

1 IN CIRCULATION & READERSHIP UAE'S LEADING TRAVEL TRADE MONTHLY

ddppl.com

TRAVTALK

TravTalkMiddleEast.com

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY Published from : ★ India ★ Middle East

■ Creating a traveller, #NotATourist07
■ New Salalah Airport starts operations08
■ Tailor-made for one and all12

PASS IT ON

NAME	SEEN
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

CARLEASE
RENT A CAR

Price | Quality | Service



OUR SERVICES

- Short Term hire to individuals and fleet customers
- Long Term Hire to individuals and fleet customers
- Buses, with or without drivers

JLT Area : 055 233 1454
 Al Qusar : 04 336 7773
 Business Bay : 04 453 9000
 Discovery Garden : 04 424 5944
 DFC : 055 632 4301
 Emergency (24x7) : 055 472 26 31

فأرلئس للأكووم السوارات لأكووم
 CARLEASE RENT A CAR L.L.C.
 P.O. Box : 19172, Dubai - UAE
 Email : info@carlease.ae, 055 233 1454, www.carlease.ae

Basking in traditional glory

The Holy Month of Ramadan provides a significant break in the Islamic calendar. Coinciding with the summer months, it is an apt time for hotels to come up with special packages and value added benefits. During this festive season, travellers witness luxurious Iftars and Sohour offers.

 SUSMITA GHOSH

Alpha Holidays, a part of Alpha Destination Management, launches unique holiday packages to various parts of the world, designed to suit every budget. There are special programs for this summer and Eid holidays.

Ghassan Aridi, CEO, Alpha Destination Management, says the packages are very competitive which will appeal to people with different income levels. This, he says, would not have been possible without the support of Alpha's representatives' offices and partners in various countries. Alpha also has the advantage of getting special prices for hotels, tourist attractions and other services.

Alpha Holidays is presenting special summer offers to Paris, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Poland, Germany,



Ghassan Aridi
CEO
Alpha Destination Management

Alpha Holidays is presenting special summer offers to Paris, Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Poland, Germany, Cyprus, Istanbul and Spain, etc.

Cyprus, Istanbul and Spain, among other destinations. It is also offering Unique packages for holidays to Orlando, Sri Lanka, India and Far East destinations.



Peter Mansourian
General Manager
Grand Millennium Dubai

The Atrium enjoys the status of an exclusive restaurant for those willing to reward themselves with outstanding culinary fare

Grand Millennium Dubai Hotel rolls out grand celebrations for Eid al-Fitr (Feast of Breaking the Fast). The Eid lunch buffet will be served at "The Atrium" restaurant. It



Mubarak Al Nuaimi
Director of Promotions and
Overseas Offices, TCA Abu Dhabi

TCA Abu Dhabi is looking to promote the Emirate as a destination of distinction and venue for exceptional entertainment

features a wide variety of signature dishes from various parts of the Arab world, live cooking stations and selection of international favorites.



Hartmut Grauel
General Manager
Coral Beirut Al Hamra Hotel

Every item on the buffet is delicious and caringly prepared. In addition to the marvellous food, guests can indulge in exotic shisha flavours


Peter Mansourian, General Manager, Grand Millennium Dubai, says that it is not just another festive buffet but a delicious feast to meet the occasion's demand.

The hotel's culinary team has carefully crafted the menu bearing in mind people's preferences and has added special items to bring out the festive cheer. "The Atrium enjoys the status of an exclusive restaurant for those willing to reward themselves with outstanding culinary fare as the outlet consistently delivers quality dishes in a familiar environment, with a team of dedicated staff to pamper and make you feel at home," he adds.

Abu Dhabi comes alive with the three-month 'Summer Season' festival that started on June 11 and will run till September 5 with international entertainment shows for children, families and adults.


Summer Season is organised by the Tourism and Culture Authority Abu Dhabi (TCA-AD), which has teamed up with leading UAE event


Contd. on page 2 ►

 **MIRFA HOTEL**

Spend your Eid with us,
more surprises await you!

Eid Mubarak
"Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed Eid"

Managed by  **AL SAFA GROUP**

 **فندق المرفأ MIRFA HOTEL**

Celebrating with festive fervour

► Contd. from page 1

organisers to bring some spectacular events and deliver a memorable three-month season for the UAE's stay-at-home residents and visitors, particularly from the GCC, India and Europe.

"We are happy to highlight the multitude of Abu Dhabi summer offers and our packed Summer Season calendar to the DMCs at this showcase," says **Mubarak Al Nuaimi**, Director-Promotions and Overseas Offices, TCA Abu Dhabi. "TCA Abu Dhabi is looking to promote the Emirate as a destination of distinction and venue for exceptional entertainment to DMCs domestically, regionally and also internationally. We believe this is the perfect platform to achieve this."

The Coral Beirut Al Hamra Hotel has launched Ramadan package inviting families and corporate groups to savour a wide selection of

Arabic dishes for Iftar and Suhour and a variety of shisha flavours.

Hartmut Grauel, General Manager, Coral Beirut Al Hamra Hotel, says it is not only the sheer volume and variety of dishes that attracts residents and visitors to them but also the service and quality of food. The Ramadan package is equally irresistible.

"Every item on the buffet is delicious and caringly prepared. In addition to the marvellous food, guests can indulge in exotic shisha flavours. Also enjoy live Oud performance every Friday and Saturday during Suhour," Grauel says.

Elaf Group of Companies for Travel, Tourism and Hotels is poised to receive the Holy Month of Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr by offering many special deals and activities that will bring joy to the



Ziad Bin Mahfouz
President
Elaf Group of Companies for
Travel, Tourism and Hotels

We are keen to make our best to prepare all needed for participating and celebrating the atmosphere of Ramadan

residents and people from overseas coming to perform 'Umrah' during the Holy Month.

Ziad Bin Mahfouz, President, Elaf Group of



Kamal Fakhoury
Chief Operating Officer
Cristal Group

Our 'Ramadan to Remember' initiative gives us an opportunity to take care of those less fortunate than ourselves

Companies informs, "As part of our commitment to provide a warm ambience of traditional Arabian hospitality, and in appreciation of this Holy Month, we are keen to make

our best to prepare all needed for participating and celebrating the atmosphere of Ramadan."

"We are awaiting the reception of our guests at our hotels during the Holy Month of Ramadan with the passion to provide them a unique experience, help them to perform their religious duties perfectly amid special atmosphere of Ramadan that reflects the spirit of the Holy Month.

According to **Kamal Fakhoury**, Chief Operating Officer, Cristal Group, "Ramadan is not only a time of prayer and reflection, it is also a time for families and friends to gather together and share the blessings of the Holy Month. With a convenient downtown location and excellent facilities, the Cristal Hotel Abu Dhabi provides an ideal place to meet during Ramadan. We are delighted to run our 'Ramadan to

Remember' initiative once again, which gives us an opportunity to take care of those less fortunate than ourselves." For various corporations and management groups as well as individuals wanting to share the blessings of Ramadan with the less privileged, the hotel created the 'Ramadan to Remember' package. This package enables a sponsor to host 20 orphan children for Iftar at the Gems restaurant, where they will not only be treated to a lavish buffet but also enjoy a magic show and other entertainment including face painting plus a gift.

