

MICE & TOURISM



around the World e-Magazine

ONLINE since 1997 - vol. 29, issue 4 April 2026



Best professional guide...

Mrs. Hongling ZHU

Wuhan, Hubei Province, China

TWISTS AND TURNS Exploring The World's Most Winding Roads

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Message from **Caroline-Artemis**

Dear Readers,

When a place begins to recover after conflict, the road back is never easy. But tourism can help in real and meaningful ways. It brings jobs, supports small businesses, and reminds communities that the world has not forgotten them.

Even small steps, like a café reopening or a guide returning to work, show that people are ready to rebuild. Our industry can support this by listening to local needs, respecting culture, and making sure the benefits of tourism reach the people who need them most.

Tourism cannot undo the pain of conflict, but it can help communities move forward. It brings visitors who come with curiosity, care, and respect, helping to rebuild trust and connection.

As the industry looks ahead, our role is simple: stand with destinations as they recover, tell their stories honestly, and support the people working hard to shape a better future.

Let there be peace on Earth.

The team of **MICE & TOURISM around the World** e-Magazine take this opportunity to wish you all **A BLESSED EASTER**.

Caroline-Artemis Laspas
co-founder & editor





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Trollstigen, Norway

TWISTS AND TURNS

Exploring The World's Most Winding Roads

by Caroline-Artemis Laspas



From the hairpin bends of the Alps to the twisting switchbacks of the Andes, the world is laced with roads that defy straight lines and challenge even the most seasoned drivers.

Winding roads are more than just scenic detours, they are a celebration of geography, engineering, and the human desire to explore. They force us to slow down, to engage with the landscape, and to savour the journey as much as the destination. Whether you're navigating zigzags in the Himalayas or cruising coastal curves in New Zealand, these roads remind us that sometimes, the best path is the one that twists and turns.

Here's a look at some of the most iconic roads across the globe.

Stelvio Pass, Italy

Often topping lists of the world's most scenic drives, the Stelvio Pass in the Italian Alps boasts 48 hairpin turns packed into just 24kms. At 2,757m above sea level, it's not only one of the highest paved roads in Europe but also one of the most exhilarating, with tight curves and panoramic views that attract motorcyclists, cyclists, and road trippers alike.



Trollstigen, Norway

Norway's 'Troll's Ladder' is a narrow mountain road with 11 hairpin bends, dramatic waterfalls, and sheer cliffs. Open only in summer due to snow and ice, Trollstigen is a marvel of Nordic road design, blending seamlessly into the rugged landscape of the Romsdal Valley.



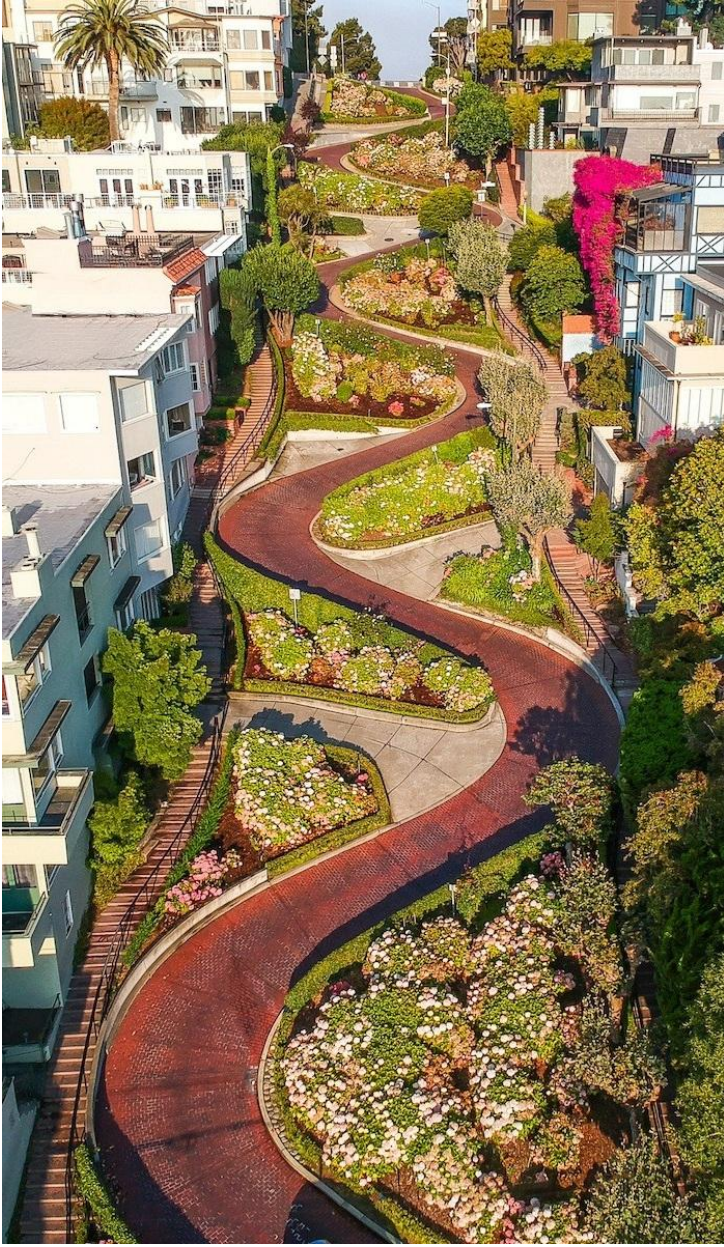
Tianmen Mountain Road, China

Also known as the '99 Bends Road to Heaven,' this dizzying route climbs 11kms up Tianmen Mountain with an equal 99 sharp turns. It leads to the famous Tianmen Cave, a natural arch perched high above the clouds, and is often paired with a glass skywalk for the ultimate adrenaline rush.



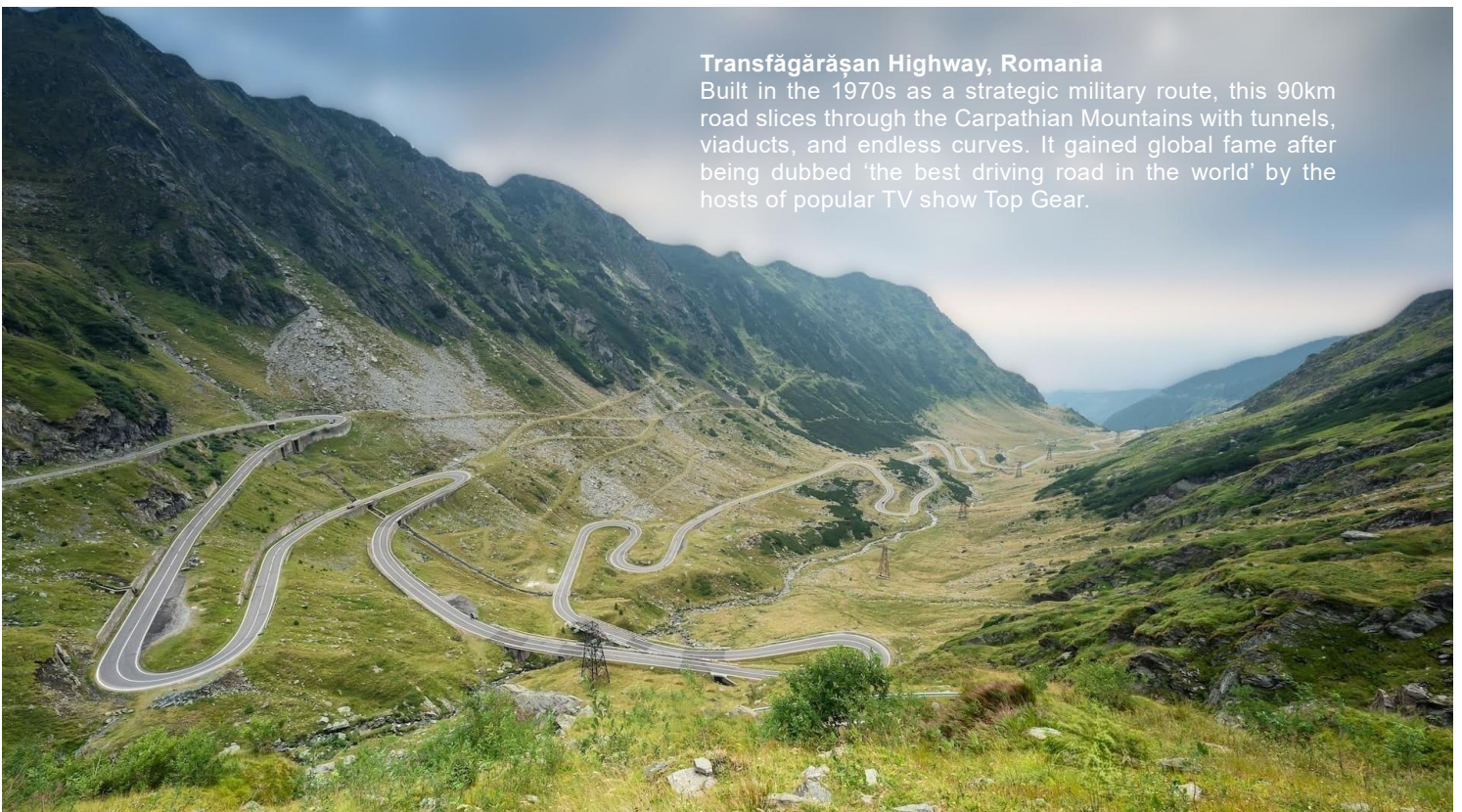
Chapman's Peak Drive, South Africa

Hugging the cliffs of the Cape Peninsula, this 9km road winds through 114 curves between Hout Bay and Noordhoek. With the Atlantic Ocean on one side and towering rock faces on the other, it's a favourite for sunset drives and cinematic car commercials.



Lombard Street, San Francisco, USA

Dubbed the 'crookedest street in the world', this short stretch of Lombard Street features 8 sharp turns in a single block. Designed in the 1920s to reduce the hill's natural 27% grade, it's become a quirky tourist magnet and a symbol of San Francisco's unique topography.



Transfăgărășan Highway, Romania

Built in the 1970s as a strategic military route, this 90km road slices through the Carpathian Mountains with tunnels, viaducts, and endless curves. It gained global fame after being dubbed 'the best driving road in the world' by the hosts of popular TV show Top Gear.



North Yungas Road, Bolivia

Nicknamed 'Death Road,' this infamous route once claimed hundreds of lives each year. Clinging to the cliffs of the Andes with sheer drops and minimal guardrails, it's now a popular destination for thrill-seeking mountain bikers who brave its 60km descent from La Paz to the Amazon basin.



The Snail Road, Chile

The Snail Road is a famous road section in Chile, located in the Andes Mountains, close to the Argentine border.

The Pass is a twisting mountain road located in a remote section of the Andes Mountains on the Chilean side of the border with Argentina. The path climbs to an elevation of 3,175m, has no roadside safety barriers, and is frequented by large trucks.

So be sure to take time to discover the winding roads and admire the views next time you are out and about!



M.I.C.E & Events

News from
Meetings, Incentives, Conferences,
Exhibitions, Venues & Events



EVENTS INDUSTRY COUNCIL RECOGNISES SINGAPORE EXPO FOR ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION TO SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS



Singapore EXPO, managed by Constellar, has earned GOLD level certification to the Events Industry Council (EIC) Sustainable Event Standards for the second year in a row. As Singapore's largest purpose-built MICE venue, welcoming over 6 million visitors and 600 events annually, it is also recognised as Asia's most sustainable MICE venue, powered by renewable energy and aligned with Singapore's Green Plan 2030 and the UN SDGs.

"This GOLD certification reflects our enduring commitment to sustainability and our responsibility to lead by example," said Ian Gan, vice president of centre management & sustainability at Constellar.

The EIC Sustainable Event Standards, developed through global expert collaboration, provide guidance and metrics across areas such as climate action, water management, circularity, supply chains, DEI, accessibility and social impact. More than 300 professionals have contributed to shaping the standards.

"Singapore EXPO's achievement is a powerful testament to their leadership in embedding sustainability into every facet of operations," said Amy Calvert, EIC president and CEO.

The Alliance for Audited Media conducted the independent third-party certification. CEO Richard Murphy noted that the recognition underscores the venue's commitment to transparency and accountability in sustainability.



EUROPE CONGRESS TO HOST MCE NORTH & WEST EUROPE 2026 IN WONDERFUL COPENHAGEN

Europe Congress is excited to announce the upcoming MCE North & West Europe 2026, taking place from 12–14 April in Copenhagen, Denmark. This specialised B2B MICE forum will bring together leading destinations and event suppliers from across North and West Europe with international event planners seeking new business opportunities in the region.

Hosted at the AC Hotel Bella Sky, a modern conference hotel with easy access to Copenhagen's city centre, the forum is designed to connect high-quality suppliers with carefully vetted buyers who are actively organising events in North and West Europe. The event continues Europe Congress' mission of creating boutique, time-efficient platforms that foster meaningful partnerships and measurable business outcomes.



Over 2.5 days, participants will take part in a dynamic program featuring pre-scheduled one-to-one B2B meetings, presentations by participating destinations, city discovery programs, and curated networking experiences. In partnership with Copenhagen Convention Bureau, MCE North & West Europe also gives participants a taste of what the city of Copenhagen has to offer the MICE industry.

The forum will welcome 70+ hosted buyers alongside a strong representation of destinations, convention bureaus, congress centres, and event service providers from countries in Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, Benelux, Germany, France, and beyond. Participants can expect pre-scheduled targeted business meetings, ensuring productive use of time away from the office.

Beyond the meeting room, attendees will experience Copenhagen through a variety of networking and cultural

activities. Optional sightseeing tours, including visits to iconic attractions such as Tivoli Gardens, guided city experiences, and Nordic wellness activities, will allow participants to explore the destination while strengthening professional connections in an informal setting.

Copenhagen's selection as host city reflects its growing reputation as a leading MICE destination, combining world-class infrastructure with a vibrant cultural atmosphere and strong sustainability credentials.

