



IAAI Newsletter

December 2014, IInd Fortnight Issue

Happy New Year 2015



Aviation News

Vistara to take-off on January 9, 2015



Vistara, the aviation joint venture between Tata Sons Ltd and Singapore Airlines is ready to take to the skies. The full service carrier has announced that its first flight would take-off on January 9, 2015. With Delhi as its hub, Vistara will initially offer flights to Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

Vistara's 148-seater A320-200 will offer three separate cabins, with 16 seats in Business, 36 in Premium Economy and 96 in Economy Class.

Seats for all three classes are on sales and there will not be a separate fuel surcharge. It is the first full-service carrier in India to introduce the 'Premium Economy' class.

It is the first airline in India to offer a value based frequent flyer programme called Club Vistara, wherein loyalty points are accrued based on actual spend on the ticket fare rather than miles travelled.

Bookings can be made through direct channels like the company website (www.airvistara.com) and the 24/7 Customer Service Centre (1860 108 9999) or the major Global Distribution Systems (GDS) used by Online Travel Agencies (OTAs) and other traditional travel agents. Vistara's GDS partners include Abacus, Amadeus and Travelport, which will enable customers to book via all major travel portals.

AirAsia India to start flights from Delhi from February 2015



AirAsia India plans to start services from Delhi from February next year. AirAsia might park two Airbus A320 planes in Delhi and was exploring flights between Delhi and Bengaluru, and Delhi and Goa.

AirAsia India launched service in June and has two Airbus A320 planes. It inducted its third aircraft earlier this month and another one is expected to join next week or early January. It plans to induct eight to ten planes next year.

AirAsia India started its domestic operations with a Bengaluru-Goa flight and flies to Chennai, Kochi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, and Pune. The airline had initially said it will not fly to Delhi and Mumbai because of high airport charges, but has now changed its plan.

Aviation News

Air India to commence code-sharing with most Star Alliance members by March 2015

Also to reintroduce free meals in Economy Class for short haul flights



Air India Ltd. aims to sign code-share agreements with most Star Alliance members by March 2015. Air India has witnessed an increase of 33 per cent in the number of passengers transferring between the airline and its co-members at Star Alliance, mainly through Delhi or

Mumbai, but also at other airports such as London or Newark.

Frequent Flyers are also taking advantage of the Alliance benefits, with over 80,000 having earned miles while flying on Air India since July and more than 20,000 Air India Flying Returns FFP members having miles credited for flights on other Star Alliance member carriers.

With its 99-strong fleet, a mix of B787 Dreamliners, B777s, A330s, and the A320 family, it is one of the youngest in the world. A key boost to the brand comes from the comfort that these aircraft offer.

(Source: Travelbizmonitor.com)

Air India Ltd. will once again start providing free meals for Economy Class passengers on flights of up to one hour, starting from next month. The airline had decided to withdraw serving meals to flyers on flights, which were up to one hour-long, in 2012 as a part of its cost-cutting exercise. This decision is now being reviewed for various reasons, including the fact that the airline has joined Star Alliance and so there has been a substantial increase in the number of international passengers flying on domestic sectors using the hub and spoke model, which requires passengers to wait for long hours in the transit area before taking their connecting flight.

With passenger traffic on its domestic routes increasing in the on-going holiday season, the airline has decided to augment capacity by inducting one Boeing 747, one Boeing 777 200 Long Range, and one Boeing 777-300 Extended Range aircraft. Generally the airline operates the Airbus 320 family of aircraft on domestic routes, which can carry between 122 and 172 passengers on a single flight. A Boeing 747 can carry 423 passengers, a B 777-200 LR can carry 238 passengers on every flight, while a Boeing 777-300 ER can carry 342 passengers. The airline also plans to use one more Boeing 787 aircraft that can carry 256 passengers on every flight.