Holy Thoughts

- ◆ Various Hotels & resorts host orphans and indulge in charity work
- ◆ They also offer special packages for guests to enjoy traditional meals and rituals

RezLive hosts Iftar for UAE travel agents

RezLive.com had hosted back to back Ramadan Iftar roadshow with the leading travel agents and tour operators of the UAE on June 21, 2015 at Millennium Plaza Hotel (Dubai), June 22 at Royal Rose Hotel (Abu Dhabi), June 23 at City Seasons Hotel (Al Ain) and June 24 at Ras Al Khaimah Hotel (Ras Al Khaimah). It hosted over 200 attendees in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Ras Al Khaimah collectively.



Smart-I Mobile App unveiled

Aimed to boost Malaysian tourism sector, the new #MyFest2015 campaign was promoted during ATM 2015 in Dubai. Dato' Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia, leads the efforts to promote the country as a Muslim friendly destination, besides unveiling a mobile App.



TT BUREAU

The new campaign showcases and celebrates "Endless Celebrations" which highlights Malaysia's year-long calendar packed with festivities of every genre. It includes cultural festivals, shopping extravaganzas, international acclaimed events, eco-tourism events, arts, music showcases, food promotions and other theme-based events.

In addition, #MyFest 2015 also maintains Malaysia



Seri Mohamed Nazri Abdul Aziz
Minister of Tourism and Culture
Malaysia

as a top-of-the-mind tourist destination with a target of receiving 29.4 million tourists. The campaign

complements Tourism Malaysia's transformation plan where the country had set a target of 36 million tourist arrivals in 2020.

Moreover, the minister also launched the Smart-I Mobile Application by Smart Malaysia Tourist, it also revealed the Online App by I-Tourism which is intended to ease the travel concerns of tourists who plan to visit Malaysia.

The App is packed with helpful features like the list of hot tourist destinations, events calendar, currency converter, basic local language guide, important emergency details along with embassies' contact details and the ability to use the app in multiple languages

is set to transform a tourist's travel experience to Malaysia.

In 2013, Malaysia registered 25.7 million tourist arrivals and RM 65.4 billion in receipts, making tourism its second largest foreign exchange earner and the sixth highest contributor to its Gross National Income (GNI).

Luring Tourists

- ◆ Malaysia Tourism aims at receiving 29.4 million tourists in 5 years
- ◆ Smart-I Mobile App by Smart Malaysia Tourist intends to ease the travel concerns of tourists who plan to visit Malaysia

The App is packed with helpful features like the list of tourist destinations, events calendar, currency converter, local language guide, emergency details along with embassies' contact details

Beyond just visitor outlook

Summer is here and Al Raha Beach Hotel is offering an exclusive summer experience. The 5-star Al Raha Beach Hotel, operated by Danat Hotels & Resorts, is a rare pearl of hospitality in Abu Dhabi where style and elegance are combined with luxury and a touch of Arabia.

 TT BUREAU

One should experience an array of spa treatments and get AED 100 back on a spent of AED 300 and free access to the Hydro Massage Pool. Buy one get one free on all non-motorised water sports and free Wi-Fi everywhere.

"We are dedicated to enhancing guests experience and provide excellent service and facilities that guests can look forward to during their stay," expresses **Kamal Zayati**, General Manager, Al Raha Beach Hotel.

The continuous efforts to enhance guests experience and facilities never end at Al Raha Beach Hotel. Cuisine and unique dining experience complemented with detailed personalised service are hallmarks of Danat Hotels &



Resorts and Al Raha Beach Hotel is a leader in this field.

Offering a variety of diverse options, the restau-



rants at Al Raha Beach Hotel can suit every discerning palate. A team of culinary creative chefs from 20 nationalities in the hotel's six kitchens offer an exciting dining experience. Epicurean cuisines and excellent service are amongst the pleasures you will experience when you dine at Al Raha Beach Hotel.

"Sevilla" is an all-day dining restaurant that features specialised cuisines from around the world from European to Italian to Middle Eastern to Asian culinary delights.

Intrinsically, Mediterranean "Azur" is an exquisite restaurant offering a unique blend of culinary art and the



Kamal Zayati
General Manager
Al Raha Beach Hotel.

We are dedicated to enhancing guests experience and provide excellent service that guests can look forward to during their stay

finest Mediterranean cuisine. The signature concept, Hot Stones — the new trend of healthy grilling at the table — will be both entertaining and interactive. 🍷

Arrive ready for business.
Not ready to drop.

With fine dining and a business class seat that transforms into one of the longest fully flat beds in the sky, Upper Class really is the most fabulous way to fly.

To find out more on how we fly in the face of ordinary, visit virginatlantic.com or call +971 4 406 0600



upperclass
to London

virgin atlantic

TRAVTALK

EDITORIAL

Enhancing the flavour of tourism

Seasonal campaigns, cultural shows, alluring promotions and deals across a range of hotels have all combined to make this year's summer season that coincides with the Holy Month of Ramadan very special for the tourism industry in the Gulf, particularly the UAE.

The Abu Dhabi Summer Season 2015, the three-month extravaganza of entertainment, promotions and offers across the Emirate, has already begun. For travellers, this offers a chance to win a brand new Mercedes-Benz each week, another reason is to enjoy shopping in the UAE this season.

The stream of visitors to the capital pinpoints the trend. The Tourism and Culture Authority has revealed that guest arrivals into Abu Dhabi during the first four months of 2015 reached 1.37 million, marking a 20 per cent increase over the same period in 2014.

In Dubai, the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) organised Ramadan Forum, from June 24 to July 4, 2015, to enhance the Emirate's position as a year-round family destination with a long line-up of programmes.

International visitors get an opportunity to experience and understand the uniqueness of Ramadan through cultural, community and family-oriented events based on Islamic values, tradition and culture. Meanwhile, the Sharjah Commerce and Tourism Development Authority (SCTDA) has stepped up efforts to attract 10 million visitors to the Emirate as part of the Sharjah Tourism Vision 2021 by launching a new program, under the second phase of SCTDA's "Marhabtain" initiative, to train hotel sector front office staff, receptionists and customer service representatives, who deal directly with tourists and guests.

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has noted 12.9% growth in passengers to the UAE this year, the only region with a double-digit expansion. With international audit firm PwC indicating that the UAE's leisure and entertainment market potential is expected to nearly double to 45 million visitors by 2021, it is indeed jubilation time for the tourism sector.

Hong Kong leisure travel on the rise

Over the past two years, the Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb) has introduced experiences that showcase Hong Kong as a family friendly destination. The board has also added Arabic to its website www.DiscoverHongKong.com/ae and its Facebook page.

The new interface of our website in Arabic provides greater convenience to our growing number of visitors from the GCC. It ties in our strategy in increasing our promotional effort in new markets.

As a pioneer in promoting the city and sourcing new visitors from around the world, we at HKTb were among the first tourism boards from Asia to reach out to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member countries. It actively established connections and developed cooperative campaigns with travel trade partners in the region. The GCC region is one of the key new markets for Hong Kong and HKTb takes great pleasure in working with strategic travel trade partners to promote the destination by tactical cooperation campaigns.

On the consumer level, we have worked with the GCC travel trade to offer special packages and hosted a consumer promotion event to showcase what enchanting experiences Hong Kong has to offer. HKTb has also been in close contact with GCC travel agents, suggesting possible itineraries for leisure and business travellers, as well as organizing familiarisation tours for agents to visit Hong Kong in person.

