

31st IATO ANNUAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD AT THE GRAND BHAGWATI PALACE, INDORE

Theme for this year's Convention is 'Tourism – We will change the Indian Economy'

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) will host its 31st Annual Convention from 20-23 August 2015 at The Grand Bhagwati Palace, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The theme of the convention is 'Tourism – We will change the Indian Economy'.

Pronab Sarkar, Hony Secretary, IATO have been appointed as Convention Chairman whereas Ravi Gosain, Joint Secretary, IATO, and Sanjeev Joshi, Executive Committee Member, IATO, have been appointed as Co-Chairmen. Chief Minister and Tourism Minister of Madhya

Pradesh have agreed to bless the convention with their presence. Also the Chief Minister has assured that he will personally invite the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi for the inaugural function on 20th August 2015 as Chief Guest. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Union Minister of State (IC) for Tourism and Culture and Minister of State for Civil Aviation has also assured his full support. There will be lot of activities like Travel Mart, Post Tours, Spouse Tours, IATO Run for Responsible Tourism, Silent Auction, Cultural Evenings etc. Special hotel rates are being

negotiated and are in the process of finalization. Members are requested to block these dates in calendar and also book air/train ticket for Indore as the airfare at this stage is very low.

IATO Annual Convention is one of the most important events on the Indian travel calendar. It attracts delegates not only from directly involved in handling tourists, but also brings in a strong participation from the various State Governments, as well as numerous senior dignitaries from the political and administrative arms of central and state governments.

IATO WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT OF E-TOURIST VISA FOR CHINESE NATIONALS

Subhash Goyal, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) expressed his happiness on the announcement of e-Tourist Visa facility for Chinese Nationals as announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to China. This announcement will give a major boost in the tourist arrivals from China which is a growing market for India.

Goyal said, "We had been pleading for extending e-Tourist Visa facility for nationals from China, UK, Italy, Poland etc. as these countries provide tourists round the year and these countries were not included in the earlier announcements. It is really a positive step and exemplifies the working style of PM to move the things forward especially for tourism purpose. We are confident that in the next phase all other countries like UK, Italy, Poland etc. will also be added, which I am sure will increase the growth of tourism to double digit in next two years."

Goyal mentioned that they have requested the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Tourism of allowing multi entry under e-Tourist Visa so that members who want to visit neighboring countries along with India can also apply for e-Tourist Visa.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members,

Greetings & Best wishes!

I would like to start with expressing my sincere thanks to all our members for the excellent support extended for successful completion of first ever Global Exhibition on Tourism (GET-India 2015) organized under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce (MoC), Government of India, Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Government of India and Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) from 23-25 April, 2015 at Pragati Maidan.

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi inaugurated the exhibition. We feel honored to have PM (though very brief) visiting Tourism Pavilion. More than 170 international buyers were present who were invited by MoT and MoC to take part in the fair and these guests were handled by IATO team involved in this exhibition. About 175 exhibitors were present.

The feedback from both buyers and sellers had been very positive. We have been able to invite new tour operators and hope this will enable our members present to work out new packages for the ensuing season.

The Foreign Trade Policy 2015-20 was released by the Minister of State (IC) Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman on April 1, 2015 in New Delhi. The new 5 Years policy provides some incentives to tourism sector and these have been circulated to members.

Brain storming sessions to discuss on the National Tourism Policy took place and representatives from various organizations like IATO, FICCI, FAITH, ITTA, IHHA and AIRDA were present among others at the meeting. IATO's inputs were well-acknowledged. Minister of state for Tourism (IC) Culture and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma announced at the concluding session that much awaited Tourism Policy 2015 is expected to be launched soon if all goes as per schedule.

IATO had very useful meeting with our Chapter Chairman in J&K state in Srinagar. Several issues were discussed which were considered as major bottleneck areas and all these were discussed with Director of Tourism and Managing Director (J&K Tourism). A self-contained note was given to Tourism Department to look into the areas and how with all these can be settled.

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir had invited all stakeholders to come to Jammu and discuss ways and means to put J&K tourism to its old glory. Along with CM position, he had kept tourism portfolio with him to ensure smooth tourism development activities in the state. He also recently came to Delhi and led the J&K Tourism roadshow at Taj Mahal Hotel New Delhi. Members found the roadshow an excellent platform to hear the Chief Minister, to understand each other's views and cultivate new ideas for further growth of tourism business.

