

World Luxury Travel **Magazine**

Vol. 1 ■ Issue 3 ■ October, 2012

Luxury on the Sea

Focus: Southeast Asia

In Conversation with...

*Mr. Graeme Barnett,
Exhibition Director, EIBTM*

Foliage Destinations

It's the leaf-peeping season

■ Vol. 1
■ Issue 3
■ October, 2012



Editor-in-Chief : Manashree
Travel Writers : Prabha, Tandrika, Saurav
Contributing Photographers : Prakash, Marc Sprengers
Website Counsellor : Pramathesh
Designer : Pranab

World
Luxury Travel
Magazine



5 | MICE – Five Best Chartered Aircraft Providers

13 | Feature – Luxury on the Sea

19 | Country Getaway – Sri Lanka – The Pearl of the Indian Ocean

24 | Feature – Foliage Destinations

30 | City Guide – Athens – The Birthplace of Civilisation

35 | Event Watch – EIBTM 2012

37 | People – In Conversation with Mr. Graeme Barnett,
Exhibition Director of EIBTM

41 | Happenings – November Happenings





FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Every season is special! The way spring brings in new life to the entire planet summers have their own charm, particularly in cooler climes. Before the grey landscape of winter sets in, autumn displays some of the most stunning colours Mother Nature can produce. This issue of the World Luxury Travel Magazine brings you an exclusive feature on the Ten Must Visit Fall Foliage Destinations around the Globe. Savour the delight that is autumn in this issue.

For those of you wanting to travel the world at your own pace, what better way than to charter your own airplane! We help you choose one from the array of chartered airplanes in our feature on the “Five Best Chartered Aircraft Providers”. These service providers make sure your flying experience is most comfortable, hassle-free and enjoyable.

Autumn presents itself with endless possibilities of travel, and guess what? This is not even regarded as peak tourist season in many countries! How about taking a cruise to enjoy the fall and its cool breeze with a flute full of bubbly? Read our feature on luxury cruises covering some of the best luxury cruise liners.

While our monthly e-zine has been constantly focusing on the hot and happening aspects of the luxury travel industry to keep you abreast of the “in” thing, a few words of encouragement and suggestions would be highly appreciated to keep our morals up. Please keep those feedbacks coming!

Thank you!

Manashree Prakash
Editor-in-Chief



Five Best Chartered Aircraft Providers

Cover
Story
MICE

Have you ever found yourself at your wit's ends, trying to find a flight to fly you to a crucial, last minute meeting; or been dismayed to discover that the dream island where you planned to tie the knot is out of the way of regular flights; or wished to travel discreetly away from public eye? Chances are, in all the above situations, you would have hired a chartered aircraft to meet your specific needs.

Chartered planes, rented out to meet specific needs of individuals or organisations, are convenient alternatives to public aircrafts in emergency situations or for customised travel requirements. Of course, travelling in style, avoiding the stress of queuing up at airports and bypassing baggage woes come with a price tag of its own. However, most people

would agree the services are well worth the cost.

Kinds of Chartered Aircraft Providers

There are many players in the chartered aircraft industry. A quick look at the various kinds of providers will be useful:

Fractional Ownership - Here you buy a 'share' of the plane; pay a monthly maintenance fee; and have guaranteed access hours annually depending on the size of the share. This is a somewhat expensive proposition compared to the other available options.

Direct Operators - They are independent operators who own and maintain their own fleet and staff. They provide on-demand service to customers.

Membership Clubs - You can deposit an

- 6 amount and buy jet charter cards; flight time is deducted from deposit amount.
- Broker Operators - These are 'middlemen' companies having access to a large network of independent charter aircraft providers. They offer the most economical and flexible packages, so one can find the best deals with them.

Benefits of Chartering a Plane

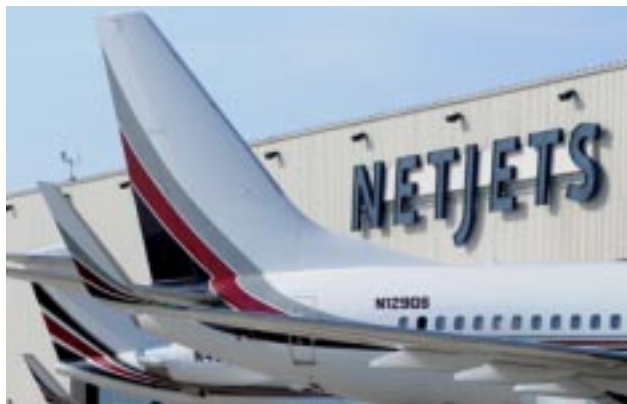
- Operates on a customised schedule suitable to individual needs,
- Compared to commercial airlines, which access only 200-300 airports, charter flights can reach more than 7000 airports,

- Bypasses normal hassles of check in, long lines at airport, lost baggage, delayed and missed flights.
- Offers privacy, personalised attention, saving on time and safety of travel.

Five Best Chartered Aircraft Providers

There are a host of chartered aircraft providers, all vying with one another to provide the best tailor-made flight solutions. The United States of America has the maximum number of charter airlines with thousands of jets flying within the country and to global destinations. Some of the most popular names in the charter industry, including private, independent and broker operators, are as follows:





NetJets

NetJets is a pioneer in the concept of fractional jet ownership; offering the benefits of whole aircraft ownership with none of the responsibilities at marginal costs to individuals and groups. NetJets is a giant in the world of chartered airlines with the largest and most diverse fleet of jets giving unmatched experience.

