

Passenger Traffic Improved in November; Omicron Restrictions Likely to Affect Period Ahead

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced that the recovery in air travel continued in November 2021, prior to the emergence of Omicron. International demand sustained its steady upward trend as more markets reopened. Domestic traffic, however, weakened, largely owing to strengthened travel restrictions in China.

Because comparisons between 2021 and 2020 monthly results are distorted by the extraordinary impact of COVID-19, unless otherwise noted all comparisons are to November 2019, which followed a normal demand pattern.

- Total demand for air travel in November 2021 (measured in revenue passenger-kilometers or RPKs) was down 47.0% compared to November 2019. This marked an uptick compared to October's 48.9% contraction from October 2019.
- Domestic air travel deteriorated slightly in November after two consecutive monthly improvements. Domestic RPKs fell by 24.9% versus 2019 compared with a 21.3% decline in October. Primarily this was driven by China, where traffic fell 50.9% compared to 2019, after several cities introduced stricter travel restrictions to contain (pre-Omicron) COVID outbreaks.
- International passenger demand in November was 60.5% below November 2019, bettering the 64.8% decline recorded in October.

"The recovery in air traffic continued in November. Unfortunately, governments over-reacted to the



emergence of the Omicron variant at the close of the month and resorted to the tried-and-failed methods of border closures, excessive testing of travelers and quarantine to slow the spread. Not surprisingly, international ticket sales made in December and early January fell sharply compared to 2019, suggesting a more difficult first quarter than had been expected. If the experience of the last 22 months has shown anything, it is that there is little to no correlation

between the introduction of travel restrictions and preventing transmission of the virus across borders. And these measures place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods. If experience is the best teacher, let us hope that governments pay more attention as we begin the New Year," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

New Courtesy : www.iata.org

World Tourism Won't Recover To Pre-pandemic Levels Until 2024 : UN

The UN's World Tourism Organization stated that the global tourism arrivals are not likely to return to the pre-pandemic levels until at least 2024. The worldwide tourism arrivals are not likely to return to the pre-pandemic levels until at least 2024, said UN's World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) while stressing that 2021 was another challenging year amid COVID-19 pandemic and emergence of new variants. According to a UNWTO report, in comparison to 2020, global tourism witnessed 4% jump in 2021. However, as per the initial UNWTO figures, foreign tourist arrivals were still 72% lower than in the pre-pandemic year of 2019.

Further, most tourism professionals expect greater possibilities of tourism recovery for 2022, according to the current UNWTO Panel of Experts. While 58% predict a comeback in 2022, primarily during the third quarter, 42% predict a recovery only in 2023. Yet, international arrivals are only expected to recover to 2019 levels in 2024 or later, according to a majority of experts which comprise 64%, as per the UNWTO report.

According to the first edition of the UNWTO World Tourism Barometer for 2022, improving COVID-19 vaccination coverage, along with fewer travel restrictions leading to better cross-border cooperation and regulations, have all 'helped release pent-up demand'. In addition to this, international arrivals were down by 62% in both the third and fourth quarters of 2021, compared to pre-pandemic levels, while alone December witnessed a 65% fall.

Pace of recovery remained slow



Due to differing degrees of movement limitations, vaccination rates, and traveler confidence, the rate of recovery remains slow and unequal around the globe. Europe with 19% up and the Americas with 17% rise, had the best outcomes in 2021 relative to 2020, but they were still 63% behind pre-pandemic levels in both cases. Entries in the Middle East, on the other hand, fell by 24% in 2021, whereas in the Asia-Pacific area, they were 65% lower and 94% lower than pre-pandemic levels. Meanwhile, arrivals in Africa increased by 12% in 2021 compared to 2020, however, it is still 74% lower than in 2019.

