

OSAKA

TRAVEL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022



ANGKOR WAT

CAMBODIA

INDEX

KNOW YOUR DESTINATION ►

Positive rays of hope in the Indian skies	1
UK Student Visa	2
Passion at Work	4
She Camping	5
Flights with Airlines Alliance and Codeshares	9
Era of Artificial Intelligence in Travel & Tourism Industry	11
The Jewel in the Blue. The Republic of Maldives.	13
Industry Updates	16
From the Gallery	17



Angkor Wat is an ancient city in Cambodia that was the centre of the Khmer Empire that once ruled much of Southeast Asia. This civilization went extinct, but not before building amazing temples and buildings that were reclaimed by the jungle for hundreds of years.

Angkor Wat was built in the 12th century, with the surrounding complex spanning over 400 acres. It was the state temple for the empire, an empire larger than the Byzantine Empire, stretching from Thailand to Vietnam and all the way into Southern China. The temples were "rediscovered" in the 1840s and have been a popular tourist attraction ever since.

How to reach?

The closest major city and launching pad for tours here is Siem Reap, and the temple complex is an easy day trip from the city, either by bike or by tuk-tuk.

When to Go to Angkor Wat!

Angkor Wat is open year-round, but no matter when you visit, it's a toss-up: either you'll have a rainy, muddy visit with fewer people around, or great weather and crazy tourist hordes. But if you're concerned mainly with the weather, the best time to visit is during the dry season (from late November to early April).

December and January are best for weather, but they're also the busiest months. April and May can be unbearably hot, with tonnes of humidity. The average daily temperature in April is 31°C (88°F). The monsoon season lasts from late May/June to the end of October, with September and October being the hottest months. If you can time your visit to one of the shoulder months, do so.

Why should you visit Angkor Wat?

Besides being an architectural wonder, this place has got to be on a passionate traveller's bucket list as this is perhaps the few places across the globe where you need to be there TO FEEL IT and Rediscover the Real You in "YOU".

At times, the skyscrapers and concrete jungles around you might be a bit too much for your six senses.

-By Sharat Nair.

Osaka Newsletter
Edition : April 2022
Editors : Sharat Nair
Design & Crafted : Athul Jose
Sub-Editors:Paul Joseph, Fleji Anns

POSITIVE RAYS OF HOPE IN THE INDIAN SKIES



DR. P B BOSS
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN

It is overwhelming news that the Indian skies are finally open and the tourists are packing their travel bags after 2.5 years of a pandemic-imposed hibernation for leisure travel across borders. DCGA has approved national & International voyages through flights. As the DCGA has approved a few figures to assimilate what the Indian skies and airports will look like in the next six months,

I. 1466 departures per week to 43 destinations covering 27 countries for Indian Carriers.

As per the approved schedule, 505 International departures by week operated by foreign airlines

• 361 - Air India

• 314 - Air India express

• 130 - Spice Jet

• 74 - Go First

• 56 - Vistara

II. 60 foreign airlines from 40 countries have been approved for 1783 flight schedules to and from India during the summer schedule.

Among these: 170 Emirates, 128 Sri Lankan Airlines, 110 Air Arabia, 99 QR, Singapore 65, Oman air 115, Air Arabia 110, Qatar Airways 99, Gulf Air 82, Etihad 80, Saudi Arabia 63, Kuwait Airways, KLM Royal Dutch, Aeroflot 6. Apart from that, airlines such as Salam Air, Qantas, and American Airlines operate.

As the bubble airlines were restricted to 2000 flights a week the demand for ticket prices soared high. Now that the skies are open and the industry is limping back to normalcy the flight fare should have gone down, but the Ukraine Russia war has triggered the spiraling of prices again back to the previous state. As part of an effort to boost tourism, the Indian government has begun issuing free e-visas for approximately 5, 00,000 tourist visas, which had a financial implication of 100 crores INR. In addition, travelers within India for example Kashmir in March, the number of tourists at the destination touched 1.8 lakh for the first time in 10 years. Maldives, Thailand, Mauritius and Schengen countries have taken a bite out of India's international market. The travel industry is thriving and it is the responsibility of colleagues in the travel industry, airlines, and hospitality to ensure that travelers can once again feel confident to explore and enrich their lives through travel.

UK

STUDENT VISA



BISSY BOSS
DIRECTOR



Education has always been a guide for people to follow in order to become their personal best. Higher education is the key for most people to open up a successful life; it is the main reason for the constant development of first world countries. A student 18 or over and want to study at a higher education level in the UK, they will need to apply for a student visa through the Student Route. Since October 5th of 2020, the Student Route had replaced the Tier 4 Route. The Student Route falls under the UK's new points-based immigration system.

A student should have an offer from a university or college before applying for a visa, the concerned university or college will then be able to give them a document called Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS). To do this, their chosen institution needs to be approved by the UK government as a licensed sponsor. They will need to pay a visa application fee (£348 for students) and have a current passport, CAS, financial documents, English language test results, and medical records to submit a visa application. The student will also need to pay a fee called an Immigration Health Surcharge. This

gives them access to the UK's National Health Service. Students receive a 25 percent discount on the usual cost of this surcharge – so the rate for student visa holders is £470 per year. They can apply for a student visa up to six months before their course starts.

