



IAAI Newsletter

November 2014, IInd Fortnight Issue

More info on E-visa for 43 countries, big boost for tourism

In a major decision, which is termed as “historic” by the travel and tourism industry, the Indian Government officially unveiled Visa on Arrival (VoA) enabled by Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) for citizens of 43 countries. Travellers who intend to travel to India can now avail ETA through nine airports in

EASY TRAVEL FOR FOREIGNERS

1 To facilitate nationals of 43 countries to travel to India for tourism, short-term medical treatment or casual visit and have a short stay of 30 days

2 Eligible foreign nationals may apply for Indian visa online without going to Indian mission and to pay visa fee online

3 Once application approved, applicant will receive email authorizing him to travel to India

4 A printout of this email is all foreign visitor needs to show to the immigration authorities in India, who will then stamp the entry into the country

5 Applicants may apply online minimum 4 days in advance of the date of arrival with a window of 30 days

6 Facility cannot be availed of more than twice in a year



7 Nine airports to have the facility; biometric details of the applicant will be mandatorily captured on arrival

8 TVoA enabled with ETA latest in a series of measures introduced by Modi regime to ease visa regime and encourage foreigners to visit India. Other initiatives include doing away with two months' gap between two consecutive visits, visa fee payment through debit/credit card, doing away with filling of embarkation card by outgoing foreigners and disembarkation card by incoming Indians

the country by a simplified digitised procedure sitting in their homes. The application received real time will be processed at 40 counters set up by the Immigration Department and ETA will be issued for eligible applicants within 72 hours of the submitting the application. The 43 countries which are eligible for ETA are Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Djibouti, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Laos, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Norway, Oman, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, USA, Vanuatu, Vietnam. The ETA website—<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>— was launched on November 27.

The electronic travel authorization (ETA) will be valid for 30 days and the visa fee has been fixed at \$62. Those travelling on leisure, short duration medical treatment, casual business visit or to meet friends and relatives will be eligible to apply. The facility will be made available at nine airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, Goa, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Thiruvananthapuram.

Source : The Times of India

Aviation News

IndiGo to adds New flights to its network



Low-cost airline IndiGo will add Kozhikode as its 32nd domestic and 37th overall destination to its route network from January. The airline's 2015 schedule will see introduction of six daily non-stop services between—Kozhikode and Dubai, Kozhikode and Mumbai, Kozhikode and Delhi (via Mumbai) and 15th service between Delhi and Mumbai. Also, from December 15, 2014, IndiGo will launch daily non-stop flight between Bengaluru and Dubai. This will be the very first international flight by the carrier out of Bengaluru.

The airline also started operating non-stop daily flights on Delhi-Coimbatore, Chennai-Coimbatore and Kolkata-Chennai routes from 17th November 2014. The flight from Delhi is the second daily service, while IndiGo started the third daily flight to Coimbatore to Chennai. The service launched between Chennai-Kolkata is the fifth daily flight. With these new flights, IndiGo will now operate 548 daily flights, connecting 36 destinations with its 84 brand new Airbus A320 aircraft.

Flight No.	Origin	Destination	Departure	Arrival	Frequency	Fare*(Rs)	Effective
6E 95	Bengaluru	Dubai	07:20 am	9:50 am	Daily	8,999	15-Dec-14
6E 96	Dubai	Bengaluru	10:50 am	4:20 pm	Daily	8,999	15-Dec-14
6E 88	Kozhikode	Dubai	02:00 am	4:20 am	Daily	7,052	02-Jan-15
6E 89	Dubai	Kozhikode	05:25 am	10:50 am	Daily	7,704	02-Jan-15
6E 129	Delhi	Mumbai	6:15 pm	8:25 pm	Daily	3,340	01-Jan-15
6E 124	Mumbai	Delhi	2:10 pm	4:20 pm	Daily	3,564	02-Jan-15
6E 129	Mumbai	Kozhikode	9:00 pm	10:35 pm	Daily	3,192	01-Jan-15
6E 124	Kozhikode	Mumbai	11:40 am	1:25 pm	Daily	2,857	02-Jan-15

Flt no.	Origin	Destination	Departure	Arrival	Fares*	Frequency
6E 397	Delhi	Coimbatore	06:40 AM	9:25 AM	4,742	Daily
6E 396	Coimbatore	Delhi	06:50 PM	10:00 PM	4,631	Daily
6E 272	Coimbatore	Chennai	10:00 AM	10:55 AM	2,070	Daily
6E 275	Chennai	Coimbatore	5:15 PM	6:20 PM	2,118	Daily
6E 275	Kolkata	Chennai	02:15 PM	4:45 PM	4,456	Daily
6E 272	Chennai	Kolkata	11:40 AM	1:45 PM	4,166	Daily

Aviation News

AirAsia to launch flights from Pune to Bengaluru & Jaipur on Dec 17



AirAsia India is set to add Pune to its route network on December 17, 2014. The airline will operate direct, daily flights on Bengaluru-Pune and Pune-Jaipur sectors. AirAsia will become the first airline to operate flights from Pune to Jaipur.

