaca, Cyprus
- Tivat, Montenegro

airlines.

Today SAUDIA has 142 aircraft, including the latest and most advanced wide-bodied jets presently available: B787-9, B777-300ER, Airbus A320-200, Airbus A321, and Airbus A330-300. Over the past year, SAUDIA's initiatives have earned it recognition as a 5-Star Global Airline and a DIAMOND rating in the APEX Health Safety category.

flyadeal's first flight took off from Jeddah to Riyadh on Saudi National day, September 23, 2017. It was the first airline in the world to launch purely through digital channels, selling 10 thousand seats within the first 24 hours of going on sale.



The low-cost carrier's network started with a route from Jeddah to Riyadh, and today, their network of flights reaches 27 domestic, international, and seasonal stations.

THAI Ranks among Top 5 in DestinAsian Readers Choice Awards 2023

TTA BULLETIN

Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI) is ranked in the top 5 of Best Airline, Best Economy Class and Best Frequent Flier Programs of Asia-Pacific region from the DestinAsian Readers' Choice Awards 2023.

This year, THAI was ranked the third Best Economy Class and the fifth Best Airlines in the region. THAI's Royal Orchid Plus (ROP), in the fourth rank this year, has been ranked among top 5 in the aforementioned category since 2018.



The DestinAsian Readers' Choice Awards, held for 17 consecutive years, name the best destinations, hotels, airports, mileage programs, airlines and cruise lines in Asia-Pacific region. DestinAsian magazine, established in Singapore since 2001, is available in Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, and other countries worldwide.

1ST TIME
IN SRI LANKA

HOSPITALITY REVENUE MANAGEMENT POST PANDEMIC



A MASTERCLASS with **BOBBY SAW**

Know who, where, why, when and how to sell the Right Product to the Right Customer at the Right Price with the Right Length of Stay using the Right Channels. GAIN & OPTIMIZE your revenue opportunities using practical and effective approaches applicable to changes as a result of the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

On 14th-15th June 2023

At Jetwing Colombo Seven

For Registration Contact :

+94 779 04 48 89, +94 774 76 76 74

Email: administration@slhc.lk Web: www.slhc.lk



Hosted by  SRI LANKA
HOSPITALITY
CONSULTANTS

Venue Partner
 Jetwing
COLOMBO SEVEN
COLOMBO - SRI LANKA

Creative Partner
 .kuriosity

Media Partner
 TRAVEL TALK
Asia

Qatar Airways enhances services to Casablanca and Marrakech

TTA BULLETIN

Qatar Airways flights to Casablanca and Marrakech will resume on 30 June 2023, operating four times a week, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturdays. The flight will be operated with the Boeing 787-8 with 254 seats: 22 Business Class and 232 Economy Class seats.



With the addition of Casablanca and Marrakech, passengers can now enjoy connectivity to over 160 destinations across the airline's extensive global network via the world-class Hamad International Airport (HIA). The award winning airline remains committed to Morocco with the resumption of both cities' routes, bolstering global connectivity, customer excellence and cultural connections. In summer 2023, Qatar Airways will operate four weekly flights to and from two airports in Morocco.

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, said: "The Qatar Airways' flights to Casablanca and Marrakech solidify our commitment to the Moroccan market and meet a strong demand for connectivity to these two beautiful and historic cities. The FIFA

World Cup 2022™ brought Qatar and Morocco together through football and bolstered our cultural and economic cohesion. Connecting through our Hamad International Airport offers passengers an unparalleled 5-star travel experience to over 160 destinations and continues to grow and expand our network."

Casablanca, the largest city in Morocco, is known for its beauty and modern elegance juxtaposing timeless architectural character, attracting people all over the world to visit this truly classic city. Marrakech, on the other hand, holds a more traditional aesthetic with phenomenal scenery, thriving souqs and a rich history.

Qatar Airways will operate Casablanca throughout the summer season with Marrakech as a seasonal tag operating until the 11th of September. This enhances the options available to Qatar Airways passengers who can already avail of a daily Royal Air Maroc codeshare flight operated between Casablanca and Doha.

Malaysia Aviation Group reports first operating profit since 2014's reset

TTA BULLETIN

Malaysia Aviation Group Bhd (MAG), the parent company of national carrier Malaysia Airlines Bhd, has reported its first annual operating profit since it underwent a full reset in 2014 and a debt restructuring in 2021, amid a general rise in airfares as demand for air travel continues to outstrip supply following the reopening of borders by most countries over the past year.

It reported a net operating profit of RM556 million for the financial year ended Dec 31, 2022 (FY2022). It also narrowed its net loss after interest and tax in FY2022, as it saw improvement across all its business segments during the year. Its net loss after interest and tax shrank to RM344 million from RM1.65 billion in FY2021.

