

TRAVEL & TOURISM NEWS



We see increased optimism and confidence amongst Indians towards Mauritius

With Air Mauritius reinstating flights between India and Mauritius, under the air bubble agreement, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) sees an increased urge amongst Indian travellers to visit Mauritius. Arvind Bundhun, Director, MTPA, shares his view on growing tourism ties between India and Mauritius (Travel Trends Today, 28-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Mauritius removed from France's 'scarlet' list

French government has announced the removal of Mauritius from its list of "scarlet" destinations, just a few days after its classification as part of this list (Travel Daily News, 08-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)



Maldives' tourist arrivals increase 138 pct in 2021

Tourist arrivals in the Maldives increased 138 percent in 2021 compared with 2020, state media citing data from the Ministry of Tourism reported here Monday (Xinhua, 03-Jan-2022). [Read More](#)

Maldives consecutively secures the world's leading destination title and other accolades at WTA 2021

It was a triumphant night for Maldives as the country once again secured the World's Leading Destination title and other accolades at World Travel Awards 2021. The announcement was made at the WTA 2021 ceremony held virtually on 16th December 2021 (Visit Maldives, 16-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)



Seychelles again wins World's most romantic destination title at WTA

Seychelles has won the World's Most Romantic Destination title for the second consecutive year at the 28th World Travel Awards, the Tourism Department said Thursday (Seychelles News Agency, 19-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka logs over 150,000 international tourist arrivals in 2021

Sri Lanka has registered more than 150,000 tourist arrivals so far this year, as the number peaked after over 47,000 people landed in the island nation in the first 20 days of December (Business Standard, 24-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)



The Bahamas has new testing rules for travellers

Effective Dec. 27, 2021 all travellers to The Bahamas now need to show proof of a negative test taken and received within 72 hours before arrival in The Bahamas. Vaccinated travellers can present either a rapid antigen test or a PCR test; unvaccinated travellers must present a PCR test (Caribbean Journal, 27-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Mauritian Government extends travel ban on South Africa until end of January

With Air Mauritius reinstating flights between India and Mauritius, under the air bubble agreement, Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority (MTPA) sees an increased urge amongst Indian travellers to visit Mauritius. Arvind Bundhun, Director, MTPA, shares his view on growing tourism ties between India and Mauritius (Travel Trends Today, 28-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Record-breaking 144,725 tourists welcomed into Maldives during November

A record-breaking total of 144,725 tourist arrivals were welcomed during the past month. 4,772 tourists were welcomed into Maldives on December 1. India remains top source market for Maldives tourism currently dominating 22.5 percent with 261,164 arrivals (Raajje.mv, 04-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

The Maldives is open to South Africans again

South Africans are welcome in the Maldives again, with just a PCR test required (Business Insider, 29-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Outdoor advertising campaign kicked off with Mediamond in Italy to increase brand presence for the Maldives

Outdoor advertising campaign kicked off with Mediamond in Italy to increase brand presence for the Maldives. The joint campaign between Visit Maldives and Mediamond will be held in two phases, for 3 weeks in December 2021 and 1 week in January 2022 (Visit Maldives, 13-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Visit Maldives markets the destination at USTOA annual conference & marketplace

Since USTOA's inception in 1972, the USTOA Annual Conference & Marketplace has distinguished itself for being the only travel industry event in the United States that brings together the leading North American travel companies with tourism suppliers and destinations from around the globe in an intimate and exclusive setting (Visit Maldives, 09-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Air Asia to resume operation to Maldives next week

Budget airline Air Asia will be resuming operation to the Maldives after a two-year hiatus (Avas.mv, 15-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

German tour operators return to Seychelles on exciting fam trip

After months of relying on virtual activities, Tourism Seychelles hosted its first educational tour since the beginning of the pandemic for a small group of German tour operator representatives (eTurbo News, 29-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Tourism Seychelles and Emirates Airlines host exciting GCC Agent's Fam Trip

Tourism Seychelles hosted its second fam trip in association with its airline partner Emirates Airlines from December 13-16, 2021. The activity follows a media trip in September with leading GCC-based magazines. Participating in the trip were the airline's and destination's top sellers in the GCC, winners of an incentive announced on ceremony on October 24 (eTurbo News, 28-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Dubai: Emirates to double daily Seychelles flights during holiday season

Emirates will operate double daily flights to Seychelles from December 24, 2021, until January 9, 2022 to serve market demand during the busy holiday season (Khaleej Times, 16-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Seychelles sustainable tourism label: new certificates awarded

Mrs. Sherin Francis, the Principal Secretary for Tourism, proudly presented Seychelles Sustainable Tourism Label (SSTL) certificates in the final presentation of the year at the department's headquarters, Botanical House, Mont Fleuri, on Wednesday, December 7, 2021 (eTurbo News, 07-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Seychelles Pavilion surpasses 100,000 visitors at Dubai Expo

"The Expo platform continues to grow in terms of visitor base and so does the Seychelles' exposure. The greater the visibility the more chances Seychelles gets in achieving its objectives of being part of the Expo journey," said Galen Bresson, deputy general commissioner of the Seychelles Pavilion (Seychelles News Agency, 06-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Tourists from Poland: Seychelles is almost ready for a new market!

