

MICE Travel Advisor

Volume:7, Issue: November 2018

Lake Como

*Where business merges
with pleasure!*



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From the Editor's desk

Dear Readers,

MICE Travel Advisor is at WTM London, the world's leading travel trade event, to unlock ideas transforming the travel industry over the next few years. Around 5,000 exhibitors from 182 countries and regions are taking part to showcase a comprehensive range of products and destinations and for engagement with buyers and professionals.

It is always a good idea to be prepared for the unexpected and remain in protected zones for solo women business travellers. Our Cover Story on Safety for women business travellers helps one learn how a little caution and common sense can keep troubles away and make your trip more enjoyable.

This edition's Spotlight On focuses on Lake Como in Italy that has been drawing in A-list crowds recently for star-studded wedding. It's spectacular coast, idyllic villages is home to famous celebrities.

Professional networking got easier with the invitly app. Tech Talk reveals how it works no matter where you are in the world, one can always expand their professional network by creating an invite.

Los Cabos has been thriving as a tourist location for several decades with its extraordinary hospitality properties and high-tech modern facilities. Read Centre of Attraction that reflects on the MICE facilities of the region.

Tampa Bay has something more to do than just business; we list some of the activities and attractions in Venue Check that will graduate the Florida trip into a successful bizcation.

Grab this edition of MICE Travel Advisor and make the most out of your business trips!

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Spotlight On

Also known as Lake Lario, Lake Como is a magnificent lake of glacial origin and has attracted travellers for centuries across the globe. Situated 31 miles from Milan, Lake Como in Lombardy, Italy, is one of the deepest European lakes. It has been a popular retreat for the crème-de-la-crème of the society since Roman times. Lake Como has become a major MICE and tourism destination, managing multiple national and international events efficiently. Lake Como is a warm, sunny and friendly location, ideal for events like no other.



Where business merges with pleasure!

Lake Como

A preferred MICE venue

Destination with a unique reference point, Lake Como has a timeless appeal! Providing ideal interaction between work and pleasure, Lake Como offers best solutions for any corporate event. Let's delve in.



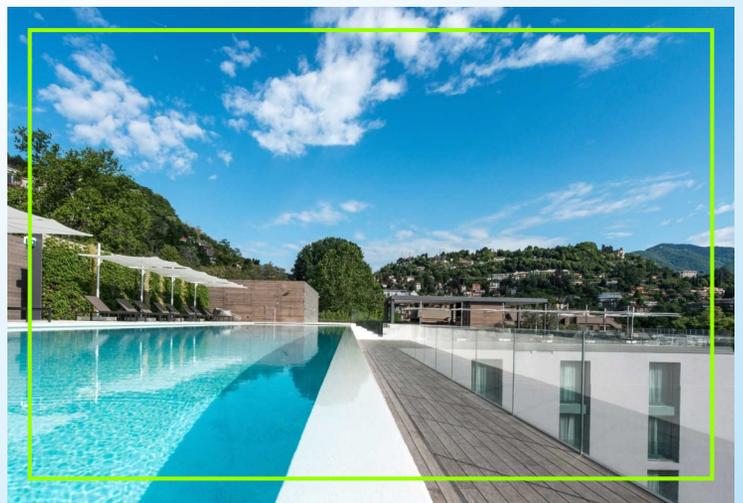
Wide range of hotels & venues that suites every event organiser

Starting right from large congregation in terms of international events, congresses, seminars, campaigns, exhibitions, gala dinners and receptions, conventions to celebrity weddings, Lake Como offers modular and multifunctional venues with exceptional amenities to organise events of any size. All the major venues and business hotels in this region have the capacity to accommodate more than 1500 guests and participants, providing impeccable service with eco-sustainable solutions.

Located either on the lake shore amid stunning landscapes or in the Como city center, this area has numerous prestigious 3, 4 and 5 star hotel brands, convention centres and multi-purpose MICE venues to meet every need.

Few spectacular venues that'll make any event sensational!

The hotels and congress centres in Lake Como are known for their unique environments, rendering excellent integrated services to make every convention a rare sensation! Some of the popular names like Villa Erba, Palace Hotel and Hotel Barchetta Excelsior, Grand Hotel Imperiale Resort & Spa, Hotel Vista Lago di Como, Sheraton Lake Como Hotel, Hilton Lake Como and Cruise, Como, and Centrale Hotel and Castello di Rossino deserve special mention.



Several restaurants & eating joints to choose from

This gastronomical heritage destination has countless restaurants and food corners overlooking the charming lake! Though majorly Larian cuisine prevails here, one can find an array of other mouthwatering midday meals and tantalising delicacies and fine wine while marvelling at the brilliant ancient architecture of the popular retreats.



Easy to reach

Turin (137 kms) and Genoa (156 kms) are the two closest cities to Lake Como. There are quite a few airports nearby. Milan is the biggest city close to Lake Como, located roughly 38 kms away. Linate and Milan-Malpensa Airport are the two closest international airports to Lake Como. From the airport, one can easily get shuttles every 20/30 minutes along with car and taxi services to reach the railway station. Air travellers coming from Berlin,

Prague and Vienna reach Milan in just 1 ½ hours. From Brussels the journey to Milan takes an hour.

Lake Como is reachable by train as well. Switzerland has two train lines, Trenitalia and Tilo. From Milan it takes approximately 30 to 60 minutes by train to reach Lake Como.

From anywhere in Italy, one can reach Lake Como by road as well, availing Milan's main highway junction. It takes around two hours.

If one has time and wants to experience the true beauty of Lake Como, travelling by boat can be an amazing journey and option at the same time! One can reach Lake Como by boat also but the time and cost of travelling depends on the departing destination. While planning an event of international standard, easy-to-access location plays an intrinsic role. Here, Lake Como surpasses other destinations with flying colours. In 2016, more than 60 percent of the event planners confirmed their prior bookings for other events in the following years, making Lake Como a sought-after MICE venue.



Not to miss attractions, once meeting concludes!

Visit Bellagio, the quaint stone village tucked away on a strip of land where the lake appears like the 'Y' shaped alphabet.

Enjoy some time in Piazza Cavour, one of the bustling public squares in Lake Como area.

