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## Kuwait Grapples with Grief and Sadness on the Passing of Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

**K**UWAIT CITY, Dec 16: Sorrow and sadness overwhelmed Kuwait at news of passing of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at age of 86 after a long and illustrious career spanning decades and including monumental milestones, contributing to the development and progress of the country.

With his passing, Kuwait has lost one of its major figures added to the country's history and helped it overcome various challenges leading towards a more prosperous nation. History will remember His Highness the Amir through the various posts he held prior to leading the country, and Kuwaitis are grateful for his wise and thoughtful leadership.

The Amiri Diwan on this grim occasion expressed its sorrow over the death of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, sharing this sentiment with both Arab and Muslim worlds. His Highness the Amir ascended to power on September 29, 2020 following the death of the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in accordance with the constitution, becoming the 16th Amir of the State of Kuwait.

The cabinet convened on that day and announced His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, then the Crown Prince, as the Amir of Kuwait in accordance with the constitution pertaining to the ascension of leadership in Kuwait. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad became the Amir after 58 years of holding



numerous posts including Governor of Hawally, Interior Minister, Minister of Defense, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor, Deputy Chief of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG), and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, prior to becoming the Amir, was named Crown Prince

of Kuwait in 2006, holding the position for 14 years and contributing to the nation's decision-making process.

News Courtesy: [www.arabtimesonline.com](http://www.arabtimesonline.com)

## Sheikh Mishal Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah takes constitutional oath as Kuwait's new Amir

**K**uwait's new Amir, Sheikh Mishal al-Ahmad al-Sabah, has been formally sworn in before parliament to begin his rule over the wealthy Gulf monarchy.

The new Amir, who took over after the passing of his half-brother, Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, on Saturday, took the oath of office during a special session of the National Assembly on Wednesday morning. In his inaugural address, Sheikh Mishal pledged to safeguard the country and its people, adhere to constitutional principles and fight corruption.

"I swear by Almighty Allah to respect the constitution and the laws of the state, to defend the liberties, interests and properties of the people and to safeguard the independence and territorial integrity of the country," he declared.

The 83-year-old Sheikh Mishal is Kuwait's third ruler in just over three years. He has already been de facto leader since 2021 when the frail Sheikh Nawaf handed over most of his duties.

Sheikh Mishal previously served as deputy chief of the National Guard from 2004 to 2020 and head of State Security for 13 years after joining the Ministry of Interior in the 1960s. As he takes the helm of the OPEC oil producer, he is expected to preserve key Kuwaiti foreign policies, including support for Gulf



Arab unity and Western alliances.

Good relations with Saudi Arabia are seen as one of his top priorities. The new Amir may also look to expand ties to China as Beijing seeks a bigger role in the region.

Political analyst Hussain Jamal told Al Jazeera that Kuwait's foreign policy would likely "remain as it is" under the new Amir. "Zero enemies and a lot of

friends – regionally and internationally."

As leader, Sheikh Mishal will also have to grapple with long-running strains between the ruling family and its critics in the perpetually deadlocked and fractious parliament. Critics complain that the friction has hindered fiscal and economic reform.

News Courtesy : [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com)



## Kuwait bans the export of used cooking oil or its waste for one year

In a move aimed at maximizing the value derived from the production of biofuel and promoting sustainable practices, the Minister of Trade and Industry, in collaboration with the Minister of State for Youth Affairs, has issued Ministerial Resolution No. (172) of 2023. The resolution imposes a one-year ban on the export of used cooking oil or its waste from the State of Kuwait.

According to the resolution, used cooking oil or its waste can only be sold to individuals or entities licensed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Environment Public Authority, and the Public Authority for Industry. Moreover, those engaged in this activity must possess a designated place licensed by the relevant authorities.

The resolution also mandates that all transactions related to the sale of used cooking oil or its waste must be conducted through electronic

payment methods. This requirement aims to enhance transparency and streamline financial transactions within the industry.



Highlighting the rationale behind the decision, the explanatory memorandum states that the ban is crucial for realizing added value for Kuwait.

By converting the waste of used cooking oil into biofuel, the country aims to create self-sufficient products, diversify sources of income, and transfer modern technology. The funding for this transformative project is set to be sourced from the National Fund for Small Enterprises.

The memorandum emphasizes that supporting national projects, particularly those contributing to sustainable development and energy security, is paramount. The ban on exporting used cooking oil waste for one year seeks to harness opportunities, maximize benefits, and create added value for the state. It underscores the importance of regulating the collection and trade of used cooking oil waste within the Kuwaiti market, ensuring that such resources are harnessed for strategic projects and youth engagement.

News Courtesy: <https://www.arabtimesonline.com>

## Kuwait is gripped by a nurse shortage, and a member of parliament has called for immediate action

MP Osama Al-Shaheen has forwarded queries to Minister of Social Affairs and State Minister for Family, Women and Children Affairs Sheikh Feras Al-Sabah about Article 42bis of Disabled Law No. 73/2020; which stipulates granting full indemnity to employees with medium and severe disabilities, as well as those taking care of them..

Al-Shaheen wants to know the number of individuals covered by this Article (the disabled and those appointed to take care of them) who have retired since the ratification of Law No. 8/2010 and its amendment — Law No. 73/2020. He also asked Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al- Manea why the heads of departments in adult and illiteracy schools are excluded from the special salaries allocated for teachers and heads of departments in regular schools even if they carry out the same tasks like teaching, preparing exam questions and lesson plans.

MP Jarrah Al-Fawzan asked Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth

Affairs Muhammad Al-Aiban about the rationale behind allowing the representatives of companies to check the quality and descriptions of products at the Public Authority for Industry (PAI); legal basis of this step; list of such companies including the services they provide; and if PAI's laboratories are capable of checking commodities like food, oil, toys and others. If yes, he wants to know when PAI started checking local and imported commodities and fees collected for this process. He also inquired if the Ministry of Commerce and Industry collects fees from the companies for allowing their representatives to check the quality and descriptions of products at the headquarters of PAI. MP Meteb Ayed Al-Anzi asked Minister of Education, Higher Education and Scientific Research Adel Al-Manea about the budget allocated for the charity fund that shoulders the expenses of Bedoun and needy students in the last three years; number of beneficiaries; number of rejected applicants; criteria for approving applications; institutions supporting the charity fund; amount of their donations; list of donor institutions

and schools receiving a certain percentage of the budget of the fund.

MP Hamad Al-Matar asked Minister of Health Ahmed Al-Awadhi about the factors that led to the shortage of nurses in public hospitals, plan of the ministry to address such shortage, if the ministry asked its Higher Education and Scientific Research counterpart to allocate more seats for students who want to take nursing and copies of related correspondences if the answer is 'yes'.

MP Mehalhal Al-Mudhaf asked Minister of Commerce and Industry and State Minister for Youth Affairs Mohammad Al-Aiban to provide him with the list of companies authorized to export petroleum derivatives and diesel, and copies of the licenses that PAI granted to them. He also inquired about the number of vacant senior positions at Kuwait General Administration for Customs (KGAC) since Al-Aiban assumed office compared to the total number of leadership positions.

News Courtesy: <https://www.iflkuwait.com/>

## Expat driving licenses in Kuwait are now digital and have a one-year validity period

After the approval of Ministerial Resolution No. (410) of 2023, which defines the validity criteria for driving licenses for Kuwaitis and expats in different residency categories, specifying a one-year duration for residents with the option of renewal, Sheikh Talal Al- Khaled, the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, has directed the General Traffic Department at the Ministry of Interior to solely use electronic driving licenses for expats within the country. This instruction comes into effect today, Sunday, 10/12/2023, and removes the necessity for physical print copies, reports Al-Seyassah daily.

The Ministry of Interior has provided additional clarification, stating that the electronic renewal of driving licenses is achievable through the Ministry's website and the consolidated government application for electronic services, referred to as "Sahel." Applicants who meet the specified conditions and comply with regulatory requirements

will receive electronic approval for their applications. Following this, the license can be activated using the Ministry of Interior's documents within the "Sahel" application, specifically in the section labeled "Kuwait Mobile ID."