Limited places are still available for qualified hosted buyers interested in participating in this exclusive forum.

For more information or to register interest, visit www.europecongress.com

ATF TRAVEX 2026 CONCLUDES IN CEBU WITH STRONG BUSINESS RESULTS AND REGIONAL MOMENTUM

The ASEAN Tourism Forum (ATF) TRAVEX 2026 concluded on a high note in Cebu, Philippines, delivering strong business outcomes, robust industry engagement, and renewed confidence in the future of ASEAN tourism. Over the course of the event, more than 9,500 pre-scheduled appointments were conducted, driving meaningful connections and collaboration across the regional and international tourism community.



The 3 day trade exhibition featured 261 booths representing all 9 ASEAN countries and welcomed over 1,000 delegates to the show floor. Participation included 270 buyers from 50 countries and territories, around 70 media representatives from 25 countries.

ATF TRAVEX 2026 highlighted ASEAN's collective push towards digital innovation, sustainability, and community-based tourism, reinforcing the region's shared vision for inclusive growth and long-term competitiveness.

The opening day of TRAVEX was marked by an official ceremony led by Philippines Department of Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco. She was joined by Indonesia's Minister of Tourism Widiyanti Putri Wardhana, ASEAN Tourism Association President Eddy Krismeidi Soemawilaga, Tourism Promotions Board Philippines Chief Operating Officer Maria Margarita Montemayor Nograles,

Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Maria Cynthia King Chan, Congressman Junard Quirante Chan, and representatives from ASEAN member states.

Delegates were later hosted at the historic Mactan Shrine in Lapu-Lapu City, where cultural performances, local food experiences, and a vibrant atmosphere showcased Cebu's appeal as both a business and leisure destination, culminating in a celebratory fireworks display.



Over the following days, buyers and exhibitors took part in scheduled business appointments, National Tourism Organisation briefings, and special programme sessions showcasing new tourism products, strategic initiatives, and destination developments from across ASEAN. Media in attendance also gained first-hand insights into the latest developments shaping ASEAN tourism. These exchanges highlighted the region's shared ambition to strengthen connectivity, enhance destination competitiveness, and position ASEAN as a diverse and compelling tourism region on the global stage. Regional friendship continued with an evening hosted by the Singapore Tourism Board, officially welcoming delegates to Singapore as the host of ATF TRAVEX 2027.

The final day of ATF TRAVEX 2026 coincided with the ASEAN Tourism Awards, which celebrates outstanding achievements across multiple categories from ASEAN member states. The forum concluded with a closing dinner, marking the successful wrap-up of a week of business exchanges, collaborations and celebrations.

With robust buyer participation, strong exhibitor engagement, and a clear focus on sustainability and innovation, ATF TRAVEX 2026 reaffirmed its position as the region's leading platform for tourism trade and cooperation. Anchored in the spirit of the theme 'Navigating Our Tourism Future, Together,' the event sets a confident and collaborative tone as ASEAN tourism charts its path forward.



CENTRAL MACEDONIA – GREECE TARGETS FRENCH MARKET AT PARIS TOURISM EVENTS

The Region of Central Macedonia promoted its year-round tourism offering at the Salon Mondial du Tourisme in Paris, alongside Thessaloniki, Halkidiki and Pieria tourism bodies. Visitors showed strong interest in the region's heritage, hiking, gastronomy and beaches, while a main-stage event highlighted the ease of exploring all Regional Units from Thessaloniki. Meetings with French travel professionals and media reported high engagement, supported by a 14.9% rise in French air arrivals to 'Macedonia' airport in 2025.

The region also joined the 'PURE International' MICE meeting, presenting Thessaloniki's strengths for conferences and business travel to leading French industry representatives. Local tourism businesses expressed growing interest in the sector.

Deputy Regional Governor for Tourism Vicky Hatzivassiliou said the coordinated actions strengthen Central Macedonia's position in the French market and reinforce its image as a four-season destination.



HIMALAYAN TRAVEL MART 1-4 June 2026 Kathmandu, Nepal

Himalayan Travel Mart (HTM) is Nepal's premier international travel and tourism trade show, facilitating unparalleled networking and business opportunities and valuable industry insights among the global tourism and hospitality organisations, and individuals engaged in different aspects of tourism in the Himalayan region.

This Business to Business (B2B) mart offers a unique platform for tourism marketing and promotion availing the remarkable gathering of Global Buyers, Diverse Sellers, Travel Bloggers, Influencers, National and International Media, Travel Industry Professionals and Delegates from around the world.

HTM bring together the most Prospective Buyers from around the Globe and the Sellers/ Exhibitors with extreme product diversification from Himalayan Tourism Industry including NEPAL and beyond; facilitating them the opportunity to establish, strengthen or expand their business partnerships.

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EGYPT NAMED AS PREMIER PARTNER FOR WTM LONDON 2026



World Travel Market (WTM) London, the world's most influential travel event, has announced the Egyptian Tourism Authority as its Premier Partner for 2026.

Following the exclusive launch of Ramses and the Pharaoh's Gold: The Exhibition, an official signing ceremony was held on 26 February at Neon at Battersea Power Station.

Egypt has been a longstanding partner of WTM London and has had a presence at every event since the inaugural WTM London which took place in 1980.

In recent years, the authority has significantly strengthened its presence at WTM London. Its stand space expanded by more than 20% between 2023 and 2024, followed by a further increase of over 50% in 2025. Overall, this represents an almost 90% growth since 2023, with the 2025 stand welcoming around 90 co-exhibitors, underlining the event's growing importance as a platform for

collaboration and industry engagement. Negotiations for an even larger presence in 2026 are under way.

Egypt is aiming to achieve 30 million tourist arrivals by 2031, with the WTM Global Travel Report 2025 predicting a 27% increase in inbound tourism spending between now and 2030.

WTM London 2026 is taking place from 3-5 November at Excel London.



ASIA GOLF TOURISM CONVENTION 2026 Pattaya, Thailand

From 23-25 March 2026 the 12th edition of the annual Asia Golf Tourism Convention (AGTC) took place at the Dusit Thani Pattaya Hotel in Thailand, one of the most popular golf destinations in Southeast Asia.

The event attracted a record 450 delegates and all buyer delegates were accommodated at the Dusit Thani resort, where most suppliers also stayed.

AGTC has become the most important golf tourism sales convention in the Asia Pacific region, and is an opportunity for golf resorts, golf courses, hotels, DMCs and golf destinations to schedule 2 days of meetings with some 180 golf tour operators, all selling golf vacations to Thailand and beyond.

The AGTC Golf Tournament took place at the award-winning Plantation and Waterside courses at the Siam Country Club, located in the hills behind Pattaya, just 20-minutes from the hotel.



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BELGRADE TOURISM FAIRS DRAW 30,000 VISITORS AND STRONG INTERNATIONAL INTEREST



The 47th International Tourism Fair and the 21st HoReCa-Equipment Fair wrapped up in Belgrade with more than 350 exhibitors from 18 countries and over 30,000 visitors. More than 2,000 B2B meetings reinforced the event's role as a major regional hub for tourism partnerships.

Cyprus participated as Partner Country, while Greece, Montenegro, Tunisia, Egypt and several long-haul destinations showcased their offers. A new online ticketing system improved visitor flow.

Serbia's National Tourism Organisation highlighted EXPO 2027 and promoted rural tourism through new publications. Vojvodina presented its 'Wine Street' and received a diploma for its collective presence, while Air Serbia reported selling roughly one ticket per minute during the fair.

Running alongside, the HoReCa-Equipment Fair featured modern hospitality solutions from domestic and international suppliers.

With around 700 accredited journalists from more than 20 countries, the event reaffirmed its status as the region's key meeting point for tourism professionals and innovators, with strong attendance and high-quality business contacts shaping prospects for the year ahead.

FHS AFRICA 2026 ANNOUNCES AWARD RECIPIENTS: VIMBAI MASIYIWA AND COLIN BELL TO BE HONOURED IN NAIROBI

FHS Africa, organised by The Bench, is proud to announce the 2026 recipients of the prestigious FHS Africa Awards.



This year's honourees are Vimbai Masiyiwa, Co-Founder and CEO of Batoka Africa, who will receive the Leadership Award, and Colin Bell, CEO of Natural Selection and former CEO of Wilderness, who will receive the Outstanding Contribution to Hospitality Award.

Both awards will be presented in Nairobi during FHS Africa 2026, taking place from 31 March to 1 April 2026. The recipients will be celebrated as part of the event programme, including exclusive one-to-one interviews in which they will share reflections on their life stories, leadership journeys and the milestones that have shaped their impact on African hospitality.

Vimbai Masiyiwa - Co-Founder & CEO, Batoka Africa

As Co-Founder and CEO of Batoka Africa, Vimbai Masiyiwa is shaping a new era of African hospitality. The company operates a portfolio of luxury safari properties in Zimbabwe, grounded in conservation, sustainability and community empowerment.

Under her leadership, Batoka Africa has championed responsible tourism that protects biodiversity while creating meaningful economic opportunity for local communities. Masiyiwa is recognised for advancing gender inclusion in leadership and for building an African-owned brand that competes confidently on the global stage while remaining deeply rooted in shared value and local impact.

Commenting on the award, Vimbai Masiyiwa said: "I am deeply honoured to receive the FHS Africa Leadership Award. For us at Batoka Africa, hospitality is about stewardship, of land, of culture and of opportunity. This recognition reflects the dedication of our teams and the communities we work alongside in Zimbabwe. I look forward to sharing our journey in Nairobi and celebrating the continued evolution of African-led hospitality."

Colin Bell - Safari Legend, Author & Co-Founder, Wilderness Safaris & Natural Selection

Colin Bell is one of the most influential figures in African conservation tourism. Through his leadership at Natural Selection and previously at Wilderness, he has helped shape a model of high-end, conservation-driven safari experiences that balance commercial success with environmental stewardship. Over the course of his career, Bell has played a central role in expanding conservation tourism into new territories, strengthening partnerships with governments and communities, and demonstrating how hospitality can directly support

biodiversity protection and local livelihoods. His work has positioned African safari tourism as a global benchmark for sustainable luxury.

Colin Bell said: "I'm deeply grateful for this recognition from FHS Africa. Hospitality, at its best, connects guests to wild places in meaningful ways while safeguarding those places for generations to come. I look forward to reflecting on that journey in Nairobi and celebrating the collective effort of so many people who have shaped Africa's conservation tourism story."

FHS Africa 2026 will bring together hospitality investors, owners, operators and industry leaders from across the continent and beyond for two days of forward-looking discussion, high-level networking and celebration in Nairobi.






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HOSPITALITY LIVE – LEEDS, UNITED KINGDOM

Hospitality Live, taking place on 20 April 2026 at the Royal Armouries in Leeds, is redefining the traditional exhibition by prioritising curated networking and an experience-led environment. The event is organised by sector leaders including Wayne Topley of Cedar Court Hotels and the Leeds Hotels & Venues Association, Paula Kelsey of Cloud9 Events, and the Royal Armouries team.



Supported by sponsors such as Punch Hospitality, Fantastic, Royal Armouries and the Leeds Hotels & Venues Association, the one-day Meetings & Events festival brings together venues, suppliers and event bookers for a relaxed, highly engaging experience. Traditional stands are replaced with informal meeting spaces to encourage genuine conversation and relationship-building.

The programme features keynote speakers and practical live sessions from midday, before shifting at 6pm into a festival-style evening with drinks, music and informal networking. Free delegate tickets are available at hospitality-live.com, with venue partners able to apply for space via the suppliers studio page.

Aimed at event bookers, agencies, venues and hospitality professionals, Hospitality Live offers a fresh, more effective way to connect with the industry while supporting an event designed to leave a positive legacy.

EXHIBITION POSTPONEMENTS

Due to the current situation in the Middle East, the following events have changed their dates:

- **Private Luxury Dubai** – The organisers are now welcoming delegates from Private Luxury Dubai to Private Luxury Bodrum taking place from 6-8 October 2026.
- **Arabian Travel Market** – rescheduled to 17-20 August 2026, Dubai, UAE.
- **The Dubai Hotel Show** – rescheduled from May to 28-30 September 2026, Dubai, UAE.
- **M&i Expo** – rescheduled to 5-7 April 2027, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- **FHS Saudi Arabia** (Future Hospitality Summit) rescheduled to 22-24 June 2026, Riyadh - Saudi Arabia
- **WiT Phocuswright Middle East 2026** rescheduled to 14 August 2026, Dubai, UAE
- **The Airport Show** – rescheduled to 12-14 October 2026, Dubai, UAE

2026 HUMANOID ROBOT HALF-MARATHON SET IN E-TOWN



The 2026 Humanoid Robot Half-Marathon will take place on 19 April, alongside the Beijing E-Town Half-Marathon; a 'human-robot co-running' format, with humans and humanoid robots starting together on the same course but separated by barriers or green belts. Robots will compete in autonomous navigation and remote-control categories, supported by a hybrid timing system.

To encourage autonomous performance, results for teams using non-autonomous assistance will be adjusted, and remote-control operators must stay in their vehicles unless necessary. Special awards including Best Endurance, Most Graceful Gait, Best Design, and Best Perception will promote innovation.

The event will also include pre-race training, technical testing, investment matchmaking, and visits to tech parks to strengthen the robotics ecosystem and accelerate application of new technologies.

A parallel challenge will focus on emergency-rescue scenarios, using obstacle-based simulations to test robots' autonomous decision-making, control skills, and long-duration performance in complex environments.

Comprehensive support services will be provided through a new 10,000sq.m robot secondary-development community offering shared robot bodies, free workspaces, affordable computing power, and development tools. Each team will receive a dedicated 'butler' for mapping and communications support. 'Robot Service Ambassadors' will offer on-course services such as cheerleading and route guidance, highlighting robots' evolution from competition tools to service partners. The winning team will receive industrial orders worth over 1 million yuan to help transition into the robotics industry.