In fact, the aviation group, which is controlled by sovereign wealth fund Khazanah Nasional Bhd, managed to turn its first quarterly profit in 4QFY2022 since 2014, recording a net profit after interest and tax of RM1.15 billion.

In a statement on Tuesday (April 18), MAG said this marked one of its best-ever quarterly performances in the past two decades, which it attributed to robust demand for travel, higher yields across the passenger and cargo business segments, as well as effective cost management and cash flow optimisation, despite higher fuel prices and labour costs, a weaker ringgit and lower-than-pre-pandemic flight capacity levels.

Revenue nearly tripled to RM10.75 billion for FY2022, from RM3.96 billion a year earlier. Cash balance stood at RM4.6 billion



Captain Izham Ismail

at end-2022.

Moving forward, despite MAG having emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic on a strong financial footing and is charting an upward financial trajectory, there are still many areas for improvement, especially on-time performance (OTP) and customer experience, said MAG group managing director Captain Izham Ismail.

Izham said the travel demand outlook remains strong in the near term, although the macroeconomic environment remains very challenging with sustained high fuel prices, volatile foreign exchange, higher operating costs due to inflation, labour constraints, as well as recession and geopolitical risks.

With China's border reopening in January, Izham said Malaysia Airlines aims to regain the remaining capacity of its entire network, which currently stands at 85%, and fully recovering services to China and North Asia by the end of first half 2023.

"This will spur economic growth between Malaysia and China, boosting the overall business and trade links between the two countries," he added.

In line with its Long-Term Business Plan 2.0 (LTBP2.0) and continuing the growth of its low-cost arm Firefly's jet operations, Malaysia Airlines will be transferring in phases the national carrier's intra-Borneo services and Kota Kinabalu international services to Firefly.

Emirates to offer daily flights to Toronto from 20 April

TTA BULLETIN

Following the breakthrough expanded air transport agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Canada, Emirates is stepping up its frequency with two additional flights per week between Dubai and Toronto. From 20 April, daily flights will operate on the busy route to serve huge demand for passenger services.



The move comes as bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and Canada have enhanced significantly, with both countries set to reap vast economic benefits across a multitude of sectors and supply chains.

Hailing the development as a crucial one for the airline, Adnan Kazim, Emirates' Chief Commercial Officer, said: Emirates welcomes the expansion of the air services agreement between the UAE and Canada and we would firstly like to thank all stakeholders and authorities who were involved in this pivotal agreement that will provide a boost to the aviation and tourism sectors in both countries. We have been serving customers between Toronto and Dubai since 2007, and although the double-decker A380 aircraft has been operating the route since 2009, demand arising from leisure and corporate travellers, diaspora and students has consistently outstripped the allocated capacity. This enhanced agreement represents a turning point for us in our strategy to serve our customers better, by offering more choice and flexibility, and meet pent up demand across our growing network.

"Business ties between Canada and the

UAE have grown significantly over the years and the expanded air services will help to further nurture business and trade. The expansion of air services is also an affirmation of the growing importance of the UAE to Canada's global connectivity, which we can support through our global network of more than 130 destinations. Together with the relevant authorities, our codeshare and loyalty programme partner Air Canada, and our valued industry partners, we look forward to playing a role in facilitating more tourism and trade opportunities between the two nations," continued Kazim.

Emirates operates the flagship A380 aircraft on the Dubai-Toronto route, allowing 491 passengers across Economy Class, Business Class and First Class on each flight. With the two additional flights per week, Emirates will offer close to 2,000 additional seats to serve the busy route, representing a 40% increase in capacity between its hub city of Dubai and the Canadian point. The Dubai-Toronto route is highly popular amongst customers from India, UAE, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka while the same countries represent top destinations for travellers from Toronto.

Tickets can be booked by visiting www.emirates.com or through preferred travel agents.

Thailand's flag carrier Thai Airways expands distribution agreement with Sabre as it focuses on recovery opportunities

TTA BULLETIN

Sabre Corporation (NASDAQ: SABR), a leading software and technology provider that powers the global travel industry, today announced a renewed distribution agreement with Thai Airways. The flag carrier will also be using Sabre's robust data combined with its consultancy services to help it accelerate recovery.



The Global Distribution System (GDS) renewal ensures that Sabre-connected travel agencies will continue to have access to Thai Airways' content globally, while enabling the airline to retain its reach across Sabre's valuable network of global travel buyers and intermediaries. Meanwhile, Thai Airways will also be taking advantage of Sabre's extensive global booking data to help it identify recovery and growth opportunities.

"As we continue to ramp up operations and resume international flights, it is essential to us that we are able to continue to distribute our fares, offers and itinerary to travel agents, and their customers, across the world," said Mr. Korakot Chatasinga, Chief Commercial Officer, Thai Airways. "We're thrilled to have renewed our distribution deal with Sabre at the same time as being able to harness the power of Sabre's robust booking data and industry expertise."