Moving ahead with our activities, our roadshow in UK and Baltic Region (Europe) stand finalized as also our training programme for 2015-16. We must keep this momentum continued and ensure we as a team achieve our goal.

I wish you all a good business.

Subhash Goyal



Government gives a major push to e-Tourist Visa scheme

Government of India has launched e-Tourist Visa (old Name: Tourist Visa on Arrival enabled by Electronic Travel Authorization) on November 27, 2014 to 45 countries from nine designated Indian Airports. This facility has been extended to 31 more countries from May 01, 2015. With the expansion of the scheme by June, the list will go up to 76 countries and 16 airports. Arun Jaitley, Finance Minister in the budget 2015-16 had proposed extension of eTV to 150 countries.

The new countries included in e-Tourist Visa scheme are Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Cayman Island, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Grenada, Haiti, Holy See (Vatican), Honduras, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Paraguay, St. Kitts & Nevis and Seychelles.

In this list, UK, Italy, Spain, Poland are missing and IATO has taken up with Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Home Affairs to include these countries first in the next list as these are the major international tourist generating countries round the year. IATO has also pleaded that e-Tourist Visa should be made available with multiple entry facility with 60 days duration.

ELIGIBILITY

1. International travellers whose sole objective of visiting India is recreation, sightseeing, casual visit to meet friends or relatives, short duration medical treatment or casual business visit.
2. Passport should have at least six months validity from the date of arrival in India. The passport should have at least two blank pages for stamping by the Immigration Officer.
3. International travellers should have return ticket or onward journey ticket, with sufficient money to spend during his/her stay in India.
4. International travellers having Pakistani Passport or Pakistani origin may please apply for regular Visa at Indian Mission.
5. Not available to Diplomatic/Official Passport Holders.
6. Not available to individuals endorsed on Parent's/Spouse's Passport i.e. each individual should have a separate passport.
7. Not available to International Travel Document Holders.

APPLICATION PROCESS (4 steps)

- Apply online – upload photo and passport page
- Pay Visa fee online – using Credit / Debit Card
- Receive eTV online – eTV will be sent to registered email
- Fly to India – Print eTV and carry at the time of travel



IATO urges members to support Nepal earthquake victims

Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has been working towards their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) since a long time. The havoc that took place in Nepal has killed thousands of people there and lakhs of people have become homeless. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in less than 15 minutes swung into action to help the people of Nepal, who were devastated by earthquake of such a high magnitude in last 80 years. The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force personnel were the first to reach the affected areas and within two hours, they were there with the relief material and started evacuating the people.

Our entire nation is helping the victims in this need of hours by sending the relief material, food



packets, blankets, clothes etc. besides contributing financially. In this regard, IATO discussed this matter with Dr. Lalit K. Panwar, Secretary Tourism, who has advised that our

industry could send the contribution through the Prime Minister National Relief Fund so that it could reach the right people instead of sending it through any NGO.

IATO requests the entire membership to come forward and donate generously to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Payments be made by Demand Drafts/Cheque in the favour of 'Prime Minister's National Relief Fund' and sent to IATO office at the earliest so that timely help can be sent to the really affected people. Your contribution will be exempted from Income Tax under Section 80G of Income Tax Act and receipt from Prime Minister Secretariat will be collected and sent to you by the IATO Secretariat.

Service Tax Rate increased from 12.36% to 14%

After the President has given assent to the Finance Bill, 2015 on May 14, 2015, the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue vide Notification No. 14/2015-ST dated May 19, 2015 has notified increase in the rate of Service tax from 12.36% to flat 14% (subsuming Education Cess and Secondary & Higher Secondary Education Cess) to be effective from June 1, 2015.

Swachh Bharat Cess @ 2% on value of taxable services and any Service

provided by Government/ Local authority to Business entity to be notified at a later date. As per TRU Clarification vide D.O.F.No. 334/5/2015-TRU dated May 19, 2015, the effective dates in respect of Swachh Bharat Cess @ 2% on certain services shall be notified at later date. The revised rates of service tax as proposed in Union Budget 2015 w.e.f. 1st June 2015 are as follows:-

