

The Xpressions

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www.caesarstravel.com

Transforming the skies: Tech-driven revolution in passenger experience

Alberto Araque, CEO, e& enterprise IoT & AI explains how technology can revolutionise the airport experience, by streamlining procedures and offering passengers a personalised journey. The post-pandemic world has witnessed a significant paradigm shift in passenger expectations. Travellers now prioritise health and safety measures, seeking a seamless and digitally integrated experience from booking to baggage claim. To transform the passenger experience, collaboration between regulators, security and government entities, solution providers, and customers is crucial.

While solution providers are responsible for innovation and technology implementation, public sector regulators and government entities also play a pivotal role in setting industry standards and safety protocols. Harmonising regulations and investing in airport infrastructure can enhance the overall travel experience. Together, these stakeholders can create a holistic approach that meets evolving passenger expectations and shapes a safe, efficient, and enjoyable journey for travellers worldwide.

Starting the journey on a high note

To truly excel in customer service, we must perceive travel not as a set of disparate touchpoints but as a continuous journey. This shift in perspective implies that the passenger experience should ideally commence well before reaching the airport. By offering passengers the freedom to organise their travel whenever and wherever they choose, service providers can deliver an unmatched level of convenience and control.

Mobile solutions permitting passengers to check in off-site, register their biometrics, and update their passport details are key to enhancing the overall travel experience. By incorporating these services into a single application, we can create a centralised, streamlined pre-travel experience that makes the often-intimidating journey more manageable. Moreover, home service solutions for check-in and baggage handling can ensure a hassle-free start to passengers' travel journey, while real-time luggage tracking can foster confidence and peace of mind.

Airport experience

Airports boast the potential to transform into vibrant, passenger-centric spaces instead of merely being transit hubs, and the introduction of self-service technologies is central to realising this transformation. Self-service kiosks that allow passengers to register biometrics, check-in, and obtain boarding passes expedite the process and give passengers a sense of control. Meanwhile, automatic baggage drop solutions can supersede traditional check-in counters, mitigating bottlenecks, and automating baggage transfer and weighing for enhanced operational efficiency.

Border control is often seen as a tedious and time-consuming process. Nevertheless, it is an essential aspect of air travel. Automated border control solutions offer an innovative resolution to this

issue, by utilising biometric capture, identity verification, and travel document authentication for quick and secure travel, improving passenger satisfaction while bolstering security measures that meet the standards set by regulators.

technology, airport operators can transform the entire process of air travel from a series of necessary procedures into an enjoyable journey.

e& enterprise, a leading technology company



Personalised journey

A memorable travel experience is all about making passengers feel special. It involves providing a personalised approach that caters to each passenger's unique preferences and needs. Wi-Fi management and analytics can yield valuable insights into passengers' habits, enabling airports to refine their services to better fulfil their needs. Personalised, interactive wayfinding can alleviate passenger stress by offering intuitive navigation throughout the airport.

Moreover, customised advertising can engage passengers in a more meaningful way, enhancing their overall airport experience. In the retail sphere, self-service payment machines employing biometrics can revolutionise the shopping experience by eliminating long queues. For VIP passengers, the lounge experience can be elevated to enhanced levels.

By verifying their identity through saved biometrics, operators can offer VIP passengers effortless access to the lounge. Furthermore, personalised greetings and food and beverage options based on their preferences can make their transit a luxurious experience. In conclusion, the need of the hour is to adopt a technology-driven, holistic approach to the passenger experience.

It transcends merely facilitating transit; to creating unforgettable and distinctive experiences that surpass passengers' expectations and make them feel valued and elated. By harnessing the power of

that excels in creating business value across diverse industries by designing, implementing, and managing innovative digital solutions, is uniquely positioned to provide all these transformative passenger experience solutions. The company's expertise in implementing state-of-the-art technologies at a large scale enables it to develop a suite of services that can enhance pre-travel, airport, and personalised travel experiences.

e& enterprise's comprehensive mobile solutions can enable off-site check-ins, biometric registration, and real-time baggage tracking. It can implement self-service kiosks, automatic baggage drops, and automatic border control systems to enhance airport efficiency and security. Moreover, its robust Wi-Fi management and analytics tools can provide valuable passenger insights, enabling personalised wayfinding, advertising, and shopping experiences.

Furthermore, the company's advanced biometric solutions enable operators to provide seamless, personalised lounge access for VIP passengers. e& enterprise ensures a smooth transition to operation and ongoing support, enabling clients to thrive and remain at the forefront of their industries. Through a strategic collaboration with e& enterprise, airport business customers can transform the passenger experience from a mere sequence of steps into a cohesive, effortless, and delightful experience.

New Courtesy: www.theaviatorme.com

Oman Air Appoints New Country Manager for Kuwait

Oman Air, the national carrier of the Sultanate of Oman, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Salah Sakhi Al Balushi as the new Country Manager for Kuwait. This strategic move marks a significant step in Oman Air's commitment to strengthening its presence in the Kuwaiti market and fostering strong partnerships within the region.

Mr. Salah Sakhi Al Balushi an accomplished aviation professional with experience, brings a wealth of industry knowledge and a proven track record of success to his new role. His appointment reflects Oman Air's dedication to delivering exceptional services to passengers while expanding its footprint in key markets.

His expertise and a deep understanding of the Middle East aviation landscape make him well-suited to drive Oman Air's growth and market share in Kuwait. In his new capacity, Mr. Salah Sakhi Al Balushi will oversee all aspects of Oman Air's operations in Kuwait, including sales, marketing, customer service, and strategic partnerships. He will also work closely with the airline's global network to ensure seamless connectivity for passengers traveling to and from Kuwait.

Mr. Salah Sakhi Al Balushi expressed his

enthusiasm for his new role, saying, "I am honored to lead Oman Air's operations in Kuwait, a dynamic and competitive market. Oman Air has a strong reputation for quality and excellence, and I am committed to further elevating our presence and offerings in

This appointment reflects Oman Air's commitment to delivering world-class services, expanding its reach, and strengthening its position in the global aviation industry. Mr. Salah Sakhi Al Balushi's leadership will undoubtedly play a pivotal



Kuwait. Our focus will be on delivering exceptional customer experiences and strengthening partnerships with our stakeholders to ensure the success of Oman Air in this region."

role in achieving these objectives, and Oman Air looks forward to a successful journey under his guidance.

Caesars International Travel Co. W.L.L. Named as General Sales Agent (GSA) for Sun Express

In a strategic move that's set to open new horizons in the world of travel and tourism, Caesars International Travel Co. W.L.L. has been officially appointed as the General Sales Agent (GSA) for Sun Express, a leading leisure airline. This partnership promises to offer enhanced travel experiences, expanded connectivity, and increased accessibility for travelers to and from the vibrant destinations served by Sun Express.

Sun Express, a well-regarded airline operating across Europe, particularly in Turkey and popular leisure destinations, has entrusted Caesars International Travel Co. W.L.L. with the responsibility of representing their brand, selling their services, and promoting their destinations in Kuwait.

Mr. P.N.J. Kumar, the CEO of Caesars

International Travel Co. W.L.L., expressed his enthusiasm about this new partnership. He stated, "We are thrilled to be chosen as the GSA for Sun Express. This collaboration opens up new avenues for travelers from Kuwait, providing them with access to a diverse range of destinations and a world-class travel experience. Sun Express is renowned for its commitment to safety, quality, and customer satisfaction, which aligns perfectly with our own values."

Sun Express, a subsidiary of Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines, has gained recognition for its focus on leisure travel and has been connecting people to some of the most exciting tourist destinations for years. With this partnership, Kuwaiti travelers can look forward to even more convenient and comprehensive travel options.



Ejaza General Trading Co. W.L.L. appointed as the GSA for Himalaya Airlines

A groundbreaking partnership in the realm of Aviation has been unveiled as Ejaza General Trading Co. W.L.L. takes up the mantle as the General Sales Agent (GSA) for Himalaya Airlines. This move not only marks an expansion in the global reach of both organizations but promises to offer travelers in Kuwait a host of new, exciting travel opportunities across the Himalayan region and beyond.

Himalaya Airlines, known for its excellent service and connectivity to the mesmerizing landscapes and vibrant cultures of Nepal and surrounding regions, has entrusted Ejaza General Trading Co. W.L.L. with the role of representing their brand, marketing their services, and providing



superior customer support in Kuwait.

In this capacity, Ejaza General Trading Co. W.L.L. is set to become the conduit through which Kuwaiti travelers will access the wonders of the Himalayas, the cultural treasures of Nepal, and the exciting destinations served by Himalaya Airlines.