Why NetJets

- Flexibility - The diversity of fleets gives you flexibility to choose the one best suited to your needs; you can also exchange among various aircraft types depending on availability. Many companies buy shares in light cabin aircraft, midsize and large cabin aircrafts so that they always have the aircraft best suited to their needs at any given time.
- Confidentiality - You can ensure complete confidentiality of CEO's and executives of their identity and

destinations by flying with NetJets; thereby maintain secrecy about your business dealings.

- Corporate Accountability - You can ensure compliance of corporate aircraft use; NetJets shares help you to distinguish between aircrafts used for personal and corporate use.
- Predictable Costs - It is easier to manage your budget as your costs are predictable for the five years of your contract. NetJets will provide you with a detailed cost analysis model to budget your expenses accurately.
- Guaranteed Liquidity - From a tax and



legal viewpoint, your company will gain all the financial benefits accruing from a capital equipment acquisition.

- Others - NetJets provides additional lift when demand for flights exceeds the number of aircraft you have available. A NetJets aircraft can originate from wherever you wish thereby allowing you to manage deadheads better. A NetJets fractional share allows you to balance the demands on your pilots better.



Unique Owner Benefits

- Medical - NetJets has tied up with Mayo Clinic to give owners access to world-class medical expertise while travelling wherever they may be.
- Membership- NetJets owners have invitation to join the Chairman's Club as preferred members.

Website: www.netjets.com

Luxury Air Jets

Luxury Air Jets, a premier air charter services broker, defines flying with it as a 'full luxury jet experience'. It lives up to that phrase with its strict code of ethics, safety regulations and

customer service. No detail is too small and care is taken to meet every expectation a customer may have. Its clientele includes heads of states, celebrities and corporate key personnel.

Why Luxury Air Jets

- A personal concierge is there to take care of every journey detail from dinner reservations to confirming your waiting limousine.
- Luxury charter flying experience at competitive rates.
- The most comprehensive safety and security in the industry.
- Armed or unarmed security details throughout the flight for you and your family.
- Complete in-flight catering competent to meet any dietary requirement.
- An array of in-flight services like



nannies, hairdressers etc., both regular or out of the way.

For the business traveller:

- Point to point travel saves time and energy.
- Host of services offered, including temporary workers, accountants, legal and secretarial services and event planning.
- Complete safety and privacy.

Other Benefits include:

- No monthly fees, monthly membership costs or long term investment,
- Only four-hour notice required,
- Access to 3,500 aircrafts in over 6000 airports,
- The highest ARG/US certifications for all aircrafts.

Website: www.luxuryairjets.com

Air Charter International

Air Charter International operates in the Middle East, Europe, Africa, Asia and Asia Pacific with Dubai as its headquarter. Air Charter International offers wet lease and air charter solutions for airlines, air cargo, passenger travel,



emergency medical evacuations and business travel. It believes in providing dependable, cost effective service and quick response to enquiries. It has a global database "Skysearch", which allows it to provide global access to customers to a pool of aircraft information and experience and over 6000 operators world-wide.

Why Air Charter

- **Diverse Fleet** - Air Charter International specializes in jets, passenger aircrafts, cargo, Medevac aircraft and helicopter for various contingencies.
- **Speed** - Air Charter specialises in providing corporate jet charter and passenger air charter solutions at a short notice to client in any part of the world.
- **Efficiency** - Its database - 'Skysearch' effectively matches a client's requirements with all available aircrafts thereby ensuring that all clients' needs are met immediately and satisfactorily.
 - **Reliability** - Aircrafts are offered for your service round the clock, all year round.
 - **Specialized Knowledge** - There



is a professional team of experts in sourcing different kinds of aircrafts suitable for the clients' needs.

- Experience - It has a team of dedicated and expert professionals delivering the most appropriate solutions and aircrafts as well as providing the best rates.

Leasing

Air Charter International is a specialist in tailor made wet lease solutions. It also provides a full-time Operations Manager to streamline the wet lease running as per agreement. The other kinds of leasing it deals in are ACMI, Damp Lease, Dry Lease, Operational Lease and Financial Lease.

Emergency - It covers the following emergency situations:

- Medical Emergency - People needing immediate medical attention are transported efficiently using an aero-medical transport service, Emergency Medical Evacuation Aircraft or Medivac.

- Personnel Evacuations - Ideally situated to provide emergency evacuation for Middle East, Africa and Asia, Air Charter's long term relations with national carriers and charter airlines enables it to source aircrafts worldwide anytime for any emergency evacuation.
- AOG (aircraft on ground) - In case of an unplanned maintenance issue of any aircraft, Air Craft International can quickly provide solutions to deliver necessary spare parts and minimize the downtime.

Website: www.aircharter-international.com

Jet Aviation



Jet Aviation is a wholly owned subsidiary of General Dynamics. It provides a range of aircraft related services including global executive charter services worldwide. The company operates a fleet of more than 200 business jets. Its four regional centres are located in Europe, Asia, North America and South America.

Why Jet Aviation

- No check-in time,
- Availability within 2 hours,
- VIP Service,



- High safety standards,
- Highly trained crew,
- 24-hours customer inquiry availability.