Do not forget to visit the resident cathedral and explore the beautiful historic mansions like Villa Carlotta, Villa del Balbianello, Villa Pliniana, Villa

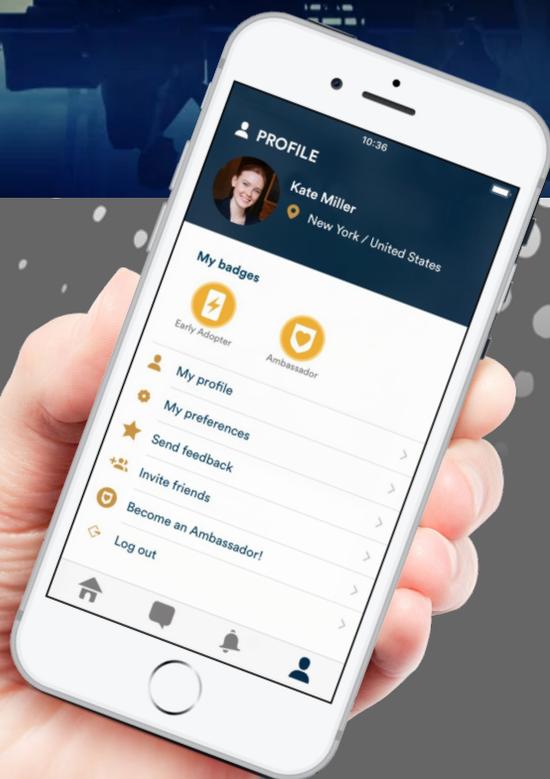
d'Este and many more while staying in Lake Como.

As an end note, we can say that every year the impressive territory of Lake Como turns into a protagonist of events, responding to the needs of several reputed domestic and international clientele with competence, quality and effectiveness. Smooth accessibility from all the major airports, perfect location, accommodations and logistics services, Lake Como has everything to make any event simply extraordinary!



'invitly'

Swift Business Networking at a Swipe



Professional networking might not be cakewalk for all and sundry.

Similarly, not every corporate traveller is fond of time-consuming tech-procedures like swiping or scrolling through profiles via a conventional networking platform. On the other side, walking up to people in real world with a 'Hi' followed by a brief self introduction is awkward for many!

But then, establishing new contacts is key to expanding business.

No wonder, bookshelves across the earth are flooded with books tutoring entrepreneurs on smart networking skills. The other day my friend

who owns a website development company, texted me over WhatsApp mentioning how excited he was to attend a workshop on 'business networking and communication'. After all, a successful business meet is reliant on an equally effectual communication model.



Business Travel continues to Grow

The annual research project compiled by the Rockport Analysis on behalf of the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) indicates that business travel spend growth is likely to rise above 6 percent in 2018.

Naturally it seems to be a conclusion to an 'era of uncertainty' among corporates in terms of spending as per the GBTA BTI Outlook.

Therefore, the sphere of corporate travelling is becoming more frequent with over 463 million trips being taken in the U.S. in 2017.

Research proves that in-person networking offers a host of benefits, including developing mentorship opportunities, improving problem solving skills and significantly boosting sales and close rates.

'invitly' for Innovative Networking...

Technology, once again takes a smart step forward to equip business tourists in their mission of network building.

A brand new networking app known as 'invitly' comes to the aid. It enables professionals to interact and meet new people or potential clients via invites for drinks or meals, thereby unlocking business opportunities.

The Paris-based app aims to make professional networking more accessible and enjoyable at the same time.



How it Works

invitly enables business travellers to create 'invites' to meet up with other professionals with similar business goals and agendas, irrespective of their geographical locales!

- Thanks to the app, one can create an invite, for instance, invite for a lunch in Chiang Mai on Thursday with the theme: business development in the Southeast Asia
- invitly thereafter notifies other users in the proximity of that invite. Then, professionals review the invite and if they are interested they can request to join in
- The host then reviews their profiles and accepts (up to 5 people in total can attend a particular event invite)
- Next, all participants can then finalise on the date and venue of that specific event in a group chat or even in a one-on-one conversation

Why invitly is Intriguing



What makes this networking tech tool intriguing is the fact that instead of 'matching people' one on one, it connects professionals in groups of up to six people.

Instead of swiping profile, like in most dating apps, invitly makes it possible to interact with more people, thanks to actual invites for a meetup – complete with occasion, theme, place and time.

With a few clicks, smart entrepreneurs are all set for drinks or a meal with like-minded professionals while expanding one's network and discovering amazing restaurants in town.



Meet Members from 130 Countries

The invitly community is global – ensuring meaningful exchange among a diverse clientele.

It has members from over 130 countries and about 50% are in Director or C-level positions in their respective companies. Marketing, finance and IT represent the leading industries.

It is all about observing and figuring out what works best for individuals aiming for the maximum professional interactions. Nobody is thrilled by the idea of enjoying a boring dinner at a hotel restaurant after all!

Unlock options, seek unique opportunities – all at a single tap on your smart device!

ALEX BREGMAN

Co-founder & CEO of invitly.co

MICE Travel Advisor interacts with Alex Bregman, CEO, invitly in an exclusive chat wherein he elaborates some of the most unique features of this app that is ideal for business professionals, mainly for networking and effectual interactions with potential clients.

He goes on to add about what makes this app distinct and the manifold benefits of this technological application.



MICE Travel Advisor

What inspired you to innovate the niche of business networking with the concept for invitly?

Alex Bregman : It all came from my own personal frustration when I was frequently having meals by myself in front of my phone during business travel. At the same time, I observed the explosion of dating apps like Tinder and started wondering why I couldn't just as easily connect with people for professional meet-ups. I came to realize that professional networking is broken and was ready for a breakthrough.

When I started researching the topic, I realized that professional networking is a massive industry. Business executives spend thousands of dollars to attend industry conferences with the sole purpose to meet other professionals and make valuable business connections. Others join local networking groups in order to expand their networks. But it's still challenging to network with other professionals in a meaningful way. And that's how we came up with the idea to innovate in the very traditional networking space.

MICE Travel Advisor

How do you think technology has been impacting corporate travel in the twenty-first century?

Alex Bregman : Since I previously worked for Google, I've been mostly a consumer in the corporate travel space. If you think about it, business travel hasn't changed much over the last 40-50 years. Sure, some tools made expenses, itineraries and other aspects of corporate travel a little easier.

But that's mostly admin related problems. No one has looked at the complete experience of business travel and the happiness level of employees traveling around the world. And that's where invitly can have a major positive impact on millions of business travellers around the world.

MICE Travel Advisor

What are the benefits of invitly for entrepreneurs and what makes it unique?