The Ministry underscored that individuals residing in the State of Kuwait can check the status of their driving licenses using the "Kuwait Mobile ID" application. It was highlighted that a green mark indicates validity, whereas a red mark indicates expiration, requiring either renewal through the "Sahel" application or withdrawal in compliance with traffic regulations. For Kuwaiti license holders, following these procedures entails contacting the General Traffic Department.

Furthermore, Domestic drivers and truck drivers transporting goods across countries are excluded from this decision. Kuwait residents traveling abroad are



obligated to use driving licenses issued by their respective countries. These streamlined processes align with the Ministry of Interior's commitment to digital transformation, aiming to enhance efficiency, simplify procedures, reduce paperwork, and ultimately save public funds.

News Courtesy: <https://www.iflkuwait.com/>

## Highlights

- Kuwait's Cutting-Edge Caller ID System Recognizes Government and Financial Calls.
- Sources quoted that Kuwait may start soon issuing visit visas for relatives
- Kuwait not celebrated Xmas and new year due to the solidarity support to the Palestinians
- The Ministry of Interior opened an airport police station



## AirAsia X to start Central Asia flights, as other low-cost carriers grow networks

Medium-haul, low-cost carrier AirAsia X will begin flying to Almaty in Kazakhstan from March 2024, marking its first move into the Central Asia market.

The airline will begin four-weekly flights between Kuala Lumpur and Almaty from 14 March, becoming the first Malaysian carrier to link the two countries together.

AirAsia X will start flying to Almaty in March 2024

AirAsia X hails the move as a “significant milestone” in its recovery from the pandemic, which saw it undergo business restructuring.

Airline chief Benyamin Ismail says: “As our first foray into Central Asia, the expansion into the Kazakh market is a strong testament to our vision and determination to explore new territories as well as resuming services to our most popular destinations post pandemic.”

Ismail adds: “The move to introduce direct flights to Almaty is expected to foster significant trade, commerce and education interchange, considering Kazakhstan’s status as the wealthiest country in Central Asia.”

AirAsia X is the second carrier in recent weeks to expand into Central Asia. Compatriot Batik Air Malaysia announced plans to fly to Tashkent in Uzbekistan from December. The weekly flights are operated using Airbus A330 aircraft.

Other AirAsia units have also announced a series of network ramp-ups. Thai AirAsia will boost its

domestic frequencies for the year-end peak period, amid an uptick in tourist numbers.



In all, the airline will add 18 daily flights across its domestic network – bringing its total domestic flights to 105 a day.

From its Bangkok Don Mueang hub, domestic points with a capacity boost include Chiang Mai (from 11 to 13 flights a day); Phuket (from 11 to 13 flights a day); as well as Krabi (from five to six flights daily).

Indonesia AirAsia, meanwhile, announced two new routes that will commence next year. It will link Bali with Lampung on Sumatra from 17 January, with flights operated four times a week. The airline says the route is the sixth new domestic route it has launched this year.

On the international network, the low-cost operator will launch thrice-weekly flights between Jakarta and Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia from 6 February.

Another low-cost operator which is growing its operations is Australia’s Jetstar, which has unveiled plans to “significantly expand” flights from its Perth hub in 2024. The move will see Jetstar base four aircraft in Perth – including its new long-range A321neos – as well as set up a new pilot base.

The airline says it intends to launch direct flights to Singapore, Phuket and Bangkok, but did not disclose a timeline. There are currently no direct links between Perth and Phuket or Bangkok.

Jetstar chief Stephanie Tully says the move is one of the airline’s more significant network expansions in recent years, and comes on the back of “strong demand” for low-fares to leisure destinations in Southeast Asia.

Tully adds: “These three new routes will open up low-fares travel right across Southeast Asia for our west-coast customers, including easy connections via Singapore onto Jetstar Asia’s extensive network to 13 destinations throughout Asia.”

Separately, South Korea’s Asiana Airlines will launch seasonal flights between Seoul and Melbourne in December. The twice-weekly flights will be operated by A350s, and commences 26 December.

Philippine Airlines will increase its frequencies to Toronto, adding one more weekly flight to the Canadian city from 5 April next year. It will operate the A350 on the non-stop service.

News Courtesy: <https://www.flightglobal.com/>

## Turkish Airlines unveils AJet brand for low-cost carrier AnadoluJet

Turkish Airlines has launched its new wholly-owned subsidiary, AJet, which will start operating to the UK from the end of March 2024.

The rebranded low-cost carrier will take to the skies with a new summer schedule with flights to destinations in Turkey.

The airline, originally called AnadoluJet, was established in 2008 to improve air transport links for Anatolia. The former Turkish Airlines brand will operate under the ‘AJet Air Transportation Inc.’ name as a wholly-owned subsidiary.

The unveiling of the new carrier was held at the Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport Turkish Technic Hangar, with the participation of senior team members from Turkish Airlines.

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Bolat, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, said: "In line



with our goals for the next 10 years, we are proud to have started the establishment process of our AJet.

“The efforts and dedication we have put in for a long time have paid off, and we will introduce AJet to the skies with its summer schedule at the end of March 2024.

“We fully believe that AJet, with its new name, will become an important part of the low-cost aviation industry on a global scale.”

The new low-cost airline was created to strengthen Turkish Airlines’ position in an increasingly competitive market and will continue its operations based at Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen and Ankara Esenboğa Airports from the end of March 2024.

In line with its sustainability vision, AJet plans to operate as efficiently and sustainably as possible and will enter the low cost market with a focus on innovation.

By simplifying the services offered and utilising a wholly Economy Class configuration, AJet aims to reflect the cost advantage in ticket prices, making flights accessible to a broader traveller audience.

News Courtesy: <https://newsroom.aviator.aero>

## Air India To Begin Delhi-Phuket Flights Next Month

Air India has announced that it will launch flights between Delhi and Phuket, a non-stop service that will be operated with an A320neo, effective December 15, 2023. IndiGo is the only airline operating flights between India (Delhi/Mumbai) and Phuket after Go First got grounded. The Air India service will replace the Go First service between Delhi and Phuket, which was operated till the airline was grounded.

Operated with an A320neo aircraft offering 162 seats (150 in Economy and 12 in Business Class), AI 378 will depart from Delhi at 0110 hours to arrive in Phuket the same day at 0710 hours. Commencing with a four-flights-a-week schedule (Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays), the service will be enhanced to a daily operation starting January 2024.

The carrier will face stiff competition from IndiGo on the route, which already operates to the Thai

destination from Delhi and Mumbai.

Air India will launch four times-a-week flights between Delhi and Phuket on December 15, 2023, which will go up to daily flights in the coming year. Air India will operate the flight with an Airbus



A320neo. This will make Air India the second carrier to operate on the route alongside IndiGo.

News Courtesy: <https://livefromalounge.com/>

## China Is Set To Offer 15 Days Visa-Free Access To Citizens Of 6 Countries

China will temporarily exempt citizens from France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain and Malaysia from needing visas when visiting the world’s second-largest economy in a fresh move to spur post-pandemic tourism.

From Dec. 1 this year to Nov. 30, 2024, citizens from those countries entering China for business, tourism, sightseeing, visiting relatives and friends, or transiting for no more than 15 days will not need a visa, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

China has been taking steps in recent months - including restoration of international flight routes - to revive its tourism sector following three years of strict COVID-19 measures that largely shut its borders to the outside world.



## Let's see who the new airlines of 2023 are

### Ghana Airlines

The new flag carrier of this West African country has been in the making for quite some time and it seems



that a decision has finally been taken to launch this 2023. Although, to be clear, passengers will have to wait a bit, at least until Q3 when the new carrier should be ready for take off. The new Ghanaian airline will be managed by a venture of Ashanti Airlines and Zotus Group, a UK-based investment firm. This decision has been criticized by some observers, which question the choice of Ashanti Airlines, apparently a firm with no track record in the industry, over well known industry names (Ethiopian Airlines, for example) that at some point or another had been touted to lead this project. You can read more about this project here.

### Aerus (Mexico)



A regional airline based in Monterrey, in northern Mexico. It is expected to start operations in Q1 2023 with Cessna GranCaravan and SkyCourier. It also seems to be looking ahead, since it has ordered 30 Alice electric aircraft from Eviation.

