

TTW Americas

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COSTA RICA

America's Hidden Treasure

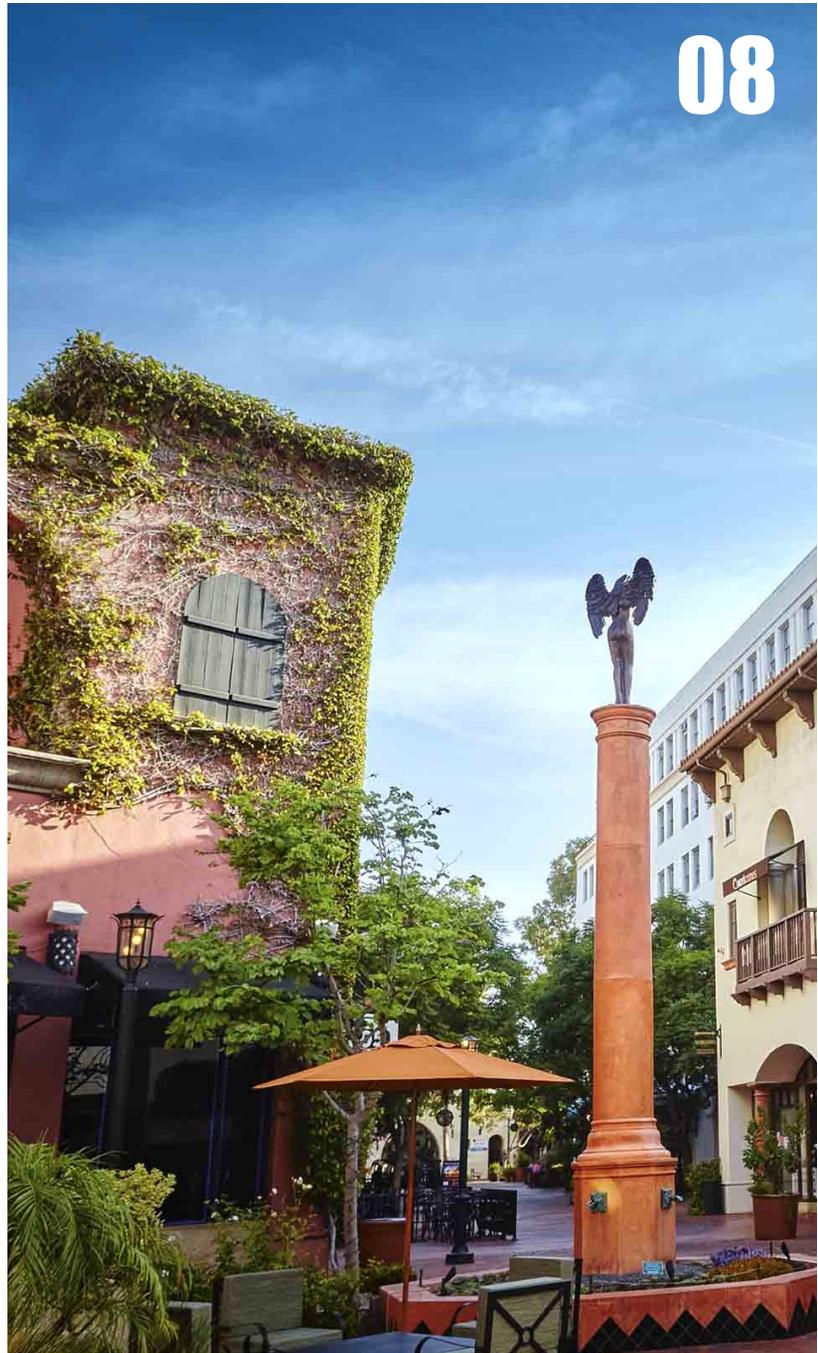


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Dear Readers,

Travel industry experts are optimistic about the local tourism sector of the United States and predict a robust growth for 2018. Of late, several international globetrotters have been skipping America, demotivated by US President Donald Trump's travel ban. The ban was passed in 2017 restricting entry of nationals of Muslim-majority nations including Chad, Iran, Libya, Syria, Venezuela, Yemen, Somalia, and North Korea to the States. The ban not only bans tourists but also families of American residents and people seeking medical visas from entering the US.

To reverse the adverse tourism impacts here, a few business associations including the National Restaurant Association and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have established a travel industry group. Alongside the travel ban, the dominant factor that was a harsh blow to tourism in America, especially Caribbean were Irma and Maria, both of which are Category 5 hurricanes. Our 'Cover Story' illustrates how the regional tourism has started walking the path of slow recovery. 'Destination Diary' is all about Santa Barbara's tourist charms including its popularity as a premier grape-growing region. The MICE tourism market in the US is expected to surpass US\$17 billion by 2024. Costa Rica is a nonpareil meetings destination here, as aptly elaborated in 'Meetings Point'. In our 'Special Feature', readers enjoy an unrivalled concept of the various architectural delights in America that continue to lure thousands of backpackers from across the planet.

The other chapters are Travel News, America's Festivals, Show Highlight and Calendar of Events. TTW Americas is an unbeatable source of knowledge in terms of keeping travel enthusiasts as well as industry professionals well-informed on everything associated to the US travel industry.

Happy Reading!


Editorial Desk

Editor-In-Chief

Mr. Anup Kumar Keshan



Fury of Mother Nature is fiery.

Caribbean Islands was a spectacle to her wrath in 2017, with hurricanes Irma and Maria throwing caution to the winds in this part of the globe. Both belonging to Category 5 tropical storms unleashed torrential rains and wreaked havoc in the Caribbean countries!

The first to ravage in this region was Irma that lashed over the islands of Saint Barthelemy, Barbuda, St. Martin, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands. Two weeks later, Puerto Rico and Dominica were devastated by Maria.

Rebounce after Ruins

Tourism in Hurricane-Hit Caribbean

Tourism in Calamity-Struck Caribbean:

In just over five months since Irma and Maria destroyed the northern most Caribbean Islands, reconstruction started and has been a constant process even now.

Naturally, it has spurred a return of globetrotters once more. In fact, at an initial glance it would be challenging to detect indications of the ruins induced by Maria that had swept across the island on 20th September, 2017. Firstly, the landscape is spick and span.

Next, most of the roadways are repaired. And, glancing at the brighter side, post-hurricane rains have helped restore a major portion of the island's lushness. Furthermore, power has been re-

established in a major portion of the island, and the airport has been open since October.

St. Croix is the region witnessing dominant hurricane recovery. Here, the tourism industry accounts for over half of its gross domestic product, similar to the industry's contribution to the other islands lashed by the two tempests.