Short-term Student Route (previously short-term study visas)

Short-term student route visas are available to students who want to attend courses that are up to six months long or English language courses up to 11 months long. These courses will not have a "stay back" option. As soon as the course ends, students have to return home to their home country. So Osaka Educare is only promoting Bachelors and Masters in the UK.

Can a student work in the UK on a study visa?

Many international students in the UK take a part-time job, work placement, or internship alongside their studies. The hours and type of work they do will depend on the type of visa and the sponsoring university or college. Students are usually allowed to work 20 hours per week part-time in addition to academics, and 40 hours during vacation. There are lots of options available

to international students who want to stay and work in the UK after their studies. If they were considering staying in the UK after their studies, they may need to apply for a separate visa to their student visa.

The Graduate Route

From July 1, 2021, international students who have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree will be able to benefit from two years' work experience in the UK upon graduation, through the new Graduate Route. Students who complete their Ph.D. will be able to stay for three years. They cannot extend their graduate visa. However, they may be able to switch to a different visa. The Graduate Route is available to international students who have a valid student visa at the time of application and have successfully completed a degree at the undergraduate level or above at a higher education provider with a track record of compliance. Students will also need to have the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) they used for their most recent student (or Tier 4) application in order to apply for the Graduate Route.

• Successful applicants on this route will be able to stay and work, or look for work, in the UK at

any skill level for a maximum period of two years if they have successfully completed an undergraduate or master's degree. Ph.D. graduates will be able to stay for three years. Graduates will be able to switch to skilled work once they have found a suitable job.

- Students must apply before their Student visa or Tier 4 (General) student visa expires.
- They can apply after their education provider (such as your university or college) has informed them that they have successfully completed the course that they were enrolled in with their student or Tier 4 (General) student visa. Students do not have to wait until they graduated or have been given a certificate.
- The Graduate Route will necessitate a new visa application, which can only be made from within the UK.
- It will include the payment of a £700 visa fee as well as the full £624 per year immigration health surcharge. Once they have applied online, proved their identity, and provided the documents, you will usually get a decision on their visa within 8 weeks.
- They can stay in the UK while they wait for a decision.

STUDY IN UK



Online WEBINAR

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Product Presentation
- ▶ Q&A Session

APRIL 23

08:00 - 09:30 PM

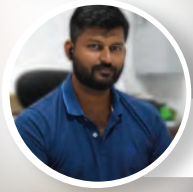


"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. don't settle."

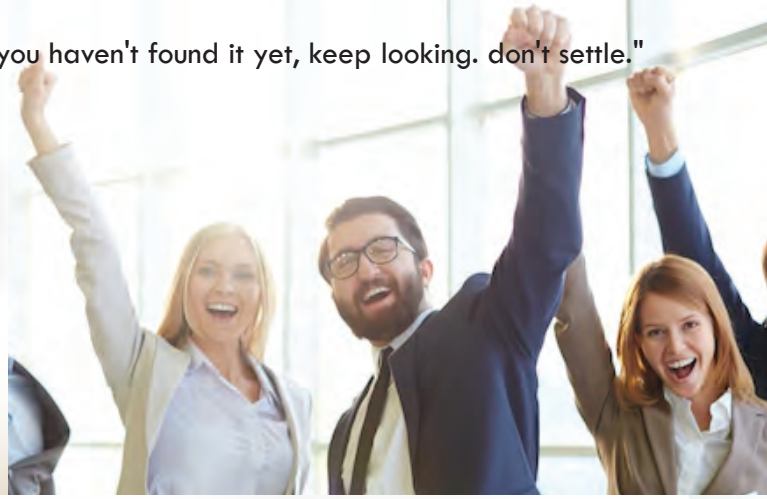
- Steve Jobs

PASSION AT WORK

HOW TO BE THE SPARK YOUR TEAM NEEDS



ANOOP K V
HR & ADMINISTRATION MANAGER



People motivated by passion first are more likely to work harder than people who aren't personally invested in their work. The reason why many employers want to hire people who are passionate about their work is not only because they think they'll be hard workers, but because "they expect that people who are passionate about their work will put in more work without demanding"

Passion wasn't always a priority for workers. If you don't feel personally fulfilled by your job, it doesn't mean you're incapable of performing it well. And it doesn't mean you can't live a happy life, full of fulfillment beyond your career. Instead of drawing all your passion from one place, ask yourself: What are the things that excite me outside of employment? How can I invest time, energy, and attention in cultivating passion in that space?

There is a really big problem in today's workforce. Almost no one is passionate about what they do. Passionate workers are committed to continually achieving higher levels of performance. In today's rapidly changing business environment, companies need passionate workers because such workers can drive extreme and sustained performance improvement—more than the one-time performance "bump" that follows a bonus or the implementation of a worker engagement initiative. These workers have both personal resilience and an orientation toward learning and improvement that helps organizations develop the resilience needed to withstand and grow stronger from continuous market challenges and disruptions.