Charter Services

- On Demand - For those who don't fly often or fly to multiple destinations on demand, charter is a perfect solution. It allows you to pay as you travel without the need to purchase or maintain an aircraft.
- Block Charter - Corporations, groups or individuals sometimes prefer to purchase a certain number of charter hours or 'blocks' to be used over a period of time. This is beneficial particularly for people with over 50 flight hours yearly.
- Other Services - Being the largest business aviation services company in

the world, Jet Aviation also provides aircraft maintenance, VIP aircraft and passenger handling and personnel services, to name a few.

Website: www.jetaviation.com

Flexjet

Flexjet is a division of Bombardier, the world's third largest civil aircraft manufacturer. Experts in the aviation field, Flexjet ensures the best flying experience for its customers by focusing on delivering superior private jet travel solutions.

Flexjet Programs



- Whole aircraft management and ownership; part 91 aircraft management services to owners of aircraft with an option to place aircraft in a fractional dry-lease pool; 300+ hours per year; no geographic limits,
- Fractional Ownership: Purchase in 50-



hour increments; 50-400 hours per year,

- Jet Cards (Flexjet 25): Flexjet 25 Jet Card calendar option - Choose the aircraft and travel calendar best suited to your needs,
- Flexjet 25 Jet Card debit option: Pay one deposit, fly on any dedicated program aircraft on a trip-by-trip basis any day of the year; 25-100 hours per year.
- On-Demand Charter Brokerage Services: On-demand charter brokerage program flights operated by a network of Flexjet-approved U.S. air carriers; 1-25 hours per year.



Why Flexjet

- Flexjet offers safety, expertise,

precision and exceptional service,

- It has the youngest aircrafts, the high-performance Learjet and Challenger,
- Best qualified pilots and staff for each flight,
- Highest standards of safety,
- Aircraft ready in 10 hours' notice,
- World class customer service for a great flying experience.

Website: www.flexjet.com

The charter flight industry has come a long way since its inception. Technological advancements have made operations even

more seamless and beneficial to customers. Fierce competition has also ensured cuts in prices and increased

amenities. Though the recent economic crisis put pressure on the industry, it is emerging strongly out of it and providing services, which are indispensable for many travellers.

Feature

Luxury on the Sea



“I would very much like to go on one of your cruises, but I have certain accommodations that need to be made before I book my trip. I need a room large enough to comfortably fit a king-size bed, as well as a king”. This royal request was made to a luxury liner and undoubtedly, the liner took the request in its stride and provided the service asked for. This incident sums up the essence of a luxury cruise experience. Cruising is an extremely popular holiday option today for getting away from it all and doing it in style.

14 Why Luxury Cruising

Luxury cruising is an experience to behold. Floating away in an exclusive cocoon, amidst the sounds and sights of seas and exotic islands, feeling the wind, spray and sun, and all these while being completely pampered, form part of an unmatched holiday experience. Luxury liners have superb service, exotic destinations, myriad activities and great ambience, food and entertainment at all-inclusive prices.

Focus: Southeast Asia

Southeast Asia is an exciting cruising destination with extremely popular tourist spots, which include Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand and Malaysia. The locales are exotic and the local culture and customs are fascinating, especially to travellers from the West who are looking for something different. The weather is also favourable for most parts of the year. There are several big luxury players in this field. Here's presenting some of the best luxury cruise liners that also serve in the Southeast Asian region.

Crystal Cruises

Ships: Crystal Serenity,
Crystal
Symphony
This Japanese
luxury cruise



line has been voted the Best Large-Ship Cruise Line for 16 years by Conde Nast readers and World's Best for 16 years by Leisure. The Crystal experience includes the best of food, wines, opulent and spacious interiors and flawless personalised services. The ships, designed for holding 1000 guests, have staterooms with private verandas, stunning views, an open bar service in all the lounges, a library, a sports deck and a fitness facility. You can also avail of dance, art and golf classes by trained instructors. Catch the latest movies, try your luck in the Casino, shop for designer goods in a 3000 sq. ft. shopping area or enjoy the nightlife aboard. You can stay connected with the 24 hour Wi-Fi access throughout the ships.



Cunard Line

Ships: Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth 2, Queen Victoria

Cunard Cruises epitomise classic luxury cruising at its sophisticated best.

Staterooms with refrigerators, direct dial phone, television and 24 hour room service; activities like theatre, on-board classes in art and dancing; a library, sports deck, fitness centre and spa are some of the amenities on the ships. You can also visit the Casino, go shopping in the tax free designer stores or admire the art gallery. Indulge in gourmet dining in King's Court or the Todd English Restaurant or simply take your plate to near the pool deck and enjoy. Wireless access in 14 spots across the ship and the computer room helps you to keep in touch with the world.

Regent Seven Seas Cruises

Ships: Seven Seas Voyager, Seven Seas Mariner, Seven Seas Navigator



Specialising in small, exclusive luxury ships, Regent cruises offer superb accommodations, services and cruising experience. Staterooms are spacious with ocean views, private balconies, in-suite mini-bar, marble bathtubs and free round the clock room service. A theatre, library, free computer and digital photography classes, guest lectures on various subjects and Le Cordon Bleu workshops will keep you busy. Ships also have a spa, fitness centre, sports deck, casino, active nightlife and tax free boutique shopping. The internet café and Wi-Fi network help you to keep in touch with loved ones. For world class dining and superb wines head to Prime 7, Signatures or Compass Rose.