Overall, the Caribbean observed record-breaking tourism performance in 2017. It had surpassed the 30 million mark in terms of stay-over arrivals, reaching \$37 billion that had been spent by visitors as per the agency Research Director Ryan Skeete.

But then, the hurricane-assaulted islands recorded downfalls in visitor arrivals ranging from 7% to 18%, he said.



Unscathed Islands safer to Visit

Hugh Riley, Secretary General of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, has been urging backpackers against putting off Caribbean travel as he feels that making a beeline to the breathtaking islands is one of the most effectual keys to aid the recovery of this hurricane-lashed region. Read on for the best updates on the unaffected islands as they are the most favorable destinations here:

Aruba: The 'Happy Island', lying beyond the hurricane belt of Caribbean Islands, is globally renowned for its spectacular beaches, superb casinos, and multicultural populace. It is a dream destination for many, throughout the year!

Barbados: Complete with a rooftop infinity pool and bowling alley, Barbados is quite hot, and happening

wanderlust-struck souls just drool over.

Nikki Beach is a popular attraction in the place that is the birthplace of rum at present. Harrison's Cave leads explorers to a beautiful mile-long network of limestone caverns that one can check out via an electric tram.

Jamaica: This winter, Jamaica will open its doors to travelers. In fact, various airlines have added 200,000 seats on flights to nations like Jamaica as sale choices for visitors looking forward to alter their tour itineraries.

St. Kitts : St. Kitts is another admirable locale in the Caribbean. At the moment, its first luxury resort, the Park Hyatt St. Kitts is welcoming tourists. It is located on the island's Southern Peninsula. One might consider hiking 3,000 feet up to Mount Liamuiga, a dormant volcano on the island.



Caribbean's Recovering Islands

Some of the islands in this part of the world, however, are yet to experience a complete bounce-back from the hurricanes' impact. The good news is, they are making the best attempts to recover, and tourism potential is optimistic here.

St. Croix – The largest of the United States, Virgin Islands is making a steady comeback, thanks to its restored power and water.

St. Barts – Though most utilities have been restored on this island, most of the 16 hotels of St. Barts would remain shut until summer or fall. Gustavia's cruise port and the airport are both open, and ferry service from St. Martin would resume. Also, several shops and restaurants are back into business!

Puerto Rico – Carla Campos, the Executive Director of Puerto Rico Tourism Company, mentioned that all airports are fully operational and over 200,000 passengers have cruises to and from San Juan in the last three months.

Dominica – Amenities are quite limited in Dominica. However, attractions including Trafalgar Falls and Emerald Pool have reopened once more!

The road to complete recovery is an uphill one, interspersed with challenges. Over 7,000 islands are safe and currently open to globetrotters while few others are likely to take a bit more time to taste the ultimate restoration!



Unwind in Santa Barbara South California's perfect getaway!

The American Riviera is scenic, brimming with life nestled between San Francisco and Los Angeles, off Highway 1, with the picturesque backdrop of Santa Ynez Mountains. Spanish-style architecture dominates the city with long white sand-beaches, the world famous Stearns Wharf, majestic mountains and exuberant culture making it a great destination to visit.

The premiere resort destination is less than 100 miles from Los Angeles or 2-hour drive from Los Angeles. Visitors from other parts of the world can visit via the Santa Barbara Airport. The city is full of activities to suit splendid fancies and breathtaking vistas that still house the Solvang and Chumash reservation.





The ideal time to visit is from March to May and from September to November. The temperature here remains firmly mild throughout the year. The Riviera of the West is known for mild climate, natural environment and differs from cities in the south. The town of just 90,000 residents is

socially and culturally rich with a wide array of beach, exotic wineries and plenty of dining and shopping choices.

The average income of the city is slightly higher than California as a whole shunning the perception of Santa Barbara as a playground for the rich and famous. All the commercial construction is dotted with red-tiled roofs and faux adobe supermarkets which is a reminiscence of the California Mission-style architecture. A long-standing local residence looks after the fact that the commercial construction considers the Mission theme.



What to do in Santa Barbara?

Stroll down the **State Street**, the best palm tree-lined street, that takes you right into the city's historic downtown. There are plenty of shops, restaurants, bars and museums, so discover the hidden Paseos, the quirky Funk Zone. So, roam around and start off your relationship with the city!

Located at the end of the State Street along the water front is the **Stearns Wharf**, the oldest working pier in California. It is the longest deep water pier between Los Angeles and San Francisco and is full of history. It had been severely damaged by fire several times but was repeatedly rebuilt. One can get the best views of California from the end of its pier and explore amazing creatures at the Sea Centre. The Hollywood legend James Cagney once owned the brown pelicans at the end of the wharf.



Santa Barbara is the most diverse grape growing regions in the country with its microclimates and terrains. There are 220 vineyards located on 23,000 acres countywide; it has six American Viticultural Areas (AVAs) and 36 wine tasting rooms which is walkable along the Urban **Wine Trail**. You should not miss out the wine tours along the sun-coated valleys.



East Mountain Drive provides stunning panoramic views of private estates in the hills above and the sea beneath. This route is a must-take as the jaw-dropping scenery makes it one of the best rides although Santa Barbara is full of smooth-buttery pavements and breathtaking views. Santa Barbara's ideal temperatures are perfect for cycling, lounging by the rooftop or involving in a paddle boat at the beach. Its ocean front is lined by palm trees, and the Cabrillo Bikeway is bound to lure the adventurous visitors. People can also walk through the pristine sand or play games like volleyball.

The Santa Ynez Valley has everything which a traveler seeks. It offers six unique communities, gorgeous vineyards, lip-smacking restaurants, art galleries and upscale shops. Surrounded by rolling hills, the valley provides a perfect sight of its 1880s-era building facades. Be a part of the deeply rooted Chumash history and the country's connection to the early Spanish settlers. Give yourself a few hours to catch up with the animals at the **Santa Barbara Zoo** which has more than 500 animals and relish the view of the Pacific Ocean.

Surrounded by colourful gardens and a beautiful lawn area is the **Santa Barbara Mission** which was established in 1786 by the Spanish Franciscans. This is a perfect place for an afternoon picnic. Also a tour to the Mission Museum is worthy!

Enjoy a memorable **horseback ride** through the hills, take a bird's eye view of the area from the basket of a hot air balloon, take up the challenge and gear up for a hike or head straight to the Chumas Casino Resort to avail slot machines and table games. Get views of the rural coastline through train riding from downtown Santa Barbara to the Surf beach to enjoy the chirpy seabirds, dolphins and surfers.