Passionate about their work

Proactivity: Bringing new ideas to you or the team is a sign that you are thinking a few steps ahead. A passionate employee will always look for creative ways to solve problems because this is an occasion for him to learn.

Helping other team members find their passion. : When you found your passion, it's only natural

that you want to help others find theirs. A passionate employee will go the extra mile to help his colleagues to be passionate. Passion is more long-term than engagement: Employee engagement is usually thought of as happiness. Happiness with your work environment, your co-workers, and your Company. Unfortunately, engagement often doesn't get the kind of results we want. Engagement is usually a small, short-term bump in performance. Passion is much deeper than that, when you are passionate about what you do, you will consistently look for better ways to improve yourselves, your role, and the work in general. There's a much bigger focus on growth and development rather than bumps and dips (with engagement), you get consistent, steady growth.

How to develop passion?

How do we nurture our current talent and make them more passionate?

Passion can be developed. If you aren't feeling passionate at a certain point, it doesn't mean you should give up. There are many ways to develop a passion. Passionate employees are always looking to connect with others to help them improve and solve problems.

Employees with the questing attribute will always be looking for innovative ways to improve what they do. They're constantly testing and experimenting with new ideas.

Passionate employees have a commitment to the domain they're in, and are deeply committed to the work they do.

In order to have that experimental, exploratory mindset, you need to remove the fear from you and get comfortable with failure and testing.

As mentioned above, passionate employees love to find creative solutions to regular problems in their expertise area.

"A great way to stimulate your passion is to find a creative constraint that stimulates you to step out of the comfort zone and pushes you to be more forward-thinking!"



STENY JONY

If you are looking for a destination with minimal human intervention and luxury, then Kolukkumalai is the best place for you. As a part of International Women's Day 2022, Kerala Tour Mart, the holiday division of Osaka Group conducted a 'She Camping' at Kolukkumalai.

We were a small group of women and we began our journey from Angamaly. We went through Suryanelli village to Kolukkumalai, a small village in the Theni district, which can be reached in 90 minutes from Munnar by road. From Suryanelli, hiring a jeep is the only option you have. We were welcomed by Mr. Charles, one of the partners in our campsite, "Jaguar Hide-out." The one-hour off-road jeep ride to our campsite was an adventurous one. At some point in time, you might feel like your intestines have become entangled with each other. It was like, "When the road ends, the fun begins." That journey proved again those straight roads never make good drivers. We came to our senses after the ride. When we reached the top, a cup of black tea and the view of the Anayirankal dam and nearby places were a good experience. Google said that the temperature was

nearly 10 degrees Celsius. In the evening, they serve hot soup along with starters while we were sitting around the campfire. The next few moments were some thoughtless moments with Charles's guitar under the stars. That mood is a must-experienced one. Amid the busy work life, that ambiance will give you 'Peace'.

After dinner, we just roamed around the campsite. While watching the moon and stars, something on a nearby mountain caught my eye. It was shining, something very bright. I wondered if the campfire arranged there is very nice because, even kilometers apart, it can be seen very brightly. But after a few minutes, I heard from Charles that it was nothing but a forest fire! It was the first time that I saw a forest fire in real life. While we are at the peak of relaxation and comfort, a few miles apart, there are a lot of innocent animals running for their lives. That thought makes me nervous. Sometimes there are situations that are out of your control, right? Then we split up to go to our tents. A very simple bed, a comfy cushion, and a sleeping bag were provided. There were no luxurious mattresses and blankets,

nor five-star room facilities. But sleeping in the tent was an exciting experience. The sound of wind through the trees and the rustling of leaves was a good lullaby. Even if I was half asleep, I was listening to the voices that were ringing in my ears.

We were awakened at 4:30 a.m. by a call from the camp authorities to go watch the sunrise. We all got up and got ready, with much curiosity. It was nearly half an hour's trek to the peak of Kolukkumalai. The path was very steep and slippery. It was not an easy path. We crossed the Jaguar Rock and reached the top of Kolukkumalai. We found a place to sit and watch the sunrise and got ready with our cameras to capture the most scenic view. It was a time when night gave way to the day. At this time, nature is at its best. The golden rays of the sun give a bright color to the clouds, mountains and valleys. That view was more beautiful than any camera eye could capture. We enjoyed the view in full and took a lot of photos. The heavy and continuous wind was there all this time. After a few hours, we returned to the camp via the same route. We also captured pictures of Jaguar Rock. It is a natural rock that looks exactly like a jaguar's face. When we reached the campsite, we relaxed for some time.



After breakfast, we packed our bags and started our way back to Suryanelli. That path was through the tea plantations. It is the highest tea plantation in the world. We were accompanied by Mr. Abraham, another camp coordinator. While conversing with him, he shared a lot of incidents and additional information as well. He said how black, green, and white tea is different. White tea is tea made from new growth buds and very young leaves of the plant. For green tea, the first two baby leaves are taken. Ripe leaves are collected for black tea. I was flabbergasted when I heard that those tea plants were more than 100 years old. In reality, tea plants are not bushes. They are trees. But for easier cultivation, we limit its growth. He gave us some ideas regarding how tea plants are grown, how they are maintained, etc. It was not my first visit to Munnar. But this journey provided me with great knowledge about the people and their lifestyle there. So I learned that when you go

somewhere, just avoid the loose talk and learn about the locals and the place.