Alex Bregman : Invitly makes professional networking easier, and makes it accessible to millions of business professionals around the world. As an entrepreneur, you have to constantly meet new people and expand your network. You won't be able to build a company all by yourself. That's why we see many entrepreneurs using invitly. They're looking to meet partners, hiring employees and finding customers, mentors or investors. There are many reasons to network and many ways in which invitly can help you do that.

MICE Travel Advisor

Tell our readers about a few top user-friendly features of this app.

Alex Bregman : Aside from our main feature of connecting and meeting other professionals through an invite for coffee, lunch or dinner, we see lots of activity in our built-in messaging feature. Users use invitly to connect business executives and once they meet, invitly also helps them stay in touch and continue the conversation in a group or 1-on-1 chat.

MICE Travel Advisor

How successful has your app been so far?

Alex Bregman : So far we've been focused on making sure we give the best possible experience to our users. Success for us is when people join an invite and actually end up meeting with other professionals for a coffee or lunch. Because professional networking is not just being "connected" with someone online. It's about meeting someone face to face, having real, in-depth conversations and building relationships that can unlock various business opportunities.

And that's exactly what we're achieving today with invitly and what makes us extremely proud.

MICE Travel Advisor

What are your growth goals for invitly?

Alex Bregman : Our goal for invitly is to become the primary global professional networking app, connecting hundreds of millions of executives during business travel and beyond and unlocking networking opportunities.

At the same time, we're working with various organisations such as co-working spaces, university alumni clubs, networking organizations as well as multinational corporations that are keen to improve their internal networking within their organisation.

MICE Travel Advisor

What have been the biggest challenges so far?

Alex Bregman: I think that our main challenges are not much different from what other high-growth startups encounter. The biggest challenge is probably the daily struggle of getting everything done that needs to be done with the limited resources we have. Our team is still growing but there seems always more work laid out for us than we can handle. In order to keep work-life balance a bit under control (I'm married and a proud dad of 2), prioritization is always top of mind for me. Can't say I'm always getting it right, but I keep trying.

“ Invitly was built to help professionals find and leverage networking opportunities more efficiently and effectively. For business travelers especially, Invitly can be an essential hack for getting the most out of a conference or meeting, since you can create or join targeted small networking groups based around certain industries or job functions, creating a more valuable networking experience.

Alex Bregman

”



**The most diverse
business
destination
in Florida!**

Tampa Bay, the hip and happening Gulf coast of Florida, USA, is illustrious for its azure blue skies, scintillating waterfront, world-class restaurants, unique venues and hundred year old Cuban culture. With its warm and sunny weather all through the year, Tampa Bay welcomes event organisers and participants worldwide. Known for their affectionate hospitality, Tampa Bay is a treasure for any meetings and event planning guide.

TAMPA BAY



Why Tampa Bay?

According to Visit Tampa Bay, Hillsborough County and Tampa witnessed a massive rise in hotel revenue and bed taxes in 2017. Santiago C. Corrada, president and CEO of Visit Tampa Bay, attributed record figures in marketing Tampa Bay for conventions and major events. Direct water taxi connectivity with all the top-notch convention centers, clusters of first-rate business hotels, lip smacking multiple eateries, hordes of attractions to explore in free time, Tampa Bay is an ideal meetings venue to open up the potential of your impending seminar and conference.

Globally recognized Tampa International Airport

America's favorite airport, the Airports Council International awarded Tampa International Airport as the top 3 airports in North America and top 5 in the world. Keeping passenger experience at the forefront by making each interaction personal, the airport receives rave reviews for its exclusive design and passenger-friendly facilities from every quarter.



No dearth of unique venues

The city has historic social clubs, galleries, convention center, distinctive theatres, boutique hotels, sports stadiums and state-of-the-art flexible meeting spaces to choose for your crew.



Tampa Convention Center

Situated at the heart of the famous Riverwalk, Tampa Convention Center has turned as more of a destination than just a mere conference center. Opened in 1990, the center encompasses 600,000 sq feet of meeting space with 200,000 sq feet of exhibit hall, a ballroom with 2000 guest capacity, telescopic seating arrangement, and banquets for up to 2,080 people, 36 meeting rooms, and four cafés in the hall, arranging approximately 300 events every year. The historic streetcar stop close to the center and the boat docks are the two of the key amenities that make Tampa Convention Center a sought-after events venue.

Wide array of other business hotel options

Tampa has wide range of luxury hotels with all familiar flags, reliable quality and numerous amenities to boast of. Meeting planners across the globe can find huge options in terms of hotel rates because of their variety, without sacrificing on quality. Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay, Aloft Tampa Downtown, Epicurean Hotel, Sheraton Tampa Riverwalk Hotel, the Westshore Grand, Westin Tampa Bay and many more are some of the renowned meeting venues and hotel brands in Tampa Bay for business travellers.



Brilliant connectivity

Tampa has several modes of transportation to move around the town. Apart from the historic TECO Line Streetcar and water taxis, the city has over two hundred buses and zipcars plying in the Tampa Bay area. Rail commuters can access nationwide routes through Tampa Union Station.

5 attractions to explore when you're off meeting

Tampa Bay History Center

This three-floor modern museum has an exhibition space displaying 12,000 years of rich Florida history, with special emphasis on Tampa Bay and Gulf Coast.

Florida Museum of Photographic Arts

Various photographic works are displayed in this museum along with photography courses. Also, it can accommodate 150 guests for any private event.

Florida Aquarium

With 20,000 sea animals, river otters and ring-tailed lemurs, Florida Aquarium also houses stingrays, coral reef tank with dolphin spotting exhibition to witness.