This year, as part of the strategy to appeal to the ever-

growing online community, we at HKTb have invited prominent lifestyle bloggers from the Middle East to fly to Hong Kong and experience the city. The East-meets-West culture, natural heritage and local delicacies all impressed the guests, who subsequently shared their itineraries and stunning photos of the tour on their respective social media platforms. The campaign went

HKTb is committed to simplifying procedures for travellers. UAE as well as the five other GCC members have visa-free policy with Hong Kong. UAE passport holders enjoy visa-free access to Hong Kong for 30 days, making it convenient for travellers

viral and created a buzz online, attracting tens of thousands of clicks.

In addition to the promotional work, HKTb is also committed to simplifying travel procedures for travellers visiting Hong Kong. The United Arab Emirates as well as the five other GCC member states like Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia have a visa-free policy with Hong Kong. UAE passport holders enjoy visa-free access to Hong Kong for 30 days, making it convenient for those who wish to visit the dynamic city for vacation, business or both.

Moreover, the air capacity between GCC and Hong Kong is growing continuously, with more carriers launching new routes connecting the two regions. In 2015, the increase in the overall air capacity from GCC to Hong Kong stood at a healthy 7 per cent. A significant increment came from the Etihad Airways (EY)'s Abu Dhabi route, which extended its daily flight since mid June 2015. Instead of

code-sharing the flight with Air Seychelles, EY has launched its own flight from Abu Dhabi to Hong Kong on a daily basis. On the other hand, Emirates has also changed the aircraft type choosing to fly the A380 on its route from Dubai to Hong Kong, to accommodate larger capacity. This means that travellers have more options and flexibility when flying to Hong Kong.

Hailed as "Asia's World City", Hong Kong continues to impress visitors from around the globe and HKTb looks forward in establishing more partnerships with GCC travel trade partners and airlines to further promote the city

through innovative and attractive promotional activities.

As instance, we have organised the "Hong Kong Summer Fun" campaign this summer running from now till August 31. Visitors arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport can take part in a lucky draw to be instantly rewarded with special spending offers and free gifts. The Grand Prize is a luxury trip back to Hong Kong with free air tickets, accommodation and spending credits. In addition, attractive bargains are on in shopping malls, which are also putting on spectacular shows to capture the imagination. Superb deals and award-winning international cuisines are lined up to satisfy travellers' appetite. Summer vacations in Hong Kong this year are going to be packed with surprises, goodies and joy.



Peter Hoslin
Regional Director,
Europe & New Markets,
Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTb)



(L-R): Gianni Onorato, Chief Executive Officer, MSC Cruise; James Hogan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Etihad Airways; Pierfrancesco Vago, Executive Chairman, MSC Cruises; Captain Mohamed al Shamsi, Chief Executive Officer, Abu Dhabi Ports Company

'Fly&Cruise' for European travellers

MSC Cruises and Etihad Airways have announced a new partnership for its "Fly&Cruise" packages from Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland and the UK - with Etihad Airways or partner airlines in its network. Guests will fly with the national airline of the UAE to their cruise during winter 2015-2016 on MSC Musica. From December 13, 2015 to March 27, 2016, MSC Musica will sail 16 seven-night cruises in the region.



Publisher : SanJeet
Director : Sumeera Bahl
Chief Editor : Deepa Sethi
Editor (ME) : Susmita Ghosh
Asst. Desk Editor : Shivani Kaul
Design : Nityanand Misra
Business Development Manager : Crisna De Guzman
Manager Advertising : Geetika Pathak
Sales & Admin Assistant : Eric Gomez
Circulation Manager : Ashok Rana
Manager Production : Anil Kharbanda

is published
by SanJeet on behalf of
**Durga Das Publications
Private Limited**

Printed at
System Graphics India Pvt. Ltd.
A-1, Naraina Industrial Area,
Phase-I, New Delhi - 28 India

Offices:

DELHI: 72, Todarmal Road, New Delhi - 110 001
Ph.: +91-11-23710793, 23715318
Fax: +91-11-23351503
E-mail: travtalk@ddpl.com

MUMBAI: 504, Marine Chambers, 43,
New Marine Lines, Opp. SNDT College,
Mumbai - 400 020, India
Ph.: +91-22-22070129, 22070130,
Fax: +91-22-22070131
E-mail: mumbai@ddpl.com

UAE : 21-02, P.O. Box 9348, Saif Zone, Sharjah, UAE
Ph.: +971 6 5528954
Fax: +971 6 5528956
E-mail: uae@ddpl.com

is a publication of Durga Das Publications Private Limited. All information in is derived from sources, which we consider reliable and a sincere effort is made to report accurate information. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. The publisher regret that he cannot accept liability for errors and omissions contained in this publication, however caused. Similarly, opinions/views expressed by third parties in abstract and/or in interviews are not necessarily shared by . However, we wish to advise our readers that one or more recognised authorities may hold different views than those reported. Material used in this publication is intended for information purpose only. Readers

are advised to seek specific advice before acting on information contained in this publication which is provided for general use, and may not be appropriate for the readers' particular circumstances. Contents of this publication are copyright. No part of or any part of the contents thereof may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system or transmitted in any form without the permission of the publisher in writing. The same rule applies when there is a copyright or the article is taken from another publication. An exemption is hereby granted for the extracts used for the purpose of fair review, provided two copies of the same publication are sent to us for our records. Publications reproducing material either in part or in whole,

without permission could face legal action.

The publisher assumes no responsibility for returning any material solicited or unsolicited nor is he responsible for material lost or damaged.

This publication is not meant to be an endorsement of any specific product or services offered. The publisher reserves the right to refuse, withdraw, amend or otherwise deal with all advertisements without explanation.

All advertisements must comply with the Indian and International Advertisements Code. The publisher will not be liable for any damage or loss caused by delayed publication, error or failure of an advertisement to appear.

CONNECTING YOU WITH THE WORLD.



As part of the world's biggest aviation alliance, our network now spans the entire globe. The Star Alliance network currently offers more than 18,500 daily flights to 1,321 airports in 193 countries. Along with Star Alliance partner airlines, we offer you seamless connections to an array of destinations across every continent.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Auris plans 20 hotels by '17

Auris Group of Hotels has recently announced the opening of 15 new hotels and hotel apartments with more than 3000 keys by 2017.



SUSMITA GHOSH

Auris Group of Hotels, which has a portfolio of five properties including a 5-star hotel, a 3-star hotel and three hotel apartments, is in the process of employing 775 hospitality professionals this year to manage its four new hotels due to open in 2015.

"The new hotels join our existing portfolio of five hotels, taking the total number of hotels to 20 with 3,000 keys in the UAE, Saudi Arabia Oman, Turkey and France marking a new beginning in our journey to consolidate Auris as a regional hospitality brand," informs **Hatem Gasmi**, Managing Director, Auris Group of Hotels. "The new hotels will help reduce the pressure on the existing hotel inventory and widen visitors' choice of accommodation and experience. Our hotels com-



Hatem Gasmi
Managing Director
Auris Group of Hotels

The new hotels will help reduce the pressure on the existing hotel inventory and widen visitors' choice of accommodation and experience

bine the warmth of traditional Arabic hospitality with the professionalism and efficiency of international standards to cre-

ate a nice fusion and better mix for tourists," he adds.

However, Dubai is expected to host 20 million guests a year by 2020 that requires the Emirate to double its existing inventory of 84,000 guestrooms and serviced apartments. "We will open more 3 and 4-star hotels, by 2020. We will sustain the growth," asserted Gasmi.

