

World Tourism Cities Monthly

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Content

【Special Focus】	1
△ Explore the emerging pattern in Cross domain cooperation	
【Tourism News】	3
△ UK: will refund visa costs for up to 25,000 Chinese visitors	
【City News】	6
△ Budapest: to Host WOMEX Expo in 2015	
【Industry News】	12
△ Beijing Capital International Airport: 3rd Beijing Global Sister Airport President Forum	
【Figure Scan】	18
△ 5%: Tourism growth in global	

World Tourism Cities Federation

世界旅游城市联合会

Special Focus

Explore the emerging pattern in Cross domain cooperation

The online tourism market has tremendous potential nowadays. The giants are keen on exploring O2O business and try to extend the share of the tourism industry.



Like e-commerce giant JD.com, formerly 360Buy, is one of the main competitors to the country's retail giant Tmall, owned by Alibaba Group. JD

has already offered many service that enables users to book flights, holiday packages, train tickets, taxis, and hotels. In February 2012, JD launched a hotel reservation service, and an international flight ticket service on September 10 that means the company is further refining its business layout on O2O and extended the market share in online travel field.

China is becoming one of the largest cruise markets in the world. As the largest cruise agency in China, Ctrip, a



leading travel service provider in China ("Ctrip" or the "Company"), has sent over 120,000 guests to cruise trips so far and acquired more than 10% of market share in China. Ctrip announced on September 2 that it has, through Exquisite Marine Ltd. ("Exquisite"), an affiliate of Ctrip, entered an agreement to acquire Celebrity Century, a 1,814-passenger cruise ship, from Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. Ctrip excited about the strong growth of the cruise industry and strive to strengthen its leadership in this market.



The governments of different countries are eyeing benefits via internet as well. For example, the Tourism Malaysia has recently launched a free smartphone app

called Malaysia Amaze-Ya! designed to provide travelers with a useful tool for navigating their travels in Malaysia. The app is available for both iPhone and android and offers general information on key destinations in Malaysia as well as handy tips for the best attractions in Kuala Lumpur, Sabah and Penang.

Similarly, a mobile App which is named "Step out, Macau" was launched by Macao tourism official department with four walking tour routes and the most sought after information essential to the tourists.

Nowadays, tourism competition is very fierce, but the central point is quality service and good product. The cities government should develop a business thinking like the OTAs as well to integrate all the essential information together to boost the tourism industry.

Tourism News



Korea: duty-free allowance raised to \$600

The duty-free allowance for travelers entering South Korea raised to \$600 from the current \$400 on September 5. This is the first time that the ceiling has been raised since 1988. The government also plans to reduce taxes on travelers who voluntarily report items they are bringing in.

(Reference: Korea herald.com)



Portugal: Started of operations of the “Visa Application Centre” in Beijing

From August 25th, 2014, Portugal started the services of a Visa Application Centre in Beijing, dedicated to the application for Schengen Visas (short-term). However, the applications for Long-term Visas continue to be handled at the facilities of the Consular Section in the Embassy of Portugal, where all other remaining consular acts will be handled. (Reference: Portugal Embassy China.com)



Cooperation: IRENA and UNWTO to promote renewable energies in Islands' tourism sector

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), an intergovernmental organization dedicated to supporting countries' efforts to adopt renewable energy, and the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), the United Nations specialized agency for tourism, have joined forces to promote the use of renewable energies in Islands.

(Reference: unwto.org)



Thailand: launches tourist safety app for smartphone

Tourist police in Thailand have launched a new safety app. The mobile technology is aimed at improving safety of tourists. The app known as Tourist Buddy Application works via a smart-phone and offers safety tips as well as travel information. (Reference: Thailand News)



APEC: to apply new initiatives to boost tourism sector

The Tourism Ministers from APEC's 21 economies have adopted a set of measures from facilitating tourist travel and promoting smart digital technologies in modern tourism management to developing sustainable, low-carbon tourism destinations that are outlined in the Macao

Declaration, adopted on September 13 by the 8th APEC Tourism Ministerial Meeting. (Reference: Republika.co)



UK: will refund visa costs for up to 25,000 Chinese visitors

China and the UK held their annual Economic and Financial Dialogue in London on September 12. Britain will also refund visa costs for up to 25,000 Chinese visitors on organized tours between 2015 and 2017.