MEETEX 2026 SHOWCASING ZAGREB AS A RISING BUSINESS EVENTS DESTINATION TO THE WORLD

Zagreb successfully hosted the 8th edition of MEETEX from March 17–19, 2026. The leading B2B forum for Croatian meetings industry brought together global event planners and Croatian business events stakeholders for three days of dynamic meetings, networking and knowledge exchange, further strengthening Zagreb's position as an increasingly attractive and competitive destination.

During the event, representatives of the Zagreb Convention Bureau held numerous pre-scheduled meetings with international hosted buyers, confirming strong and growing interest in the destination. Particular attention was given to Zagreb's incentive potential, with participants recognising its unique combination of urban experiences, culture and nearby natural attractions as a key advantage in designing diverse and engaging programs.

The overall experience was further enriched by the Festival of Lights Zagreb, adding a vibrant and memorable dimension to the program, alongside carefully curated social events and a post-event FAM trip. Together, these elements showcased Zagreb's ability to deliver authentic, high-quality experiences beyond meeting rooms, reinforcing its reputation as a city that successfully blends business with inspiration thus opening doors to new international markets.





MEETEX 2026 once again confirmed that Zagreb is becoming an increasingly relevant destination on the map of the international meetings and incentive industry. The combination of quality infrastructure, diverse offerings, authentic experiences and strong support from local partners makes it an extremely competitive destination.

Such events not only create new business opportunities, but also boost the international recognition of Zagreb as a city where people meet, innovate and get inspired – a city that successfully combines professionalism and experience.



TML TRAVEL SOLUTIONS INC. CANADA ATTENDED THE TIAPEI INDUSTRY PARTNER DAY 26 March 2026 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, CANADA

The CEO Mrs. Thao Tran, OF TML TRAVEL SOLUTIONS INC., attended the TIAPEI Industry Partner Day that took place on the 26 March 2026 at Trailside Music Hall in Charlottetown. This meeting aimed at bringing together industry professionals to share ideas and discuss the future of the industry.

The meeting was a full-day affair and will include key discussions on the performance of the industry, investment attraction, and advocacy. It will also include discussions on new innovations in the industry, including AI opportunities. The meeting will also be a great networking opportunity for industry professionals to work together to grow the industry.

The meeting included key discussions such as the Tourism PEI Year in Review, meeting with Destination Canada to discuss supply and investment, and meeting to discuss the future and the Aurora AI Advantage. This meeting was also a great opportunity to bring together national leadership, including Sébastien Benedict, CEO of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada. This meeting was very important in highlighting the need to bring together regional and national strategies to grow the industry.

TML TRAVEL SOLUTIONS is proud to be a part of this meeting and to be working towards the growth of the Canadian tourism industry.



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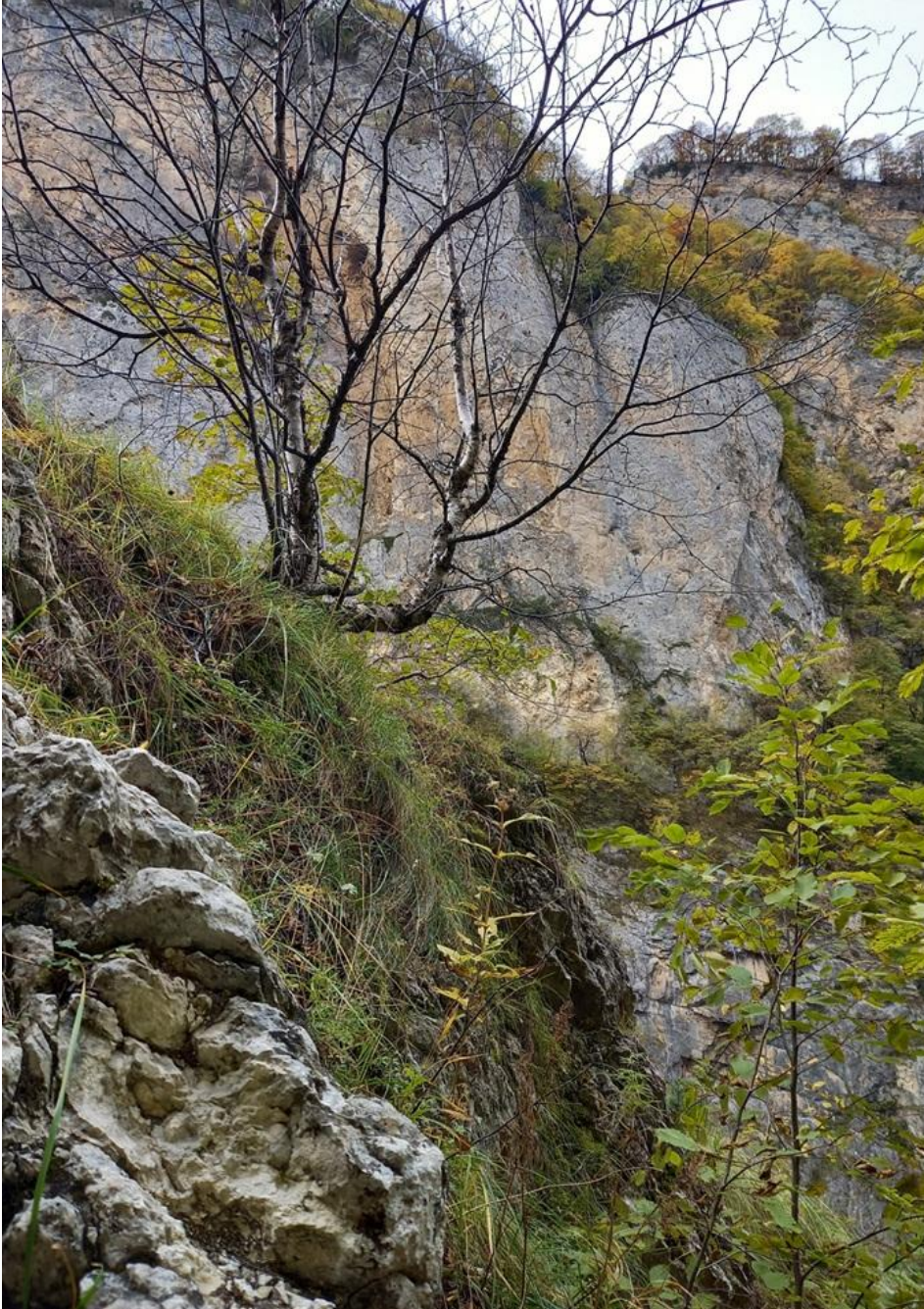
ECOLOGICAL MORALITY AND ECOTOURISM

by Olga Mamonova



It is argued that the desired image of the future strives toward the dominant ideal of noospheric (sphere of human thought) well-being. To achieve sustainability, any model must be supported by local communities and then by society as a whole.

Currently, only in cities with a population of over a million is there a fashionable trend towards eco-habits, healthy lifestyles, sports, and inclusion, supported by volunteer programmes. In the context of environmental problems, morality is, first and foremost, people's awareness of the socially necessary type of behaviour towards nature and its realisation in the free actions of an individual, based on their convictions and public opinion. Addressing moral phenomena in connection with socio-ecological problems is inevitable, because behind any process of human-nature interaction, behind any step in economic development, lies a value conflict, the resolution of which occurs not only in the sphere of rational thinking but also in the sphere of spiritual life.



Modern ecological morality is diffuse; its regulatory effect is noticeable only in crisis situations. Large social groups (including socio-professional groups) now have their own specific ecological moralities. In the context of the ecological crisis, it is necessary to strive for the 'awakening' of latent ecological morality, which is inherent in one form or another in modern society. In this regard, it is particularly important to comprehensively align social realities with the norms of ecological morality. At the moment, ecological consciousness is being transformed under conditions of constant socio-ecological conflicts, becoming a crucial instrument of influence and a factor in changing the communities themselves.

A brief summary of the concepts and ecological morality presented in the review of Martin Gorke's book 'The Death of Species on Our Planet'. In terms of ethical perspectives, the author identifies four categories of moral consideration for the world, which determine what falls within the scope of our care. The scheme of ecological ethics can be represented as a system of nested circles. With each circle, the scope of human moral responsibility expands. The circle of the smallest radius is anthropocentrism. The relationship of man to nature is viewed through the prism of human interests. This approach in nature conservation is expressed by slogans well known to us: 'Everything for the good of man, everything in the name of man', 'For us and our descendants', etc.

The next circle expands our responsibility to include higher animals capable of feeling and suffering – pathocentrism. A prominent representative of this direction is P. Singer with his idea of 'animal liberation', since it all comes down to freeing them from pain and suffering (Singer, 2002).

The third circle is biocentrism, which already includes all living organisms. Finally, the fourth circle with the greatest human responsibility is ecocentrism (also known as holism or physiocentrism). It includes, in addition to living organisms, also inanimate nature and systemic wholes at the supra-organism level – populations, species, ecosystems, and the biosphere as a whole. Gorke challenges two widespread views:

- Ecological scientism: the mistaken expectation that the science of ecology alone can provide ready-made environmental standards. In reality, these standards are social conventions that may carry uncertain risks.
- Ethical anthropocentrism: the belief that only humans have moral value, and nature is important merely as a resource for humans.

Ecological thinking: instead of scientism, the author proposes a more cautious approach based on four principles:

- Error-friendliness;
- Leisureliness;
- Diversity;
- Self-organisation.



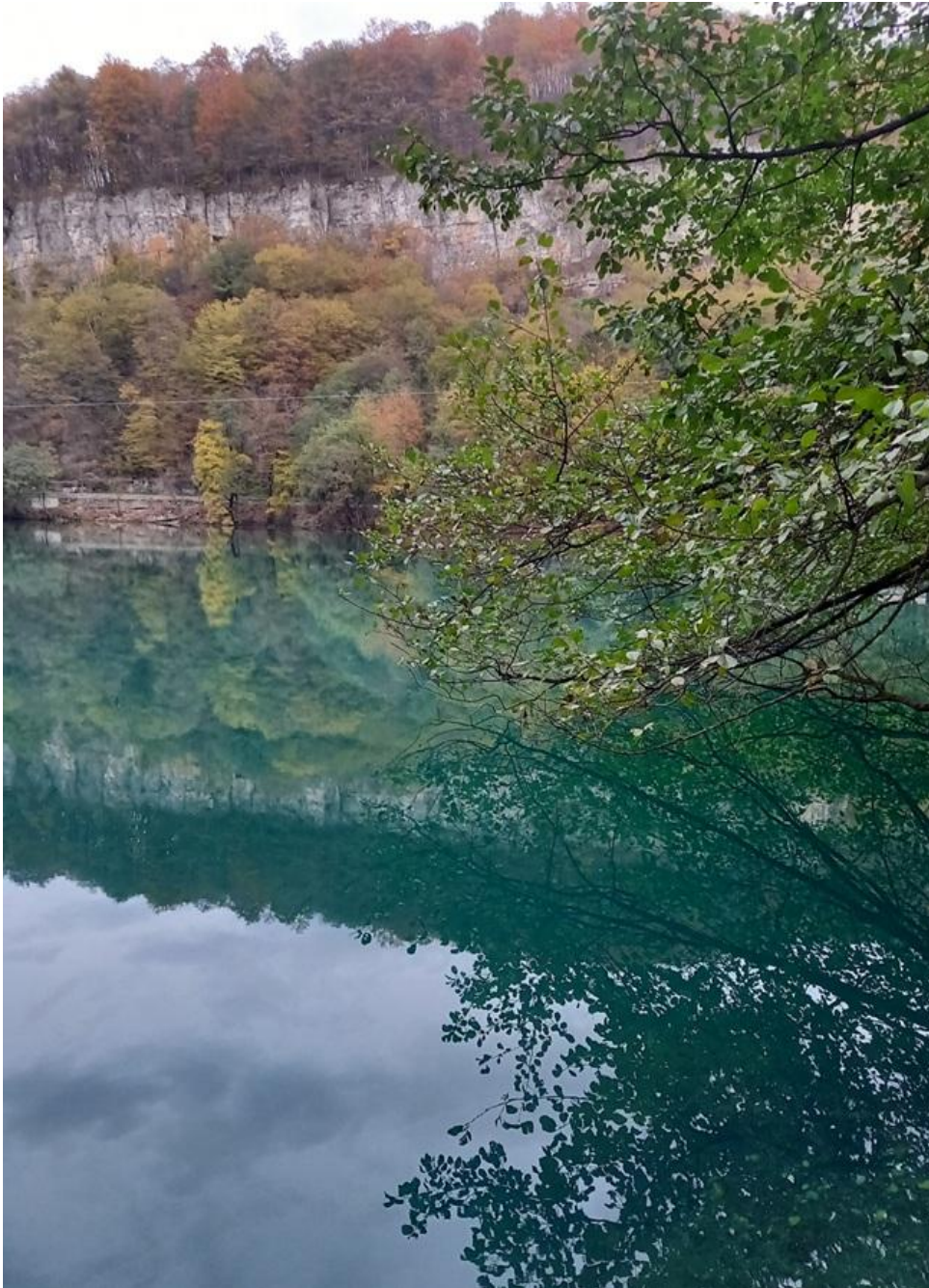
A key thesis of the book is that nature protection is rooted not in theory but in basic moral intuition. It is intuition that is the source of ethical reflection, and the burden of proof lies on those who deny this intuition. The author advocates for a holistic approach to ecological ethics.

Excluding any parts of nature from the moral sphere is an arbitrary act. Ethics must include both individual and holistic dimensions. Gorke emphasises that ethics is not an instruction manual but a compass that provides general orientation. The final decision and responsibility always remain with the individual, their knowledge, judgment, and competence. This idea aligns with the main principle of ecological tourism, whose goal is achieving harmony between the tourist and nature, where their interaction does not harm the environment.



The essence of ecotourism is travelling into nature for the purpose of contemplation and study, minimising negative impact, and contributing to environmental conservation. How to travel ecologically on the basis of ecological morality?

