AL-REHLA | Issue 1331
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Winner of the "Most Influential Tourism Newspaper in the Arab World 2026" Award by AFUSU

Radisson Safari Becomes Africa's First Verified Net Zero Hotel Under Radisson's Programme

The British Accredited Centre transforms a summer trip from a language-learning programme into a complete life experience (Part 1/2)

ADNEC Abu Dhabi Wins Middle East's Best MICE Event Venue Award 2026

Egypt's Siwa Oasis Welcomes Winter Tourism Season with Salt Lakes, Historic Shali Fortress and Desert Safaris



After Decades of Smuggling, 100 Artefacts Return to Türkiye as Istanbul Exhibition Reunites Roman Emperor Statues





Treasures from Anatolia, some dating back more than 4,000 years, take centre stage as the exhibition No Escape: Boubon reveals the story of statues looted in the 1960s and scattered across museums and international collections.

Istanbul – Türkiye | Al Rehla

Türkiye has recovered 100 artefacts from the United States, some dating back more than 4,000 years, coinciding with the opening of No Escape: Boubon at the Istanbul Archaeological Museums. The exhibition brings together Roman statues looted decades ago, marking another significant addition to the city's cultural and tourism scene.

The recovered artefacts were presented and the exhibition opened on 2 November 2026, in the presence of Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism Mehmet Nuri Ersoy and Manhattan Deputy District Attorney Matthew Bogdanos, following joint legal and scientific efforts to trace and recover smuggled antiquities.

Speaking at the opening, Ersoy said: "Our goal is not simply to move artefacts from one display case to another, but to reassess them within the stories and cultural context to which they belong." He also reaffirmed Türkiye's commitment to continuing its efforts to combat the illicit trade in cultural property.

The recovered collection includes 40 artefacts from the Horoztepe area in Tokat Province, dating from between 2300 and 2000 BC. These include

"Our aim is not simply to move artefacts from one display case to another, but to reassess them within the stories and cultural context to which they belong."

Mehmet Nuri Ersoy
Türkiye's Minister of Culture and Tourism

ceremonial musical instruments, weapons and metal vessels that reflect the advanced metalworking skills of ancient Anatolia.

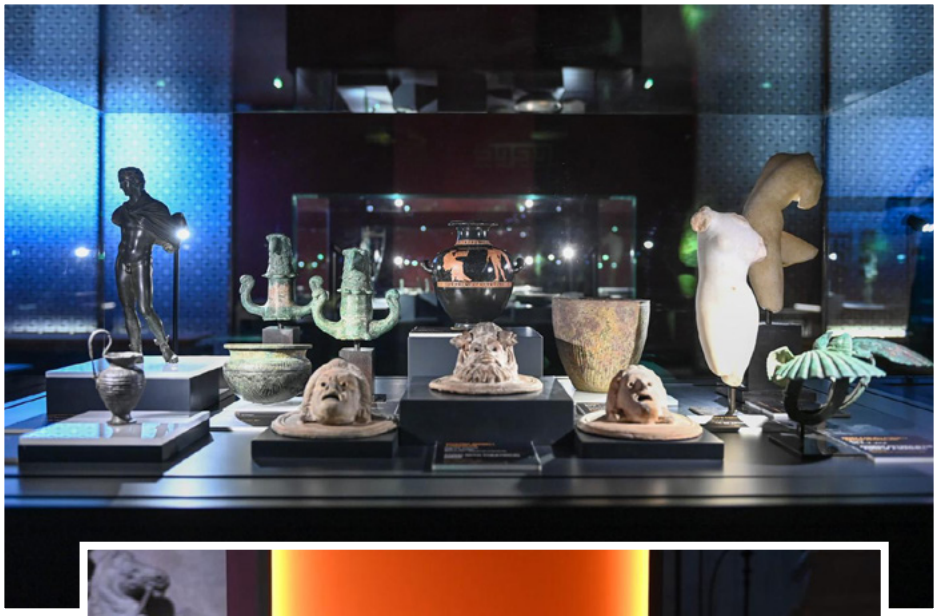
The collection also features 44 terracotta architectural plaques from the Düver area in Burdur Province, dating back to the sixth century BC, alongside sculptures, theatrical masks and small statues of deities.

The exhibition No Escape: Boubon offers visitors an opportunity to discover the story of bronze statues that once adorned a site dedicated to Roman emperors in the ancient city of Boubon, before being dismantled and smuggled out of the country during the 1960s.

The displayed works include statues associated with emperors such as Marcus Aurelius, Caracalla, Septimius Severus and Lucius Verus. Archaeological research, together with soil and metal analyses, helped establish their origins.

The recovery follows cooperation with US authorities that helped halt the sale of Anatolian antiquities offered at an auction in May 2026.

For visitors to Istanbul, the exhibition opens a window onto a chapter of Anatolia's history. The value of these artefacts lies not only in their artistic beauty, but also in the stories they tell about ancient civilisations and the long journey they undertook before returning to their homeland.





Omran Strengthens Oman's Global Tourism Presence and Supports Indicators Covering 184 Economies





The group concludes its participation at World Travel Market London 2026 with international partnerships and a sustainability measurement initiative, while Visit Oman expands opportunities to bring Omani tourism experiences to global markets.

London – United Kingdom | Al Rehla

Oman Tourism Development Company (OMRAN Group) has concluded its participation in World Travel Market London 2026, held from 3 to 5 November as part of the Sultanate of Oman's pavilion. The group showcased its portfolio of destinations, hospitality projects and tourism experiences, alongside its efforts to strengthen international partnerships and promote sustainable investment.

The exhibition also witnessed the launch of the first edition of the Prosperity, Efficiency and Opportunity (PEO) Indicators, issued by the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) in collaboration with OMRAN Group, covering 184 economies worldwide.

The indicators aim to introduce new tools for assessing tourism performance beyond visitor numbers and revenues. They measure the sector's economic contribution, environmental efficiency and employment opportunities, helping governments and investors make decisions that support sustainable growth.

Eng. Iyad bin Ali Al Balushi, CEO of OMRAN Group, said: «We measure the value of our international participation by the opportunities and partnerships it creates, and the tangible impact

"We are working to expand the reach of Omani tourism experiences in global markets by building practical connections between local service providers and international distribution partners, creating broader business opportunities for the sector."

Shabib bin Mohammed Al Maamari
Managing Director of Visit Oman

they deliver.» He emphasised that the integration of roles across the group and its subsidiaries contributes to destination development, asset management and connecting Omani tourism experiences with global markets.

The indicators are particularly significant for the Sultanate of Oman, as their findings showed an improvement in the tourism sector's performance in 2024 compared with 2019. Women accounted for 28% of tourism jobs, compared with 18% across the Middle East.

During its participation, the group presented its projects and hospitality assets to international investors and operators, while exploring cooperation opportunities to support destination development and strengthen the sector's competitiveness.

The national travel operator Visit Oman also participated in the exhibition, highlighting its role in connecting local tourism products and experiences with global distribution networks and tour operators.

Shabib bin Mohammed Al Maamari, General Manager of Visit Oman, said: «We are working to expand the reach of Omani tourism experiences in global markets by building practical connections between local service providers and international distribution partners, creating broader business opportunities for the sector.»

