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

International Investor Acquires Aqua Mirage Marrakech Resort, with Potential Expansion to 800 Rooms

520 Organizations from 150 Countries Gather in Jeddah to Advance Hajj Services and Operational Partnerships

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Tokyo Tops the World's Most Family-Friendly Cities in 2026, Dubai Ranks Second and New York Finishes Last



Sofitel Essaouira Returns to Its Original Brand After 18 Years Following Major Renovation



Morocco's Risma Group relaunches the 119-room Atlantic coast hotel following renovations that began in 2024, targeting annual occupancy of 65–70% and recovery of renovation investments within three years.

Essaouira – Morocco | Al Rehla

Morocco's Risma Group, in partnership with Sofitel, part of the global Accor hospitality group, officially relaunched Sofitel Essaouira Beach & Spa on November 5, 2026, following extensive renovations that restored the property to its original brand.

The hotel first opened under the Sofitel name in December 2000 before transitioning to the MGallery brand in 2008.

The project represents the repositioning of one of Essaouira's established hotels within the luxury hospitality segment, following refurbishment works that began in 2024 without interrupting hotel operations.

119 Rooms Overlooking the Atlantic

Located near Essaouira's historic medina, the hotel features 119 rooms and suites, approximately one-third of which offer direct views of the Atlantic Ocean.

Renovations included upgrades to guestrooms and public spaces, incorporating wood, marble, granite and natural materials alongside design elements inspired by Moroccan craftsmanship and the city's distinctive Gnawa musical heritage.

Dining facilities include Rivage,



"The group is targeting an annual occupancy rate of between 65% and 70%, with renovation investments expected to be recouped within two to three years."

Sofia Lopez Benhamida
General Manager of Rezma Group



serving cuisine inspired by local ingredients, and L'Oasis, located beside the swimming pool, along with a beachfront restaurant and leisure areas.

Further improvements to the spa and beachfront restaurant are scheduled for completion by the end of 2027.

Risma Targets Occupancy of Up to 70%

In an interview with Médias24, Risma Managing Director Sofia Lopez Benhamida confirmed that the group is targeting annual occupancy rates of between 65% and 70%, with expectations of recovering its renovation investment within two to three years.

The group has not disclosed the total renovation cost.

According to Benhamida, restoring the Sofitel brand is intended to attract a higher-end luxury hospitality segment and support a review of room pricing.

More Than 100 Employees and Local Partnerships

The hotel employs more than 100 people, approximately 85% of whom come from Essaouira and its surrounding areas. Women account for nearly 40% of the workforce.

Risma also maintains partnerships with local initiatives, including Al Kheir Association, which supports women's professional integration, alongside organizations supplying traditional products and locally sourced food ingredients.

The relaunch coincided with Royal Air Maroc's resumption of direct flights between Casablanca and Essaouira on October 28, 2026, providing an additional air travel option to the destination.



Al Rehla Travel Insight

Sofitel Essaouira Beach & Spa combines Atlantic Ocean views with convenient access to Essaouira's historic medina, renowned for its fortified walls, traditional arts and vibrant musical culture.

Guests can enjoy the hotel's newly renovated facilities while checking in advance for any service limitations associated with the ongoing spa and beachfront restaurant upgrades.

520 Organizations from 150 Countries Gather in Jeddah to Advance Hajj Services and Operational Partnerships



The sixth Hajj Conference and Exhibition opens yesterday across more than 67,000 square metres, featuring specialized programmes in aviation, hospitality, transportation, technology and crowd management.

Jeddah – Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

The sixth edition of the Hajj Conference and Exhibition opens yesterday, November 8, 2026, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, under the theme "From Makkah to the World," bringing together more than 520 government, private and non-profit organizations, with participation from over 150 countries.

The international gathering focuses on developing services for pilgrims and preparing for the upcoming Hajj season of 1448 AH.

Held at Jeddah Superdome until November 11, the event takes place under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. It is organized by the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah in cooperation with the Pilgrim Experience Program, one of Saudi Vision 2030's initiatives.

67,000 Square Metres Dedicated to Hajj Services

Spanning more than 67,000 square metres, the exhibition brings together airlines, hotels, transportation providers, logistics companies, healthcare organizations and technology firms, alongside specialists in crowd management and infrastructure.

This year's edition features more than 15 main zones and programmes, including a business centre designed to facilitate meetings, contractual arrangements and strategic partnerships.

32 Sessions at the Hajj Majlis

The conference programme includes the Hajj Majlis, featuring 32 sessions with 42 speakers addressing transportation, accommodation, catering, sustainability, technology, healthcare and crowd management.

Innovation takes centre stage through the Technology Oasis,



Innovation Zone and Future Hajj Innovations Camp, showcasing digital solutions and emerging technologies designed to improve service delivery and coordination across the Hajj ecosystem.

The event also introduces the Awareness and Training Forum for the first time, focusing on workforce development and improving the quality of services provided to pilgrims.

More Than 1,850 Agreements in Previous Editions

Dr. Ghassan bin Rashid Al-Nuwaimi, Assistant Deputy Minister for International Relations and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, emphasized the conference's role in early preparations for the upcoming Hajj season, including operational planning, partnership development and contractual arrangements.

According to the ministry, the previous five editions collectively witnessed the signing of more than 1,850 agreements and attracted over 570,000 visitors, reflecting the event's growing international and professional significance.

Al Rehla Travel Insight

For tourism, hospitality and aviation companies, the exhibition provides an opportunity to understand the operational requirements of the upcoming Hajj season and explore cooperation with relevant authorities.

However, improvements that directly benefit pilgrims will ultimately depend on the agreements concluded and the solutions successfully implemented in actual operations.



The Journey That Begins in Britain... and Leaves a Lasting Impact at Home

Al Othman and Al Mansoori Tell Al Rehla: "We Don't Measure the Programme's Success by Photos or Excursions, but by the Changes Parents Notice After Their Children Return" | Part 2 of 2

👀 Families are partners in the experience... and preparation begins long before students leave home.

👀 Phones, privacy and discipline: Striking a careful balance between reassuring parents and giving students room to become independent.

👀 From ages 10 to 17, different stages of development call for different levels of responsibility and supervision.

👀 Every summer should offer something new... and returning students are an important indicator of trust in the programme.



Al Rehla – Azhar Yousif

For parents, the moment their child travels away from home for the first time can be more difficult than it is for the child. Long before the suitcase is closed, questions begin to emerge: Will my child be able to manage independently? How will they cope with being away from home? And what happens if they feel homesick or face a problem they cannot resolve on their own?

For Saad Al Othman, Administrative Director of the Accredited British Centre, these concerns are entirely natural. That is why the programme's responsibility begins well before students arrive in Britain.

Al Othman explained that parents are essential partners in ensuring a successful experience. Families, he said, should be fully informed about accommodation arrangements, activities, supervision and communication channels, giving them a clear understanding of the environment in which their children will live throughout the programme.