As some nations impose travel bans and limitations for selected areas, the current spike in

COVID-19 cases and the Omicron is projected to undermine the recovery and harm confidence into early 2022. At the same time, vaccine coverage is inconsistent, and several destinations, particularly in Asia and the Pacific, still have their borders blocked. International arrivals are expected to increase by 30 to 78 percent this year compared to 2021, although staying well below 2019 levels.

Moreover, tourism's contribution to the economy in 2021 is anticipated to be US\$1.9 trillion, up from US\$1.6 trillion in 2020 but still significantly under the pre-pandemic level of US\$ 3.5 trillion.

New Courtesy : republicworld.com

Editorial

Don't Book Your Own Travel In 2022: You Need A Travel Agent

The world of travel is confusing during normal times, and it has become nearly impossible to navigate during the pandemic. Despite this, our State Of Travel survey found 88 percent of people aged 50+ are tired of being stuck at home and plan to travel in 2022. We love this news! But with the ever-changing travel regulations and varying testing and vaccination requirements, don't tackle travel planning on your own this year.

Hiring a travel advisor to assist with the planning and booking process is more important than ever. Travel advisors are experts in keeping up with the latest requirements, finding the best deals, and being your personal travel concierge. Caesars Travel Group help our readers book their perfect vacations and help you when things go sideways Here are the top reasons to not book your own travel in 2022.

Daily Changes To COVID Regulations Worldwide

Although many international borders are open to travelers, the protocols and requirements are still changing daily as the world rides the COVID-19 roller coaster. The confusion isn't limited to

age, occupation, state of residency, et cetera. Thanks to the incredible preferred-supplier relationships developed over decades, travel advisors have access to book these group deals. On top of that, they are experts at combining all eligible promotions in order to give you the best price available. They can also book exclusive land and shore excursions that the average cruiser would never be able to find on their own.

You'll Miss Out On Price Drops After Booking

Speaking of cruises, cruise lines regularly update their prices and promotions, especially throughout wave season. Many people may assume they're locked in at their booking price, even if it drops later on. However, travel advisors monitor these fluctuations for you and will immediately rebook your trip if the price drops. Who doesn't want the happy surprise of a trip costing less than planned?

You'll Likely Lose Time And Money Before And During Your Vacation

Booking your trip through a travel advisor will give you the ultimate peace of mind. If you're anxious to

finally take your big bucket list trip abroad, don't assume you can rely on familiarities available in the United States.

Travel advisors also help you make the most of your time. Who wants to wait in line at the Vatican or Colosseum? They know how to make it happen and how much it should cost — saving you time and money. And the hotel with a view of the Eiffel Tower? They know which one to book. Even during "normal" years, it's easy to forget about the details that go into a stress-free vacation like booking your hotel room before a cruise or securing safe transportation.

Skip the hours of research. Travel advisors get to know you and your travel needs on a personal level. Caesars Travel Group pride in handling all the details for you and providing a hassle-free dream vacation.

Compiled by **Mantra**

The Russia-Ukraine conflict could force major airline disruptions

Russia's attack on Ukraine has prompted multiple airspace closures and a surge in oil prices, raising fears that it would create havoc for airline operators already crippled by covid-19.

Ukrainian airspace has closed to all civilian aircraft, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency said, as have parts of Russian airspace along the border. Moldova, southwest of Ukraine, and Belarus to the north have also stopped civilian flights entering their airspace.

"In particular, there is a risk of both intentional targeting and misidentification of civil aircraft," the agency said.

US airlines and pilots have been prohibited from flying over Ukraine, Belarus, and a part of western Russia.

In 2014, Malaysian Airlines MH17 was shot down by Russian-backed rebels over Ukrainian airspace. All 298 people on board the flight traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur were killed.

Airlines suspending flights to Ukraine

Airlines began suspending flights to Ukraine several days earlier, anticipating an escalation of a week-long standoff. Ryanair, Wizz Air, and Qatar Airways were still flying to the country as late as Wednesday but have since ceased operations there.