Among new hotels, Auris Fakhruddin Hotel Apartments in Dubai Sports City will add 304 apartments. Atana Hotel by Auris will open door in Q3 2015 with 828 guest rooms. Auris Inn Al Muhanna Hotel, a business hotel with 145 rooms is scheduled to open before the end of 2015, while the Village Hotel Apartments that will host 195 deluxe serviced apartments in Jumeirah Village Triangle is also slated for opening soon. 🌟

Another feather in the cap

Winning the World Travel Award 2015 for ME's Leading Budget Hotel Brand for the 2nd year in a row, Citymax Hotels' business model has proven successful yet again.



TT BUREAU

"We are very proud to be the only UAE home-grown hotel brand shortlisted for this award and then actually winning it again for the second time. All over again, the hard-working hotel teams deserve all the credit for this award," says **Russel Sharpe**, COO, Citymax Hotels.

Citymax Hotels' recent awards include the World Travel Awards 2014 and 2015: Citymax Hotels - Middle East's Leading Budget Hotel Brand, Business Destinations Travel Awards 2015: Best Budget Accommodation Provider Dubai, MENA Travel Award 2014: Citymax hotels - Best Price Value Hotel, BBC Good Food Awards 2014: Claypot - Best Indian Restaurant, casual dining and Tatweej Academy for Excellence Awards 2014: Best Budget Hotel.



Russel Sharpe
COO
Citymax Hotels

2014 has been quite a year for Citymax Hotels. We are both delighted and humbled to receive the recognition of these travel awards

"2014 has been quite an award-winning year for Citymax Hotels. We are both delighted and humbled to receive the recognition of

these travel awards which proves to be cherry on the cake," Sharpe adds.

Regarding the preparations carried on for World Expo, he elaborates, "Not only for World Expo 2020, we need to look beyond 2020 as well. Other than keeping objective of everybody's expansion programme, we plan in long terms like five to 10 years down the line."

In April 2015, Citymax Hotels commenced construction of a new hotel in Al Barsha and one in Business Bay, Dubai, scheduled for completion in October 2016 and early 2017. In due course of expansions, different brands are getting involved with the co-brands of Citymax and Citymax Plus. Planning for Citymax resorts and service departments are in pipeline. 🌟

Amadeus hosts leading agents from three Emirates

Amadeus recently organised four days educational trip to Miami and New York, US, for its customers. Leading travel agencies from Abu Dhabi, Al Ain & Sultanate of Oman participated in the tour along with Amadeus Sales & Marketing Team. On the first day of the trip, customers spent time in Miami visiting various landmarks and the South Beach. On the second day of the trip, they participated in a business event at the Amadeus Executive Briefing Center at Amadeus Miami office, showcasing the latest technology developments and products updates aiming to shape the future of travel. Customers were also briefed on benefits of the online travel business and its impact on the travel industry.



DID YOU Know?

Dubai claims 4th spot

According to the latest MasterCard Global Destination Cities Index, Dubai is fourth on the list of top destinations for international travellers, behind London which topped the list in 2015, followed by Bangkok, and Paris.

It's TIME to enter Doha

With an expanded regional portfolio, UAE-headquartered hospitality company TIME Hotels has seen its collection of hotels, hotel apartments, residences and resorts almost double in last 12 months.



TT BUREAU

TIME Plaza Hotel, the 142-room second property in Qatar, located within easy reach of the city's major commercial and retail hubs, the four-star hotel is scheduled to open in Q1, 2017.

"It's been a busy year for TIME Hotels with the launch of our first luxury resort in

in Abu Dhabi, our first footprint into Doha and a new five-star hotel for Dubai. We have also launched a number of new corporate initiatives like our Slow Food programme and taken our successful Carbon Offset Hotel Stay into its second year," mentions **Mohamed Awadalla**, CEO, TIME Hotels.

The first five-star UAE based property, the 277-room



Mohamed Awadalla
CEO
TIME Hotels

strong medical tourism focus with facilities specifically designed to accommodate the needs of wellness tourists, like signature spa. It will also have 20 handicap-accessible rooms.

"Dubai plans to position the Emirate as a global medical tourism destination by 2020 with the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) targeting 500,000 medical tourists, so there is a clear

need for a hospitality product that can accommodate the specific needs of medical tourists. The TIME Royal Hotel will support the wellness proposition and provide much-needed room stock to the Oud Metha area of the city," adds Awadalla.

"Wakra is a key destination for Doha's expanding maritime sector with its strategic location close to the new under-construction container port which will replace the existing Doha Port upon completion of phase one in early 2016," he remarks.

TIME Hotel's pipeline of current projects also includes the first in its TIME Express brand. The three-star no frills, city centre-based concept will target budget-conscious business travellers and will launch in Dubai, set to open in Q3, 2016. 🌟

It's been a busy year for TIME Hotels with the launch of our first luxury resort in Hurghada, Egypt, in addition to a raft of announcements including two new Residences in Abu Dhabi, our first footprint into Doha and a new 5-star hotel for Dubai

Hurghada, Egypt, in addition to a raft of announcements including two new Residences

TIME Royal Hotel, is located in Dubai Healthcare City. Set to open in Q2, 2016, it will have a

Creating a traveller, #NotATourist

Global payments technology company, Visa announces the launch of a regional campaign, 'Not a Tourist'. It is aimed at driving international tourism during holidays and making the summer holidays of cardholders rewarding.

TT BUREAU

Running in key Middle East and North Africa markets till August 31, 2015, the #NotATourist campaign provides Visa cardholders, rich destination-related information, help plan their travel and access Visa's global merchant offers and exclusive promotions.

"Travellers often desire a taste of local culture and attractions that are hard to find in travel books or with a guided tour. The #NotATourist campaign tries to build on this desire, by connecting people and their experiences through unleashing the imagination of the traveller to interact with the beauty of the destination," informed **Karim Beg**, Head-Marketing, Visa Middle East and North and West, Central Africa.

"The most important highlight of this campaign is that we are able to communicate with the hearts and minds of African travellers and help them appreciate the

who can effectively influence other inspirational travellers in the same age group," he adds.

The campaign is designed to inspire travel

tinations as local inhabitants and not as tourists, by providing local knowledge using crowd sourced digital content that is showcased on Visa's "Not a Tourist" website and the Visa Explore mobile App.

The Visa Global Travel Intentions Study 2015 shows that travellers are more digital-savvy than ever before with 78 per cent of global travellers using digital information while planning their trips, and 66 per cent resorting to digital sources for travel tips at the destination.

The #NotATourist campaign tries to build on this desire, by connecting people and their experiences through unleashing the imagination of the traveller to interact with the beauty of the destination

Karim Beg
Head-Marketing, Visa
Middle East and North and West, Central Africa

hidden treasures of the places they visit. As a global payments technology company, we believe in the power and reach of mobile Applications, to tap in to the large population of smart-phone users, mostly millennial

beyond the regular tourist sites to savour truly local experiences that are the essence of making a destination unique.

The campaign is poised to help travellers explore des-

Tech Savvy

◆ A Visa survey shows that 78 per cent of global travellers use digital information for planning and 66 per cent resort to digital sources for travel tips

City Sightseeing Sharjah tours Ajman

City Sightseeing Sharjah made its first tour of Ajman with members of ATDD and Shurooq on board. Ajman Tourism Development Department, ATDD, and Sharjah Investment and Development Authority, Shurooq, have discussed ways to activate a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to allow City Sightseeing Sharjah to operate between Sharjah and Ajman.

