



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014 | FIRST FORTNIGHTLY ISSUE

HAPPY 68TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

Come On Let us Celebrate the Freedom of Traveling
& Discovering the Integral Beauty Of Our **India!**

PROUD TO BE AN **INDIAN!**

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IAAI NEWS

IAAI conducted another workshop at Cochin on the 09th of August, it's 2nd Program in a series of Nation wide awareness campaign on Agency Handbook , ADMs, EMD's & NDC . With tougher times to come in our Trade , IAAI has taken upon itself the responsibility to Educate , Share Knowledge and enable it's Members to know their rights.

Please find herewith some photos of the Cochin program.

IAAI is now looking at the next destinations most probably in September 2014 at **Mumbai & Pune.**



Jet's agreement with Vietnam Airlines to benefit tourists

As you are aware, Jet Airways is starting flights to Vietnam from Nov. 2014. It has now entered into a reciprocal code-share agreement with Vietnam Airlines, the national carrier of Vietnam, with immediate effect. This partnership will offer guests enhanced connectivity and seamless access while travelling throughout the combined networks of both the airlines. The code-share will provide more choice for guests between India and Vietnam, with convenient connections over the international gateways of Singapore and Bangkok. It will facilitate Indian tourists visiting Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos with cheaper fares & good connections.



Under the code-share arrangement, Jet Airways will place its marketing code on Vietnam Airlines' flights from Bangkok and Singapore to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi. In turn, Vietnam Airlines will place its marketing code on Jet Airways' services between Bangkok and Mumbai/Delhi, from Singapore to Mumbai/Delhi and Chennai. Tickets for the code-share flights are now on sale. With the commencement of Jet Airways' Ho Chi Minh City service, effective November 5, 2014, Vietnam Airlines will be placing its marketing code on Jet Airways Bangkok /Ho Chi Minh flight.

AirAsia introduces Premium Flex for special services to business travellers

AirAsia has launched a service called Premium Flex, which is designed to cater to the needs of discerning business travellers. With Premium Flex, guests can look forward to benefits that provide essential preferences for business travel such as flexibility to change flights up to two times with no fee, complimentary 20-kg baggage allowance, Xpress boarding, Xpress baggage and other perks.

Premium Flex is available for all AirAsia flights (except for Sri Lanka)

and flight change is available up to two hours before scheduled time of departure of the original flight and at least three hours before the schedule time of departure of the new AirAsia flight and four hours before the schedule time of the new AirAsia X flight. This change can be performed via web at on the airline's website, mobile phones and all AirAsia official offline booking channels. Changes to flight date or time are subject to fare difference if any.

Premium Flex guests could also enjoy the luxury of flying comfortably on Premium Seats (previously known as Hot Seats), selectable at no extra charge and subjected to availability. Guests also have the liberty to choose standard seats according to their seating preference on board, also without any charges and subjected to availability.

AirAsia is also offering 20 per cent discount on all flights throughout its route network till August 17, 2014. This special discount includes AirAsia X flights, and the travel period is August 12-December 14, 2014. The destinations covered in the discount are Krabi, Chiang Mai, Guilin, Nanning, Lombok, Kochi, and the re-introduced routes such as Da Nang, which will commence on August 29 and Clark, which commences on October 17. Some of the featured AirAsia X routes are Sydney, Hangzhou, Osaka, Kathmandu and Colombo.



GoAir plans International launch in May 2015; Looks for FDI partner

GoAir is now firming up the launch of its international operations next May, apart from getting a foreign airline as Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) partner on board shortly. GoAir will take delivery of its 20th aircraft in October and fulfill both the requirements of the five years of operations and 20 aircraft rule to fly abroad. GoAir had made a profit of Rs 100 crore in FY 2012-13. The subsequent financial year 2013-14

was also profitable - all purely from operational side and nothing else (hinting that there was no sale and lease back earning). While the LCC is not planning an IPO like IndiGo, it is talking to several foreign airlines for FDI.

The launch will be at the start of the next fiscal, possibly May 2015. The Airline is looking at flights with a maximum flying time of three hours and 15 minutes. So, destinations like Singapore are not planned. They are looking mainly at the Gulf, apart from some other destinations.



Tata-SIA brands full-service airline 'Vistara'

The Tata Sons-Singapore Airlines Joint Venture (JV), Tata-SIA Airlines Ltd. (TSAL) will operate in the Indian domestic space under the brand name, 'Vistara'. The branding of the airline was announced in Delhi by top officials of the airline company. Tata-SIA is hopeful of commencing operations from October this year, pending air operation approvals from the regulatory authorities.