The path was very long and it was a bright, sunny day, which made us tired. The path took us to a small but beautiful waterfall. We got a chance to bath under the fall. Nothing could be more exciting and fruitful than that. Constant water drops from the stream falling over the body trigger every organ in harmony. After the refreshing nature bath, we continued our journey. We had spotted Meeshapulimala, the second highest peak in Kerala, on our way. After a long walk, we reached Suryanelli. It was hard to believe that one whole day was gone in such a short period. Before getting on to our van, I looked back to capture the most scenic view to keep in my mind for my lifetime. The smoke from the wildfire was still arising from the top of that beautiful mountain.



Once again heartfelt thanks to entire team of Kerala Tour Mart for this wonderful opportunity and moreover to Ms. Celin Vavachen, our tour coordinator who did a marvellous job with complete dedication to the cause that inspired us all in a way that cannot be explained by just words.



SHE CAMPING GROUP
12 MARCH 2022



Join us



LEH LADAK

Domestic Destinations

APRIL 19

08 : 00 PM

DESTINATION WEBINAR

Powered by



Join us



Singapore & Malaysia

International Destinations

APRIL 20

08 : 00 PM

FLIGHTS WITH AIRLINES ALLIANCES & CODESHARES PASSENGERS AND AIRLINES BENEFIT.



MELVIN GEORGE



An airline alliance is an aviation industry arrangement between two or more airlines agreeing to cooperate on a substantial level. Alliances may provide marketing branding to facilitate travelers' making inter-airline codeshare connections within countries. An airline alliance allows them to extend their network to consumers around the world so that they can better serve customers. They work together in marketing and offer flights and connections across their networks. They also provide guaranteed benefits to connecting passengers and to each other's elite members. The first airline alliance was formed in the 1930s when Panair Do Brasil and its parent company, Pan American World Airways, agreed to exchange routes to Latin America. In 1990, the African Joint Air Services (AJAS) Accord between Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia led to the launch of Alliance Air in 1994, with South African Airways, Air Tanzania, Uganda Airlines, and the governments of Uganda and Tanzania as shareholders. You can see this cooperation when searching for connecting tickets. If you book a flight from the US to Europe, for example, you will often find tickets combining members of the same alliance (American Airlines connecting to British Airways or Iberia, for example, all within the same alliance). These airlines will offer through-ticketing, connection guarantees, and baggage handling.

There are three main airline alliances:

1. One World—founded in 1999, currently has 14 members.
2. Sky Team—founded in 2000, currently has 19 members.
3. Star Alliance: Star Alliance was founded in 1997 and currently has 26 members.

Members of One World

Alaska Airlines Inc., American Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific Airways, Finnair, Iberia Airlines, Japan Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Qantas Airways Ltd., Qatar Airways, The Royal Air Maroc, Royal Jordanian, S7 Airlines & SriLankan Airlines.

Members of the Star Alliance

Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Air China, Air India, Air New Zealand, All Nippon Airways, Asiana Airlines, Austrian Airlines, Avianca Brussels Airlines, Copa Airlines, Croatia Airlines, Egypt Air, Ethiopian Airlines, EVA Air, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Swiss International Air Lines, TAP Air Portugal, Thai Airways International, Turkish Airlines and United Airlines.

What benefits does alliances offer passengers?

All passengers benefit in several ways from alliance cooperation.

Benefits include:

- Easier ticket purchasing; Alliances mean more options for passengers, bookable as one connecting ticket.
- Simplified in-flight operations such as baggage handling and check-in.
- Frequent flyers and members of airline loyalty programmes benefit even more.
- The ability to earn and redeem miles on the members of other alliances. Each airline's frequent flyer programme will allow members to earn miles on all alliance airlines. Likewise, award tickets can be booked with all member airlines.
- Member airlines' reciprocal frequent flyer programmes. Depending on the elite level with the airline, members receive a corresponding level within the alliance, which will offer set benefits

across all member airlines. This can include additional luggage allowance, waived ticketing and seat selection fees, and priority airport check-in, security and boarding. For details, see the information below on specific alliances.

- Use of airline lounges. One of the best defined and most valuable benefits is lounge access for elite members. Elite members can access the lounges of any airline member.

What are the benefits for airlines?

Alliances offer a win-win solution for passengers and airlines. For passengers, they open up more destinations with their home airlines, ease booking and flight connections, and offer more ways to use air miles and elite benefits. For airlines, this allows the marketing of more destinations, and to more customers, without the need to operate flights themselves. By combining networks, member airlines can offer flights to many more destinations than they could on their own. There are many cases of this working well at scale. For example, consider American Airlines and Japan Airlines as members of the One world Alliance. American Airlines can operate several flights into Tokyo per day, with connections to many domestic (and international) Japan Airlines flights.

What is a code-share flight?