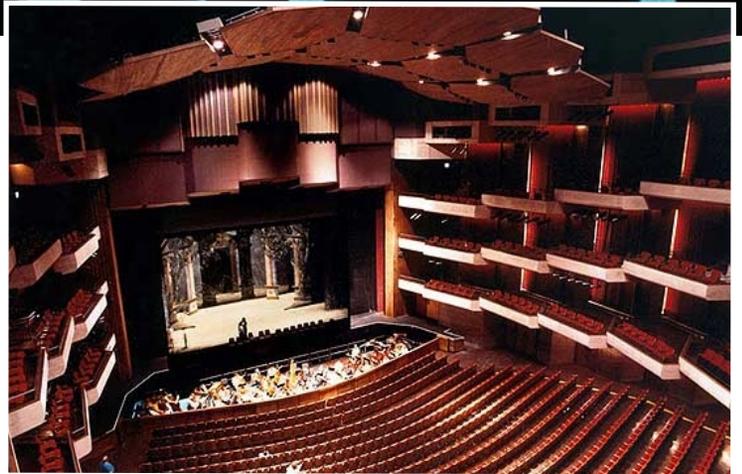
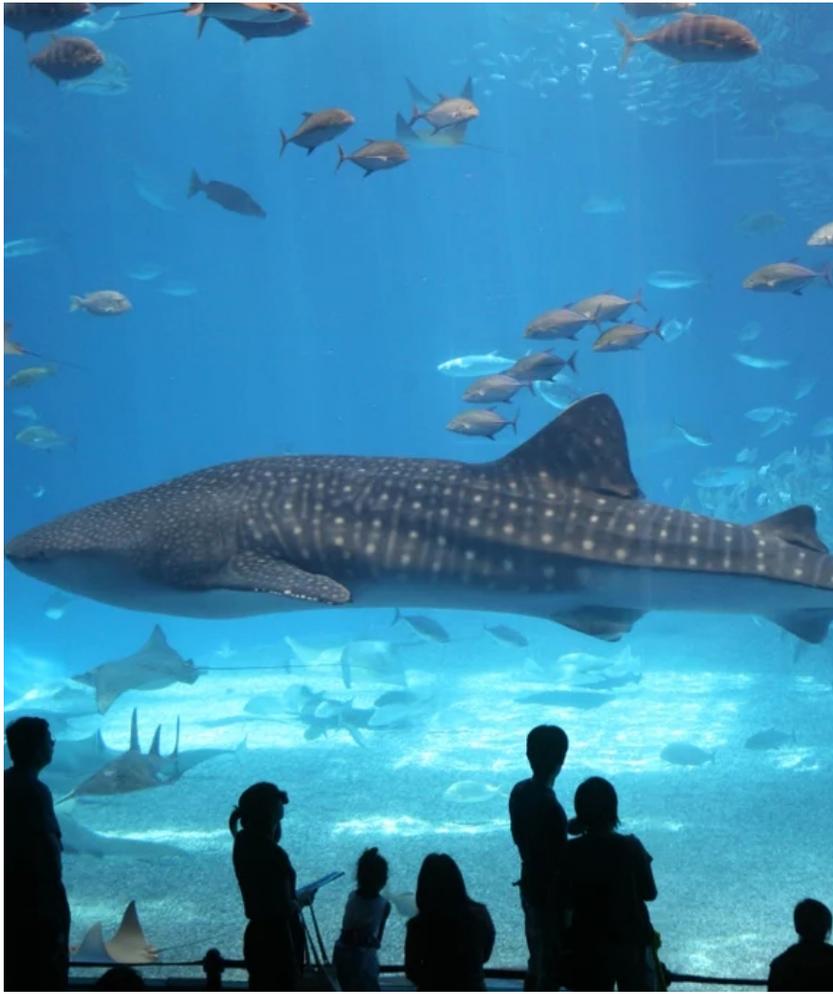
Tampa Museum of Arts

Starting right from ancient to modern art, Tampa museum of arts also organizes different corporate events, time to time.

David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts

Biggest theatre complex in the Southeast, this center for the performing arts hosts several group gatherings intermittently.





If we look back, visitations to Tampa for conventions started showing powerful results with time. Santiago C. Corrada said that without increasing room inventory, Tampa Bay was turned into a tourism powerhouse, supporting 50,000 local jobs. He observed that hotel revenues are roughly 20 percent of visitor spending in general. This year in May, Hillsborough County shows strong growth in revenue and stays a top preferred destination for business as well as leisure travellers.

Tampa Bay is the tailor-made place to reserve for your upcoming convention. Due to the constant impetus and development on accessibility, affordability and amenities in terms of Tampa Bay overall tourism market, this sector will keep on attracting event and conference organisers all over the world, annually.



Centre of Attraction

LOS CABOS

Latin America's
elegant
Commercial Seat



A distinctive combination of desert landscapes, mountainous contours and beaches – Latin America enchants wayfarers intensely, flanked by amazing contrasts and premier tourist destinations, particularly the southern part of Baja California Peninsula!

You can take off that thinking cap for the moment... 'Los Cabos' is the place!

This interesting haven is filled with exclusive resorts and hotels, classic spas and award-winning restaurants, apart from some of the most iconic golf courses from across the earth.

Location

The municipality of Los Cabos is based at the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California Peninsula in Baja California Sur state.

The two towns of San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas are located within this spectacular bleisure locale. A 20 mile Resort Corridor of beach-front properties and golf courses link these towns!

Why it Fascinates Corporate Travellers

Business meet, convention retreat or any other kind of corporate event concludes with classy perfection at Los Cabos.

Imagine delivering an interesting presentation to your clients in an outdoor seminar with an outstanding ocean view! Infrastructure in this part of the world has been upgrading steadily placing the destination on the pinnacle as a reputed confluence of meeting and business tourism.

Such a constant growth has led to a series of fresh developments in luxury resorts, unique locations and restaurants. Meeting planners naturally have a flair for Cabos when it comes to organising conferences.



Los Cabos

International Convention Centre

Latin America's ultimate host destination for MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) unveiled its brand new renovated convention centre in April 2018.

The Los Cabos International Convention Centre offers:



- 67,758 square feet of meeting space
- 156,475 square feet of total meeting space
- 8,000-person capacity
- 3 exhibition areas
- 440 parking spaces
- 11 breakouts
- 1,0008 solar panels producing 412,000 KW
- Massive green hall measuring 29,000 square feet
- Onsite catering
- Audio-visual capabilities

Top Meeting Hotels in Los Cabos

Meeting hotels here boast of exemplary quality and finest attention to detail for corporate planners and event attendees, reflecting the region's diversity.

The region has been thriving as a tourist location for several decades, thanks to its gorgeous collection of hospitality properties with high-tech, modern facilities!