OMRAN's participation reflects an approach that brings together tourism project development and the strengthening of Omani destinations' international presence, while leveraging data and partnerships to support economic diversification and advance the objectives of Oman Vision 2040.





From Manchester to Independence: Four Weeks That Shape a New Character

The British Accredited Centre transforms a summer trip from a language-learning programme into a complete life experience (Part 1/2)

Saad Al Othman and Adel Al Mansouri tell Al Rehla: "Our goal is for students to return more mature, confident and self-reliant."

University accommodation is more than just a place to stay; it is daily training in discipline and responsibility

Supervision begins with the smallest details, while safety comes before any activity or recreational experience

From making the bed to managing pocket money, simple skills can make a significant difference in a student's character



Al Rehla – Azhar Youssef

When a child or teenager travels away from their family for several weeks, the experience is about more than a change of location or an opportunity to learn a new language. For Saad Al Othman, Administrative Director, and Adel Al Mansouri, Technical Director at the British Accredited Centre, the goal is much broader: to build greater independence, develop life skills and strengthen self-confidence through a daily experience that combines education, discipline and social interaction.

Al Othman and Al Mansouri emphasise that the programme was not designed as a conventional tourist trip or a summer English-language course, but as an integrated educational and developmental experience. It brings together language learning and everyday practice, personal development programmes, sporting and cultural activities, and first-aid courses, all within a British university environment that gives students genuine opportunities to rely on themselves and discover their abilities.

The choice of Manchester and the facilities of the University of Salford was not based solely on the city's appeal. It was guided by several criteria, including safety standards, the reputation of the educational institution, the quality of residential and sports facilities, and the suitability of the environment for the participating age groups. The aim, they explain, is to give students an experience similar to studying abroad, but within a structured, safe environment and under continuous supervision.

Supervision: More Than Simply Accompanying Students

Supervision is one of the programme's key pillars. Students are divided into groups, with clearly defined responsibilities assigned to supervisors, while taking into account the different needs of a ten-year-old child and a seventeen-year-old teenager.

Younger students require closer monitoring and continuous guidance, while programmes for older age groups focus on leadership, decision-making, independence and taking responsibility.



"True success is not measured solely by what we achieve for ourselves, but by the impact we make on the lives of others and the opportunities we create for future generations."

Saad Al Othman



"Every great idea begins with a vision, but its true value emerges when it becomes a reality that makes a difference in society."

Adel Al Mansouri

The two directors stress that a supervisor's role goes beyond keeping track of students' movements. It also extends to their educational, behavioural and personal well-being throughout the day.

In emergencies, safety remains an absolute priority. External trips are therefore planned in advance, with meeting points and communication and emergency procedures clearly established. The programme also has specific arrangements for handling health-related situations and coordinating with medical services whenever necessary.

The unpredictable British weather is also factored into the planning, with alternative activities prepared to ensure the programme continues without compromising students' safety.

Making the Bed: A Lesson for Life

Tasks such as keeping a room tidy or looking after personal belongings and clothing may seem minor, but within the programme's philosophy, they become valuable educational tools.

Al Othman and Al Mansouri believe that children learn more through practice than through direct instruction. That is why everyday responsibilities are turned into enjoyable challenges, built around motivation, encouragement and praise for achievements.

They cite the example of student Abdul Mohsen Zaman, whose room-cleaning routine went from being a daily problem to an example of how simple habits can bring about a clear improvement in behaviour and self-Confidence.

During the first 48 hours, some students find it difficult to give up their usual reliance on their families for everyday tasks such as organising their clothes, managing their time, and getting ready for bed and waking up. Homesickness may also arise, particularly among younger children.

However, these situations are not handled through pressure or reprimands, but with understanding and reassurance. If a child feels sad or expresses a desire to return home, the supervisor listens, tries to understand the reasons behind those feelings, and gradually helps the child become involved in activities and build new friendships. The family is also contacted when necessary, in a way that supports the child's adjustment without increasing anxiety.

Money, Language and Friendship: A Daily Testing Ground for Independence

Managing personal spending is another skill the programme seeks to develop. Students learn to distinguish between needs and wants, avoid spending all their money in the first few days, think before making purchases and compare their options.

For those running the programme, this is not simply about the value of money, but about developing a sense of financial responsibility from an early age.

The same approach applies to shy students. They are not forced to socialise suddenly; instead, they are gradually introduced to activities and shared tasks. In their experience, a single friendship can be enough to open the door to confidence for a child who was extremely reserved at the beginning of the trip.

English, meanwhile, does not remain confined to the classroom. Lessons provide the academic foundation, while the real experience begins in the street, at shops, on the sports field, during cultural visits and through everyday interactions.

Ultimately, the goal is not simply for students to return having memorised more words, but for English to become more than a school subject: a language they can use confidently and naturally.

In the centre's philosophy, the success of the trip is not measured by the number of places a student visits, but by the extent of the change that begins to emerge in their character after just a few weeks of learning to rely on themselves.

Aqaba and Wadi Rum Bring Together International Women Leaders for Wellness and Sustainability Event



More than 100 participants attend the 12th edition, featuring expert discussions and field visits highlighting Jordan's wellness tourism, cultural heritage and environmental conservation.

Aqaba, Jordan | Al Rehla

The Jordanian destinations of Aqaba and Wadi Rum hosted the 12th edition of an international women's health and wellness event under the theme "Sustainability and Heritage," bringing together more than 100 women leaders, experts, media professionals and advocates working across health, culture and development.

The four-day programme combined specialised discussions with cultural and environmental experiences, highlighting the diverse tourism offerings of southern Jordan.

Participants included women from Jordan, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon, alongside representatives from Europe and Australia. The event explored connections between wellness, mental health, nature and cultural heritage, while showcasing Jordan's potential as a destination for sustainable tourism.

Wellness Meets Jordanian Heritage

The event was organised by Family Flavours and Nakhat A'iliyeh magazines under the patronage of Princess Dana Firas, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Cultural Heritage, who was represented by Senator Haifa Al Najjar.

Hind-Lara Mango, Executive Director of the publications, highlighted the importance of initiatives that promote women's participation while positioning Jordan as a destination combining sustainable tourism, cultural experiences and wellness.

The programme featured panel discussions and presentations addressing mental health, wellness and the relationship between people and nature.

Speakers included Turkish scientist Serdar Savaş and Kuwaiti specialist Dr. Amani Al Zaidan, who discussed the



role of nature in enhancing personal well-being.
A cultural session also explored Al Tathqif Zaman Al Ta'fif, a book by Sheikha Al Yazia Al Nahyan, connecting intellectual exchange with broader cultural dialogue.

Wadi Rum: Nature and Sustainable Tourism

Participants travelled to Wadi Rum, one of Jordan's most prominent natural attractions, where they learned about efforts to protect the Arabian oryx and preserve biodiversity within the desert ecosystem.

The programme also included a visit to the Women's Association of Disi Villages, where participants experienced local traditions, including preparing traditional shrak bread and planting desert vegetation.

These activities highlighted the role of local communities in protecting cultural heritage and natural resources.

They also demonstrated how traditional crafts, regional cuisine and community experiences can enrich tourism programmes, allowing visitors to discover Jordanian culture beyond conventional sightseeing itineraries.

Wellness Tourism: Opportunities and Challenges

The event took place amid growing international interest in travel experiences centred on relaxation, nature and mental well-being, areas in which Aqaba and Wadi Rum offer considerable potential.