The Yachts of Seabourn

Ships: Seabourn Pride, Spirit, Legend, Odyssey, Sojourn, Quest

Seabourn has a fleet of small, luxury ships designed to carry between 208-450 passengers and offering personalised luxury



at its best. The luxurious suites have stunning views, complimentary welcome champagne, refrigerator, TV, bar and Wi-Fi. Complimentary beverages, shopping with the chef on-shore, caviar while swimming, exclusive shopping destinations (chauffeur driven limousine) and a personal valet luggage service are some of

the unique comforts offered. The Restaurant (open seating dining), The Sky Grill and The Colonnade have delectable gourmet delights to offer. On-board there are various classes, a library, movies, a water-sports Marina, fitness facility, spa, casino and nightlife including the Evening Under the Stars. A computer centre and Wi-Fi in all suites and most public spots keep you connected.

Silversea Cruises

Ships: Silver Cloud, Wind, Shadow, Whisper, Explore, Spirit

The all-suite luxury ships of Silversea are designed for smaller numbers, spacious rooms and the crew to guest ratio of almost one to one makes for highly personalised service. Beautifully designed, the suites offer



panoramic views, complimentary welcome champagne, personalised mini bar, marble bathroom, TV and sitting area. There is a vast selection of complimentary beverages aboard,



complimentary shore-side experience, theatre, movies, on-board classes, a library, an observation lounge, sports deck, fitness facility and spa. You can spend the night at the casino or enjoy the music and dancing at the bars. Shopaholics can head for the boutiques selling designer wear. Dining options at The Restaurant, Le Champagne or Pool Grill are plentiful and the food is world class. Internet café computers and Wi-Fi access allow connectivity even at the sea. Silversea offers Personalised Voyages and has specially designed ships for accessing even the most remote destinations including the Arctic and Antarctic.

Windstar Cruises

Ships: Wind Star, Spirit, Surf

The Windstar line is notable for its computer-controlled motor-sail-yachts. The unique rigging system unfurls sails in two minutes at the touch of a button. The Windstar line is famous for sailing to exotic destinations, many of which bigger ships cannot access. However the sailing ship design encloses a world of spacious luxury and impeccable service. Designed for 150-300 guests, the ship has accommodations with ultra-luxurious beds, Shea Butter bathroom amenities, TVs, DVD players, Apple iPod Nanos with music selection to be played through Bose sound docks provided in the rooms. A library, fly bridge with hammocks, spa,



water sports, nightlife and superb food at The Veranda Restaurant or The Restaurant make the cruise memorable. The internet centre and Wi-Fi in public areas ensures connectivity.

Set Sail

All these cruise lines offer South-East Asia cruises. There are various packages, offers and destinations to choose from, according to your individual tastes or needs. You could choose Silversea's 9-Day Bangkok, Thailand, Singapore cruise or the Regent's 87-Day Bali to Beijing cruise. The packages or destinations may differ but the one thing which all these luxury cruises will offer is an opportunity to spend some enchanted days under the sun and sky and the opportunity to create a treasure-house of memories! Bon Voyage!





Sri Lanka

The Pearl of the Indian Ocean

“Water, water, everywhere, not a drop to drink...”

The first sight of Sri Lanka may make you feel like the quoted line above. But, perched in the Indian Ocean, this landmass is more than just a ‘teardrop’ shaped island. In its calming beaches, serene landscapes and timeless wonders, the amazement is endless in ‘The Pearl of the Indian Ocean’ – the Republic of Sri Lanka. Charted mostly out of the regular travellers’ logbook, Sri Lanka in many aspects is still a virgin territory with endless possibility to explore. Visitors may find themselves spoilt for choices when it comes to fun activities

apart from visiting Sri Lanka’s eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites. One of them (Sigiriya) has also been famously named as the “eighth wonder of the world”. The local unrests being over, Sri Lanka now is beckoning to the world not just as an en route itinerary to a dream destination, but is successfully becoming one.

Landscapes and Climate

Having a coastline of more than 1500 km, Sri Lanka is the perfect tropical getaway. Sri Lanka’s evergreen forests and green mountains in the



central regions are the hub of nature adventures. Hard to imagine, but in spite of being surrounded by oceans, the land has distinct “wet” (south and west) and “dry” (north and east) regions. The scenic landscapes are incomplete without its 103 rivers and over 50 cascading waterfalls. Sri Lanka’s abundant rainfall in the monsoons is the source to its rich biodiversity. Its estuaries and sparkling blue lagoons are some of the greatest natural habitats of marine lives. Waters adjacent to the Sri Lankan coastal lines nurture a rich and diverse marine ecosystem consisting of rare and colourful corals. Its wildlife also makes its presence felt through the calls of the elephants in the night and displays of colourful birds during the day. Jaffna Peninsula in Sri Lanka plays host to the widest collection of acacia fauna.



Culture

Sri Lanka’s cultural history dates back to over 2500 years. The majority Sinhalese and the migrated Tamils have co-existed here from the 3rd Century BC and both have contributed equally to the rich cultural heritage of the country. Proofs of their genius in architecture and engineering are still visible in the remains of tombs and ancient ruins in the country. Sri Lanka boasts being the first democratic country in Southern Asia. Ancient Sri Lankan art (Frescos) in the walls of Sigiriya bears evidence to the high intellect of the earlier Sri Lankans. Mentioned in the stories of the ancient Hindu Sanskrit epic Ramayana as ‘Lanka’, Sri Lanka’s knowledge and culture have been debated many times in the scriptures of Hindu Mythology. The 12 m tall Avukkana Buddha statue, Temple of the Tooth and other major Buddhist hotspots show the impact of Buddhism in the country.