The **Santa Barbara Channel** is inhabited by 30 different types of whales and dolphins during different parts of the year making it ideal for **whale watching**.





**So pack your bag and revel
this destination!**



Nature's hidden hutch in the Central America, Costa Rica is a pioneer in eco-tourism. It draws millions of tourists with its extensive series of national parks and biodiversity regions. Costa Rica allures with its volcanic terrain, coffee cultivation and highlands. This country has 1,100 miles of incredible coastline and canopy of lush green forests. It also stimulates your adrenaline with ziplining and surfing.

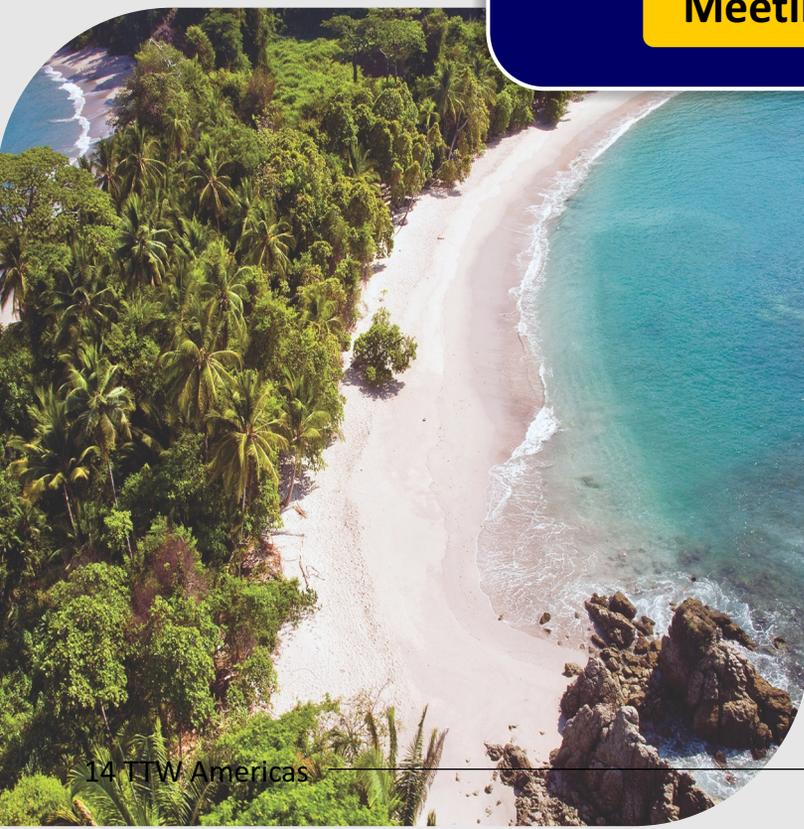


COSTA RICA

America's Hidden Treasure

Meetings Point

Now Costa Rica opened its doors to business tourism with the opening of new convention centers and the development of communication system. Costa Rica is positioned 53rd among 200 countries in the 2017 International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) world ranking. The opening of the new convention centre follows the Costa Rica Tourism Board's (ICT) strategy to expand an aggressive and extensive plan to compete confidently in global meetings industry.





Costa Rica Convention Centre

Costa Rica Convention Center (CRCC) is the newest addition to the business tourism map of the US. It is the first ever purpose-built convention center located just 10 km from capital city San José. Offering 4,400 sq.m of flexible space, Costa Rica Convention Center can lodge more than 6500 delegates. It includes a main hall (divisible into three sections); six conference rooms; six meeting rooms; large foyers and pre-event areas; a business center and a VIP lounge. Costa Rica Convention Center attracts global business leaders with bioclimatic, environmental and sustainable design and architecture. It includes a hectare of roof solar panels, energy-efficient air-conditioning, internal and external LED lighting and naturally lit interior spaces with trees.

Costa Rica's Best Convention Centers

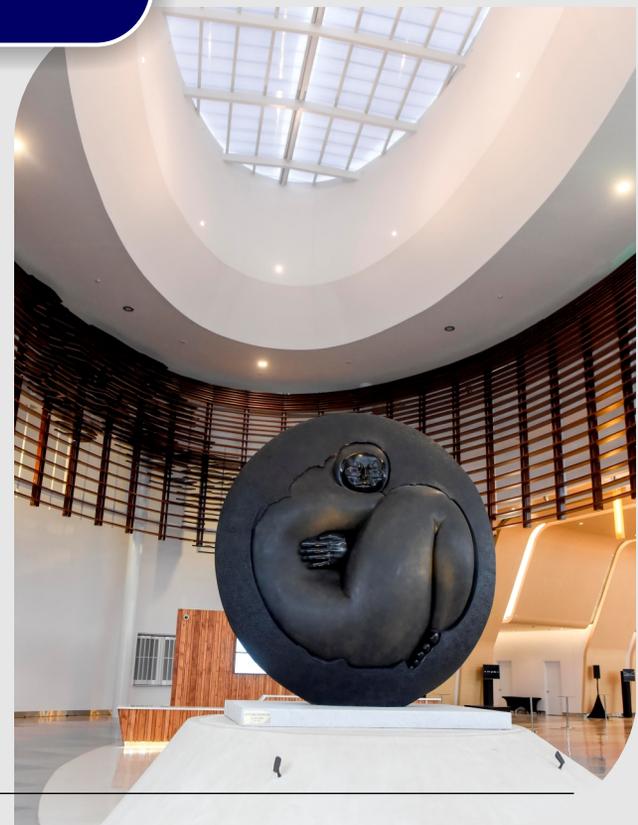
Wyndham San Jose Herradura Hotel & Convention Center

Wyndham San José Herradura Hotel and Convention Center features spacious exhibition area with world-class services. Located just few minutes from Juan Santamaria International Airport, the visitors enjoy events in an idyllic setting with a wealth of amenities. A perfect place for bleisure travelers, Wyndham also offers tours to the tourism attractions of Costa Rica.

Real Inter Continental Costa Rica

Offering 13 ultra-luxurious event rooms and a ballroom that can accommodate up to 3,000 people, Real Inter Continental is capital city's most expensive area. Located at Multiplaza Mall, this urban resort is surrounded by tropical gardens, spa and fitness center. Also, enjoy the true Costa Rican culinary experience with authentic Italian and American dishes in its 4 in-house bistros.

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Avail the best hotels here



Westin Playa Conchal Golf Resort and Spa

Live it up and soak in at the impressive collection of boutique rooms and suites with all elite amenities. Spectacular lagoon-style swimming pool, heavenly spas and private beach access will refresh you after a long work. You can go cycling down the beach roads or take your pick from the kayaks. Evenings are the best time to head out as the air is cool.