👀 "The idea is not to separate children from their families, but to give them a safe opportunity to discover themselves and their abilities, and gradually learn to rely on themselves under professional supervision," he said.

According to Al Othman, parental anxiety is normal during the first few days, but it gradually eases when mothers and fathers hear their children speaking enthusiastically about a new experience, a responsibility they have learned to handle, or a situation they managed independently.

Phones Are Welcome... But the Experience Matters More Than the Screen

When students are thousands of kilometres away from their families, mobile phones become an essential means of communication and reassurance.

However, Adel Al Mansoori, Technical Director of the Accredited British Centre, believes the challenge begins when the phone shifts from being a communication tool to becoming a barrier that prevents students from





"The idea is not to separate children from their families, but to give them a safe opportunity to discover themselves and their abilities, while gradually developing independence under professional supervision."

Saad Al Othman

fully engaging in their experience.

Al Mansoori explained that the centre recognises the importance of maintaining contact with families while encouraging responsible phone use, particularly during educational activities, sports, excursions and cultural visits.

One of the programme's objectives, he said, is to help students temporarily step outside their digital routines and interact meaningfully with their peers and the unfamiliar community around them.

👀 **"We want students to experience every aspect of the journey, not travel all the way to Britain only to spend most of their day looking at their phone screens," Al Mansoori said.**

Closely connected to this issue is another sensitive matter: protecting students' privacy during the programme's daily media coverage.

Al Othman emphasised that the centre aims to reassure families and keep them informed about their children's experiences without allowing such coverage to compromise a child's privacy or digital safety.

The goal, he explained, is to balance transparency and parents' need for reassurance with each student's right to privacy, particularly among younger participants.

Mistakes Are Opportunities to Learn... But Some Boundaries Must Never Be Crossed

In an environment where students are living away from their families, behaviour management becomes an essential part of the learning experience.

Al Mansoori explained that the centre does not treat every mistake as an offence requiring punishment. Instead, many situations are viewed as opportunities to learn and develop personal responsibility.

For minor breaches of conduct, supervisors intervene through discussion and guidance, explain the appropriate behaviour, and then monitor whether the student responds positively and avoids repeating the mistake.







"We want students to fully immerse themselves in the experience, not travel to Britain only to spend most of their day looking at a phone screen."

Adel Al Mansoori

However, repeated misconduct or incidents affecting the safety of a student or others require a different approach.

Al Mansoori said such situations are handled seriously, with management involvement and parental notification depending on the circumstances.

The ultimate objective, he stressed, is not punishment itself, but helping students understand that every decision has consequences and that freedom comes with responsibility.

A Ten-Year-Old Is Not the Same as a Seventeen-Year-Old

These considerations become especially important given the programme's age range, which extends from 10 to 17 years.

Al Othman explained that treating all participants as a single age group would be an educational mistake, because the needs of a ten-year-old child differ significantly from those of a teenager approaching the end of secondary school.

Younger students require closer supervision, guidance and support, while older participants are given greater opportunities to exercise independence, make decisions and assume responsibility.

He added that activities are designed with these differences in mind. Teenagers are offered more opportunities to develop leadership, initiative and decision-making skills, while younger students receive greater support in building confidence and adapting to their new surroundings.

When Students Return Home... the Real Test Begins

But how can the programme's organisers determine whether four weeks have made a meaningful difference?

According to Al Mansoori, the most important indicator is not simply hearing a student say they enjoyed the trip. It is seeing parents recognise genuine changes in their child's behaviour after returning home.

A student might begin organising their belongings without being asked, become better at managing their time, speak English with greater confidence, or show more willingness to take on responsibilities they previously avoided.

> **"When a parent tells us their child has become more independent after the trip, we feel that the programme has achieved its real purpose," Al Mansoori said.**

Al Othman agreed that success cannot be measured by the number of photographs taken or places visited, but rather by the positive changes that remain with students after the four weeks have ended.

Food Is Also Part of Learning Independence

The experience also involves everyday details that may appear simple but can present genuine challenges. Food is one of them.

For a student from the Gulf spending several weeks in Britain, adapting to unfamiliar meals and dietary routines can be a significant adjustment.

Al Othman explained that nutrition forms part of the programme's planning because of its direct impact on students' energy levels and concentration.

The centre aims to provide varied, balanced food options while accommodating special dietary requirements and allergies communicated to the team in advance.

Al Mansoori added that travel itself provides an opportunity to develop adaptability. Experiencing different foods, lifestyles and cultures, he explained, helps students become more flexible and better prepared to navigate unfamiliar environments.

Every Summer Should Be Different

The return of students for another season presents a different kind of challenge for the programme's organisers.

Al Othman said that students choosing to participate again is among the strongest indicators of trust and satisfaction with their previous experience.

At the same time, returning participants place a responsibility on the centre to ensure they do not simply encounter a repeat of the same programme.

According to Al Mansoori, educational, sporting, cultural and personal development activities are continuously updated, drawing on feedback from students and parents after each season.

The Manchester programme combines English-language learning in a British environment with university accommodation, personal development, first-aid training, football, swimming, cultural excursions and recreational activities.

It also incorporates educational, creative and technology-related activities in collaboration with specialised organisations.

Al Mansoori explained that the aim is for every student, including those returning for another summer, to feel that they are taking part in a new experience offering something different and valuable.

Four Weeks... With an Impact That Could Last for Years

Concluding their conversation with Al Rehla, Al Othman and Al Mansoori agreed that a child's education cannot remain confined to the classroom.

Al Othman explained that children sometimes need to find themselves in real-life situations where they can discover what they are capable of doing independently, away from the everyday assistance they naturally receive at home.

Al Mansoori added that four weeks may seem like a short period, but they can provide a succession of important first experiences: managing personal spending money, organising a daily routine, living away from family, building new friendships, and using English as a language of everyday life rather than simply a school subject.

The journey ends when the student returns home.

But the real test begins afterwards: What has the experience left behind in their character?

For Al Othman and Al Mansoori, the most meaningful answer does not come from the number of excursions or photographs, but from that moment when a parent says:

"My child came home a different person."

International Investor Acquires Aqua Mirage Marrakech Resort, with Potential Expansion to 800 Rooms



Colliers Morocco announces the sale of the company owning the 20-hectare resort, featuring 550 hotel rooms, while the buyer's identity and transaction value remain undisclosed.

Marrakech – Morocco | Al Rehla

Ownership of Aqua Mirage Marrakech, a 550-room resort in Morocco's leading tourist destination, has been transferred to an undisclosed international investor following an acquisition completed in September 2026. The transaction involves one of the city's large-scale hospitality properties, with potential for future expansion to approximately 800 rooms.

Colliers Morocco, a real estate advisory firm, announced on November 5, 2026, that it had advised Actif Capital I on the sale of Tertia 4, the company that owns the resort. Neither the transaction value nor the buyer's nationality, investment strategy or operational plans were disclosed.