### Centrum (Uzbekistan)

You may not have heard about it and, in fact, there is little information out there about it (in English at least), but it looks like this is a really ambitious startup airline. Uzbekistan is going through a period



of development and expansion of its air travel industry and the emergence of new airlines seems to be a logical consequence of this. Centrum has received already 2 A320s and 2 B737s and has plans to grow its fleet to 20 aircraft by year end, 100 aircraft by 2026 and a route network spanning 15 countries!

### Air Samarkand (Uzbekistan)



Yet another example of the opening of the Uzbek air travel market, which has spurred entrepreneurship in the commercial aviation industry. Air Samarkand is expected to debut at some point in the first half of 2023, although at the time of writing these lines it has yet to receive its AOC. According to reports in the local press, it will start with a couple of A320s and plans to operate around 14 routes, some as far as the

UAE, Turkey and Israel, in addition to flying to Russia and other markets in the region.

### Sky Vision Airlines (Egypt)



This airline started operating in the first days of 2023 with a single Airbus A320. It seems to be involved in some sort of charter or ACMI operation, since it is not possible to book flights directly on its site, neither does it show any type of schedule.

### Air Moana (French Polynesia, France)



This is a new inter-island carrier operating ATR turboprops in this French overseas territory, which is spread over an oceanic surface larger than Western Europe. Air Moana received its first aircraft in December 2022.

### ESAV Airlines (Ecuador)

This is an inter-island, local air service operating in



the Galapagos archipelago of Ecuador. It operates two small planes, a Britten Norma Islander for 9 passengers and a Piper Seneca, with a capacity of five. There are three airports in Galápagos: Isabela, Baltra y San Cristóbal.

### Yazd Air (Iran)



As everything concerning Iranian commercial aviation, don't expect state-of-the-art equipment here. 2 A310s and 2 BAe-146 aircraft compose the fleet of Yazd Air. This new airline will apparently fly to domestic destinations, but also some international ones in Turkey and India, for example.

### JetSMART Colombia



The demise of Viva Air seems to have accelerated the approval of JetSMART Colombia's AOC. The lcc of the Indigo Partners group had already applied to enter the Colombian domestic market already in 2022, but the process had been put on hold by the Colombian

authorities. The original plan was to base 12 A320-family aircraft in Bogotá (BOG) and operate 111 routes in the country, but it seems that, at least for now, the regulatory approval will cover a much smaller operation, 27 routes. JetSMART also plans to increase the number of frequencies it operates between Colombia and other Latin American countries, like Peru.

### City Airlines (Germany)



it looks like Lufthansa is preparing the launch of a new short haul airline in Europe, which appears to be tentatively called City Airlines (it is not clear whether this is going to be the final name). So far it seems that the German group is building the team of this new carrier out of their current staff. The new airline even has a website of its own, even there is little info there at the time of writing these lines.

Silk Avia (Uzbekistan) started flying -> we covered this one (a bit ahead of events) in our 2022 new airlines list.

### Air1 (Iran)



A new low cost airline in Iran, of which little else is known other than that it is expected to launch before the end of this year and that they have an active website that shows the tail of a Boeing 737-400 (or so it says on the picture).

### Global Airlines (UK)



One of the surprises of the year has been the presentation, with much media fanfare, of this new airline project backed by social media influencer James Asquith, who aims to give a new lease of life to the Airbus A380 (its CCO is Richard Stephenson, former CEO of AeroTime, a media platform I collaborate with). Still many unanswered questions about this project, but certainly one to keep an eye on!

### Mexicana (2.0) (Mexico)



This is one of two historical airlines that have announced a comeback of sorts. The original Mexicana de Aviación was founded as early as 1921, but it went bankrupt and ceased operations in 2010. There have since been plans to refloat it. This time it is the Mexican government, that owns the brand, that aims to relaunch it through its ministry of defense. Although not all details are yet known, the comeback of Mexicana could take place in Q4 2023, with the airline planning to operated, reportedly, a fleet of 10 Boeing 737-800s



## World's largest cruise ship, Icon of the Seas, begins its maiden voyage after christening from Lionel Messi

The world's largest cruise ship is begin its maiden voyage on 27th Jan 2024 as from the Port of Miami.

Royal Caribbean's Icon of the Seas, which runs nearly 1,200 feet from bow to stern, is leaving South Florida for its first seven-day island-hopping voyage through the tropics. The ship was officially christened Tuesday with help from soccer legend Lionel Messi and his Inter Miami teammates.

"Icon of the Seas is the culmination of more than 50 years of dreaming, innovating and living our mission – to deliver the world's best vacation experiences responsibly," Royal Caribbean Group President and CEO Jason Liberty said earlier this week. "She is the ultimate multigenerational family vacation, forever changing the status quo in family travel and fulfilling vacation dreams for all ages on board."

When the Icon of the Seas was first revealed in October 2022, the ship spurred the single largest booking day and the highest volume booking week in Royal Caribbean's then 53-year history, according to the cruise line.



The Icon of the Seas is divided into eight neighborhoods across 20 decks. The ship includes six waterslides, seven swimming pools, an ice-skating rink, a theater and more than 40 restaurants, bars and lounges. The ship can carry up to 7,600 passengers at maximum capacity, along with 2,350 crew members.

Jay Schneider, Royal Caribbean's Chief

Product Innovation Officer, says the cruise ship is more than just its amenities.

"It's really about iconic experiences," he said.

Cruising is surging in popularity. Last year, passenger volume outpaced pre-pandemic numbers, and this year is expected to hit a new high of 36 million as spending on experiences has climbed 65% since 2019.

## Cruise Saudi and Al Madinah Sign MoU

Cruise Saudi and Al Madinah Region Development Authority have signed a memorandum of understanding to foster economic development in the Al Madinah Region, focusing on social impact both locally and across Saudi, according to a press release.

Both companies share the vision to advance access to Al Madinah, developing the region and expanding facilities to accommodate more tourists.

The signing took place at this year's Saudi Tourism Forum in Riyadh, the annual event that promotes Saudi as a tourist destination.

Mashhoor Baeshen, executive director, destinations



development and management at Cruise Saudi said: "Unique in history and culture, Al Madinah has so

much to offer tourists seeking an authentic Saudi experience. Cruise Saudi's signing of the MoU with Al Madinah Region Development Authority marks our commitment to showcasing the most significant historical sites of Saudi through a carefully curated array of onshore experiences."

The agreement between Cruise Saudi and Al Madinah Region Development Authority is to enrich the visitors' experience, create jobs, improve facilities and drive economic growth, as well as to support the Kingdom's goal of welcoming 150 million tourists per year by 2030.

## Cruise Industry's Destination Trends for 2024 and Beyond

Cruise Industry News selected some of the key destination and deployment trends for the cruise market in 2024 and beyond.

### More Ships to Florida

With strong demand in North America, more ships are set to homeport in Florida than ever before. Carnival Cruise Line is repositioning the Carnival Venezia to Port Canaveral for the 2024-25 season.

Norwegian Cruise Line is replacing Norwegian Epic's winter season in Europe with new itineraries departing from Port Canaveral. The Space Coast port



also has two new homeport customers: Celebrity Cruises and Princess Cruises. The premium brands will launch service from Port Canaveral for the 2024-25 season, with the Celebrity Equinox and the Caribbean Princess.

While Miami will see the debut of the world's new largest cruise ship, the Icon of the Seas, Tampa is also getting attention with the arrival of the Margaritaville at Sea Islander and a new full-year program onboard the Grandeur of the Seas.

### China Makes a Return

After several years closed to mainstream cruise operations due to pandemic, the Chinese market is set for a wider reopening in 2024. While local brands are resuming service and introducing new ships, the reopening is also drawing vessels from international brands, such as MSC Cruises and Royal Caribbean International.

Two MSC ships, the Bellissima and the Splendida, are arriving in China in 2024. Royal Caribbean is also bringing the Spectrum of the Seas back to Shanghai during the year.

### Exotic Destinations

Celebrity Cruises is adding year-round operations in Asia this year. Norwegian Cruise Line is also increasing its capacity by 37 percent in itineraries to Antarctica, South America, Africa, Asia, Middle East, Australia and New Zealand for the 2024-25 winter. Carnival Cruise Line is another brand set to offer more cruises to exotic destinations, with more Carnival Journeys to Asia, the South Pacific, Greenland, and more.