Sheraton Grand Los Cabos

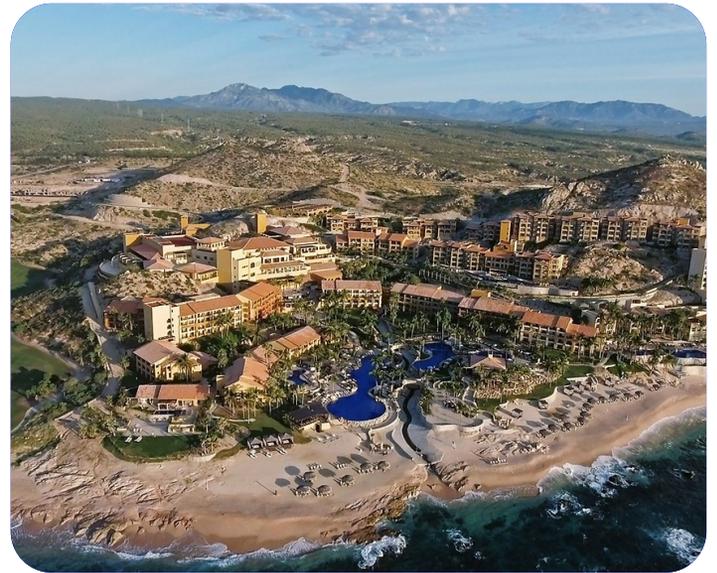
A classy resort in Los Cabos, Sheraton Grand Los Cabos has a meeting space of 18,000 square feet with 8 meeting rooms, 270 luxury rooms with Mexican décor, oceanic view restaurants, bar, Jacuzzi and so on.

Grand Fiesta Americana Los Cabos All Inclusive

Yet another fantastic business hotel in the region, Grand Fiesta Americana offers a large meeting space measuring 15,000 square feet, 9 meeting rooms and many other facilities. The element of convenient accessibility is another motivator for MICE travel in this portion of Latin American belt. Over 30 direct and connecting flights to Canada and the United States ease connectivity.

Grand Velas Los Cabos

Business travellers are assured of authentic corporate amenities at Grand Velas Los Cabos that has a convention centre spanning 15,000 square feet, 20 breakout rooms, 2 outdoor venues, bars, swimming pools and much more.



Hilton Los Cabos Beach & Golf Resort

Hilton Los Cabos & Golf Resort marks an excellent fusion of Mexican hospitality and contemporary MICE facilities. Meeting space covers nearly 11,000 square feet, 26 meeting rooms and more.





Furthermore, San Jose del Cabo International Airport greets over three million passengers every year – no wonder, it is an exceptional destination with appropriate infrastructure and flexible access.

Be it a budget vacation or adventure escapade coupled with business, Cabos marks a quintessential corporate charm that only a few can match!



Helping female business travellers stay safe...

Although business travel has got safer and easier, solo female travel need special precautions where women sometimes see themselves encountering scandalous experience and appalling instances of sexual harassment.

The female employees in the hospitality, travel and leisure sector are most of the time alone in unfamiliar location. The recent mired controversies about the #MeToo movement highlighted the depth of inappropriate behavior that women experience.

Women business travellers are among the fastest growing segment of business travellers causing for the business for an undeniable need to bring in a

personal approach by catering to women specific needs.

The risks women felt while on the road included sexual harassment, assault, kidnapping risks, public transportation and gender-specific health risks.

As compared to men, women feel more unsafe and maximum women believe that their companies should prioritize suppliers who address the needs of the women else they might be at risk of falling behind their competitors.

TRAVEL SAFE



Travel light : Light weight luggage is always a winner in any situation, if you carry heavy bag it will not just weigh you down but will tend to slow you. The whole idea should be to travel in and out of the airport quickly so travel should never be tough on your luggage.

Modest dressing : As the norms pertaining to places across the world are different, it is always advisable to avoid unwanted male attention. This comes a lot handy while eating in a hotel bar or in a foreign country.

Safety alarm: A personal safety alarm is always a good choice to carry if you intend to do sightseeing on your trip or go for a run. Also place a doorstop alarm to stay safe in hotel.

Carry backups : Do carry an extra copy of your driver's license or passport, have a back up credit card and some cash hidden in another bag. Chances are if someone steals your purse you still have a back up. Be careful with luggage tag, use a laminated business card so that the home address isn't exposed. Always prefer to leave your itinerary with family or friend to have a daily record.

Smart hacks for women business travellers



Transportation and room service: Plan ahead so that you avoid being stuck at any part of the journey, reserve hotel, car or ground transport. Large hotel chains have card keys and better security; one should go for a room with an interior entrance and above the ground floor. Try to be near to the elevator but not too close to the emergency exits. Ensure that no one overhears your room number and check all locks. Check before opening the door for housekeeping or room service.

Befriending strangers: Solo business travellers often fall a prey to pick pockets and other criminals, so do not share much information and

cut down conversation if it is unaccountable. Keeping the phone charged is a smart safety precaution.

Last but not the least download safety apps for travel abroad although it can't vouch for 100% safety, the right app has certain benefits that will keep your friends and relatives informed if you encounter any problem during your trip.





MICE

APPOINTMENTS



JAMES MCGINN APPOINTED AS BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HASTINGS HOTELS

Hastings Hotel has welcomed James McGinn as one of the Board Directors. Subsequently, he held the positions of General Manager in the Stormont Hotel, Culloden Estate & Spa and the Europa Hotel where he has been at the helm since 2003. Hastings Hotels Chairman, Edward Carson said that they are delighted that James McGinn has been appointed as a Director of Hastings Hotels. James will also remain General Manager of the Europa Hotel.

BHAVESH RAWAL APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT MANAGER OF WESTIN DUBAI MINA SEYAH

Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi has appointed Bhavesh Rawal as executive assistant manager. Bhavesh Rawal began his career in 1999 as chef de partie at Burj Al Arab. In addition to this and six years with JW Marriott Dubai, his 19-year career has seen him work his way up the ladder with top brands in the region including the Grand Hyatt and Madinat Jumeirah.



JO WELFARE WELCOMED AS SALES ADMINISTRATION MANAGER OF BARBICAN BUSINESS EVENTS

The Barbican logo is displayed in a white rounded rectangle. The word "barbican" is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font.

Jo Welfare has joined the team as sales administration manager of Barbican Business Events. Jo joins the Business Events team with a wealth of relevant knowledge. She will be providing administrative support to the Business Events sales team as well as take up the position of Finance Chair for the London City Selection. Jackie Boughton, Head of Business Events for the Barbican said that they are delighted by Joanne's move and continue to see exciting growth in the year ahead.

SAID SALIM AL-SHANFARI APPOINTED AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF OMAN CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN) the developer of the iconic Oman Convention & Exhibition Centre (OCEC) project has appointed through the Board of Directors of OCEC company Mr. Said Salim Said Al-Shanfari as CEO to lead the organization. Mr. Said has rich experience working in leadership roles in marketing and communications across Oman as well as in the region. Al-Shanfari brings with him a wealth of experience as he progressed through various management positions during his eight-year tenure in Ooredoo Oman as Director of Business Marketing and most recently as the General Manager of Marketing Communication and Performance at Omantel.



