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Japan lifts ban on inbound travellers; keen to tap tourists & conferences

Japan has lifted the ban on travellers allowing entry for tourism activities. With this move, the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO) looks forward to welcoming group tours and individual travellers.

Satoshi Seino, President, JNTO, said, “Japan is a highly attractive country not only for tourism, but also for international conferences and incentive travel. With the relaxed travel measures, Japan is fully prepared to host these events. Along with revealing in the many ways to take in the allures across Japan, now is a time when international visitors can take advantage of shopping opportunities. Japan has been busy over the past two-and-a-half years with preparations to welcome back everyone. Come see the new Japan. We eagerly await your arrival.”



Satoshi Seino

Jyoti Mayal joins the Board of Signum Hotels



Jyoti Mayal

Signum Hotels has announced the joining of Jyoti Mayal as a Board of Director. She joins the current board that comprises industry stalwarts like Murali Menon, Sunil Sikka, Greesh Bindra, Manoj Virmani, Ish Anand, Rajiv Duggal, Sajid Mahmood, Ashish Chopra, Chef Sultan Mohideen and Riaz Ahmed.

Mayal said, “I have been working closely with the fraternity and a strategic association like this would be an opportunity for me to contribute, to the best of my experience and expertise, towards the growth and expansion of the group in India and abroad. I am keenly looking forward to extending support to the hospitality sector and creating opportunities for not only the group but the whole industry, to recover post Covid and flourish. Together we can rebuild this industry of travel, tourism, & hospitality.”

Turkey to host record weddings in 2022, largely from India

Turkey is expected to host weddings of over a 1,000 couples in 2022, predominantly from India and some other countries. With weddings being the significant revenue generator for the Turkish Tourism industry, the outstanding numbers witnessed this year



have already outweighed the dent caused by the pandemic.

“Considering the international number of visitors received from January to August 2022, Turkey is expecting to welcome the highest ever number of Indian

families in 2022 than in 2019, which was a record-breaking year for international travellers in Turkey. Also, autumn is considered the ideal time for organising a wedding in Turkey with Istanbul, Bodrum, and Antalya being the top 3 destination choices for couples,” said the Turkish government.



Star Air launches Mumbai-Kolhapur direct flights

Star Air, the aviation arm of Sanjay Ghodawat Group, has launched direct flights between Mumbai and Kolhapur under the Regional Connectivity Scheme.

Star Air will operate thrice a week between Mumbai and Kolhapur on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays to begin with, and expand the frequency to a daily service depending on the passenger response.

Palace on Wheels resumes operations after pandemic

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot flagged off the ‘Palace on Wheels’ at Gandhinagar Railway Station, over two years after the luxury tourist train had suspended operations in the wake of Covid.

The CM said the royal train service has been enthralling tourists for 40 years and this is an example for the world. “Its resumption indicates that tourism sector in the state is going to emerge stronger,” he added. Prior to its departure, Gehlot took stock of the facilities inside the train. He wished the passengers a happy journey and said it was a matter of pride for the government to re-operationalise the service.



IndiGo to start direct Mumbai-Istanbul flights from Jan 1, 2023



Vinay Malhotra

IndiGo has announced the launch of direct flights between Mumbai-Istanbul starting January 1, 2023. These new routes and additional frequencies will enhance international connectivity between India & Turkey and beyond, through IndiGo’s code share with Turkish Airlines. Vinay Malhotra, Head of Global Sales, IndiGo, said, “This new service will enhance international capacity and offer more options to the consumers. We will strive to stay true to our promise of affordable fares, on-time performance, courteous and hassle-free service across wide network.”