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Winner of the "Most Influential Tourism Newspaper in the Arab World 2026" Award by AFUSU

Pickalbatros Hotels Announces Over $400 Million in Morocco Investments and Prepares New Openings in Marrakech and Sharm El Sheikh

Salalah to Host Seven International and Omani Culinary Evenings at Al Baleed Culinary Festival 2026, with Prices Starting at OMR 25

Qiddiya Signs Five-Year Agreement with Golf Saudi to Operate National Golf Club Following Public Opening

Sharm El Sheikh to Host International Resort Revenue Management Forum in February 2027



Pickalbatros Hotels Announces Over $400 Million in Morocco Investments and Prepares New Openings in Marrakech and Sharm El Sheikh



The group's Moroccan portfolio is expected to exceed 2,800 rooms by the end of 2026, with the upcoming opening of Palmeraie Golf Palace in November and a new 580-room resort in Sharm El Sheikh scheduled for March 2027.

London – United Kingdom | Al Rehla

Pickalbatros Hotels Group, owned by Egyptian businessman Kamel Abou Ali, announced that its investments in Morocco have exceeded $400 million, as it prepares to open new hospitality properties in Morocco and Egypt as part of its regional expansion strategy.

The announcement was made during the group's participation in World Travel Market London 2026 (WTM London), held from November 3 to 5, bringing together international tourism companies, airlines, hotel groups and destination representatives.

2,800 Hotel Rooms in Morocco

Kamel Abou Ali, Chairman of Pickalbatros Hotels Group, said the group's investments in Morocco had surpassed $400 million, with ongoing expansion expected to increase its hotel portfolio to more than 2,800 rooms by the end of 2026.

He revealed that the group is preparing to open Palmeraie Golf Palace in Marrakech during the second half of November, further strengthening its hospitality portfolio across Marrakech, Agadir and Casablanca.

The upcoming opening represents another step in the group's expansion in Morocco, one of its key international growth markets.

However, the announcement did not provide a breakdown of completed investments by property or distinguish the number of currently operational rooms from the targeted year-end capacity.

New 580-Room Resort in Sharm El Sheikh

In Egypt, Mohamed Eid Soliman, Regional Marketing Director at Pickalbatros Hotels Group, revealed that the company is preparing to open



«Palmeraie Golf Palace»



"The ongoing expansion plans aim to increase the group's hotel capacity to more than 2,800 rooms by the end of 2026."

Kamel Abu Ali
Chairman of Pickalbatros Hotels & Resorts

a new resort in the Hadaba area of Sharm El Sheikh by the end of March 2027.

The planned resort will feature 580 guest rooms, expanding the group's accommodation capacity in one of Egypt's leading Red Sea tourism destinations.

Soliman explained that the group's participation at WTM London focused on meetings with airlines and discussions aimed at increasing the number of airline seats allocated to flights serving Egypt, supporting international tourism arrivals.

He also praised the Egyptian pavilion's presentation at the exhibition, highlighting its showcase of the country's diverse tourism attractions.

Al Rehla Perspective | Hotel Expansion Requires Strong Air Connectivity

Pickalbatros Hotels Group's expansion combines increased accommodation capacity in Morocco with a new resort development in Sharm El Sheikh, reflecting its continued focus on established tourism destinations.

The airline meetings are particularly relevant, as hotel growth is closely linked to flight availability and seat capacity, especially in destinations that depend heavily on international visitors.

However, both hotel openings remain scheduled for the coming months, while no confirmed agreements or specific increases in airline seat capacity have been announced.

The next key indicators will be the actual opening of the new properties and the extent to which these expansions contribute to hotel capacity and international tourism flows in Morocco and Egypt.

Hilton Surpasses 100 Operating and Planned Hotels in the Caribbean, Opens $77 Million Development in Puerto Rico



A new 257-room dual-brand hotel development opens in San Juan, while Hilton operates approximately 60 properties across the region and plans to nearly double its Puerto Rico portfolio to 25 hotels.

San Juan – Puerto Rico | Al Rehla

Hilton has announced that its Caribbean portfolio has surpassed 100 operating and planned hotels, alongside the opening of a new dual-brand hotel development in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The project, developed by PRISA Group with an investment exceeding $77 million, adds 257 rooms and suites to the city's hotel inventory.

In a statement issued on November 4, 2026, Hilton confirmed that its operating portfolio in the Caribbean includes approximately 60 hotels, with the remaining properties at various stages of development and planning across several tourism destinations.

Caribbean's First Dual-Brand Development

The new project combines Homewood Suites by Hilton and Hampton by Hilton, located near the Puerto Rico Convention Center and the DISTRITO T-Mobile entertainment district in San Juan.

Homewood Suites features 125 suites designed for extended stays, while Hampton offers 132 guest rooms. The two hotels share facilities including a swimming pool, meeting spaces and hospitality services.

According to Hilton, the development represents its first dual-brand hotel project in the Caribbean and the first newly constructed hotel development in San Juan in more than five years.

Expansion Projects Through 2030

Hilton plans to nearly double its Puerto Rico portfolio to approximately 25 hotels, with developments across San Juan, Ponce, Fajardo, Dorado and Arecibo.

In the Dominican Republic, the group expects to open DoubleTree by Hilton Punta Cana Downtown by the end of 2026, followed by Tru by Hilton in 2027.

Future projects also include Hilton's entry into Dominica, alongside new hotels in the Bahamas, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, Hilton is planning two luxury resorts under its Waldorf Astoria and LXR brands, with openings anticipated in 2030.



Pablo Maturana, Hilton's President for the Caribbean and Latin America, highlighted the region as a strategic priority for the group, supported by its existing operating portfolio and partnerships with hotel owners.





"The region represents a strategic priority for the group, building on its existing operating portfolio and partnerships with hotel owners."

Pablo Maturana
President, Caribbean and Latin America, Hilton

Al Rehla Perspective | Hotel Expansion: Operating Assets vs. Future Projects

Hilton's Caribbean expansion reflects a strategy of diversifying accommodation options, ranging from midscale and extended-stay hotels to luxury beachfront resorts, catering to different traveller segments.

However, a portfolio exceeding 100 hotels does not mean all properties are currently operational, as a significant proportion remains under development or in the planning stage.

The confirmed economic contribution at this stage comes from the newly opened hotels and the additional accommodation capacity in San Juan, while the impact of future developments will depend on their completion and actual commencement of operations.

Salalah to Host Seven International and Omani Culinary Evenings at Al Baleed Culinary Festival 2026, with Prices Starting at OMR 25



The fifth edition opens on November 7, featuring chefs associated with Michelin-recognised restaurants and culinary experiences celebrating Omani and international flavours through November 28.

Salalah – Sultanate of Oman | Al Rehla

Al Baleed Resort Salalah by Anantara is preparing to host the fifth edition of the Al Baleed Culinary Festival 2026, running from November 7 to 28, with a programme featuring seven exclusive dining evenings and artisanal pastry experiences led by international chefs and Omani culinary talents.

Supported by the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism, Dhofar Municipality and Amouage, the festival highlights culinary tourism and Oman's rich gastronomic heritage. This year's event also coincides with the resort's tenth anniversary.