Hotel Villa Caletas and Zephyr Palace

Discover the secluded side in Costa Rica with stunning views and excellent services at Hotel Villa Caletas and Zephyr Palace. Relax with cocktails and enjoy the impressive dusk from Central Pacific. You can also experience romantic dinner at spacious terraces.

Hacienda Altagracia

Set in the backdrop of lush green Perez Zeledon Mountain, Hacienda Altagracia offers luxurious leisure in boutique rooms. The resort is an esteemed member of “The Leading Hotels of the World” rebranded as Hacienda AltaGracia. Step into this intimate resort with estate-size casitas. It creates an authentic Hacienda aura with all of the luxuries and comforts of good living, dining, and spa life.

Hilton Papagayo Resort & Spa

Hilton Papagayo Resort & Spa blends with all-inclusive luxury with Costa Rican culture. This fashionable resort impresses with chic food menus, healthy dining options, and luxurious private bungalows with picturesque views of the pristine beach.



Nicoya Peninsula

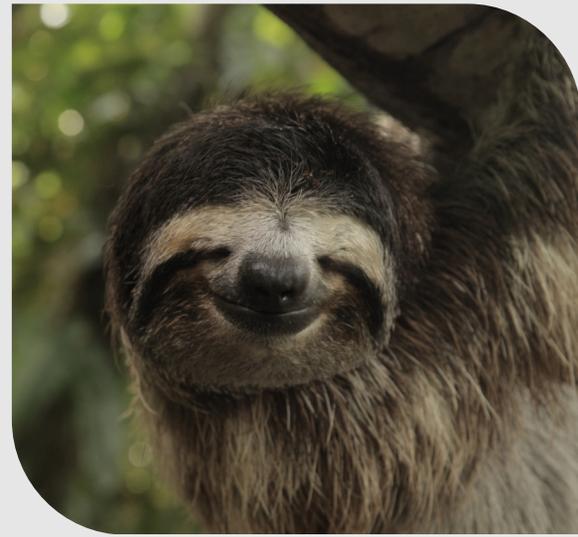
It is a sparkling 80 miles shoreline dotted with beach towns portraying authentic Central American culture. See the gorgeous sunsets, colorful fish and turquoise waters. The Nicoya Peninsula extends from northwestern tip of Costa Rica and skirts the Pacific.

Manuel Antonio National Park

Costa Rica's protected green area is stretched with virgin beaches, isolated coves, nature trails, and a thick rainforest. It is set in Costa Rica's Central Pacific region, south of San José. Reach there by bus or car from the capital city. The ride takes roughly two to three hours.

Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve

Located in the Northern Plains, Monteverde Cloud Forest is a must-see spot in Costa Rica. It is recommended to take a skywalk on the hanging bridge. You can also take zip lining tour to avoid the crowds.



Corcovado National Park

Explore the 11,000-acre misty rainforest to see the diverse wildlife. Corcovado National Park is the paradise for macaws, tapirs, jaguars, spiders, or howler monkeys. Trek along the hazy trails to see the dense jungles. It is wet, remote, and rugged.

Arenal Volcanic Mountain

One of the world's most active volcanoes, Arenal stands more than 5,000 feet high. Go to Arenal Observatory Lodge to see the panoramic view of the volcano's northern side.

What to see in COSTA RICA

Why will Costa Rica be your first preference?

Costa Rica is now booming with an excellent range of services and infrastructure offering ultimate luxury in conferences and stays. Visit Costa Rica and Costa Rica Convention Bureau are working closely to upgrade the country as the best place for business and leisure tourism.



Image courtesy: The Costa Rica Tourism Board

Costa Rica holds a privileged status for meetings, exhibitions, and conferences organized by US companies. Under section 274 (h) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States and Internal Revenue Service decision 94-56, section 274 (h)(6), the country is a part of “North American Area” and any persons attending conventions, seminars, or conferences in Costa Rica can claim tax deductions for expenses incurred at those events.

Álvaro Arguedas, President of the Costa Rica Conventions Bureau stated that: "Costa Rica will be vital for those who work in the meetings tourism industry. We hope that Costa Rica will be the best destination for important global events."

ARCHITECTURAL CHARMS IN AMERICA



The summer travel season has started, and it is time to discover the architectural masterpieces, site-specific tours, and urban innovations in the long weekends. Traveling to a destination to visualize stunning historical monument or architecture, tracing the history and culture via different architectural styles is architectural tourism. This has gradually changed the concept of travel and most of the countries are promoting this to boost their economy.