A code-share flight is a flight that is marketed by one carrier and operated by another. Codeshare flights come about as a result of agreements between airlines to sell seats on each other's flights in order to provide passengers with a wider choice of destinations. A code share agreement, also known as a code share, is a business arrangement common in the aviation industry in which two or more airlines publish and market the same flight under their own airline designator and flight number (the airline flight code) as part of their published timetable or schedule. Typically, a flight is operated by one airline (technically called an "administrating carrier" or "operating carrier") while seats are sold for the flight by all cooperating airlines using their own designator and flight number.

The term "code" refers to the identifier used in a flight schedule, generally the two-character IATA airline designator code and flight number. Thus, XX224 (flight number 224 operated by the airline XX) might also be sold by airline YY as YY568 and by ZZ as ZZ9876. Airlines YY and ZZ are, in this case, called marketing airlines (sometimes abbreviated as MKT CXR for marketing carrier).

In 1967, Richard A. Henson joined US Airways and its predecessor, Allegheny Airlines, in the nation's first code share relationship. The terms "code sharing" or "code share" were coined in 1989 by Qantas and American Airlines, and in 1990 the two firms provided their first codeshare flights between an array of Australian cities and U.S. domestic cities. Since then, code sharing has become widespread in the airline industry since then, particularly in the wake of the formation of large airline alliances. These alliances have extensive code sharing and networked frequent flyer programs.

Advantages

A code sharing agreement benefits both airlines and customers.

1. Concerning Passengers

***Connecting flights: This provides a clearer route for the customer, allowing a customer to book travel from point A to point C through point B under one carrier's code, instead of a customer booking from point A to B under one code and from point B to C under another code.

This is not only a superficial addition, as cooperating airlines also strive to synchronize their schedules.

***For passengers racking up miles in attempts to earn frequent flyer status, code-sharing makes it possible to earn points on a route your airline doesn't presently offer.

2. For Airline Companies

1. Flights from both airlines on the same route: this provides an obvious increase in the frequency of service on the route by one airline.

Through the display of their flight numbers, carriers who do not operate their own aircraft on a given route can gain exposure in the market through the display of their flight numbers.





SHEFEEK A K

ERA OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN TRAVEL & TOURISM INDUSTRY

The concept of artificial intelligence, or AI, is often discussed, but can be slightly more difficult to define. Essentially, it refers to computers or machines performing tasks that would normally require human intelligence to carry out. This could, for example, be learning lessons, making decisions, or recognizing and interpreting speech. Artificial intelligence has existed for decades, but it is only relatively recently that computers and other machines have become advanced and reliable enough to carry out complex tasks without assistance. The concept is strongly linked to ideas of automation, where processes are carried out with little or no human intervention.

In the modern age, it is an accepted fact that businesses will collect and store vast quantities of data. This can help to enable AI, with machines using the data to perform tasks ranging from data analysis and problem-solving, through to speech translation, direct messaging and improving personalization during the customer journey. The capacity for artificial intelligence to perform tasks that have traditionally required human cognitive function has made it especially useful for those in the travel industry, because deploying AI can save businesses time and money, while potentially eliminating human error and allowing tasks to be performed quickly, at any time of the day. Most hotels and resorts rely heavily on delivering excellent customer service to build their reputation and AI technology can assist with this in a wide variety of different ways. For example,

artificial intelligence can be used to improve personalization, tailor recommendations and guarantee fast response times, even in the absence of staff. Artificial intelligence has advanced to the point where it is regularly used to assist and communicate with customers, 'learning' from each of these interactions and improving future interactions as a result. Moreover, AI can assist with tasks like data analysis, calculations and problem solving, all of which can be valuable to hotel owners.

Examples of AI within the Travel Industry

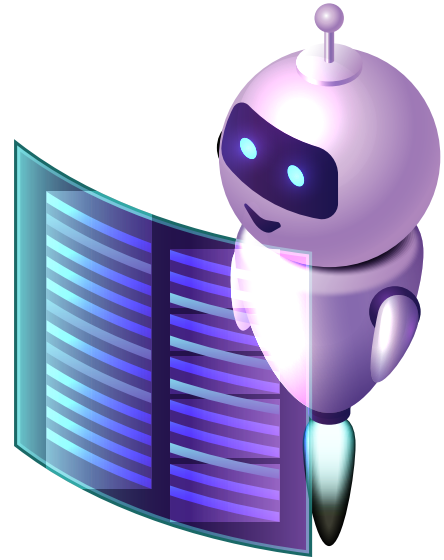
The role of artificial intelligence within the business world has increased dramatically over the past decade, and the last few years, in particular, have seen much more widespread adoption in the travel industry. Below, you find three of the most significant ways the technology is currently being deployed.

1. Chat bots and Online Customer Service

For hotels and other businesses in the tourism industry, one of the most exciting uses for artificial intelligence is for providing assistance to customers online. In particular, there has already been widespread adoption for the purposes of powering chat bots on social media platforms, as well as instant messaging apps. Used in this way, AI is able to respond to questions and provide valuable information to customers, even when a customer service rep is not available. Customers are demanding faster and faster response times on online platforms, and artificial intelligence allows businesses to deliver in times that would be impossible for humans.