From Michelin-Recognised Restaurants to Omani Cuisine

The programme opens on November 7 with an Omani dining experience featuring Chef Ammar Al Harthi and Chef Khulood Abdullah Jamaan Khazana, accompanied by traditional performances celebrating Dhofar's cultural heritage.

On November 12 and 13, Chef Frankie Wong, recipient of the Michelin Guide's Young Chef Award in 2025, will present two dining experiences combining French culinary techniques with Asian flavours.

Chef Marco van Routen will host two special evenings on November 19 and 20, while Turkish Chef Osman Sezener, founder of the Michelin-starred and Michelin Green Star-awarded OD Urla restaurant, will present an Aegean-inspired dining experience on November 24.

Omani Flavours and Collaborative Culinary Experiences

The festival will also feature an artisanal pastry experience led by Chef Noel Katis from November 25 to 28, incorporating ingredients and flavours inspired by Omani cuisine.

On November 27, Chef Mohammed Al Balushi from Anantara Al Jabal Al Akhdar and Chef Reem Al Rahbi from Tivoli La Vie Muscat will collaborate on a special dinner highlighting traditional Omani dishes.

Prices for the dining evenings range from OMR 25 to OMR 40 per person, excluding beverages, while the artisanal pastry experience costs OMR 15 per cake stand.



Al Rehla Perspective | A Culinary Experience Beyond the Khareef Season

The festival introduces a distinctive tourism offering through bookable dining experiences that combine international culinary expertise with local food traditions.

It also provides Omani chefs with an opportunity to showcase their talents alongside internationally recognised culinary professionals, highlighting local ingredients as an essential part of the destination's identity.

Such experiences could help diversify the activities available to visitors in Salalah during November, beyond the city's traditional Khareef tourism season.

However, assessing the festival's actual impact on tourism arrivals and hotel occupancy will require confirmed booking figures and attendance data, which have not yet been released.





Following Its 2028 Nile Cruise Programme Announcement, Century Cruises Plans Two Luxury Vessels Between Luxor and Aswan



The Chinese cruise operator aims to introduce two five-star vessels in Egypt, alongside itineraries of up to 15 days covering Cairo, Luxor and the Red Sea. No investment value or shipbuilding contracts have been announced.

Cairo – Egypt |Al Rehla

Chinese cruise operator Century Cruises has unveiled plans to build and operate two five-star vessels on the Nile between Luxor and Aswan, targeting the launch of operations in 2028, following its earlier announcement of Nile cruise programmes aimed at international travellers.

The plans were discussed during a meeting between Egypt's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Sherif Fathy, and company representatives on the sidelines of World Travel Market (WTM) London 2026.

The meeting explored opportunities to expand Nile tourism and potential cooperation in promoting Egypt's tourism offerings.

According to the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, company officials expressed their intention to develop and operate the two vessels in Egypt. However, no investment value, signed shipbuilding contracts or commencement of construction activities were announced.

Tourism Programmes Combining the Nile and the Red Sea

Century Cruises announced its plans to expand into Egypt in July 2026, introducing two itineraries for 2028 combining Nile cruises, archaeological excursions and hotel stays.

The first programme, Treasures of the Nile, spans 11 days and includes visits to Cairo, Luxor and historical landmarks associated with ancient Egyptian civilisation.

The second itinerary, Legends of Egypt, extends to 15 days and adds a three-day stay in Hurghada on the Red Sea.

The announced packages include seven nights aboard the MS Terramar, three nights in Cairo, organised sightseeing tours and transfers.

The company has not clarified whether the two proposed new vessels will



operate these itineraries or join its Nile fleet at a later stage.

Chinese Cruise Operator Expands Beyond Traditional Markets

Century Cruises has more than three decades of experience in river cruise operations, particularly along China's Yangtze River, and has subsequently pursued international expansion.

Its entry into Egypt represents an effort to diversify the destinations offered to its customers while responding to interest in travel experiences combining luxury accommodation with cultural exploration.

During the London meeting, discussions also addressed the possibility of joint promotional campaigns with the Egyptian Tourism Promotion Authority, alongside cooperation in incentive travel and conference tourism.

However, the publicly available information does not indicate that these discussions resulted in signed marketing agreements or binding investment commitments.

Two New Vessels: Construction Details Remain Undisclosed

The company is targeting operations for the two vessels in 2028, but its announcement did not specify their names, passenger capacities or the shipyards responsible for construction.

Financing arrangements and construction and delivery schedules have also not been disclosed. These details will be essential for assessing the scale of the investment and its actual implementation progress.

Al Rehla Perspective | Market Entry Comes Before Fleet Investment

The significance of Century Cruises' Egyptian expansion lies in two distinct developments: the announcement of Nile cruise itineraries for 2028 and plans to introduce additional vessels to the market.

Launching tourism programmes represents a commercial step towards market entry, while building new vessels requires substantial investment, contractual commitments and physical construction.

The expansion could create opportunities for cooperation with hotels, tour operators and tourism service providers in Luxor, Aswan, Cairo and Hurghada. However, its economic impact will ultimately depend on actual operations and passenger volumes.

Until shipbuilding contracts and investment details are disclosed, the two vessels remain part of a proposed expansion rather than a confirmed construction project or completed investment deal.



Travel in Brief

The TukTuk Culture

By:
Dr. Saleh Al-Makhdoom
President of the Arab Club for Tourism Media

In Thailand, a tourist may step out of a luxury hotel walk past a modern, air conditioned car, and choose a tuk-tuk ride instead. They pay for a short journey, put up with the heat and street noise, then raise their phone to capture the experience with a smile. Here, a simple means of transport has become part of the pleasure of travel a memory visitors want to take home.

This scene captures an important idea in tourism: the value of an experience does not always lie in its luxury, but in a destination's ability to give it meaning. With its colours, distinctive sound, and presence in streets and photographs, the tuk-tuk has become a symbol of Thailand for many visitors, offering a closer connection to the rhythm of local life.

Meanwhile, countries such as India and Egypt have similar forms of transport and rich street cultures capable of creating appealing experiences. Yet this potential is not always fully realised. In some places, persistent approaches to passengers, exhausting bargaining, and unclear fares overshadow the experience, turning a tourist's curiosity into a desire to walk away.

The problem lies neither in the vehicle nor in its simplicity, but in how the service is delivered. There is a difference between making visitors feel invited to enjoy a local experience and making them feel cornered by an offer they do not wish to accept. A single argument over the fare can overshadow an otherwise enjoyable ride.

This does not mean that tuk-tuk rides in Thailand are free from inflated prices or irritating practices; these exist there too. However, the vehicle's place in the country's tourism image shows how an ordinary part of daily life can become an experience visitors actively seek, while elsewhere it remains an opportunity that deserves better organisation and promotion.

Marketing, in this case, begins before advertising: with a driver who respects a refusal, a clearly stated fare, a clean and safe vehicle, and a route that gives passengers something worth seeing. Photographing and sharing the ride then becomes a natural expression of satisfaction, turning tourists' phones into a window that promotes the destination.

What some destinations need is not to invent a new experience, but to reconsider what they already have. A tuk-tuk can provide a dignified livelihood, create a treasured travel memory, and serve as a small ambassador for the city if we manage the experience well before asking people to admire it.


