

World Tourism Cities Monthly

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Content

【Special Focus】	1
【Tourism News】	2
【City News】	5
【Industry News】	10
【Figure Scan】	15

World Tourism Cities Federation

世界旅游城市联合会

Special Focus

Tourism Continuous focus on the Aviation industry safety

The aviation industry has experienced the black July because of recent three crashes all over the world. Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 was shot down in a rebel-held area of eastern Ukraine, killing 298 people on July 17. Taiwan's Trans-Asia Airways which was carrying 58 passengers and crew crashed on a small Taiwanese island, killing 48 people and on July 23. Unfortunately, Air Algerie flight came down in a barren area in southern Mali, killing all 116 people on board.

After the crash of the MH17, many air companies changed the route of flights to and from Europe. Air China announced that currently it does not operate any flights to, flights with a stopover at or flights over Ukraine. At the same time, the company have further optimized our



flight route and taken necessary precautions for operational safety. Preventively, the significance of travel insurance is increasingly highlighted. Insurance company and policy-holder began to consider that how to optimize the insurance terms in future.

Tourism News

1 France: planned hotel tax increase

French Foreign Minister has blasted plans to rise by more than five times hotel taxes paid by tourists, saying the move would be dangerous for tourism and France's stumbling economy. They could force tourists to spend up to eight euros (\$10.90) per night in hotel taxes, instead of 1.50 euros (\$2) currently. (Reference: eTurbo News)

2 Italy: new member of “Welcome Chinese” certification

The first official qualifier for tourism businesses and transportation-oriented Chinese customers with parameters and services for the China market has been officially granted to Italy. “Welcome Chinese” is an innovative standard of services specifically designed for Chinese travelers. Its purpose is to improve the degree of readiness of international travel related businesses in welcoming Chinese guests.

(Reference: Travel Daily)

3 Japan: Harry Potter theme park to open in Osaka

A Harry Potter theme park that cost £260 million to build opens in Universal Studios Japan, featuring a unique recreation of Hogwarts Castle and the Black Lake. Hogwarts castle opened its doors to Japanese fans on July 15 with the unveiling of a new attraction based on the popular Harry Potter film series. (Reference: The Telegraph)

4 Singapore: and Trip Advisor join forces to expose local businesses

The STB and Trip Advisor are expanding their partnership to boost more sharing of the experiences that both locals and travelers have in Singapore. Through this new initiative, both partners aim to raise local tourism stakeholders' awareness on how they can benefit from user-generated content, while enriching, at the same time, Singapore's listings and content on the Trip Advisor website. (Reference: 4hoteliers.com)

5 PATA: 'PATA Loves ASEAN' campaign launched

The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) officially launched the 'PATA Loves ASEAN' campaign with a soft launch screening of the Travel Channel advertising campaign promoting responsible tourism experiences, which is to be broadcast throughout the Travel Channel network of over 81 million viewers in Europe, Middle East and Asia. (Reference: Travel Daily News)

6 Qatar: Underwater 'Lost Cities' to boost tourism

Los Angeles-based Dynamic Reef developer, Reef Worlds, is creating unique and spectacular underwater theme parks for waterfront resorts in Qatar, putting the state on the world stage for dive and snorkel tourism. Reef Worlds development team is in discussion with two resort developers to bring these sites to the region. (Reference: Zawya.com)

7 UK: government names spaceport locations

The British government has revealed eight locations being considered for the UK's first spaceport, which it hopes to establish by 2018. The list includes Campbeltown Airport (Scotland), Glasgow Prestwick Airport (Scotland), Llanbedr Airport (Wales), Newquay Cornwall Airport (England), Kinloss Barracks (Scotland), RAF Leuchars (Scotland), RAF Lossiemouth (Scotland) and Stornorway Airport (Scotland).

(Reference: relocatemagazine.com)

8 Korea: launches new tourism slogan

South Korea has a new slogan “Imagine Your Korea” to promote the country’s tourism. The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the Korea Tourism Organization unveiled the new slogan at a launch

ceremony on July 22. They also announced their goal of attracting 20-million overseas tourists by 2020. (Reference: Rus Tourism News)

9 Seychelles: works to boost tourism industry marketing

A series of recommendations have been put forward during the Seychelles Tourism Board's mid-year marketing meeting. Among the suggestions given on how to increase yield in the tourism industry and to encourage tourist to choose these islands as the dream destination were an increase in interesting activities to entice visitors to its shores and to promote its culture more in the tourism industry, especially in hotels.