The acquisition represents a transfer of ownership of an existing operational hospitality asset rather than an agreement to develop a new property, making it a notable transaction in Marrakech's hotel investment market.

550 Rooms Across More Than 20 Hectares

Located on Route de Tahanaout, south of Marrakech, Aqua Mirage is a four-star all-inclusive resort extending across more than 20 hectares.

The property features 550 guestrooms, a large water park, three outdoor swimming pools, six tennis courts and a conference centre, alongside a range of family-oriented leisure facilities.

These amenities allow the resort to serve different visitor segments, including families, tour groups and meetings and events guests, combining accommodation and entertainment within a single destination.

Potential Addition of 250 Rooms

One of the resort's main investment attractions is its potential to accommodate approximately 250 additional guestrooms, according to Colliers Morocco.

Such an expansion would increase total capacity to around 800 rooms, representing growth of approximately 45% compared with the existing inventory.

However, this remains a potential



development opportunity rather than an approved expansion project. The new owner has not announced a formal development programme, investment budget or construction timetable.

Plans regarding property upgrades, repositioning or changes to the operating model also remain undisclosed. The resort's current capacity therefore remains at 550 rooms.

Further Hotel Acquisitions in Marrakech

The transaction follows other hospitality asset acquisitions in Marrakech, including Risma Group's acquisition of the company owning Radisson Blu Marrakech Carré Eden and Egypt's Pickalbatros Group's acquisition of the Palmeraie Resort complex in September 2024.

These transactions highlight investor interest in existing hotel properties across Marrakech, particularly large-scale resorts combining operational capacity with potential development opportunities.

However, the absence of disclosed transaction values in some deals limits the ability to assess their combined investment volume or compare property valuations.

Al Rehla Travel Insight

Aqua Mirage Marrakech continues to welcome guests as a four-star, all-inclusive family resort offering extensive water attractions, leisure activities and recreational facilities.

No changes to guest services, booking policies or the resort's operating arrangements have been announced following the ownership transfer. Any future expansion will depend on investment decisions made by the new owner.





THROUGH THE TRAVEL LENS

Winter in the Gulf... When Life Moves Outdoors Again

BY:
Duaa Al-Ajmi
Tourism Media Professional and Volunteer Work Ambassador

The first cool breeze after months of heat and humidity brings a noticeable change to life across the Gulf. Outdoor cafés begin filling up, seaside restaurants become lively again, and families start planning their weekends. It almost feels as though everyone has been waiting for the weather to cool down so they can enjoy the places they've missed throughout the summer.

For us in Bahrain, winter has its own special charm. As temperatures become more pleasant, outdoor events, desert camping, waterfront restaurants, and open-air activities come back to life. Weekends become an opportunity to enjoy what the Kingdom has to offer without having to travel abroad.

The same atmosphere can be found across the Gulf, each country offering its own experience. In Saudi Arabia, entertainment seasons and outdoor events attract visitors, while the UAE draws tourists with desert adventures, beach experiences, and festivals. Oman offers something different with its mountains, valleys, and natural landscapes, while Qatar and Kuwait provide a variety of activities and events for families and those who enjoy spending time outdoors.

But the importance of winter tourism goes well beyond leisure. It is also a valuable season for the region's tourism economy. Hotels, restaurants, cafés, event organizers, and tour operators benefit from the growing interest in outdoor activities. At the same time, the Gulf attracts visitors from neighboring countries and international markets looking to escape colder climates and enjoy milder winter weather.

Having followed tourism developments across the Gulf for years, I believe one of the season's greatest advantages is the variety of experiences available within relatively short distances. A family can spend a weekend at a desert camp, relax at a beachfront resort, or attend a cultural event without complicated travel arrangements or a particularly large budget.

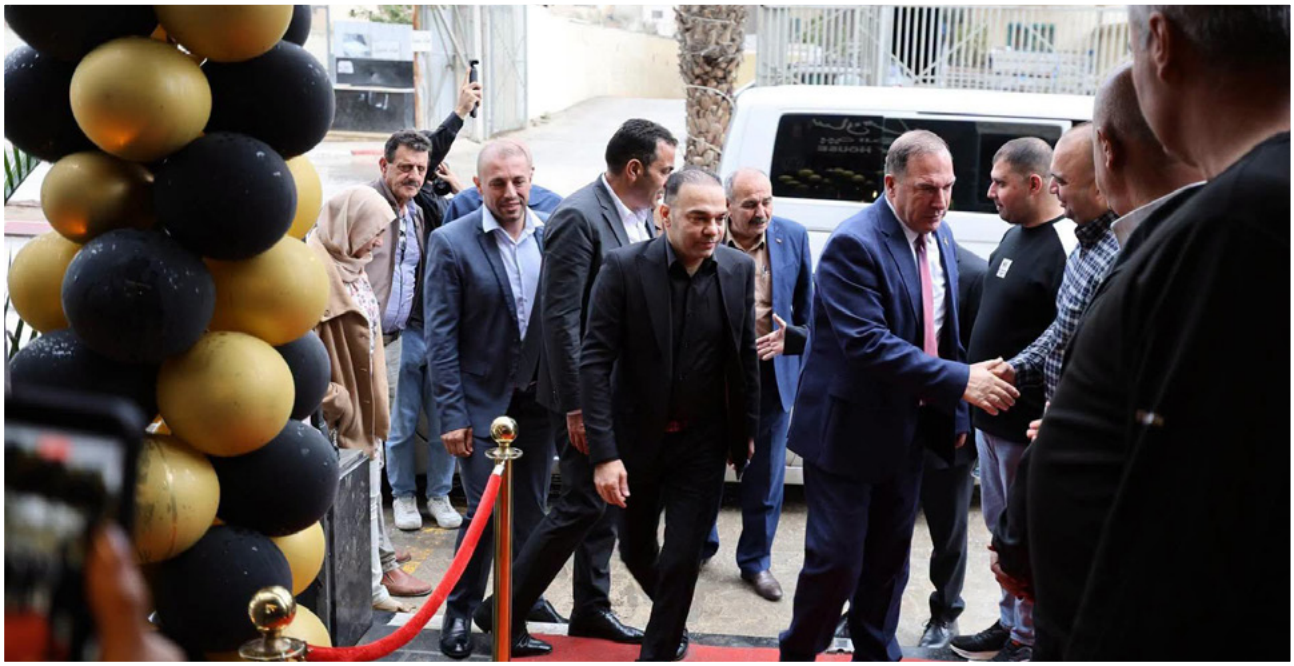
And perhaps what I enjoy most about winter is how it brings back the simple pleasures we miss during summer: a cup of coffee outdoors, a walk along the waterfront, or a family gathering that stretches into the evening without anyone worrying about the heat.

This is why I believe investing in winter events and developing attractive outdoor spaces is about more than entertainment. It is an opportunity to strengthen domestic tourism, support local businesses, and make our cities more vibrant and welcoming.