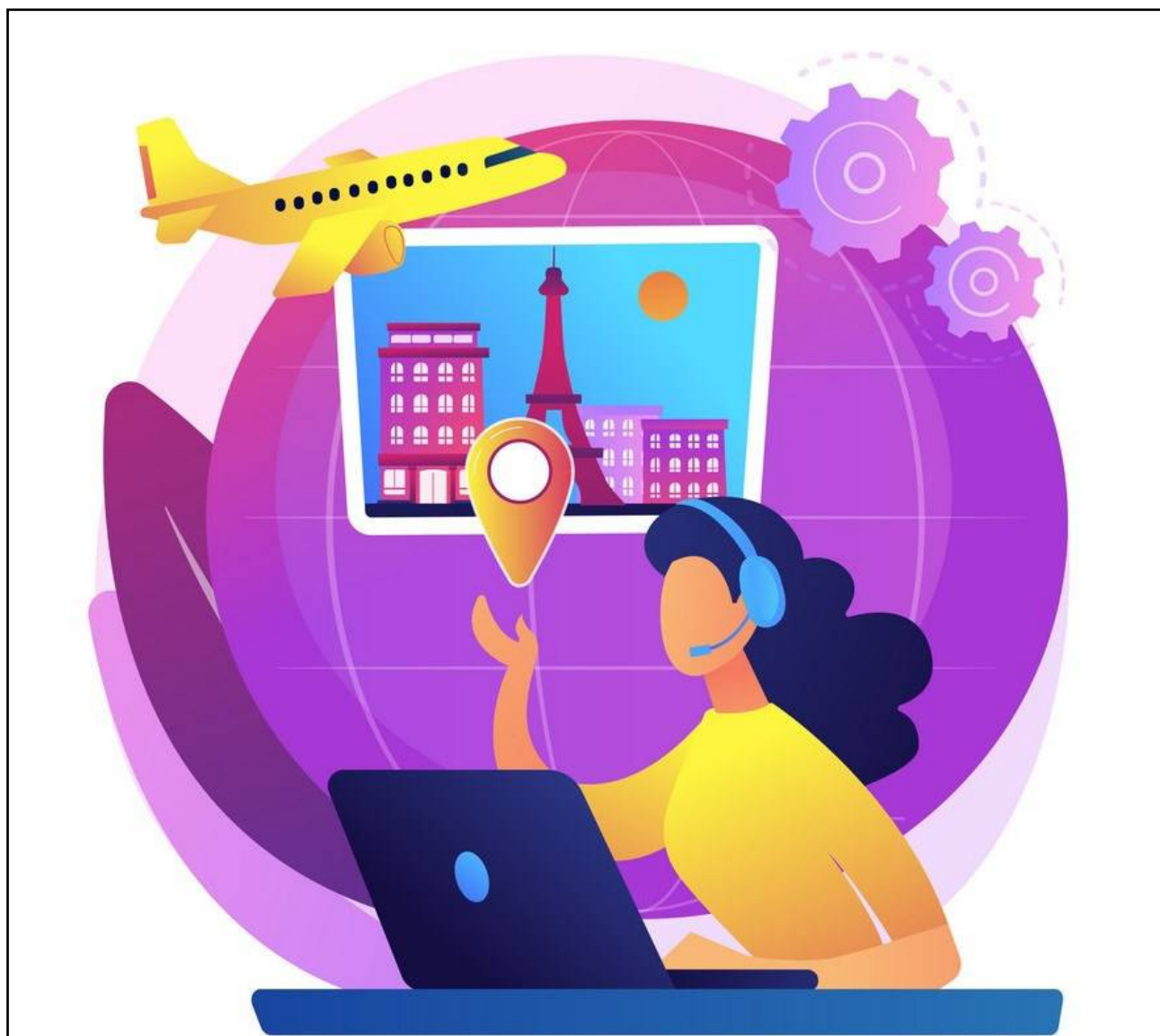
News of Russia's military action have caused crude oil prices to surge past \$100 a barrel, a seven-year high. Russia is the second biggest exporter of crude oil, and is also the world's largest natural gas



exporter. Investors sharply sold off Asian airline stocks as the rising cost of jet fuel shrink airlines' margins. Travelers should expect to see higher airfares this year as a result.