- Not shopping and amusement rides, but getting to know wildlife, local cultures, and customs.
- Not spontaneous outings, but a conscious and prepared journey involving study of the place.
- Not mass excursions, but participation in projects that benefit nature and local communities.
- Supporting the local economy, not international corporations.
- The main value is experiences and photographs, not material souvenirs.



Particular skepticism should be directed at glamping and helicopter excursions, as they are often associated with high resource consumption and pollution.

Rules of conduct for an ecotourist (especially in protected areas):

Allowed and encouraged:

- Travel only on designated trails.
- Visually study nature without touching it.
- Take photographs, showing respect for nature.
- Take all your trash with you, including wet wipes and toilet paper.
- Plan your trip in advance and obtain necessary permits.

Prohibited:

- Leaving trails and deviating from the route.
- Collecting plants, mushrooms, and berries.
- Disturbing animals, approaching nests and dens.
- Using detergents in water bodies.
- Leaving any litter behind.
- Making fires in unauthorised places.

Ecotourism destinations in Russia are various. There are 11 UNESCO World Heritage sites (e.g., Lake Baikal, Kamchatka Volcanoes, Golden Mountains of Altai), as well as lesser-known but picturesque regions such as Altai Krai, Chuvashia, and northern territories. Ecological trails, specially equipped routes, are considered an ideal format of ecotourism and may be found in almost every region. For those who want to be useful, there are projects where you can combine travel with helping nature. Ecological tourism is a conscious and responsible approach to travel, aimed at preserving fragile nature through minimal impact, respect for local communities, and gaining experiences, not things.

The development of ecotourism is not merely a trend but a necessary step toward aligning human activity with the principles of ecological morality. Genuine ecotourism is rooted in a holistic ethical framework, one that extends moral consideration beyond anthropocentrism to include animals, living organisms, and entire ecosystems. This shift in values must be supported by conscious choices from travellers, transparent practices from tour operators, and a broader societal commitment to sustainability.

To promote ecotourism effectively, it is essential to:

- Raise awareness about the difference between authentic ecotourism and 'greenwashing', encouraging travellers to ask critical questions about environmental impact, local engagement, and corporate values.
- Support local economies by prioritising community-based tourism over international commercial operators.
- Invest in ecological infrastructure, such as marked trails and educational programmes, to make responsible tourism accessible across all regions, from UNESCO heritage sites to lesser-known natural areas.
- Foster a culture of responsibility among tourists, emphasising that the true value of travel lies in experiences, learning, and meaningful connection with nature, not in material consumption.



Ultimately, ecotourism represents a practical expression of ecological morality. When done correctly, it protects fragile ecosystems, benefits local communities, and cultivates a deeper public commitment to environmental stewardship. By embracing these principles, we can transform tourism from a threat to nature into a force for its preservation.



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ASEAN TOURISM News

from across 11 countries of the South East Asia region





Nam Song River, Vang Vieng-Laos

MTCO REAPPOINTS MS. SUVIMOL THANASARAKIJ TO LEAD MEKONG TOURISM COOPERATION



The Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office (MTCO) has reappointed Ms. Suvimol Thanasarakij (Dee) as Executive Director for another two-year term starting mid-March 2026, following an international recruitment campaign.



Ms. Thanasarakij said she is honoured to continue supporting GMS tourism cooperation and sustainable regional development.

During her 2022–2026 tenure, she led key initiatives including the Women in Community-Based Tourism Training-of-Trainers programme and a regional e-commerce training partnership with Agoda for MSME accommodation providers. She also oversaw development of the GMS Tourism Strategy 2030 and coordination of the GMS Tourism Marketing Action Plan, while advancing progress toward establishing the Greater Mekong Subregion Tourism Organisation (GMSTO).

In her new term, she will work with GMS National Tourism Organisations and partners to implement the GMS Tourism Strategy 2030, strengthen regional collaboration, and promote sustainable tourism across the Mekong region.

KOH KONG, THE LUXURY TOURISM DESTINATION IN CAMBODIA

The Koh Totung resort in Koh Kong is emerging as a flagship high-end tourism project, offering an exclusive luxury experience for domestic and international visitors. The Ministry of Tourism and the Koh Kong Provincial Administration, together with private-sector partners, have committed to promoting premium tourism development in the province following the resort's progress.

A delegation of national and provincial officials, tourism associations, and local and international content creators inspected the new destination, developed by Dainkor (Cambodia) Investment Co., Ltd. The project is positioned as a model of Cambodian-led design and innovation that preserves Khmer identity while meeting international luxury standards.



The resort's soft opening on 20 March introduced 24 villas blending traditional and contemporary styles. Facilities include luxury villas, Khmer wooden houses, a library, fitness and yoga spaces, a swimming pool, sunset viewpoints, and restaurants, all set amid lush greenery and a pristine white-sand beach.

Industry representatives highlighted the importance of professional design, skilled operators, and targeted marketing in building a competitive high-end tourism sector. The Koh Totung development is expected to strengthen Koh Kong's appeal as a premium destination and support Cambodia's broader push toward upscale tourism.

www.miceandtourismaroundtheworld.com



Kuang Xi Falls, Laos

LAOS TARGETS 6 MILLION VISITORS IN 2026 AS CHINESE ARRIVALS PROJECTED AT 2 MILLION

Laos expects 5–6 million international visitors in 2026, with about 2 million projected to come from China. Growth will be driven by the 65th anniversary of Lao–China relations and rising demand for travel along the Lao–China railway, which is expanding its links across ASEAN, China and Europe.

Tourism remains a core economic sector. Before the pandemic, Laos welcomed nearly 5 million international visitors annually, including over 1 million from China who generated almost UK£528 million. Recovery has been steady: 4.1 million arrivals were recorded in 2024, rising to 4.6 million in 2025, including 1.1 million Chinese tourists.

From 2026 to 2030, Laos aims to attract 22 million international visitors and generate UK£6 billion in revenue. Domestic tourism is expected to reach 11 million trips worth around UK£3.77 billion.

Officials say continued interest in heritage sites, natural attractions and cultural tourism, combined with improved regional connectivity, will sustain growth. Tourism is expected to remain a major economic driver, with annual expansion targeted at 6% through 2030.

MYANMAR APPROVES 35 NEW INVESTMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING IN TOURISM

The Myanmar Investment Commission has approved 35 new investment projects worth UK£31 million, expected to create over 5,000 jobs. The approvals, made at the commission's 15 March meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, include 4 foreign investments in the industrial and power sectors and 31 domestic projects across industry, tourism, services, power, agriculture, transport and communications. Local investment totals UK£70.398, with 5,064 jobs projected.

Key developments include commercial vehicle manufacturing, power generation, agricultural and livestock production, hotel and tourism services, electric vehicle assembly, port construction, mobile phone assembly, solar panel production, animal feed manufacturing, food processing and garment factories.

As of February 2026, investors from 53 countries and regions have invested in Myanmar, led by Singapore, China and Thailand. By sector, investment is concentrated in power (28.27%), oil and gas (24.62%), and manufacturing (14.67%).

BRUNEI FOCUS ON CULTURE, NATURE AND ADVENTURE TOURISM



Brunei remains focused on strengthening the competitiveness of tourism products based on culture, nature, and adventure.

Tourism promotion will include a wide-impact advertising campaign using various promotional methods to increase global awareness of the country's tourism attractions.

The nation's Tourism Development Department will appoint overseas marketing representatives to improve the effectiveness of both traditional and digital promotions.

Brunei recorded 763,000 international tourist arrivals in 2025, representing an increase of 13% compared to 2024.

TIMOR-LESTE HIGHLIGHTS

MAJOR 2026 EVENTS AND NEW INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS



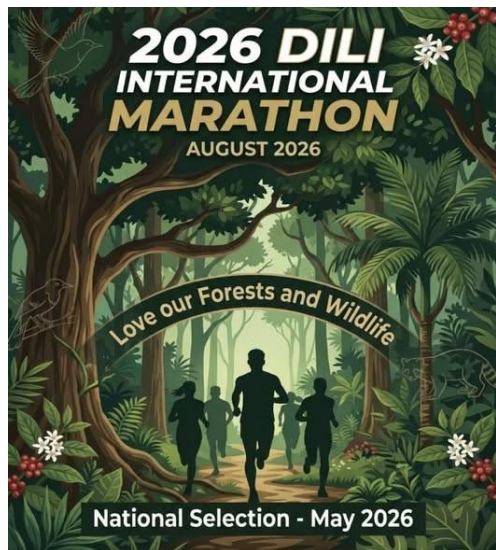
Two major tourism events and new air links to Malaysia and Australia are set to boost Timor-Leste's profile as a top destination in 2026.

Tasifest Music & Cultural Festival – May 29–30, 2026

Tasifest returns to Tasitolu, Dili after drawing over 50,000 attendees in 2025. The 2026 lineup features Iwan Fals, Calema, Rui Orlando, and Guy Sebastian, alongside local artists and DJs. Portuguese artist Bordalo II will lead the festival's sustainability-focused art workshops. Details: www.tasifest.tl

Dili International Marathon – August 8, 2026

President José Ramos-Horta announced the 2026 race date under the theme 'Love Our Forests and Wildlife'. Events include a full and half marathon, a 10 km para-athlete race, and a 5 km fun run. All routes are internationally certified and chip-timed. Registration: www.dilimarathon.tl



Aero Dili Expands International Network

Aero Dili will launch twice-weekly Dili–Kuala Lumpur flights on March 28, 2026, followed by twice-weekly Dili–Darwin flights on May 24. The airline will then serve six international destinations, adding to routes to Bali, Singapore, Xiamen, and Fuzhou. Bookings: www.aerodili.com

Tourism Director General Mr. Antonio da Silva said, the events and new flights will strengthen Timor-Leste's appeal, noting the country was recently named among the 'Top 20 Destinations to Visit in 2026' by two major travel publications.



About Timor-Leste - ASEAN's newest member offers pristine beaches, world-class diving, rich Timorese and Portuguese heritage, rugged mountains, and traditional villages. It is connected by direct flights from Australia, Bali, China, Malaysia, and Singapore. More information: www.timorleste.tl

VIETNAM TO HAVE 8 METRO LINES BY 2035



Hanoi is accelerating its transport overhaul with the goal of making public transport the main travel choice for residents. The city plans to build 5 metro lines totalling 100km between 2026 and 2030, expanding to 8 lines and 301km by 2035.

Alongside metro construction, authorities will grow the bus network, introduce electric and eco-friendly vehicles, develop a public bike-share system, and improve interchanges between transport modes.

The city aims for public transport to account for 30% of all trips by 2030 and 40% by 2035. Officials report rising use of buses and metro services, especially among young people who value speed and convenience.

In the first two months of 2026, urban railways carried 3.1 million passengers, up 4.6% from the same period last year.

INDONESIA TOURISM XCHANGE (ITX) 2026 TOURISM & HOSPITALITY PLAYERS CONVENE TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL

The inaugural Indonesia Tourism Xchange (ITX) 2026 will take place on 12 May at The Langham, Jakarta, bringing together hotel owners, operators, investors and senior decision-makers to examine the forces shaping Indonesia's tourism sector amid renewed growth and rising complexity. Designed to reflect Indonesia's scale, cultural depth and diverse destinations, the event will address shifting traveller expectations and evolving demands from brands and capital.



INDONESIA TOURISM XCHANGE 2026 REIMAGINING JOURNEYS

The agenda opens with an assessment of Indonesia's 2026 investment climate and tourism outlook, followed by sessions on luxury hospitality, where brands are being pushed to deliver culturally grounded, personalised experiences. ITX 2026 is organised by Horwath HTL, C9 Hotelworks, STR, QUO Global, Greenview and Delivering Asia, with support from Langham Hospitality Group, PHRI, the Jakarta Hotels Association and the Bali Hotels Association.

Indonesia aims to attract 16–17 million foreign visitors in 2026, up from 15.38 million in 2025, a 10.8% increase from the previous year. Domestic tourism is expected to reach 1.18 billion trips, following 1.2 billion trips in 2025.

Speakers include Langham Hospitality Group's Sherona Shng, who will discuss how luxury in Indonesia is increasingly defined by cultural intelligence and emotional connection. Horwath HTL's Matt Gebbie will outline tourism prospects for 2026, highlighting the need for 'smart growth' and stronger performance expectations for luxury assets.

The programme will also examine hotel trading trends, development strategies and the rise of branded residences across Indonesia's resort and lifestyle destinations. The government continues to promote priority destinations beyond Bali, including Yogyakarta, Labuan Bajo, Lake Toba, Borobudur, Raja Ampat, Tana Toraja and Wakatobi.

MALAYSIA HEALTHCARE STRENGTHENS CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION

Malaysia Healthcare Travel Council (MHTC) launched Malaysia Healthcare Week Phnom Penh 2026 with a hospital introduction session held with OneHealth Cambodia, its first official Cambodia initiative under the 'Healing Meets Hospitality' Malaysia Year of Medical Tourism 2026. The event connected leading Malaysian private hospitals with Cambodian partners to strengthen referrals, align patient pathways, and support seamless cross-border care.



Malaysia showcased key institutions including Subang Jaya Medical Centre (FMTH Brand Distinction Excellence Award), the National Heart Institute (FMTH Medical Excellence and Medical Technology Distinction), Sunway Medical Centre Penang, IHH Healthcare, Prince Court Medical Centre, Pantai Hospital Kuala Lumpur, MSU Medical Centre, and OPTIMAX. Discussions focused on centres of excellence, accredited facilities, multidisciplinary care, and the role of structured referral systems in improving patient outcomes.

MHTC highlighted Cambodia's growing importance, noting an 81% rise in healthcare travellers to nearly 8,000 between January–September 2025, generating RM7.9 million in revenue, a 228% increase driven by demand for higher-value treatments.

The session addressed practical aspects of patient mobility, including travel facilitation, cultural considerations, and post-treatment follow-up, reflecting Malaysia Healthcare's holistic, hospitality-driven approach.