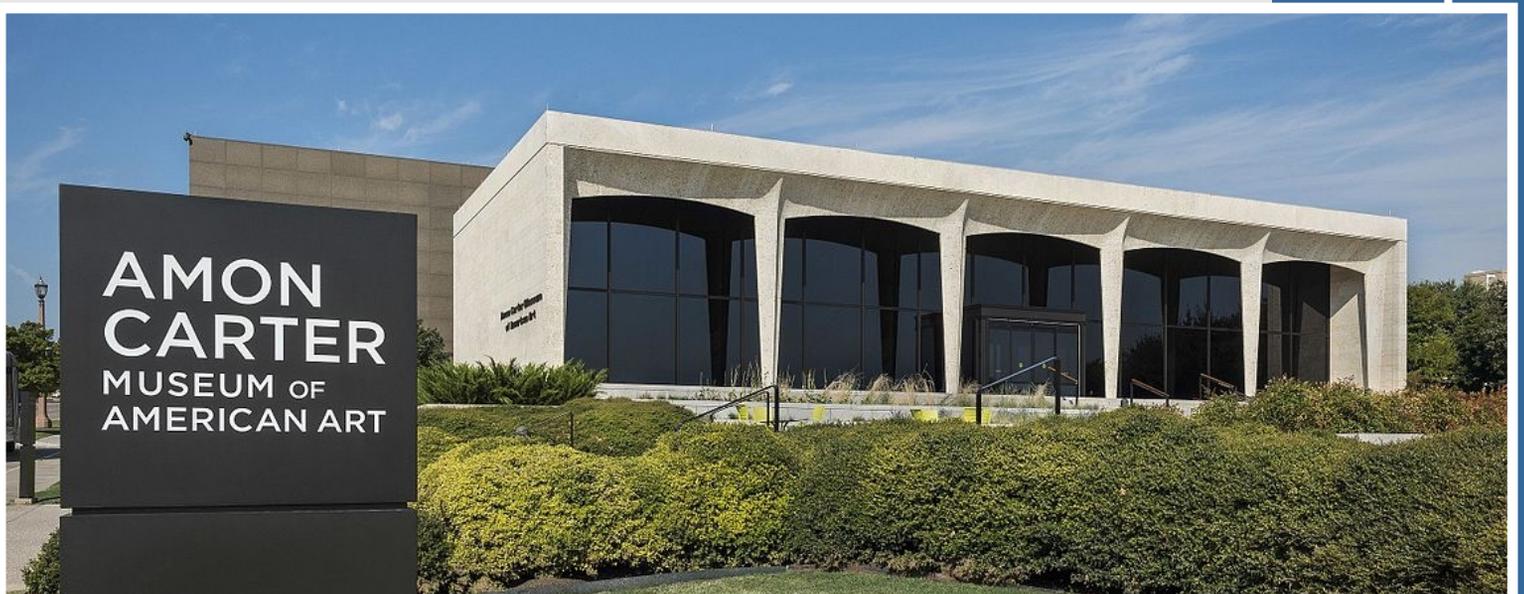


Popular destinations in America include colonial cities which preserved their historic cores, the former industrial hubs that built monumental public buildings in the early 20th century, and the city's skyline defined major miniature recreations of the world's most famous landmarks.

Be here and experience America beyond beaches, snow-covered peaks, redwood forests, and the splendid high-rises with our guide.



Buffalo, New York is known to be the birthplace of the “American” architecture; it features the octagonal spire which is a Neo-Classical high-rise with twin Statue of Liberty replicas at the top, along with a towering Art Deco city hall which speaks volume about its rich history. Famous architects like Frank Lloyd Wright honed their skills here. The city is ever growing with the expansion of renowned art museum by Rem Koolhaas's firm while the abandoned Art Deco train station is also set to turn into a mixed-use complex.



Fort Worth, Texas houses Kimbell Art Museum, the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. These world-class museums rose the city rankings high in the architectural category.

The three museums designed by Louis I Kahn, Philip Johnson, and Tadao Ando brought striking modernity to the Fort Worth's Cultural District.

At Fort Worth's bustling Sundance Square Plaza, a colourful mix of Art Deco, Neoclassical, Medieval Revival, and the Beaux Arts buildings can be seen.



Savannah, Georgia is full of colonial and Antebellum architecture replete with Georgian, Federal, Gothic Revival, Italiante, and Victorian Regency styles. Its central historic district covers several square blocks. At present time, many of the 19th-century mansions is open to the public as museums. Here, the visitors can get a rare peek of the gorgeously restored interiors.

Detroit, Michigan has impressive skyline, a reminiscence of art deco, modern, postmodern, and contemporary architecture. The Detroit Institute of Arts is renowned for having the country's largest collections. The Roman Baroque Revival-style County Building and the architect Stanford White Savoyard Bank Building should be there in your bucket list. In the late 19th century, it became the country's top manufacturing centers, and accumulation of wealth brought in a high concentration of grand, Beaux Arts buildings.



Visitors will love **Las Vegas, Nevada** for its over-the-top skyline full of imitations of Parisian, New York City landmarks, Egyptian pyramids, circus tents, Venetian palazzos, and Roman coliseums.

There are no Beaux Arts buildings here. The Space Age Stratosphere provides the best view of the extraordinary buildings along The Strip. The highest free-standing observation tower in the country stands 1,149 feet tall.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania city city architecture is in complete sync with the surroundings with a trio of rivers and rolling hills. It has multiple scenic vistas — the downtown high-rises which include the Neo-Gothic PPG Place Tower and the Victorian homes in the North Side's Allegheny neighborhood. Prime view across the Allegheny River to downtown and the stadiums can be captured from the Steelers or Pirates game.



H-1B visa applications have dropped for second year in a row

US Citizenship and Immigration Services announced the number of H-1B applications dropped for the second consecutive year.

The visa most often used by the tech industry permits the American companies to hire highly-skilled foreign workers. According to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration, in 2018 it received 190,098 applications showing a remarkable drop from the 199,000 applications in 2017. For the first time since 2014 the applications went down to 200,000 with 2016 representing the peak when 236,000 applications were received.



Train passengers in France face travel misery on the 10th day of rail strike

The French rail passengers faced more disrupted rail services on the tenth day of train strikes against the proposed rail reforms of French government.

But the number of strikers in rail network has taken a dip. The management of French national rail company, SNCF declared that one TGV and Intercités train out of three, as well as two Transilien and TER out of five were operating on Tuesday. According to the latest figures shown by SNCF, despite the continuous disturbance due to the ongoing industrial action making the rate of strike is decreasing. According to SNCF, the rate of strikers taking part on Monday, the first day of the current two-day strike, was the lowest since the industrial action began -- at 17.45 percent.



Kentucky Tourism earned \$12 million from tourism taxation

The state tourism officials in Kentucky said that the country attracted more than 26 million visitors in along with \$12 million tourism generation annually.

The tourism industry responsible to create more than 190,000 jobs, clocked in at \$14.5 billion for 2016, and in 2017, it certainly went significantly higher with traditional mainstay sectors growing. It is also reported that nearly 1.2 million people visited distilleries along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail in 2017, the second year in which the number has topped 1 million. Kentucky Travel and Tourism Commissioner Kristen Branscum said that Derby allures many international visitors through traditions. While on the contrary, Louisville, the largest city sits on the Ohio River along the Indiana border attract millions of tourists.



Royal wedding will boost UK tourism

The royal wedding next month will see an increase in spring tourists as holidaymakers will flock to Britain. It is expected that tourism bosses will cash in on the 100, 000 revelers set to descend on Windsor, Berkshire for the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on May 19. It was mentioned by Visit Britain director Patricia Yates that Markle's connection to American audiences and the attractive exchange rates will contribute. It is a great opportunity and a great showcase moment for Britain. So far history and heritage has been a major draw for travel to the country and it will mostly be about interpreting it for a younger audience.

Earlier the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's wedding contributed to a seven per cent rise in visitors. It came to around 8.3 million, up from 7.8 million in 2010. Amid a row over police staffing level the figures came before Prince Harry weds Meghan Markle. On May 19, Thames Valley Police expect 100,000 people to visit Windsor.

Oman eyes on investors to fund its tourism projects

Oman seeks the help of tourism investors to develop a series of tourism projects, including a \$5 billion scheme, as part of a strategy to triple visitors to the country by 2040 in a drive to diversify its economy and create jobs for young nationals.