Mr. P.N.J. Kumar the CEO of Ejaza General Trading Co. W.L.L., expressed his enthusiasm for the collaboration, stating, "Our partnership with Himalaya Airlines is a significant step forward for us. We are excited about the prospect of introducing travelers in Kuwait to the natural beauty and cultural riches of the Himalayan region. Himalaya Airlines has a strong reputation for quality service, which aligns perfectly with our commitment to excellence."

SalamAir to operate five weekly flights to India's Uttar Pradesh

Muscat – SalamAir, Oman's low-cost carrier, has announced five weekly flights to Lucknow starting from December 17.

The service will operate five times a week, with flights scheduled for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Monday.

A statement issued by the airline said, 'This route expansion provides excellent connectivity to all GCC



destinations, including Kuwait, Bahrain, Dammam, Jeddah, Riyadh, Doha, Dubai, and Fujairah. We are committed to offering our passengers greater flexibility and more travel options.'

New Courtesy: www.muscatdaily.com

Caesars Travel Group Honored with MALT Excellence Awards 2023 for the Entire GCC

In a night that celebrated excellence and innovation in the travel industry across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Caesars Travel stood out as a shining star, earning the prestigious MALT Excellence Awards for 2023. The event, hosted by the Middle East Association of Leisure and Travel (MALT), recognized the outstanding efforts and contributions of travel companies operating in the GCC region.

Caesars Travel, an established travel agency with a history of delivering exceptional services and crafting unforgettable journeys, received the coveted award during a glamorous ceremony held in Dubai. The MALT Excellence Awards is a testament to Caesars Travel's commitment to providing remarkable travel experiences and its dedication to customer satisfaction.

The Middle East Association of Leisure and Travel (MALT) organized this annual event to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of businesses that have excelled in the highly competitive travel and tourism industry across the GCC. The MALT awards are highly respected and eagerly anticipated by industry leaders and travelers alike.

Upon receiving the award, Mr. P.N.J. Kumar, the CEO of Caesars Travel, expressed his gratitude and excitement, saying, "We are deeply honored to receive the MALT Excellence Awards for the entire



GCC. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our team, who strive to create exceptional travel experiences every day. We are grateful for the trust our clients place in us and will continue to raise the bar in delivering memorable journeys."

Caesars Travel has long been known for its

unwavering commitment to excellence, offering a wide range of travel services and packages tailored to meet the unique needs and preferences of its diverse clientele. From leisure trips to business travel, they have consistently provided top-notch services, and this award reflects their dedication to their customers.

Kuwait introduces garbage fines if throwing outside other than the allotted places

It has been discovered that a number of expatriates have been throwing debris in areas that are not designated for waste disposal. As a result, some citizens are calling for strict punitive measures, including fines and deportation, to serve as an example for others.



Effective immediately, Kuwaiti authorities have implemented a fines system to deter littering. Those found guilty of discarding garbage outside of designated waste collection points will face financial penalties. The move is part of a broader effort to improve the cleanliness and aesthetics of public spaces and reduce the negative impact of litter on the environment.

Kuwait Drafts New Law to Limit Expat Hiring in Government Jobs

Kuwait, a country known for its significant expatriate workforce, is taking steps to reduce its dependence on foreign labor, particularly in the public sector. The Kuwaiti government has recently introduced a new draft law aimed at curbing the recruitment of expatriates in government positions. This move is part of a broader effort to promote the employment of Kuwaiti nationals and achieve a more sustainable balance in the labor force.

Kuwait has long been a destination for expatriate workers who have played a crucial role in various sectors of the economy, including healthcare, education, and public administration. However, the large expatriate population has been a topic of debate for some time, with concerns raised about the impact

KLM Discontinues Operations to Kuwait: The End of an Era

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, a renowned name in the aviation industry, has taken a significant decision that marks the end of an era. As of [date], KLM has officially discontinued its operations to Kuwait. This decision has been met with mixed reactions and leaves many wondering about the reasons behind this strategic move.

The discontinuation of KLM's operations to Kuwait will undoubtedly affect passengers who relied

involving multiple connecting flights.

For loyal KLM customers in Kuwait, this decision may come as a disappointment. However, other airlines serving Kuwait may seize this opportunity to expand their operations and cater to the market demand.

In the constantly changing world of aviation, decisions like these are inevitable. As KLM closes



on this route for their travel needs. Passengers who frequently flew with KLM to and from Kuwait may now need to seek alternative options, potentially

this chapter in its history, it remains to be seen what new horizons and routes the airline will explore in the future.

on national identity, employment opportunities for Kuwaiti citizens, and the distribution of government resources.

The draft law to limit expatriate hiring in government jobs in Kuwait is a significant step toward reshaping the country's labor landscape. While it aims to promote national employment and reduce dependence on expatriate labor, it is also essential that the law is implemented thoughtfully to minimize any adverse consequences, maintain critical services, and uphold Kuwait's reputation as a welcoming and diverse society. The law will likely undergo further deliberation and refinement before it is enacted, taking into account the country's unique labor market dynamics and the need for a smooth transition.



Unveiling Magicarpet: Your New Destination for Unbeatable Travel Deals

The travel industry is evolving, and with the advent of innovative online platforms, travelers have more options than ever to find the best deals and experiences. One such newcomer to the scene is "Magicarpet," a fresh and promising online travel agency (OTA) that's creating waves with its attractive offers and a unique approach to planning and booking trips.

A New Player in the OTA Space:

"Magicarpet" is not your typical travel agency. Founded with the vision to provide travelers with magical experiences, this OTA is making its mark by offering a range of services that set it apart from the competition.

What Sets Magicarpet Apart:

Attractive Offers: Magicarpet is gaining recognition for its irresistible travel deals. Whether you're planning a relaxing beach getaway, a cultural adventure, or a business trip, Magicarpet is known for its competitive prices, exclusive discounts, and special promotions.

User-Friendly Interface: The platform prides itself on its user-friendly website and mobile app, designed to make the booking process seamless and enjoyable.

Customer Support: The OTA offers top-notch customer support, ensuring that you have a reliable point of contact throughout your journey, from planning to returning home.

Exploring Magicarpet:

Motivated by the thrill of adventure and backed by a 30-year industry legacy, at Magicarpet we've scoured every corner of the globe to create genuinely memorable getaways.

Whether it is an annual family trip, a solo flight, going abroad for studies, or a business trip taking you to another corner of the world, we'll help you find air tickets and other traveling options that fit your needs.

We'll go the extra mile for you!

Choose your destination, browse all available flights, book your hotel room, rent a car (or a magic carpet), register for a guided tour, and much more only with a few clicks.

Our easy-to-browse platforms include flexible search options to make your holiday planning experience enjoyable. You can also give us a call or submit a query via our website and one of our agents will contact you.

If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind smooth travel experience you've come to the right place. By smooth, we mean hassle-free from the moment you start planning your trip.

All you have to do is set the destination and date of your travel and we'll provide you with everything you need from flights and ancillary

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services that include choosing your meals, seat, and even having someone available to assist you with your luggage at the airport, to accommodation!

And for those who love to make the most out of their journey, at Magicarpet we also help you find experiences tailored to your interests and budget so that you create the most magical memories on your trips.

24/7 MAGIC SUPPORT

What can we help you with?

Our team is a click away. Have a technical issue or want to leave us feedback about our site? Maybe even feel like saying a quick hello?

Whether you want to change your trip, ask about a refund, book a journey or find out more about recent COVID regulations our agents are available around the clock to assist you.

Either start a chat with us on our website or app, call or send us an email and we'll sort things out in no time.

Highlights

- Kuwait tightens border controls after some deportees return with altered identities Country introduces biometric fingerprinting in response to 'deportee re-entry scam'
- Kuwait company to incrementally increase health insurance premium for expatriates over next decade. Gradual premium hike to tackle decade of stagnant fees amidst inflationary pressures
- Kuwait considers fines for delays in ID collection: Among 220,000 unclaimed IDs, 70% belong to expats Uncollected IDs not only occupy storage space but hinder processing, issuance of new card
- Those leaving outside Kuwait should clear the electricity/telephone/vehicle fines and water charges, otherwise, they cannot leave Kuwait
- The new draft legislation introduces strict limits on expat salaries and remuneration, ensuring they do not surpass the compensation of their Kuwaiti counterparts in similar roles
- Kuwait has cancelled more than 66,500 expat driving licenses. Sheikh Talal Al Khaled Al Sabah, First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior gave the directives, according to an official statement made on Kuwait Government social media.

Air India passenger onboard Delhi-SFO flight suffers burns after crew accidentally spills coffee; airline apologises

A passenger onboard an Air India flight from the national capital to San Francisco earlier this month suffered burns after a cabin crew member accidentally spilled coffee on her, and the airline has apologised for the incident.