2. Face-to-Face Customer Service

While the use of artificial intelligence for powering online customer service is now relatively commonplace, one of the emerging trends is for the technology to be used for face-to-face customer service interactions too. Crucially, this has the ability to cut queues at information or reception desks, and improve overall efficiency. One example of this technology in action is the AI robot 'Connie', which has been deployed by Hilton. This robot uses artificial intelligence and speech recognition to provide tourist information to customers who speak to it. Each human interaction also helps to teach the robot.



3. Data Processing and Data Analysis

Finally, it is important to understand that the applications of AI within the travel and tourism industry are not limited to customer service alone. In fact, one of its most popular and effective uses is for gathering and interpreting data in order to draw conclusions about customers, business practices and pricing strategies. The key advantage of artificial intelligence in this particular field is its ability to sort through huge amounts of data quickly and accurately, where the equivalent for humans would take significantly more time and potentially contain more errors. The Dorchester Collection hotel, for instance, has used AI to sort through customer feedback from surveys, reviews and online polls, in order to build a clearer picture of current opinion, in real-time.



THE REPUBLIC OF

Maldives

THE JEWEL IN THE BLUE



VINEETH VENUGOPAL

Maldives: I call it the epitome of luxury in nature where a tropical island paradise is combined with luxury.

The Maldives is a collection of islands scattered across a stretch of the Indian Ocean. It is one of the smallest countries in Asia but one of the world's most expensive holiday destinations. The islands have been inhabited for over 3,000 years however very recently gained its popularity as a tourist destination. It wasn't until the 1970s that the first resorts opened up. Before then, it was largely a destination that only adventurous divers and surfers knew about. Can you believe it ??

Up until 2009, it was impossible to visit the inhabited islands due to a ban introduced in 1984. Since this was lifted visitors can see the cultural side of the islands beyond the resorts and stilted luxury cabins. Lifting the ban has helped locals to capitalize on the Maldives' growing tourism industry and now there are plenty of guesthouses, restaurants and Maldivian-owned diving and excursion companies on the inhabited islands.

This place is a paradise for both honeymoon couples and adventure lovers, of course, many of us or any of our friends have this place as a dream destination. The Maldives is one of the best places on earth to watch bioluminescence- A biological phenomenon that causes the water to emit a bright blue light at night, giving the beach an ethereal look. It doesn't matter if someone is a beach lover or not; the views of glowing beaches in the Maldives will inject a shot of wanderlust into the veins of the travelers. The bioluminescent beach on Vaadhoo Island of Maldives is a tropical paradise in Raa Atoll, famous for its glow-in-the-dark waves.

Here are some interesting facts about the Maldives

- The Maldives sits on the Equator-This means that sun rays in the Maldives get sprinkled at a 90-degree angle.
- It is also the lowest nation in the world. The Maldives Islands are a series of coral atolls built up from the crowns of a submerged ancient volcanic mountain range. All the islands are low-lying, none rising to more than 6 feet (1.8 meters) above sea level.
- You can swim with the biggest fish in the sea. The Maldives is a hub for all sorts of diverse marine life, but the most remarkable must be the whale shark, the biggest fish in the ocean.
- The world's first underwater cabinet meeting was held in the Maldives. In 2009, then Maldivian President Mohamed Nasheed held a somewhat unorthodox cabinet meeting, which was interpreted as a symbolic cry for help over the rising sea levels that threaten to submerge most of the low-lying areas in the Maldives by 2100.



- It is home to the world's largest underwater restaurant- Hurawalhi Island Resort is ecologically innovative, a new 5*-star adults-only resort, the world's largest underwater restaurant, tropical champagne pavilion, stylish villas, and with no other resorts in the neighborhood as far as the eye can see.
- Some Maldives Islands Are Artificial- Hulhumale Island is a man-made island close to the Male and is often replicated as an artificial island formed by the dumping loads of sands during 2004. Now tourism flourishes here as an incredible coastline, and paved roads have been made by the Maldives government.
- The Maldives Has Very Limited Availability of Freshwater- Another geographical fun fact about the Maldives is that the country has different drinking water. By this, we mean to say that this archipelagic country in the Indian Ocean is highly vulnerable to climate changes, and hence, limited freshwater in the Maldives is the talk of the town.
- Coconut Trees of Maldives Are Strong & Lives Long-One of the fun facts about the Maldives is that the coconut trees fringed around the white sandy beaches have an average age of 100. Moreover, these coconut trees are an important feature of the Maldivian emblem.

Why is it so expensive to visit?

Crystalline waters, perfect white sand beaches, and romantic cabana getaways right on top of the gentle sway of the waves — this small island in South Asia that is every single traveler's dream of visiting doesn't come cheap. Most of the luxury hotels group hold significant private island properties here like St. Regis Maldives Vommuli Resort, Soneva Jani, Gili Lankanfushi, etc.