The MoU, signed by



Yamina Aoucher
Director, Licensing and Tourism Standards, Ajman Tourism Development Department (ATDD)

Tourism Standards, Ajman Tourism Development Department (ATDD).



"Both the parties will develop a marketing plan to render the project a success," she said, adding that a number of hotel establishments in Ajman would be points

for ticket sales.

both the parties in May 2015 in Dubai, suggested that at the first stage, the tourist bus would operate in September with only four stops in Ajman city, according to **Yamina Aoucher**, Director, Licensing and

Attended by **Faisal Al Nuaimi**, General Manager, ATDD, the meeting was held at Ajman Museum, ended with City Sightseeing Sharjah tours to Ajman.



leave the rest to us™

Welcome to the world of true Arabian Hospitality!

Whether you are visiting for business or leisure, **Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman** offers contemporary and sophisticated room stays along with the warmth and comfort of true, traditional Arabian hospitality.

Showcasing a range of impeccable services and facilities, the hotel is situated within close proximity to the international airports and provides easy access to major shopping destinations, business districts and diverse heritage attractions.

For enquiries and reservations:

Tel: +971 6 703 1111

sales@ramadaajman.com

www.ramadaajman.com

www.ramadainternational.com



RAMADA.
HOTEL & SUITES
AJMAN

Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman is operated by RHotels (a member of RHolding) under a franchise agreement from Wyndham Hotel Group.

New Salalah Airport starts operations

As the new Salalah Airport opens doors on June 15, BankDhofar reaffirms its position as a key contributor to development in the Sultanate of Oman.

TT BUREAU

The airport, which will accommodate two million passengers annually, has been designed to allow for further expansions to cater for

plan to expand with infrastructure developments to cope with this passengers' growth. OAMC is proud to provide the best passenger experience to the visitors of Dhofar region travelling through the new

The opening of the new Salalah Airport comes within OAMC strategic plan to expand with infrastructure developments to cope with the growth

Samer Ahmed Al Nabhani

General Manager-Commercial Operations, Oman Airports Management Company (OAMC)

future demand growth to two and six million passengers annually over four stages. It will be the second international gateway to Oman, especially to the Dhofar region, which

Salalah Airport. We are also pleased to have BankDhofar on board with their airport branding. We believe this opportunity will give BankDhofar an

Being part of this project gives us the opportunity to further amplify our communication channels and extend our public outreach. Such projects enrich tourism in the region

Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili

Acting CEO, BankDhofar

will boost tourism, air traffic movement and connectivity in the region.

extended reach to local and international audience."

Samer Ahmed Al Nabhani, General Manager-Commercial Operations, Oman Airports Management Company (OAMC) noted, "The increase of airport passengers' traffic experienced in the last years

"Being part of this project gives us the opportunity to further amplify our communication channels and extend our public outreach. Such massive projects will definitely enrich tourism in the region and will boost local businesses. We are very proud to welcome



demonstrates that Oman is growing fast. The opening of the new Salalah Airport comes within OAMC strategic

Salalah visitors through this new gateway," said **Abdul Hakeem Omar Al Ojaili**, Acting CEO, BankDhofar.

On path to carbon neutrality

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) has achieved a significant milestone by making efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operate Bahrain International Airport (BIA) as an environmentally friendly facility on a par with its global counterparts.

TT BUREAU

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC), the managing body and operator of Bahrain International Airport (BIA) recently attained the Airport Carbon Accreditation 'Level 1 Mapping' from the Airports Council International (ACI).

The Airport Carbon Accreditation is the only institutionally-endorsed carbon management certification standard for airports recognised and accredits airports that manage and reduce their carbon footprint. Presently, in its sixth year, this program has accredited a total of 122 airports world over.

BAC is in the process of developing a comprehensive Carbon Management Plan outlining an achievable long-term environmental strategy to gradually reduce BIA's carbon emissions



Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah
*Chief Executive Officer
Bahrain Airport Company*

We are keen to do our part to preserve the environment and will persist with our goal to reduce our emissions

and ultimately achieve full accreditation. 'Level 1 Mapping' is the first step in the Airport Carbon Accreditation

programme's four-step accreditation process which also includes Reduction, Optimisation and Neutrality.

Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah, Chief Executive Officer, Bahrain Airport Company, says, "Achieving the first level of Airport Carbon Accreditation is a significant step in BAC's mission to become a carbon-neutral facility. Environmental sustainability has become a global movement and the aviation industry is increasingly taking action to reduce its carbon footprint and operate in a greener, more responsible manner. We are keen to do our part to preserve the environment and will persist with our goal to reduce our emissions and gradually turn BIA into carbon-neutral facility."

"We have already started planning for the second phase of the program to

actively reduce our emissions and attain accreditation for 'Level 2 - Reduction' in the near future. The next steps will also necessitate the combined efforts of all BIA partners and stakeholders towards achieving a sustainable environmental strategy for BIA. I'm confident that the airport community will not hesitate to offer their long-term commitment and support to this project," says Al Binfalah.

The Airport Carbon Accreditation programme takes into consideration aircraft emissions while stationed within an airport's perimeter and on initial departure and final approach. Airport Carbon Accreditation uses the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) definition of the Landing-Take Off cycle and requires airports to comply with these definitions.

Airbus A330-300 Regional takes off

Saudi Arabian Airlines becomes the launch operator of the new A330-300 Regional. These popular fuel-efficient Airbus wide body and single-aisle aircraft will join Saudi Arabian Airlines' existing Airbus fleet of 12 A330-300s and 50 A320 family.

TT BUREAU

Passenger demand in Saudi Arabia is experiencing high growth both on domestic and regional routes. **Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser**, Director General, Saudi Arabian Airlines, informs, "The A330-300 Regional's operational capabilities will enable us expand our domestic and regional network and better absorb growing passenger traffic. Introducing the A330-300 Regional in our current fleet is an ideal choice and follows our previous commitment to a family of aircraft which already helped us achieve our ambitions."

The new A330-300 Regional specially designed for regional and domestic

Introducing the A330-300 Regional in our current fleet is an ideal choice and follows our previous commitment to a family of aircraft which already helped us achieve our ambitions

Saleh bin Nasser Al-Jasser

Director General, Saudi Arabian Airlines

operations, is Airbus' solution for markets with large populations and fast growing, concentrated air traffic flows.

The A330-300 Regional is set to boost capacity on several of Saudi Arabian Airlines most in-demand routes, enabling the airline to better serve the Saudi Arabian and regional travelling public.

The A330-300 Regional is optimised to seat up to 400 passengers in Airbus' best in class 18 inch wide economy seat comfort. The reduction in fuel burn per seat and maintenance costs will result in an overall cost reduction by up to 26 per cent compared with the today's long-range A330-300.

In addition to the A330-300 Regional, Saudi Arabian

Airlines has also chosen to grow its A320 Family fleet with more of the world's most productive single aisle aircraft on the market with more than 11,700 orders to date and above 6,500 aircraft delivered.

Being member of the Airbus leading widebody family reflecting the market's continued demand for high efficiency the A330 Family has won more than 1,500 firm orders from over 100 customers worldwide and more than 1,100 aircraft in operation.

Adding Wings

◆ In addition to the A330-300 Regional, Saudi Arabian Airlines has also chosen to grow its A320 Family fleet



The perfect setting for a business traveller, ideally located in the heart of Dubai. Exceeding expectations for all your meetings and events. An outstanding place for a family vacation or luxurious city stay. Offering all the elegance and charm of a private home and luxury accommodation with a wide array of dining outlets.