(Reference: eTurbo News)

10 Thailand: welcomes new mall and world's first Cartoon

Network-themed water park

The eagerly anticipated Cartoon Network Amazone water park and sensational Siam Square One are set to make visits to Thailand this summer a whole lot more special. Cartoon Network Amazone, the world's first Cartoon Network-themed water park, is set to open its doors on July 31, 2014. (Reference: Travel Daily)

1 Beijing: Int'l Grape Exhibition Garden opens in Yanqing County

International Grape Exhibition Garden was unveiled in Yanqing County of Beijing, capital of China, July 25, 2014. This garden is an important site for the 11th International Conference on Grapevine Breeding and Genetics in Yanqing. Every four years this conference brings the best grape breeders and geneticists all from the world together. (Reference: Xinhua net)

2 Xiamen: offers incentives to boost exhibition industry

The Xiamen government recently issued a document entitled ‘Several Opinions on promoting the development of the meeting and exhibition industry’, strengthening its support on the meeting and exhibition industry and committing to a prize of RMB 2 million yuan (\$321thousand) for the introduction of successful new exhibitions. (Reference: what’s on xiamen.com)

3 Dubai: to build climate-controlled 'city', largest mall

Dubai is planning to build a temperature-controlled city featuring the world's largest mall and an indoor park, as well as hotels, health resorts and theatres, the developer said. Already home to one of the globe's biggest indoor shopping complexes, Dubai Mall, the glitzy emirate known for its love of grandiose projects said it is now planning to build the “Mall of the World”. (Reference: Yahoo News)

4 Sapporo: Summer Festival was kicked off

Sapporo Summer Festival, mainly at O-dori Koen Park in Sapporo, Hokkaido. Open-air beer halls are set up in O-dori Koen Park from noon to 9 p.m. daily from July 18 to Aug. 15. A fireworks display is held over the Toyohira River from 7:40 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on July 25, and Japanese folk dancing in the O-dori Nishi-2-chome area from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. daily from Aug. 14 to 20. (Reference: The Japan Times)

5 Chongqing: Welcome the Little Prince theme park

The Little Prince theme park unveiled in Chongqing municipality on July 6, 2014. As the first Little Prince theme park in China, the park will expose visitors to French style romance. Activities of reading party, baking classes, drama shows will be offered to visitors. The park opens to the public for free in the first two months after its opening. (Reference: Ecns.cn)

6 Prague: Celebration of Jazz

The Festival takes place in Prague in a few places from October 6 to November 9, 2014. It represents a crossroads between genres. Its program presents a selection of jazz, classical music, sophisticated crossover, early

music and world music performed by the most prominent figures of the contemporary international music scene. (Reference: Czech tourism.com)

7 Macau: International Youth Dance Festival 2014

This event brings the youth of many countries together in a celebration of the universal expression of the self. A Parade of participants (5:30 pm on 19/7) starts from the Ruins of St. Paul's, passes St. Dominic's Church and finishes in Senado Square, while an Outdoor Performance (7:30 pm on 22/7) can be enjoyed by one and all in Tap Seac Square. An Indoor Performance (8:00 pm on 21 & 24/7, free admission with tickets) will be held in Macau Forum I. (Reference: Macau tourism)

8 Edinburgh: Start the Jazz and Blues Festival 2014

Started in 1978 by banjo-player and guitarist Mike Hart, The 2014 programme continues the Festival's commitment to musical excellence with over 140 events taking place in 10 days from 18th to 27th July. Lined-up are a selection of some of the world's finest Jazz and Blues musicians, including celebrated international acts, promising Scottish talent and Jazz legends. (Reference: Visiting Edinburgh.com)

9 Nanjing: "The Color Run" race in the Virescence Expo Park

Color run is an untimed event with no winners or prizes, and runners are showered with colored powder at stations along the race. Many people from the world attend the Five-kilometer Color Run in Nanjing Virescence Expo Park on July 19, 2014. (Reference: nju.gov.cn)

10 Penang: George Town Festival 2014

George Town Festival will be back for the month of August 2014. George Town Festival (GTF) is a month-long festival based in Penang, Malaysia. From our roots as a celebration of George Town's UNESCO Heritage Site listing, GTF has flourished into what some are calling the most vibrant arts festival in Southeast Asia. (Reference: Tourism Penang)

11 Geneva: Spectacular fireworks start on 9 August

This fireworks show is one of the greatest firework displays in the world, the final flourish of the festival, amazes an audience of 500,000. The breath-taking show lasts 55 minutes and sets the lakeside ablaze at 10 pm, on August 9. The visitors can book the seat at the FNAC, Ticket portal or Geneva Tourism. (Reference: Geneve-tourisme.ch)