Further, AirAsia India has also increased the frequency of flights from 7 to 14 times a week on the Bengaluru-Jaipur route. The additional frequency I51720 will depart from Bengaluru at 6:00 am and reach Jaipur at 8:30 am. Flight No I5 1721 will depart Jaipur at 8:55 am and reach Bengaluru at 11:30 am.

AirAsia India Flight Schedule (effective December 17, 2014)

Flight Number	Sector	Departure	Arrival	Days of Operations
I5 1424	BLR-PNQ	1315	1445	Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun
I5 1424	BLR-PNQ	1220	1355	Tue
I5 1424	BLR-PNQ	1530	1700	Sat
I5 1425	PNQ-BLR	1940	2110	All Days ex Sat
I5 1425	PNQ-BLR	2155	2325	Sat

Flight Number	Sector	Departure	Arrival	Days of Operations
I5 3424	PNQ-JAI	1515	1700	All Days ex Sat
I5 3424	PNQ-JAI	1730	1915	Sat
I5 3425	JAI-PNQ	1725	1910	All Days ex Sat
I5 3425	JAI-PNQ	1940	2125	Sat

Flight no.	Sector	Departure	Arrival	Frequency
I5 1720	BLR JAI	06:00	08:30	Daily
I5 1721	JAI BLR	08:55	11:30	Daily

Aviation News

Jet Airways introduces New daily direct services



Jet Airways (India) Ltd. recently launched a daily direct services. The first direct service started between Lucknow and Abu Dhabi. Flight 9W 512 took off from Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport at 1905 hrs and arrived at Abu Dhabi International Airport at 2220 hrs (local time). The return flight 9W 511 departed from Abu Dhabi at 1035 hrs (local time) to reach Lucknow at 1550 hrs. Jet Airways has deployed the Boeing 737-800 Next Generation (NG) aircraft on this route, where Premiere and Economy guests can avail of the airline's in-flight service and In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) programme. Jet Airways currently operates a daily flight each from Delhi, Kochi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and 11 flights a week from Mumbai to Abu Dhabi.

The second direct service started between Goa & Abu Dhabi. The guests travelling from Goa will now be able to seamlessly connect to Abu Dhabi and to multiple international destinations in Europe, North America, Africa, Middle-East and the Gulf. With this new daily direct flight, Jet Airways will be India's first private airline to operate over 50 daily flights to multiple destinations in the Gulf. These include daily departures to Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Dubai, Doha, Kuwait, Sharjah, Muscat, Jeddah, Dammam and Riyadh, making the airline the largest operator between India and the Gulf.

Jet Airways to commence operations as single full-service carrier from 1st Dec



Jet Airways (India) Ltd. will roll out its single full-service product from Monday, 1st December 2014 and stop its no-frills JetKonnnect offering. The move is aimed at boosting occupancy and increasing yields. The airline is also planning a 'Guest First' programme to enhance passenger experience on ground as well as on board and is training its ground staff and cabin crew on the new service procedures. Changes are also being made to in-flight menu and cabins are being spruced. Jet hopes a single uniform service will help attract corporate travellers and arrest slide in market share and load factor. All Jet flights (excluding ATR flights) will now have Business Class seats.

Source: Business Standard

Aviation News

Qatar Airways to start double-daily service to Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport in March 2015



Qatar Airways will increase flight frequency to Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport from March 29, 2015, as it increases its frequency to a double-daily service. The new daily flight, operated by a two-class, Airbus A320 aircraft that features 12 seats in Business Class and up to 132 seats in Economy, will depart from Doha at 0945 hrs, arriving in Sabiha Gökçen Airport at 1400 hrs, and return from Sabiha Gökçen Airport at 1500 hrs, arriving back in Doha at 1855 hrs. Qatar Airways currently operates to three destinations in Turkey—Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport (daily flights), Istanbul Ataturk Airport (ten flights-a-week), and Ankara (four weekly-flights).