The new airline to meet the demands in relation to routes, seat configurations, pricing, etc., in the full-service space in India.

The name was derived from the Sanskrit word, 'Vistar', which means 'limitless', and the airline would strive to "redefine" Indian air traveller experience, combining the legendary hospitality of Tata and the world-renowned service standards of Singapore Airlines.

Headquartered in Delhi, Vistara will take delivery of its first Airbus A320-200 next month and plans to add four aircraft in the next few months. The plan is to take the fleet size to 20 planes by the fifth year, including A320neos.



Jet Airways to merge Jetlite & Jetkonnnect to form a single brand



JET AIRWAYS

In order to re-establish the airline as a leading brand in the Indian aviation space, Jet Airways (India) Ltd will streamline and align its domestic operation, creating a uniform Jet Airways master brand by merging the LCC, JetLite operating under the JetKonnnect brand, with the full-service carrier. The Jet Airways brand will cover the entire fleet of JetLite, which currently operates 11 aircraft and serves more than 50

cities domestically. The changes in branding are subject to government approvals. The company's aircraft would now include seats in Economy and Business Class configuration but the airline's pricing would remain competitive, despite the scrapping of the LCC.

Also, to expand its route network, Jet will operate a flight on the Abu Dhabi-Kolkata route and a second daily flight to New York with a B777 aircraft from 2015. New services from Abu Dhabi to Goa, Pune, Ahmedabad and Lucknow are planned for the first quarter of 2015.

2 upgrades & 1 New Airport in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is the new focus area for the Civil Aviation ministry which, has set the wheels in motion to develop three international airports in the state, including one to be built from scratch. While the



Ministry of Civil Aviation
Government Of India

plans are to upgrade the existing airports at Tirupati and Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam will get a new one, as the current airport in the port city on the eastern coast is a navy facility that is being operated as a civil enclave

The work at the terminal building in Tirupati will be expedited and completed in nine months. A second runway will also be built at Tirupati. At Vijayawada airport, runway length will be increased from 7,500 ft to 12,500 ft and 600 acres of land will be acquired for the same. Visakhapatnam will get a new airport since the current facility faces a lot of restrictions.

Commencing November 16, 2014, Qatar Airways will increase operations to Madrid, Spain with the addition of three flights per week. The increase in frequency will bring the total number of flights up from 7 to 10 per week. With the addition of the three flights, the route, which is serviced by a Boeing 777 aircraft, will offer an additional 252 Business Class and 1,758 Economy Class seats per week, for an overall increase of 2,010 seats.

Qatar Airways offers up to 25% off on Economy & Premium Class fares from India

Qatar Airways is offering customers in India up to 25 per cent discount on Economy Class and Premium cabin fares to a wide variety of destinations, as per a release. The sale, which runs till August 15, is applicable for travel to destinations across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Americas. The travel is valid till December 10 this year.



Both the Economy and Premium fares qualify for Frequent Flyer Points and mileage accrual. Qatar Airways' customers across India can make bookings through the carrier's website www.qatarairways.com/in/en/offers/5-day-sale or through the airline's sales offices or its registered travel agency partners.

Air Asia India offers Discount for 6 Days

AirAsia India, the latest entrant in domestic air space, has lowered its fares by 20% for a limited period on all its flights. The discounted ticket scheme was launched for a sixday period (till August 17) and offers customers 20% discount on tickets across categories for flights from Bangalore to Chennai, Kochi and Goa and vice-versa. AirAsia India currently operates flights from its current base Bangalore to Chennai, Kochi and Goa. It also plans to launch flight services from Bangalore to Jaipur and Chandigarh.



Customers can book their tickets under this discounted scheme till August 17 for a travel period up to December 14. The current offer is available for these proposed flights as well. The travel period for the proposed Jaipur and Chandigarh flights will be between September 5 and October 25. AirAsia India's Jaipur and Chandigarh flight services are scheduled to start from September 5.

Air Asia India which is a domestic arm of Malaysian no-frills carrier Air Asia, had at the time of entering in the Indian aviation market said that its fares will be 35% cheaper compared to the segment players.

INDIA'S LUXURY TRAINS

THESE ARE NO ordinary trains. A trip on one of them will redefine the elegant art of luxury train travel. The luxe décor along with contemporary amenities and five-star pampering create an aura of sheer opulence. As the train rolls down the track, you will be suffused with feelings of royal grandeur—ornate chandeliers, lush carpets and turbaned attendants all add up to the highest level of comfort imaginable to make your journey memorable. Be it luxe accommodation, fine dining, extensive wellness options... these trains never fall short of offering you a royal experience. **We hereby** give you an insight into some of India's popular luxury trains.