However, the announced programme did not include specific economic outcomes or new agreements to develop wellness tourism products.

Its immediate value therefore lies primarily in knowledge exchange, cultural engagement and promoting locally rooted tourism experiences.

Al Rehla Perspective

For Arab travellers, combining Aqaba and Wadi Rum offers a diverse itinerary stretching from the Red Sea coastline to spectacular desert landscapes, camping experiences and stargazing adventures.

Visitors can also explore traditional cuisine, local handicrafts and community-based cultural activities.

Together, these destinations provide opportunities to combine relaxation, adventure and cultural discovery within a single journey, while encouraging responsible travel through licensed tourism providers and respect for the fragile desert environment.



Discovering How Hospitality Builds Bridges of Friendship and Cultural Cooperation During My Visit to The Newman Hotel in London

By:
Alain St.Ange
Travelling Ambassador of Seychelles and Former Minister of Tourism and Culture of Seychelles

I have always believed that true hospitality goes far beyond hotels and the services they provide. It is a universal human language that brings people and cultures together, opening doors to friendship, understanding, and cooperation. During my recent visit to The Newman Hotel in Fitzrovia, London, this belief was once again reinforced as I experienced how a genuine welcome and attention to detail can turn an ordinary visit into a truly memorable human experience.

I was accompanied on this visit by Georgina Dillon of Creole Magazine in London, and we were warmly welcomed by Eder Neto, Director of Food and Beverage Operations, and James McMahon, Food and Beverage Reception Manager. The meeting offered an opportunity to enjoy a distinctive hospitality experience while exchanging views on tourism, culture, and potential opportunities for future cooperation.

Opened in February 2026, The Newman Hotel features 81 rooms, Brasserie Angelica, Gambit Bar, and a range of wellness facilities. The property brings together Art Deco elegance and the artistic spirit for which Fitzrovia is well known. However, in my view, what truly distinguishes any hospitality destination is not simply its architecture or facilities, but the people behind the experience who make every guest feel genuinely welcomed and valued.

Having spent many years promoting Seychelles as an international tourism and cultural destination, I understand that successful tourism relationships begin with meaningful human connections.

I believe meetings of this nature can provide a starting point for promising initiatives bringing London and Seychelles closer together, whether through cultural events, Creole-inspired evenings, or professional gatherings.

Relationships are not always built through formal agreements and official ceremonies. Sometimes, they begin with a smile, a shared table, and a sincere conversation. This, I believe, is the true spirit of hospitality and cultural diplomacy.



Italy Showcases All 20 Regions in Dubai Through 23 Artworks Celebrating a Century of Tourism

The "Wonderful Italy" exhibition brings together historic tourism posters and contemporary artworks during Dubai Design Week, highlighting lesser-known Italian destinations for the Gulf travel market.

Dubai, UAE | Al Rehla

Dubai is hosting "Wonderful Italy – Made to Be Seen," an exhibition featuring 23 visual artworks that trace more than a century of Italian tourism promotion, combining art, design and destination marketing to showcase the diversity of Italy's 20 regions.

The exhibition opened on November 3, 2026, at the Dubai Hub for Made in Italy, located in the Convention Tower at Dubai World Trade Centre.

Organised by Italiacamp in collaboration with the Italian National Tourist Board (ENIT), under the patronage of Italy's Ministry of Tourism, the exhibition forms part of Dubai Design Week.

Twenty Italian Regions Through Historic Posters

The exhibition features 20 historic tourism posters, each representing one of Italy's regions, alongside an illustration and two contemporary artworks dedicated to Milan–Cortina and Matera.

The collection explores how art and design have shaped Italy's international tourism identity, from Sicily's coastlines and Trentino's mountains to historic cities, traditional villages and natural landscapes.

UAE a Strategic Market for Italian Tourism

Gianmarco Mazzi, Italy's Minister of Tourism, highlighted the UAE's importance as a strategic market for Italian tourism in a message included in the exhibition catalogue.

He emphasised Italy's regional diversity as one of the country's greatest tourism strengths.

The initiative aims to encourage international travellers to discover lesser-known destinations and visit Italy throughout the year, rather than concentrating exclusively on major cities and peak travel seasons.

Exhibition Runs Until November 8

The exhibition welcomes visitors until Sunday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Organisers have also announced plans to display a selection of the artworks at the Made in Italy premises in Abu Dhabi, although no opening date has been confirmed.

Al Rehla Perspective

The exhibition demonstrates how historical artistic archives can become contemporary tourism marketing tools, using vintage travel posters to introduce destinations beyond Italy's internationally renowned cities, such as Rome, Milan and Venice.

For the Gulf travel market, the initiative offers a broader perspective on Italy's geographical and cultural diversity, potentially inspiring new itineraries across its regions.

However, the exhibition's actual impact on travel bookings and visitor arrivals will require subsequent data and cannot be established solely from the event's launch.


Dubai
Hub for


ITALIA


WONDERFUL
ITALY
made to be seen
INVITATION
03/11
2026
Dubai
Hub for

72 Hours in AlUla: From Nabataean Tombs to Ancient Kingdoms and Palm Oases

Three days exploring Hegra, Dadan, Jabal Ikmah and AlUla Old Town, offering travellers an opportunity to discover the history of northern Arabia beyond its most famous landmarks.

AlUla, Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

Three days in AlUla offer visitors an opportunity to discover an extraordinary combination of Nabataean heritage, ancient northern Arabian kingdoms, mudbrick architecture and agricultural oases. However, making the most of the journey requires careful planning around the locations of attractions and scheduled guided tours, rather than attempting to visit every landmark in a single day.

Day One: Hegra and AlUla Old Town

The journey begins at Hegra, the first Saudi Arabian site to be inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2008.

An organised tour allows visitors to explore the Nabataean tombs carved into sandstone cliffs, including the Tomb of Lihyan Son of Kuza, alongside other archaeological sites that reveal aspects of religious and funerary life in the ancient city.

According to the official Experience AlUla platform, guided tours start at SAR 95 per person and last approximately two hours.

Self-driving within the archaeological site is not permitted, and visitors must remain on designated routes.

In the evening, travellers can head to AlUla Old Town to explore its traditional mudbrick buildings and historic passageways before enjoying dinner in the surrounding area.

Day Two: Dadan and Jabal Ikmah

The second day focuses on the region's earlier history, beginning with Dadan, which served as the capital of the ancient kingdoms of Dadan and Lihyan more than 2,000 years ago.

The archaeological area features tombs carved into rock faces, most notably the famous Lion Tombs of Dadan.

The journey then continues to Jabal Ikmah, renowned for its ancient inscriptions and writings that provide valuable insights into the region's languages, society and commercial activities.

According to Experience AlUla, both sites can be explored through a combined guided tour lasting approximately two hours, with advertised prices starting at SAR 60 per person.

Independent driving within the archaeological sites is not permitted.

Day Three: The Oasis, Art and Nature

The final day begins with a walk through AlUla Oasis, where palm groves and scenic pathways connect traditional agricultural landscapes with the region's historical surroundings.

Visitors can then explore the AlJadidah Arts District or book an experience at Maraya, depending on available visiting hours and reservation requirements.