MICE BITES

Visit Bali's hidden secret : Menjangan Dynasty Resort

Menjangan Dynasty Resort, Beach Glamping & Dive Centre resting upon 16 hectares of land decorated with beautifully landscaped tropical garden, blissful white-sand beach lapped by the gentle waters of Banyuwedang Bay and eco-friendly beach front is Bali's hidden gem. Catering to outdoor adventure enthusiasts with an appetite for indulgence, the safari-style tented rooms and villas, combined with a series of magnificent communal spaces crafted in bamboo and 'alang-alang' thatch, present a refreshing alternative in architectural style and five-star flair. The visitors can enjoy a mesmerizing vista

that extends across a mangrove-entwined coastline to the lowland forests of West Bali National Park, taking in the tiny uninhabited Menjangan Island, the craggy folds of Bali Barat's north facing ridges and the towering Mt Raung in East Java. 24 beach camp tents, delicious cuisine, intimate dining and the opportunity to interact with nature can all be enjoyed, supported by excellent service from a team of safari-suited staff. It is designed to blend with the environment and provide guests with a memorable and exciting, close-to-nature 'glamping' experience.



Bali's Westin Resort Nusa Dua hosts IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting 2018

Located adjacent to Bali International Convention Centre (BICC), the Westin Resort Nusa Dua proudly contributed to the overwhelming success of the recent International Monetary Fund-World Bank Annual Meeting 2018. A sizeable contingent of VIP dignitaries, international heads of state, ministers, parliamentarians, academics and

private sector delegates all descended on the island of Bali to participate in this year's event from 8th to 14th October 2018. The IMF-World Bank Annual Meeting is best described as one of the largest gatherings of financial minds and high-end decision makers. It is a forum where global issues are discussed, ideas conceived and later implemented to shape the future of the world and its economic landscape.



Seoul successfully grabs 40 international conferences with an estimate to bring more than 35,000 international delegates

From January to October 2018, Seoul successfully secured 40 international conferences, which is estimated to bring more than 35,000 international delegates to the city over the coming years. Of the 40 international conferences, 12 are considered large-scale conferences, which account for approximately 25,000 international delegates. According to the Union of International Associations (UIA) International Meetings Statistics Report published this past June, Seoul was the third most popular international meetings city from 2015 to 2017. During 2017, Seoul successfully secured 42 international conferences with a total of 30,325 participants. Of these conferences, there were 11 large-scale meetings with more than 1,000

delegates, accounting for 18,500 participants.

Algarve Congress Centre in Vilamoura reopens

The Algarve Congress Centre has opened next to Vilamoura Marina and the Tivoli Marina Vilamoura Algarve Resort.

After a €10 million investment from Minor Hotels Group, the Algarve Congress Centre is now available to host gatherings with maximum convenience and flexibility, offering rooms and venues that meet all state-of-the-art needs in organising gatherings that range from seminars to parties and much more. Vilamoura is a delightful central town in the popular beach destination of the Algarve. This new event space is comprised of 22 rooms bursting with natural light spread over a total area of 7,050 square metres, with a total capacity for 3,000 people.





Indywood Film Carnival

As the canvas of films grows bigger in India, so does the need to develop beyond conventional borders and to tap the full spectrum of the domestic audience, Indian diaspora and the global film market.

Project Indywood, the USD 10 billion visionary project has been at the front position of uniting all Indian regional film industries under one umbrella and connecting the industry with global stakeholders of cinema.

By bridging the gap between the Indian and International film market, and opening new avenues for international trade and investments, Indywood Film Carnival will help to promote Indian cinema globally, thereby benefitting its film industry, both financially and qualitatively.

After the overwhelming response received by Indywood Film Carnival in Kochi (2015) and Hyderabad (2016 & 2017), the event shall return with its fourth edition which promises to be three times bigger than its predecessors in all aspects.

The fourth edition of the Carnival will be a forum for more than 5000 delegates including visits from 1000 International delegates from over 100 countries to the state of Telangana. The film festival expects to see 20000 footfalls from the visitors including

When: December 01 - 05 , 2018

Where: HITEX Convention Centre, Hyderabad

eminent film producers, directors, cine artists, government officials, tourism boards, international buyers and sales agents, film associations, film institute, film journalists, film commissions, film enthusiasts and students etc. Other major events at Indywood Film Carnival will include Media Interactions, Conferences & Panel Discussions, Workshops & Seminars, Film Business Awards, Golden Frame Awards, Excellence Awards, Red Carpet & Networking Events, Indywood Academy Awards, Indywood Fashion Premier League, Film Tourism and Investors Meet.





Indywood Film Carnival has always been a platform to meet, connect and showcase the best of India's numerous film industries with national and international stakeholders of cinema. It is where film makers, production houses, technology providers and aspiring artists converge to make the dream of a unified Indian film industry a reality. Continuing the success streak of its predecessors, Indywood Film

Carnival shall return for its fourth edition from Dec 1-5, 2018.

Adhering to 'Make in India' policy and promoting local industries such as tourism and entertainment, IFC shall continue its mission to attract foreign delegates and tourists thereby promoting film tourism in the state.



When: 18-20 February, 2019

Where: Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre, Australia

AIME

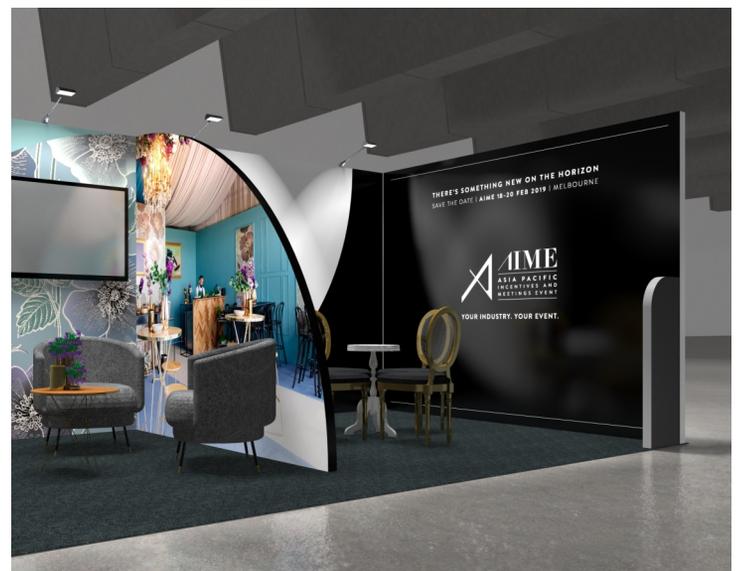
Asia Pacific Incentives and Meetings Event (AIME) relaunches to market 18-20 February 2019 at Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre, Australia.