Etihad Airways, Alitalia strengthen code-sharing to enhance connections between UAE and Italy



Etihad Airways and Alitalia recently signed a major code-share expansion to offer enhanced connections between Abu Dhabi and three of Italy's biggest cities next year, with combined double-daily flights to Milan and Rome, and a new daily service to Venice. Subject to government approval, the code-share will result in Etihad Airways placing its 'EY' code on Alitalia's new daily service between Venice and Abu Dhabi. The flights will be launched on March 29, 2015 with an Airbus A330-200 aircraft that features 20 Business Class seats, 17 Economy Plus Class seats, and 213 Economy Class seats.

In addition, the 'EY' code will be placed on Alitalia's daily service between Abu Dhabi and Milan, also to be launched on March 29, but operated using a Boeing 777 aircraft with 30 seats in Business Class, 24 seats in Economy Plus Class, and 239 seats in Economy Class. Both airlines already code-share on each other's daily services between Abu Dhabi and Rome, and subject to government approval, Etihad Airways will code-share on 15 of Alitalia's domestic routes from Rome Fiumicino Airport next year. The code-share agreement was expanded a week after Etihad Airways and Alitalia received merger clearance from the European Commission for a proposed strategic partnership, under which Etihad Airways will acquire a 49 per cent stake in the Italian national carrier.

Hospitality News

The Gateway Hotels opens first resort property at Damdama in Gurgaon, Delhi NCR



THE GATEWAY
HOTELS & RESORTS

The Gateway Hotels, an upscale full-service brand of Indian Hotels Company Ltd., has opened their first resort hotel – The Gateway Resort Damdama Lake Gurgaon - in the Delhi NCR. An urban sanctuary in true sense, it is spread in 20 acres natural green environment with dedicated zones for accommodation, leisure, adventure, wellness, etc. While 11 acres of the resort comprises resort building and allied facilities, the remaining nine acres is allotted for leisure and adventure activities. Owned and developed by Samak Dhoot Resorts & Spa Ltd., a Dhoot Group company, the resort has 78 rooms in three categories including two suites. The guest rooms are quite spacious with a standard room measuring above 400 sqft. Set amidst a lush green area with over 1,500 trees of more than 700 plant varieties, the Gateway Resort is designed as a weekend retreat in the outskirts of bustling corporate hub, Gurgaon, on the lap of Aravali Hills close to Damdama Lake.

Sarovar Portico Jalandhar now open



SAROVAR
HOTELS & RESORTS

Sarovar Hotels & Resorts has opened Sarovar Portico in Jalandhar, Punjab. This is the sixth property of the Group in Punjab including Chandigarh. Located near BSF Chowk, G.T Road, Sarovar Portico, a unit of Armani Buildcon, is aimed at both business and leisure travellers offering 42 rooms and suites. All the rooms offer free high-speed Internet, tea/coffee maker, private mini bar, safe deposit locker, executive writing desk, LCD televisions, etc. The hotel also offers conference and banqueting facilities.

Starwood Hotels to launch Aloft brand in Nepal in 2017



starwood
*
Hotels and
Resorts

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, Inc will introduce its Aloft brand in Kathmandu, Nepal. This will be Starwood's second hotel in the country with a Sheraton Hotel already under construction. Owned by Chhaya Devi Complex Private Limited, Aloft Kathmandu Thamel is scheduled to open in mid-2017 as part of a mixed-use development. The property will feature 175 rooms, technology, and a social atmosphere.

Hospitality News

Uttarakhand to increase Luxury Tax slab for hotels to Rs 2,500



Uttarakhand Government has decided to increase the slab for Luxury Tax (LT) for hotels from the current Rs 1,000 to Rs 2,500. With this, hotels charging less than Rs 2,500 as room rent will be exempt from paying Luxury Tax. Considering the inability of small hoteliers, guest house and homestay owners in remote destinations in the hill state in marketing their products, the Govt. has directed the regional development councils, Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) and Garhwal Mandal Vikas Mandal (GMVN), to support them in marketing their products.

Uttarakhand Govt. had also asked the Transport Department to take steps to extend their Volvo coach service to interior destinations as part of improving connectivity. Currently the Volvo coaches terminate at Kathgodam. The Govt. has asked the Transport Department to extend the services of Volvo buses to Kosani, Almora, Ranikhet and Nainital from the next season.

Visa News

Russia opens first Visa Application Centre in India



Russia, in order to make visa application process faster and more efficient, has opened a Visa Application Centre in New Delhi. Until now the visa applications had to be made at the Russian Consulate/ Embassies in India. India is the first country in Asia to house a Russian Visa Application Centre. Two more such Centres opened, in Mumbai (November 20) & Kolkata (November 24) and one more will open in Chennai (December 1). The visa application facility will ease the process for travel agents, tour operators, and travellers in general. One of the prime objectives of the Russian Visa Application Centre is to improve the quality of service provided to Indian citizens seeking visa to the Russian Federation, to accelerate and simplify visa processing. The Centre will perform the technical functions associated with the processing of documents required to obtain the Russian visa; however, the final decision on visa issuance or denial will rest with the Russian Consulate. Besides visa documentation and processing, the Centre will provide information on the various attractions and offerings in Russia, and other such tourism-relevant details.