The engagement signals deeper collaboration with Cambodia as Malaysia advances MYMT 2026 and strengthens regional healthcare partnerships.

AS TOURISM RECEIPTS RISE SINGAPORE VENUES AIM TO DRAW EARLY-CAREER ADULTS & MICE TRAVELLERS

Singapore continues to pursue a long-term tourism strategy focused on higher-spending visitors and economic value rather than sheer arrival numbers, a direction embedded in its Tourism 2040 vision. The approach is succeeding with tourism receipts for 2025 are expected to exceed the forecasted UK£17-UK£17.5 billion and surpass the UK£17.50 billion recorded in 2024. For 2026, projections rise further to UK£18.20-UK£19.10 billion, setting a potential new record.

A growing share of spending comes from younger travellers. New venues such as BOP and Pop City, opened by a major hospitality group, target this demographic with accessible pricing and culturally driven concepts. These outlets reflect a shift toward attracting Gen Z and millennial visitors, who form more than 40% of Singapore's 16.9 million international arrivals in 2025. Although they spend less per visit, they return frequently and seek meaningful, experience-led offerings.

Business travellers are another key segment. Ce La Vi at Marina Bay Sands has seen rising corporate bookings following a major UK£6.45 million renovation designed to accommodate M.I.C.E demand. The nearby Sands Expo & Convention Centre hosted over 2,000 events and 1.4 million delegates in 2025, contributing to a 10% rise in average guest spending at the venue. During the 2025 F1 week, corporate clients accounted for up to 60% of business and nearly 7% of annual revenue.

M.I.C.E visitors typically spend twice as much as leisure travellers. In 2024, 1.1 million M.I.C.E visitors generated UK£990 million in receipts, up from UK£821 billion in 2019. Singapore aims to triple M.I.C.E receipts to UK£2.65 billion by 2040.

Experts note that Singapore's success stems from offering a distinctive, seamless experience rather than competing on price. However, reliance on premium segments carries risks, including rising costs for locals and vulnerability to global economic shifts. A balanced mix of visitor types, business, regional leisure, families and premium travellers, is seen as essential for long-term resilience.

Local support remains a priority for operators, who view resident engagement as key to maintaining cultural authenticity and ensuring that tourism enhances, rather than dilutes, Singapore's identity.



TAGBILARAN, BOHOL-PHILIPPINES UNVEILS TOURISM PLAN

Tagbilaran City is shifting toward culture-driven tourism as it launched this year's Saulog celebration and unveiled its Tourism Development Plan, positioning the capital as Bohol's cultural gateway and economic centre.



City Mayor said festivals are now strategic tools for tourism-led growth, supporting jobs, small businesses and the city's identity. Tagbilaran's recent Grand Championship win at Cebu's Sinulog Festival as proof of its rising creative appeal.

This year's Saulog also marks the 461st anniversary of the 1565 Blood Compact, which reflects the city's long-standing values of unity and shared purpose.

New initiatives include real-time QR code surveys to gather visitor and resident feedback, helping measure cultural and economic impact.

The city also presented its Climate-Resilient and Future-Ready Tourism plan, developed with local stakeholders. The roadmap aims to build a distinct urban tourism identity by blending heritage, creativity and sustainability, recognising that Tagbilaran is often a transit point for tourists heading to other parts of Bohol.



Planned projects include Friendship Park in Barangay Bool with a mangrove boardwalk, as well as expanded sports tourism through the City Coliseum and the proposed Sports Complex.

The launch concluded with the Saulog Tagbilaran promotional video themed 'One Family, One City'. Saulog 2026 is more than a festival, it signals the city's commitment to inclusive growth, cultural pride and a resilient tourism future.

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Designing Destination Communications

Structured Visual Storytelling for the Global Travel & Tourism Sector

By Rana Chow | Senior Graphic Designer

In destination marketing, design is not decoration — it is structure, clarity, and credibility.

With over 20 years of experience in the travel and tourism sector, Rana Chow specialises in translating complex tourism narratives into refined, reader-focused visual systems. Her work has supported global audiences, tourism boards, and private-sector operators, including the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism.

Having worked within destination marketing environments, Rana understands the balance required between brand integrity, stakeholder priorities, commercial objectives, and the expectations of international audiences. Her design approach is grounded in structured editorial systems that allow long-form storytelling to remain clear, engaging, and strategically aligned.

Rather than following fast-moving visual trends, her philosophy focuses on clarity, hierarchy, and reader retention — ensuring that the message remains the focal point.

Professional Focus

- Editorial layout systems for digital and print publications
- Brand identity refinement for destination-led organizations
- Stakeholder and investor communications
- Long-form tourism storytelling and heritage features
- Campaign development and structured visual frameworks

A Structured and Strategic Approach

Each project begins with understanding audience behaviour and brand positioning. From there, carefully structured layout systems are developed to support:

- Content longevity
- Visual cohesion across platforms
- Ease of navigation
- Consistent storytelling frameworks

This approach allows tourism brands and publications to present themselves with authority while maintaining readability and editorial integrity.

Selected Experience

Rana has contributed to a wide range of tourism-related design initiatives, including destination marketing communications across the Caribbean and North America, heritage timeline installations, campaign assets, and stakeholder-facing publications.

Her work focuses on creating structured design systems that support readership while respecting existing brand identities and communication strategies.



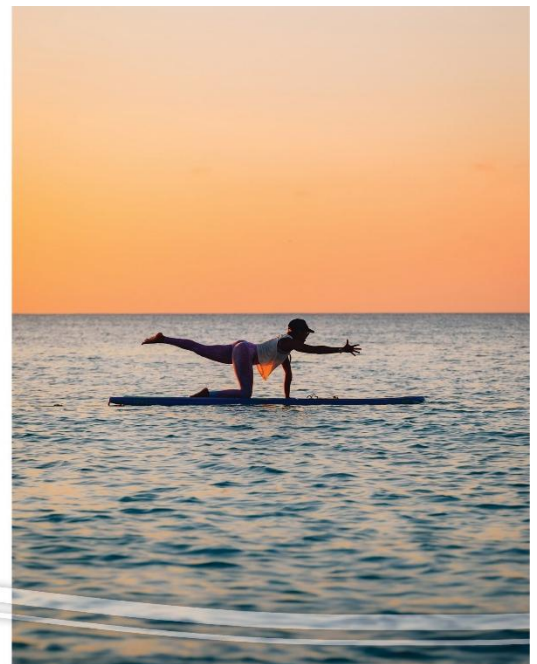
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The Cayman Islands adapt to modern travel preferences with customised itineraries, culturally infused accommodations, and personal wellness programs.

Embark on a journey to the Cayman Islands, where peace and wellness create a uniquely revitalising experience.

Explore More

To view a broader selection of work across trade show environments, advertising campaigns, brochures, and editorial publications, visit: <https://rc21design.my.canva.site/portfolio>

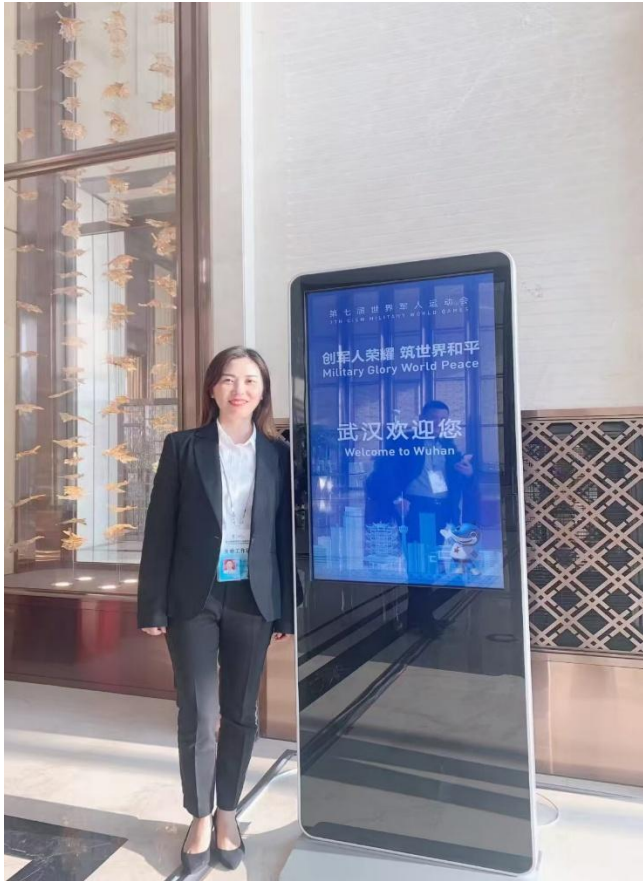
For collaboration or design inquiries: Rana Chow - Senior Graphic Designer Canada rana.chow@gmail.com



HOLLY (Hongling ZHU)

THE EXPERT GUIDE BEHIND UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEYS

With more than 20 years on the front line of tourism, Holly has become one of the region's most trusted and accomplished tour guides. Her career spans tour operations, guiding, and tour leadership, but her true talent lies in welcoming international visitors and turning every itinerary into a seamless, memorable experience.



Since 2002, Holly has specialised in hosting groups from all four corners of the world. She has also led countless tours for major global operators. Her deep knowledge, calm professionalism, and warm personality consistently earn praise from travellers and partners alike. She is a guide you can rely on.



Holly's expertise has made her a go-to guide for high-level events and official visits. She has been repeatedly selected by tourism authorities and foreign affairs offices to host diplomats, ministers, mayors, and international experts. Her recent assignments include:

- Hosting delegations for the Military World Games venue inspections
- Guiding mayors from global sister cities
- Supporting the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Tourism Ministers' Conference
- Receiving foreign guests for major provincial and national conferences
- Leading international representatives on the "Global Travel Agents' Tour of Hubei"
- Providing translation and guest support for the Thailand Tourism Bureau's promotion event



These roles highlight her exceptional reliability, cultural fluency, and ability to manage complex, high-profile visits with ease.

Professional, personable and exceptionally prepared, Holly is known for her thoughtful planning, quick problem-solving, and genuine care for every guest. Whether she's guiding a large tour group or accompanying senior officials, she brings confidence, clarity, and a welcoming spirit that puts everyone at ease.



So, without doubt, if you are looking for a guide who combines deep local insight with world-class professionalism, Holly is who you need! She does not just lead tours, she creates experiences that guests remember long after they return home.

Indeed, we speak from personal experience. Holly goes above and beyond in a career she is devoted to and enjoys immensely, especially when welcoming the world to her stunning and fascinating country.

Holly is the best guide, that we have ever met within our world of tourism for M.I.C.E, Groups and FIT services!

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TOURISM & TRAVEL

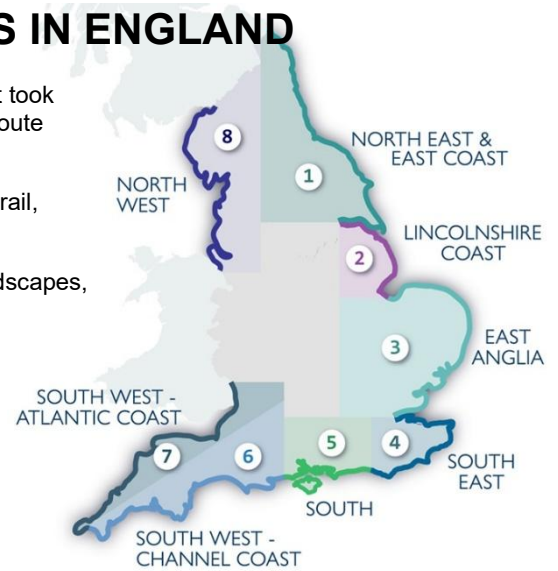
NEWS from around the World

WORLD'S LONGEST COASTAL PATH OPENS IN ENGLAND

A new footpath stretching around the entire coast of England has opened. The project took 18 years to complete. At 2,689 miles long, it is the longest managed coastal walking route in the world.

Its name 'King Charles III England Coast Path' for the first time creates a continuous trail, allowing walkers to explore England's shoreline step by step.

Along the route it passes through some of the country's most beautiful and varied landscapes, from salt marshes and sandy beaches to cliffs, dunes and historic coastal towns.



Much of the new coastal route already existed, but more than 1,000 miles of new paths have been created, and many other sections upgraded with resurfaced paths, removal of stiles, new boardwalks and bridges.

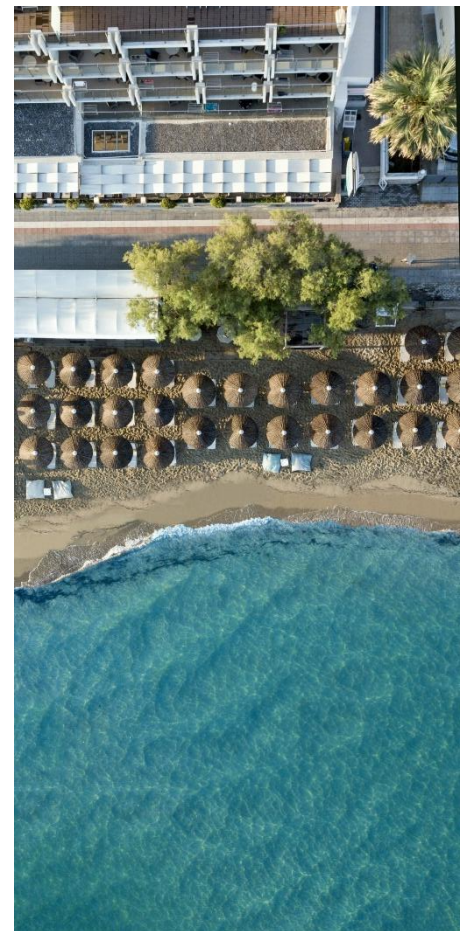
Many places have new 'rights of access', land that was previously off-limits to the public, including beaches, dunes and cliff-tops between the path and the sea.

Accessibility for those with reduced mobility has also been improved allowing more people to enjoy sections of the trail.