Description	Present Service Tax @ rate of 12.36%	Service Tax increased with effect from 1st June 2015 @ 14%
Tour Package	3.09 %	3.50 %
Hotel Room Only	1.236 %	1.40 %
Transport Only	4.944 %	5.60%
Air Ticket – Domestic	0.618 %	0.70 %
Air Ticket – International	1.236 %	1.40 %
Train ticket (On Service Charges only) for regular trains and all luxury tourist trains. Or any other Service Charges like guide, visa, passport services etc.	12.36%	14 %
To be charged by the Hotel:		
Hotel Room	7.416%	8.40 %
Food	4.944%	5.60%
To be charged by the Airlines: (both on domestic and international tickets)		
Economy Class	4.944%	5.60%
Business Class	7.416%	8.40%

Note:

1. Since the rate of service tax is being altered from 01.06.2015, the services rendered by tour operators, air travel agents, cab operators and all other service providers on or after 1st June, will be 14 % on full or abated value, as the case may be.
2. Members are advised to issue invoice by 31st May, 2015 in respect of services completed up to the end of May, 2015 by applying existing service tax rate of 12.36% and deposit the tax by 5th / 6th June, 2015.



IATO widens its reach with roadshows

IATO has extended its reach to newer markets and strengthened its presence in various source markets through roadshows in consultation with Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India and the concerned India Tourism Offices. Details of the roadshows are given below:

Road Show No. 1

United Kingdom: June 2015
June 15-Glasgow
June 16-Leeds
June 18-Birmingham
June 19-London

Road Show No. 2

Baltic Europe: July 2015
July 6-Riga, Latvia
July 7-Vilnius, Lithuania
July 9-Krakow, Poland
July 10-Warsaw, Poland

Road Show No. 3

Europe: October 2015
October 5-Belgrade, Serbia
October 7-Zagreb, Croatia
October 8-Sofia, Bulgaria

Road Show No. 4

USA: August-September 2015
(Dates to be announced soon) Dallas, Texas
(Dates to be announced soon) San Antonio, Texas
(Dates to be announced soon) Indianapolis, Indiana
(Dates to be announced soon) Columbus, Ohio

Ministry of Tourism gets 33% hike in Budget

An amount of Rs. 1,573,07 crore has been earmarked for the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Government of India, for 2015/16 giving it a rise of 33 per cent over last fiscal allocation in the Union Budget 2015/16. Plan expenditure allocation for 2015/16 Rs. 1,573,07 crore compared to last year's allocation of Rs. 1,182,99 crore.

IATO HELD MEETING WITH DIRECTOR TOURISM, J&K AND ITS CHAPTER MEMBERS



Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) held meeting with Farooq Ahmad Shah, Director Tourism, J&K and Chapter members at Sher-E-Kashmir International Convention Centre, Srinagar (J&K). IATO delegation was led by Subhash Goyal, President, IATO; and included Pronab Sarkar, Hony. Secretary; Ravi Gosain, Hony. Joint Secretary; Raj Bajaj, Sanjeev Joshi, Rajiv Mehra, Ramesh Wattal, Sunil Gupta, EC Members of IATO; Gour Kanjilal, Executive Director and Danish Jamil. J&K Chapter Chairman Khaliq Wangnoo and about 25 members were present representing various industry stakeholders in the state.

Farooq Ahmad Shah invited IATO members to visit Srinagar for an interaction meeting and work out a strategy to boost tourism to J&K state. This interaction meeting was to give firsthand experience to IATO members about the actual scene in Srinagar after the flood.

Members in J&K Chapter raised several issues and were very vocal on four major issues requesting immediate action. IATO Chapter Chairman of J&K in his presentation summarized the issues as under:

- What the local operators of J&K want to do at the National Level.
- Marketing strategies should be started under Incredible India campaigns of the central government.
- Exemplary and exclusive advertisement campaign to be started via print and electronic media.
- Efforts to revoke the travel advisories issued by certain countries should be expatiated to woo the foreign intending environment of Kashmir.
- Ever increasing airfare making Kashmir a costly destination.
- The Sheikh Ull Aalam International Srinagar Airport has been given the status of an international airport but the flights from this airport to other countries or to Srinagar airport are not functional.
- More flights need to be allowed between the Himalayan golden triangle

i.e. Srinagar-Leh-Jammu which will boost the tourism in all three regions of the state of Jammu & Kashmir.

- Providing of incentive schemes to the travel trade associations by GOI, Ministry of Tourism such as market development assistance & subsidy of brochure material etc.
- Consideration of travel and tour operators as tourism unit.
- Back drop designing of stalls at ITB, WTB, BIT-MILAN and FITUR by IATO members with Kashmir branding.