Industry News

Tripda(Car sharing) enters Pune, Mumbai markets



After successful launch in Brazil, German start Tripda, a ride-sharing marketplace is now launched in Pune and Mumbai. The service connects people who need rides with drivers who have empty car seats on long trips.

The service was first launched in Brazil in May 2014. Currently, it has a more than 50,000 users in Brazil and 20,000 rides are being carried out. Tripda is also expanding its base in other markets like Latin America, and United States, Asian countries like India, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Phillipines. In India, Tripda is started in Delhi in November this year and now coming to Pune and Mumbai. The company is targeting youth of age group between 20 to 35 years and community people for long distance travellers. It is looking for club memberships as well.

How it works?

Passengers can create accounts only by binding their Facebook ID to Tripda's website and then enter their pickup location, destination, and date of departure. Drivers need to register their vehicle by providing the car's brand, model, number of seats available and level of comfort before entering the upcoming car trips. Tripda sets a suggested price for drivers to charge each passenger. Passengers and drivers can also set personal travel preferences, exchange messages and mutually filter travel partners taking similar journeys. It also verifies drivers and passengers to ensure security and safeguard user privacy, including offering a "ladies only" option for women seeking all-female rides.

GTDC starts 'Hop On Hop Off' tour to Old Goa



In an initiative to integrate history and heritage with the ongoing St. Francis Xavier Exposition, the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) has launched the 'Hop On Hop Off' tour for visiting Old Goa. The Hop On Hop Off circuit tours is also another facility introduced by the GTDC for tourists and pilgrims to learn more about Goa's rich heritage housed at Old Goa. The St. Francis Xavier Exposition began on November 22 and will run till January 4, 2015. The route chalked out for the tour covers an area of seven kilometers in and around

Old Goa complex where heritage monuments and churches of historical importance are located. Some of these include Monte Chapel, St. Augustine tower, Church of the Miraculous Cross, St. Cajetan's Church. The Hop On Hop Off vehicles depart from the ticket booking counter at the SFX Secretariat every half hour. A fare of Rs 50 is charged per person for this service. According to the GTDC, passengers can spend time at each of the monuments during the ring route tour and Hop On and Off at any location of their choice. Further, GTDC has also announced special boat trips daily from St. Monica Jetty during the Exposition. The boat trips are scheduled twice during the day departing at 9.30 am and 1.30 pm. From Old Goa Jetty, the boats will set sail for St Monica Jetty at 11 am and 3.30 pm. A fare of Rs 50 is charged for this service.

Industry News

IATA announces passenger protection agreement in case of airline bankruptcy



The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has announced an arrangement to help passengers impacted by airline bankruptcy. A voluntary agreement on behalf of its members flying to, from and within Europe will cover the repatriation of passengers unable to return home due to an airline suddenly stopping operations as a result of financial failure. The agreement formalises a long-standing custom that many airlines have traditionally offered in these rare instances. Under the agreement, in the event of an airline bankruptcy, IATA member airlines flying to and from the European Union will make their best efforts to offer repatriation to stranded passengers. These passengers will be provided access to discounted transport to return home, subject to available capacity. The 'rescue fares' of a nominal amount will be available for purchase up to a maximum of two weeks after the event to anyone flying to and from or within Europe who does not already possess insurance covering this eventuality. States responsible for the licensing of the insolvent airline should also play their role in communicating to stranded passengers the possibility of this rescue service. The airline industry has opposed such a fund as financially prudent airlines would be subsidising riskier airlines.

Only one passenger ID Card now acceptable for Groups at Airports



A complaint from a family of four that was denied entry to an Indian airport because only the father had an identity document has led to a change in procedure. Now only one person in a group will need to have an ID. This will add to passenger convenience and help reduce congestion. The decision was reached after consultations with Intelligence and security agencies. Central Industrial Security Force will be putting a personality profiling system in place to detect suspicious passengers at the entry. India is among the few countries that regulate passenger entry to airport buildings unlike elsewhere. There have been attacks in the recent past in Mexico and Los Angeles where terrorists managed to enter airport buildings with weapons and explosives.

Industry News

Now your simple phone to do Smart Banking without internet



Banking will soon have a new look with almost all dealings between a customer and his bank being possible with a basic handset and without accessing the Internet. The telecom regulator has decided to allow telecom companies - to enable bank-authorized mobile payment companies to offer such service.