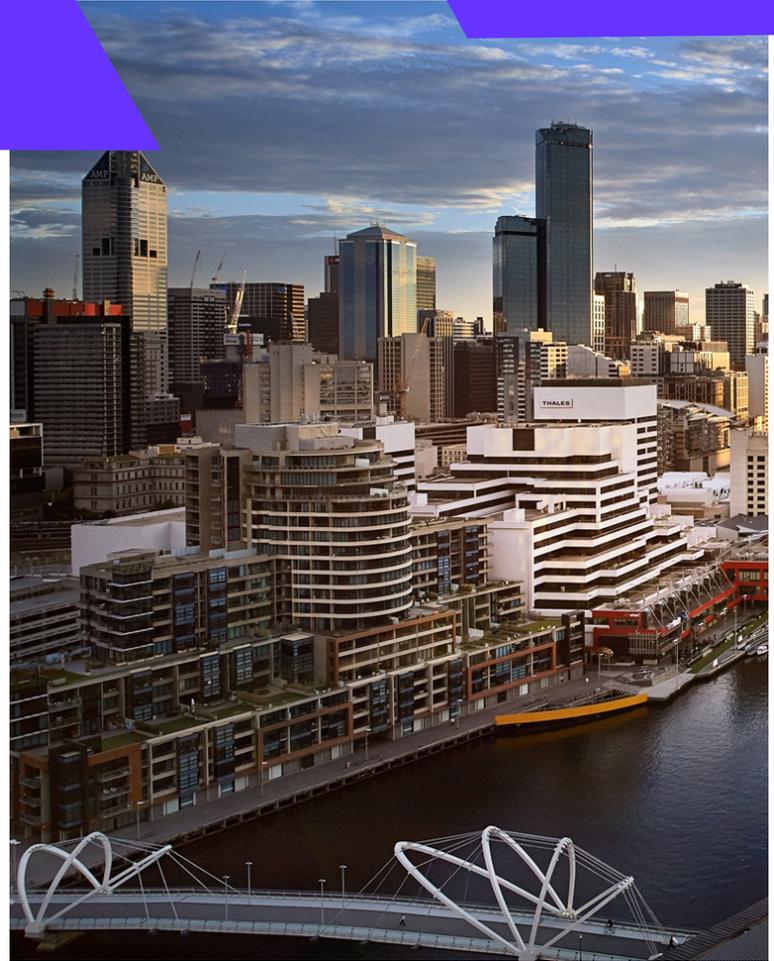
With the booming MICE industry delivering year on year growth to reach \$1,245 billion by 2023, Asia Pacific leads this growth with the emerging mega economies of China and India, regional cooperation and easy global accessibility. AIME is the pre-eminent event that gathers together the largest numbers of buyers for Asia Pacific who are wanting and qualified to do business. It's dynamic, big business and carefully curated to deliver return on investment for all participants.

New organisers to AIME are committed to a 60% increase on buyer numbers from previous years, welcoming experienced buyers from across Australasia and are also targetting 35% of buyers from the Asia Pacific region with a further 25% from across Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. The AIME team has reviewed multiple facets of the event experience, introducing personalised vetting of every single buyer, ensuring that only quality buyers with business to contract will be at AIME.

Talk2 Media & Events Director Matt Pearce said that hosted buyers, both quantity and quality, together

with geographic spread are core to underpinning the future success of AIME. AIME has invested heavily into the Hosted Buyer Program and it's pleasing to receive strong interest from buyers in Asia-Pac and Australia alike.





The industry is responding with zeal. Already, AIME has contracted more hosted buyers than previous years with 58% Asian Pacific and international buyers, and 44% of all buyers are first timers to AIME. Interest from India has exceeded expectations, with organisers having to create a waiting list to cater for this demand.

Destinations, associations and venues across the globe are signing up with many exhibitors who have shunned the past few years, recommitting to the new vision for AIME, including Dubai Business Events, Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau,

Silversea Cruises and Hilton Hotels Malaysia. The new participation model, which includes stand build, all networking events and attendance to the Knowledge Program simplifies the investment, but is driven by the delivery of 32 appointments, carefully matched between the exhibitors' destinations and services against the business needs of the buyers. Meeting preferences open mid-November, so don't miss the opportunity to do business at AIME. Focus on a commercial outcomes, this revitalised event is truly worth your time.



Jeddah International Travel and Tourism Exhibition

When: 13-15 February, 2019

Where: Convention Centre-Jeddah Hilton, Saudi Arabia

Jeddah International Travel and Tourism Exhibition organized annually in Jeddah to provide a platform for local and international inbound and outbound tourism professionals and gives information to the exhibition visitors on amazing tourism destinations, accommodation options, medical and educational tourism, travel services and airlines in the Middle East and around the world.

Jeddah International Travel and Tourism Exhibition 2019 will attract more than 200 exhibitors from more than 20 countries and will attract more than 30,000 visitors including managers of travel and hospitality industries, and public visitors interested to discover personally the displayed travel services in the planning period for the next trip. Maya Helfawi, president of the organizing committee and manager of 4M Event Management the organizer of the event said: "the next edition will highlight family tourism in the Middle East".

She added that the statistics of the Middle East travel market has shown that more than two-thirds of the population prefer luxurious hotels to spend their holidays, also the size of the family tourism sector has grown significantly in recent years, prompting tour operators to design special

holiday packages for families and showcase this product directly to the exhibition visitors to familiarize them with its features and advantages.

Eng. Hamza Nasser, Executive Director of the exhibition said that this event is organised for the eighth consecutive year in time when the sector is witnessing rapid growth thanks to the efforts of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage in addition to the various efforts and support provided by the relevant government sectors. The integration of the tourism sector into the priorities of the Saudi Vision 2030 will enable the acceleration of this growth and increase its efficiency in supporting the national economy.

He pointed out that the local and international statistics confirm this growth, where the tourism information and research centre "MAS" recently revealed in its statistics that the number of jobs in the tourism sector has exceeded 880 thousand jobs, also the number of inbound tourist trips has exceeded 18 million trips and spending \$ 22 billion, while the number of outbound tourist trips approached 21 million trips and spending \$ 22.4 billion.