In his response to the above, Goyal reassured that it will be taken with concerned Ministries positively. "IATO has a key role to play in synergizing efforts toward realization of our member's dream to bring back tourism to J&K state and prosper," he said. On behalf of IATO, Goyal also brought into attention of Director of Tourism about having a PR Agency who could liaise with all government agencies and update on a daily basis.

Farooq Shah gave his positive response on all issues and how in most of the points raised, the government is seized with Chief Minister holding tourism portfolios how all these suggestions will get priority attention. He announced that registration form which used to be earlier applicable will be used and even the registration will be done at the hotels/lodges they stay to avoid inconvenience. Road connectivity is also in government's priority attention and work has been initiated for road to Pahalgam, Srinagar etc.

On behalf of J&K Chapter Chairman, Khaliq Wangnoo and on behalf of IATO, Pronab Sarkar raised vote of thanks. Goyal was also honoured by Farooq Ahmed Shah and warmth and welcome was visible throughout the interaction meeting and team spirit of bringing back tourism to old glory in J&K state.



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FIRST GET-INDIA PITCHES GROWTH PATH FOR INDIAN TOURISM

IATO members lend their full support to make it a successful event



The 3-days event 'Global Exhibition on Services' (GES) organized by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) kickstarted on April 23rd at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi with massive industry response as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the show. Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality (FAITH) had been given the responsibility to organize the International Tourism Mart that has christened as Global Exhibition on Tourism— India (GET-India). GET-India was supported by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Government of India. Amidst a topsy-turvy first day opening, GET-India managed to be a great show for the exhibitors and buyers through serious business sessions and B2B meetings. Over 175 international buyers from about 50 countries across the globe came to shop for diverse Indian tourism products at the first GET-India.



Speaking at the inaugural, Modi made a strong pitch for India tourism stating that there is a need to grow tourism for the country's socio-economic development by offering experiential travel experiences.

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Tourism & Culture (Independent Charge) and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, said, "Tourism has the potential to serve as a major growth engine for the country, for which we need to address the issues plaguing the sector in a time-bound manner." The Minister urged the industry to join hands with the government to tap this potential. Foreign buyers who came to scout for the Indian tourism products included established as well as emerging markets like Columbia, Mexico, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, USA and Canada from the Americas; the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland from the Europe; Dubai, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Israel from the Middle East, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa among others. All the foreign delegates were handled by IATO team involved in this exhibition. About 92 Indian companies exhibited through 125 stalls. Several Indian states also participated at the 3-day exhibition.

BIOMETRIC FOR VISA APPLICANTS FROM FRANCE DEFERRED

In its continuous effort, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) had been writing to the Tourism Minister, Home Minister and also the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries re-emphasizing about the problems tourists were facing for biometric process at the Indian Embassies overseas. The Association requested to defer it till e-Tourist Visa is introduced for leading markets like UK, France, Italy, Spain, Poland etc.

The requirement of providing biometric data by visa applicants at the time of submitting their visa application forms was scheduled to be implemented with effect from 1st May 2015. It has now been decided to defer this implementation since e-Tourist Visa for France has since been introduced.

'VISIT KERALA 2015' CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED TO PROMOTE TOURISM ON LARGE SCALE



Dr. Mahesh Sharma, the Minister for State of Culture (Independent), Tourism (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation launched Visit Kerala 2015 campaign to encourage domestic and foreign travelers in Kerala at The Ashoka

Hotel, New Delhi.

While appreciating the efforts of Kerala Tourism for taking such ambitious initiative to promote Kerala worldwide, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, said, "We understand the importance

of tourism industry and the potential Kerala has but it needs to be propagated to the another corner of the world with the events like Visit Kerala year."

On the launch of Visit Kerala 2015 Campaign, Oommen Chandy, Chief Minister, Govt. of Kerala sent his best wishes through a video message. "We have named the year 2015-16 as Visit Kerala year. With this new and ambitious initiative we invite people to the God's own country with Visit Kerala," Minister said.

In the inaugural speech, AP Anil Kumar, Minister for Tourism, Govt. of Kerala said, "Starting this special campaign, Visit Kerala 2015 on the auspicious day of Vishu (celebrated as Kerala New Year) on April 15, 2015-16, Kerala will present God's own country like never before."