### Disney's Lighthouse Point

Disney Cruise Line is opening a new private destination in Summer 2024. Located in Eleuthera, Lighthouse Point will serve as the company's island destination in the Bahamas. The retreat was created in collaboration with local artists and advisors, Disney Cruise Line said, and features a design that favors families and the unique Bahamian

culture.

Among the features of Lighthouse Point is a gaming pavilion as well as a volleyball court and gaga ball pit. Other recreational activities include watercraft and bicycle rentals and a large family beach, in addition to dining areas, bars and more.

### Private Islands Expansion

Royal Caribbean International is adding a new adults-only area to Perfect Cay at CocoCay named Hideaway Beach. With a private beach and pools, new spots for drinks and bites, exclusive cabanas and live music, the space will increase the island's capacity to 13,000 guests per day.



MSC Cruises is expanding its private island destination in the Bahamas, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve. Part of an infrastructure development program, the upgrade includes additional amenities for guests who visit the destination, accommodation for staff as well as operational and technical improvements.



## The new airport in New Delhi is expected to open its doors by the end of 2024.

The first test flight from the Noida international airport in India is expected to take off in March 2024, months ahead of its scheduled opening in 2024.

The first test flight from the Noida international airport will likely take off as early as March next year, months before its scheduled opening by the end of 2024, officials aware of developments have said, adding that work is continuing on schedule.

Officials of the Union home and civil aviation ministries held meetings with the Uttar Pradesh government last week to discuss the road map of the new airport, which is expected to decongest the national Capital's airport and provide new connectivity options for parts of western Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, the officials cited above said.

"The airport is currently undergoing runway layering

work and will begin installation of air navigation services from December," one of the officials said, asking not to be named. "The airside of the airport would be ready in March, post which a test flight can be operated."

"The meeting was held to discuss the immigration and security related developments. Even though a formal order is yet to be issued, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will be guarding the airport," a second officer at the Union home ministry said on the condition of anonymity, citing the discussions on July 21.

The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority has approved 55,000 sq m of land along the Yamuna expressway to house the CISF personnel. "CISF, which is under the government of India, is responsible for security at all major airports in the

country. CISF will also look after the security at the Jewar Airport," the expressway authority had said in an earlier statement in February.

The airport is being built at Jewar in Gautam Budh Nagar district. The airport operator has said the airport will become fully operational by the end of 2024, with one terminal building and one runway and a passenger handling capacity of 12 million per year.

The airport will be developed in four phases and is expected to see a footfall of 70 million passengers per year in its fourth phase, which is expected to be completed by 2040. This will also add to the efficiency of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, which is India's largest and handles 70 million passengers per year at present

News Courtesy: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/>

## In Iceland, one of the biggest volcanos has erupted

A volcano on the Reykjanes peninsula in south-west Iceland has erupted after weeks of intense earthquake activity, spewing glowing orange jets of lava surrounded by billowing clouds of red smoke.

"Warning: eruption has started north of Grindavík by Hagafell," the meteorological office said on its website on Monday. The eruption started a few kilometres from Grindavík, a fishing town located about 25 miles (40km) south-west of Iceland's capital, Reykjavík. The town with a population of 4,000 was evacuated in November after the area was hit by a "seismic swarm" of more than 1,000 small earthquakes in 24 hours.

The government on Tuesday said the eruption

did not present a threat to life, adding that there were no disruptions to flights to and from Iceland, while international flight corridors remained open.

Although unlikely, as this type of eruption does not usually produce much ash, experts said there could yet be some effect on air travel.

Describing the style of eruption as "amongst the most spectacular ever seen", Matthew Watson, professor of volcanoes and climate at the University of Bristol, said: "There will be a strong pull for tourists. Tourists should strictly follow official advice as there are significant hazards, such as new breakouts, which can quickly put people in harm's way."



The eruption began at about 10.17pm local time after a series of small earthquakes at about 9pm, the met office said.

## Single visa for GCC residents to travel within member states soon?

In a bid to simplify travel logistics and boost tourism, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have recently approved a unified tourist visa that will allow people to travel across member states such as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. This was announced by GCC President Sayyed Hamoud bin Faisal Al Busaidi during the 40th meeting of the Interior Ministers.

Accordingly, GCC Secretary General Jassim Al Budaiwi announced, the GCC states unanimously endorsed a unified tourism visa system set to launch in 2024-25, making travel across Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE more

convenient.

The decision is expected to streamline travel logistics



and underpins the "continuous communication and co-ordination between the GCC states," he said, as reported by CNBC TV18

"The unified Gulf tourist visa is a project that will contribute to facilitating and streamlining the movement of residents and tourists between the six GCC countries and will, undoubtedly, have a positive on the economic and tourist sectors," Budaiwi said.

He further added, council has approved the electronic linking of traffic offenses across GCC states and is developing a comprehensive anti-drug strategy to combat drug-related issues.

News Courtesy: <https://www.livemint.com/>

## Zayed International: Abu Dhabi Airport Is Getting A New Name

Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) will be officially renamed Zayed International Airport, in honor of Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The new name will take effect on February 9, 2024, coinciding with the official opening of the airport's new Terminal A.

The name change is a directive of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, and is presumably in honor of his father. Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan was the founder of the UEA and its

president from 1971 until his death in 2004.

The announcement of the name change came as flights began from the \$3 billion Terminal A.

Although the official opening of Terminal A won't take place until February, the first commercial flight from the terminal departed on Tuesday: an Airbus A350-1000, operated by UEA's national airline Etihad Airways and bound for New Delhi (DEL).

To mark the occasion, all passengers on the flight, including those in the economy cabin, were welcomed

as the inaugural guests at the new flagship Etihad Lounge. The lounge, which spans three floors of Terminal A, features a rooftop cocktail bar, games room, relaxation spaces, and direct boarding access for three aircraft.

Etihad will now shift its operations from its former home in Terminal 3 to the new Terminal A. By November 14, all of its flights will depart from Terminal A.

News Courtesy: <https://businesstravelerusa.com/>

## Las Vegas Is Planning To Build A New \$12 Billion Airport

According to Clark County Director of Aviation Rosemary Vassiliadis, with Las Vegas' current gateway, Harry Reid International Airport (LAS), set to hit its maximum annual capacity of 65 million passengers in 2030, the city plans to construct another airport to ease the strain. Speaking to local media earlier this week, Vassiliadis noted how the recent

growth of professional sports in Las Vegas is already putting strain on the airport's infrastructure.

Due to its central location close to Las Vegas' famous strip and the major I-15 interstate highway, expansion at the current airport is not possible, forcing the local government to begin exploring a secondary development in Southern Nevada.

The selected location is 23 miles south of the city near the small communities of Jean and Primm, initially eyed for development back in the 2000s, and spans over 6,000 acres. Current projections eye a construction launch date of 2029, with the airport, dubbed the Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport, to open for passengers in 2037.



# These airlines have gone bankrupt in 2023, but why?



Which passenger airlines have gone bankrupt this year so far? We look at what went wrong, the remaining fleet and years in operation.



ATR 42

**Aeromar:** ( Mexico, 1987-2023) When Aeromar declared bankruptcy they stated it had not been able to recover from financial difficulties stemming from the global downturn in travel caused by the COVID-19 pandemic starting in 2020. The Mexico City international airport said in a statement that Aeromar owed about \$27.5 million in fees, services and other debts. The regional carrier operated 21 routes in Mexico and flew to McAllen and Laredo in Texas and Havana, Cuba. It specialized in flying routes between Mexico City and beach resorts. The airline had 26 ATR 42s and eight ATR 72's.



Air Moldova A320

**Air Moldova:** (Moldova, 1993- 2023) Air Moldova's Air Operator's Certificate has been suspended due to the absence of a valid airworthiness certificate. The sole aircraft in their fleet (an 18.5 year old A320) had been sidelined for maintenance since April. This ceasing in the airline's operations can be traced back to a multitude of factors, including allegations of corruption within its previous management, the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aviation industry, and Ukrainian airspace closure resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.



Flybe ATR

**Flybe:** (UK, 1979-2023 ) British regional airline

Flybe ceased trading in January for the second time in three years, with all flights cancelled and 276 workers made redundant. Hurt by Britain's COVID-19 pandemic lockdown, Flybe initially first fell into administration in March 2020. AT the time of operations ending Flybe had a fleet of just 10 Dash-8 aircraft.