GOLDEN STAR CITY RESORT, THE BOUTIQUE HOTEL THESSALONIKI

A family-run boutique hotel with a gorgeous stretch of Blue-Flag beach outside its front door, The Golden Star City Resort has laid-back charm in abundance.

Recently refurbished, it features 56 comfy rooms, a sun-drenched terrace, and a variety of dining choices. It's popular for families, couples, and those on a budget. With friendly 24-hour reception, all guests enjoy unlimited Wi-Fi, the best buffet breakfast in town famous for its Greek Breakfast, bike and car rentals, and multilingual staff to service guests be it for a leisure or business stay.



Golden Star City Resort in Thessaloniki is a unique boutique hotel offering first-class accommodation in a luxurious environment. Located just a few minutes away from Thessaloniki International Airport (SKG) and a 30-minute drive from the historic White Tower, the Golden Star City Resort combines the beauty of the Blue Flag-awarded sea of Peraia with the vibrant streets of Thessaloniki's city centre.

The hotel offers 8 room types that offer you absolute relaxation and serenity. All rooms offer a wide range of facilities and services designed to exceed your expectations as well as to make you experience authentic Greek hospitality in Thessaloniki's Riviera.

Any type of business event organised at Golden Star City Resort, from teambuilding to an international conference, is guaranteed to be successful and memorable thanks to the broad portfolio, substantial experience, and hosting of numerous business events in the past 20 years.

NEW PRESIDENT OF AROYA CRUISES OF CRUISE SAUDI, MR. STURE MYRMELL



Mr. Sture Myrmell assumed the presidency of Aroya Cruises on 1 April 2026, bringing nearly 30 years of global cruise and tourism leadership. Based in Jeddah, he will guide Aroya's strategic direction and growth as the region's first cruise line inspired by local culture and hospitality.

His remit includes overseeing commercial operations, guest experience, and the continued development of Aroya's 'Remarkably Arabian' product identity. His background in operations, commercial strategy, and market development will support Aroya's expansion and Saudi Arabia's broader ambitions in the global cruise sector.



Mr. Myrmell has held senior roles across major cruise brands, including Cunard, Seabourn, Princess Cruises, and P&O Cruises Australia, later serving as president of Carnival Australia and Carnival UK. Most recently, he was COO of Journey Beyond, a leading experiential tourism company in Australia.

His career spans commercial strategy, destination development, and guest experience, with a strong track record in expanding cruise operations and cultivating new source markets.

The announcement comes as Aroya continues to develop new itineraries and onboard experiences tailored to Arabian preferences, reinforcing its vision of delivering a world-class cruise experience shaped by the region's culture and hospitality.



CHINA'S RAILWAYS HANDLE 121M PASSENGER TRIPS DURING SPRING FESTIVAL HOLIDAY

China's railway network handled 121 million passenger trips during this year's 9-day Spring Festival holiday, reflecting strong travel demand and steady economic momentum.

From 15-24 February, passenger volume rose 11.5% year-on-year, while rail freight reached 85.38 million tonnes, up 0.5% from last year's holiday period. Daily passenger flows averaged 13.41 million.

The final day of the break set a new Spring Festival travel-season record, with 18.73 million rail journeys, the highest single-day total in the festival's history.

Railway authorities said they strengthened transport organisation and passenger services to ensure safe and efficient travel and smooth logistics. The 40-day Spring Festival travel rush, the world's largest annual human migration, remains a major test of China's transport capacity each year.

ITALY IS FOCUSING ON CULTURAL TOURISM

As Italy shifts its focus toward higher-quality tourism, the country is prioritising cultural tourism, an area where it holds a natural global advantage. Italy has the world's largest number of (61) heritage sites and in 2025 its gastronomy was added to UNESCO's intangible heritage list. With major cities increasingly strained by mass tourism and pressure on basic logistics, the goal is to attract visitors who engage more deeply and sustainably with Italy's cultural assets.

The key question is how travellers interact with this heritage: which cities are strengthening their appeal, how demand is spreading geographically, and whether rising visitor numbers are affecting the quality of the experience.

Cultural tourism also retains a strong social dimension. Couples make up 43% of visitors to Italy's most artistic cities, followed by families at 28%. Solo travellers account for 16%, a 3% annual increase, reflecting a growing preference for independent, personalised cultural travel. Groups represent 12% of visitors.



Domestic travellers remain the largest source market by review volume. France shows stable demand, while Germany has declined slightly from 7% to 5.5%, likely linked to the rise of domestic travel within Germany from 2024 onward. Overall, international demand remains balanced.

While cultural attractions remain the primary draw, satisfaction is increasingly shaped by the overall travel experience. In 2025, culture and the arts accounted for 34.7% of all travel motivations, underscoring Italy's continued strength as a leading cultural destination.



VENEZUELA AND POLAND AGREED TO BOOST INBOUND TOURISM

The tourism sector continues to strengthen international alliances to position the country as a leading destination in Europe. In this context, Minister of Tourism Daniella Cabello met with Poland's Chargé d'Affaires, Daniel Gromann, to advance bilateral cooperation and boost visitor exchange between the two nations.

Cabello reaffirmed the government's commitment to welcoming international travellers, stating: "Venezuela is the paradise the world wants to discover, and we are open to receiving them."

A key focus of the meeting was the strong performance of air

connectivity. Charter operations by Hover Tours (Venezuela) and Rainbow Tours (Poland) have grown steadily, maintaining direct links between Warsaw and several Venezuelan destinations.

The minister highlighted the impact of this route on inbound tourism: over the past three years, more than 22,000 Polish travellers have visited destinations such as Margarita, Puerto Cabello, Catatumbo, the Orinoco region and Paraguaná. She noted that efforts are underway to expand offerings to additional destinations in upcoming seasons.

This strengthened cooperation reflects Venezuela's broader strategy to deepen international partnerships and enhance its visibility as an attractive, diverse tourism destination for European markets.



CANADA TO BOOST INDIGENOUS TOURISM FUNDING

Indigenous communities across Canada continue to welcome domestic and international visitors with authentic cultural tourism experiences that share traditional knowledge, history and the living cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This growing sector strengthens cultural understanding while supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs, economic reconciliation and self-determination.

At the Millbrook Cultural and Heritage Centre in Mi'kma'ki, the Honourable Rechie Valdez, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Secretary of State (Small Business and Tourism), and MP Alana Hirtle joined NACCA CEO Shannin Metatawabin to highlight Budget 2025's additional UK£3.6 million investment in the Indigenous Tourism Fund's Signature Indigenous Tourism Experiences Stream (SITES).



SITES focuses on developing major, community-supported Indigenous tourism experiences and the infrastructure needed to sustain them. Building on the first round of funding, this new investment will help scale significant, export-ready destinations and strengthen Canada's position as a global leader in Indigenous tourism.

The new funding will support:

- Mi'kmawey Debert Cultural Centre (NS): construction of the new cultural centre
- Restaurant Sagamité (QC): expansion of its authentic Indigenous culinary franchise
- Six Nations of the Grand River (ON): construction of a new welcome centre
- Enoch Cree Nation (AB): development of the River Cree Thermal Spa
- Spo7ez Cultural Centre and Community Society (BC): expansion of its cultural centre
- Tla-o-qui-aht Development Corporation (BC): expansion of resort infrastructure, including a new spa

This investment builds on more than UK£27.20 million in federal support for Indigenous tourism over the past 3 years through programmes such as the Indigenous Tourism Fund and the Tourism Growth Programme. Launched in 2023, the Fund initially provided UK£11 million to help the sector recover from the pandemic and grow sustainably.

According to the Conference Board of Canada, Indigenous tourism generated an estimated UK£2 billion in revenue in 2023, contributing UK£860 million to GDP and supporting approximately 34,700 jobs nationwide, demonstrating its growing economic and cultural significance.

NEARLY 8.3 MILLION VISITORS CAME TO PRAGUE IN 2025 AS THE CAPITAL ATTRACTS HIGHER-SPENDING TRAVELLERS

Prague welcomed 8.27 million visitors last year with interest driven by Dan Brown, the Christmas markets, and rising demand for high-quality services.

Arrivals grew 3% year on year, led by Germany (981,817), the United States (507,117) and the United Kingdom (500,645). Asian markets continued to rebound, accounting for over 12% of all visitors. South Korea remained the largest Asian source market (185,654, +9%), while Japan saw a strong recovery (65,211, +22%). Travel from the Middle East also increased, including Saudi Arabia (41,245, +29%) and the UAE (31,162, +32%). Israel recorded the fastest growth of any market (206,816, +37%). Domestic travellers made up around 20% of arrivals.

December delivered the strongest performance of the year, with hotel occupancy reaching 86%, according to STR.



Average accommodation prices in 2025 were UK£106 per night, rising to UK£147 in the city centre. Rates placed Prague slightly above central Vienna and Budapest, and well above Berlin and Warsaw. The luxury segment averaged UK£208, climbing to UK£271 in December. Experts say the data confirms Prague's shift away from its former budget image toward a more affluent visitor base.

Travellers stayed an average of 2.3 nights. To support more responsible and dispersed tourism, Prague launched the Enjoy Respect Prague campaign, promoting quiet hours, alcohol restrictions in designated areas, and sustainable ways to explore the city. Prague City Tourism also aims to encourage visitors to venture beyond the historic centre to help distribute tourism more evenly across the capital.

HYATT ADVANCES GROWTH STRATEGY IN EAME WITH HYATT SELECT DEBUT

Hyatt is accelerating the growth of its Essentials portfolio while expanding its Luxury and Lifestyle brands in major gateway cities across Europe, Africa and the Middle East (EAME). The company has signed Hyatt Select Berlin Prenzlauer Berg, its first Hyatt Select property outside the U.S., ahead of the brand's 2025 debut. The 140-room hotel is expected to open in 2028 in one of East Berlin's most vibrant districts.

Hyatt Select is part of Hyatt's upper-midscale, conversion-friendly Essentials portfolio, designed for efficient operations and short-stay business and leisure travel. Essentials and Classics brands now make up more than half of Hyatt's EAME development pipeline, supporting the company's strategy to scale in primary and secondary markets while expanding Luxury and Lifestyle brands in global hubs such as Rome, Lisbon and London.

Marc Jacheet, Group President EAME, noted that Hyatt's diversified portfolio is driving strong loyalty, with World of Hyatt surpassing 63 million members in 2025.

Hyatt aims to double Essentials portfolio room count in EAME by 2030, responding to rising demand for midscale options and owner interest in conversion-friendly models. Essentials brands, Hyatt Select, Hyatt Studios and Unscripted by Hyatt, accounted for over 65% of new U.S. deals in 2025, and more than 40% of new EAME deals since 2024.

Upcoming 2026 openings in the region include:

- Hyatt Regency London Olympia
- Hyatt Place London Paddington
- Grand Hyatt The Red Sea
- Hyatt Place Alula
- Hyatt Regency Rome Central

Hyatt's Luxury portfolio in EAME has grown 80% over the past decade, supported by new developments such as Andaz Lisbon, The Standard Lisbon, Park Hyatt Taormina, Thompson Rome and Miraval The Red Sea, the brand's first location outside the U.S.

Together, Hyatt's Essentials, Classics, Luxury and Lifestyle growth tracks are strengthening its presence across EAME, contributing to a record global pipeline of 148,000 rooms.



EU SCHENGEN, ISSUED 570,000 TOURIST VISAS TO RUSSIAN TRAVELLERS IN 2025

The number of visa applications submitted for a Schengen visa by Russians in 2025 was 620,000 and the number of visas issued was 570,000. France, Italy, and Spain were the leaders in the number of Schengen visas issued to Russians, the European Commission limited the issuance of new multiple-entry visas to Russians except for a limited number of applicants.

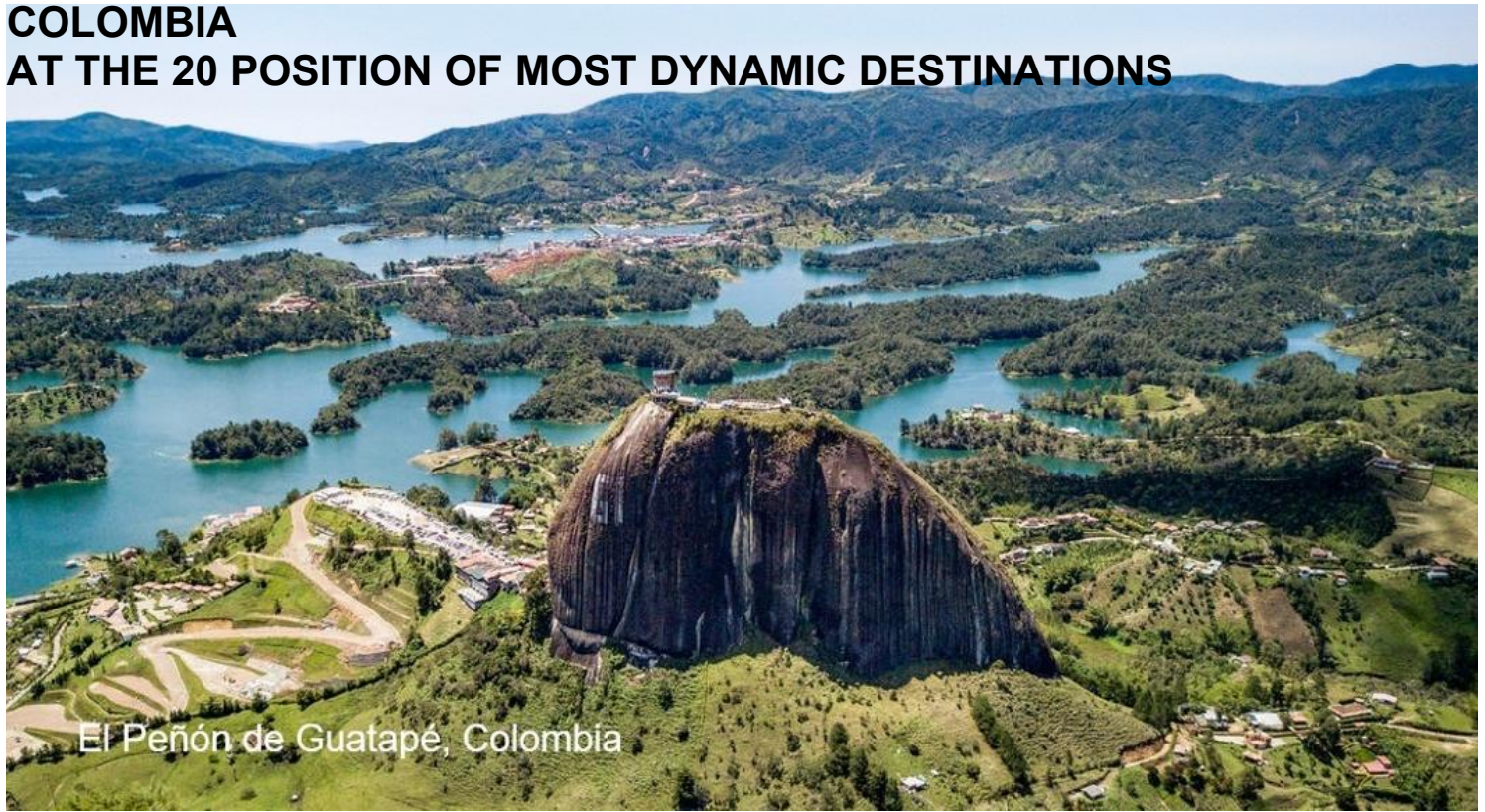
Most tourists, businessmen and travellers, applied for a single-entry visa, that matched the travel dates. Austria, Malta, Germany, Greece, Cyprus and Portugal have the highest number of single country visit, as they offer the most favourable situation.