Madhya Pradesh launches Tourism Year 2015 in New Delhi

In the distinguished presence of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan; Tourism Minister Surendra Patwa; Chief Secretary Anthony Desa; Secretary Tourism, Dr. Lalit K. Panwar; Umang Narula, CMD, ITDC Group; Subhash Goyal President, IATO; Chief Secretary Anthony Desa; Ashwani Lohani, MD, MP Tourism; Jyoti Kapur, President ADTOI; TS Walia, President, FHRAI; and many more from the travel industry, Madhya Pradesh Tourism held a get together to give them an experience of the essence of the state in New Delhi.

The get-together that showcased destinations, handicrafts, tribal dance forms, cuisine, Tourism Year, Simhastha 2016 and invest-



ment opportunities in the state was attended by a galaxy of people from travel trade, industry associations, trade associations, media and dignitaries from various walks of life.



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MODHERA RANI-KI-VAV & CHAMPANER

THE RICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE OF GUJARAT

It's monuments and architectural wonders are symbols of Gujarat's rich cultural heritage. They hold a place of pride in Gujarat tourism with destinations like Sun temple at Modhera and Rani-Ki-Vav Step wells near Patan and the famous monuments at Champaner near Vadodara city which draw visitors from both home and abroad, who return home with incredible memories and immense happiness.

MODHERA



The Sun temple at Modhera is on the threshold of being a new historical landmark which in eleven years from now will be a 1000-years old. These temples steeped in history and culture, fascinate visitors as they at once relive the past beholding a temple totally undiminished by the ravages of history. The Modhera temple links us to our roots and underpins our very sense of cultural identity.

Built by Suryavanshi King Bhimdev of the Solanki dynasty as a grand offering to the Sun God it comprises of three separate but axially-aligned and integrated elements: The Surya Kund, Sabha Mandap and Guda Mandap. The temple is an engineering and geographical phenomenon as it is so constructed that rays of the Sun fall on the day of the Summer solstice June 21, offering an exhilarating experience. Located at Modhera, a 98 km drive from Ahmedabad city, the temple is a fine example in geometry.

An annual dance festival in January greatly embellishes the tourism value of the Sun Temple. Gujarat Tourism organizes this event where the mesmerizing mood leaves the audience spellbound as the lights, sounds, colours and high levels of energy mingle seamlessly with each other.

By Road: Ahmedabad  Modhera : 98 km

Nearest Rly. Station: Mehsana: 28 km

Ahmedabad: 99 km

RANI-KI-VAV



From the heat of Modhera, one can escape to the cooler environs of Rani-Ki-Vav step wells in Patan, 128 kms away from Ahmedabad and once the capital of the Solanki dynasty. Discovered in 1950, Rani-Ki-Vav was built in the 11th Century on the banks of the Saraswati River. Initially built as a memorial it was later converted into a subterranean water resource and storage system.

The splendour and intricacy of the VAV will now enthral the world as it has been declared a world heritage property by UNESCO.

There are instances in history when many a king has built a monument, temporarily for his consort but Rani-Ki-Vav is a testimony to queen’s Udayamathi’s love for King Bhimdev I of the Solanki dynasty. It is a highly decorated monument with panels of ornamented sculptures. It is about 64 meters long, 20 meters wide and 27 meters deep with each wall and each pillar beautifully sculptured.

By Road: Ahmedabad ➡ Ran-Ki-Vav : 128 km

Nearest Rly. Station: Mehsana: 56 km
Ahmedabad: 128 km

CHAMPANER



The other important destination in Gujarat Tourism is Champaner in Panchmaha district, an hour’s drive from the Banyan city of Vadadora. It is a place for those seeking a weekend getaway bonanza with a blend of history and adventure.

Champaner encompasses the Champaner - Pavagadh Archaeological Park - an UNSESCO-protected World Heritage site with the serene attractions of Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary and the quintessential vintage temples of 10th to 13th centuries atop Pavagadh hill with its dense green cover. It is also the home of Ma Mahakalika temple which is worshipped by lakhs of devotees. Enroute is the mother plant of US auto giant General Motors' India near Halol.

Folk Lore has it that Baiju Bawra, the renowned 16th Century music maestro and Tansen's contemporary rival, belonged to Champaner.

Champaner, once the capital of Gujarat not only comprises of old palaces, forts and several mosques but also of ancient streets which are five centuries old and serve as a link to the past. The Champaner fort is one of the most illustrious forts of medieval India.