The crisis could portend even more trouble in the event of tit-for-tat sanctions. British prime minister Boris Johnson announced the UK would ban Russian flag carrier Aeroflot from landing in the UK. However, "Russia could retaliate by closing its airspace to overflights, disrupting air traffic between Europe, North America, and Asia and wreaking havoc for flyers," said Airline Weekly. The shortest flying route from London to Delhi—for instance—crosses over Belarus, Ukraine, and Russia.

New Courtesy : qz.com



international travel either; as the omicron variant surges, regions across the United States have all enacted different levels of restrictions. Cruising is its own animal, and trying to monitor both the cruise lines and each port's latest rules can become a frustrating full-time job. Adding in the fact that the WHO, CDC, and each state or country's government seem to make contradictory announcements, it's tough to have a clear path to travel.

Luckily for your wanderlust, monitoring these daily changes is the full-time job of travel advisors. They guide you through the latest protocols and requirements of your chosen destination and ensure you're well-prepared prior to your trip.

You'll Likely Paying More For Hotels, Tours, And Excursions

Many hotels and cruise lines offer unadvertised group rates for travelers, but the average person doesn't have access to them. Furthermore, many hotels and excursions offer promotions based on the traveler's

The biggest travel trend of 2022: Go big, spend big

If 2021 was about domestic travel, 2022 may be the year of the “bucket list” trip. This is one of the biggest trends that travel insiders expect this year, despite 2022’s tumultuous start as the omicron Covid-19 variant snarled the industry.

‘New sense of urgency’ to hit the road

There’s a “new sense of urgency” to travel, said Stephanie Papaioannou, a vice president at the luxury travel company Abercrombie & Kent. “Guests feel they have lost two years, and older clients are concerned about having fewer healthy years left to travel,” she said.

Lee Thompson, co-founder of the adventure travel company Flash Pack, agreed. “People are desperate to get away,” he said. “They’ve been waiting to get back out there and are not shying away from those international destinations and big, once-in-a-lifetime adventures.”

The year of the ‘GOAT’

Expedia is calling 2022 the year of the GOAT, or the “greatest of all trips.” In a survey of 12,000 travelers in 12 countries, the company found that 65% of respondents are planning to “go big” on their next trip, according to a company representative. As a result, it named the desire for exciting and extravagant trips “the biggest travel trend” of the year.

Amadeus is seeing a jump in searches to “epic destinations,” according to a company report published in November. Searches to Tanzania (+36%), flights to Jordan’s Petra (+22%) and bookings to cities near Machu Picchu (nearly +50%) rose from 2020 to 2021, according to the report. These trends are expected to grow this year, along with interest in islands in the Indian Ocean as well as Antarctica, according to the report. The pandemic has changed the “mood of travelers,” said Decius Valmorbidia, president of travel at Amadeus. “We have people just say: “Look, what if another pandemic happens? What if I’m locked in again?”” he said. There’s “a psychological effect that now is the



Research shows that those aged 18 to 34 are driving the trend, and families are also getting in on the act, said Abercrombie & Kent’s Papaioannou. “Families are choosing destinations they have always dreamt of, especially those centered around outdoor experiences like Nile River cruises, Machu Picchu, safaris and barge cruises in Europe,” she said.

Loosening purse strings

While financially devastating for some, the pandemic has allowed others — namely, professionals who have been able to work from home — to sock away more savings. Some 70% of leisure travelers in major countries — such as the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Japan and Spain — plan to spend more on travel in 2022 than they have in the past five years, according to a November joint report by the World Travel & Tourism Council and travel website Trip.com.

Globally, HomeToGo’s average booking expenditures increased by 54% last year, compared with 2019, according to company data. But average

HomeToGo’s data.