(Source: The Hindu Business Line)

Aviation News

IndiGo begins its first international service from Bangalore with daily non-stop flight to Dubai

IndiGo

IndiGo has started its first international flight from Bengaluru to Dubai. The airline will operate daily non-stop flights between the two cities. Also, effective December 20, 2014, IndiGo will launch two daily non-stop flights between Mumbai and Bengaluru. With this, the airline will fly 11 daily non-stop flights between Bengaluru and Mumbai.

New Flight Schedule :-

Flight No.	Origin	Destination	Departure	Arrival	Frequency	Effective
6E-95	Bengaluru	Dubai	07:20	9:50	Daily	15-Dec-14
6E-96	Dubai	Bengaluru	10:50	16:20	Daily	15-Dec-14

Gujarat Government plans airport at Dholavira in Kutch



The Gujarat Government is planning to construct and develop an airport at Dholavira in Kutch district, one of the two largest Harappan sites in the country and also a “paradise” for bird-watchers, to connect it to the national circuit for promoting tourism.

The Government has already identified 11 airstrips, including Ambaji, Palitana, Ankleshwar, Dwarka, Mandvi (Kutch), Morbi, Rajkot, Parsoli, Rajpipla, Dholavira and Dahaj, for the purpose of setting up the airport. The Government also wants to promote tourism through intra-state aviation service that will cover routes like Ahmedabad-Surat-Bhavnagar, Bhuj-Rajkot-Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad-Porbandar-Jamnagar, Kandla-Mandvi-Amreli-Ahmedabad and Ahmedabad-Keshod-Diu.

Aviation News

Lufthansa to operate helicopter service to ski resorts from Munich Jan 1 onwards

**Lufthansa**

Lufthansa is set to launch helicopter service from Munich on January 1, 2015. Lufthansa's hub in southern Germany is the perfect departure point for quick connections to nearby ski resorts.

Whether it's Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Zillertal, Kitzbühel, SkiWelt Wilder Kaiser-Brixental or other resorts in the Alps – as long as there is a helipad on site, customers will be able to choose their own destination. The service can be booked now and will operate until the end of April next year. In Munich, Lufthansa customers can depart directly from their aircraft and will be looked after by Munich Airport's VIP service. The company HTM Helicopter Travel Munich GmbH will then take them to their desired holiday destination.

Indians flying on British Airways & its partner airlines can now transit through Heathrow Terminal 5

BRITISH AIRWAYS



With the new transit visa regime of UK in place, Indian nationals travelling with British Airways can now transit through the London Heathrow Terminal 5 without the need for a Direct Airside Transit Visa, as long as they have a valid USA, Canada, Australia or New Zealand visa; irrespective of their final destination. The new visa regime will now enable Indian customers to seamlessly transit UK en route to nearly 146 destinations in 32 countries across Europe and South America on British Airways and partner airlines. While flying with British Airways, travellers can take advantage of Terminal 5 that offers quick and seamless connections.

The Terminal also has British Airways' largest lounge which provides a wide range of services including an Elemis Travel Spa for customers. British Airways currently operates 49 flights a week from five key cities in India- Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Customers can book their journey on ba.com, earn frequent flyer points on the code-share routes, gain access to shared airport lounges and enjoy customer service and support from American Airlines as well.

Hospitality News

JW Marriott Hotels to open four hotels in Greater China and India by Summer 2015



Marriott International's luxury hotel brand, JW Marriott Hotels & Resorts, plans to open three properties in Greater China and one hotel in India by summer 2015 bringing the brand's Asia-Pacific portfolio to 28 hotels and resorts with 11 in China and seven in India. By 2020, the global brand portfolio is expected to encompass 105 properties worldwide, 45 of which will be located in the Asia-Pacific region. The four latest additions will include JW Marriott Hotel

Chongqing, China; JW Marriott Hotel Shenzhen Bao'an, China; JW Marriott Hotel Macau, China; JW Marriott Hotel Mumbai Sahar, India.