For 2026, Greece's consulate has launched a re-accreditation process. Once completed, tour operators will be able to process visas more quickly, for single country visits, as the Schengen visa document processing time has increased up to 2-4 weeks, excluding 4-8 weeks appointment waiting time.

Since 2022 European tourism has seen a huge drop in high end travellers, especially from Russia and Ukraine, who were the top two source markets of high spenders across top class restaurants to hotels and services.



COLOMBIA AT THE 20 POSITION OF MOST DYNAMIC DESTINATIONS



Colombia has positioned itself 'among the 20 most dynamic destinations in the world', reporting sustained growth in visitor arrivals and foreign exchange earnings, with a high impact on regions and on the composition of the country's exports.

The figures were announced at the recent ANATO 2026 Tourism Showcase, where the Ministry of Tourism set up an institutional display focused on the concept 'Discover the diversity of Colombia, The Country of Beauty'.

Between August 2022 and November 2025, Colombia received more than 22 million non-resident visitors, marking a 137% increase compared to the same period of the previous government.

Arrivals of foreign visitors; Colombia reached 14.8 million, equivalent to 138% more than in the previous period and 121% more than two governments ago.

This is the first time that tourism has significantly occupied a place in the national economic structure. It is now a direct driver of the economy through the addition of services. It helped to grow GDP in associated activities like the trade, transport, storage, accommodation and food services segment grew 4.6%, and entertainment, recreation and other services activities increased 9.9%.



FIJI'S TOURISM INDUSTRY MAINTAINS RESILIENCE AMID GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES

Fiji's tourism industry remains resilient despite global uncertainty linked to the Middle East conflict, chair of the Tourism Action Group (TAG) confirmed at the Fiji Tourism Exchange 2026. He said that no job losses are expected, with forward bookings and visitor demand holding steady.

Rising fuel costs remain a concern for an aviation-reliant destination like Fiji, but the situation is being managed through coordinated, real-time assessments of fuel reserves and updates from Fiji Airways. While some price increases are anticipated, there is no indication of disruptions to travel demand or industry operations.

Fiji has weathered similar pressures before by adjusting pricing and maintaining efficiency.

Tourism contributes over 40% of GDP and supports more than 120,000 jobs, making stability essential as global travel continues to recover.

TAG's approach is grounded in realism rather than alarmism, with a focus on protecting jobs, sustaining investor confidence and ensuring the sector is positioned for continued growth in visitor arrivals.

CRUISING TOURISM, GREECE 3RD DESTINATION IN EUROPE



CLIA forecasts nearly 40 million cruise passengers in 2026, underscoring cruising as one of the fastest-growing segments of global tourism. Cruises consistently achieve higher traveller satisfaction than other holiday types, helping drive this sustained growth. The sector supports a vast ecosystem at sea and on land, from onboard employment to travel agencies and port-side service industries.

Cruising is fundamentally about connection, linking people, cultures and destinations. Cities like Thessaloniki illustrate this well: as a rising homeport and gateway to Northern Greece, it offers cruise guests immediate access to history, culture and gastronomy, showing how strong local identity can amplify the benefits of global tourism.

Cruising in Europe and Greece

Europe remains the world's leading hub for cruise shipbuilding, producing 97% of global vessels and accounting for 80% of new orders. Within this landscape, Greece stands out as one of Europe's top cruise destinations and a key pillar of its tourism economy.

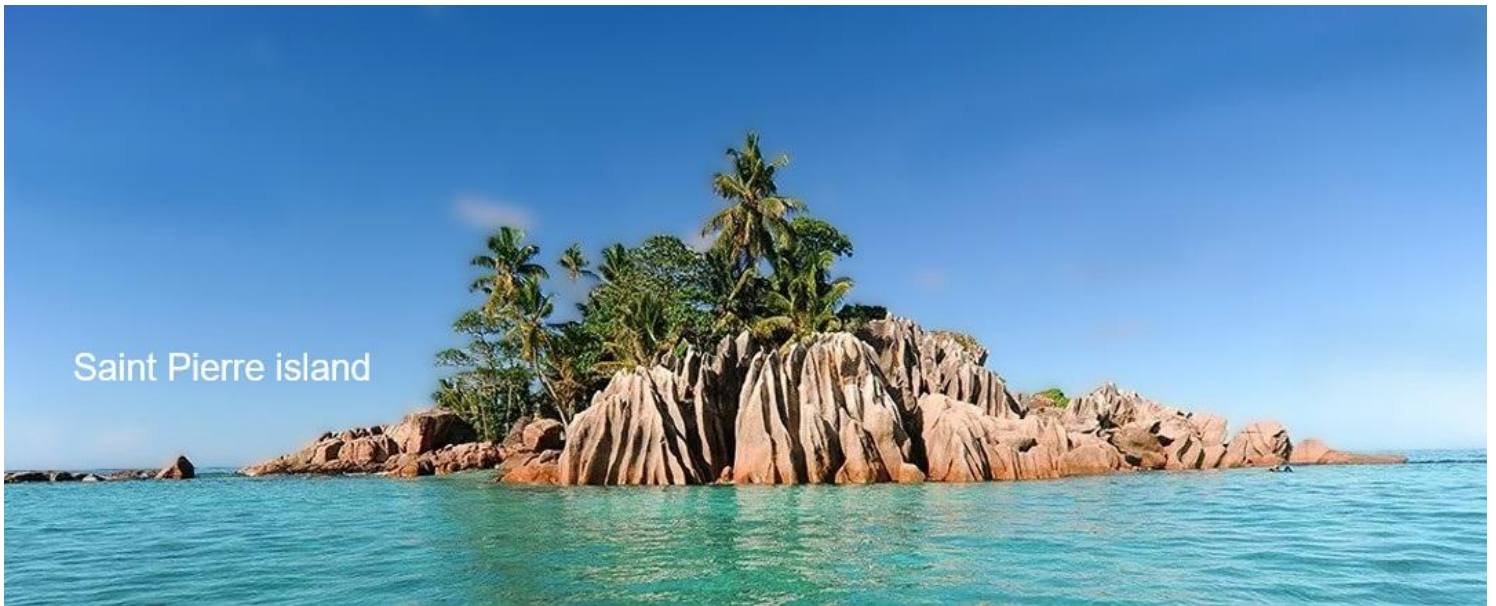
Greece ranks 3rd in Europe for cruise activity, with 48 ports across islands and the mainland, over 5,000 annual ship calls and more than 8 million passenger visits. Passenger traffic rose to 8.4 million in 2025, up from 7.9 million the previous year.

Piraeus remains the country's leading port, recording 863 calls and 1.85 million passengers in 2025. Mykonos and Santorini remain major draws but saw slight declines in passenger numbers year-on-year. Corfu, Rhodes and Heraklion also remain among Greece's busiest cruise destinations.

Looking ahead, cruising has strong future potential in Greece, but further growth requires coordinated national planning. Priorities include reinvesting cruise-related revenues, modernising port infrastructure, managing tourism flows in high-demand destinations, developing new ports of call, and strengthening public-private cooperation, particularly around the green transition.

CHINA EXTENDS NEW GRANT SUPPORT AS SEYCHELLES AND CHINA DEEPEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP





Saint Pierre island

China has extended a new grant of UK£11 million to support priority development projects in Seychelles, as confirmed during a courtesy call by Chinese Vice President Han Zheng to President Patrick Herminie at State House. The announcement set the tone for broad, constructive discussions that underscored the strength of the Seychelles–China Strategic Partnership, ahead of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

President Herminie thanked China for its long-standing support across housing, healthcare, education, infrastructure and maritime security, reaffirming Seychelles' commitment to the One China policy. Vice President Han noted the visible impact of China-supported projects and praised Seychelles' people-centred development approach, drawing parallels with China's own philosophy.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to deepening cooperation, with China expressing confidence in Seychelles' development direction and readiness to continue supporting national priorities. Discussions also advanced economic collaboration, including Seychelles' preparations to benefit from China's zero-tariff policy for African countries. Progress on the Early Harvest Arrangement, expected to take effect on 1 May 2026, was welcomed as a step toward expanding bilateral trade.

Tourism and cultural exchanges were highlighted as key growth areas, with strong potential to increase Chinese visitor arrivals through improved connectivity. The leaders also exchanged views on regional and global issues, stressing the importance of stability, dialogue and adherence to international law.

Following the meeting, Vice President Han and Vice President Sebastien Pillay co-hosted a session with Seychelles' ministers focused on elevating the Strategic Partnership and advancing cooperation across all sectors, including the forthcoming China–Seychelles Zero Tariff Agreement.

OMAN IN 2025 WELCOMED OVER 137,000 CRUISE TOURISTS



Oman's Ministry of Heritage and Tourism announced that 137,330 tourists visited the Sultanate via cruise ships and yachts in 2025. The Ministry said it is working with relevant authorities to develop the cruise and yacht sector, improve the reception of international liners, and strengthen Oman's position as a leading regional maritime destination.

The 2025/2026 season will include repeated calls by the cruise ship *Vasco da Gama*, scheduled to arrive at Salalah Port on 24 March 2026. The Ministry is also advancing policies and strategic plans to modernise port facilities and has commissioned a consulting firm to prepare a comprehensive sector strategy covering regulatory, operational and competitive needs, along with a future vision and implementation roadmap.

Current initiatives include upgrading ports and marinas, improving coordination among stakeholders, enhancing economic returns from cruise visits, and creating joint incentive programmes to boost the attractiveness of Omani ports. The Ministry is also intensifying communication with international cruise lines and developing competitive incentives to ensure Omani ports remain on global itineraries.

This season will also see the return of passenger exchange operations for *Vasco da Gama*, continued visits by *Celestial* to Khasab Port (5 calls), and the maiden arrival of *Aroya*, which will make 11 visits to Khasab and 5 to Sultan Qaboos Port during 2025/2026.



AIRLINES

NEWS from around the
aviation & space world



NEW TRAVEL ADVICE FOR UK TRAVELLERS TO MANY ASIAN DESTINATIONS

The UK Foreign Office has issued updated travel warnings for Australia, Thailand and 29 other destinations due to the ongoing situation in the Middle East.

The FCDO says rising regional tensions have already caused airspace closures, delays and cancellations, and warns that 'flights to destinations far from the Middle East may still be disrupted' as airlines reroute or pause services that normally pass through affected areas.

The advisory highlights popular long-haul destinations such as Australia, New Zealand and Thailand. These countries are not under 'do not travel' guidance, but appear on the list because their flight paths are commonly impacted by Middle Eastern airspace restrictions.

The destinations noted are: Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines, Tuvalu, Laos, Uzbekistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Brunei, Japan, Georgia, Tajikistan, Nepal, Maldives, Fiji, Malaysia, India, Papua New Guinea, Cambodia, South Korea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Nauru, Vanuatu, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Sri Lanka.

Anyone heading abroad should read the specific FCDO advice for both their destination and any countries they are transiting through before they fly. They should also contact their airline before travelling. Also check travel insurance to check if delays are covered or for repatriation, etc.



EVE AIR MOBILITY FLIES EVTOL PROTOTYPE IN FLIGHT TEST CAMPAIGN

Eve Air Mobility has completed a demonstration flight of its full-scale eVTOL engineering prototype for Brazilian government officials, at Embraer's Gavião Peixoto test site, marking another step in its certification campaign.

The prototype has now flown 35 times, accumulating 1.5 hours of flight time since its first flight in December 2025, reaching 140 feet (43m) AGL and performing multi-axis maneuvers. Early

results show propulsion and battery performance exceeding expectations, with noise levels far below conventional helicopters. Testing so far has focused on low-speed operations up to 15 knots, with the flight envelope expanding toward 30 knots.

Eve has also completed key ground tests, including aerodynamic load calibration, supporting continued envelope expansion. The company is advancing regulatory work as well, contributing to Brazil's new National Urban Air Mobility Policy. Eve is backed by more than UK£203 billion in BNDES financing and up to UK£13 million in innovation grants from Finep.

Alongside aircraft development, Eve continues building its broader AAM ecosystem, including its Vector urban air traffic management software and TechCare support platform.

ACIA AERO LEASING CLOSES TRANSACTION WITH EWA AIR FOR TWO ATR72-600S

ACIA Aero Leasing (ACIA) has completed a sale-and-leaseback of two ATR 72-600 aircraft operated by EWA Air.