Travelers may be willing to pay more to go to certain places, rather than to make the trip itself more luxurious. Twice as many U.S. respondents indicated they were willing to spend more to see “bucket list” destinations (32%) rather than book luxury experiences (15%) or room or flight upgrades (16%), according to Expedia.

The willingness and ability to spend more are likely a good thing, since travel costs have increased in some places. The U.S. Travel Association’s December Travel Price Index, which measures travel costs in the United States, shows that prices have increased for food (+10%), hotels (+13.3%) and motor fuel (+26.6%), compared with 2019. Airfare, however, was lower than 2019 levels (-17%), according to the index — but that may soon change, partly because of rising jet fuel costs.

Family reunions and ‘friendcations’

People are celebrating missed milestones, often with extended family, said Papaioannou. Abercrombie & Kent’s data shows a 26% increase in future bookings of five or more guests as compared with 2019, she said. Family reunion-style vacations will be popular this year, agreed Mark Hoenig, co-founder of the digital travel company VIP Traveler.

“People are still catching up for lost time with family,” he said. “Destinations that provide for large multi-generation families, such as those with a high inventory of large villas — including the Caribbean, Mexico and Maldives — are seeing an uptick in bookings.” The U.K. saw an explosion of bookings by large groups once restrictions eased, according to Amadeus. Bookings to party spots, such as Las Vegas; Cancun, Mexico; and the Spanish island of Ibiza, led the company to name “friendcations” a top travel trend for 2022.

Renewed demand for travel agents

Big trips often require big plans, which is resulting in a renewed demand for travel agents, said Elizabeth Gordon, co-founder of the tour and safari operator Extraordinary Journeys. Professional planners can help travelers navigate “Covid-19 tests, restrictions, changes in entry requirements, visas, flights, accommodation, activities and backup plans,” she said. Even “DIY travelers,” who normally plan their own trips, are nowadays seeking professional help to make sure their upcoming travels are seamless, said VIP Traveler’s Hoenig.

New Courtesy : cnbc.com



moment.”

Searches for stays in vacation homes abroad are now on pace with 2019 levels, according to HomeToGo’s travel trends report, released in late November. The international destinations drawing the biggest search increases this year, compared with 2019, are Tuscany, Italy (+141%), the Bahamas (+129%), French Polynesia’s Bora Bora (+98%), the Maldives (+97%) and the south of France (+88%), according to the report.

nightly rates haven’t gone up nearly that much — around 10% in the U.S. — for bookings this year compared with before the pandemic, said the company’s co-founder and CEO Patrick Andrae. “Pent-up demand for travel led to travelers taking longer vacations, many opting to do so in a spacious vacation rental versus a hotel,” he said. U.S. travelers are also seeking quieter, more luxurious destinations this summer — Maui over Honolulu, Nantucket over Cape Cod — despite the higher costs, according to

New year celebrations at Caesars Travel Head Office

Ring in the New Year is cause for celebration, for spending time with friends, colleagues, and family, and for looking back. A lot can happen in a year and between the good, the bad, and the ugly, this may seem like an understatement for most. As glasses are raised and fireworks explode into the sky, it's important to recognize the special symbolism this



season brings with it.

A time of new beginnings and fresh starts also comes with a time of reflection. Whether your resolutions consist of keeping your hands out of the cookie jar or giving your heartfelt word to work on relationships with loved ones, it can take work. And it can make all the difference to put these hopes into words and warm wishes.

Caesars Travel team celebrated New Year on 2nd JAN'2022 noon with the presence of Mr. P.N.J. Kumar (CEO - Caesars Travel Group). Mr. Bijoy had done the official invitation and MC for the event.



Celebrations started with a beautiful speech from Mr. P. N. J. Kumar by giving a New Year message to all Caesars Travel Head Office team followed by cake cutting. All other department heads also rendered their New year message to all team members. After that, we conducted a gift exchange program between team

members. The event was concluded with a grand lunch. We wish that you all have a superb January, a dazzling February, a Peaceful March, an anxiety-free April, a sensational May, and Joy that keeps going from June to November and then round off with an upbeat December.