Kochi Marriott Hotel launches in Kerala



Marriott International has opened the Kochi Marriott Hotel, its fifth hotel under the company's flagship Marriott Hotels brand in India. This will be the second Marriott International property in the Kochi city and is located amidst the Lulu Mall campus, one of the largest malls in the country. Strategically located at just 22 kilometres from the Kochi International Airport and nine kilometres from the main City Centre, the hotel design embraces a wonderful blend of contemporary style, warmth and sophistication, all inspired from the natural landscapes of the city.

Manali hotels hit by cancelled bookings

Popular hill station Manali has witnessed one of the lowest arrival of tourists this winter. The lean spell is likely to continue well past the usually busy new year season. Even though Manali was covered in snow for Christmas, the hill station had very few tourists this time.

An early heavy snowfall on December 13 paralyzed this popular resort town with roads connecting it blocked for several days. But the hotels were hit by the electricity crisis in the Kullu Valley. It took almost a week to restore power in the Manali & adjoining towns. The sudden snowfall also took thousands of tourists by surprise on way to the 13,050 feet high Rohtang Pass. Authorities struggled all night to rescue them. So a warning was given, urging tourists to keep away from snow bound Manali, as it was taking very long to restore power & road links in the entire valley. According to one estimate, over half the hotel bookings in Manali were cancelled. There are over 600 hotels in Manali & nearby places.

Hospitality News

Pilgrims to Chotta Kailash to get homestay facility from June 2015



Pilgrims and adventurers going to Mount Jolingkong and Parvati Lake, which is known as Chotta Kailash pilgrimage, situated near Kuti village in Byans Valley of Uttarakhand, will be given homestay facility from next year. The pilgrims will be lodged in houses of the villagers instead of the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) tents which used to take place till date .

KMVN have to take the decision to accommodate nearly 300 pilgrims who choose to go Chotta Kailash in place of Kailash Mansarowar pilgrimage every year, due to damaging of tent accommodation after heavy snowfall this year. KMVN have taken the decision to accommodate the pilgrims in houses of the villagers to get them direct benefit of tourist activity.

New gate opened at Uttarakhand's Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary to facilitate trekking



A new entry gate has been opened from Dhaulchina side of the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary in Almora, Uttarakhand for tourists who are interested in trekking. Forest officials said vehicles will not be allowed to enter through this gate and tourists will get to visit a number of guest houses located in the nearby villages.

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the last remaining patches of natural oak forests in the middle Himalayas of Uttarakhand, as most of the area has been turned into agriculture land. Tourists come to see beautiful oak forests in Binsar. The opening of the second gate will regulate inflow of tourists and boost trekking as well as community-based tourism on the other end of the Sanctuary.