"We're pleased to partner with EWA Air and Air Austral on this key transaction and to welcome EWA to our growing ATR operator base. Their network provides vital regional links across the Indian Ocean and supports Air Austral's long-haul connectivity," said Mick Mooney, ACIA CEO.



Hugues Marchessaux, CEO of Air Austral and Chairman of EWA Air, added: "This marks an important step for EWA as we strengthen our operations and begin a new partnership with ACIA. Their support was instrumental in completing this transaction, which opens new opportunities for our airline and reinforces our role in Mayotte's regional development."



MESSAGE FROM ETIHAD TO THEIR GUEST MEMBERS

“Over the past weeks, some of our flights have experienced disruption due to recent airspace restrictions. Guest Members relationship with Etihad means a great deal to us, and in moments like this, it is important that we stand behind that relationship.

For this reason, we are reducing the tier qualification requirements by 25%, making it easier for our Guest Members to progress to the next tier when they are ready to travel again. The journey with Etihad Guest should continue to move forward, with greater flexibility and ease.

Our network is steadily returning to normal operations, and we look forward to welcoming our Guest Members on board again soon.”

MANDARIN AIRLINES' 12TH ATR AIRCRAFT ARRIVED AT SONGSHAN AIRPORT

Mandarin Airlines' 12th ATR 72-600, registered B-16867, arrived at Taipei Songshan Airport on 14 March after an extended 8-day ferry flight from Toulouse. Due to Middle East airspace restrictions, the aircraft rerouted via Egypt, East Africa, the Maldives, India and Bangkok, crossing 3 continents for the first time and showcasing the ATR's long-range stability and performance.

Chairman Chen Ta-Chun said the new aircraft will enhance domestic scheduling flexibility and reflects the airline's commitment to sustainable fleet renewal.

General Manager Chuang Ming-che noted that the ATR fleet currently serves outlying islands, Kinmen, Penghu and Matsu, as well as Taitung and Hualien, covering 8 destinations and 11 routes. With new aircraft arriving, all 13 ATRs are expected to be in service by the end of April, completing the ATR 2.0 fleet plan and boosting capacity and service frequency.



SWISS - VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES

Swiss International Airlines, part of the Germany national carrier Lufthansa Group, is offering cabin crew UK£14.30 to take voluntary redundancy as the carrier seeks to cut overheads in the wake of engine issues and rising operating costs (the current price rise for fuel and the global geopolitical situation). In addition, in the long run major European airlines plan to reduce flight capacities due to the lack of work force supply.



SWISS currently employs around 4,500 cabin crew. This represents approx. 400 more than current operational needs. A shortage of pilots is also constraining operations, and taking advantage of the global geopolitical instability continues to add to the airline's network planning.

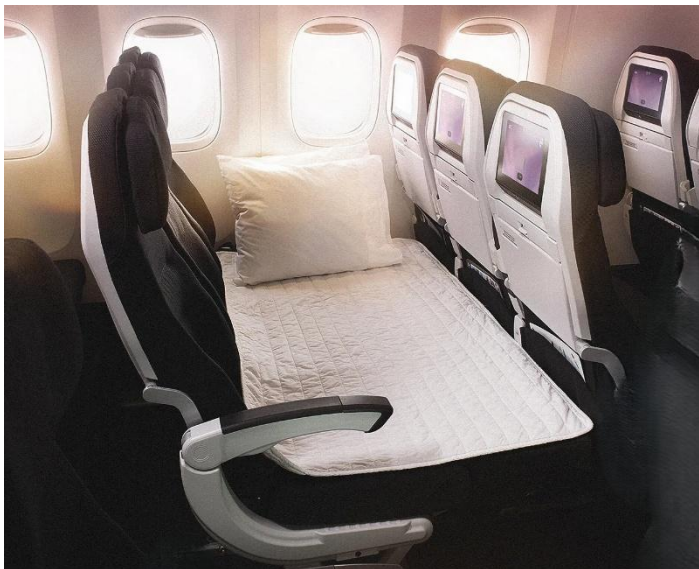
Staffing levels were expected to stabilise in 2026 but will now hopefully return to normal as late as the end of 2027.

AIR NEW ZEALANDS FAMOUS LIE-FLAT SEAT NOW HAS A RIVAL!

United Airlines has unveiled 'United Relax Row', a new convertible economy seating option for long-haul flights, drawing clear comparisons to Air New Zealand's long-running 'Skycouch'. The seat will be available from next year, with more than 200 Boeing 787s and 777s fitted by 2030.

Relax Row lets passengers turn a row of economy seats into a flat surface and comes with a mattress pad, extra pillows, a blanket and Sesame Street-themed kids' kits. Air New Zealand's Skycouch, introduced in 2011, offers a similar lie-flat setup measuring 1.55m by 74cm with pillows, a topper and a 'cuddle belt' for lying down during takeoff and landing.

Other airlines have experimented with lie-flat economy concepts too: ANA's COUCHii on its A380s between Narita and Honolulu, and Lufthansa's Sleeper's Row on select long-haul flights.



KM MALTA AIRLINES CONNECTS MALAGA AND MALTA

KM Malta Airlines has announced the launch of a new twice weekly, direct service between Malaga and Malta, from the end of May that will further strengthening the airline's schedule for summer 2026. The new route will operate a direct connection options between Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport and Malta International Airport.



CHINA CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AIRPORT



Guangzhou has officially begun construction of its 2nd airport, located in neighbouring Foshan, to meet rapidly rising aviation demand and strengthen the Greater Bay Area's position as a major air-transport hub.

The Pearl River Delta Hub (Guangzhou New) Airport represents a UK£4.55 billion investment and will feature two parallel runways, a 260,000-sqm terminal, and 94 aircraft stands. It is designed to handle 30 million passengers, 500,000 tonnes of cargo, and 260,000 aircraft movements annually, eventually exceeding 60 million passengers by 2050.

The new airport will support coordinated development across the eastern and western Greater Bay Area and serve more than 20 million residents in Guangzhou, Foshan, Zhaoqing, Yangjiang, Yunfu and surrounding regions, as well as parts of southwest China.

Airports Council International projects the Greater Bay Area's air-travel demand will reach 420 million passengers by 2035, underscoring the need for an expanded airport cluster.

TURKISH AIRLINES ADDS LONDON STANSTED AIRPORT

As well as Heathrow and Gatwick, Turkish Airlines has now added London Stansted Airport to connect with Istanbul with a new 15 weekly flights.

The new route further strengthens the airline's presence in the UK market and expands connectivity options for passengers travelling via its Istanbul hub.

Turkish Airlines now serves 6 destinations in the UK: London Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh.

Turkish Airlines' global network has 357 destinations in 133 countries across 6 continents.

MARRIOTT BONVOY PARTNERS WITH ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

Marriott Bonvoy and Ethiopian Airlines have launched a new partnership allowing members to earn and redeem across both programmes. Travellers can now convert ShebaMiles to Marriott Bonvoy points for hotel stays and upgrades, and Marriott Bonvoy points to ShebaMiles for flights. Members can also choose whether to earn points or miles when staying at participating Marriott Bonvoy hotels.

The partnership links Ethiopian Airlines' network of 145+ destinations with Marriott Bonvoy's 30+ brands across 10,000 locations worldwide, marking a major collaboration between a global hotel programme and Africa's largest airline.

ShebaMiles convert to Marriott Bonvoy at 2:1, while Marriott Bonvoy points convert to ShebaMiles at 3:1, with a 5,000-mile bonus for every 60,000 points transferred. Eligible hotel stays can earn up to two miles per US\$ spent.

Ethiopian Airlines' extensive African network and global connections, plus its Star Alliance membership, give members access to redemptions and upgrades across 25 partner airlines serving 1,150+ destinations.



ENVOY AIR, A REGIONAL SUBSIDIARY OF AMERICAN AIRLINES RESUMES FLIGHT TO VENEZUELA



American Airlines is to resume nonstop flights to Venezuela via its subsidiary Envoy Air, making it the first U.S. airline to restore flights between the two countries since 2019. The nonstop service will be from Miami to Caracas and Maracaibo, Venezuela.

EMBRAER EARNINGS RESULTS 4Q25 / 2025

Embraer's 2026 outlook includes 80–85 Commercial Aviation and 160–170 Executive Aviation deliveries, revenues of UK£6.15–UK£6.385 billion.

In 2025, revenues reached a record UK£5.687million (+18% YoY), with Q4 contributing UK£1.990 million. Defense & Security grew 36%, Executive Aviation 25%. Embraer delivered 91 aircraft in Q4 and 244 in all of 2025 (+18% YoY), including 78 commercial jets, 155 executive jets, 3 KC-390, and 8 A-29. The firm order backlog hit an all-time high of UK£24 billion, up 20%+ YoY, with commercial aviation seeing a 42% backlog increase.



Embraer E195-E2

SINGAPORE AIRLINES BOOSTS LONDON WITH 6 FLIGHTS A WEEK

Singapore Airlines is launching another service to London's Gatwick Airport, which will operate throughout the upcoming summer season. When combined with the 4 daily flights it already operates to London's Heathrow Airport, the airline's services to London will reach up to 6 daily flights.

The carrier will utilise its fleet of Airbus A350 aircraft on this long-haul route. The additional capacity will also allow the airline to take advantage of the sudden vacuum in capacity left by Middle Eastern carriers.



TEESSIDE - PREMIER UK HUB FOR GLOBAL LOGISTICS AND CARGO BETWEEN EUROPE AND CHINA



A landmark agreement has been finalised to launch new cargo flights between Teesside International Airport and China, creating a long-haul freight link that airport leaders say will significantly strengthen regional trade and global connectivity.

UK-based global air freight operator European Cargo has confirmed it will establish an operational base at Teesside Airport Business Park, representing a multi-million-pound investment and positioning the airport as a major logistics gateway for the North of England.

The deal will create new jobs and introduce 5 weekly cargo flights to a key Chinese trade hub starting this month, providing capacity for up to 375 tonnes of freight per week.

Airport managing director Phil Forster said: "This is a transformational agreement for our airport and a major milestone in our ambition to make Teesside a leading UK centre for aviation and logistics. Securing a new freight base and direct links to China is a pivotal moment that strengthens our commercial offering and shows the confidence global operators have in what we are building here."

VIETNAM AIRLINES TO CUT FLIGHTS FROM APRIL 1

Vietnamese airlines will cut flight frequencies and suspend several domestic routes from April as they adjust to surging jet fuel prices.

The Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam, said carriers are reshaping networks and capacity to limit financial strain. Vietnam Airlines will suspend 7 domestic routes from 1 April and may reduce total flights by 10–20% if fuel prices climb to UK£120-UK£150 per barrel.

Domestic services will face the steepest cuts, with reductions of 12–26%, while international flights may drop 4–18%. Pacific Airlines plans to scale back capacity by 8–30% from 1 April, mainly by trimming off-peak flights. VietJet Air expects an 18% overall capacity cut, focused largely on domestic routes.

Authorities said airlines aim to maintain key connections between Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City, as well as routes deemed socio-politically or economically essential.

Carriers are also weighing fuel surcharges and higher ticket prices from April. Aviation regulators are seeking urgent support measures, including temporary tax relief and steps to secure fuel supplies, to keep air transport operations stable.



LOGANAIR LAUNCHES 2026/27 WINTER SCHEDULE WITH LOWEST FARES FOR EARLY BOOKINGS

Loganair has released its 2026/27 winter schedule, with flights now bookable through March 2027. The airline is encouraging early bookings to secure its lowest fares for the busy winter and festive season.

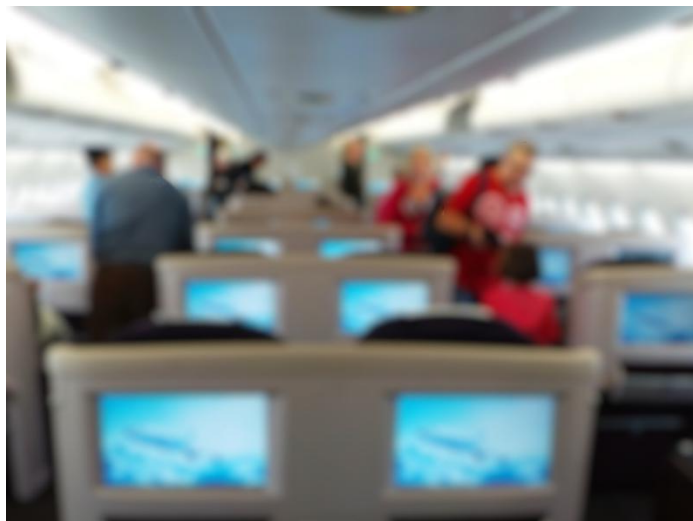
More than 40 destinations are available across Loganair's 70-route network, including services from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Southampton, Jersey, the Isle of Man, London and Dublin.



The airline recently opened its 10th base in Southampton, adding new routes to Exeter, Manchester and Jersey, with fares from UK£62 one-way.

Customers can also access global connections through Loganair's partnerships with Emirates, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Aer Lingus, and earn Avios via its loyalty programme.

Loganair was named the most punctual major UK airline for January–September 2025 by the CAA, with 81% of flights on time, well above the 72% industry average. All passengers benefit from a 21kg baggage allowance as standard, supporting longer trips and smooth connections across the regional network.



BRAZIL TO PUNISH UNRULY PASSENGERS ON DOMESTIC FLIGHTS

Brazil has introduced a new rule imposing fines of around UK£ 2,617 or a no-boarding ban on passengers who commit acts of indiscipline at airports or on domestic flights.

Under Resolution 800, passengers who “violate, disrespect or compromise safety, order or dignity” can face penalties based on 3 levels of severity. Serious offences can result in fines of up to UK£2,617, while very serious cases may also lead to a 6-12 month boarding ban.

The rules take effect on 14th September 2026. Until then, ANAC, airlines and the Federal Police will set up data-sharing systems to enforce sanctions against unruly passengers.

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