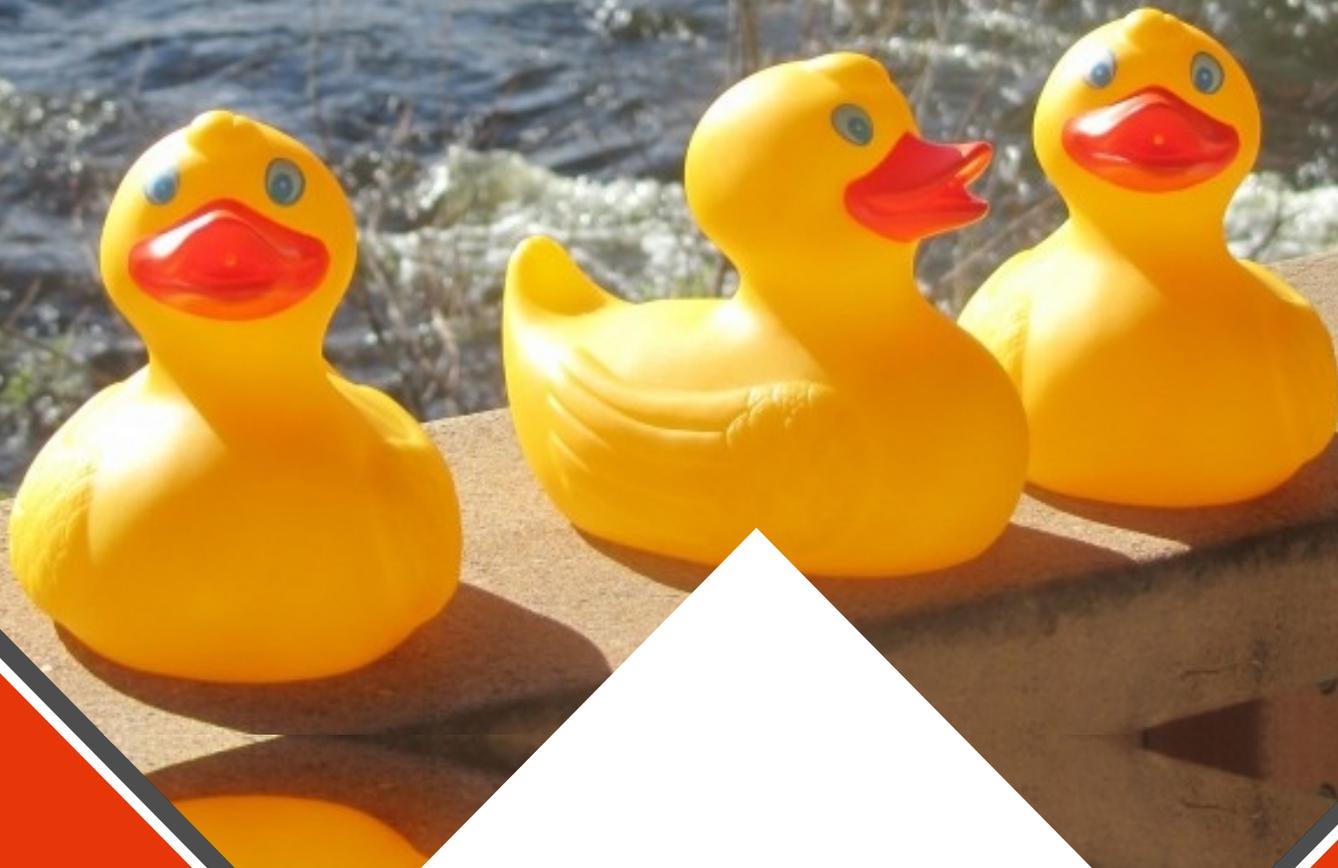
The tourism projects in Musandam, Dakhiliya and

Muscat will be open to investors by the end of next year. It was followed by projects in Sharqiyah and Shamal al Batna in 2020. This new tourism drive is part of Oman's policy to boost international visitor numbers to 11.7 million from 3.3 million currently and create 500,000 jobs in tourism for Omanis by 2040. To do this, it selected 14 so-called tourism clusters across Oman to develop as key attractions for tourists and promote internationally.



AMERICA'S FESTIVALS

As summer is knocking the door, May is the month when most of the events are rolling out. These cultural festivals are deeply projecting American heritage and tradition. Here are five festivals you need to attend in May 2018.



Place: Colorado
Date: May 5th, 2018

ESTES PARK DUCK RACE FESTIVAL

Adopt a duck for a fee of \$20 and participate in the race. It is Estes Park Duck Race Festival. This festival started in 1989 with a mission to help the local charities and organizations working for animal welfare. Unlimited food, live music and entertainment activities are the add-ons in this fest.



Place: Mexico City
Date: 5th May 2018

CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo is celebrated with Napoleon's attempt to establish French colony in Mexico. But he was defeated by Mexican army in Puebla. Now Mexicans rejoice with musical concerts, colorful street parties and flamboyant parades.



Place: Wallace, NC
Date: May 11th- 12th, 2018

CAROLINA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The premier festival in Wallace, Carolina Strawberry Festival offers a full complement of American rock music, fashion shows, food and unlimited fun. This year the fun will begin with performances of American rock bands and local dance groups.



Place: Crystal Beach, Texas
Date: 11th to 13th May 2018

TEXAS CRAB FESTIVAL

Experience the gala gastronomic fest with fun-filled family entertainment at Crystal Beach. Here you can enjoy the taste of the wide variety of sea food, especially the delicious crab dishes. Also buy some fine arts, clothing, and crafts from the local vendors and exhibitors participating at the event.



Place: Palmer, Alaska
Date: 26th to 27th May 2018

GREAT ALASKA MUSIC FESTIVAL

Want to see Alaskan culture and tradition? Rush to Great Alaska Music Festival. It is a biggest summer melodious carnival produced by Alaskan music industry professionals. Enjoy morning to night in Memorial Day weekend with great musical line up and good food.



The Asia Pacific Hotel Investment Conference 2018

When: June 4th – 6th 2018

Where: JW Marriott, Bangkok

The hotel investment landscape in Asia Pacific has experienced tremendous changes in 2015 – 17. With geo-political challenges, government policy changes and security concerns looming in the background, investors are increasingly diversifying their portfolios. Industry consolidations, brand proliferation and changes in distribution landscape have prompted the hotel owners to rethink their relationships with hotel brands and operators.

While the appetite for cross-border investment has continued to increase, available opportunities at reasonable prices are progressively scarce. The lack of available assets in certain key markets have driven hotel owners and real estate developers to focus on greenfield developments, while high land prices in other markets have encouraged them to innovate with redevelopments and conversions.

In this challenging pursuit of ROI, the best-connected and the best-funded investors with the best strategies will prevail.