Winter in the Gulf is more than a change in the weather. It changes the way we experience our cities, spend our time, and enjoy the places we call home.



Tulkarm Opens Its First Officially Licensed Hotel as Saint Maurice Enters Palestinian Hospitality Market



New hotel opens near Nur Shams refugee camp, adding accommodation facilities to the city despite ongoing security and economic challenges.

Tulkarm – Palestine | Al Rehla

The Palestinian city of Tulkarm witnessed the opening of Saint Maurice Hotel on November 7, 2026, marking the first hotel officially licensed and accredited by the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in the governorate.

The opening introduces a new hospitality establishment to the local market amid exceptional security and economic challenges.

The hotel was inaugurated by Palestinian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Hani Al-Hayek and Tulkarm Governor Abdullah Kamil, in the presence of representatives from local institutions and the business and tourism sectors.

Located near Nur Shams refugee camp, which has experienced Israeli military operations and the forced displacement of residents, the property operates in an investment environment facing considerable challenges related to mobility, accessibility and economic activity.

First Official Hotel Licence in the Governorate

The hotel's significance lies in obtaining official tourism licensing and accreditation, making Saint Maurice the first hotel to hold this status in Tulkarm Governorate, according to the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Al-Hayek emphasized the importance of continued investment in tourism establishments despite the prevailing circumstances, commending the project's investors for choosing Tulkarm.

Governor Abdullah Kamil described the hotel as an addition to the governorate's tourism and economic infrastructure, encouraging visitors from across Palestine to explore the area and use its accommodation services.

New Hospitality Investment with Limited Financial Disclosure

Hotel Manager Amjad Al-Qutb explained that the project was developed in cooperation with



local authorities and institutions, highlighting the services and facilities available to guests.

However, the information released did not specify the number of guestrooms, hotel classification, investment value or operational capacity. The identity of the property's owning company was also not disclosed.



Al Rehla Travel Insight

The opening of Saint Maurice Hotel introduces an additional accommodation option in Tulkarm, particularly for visitors requiring overnight stays in the governorate.

Travellers are advised to contact hotel management directly for room rates, availability and detailed information about guest services, while checking current travel conditions and accessibility before planning their visit.



Türkiye Launches Tender for Third Terminal at Sabiha Gökçen Airport Following 48.4 Million Passengers in 2025



The project will be developed under a Build-Operate-Transfer model, with bids due by January 7, 2027, and a €75 million bid guarantee required, following 16.7% passenger traffic growth in 2025.

Istanbul – Türkiye | Al Rehla

Türkiye's Presidency of Defence Industries has launched a tender for the construction of a third passenger terminal and associated facilities at Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen International Airport under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, as part of efforts to expand infrastructure at one of the country's busiest airports.

According to the official announcement published on November 4, 2026, January 7, 2027, has been set as the deadline for companies interested in developing and operating the project under the concession framework.

€75 Million Bid Guarantee

The tender will be conducted through a sealed-bid process, with submissions required before 10:00 AM on January 7. Tender proceedings are scheduled to begin at 10:30 AM at the Presidency of Defence Industries headquarters in Ankara.

The authority has established a temporary bid guarantee of €75 million, while the fee for obtaining tender documents has been set at TRY 10 million.

The €75 million guarantee is a participation requirement and does not represent the project's total investment cost, which has not yet been disclosed.

Under the BOT model, the successful bidder will construct and operate the facilities for a concession period defined by the agreement before transferring them to the relevant authority in accordance with the contractual terms.

Passenger Traffic Rises 16.7%

The tender follows a year of substantial passenger growth at Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen Airport, which handled approximately 48.42 million passengers in 2025, compared with 41.49 million in 2024, representing an increase of around 16.7%.

According to the airport's official statistics, international passenger traffic increased to 27.22 million from 21.96 million the previous year, while domestic traffic exceeded 21.19 million passengers.

These figures underline the importance of expanding passenger facilities to accommodate growing demand for air travel, particularly as international traffic through Istanbul continues to increase.

New Terminal Capacity Yet to Be Announced

The tender announcement did not specify the third terminal's planned passenger capacity, total development cost or construction and operational timeline.

Further details are expected to emerge during subsequent stages of the tendering and contracting process.

Bahrain Jazz Fest Launches Tourism Packages Starting at BHD 150 in Partnership with Radisson Blu



Two-night hotel stays, guided tours and festival tickets are included in travel packages as the event renews its hotel partnership ahead of its 10th edition on December 4 at the Royal Golf Club.

Manama – Bahrain | Al Rehla

The BNP Paribas Bahrain Jazz Fest has introduced tourism packages combining hotel accommodation, live music performances and guided sightseeing tours, with prices starting at BHD 150 per person.

The announcement coincides with the renewal of the festival's partnership with The Diplomat Radisson Blu Hotel, Residence & Spa for a second consecutive year, ahead of its 10th edition on December 4, 2026.

The initiative aims to attract international visitors by offering an integrated travel experience that combines music, hospitality and opportunities to explore Bahrain's attractions.

Three-Day Travel Packages

According to the festival's official website, packages are priced at BHD 150 per person based on shared accommodation, while single occupancy in a five-star hotel costs BHD 250.

The packages include two nights of accommodation with breakfast, airport transfers, festival admission and a half-day sightseeing tour accompanied by a licensed English-speaking guide.

Hotel Partnership and Special Events

Festival organiser Clockwork has renewed its partnership with The Diplomat Radisson Blu as the event's official hotel partner, providing accommodation for international performers and hospitality services.

The hotel will also manage food and beverage services during the main festival at the Royal Golf Club.

Meanwhile, its BO.SABI restaurant will host a special jazz brunch on November 13 as part of the festival's accompanying activities.

Peter Dubsky, General Manager of The Diplomat Radisson Blu, highlighted the importance of offering visitors experiences extending beyond the musical performances.

Jude D'Souza, founder of Bahrain Jazz Fest, described the festival's 10th edition as a significant milestone in its development.

Al Rehla Travel Insight

The tourism packages offer visitors an opportunity to combine an international music festival with sightseeing and cultural experiences during a short stay in Bahrain.

Travellers are advised to check room availability, package prices and booking conditions through the festival's official website before making travel arrangements.

Tokyo Tops the World's Most Family-Friendly Cities in 2026, Dubai Ranks Second and New York Finishes Last

A global study by Radical Storage evaluates 50 cities across 14 indicators, with Kuala Lumpur third, Osaka fourth and Abu Dhabi fifth. Bangkok offers the most affordable family accommodation.

London – United Kingdom | Al Rehla

Tokyo has been ranked the world's most family-friendly city for 2026, according to a study published by Radical Storage, a luggage storage services company. The research assessed 50 international cities using 14 indicators measuring safety, accommodation costs, healthcare quality and the availability of child-friendly attractions.

The World's Most Kid-Friendly Cities index awarded Tokyo 6.8 points out of 10, followed by Dubai with 6.5, Kuala Lumpur with 6.4 and Osaka with 6.3. Abu Dhabi and Seoul shared fifth place, each scoring 6.1 points.