Cuisine

You may find Sri Lanka’s unique flavours, served in their traditional banana leaves, a tad too spicy for experimenting. So remember to sit with a glass of water before sitting to eat. Different kinds of chillies with a dash of coriander, cumin and cardamom

Top 5 Places to visit

• Anuradhapura

A well maintained city in the modern times, city of Anuradhapura carries its legacy of noteworthy architectures forward from the ancient times. It was the capital of Singhal (earlier Sri Lanka) till the end of the 15th century and bears relics of the glorious past of Sri Lanka. Excavations sites near Anuradhapura whispers history from back to the times of Protohistoric Iron Age and sites like the Ruwanweli Saya Stupa, the 2000 years old Bodhi Tree, the ponds of Abhayavapi and Abhayagiri Dagaba are the must see spots in this UNESCO World Heritage Site.



are regulars in almost every dish. They might be mistaken for their close cousin, the South Indian food, but it is the distinct smell of coconut milk that makes them unique from the others. Rice cakes, spicy curries are daily edibles while teasers like Sambolas and Mallung set your appetites soaring. Due to its old relations with the Dutch and Portuguese, cultures of both cuisines have descended over generations. Lamprais, Bolo Fiado and sweets like Gum Billas are a few of the foreign influenced food that still rule the Burgher community in the island. Does the flavour of tea start your day? If so, you will be happy to know that the Ceylon Green Tea and its White variety are listed among the most cherished tea flavours around the globe.



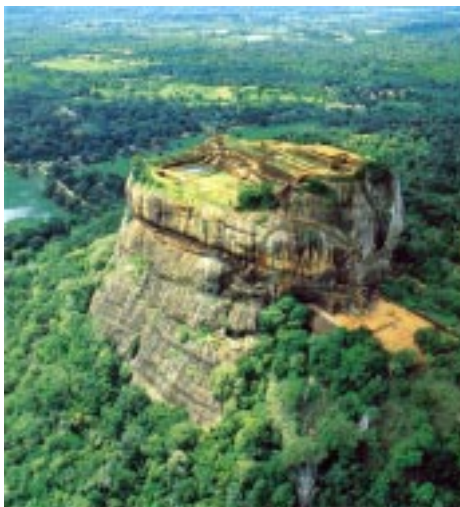


• Polonnaruwa

The city of Polonnaruwa is another of the eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Sri Lanka and one of the most important archaeological relics. After Anuradhapura, the capital of Singhal was shifted here and the city has seen many developments since then. Archaeological wonders like the stone-cut statues of Buddha in Gal Bihariya, ruins of the Royal Palace, Lankatilaka Temple and Thuparama decorate parts of the city.

• Sigiriya

Even in the age of technology, one might sit and marvel at the imaginative planning



of this city of the first millennium. Symmetric and asymmetric designs around the Sigiri Rock include even the smallest fountain in the gardens of Sigiriya. Carved out from a volcanic rock itself, the monastery complex inside the Sigiri rock and the man-made Lion Gate and the Mirror Wall are also notable architectural wonders.

• The Golden Temple of Dambulla

Built in the 1st Century BC, the Golden Temple of Dambulla (or otherwise known as the Dambulla Cave Temple), is still the best archaeologically preserved edifice of Sri Lanka. Known for



being one of the main shrines of Buddhism straight from the 2nd Century, its five caves have been worshipped and enriched with artworks of many ages. The paintings adorning the walls of the caves and the statues are marvelled by art-lovers and tourists equally.

• Sinharaja Forest Reserve

Located in the foothills of Pinipitigal and Mulawella, Sinharaja Forest Reserve is

the only biodiversity reserve in Sri Lanka inaccessible by motorcars. May be that is the reason why all the 20 rainforest species of birds in Sri Lanka find shelter in this dense vegetation. Purple-faced Leaf Monkeys will greet you to the chirps of the Sri Lankan Blue Magpies, while Leopards, Elephants and other big animals mostly stay hidden in the huge evergreen forest.



Something more:

Visitors to Sri Lanka are presented with quite a lot of choices in activities as well. The activities on offer include canoeing, kayaking, hiking nature trails, rainforest exploration, tribal village tours, whale and dolphin watching, rock-climbing and so on. If active sport is not your thing, you may also go sightseeing or can opt to experience the joys of Ayurveda. Sri Lanka has choicest of Ayurvedic therapies in some state of the art spas with professional therapists. You are advised to contact and reserve your preferences before going.

Getting there:

Capital Colombo has the largest international airport (Bandaranaike International Airport, also known as Katunayake International

Airport and Colombo International Airport) in Sri Lanka. Global players like Qatar Airways, Jet Airways and Emirates hand in hand with Sri Lanka's own Sri Lankan Airlines provide world class facilities and services. Cruise ships from

America are expensive but the classiest way to reach the country. Smaller voyages can be taken through the Gulf of Mannar as an indirect way to enter Sri Lanka from the adjacent Southern India. Once here, you can avail the many local transportation options to go around and for getting you to your favourite destinations. The three-wheeler 'Tuk-Tuk' is found easily. Yet, if safety scores over adventure in your travel book, there are numerous public transportations like buses, trains, rented cars and cabs to get you along. The available government and private cars have multilingual drivers having knowledge of the famous local sites.

Sri Lanka is a complete sphere in respect of wholeness of a country. Its variety in natural beauty is as vast as its culture and history. From the earliest inhabitants of Singhal to the modern citizens of Sri Lanka, all have enriched the country in more ways than one. A visit to this 'off-beat' destination will truly leave you mesmerized.