Oman Air Wins at the 28th Annual World Travel Awards



Oman Air, the national airline of the Sultanate of Oman, has received internationally acclaimed recognition at the 28th Annual World Travel Awards. The airline was named 'World's Leading Airline – Customer Experience 2021.'

Commenting on the World Travel Awards, Eng. Abdulaziz Al Raisi, Chief Executive Officer, Oman Air, said, "Oman Air remains committed to a safe and exceptional journey for all its valued guests, and we are delighted to once again be recognized for delivering on that commitment. Any win at the World Travel Awards is an honour; we're extremely proud to take home a win in the Customer Experience category, and this from among many of the world's leading airlines. It confirms that everything we do—and continue to do as a premium airline—translates into memorable journeys with Oman Air. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our pilots, cabin crew and ground

staff and is particularly significant at a time when airlines around the world are facing unprecedented challenges."

This latest award follows previous Oman Air wins in the World Travel Awards Middle East Programme. In 2020, it won 'Middle East's Leading Airline 2020: Business Class' and 'Middle East's Leading Airline 2020: Economy Class'. The airline has been awarded the Middle East's Leading Airline: Business Class' title every year since 2016, as well as in 2014; and the 'Middle East's Leading Airline: Economy Class' title for 6 years running – from 2014 to 2020. On 1 December this year, it earned a Five-Star rating in the Major Airline category by the Airline Passenger Experience Association (APEX), the second consecutive year it has won the award. Oman Air has also earned a Five-Star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating from Skytrax.

New Courtesy : omanair.com

IndiGo moves up 2 ranks to bag 4th spot on OAG Punctuality League 2021

India's leading carrier - IndiGo - has been ranked at #4 amongst top global airlines in OAG Punctuality League Report 2021. An air travel intelligence company - OAG - recognizes airlines that have consistently clocked highest on-time performance (OTP) by including on-time performance for the world's top 20 busiest domestic and international routes, and other categories for the year January 2021 to December 2021.

IndiGo is the only Indian airline to feature in the list of top 20 mega airlines. Punctuality League Report is a comprehensive annual report presented by OAG that reveals rankings of all airlines - mainline, low-cost and by region. The punctuality league is based on 57.5 million flight records using full-year data from 2020 to rank the best on-time performance (OTP) for the World's largest airlines and airports.

The report aims to highlight carriers who have consistently demonstrated high performance and deliver on their promise to get passengers to their destinations in a timely manner. IndiGo has been recognized amongst major carriers such as LATAM Airlines Group, Japan Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Azul Airlines, Easyjet, American Airlines, Aeroflot Russian Airlines, United Airlines, and Alaska Airlines.

Mr. Ronjoy Dutta, Wholetime Director and Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo said, "We are pleased to see IndiGo taking a leap of 2 ranks, to be the 4th most punctual airline in the world in terms of On-Time performance in the OAG Punctuality League 2021.

This is a testimony of our team's relentless commitment to on-time service, despite all challenges. We are razor-focussed on delivering our promise of on-time performance at affordable fares, with courteous and hassle-free service onboard our lean clean flying machines."

New Courtesy : goindigo.in

The Loyalty Effect: Hidden Force behind the growth of Caesars Travel Group (An interaction with a Senior Staff)

Loyal employees are always an asset for our company. In this edition, we would like to spare an interactive session with one of our very senior staff, Mr. Bejoy John, Cruise Specialist - Caesars Travel Group, who led a way to different developmental activities of our organization.

Just a brief walking through your academic credentials?

I graduated with a major in Commerce. Along with my graduate studies, I have pursued and completed a BTEC HNC Diploma in Aviation, Hospitality & Travel Management from Edexcel UK, and an IATA (UFTAA) Foundation course from Patriot Aviation college.