TAXI
MICHELIN
2020

Qiddiya Signs Five-Year Agreement with Golf Saudi to Operate National Golf Club Following Public Opening



Golf Saudi takes over management of an 18-hole championship course designed by Sir Nick Faldo amid the Tuwaiq Mountains. The club welcomes professionals and amateurs without membership requirements, with additional facilities planned for 2028.

Riyadh – Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

Qiddiya Investment Company has signed a five-year operations and management agreement with Golf Saudi to operate the National Golf Club at Qiddiya City, following the club's opening to visitors on October 30, 2026.

The development introduces a new sports and leisure attraction to the Riyadh region.

The agreement was formally signed on November 5 by Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Dawood, Managing Director of Qiddiya Investment Company, and Noah Ali Reda, CEO of Golf Saudi, following the earlier announcement of the operator's appointment in late October.

The financial value of the agreement was not disclosed.

An 18-Hole Golf Course Amid the Tuwaiq Mountains

Located approximately 45 kilometres from Riyadh, the National Golf Club features an 18-hole championship golf course designed by legendary golfer Sir Nick Faldo, set against the dramatic natural landscape of the Tuwaiq Mountains.

The course is divided into three six-hole loops, allowing visitors to choose between shorter rounds and the full golfing experience according to their available time and level of expertise.

The club welcomes professional golfers, amateurs and beginners without requiring prior membership. It also provides practice facilities and instructional programmes designed to encourage broader participation in the sport.





"The partnership aims to provide an accessible sporting experience for participants of all levels while attracting visitors."

Abdullah bin Nasser Al-Dawood
Managing Director of Qiddiya Investment Company

Tournament Management and Player Development

Under the five-year agreement, Golf Saudi will oversee the operation of the course and its facilities, manage sporting activities, organise events, and develop player training and local talent identification programmes.

Al-Dawood explained that the partnership aims to make golf accessible to players of different skill levels while attracting visitors to Qiddiya.

Reda, meanwhile, emphasised that the club represents a valuable addition to Golf Saudi's growing network of golf facilities across the Kingdom.

The club currently provides a facility for welcoming players and visitors, while future development plans include a permanent clubhouse, a dedicated golf academy and a new driving range, targeted for completion in 2028.

Al Rehla Perspective | A New Sports Tourism Attraction

The opening of the National Golf Club represents a tangible addition to Riyadh's sports and leisure tourism offerings, particularly as its non-membership model broadens access for visitors.

The facility could also enable tour operators to develop packages combining golf with other leisure experiences at Qiddiya, while creating potential opportunities to host tournaments attracting international players and spectators.

However, the actual tourism and economic impact will depend on visitor numbers, bookings and hosted events, indicators that have not yet been disclosed in the official announcements.

For now, the confirmed achievement lies in the opening of a new sports facility and the appointment of an operator under a fixed-term agreement, rather than relying solely on future development plans.

Four Seasons AMAALA Wins Hotel of the Year and Two Design Awards Less Than Five Months After Opening

The luxury resort at Saudi Arabia's Triple Bay wins Best New Hotel Building and Best Guestrooms at the AHEAD 2026 Awards, featuring 202 guestrooms, suites and garden villas, alongside 26 private residences overlooking the Red Sea.

Tabuk – Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

Four Seasons Resort and Residences AMAALA, located at Triple Bay on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, has won three awards at the AHEAD Middle East & Africa 2026 Awards, including the prestigious Hotel of the Year title, less than five months after officially opening and welcoming its first guests in June.

The winners were announced during a ceremony held in Dubai on November 2, 2026, attended by more than 350 hospitality design and development professionals.
The resort also received awards for Best New Hotel Building and Best Guestrooms.

Three Awards Recognising Hospitality Design

The accolades recognise the resort's architectural and interior design, developed by Red Sea Global in collaboration with Four Seasons.

The architectural design was created by U+A, while the interiors were designed by Goddard Littlefair.

The AHEAD Awards are among the hospitality industry's specialist design awards, recognising projects across categories including architecture, interior spaces and the overall hospitality experience.

Regional winners are also expected to compete in the programme's global awards.

202 Guestrooms and 26 Private Residences on the Red Sea

The resort officially opened on June 15, 2026, becoming the first resort to welcome guests at AMAALA.

It features 202 guestrooms, suites and garden villas, alongside 26 private Four Seasons-branded residences ranging from 552 square metres to more than 1,000 square metres.

Facilities include the 2,095-square-metre HYLIAA wellness and recovery centre, six restaurants, five swimming pools and a 900-metre private beach.

The resort operates using renewable energy and incorporates resource and waste management solutions aligned with the destination's sustainability objectives.

Al-Rehla Perspective | Early Recognition for an Emerging Destination

Winning three awards just months after opening provides Four Seasons AMAALA with an opportunity to strengthen international awareness of a new Saudi tourism destination focused on luxury hospitality and wellness.

However, the awards reflect the judging panels' recognition of the resort's design and hospitality experience, rather than independently demonstrating its commercial performance.

Occupancy rates, booking trends and average guest spending will provide more meaningful indicators of how this recognition influences the resort's performance over time.







Sharm El Sheikh to Host International Resort Revenue Management Forum in February 2027





Hospitality and technology experts will discuss package pricing, profitability and ancillary revenue, with specialists from the Egyptian Hotel Association and HSMAI participating.

Sharm El Sheikh – Egypt | Al Rehla

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, will host the third edition of the Resorts Revenue Council on February 10, 2027, at SUNRISE Arabian Beach Resort, bringing together hospitality executives and specialists in revenue management and hotel technology to explore strategies for improving resort pricing and profitability.

IDeaS, a SAS company specialising in revenue management solutions, announced that it will organise the forum with the participation of experts from the Egyptian Hotel Association and Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association International (HSMAI) in Egypt.

From Room Revenue to Total Resort Profitability

The forum will focus on commercial challenges facing resorts, particularly pricing all-inclusive stays, holiday packages and additional services, alongside demand forecasting and managing different lengths of stay and booking patterns.

Discussions will also examine how resorts can balance occupancy rates, average room rates and overall profitability, while assessing the

"Resort management involves complex commercial decision-making, underscoring the importance of drawing on operators' expertise when developing technology solutions."

Sanjay Nagalia
Co-Founder and Chief Technology and Operations Officer at IDeaS



contribution of restaurants, wellness facilities and entertainment activities to total guest revenue.

Sanjay Nagalia, Co-founder and Chief Operating and Technology Officer of IDeaS, highlighted the complexity of commercial decision-making in resort operations and emphasised the importance of incorporating operators' expertise into the development of technology solutions.

The upcoming edition aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and identify hospitality operators' evolving requirements for revenue management systems.