The passenger took to social media to narrate her experience, saying Air India delivered distressing experience that took a harrowing turn when flight attendant spilled hot water on my leg. I was travelling from New Delhi to SFO on Flight AI 173 with my 4-yr-old son and 83-yr-old mother-in-law. The flight lasted approximately 16 hrs, and it was nothing short of a nightmare, the passenger said in a long thread posted on social media platform X on September 27.

The passenger claimed that she was in excruciating pain and that screamed and cried for



help, and that after some time, a physician on the plane offered assistance. The physician diagnosed the injury as a second-degree burn and attempted to

provide care. However the flight lacked essential medical supplies, and the treatment was far from ideal I endured severe pain for nearly two hours in flight with no pain medication or proper first aid kit available, the passenger said in the thread.

We sincerely regret the unfortunate incident that occurred on our flight AI 173 operating Delhi-San Francisco on 20 September 2023. One of our cabin crew members accidentally spilled coffee on a guest during service, an Air India spokesperson said in a statement on Friday. While the passenger has claimed that the crew spilled hot water, the airline said coffee was spilled. The airline said the crew immediately administered first aid to the guest and paged for a doctor on board, who attended to the affected guest.

New Courtesy: economictimes.indiatimes.com

World Aviation Festival: Riyadh Air sets out vision to be first digitally born airline

The new Riyadh Air will become the first digitally born airline that embraces emerging technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI), the World Aviation Festival was told this week.

Technology giant IBM shared the stage with the Middle Eastern 'restart' carrier's chief executive Tony Douglas to explain what an airline unencumbered by legacy tech might look like. Dee Waddell, IBM global managing director travel and transportation, said: "The concept we are pushing this year is about AI is real and we are starting to see some of the implications AI is having in our world from a business perspective.



"It's not about you need use cases, it's about how you leverage AI in every aspect of your business. And it's about bringing that together in a common approach because trusted, explainable AI is critically

important.

"We recognise today the challenges our industry is experiencing. They are continuing and these are the negative aspects of the challenges of our industry; fuel, sustainability, economic crises, pandemics. But we always come back.

"I would like to move the discussion to a different aspect. This is about how we harness disruption and become a bold leader so we can drive forward no matter what the situation is. "It's about disruption and harnessing the power of disruption, particularly in innovations for the future.

New Courtesy: www.aviationbusinessnews.com

Zoom Airlines revives AOC to commence commercial passenger operations in India

Zoom Airlines has received Air Operator Certificate (AOC) from the DGCA and will soon commence commercial passenger operations in India. The AOC is a crucial certification for any airline, as it signifies that an operator has met the stringent safety, operational, and regulatory standards set by the civil aviation authorities.

Zoom Airlines CEO Atul Gambhir said, "With our AOC in hand, we look forward to provide passengers with a top-notch travel experience that combines convenience, efficiency, and comfort." He further added, "Our CRJ 200 aircraft will provide domestic travellers with unprecedented speed on each route. We wish to cater to the growing number of domestic travellers who take frequent flights and expect comfortable travel with reliable speed."

"Indian domestic aviation is growing, and customers are looking for the most cost-effective, safe, and convenient solutions. We are confident in our ability to carve out a niche by offering a unique



and innovative travel experience,' he added. The airline has plans for expansion and introducing new routes once they start the flight operations.

Zoom Airlines formerly operated as Zoom Airlines is owned by Gurugram based Zexus Air

Services Pvt. Ltd and it has fleet of Bombardier CRJ 200 series Aircraft. The current AOC has been issued on 14th Sept. 2023 and is valid till 13th Sept 2024 as per DGCA certification details.

New Courtesy: <https://aviationworld.in>

Air India enters interline partnership with Bangkok Airways

Air India has entered into an interline partnership with Bangkok Airways that will allow Tata group airline's customers seamless connections to 10 Southeast Asian destinations beyond the Thailand capital.

The two carriers have also entered a Special Prorate Agreement that allows them to file 'through fares' on routes covering each other's networks. This arrangement means that a passenger can have a single fare for a single ticket covering all destinations in an itinerary. The partnership enables Air India passengers to take convenient connections via the airline's Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Singapore



gateways to and from 10 destinations in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia on Bangkok Airways' route network, a release said on Thursday.

An interline arrangement refers to a pact to issue and accept tickets for flights that are operated by the partner airline. When selling an interline ticket, the operating airlines' own flight numbers are used. The collaboration with Bangkok Airways also includes Inter Airline Through Check-In (IATCI) implementation. This will enable guests to receive their boarding passes at the first point of departure for all the travel sectors on a single ticket, and have their baggage checked-in through to their final destinations, Air India said in the release.

New Courtesy: <https://aviationworld.in>

Malaysia Airlines Expands Connectivity in India with Three New Routes

Malaysia Airlines announces its plan for expansion in India with the commencement of three new services between Kuala Lumpur (KUL) to Amritsar (ATQ), Thiruvananthapuram (TRV) and Ahmedabad (AMD) effective 8 November, 9 November and 1 December 2023 respectively. The expansion will bring Malaysia Airlines' point-to-point connectivity from Kuala Lumpur to India to nine (9)

key hubs, thereby providing passengers with enhanced options and flexibility for travel between the two countries. The airline currently operates direct flights to New Delhi, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi. The new routes will be operated by the Boeing 737-800NG aircraft, equipped with 160 seats, comprising 16 seats in Business Class and 144 seats in Economy Class.



Etihad Airways to expand mutual agreement with SF Airlines

Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Airways, has welcomed senior leaders from China's SF Airlines to Abu Dhabi to review the reciprocal block space agreement between the two airlines announced earlier this year and explore opportunities to expand it further based on Abu Dhabi's strategic location. During the visit, Etihad Airways and SF Airlines entered into an expanded Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cement their commitment to strengthening ties and further cooperating to increase cargo capacity between China

and the rest of the world via Etihad Cargo's hub in Abu Dhabi.



Flydubai completes 14 years of its operation

Flydubai, the Dubai-based carrier, today marks 14 years of operations. On 01 June 2009, the carrier welcomed its first passengers on board its inaugural flight FZ 157 from Dubai to Beirut. Since then, flydubai has been changing the way people travel around the region by enabling them to travel to more places, more often.

Texel Air launches a sister airline Texel Air Australasia located at Auckland, New Zealand

Texel Air Australasia was officially launched from Auckland International Airport as New Zealand's newest airline operating the B737-800BCF. The airlines will add two additional B737-800BCFs to the fleet by December 2023. Texel Air, an established cargo airline and MRO based in the Kingdom of Bahrain, is expanding operations into Australasia with the B737-800BCF, the industry benchmark aircraft supporting regional logistic operators. At present it operates Boeing 737 freighter aircraft from Bahrain International Airport with two B737-700FC aircraft, two B737-800BCF aircraft and



one B737-300F aircraft. Texel Air was established in Bahrain in 2013 by Chisholm Enterprises W.L.L. The New Zealand operations increase the group fleet to six aircraft with further aircraft on order for delivery to New Zealand during 2023. It has been operating the B737-300F (A9C – APC) in New Zealand since 3 April 2023 under contract to NZ Post/Parceline Express in preparation for the arrival of the B737-800 (MSN 29985) ZK-TXE. The New Zealand operations have been supported by flight crew and engineers from Bahrain.

United Airlines Has More Available Seat Miles Than Any Other Carrier

United Airlines is the world's largest airline by ASMs in 2023, surpassing American Airlines, which had been first for years. United became number one in March and has remained in that position ever since. Not surprisingly, American continues to be first by passengers, seats, flights, fleet, etc. ASMs are an everyday industry metric that refers to one seat flown one mile. Unlike seats and flights, which are also perfectly normal measurements I use daily, ASMs reflect distance. Other than distance, ASMs are influenced by the size of an airline's total operation, aircraft gauge, the number of seats per flight, and the frequency of service.

Analysis of Cirium data shows that United overtook American as its average sector length is 26.2% longer – up by three percentage points versus 2019 – while using equipment with an average of 2.2% more seats per flight.

Numerous aircraft deliveries, including many widebodies, have influenced United. This contributed to seats per flight rising by a fifth since 2019, from just 110 seats to 131, as the distance they are flying rose by 8%.

It is also directly influenced by United's ASM production surpassing what it had in 2019 (+3.1%), while American remains down (-3.0%), based on Cirium data. While no doubt just temporary, it is a



reminder of how things can and do change.

Virgin Australia Partners with Sri Lankan Airlines for Interline Agreement

In September Sri Lankan Airlines added new interline partnership agreements with Emirates and Virgin Australia. As talk swirls around its probable privatization, Sri Lankan Airlines has put together another new airline partnership, this time with Australia's second-largest airline, Virgin Australia. The new partnership was announced late last week and came hot on the heels of a similar agreement with Emirates, which was made public on September 19.