The area also offers hiking activities and opportunities to admire its remarkable rock formations. However, travellers should avoid adding lengthy desert excursions to their itinerary without first checking their duration and the prevailing weather conditions.

What About the Budget?

The reference prices mentioned above do not include transportation, accommodation or meals.

Tour costs may vary depending on the travel date, booking category and operator. The experience listings were reviewed on 7 November 2026, and all prices are subject to change.

AlRehla Perspective

The best way to discover AlUla is to dedicate sufficient time to each chapter of its history, from the Nabataeans to the ancient kingdoms of Dadan and Lihyan, before exploring the oasis and the destination's contemporary cultural life.

Three days may not be enough to see everything, but they provide visitors with a meaningful and well-rounded understanding of AlUla's distinctive identity.







After 2,700 Years, Oxford Museum Brings King Taharqa's Shrine Back to Life in Colour



A free experience opening on November 13 reveals the original colours of an ancient Kushite shrine brought from Sudan in 1936, using digital projection technology and two documentary films.

Oxford, United Kingdom | Al Rehla

The Ashmolean Museum at the University of Oxford is preparing to unveil a new digital experience that restores the original appearance of King Taharqa's 2,700-year-old shrine through projection mapping technology.

Opening on November 13, 2026, the free installation will reveal how the monument's intricately carved sandstone walls once appeared before most of their vibrant colours faded over the centuries.

Egyptian Blue Returns to Ancient Walls

Researchers used microscopic pigment analysis, infrared imaging and advanced imaging techniques to identify traces of red, yellow and blue pigments that originally decorated the shrine's carvings.

Among the most significant discoveries was evidence of Egyptian blue, one of the earliest known synthetic pigments, widely used in ancient Egyptian and Nubian art to depict religious figures and symbolic elements.
Digital projection technology will allow visitors to see a reconstruction of these colours directly on the sandstone walls without repainting or physically altering the original monument.

A 2,700-Year-Old Shrine from Sudan

The shrine was constructed during the reign of King Taharqa, a ruler of the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty who governed Egypt and Kush.

Originally located within the Temple of Amun-Ra at Kawa, in present-day northern Sudan, its carved reliefs depict the king presenting offerings to the gods, reflecting the religious beliefs and royal traditions of the period.

Following archaeological excavations by Oxford University teams in the 1930s, the shrine was dismantled and transported to Britain in 150 wooden crates, arriving at the Ashmolean



Museum in 1936.

It remains the only freestanding ancient Egyptian-style temple structure displayed in Britain and occupies a prominent position in the museum's Ancient Egypt and Sudan galleries.

Two Films Reveal Its History and Hidden Details

The digital installation is accompanied by two specially produced films.

The first traces the shrine's history, from its construction in ancient Sudan to its archaeological discovery, transfer to Oxford and the scientific investigations that uncovered its original colours.

The second explores the shrine's carved scenes, explaining the religious symbolism, divine figures, royal clothing and offerings depicted on its walls.

The installation also marks the 90th anniversary of the shrine's arrival at the museum.

A Free Cultural Experience in Oxford

Visitors can experience the installation in the Ashmolean Museum's Ancient Egypt and Sudan galleries, with free admission to both the museum and the new display.

The museum is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and no closing date has been announced for the installation.

Al Rehla Perspective

The new experience offers visitors to Oxford an opportunity to rediscover the artistic and religious heritage of ancient Egypt and Kush through a perspective rarely available in traditional museum displays.

By revealing the original colours of carvings that have appeared largely monochrome for centuries, the installation helps visitors better understand the symbolism and visual richness of ancient civilisations.

The project also demonstrates how digital technology can enhance cultural tourism and museum experiences without compromising the preservation of original artefacts.

However, its impact on visitor numbers and tourism revenue will only become measurable after the installation opens, once actual attendance figures and visitor data become available.



My Travel Experiences

Birdwatching Tourism: A Journey into the Beauty and Secrets of Nature

By:
Dr. Hossam Darwish
President of the African-Asian Tourism Union
Secretary-General of the Arab Club for Tourism Media

Have you ever imagined that your next travel adventure could be a search for a rare bird, or the magical moment of watching a flock of birds soaring above a breathtaking lake? This is where the beauty of Birdwatching Tourism begins—one of the most fascinating and rapidly growing forms of ecotourism worldwide.

Birdwatching is much more than simply observing birds. It is an extraordinary experience that combines adventure, photography, relaxation, and the discovery of biodiversity. Millions of travelers cross continents every year in search of rare bird species in their natural habitats, capturing unforgettable moments that may never happen again.

Egypt has golden opportunities to become one of the world's leading destinations for this unique tourism sector. Strategically located along one of the world's most important migratory bird routes, Egypt welcomes millions of migratory birds traveling between Europe, Asia, and Africa, particularly during the autumn and spring seasons.

From Lake Burullus, Lake Manzala, and Lake Bardawil to Ras Mohammed National Park, the northern wetlands, and the Red Sea coast, Egypt possesses extraordinary natural treasures that can be transformed into world-class tourism experiences, attracting birdwatchers, researchers, and wildlife photographers from across the globe.

What makes this tourism model even more attractive is its ability to achieve a remarkable balance: protecting nature, creating employment opportunities for local communities, and promoting tourism in lesser-known destinations—all without requiring massive tourism infrastructure.

Birds know no borders, and their migration tells a beautiful story of connection between continents and peoples.

Perhaps the time has come to recognize that the wings of a small bird can open a huge window for sustainable tourism investment, positioning Egypt as a global destination for nature and wildlife enthusiasts.

Because tourism is not always about traveling to admire what humans have created; sometimes, it is about discovering what nature has beautifully designed!



Egypt's Siwa Oasis Welcomes Winter Tourism Season with Salt Lakes, Historic Shali Fortress and Desert Safaris



The Western Desert oasis combines eco-friendly accommodation, ancient heritage and desert adventures, offering visitors a distinctive winter escape surrounded by nature and local traditions.

Siwa – Egypt | Al Rehla

As the winter tourism season begins, Egypt's Siwa Oasis is welcoming visitors, benefiting from mild weather and a diverse range of natural and cultural attractions that distinguish it from traditional coastal destinations. Desert safaris, eco-lodges and heritage experiences are among its key attractions.

Located approximately 300 kilometres from Marsa Matrouh, the oasis features a remarkable landscape of salt lakes, palm groves, olive plantations and vast sand dunes stretching towards the Great Sand Sea, allowing visitors to combine relaxation with adventure.

Ancient Heritage and Historic Landmarks

The historic Shali Fortress stands among Siwa's most prominent attractions, renowned for its traditional architecture constructed from mud and salt.

Other landmarks include the Temple of Amun, associated with Alexander the Great, and the Mountain of the Dead, which contains ancient rock-cut tombs reflecting different periods of the region's history.

Cleopatra's Spring and the oasis's salt lakes offer distinctive natural experiences, while four-wheel-drive safaris, desert camping and stargazing attract adventure enthusiasts, particularly during clear winter nights away from city lights.

Eco-Lodges and the Local Economy

Siwa's tourism experience is closely linked to eco-lodges and resorts inspired by traditional architecture. Some properties incorporate local building materials that blend naturally with the desert environment while preserving the oasis's distinctive identity.

Tourism also supports local restaurants, transportation providers, tour operators and artisans, alongside the sale of regional products, particularly dates, olive oil and traditional handicrafts.