Flyr 737-800

**Flyr:** (Norway, 2021-2023) According to BusinessTravellerUSA, the airline went bust due to pandemic travel restrictions and shifting travel patterns. It also repeated a mistake many hungry budget airlines made by adding routes and aircraft too quickly, even as its current flights were taking off half -full. The airline ceased operations with a fleet of six 737-800 and six 737 MAX aircraft.



Niceair A319

**Niceair:** ( Iceland 2022-2023) This airline went bankrupt less than a year after operations started. Niceair flights were originally operated by leasing company Hi-Fly Malta (using an A319) however loss access to this aircraft after Hi-Fly failed to keep up to date with payments. In turn Niceair lost their income stream and the company were forced to claim for bankruptcy. Niceair attempted to address unique Icelandic challenges which you can read more about here.



Gofirst A320

**GoFirst:** ( India, 2005 -2023) GoFirst, earlier known as GoAir, filed for insolvency after cash flow issues. The airline had struggled to keep aircraft in the air with a large part of its fleet grounded. Gofirst said its woes are not due to financial mismanagement but rather, because of engine issues. The company said in its bankruptcy filings that it has not missed a single debt repayment deadline so far. It has instead blamed US engine maker Pratt & Whitney for having had to ground many of its planes "due to the ever-increasing number of failing engines" supplied by it – this, the

airline says, caused a severe cash flow problem. GoFirst was the first airline in India to go bust since Jet Airways 4 years ago. At the time of bankruptcy the airline had 54 A320 aircraft.



Novair A321

**Novair:** ( Sweden, 1997-2023) Novair operated charter flights ( to the Mediterranean and Spanish islands) on behalf of one of Sweden's largest travel agencies, Apollo. In February 2023, it was announced that Novair will cease operations on 1 October 2023 due to a negative business perspective after the airline's owners failed to acquire new contracts. The airline has two A321 aircraft.



Vivaair A320

**VivaAir Colombia:** ( Colombia, 2009-2023). In short, VivaAir was waiting to merge with legacy airline Avianca however the process and bureaucracy around the process was so involved and lengthy the airline had no choice but to declare bankruptcy. VivaAir said in a statement that the only way the company could fly again is by allowing it to be part of a larger, stronger, and better-capitalized group of airlines through the partnership with Avianca. Viva and Avianca have been looking to merge since last year. Interestingly, Viva Air was among the airlines quickest to recover post the Covid-19 pandemic. The airline had a fleet of 41 A320 aircraft.



Ultra Air A320

**UltraAir:** (Colombia 2020-2023). Ultra Air said Viva Air's collapse is partially responsible for its own demise. In the statement, Ultra Air argued that the cease of operations of Colombia's third-largest airline alerted the industry providers and aircraft lessors. The airline explained that they "began requesting immediate payments and even prepayments for their services, which is not usual in this industry" the airline explained. The Colombian government went public to expose Ultra Air's financial issues. The airline had a fleet of six A320 aircraft.



## WHAT WERE THE MOST COMMON HOME AND LIFESTYLE

### Home and Wellness

There's been a buzz around self-care at home this year - so much so that there's now an International Self-Care Day on the 24th of July every year for the cause. More and more consumers are putting their mental health first by developing daily 'rituals' to take time out of their busy lives and show themselves a little more compassion. These so-called rituals can include anything as simple as lighting some candles around an evening bath filled with relaxing oils, to something more extravagant like constructing a garden building dedicated to yoga and meditation.

IKEA targeted this trend by introducing their 'Balance Starts at Home' PR initiative which encouraged thousands of people from different countries around the world to give a description of what home felt/looked like to them, and how their feelings towards their home impacted their general wellness. Without explicitly promoting its products, IKEA got their name out there in the self-care and wellness space via this creative and thought-provoking PR campaign.

### GO GREEN OR GO HOME

This trend has been on the rise in recent years, you know as well as we do that sustainability is big, and it's here to stay. Consumers are increasingly looking for green(er) alternatives, whether that's reusable items as opposed to single-use, or products made from sustainable materials rather than plastic or rare resources.

The distinction between eco-friendly and sustainable products has also become more recognised by consumers, and their buying habits have changed as a result. To a growing number of consumers, it's no longer acceptable to stock a product that's environmentally friendly in the short term, it's all about what the impact of making/selling that product will have on the planet's future. Thus, the distinction between environmentally friendly products versus sustainable products is becoming more



important.

Well-known sofa brand, DFS, made a statement in the sustainability sphere when they announced their partnership with Clearabee, a company that will take away old sofas and recycle all the materials possible from the old piece of furniture. This initiative, coined 'Sofa Rescue by DFS' means that old sofas no longer go to landfill, but instead get repurposed to save the reliance on raw material usage in manufacturing.

### HOME WORKSPACES

Seeing this trend was no surprise as ever since the pandemic there has been a rise in the number of people looking for home workspace-related products. Specifically speaking, one of the most interesting products which have snowballed in popularity this year is the desk treadmill. This merges the idea of self-care at home and home working because it means that consumers get their daily exercise to keep themselves fit and healthy.

However, products to aid and enhance the work-from-home life have continued to stay popular

across the board as more consumers strive to find the perfect work/life balance...and make their spare room into a fit-for-purpose office as opposed to a hoarding room for old clothes, toys, and whatever else happens to materialise.

H&M Home keeps it fairly simple when it comes to marketing their home office products, but it's key to remember that simple can be just as effective as wild and extravagant if done correctly.

H&M Home run numerous paid advertising campaigns across various channels including Google Shopping Ads and social media ads. They also have a dedicated landing page ready for customers who respond to their more generic ads meaning that they've paid attention to their CRO and customer journeys.

### NATURAL LIGHTING GALORE

Very specific to the UK - this is a trend that has recently begun to gain traction. The days are getting darker, we're heading into winter, and the looming Cost of Living and Energy Crises means it's no surprise that consumers want to improve their homes to let in as much natural light as possible to save on electricity bills. Some consumers are at a point where spending money to put in more windows and natural light sources is cheaper in the long run than paying electricity bills.

Aside from the increase in energy bills - that's not the only reason why consumers are looking to let more natural light into their homes.

There's an abundance of research supporting the fact that natural light helps to regulate our circadian rhythms better than artificial light; this links into the self-care at home trend as a regulated circadian rhythm means a better night's sleep, less reliance on caffeine and sugar for energy boosts, and even a better overall mood.

## EMERGING LIFESTYLE TRENDS TO BE AWARE OF

### 1. HERBAL SUPPLEMENTS FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Herbal supplements are becoming increasingly popular as people look for natural ways to improve their health and well-being. Common herbal supplements include turmeric, ginger, ashwagandha, and chamomile.

Hemp-derived products such as THC supplements and CBD oils are also gaining traction as people look for natural ways to manage anxiety, stress, and pain. These products come in various forms — from delta 9 the gummies to CBD tinctures — and offer a natural alternative to more conventional medications.

### 2. SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Sustainable living involves reducing our environmental impact by living more consciously and making better decisions about what we consume. This movement was fueled by growing awareness about the impact of climate change and the need for ecological sustainability.

Consumers are now looking for sustainable products in all aspects of their lives, from fashion to food and travel. When it comes to clothing, people opt for sustainable materials such as bamboo, organic cotton, and recycled polyester. Plant-based diets are on the rise in food, as is locally-sourced produce. In travel, eco-tourism and carbon-offsetting flights are growing in popularity.

### 3. MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Mental health awareness has gained tremendous momentum in recent years, with people prioritizing

their emotional well-being as much as their physical health. It's now recognized that our mental health is as important as any other aspect of our wellness. More and more companies are offering their employees mental health support and resources.

In entertainment, there has been a growing focus on shows and movies that tackle mental health issues,



helping to reduce the related stigma and fostering empathy for those who struggle with them.

### 4. FUNCTIONAL FITNESS

Functional fitness is all about exercising for the activities of daily living rather than just working out in a gym. This idea emerged as people realised that traditional gym workouts might not translate into better health or performance. Functional fitness improves overall physical wellness by incorporating movements that mimic everyday activities.