Foliage Destinations

It's the leaf-peeping season

Ten Must Visit Fall Foliage Destinations around the Globe

A recent Trip Advisor survey revealed that viewing fall foliage is a favourite activity for 43 per cent of American travellers. “Leaf-peeping is an exciting and affordable way for travellers to enjoy the great outdoors and some of the spectacular scenery that is unique to the U.S.” said Karen Drake, Senior Director of Communications for TripAdvisor.

Crunchy mornings cool evenings and crisp winds – yes, we are talking about the time of the year when the temperature is comfortable and the tourists are also largely gone from many of the most popular vacation destinations across the globe. It’s autumn (fall) in the northern hemisphere and what better way to welcome the fall than by being

surrounded by beautiful foliage while sipping a glass of fine red wine! Autumn transforms forests, parks and wilderness areas around the world into a brilliant spectrum of colour. Each broadleaf tree has its own fall colours. Maples have the most extravagantly brilliant crimson red, glowing yellows and pumpkin oranges; oaks have dignified russets, reds and browns, beeches turn a light tan while dogwoods turn burgundy and purple. Aspens, cottonwoods, poplars, ashes and larches change from greens to golden yellows. From sizzling shades of red and orange to golden hues of yellow and gold, the display is astounding. Autumn means there are ample opportunities for leaf-peeping in many places around the world and here's presenting to you the ten "must visit" fall foliage destinations around the globe.

1. New England, USA]

In many countries, only a particular area, stretch of a driveway or a particular mountain offers you a picture perfect autumn foliage riot of colour. But New England is different. The



all six states of New England region becomes a dreamscape during autumn. A visit to the East Coast states of New England (Vermont, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut and Rhode Island) is highly recommended during late September to November for the best autumn foliage display in the world. During autumn, the foliage in these parts puts on a firework like display of colours that will mesmerize you for days. Another picture-perfect New England destination is Western Connecticut's Litchfield Hills at the foot of the Berkshire Mountains. Here you'll see some maple, oak, aspen, beech and birch trees exploding in warm reds, yellows and oranges. In The Berkshires the leaf-peeping season usually begins October 1. The two top-notch routes to take to witness the foliage colour are the Jacob's Ladder Scenic Byway - a 35-mile stretch of Route 20 in the southern Berkshires and the popular Mohawk Trail - that runs across the northern stretch of the mountains.





Starting from mid-September, the Adirondack Region boasts the longest fall foliage season in northeast USA. Autumn is the perfect time to visit this region to enjoy the rich shades of the season along the mountain ranges and tranquil lakes. Take a walk in the apple orchards and glowing forests with golden aspen, maple and birch. You may even enjoy an evening cruise on a scenic Adirondack lake. Blue Mountain Lake and Lake Placid are among the favourites in many travellers' list.

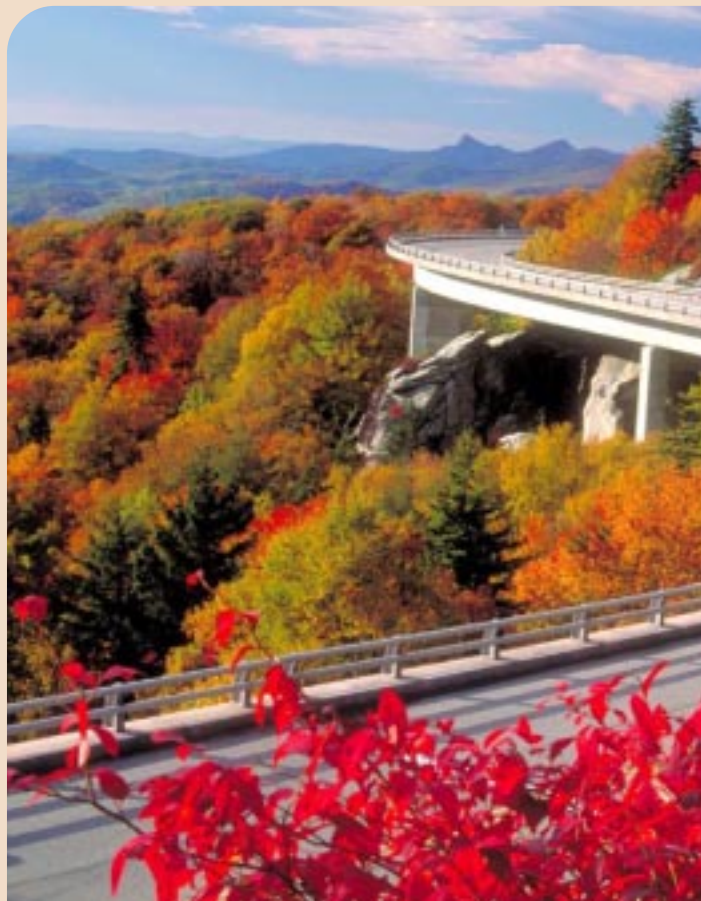
3. Asheville, North Carolina, USA

Cradled in the foothill region of western North Carolina, Asheville is a fabulous location for leaf-peeping. They are called the Blue Ridge Mountains, but in fall, Asheville is truly awe-inspiring in shades of orange, red and yellow. The city with a cosy small-town feel has become an important fall foliage destination. This is not just for the leaves but also for the celebration of the area's arts, culture, beer and bluegrass music that takes place around this time of the year. No matter when you plan an autumn visit, either in October or early

November, take a short drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway to find the best colours. Seeing the colour show from a raft on the river is also an option. Take a calm float trip down the French Broad River through the Biltmore Estate. The mix of things to see and do is very appealing. This is especially true for travellers looking for an alternative to New England.