ROYAL RAJASTHAN ON WHEELS

Living up to its name, this train exudes royalty at its best. Step inside and get a whiff of right royal splendour that transports you to an altogether different world—a world that makes you feel like royalty, thanks to the excessive pampering of *khidmatgars* (attendants). The train has 14 fully air-conditioned deluxe saloons, each with four twin-bedded cabins, toilets, showers, mini-pantry and lounge. While the two restaurant cars serve Continental, Indian, Rajasthani and Chinese cuisine, the cosy bar and lounge offer a great place to unwind at the end of the day. The plush

tapestry, magnificent interiors, selective wines, sumptuous meals and relentless service of attendants make your journey truly magical.

Facilities: Deluxe saloons, spa resto bars, and other extensive wellness options.

Major destinations covered

Jodhpur, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Agra, Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Varanasi.

Tour duration: 8 days/7 nights.

THE GOLDEN CHARIOT

Taking its name from the world-famous Hampi's Stone Chariot (designated as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO), the Golden Chariot pampers you with limitless luxury and comfort, as it winds its way through the state of Karnataka. As you explore some of South India's most exotic locales, you experience many fun-filled moments worth cherishing for a lifetime. Carriages of the train have been named after the dynasties that ruled Karnataka. The train has two restaurants, lounge bar, business facilities, gym and spa. One of the highlights on board is the performances by local artists in the train's Madira Lounge Bar, the interior of which has been designed as a replica of the Mysore Palace. The Golden Chariot has two routes—Pride of the South and Southern Splendour. While Pride of the South runs through Karnataka, the Southern Splendour is an expanded



route that incorporates Tamil Nadu and Kerala as well.

Facilities: Double bed cabins, private bathrooms, restaurants, lounge bar, fully-equipped gymnasium.

Major destinations covered

Pride of the South: Kabin, Mysore, Srirangapatnam, Shravanabelagola, Belur, Halebid, Hampi, Badami, Goa, Pattadakal.

Tour duration: 8 days/7 nights.

Southern Splendour: Chennai, Puducherry, Tanjavur, Madurai, Thiruvananthapuram/Kanyakumari/Kovalam, Alleppey, Kochi.

Tour duration: 7 nights/8 days.

MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

Dubbed as India's equivalent to the Orient Express of Europe, Maharajas' Express offers you a princely ride in the truest sense. With interiors steeped in nostalgia, state-of-the-art amenities and impeccable hospitality, this newest luxury train of India leaves no stone unturned to pamper you to the hilt. The train features 14 guest carriages, including one classical Presidential Suite. Every cabin has large windows, allowing you to capture the beauty of the outside world, unhindered. All passenger cars come with modern amenities, including independent cabin-controlled air-conditioning, online water filtration systems, environment friendly

toilets, live television, Wi-fi Internet, to name a few. The train boasts two fine dining restaurants, each accommodating 42 people. For added zest, there is an exotic Safari bar and lounge-cum-bar, Rajah Club, with the choicest collection of complimentary house brand spirits. The Maharajas' Express offers five pan-India journeys—Indian Splendour, Treasures of India, Heritage of India, Indian Panorama and Gems of India. Each journey has its own list of destinations.

Facilities: Dining cars, high-end boutique, direct dial phones, individual temperature control, bar.

Major destinations covered

Heritage of India: Mumbai, Ajanta, Agra, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Jaipur, Ranthambore, Delhi.

Tour duration: 8 days/7 nights.

Treasures of India: Delhi, Agra, Jaipur Ranthambore.

Tour duration: 4 days/3 nights.

Major destinations covered

Gems of India: Delhi, Agra, Ranthambore, Jaipur.

Tour duration: 4 days/3 nights.

Indian Panorama: Jaipur, Ranthambore, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Gwalior, Orchha, Khajuraho, Varanasi, Lucknow, Delhi.

Tour duration: 8 days/7 nights.

Indian Splendour: Delhi, Agra, Jaipur,

Ranthambore, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Balasinor, Mumbai.

Tour duration: 8 days/7 nights.