SriLankan Airlines announced on September 28 that it had entered a first-ever interline partnership with Virgin Australia. SriLankan Airlines (SriLankan) is currently flying between Sri Lanka and Australia, and it believes the new interline agreement is a sign of its commitment to the market and will strengthen its operations in Australia and beyond.

SriLankan customers will have the convenience of adding select Virgin



Australia domestic or international connections to their SriLankan booking and managing a multi-airline itinerary under a single ticket.

SriLankan operates daily from Colombo, the

capital of Sri Lanka, to Melbourne and three times weekly to Sydney. Yesterday, SriLankan flight UL606 departed Colombo Bandaranaike International Airport (CMB) at 01:50 and after a 9:40 hour flight touched down in Sydney at 16:00. The flight was operated with a seven-year-old Airbus A330-300, registration 4R-ALR and MSN 1689, that departed Sydney International Airport (SYD) at 17:53 and arrived in Colombo at 23:33, in readiness to its Bangkok flight at 08:10 today.

Fleet data from ch-aviation.com shows that SriLankan has a fleet of 24 aircraft, including an almost equal split between Airbus single-aisle and widebody jets. The airline has four Airbus A330-200s, seven A330-300s, six A320-200s (including one on a wet lease), two A320neos, one A321-200 and four A321neos.

Norwegian Cruise Line Unveils Third Prima-Class Ship

Name of Third Prima Class Ship Revealed. Norwegian Cruise Line’s third Prima-class ship will be named Norwegian Aqua, and she is sure to make a splash. Sister ship to the already immensely popular Norwegian Prima (2022) and Norwegian Viva (2023), the third-in-class vessel has further updates and innovations that will truly set her apart.

The ship promises “more of what you love” aboard, “taking our Prima class to a whole new level.” This will include expanded outdoor spaces for stunning, panoramic views and a greater variety of staterooms, undoubtedly with additional solo cabins that Norwegian Cruise Line is adding across the fleet, plus much more.

“Norwegian Aqua is a true testament of fusing together what represents the future of our Brand as the first ship in the Prima Plus Class, and our commitment to pushing the boundaries in guest-first experiences that will make new waves at sea,” said David J. Herrera, president of Norwegian Cruise Line. “Named for both the beautiful shades of blue



from the ocean and our connection to the sea, Norwegian Aqua will feature new, elevated and exhilarating offerings that once again showcase NCL

as the innovator in the industry and as a key contributor to a new era of cruising.”

New Courtesy: www.cruisehive.com

MSC Cruises Offers Summer 2024 Options Across the Fleet

MSC Cruises is offering tempting itineraries around the world for the ideal summer vacations in 2024. With planning ahead the best way to secure preferred itineraries and the best deals, guests will want to look into these getaway options whether they want to travel in northern Europe, the Mediterranean, or the Caribbean.

Explore the World With MSC Cruises in Summer 2024

A variety of outstanding destinations and diverse itineraries are available from MSC Cruises for the summer 2024 sailing season, with spectacular cruise vacations in different parts of the world. From relaxing sailings to more adventurous getaways,

guests have multiple options to choose just the type of cruise they desire.

Hit the Beach



Tropical beach destinations are some of the most popular summer itineraries, and MSC Cruises is offering several options on several ships cruising the Caribbean.

From Ocho Rios, Jamaica to Nassau, Bahamas to the cruise line’s own private island, Ocean Cay MSC Marine Reserve, Caribbean itineraries stretch across some of the most beautiful waters in the world. This gives guests opportunities for snorkeling, paddleboarding, and other water sports, or just basking in the tropical sun on white sand beaches.

New Courtesy: www.cruisehive.com

Royal Caribbean Australia Fleet Complete as Season Begins

Royal Caribbean International’s third ship to sail Australian waters this summer has arrived as Ovation of the Seas completes the Down Under fleet for the 2023-2024 season. More Royal Caribbean ships with more capacity than ever before are sailing in the region, offering tens of thousands of guests outstanding options for amazing oceangoing holidays.

Ovation of the Seas Arrives in Sydney

The 168,666-gross-ton, Quantum-class Ovation of the Seas arrived in Sydney, Australia on Friday, November 3, 2023 to begin her summer season in the South Pacific. This completes Royal Caribbean’s lineup of three vessels in the region this summer, as Ovation of the Seas joins two other ships whose summer seasons have already begun. “Ovation of the Seas’ sixth season in Sydney’s iconic harbour underscores just how much Australians are seeking a holiday that has experiences for everyone in the family and all ages,” said Gavin Smith, vice president

and managing director, Australia and New Zealand, Royal Caribbean International. Brilliance of the Seas was the first ship to arrive, debuting in Sydney on October 22 for her first-ever season in Australia and New Zealand. Quantum of the Seas (sister ship to Ovation of the Seas) arrived several days later on October 28, and is now offering sailings from Brisbane.

Enjoying Ovation of the Seas

Making time to relax will be equally important for the whole family, and Ovation of the Seas also features the adults-only Solarium, the Vitality Spa, a number of pools and hot tubs, as well as the Adventure Ocean youth program for younger cruisers and teens. To refresh after amazing ports or an exciting day at sea, guests won’t want to miss the robotic bartenders at the Bionic Bar, wondrous meals at Wonderland, or outstanding shows at Two70. Ovation of the Seas joined the Royal Caribbean fleet in 2016 and is one of the largest



cruise ships in the world. She can welcome 4,180 guests at double occupancy, or as many as 4,905 travelers when fully booked with all berths filled. Onboard are also 1,500 international crew members to ensure everyone has a cruise vacation worthy of a standing ovation.

New Courtesy: www.cruisehive.com

Cruise Center honored with Best Producer 2023 Award from MSC Cruises

Cruise Center, the one and only office in Kuwait, the subsidiary of Caesars Travel Group, exclusively selling Cruise Holidays has reemerged with a new zeal for exploration and an increased awareness of the impact of travel among cruise lovers.

While there are still challenges ahead, cruise lines continue to push forward in their post-pandemic recovery, offering an even better experience on board – and on land – than ever before. Cruise Center offers a variety of cruises on different popular ships and



cruise lines as bucket-list travel and multi-generational travel start to become more popular than ever before.

Recently, Cruise Center was honored to be the 2nd positioned winner of the “Best Producer-2023” award for Middle East & Africa, and the award was presented on board the MSC Seaview.

Photo : Bijoy John receiving the award on board, MSC Seaview

Cruise Center Hosts a Seminar on Cruise Industry to Travel agents

Cruise updates

Cruise Center recently invited few leading travel agents for a seminar to further popularize the key role played by Royal Caribbean international among the world cruise industry.

Understanding the cruise industry and its dynamics is vital in today's tourism mix and if we talk about the cruises, Royal Caribbean is the main leader in the industry. Mr. Andrew Gomez, Head of sales-Middle East, Royal Caribbean International by addressing the travel agents said, "our industry is continuing to shift and implement key learnings towards cruising innovation in every aspect – from health and safety, to technology and sustainability. Here, Royal Caribbean proud to support the cruise community by providing a platform to unite and share knowledge, insights and solutions across these verticals".

Cruise Center, the one and only dedicated set ups in Kuwait for cruises is the top seller of Royal Caribbean international cruises and used to conduct training sessions for various cruise companies represented by them. "Upon successfully conducting such seminars by inviting our strong supporters/travel agents because of overwhelming amount of positive feedback that we are receiving, we are eager to continue the momentum, confident that through collaboration with these key travel agents, the cruise industry will come back stronger than ever" said Bijoy John, Key Account Manager, Cruise Center, Kuwait.

Royal Caribbean's new Innovation Lab takes the ship

design process to new heights by bringing the best creative minds and the latest technology together under one roof. Icon of the Seas is one step closer to claiming the title of the world's largest cruise ship. The ship's construction continues right on schedule,

thrilling theme park adventures, all within one location. Boasting accommodation for 5,610 guests, 20 expansive decks, and an array of features including six record-breaking waterslides, seven swimming pools, and nine whirlpools among its



with Royal Caribbean innovators developing even more groundbreaking wows for the latest member of the Icon class of ships. This colossal cruise ship offers diverse vacation experiences, from serene beach retreats to luxurious resort getaways and

2,805 staterooms. Spanning an impressive 1,198 feet (365 meters) in length, the ship amalgamates the cruise line's finest offerings with exciting new experiences, promising the ultimate adventure.

Carnival Flagship Hosts Largest Ever Casino Slot Tournament

Carnival Celebration hosted the largest ever \$1 million casino slot tournament aboard Carnival Cruise Line during the ship's most recent sailing, awarding impressive prizes to the top 100 players, including grand prize of \$500,000. More than 1,600 players participated in the event, and two additional competitions are already planned for 2024 and again in 2025.