Al Rehla Perspective

For Arab travellers, Siwa offers a winter escape combining tranquillity, cultural discovery and outdoor adventure.

A three- or four-day itinerary allows visitors to explore archaeological landmarks, discover salt lakes, enjoy desert safaris and experience Siwan culture and traditional cuisine.

Advance accommodation reservations and transport arrangements are recommended. Travellers should use experienced local guides for desert excursions and check weather conditions and required permits, particularly given the long overland journey from major cities.







ADNEC Abu Dhabi Wins Middle East's Best MICE Event Venue Award 2026





"The award reflects the centre's position as a platform that brings together industry leaders and decision-makers, while contributing to partnership-building and sustainable economic impact."

Humaid Matar Al Dhaheri
Group CEO of ADNEC Group

The venue spans more than 153,000 square metres, while ADNEC Group generated AED 9.2 billion in economic impact and 2.17 million hotel room nights in 2025.

Abu Dhabi, UAE | Al Rehla

ADNEC Abu Dhabi has been named "Middle East's Best MICE Event Venue 2026" at the World MICE Awards, reinforcing its position in the international meetings and exhibitions industry and highlighting Abu Dhabi's growing prominence in the regional business tourism market.

The venue serves as the flagship facility of ADNEC Group, a subsidiary of Modon, offering dedicated infrastructure for major exhibitions, conferences, meetings and international events across a total area of 153,678 square metres.

AED 9.2 Billion in Economic Impact

The award follows strong results announced by ADNEC Group for 2025, when its economic impact reached AED 9.2 billion, representing an 8% increase compared with the previous year.

The Group's activities also generated 2.17 million hotel room nights, demonstrating the contribution of the events industry to the wider hospitality sector.

During 2025, ADNEC Group's venues welcomed approximately 6.3 million visitors across more than 1,149 local and international events, reflecting the scale of its operations in exhibitions, conferences and major events.

Continued International Recognition

Humaid Matar Al Dhaheri, Group CEO of ADNEC Group, said the award reflects the venue's standing as a platform bringing together industry leaders and decision-makers, facilitating partnerships and contributing to sustainable economic development.

In May 2026, the venue also received five international Eventex Awards, recognising excellence across conference centres, exhibition venues, sustainability, sporting events and wedding facilities.

Al Rehla Perspective

For Arab business travellers, Abu Dhabi offers a destination that combines international conferences and exhibitions with a well-developed hospitality and tourism infrastructure.

ADNEC Group's performance highlights the role of business tourism in supporting demand for hotel accommodation, transportation and hospitality services, reinforcing the meetings and events industry as an important contributor to Abu Dhabi's tourism economy.



JOIN US AT ITB ASIA 2026

ASIA'S LARGEST TRAVEL TRADE SHOW

21 - 23 OCTOBER 2026

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.

1,000+ Exhibiting Brands

1,500+ Quality Buyers

18,000+ Attendees

60,000+ Business Appointments

4,500+ Conference Minutes

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REGISTER TO VISIT

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Hatta Welcomes Adventure Seekers with Free Paddleboarding and Yoga Amid Dubai's Hajar Mountains



Hatta Dam hosts two days of water sports and wellness activities as part of Dubai Fitness Challenge 2026, following an event that attracted more than 5,000 participants last year.

Dubai, UAE | Al Rehla

Dubai's mountain destination of Hatta is hosting Dubai Stand Up Paddle on November 7–8, 2026, bringing together water sports and yoga against the dramatic backdrop of Hatta Dam and the Hajar Mountains.

Held as part of the tenth edition of Dubai Fitness Challenge, the free event runs from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., offering individuals and families of different abilities an opportunity to combine physical activity with the region's natural scenery.

Paddleboarding, Kayaking and Yoga

The programme features 45-minute guided stand-up paddleboarding sessions, with boards, paddles, life jackets and safety instructions provided.

Visitors can also enjoy kayaking in single or double kayaks, alongside recreational water-based challenges.

The 2026 edition introduces

30-minute paddleboard yoga sessions for participants aged ten and above, as well as adapted activities for people of determination, supported by trained instructors.

More Than 5,000 Participants Last Year

The event follows a successful 2025 edition, which attracted more than 5,000 participants over two days, according to the Government of Dubai Media Office.

Dubai Stand Up Paddle is among the flagship activities of Dubai Fitness Challenge, running from October 31 to November 29, 2026.

The citywide initiative encourages residents and visitors to complete 30 minutes of physical activity every day for 30 consecutive days.

Free Shuttle Buses and Advance Registration

Organisers have arranged complimentary return shuttle buses between Dubai World Trade Centre and Hatta, subject to advance booking arrangements, alongside local transportation services to facilitate access to the activity areas.

The event's official website indicates that advance registration has closed, while participation in certain kayaking activities remains subject to availability and capacity.

Dubai Creek Hosts Noor Festival of Lights with Free Live Music and Indian Cultural Performances



The third edition of the festival takes place on November 7–8 at Al Seef, featuring illuminated parades, Bollywood performances and live concerts along Dubai's heritage waterfront.

Dubai, UAE | Al Rehla

Al Seef, the heritage waterfront destination along Dubai Creek, is hosting the third edition of Noor: Festival of Lights on November 7 and 8, 2026, as part of Dubai's Diwali celebrations.

The free two-day festival brings together live music, traditional Indian performances and illuminated parades, offering families, residents and international visitors a cultural experience against the backdrop of Dubai's historic waterfront.

The event runs daily from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., with entertainment celebrating Indian culture and the city's multicultural character.

Illuminated Parades and Indian Music

Each evening begins with colourful processions featuring giant illuminated puppets accompanied by traditional Indian dhol drummers.

The celebrations continue with Bollywood dance performances and live concerts showcasing a variety of Indian musical styles.

Saturday's programme features Ashu Ali and Saif Hayat of The Shams, alongside Punjabi singer Jasbir Jassi.

On Sunday, November 8, visitors can enjoy performances by Jammers and singer-songwriter Sooraj Santhosh.

A Cultural Experience Along Dubai Creek

The festival's location at Al Seef allows visitors to combine entertainment with a stroll through a waterfront destination inspired by traditional Emirati architecture.

The area also offers restaurants, cafés and retail outlets overlooking Dubai Creek, creating opportunities to explore the destination before or after the performances.

Noor: Festival of Lights forms part of Dubai's wider Diwali celebrations, running from November 2 to 12, with cultural activities, shopping experiences and entertainment events taking place across the emirate.

According to Visit Dubai, admission to the festival is free. Visitors are encouraged to check the official event website for any registration or attendance requirements.

Al Rehla Perspective

Noor: Festival of Lights demonstrates how cultural celebrations can enhance the appeal of heritage destinations by combining international artistic traditions with the distinctive character of local surroundings.

Its tourism value lies in offering families and visitors an accessible cultural experience while encouraging exploration of Dubai's historic waterfront.

However, the festival's actual economic contribution to surrounding restaurants and businesses will depend on verified attendance and visitor spending data, rather than anticipated footfall alone.

University of Granada: A 495-Year-Old Institution Connecting Modern Education with Andalusia's Heritage

Founded in 1531 and home to more than 55,000 students, this Spanish university has become an integral part of the economic and cultural life of a city that preserves one of Europe's most remarkable historical legacies.