THE DECCAN ODYSSEY

Rated as one of the best luxury trains in the world, The Deccan Odyssey offers you the journey of a lifetime. Standing as a unique piece of artwork, this luxury train offers you the best of style, comfort and sophistication of the royal bygone. Traversing through the hills, plains and beaches, the train offers you a whirlwind tour to Maharashtra and captures the essence of the land in a most subtle manner. Starting its tour from one of the most eye-catching Gothic buildings, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, in Mumbai, the train traverses through the sun-drenched beaches of Goa, the mysterious caves of Ajanta and Ellora, the ancient city of Nashik, plus a host of other forts and palaces in the kingdom of Shivaji. The train has 21 coaches, including passenger cars, dining cars, a spa car and a bar car.

Facilities: Private cabins, multi-cuisine restaurants, sitting lounge, conference car.

Major destinations covered

Goa, Mumbai, Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Aurangabad, Ajanta-Nashik.

Tour duration: 7 nights/8 days.



From left: The Deccan Odyssey takes its guests into a journey to the royal days of the yore; Inside a Deluxe Saloon of Royal Rajasthan on Wheels

SOURCE : TODAY'S TRAVELLER

Government advises Indians to avoid non-essential travel to West Africa

Ministry for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has stated that Indians must defer non-essential travel to Ebola virus-affected West African nations. Ebola has killed 887 people in four West African countries, namely Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria. However, there seems to be no vaccine to cure the epidemic.

The Minister informed in the Parliament last week that precautionary measures are in place in the country to deal with any case of the virus imported to India from the countries hit by the epidemic.

As of now, the risk of transmission to countries outside of the African region is low. WHO has pledged USD 200 million to contain the deadly Ebola virus. It has reported 1,603 cases of the virus in the four West African counties.



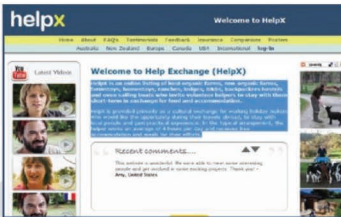
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Government of India

Useful Travel Websites



Flyertalk.com

The deepest treasure trove of travel information on the Internet. Hundreds of thousands of Flyertalk users have asked and answered almost every travel related question imaginable in the site's 15 year history. Interactive and informative.



welcomebeyond.com

For a property to make it on to this site it needs to be architecturally interesting and something of an interior design delight. Choose, say, between a cave in Sicily or a rooftop apartment in Buenos Aires. You can search by location or interest, whether that be culture, nature or simply staring at the (beautifully decorated) walls.



helpx.net

Register as a HelpXer for free — premier membership is \$20 — and you can view the postings of hundreds of primarily organic farms, B&Bs and homestays around the world who will offer accommodation and food, in exchange for your help for about four hours a day. It's so simple to navigate, you'll find yourself herding sheep in New Zealand within 24 hours.

U.S. Consulate General Inaugurates American Business Corner in Indore

U.S. Principal Commercial Officer recently inaugurated the American Business Corner (ABC) in partnership with the Indore Management Association in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The American Business Corner in Indore will foster new trade and investment links between the United States and India, helping create jobs in both of our countries.

The Indore ABC is the second such initiative in Western India, the first being in Surat, Gujarat. ABCs allow the Foreign Commercial Service to organize programs, visits, events and disseminate information on U.S. Government programs to connecting Indian buyers to U.S. suppliers, and Indian investors to opportunities in the United States.



HOSPITALITY NEWS

RCI adds 70 properties to its affiliate network in 2014

RCI, part of the Wyndham Worldwide Group, has added 70 properties to its affiliate network during the first and second quarters of 2014. The newly affiliated properties include resorts in Asia, Europe, India, Latin America and North America. One of the latest additions is Astoria Boracay in the Philippines. An island retreat located

on a beach on Boracay Island, Astoria Boracay is minutes' away from the island's shopping centre, restaurants and bars. Another new affiliate, Island Residence Club at Golden Sands Resort in Malta joined RCI in the first quarter.

It comprises a collection of more than 180 residences in the prime setting of the Radisson Blu Resort & Spa, Malta Golden Sands. The residence club features nine on-site bars and restaurants, a state-of-the-art spa and leisure centre, a private beach, 90-mtr lagoon swimming pools and close proximity to transport links.



LIGHTER MOMENTS

Notice Board on a public transportation vehicle :-

"When you exit the bus, please be sure to lower your head and watch your step."

"If you miss your step and hit your head, please lower your voice and watch your language.

Thank you."

THOUGHT FOR THE FORTNIGHT

If you wish to know how **rich** you are,
count all that you have which

money cannot **buy.**

— Gaur Gopal Prabhu

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We welcome your suggestions to improve this newsletter.

The same may be forwarded to iaai.pune@iaai.in

THANK YOU!