OTDYKH International Russian Travel Market 2018

When: 11-13 September 2018

Where: Expocentre Fairgrounds, Moscow, Russia

The 24th edition of OTDYKH Leisure, took place on 11-13 September 2018 at Expocentre Fairgrounds in Moscow. This event brought together 870 exhibitors from 41 countries and 44 Russian regions, covering the total area of 15 000 sq. m with over 38 300 visits during the 3 days of the Expo.

The key feature of OTDYKH 2018 edition was a significant increase of the Russian domestic travel exposition as well as the strong advertising campaigns of well-established exhibitors. Traditionally strong participation was shown by Asia and Latin America. European countries intensified their marketing efforts to attract more tourists to their destinations.

Large and exclusive expositions were demonstrated by the top destinations such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, China, Georgia, Spain, Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Cuba, Tunis, Egypt and many others.

A record number of Russian regions took part at the event to introduce their tourist attractions to the exhibition's guests, increasing their exhibition area by 26% compared to 2017.

The exhibition was accompanied by a comprehensive

business programme, featuring more than 40 business events in 11 conference halls with 200 speakers and over 2.000 participants including representatives of government authorities and travel industry. During the exhibition, 15 governmental agreements have been signed.

The highlights in the field of outbound tourism became a Hosted Buyers Programme 2018 and a series of roundtable meetings between Russian large tour operators and international authorities in total of 4 roundtable meetings dedicated to Serbia, India, Indonesia and Japan. The meetings were co-organized by ATOR (Association of Tour Operators of Russia).

The key event in the area of inbound tourism became the conference on the domestic tourism development in Russia. The so-called "All-Russia Meeting on Inbound and Domestic Tourism Development" was held on 11th of September and attracted over 200 participants incl. key decision-makers, governors, heads of tourism-related ministries and authorities.



The Ministry of Culture of Russian Federation, the Association of Russian Tour Operators, the Russian Union of Travel Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation and other national and regional authorities have, once again, extended their support to OTDYKH, noting that the exhibition is well-established and high-demanded B2B platform.

OTDYKH 2018 welcomed numerous newcomers as well as a series of returning exhibitors. Among newcomer were Palestine, Andhra Pradesh, Taiwan and Sintraas well as the Republic of Bashkortostan, Omsk and Penza regions. Maldives and Japan returned to the leading travel exhibition with collective stands after a short break. The OTDYKH business programme was of great interest among experts, industry associations and companies actively engaged in the Russian tourism industry and covered a large number of events including conferences, seminars, work-shops, case-study presentations, roundtable meetings and other

networking events. The business programme reflected the major industry trends and combined all relevant sectors of the tourism value chain, from MICE and Luxury Travel to Health and Gastronomy. One of the key events of OTDYKH Leisure 2018 became the Conference on domestic and inbound tourism development in Russia, which was held on 11th of September. The outcome of the Conference became a draft resolution with practical proposals for tourism development in Russia. The resolution will be submitted to the tourism-related ministers for their consideration and approval. The Hosted Buyers Programme 2018 received special interest. The high-level buyers, tour operators and travel agencies from 23 Russian regions attended the exhibition to conduct meetings with exhibitors. In 2019 OTDYKH International Travel Market will celebrate its 25th anniversary. Don't miss out the opportunity to enter one of the largest tourism markets in the world with over 20 million outbound travellers per year. Become part of OTDYKH 2019- where the world of travel is at home.

Nov
1-4

THE LUXURY TRAVEL FAIR
Olympia, London
www.luxurytravelfair.com



Nov 2

GLOBAL EUROPEAN MARKETPLACE
London, UK
www.etoa.org



Nov
5-7

WORLD TRAVEL MARKET
London, United Kingdom
<http://london.wtm.com/>



Nov
5-7

CRUISE CONNECT SUMMIT
Manila, Philippines
<https://maritime.knect365.com/crew-connect-global/>



Featuring:



Nov
7

TOURINVEST FORUM
Paris, France
<http://tourinvest.com/en/home/>



Nov
7-9

Cruise World
Florida USA
www.cruiseworldshow.com



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov
7-9

ADVENTURE NEXT LATIN AMERICA

Campo Grande, MS, Brazil
www.adventuretravel.biz/events/adventurenext/latin-america-2018/



Nov 8

AIRPORT SOLUTIONS DUBAI

Dubai, UAE

www.airportsolutions.com/dubai



Nov
6-8

HOSPITALITY QATAR

Qatar

www.hospitalityqatar.qa



Nov
13-14

FUTURE TRAVEL EXPERIENCE ASIA EXPO

Marina Bay Sands, Singapore

www.futuretravelexperience.com/fteasia/



Nov
13-16

AMOUR THE AMERICAS

Los Cabos, Mexico

www.amourforums.com



Nov
14-15

BALTIC SEA TOURISM FORUM

Riga, Latvia

www.balticseatourism.net



Nov
14-15

China Destination Marketing Conference

China

www.chinatravelnews.com



**Nov
14**

INTERNATIONAL HOTEL TECHNOLOGY FORUM

Dubai, UAE

www.airportsolutions.com/dubai



**Nov
14-15**

Hotel Management Indonesia Summit

Jakarta, Indonesia

[www.questexevent.com/
HotelManagementSummit/2018/indonesia](http://www.questexevent.com/HotelManagementSummit/2018/indonesia)



**Nov
20**

PACIFIC AREA INCENTIVES & CONFERENCE EXPO

Auckland, Australia

www.paicexpo.co.nz



**Nov
21-22**

MICE Place Brussels

Brussels Belgium

www.bruxelles.mice-place.com



**Nov
22-24**

TT Warsaw

Poland

<http://ttwarsaw.pl/en/>



**Nov
23-25**

IITM Hyderabad

Hyderabad, India

<http://iitmindia.com/>



Nov
27-29

ACI Airport Exchange Conference

Oslo, Norway

www.airport-exchange.com



Nov
27-29

IBTM World

Barcelona, Spain

www.ibtmworld.com/homeb



Nov 29 -
Dec 1

Chengdu International Tourism Expo

Chengdu, China

www.citechina.asia/



Nov 29 -
Dec 2

MEETING & INCENTIVE FORUMS- MICE MASTERS

Girona, Spain

www.mi-forums.com/suppliers/experiences/2018/MICE_masters.aspx



Nov
30

IITM Pune

Maharashtra, India

<http://iitmindia.com/>



Dec
12

Uzakrota Travel Summit 2018

Uzakrota, Turkey

www.uzakrota.com/tag/uzakrota-travel-summit-2018



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