GLORIA
HOTELS & RESORTS
Comfort Living

T: +971 4 399 6666 | F: +971 4 381 8067 | E: info@gloriahotelsdubai.com
P.O.Box: 502222 | Dubai Internet City | Sheikh Zayed Road | Dubai, U.A.E
gloriahoteldubai.com | yassatgloria.com

Travelport UK renews deals

Renewed agreements have been announced between Travelport in the UK with Clarity Travel Management and Elegant Resorts, both part of the Al Tayyar Travel Group.



TT BUREAU

Rabih Saab, President and Managing Director, Africa, Middle East and South Asia, Travelport, comments, "We are pleased that Elegant Resorts and Clarity Travel Management have extended agreements with Travelport. We look forward to continue working together and supporting their needs as modern travel management companies operating in a very competitive environment."



Rabih Saab
President and Managing Director, Africa, Middle East and South Asia, Travelport

before 2006. Following the renewed agreements, Clarity Travel Management and

We are pleased that Elegant Resorts and Clarity Travel Management have extended agreements with Travelport. We look forward to continue working together and supporting their needs as modern companies operating in a very competitive environment

Travelport UK has worked with Elegant Resorts since July 2010 and Clarity Travel Management since

Elegant Resorts will continue to have access to Travelport's unrivalled travel content inventory, which includes

fares and now ancillaries from the world's leading airlines including low-cost carriers and over 650,000 hotel properties, of which 550,000 are independent hotel properties.

Clarity Travel Management will continue using Travelport's industry leading merchandising and desktop technology, Travelport Smartpoint, as well as the company's Net Fare Manager, Queue Control Consol and Rapid Reprice products. Elegant Resorts will also continue utilising Travelport Smartpoint and Net Fare Manager in conjunction with Galileo web services and Agency Private Fares.

Al Tayyar Travel Group will continue delivering an outstanding service to the customers, with the partnership of Travelport. To meet the needs of the business it will keep providing consistent innovative technology solutions. 📱

AED 100 Uber ride on offer

Destinia.com's partnership with Uber will grant an Uber airport ride worth AED 100 to travellers booking their flight to or from Dubai via Destinia.com throughout 2015.



TT BUREAU

Designed for travellers leaving or arriving in Dubai, the promotion will be exclusive to first-time Uber users. It allows them to discover the advantages of booking a private car for their journeys, giving them the option of travelling in style from start of their journey.

In a survey conducted by Destinia.com recently with more than one thousand global travellers, the online travel agency reported that 87 per cent of the Arabic speaking travellers supported private car ride services like Uber. The survey indicated that lower cost and ease of booking were top reasons to choose the service.

Ines Chueca, Strategic Partnerships Manager in MENA region, Destinia.com, informs, "Since inception, Destinia.com has always been focused on providing



Ines Chueca
Strategic Partnerships Manager in MENA region, Destinia.com

Having received positive feedback on car ride services, we offer our customers the advantages of booking flights with us and travelling with Uber

bespoke services to travellers from around the world.

"Having received positive feedback about private

car ride services, we have decided to offer our customers travelling to and from Dubai the opportunity to discover the advantages of booking flights with us and travelling with Uber."

The Uber partnership and promotion in Dubai reinforces the relationship between Destinia.com and the Emirate. Destinia.com partnered in 2014 with Dubai Corporation for Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM) for a microsite that saw Dubai's popularity as a destination on the travel portal increase by 182 per cent. The brand relaunched in 2014 in the Middle East, where it has offices in Cairo and Dubai.

Swiftly growing in the region, Destinia also has extended their partnership with Uber for travellers flying to or from Jeddah and Riyadh announcing that the promotion in these cities will soon be available. 📱

RezLive.com Dubai organises Fam to Paris

RezLive.com - Dubai rewarded patronage of their travel agents in the UAE by extending opportunity to familiarise with Paris as a destination in partnership with The Gate Collection Luxury & Lifestyle Hotels and Etihad Airlines for the familiarisation trip. The Fam was organised to Paris in order to make the travel agents familiar with the location visited and promote the same to their customers.



Tech boost to corporate travel

Amadeus has signed a strategic agreement with TaqniaTech, a travel technology company under the Al Tayyar Travel Group. The partnership lays the foundation to a strong business relationship between the two firms strengthening their travel and tourism operations.



TT BUREAU

Under the partnership, Amadeus will deploy its latest and most advanced services-based solutions across all corporate offerings to the Al Tayyar Travel Group.

The partnership agreement was signed between **Abdul Rahman Mutrib**, CEO, Al Tayyar Technology Company (TaqniaTech) and **Nashat Bukhari**, General Manager, Amadeus Saudi Arabia.

Commenting on the partnership, Bukhari says, "Amadeus' agreement with TaqniaTech underscores our shared vision to contribute to the development of the

region's corporate travel sector. With our existing strong local presence, and our formidable industry expertise, portfolio of products and solutions, I am confident the organisation is well-poised to excel in its offerings to customers, while boosting bookings and developing its footprint in the region."

The application developed by TaqniaTech for Al Tayyar Travel Group is certified by Amadeus for Advanced IT services like - Amadeus Ticket Changer, Full and Partial Refunds, Waitlist PNR, Queue Processing, Booking and Ticketing with Multiple IATA, Corporate fares and Airline Special Deals.

As a technology partner, TaqniaTech will work with Amadeus to improve functionality, while extending support and managing content of the online services.

The partnership not only provides TaqniaTech access to Amadeus' vast portfolio of technology products and solutions, but also provides industry expertise and business intelligence. The synergy is designed to reduce Al Tayyar Travel Group's dependence on redundant terminal technologies and drive the adoption of world-class travel systems and solutions.

Mutrib says, "The business tourism sector in Saudi Arabia is poised for unprecedented growth. As a leading travel agency in the region, we aim to meet the increasing demands of our widening client base and serve as a sought-after travel advisor providing the best choices. Amadeus and TaqniaTech are working together to ensure we are able to leverage the technology intelligence of Amadeus' products for the wider benefit of our customers."

A recent Amadeus-commissioned study, 'Shaping the Future of Travel: Big Travel Effects', indicates that Saudi Arabia is witnessing a rise in demand for first class and business class travel. 📱

Geneva endorses women empowerment

'Geneva, more than you can imagine,' an exclusive event, was organised by Geneva Tourism, one of Switzerland's official tourist boards. The event was an occasion for the women from the GCC to connect with each other, while exploring the beauty of Geneva.

TT BUREAU

Geneva has been a popular holiday destination amongst GCC travellers and Geneva Tourism is taking it to the next level through its collaboration with the Women Empowerment Group, Swiss International Airlines and both Hotel President Wilson Geneva and La Réserve Genève - Hotel and Spa.

"GCC tourism in Geneva has witnessed a steady increase over the past few years and the number of GCC tourists visiting Geneva has been on the rise", said **Philippe Vignon**, General Manager, Geneva Tourism.

"With initiatives like 'Geneva, more than you can imagine', we want to keep nurturing our relationship with



the GCC and continue to pioneer destination promotion in the region", he added.

After the success of this event, Geneva gears up for its biggest event for the summer – The Fêtes De Genève. The event attracts approximately two million visitors every year; of which many are from the GCC. GCC's tourist outflow to Europe has witnessed a steady increase

over the past few years and the number of GCC tourists visiting Geneva in 2014 saw a 9.7 per cent increase compared to 2013. During this period, there was a total of 2,19,812 overnights. The highest percentage of these tourists was from Saudi Arabia, followed by the UAE. Saudi tourists have also been ranked first in terms of daily tourist expenditure worldwide.