Asian Cities Dominate the Family Travel Rankings

The study highlighted the strong performance of Asian destinations, with three Japanese cities—Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto—appearing among the top 10.

Bangkok ranked seventh, followed by Singapore in eighth place and Taipei in ninth. Shanghai, Hong Kong, Kyoto, Orlando and Stockholm shared tenth place.

The findings underline the importance of combining safety, healthcare, accessible accommodation and family-friendly activities when evaluating destinations, rather than relying solely on the popularity of tourist attractions.

Dubai and Abu Dhabi Lead the Safety Index

Dubai and Abu Dhabi achieved the highest safety scores among the 50 cities assessed, each recording 88.7 points.

They were followed by Kyoto, Japan, with 85.8 points, Taipei, Taiwan, with 83.5, and Munich, Germany, with 78.4.

In the healthcare index, Taipei ranked first with 87.2 points, followed by Kyoto with 85.8 and Nice, France, with 85.3. Seoul and Osaka completed the top five.

The study used data from Numbeo to assess safety and healthcare indicators. These figures partly reflect user-reported perceptions and should not be interpreted as guarantees of safety or substitutes for official travel advice.

Bangkok Offers the Cheapest Accommodation, New York the Most Expensive

The research revealed substantial differences in family accommodation costs across the cities studied. Bangkok recorded the lowest average hotel rate at €35 per night, followed by Kuala Lumpur at €47 and Dubai at €53.

At the opposite end of the ranking, New York registered the highest average accommodation cost at €322 per night.

In terms of family-friendly accommodation availability, Tokyo led with 1,290 properties, followed by Kuala Lumpur with 1,145 and Dubai with 642.

These figures represent averages based on the study's data and do not necessarily reflect hotel prices for every travel date or booking period.

Orlando Leads in Child-Friendly Attractions

Orlando, Florida, ranked first for the proportion of attractions considered suitable for children, accounting for 38.5% of all attractions assessed in the city.

Abu Dhabi followed in second place at 29.6%, while Dubai ranked eighth with 20.2%.

The findings demonstrate that a destination with a large overall number of attractions does not



necessarily have the highest proportion of activities specifically designed for children.

Different cities offer varying combinations of entertainment, culture, shopping and recreational experiences.

New York, Venice and Los Angeles Rank Among the Lowest

At the bottom of the overall rankings, New York placed 50th with a score of 2.3 points, reflecting high accommodation costs and relatively weaker results in selected family travel indicators.

Venice, Italy, ranked 49th with 3.1 points, followed by Los Angeles in 48th place with 3.3 points.

Nice, France, and San Francisco, United States, each recorded 3.6 points.

These results do not mean the cities are unsuitable for travelling with children. Rather, they performed less favourably under the specific indicators and methodology used in the study.

How Was the Study Conducted?

Radical Storage analysed 50 cities using 14 indicators covering three main areas: accommodation, safety and healthcare, and family-oriented attractions.

The research incorporated Booking.com data on hotel prices, ratings and family-friendly accommodation options, alongside Numbeo indicators for safety and healthcare.

Traveller reviews were also examined to assess the suitability of attractions and activities for children.

The data was collected in September 2026, with equal weighting applied to the indicators used to calculate the overall rankings.

Al Rehla Insight | What Is Changing in Family Travel Preferences?

The study highlights the wide range of factors influencing how families choose their holiday destinations.
A large number of attractions or relatively inexpensive hotels alone is not enough to secure a leading position.
Families must balance travel costs with safety, access to healthcare, accommodation availability and activities suitable for children of different ages.
For tourism authorities, hotels and tour operators, these findings provide useful insights into developing travel products that better address the needs of families.

However, the index compares 50 selected cities rather than every destination worldwide. It should not be interpreted as a comprehensive measure of international tourist arrivals, tourism revenues or destination market share.

Cairo to Host 11th Edition of WoodShow on November 26 with International Participation



The four-day exhibition will bring together wood industry professionals, furniture manufacturers and interior design specialists, creating opportunities for business partnerships and technological exchange.

Cairo – Egypt | Al Rehla

Cairo is preparing to host the 11th edition of the Cairo International Wood and Wood Machinery Exhibition (Cairo WoodShow 2026), taking place from November 26 to 29 at the Cairo International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Nasr City, reinforcing Egypt's position as a destination for specialized industrial and trade exhibitions.

The event will bring together manufacturers, suppliers and professionals from the wood, furniture and interior design industries, alongside industrial technology and machinery providers, offering opportunities for business networking, knowledge exchange and potential partnerships.

Four Days of Industry Networking

The exhibition will showcase woodworking machinery, computer numerical control (CNC) systems, smart manufacturing technologies, wood-based panels, finishing solutions and sustainable materials.

It will also provide a platform for local and international companies to explore technological developments, market trends and opportunities for business expansion across regional markets.

Cairo as a Destination for Specialized Exhibitions

Hosting Cairo WoodShow contributes to Egypt's business tourism sector by attracting industry professionals and international participants, potentially generating demand for hospitality, transportation and event-related services.

The exhibition also strengthens Cairo's diverse calendar of specialized trade events, complementing its tourism, economic and business conferences.

Al Rehla Insight | Business Tourism Beyond Traditional Conferences

Specialized industrial exhibitions represent an important segment of the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions (MICE) industry, connecting professional travel with international trade and business development.

Cairo WoodShow highlights the potential of industry-focused exhibitions to attract specialized visitors. However, assessing its actual tourism impact requires verified data on international attendance, hotel stays and visitor spending.



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SANDS EXPO & CONVENTION CENTRE, SINGAPORE

ITB Asia 2026, Asia's largest travel trade show, is an annual three-day B2B event that brings together key players from across the global travel industry.

The show connects international exhibitors and buyers across the MICE, leisure, and corporate travel segments, providing a focused platform to build new partnerships, strengthen business relationships, and explore opportunities across Asia's travel market.

ITB Asia 2026 will take place from 21-23 October 2026 at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, and is organised by Messe Berlin Asia Pacific.

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8.2 Million Votes Reveal the World's Most Desirable Travel Destinations for 2026, with Costa Rica and Spain Leading and Strong Arab Representation



More than 251,000 readers vote in the Wanderlust Travel Awards, placing Tokyo and Athens at the top of the city rankings, Egypt first for culture and heritage, Abu Dhabi second among global regions, and Qatar Airways second among airlines.

London – United Kingdom | Al Rehla

British travel magazine Wanderlust has unveiled the results of its 25th annual Reader Travel Awards for 2026, following a global vote involving 251,461 readers who cast more than 8.2 million votes across categories covering countries, cities, islands, specialist travel experiences, airlines and tour operators.

The winners were announced on November 4 at the historic Painted Hall of the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London, during a ceremony attended by more than 500 travel and tourism industry representatives.