Tourism Seychelles conducted its first physical event in Poland since the outbreak of the pandemic last week, as it enticed travel professionals to sell the Seychelles islands again, especially now that the market will benefit with a direct flight soon (eTurbo News, 02-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

The Sri Lanka virtual MICE Expo 2021 breaks new ground

Pioneering new initiatives, Sri Lanka's inaugural Virtual MICE Expo received an overwhelming response from stakeholders as the value-added event provided a much-needed impetus for MICE tourism. The Sri Lanka Convention Bureau (SLCB) organized the event from 1st – 3rd December 2021 in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Conference, Exhibition and Event Organizers (SLAPCEO) (The Island, 17-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka lifts travel restrictions for several African countries, inbound travellers required to fill a mandatory Online Health Declaration

The travel restrictions for those arriving from South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Eswatini have been removed with immediate effect, Health Services Director General Dr Asela Gunawardena has informed (ColomboPage, 11-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Sri Lanka invites operations to visit Island

Sri Lanka is hoping to attract tour operators to visit the island on supported fam trips as the destination continues to rebuild tourism numbers (TTG Media, 03-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Bahamas ranks among top 10 in-demand countries for travel among US tourists

Based on the findings, the top 10 most in-demand countries for a vacation abroad amongst US tourists, from most to least, were (Eye Witness News, 11-Dec-2021):

1. Puerto Rico
2. Maldives
3. Costa Rica
4. Aruba
5. Mexico
6. Jamaica
7. The Bahamas
8. Turks & Caicos
9. Greece
10. Japan [Read More](#)

Dominican Republic tourism is breaking pre-pandemic records

Tourism in the Dominican Republic set yet another record last month, with a total of 519,349 tourist arrivals. For the year, the country has reported 4.263 million tourist arrivals, according to Tourism minister David Collado (Caribbean Journal, Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

High demand for Barbados

Barbados and several other Caribbean countries are among the top destination choices for people searching for and booking trips this holiday season (Barbados Today, 16-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Caribbean Airlines is adding more Barbados flights

Caribbean Airlines is adding more flights from its hub at Trinidad and Tobago's Piarco International Airport to Barbados, Caribbean Journal has learned. The expansion will take effect on Dec. 17, the company confirmed (Caribbean Journal, 16-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Jamaica among top destinations for Americans, Puerto Rico number one

Jamaica is one of the most popular vacation destinations among American tourists. A study by ParkSleepFly showed that Jamaica is one of the top six faves for tourists in the US, which is the number one source market for the island (Loop Jamaica, 03-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

New nonstop flights expand Anguilla access

Saturday's launch of the first-ever nonstop twice-weekly flights between Miami International Airport and Anguilla's Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport significantly eases access to the Caribbean island for West Coast and Canadian travellers and opens Anguilla to nascent incentive and group market travellers (Travel Pulse, 14-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

St Barth has new testing requirements for travellers

The French Caribbean island of St Barth is tightening its travel rules amid the holiday season. St Barth's regional government has announced a new testing requirement, mandating that travellers provide a negative result form a test taken no more than 24 hours prior to boarding their flight to the island (Caribbean Journal, 29-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

American and Frontier launch nonstops to two Caribbean islands

Frontier Airlines launched Saturday nonstop flights from Orlando to Antigua and Barbuda, marking the only nonstop option between the destinations (Travel Weekly, 14-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Montego Bay, Jamaica sets pandemic tourism record

Jamaica's tourism hub of Montego Bay has set a new record for tourism arrivals in a single day since the onset of the pandemic (Caribbean Journal, Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Abu Dhabi updates travel green list, number of destinations cut from 95 to 73

Mauritius, Morocco, New Zealand and Seychelles are among those excluded on the list (Gulf Business, 25-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Qatar Tourism Q3 performance report highlights hospitality sector's growth

Accommodation supply crosses 29,000 room keys, 13% growth seen in Average Room Rate. Hotel accommodation supply grew by 4% in comparison to September 2020. Hospitality sector - excluding properties utilised for quarantine purpose - records 14% growth in overall occupancy rates compared to same period last year (menafn, 06-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

Fiji reopens borders to tourism after 20 months closure

Fiji has welcomed its first international passenger flight in nearly two years as the destination reopens its borders (Breaking Travel News, 02-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)

UK to reintroduce pre-departure Covid-19 testing

The government has confirmed all UK arrivals must once again show proof of a negative PCR or lateral flow test before they will be permitted entry (Breaking Travel News, 06-Dec-2021). [Read More](#)



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