(Reference: reuters.com)



Egypt: tourism could fully recover in 2015

While Egypt is by no means wholly stable, the government hoped tourist numbers would rise by up to 10% this year, and recover to pre-uprising levels of 14.7 million visitors in 2015. Sea resorts and ancient sites are the backbone of the Egyptian tourism industry and have mostly escaped attack by militants, but would also promote desert safaris, trekking and spa tourism to boost tourism. (Reference: reuters.com)



Spain: expert touts importance of smart cities for tourism

Smart cities are a "good bet" for the future of the hotel industry and are capable of enriching consumers' travel experiences, Spanish tourism

expert said at the 60th Congress of the Hotel and Tourism Association of Colombia. (Reference: foxnews.com)



Sri Lanka to push medical tourism

Sri Lanka pushes medical tourism in order to support the 20 billion dollars export target in year 2020. Sri Lanka has about 1084 government hospitals including teaching hospitals, district hospitals, special hospitals, divisional hospitals and medical care units. (Reference: lankabusinessonline.com)



PATA: Travel Mart 2014 opens in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The PATA Travel Mart 2014 opened on September 17 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, with over 1,000 delegates from close to 60 countries around the world joining the annual networking event organized by the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) and generously hosted by the Ministry of Tourism of Cambodia. (Reference: rustourismnews.com)

City News

26th Macau International Fireworks Display Contest

Once a year, residents and visitors to Macau are treated to the pyrotechnic extravaganza of the Macau International Fireworks Display Contest. The whole of the Praia Grande and Nam Van Lake waterfront are ideal spots

from which to view the cascading night skies on September 8, 13, 20, 27 and October 1, 2014. (Reference: Macau Tourism.gov)

Tel Aviv: Kite Exhibition in until November

Eretz Israel Museum's Kite Exhibition has kites from diverse cultures in all shapes and sizes with interactive activities for the family until 8th



November. The kite collection is made up of kites from around the world including those from the Philippines, China, Europe, Africa, America and Israel. (Reference: Visit Tel Aviv)

Tianjin: World Economic Forum honors its 2014 Young Scientists Community

The World Economic Forum recognized its 2014 Young Scientists Community at the eighth Annual Meeting of the New Champions, taking place in Tianjin,



China on 10-12 September. Thirty exceptional scientists under the age of 40 engaged with business and political leaders to contribute their scientific perspective and deliver the most up-to-date trends.

(Reference: weforum.org)

London: Plaza Premium Lounge Confirms First Airport

Independent Lounge in Heathrow's New Terminal 2

The world's leading airport lounge provider, Plaza Premium Lounge, opened at London Heathrow T2 in June 2014.

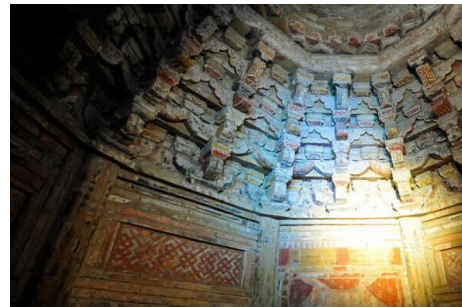


Open daily from 5am to 11pm, the £38

charge per person allows access for up to two hours which includes a complimentary selection of food and drink, showering facilities, business facilities, international magazine and newspapers. (Reference: Plaza-network.com)