Costa Rica Leads Worldwide, Spain Tops Europe

Costa Rica won Gold as the world's Most Desirable Country outside Europe, ahead of Japan and South Africa, reflecting readers' enthusiasm for nature-based travel and responsible tourism experiences.

In the European category, Spain claimed the top position, followed by Turkey in second place and Portugal in third.

Tokyo secured Gold among the world's Most Desirable Cities, ahead of Buenos Aires and Cape Town, while Athens topped the European city rankings, followed by Dubrovnik and Copenhagen.

Abu Dhabi Takes Silver, Marrakech Ranks Among the World's Top 10 Cities

Arab destinations achieved notable results across several categories.

Abu Dhabi won Silver in the world's Most Desirable
Region category, finishing behind California, which took Gold, and ahead of Malaysia's Sarawak, which received Bronze.

Morocco's Marrakech ranked ninth globally among the world's Most Desirable Cities, a category led by Tokyo.

Wanderlust® READER TRAVEL AWARDS 2026

Oman placed sixth worldwide in the Emerging Destinations category, where Belize secured Gold, followed by Guatemala and Armenia.

Egypt Leads Culture and Heritage, Peru Wins Adventure Travel

Egypt claimed Gold in the Culture and Heritage category, ahead of Japan and Italy, supported by its extensive archaeological heritage and the full opening of the Grand Egyptian Museum in late 2025.

Peru topped the Adventure Travel category, followed by Canada and New Zealand. Morocco ranked sixth, Saudi Arabia ninth and Jordan tenth, placing three Arab countries among the category's top 10 destinations.

South Africa secured Gold for Nature and Wildlife, ahead of Brazil and Australia.

Thailand Tops Food Travel, Germany Leads Sustainability

Wanderlust readers selected Thailand as their favourite destination for food-related travel, ahead of Italy and France.

Germany claimed Gold in Sustainable Tourism, followed by Switzerland and the Netherlands.

In the island categories, Australia's Tasmania was named the world's Most Desirable Island, while France's Corsica led the European island rankings and the Philippines topped the island-country category.

Croatia's islands also secured Gold among European regions, ahead of the Greek Islands and Spain's Andalusia.

Qatar Airways Ranks Second Worldwide, Emirates Fourth

Singapore Airlines topped the readers' favourite airline rankings, followed by Qatar Airways in second place and Turkish Airlines in third.

Emirates ranked fourth, while British Airways completed the top five.

Among tour operators, British Airways Holidays won Gold in the General category, while Cox & Kings led Culture and Heritage.

Intrepid topped Adventure Travel, Exodus Adventure Travels won Nature and Wildlife, Audley Travel secured the Luxury category, and Journey Latin America led Specialist Travel.

Responsible Tourism Takes Centre Stage

The ceremony featured a keynote address by Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex and founder of the Travalyst initiative, highlighting the travel industry's role in protecting local communities and natural environments.

The awards also reflected continued interest in authentic cultural experiences, nature-based tourism and responsible travel, alongside the enduring popularity of major international cities and established destinations.

Al Rehla Insight | What Do the Results Reveal?

The 2026 results highlight the diversity of travel preferences among Wanderlust readers, spanning cultural heritage, wildlife, adventure, gastronomy, sustainability and city tourism.

For the Arab tourism industry, the recognition of Abu Dhabi, Egypt, Oman, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Jordan across different categories demonstrates the region's increasingly diverse tourism appeal.

These distinctions offer destination marketing organisations and travel companies valuable international promotional opportunities.

However, the awards reflect the preferences of participating Wanderlust readers rather than official rankings based on international visitor arrivals, tourism revenues or market share.

“Eternal Threads” Brings Egyptian and Mexican Heritage Together in Cairo Exhibition Until November 15

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization presents an artistic dialogue between ancient Egyptian linen and traditional Oaxaca garments, exploring life, death and memory through textiles and photography.

Cairo – Egypt | Al Rehla

The National Museum of Egyptian Civilization (NMEC) in Cairo is hosting “Eternal Threads: Life, Death and Memory,” an exhibition bringing together Egyptian and Mexican heritage through textiles, traditional clothing and photography, offering visitors a cultural experience until November 15, 2026.

Opened on November 5 in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico in Cairo, the exhibition is being held in the museum’s Egyptian Textile Hall. It explores how fabrics and garments have served as expressions of identity, beliefs and collective memory across two distinct civilizations.

Egyptian Linen Meets Traditional Oaxaca Garments

The exhibition features a collection of traditional Mexican textiles and garments, including the huipil, a garment closely associated with the cultural heritage of Oaxaca.

Known for its distinctive weaving techniques and decorative patterns, the huipil reflects the cultural identity and craftsmanship of local communities.

The exhibition also explores the significance of linen in ancient Egyptian civilization, where it was used for everyday clothing, funerary rituals and mummy wrappings, carrying symbolic associations with death, rebirth and immortality.

Through these contrasting traditions, visitors can discover how textiles became a means of preserving customs and transmitting knowledge and craftsmanship across generations in two geographically distant cultures.

Photography Reinterprets Memory and Identity

The exhibition includes photographic works by Egyptian artist Ayman Lotfy, examining the relationship between textiles, memory and human identity through a contemporary artistic perspective.

Curated by artist Mafalda Budib, the exhibition combines traditional garments with contemporary artworks to explore shared human experiences across different cultural traditions.

The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. El-Tayeb Abbas, Chief Executive Officer of the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization Authority, and Héctor Ortega, Acting Ambassador of Mexico to Egypt.

A Limited-Time Cultural Experience in Cairo

The exhibition offers visitors to Cairo an opportunity to explore Mexican heritage within one of Egypt’s leading museums, while discovering the historical development and cultural significance of textile craftsmanship. Running until November 15, 2026, the exhibition provides a limited-time addition to the Egyptian capital’s cultural calendar.

Al Rehla Travel Insight

Travellers interested in art and heritage can include “Eternal Threads” in their visit to the National Museum of Egyptian Civilization, enjoying an experience that brings together traditional garments, historical textiles and contemporary photography.

Visitors are advised to check opening hours, ticketing arrangements and photography regulations through the museum’s official channels before planning their visit.







22 Artists from 15 Countries Rediscover Doha in Exhibition Running Until February 2027

Fire Station showcases artworks inspired by Qatar's deserts, coastlines and everyday life, offering visitors a free cultural experience across five galleries and an outdoor space.

Doha – Qatar | Al Rehla

Doha opens a new international art exhibition today, November 8, 2026, at Fire Station: Artist in Residence, featuring works by 22 emerging artists from 15 countries who explore Qatar's landscapes, everyday life and cultural identity through diverse artistic perspectives.

Running until February 6, 2027, the exhibition marks the conclusion of the first edition of the Artist Intensive Study Programme (AISP). It presents works developed during an artistic residency that began in October 2025, with participants selected from approximately 1,000 international applications.