12 London: Kids Week kick off in August

A wide range of family-friendly shows, secure free kids' theatre tickets, and take part in activities at top West End theatres as part of Kids Week during the whole August, 2014. Now in its 17th year, the theatrical spectacular was dreamt up to inspire children to enjoy live theatre from a young age, encouraging them not only to view some of the best shows in town but to also join in with fun activities. (Reference: Visit london.com)

Industry News

Accommodation

1 Four Seasons Resort: win Travel + Leisure's 2014 World's best awards

Four Seasons Resort and Residences Vail have been distinguished as one of the Top 100 Hotels in the world in Travel + Leisure's 2014 World's Best Awards. Additionally, the Resort is ranked at No.7 on the list of Top Resorts in the Continental US, receiving a high rating of 93.52. Every year, Travel + Leisure readers vote on their favorite hotels, resorts, spas, airlines, cruise lines, and tour operators in the magazine's World's Best Awards survey. (Reference: Four Seasons.com)

2 Kempinski: Hotel Des Milles Collines Opens in Kigali, Rwanda

Kempinski Hotels officially took over the management of the famous Hôtel Des Milles Collines in Rwanda's capital Kigali at the beginning of July. Hôtel Des Milles Collines by Kempinski will be the European luxury hotel company's ninth hotel operating on the continent, with three more hotels in Africa scheduled to open in the next six months.

(Reference: Luxury Travel)

Activity

1 Carnival: signs agreement with Cigar City Brewing

Carnival Cruise Lines has entered into an exclusive agreement to offer Tampa-based Cigar City Brewing's craft beers on all of its Florida-based ships. The agreement was announced on July 13, at an event aboard Carnival Legend at the Port of Tampa. (Reference: Breaking Travel News)

2 UnionPay International: Launch of 40 "Welcome UnionPay" International Core Business Districts

UnionPay International, the provider of global payment services for UnionPay cards (card numbers starting with 62), on July 15 announced that its cardholder preferential package will expand to cover 40 core business and retail districts in popular travel destinations worldwide, including Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Europe, North America and the Middle East. (Reference: Unionpay intl.com)

3 DFS: T-Galleria by DFS FALL/WINTER 2014 Campaign

DFS Group (DFS), the world's leading luxury travel retailer, brings to life one of the many ways we record travel memories in its Fall/Winter 2014 campaign for T-Galleria by DFS. The campaign will be rolled out as a six-part video series, with the first episode set to debut on www.tgalleria.com and social media channels on August 1st and the last October 20th. (Reference: DFS Group.com)

4 MSC Cruises: donates €3 million to UNICEF

MSC Cruises has donated €3 million to UNICEF, the United Nations agency that fights for the rights of children around the world, during a handover ceremony at MSC Cruises' Geneva headquarters.

(Reference: Breaking Travel News)

5 Gongmei Group: 2014 "hidden" Chinese national art collection exhibition

2014 "hidden" Chinese national art collection exhibition on July 20, 2014 in Deshengmen industrial building gold mansion club officially kicked off. As countries on culture industry's strong support and encouragement, people focus on Chinese arts and crafts industry is heating up again.

(Reference: Gongmei Group.com)

1 Sky-scanner: Reveals the Future of Airports and Flying

Sky-scanner, is a leading global travel search site. By 2024, they predict that airports will be uplifting, intelligent spaces providing passengers with a sense of wellbeing. Airlines will become cyber hubs where travelers can create havens to suit their business or leisure needs. (Reference: Female first.co)

2 TUI AG: plans buyout of TUI Travel

TUI AG intends to acquire the shares of tour operator company TUI Travel that it doesn't currently own, in a deal worth about \$7.5 billion. TUI AG currently owns nearly 55% of TUI Travel. The proposed buyout, anticipated to close in spring 2015, could reduce costs for both entities by as much as \$77 million, according to the companies. (Reference: Travel Weekly)

Technology

MasterCard Launches Master Pass in Poland

MasterCard announced the launch of Master pass on July 14, its global digital service in Poland. Master pass provides consumers a seamless, secure and speedy checkout – regardless of where they may be and what device they may be using – at online merchant sites around the globe. Master Pass eliminates the need for consumers to enter detailed shipping

and card information to complete their online shopping at Master Pass merchant sites. (Reference: Mastercard.com)

Transportation

1 Hong Kong Airlines: Awarded “Yahoo! Motive Brand” Three Years in a Row

Hong Kong Airlines has once again been awarded “Yahoo! Motive Brand” at an award presentation ceremony hosted by Yahoo! Hong Kong on July 16. This is the third consecutive year that Hong Kong Airlines has received the recognition. Mr. Alex Wu, General Manager of Hong Kong Airlines’ Hong Kong Sales Office attended the ceremony and received the award on behalf of the Company. (Reference: Hong Kong airlines.com)

2 THAI Airways: announces shark fin-free cargo policy

Thai Airways International Public Company Limited (THAI) announces that the carrier has implemented strict Cargo policy on the shipment prohibition of shark fin on THAI Cargo, effective from 15 July 2014.