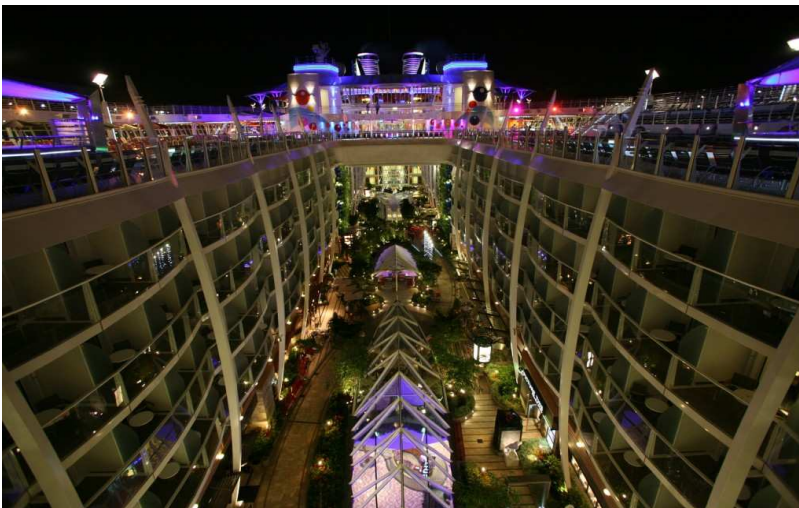
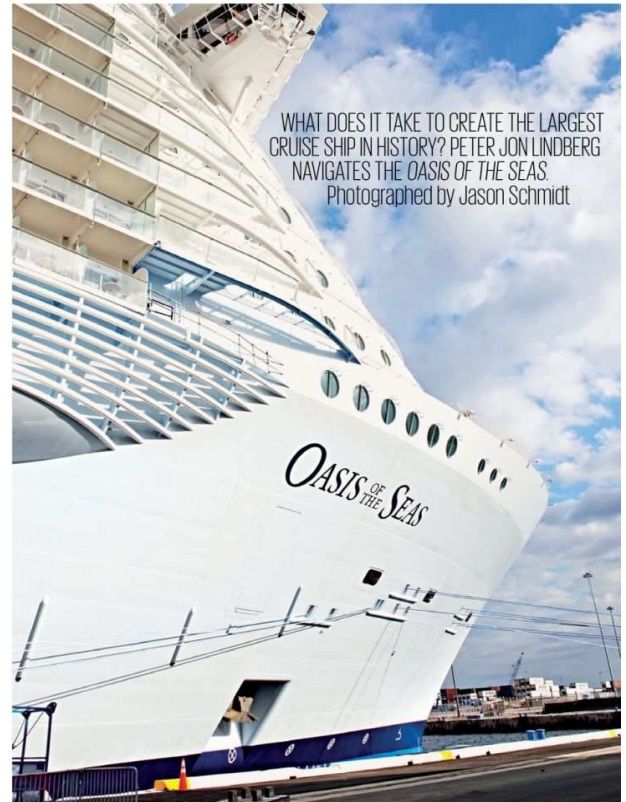
Earlier, most people would visit the Sanctuary through the sole gate at Ayarpani on their vehicles and would miss out on trekking and home stays. Also, people coming from Pithoragarh and nearby districts would find it easier to reach Binsar through the second gate.

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, the area has huge potential for tourism as around 20,000 tourists visit and stay in the accommodations available around Binsar in a month. This number can multiply with better harnessing of available resources in the park.

(Source: The Times of India)

Interesting Photographs

Oasis of the Seas—Largest Cruise ship on the earth



MS *Oasis of the Seas* is an *Oasis*-class cruise ship, delivered to its owner, Royal Caribbean International, in October 2009 & it is the largest cruise ship on the earth till date. The vessel cruises the Caribbean from Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It set a new record of carrying over 6,000 passengers. It has 2165 crew members representing 65 countries & speaking 20 languages. The ship surpassed the *Freedom*-class cruise ships to become the largest cruise ship in the world at that time. *Oasis of the Seas* offers passengers features such as two-story loft suites and luxury suites measuring 150 m² (1,600 sq ft) with balconies overlooking the sea or promenades. The ship features a zip-line, a casino, a miniature golf course, multiple night clubs, several bars and lounges, a karaoke club, comedy club, five swimming pools, volleyball and basketball courts, theme parks and nurseries for children.^[35] Many of the ship's interiors were extensively decorated by muralist Clarissa Parish.

Open Space



Lighter Moments



3 drunk guys entered a taxi. The taxi driver knew that they were drunk, so he started the engine & immediately turned it off.

He told them, “We have reached”.

The first guy gave him money & second guys said, “Thank you”. The third guy gave driver a slap.

The driver was shocked, thinking the third drunk knew what he did. But he asked, “what that for?”.

The third guy replied, “CONTROL YOUR SPEED NEXT TIME, you nearly killed us !”



Thought for the Fortnight

Thousands of candles can be lighted from a single candle, but the life of the candle will not be shortened. Happiness never decreases by being shared.

— Gautam Buddha

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