4. Nova Scotia, Canada

Nova Scotia, the Eastern-most province of Canada, offers breath-taking shores, towering cliffs, long peaceful beaches, picturesque bays



and rewards fall colour seekers in a remarkably well. Fiery reds, oranges, crimsons and gold blanket the highlands and reach their peak during the first or second week of October. From Cape Breton's Cabot Trail to the southern tip of Nova Scotia along the Yarmouth and Acadian Shores, Mother Nature puts on quite a show everywhere. After the bright days of summer have faded, Nova Scotia becomes even more vibrant with the changing colours of the fall leaves. Once there, be sure to taste Nova Scotia wine. This place is even more fun if you enjoy outdoor activities

such as hiking, biking, whale and bird watching.

5. Lost Maples Natural Area, Texas

Fall foliage or the "changing of the leaves" is often related to the eastern region of the United States.

Cacti are thought to be the main source of green in Texas. It should not be forgotten that Texas is in fact home to the Lost Maples State Natural Area, which welcomes a beautiful flush every autumn, courtesy the relatively uncommon Uvalde Bigtooth Maples, whose reddish blush is particularly spectacular from mid-October through mid-November. Lost Maples was opened to the public in 1979 and encompasses over 2,000 acres on the Sabinal River and draws over 200,000 visitors annually. The changing of the leaves generally lasts from three to four weeks. Visitors can enjoy camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, bird-watching and more amidst fall's fiery colours.

6. Kyoto Imperial Park, Japan

In Japan, the hunt for nature's vibrant colour ends in a visual feast during November and early December. Colourful leaves or 'Koyo',





signal more than just the arrival of shorter days and colder nights in Japan. The dazzling shades of the radiant Japanese maple glaze the landscape with a glorious mixture of lush greens, burnt gold and fiery reds brighten up cities like Kyoto. Momijigari or red leaf hunting attracts innumerable visitors every year. Many tour packages are designed around this time of the year to give visitors a visual treat that magnifies the beauty of the Kyoto Imperial Park or Kyoto Gyoen National Garden. It is a National Garden that stretches 1.3 km from north to south and 0.7 km from east to west. Housing the Imperial Palace (Kyoto Gosho) the garden contains thousands of ginkgo trees and

other native trees that change colour during autumn.

7. Aspen, Colorado, USA

Starting from late September through mid-October this mountain town shines bright with its golden aspen trees. Visit the Maroon Bells to see the purple-and-white-streaked mountains and enjoy the vibrant yellow and bold oranges.

8. Skyline Drive and Blue Ridge Parkway, Virginia, USA

This is a 105 mile scenic stretch through Shenandoah National Park in Northern Virginia. The entire stretch has around 75 watches with mountain views. October is the magic month to visit this region when the sumac, locust and sassafras trees transform to yellow and scarlet oak, red maple and sweet gum trees explode into flaming reds. Once you reach the end of the Skyline Drive, take the Blue Ridge Parkway that winds through Southern Virginia into North Carolina that would lead you to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee. The yellow poplar, hickory trees, orange sassafras, maples, dogwoods, sourwoods and black gums will treat you with a kaleidoscope of colours throughout October and November.

9. Upper Peninsula, Michigan, USA

Michigan is a state located in the Great Lakes region of the Midwestern United States. The Upper Peninsula of Michigan with its seven million acres of forest gives amazing fall

colours. The different species of trees change their colours from green to red, orange, gold and yellow trees and the riot of colours is complete with the contrasting landscape of deep blue waters of the three lakes.

10. Loire Valley, France

As if France wasn't delightful enough, seeing this country's cities and villages blazing with autumn colours is simply overwhelming. Once the stomping grounds of royalties and nobles, Loire valley presents a sea of beautiful golden, fiery reds and exciting oranges in the autumn months. No wonder that the Valley has been dubbed France's Hudson Valley for its New England quality foliage. The winding Loire River, rolling hillsides and colourful landscape

ensure that this area is one of the most beautiful places to experience foliage in the world. This is also the grape harvest season and there are numerous festivals and activities around the country. The famed regional white and red wines get harvested and crushed during these days of autumn. Late October is a sight to behold in this region.

During September, October and November — as the nights get longer and cooler — chlorophyll production slows down, unmasking the colours produced by other chemicals in the plants. Slowly and steadily the leafy trees surrender their green mantle to the bright yellows and crimsons that signal the end of summer and the start of leaf-peeping season.





Athens

The Birthplace of Civilisation

Athens - the capital of Greece reminds all travellers of its antiquity, wealth and of course its shining stars like Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Alexander the Great. Situated in the region of Attica extending to the peninsula that reaches up to Central Greece, Athens today is one of the most visited tourist destinations of Europe.

Athens is surrounded by mountains like Ymmytos, Pendeli and Parnitha on its north and east with Saronic gulf in the south and west. It is located just a few kilometres from the port of Piraeus, the central commercial port of the capital and the shores of southern Attica.