A total of 1,691 guests aboard the October 29, 2023 departure of Carnival Celebration set casino

history as part of the largest ever slot tournament the cruise line has hosted. The \$1M Slot Tournament is a popular event for novice slot players and experienced casino guests alike, particularly with amazing prizes awarded. The top 100 players in the tournament were awarded prizes, and a \$500,000 grand prize was presented to the winner, Rhonda Anderson, on Thursday evening, November 2, 2023. The second place winner, Courtney Paschal, was awarded \$150,000, while third place winner, Robert Blevins,

earned \$50,000.

"Carnival has a history as an industry leader with our casinos and our \$1M Slot Tournament not only exemplifies that, but it celebrates it," said Jonathan Lask, Carnival's vice president of CRM and performance marketing. "Our onboard casinos bring fun and excitement to our Carnival Players Club members on all our ships, and this week has been a great way to bring many of those valued guests together and amplify the enthusiasm."

Caesars Travel Group wins MALT Excellence Awards 2023 for the Top Organization in Travel in GCC

The MALT Excellence Awards is the regions' one of a kind, most coveted award that highlights, honors, and celebrates path breaking achievements of top organizations



"This is a milestone in the history of our journey as a travel company, and we would like to convey our thanks and regards to our excellent customers for their great support; moreover, this award is dedicated to them as this would not have been possible without you. You have played a major part in the achievement of Caesars Travel Group's growth as we are now."



News around the world

India : 4th country ever to land a spacecraft on the moon

India has landed its Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft on the moon, becoming only the fourth nation ever to accomplish such a feat.

The mission could cement India's status as a global superpower in space. Previously, only the United States, China and the former Soviet Union have completed soft landings on the lunar surface.

Chandrayaan-3's landing site is also closer to the moon's south pole than any other spacecraft in history has ventured. The south pole region is considered an area of key scientific and strategic interest for spacefaring nations, as scientists believe the region to be home to water ice deposits.

As Chandrayaan-3 approached the moon, its cameras captured photographs, including one taken on August 20 that India's space agency shared Tuesday.



The image offers a close-up of the moon's dusty gray terrain.

Devastating flood in Libya took many lives

On 10 September 2023, Storm Daniel made landfall in Libya causing severe weather conditions, including strong winds and sudden heavy rainfall affecting several areas in the country.

Massive flooding has killed more than 4,300 people, with thousands more still missing. More than 16,000 children are displaced in eastern Libya, with many more affected due to lack of essential services such as health, schooling and safe water supply.

UNICEF has mobilized vital medical supplies, hygiene kits and clothing kits to support children and families whose lives have been devastated by the flooding. Donations can make an enormous difference in helping UNICEF to provide life-saving assistance.

The protracted political crisis and past conflict in Libya have had a significant impact on public services, particularly health, social protection and education services. For those already displaced and in need, this disaster compounds the loss and suffering.

The India-Canada rift: Sikh extremism and rise of transnational repression

Just before the opening of 78th UN General Assembly, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that his government had obtained credible information that the Indian government was involved in the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia, Canada. The intelligence apparently came from intercepted electronic communications among Indian diplomats. Canada was also assisted with intelligence provided by the Five Eyes (FVEY) partners, including the United States (US), making India's denial of involvement far less plausible.

Nijjar was an Indian Sikh who moved to Canada in 1997. From Vancouver, he ramped up his

involvement with Sikh independence and headed up a Sikh house of worship. New Delhi saw Nijjar's activities as far more nefarious, accusing him of leading the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), a militant outfit designated by India as a terrorist group, in February 2023. Nijjar was involved in the preparation of a non-binding referendum for Sikh independence in British Columbia in cooperation with the US-based Sikh for Justice (SFJ), a pro-Khalistan organization banned by India in 2020. At one point Nijjar was arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), although he was not charged. Still, he was placed on the no-fly list in Canada. Nijjar drew the ire of the Modi government after his repeated criticisms of its "Hindu-first policies."

France vows action as bedbugs sweep Paris

The French government has vowed action to "reassure and protect" the public as its capital Paris reports a "widespread" rise in bedbugs.

French Transport Minister Clement Beaune has said he would convene a meeting this week to "undertake further action" to "reassure and protect" the public from the reported surge in the numbers of the blood-sucking insect.

French transport operators remain "vigilant" about bedbugs following reports of what was said to be sightings in public transport but say there have been no sightings in recent days.

RATP, the operator behind the Parisian metro, said it is "extremely vigilant on the matter" but there had been no recent sightings.

The company told CNN on Monday that "each sighting is taken into account and is subject to a treatment," adding that "these last few days, there have been no proven cases of bedbugs recorded in our equipment."

RATP said a report was made on Wednesday last week but after an assessment "no presence of bedbugs was recorded on the train."

Ethnic Armenians flee Karabakh after breakaway region's defeat

Thousands of ethnic Armenians fled the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh on Monday, queuing up for fuel and jamming the mountain road to Armenia after their fighters were defeated by Azerbaijan in a lightning military operation.

The leadership of the 120,000 Armenians who call Karabakh home told Reuters on Sunday that they did not want to live as part of Azerbaijan and that they

would leave for Armenia because they feared persecution and ethnic cleansing. In the Karabakh capital, known as Stepanakert by Armenia and Khankendi by Azerbaijan, crowds of people were loading belongings into buses and trucks as they left for Armenia.

The mass departures were marked by confusion.

An explosion at a gas storage depot on a road outside the capital injured more than 200 people, local news

The earthquake in Morocco that shattered thousands of lives

With arms around each other, three boys walked through the streets of their town at the foot of Morocco's Atlas Mountains.

In Amizmiz, the boys made their way through rubble, one week after an earthquake rattled their community's homes, schools, mosques and cafes. Their possessions were buried beneath tonnes of mud and clay bricks along with an untold number of people whom the boys knew. A little girl held her palms to her cheeks, stunned at the destruction. The magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit Morocco on September 8, causing mass deaths in mountain villages that have collapsed in on themselves. A magnitude 4.9 aftershock hit 19 minutes later. Entire villages higher up in the mountains were levelled. In many, at least half of the population appears to have died.

G20 meeting held successfully in New Delhi

The 18th G20 Summit was successfully conducted at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi during 9-10 September, 2023. It was a culmination of all the G20 processes and meetings held throughout the year among ministers, senior officials, and civil societies. The G20 Leaders' Declaration was adopted at the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Summit, stating their commitment towards the priorities discussed and agreed upon, during the respective ministerial and working group meetings.

India going to launch new passport soon

India will soon embark on the second phase of the Passport Seva Programme (PSP-Version 2.0), which includes new and upgraded e-passports, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has announced.

Jaishankar called on passport-issuing authorities in India and abroad to join him in renewing the pledge to provide passport and related services to people in a "timely, reliable, accessible, transparent and efficient manner."

A proposal to change the name of "India" to Bharath

The five-day special session of Parliament is set to begin on 18 September and there is much anticipation around the possibility of a big decision from the government. After UCC and 'one-nation, one election' another guess is going around, which points towards an official change in our nation's name from 'India' to 'Bharat' through a constitutional amendment under Article 368. Article 1 of the Indian constitution mentions our country as 'India, that is Bharat' is a 'Union of States'. The name was decided by the Constituent Assembly after much debate as some members wanted the name India and some wanted to keep it Bharat.

reports said, quoting Nagorno-Karabakh's ombudsman Gegham Stepanyan. Most of the injured were in serious or very serious condition and needed to be taken out of the region urgently for treatment, Stepanyan said. Refugees who reached Armenia told Reuters they believed the history of their breakaway state was finished. "No one is going back - that's it," Anna Agopyan, who reached Goris, a border town in Armenia, told Reuters.

SAL Saudi Logistics Services IPO: cargo company may raise as much as \$678m

The main shareholders in SAL Saudi Logistics Services Company are selling a 30 per cent stake in the company as part of an initial public offering that may raise as much as 2.54 billion riyals (\$678 million).

The selling shareholders Saudi Arabian Airlines Corporation, also referred to as Saudia, which owns 70 per cent of SAL, and Tarabot Air Cargo Services that has a 30 per cent stake, are selling 24 million shares at a range of 98 riyals to 106 riyals each in the cargo entity, according to a statement on Monday.

SAL's implied market value at listing on main market of the Saudi Exchange (Tadawul) will be between



\$2.09 billion and \$2.26 billion depending on the final offer price.

The bookbuilding period for institutional investors is from September 25 until October 1, and for retail investors from October 11 to October 13.

Middle East IPOs raised more than \$23 billion in 2022, compared with \$7.52 billion from 20 offerings in the previous year.

That was the highest share for the Gulf region after 2019, when Saudi Aramco went public in a \$29 billion offering, the world's largest.