Granada, Spain | Al Rehla

In Granada, southern Spain, the cultural experience extends far beyond the Alhambra Palace and the historic neighbourhoods of Al-Andalus. The University of Granada is both an educational and historical institution that has helped shape the city's modern identity, transforming it into a destination for students and researchers from different parts of the world.

Founded in 1531, the university traces its educational traditions to the schools that existed in Granada during the Nasrid period, although this does not imply direct institutional continuity between those earlier establishments and the present-day university.

From Andalusian History to a Modern University

The University of Granada was established in the 16th century, following the political transformations that reshaped the city in the late 15th century.

Over time, it developed into a multidisciplinary teaching and research institution, with faculties and centres covering science, medicine, engineering, humanities and social sciences.

Its facilities are distributed across different parts of Granada, making the university an integral part of the urban landscape rather than an institution confined to a single, isolated campus.

More Than 55,000 Students

According to the university's official institutional profile, it has more than 55,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students, alongside approximately 6,000 staff members.

The university also states that its activities account for 6.12% of the province's gross domestic product. This figure is an economic estimate published in its institutional information, rather than a newly reported result for 2026.

These figures highlight the university's importance as a driver of demand for housing, services, transportation, restaurants and cultural activities.

International Students and Educational Tourism

The University of Granada participates in international student and researcher exchange programmes, contributing to long-term stays in the city.

This form of mobility differs from conventional tourism. International students may spend an entire semester or academic year in Granada, generating regular expenditure on accommodation, living costs and local services.

Universities therefore play a significant economic role in historic cities, alongside museums, heritage landmarks and traditional tourist attractions.

The University and Architectural Heritage

The University of Granada is also involved in research and cultural initiatives related to preserving the city's historical heritage.

The institution highlights its contributions to the restoration and conservation of sites with cultural and architectural significance, reflecting the relationship between academic research and heritage management.

AlRehla Perspective

Granada offers a compelling example of a city where cultural tourism and higher education complement one another.

Visitors who explore the university alongside Granada's Andalusian landmarks gain a broader understanding of the city as a centre of knowledge and contemporary life, rather than simply a historic destination.



£217 Million in Additional Tourist Spending as Britain Uses Film Tourism to Attract Visitors Beyond London



The "Starring GREAT Britain" campaign transforms iconic film and television locations into travel experiences, with Gulf countries among its target markets.

London, United Kingdom | Al Rehla

Britain's film tourism campaign, "Starring GREAT Britain," generated an estimated £217 million in additional visitor spending during the first six months following its launch in January 2025, demonstrating how globally popular films and television series can encourage international tourists to explore destinations beyond London.

Led by VisitBritain, the campaign transforms famous filming locations into accessible travel routes and bookable experiences, capitalising on the worldwide appeal of productions such as Harry Potter, Outlander, and Downton Abbey.

From Screen to Destination

Speaking at World Travel Market (WTM) London, VisitBritain Chief Executive Patricia Yates highlighted the importance of encouraging tourists to discover regions beyond the capital by improving accessibility and using compelling storytelling to connect travellers with destinations.

The tourism agency offers an interactive map and regional itineraries featuring locations such as the Scottish Highlands and Alnwick Castle in Northumberland, which appeared in the Harry Potter films, alongside other natural and historic attractions.

Economic Returns Beyond Promotion

According to VisitBritain, the campaign generated an estimated £20 in additional visitor spending for every £1 invested in marketing during the first half of 2025.

The campaign targeted major international markets, including Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries, the United States, France, Germany, and Australia.

Yates emphasised that destination promotion must consider infrastructure and visitor capacity to ensure tourism delivers economic benefits to local communities without placing excessive pressure on popular attractions.

Al Rehla Perspective

For Arab travellers, film-inspired itineraries offer an opportunity to discover Britain beyond London, from historic castles to the Scottish countryside.
These experiences allow visitors to plan journeys around iconic filming locations while exploring destinations that combine natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and local history.

Senegal's Saly Hosts Six Olympic Sports as Tourism Infrastructure Investments Boost Its Appeal



Beach upgrades, solar-powered street lighting and a cultural village showcasing Senegal's regions highlight efforts to create a lasting tourism legacy beyond the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

Saly, Senegal | Al Rehla

Senegal's coastal resort town of Saly has emerged as a key host destination for the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, staging six beach and water sports during the event, which runs from October 31 to November 13.

The Games, the first Olympic event ever held on African soil, have provided Saly, located south of Dakar, with an opportunity to strengthen its international profile and attract new visitors.

Six Olympic Sports on the Coast

The Saly Beach West venue is hosting beach volleyball, beach handball, beach wrestling, coastal rowing, sailing and triathlon competitions.

Senegal's Coastal and Tourism Development and Promotion Company (SAPCO) has undertaken beach cleaning, site improvements and preparations for the sporting events as part of wider efforts to upgrade the destination's tourism infrastructure and public facilities.

1,200 Solar-Powered Streetlights Installed

Senegalese authorities announced the installation of 1,200 solar-powered streetlights across Saly and Diamniadio, representing an investment of CFA 1.5 billion.

The project forms part of preparations for the Games while improving public lighting and safety.

Tourism preparations have also included accommodation arrangements across 74 hotels in the host destinations, with thousands of hotel rooms and overnight stays booked for athletes, officials and participating delegations.

Senegalese Heritage Takes Centre Stage

A cultural and tourism village has opened in Saly, showcasing traditional crafts, local products and the cultural heritage of Senegal's 14 administrative regions.

The initiative connects international visitors attending the Games with Senegalese traditions while creating opportunities for local artisans and entrepreneurs to present their products to a global audience.

It also aims to extend the economic benefits of the sporting event beyond hotels and tourism operators to smaller local businesses.

Radisson Safari Becomes Africa's First Verified Net Zero Hotel Under Radisson's Programme



The 138-room property adopts renewable energy and emissions-reduction measures, with independent verification by TÜV Rheinland marking a milestone for sustainable hospitality in Africa.

Limpopo, South Africa | Al Rehla

Radisson Hotel Group has announced that Radisson Safari Hotel Hoedspruit in South Africa has become the first African property to achieve Verified Net Zero status under the Group's programme, following operational upgrades covering energy sources, kitchens, waste management and water systems.

The achievement demonstrates how sustainability commitments can be translated into practical measures across existing hotel operations.

Located near Kruger National Park and the Blyde River Canyon in Limpopo Province, the 138-room hotel caters to travellers seeking safari adventures, wildlife experiences and leisure accommodation.

Operational Transformation Beyond Energy

The hotel has adopted renewable electricity while electrifying kitchen equipment and service vehicles and introducing more energy-efficient water heating systems.

Additional initiatives include wastewater recycling, waste separation, converting organic waste into compost and reducing single-use plastics.

The property also offers lower-carbon dining options, with menus displaying the estimated carbon footprint of individual dishes to help guests make more environmentally informed choices.

Independent Verification and Residual Emissions

The hotel's sustainability measures underwent independent verification by TÜV Rheinland under Radisson's Verified Net Zero Hotels methodology, which addresses direct emissions, purchased electricity and supply-chain emissions.

The designation does not mean the property produces absolutely no emissions. Instead, the methodology prioritises emissions reductions before addressing residual emissions through carbon removal credits.