There are several reasons why a holiday to the Maldives is so expensive. Firstly, the Maldives are pretty remote, and getting to the country is not exactly a walk in the park. For most travelers, reaching the Maldives will require at least one transfer along the way. Plus, when you land in the Maldives you arrive in Malé, which is unlikely to be the island that you're staying on. This means that there's more than likely to be another transfer to your final destination, either by speedboat or by seaplane. Single island and single property is the common concept seen in the Maldives.

Secondly, the Maldives is a luxury destination, and this is reflected in the type of accommodation you'll find on the islands. Enjoying such pampered service in your private paradise does not come cheap. If you want that luxurious Maldives experience with its iconic overwater bungalows, expect to shell out a minimum of \$1,000 a night without taxes. Book it in advance too. It's recommended to book your overwater bungalow as early as a year before your trip because this type of accommodation gets full very quickly. A good example of this is Kanuhura Resort where an island room in this 5-star resort on a private lagoon islet will cost you anywhere between \$1,300 to \$1,600 per night. This tropical oasis doesn't come cheap, but the topaz waters and palm-fringed beaches will make up for it.



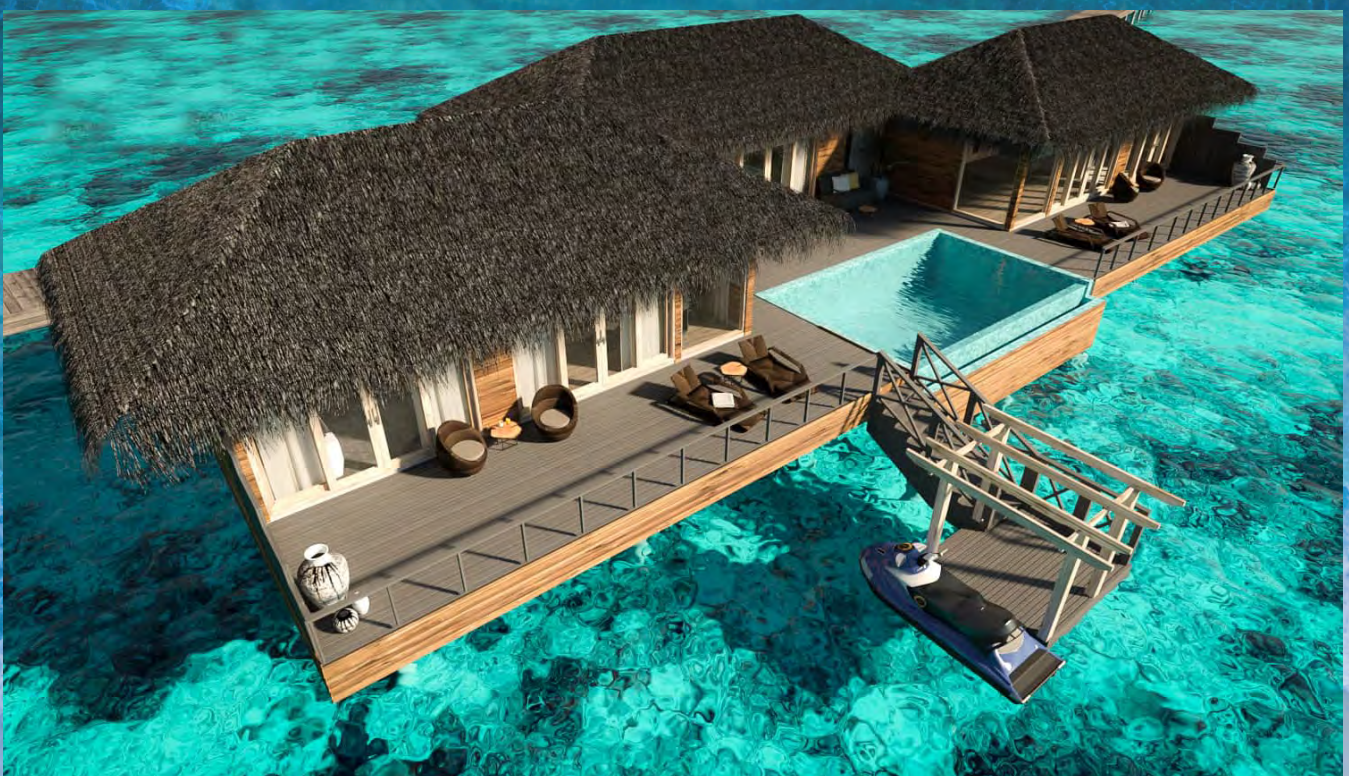


In the Maldives, almost everything is imported. Many of the ingredients for those breakfast buffets and cocktails overlooking the ocean will have made a similar journey to you. Sourcing such premium goods costs money too and that cost, plus a significant markup, is passed on to the resort's guests. Another reason why the Maldives is expensive is the taxes imposed on foreigners and tourists. If you visit the Maldives, you have to individually pay the Green Tax of \$6 per day if you're in resorts, vessels, and hotels. You also have to pay the GST or the Goods and Services Tax which is an additional 12% and a service charge of 10%.