Earlier this month, Saudi Arabia's oil driller Ades Holding generated \$76.5 billion in orders for its \$1.2 billion IPO, the country's biggest of the year.

UAE petrol and diesel prices to rise

The prices of petrol and diesel in the UAE will rise in October, it has been announced. The UAE liberalised petrol prices in 2015 to allow rates to move in line with the market. In 2020, prices were frozen by the Fuel Price Committee after the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. The controls were removed in March 2021 to reflect the movement of the market once again.

Oil prices breached the \$95 mark this month amid concerns of tight crude supplies and signs of an

economic recovery in China, the world's second-largest economy and top crude importer.

The International Energy Agency expects a "substantial" crude market deficit in the fourth quarter of this year because of Opec+ output cuts.

The Paris-based agency expects global oil demand to rise by 1.5 million barrels per day in the second half of this year, compared with the first half, exceeding supply by 1.24 million bpd during that period.

Kuwait's Parliament approves 2023-24 draft budget

Kuwait's Parliament on Wednesday approved the draft budget for 2023-24, which forecasts a fiscal deficit of 6.8 billion dinars (\$22 billion).

Kuwait recorded a budget surplus of 6.368 billion dinars in the fiscal year that ended on March



31, its first in nine years, the Finance Ministry said last month, as oil revenue jumped almost 65 per cent on higher oil prices. But Kuwait has had to comply with production cuts by the Opec+ producer group amid lower oil prices this year while making slow progress on diversifying revenue sources compared with its Gulf neighbours.

Saudi Arabia revises growth forecast for 2023 and 2024

Saudi Arabia, the Arab world's largest economy, has revised its growth forecast for 2023 and expects to record a budget deficit this year as it boosts spending to achieve its diversification ambitions.

The kingdom expects real gross domestic product to grow by 0.03 per cent this year, "due to a voluntary reduction in oil production", compared with a previous growth estimate of 3.1 per cent, a preliminary budget statement from the Ministry of Finance showed on Saturday.

Non-oil growth this year is projected to reach 5.9 per cent, led by the trade, hospitality and tourism sectors, it said.

Saudi Arabia is now forecasting a deficit of 82 billion Saudi riyals (\$21.86 billion) this year, compared with its previous estimate of a surplus of 16 billion riyals.

For this year, the country is now projecting revenue of 1.180 trillion riyals and spending of 1.262 trillion riyals.

Qantas Airways swings to record profit bolstered by post-pandemic travel boom

Qantas Airways – Australia's largest carrier and long-time partner of Dubai's Emirates Airline – swung to a record annual profit, helped by the group's A\$1 billion recovery programme launched in 2020 during the pandemic and as strong travel demand pushed revenue higher.

The airline posted an underlying profit before tax of

A\$2.47 billion (\$1.6 billion) for the year ending June 30, compared to a loss of A\$1.86 billion a year ago, it said in a statement on Thursday.

The carrier doubled the number of passengers flown during the year to 46 million compared to the year before.

"Travel demand is incredibly robust and we've taken delivery of more aircraft and opened up new routes to help meet it," Alan Joyce, Qantas Airways' chief executive, said. "We've shifted from heavy losses to a strong profit and pipeline of investment worth billions of dollars."

Saudi Arabia's Flag Carrier Teases a 'New Era' For the Airline After Wiping Branding From Social Media Accounts

The flag carrier airline of Saudi Arabia has wiped its branding from its social media accounts and is now teasing a 'new era' for the carrier, which is set to be unveiled on Saturday evening.

Saudia hasn't provided any further details about what exactly will be revealed this weekend, but the announcement could provide further insight into how Saudia will fit into the Kingdom's aviation plan when Riyadh Air starts operations in little more than a year.

There has been lots of speculation that Saudia could take a backseat to Riyadh Air, which will become Saudi Arabia's premiere international airline designed to compete against regional neighbours like Emirates and Qatar Airways and herald in a new era of tourism for the country. If this plan is realised, the hot money is on Saudia focusing its business on so-called Umrah religious pilgrimage flights, alongside air services for religious conservatives out of its Jeddah base.

Middle East air passenger traffic in 2023 to reach 96.8% of pre-Covid levels

The Middle East's air passenger traffic is forecast to reach 96.8 per cent of pre-Covid levels in 2023, handling 394 million travellers, as the region continues its recovery from the effects of the pandemic.

The region's passenger volumes are expected to fully recover in 2024, with a projected 429 million travellers, or 105.4 per cent of 2019 levels, according to the Airports Council International World. The Middle East was the fastest-recovering travel market in 2022 with this streak expected to continue in 2023, the trade association for airports – representing nearly 2,000 airports worldwide – said in its industry outlook for 2023–2024. This comes as the Middle East's tourism sector has recorded the strongest post-pandemic rebound in the world, despite persistent global economic challenges, according to a separate report by HSBC.

The region, home to the biggest Arab economy, Saudi Arabia, and the global leisure and commercial hub of the UAE, is unique in recording a "total recovery" in terms of tourist arrivals in the first



quarter of 2023, the bank said in its August report.

The number of tourist arrivals in the first three months of this year climbed 15 per cent compared with levels recorded in 2019.

ACI World projects that global air travel will nearly return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023, with all regions expected to reach this mark in 2024. Global volumes in 2023 will reach 8.6 billion passengers, which is 94.2 per cent of the 2019 level, before fully recovering in 2024.

Here's how to protect your home from air pollution

Although an institutional effort is crucial to address air pollution, here are some ways in which residents can improve air quality in their homes and combat imminent health hazards.

Indoor plants

Plants not only have aesthetic value, but can also help improve indoor air quality. Some varieties do this better than others, including bamboo palms, rubber plants, dracaena, peace lilies, snake plants, English ivy and Chinese evergreen, according to healthline.com.

Clean sweep

Regular house cleaning is important to dust away hazardous particles. Also clear away clutter, as this

can trap and hold dust particles. Vacuum carpets, rugs and upholstery once or twice a week, with a vacuum cleaner that has a Hepa filter. Regularly wipe down AC vents, mop wood, tile and marble floors daily, and try to dry bedding and cushion covers in direct sunlight. "Check for wallpapers that could obscure mould, and carefully inspect used furniture for the same," says Dr Beena Thomas, a pulmonologist at Aster Day Surgery Centre in Mankhool, Dubai.

Air purifiers

Improve the air quality in your space by investing in an air purifier. Look for an option with a high CADR (clean air delivery rate) – the higher the number, the faster it will filter the air. Seek assistance from a technician as there are different types and sizes of

purifiers suitable to specific areas. Some brands to consider include Dyson, Coway Xiaomi and Levoit.

Light candles

Opt for beeswax candles, which have air-purifying qualities, as they release negative ions while they burn. They are also 100 per cent natural and will keep your home smelling great.

Groom pets

Dead skin cells shed by our four-legged friends are another common culprit when it comes to indoor air pollution, so make sure you are washing and brushing your pets regularly. Dr Thomas adds: "For households with pets, immediately dispose of animal excrement."

Ethiopian coffee shops find fans far from home

Growing up in Ethiopia, Yared Markos would often start his days the same way: with coffee. Family members, neighbours and passers-by would be drawn in by the strong aroma of fresh beans roasting in a pot, often made by his mother or another family member.

Regardless of who they were, all were welcome.

And this tradition wasn't limited to the morning. Coffee, or buna in Amharic, is typically drunk at the end of each meal. Drinking coffee was a communal experience for Markos, so when he first immigrated to London from Ethiopia 23 years ago, the culture shock hit hard.



What happens if you exercise but don't eat well

Maybe you're someone who runs 20 to 30 miles a week but regularly gets fast food for dinner. Perhaps you track what you eat Monday through Friday but binge on the weekends. Or maybe you're someone whose kitchen is stocked with chips, cookies and soda because your workout keeps you thin.

The idea of eating anything you want without consequences might sound like a dream - especially if you've convinced yourself that you're going to burn it off in your next cardio session. But the reality is that it doesn't matter whether you work out longer or at a higher intensity, experts say. Exercise cannot completely reverse the effects of a

bad diet.

Being healthy doesn't mean you have to give up all the foods you enjoy eating. People tend to demonize certain foods, and feeling like you can't have any sugar or carbs can create a toxic relationship with food, Derocha said.

Instead of feeling guilty for getting takeout last night or for ordering dessert, Susie advised to reshape your perspective. She said to think of food as more than just calories but as the kind of energy it can provide. If you've had enough fiber today, look at where you add in extra protein, omega-3s or healthy carbs.

Residential Move After a Heart Attack Raises Risk for Death

Moving from one residence to another after an acute myocardial infarction (AMI) significantly increases the risk for death or transition to a long-term care facility as an end-of-life measure, data suggest. In a prospective study that followed more than 3000 patients with AMI over two decades, each residential move was associated with a 12% higher rate of death.