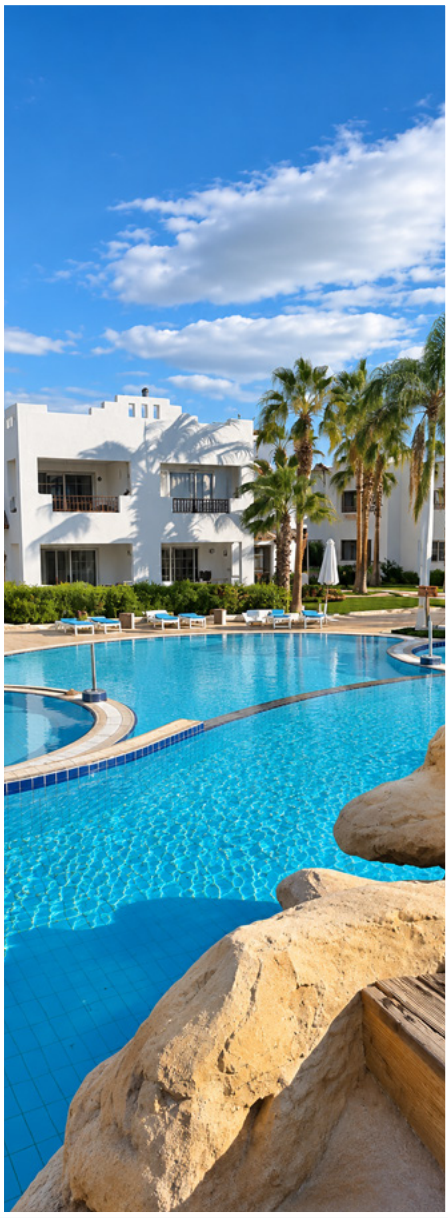
IDeaS provides AI-powered revenue management solutions, with more than 34,000 installations worldwide.

Al Rehla Perspective | High Occupancy Does Not Always Mean Higher Profitability

Resorts face commercial challenges that differ from those of traditional hotels, largely because their revenue streams extend beyond accommodation to restaurants, leisure activities, wellness services and entertainment.

A resort may achieve high occupancy without maximising profitability if operating costs and the contribution of ancillary services are not properly assessed.

This highlights the importance of integrated revenue management tools that combine pricing strategies, demand analysis and cost evaluation, rather than relying solely on room rates as a measure of financial performance.



AlUla: Where Ancient Oases and Caravan Cities Become a Global Tourism Destination

A Saudi destination combining ancient civilisations, mudbrick architecture, dramatic rock formations and contemporary art, offering experiences that extend from Hegra and the Old Town to lush oases and desert trails.

AlUla, Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

In northwestern Saudi Arabia, AlUla offers a tourism experience where history, nature and cultural life come together. Agricultural oases stand alongside sandstone mountains and archaeological sites that preserve evidence of ancient civilisations and historic trade routes.

What makes AlUla distinctive is not a single archaeological landmark, but an interconnected collection of sites that reveal how human communities settled in a desert environment, using water resources and caravan routes to establish urban and commercial centres.

Hegra: The Nabataean City of Northern Arabia

Hegra, also known as Al-Hijr, is one of AlUla's most prominent historical landmarks. UNESCO inscribed the site on the World Heritage List in 2008, making it the first Saudi Arabian site to receive this recognition.

The site is renowned for its monumental tombs carved into sandstone cliffs, reflecting the architectural and artistic achievements of the Nabataeans, whose history is also closely associated with Petra in Jordan.

Organised guided tours allow visitors to explore the archaeological remains while supporting site conservation and responsible visitor management.

AlUla Old Town: A Legacy of Settlement and Trade

AlUla Old Town represents another chapter in the region's history. It contains hundreds of closely clustered mudbrick houses that once formed a fortified settlement along historic trade and pilgrimage routes.

According to the official Experience AlUla platform, the settlement originated approximately 1,000 years ago and featured 14 gates and an elevated fortress overlooking the surrounding area.

Guided tours offer visitors an opportunity to understand traditional construction methods and everyday life within these historic neighbourhoods.

The Oasis: Life in the Heart of the Desert

AlUla Oasis adds a natural and agricultural dimension to the visitor experience, with palm groves and pathways connecting the cultivated landscape to nearby historical sites.

The Royal Commission for AlUla is working to revitalise the oasis as part of its Journey Through Time masterplan, which includes the development of five interconnected districts and the preservation of the region's cultural landscape.

The plan also includes the rehabilitation of nine kilometres of the historic oasis heartland.

However, these initiatives form part of a long-term development programme, and not all components should be considered completed or operational.

Art and Nature in One Destination

Beyond its archaeological treasures, AlUla is home to the AlJadidah Arts District, Maraya and a range of hiking, adventure and stargazing experiences.

This diversity allows visitors to combine history, culture and nature within a single journey, although advance reservations are required for certain attractions and activities.

AlRehla Perspective

AlUla stands out because it does not present its archaeological treasures as isolated monuments. Instead, it connects them with the surrounding oases, local architecture and cultural life.

The real strength of the tourism experience lies in helping visitors understand the relationship between people and the desert, rather than simply taking photographs against the backdrop of its dramatic rock formations.









International Mountain Safety Symposium Held in Nepal with Global Participation

By:
Abdulrahim Al Arjan
Traveller and Adventure Tourism Researcher

The Mountain Safety Symposium for Adventure Tourism was held in Nepal over three days, bringing together experts and specialists from 45 countries. The event was organised by the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA) in cooperation with the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA).

The sessions addressed mountain activity and equipment safety, high-altitude medicine, rescue operations, field first aid, sustainability, the future of mountaineering, emerging technologies and insurance coverage.

Haitham Abdulkarim, Head of Training and Development at the Fujairah Adventure Centre, said the centre's participation aimed to enhance professional expertise, improve training standards and strengthen its international presence.

He explained that the participation covered scientific and practical aspects through the Mountain Safety Symposium, technical matters through the Safety and Training Commissions, and institutional engagement through the UIAA General Assembly.

Abdulkarim emphasised the importance of applying international expertise to develop the centre's programmes, train instructors and guides, and establish sustainable professional partnerships.

The programme also addressed institutional decisions and elections, a climate change summit, the 2027–2030 ice climbing strategy, and the UIAA's 2025 annual report.

Learning from Nepal's Experience

Abdulkarim highlighted the value of Nepal's expertise in planning, training and field operations, while stressing the need to adapt international practices to Fujairah's terrain, climate and adventure activities.

Potential areas of improvement include trail assessment and difficulty grading, participant requirements, equipment inspection, group communication, emergency and evacuation planning, and incident-response training.

He also emphasised protecting mountain trails, minimising environmental impacts and managing visitor activities responsibly.

"Our goal is to strengthen teams' capabilities in prevention, planning and response, while delivering experiences that combine the spirit of adventure with responsible risk management," he said.

Moroccan mountaineer Bouchra Baibanou also participated in a session addressing gender equality and social inclusion in mountaineering.

Abdulkarim concluded by highlighting the importance of international and Arab knowledge exchange, encouraging youth and women's participation, and strengthening professional cooperation in mountain safety, training and adventure tourism.


UIAA
Mountain
Sport
Symposium
PETZL
Fondation
GLOBAL MOUNTAIN NETWORK
UIAA
UIAA
International
Mountain
Sport

AMAALA Launches First Winter Season with Up to 40% Off at Seven Red Sea Resorts



The "Winter Has a New Destination" campaign offers discounts on accommodation, transfers and wellness experiences, following the destination's first guest arrivals in June 2026.

Tabuk, Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

AMAALA, the luxury tourism destination on Saudi Arabia's northwestern coast, has launched its first winter campaign under the slogan "Winter Has a New Destination," offering accommodation discounts of up to 40% across seven resorts, alongside reduced transportation rates.

The campaign marks AMAALA's first winter season since the destination began welcoming guests in June 2026.