By Road: Baroda ➡ Champaner: 49 km
Ahmedabad ➡ Champaner: 147 km

Nearest Rly. Station: Baroda: 49 km
Ahmedabad: 145 km

ARRIVAL AT AHMEDABAD

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS		
DESTINATION	FLIGHT	AIRLINE
Goa	1	Indigo
Delhi	11	Jet Airways, Indigo, Go Air, Air India, Spice Jet
Mumbai	18	Indigo, Go Air, Spice Jet, Air India, Jet Airways
Indore	1	Jet Airways
Chennai	5	Spice Jet, Indigo, Air Costa
Kolkata	3	Go Air, Indigo
Hyderabad	3	Spice Jet, Indigo, Air India
Bengaluru	3	Indigo, Air Costa
Pune	2	Spice Jet, Indigo
Jaipur	2	Spice Jet, Indigo

INTRA-STATE FLIGHTS		
DESTINATION	FLIGHT	AIRLINE
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Porbandar	2	MEHAIR
Bhavnagar	2	MEHAIR



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PATA TRAVEL MART TO BE HELD FROM 6-8 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT BANGALORE

The Government of Karnataka is hosting the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2015 at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre from 6-8th September 2015. PATA Travel Mart (PTM) is the premier travel trade show in the Asia Pacific region, which brings together international buyers and sellers for one to one meetings, educational forums and networking sessions. It provides an excellent platform for showcasing and promoting the varied tourism destinations and products of countries, to a target international audience.

The Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India has earlier hosted the PATA Travel Mart in Hyderabad in 2008 (in collaboration with the State Govt. of Andhra Pradesh) and in New Delhi in 2011. An Advisory Committee at the national level has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Tourism), Govt. of India to coordinate logistic arrangements for the Mart. Members in the committee include representatives from the Ministries of Civil Aviation, Culture, Shipping, Commerce as well as representatives from Trade Associations (FAITH, IATO, FHRAI, HAI, WTTC).



IATO signs MoU with Department of Tourism and Travel Management (Central University of Jammu)



Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) has signed an MoU with Department of Tourism and Travel Management (Central University of Jammu). The purpose of MoU is to promote mutual cooperation in tourism academia and industry and establish a framework for programmes of exchange and collaboration in areas of 'Skill development, tourism curriculum design, training, placement, events and resources exchange' for mutual benefit. As part of the agreement, the two organizations will join forces to promote and exchange tourism, said Gour Kanjilal, Executive Director, IATO, while signing MoU on behalf of IATO.

J&K CM LAUNCHES FIRST TRAVEL MART IN SRINAGAR

In a bid to boost tourism in the valley, J&K Tourism held its first travel mart from May 17-19, 2015. The travel mart was launched by Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in Srinagar. The three-day travel mart was well attended by 24 foreign and 185 domestic tour operators. Around 30 IATO members participated in the Mart.

During his inaugural speech, Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, said, "It is my vision to make Kashmir an all season's destination. The floods had devastated the valley and building back the infrastructure is a time consuming process. I am happy that the travel trade in cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad are trying very hard and supporting us in changing the perception of Kashmir as an unsafe destination."

The J&K Government appealed to foreign travel operators to ask their tourists to visit Kashmir. "The recommendations of the Travel Mart would be documented and presented before the government," said Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary- Tourism, J&K Government.

Swadesh Darshan scheme to boost Domestic Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism has formulated a plan scheme 'Swadesh Darshan' for integrated development of tourist circuits around specific destinations. The circuits identified under this scheme are Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit and North East circuit. Port Blair-Neil-Havelock- Little Andaman (A&N Island), Kashmir Circuit (Jammu & Kashmir), Desert Circuit (Rajasthan), Nature Tourism Circuit (West Bengal) Braj-Agra circuit (Uttar Pradesh), Gangtok (Sikkim) are other identified circuits for integrated development.

5.11 lakh Foreign Tourist Arrivals in the month of May, 2015

The following are the important highlights regarding Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) and Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) from tourism during the month of May 2015.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs):

FTAs during the Month of May 2015 were 5.11 lakh as compared to FTAs of 4.68 lakh during the month of May 2014. There has been a growth of 9.2% in May 2015 over May 2014.