Functional fitness includes exercises like squats, lunges, pushups and activities like hiking, cycling,

and paddleboarding. Many gyms are now incorporating functional fitness elements into their workouts to stay competitive and meet customer demand.

### 5. MINDFUL LIVING

Mindful living is about being present and engaged with the world around us rather than being distracted by technology or consumed by thoughts of the future or past. Mindfulness has been shown to improve mental and emotional health, reduce stress, and foster greater compassion toward others.

There are many ways to cultivate mindfulness, from meditation and yoga to conscious breathing and journaling.

### 6. IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCES

Immersive experiences are about creating an environment that fully engages the senses, often through virtual reality or themed activities. Technology has driven this trend, with new advances in VR and AR providing ever more captivating experiences.

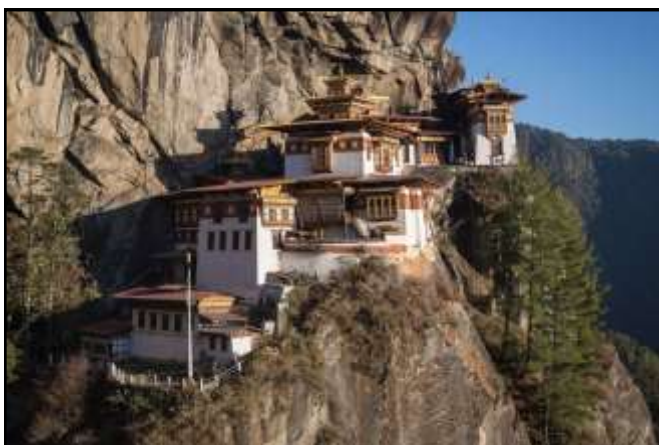
Immersive experiences are popping up everywhere, from museums to theme parks and vacations. Examples of immersive experiences include Virtual Reality gaming or entertainment or themed vacations like Harry Potter World or Star Wars Land. This trend has profoundly impacted the entertainment and tourism industries, driving increased interest and engagement with these experiences.



## Best Countries to Visit with Kids in 2024

### Bhutan

Bhutan just might be the right place to take the kids when they're interested in feeling history — not just looking at old stuff but being in a place that was really, really different even in their parents' lifetime. Kids might be amazed to wander through a country where happiness is a national goal — it's measured by the GNH (Gross National Happiness) rather than our GDP (Gross Domestic Product).



SheBuysTravel contributor Christine Tibbetts says that the tweens and teens in her life would get it. Plus, they would enjoy the relentless hairpin curves on the road to Haa way more than she did!

Bhutan, which made the New York Times list of places to see in 2023, feels modern yet medieval. There are rivers to raft, dumplings to eat and hot stone baths to take. Hike to a monastery, wander through a forest and meet a monk. Or many monks — monasteries and monks are everywhere in Bhutan.

Baseball-playing daughters and granddaughters? Travel operator MyBhutan will hook them up with Bhutanese girls just learning (and loving!) the game. In fact MyBhutan directs profits to support these girl athletes.

### Spain

Spain's year-round mild climate makes it a fine beach destination. A winter visit isn't as cold as the rest of Europe.

There are plenty of science museums for kids to play in and beautiful sand beaches as well.

Spain is also one of my kids' favorite European countries to visit because they love the weather and the food, and everyone is so nice to them.



Spain is well known for its European football teams, like Real Madrid and FC Barcelona. Soccer-loving kids will want to catch a game live. We didn't have enough time to secure tickets for a game, but we did tour Camp Nou Stadium in Barcelona. The tour was just as fun because we walked the hallway the players use to enter the stadium and even got to stand where they stand for media interviews.

Gaudi's art is displayed all over, and one of the best places to see it all is Gaudi Park in Barcelona. We spent a whole day there exploring and enjoying the landscape and artwork at the park.

Spain is a chocolate lover's delight. You'll want to eat chocolate at all of the chocolate museums throughout Spain. We did.

### Switzerland

SheBuysTravel contributor Anuja De Silva visited

Switzerland with her toddler and had this to say:

“With its relatively small size and diverse experiences, Switzerland is one of my top choices for a family vacation. If you're looking for a city escape, Zurich, Basel, Bern and Geneva are easy to navigate. You can also make trips to the lake (Lucerne, Interlaken) region or explore the Swiss Alps within a few hours from each of the cities.

“Spending time in any region of Switzerland will be a good mix of slowing down and enjoying nature while experiencing luxuries such as chocolates, cheese and high-end designer shopping. Traveling by train is the best way to experience the pristine beauty with sweeping views of pastoral villages.

“Visit the idyllic village of Zermatt at the base of Matterhorn. With its cobbled streets and horse-drawn carriages, this mountain resort where no automobiles are allowed, takes you back in time and connects you with locals through your shared appreciation of nature.

### Portugal

Portugal is a draw for many reasons including relatively low prices, lots of English speakers, friendly people, a mild year-round climate, fresh seafood and miles of amazing coastline scenery.

Don't miss a chance to climb the winding path up to



see Portugal's Pena Palace in Sintra. Explore the bright yellow, red, and grayish blue tiled exterior of the palace for free. While the castle's interior is similar to other castles around Europe, the exterior is unique. And the views from this vantage point on top of the Sintra Mountains is phenomenal.

You'll also find gorgeous tiled buildings in Lisbon.

### Norway

This is, hands down, SheBuysTravel contributor Terri Marshall's favorite country to visit with kids. Here's what she says about Norway:

“Consistently ranked as one of the happiest places on earth, Norway is renowned for its majestic mountains, fabulous fjords and rugged beauty. While the country's landscape is truly a treasure, the cities of Norway are equally intriguing. It's hard to pick a favorite place in Norway, but here are a few highlights.

“Trondheim is the cultural center of the Trøndelag region. This picturesque city with its timber-built fisherman warehouses of red, gold, brown and green flanking the sides of the Nidelva River is a fascinating contrast of old and new. Here I climbed the medieval steps to the top of the majestic Nidaros Cathedral. I even became a rock star for a day at Rockheim.

“After a devastating fire in 1906, Ålesund was rebuilt in the Art Nouveau style that was prevalent at the time. Strolling through the charming yellow, salmon, blue and rose buildings ornamented with a myriad of turrets, spires, medieval ornaments and dragons, it's easy to see why Ålesund was recently voted the most beautiful town in Norway.

“And then there is Røros where I attended the ancient festival, Rørosmartnan. For over 150 years traders from all over Norway have harnessed their horses to sleighs and traveled across frozen lakes and rivers

through snow blanketed forests to arrive for opening day — and I was there for that day. Pure magic.”



### Thailand

What's best, according to SheBuysTravel contributor Diana Rowe:

“Thailand has my heart. From beginning to end. My Thai adventure began in the bustling city of Bangkok where I experienced my first intense Thai massage and ended with two massages in the island of Ko Samui with its incredible white sand beaches. In between, I found myself in Chiang Mai, exploring the massive temples and historic places, then venturing to Patera Elephant Farm where an elephant won my heart.

“Onwards to Lisu, where the locals were from ancient tribes, and their friendly smiles and welcoming souls crept into my heart. After that, an 8-mile bicycle ride in the searing heat and humidity passing rice paddies where the farmers stop and wave, smiling their often toothless grins, brought a song to my lips — and I can't sing!

“When you travel to Thailand, the rich experiences of history, religion and cultures mingle with the spicy food and busy streets, deserted beaches, and a long list of other experiences. All who travel to Thailand say they come back a different person, more open to experiences and cultures. It's certainly true for me.”

incredible family-friendly destinations in the Middle East

Visit Egypt for a historical trip that your kids will remember for life! Cairo is a fascinating city to visit. With the only remaining original wonder of the world left, Cairo is full of history from the pyramids to the many museums you will never run out of things to



do! Or hop on over to Sharm El Sheikh and check out the world class snorkeling and beautiful beaches!

Hang out with the giant turtles and relax on the beautiful beaches in Mauritius From the sugar factory, botanic garden and swimming with the dolphins, family memories will be everlasting!

Visit the colorful markets in Morocco with your kids and hunt for that perfect souvenir. Hang out in the desert, visit the mosques and check out the town squares. This is an exciting destination for everyone. Stay in one of the beautiful riads and sip mint tea on the roof after a long day of exploring!