Apart from promoting Geneva, the event also announced the launch of Geneva Tourism's Arabic social media pages, which will allow the tourism board to constantly stay connected with its customers. As part of its long-term association with the GCC, the company focused on endorsing Geneva as a leisure and corporate travel destination during the occasion.

Rejoicing in the spirit of Ramadan

Millennium Plaza Hotel Dubai celebrated the Holy Month of Ramadan with a sumptuous Iftar dinner. The guests savoured the lavish spread of traditional Iftar treat with warm Arabian hospitality in the relaxing ambience of the hotel.



4 stars for Yassat Gloria

Yassat Gloria Hotel Apartments, 41-storey tower offering 1,010 apartments, has been granted a 4-star hotel rating by the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (DTCM).



TT BUREAU

The presence of another 4-star hotel in new Dubai gives business professionals, corporate executives and families visiting the UAE more choices for accommodation. It will further contribute to the healthy state of the UAE's hospitality industry which is experiencing steady growth since 2014.

"Following the vision of World Expo 2020, we felt the need and decided to transfer Yassat Gloria Hotel

Following the vision of World Expo 2020, we felt the need and decided to transfer Yassat Gloria Hotel Apartments into a 4 star property offering all facilities to the corporate clients and families catering for and to the leisure market

Apartments into a 4-star property offering all facilities to the corporate clients and families catering for and to the leisure market," says **Freddy Farid**, Area General Manager, Gloria Hotels and Resorts.



Freddy Farid
Area General Manager
Gloria Hotels and Resorts

"Fulfilling all the specifications, going through inspections and meeting

achievement for Gloria Hotels & Resorts as we strive to provide our guests superb facilities and excellent accommodation," he adds.

Previously it was pure hotel apartments catering to long-term clients. Later when demand evolved to expand and explore other segments, Gloria Hotels and Resorts tried and granted it as 4-star hotel.

"It will help us lots, as having a 4 star property will enhance the corporate segment and the MICE business, as we are looking for," asserts Farid.

Gloria Hotels and Resorts is coming up with two properties - Gloria Downtown in Abu Dhabi and a resort in Al Ain in 2015. In Q1, 2016, three new properties will be operational in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and also another in Q1, 2017. Expansion and focus is presently on Saudi Arabia, destinations in MENA region will be the next countries of importance for further expansion plans. ☺

Tailor-made for one and all

Aiming to meet every guest's unique needs and demands, Ramada Plaza Jumeirah Beach Residence and Ramada Sharjah upgrade features to the latest trends to ensure a memorable and satisfied stay.



SUSMITA GHOSH

With an increase in number of rooms and average rates business graph in Q1, 2015 proved to be healthy, with a positive prediction of business movement for the remaining months.

"In 2014, for both the properties, GCC and CIS played major role, but the present political scenario concentration shifted to Germany, the UK and Brazil. The Government of Dubai carried out lot of advertisements to



Jan Siddiqi
Cluster Director (Sales & Marketing),
Ramada Plaza Jumeirah Beach
Residence, Ramada Sharjah

Jumeirah Beach Residence, Ramada Sharjah.

The Government of Dubai carried out lot of advertisements to attract the emerging market to this part of the world and we too tap the markets what Dubai Government is yearning for

attract the emerging market to this part of the world and we too tap the markets what Dubai Government is yearning for," informs **Jan Siddiqi**, Cluster Director (Sales & Marketing), Ramada Plaza

Discussing the important role of travel trade, he further states, "We are constantly in touch with travel agents, well-known Destination Management Companies, wholesalers

and leisure business partners, participating in various promotions with them, in return they support us as they are our extended sales, bringing various business to this market."

Ramada Plaza Jumeirah Beach Residence, the perfect location for all kinds of exciting leisure activities, boasts 356 rooms, ranging from oversized studios to two, three and four-bedroom apartments, loft suites and penthouses. Part of Wyndham Hotel Group, Ramada is a global chain of nearly 830 midscale and upscale hotels. Many properties are opening in Dubai and elsewhere in Middle East under Wyndham Group.

Purple Patch

- ◆ Ramada Plaza Jumeirah Beach Residence boasts 356 rooms
- ◆ Ramada is a global chain of nearly 830 midscale and upscale hotels

Designer Indya revamped

■ Designer Indya, an initiative by Travel Designer Group, now comes in a refreshing new look, better UI and detailed itineraries with the option to get quotes for customised tours also. It also operates as an off-site travel department, helping clients to plan and organise luxury travel according to their wishes. The key changes include a 24*7 support system, detailed itineraries, responsive layout and complete destination insight. Designer Indya is catering to the needs of travel partners all across the globe and also empowers, RezLive.com with 1600+ Indian hotel allocations and extends the facility to book Indian Hotels online.

Shifting focus to Far East, Latin America

Central Hotels' flagship 524-key property, First Central Hotel Apartments, offers a range of leisure and business amenities with all exquisite dining options. The modern suites boast of contemporary finishes and enticing cosy ambience.



SUSMITA GHOSH

Central Hotels, one of the fastest and strongest hotel management chains in the UAE, announced its new projects in the pipeline. There will be two new properties in The Burj Khalifa District, two in The Palm Jumeirah, one in The Palm

Deira and one in TECOM which will be presented to potential, existing partners. The properties are strategically located and will offer an array of services to leisure, business, corporate and MICE markets.

"At First Central Hotel Apartments, we take pride in



Jihad Fattouh
Acting General Manager
First Central Hotel Apartments

being the Centre of Hospitality, our Ramadan offerings are carefully selected for those observing the holy festivity and those who

want to experience real Ramadan festivity," asserts **Jihad Fattouh**, Acting General Manager, First Central Hotel Apartments. "Summer promotions and special attractive rates for Ramadan and Iftar for the tour operators, walk in guests and the in-house guests already been introduced two months before," he adds.

"The business we received from the travel trade in 2014 is around 35 to 40 per cent and in 2015 it is a little lesser though it has been balanced by corporate and long-stay guests," he informs.

Due to the drop of the guests from CIS and Gulf markets, The Hotel Apartments has switched its concentration to other potential market like Far East, East Europe and Latin America. To educate the travel trade of these potential market about the property many Fam trips were arranged.

Number Game

- ◆ The hotel received around 35 to 40 per cent business from the travel trade during 2014

The business we received from the travel trade in 2014 is around 35 to 40 per cent and in 2015 little lesser though been balanced by corporate and long-stay guests

Savoring Iftar the Al Murooj way

Al Murooj Rotana Dubai commemorated the spirit of giving this Holy Month of Ramadan by hosting an Iftar for the teachers, students and their parents of SNF Development Center for Special Needs at the property's Al Yasat Ballroom.



A decadent spread at The Penthouse

Ramada Hotel & Suites Ajman and Ramada Beach Hotel Ajman celebrated glorious Ramadan traditions with an exclusive Iftar. Guests were treated to traditional Arabic and international specialties in The Penthouse, Ramada Beach Hotel Ajman.



A special treat in the Holy Month

The Royal Thai Consulate-General, Dubai and the Northern Emirates in collaboration with Tourism Authority of Thailand, Dubai and the Middle East Office organised a special Iftar at Kris with a View Restaurant Park Regis Kris Kin Hotel, Dubai.