More Than Luxury

All this doesn't make this heavenly place stay away from travelers. The best time to visit the Maldives is the springtime. Apart from the luxury nature lovers, adventure lovers are also welcome here with the richness of the reefs. The Maldives play host to hundreds of species of fish, including tiny vibrant reef fish, moray eels, and tuna. They are joined by a myriad of other sea-dwelling creatures, such as sea turtles, octopuses, squid, lobsters and dolphins.

Do not worry about flying to your dream destination because of these budget reasons, we at Osaka Groups always have the solution of finding the suitable hotels and resorts in the Maldives which match your dreams and the budget as well. We do have several options with special deals and offers throughout the year. Our expert tour consultants will assist you to find the best for you which will help you to cut your tickets to the Maldives faster than you have planned.



INDUSTRY UPDATES

- ▶ Kerala | A floating bridge has been set up by the state tourism department at Beypore beach in Kozhikode to walk along with waves.
- ▶ The world's longest wooden roller coaster is all set to get longer. Yes, you read that right! The Beast, the famous wooden roller coaster at the Kings Island amusement park in Ohio, US, is all set to break its own record as it is going to get longer by two feet this year.
- ▶ You can now travel to McLeodganj from Dharamshala in 5 minutes. Your upcoming trip to Himachal Pradesh just got more exciting as the aerial ropeway project connecting the two tourist hubs is now ready to transform your travel experience.
- ▶ Amarnath Yatra to commence from June 30, Official says this year's pilgrimage expected to be 'much bigger' than before.
- ▶ AirAsia resumes flights between India, Malaysia and Thailand.
- ▶ Greece removes all COVID-19 restrictions for tourism season this summer.
- ▶ Gujarat will soon have its first tiger safari park in Dang.
- ▶ Starting September, Bengaluru to get direct flights to Sydney.
- ▶ Nagpur to get a 100 crore African Animal Safari, The Maharashtra Government has recently announced an INR 100 crore African Safari project in Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada International Zoological Park in Nagpur.
- ▶ Kashmir records 1.8 lakh tourists in March; highest in a decade.

From the Gallery



Osaka Connect Dot Com Pvt Ltd was awarded National Excellence Award 2022 by WBR Corp for being the best Global Travel Hyper market Portal of the year on March 26 th 2022 at Radisson Blu Dwaraka at New Delhi by Mr. Chetan Sharma, the Great Indian Cricketer.

Osaka Educare was awarded by WBR Corp, The National Education Excellence Award 2022, for being the Best Overseas Education Consultancy of the year (Kerala) on March 26 th 2022 at Radisson Blu Dwaraka at Delhi by Mr. Chetan Sharma, the Great Indian Cricketer.



Ms. Bissy Boss, Director, Osaka group received Women Summit and Awards 2022 from Shri. Hibi Eden - MP. Organized by Brand Stories, the Leading Overseas Education Consultant, Kerala, on behalf of Osaka Educare, on 08th March 2022 at Holiday Inn Kochi.

May this year be so much better than the last for you in every walk of life.
Osaka family wish you all the luck, good health and prosperity.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
March
Borns



JITHIN VENUGOPAL



P. R SUNIL RAJ



JOLLY T D

KASHMIR GROUP 25 March 2022



“

It is not possible to completely explore a place without a helpful tour guide who knows everything about the place. I am very lucky to have someone like you who was so knowledgeable. I have never come across such a pleasant and friendly tour guide in my entire life as you. Thanks to vineeth you provided us with during each of our trips has been instrumental in understanding the true essence of the wonderful locations we visited thanks for coordinating everything so well.

”

Nisha Darmwal
International Recruitment Manager - South Asia



UPCOMING PACKAGES... BOOK NOW!!



Air Tickets



3★
Accommodation



All Meals



Transfers



Service of
Local guide

Singapore Malaysia

DEPARTURE DATE
23 MAY



Air Tickets



4★
Accommodation



All Meals



Transfers



Service of
Local guide

Thailand

DEPARTURE DATE
25 MAY



Air Tickets



Accommodation



All Meals



Transfers



Service of
Local guide

Nepal



Air Tickets



Accommodation



All Meals



Transfers



Service of
Local guide

Leh Ladakh



+91 8589 978 777 | +91 9496 411 677 | info@osakaair.com | www.osakaair.com

Head Office

Tel: +91 484 663 7777, 4th Floor KSRTC Terminal, Angamaly, Kerala, India

Cochin Branch

Tel: +91 484 401 9444, 235 0005 Usnaz Tower, 4th Floor, M.G Road, Cochin

Angamaly Branch

Tel: +91 484 2455216, Osaka Bhavan Thrissur Road, Angamaly

Bengaluru Branch

Tel: +91 859 001 6626, No. 2906, 2907, Lahe Lahe, 2907, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Near ISRO compound, Kodihalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka

Mumbai Branch

Tel: +91 6238 500 348, Room No.14, 2nd floor, Krishna Niwas, 281, S.B.S. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400001.

Delhi Branch

Tel: +91 8590 016 622, 228 Second Floor Somdatt Chamber-2, 9, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066.

Recognized by Govt. of India - Authorized Foreign Money Changer
Recognized by Government of India authorized Tour Operator