**Highlights of Antalya**

**Useful Travel Tips**

Antalya is known as the resort city of Turkey, which has ensured that there are many incredible places to see in Antalya when you are in town.

**Perge**



Perge, a magnificent ancient city amidst the rivers Catarrhactes and Cestrus, is located 15kms east of the beautiful Antalya, Turkey. Dating as far back as the Bronze Age, it is believed that the city was originally settled by Hittites around 1500 B.C. Invaded by Alexander the Great, Perge's glorious and splendid architecture is a living proof of Hellenistic Period.

**Yivli Minare**



The Yivli Minaret mosque is eight-centuries old and is the symbol of Antalya, the tourism capital of southern Turkey. Many foreign architecture enthusiasts and local tourists visit this grooved minaret as it epitomizes Turkish Anatolian architectural design like no other.

**Kaleici**



Kaleici is a charming old town located in Antalya, Turkey. With narrow cobbled streets and historic architecture, it is a perfect place to experience the city's rich history and culture. Visitors can explore the Hadrian's Gate, marvel at the ancient clock tower, and soak in the picturesque views of the Mediterranean Sea, creating unforgettable memories in this enchanting neighborhood.

**Antalya Museum**



There are many tourist destinations, but the Museum is one of the places to visit in Antalya to enjoy and learn from the past. The Antalya Museum is spread over an extensive area of 30,000 sq. ft. with 13 capacious halls, an open-air art gallery, laboratories, repair shops, administrative offices, living quarters,

and a cafeteria.

**Karain Cave**



Among the many tourist spots, one of the archeologically prominent places to see in Antalya is the Karain Cave. Karain Cave is situated on the incline of Sam Dagi Mountain, at a height of 390 m above the sea level. The entrance to the cave is about 50 m above the plain at the base of the hill.

**Old Harbor**



The Old Harbor with its serene blue waters, busy bazaars, pretty cafes and imposing Roman fortress nearby, is one of the places to visit in Antalya. The gently bobbing yachts and the shining Mediterranean Sea invite visitors to go on sightseeing or take a swim in the cool waters.

**Konyaalti Beach**



For sun-seekers, water-loving persons, and nature-lovers, Konyaalti beach is one of the best places to see in Antalya. The Taurus Mountain range, at the far end of the coastline, appears to have descended to enjoy the scenic beauty of the blue Mediterranean Sea.

**Duden Waterfalls**



Duden Waterfalls are beautiful natural waterfalls located in Antalya, Turkey. They are formed by the Duden River, which cascades down the cliffs into the Mediterranean Sea. The waterfalls offer a breathtaking sight with lush surroundings, making it a popular spot for nature lovers and tourists. Visitors can enjoy the refreshing mist and the scenic views while taking a leisurely stroll around the area. It's a perfect escape from the city's hustle.

**Termessos**



For the history buffs, architectural enthusiasts and explorers, one of the favored places to visit in Antalya is the Termessos. The city, constructed between 2 cliffs on the Gulluk Mountain range at an altitude of 1050 m above sea level, lies within the National park of Antalya.

**Tunek Tepe**



Adventurists' experience the adrenaline rush, while hiking the summit of the Tunek Tepe Hill from the harbor area, as the path is slightly steep and difficult. The 618 m high hill with a hotel, night club, rotating restaurant, and observation platform make Tunektepe, one of the most popular places to see in Antalya.

**Lara Beach**



Lara Beach is one of the biggest and prominent beaches in Antalya. Located east of Antalya at a distance of 12 km, the beach stretches over an area of 450 acres. Lara People's Beach is a free-for-all beach, where services are organized by the Antalya city.

**Clock Tower**



The Clock Tower of Antalya is a striking landmark located in the heart of the city in Turkey. Erected in 1901, this tall tower stands as a testament to Ottoman architecture and serves as a symbol of Antalya's rich history. The tower features a square base and an octagonal upper section topped with a clock. With its intricate design and prominent position, the Clock Tower is not only a timekeeping device but also a popular meeting point and a charming attraction for visitors to explore and admire.

News Courtesy: [www.thrillophilia.com](http://www.thrillophilia.com)



## Top Tourist Attractions in Trabzon

## Useful Travel Tips

Trabzon is one of the beautiful touristic points in Turkey with so many interesting things to do. We have made a guide that will help you in choosing the places that you should visit.

### Sumela Monastery ( Panagia Sumela)

It is one of the naturally beautiful and historical places in Trabzon that also has religious significance. It has a Greek Monastery on top of the hill called Mela Mountain that is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. It has Altindere National Park founded in 836 AD that features churches, monastery, chapel, guesthouses and many more things to see. They have Turkish design and beautiful frescos dating back to the 18th century.



### Trabzon Uzungol Lake

It is a beautiful place to enjoy nature at its fullest. The word Uzungol means "long lake" and is one of the famous excursion. It is considered as the symbol of Trabzon and is considered a place of tranquility. It is only 19 km away from Caykara district of Trabzon. It has high tourist traffic especially in summer from Middle Eastern Countries.



### St. Eugenius Church

It is the church that was built by Eugenius, a famous personality of the 13th century. It was converted into a mosque after the conquest of Istanbul by Ottoman and is still considered as an important cultural point.



### Trabzon Vazelon Monastery

It is monastery located 7km from Kiremitli village. It has a cave and water spring and served as a destination for the monk. The rooms of monk date back to the 19th century.



### Trabzon Lapazan Plateau

The plateau is located at a height of 2,200 meters. It is an example of natural beauties which is filled with hundreds of flowers.



### Trabzon Ataturk Mansion (Ataturk's Palace)

It is located on the hills of Trabzon and was built for the father of the country. It is a 3 storey building with milk-white exterior and fabulous interiors. It has famous rose garden and a place to rest on a sunny afternoon.



### Trabzon Altindere Valley( National Park)

It is the most popular park in the Black Sea region which is rich in flora, fauna, and wildlife. It is also an important destination because the Sumela Monastery is an important attraction of the park.



### Trabzon Cal Cave

It is a cave located in the town of Duzkoy district and is 2nd largest cave in the world. It also has a small river and bridge in the cave. This cave opened its door for visitors in 2000 and has become one of the preferred places to visit by visitors.



### The Monastery of the Girls (Panagia Keramesta)

It was built by Pontos in the 14th century and has been functional since that time. It has become an important tourism destination in Trabzon.



### Trabzon Boztepe

It is another place where you can enjoy, colors of nature like blue and green. It has a famous mountain called Mt. Minthroin providing a fantastic view of the sunset. Gulbahar Hatun Tomb and Mosque It is a mosque and a tomb of Gulbahar Hatun. Gulbahar Hatun was the wife of Bayesid II and mother of Khan Selim I. It is a decorated mosque with beautiful designs.



### Trabzon Sera Lake

It is a small paradise with green nature formed by a natural landslide. It is a scenic place where you can enjoy and relax away from the noisy atmosphere of the city.



### Trabzon Akcakale Castle

This beautiful Byzantine castle dating back to 13th century. It is also a famous eatery place with many restaurants and cafe serving delicious meatballs.



### Trabzon Hamsikoy

The place is famous for the Authentic houses that you should definitely visit on your holiday to Trabzon.





**Caesars' showcase**

**New flights to Antalya and Trabzon in the SunExpress winter 2023 and summer 2024 flight schedules**

SunExpress, a joint venture of Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines, will operate its inaugural flights from Kuwait International Airport (KWI) to Trabzon International Airport (TZX) on February 8, 2024 and to Antalya International Airport (AYT) on April 4, 2024. The airline, which has been awarded "Best Leisure Airline in Europe" by Skytrax, will offer 2 weekly flights to Trabzon from Winter 2023 onwards



and to Antalya during 2024 summer season.

"With the best leisure airline in Europe, who wouldn't want to get on those flights to Antalya and Trabzon? Our vibrant and diverse home city offers everything that makes for a successful holiday: great hospitality, fascinating culture, crystal-clear water, beautiful beaches, excellent cuisine, and unbeatable value for money. In Trabzon, our guests can explore cities rich cultural heritage from the oldest ages of history with its semi-tropical climate at the Black Sea Coast



Region" says Peter Glade, SunExpress Commercial Director.