Primarily operating from Suvarnabhumi Airport as well as its secondary hub in Phuket, Thai Airways typically serves around 40 international destinations, and is a founding member of the Star Alliance, the world's largest global airline alliance. It has so far resumed a significant proportion of its pre-pandemic international flights, and is forging ahead with further recovery and growth plans. With Thailand surpassing its tourist number targets last year, and expecting further recovery, particularly from the Chinese travel market, Thai Airways is poised to play an important role in future industry growth.

"We're delighted that Sabre will continue to be a key part of Thai Airways' journey as the carrier, and the country, continue to experience strong travel demand," said Rakesh Narayanan, Vice President, Regional General Manager, Asia Pacific, Travel Solutions Airline Sales. "Our booking data includes detailed insights on itinerary, origin, connection, passenger type, length of stay and other booking patterns."

Emirates Skywards partners with Dilmah Tea to offer members exclusive tea-inspired experiences

TTA BULLETIN

Emirates Skywards, the award-winning loyalty programme of Emirates and flydubai, has partnered with Dilmah Tea to offer members an exciting opportunity to experience the lush tea plantations in Sri Lanka. Starting from 14 April 2023, members can bid Miles with Skywards Exclusives for a chance to win a stay at the Tea Maker's Private Retreat. The once in a lifetime opportunity includes a tea-making masterclass, a unique culinary experience inspired by tea, food pairing experiences with tea and a visit to explore the tea fields.

Starting from 200,000 Miles, Emirates Skywards members can bid and win an all-expenses paid trip to Sri Lanka. The prize includes two round trip Business Class tickets on Emirates from Dubai to Colombo; a three-night stay for two guests at Hilton Colombo; a three-night visit to tea plantations at Ceylon Tea Trails, a Relais & Châteaux property which consists of five restored historic tea planter residences in the Ceylon tea region; a master class with Dilhan C. Fernando, the son of the founder and CEO of Dilmah, to enjoy an educational session on how to taste tea and brew the perfect cup; a special food pairing with tea-inspired gastronomy with the Dilmah family; and a seven-course tea-inspired dinner "Camellia Epicurean" where tea is used as an ingredient for all the dishes.



The package also includes transportation to and from the airport, meals at the all-day dining restaurant at Hilton Colombo, and all meals and beverages at the Ceylon Tea Trails. Travel dates will be from 18 May until 24 May 2023. What better way to celebrate International Tea Day on 21 May than by being at the heart of a tea plantation!

Emirates and Dilmah Tea have enjoyed a successful partnership for more than three decades, brewing the finest teas on-board and in Emirates' airport lounges worldwide. The airline continues to take the Dilmah brand name to 140 destinations across six continents through its extensive network.

Each year, the airline brews 33 million cups of Dilmah tea for its customers from a specially curated tea menu available in all classes. More than 10 different varieties of tea are available on-board, including popular choices like Dilmah Ceylon Black Tea, Moroccan Mint, and Breakfast Tea.

SriLankan Cargo Strategizes for the Future

TTA BULLETIN



The SriLankan Airlines' Cargo Team recently put heads together with an ensemble of international cargo sales agents to strategize for future growth and value creation. The Strategic Planning Meeting took place amid a challenging trade environment, in which SriLankan Cargo has also had to contend with reduced capacity as a result of rising passenger demand for air travel. SriLankan Cargo is confident that the proposals conceived through the collaboration will help them work around challenges and effect positive change.

General sales agents representing the main markets of India; Hong Kong; South Korea; Australia; Singapore; United Arab Emirates; Qatar; France; United Kingdom; Germany; and Pakistan participated in the strategic planning meeting. Collectively, they were able to contribute a global perspective and localized ideas in answer to present-day challenges, ensuring a productive session.

The dynamics of the industry with the restoration of commercial passenger air travel have led to capacity constraints, erosion of yields and greater competition. The discussions in the meeting accordingly focused on how to maintain competitiveness in such an environment. It was broadly agreed that further automation of processes and service enhancements that create convenience for customers are the way forward.

SriLankan Cargo will develop an action plan next to introduce the ideated process and service improvements in a phased manner. SriLankan Cargo is one of the major air cargo operators in the region and provides logistics connections to a global route network of 34 destinations in 22 countries. Fitted with modern infrastructure, SriLankan Cargo is geared to handle all types of cargo efficiently and reliably. For more information visit www.srilankancargo.com

Qatar Airways welcomes passengers to the new Al Mourjan Business Lounge – The Garden

TTA BULLETIN

This new lounge experience is designed to immerse passengers in a tranquil environment filled with natural light, exotic plants and elegant furnishings



and a nursery. The lounge has been influenced by modern aesthetics incorporating natural light in its distinct design, providing passengers

with an immersive experience reflecting The ORCHARD below.