- FTAs during the period January- May 2015 were 33.32 lakh with a growth of 3.6%, as compared to the FTAs of 32.15 lakh with a growth of 10.2% in January- May 2014.
- The percentage share of FTAs in India during May 2015 among the top 15 source countries was highest from Bangladesh (19.32%), followed by USA (16.99%), UK (7.79%), Malaysia (3.59%), Sri Lanka (3.54%), Japan (2.78%), Australia (2.66%), Canada (2.63%), Germany (2.59%), China (2.56%), Nepal (2.52%), Singapore (2.36%), France (2.16%), Pakistan (1.84%) and Oman (1.66%). These top 15 countries account for 74.99% of total FTAs during May 2015.
- The percentage share of FTAs in India during May 2015 among the top 15 ports was highest at Delhi Airport (26.06%) followed by Mumbai Airport (17.88%), Haridaspur Land check post (10.95%), Chennai Airport (9.83%), Bengaluru Airport (7.24%), Cochin Airport (4.06%), Hyderabad

Airport (4.05%), Kolkata Airport (3.97%), Gede Rail (2.27%), Trivandrum Airport (1.81%), Tiruchirapalli Airport (1.58%), Ahmedabad Airport (1.54%), Ghodadanga Airport (1.29%), Attari Wagha (1.08%) and Goa Airport (0.67%). These top 15 ports account for 94.28% of total FTAs during May 2015.

Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs):

FEEs during the month of May 2015 were Rs. 8,877 crore as compared to Rs. 7,184 crore in May 2014.

FEEs in US\$ terms during the month of May 2015 were US\$ 1.392 billion as compared to FEEs of US\$ 1.210 billion during the month of May 2014.

The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms during May 2015 over May 2014 was 23.6% as compared to 8.4% in May 2014.

- FEEs from tourism in rupee terms in January- May 2015 were Rs. 51,351 crore with a growth of 6.3% as compared to the FEE of Rs. 48,302 crore with a growth of 8.7% during January- May 2014.
- The growth rate in FEEs in US\$ terms in May 2015 over May 2014 was 15.0% compared to 0.2% in May 2014.
- FEEs from tourism in US\$ terms during January- May 2015 were US\$ 8.207 billion with a growth of 4.0% as compared to the US\$ 7.894 billion with a decline of 3.5% during January- May 2014.

Source: Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

PERCENTAGE SHARE
OF FTAS IN INDIA
DURING MAY 2015
AMONG TOP 10
SOURCE COUNTRIES

19.32%
Bangladesh

16.99%
USA

7.79%
UK

3.59%
Sri Lanka

3.54%
Malaysia

2.78%
Australia

2.66%
France

2.63%
Germany

2.59%
Japan

2.56%
China

TOTAL NUMBER OF 1,10,657 TOURIST ARRIVED ON E-TOURIST VISA DURING JANUARY-MAY 2015

Government of India launched Tourist Visa on Arrival (TVoA) enabled by Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA), presently known as e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) scheme, on 27th November 2014 for 43 countries. The Government extended this scheme to the citizens of Guyana and Sri Lanka in January, 2015 and April, 2015, respectively. The e-Tourist Visa facility is extended to the nationals of 31 countries in May, 2015.

The following are the important highlights of e-Tourist Visa during May, 2015:

- During the month of May 2015, a total of 15,659 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 1,833 during the month of May 2014, registering a growth of 754.3%.
- During January- May 2015, a total of 1,10,657 tourist arrived on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 9,841 during

January- May 2014, registering a growth of 1024.4%.

- This high growth may be attributed to introduction of e-Tourist Visa for 76 countries as against coverage of earlier TVoA scheme for 12 countries.
- The percentage shares of top 10 source countries availing e-Tourist Visa facility during May 2015 were as follows: USA (37.82%), Germany (9.35%), Australia (8.95%), Russian Federation (5.85%), Republic of Korea (4.30%), UAE (3.53%), Mexico (3.16%), Ukraine (3.01%), Japan (2.89%) and Singapore (2.43%).
- The percentage shares of different ports in tourist arrivals on e-Tourist Visa during May 2015 were as follows: New Delhi (43.65%), Mumbai (22.14%), Bengaluru (9.66%), Chennai (7.25%), Hyderabad (4.55%), Kochi (3.97%), Goa (3.81%), Kolkata (3.24%) and Trivandrum (1.73%).