Located in the Tabuk region, between the mountains and the Red Sea, AMAALA is approximately a 45-minute drive from Al Wajh International Airport and two hours from Red Sea International Airport. The destination combines luxury hospitality, wellness experiences and marine activities.

Seven Resorts and a Range of Offers

The campaign includes Six Senses AMAALA, Rosewood AMAALA, Nammos AMAALA, Equinox AMAALA, DARA AMAALA, Jayasom Wellness Resort and Four Seasons AMAALA.

Offers vary across properties, including discounted room rates, complimentary breakfast, airport transfers, and wellness, nutrition and relaxation programmes.

According to the destination's official offers page, selected suites at Six Senses start from SAR 2,100 per night before taxes and fees, while room offers at Equinox start from SAR 1,620. Rates and benefits vary depending on the resort and booking dates.

Wellness and Sailing at the Heart of the Experience

AMAALA places wellness tourism at the centre of its hospitality offering, with specialised programmes focusing on fitness, relaxation and nutrition, alongside sailing, water sports and experiences at AMAALA Yacht Club.

The range of activities varies between resorts, allowing visitors to choose accommodation based on their interests, whether they prioritise wellness, relaxation or marine adventures.

Al Rehla Perspective | What Travellers Should Know Before Booking

The winter offers provide an opportunity for travellers interested in exploring a new Saudi tourism destination. However, discounts and booking conditions differ between resorts.

Some offers require reservations to be made before November 30, 2026, while selected promotional stays extend through March 2027.

The published Four Seasons offer is restricted to Saudi citizens and residents, while minimum-stay requirements, taxes and additional benefits vary across properties.

Travellers should therefore compare final prices, cancellation policies, transportation arrangements and included services before confirming their reservations.







HMH Expands Sustainable Hospitality Initiatives Across Hotels in the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Jordan



Air-to-water technology, reduced plastic use and textile recycling are among the initiatives. The group is also strengthening employee training and regional cooperation to advance environmental practices.

Dubai – UAE | Al Rehla

Hospitality Management Holding (HMH), a hotel Vmanagement group, has announced the expansion of sustainable hospitality practices across its hotel properties in the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The initiative involves integrating environmental and operational solutions aimed at conserving resources, reducing waste and strengthening social responsibility.

In a statement issued on November 5, 2026, the group said its initiatives include using devices that produce water from atmospheric humidity, eliminating single-use plastics and implementing programmes to recycle hotel textiles, helping reduce waste and improve resource efficiency.

These measures form part of an approach that integrates sustainability into the day-to-day operations of hotels, rather than limiting it to temporary environmental initiatives. Particular attention is being given to the management of water, energy and materials used in accommodation services, restaurants and hotel facilities.

The group's efforts extend beyond environmental considerations to include developing employees' skills through professional training programmes, initiatives focused on staff health and well-being, and community engagement. These efforts support teams across front-office operations, housekeeping, kitchens and management.

At the institutional level, HMH works with specialised hospitality sector organisations through platforms including the UAE Hospitality Sustainability Alliance, with the aim of exchanging expertise and supporting the adoption of more responsible hotel operating practices.

Founded in Dubai in 2003, the group manages several hotel brands, including Bahi Hotels & Resorts, Coral Hotels & Resorts, Corp Hotels, EWA Hotel Apartments and ECOS Hotels, catering to different segments of travellers.

These initiatives reflect growing interest across the regional hospitality sector in balancing the quality of the guest experience with operational efficiency and resource conservation.

The significance of these measures lies in translating sustainability concepts into practices that can be monitored across hotel properties. However, assessing their actual impact requires data showing the savings achieved in water and energy consumption, as well as the quantities of waste reduced or recycled.



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When Nature Loses Its Visitors: How Wars Devastate the World's Most Beautiful Tourism Destinations



From the gorilla forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Iraq's Mesopotamian Marshes and Ukraine's nature reserves, armed conflicts threaten wildlife, water resources and natural heritage, leaving tourism destinations facing recovery processes that can take decades.

Al Rehla – Special Report

Wars may end and the sounds of gunfire may fall silent, but nature does not recover at the same pace. Forests that have lost their wildlife, lakes affected by pollution and protected areas where trails remain dangerous require far more than the restoration of peace before they can welcome visitors again.

Every year on November 6, the United Nations observes the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, highlighting the damage inflicted on natural resources and ecosystems during conflicts and the long-term consequences for communities and livelihoods.

For the tourism industry, the losses extend beyond cancelled trips and closed lodges. They also include the deterioration of the natural attractions upon which entire tourism experiences depend.

DR Congo: Gorilla Forests Under Threat from Armed Conflict

In eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Virunga National Park protects one of the world's most important habitats for mountain gorillas, alongside forests, volcanoes and highlands that have made it a distinctive destination for wildlife enthusiasts.

However, recurring armed conflicts have exposed parts of the park to security and environmental pressures, including illegal hunting, deforestation and threats against conservation personnel.

UNESCO placed Virunga on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 1994, a designation that remains in effect.

The park's experience demonstrates that protecting a natural tourism destination also depends on safeguarding rangers, guides and local communities whose livelihoods are connected to natural resources and tourism-related activities.

Mozambique: A National Park That Lost More Than 90% of Its Large Herbivores

Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique provides one of the most striking examples of the environmental devastation caused by war.

During the country's civil war between 1977 and 1992, populations of large herbivorous mammals declined by more than 90%, according to scientific research comparing wildlife

populations before and after the conflict.

The park closed to tourists in 1983, while its infrastructure suffered extensive damage. Conservation and rehabilitation programmes were subsequently introduced to restore wildlife populations and rebuild tourism facilities.

Recovery efforts have included infrastructure reconstruction, ranger training and support for local communities through education, agriculture and environmental conservation initiatives.

Despite significant wildlife recovery, studies have shown that the balance among species has not returned entirely to its pre-war condition, demonstrating that the return of animals does not necessarily mean the full restoration of an ecosystem.

Iraq's Mesopotamian Marshes: When Water Disappears, Communities Change

In southern Iraq, the Mesopotamian Marshes represent one of the Arab world's most distinctive natural and cultural landscapes, characterised by traditional mashoof boats, reed houses and habitats for migratory birds.

Large areas of the marshlands were drained over past decades, while changing water flows, dam construction, drought and climate change have created additional pressures.

The consequences extended beyond the loss of natural habitats, affecting communities that depend on fishing, buffalo breeding, agriculture and traditional crafts.

Following 2003, efforts began to reflood parts of the marshlands and restore some of their ecological functions. The site was subsequently inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2016.

However, continuing water-related challenges demonstrate that protecting this destination requires long-term natural resource management rather than tourism development projects disconnected from environmental realities.

Ukraine: Environmental Damage Extends from Rivers to the Black Sea

In Ukraine, the United Nations Environment Programme has documented extensive environmental damage associated with the war, including water and soil contamination and damage to natural habitats and protected areas.

The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in June 2023 was among the most significant environmental disasters, causing widespread flooding and substantial changes to surrounding waterways and ecosystems.

UN assessments have warned that some consequences could persist for decades, particularly those associated with pollution, explosive remnants of war and unexploded ordnance.

Nature-based tourism in such areas faces a dual challenge: rehabilitating damaged sites and ensuring the safety of visitors and tourism workers before activities can resume.