The prospective cohort study sample included 3369 patients who had an AMI between

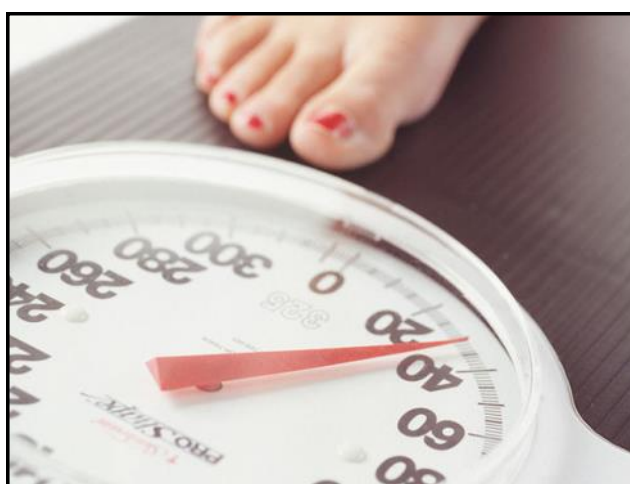
December 1, 1999, and March 30, 2023. The investigators followed participants until death or the last available follow-up date of March 30, 2020. They defined a residential move as a relocation from one postal code region to another.

Approximately 87% died in the community or moved from home into a long-term care facility as an end-of-life destination. Overall, 84.8% of patients who were admitted to long-term care facilities died.

Maintaining a stable weight may be linked to exceptional longevity

Exceptional longevity refers to the phenomenon of living significantly longer than the average lifespan of a given population. This is often observed in certain individuals who live to be 100 years old or more, known as centenarians.

Genetic factors, lifestyle choices such as a healthy diet, regular exercise, and avoiding smoking, as well as a positive mental attitude, are all thought to contribute to achieving exceptional longevity. Older women looking to extend their lifespan to the age of 90 or beyond should focus on maintaining a stable weight. A recent multi-institutional study found that older women who maintained a stable body weight



after 60 were more likely to reach their 90th birthdays.

The comprehensive study revealed that older women with a more stable weight were 1.2 to 2 times more likely to achieve exceptional longevity compared to those who lost 5 percent or more of their weight. The researchers found that women who lost weight were 38 percent less likely to reach the age of 100, 33 percent less likely to make it to the age of 90, and 35 percent less likely to reach the age of 95. When the experts looked at separate groups, the results were similar among women who were overweight, obese, or had a normal weight.

Where to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival in Dubai and Abu Dhabi

The Mid-Autumn Festival is almost here. Also known as the Moon Festival, this year it falls on Friday. The occasion, which began as a celebration of the Moon in hope of bountiful harvests, is marked by many East Asian countries, from China to Vietnam.

The event is typically celebrated by eating mooncakes, which consists of slightly thick, tender pastry with a sweet filling. Some variations feature salted egg yolks to symbolise the Moon, with lotus seed or red bean filling. However, more modern variations also include flavours such as pineapple, coconut or honey melon. For those looking to celebrate, here's what to go (plus a bonus on where to get mooncakes if travelling):

Hakkasan Dubai

The Michelin-starred restaurant at Atlantis, the Palm,



will have a curated set menu by executive chef Andy Toh specifically created for the Mid-Autumn Festival. It includes eight Chinese dishes (such as dim sum, roasted duck with mango and stir-fry beef tenderloin) and comes with a mooncake dessert. There is also an a la carte menu available.

Dai Pai Dong Abu Dhabi

The restaurant located in Rosewood Abu Dhabi will mark the occasion with a week-long celebration with different dining options. There is an eight-course family-style menu and a Mid-Autumn hot pot brunch – both available throughout the week. There will also be a gala yum cha brunch on October 1. Mooncakes will also be available.

WHAT IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT KEUKENHOF IN 2024

To see the flower fields in bloom we recommend to come to the Netherlands from last decade of April to the first decade of May (though the exact dates are very dependent on weather). During this period the chance to see the flower fields in bloom is the highest. You will find numerous publicly accessible fields in the neighbourhood of Lisse and Hillegom.

A few years ago we were making regular blooming reports from Keukenhof. You can look back and see what to expect in Keukenhof in March, April and May.



7 essential travel safety tips

Travel can be an exciting, eye-opening experience. It's easy to get caught up in the thrill of adventure. But don't forget about travel security and safety considerations while you're abroad.

Follow these 7 travel safety tips to help you take a trip that's memorable for all the right reasons

1. Do your research

Get to know your destination in depth before you arrive. Read traveler reviews and consult with locals for information about the safest neighborhoods, places to stay and incidences of crime. Check the State Department's website for country updates and enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

Another important travel security precaution is to know whom to call in an emergency. Get the contact information for the nearest embassy or consulate, police station, and other local emergency departments.

2. Don't draw attention

People who look like they're from out of town are especially vulnerable to crime, so try to blend in as much as you can. Choose inconspicuous clothing that won't attract attention. Be discreet when looking at maps and approach people carefully if you need to ask for directions.

Also consider investing in protective clothing and gear that will make it more difficult for pickpockets to steal money and other personal items.

3. Make copies of important documents

You never know when you might need a copy of your passport, driver's license or another form of identification. Scan these documents to save online and print out several hard copies. That way, you won't be scrambling to find proper documentation if you need to get home.

4. Keep your friends and family updated

No matter whether you're going, on an overnight jaunt or a month-long international journey, it's always a good idea to let friends or family back home know. Before you leave, send a copy of your itinerary to a few trusted people who can keep tabs on your

whereabouts. Check in regularly with your contacts so they know you're where you're supposed to be.

5. Be wary of public Wi-Fi

Don't let the convenience of Internet access cloud your judgment. When you use public Wi-Fi, hackers looking to steal valuable information can access your data including credit card or Social Security numbers. If you do need wireless Internet service, set up a virtual private network (VPN) that will allow you to access the Internet securely while traveling.

6. Safeguard your hotel room

Even if your hotel has strong security measures in place, there are steps you can take to make your room safer. Lock and dead-bolt the door and keep your windows shut. You can buy a jammer, which is a portable device that slips under the door for another layer of protection.

Try to give the impression that you're in your room even when you're away, such as placing the Do Not Disturb sign on the outside of your door and keeping the blinds or windows closed.

Don't let any strangers into your room, even if they say they work for the hotel. You can always call the front desk to check whether someone was ordered by hotel staff to come to your room.

7. Be aware of your surroundings

Don't let your guard down to snap the perfect picture for your social media platforms. Keep an eye on your personal belongings at all times and use good judgment when talking to strangers. A big part of the joy of traveling is the opportunities it affords to meet new people and learn about their cultures. But if someone near you is acting suspiciously, or if you feel uncomfortable, leave the area immediately.

Following these tips can help you travel safely, but no matter how many precautions you take the unexpected can always happen. Stay protected with travel insurance from Nationwide, and get peace of mind no matter where you go.

Saudi Unveils Leyja: Yet Another Luxury Mountain Destination

Saudi Arabia's futuristic NEOM super-city has announced another region. It is called Leyja, pitched as the \$500 billion development's sustainable and eco-tourism hub in the mountains. Leyja has no opening date or firm details on facilities, what we do know, so far, is that it will include three hotels.



The new tourism destination will start at the Gulf of Aqaba, winding up to the 400-meter-high mountains of NEOM, where the three hotels will perch. The three hotels, currently without operators, are called the Wellness Hotel, Oasis Hotel and Adventure Hotel, each with just 40 keys.

Planned to become another ultra-luxury project in the Public Investment Fund portfolio, Leyja will include high-end stores, helipads, and an array of fine-dining restaurants helmed by celebrity chefs.

With Saudi raising its previous 100 million visitors by 2030 target to 150 million, mega projects such as these are hoped to drive up tourism numbers and spending. Other projects include Soudah Peaks, Trojena, Red Sea and Diriyah.

Mountain Tourism in Saudi

Soudah Peaks is a project on the country's highest peak, 3,015 meters above sea level, where various hotels, holiday homes, shops and restaurants will be built.

It is the second mountain tourism project of Mohammed bin Salman, who also greenlit Trojena, where Saudi Arabia plans to host the Asia Winter Games in 2029.

Soudah Peaks will be completed within a decade, housing 2,700 hotel keys and 1,336 residences, along with 80,000 square meters of commercial space. Soudah Peaks will have mansions, chalets, villas, resorts and boutique hotels, with phase one of the development given a 2027 finish line.

Mohammed bin Salman acts as chairman of the project's development company, which Saudi Arabia says can add \$7.7 billion to national GDP and generate thousands of jobs.