IATO MEMBERS JOIN IN NUMBERS AT ARABIAN TRAVEL MARKET, DUBAI

Arabian Travel Market (ATM) Dubai is an annual trade show organized in May in Dubai. IATO members have joined India National Pavilion and many members had their own stand at the periphery of India Tourism Pavilion. Members found the platform very positive for further growth of their business. They met various tour operators from other parts of the globe to cultivate business contacts from new markets viz Latin America, Africa, Polynesian countries, Indian Ocean countries, gulf and the Middle East and Asian countries.



NEW MEMBERSHIP APPROVED W.E.F APRIL 1st 2015

IATO Membership continues to increase and the importance of IATO members in the minds of overseas operators is gaining. The Secretariat gets lot of queries from overseas agents/tourists to check whether the company they plan to deal is a member of IATO or not.

ACTIVE (change of status)

1. Rising Star Tours & Travels

Amit Jain, Proprietor
Email: info@traveldham.com,
amit@traveldham.com
Tel: 011-47011111
Web: www.traveldham.com

2. Grand Travel Planners (P) Ltd.

Umesh Kapur, Director
Kanwaljit Singh, Director
Tel: 0172-2703059/4687777
Email: ukapur@grandtravelplanners.com,
kanwaljit@grandtravelplanners.com
Web: www.grandtravelplanners.com

3. Saiyu India Pvt. Ltd.

Rajbir Singh Rana, Director
Tel: 0124-4017901
Email: operations@saiyuindia.com,
rajbir@saiyuindia.com
Web: www.saiyuindia.com

4. Sparrow Wing Travels

Neetish Gupta, Partner
Tel: 011-43522811-814
Email: sparrowwingtravels@yahoo.com,
neetishg@gmail.com

5. Art of Travel India Holidays Pvt. Ltd.

Nitin Shorawal, Director; Charu Shorawal, Director
Tel: 011-65374461
Email: nitin@artoftravel.co.in,
accounts@artoftravel.co.in
Web: www.artoftravel.co.in

6. Veena Patil Hospitality Pvt. Ltd.

Sudhir Patil, Director
Sunita Patil, Director
Tel: 022-61477917
Email: sudhir@veenaworld.com,
sunita@veenaworld.com
Web: www.veenaworld.com

7. Yatri Vihar

Amit Roy, Partner
Atul Roy, Partner
Tel: 09234605431/09431183566
Email: mahadevpalace@gmail.com,
yatrivihar@gmail.com
Web: www.hotelmahadevpalace.com

8. Garuda Holidays

S. Ram Patil, Managing Partner
Amit Kumar Patil, Managing Partner

Tel: 040-42607575

Email: garudaholidays@hotmail.com,
tours@garudaholidays.co.in

9. Easy Travel Agency

Selvabaquame Zeganadin, Managing Partner
Charles Jean Pierre Gnanou, Managing Partner
Tel: 0413-2227979, 4200066
Email: info@easywayindia.in, zegsel@yahoo.com,
jgnanou@yahoo.fr
Web: www.easywayindia.in

10. Blue Lagoon Holiday Cruises Pvt. Ltd.

Tel: 0484-2429150
Babu Thomas, Director; Abhilash K., Director
Email: mail@bluelagoonholidays.net,
abhimadhavartist@gmail.com

11. Live India Tour Pvt. Ltd.

Ved Prakash, Director
Tel: 011-23367687
Email: admin@liveindiataours.com,
vp@liveindiataours.com
Web: www.liveindiataours.com

12. Kalypso Adventures (P) Ltd.

Cmdr. Sam T. Samuel, Managing Director
Tel: 0484-4012700
Email: info@kalysoadventures.com,
sam@kalysoadventures.com
Web: www.kalysoadventures.com

13. Chrysalid Outdoor Learning Centres India Pvt. Ltd.

Vikas Bhasin, Director; Amaresh Tiwari, Director
Tel: 011-2275337
Email: vikas.bhasin@chrysalid.in,
amaresh.tiwari@chrysalid.in
Web: www.chrysalid.in

14. Pelican Tours

Gopesh Sharma, Proprietor
Tel: 02692-654565
Email: mail@pelicantours.co,
gopesh@pelicantours.co
Web: www.pelicantours.co

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For further details: Central Reservation Office, Coffee Home, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, (Opposite Hanuman Temple)
Connaught Place, New Delhi- 110001, Telephone No: +91-11-23365358/23363607, Mobile:9899692790

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