Can Tourism Help Nature Recover?

These experiences demonstrate that restoring natural destinations requires rebuilding an interconnected system that includes wildlife protection, water restoration, safe access routes and meaningful community participation.

Responsible tourism can become part of the recovery process when visitor revenues help finance conservation and create employment opportunities, as demonstrated by Gorongosa's rehabilitation experience.

However, tourism alone cannot eliminate pollution or remove the dangerous remnants of conflict. Nor should visitors be encouraged to travel to areas where safety has not yet been restored.

Al Rehla Perspective | Nature Is a Tourism Asset That Cannot Be Quickly Replaced

Natural destinations differ fundamentally from conventional tourism infrastructure. A hotel can be rebuilt, but forests, lakes and wildlife populations may require much longer to regain their ecological balance.

For this reason, post-conflict tourism recovery plans should include environmental damage assessments alongside the restoration of airports, hotels and transport networks.

Protecting local communities and rebuilding their livelihoods are equally essential to achieving sustainable tourism recovery that extends beyond simply attracting visitors.

The central message of November 6 is clear: protecting nature during armed conflicts is not merely an environmental responsibility. It is also a commitment to safeguarding the future of tourism destinations and the natural heritage passed down through generations.

Sharaan Nature Reserve in AlUla: Rocky Valleys and Wildlife Reveal Another Side of the Desert

Sandstone formations, hiking trails and organised safari tours offer an immersive nature experience that calls for respect for wildlife and adherence to designated routes, rather than turning the desert into an unrestricted adventure playground.

AlUla, Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

Beyond AlUla's renowned archaeological landmarks, Sharaan Nature Reserve reveals another side of the region, where valleys, dramatic rock formations and desert plains create a landscape reflecting the geological and ecological diversity of northwestern Saudi Arabia.

The reserve forms part of broader efforts to protect the natural environment and wildlife while offering organised tourism experiences that allow visitors to explore the desert landscape without damaging its sensitive ecosystems.

Rocks Sculpted by Nature

Sharaan is distinguished by its canyons and sandstone formations, shaped over long geological periods by natural erosion.

The terrain ranges from narrow passages and open valleys to rocky outcrops, making the area an ideal setting for exploring desert geology and understanding how its distinctive landforms developed.

The significance of these landscapes extends beyond their visual appeal. They also provide habitats for plant and animal species adapted to arid conditions.

Wildlife as Part of the Experience

According to the official Experience AlUla platform, visitors may encounter Arabian ibex during certain guided tours. However, sightings are not guaranteed, as these wild animals move freely according to their natural behaviour and environmental conditions.

The value of visiting the reserve should therefore not be measured by the number of animals spotted, but by the opportunity to understand the desert ecosystem and the importance of protecting it.

Organised Tours Instead of Unrestricted Off-Road Driving

Licensed tourism operators offer a variety of experiences within Sharaan and its surrounding areas, including four-wheel-drive excursions and guided hiking tours.

The Experience AlUla platform lists a nature tour lasting approximately four to five hours, covering Sharaan and nearby rock formations, with advertised prices starting at SAR 518 per person.

This is a reference price based on the experience listing reviewed on 6 November 2026. Prices are subject to change depending on availability, the operator and booking conditions.

Ecotourism Is About More Than Sightseeing

Visiting a nature reserve requires responsible behaviour. Travellers should avoid approaching or feeding wildlife and must remain on designated routes.

Littering and the use of disruptive lighting in environmentally sensitive areas should also be avoided, particularly during nighttime activities.

Guides play an important role in explaining the natural formations and helping visitors understand appropriate behaviour within protected areas.

From Adventure to Understanding

Sharaan offers an opportunity to experience the desert as a living ecosystem rather than simply an open landscape for adventure.

Guided activities also help visitors understand the connections between geology, vegetation, wildlife and the history of human interaction with these environments.

AlRehla Perspective

Sharaan Nature Reserve demonstrates that developing nature-based tourism requires a careful balance between visitor access and environmental protection.

Success should not be measured solely by increasing the number of vehicles or visitors, but by maintaining the integrity of natural habitats and ensuring that future generations can continue to discover and appreciate them.







The Groves Reopens in Riyadh on November 8, with Fifth Edition Tickets Starting at SAR 48



Turkish and Greek restaurants, family attractions and live entertainment return to Al Rafiah district as The Groves joins Riyadh Season 2026 with a mix of dining, shopping and international experiences.

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

The Groves is preparing to welcome visitors on Sunday, November 8, 2026, as part of Riyadh Season, following the release of tickets for its fifth edition on Wednesday, November 4.

Located in Riyadh's Al Rafiah district, the destination returns with a renewed selection of dining, entertainment and shopping experiences.

According to published information, admission tickets start at SAR 48 on weekdays and SAR 58 on weekends, with reservations available through The Groves' official application.

New Restaurants and International Dining Experiences

The latest edition introduces Anne Oja, a restaurant inspired by Turkish cuisine, and Opa Kefi, offering a Greek dining experience.

Returning favourites include Zama Zulu, known for its African-inspired dishes and musical performances, and Zodiac Garden, which combines Japanese and Italian culinary influences.

Charlie Chonka also returns with interactive family activities that bring together sweet-making experiences and theatrical performances designed for children and families.

Live Entertainment and Lakeside Seating

The destination features Al Jalsa, an outdoor seating experience set within landscaped gardens beside the lake, complete with a large screen for watching sporting events and enjoying entertainment during weekends.

The lakeside stage will host live artistic performances, alongside carnival-style activities and a variety of shows.

The Groves Village offers a collection of cafés, restaurants and retail outlets, while Luca Park provides a dedicated space for dogs and related pet-care services.

Al-Rehla Perspective | What Visitors Should Know Before Booking

The Groves offers visitors to Riyadh an opportunity to combine dining, shopping and live entertainment within a single destination.

However, general admission does not necessarily include access to restaurants or separately priced experiences. Reservation conditions and age restrictions may also vary between attractions.

Visitors are therefore advised to check final ticket prices, activity schedules and individual booking requirements through the official application before planning their visit.

Starlink Connects Remote Resorts as Hotels in Bangladesh Report Internet Speeds of Up to 150 Mbps



From reservation management to guest connectivity, an operational example in the Sundarbans highlights the potential of satellite internet for hospitality, as the service expands into Arab markets.

Dubai – UAE | Al Rehla

Starlink, the satellite internet service operated by SpaceX, is creating new connectivity options for hotels and resorts in remote locations, where limited terrestrial network coverage and the difficulty of installing fibre-optic infrastructure can pose significant operational challenges.

The experience of tourism properties in Bangladesh's Sundarbans region provides a practical example of how satellite connectivity can support hotel operations and provide guests with internet access without requiring extensive new ground-based telecommunications infrastructure.

Two Resorts Use Starlink for Daily Operations

Jahangir Hossain, Managing Director of Jangalbari Mangrove Resort in the Dakop area near the Sundarbans, confirmed that two tourism properties had been using Starlink for several months after experiencing recurring connectivity problems with mobile networks.

He explained that the service had enabled the resorts to manage reservations and daily operations while providing internet access to guests, with download speeds occasionally reaching 150 megabits per second.