From the Desert to Doha's Neighbourhoods

The participating artists drew inspiration from Qatar's deserts, coastlines and sunsets, alongside industrial areas, everyday urban experiences and temporary accommodation.

Other works explore themes of migration, memory, belonging and relationships between different communities.

Spread across five exhibition galleries and an outdoor space, the collection features paintings, sculptures, moving images, immersive installations, sound-based experiences and mixed-media artworks.

Rather than following a fixed chronological or thematic sequence, the exhibition encourages visitors to explore connections between different artistic experiences at their own pace.

Arab Artists Join an International Creative Dialogue

The exhibition brings together artists from Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan, alongside participants from Asia, Europe and the Americas.

Qatari participants include Hessa Al Kuwari, Noura Al Hardan and Hamad Al Faihani, while Egyptian artists Farah El Shawarby and Dalila Hassanein also feature in the exhibition.

Bahrain is represented by Latifa Al Khayat, while Moroccan artist Az Oor contributes to the international programme.

The exhibition is overseen by Egyptian artist Wael Shawky, Artistic Director of Fire Station, whose programme emphasizes creative exchange and dialogue between emerging artists and established international practitioners.

A Free Cultural Experience for Visitors

Fire Station welcomes visitors from Saturday to Thursday between 9:00 AM and 7:00 PM, and on Fridays from 1:30 PM to 7:00 PM.

Admission is free, with tickets available through the Qatar Museums booking platform, subject to availability.

Al Rehla Travel Insight
The exhibition offers visitors to Doha an opportunity to discover aspects of Qatari life through artworks created within the country, providing a different perspective from traditional sightseeing experiences.

Travellers can include the exhibition in a broader cultural itinerary exploring Doha's museums, contemporary art spaces and creative institutions, gaining a deeper understanding of the city through the perspectives of artists who have lived and worked there.







Damascus' Historic Excursion Train Returns to the Tracks After Years of Absence, Sparking Environmental Concerns



A trial run in Al-Hameh revives memories of summer journeys to Zabadani and Serghaya, as railway authorities assess the train's readiness for a possible return to service.

Damascus – Syria | Al Rehla

Damascus' historic excursion train has returned to the tracks for a trial run in the city's countryside, reviving memories of one of Syria's most cherished summer traditions. For decades, the train carried families from the capital to the mountain resorts of Zabadani and Serghaya. However, thick smoke emitted by the locomotive has sparked debate over the environmental implications of restoring the service.

The General Establishment of the Hejaz Railway conducted the trial in the Al-Hameh area in early November 2026 to assess the train's technical and operational condition and identify the upgrades required before considering its return to tourist service.

Mohammad Al-Ajmi, the establishment's Director General, explained that the assessment covers the locomotive, passenger carriages, traction and braking systems, wheels, railway tracks, switches and crossings.

Nostalgia Meets Environmental Concerns

Videos circulating online showed thick smoke rising from the locomotive, prompting criticism on social media and calls for environmental safeguards before regular operations resume.

Others welcomed the return of a train deeply embedded in Damascus' cultural memory.

No official measurements of emissions or noise levels have been published, and authorities have not announced a date for resuming regular services.

A Historic Route to Damascus' Summer Resorts

Historically, the excursion train departed from the Hejaz Railway Station in Damascus, passing through Al-Rabweh, Dummar, Al-Hameh and Ain Al-Fijeh before reaching Zabadani and Serghaya.

The route combined transportation with leisure travel through some of the region's most scenic landscapes.

Regular services on the Damascus–Serghaya line were suspended in 2010 due to technical problems, followed by limited attempts to revive operations.

Al Rehla Travel Insight

Although the train is not currently available for tourist bookings, its trial return has renewed interest in a historic railway route associated with the summer resorts of the Barada Valley.

Any return to regular service will depend on technical assessments, infrastructure rehabilitation and compliance with safety requirements.

Airlines Bet on Premium Travel as 30% of American Airlines' Seats Generate Half of Ticket Revenue



Premium revenue growth of 22.9% drives airlines to rethink cabin configurations, while British Airways plans 106 business-class seats on refurbished A380s and United develops new comfort options for economy passengers.

New York – United States | Al Rehla

Global airlines are expanding premium travel offerings and redesigning aircraft cabins to increase revenue per passenger, reflecting a shift in competition between traditional economy seating and higher-priced products amid rising operating costs and growing demand for greater comfort.

The expansion extends beyond first and business class to include premium economy, extra-legroom seating, enhanced dining, ground services and entertainment, allowing airlines to generate additional revenue without relying solely on passenger growth.

American Airlines: 30% of Seats Generate Half of Ticket Revenue

American Airlines reported a 22.9% year-on-year increase in total premium product revenue in the third quarter of 2026, while premium unit revenue rose 18.5%, compared with 14.4% growth in its main cabin. The airline revealed that premium seats account for approximately 30% of its capacity but generate nearly half of its ticket revenue.

American plans to increase the share of premium seats on its narrowbody aircraft to 40% over the coming years through new aircraft deliveries and cabin retrofits.

Corporate revenue also increased by 27.6%, further highlighting the importance of higher-spending customers to the airline's commercial strategy.

United Airlines Introduces a Middle-Seat-Free Option

United Airlines has announced plans for a new seating configuration within Economy Plus on its Airbus A321XLR aircraft, replacing the middle seat in a designated row with a shared table to provide additional space for window and aisle passengers.

The airline aims to make the option available for booking during 2026 as part of a programme covering 50 aircraft of the same type.

United is also planning to introduce its Relax Row product in 2027, allowing a group of economy seats to be converted into an extended resting space.

British Airways Dedicates Upper Deck to Business Class

British Airways has unveiled a redesigned Airbus A380 cabin featuring 106 Club Suite business-class seats across the entire upper deck.

The refurbished aircraft configuration will also include 84 premium economy seats, 215 economy seats and 12 first-class seats, alongside upgraded entertainment systems, privacy features and onboard services.

The refurbished aircraft had not entered full commercial service when the programme was announced

Private Jet Flight to Dubai for New Year's Eve Could Cost AED 1.2 Million



Market estimates reveal significant differences in private jet charter costs from the United States and Europe during the holiday season, with London departures reaching AED 621,000.

Dubai – UAE | Al Rehla

Chartering a private jet from the United States to Dubai for New Year's Eve 2027 could cost up to AED 1.2 million for a one-way journey, while flights departing from London may reach AED 621,000, according to recent market estimates highlighting the substantial cost of luxury air travel during the holiday season.

According to Atljet, a private aviation charter specialist, hiring a Gulfstream G550 from Teterboro Airport in New Jersey to Dubai is estimated to cost between AED 882,000 and AED 1.2 million for a flight lasting approximately 13.5 hours.

London and Paris Among the Most Expensive Departures

In Europe, chartering an ultra-long-range private jet from London to Dubai is estimated to cost between AED 457,000 and AED 621,000, compared with AED 436,000 to AED 591,000 from Paris and AED 390,000 to AED 529,000 from Milan.