Luoyang: Ancient Tombs Museum

The Luoyang Ancient Tombs Museum, also known as the Luoyang Ancient Art Museum, is located north of Luoyang, capital of Henan province. The museum



serves as a mysterious and adventurous spectacle providing visitors with access to tomb sites that range from luxurious to quaint, grand or delicate, and vary in styles that represent some of the best examples of ancient Chinese architecture. (Reference: Lyta.co)

Plovdiv: Two are Too Few-Three are Too Many Puppet Theater Festival

The 21st edition of the famous puppet theater festival "Two are too few, Three are too many" was taking place on September 3-7, 2014. The festival



program included performances of theaters from Serbia, Spain, Slovenia, Armenia, Italy, and Bulgaria. (Reference: plovdivguide.com)

Hong Kong: Disneyland to introduce 'Disney Paint the Night' parade

From October to December, guests visiting Hong Kong Disneyland at nighttime will see the park in a whole new light. The brand new 'Disney Paint



the Night' parade starting from October 1, 2014 together with 'Disney Haunted Halloween' and 'Disney Sparkling Christmas'.

(Reference: financialexpress.com)

Shanghai: Tourism Festival 2014 kicked off

During Shanghai Tourism Festival this



year, up to 52 scenic spots, 9 Huangpu River excursion boat companies and 20 brand hotels will launch promotions and provide special offers to satisfy the consumption demands of and bring benefits to all citizens and visitors. (Reference: tourfest.org)

Wellington: 2014 World Of Wearable Art™ Awards Show

The World of Wearable Art Awards Show returns to Wellington from September 25 to October 12 for its 26th edition. Over 150 garments are



transformed and showcased on stage in a distinctive two hour theatrical extravaganza, with stunning sets, soundscapes, dance, lighting and world-class choreography. (Reference: wellingtonnz.com)

Vienna: Gaudí Architecture Ahead of its Time

The work of Antoni Gaudí is widely known by the general public and acclaimed and esteemed by the international expert world. The exhibition “Gaudí. Architecture ahead of its Time” presents from 2 October to 2 November 2014. (Reference: wien.info)

Boston: The Big E

The Big E was a New England extravaganza with top name entertainment, The Big E Circus Spectacular, The Avenue of States, Storowton Village Museum, animals, competitive exhibits, rides, shopping, crafts, a daily parade and a Mardi Gras parade, and foods from around the world from September 12 to 28. (Reference: bostonusa.com)

Dubai: to build Emirates Airline pilots' village

Meydan, the private developer behind the world's largest horse racing complex, unveiled plans to build an airline pilots' village as part of the second phase of the



Dh21 billion Mohammed bin Rashid City megaproject in Dubai.

(Reference: eTurbo News)

Harbin: Direct flight links Harbin with Moscow

A direct air route between Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, and Moscow, capital of Russia, was launched on August 28. The route, operated by Russia's Ural Airlines, is the first one to link northeast China with MOSCOW. (Reference: People daily.com)

Budapest: to Host WOMEX Expo in 2015

World music expo WOMEX announced that Budapest, Hungary will be the host city in 2015. The 2015 edition is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21 – Sunday, October 25, 2015.

(Reference: budapest.com)



Dublin: Bram Stoker Festival

Celebrate all things ghoulish during the Bram Stoker Festival (October 24 to 27), inspired by Dublin horror novelist Bram Stoker and his gothic novel “Dracula”. The festival will celebrate all things macabre, strange and supernatural, mixed with some good-old fashioned Halloween fun.

(Reference: Dublin People)

Victoria: Wine Festival kicks off on September 26

On September 26, 2014 the Victoria Wine Festival was showcasing some of the best international wines. This festival was directed at building the knowledge of the average wine consumer, and demonstrating new wines and acknowledging beloved wine standards to veteran consumers.