The experience is particularly relevant to nature-based destinations where reliable terrestrial connectivity is difficult to establish, especially for small hotels and resorts located far from major urban centres.

Regional Expansion Creates Opportunities for Hotels

Satellite internet services have expanded into several markets across the region, supported by regulatory approvals and local commercial arrangements.

In Kuwait, Sama X, part of Alghanim Industries, announced the introduction of Starlink services in March 2026.

Meanwhile, the UAE Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA) granted Starlink a licence to provide satellite internet services in August 2026.

However, availability for hotel and commercial use remains subject to approved subscription plans and local regulatory requirements in each market.

Alexandria's Royal Jewelry Museum Marks 40 Years: Princess Fatma Haidar's Palace Reveals the Treasures of Egypt's Royal Dynasty



Thirteen galleries inside a historic palace dating back to 1923 showcase rare jewelry, royal crowns and personal treasures, as cultural celebrations mark four decades of the museum's history.

Alexandria – Egypt | Al Rehla

The Royal Jewelry Museum in Alexandria celebrated the 40th anniversary of its opening to the public on October 29, 1986, with a cultural programme titled "40 Years and Six Chapters of a Royal Story," highlighting one of the city's most remarkable historic palaces transformed into a cultural and tourist attraction.

The anniversary celebrations featured drawing and photography competitions, an exhibition of children's artwork, an informational booklet in Arabic and English, and digital content exploring prominent figures from Egypt's Muhammad Ali dynasty.

A Palace with More Than a Century of History

Located in Alexandria's Zizinia district, the museum occupies the former palace of Princess Fatma Al-Zahra Haidar, completed in 1923 and designed by Italian architect Antonio Lasciac.

The palace covers approximately 4,185 square metres, including its gardens, and consists of eastern and western wings connected by passageways decorated with stained glass, columns and elaborate European-inspired architectural details.

Its ornate ceilings, wooden floors and intricate mosaics form an essential part of the visitor experience, offering a glimpse into royal life alongside the historical collections on display.

Royal Treasures Across 13 Galleries

The museum houses 13 exhibition galleries featuring personal possessions and valuable objects belonging to Egypt's Muhammad Ali dynasty.

Among its notable exhibits are a gold necklace associated with Muhammad Ali Pasha, royal crowns and tiaras adorned with precious gemstones, and personal possessions of King Farouk, including a gold chess set, jeweled watches and rare decorative objects.

Together, these collections document aspects of the dynasty's history and highlight the craftsmanship, jewelry-making traditions and personal luxury associated with Egypt's royal era.

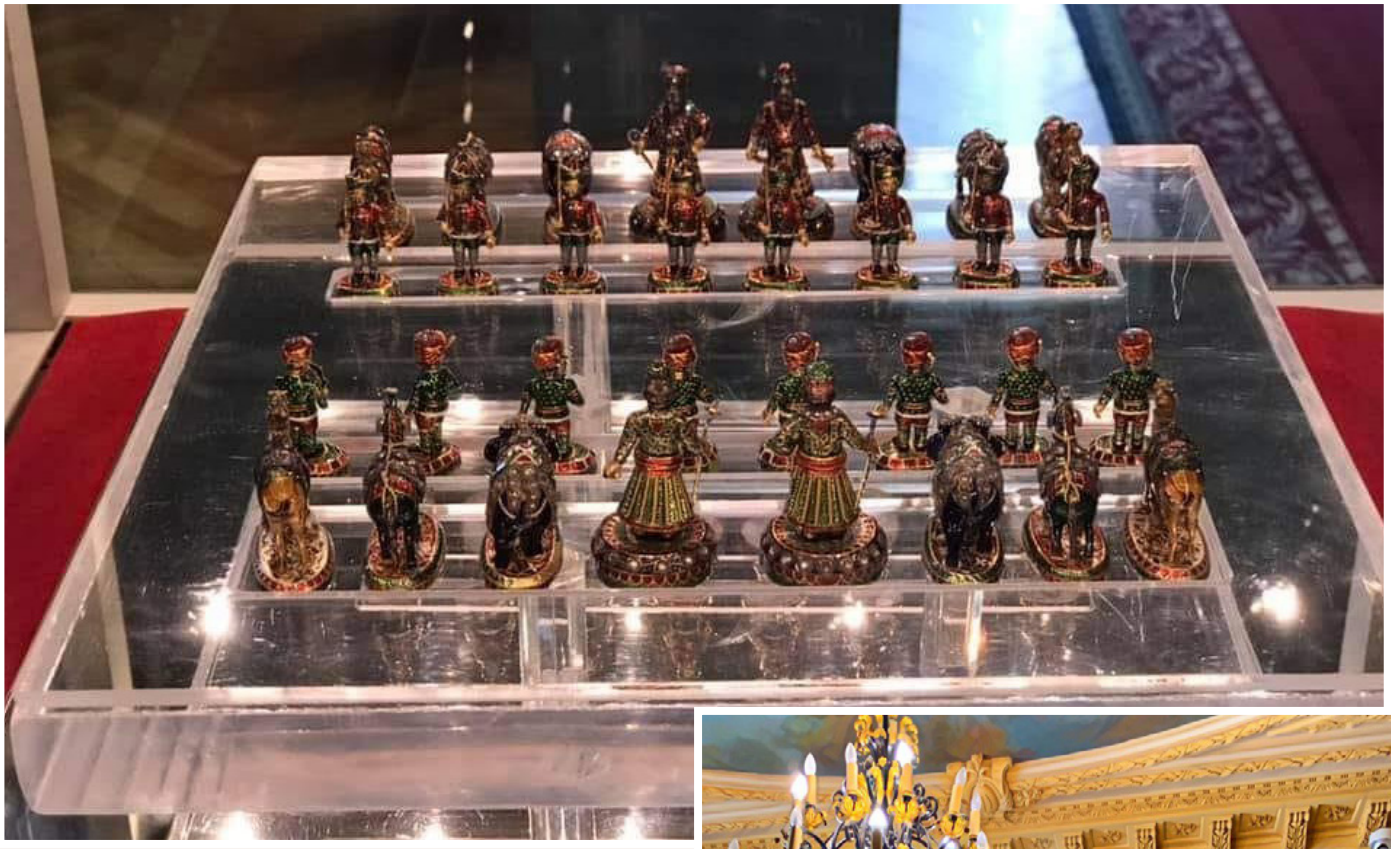
Al Rehla Perspective | Discovering Royal Alexandria

The Royal Jewelry Museum offers visitors an opportunity to explore a different side of Alexandria, beyond its beaches and Mediterranean landmarks.

A visit can form part of a cultural itinerary featuring the city's historic palaces, museums and architectural heritage.

The museum is located on Ahmed Yehia Pasha Street in Zizinia and generally welcomes visitors from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Travellers are advised to confirm opening hours before visiting, particularly during public holidays and special occasions.

What makes the museum distinctive is that the palace itself is more than a setting for displaying jewelry. It is an architectural treasure that immerses visitors in a world of art, heritage and royal history.







83.5% of Incentive Travel Professionals Expect Trade Shows to Maintain or Increase Their Importance



A survey with 747 responses reveals differing priorities among buyers, hotels and tour operators, while 59% of respondents in the Middle East and Africa identify costs as their biggest challenge.