(Reference: eTurbo News)

3 China Southern Airlines lands in Frankfurt

China Southern Airlines on 24 June began a new thrice-weekly service from Guangzhou to Frankfurt via Changsha. The route will be served by the Sky Team carrier's A330-200s and will face no direct competition. Frankfurt becomes the airline's sixth destination in Europe after Amsterdam, Istanbul, London, Moscow and Paris. (Reference: anna.aero)

Figure Scan

1 2.2%: Caribbean tourism sector records visitor number increase in first quarter

The Caribbean tourism sector has recorded improvements during the first quarter of this year when compared to the corresponding period in 2013. Figures released by the Caribbean Tourism Organization show a 2.2% rise in stay-over arrivals between January and March 2014, with cruise visits up 2.3%. The US, with just fewer than 3.5 million, continues to be the largest provider of tourists to the Caribbean. (Reference: Breaking Travel News)

2 25%: China driving growth of Vancouver tourism

Tourism usually brings in 3.6 billion dollars a year to Vancouver, and 2014 could be even better. Vancouver has already seen 5.5 percent more people visit, with hotel stays up more than 8 percent as well. One market in particular which continues to show really strong growth year over year

in the last number of years in China. The Vancouver has seen an increase of 25% from China in 2014. (Reference: eTurbo News)

3 58.06%: Asian tourists account for over a half of total visitor arrivals in Philippines

Asian tourists have cornered more than half of total visitor arrivals in the Philippines in the first four months of 2014. The visitor arrivals from the Asian continent accounted for 58.06% of total arrivals for the period, with tourists from Korea, China and Japan leading the pack. The biggest growth was recorded by Myanmar at 43%, followed by Brunei with 30.57%. (Reference: eTurbo News)

4 1 million: Brazil welcomed one million international visitors during World Cup

According to information by the federal government, one million foreign tourists visited Brazil during the World Cup. That's way above the estimated 600,000 expected prior to the games. A total of 3.4 million people attended matches at the stadium, the second highest number of attendees during a world cup. (Reference: eTurbo News)

5 5 million: 5 million passengers in 5 months from January to May in Athens

The overall trend in passenger traffic came from the increased travel demand especially by international visitors as well as Greeks. International travelers to Athens increased 38% to 5 million passengers within five months, indicating the potential of the Greek capital as a tourist destination. (Reference: City member-Athens)

6 14 million: 14 million visitors who visited the Saudi Arabia in 2014

The number of foreign tourists who visited the Saudi Arabia during this year reaches 14 million. During tourism information meeting held in Riyadh on July 19, official said that half of the foreign tourists are visitors of the Two Holy Mosques of Mecca and Medina and other half are visiting the Kingdom for business, tourism or visiting friends and family.

(Reference: eTurbo News)

7 28 million: Spain reports record number of visitors in first half

A record 28 million foreign tourists flocked to Spain during the first half of the year, with British and German holidaymakers leading the wave.

The number of foreign visitors was up 7.3 percent over the figure for the same time in 2013, when the country set a new record for tourist arrivals.

(Reference: Yahoo News)

8 68 million: Trip Advisor earnings rise to \$68 million

Trip Advisor Inc on July 23 reported a second-quarter profit of \$68 million. During the same period a year ago, the online travel information company earned \$67 million. The company said its results included sales of \$235 million from click-based advertising. (Reference: Market Watch)

9 7 Billion: Mexico Earns \$7 Billion from Tourism in First 5 Months of the Year

Mexico earned \$7.02 billion from visits by foreign tourists in the January-May period, up 16.7 percent from the same period in 2013, the Tourism Secretariat said. Mexico welcomed 11.7 million foreign tourists from January-May period, a figure that was up 19.2% from the same period in 2013. (Reference: laht.com)

10 \$292 billion: US business travel spending projected to top \$292 billion in 2014

A leading travel industry forecast finds US-originated business travel grew nearly 3% year-over-year, with company spending for business travelers increasing 7.6% to \$71.2 billion during the first quarter of 2014. Overall, US-generated business travel spending is expected to increase 6.8% to \$292.3 billion in 2014. (Reference: eTurbo News)

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