(Reference: tourismvictoria.com)

Accommodation



Kempinski: announces its first property in Myanmar's capital, Nay Pyi Taw

2 September 2014, Kempinski Hotels announced the upcoming opening of its first property in Myanmar, Kempinski Hotel Nay Pyi Taw. The 141-room and suite hotel will begin welcoming guests on 1 November, in time for the first ASEAN Summit to be held in the country.

(Reference: kempinski.com)

Activity



Cooperation: UnionPay International and Co-operative Bank issued the first UnionPay Card in Myanmar

UnionPay International and Co-operative Bank Ltd (Myanmar) jointly released the first local UnionPay card, which is also the first international payment card of domestic currency issued in Myanmar market, providing convenient, safe and favorable payment service to Myanmar residents for daily purchases. (Reference: unionpayintl.com)



DFS Group: First class beauty by DFS takes off globally

DFS Group (DFS), the world's leading luxury travel retailer gathered together on September 5 with influential beauty and travel experts kicked

off its largest beauty festival, “First Class Beauty by DFS”, an indulgent offering of beauty experiences, events and promotions from 5th to 21st of September with over 50 beauty brands in 13 destinations.

(Reference: DFS Group.com)



Costa Cruises: released results of its 3-year ‘Sustainable Cruise’ Project Aboard Costa Pacifica

Costa Cruises has released the results of a 3-year Sustainable Cruise Project co-funded by the European Commission within the framework of the LIFE program. Begun in September 2011 aboard Costa Pacifica, the pilot tested and evaluated shipboard waste-management models and techniques that conformed to the European directive on Waste, which is based on the ‘Three Rs’: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. (Reference: costacruise.com)



American Express: Launched Inaugural "Online's Day Off"

American Express has partnered with Birchbox, Bonobos and Rent the Runway to present Online's Day Off, a two-day event that kicked off on September 18. Online's Day Off created to connect small merchant partners to seasoned entrepreneurs and industry experts who can help them successfully navigate a changing business environment.

(Reference: americanexpress.com)



Beijing Capital International Airport: 3rd Beijing Global Sister Airport President Forum

On September 2nd, the “3rd Beijing Global Sister Airport President Forum” was held in Capital Airport. The theme was “Facing the Challenge and Creating the Future”. This was the 3rd global feast of air industry, which was initiated and held by Capital Airport.

(Reference: bcia.com.cn)

Agency



CYTS: build O2O tourism travel network business platform

CYTS travel network announced plans to invest \$48.9 million followed platform, network, mobile development strategy to support travel network to create convenient travel O2O business platform, committed to providing long-term service users. (Reference: Travel Weekly)



A&K: First in the Air with Lie-Flat Seats on Private Jet Journeys

Abercrombie & Kent will be the first to operate luxury private jet journeys featuring fully lie-flat seats beginning in the fall of 2014. All of A&K’s private jet journeys will now feature a privately chartered Iceland air Boeing 757-200ER. (Reference: abercrombiekent.com)



Club Med: Spend Your Winter Season

Club Med has 22 ski/mountain resorts around the globe, 20 of them lying within the Alps. In December, the company will open its third ski resort in three years, Val Thorens Sensations, within France's 3 Valleys domain. (Reference: travelpulse.com)



Tui: launches new 18-35 brand 'Thomson Scene'

Tui UK and Ireland has revealed plans to launch a new 18-35 age brand, named "Thomson Scene". The concept would be split into "Scene Hub", which will include more affordable hotels in popular youth market destinations, and "Scene Style", which will see more "designer trendy hotels" added to the portfolio. (Reference: ttgdigital.com)

Technology



Skyscanner: Launch of 'Travel Insight'

Global travel search engine, Skyscanner, announced the launch of Travel Insight. The new product, within the Skyscanner for Business suite, provides airlines and airports with significant real demand traveler data, along with a comprehensive view of the air travel market, as a way to quickly identify business opportunities. (Reference: eTurbo News)