In this environment, The Asia Pacific Hotel Investment Conference (APHIC), an IHIF Summit, returns to Bangkok, the Southeast Asia's tourism gateway. Together with our key partners, APHIC will serve as the ideal opportunity to gain access to new hospitality

projects in the region and to establish contacts with over 200 hotel owners/investors, operators, developers, policy makers, design/architect, master planners in Asia Pacific.

Whether you are an Asian investor looking to diversify, or a global investor looking for high yield growth opportunities, APHIC will provide you with the perfect platform to seek your next deal.

Five reasons why you should attend this year's event:

- Investigating the keys to making money in mature markets with high land prices and valuations
- Exploring viable options for project funding and best practices in financing and refinancing
- Boost ROI of assets through conversions and redevelopments
- Rethinking owner-operator relationships and brand value amidst industry consolidation and brand proliferation
- Navigating changing banking rules for the ideal company structure

3rd Leisure Partners Mexico Hotel & Resort Expansion Forum

When: June 7th-8th 2018

Where: Hilton Mexico city Santa Fe Hotel, Mexico City, Mexico.

Emdonds, Founder Edmonds

International, Francisco Gonzalez,

Director General Bancomext, Federico

Moreno - Nickerson, Vice President Developmen,
Apple Leisure Group and many more.

Along with the eminent speakers, the highlighted topics would be:

The 3rd Leisure Partners Mexico Hotel & Resort Expansion Forum scheduled from June 7th-8th, 2018 at Hilton Mexico city Santa Fe Hotel, in Mexico City, Mexico.

With steady foreign investment, improvements in infrastructure through the National Infrastructure Plan, growth in industries and a continued push to promote tourism, Mexico continues to be a major focus for hotel and resort development efforts for both local and international hotel operators. In fact, the " Hotel Destinations Mexico" report from JLL shows that the country has enjoyed record-breaking visitation levels for the past four years.

Mykar's 3rd Mexico Hotel & Resort Expansion Forum gathers C-level executives from Government Developers, Investors, Regulators, Construction Companies, Architects, Solution Providers, Financial Institutes and Associations in a focused two-day program. Panel discussions and presentations will elaborate investment strategies, operations efficiency and updated technologies required for guaranteeing customer satisfaction and success.

Some of the series of speakers at the event are : Gustavo Ripol , Founding partner and CEO Leisure

Partners, Gerardo Fernandez Miranda, Director of the Tourism and Services platform Artha Capital, Michael

- Updated 2018 Outlook And Market Trends
- Understanding plans for stimulating the growth in Mexico
- Exploring and investing in Mexico
- Luxury, Mid-Market And Budget Segment Outlook
- Boutique, Lifestyle, Luxury Serviced Hotel Apartments
- Hotel Properties Within Mixed-Use Developments
- Finance Availability And Return On Investment
- Facility Management
- Customer Experience & Loyalty
- Architectural Innovations And Design Company Showcases
- Energy and operational efficiency in hotels
- Trends in hospitality technology

Hotel Management Thailand Summit 2018

When : June 7th 2018

Where : Bangkok, Thailand

2017 was another banner year for tourism in Thailand. One of the world's most visited countries, Thailand welcomed a record breaking thirty-five million visitors. With no disruptive events anticipated for 2018, hoteliers in Thailand are expecting a relatively smoother year.

Yet, fierce competition from the additional supply, ever-changing distribution landscape, and challenging talent recruitments continue to plague the industry. The growth in relative room rates is expected to be constrained by the incoming new supply.

Competition amongst various distribution channels has also intensified; requiring increased efforts for hoteliers to maintain rate parity. On the F&B front, the first Michelin Guide in Thailand has been published, making its mark on the fiercely competitive restaurant and bar scene.

Together with the increasing distribution costs and labor costs, hoteliers will have to innovate in revenue creation and improve operational efficiency in order to drive profitability.

Hotel Management Thailand Summit (HMT), a neutral one-stop strategy platform, will return to Bangkok on 7 June this year to directly address all key management, operational, commercial and financial

challenges that impact corporate and property P&L.

Five reasons why you should attend HMT 2018:

- Navigating the ever-changing distribution landscape
- Leveraging new consumer trends to grow rates and generate peripheral revenue
- Enhancing operational efficiency through technology adoptions
- Strategizing on segment mix and source markets to ensure competitiveness
- Developing talents and controlling overhead costs



ITE Hong Kong 2018

When: June 14th – 17th 2018

Where : Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

The 32nd ITE (leisure) & The 13th ITE MICE survey reveal corporations' preferences in Theme Travels for MICE On which travel theme whose in corporation will enhance MICE trips, 64% of the respondents to a corporate survey chose Green Tourism, the highest, while 52% selected Food & Wine, to be followed by Cruise at 38%, Volunteerism at 32% and Sport Tourism at 27%

When holding a corporate event in a cruise, to respondents of a survey on MICE held in February this year, the top three factors affecting « site » selection are Routing or Destination (71%), Facilities for Event (60%), and Entertainment Options (50%) followed closely by Dining Experience (48%)

The survey, which received effective replies from 88 companies / organizations, was conducted on MICE and Corporate visitors of ITE Hong Kong, the city's only travel fair which has been promoting theme travels. In fact, last surveys on trade and public visitors found significant differences in interests on various themes details of which available on the event website.

Respectively 44% and 52% respondents reported their corporations held last year Incentive Trips and Overseas Events, and correspondingly 46% and 49% will do so in the coming two years. On why visiting ITE, 74% respondents for Gathering Destination Information, 56% looking for Event Venue, 36% in meeting Travel Agents and 43% interest in Special Offer.

Further, 37% respondents indicated their corporation will

spend more on travel in the coming year, outnumbering those cutting back (13%) by almost three to one, while half see no change in spending.

In short, Hong Kong companies are not cutting back on travel spending but instead more discerning on how the money are being spent. For examples, enhancing corporation's social responsibility as reflected in the high interest on Green Tourism, or on quality by incorporating theme travels into trips.

Held annually, ITE Hong Kong last drew in two trade days 12312 regional buyers and visitors, of which 2265 from MICE and corporations and 6611 from travel agents or operators, in two public / FIT days, great for direct promotions or sale, 89750 visitors with 87% prefer traveling in FIT / Private Tour and 56% had three or more holidays in past year.

In the last ITE were 645 exhibitors (85% from abroad) from 56 countries and regions (around half outside Asia). A bigger and more interesting ITE this year is expected with around 10 new official stands and pavilions and significant expansion by several repeating pavilions. In addition, there will be Business Matching and some 20 trade and MICE seminars, and around 100 public travel seminars.