London – United Kingdom | Al Rehla

An international survey conducted by the Society for Incentive Travel Excellence (SITE) found that 83.5% of respondents expect major industry trade shows to maintain or increase their importance over the next three years, despite rising participation costs and the growing use of digital marketing tools.

The SITE PULSE survey, published in November 2026, revealed that 59.5% of respondents expect trade shows to become more important, while 24% anticipate their significance will remain unchanged. Only 3.5% believe their importance will decline.

The survey collected 747 responses in September, with the initial analysis covering 657 participants, including buyers, hotels, suppliers, destination management companies and tourism promotion organisations.

Buyers Prioritise Relationships, Suppliers Seek New Business

According to the findings, 43.3% of buyers identified strengthening existing professional relationships as the primary benefit of attending trade shows. The figure increased to 52.4% among incentive travel agencies.

In contrast, attracting new clients was the leading priority for 38.7% of hotels and suppliers, 43.4% of destination management companies, and 44.4% of destination marketing organisations and convention bureaux.

Pádraic Gilligan, Head of Research and Consultancy at SITE, explained that buyers and exhibitors may enter the same meeting with different objectives, highlighting the need for a better understanding of each party's expectations.

Costs Remain the Biggest Challenge

The survey found that 46.1% of respondents considered costs and budgets the greatest obstacle to achieving value from trade shows, followed by difficulties taking time away from work at 18%, and challenges measuring return on investment at 16.4%.

Cost concerns were particularly pronounced among respondents from the Middle East and Africa, where 59% identified expenses as their biggest challenge, reflecting the financial pressures associated with international travel and exhibition participation.

Meanwhile, only 9.3% of participants selected education and professional development as the most important function of trade shows.

Qatar Airways Launches First Gulf Flights to Venezuela, Connecting Doha with Bogotá and Caracas Twice Weekly



The new service operates with Boeing 777-200LR aircraft, expanding the airline's network in the Americas to 17 destinations, alongside an extended codeshare agreement with LATAM to improve connectivity across Colombia.

London – United Kingdom | Al Rehla

Qatar Airways inaugurated scheduled flights to Bogotá, Colombia, and Caracas, Venezuela, on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, becoming the first Gulf airline to operate services to Venezuela and strengthening air connectivity between the Middle East and South America.

The airline operates the new route twice weekly, on Wednesdays and Sundays, using Boeing 777-200LR aircraft, bringing its total number of destinations across the Americas to 17.

The service is designed to connect travellers from Latin America with the Gulf region, Asia and Oceania through Qatar Airways' international network at Hamad International Airport.

A Route Connecting Three Cities

The new service follows a triangular route, departing Doha for Bogotá on a nonstop flight before continuing to Caracas. The aircraft then returns directly from the Venezuelan capital to Doha.

This arrangement enables the airline to serve two South American destinations through a single route, offering additional travel options for passengers from the Arab world and Asian markets.

The new connection also provides travel companies with opportunities to develop itineraries covering Colombia and Venezuela, supported by Qatar Airways' extensive international network.

Expanded LATAM Partnership Strengthens Domestic Connectivity

Alongside the launch, Qatar Airways expanded its codeshare agreement with LATAM Colombia to include domestic flights from Bogotá to 17 destinations across the country.

These include Medellín, Cali, Cartagena, Barranquilla, Santa Marta and San Andrés, providing travellers with greater access to Colombia's tourism and business destinations.

The partnership strengthens connections between international and domestic flights while making it easier for travellers to plan multi-destination itineraries.

Libya Lifts Aviation Warnings After More Than a Decade as Monthly Overflight Permit Requests Reach 61,968



The lifting of ICAO warnings could support the recovery of international air traffic, while European aviation restrictions remain in place until January 2027. Direct flights still depend on safety assessments and operational readiness.

Tripoli – Libya | Al Rehla

Libyan authorities have announced the lifting of aviation safety warnings concerning the country's airspace, issued by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in 2013 and 2015.

The development could encourage international airlines to resume using Libyan air corridors following years of restrictions linked to security concerns.

According to Libya's Ministry of Transport, the decision was issued on October 23, 2026, as part of efforts to restore confidence in the aviation sector and strengthen the country's integration into international air navigation networks.

Nearly 62,000 Monthly Overflight Permit Requests

The ministry reported that requests for permits to cross Libyan airspace reached 61,968 flights per month for the 2026–2027 winter season, compared with an average of approximately 2,000 flights per month during the previous season.

The figures suggest growing interest among airlines in using Libyan air routes, particularly for services connecting Europe and Africa.

However, these figures represent registered permit requests, not flights actually operated. The authorities have also not disclosed the revenue generated from overflight activity.

European Aviation Warning Remains in Effect Until January

Despite the announced lifting of ICAO warnings, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) continues to maintain its advisory concerning Libyan airspace, currently valid until January 31, 2027, unless revised earlier.

The advisory recommends avoiding flight operations below 32,000 feet, subject to specific exceptions for certain services to coastal airports, while advising caution for operations above that altitude.

Consequently, the latest decision does not automatically permit the resumption of regular European airline services to Libya, which remain subject to security assessments, airport readiness and operational safety requirements.

Restoring Direct Air Links Requires Further Steps

Libyan authorities are working to encourage international airlines to use the country's airspace and restore direct connections.

However, no binding timetable has been announced for the return of European carriers or the completion of the necessary safety assessments.

flyadeal Launches Three Weekly Flights Between Jeddah and Lucknow, Its Third Destination in India



The Saudi low-cost carrier begins operations with 186-seat Airbus A320neo aircraft, offering 1,116 seats weekly in both directions to strengthen tourism and business connectivity.

Jeddah – Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

flyadeal, the low-cost airline subsidiary of Saudia Group, launched direct scheduled flights between Jeddah and Lucknow, India, on November 4, 2026, making the city its third Indian destination after Hyderabad and Mumbai as part of its expansion into Asian markets.

The new route aims to strengthen travel connectivity between Saudi Arabia and India, providing additional options for leisure, business and family travel.

1,116 Seats Available Weekly

The airline operates three flights per week in each direction, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays, using Airbus A320neo aircraft configured with 186 economy-class seats.

The service provides a total weekly capacity of 1,116 seats across both directions, equivalent to approximately 4,464 seats over four weeks.

The aircraft feature Airbus Airspace cabins, spacious overhead storage compartments and USB charging ports.

Flights to Lucknow arrive in the morning, while return services reach Jeddah in the afternoon.

Expanding in the Indian Market

Lloyd Mescetta, Acting Chief Commercial Officer at flyadeal, said India represents an important and growing market for the airline, noting that the new route offers greater flexibility for travellers and strengthens air links between the two countries.

Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, is known for its historical landmarks, architectural heritage and traditional cuisine, alongside its role as an economic and administrative centre in northern India.

flyadeal, which began operations in 2017, operates a fleet of 47 Airbus A320-family aircraft and serves more than 40 scheduled and seasonal destinations.

Al Rehla Perspective | New Tourism Opportunities

The direct route provides an additional travel option between Saudi Arabia and northern India, while enabling tour operators to develop travel packages covering Lucknow and surrounding destinations.

It could also support religious, business and family travel, although its actual tourism impact will depend on passenger volumes and flight occupancy rates.

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