Telecom companies are expected to fall in line by permitting local & international payment Companies to tap their Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) channel . The USSD channel is a simple interactive text messaging system that can be used by a mobile phone subscriber to reach out to his bank for anything — transfer funds, check balance amount, pay bills, cancel a cheque, request for a cheque book, obtain an account statement, and even buy books and music using debt or credit cards. Customers — without 2G or 3G connectivity or a smartphone — have to simply key in something like *67# — or any other number his Telecom Company provides— to 'talk' to his bank.

Source : The Times of India

Luxury lounge opens at Mumbai Airport's Terminal 2



Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport's (CSIA) Terminal T2 opened its luxury lounge to first/business class travellers on November 25th, 2014. It is the first common luxury lounge in the country. Other airports usually have different first/business class lounges for different airlines.

Spread across 30,000 sq ft at two levels, GVK Lounge can accommodate 440 guests. It has some of the most innovative facilities, such as concierge services, smoking zone, F&B, bar, luxury spa, shower area, relaxation area, library and business centre.

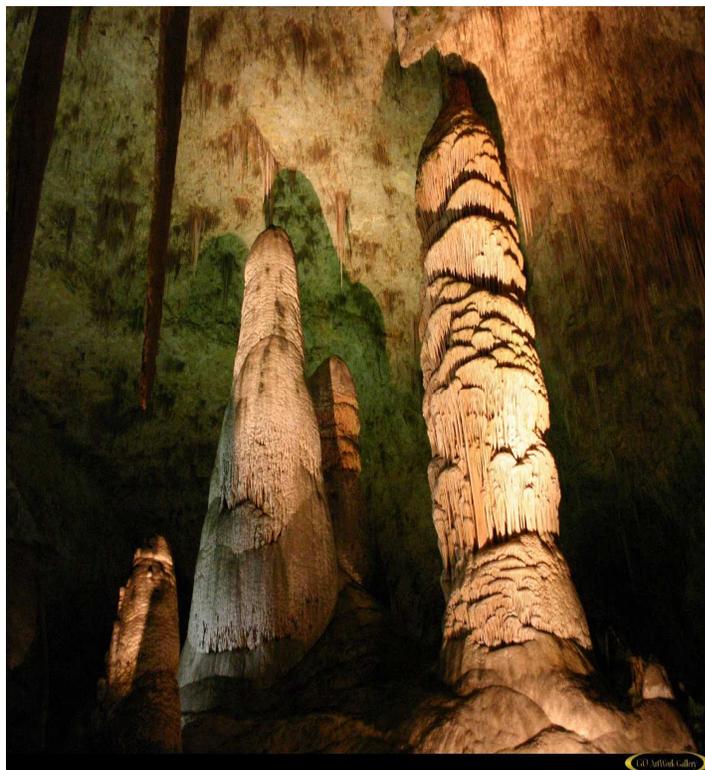
It is separated into three categories – first class, premium class and business class. first class passengers have access to facilities such as à la carte dining, individual spas, relaxation rooms, and concierge services. Premium Class (PC) section has fast access to an exclusive lounge environment. Passengers will also have preferential access to a number of additional services like foot massages, relaxation area and smoker's lounge. Business Class (BC) travellers have a generous seating area offering more privacy than one gets in BC lounges internationally. It also has facilities for foot massage, smoker's lounge and barista service.

Interesting Photographs

Hang Son Doong Caves, Vietnam

Discovered in 2009, it is one of the biggest cave galleries in the world. The pictured gallery is a mile long, 200 yards high, and not quite that wide.

There's a jungle inside Vietnam's mammoth cavern. A skyscraper could fit too. And the end is out of sight.



Open Space

Lighter Moments

Jay, Tom and Paul were at a convention together sharing a large suite at the top of a 75-story hotel. After a long day of meetings, they were shocked to hear that the elevators in their hotel were broken, and they would have to climb 75 flights of stairs to get to their room.



Jay said to Tom and Paul, "Let's break the monotony of this unpleasant task by concentrating on something interesting. I'll tell jokes for 25 flights, Tom can sing songs for the next 25 flights and Paul will tell sad stories for the rest of the way."



At the 26th floor, Jay stopped telling jokes and Jim began to sing. At the 51st floor, Tom stopped singing and Paul began to tell sad stories.

"I will tell my saddest story first," he said.



"I left the room key in the car."

Thought for the Fortnight

TEAM is a group of people who may not be equal in Qualification, Experience or Talent, but are equal in the **COMMITMENT** to achieve **SUCCESS**.

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