The project forms part of Radisson Hotel Group's broader ambition to achieve 100 Verified Net Zero Hotels by 2030.

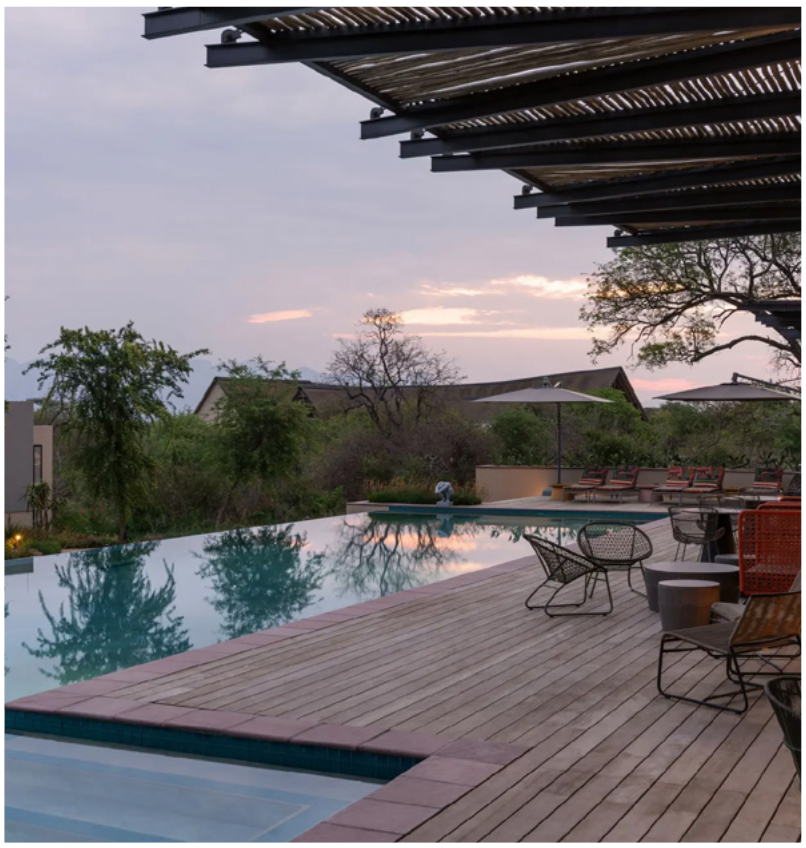
Al Rehla Perspective

For Arab travellers, the hotel offers an opportunity to combine safari adventures and wildlife exploration with accommodation designed to reduce its environmental footprint.

The initiative also provides a practical example for hospitality operators seeking to upgrade existing properties through investments in energy efficiency and resource management while maintaining established standards of guest comfort and service.







Silversea Opens 150-Room Luxury Hotel in Southern Chile as New Gateway to Antarctica



The Cormorant at 55 South begins operations as part of 29 Antarctica fly-cruise expeditions through March 2027, marking a new hospitality investment developed in partnership with Chilean investors.

Puerto Williams, Chile | Al Rehla

Silversea, part of Royal Caribbean Group, has officially opened The Cormorant at 55 South, a 150-room luxury hotel in Puerto Williams, southern Chile, establishing a new accommodation hub for travellers embarking on expeditions to Antarctica.

The hotel was inaugurated on November 5, 2026, in the presence of company executives, Chilean officials and representatives of the local community. The project was developed in partnership with a consortium of Chilean investors.

150 Rooms Built in Argentina

Located near latitude 55° South, the hotel offers views of surrounding forests, the Beagle Channel and the region's dramatic mountain landscapes.

The property was constructed using modular building techniques, with its 150 guestroom units manufactured in Mendoza, Argentina, before being transported across the Andes and Patagonia to their final destination.

Facilities include Latitude 55, a restaurant serving cuisine inspired by Patagonia, Bar Sur, relaxation areas and artworks by Chilean artists.

Accommodation Before and After Antarctic Expeditions

The hotel is now part of Silversea's Antarctica Fly Cruise programme, which transports guests on charter flights from Santiago to Puerto Williams, where they stay before and after their Antarctic expeditions.

The programme allows travellers to continue their journey by air to Antarctica, where they board expedition vessels, avoiding the traditional sea crossing of the Drake Passage, known for its challenging conditions.

Bert Hernandez, President of Silversea, said the hotel was designed to make travel to Antarctica easier and more comfortable, creating a hospitality experience that begins before guests board their expedition ship.

40 Expedition Voyages Through March 2027

Silversea plans to operate 40 expedition voyages through March 2027 aboard Silver Endeavour, Silver Wind and Silver Cloud.

Of these, 29 voyages will form part of the fly-cruise programme that includes accommodation at the new hotel.

The itineraries range from six to 21 nights and cover destinations extending beyond the Antarctic Peninsula to South Georgia and the Falkland Islands.

Singapore Airlines Unveils Commercial Aviation's Largest Double Bed in S$2 Billion Cabin Upgrade



A 203 cm by 152 cm double bed, private suites with sliding doors and enhanced passenger amenities will debut progressively from the second half of 2027.

Singapore – Al Rehla

Singapore Airlines has unveiled a new generation of long-haul aircraft cabins featuring double beds, private suites and advanced comfort and entertainment systems, as part of an investment exceeding S$2 billion (approximately US$1.5 billion).

Announced on November 6, 2026, the new cabin products will be introduced progressively from the second half of 2027, covering all four travel classes on selected aircraft.

A Double Bed Measuring 203 × 152 cm

The standout feature is the new First Class suite, where two adjoining centre seats can be converted into a sofa for two during the day or a double bed measuring 203 cm in length and 152 cm in width at night.

Singapore Airlines describes the design as the largest double bed in commercial aviation.

The suites feature premium cotton bedding, specially selected pillows and additional mattress padding to enhance sleeping comfort.

Other amenities include sliding privacy doors, 32-inch entertainment screens, personal storage compartments and dining tables designed to accommodate two passengers.

Greater Privacy in Business Class

The redesigned Business Class cabins will feature fully flat beds, sliding privacy doors and selected centre seats that can be connected to create a shared sleeping space.

The upgrade programme also includes improvements to seating, entertainment and connectivity systems in Premium Economy and Economy Class.

Upgrading 41 Airbus Aircraft

The programme covers the refurbishment of 41 aircraft from the Airbus A350-900 family, alongside the introduction of new cabin products on the airline's upcoming Boeing 777-9 aircraft.

Singapore Airlines' ultra-long-range A350-900ULR aircraft will also receive the new First Class cabins for the first time.

The investment forms part of the carrier's broader strategy to enhance passenger comfort and strengthen its competitive position in the premium long-haul travel market.

Al Rehla Perspective

The new cabin design reflects a shift in premium aviation competition, where airlines increasingly differentiate themselves through sleep quality, personal space, privacy and the ability to share the travel experience.

Rather than focusing solely on seat dimensions, airlines are bringing elements of luxury hotel accommodation into the skies.

However, the new double beds have not yet entered commercial service. Their actual influence on passenger preferences will depend on availability, pricing and the onboard experience once the cabins are introduced.

flyadeal Launches Two Weekly Direct Flights Between Madinah and Damascus



The new service began in early November, operating on Sundays and Wednesdays with Airbus A320neo aircraft, offering additional travel options for religious visitors and families between Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | Al Rehla

Saudi low-cost airline flyadeal has launched scheduled nonstop flights between Madinah and the Syrian capital, Damascus, starting November 1, 2026, with two weekly services aimed at strengthening air connectivity and facilitating religious and family travel between the two countries.