The World's Best Airline has opened the new Al Mourjan Business Lounge at Hamad International Airport (HIA) named 'The Garden'. The lounge overlooks 'The ORCHARD', surrounded by renowned retailers and restaurants, while offering uniquely designed relaxation spaces and areas to socialise and indulge in a scenic masterpiece.

An exclusive sanctuary available for Qatar Airways Premium Passengers, The Garden stretches over an area of 7,390 square metres, and can accommodate up to 707 passengers. It features 24 quiet spaces, each designed to offer optimum relaxation available free of charge for the first six hours, and also features seven spa treatment rooms.

Accessible for passengers travelling in Premium cabin, the new lounge offers a range of premium facilities that fulfil the needs of business, leisure and family travellers with numerous dining options, relaxation rooms, a fitness studio, pedicure & manicure stations, spa facilities, dedicated private spaces, recreational areas

Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker, stated: "At Qatar Airways, excellence is embedded in the core of our brand, and as we continue to evolve our offerings, we choose to provide our passengers with the very best experiences in aviation and hospitality. Passengers can now enhance their journey to a new level at our newly opened Al Mourjan Business Lounge – The Garden at Hamad International Airport. This world-class lounge showcases a sophisticated way of travel, centred in comfort, wellness and nature. I welcome our premium passengers to experience this spectacular addition to our signature lounge portfolio."

Located in the Northern expansion of Hamad International Airport, Al Mourjan Business Lounge – The Garden is set to captivate premium passengers with its luxurious facilities it offers, making it a landmark within the award-winning airport.

Saudia achieves 94% increase in number of guests travelling globally

TTA BULLETIN



SAUDIA, the national flag carrier of Saudi Arabia, has released its operational performance report for the first quarter of 2023, which revealed a 35% increase in the number of guests carried across its flight network compared to the same period last year. The airline transported 7 million guests, including 3.2 million domestic guests and 3.8 million international guests, which represents a significant 94% increase, and reaffirms SAUDIA's objective to connect the world with Saudi Arabia.

During Q1 2023, SAUDIA's aircraft flew over 42,000 flights across four continents, representing a 5% increase, which accumulated to over 127,500 flight hours, and a 26% increase. Internationally, the airline operated over 18,300 flights with an increase of 40% and recorded 87,300 flight hours with an increase of 55.2%. Additionally, 23,600 domestic flights were operated by SAUDIA across a total of 40,100 flying hours.

Captain Ibrahim Koshy, the CEO of SAUDIA, said: "The growth achieved during Q1 of 2023 comes in line with SAUDIA's operational plan to increase its flights and seating capacity, considering the operational efficiency and maintaining on-time performance. This was evident in the services provided that enhanced the travel experience

and earned the loyalty of more guests from all over the world. The most prominent of which was the "Your Ticket Your Visa" service, providing guests with easier access to the Kingdom through a digital integration system that links transit visas with flight tickets.

"SAUDIA's flight network and quality services have been contributing to the Kingdom's comprehensive development in all fields, including transporting visitors, tourists, and organizers to attend various events, exhibitions, and conferences held in the Kingdom. SAUDIA has designed an ambitious plan to transport more pilgrims as part of the Pilgrim Experience Program and connect the world with Saudi Arabia." He added.

SAUDIA's operations are expected to grow over the upcoming period. The airline will soon receive its first Airbus A321neo, with more deliveries expected of the same aircraft, as well as the A321XLR model. Additionally, SAUDIA completed its previous order for Boeing 787 aircrafts, aiming to add 38 new aircraft to its fleet by 2026. The airline also recently announced a new agreement with Boeing to deliver 39 new B787s, with an option to add another 10 aircraft.

Cinnamon

HOTELS & RESORTS



ECOLIBRIUM

THE LUXURY OF
BALANCE

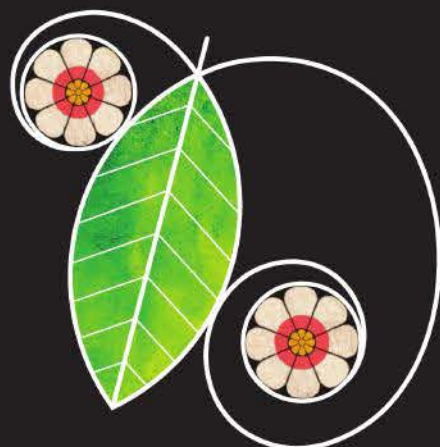


SEE YOU AT
STALL HC0120



الملتقى
arabian
travel market®

Discover the beauty of Sri Lanka with Thema Collection
Your home away from home for authentic experiences



Thema

COLLECTION

Different Themes, Authentic Experiences