Trabzon will be served with 2 weekly flights on each Monday and Thursday starting from February 2024 until the end of October 2024 and Antalya with 2 weekly flights on each Thursday and Sunday starting from April 2024 until the end of October 2024. SunExpress will also offer several connections from Kuwait via Antalya to destinations across Europe.

**Caesars Int'l Travel to fly SunExpress**

SunExpress has chosen Caesars Int'l Travel Co.W.L.L as its General Sales Agent (GSA) in Kuwait. Caesars Int'l Travel will be responsible for sales and marketing at the Kuwait International Airport. You can contact Caesars Int'l Travel at Al Jawhara Tower, M2, Ali Al Salem Street, Al Salhiya, Kuwait, Email: sunexpress.sales@ctgkwi.com, Telephone +965 22260290.

**Group Tours are trending to explore more destinations**

Group Tours are a chance to take time out of your day-to-day life to make magical memories with your loved ones in a dazzling destination. It's time to travel with your family or friends in tow. As far as holiday types go, you'll want a varied destination for your holiday to keep everyone happy. For gorgeous countryside, sparkling seas, awesome nightlife, and plenty of cultures, our travel experts recommend a group tour to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka etc.

Our group tours are great for larger families or even multiple families having a holiday together. No matter your party size, we'll make sure everything you want in a getaway is all sorted for you. From family-sized rooms to Free Child Places\*, we make your group holiday easy. Groups of ten or more will also have a dedicated Tour Manager to help every step of the way.

This time, Caesars Holidays is planning to the following departures for the upcoming Eid Holidays:-

"Classical Georgia" operating during 10-14 April 2024 covering landmarks such as Tbilisi, Kazbegi, Batumi and Martvili regions.



Tbilisi beckons with its picturesque Old Town,

diverse cultural offerings, and thermal baths, inviting visitors to explore its dynamic blend of tradition and contemporary allure.



"Spring in Baku" starting from 11-14 April 2024 covering spots such as Baku, Absheron and Quba.



This beautiful country captivates with its stunning modern architecture, historic landmarks like the Flame Towers, and the Caspian Sea waterfront, offering a vibrant fusion of ancient charm and cosmopolitan energy for an enriching tourist experience.



"Scenic Sri Lanka" from 10-15 April 2024 which the scenic cities of Dambulla, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Negombo with a night stay as well.



A tropical paradise, entices visitors with its lush landscapes, pristine beaches, ancient ruins, and diverse wildlife, providing a tapestry of cultural richness and natural beauty for an unforgettable travel experience.





**Editorial**

**Are We Acting Sincerely to Protect the Climate Change?**

As we embark on another journey in the new year 2024, it's the perfect time to reflect on the past and envision the future. The New Year traditionally represents a fresh start, giving each person the opportunity to leave old habits behind and redetermine how we want things to go moving forward. We should be able to adapt our life-style based on the circumstances but what about the current world's situation? Is it possible that can we change it?

It's been over a month since President Putin launched a deadly and destructive war in Ukraine. Conditions continue to worsen, with the death toll rising rapidly, 4 million people forced to flee abroad, a quarter of the country's population displaced, and the wider humanitarian and economic impacts increasingly evident. The planet-warming emissions generated during the first two months of the war in Gaza were greater than the annual carbon footprint of more than 20 of the world's most climate-vulnerable nations, new research reveals. Apart from these two countries in war, the current list is showing almost more than 29 countries ongoing with armed conflicts.

For now, it's still impossible to evaluate the overall environmental impact of the war because of lack of accurate data. There are two main reasons why. First, it is dangerous for the experts even to gather such information for the warfare is still on. Secondly, not all data can be disclosed for the tactical reasons. Yet it's obvious that the longer this war lasts

the harder it damages the environment and the tougher its consequences may be in the future. Apart



from these wars, there are many factors affecting the climate change such as Wildfires, Impact on landscape and habitats, Chemical pollution caused by shellings, Soil and sea pollution with oil products, Consequences of the fires on the industrial objects and many more – but do you think, many of them are not man-made catastrophes?

We have to think seriously of what's going to happen after the war is over? we will face the consequences of the attacks: destroyed ecosystems, polluted soils and so many disasters wherein we will fail to reach our declared climate goals for the war is an additional contribution to climate change and the rebuilding will be inevitably related to greenhouse gas emissions.

The sarcastic part is that when these sorts of problems are going on around the world, the leaders are continuing their conferences/meetings on how to control the climate change? Don't they think, the primary necessity is to stop such man-made calamities which are also contributing a big share in climate change? The tragedy is that in one side, countries are competing each other to supply their war equipment to these countries involved in the war and at the same time, in another scene we can see them joining together to discuss about the problems on how to control the climate change – what a paradox?

The resolution for 2024 should be to stop all man-made calamities in the world as restoring and protecting nature is one of the greatest strategies for tackling climate change rather than spending the time of world leaders for unnecessary sitting and talking utopian ideas since the major havocs are happening around the world which they are also a part of it. The humorous part is that the same world leaders attending such meetings are the reasons for dividing the countries into the warfronts for their political gains!

The ultimate question is that when these country leaders will realize the fact and sincerely work towards to control the climate change?

Mantra

**HOW YOU CAN BE A PART OF “The Xpressions”**



“The Xpressions” – Quarterly magazine is released every three months. Its previous issues had themes connected with the aviation industry but it was only an in-house magazine before. From 25th issue onwards, we have changed this magazine outlook from in-house to an open one, trying to reach everyone. The Xpressions encompasses articles, interviews, local/world news and aviation updates specially in new areas of research. Therefore, we extend an invitation to contribute the articles/texts of interest from everyone and it should be submitted through e-mail to [xpressions@caesarstravel.com](mailto:xpressions@caesarstravel.com)

**The guidelines for submitting articles are as follows:**

- We encourage authors to cover new developments in the field of world aviation scenario, opinions about various facets of travel industry, specially invite innovative and stimulating articles related to but not restricted to the list given below:
  - ◊ Job seekers in the aviation industry in Kuwait (can put their contacts)
  - ◊ Travel Industry happenings in Middle East
  - ◊ Airline updates
  - ◊ Articles from Middle-east based aviation leaders
  - ◊ Recent Movements of top officials in aviation field in Middle East
  - ◊ Current / Latest Development news by tourism platform - national / international
  - ◊ Features around - City /Hotels/ Cuisines / Adventure / Beach / Seasonal special
  - ◊ Suggestions & Feedback.

**Basic Do's and Don'ts to be followed are:**

- High-resolution photographs to be given for the authors as well as for the content. These should be in JPG format (and the file size should be in MB and not KB); these should not be blurred; should not be embedded in the word doc.; and should be 300 DPI. Photographs in the content should be either self-clicked photographs or images from Shutterstock website only to avoid the concerns of copyrights.
- For the author bio notes, the following points should be kept in mind:
  - ◊ The word count should be 50-60 words for personal job seekers with an exception to articles.
  - ◊ It should also contain contact details (email id) of the author(s) so that, the readers may connect to them.
  - ◊ The word count of the article should not exceed 1200 - 1500 words and should be written on one side of the A4 size paper
  - ◊ The article headings should not read like sentences; they have to be short and crisp.
  - ◊ The font should be Times New Roman (size 12) and margins should be normal (i.e. 1" all sides).
  - ◊ The use of references and/or endnotes is strongly encouraged, as they increase the relevance and significance of an article. Include all appropriate source information (e.g., author, publisher, title of book or article, magazine name, date/year of publication, country of publication, etc.). The author is responsible for obtaining any necessary permission for quoted or borrowed material.
  - ◊ The editorial committee formulated by “The Xpressions” will choose the articles from those submitted for publication. The criteria for the selection are: relevance to “The Xpressions” main theme of aviation, originality of scope, theoretical sophistication, and pictorial representation, besides others.

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 “The Xpressions” newsletter as it is strictly subject to screening before publishing. Furthermore, we may make minor editorial changes or correct spelling mistakes.

Looking forward to an overwhelming response and co-operation. All concerns, queries need to be addressed to [xpressions@caesarstravel.com](mailto:xpressions@caesarstravel.com) or contact the undersigned.

**Submission Deadline for the next edition:** 25th of March 2024 at 23:59 hours addressed to the above e-mail.