The new route complements flyadeal's existing services between Jeddah and Damascus, expanding the airline's presence in the Syrian market while allowing passengers to reach Madinah without connecting through other airports.

Twice-Weekly Airbus Services

Flights operate on Sundays and Wednesdays using Airbus A320neo aircraft, connecting Prince Mohammad bin Abdulaziz International Airport in Madinah with Damascus International Airport.

According to the published schedule, Sunday flights depart Madinah at 1:00 p.m. and arrive in Damascus at 3:05 p.m. Return services leave Damascus at 4:05 p.m., arriving in Madinah at 6:10 p.m.

On Wednesdays, departures from Madinah are scheduled for 12:40 p.m., arriving in Damascus at 2:45 p.m. Return flights depart at 3:55 p.m. and reach Madinah at 6:00 p.m.

All times are local.

Supporting Religious Travel

Lloyd Miskvait, flyadeal's Acting Chief Commercial Officer, highlighted Madinah's religious significance and the importance of direct air services in facilitating access for travellers visiting the holy city.

He noted that the route offers greater convenience for passengers travelling for religious purposes or to visit family and friends.

Al Rehla Perspective

The new connection strengthens air links between Saudi Arabia and Syria, giving travellers more flexibility and direct access to Madinah.

However, its actual tourism impact will depend on passenger volumes and aircraft occupancy rates over the coming months, rather than scheduled flight frequencies alone.

Jet2 Adds 32,000 Seats to Tunisia Flights and Extends Operations into Winter 2028 from Five UK Airports



The British travel group expands its Tunisia programme in response to strong early booking demand, adding nine weeks of flights to support tourism beyond the traditional summer season.

London, United Kingdom | Al Rehla

British travel group Jet2 has announced the addition of more than 32,000 seats to its Tunisia flight programme, extending operations until the end of November 2027 before resuming services in February 2028.

The expansion responds to strong early booking demand and strengthens air connectivity between the United Kingdom and Tunisia's tourism destinations beyond the traditional summer season.

Announced on October 15, 2026, the expansion follows the launch of Jet2's Summer 2027 Tunisia programme in June, offering flights and package holidays through its tour operator, Jet2holidays.

Five UK Airports Serving Enfidha

The programme includes flights to Enfidha–Hammamet International Airport from Birmingham, East Midlands, Leeds Bradford, Manchester and London Stansted.

According to the announced schedule, services will continue until November 30, 2027, before resuming from February 11, 2028, depending on the departure airport, adding nine weeks to the operating season.

Flight frequencies will range from one to two weekly services per airport, with additional seats available for booking through Jet2 and Jet2holidays.

Extending Tunisia's Tourism Season

Steve Heapy, CEO of Jet2, said strong early demand from customers and travel agents had encouraged the company to extend its Tunisia programme, providing travellers with more holiday options during autumn and winter.

Jet2holidays offers packages to several Tunisian destinations, including Hammamet, Yasmine Hammamet, Sousse, Monastir, Mahdia and Port El Kantaoui, combining flights with hotel accommodation.

Al Rehla Perspective
Extending the operating season offers Tunisian hotels an opportunity to attract British visitors beyond the summer peak, particularly in coastal resorts.
However, the additional seats represent capacity offered for sale rather than confirmed passenger numbers. Their actual impact on hotel occupancy and tourism revenues will depend on bookings and flight load factors.

FlyArystan to Resume Aktau–Dubai Flights on November 21 with Two Weekly Services



The Kazakh low-cost carrier restores direct air connectivity between western Kazakhstan and the UAE using Airbus A320 aircraft, coinciding with Dubai's winter tourism season.

Dubai, UAE | Al Rehla

Kazakh low-cost airline FlyArystan has announced the resumption of direct flights between Aktau and Dubai starting November 21, 2026, with two weekly services operating on Tuesdays and Saturdays, following a suspension earlier this year due to regional airspace disruptions.

The resumption restores direct connectivity between Kazakhstan's western Mangystau region and Dubai, eliminating the need for connecting flights. Tickets are available through the airline's official website and mobile application.

Flight Schedule and Operations

According to the announced schedule, Tuesday flights will depart Aktau at 5:15 a.m. and arrive in Dubai at 9:50 a.m. Return flights will leave Dubai at 10:55 a.m., arriving in Aktau at 5:25 p.m.

On Saturdays, flights will depart Aktau at 7:20 a.m. and arrive in Dubai at 11:55 a.m. Return services will depart Dubai at 1:00 p.m. and arrive in Aktau at 7:30 p.m., with all times stated in local time.

The airline will operate the route using Airbus A320 aircraft, with an approximate flight duration of five hours and 35 minutes.

Services Return for Winter Tourism Season

The route's resumption coincides with Dubai's winter tourism season, featuring major attractions and events, including the Dubai Shopping Festival, Global Village and several outdoor entertainment destinations.

Kazakh citizens can enter the UAE without obtaining a visa in advance for stays of up to 30 days, provided their passports remain valid for at least six months.

Al Rehla Perspective

The restored route provides a convenient direct travel option between the UAE and western Kazakhstan for leisure travellers and short-stay visitors.

It also offers Dubai residents an opportunity to explore Aktau and the Caspian Sea coastline.

Passengers are advised to check baggage allowances, flight schedules and visa requirements before booking, as operational timetables may be subject to change.

Iraqi Airways to Resume Beijing Flights via Basra on November 14 with Two Weekly Services



The national carrier reconnects Baghdad and southern Iraq with the Chinese capital through scheduled flights on Tuesdays and Saturdays, expanding international travel options.

Baghdad, Iraq | Al Rehla

Iraqi Airways has announced the resumption of flights to Beijing, China, starting November 14, 2026, with two weekly services operating via the Baghdad–Basra–Beijing route.

The move restores air connectivity between Iraq and China, providing additional travel options for passengers and business travellers.

The decision forms part of the national carrier's efforts to restore international destinations and expand its network into Asian markets, with Basra International Airport included as a stop along the route.

Two Weekly Flights via Basra

According to the announced schedule, outbound flights from Iraq will operate on Tuesdays and Saturdays, while return services from Beijing are scheduled for Sundays and Wednesdays.

Mustafa Talib, Director General of Iraqi Airways, said the resumption aligns with directives from the Ministry of Transport to expand the airline's international network and introduce routes of economic and commercial importance.

The announcement did not specify departure and arrival times or the duration of the stopover in Basra. It also did not clarify whether passengers would remain on the same aircraft throughout the journey.

Return to the Chinese Market

Iraqi Airways previously resumed Baghdad–Beijing services in 2024 following a prolonged suspension, before the route was subsequently discontinued again.

The return of flights is particularly significant given the strong trade relations between Iraq and China, offering an additional air travel option for business executives, importers, tourists and passengers visiting family or travelling for personal reasons.

Al Rehla Perspective

The route provides travellers from Baghdad and Basra with a scheduled connection to Beijing without needing to arrange flights with another airline. Passengers are advised to verify flight schedules, fares, Chinese visa requirements and transit arrangements in Basra before booking, particularly as the scheduled launch date approaches.

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