Organized by TKS Exhibition Services Ltd., the next ITE Hong Kong, comprising of the 32nd ITE (leisure) and the 13th ITE MICE, will be held from June 14 to 17, 2018 at Halls 1A to 1E of the Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Center.

Shanghai World Travel Fair 2018

When: May 24th – 27th 2018

Where: Shanghai Exhibition Centre

As a comprehensive platform for professional networking and consumers marketing, the 15th Shanghai World Travel Fair will be held from May 24th to 27th, 2018 at the Shanghai Exhibition Center. For all tourism industry professionals around the world, it is a unique opportunity to understand the market and find local partners, as well as the best way to offer potential customers a first glimpse at offers they would not otherwise consider.

Till now, more than 200 exhibitors and 350 host buyers have been invited to attend this professional tourism event, which is far beyond Shanghai World Travel Fair 2018. This year, a number of high quality concurrent events which including Travel Trends Study, the SWTF Workshop and Thermal Spring Discussion will be hold during the event.

For Travel Trends Study, there will be four keynote speeches and two panel discussions. Customization, Chinese culture, Theme tourism, Tourism technology will be analyzed and discussed as themes for Travel Trends Study. SWTF Workshop will be hosted in the form of seminars. The maximum number of people who participate in each seminar is 20.

By participating in the seminar, each member can propose their ideas and discuss the theme they interested in.

According to the research of China National Tourism Administration, China Hot Spring Association predicts that 1 billion people will purchase thermal spring products in the future, which will create about 3.16 million job positions. Hot Spring will become the tendency of China Tourism Industry.

In this year's Shanghai World Travel Fair 2018, Thermal Spring Discussion which includes the following which will be hosted by Shanghai World Travel Fair and China Hot Spring Association:

- a) The Development of Hot Spring Industry
- b) The application of All in Hot Spring Industry
- c) The Application of Clean Resources in Hot Spring Industry





China Hotel Marketing Conference 2018

When: June 27th – 28th 2018

Where: Hangzhou, China

Different business models are shaking up the accommodation industry. The range of accommodation is constantly extending, from simple star-rating hotels to budget and midscale hotel chains, plus diversified accommodation options including homestay, vacation rental, long-stay rental, and integrated co-working and retail space, not to mention emerging themed hotels. Meanwhile, consumer demand for accommodation has also evolved to become more personalized, diversified and intelligent.

After a series of mergers and acquisitions, China's three major hotel groups – Jin Jiang Hotels, BTG Homeinns Hotels and China Lodging Group – have entered the Global Top 10 Hotel list. In their ongoing efforts to optimize the synergy of M&A, the giants have also refined their offerings, tapped into alternative sectors and built their own IT platforms with in-house technologies and channels.

The year 2017 has witnessed the integration of China's hotel industry, updates in accommodation products, capital movements in the alternative sectors, as well as the growing power of hotel platforms. In 2018, are there still opportunities for breakthroughs in different segments?

Over 650 middle- and high-level executives from the traditional and emerging hospitality sectors will attend the

2018 China Hotel Marketing Conference themed "Redefine Accommodation", which will take place on June 27-28 in Hangzhou.

How should the accommodation industry be redefined in this context? And how will consumer demand lead a revolution in the sector?

- Hear from senior executives from China's leading hotel companies:
- David Sun, General Manager, BTG Homeinns Hotels Group
- Jenny Zhang, CEO, China Lodging Group (HUAZHU Hotels Group)
- Justin Luo, Co-founder & CEO, Tujia & Sweetome Group
- Leo Liu, President, Greater China, Wyndham Hotel Group
- Lynn Meng, President, WeHotel
- Sarah Chen, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Diaoyutai MGM Hospitality
- Shenghong Gan, CEO, SSAW Boutique Hotel

As the most influential conference in China on accommodation distribution and marketing, the 2018 China Hotel Conference will attract over 700 senior executives from the accommodation, travel distribution, OTAs, hotel technology and other related sectors. About 70% of the participants are from mainland China and 30% from overseas.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

6th – 9th

Connections Well Being

Crete, Greece

www.wereconnections.com

connections
LEADERS DO BUSINESS

May

8th – 11th

ILTM South America

Sao Paulo, Brazil

www.iltmlatinamerica.com



May

15th – 17th

Imex Frankfurt

Frankfurt, Germany

www.imex-frankfurt.com

imex
Frankfurt
15-17 May 2018

May

15th – 17th

Global Travel MarketPlace

Las Vegas, Nevada

www.gtmwest.com

gtm
GLOBAL TRAVEL
MARKETPLACE

May

16th – 17th

Russia Hotel Upgrading & Development Forum

Moscow, Russia

hotel.mykar-events.com

Russia Hotel Upgrading & Development Forum

May

16th – 18th

ITB China

Shanghai, China
www.itb-china.com



ITB
CHINA

May

17th – 20th

PATA Annual Summit

Gangneung, Korea
www.pata.org/pas

PATA
Pacific Asia Travel Association

May

21st – 22nd

Boutique + Lifestyle Hotel Summit

London, United Kingdom
www.boutiquehotelsummit.com

**BOUTIQUE +
LIFESTYLE**
HOTEL SUMMIT

May

24th – 27th

Shanghai World Travel Fair

Shanghai Exhibition Center, China
www.worldtravelfair.com.cn



May

24th – 25th

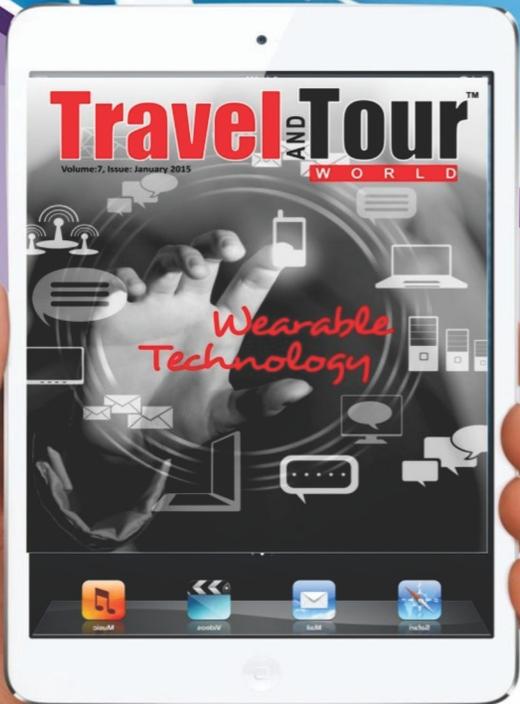
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Dubai, UAE
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