Transportation



Air China: starts codeshare with China Express

Air China and China Express signed a codeshare cooperation agreement in the city of Guiyang, Guizhou province, on August 29, 2014, and the two carriers started to share codes on each other's selected flights from September 1, 2014. According to the agreement, the two carriers will connect the cities of Chongqing, Guiyang and Dalian to their respective networks. (Reference: eTurbo News)



YVR: Qantas fly to Sydney, Australia in January 2015

Qantas announced on September 16 that it will operate six direct return flights between Sydney, Australia and Vancouver in January 2015. The flights will take advantage of the seasonal peak in travel during the Canadian winter. (Reference: yvr.ca)



Hong Kong Airlines: to Fly between Hong Kong and Sapporo

Hong Kong Airlines announced on September 10 that commencing on 19 December 2014, the company will launch a five-time weekly service between Hong Kong and Sapporo, Japan. Airbus A330 aircraft will be

deployed on the route, operating on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. (Reference: hongkongairlines.com)

Figure Scan



5%: Tourism growth in global

The latest data available from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) show an increase in global travel by 5% for the first half of 2014. Chinese outbound expenditure was up 16% in the first half of the year as compared to 26% in the whole of 2013.

(Reference: eTurbo News)



5.3%: July Passenger Travel Shows Strong Growth

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) announced global passenger traffic results for July showing demand growth of 5.3% (measured in revenue passenger kilometers or RPKs) over the previous July. (Reference: eTurbo News)



16.9%: India's foreign tourist arrivals rise in August

There has been a 16.9% rise in foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in August 2014 over the corresponding period last year. The percentage share of FTAs in India during August 2014 among the source countries was

highest from Bangladesh (14.03%), followed by the US (12.74%), Britain (9.22%), and Sri Lanka (6.79%). (Reference: India TV News)



36%: National survey of Canadian travelers

More Canadians plan to hit the road and the skies this winter. 36% of respondents to a survey say they are more likely to travel this winter after last year's extreme temperatures. (Reference: eTurbo News)



45.83%: Seoul's Chinese tourists increased in first 7 months of 2014

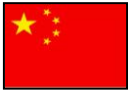
The Seoul tourism sector is experiencing major success as the number of Chinese visitors to Seoul nearly 3.36 million from January to July 2014. The number of Chinese tourists jumped 45.83% against last year.

(Reference: Travel Weekly)



147%: Mainland individual tourists to Taiwan records fast growth

The number of individual tourists from the Chinese mainland to Taiwan more than doubled to 615,000 in the first seven months of this year. Individual tourists, those not with travel agencies, rose more than 147 %, making up a third of the 1.88 million tourists to visit between January and July. (Reference: Xinhuanet.com)



350,000: More Chinese fall under spell of Maldives

The number of Chinese tourists to the Maldives is expected to hit 350,000 in 2014. Ctrip introduced the concept of reserving an entire island in the Maldives for Chinese tourists. Vacations sold out soon after the idea was launched, with 45 honeymoon couples among the 244 tourists who booked reservations, according to the company. (Reference: ecns.cn)



870,000: more foreign tourists in Athens during the first 7 months of 2014

During the first 7 months of this year 870,008 more foreign tourists have visited Athens than last year, while 1,261,925 passengers more in total arrived in the Greek capital getting domestic and international flights.

(Reference: City member - Athens)



9 million: Record Tourism Numbers in Spain in August

Spain has the highest ever figure in foreign visitors for a single month, just over nine million in August. The number of foreign tourists rose 8.8 percent in August over the same time last year to an unprecedented 9.07 million. (Reference: medindia.net)



80 million: F1 race gets tourism back on track for Singapore

F1 race, the three-day event, including the night street race, clocks more than \$80 million in tourism receipts and opens a window on the country for a global television audience. (Reference: reuters.com)

Contribution Invitation: We would like to invite you to contribute news or information and propose advise for our publication that we could provide better service for all the members and cooperative partners. Please email us to newsletter@wtcf.org.cn anytime without hesitate.