Meanwhile, estimated maximum charter costs from Zurich and Geneva reach approximately AED 541,000 and AED 557,000, respectively, depending on the aircraft category and services requested.

What Drives Private Jet Charter Costs?

Private aviation prices depend on several factors, including flight distance, aircraft type, airport fees, aircraft availability and repositioning costs, particularly when an aircraft must return without passengers.

Atljet emphasizes that these figures represent indicative prices for chartering an entire aircraft on a one-way basis, rather than confirmed bookings or guaranteed quotations. Final costs may vary according to travel dates and actual aircraft availability.

Al Rehla Travel Insight

Private aviation offers greater scheduling flexibility, enhanced privacy and personalized onboard services, making it attractive to travellers seeking exclusive experiences.

However, advance planning is essential during peak holiday periods. Travellers should compare charter quotations carefully and confirm additional charges before finalizing their reservations.

Qatar Airways Increases Ho Chi Minh City Flights to 11 Weekly, Up 57% from November



Four additional nonstop flights connect Doha with the Vietnamese city alongside existing daily services, offering greater travel flexibility to Southeast Asia via Hamad International Airport.

Doha – Qatar | Al Rehla

Qatar Airways is introducing additional flights to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, under its winter schedule from November 7, 2026, increasing services from seven to 11 weekly flights, a rise of approximately 57%.

The expansion includes the resumption of four weekly nonstop flights between Doha and Ho Chi Minh City, complementing the airline's existing daily service, which continues onward to the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.

The additional frequencies provide passengers with more options for travelling directly between Qatar and southern Vietnam.

Four Additional Weekly Flights

According to Qatar Airways' published schedule, the additional Ho Chi Minh City–Doha services, operating as flight QR975, are scheduled to begin on Sunday, November 8, with departures on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The new schedule provides further connections through Hamad International Airport to the airline's global network of more than 170 destinations, including London, Milan, Barcelona, Cairo and New York.

Combining the existing daily service with the additional nonstop flights offers travellers greater flexibility when selecting departure and return dates, particularly those connecting through Doha to European, Arab and North American destinations.

Ho Chi Minh City: A Gateway to Southern Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City is one of Vietnam's leading tourism and economic centres, known for its traditional markets, historic architecture, diverse restaurants and cultural experiences.

The city also serves as a gateway to the Mekong Delta, a region featuring an extensive network of rivers, canals, agricultural villages and local markets.

This allows visitors to combine urban sightseeing with nature-based experiences within a single itinerary.

Part of a Wider Asian Winter Expansion

The increased Ho Chi Minh City frequencies form part of Qatar Airways' broader winter network expansion.

The airline also increased services to Phuket, Thailand, from 14 to 21 weekly flights and to Malé, Maldives, from 12 to 21 weekly flights, effective October 25, 2026.

These adjustments expand available flight options across several popular Asian leisure destinations.

Air Cairo and beOnd Plan Luxury Flights to Egypt for Summer 2027 Amid Temporary Suspension of Partner Airline's Scheduled Services



Memorandum of Understanding targets premium air connections between Egypt, Europe and the Gulf, featuring fully flat-bed seats, with bookings expected to open in the first half of 2027.

London – United Kingdom | Al Rehla

Egyptian airline Air Cairo and luxury leisure carrier beOnd have announced plans to introduce all-premium flights connecting Egyptian destinations with European and Gulf markets from summer 2027, under a partnership that remains in the planning stage.

The announcement comes as beOnd temporarily suspends its scheduled flight operations, raising questions about the implementation timeline of the proposed services.

The partnership was unveiled at World Travel Market (WTM) London on November 5, 2026, following a Memorandum of Understanding signed in Cairo on October 22. Egypt's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Sherif Fathy, attended the partnership announcement.

Airbus Aircraft Featuring Fully Flat-Bed Seats

Under the proposed arrangement, Air Cairo will operate Airbus aircraft under the beOnd brand, featuring premium cabins equipped with fully reclining flat-bed seats, Italian-designed interiors and personalized hospitality services.

The plans include scheduled flights alongside charter services targeting private groups, luxury travel companies and specialist tour operators.

Neither airline has disclosed the proposed destinations, number of aircraft, flight frequencies or ticket prices. Reservations are expected to open during the first half of 2027.

Combining Egyptian Operations with Luxury Aviation

Founded in 2003, Air Cairo will be responsible for flight operations, drawing on its network of more than 80 airports across 26 countries and a fleet of 44 aircraft, according to the airline's published figures.

Meanwhile, beOnd, led by Chief Executive Officer Tero Taskila, specializes in premium leisure aviation, offering all-business-class cabins and personalized travel experiences.

The proposed cooperation aims to combine Air Cairo's operational capabilities with beOnd's luxury aviation concept, potentially creating additional travel options for high-spending visitors to Egyptian destinations.

Temporary Flight Suspension Raises Questions

The announcement coincides with beOnd's decision to suspend all scheduled flights from October 30 through November 30, 2026, citing prevailing regional conditions.

The airline confirmed that its charter operations would continue as planned and said it expected to provide an update on its winter schedule by November 12.

However, beOnd has not announced the cancellation of its partnership with Air Cairo or any changes to the proposed Egyptian operation.

Etihad Airways Removes Three Additional Daily Flights to Germany from Summer 2027 Schedule



Changes affect Frankfurt, Munich and Düsseldorf from August 21, while existing scheduled services remain unchanged.

Abu Dhabi – UAE | Al Rehla

Etihad Airways has removed three additional daily flights planned between Abu Dhabi and the German cities of Frankfurt, Munich and Düsseldorf from August 21, 2027, marking another adjustment to its future flight schedule following an earlier postponement of the planned increases from 2026.

According to an update published by aviation schedule specialist AeroRoutes on November 5, 2026, the airline has withdrawn the additional planned services while maintaining its baseline flight frequencies.

Frankfurt and Munich Retain Two Daily Flights

For Frankfurt, Etihad has removed a planned third daily service operated by a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, leaving the route scheduled for two daily flights.

Munich has also seen its proposed third daily flight, planned with an Airbus A321LR, removed from the schedule, maintaining two daily services.

Meanwhile, Düsseldorf's planned second daily flight, also scheduled to use an Airbus A321LR, has been withdrawn, leaving one daily service.

Earlier Postponement, No Official Explanation

Etihad had previously rescheduled these frequency increases in September 2026, moving their planned introduction from 2026 to late August 2027.

The latest schedule update provides no official explanation for the changes. The withdrawal of the additional flights does not mean existing services have been cancelled or that Etihad is withdrawing from any of the three German destinations.

Al Rehla Travel Insight

For travellers planning trips to Germany in summer 2027, the adjustment means fewer anticipated flight options compared with the previously announced schedule, rather than a reduction in existing operations.

Passengers are advised to check flight availability and schedules directly with Etihad Airways before booking, as future services remain subject to further adjustments.

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