Kwality
37 Years in Dubai

Call:
+971 504575243
+971 43974726

opened in
Barsha Mall

Al Barsha Mall,
Al Barsha 2, Dubai - UAE
Email : kwalityrst@gmail.com

Golden times for hospitality

The growing demand for rooms continues to put pressure on the overall performance of the hospitality industry. Golden Sands Hotel Apartments is optimistic that the remaining half of 2015 will show positive developments.



TT BUREAU

In a bid to attract the right customers, Golden Sands Hotel Apartments is carefully observing the market and making efforts to offer a variety of services.

Mohammed Khoori, General Manager, Golden Sands Hotel Apartments, says, "We want to reiterate our strength as affordable accommodation for families, hence, we will highlight this to our existing partners and potential clients."

Summer is steady and has been ideal to carry on the refurbishment work in Golden Sands 3. "We are upgrading the facilities in Golden Sands 3 to cater to the demands of our guests and also stay competitive in the industry," Khoori adds.



Mohammed Khoori
General Manager
Golden Sands Hotel Apartments

We had special offers extended to our guests through online channels as well as through our travel partners

"We had special offers extended to our guests through online channels as

well as through our travel partners. We have received similar volume of business from travel trade in 2014 versus 2015," he informs.

The Ramadan offer includes Pay Stays or early booking discounts. The Hotel Apartment had a strong and successful year so far, maintaining occupancies above 80 per cent year to date. However, it extended some rate offers to maintain this level of occupancy and the last quarter is expected to be stronger.

Shining Through

- ◆ The hotel offers Pay Stays or early booking discounts during Ramadan
- ◆ The hotel has had 80% occupancy year to date

Ramada Downtown

Dubai

Ramada Downtown Dubai has appointed **Walid El Masri** as its new Director of Sales and Marketing. He will head the sales and marketing departments in developing and implementing strategies to increase hotel revenue and keep pace with the robust competition in Dubai, especially in Downtown area. He will also oversee the GCC sales strategy for R Hotels. An Egyptian National, El Masri boasts more than 15 years of experience in the hospitality sector. Before joining Ramada Downtown Dubai, he served as Cluster Director of Sales for travel trade segment under Rotana Hotel Management.



Starwood Hotels & Resorts

Dubai

Starwood Hotels & Resorts has been appointed as Complex General Manager for Le Méridien Dubai Hotel & Conference Centre as well as Le Meridien Fairway. Bringing with him 20 years of experience, Parsons makes the transition from Le Royal Méridien Abu Dhabi where he served as GM. After 15 years with Hyatt Hotels & Resorts in the Asia Pacific region, he joined Starwood Hotels & Resorts as a Complex Executive Assistant Manager – Food & Beverage and then Complex Hotel Manager at the Mina Seyahi Complex in 2008.



Millennium Plaza Hotel

Dubai

Greg D'Souza has been appointed as the new Director of Sales & Marketing by Millennium Plaza Hotel Dubai. An Indian national, D'Souza comes with over 15 years of experience in the hospitality field. Prior to joining here, D'Souza served as Corporate Director of Sales in Rotana Area Sales Office, previously worked as Director of Sales at The Ritz Carlton Doha, Qatar, Director of Sales & Marketing in Sheraton Krabi Beach Resort (Starwood Hotel, Asia Pacific) in Thailand, and Director E-commerce and Intermediaries MEA at Marriott International, Middle East Africa and Subcontinent.



Etihaad Airways

Muscat

Yarub Mohamed Obaidallaas has been appointed by Etihaad Airways as its General Manager for Oman. He will lead the further development of the airline's strategy in Oman based in Muscat. Obaidallaas joined the airline in 2009 as Business Development Manager for Hala Abu Dhabi, later serving as Government Sales Manager Abu Dhabi, where he successfully managed the Abu Dhabi Government Employee Travel Programme. He recently served as Etihaad Airways' Sales Manager for Sharjah and Northern Emirates.



Kampala

Etihaad Airways has appointed **Toyin Alaran** as its General Manager for Uganda, following the launch of its new services between Entebbe and Abu Dhabi. Based in Kampala, Alaran will be responsible for establishing and developing strong working relationships with clients and in growing the airline's presence and operations in Uganda. With more than 24 years of experience in the travel industry, Alaran joined Etihaad Airways in 2014. Prior to joining Etihaad Airways, he also worked in various managerial positions at Air France KLM.



Berlin

Etihaad Airways has appointed **Philippe Eydaleine**, a public affairs leader with more than three decades of experience, as Head of Public Affairs in Europe. Eydaleine will work and engage with key EU institutions and European states, policymakers and stakeholders. He will work closely with the airline's regional management in Berlin. Eydaleine joins Etihaad having recently held the position of policy advisor on EU Public Affairs for the French Civil Aviation Authority.



Meliá Doha

Qatar

Markus Kraus joins Meliá Doha, as its new General Manager. Kraus has over 25 years of experience at international 4-star superior and 5-star chains across four continents and is fluent in three languages. Over the past five years he has worked at luxury properties in Asia, including the Hilton Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia, the Hilton Cebu Resort & Spa in the Philippines and the Hilton Nanjing in China. Most recently, Kraus worked in Switzerland where he was the General Manager of the Einstein St.Gallen AG.



Banana Island Resort Doha

Qatar

Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara appoints **Thomas Fehlbier** as its new General Manager. Prior to joining here, Fehlbier served as GM of Anantara Hua Hin Resort & Spa in Thailand. Fehlbier brings with him 25 years of experience in managing leisure resorts and global hotel chains across Asia, Europe and the Middle East. He has previously held senior management positions with AVANI Sepang GoldCoast Resort & Spa in Malaysia, Intercontinental Hotel Group Europe, Starwood Hotels & Resorts and the Jumeirah Beach Hotel in the UAE amongst others.



SNTTA Emir Tours

Dubai

Vishal Sood has been appointed as Deputy General Manager by SNTTA Emir Tours. He will be handling assignments relating to the overall operations and dealing with all management aspects. With nearly 25 years in the hospitality and business development, hotels and tourism, including 18 years in hotels in India, Afghanistan and Dubai and over seven years in a destination management company - Royal Park Tourism, in Dubai. He is an Hotel Management graduate from IHM Bhubaneswar.



Celebrate the joy of giving

Yas Island Rotana hosted a Charity Iftar for the children of Al Etihad Center for Disabilities and their families.



The event kicked off with fun and games for the children. The evening continued with breaking fast, where all joined in a traditional and lavishly prepared Ramadan Iftar buffet.

"It was wonderful to see how the spirit of the Holy

Month really shone through tonight," commented **Salah Semary** – the Director of Al Etihad Center for Disabilities, "We are truly thankful for the hospitality extended to us by the Yas Island Rotana team, who welcomed our children with nothing but kindness and open arms".

Support for the Centre truly touched everyone who took part, including the Yas Island Rotana & Centro Yas Island General Manager **Mark Ancrum** who said, "It was a great honour to host the children and I am delighted to see our team, sponsors and partners having come together in making this event



a very successful one. It was a reward for us to experience their joy and happiness, and we sincerely hope that there

will be soon another opportunity to welcome them back." Al Etihad Center for Disabilities is a non-profit

education institution that cares for children with special needs and developmental disabilities.

The palaces of Maharajahs. Now some of the world's most luxurious hotels. To know more, log on to www.incredibleindia.org



Vacation in a luxurious palace hotel

Find what you seek

Live the life of a Maharajah

Incredible!ndia