Caesars Travel Group Celebrates Onam with Vibrancy and Unity

Caesars Travel Group, a prominent name in the travel industry, hosted a spectacular Onam celebration embracing the rich culture and traditions of Kerala, India. Onam, the annual harvest festival celebrated with zest and fervor, came alive at the Caesars Travel Group as employees and leadership united to mark this auspicious occasion.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of



the traditional lamp by the CEO of Caesars Travel Group, Mr. P.N.J. Kumar, symbolizing the onset of the festivities.

One of the highlights of the day was the Onam Pookalam, where teams of enthusiastic

employees competed to create the most intricate and colorful floral patterns. Event showcased the creative talents of the workforce but also fostered teamwork and collaboration among employees from diverse backgrounds.

The centerpiece of the celebration was the sumptuous Onam Sadhya, a grand vegetarian feast served on banana leaves. The Sadhya featured an array of delectable dishes, including the fragrant Kerala rice, avial, sambar, rasam, thorans, pickles, and a variety of mouthwatering payasams. It was a gastronomic delight, allowing everyone present to savor the authentic flavors of Kerala. In addition to the culinary delights, the Caesars Travel Group organized various cultural programs that added to the festive atmosphere. Employees donned traditional Kerala attire, with women elegantly dressed in kasavu sarees and men in dhotis. Mr. P.N.J., the CEO of Caesars Travel Group, expressed his delight at celebrating Onam with the team. He said, "At Caesars Travel Group, we believe in the strength of diversity and cultural inclusivity. Onam is a time for us to come together, regardless of our backgrounds, and celebrate unity. The energy and enthusiasm displayed today are truly heartwarming."

The event wasn't just about the festivities; it was a reminder of the significance of embracing cultural diversity within the organization. It underscored that

Caesars Travel Group values and respects the cultural heritages of its employees, making the workplace a more inclusive and harmonious environment.

The Onam celebration at Caesars Travel Group celebrated the richness of Kerala's culture and traditions, while also promoting unity and inclusivity within the organization. It demonstrated how a company can honor and celebrate the diversity of its



workforce, and in doing so, strengthen the bonds between its team members. The Onam celebration at Caesars Travel Group serves as a shining example of an organization that values and embraces the cultural tapestry of its employees, ensuring a harmonious and welcoming workplace.

Caesars Holidays Unveils Exciting Short Breaks to Diverse Destinations

In an exciting move to cater to the evolving travel preferences of its customers, Caesars Holidays, a renowned name in the travel industry, has announced the launch of a range of enticing short break packages to various destinations. These thoughtfully designed getaways are set to offer travelers the perfect escape for a quick but rejuvenating adventure.

The destinations covered in the short breaks are as diverse as the desires of modern travelers. From bustling metropolitan cities to tranquil beachside retreats and culturally rich historic sites, Caesars Holidays has curated a collection of experiences to suit every taste.

Here's a glimpse of what travelers can expect from these exciting short breaks:

City Escapes: For those seeking the thrill of urban adventures, Caesars Holidays offers a range of short breaks to vibrant cities. Whether it's exploring the historic streets of Rome, indulging in the culinary delights of Barcelona, or discovering the art and culture of Paris, there's a city break for everyone.

Beach Getaways: If relaxation and the soothing

sounds of the sea are more to your liking, the short breaks include some stunning beach destinations. Unwind in the tropical paradise of Bali, bask in the sun in the Maldives, or savor the Mediterranean charm of the Greek Islands.



Cultural Experiences: For travelers who wish to delve into history and culture, Caesars Holidays offers short breaks to iconic cultural sites. From exploring the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu to visiting the architectural wonders of Petra, these packages allow travelers to immerse themselves in history and heritage.

Adventure Thrills: Those with an adventurous spirit can opt for short breaks that offer adrenaline-pumping experiences. From exploring the wilds of Costa Rica to embarking on a safari in South Africa, there are plenty of options to quench your thirst for adventure.

The short break packages by Caesars Holidays come with a variety of inclusions such as carefully selected accommodations, guided tours, and curated experiences that provide travelers with a hassle-free and memorable journey. Whether you're traveling solo, as a couple, or with family and friends, there's a package designed to suit your preferences and budget.

Mr. P.N.J. Kumar, the CEO of Caesars Holidays, shared his enthusiasm for the new offering, saying, "We're thrilled to introduce our short break packages. In today's fast-paced world, we understand the need for quick and rejuvenating getaways. These packages are designed to offer travelers the best of each destination in a short time, making every moment count. At Caesars Holidays, we believe in providing travelers with the flexibility to create their own adventures, and these short breaks are a testament to that commitment."

Caesars Travel Group's Overseas Division in Bangalore Takes a Step Forward with New Location

Caesars Travel Group's overseas division in Bangalore, India, has made a significant leap towards enhancing its sales outlook by relocating to a new and upgraded workspace. The move to this modern location is a strategic decision aimed at fostering innovation, efficiency, and growth within the company.

The new office space, situated in a bustling business district of Bangalore, reflects Caesars Travel Group's commitment to its overseas division's expansion and evolution. With a fresh and contemporary design, the workspace provides a conducive environment for employees to excel in their roles and cater to the growing demands of the travel industry.



Mr. P.N.J. Kumar, the CEO of Caesars Travel Group, expressed his enthusiasm about the move, saying, "This new workspace marks a significant step in our journey towards enhancing our sales outlook. We believe that a modern and efficient office

environment will not only boost our team's morale but also elevate our service quality. With a more accessible and technologically advanced location, we are poised to better cater to our clients' needs and fuel our growth."

In conclusion, the relocation of Caesars Travel Group's overseas division in Bangalore to a new and improved workspace marks a significant upgrade to their sales outlook. This strategic move demonstrates the company's commitment to providing a more efficient and innovative work environment for its employees and an enhanced experience for its clients. Caesars Travel Group continues to evolve and adapt to meet the ever-changing demands of the travel industry, reinforcing its position as a leading player in the market.

Editorial

Media's role in the travel industry

From the last few years, much of the physical travel media (magazines, newspaper supplements, media advertisements, etc.) has experienced a slow but sure decline, making way for cheaper, digital alternatives. Unsurprisingly, much of this change can be laid at the door of the COVID-19 pandemic. Departments were reshuffled, various outlets closed their doors, and travel media companies pursued different revenue streams to keep the lights on during the height of lockdown restrictions.

But as a whole, travel media's shift from print towards digital reflects a decades-long development that has slowly enveloped most other industries. Interestingly, while many travel publications across the UK & Ireland discontinued their print properties in the lead up to and wake of COVID (The Sunday Times Travel Magazine ended its 17-year run just eight months into the pandemic), there are a number of outlets still going strong.

Here, we take a deeper dive into those print travel publications that are still thriving, and why travel magazines and newspaper supplements still represent a vital piece of the marketing mix?

In today's world of technology, the travel industry has changed. In other words, customers can directly book their travel transportation, accommodations, and various activities from their devices. As a result, businesses in the travel and

tourism industry should leverage marketing to better promote their best offers. By marketing 'why' it may be best to use travel businesses, the travel industry can continue to prosper, which means more customers and increased sales. These are the results by cutting through the noise with online content which has become increasingly challenging, placing pressure on brands to develop more striking and unique content than ever in order to make themselves heard in such a crowded market.

However, physical travel magazines and newspaper pullouts don't suffer from the same saturation. And, while they may not contain the same level of detail or flexibility as their digital counterparts, they can inspire a sense of wanderlust unmatched by images or words on a screen. There's something special about flicking through the glossy pages of a magazine, drinking in vivid images of far-off places or captivating stories of exotic destinations and unique cultures. Because magazines cost more to produce, more love goes into their craft, and the result is something tangible that creates a longer-lasting impression with those who consume it. We understand that due to the emerging digital world, travel magazines and newspaper pullouts have experienced a decline in recent years, many have thrived because they intelligently carved out a niche, or diversified their product offering.

By looking into all these positive points, the launch of "The Xpressions" is just part of our vision for the future travel. Our mission behind launching this magazine is to serve as a high-touch, meaningful way of reaching to our customers to inspire and stay connected with us.

The Xpressions will feature leading travel writing, world travel updates and cover a wide spectrum of travel-related news around the world. This quarterly magazine will maintain a close approach towards the changing scenario of the travel industry while remaining accessible to a wide audience. It combines insightful analysis with a touch of inspiration, making it a must-read for those looking to excel in both their professional and personal travel inclinations.

Moving forward, we request all our valued clients/readers to support us and of course, we are trying to make this magazine more professional in the coming days as at the moment, it's only a humble beginning. We will try to promote destinations of your interest, excursions and various travel resources in our next editions with exciting travel plans that will inspire your next travel itinerary.

Manthra

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

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 or contact the undersigned.

Submission Deadline for the next edition: 25th of December 2023 at 23:59 hours addressed to the above e-mail.