Why did you choose holidays field, any kind of inspiration?

The main reason I chose the Holidays field is that Leisure travel provides you with unlimited opportunities to learn things about yourself and the world around you. Also Travelling helps me to connect with new people, which helps to improve my interpersonal skills.

How was your first job experience in this holidays domain?

I started my carrier in Travel & Tourism Industry with Qantas Airways Sales in Cochin, India, and after a few years of my experience, I got a great opportunity to work with one of India's leading Tour companies, "Travel Tours" the flagship leisure travel brand of FCTG Australia, India. As a leisure consultant, I also got the chance to experience working with some of the major international brands like Norwegian Cruise Line, MSC Cruises, Star Cruises, Globus Family, Club Med etc. which become breakthroughs in my gulf carrier.

How was your abroad experience, is Kuwait is your first country?

Relocating to work abroad can seem like a daunting experience for many people, with a new location, job and culture among the few things one will experience a change in. The best decision I ever made was working in Caesars Travel Group Kuwait. In Caesars, I got the chance to meet new people, experience new culture, learn a new language and broaden my professional knowledge. I recommend trying to work abroad to everyone, it does not have to be permanent, but it is a great chance to experience new things and learn new things about yourself.

How Caesars treated you and how was your experience?

Caesars Travel Group has core competence in the Travel & Tourism industry. My experience at this company has been great so far, and I have learned a lot in a fast-paced environment.

What are your likes and dislikes about our company?**Bejoy John****Cruise Specialist - Cruise Center - Caesars Travel Group**

CTG has a good reputation in the GCC market, which is the biggest like I can tell you about this company. To be honest, there is nothing to dislike about the company. What I love about it is the responsibility, the autonomy, and the trust in our company. It creates an environment where everyone enjoys coming to work and feels competent and trusted enough to do their best.

How was your career ladder in Caesars as you are one of the senior employee?

In 2012, I started my career with CTG as a Cruise Reservation Officer and then to Asst Cruise Specialist. I enjoyed each of the careers I had at the time, and I always tried to do each job to the best of my ability and mostly was happy at work. Today, I handle the tasks and responsibilities of being a Cruise Specialist at Cruise Center Kuwait and Operation Incharge for Caesars Holidays Team

What is your plan or ideas to expand your division on this competitive market?

In the new business world, expansion always depends on the strategies and actions you take to make it happen. The latest planning & ideas require some advanced marketing tricks and techniques. And my ultimate aim for the future growth and expansion of

our company is Digital Marketing. Unlike traditional marketing methods, Digital marketing plays a massive role in the travel & tourism industry. It can help Travel Companies to understand customer behaviour, make customer conversations more accessible, and enhance their offerings to maximise customer satisfaction.

Who is your ideal personality, what makes you feel inspired?

I take inspiration from various people around me. Some people inspire me with their good nature, some by their intelligence, some by their maturity, some by the success in their careers etc. Most of my inspiration comes from my parents, who always motivate me and guide me to improve myself in all aspects of life.

What is advice to the new staff who joined Caesars?

Get comfortable with uncomfortable. Don't stay fixated on doing things that you're comfortable with. Make sure that you take time to do things that you've never done before, no matter the position and division you are sitting in. This could be anything from our Travel, Tourism or Aviation industry.

HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF "expressions"

By sending your submissions to "expressions" newsletter, including articles, photographs, aviation updates, personal information which can be released in our newsletter, etc. The next issue will be out in April 2022. Please send us your article or similar texts as soon as you can and it should reach us on or before 15th March, 2022. The contribution Articles should be submitted in Word format. All articles which are selected for publication will be proof read for content, spelling and grammatical errors. Also please note that it is not mandatory that these articles will be published in "expressions" newsletter as it is strictly subject to screening before publishing. Furthermore, we may make minor editorial changes or correct spelling mistakes. To establish the identity of the authors, your name will be published with your article.

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