Legend has it that Athens was named after its patron Goddess Athena. According to the legend, both Athena and the Olympian God Poseidon wanted to be the protector and the

patron of the city. They both wanted the city to be named after them and thus showered it with its two most beautiful gifts. Sea God Poseidon hit the Acropolis rock to create a salt water spring symbolizing naval power. Athena, the Goddess of wisdom and knowledge, on the other hand gifted an olive tree to promote peace and harmony. Till date the olive tree branch is a symbol of peace and goodwill. The people, who were pleased to have received olive and their ruler Cecrops, named the city after Athena.

Being the birthplace of philosophy, science, literature, art, drama, this ancient city has also laid the foundations of the ideals of liberty, justice, sovereignty etc. Its history and culture lives through its formidable edifices to enchant its visitors.

Climate

Athens has a wonderful climate throughout the year. The sun is shining over Athens all year round. The climate is one of the bests in Europe. Though winters are pleasant and modestly cold, summers can be very hot.

What to see:

Syntagma



Syntagma refers to constitution in Greek and the Syntagma Square is like the heart of Athens with the Parliament and most of the Ministries situated here. Monastiraki, Kolonaki and Lycabettus Hill attract thousands of visitors every year. Syntagma is conveniently located at a short distance from the historic centre in Faliro, Glyfada, Voula and Vouliagmeni and classy neighbourhoods of Marousi, Melissia, Vrilissia and Kifisia. You may also visit some of the wonderful museums here like the Benaki Museum, Museum of Cycladic Art and the Byzantine Museum, etc.

Acropolis

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Acropolis is derived from two Greek words 'acro' meaning edge



and 'polis' meaning city. It is the 'sacred rock' of the city and is one of the most precious sites not only in the country but in the whole world. This distinctive citadel perched on a rock, is the place where it all began. It tells the fascinating tale of ancient Greek culture and showcases the brilliance of Greek architecture. With the establishment of democracy in Athens soon after its victory against the Persians in late fifth century BC, began the age of art, sculpture and modernisation. Pericles appointed a group of exceptionally talented sculptors, who under the supervision of Pheidias, created a number of magnificent monuments on the rocky hill. Some of these prominent structures include – the Parthenon, the Erechtheon, the Propylaea and the small temple of Athena Nike. The Parthenon is the best example of Doric style of architecture, dedicated to Goddess Athena. The view of the entire city and the surrounding temples from the Acropolis hill is truly mesmerising.



Agora –Agora lies below the Acropolis and is a renowned historical site. It was the commercial and civic centre of Athens. Socrates took his own life by drinking poison in a prison in the southwest corner of the Agora. The area is dotted with the remains of many ancient buildings, including the Dionysos Theatre - the world's oldest theatre where great plays by Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were staged.

National Archaeological Museum – Athens is a city of museums and theatres. The National Archaeological Museum is the most well-known and the largest museum of Athens. It boasts of a rare collection of historical excavations including treasures



unearthed from Mycenae by Heinrich Schliemann, ancient Greek sculptures of immense value and many more.

Plaka – Plaka is the old town of Athens which lies below the Acropolis. It is bordered by grand monuments, Byzantine churches and mosques and stately mansions. It is a great place to gather in the evenings or take a walk. At one time it was the nightclub district, but most of these closed down when the government out-lawed amplified music in the area in the seventies in an effort to get rid of undesirables. The strategy was very successful and it is now an area of restaurants, tourist shops, and cafes. Though it is quite commercialized it is still a neighbourhood and arguably the nicest neighbourhood in central



Athens. There are a few galleries and museums in Plaka including the Children's Museum, Music Museum, Greek Folk Art Museum and Jewish Museum

Monastiraki Flea Market

The Monastiraki flea market is the place to be on Sundays. The flea market gives an impression as if every Athenian is here to either buy or sell something. Be early to avoid the crowd and to secure your table at an eatery here just in case you are planning to



observe people by sitting in a café. Overlooking the Monastiraki square and across the street from the metro station is the restored Turkish Mosque, now the traditional ceramics museum. Right next door are the large columns and ruins of the Roman Emperor Hadrian's Library and the Roman agora.

Cuisine



Greek cuisine has changed with time and has Roman as well as Byzantine influences. In short, its cuisine is as diverse and interesting

as its history. Some of the all-time favourites include Tiropitas, Moussaka, Pastitsio, Stifado and Paidakia.

Must dos

Hammam Baths – Athens has not only an authentic but also one of the most splendid Hammam baths. Hammam baths provide you a relaxing experience through a relaxing full body scrub during the bath and a glorious massage on warm marbles.



34 Fish Spa – Pedicure by garra rufa fish first originated in Greece and is now a craze all over the world. These tiny fish feed on dead skin and give you the ultimate pedicure.

Getting there:

By air:

Athens airport is a major hub in the Aegean, Balkan and East Mediterranean regions. Air Canada, United Airlines, US Airways, Delta and Olympic maintain non-stop flights from North America, while a large number of European carriers fly direct into Athens. The new Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport 27 km east of the city centre, near the suburb of Spáta, opened in 2001 as part of the infrastructure improvements in preparation for the Olympics and is allegedly now one of the more attractive and efficient major European airports, though some old Athenian hands say they miss the messy atmosphere of the old Hellenikon.

By road:

Regional coaches (KTEL) connect Athens to other cities in Greece. At times there are



collaborations with companies from adjacent countries such as Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia and Albania, so it is advised to enquire both the bus and the train companies about your available options at the time of your travel.

By train:

The national rail service, Trainose, connects Athens to other cities in Greece. However, the national railroad system is poor in Greece compared to the other European railway systems. There are two kinds of trains – the slow kind equipped with beds and the new ‘Intercity’ kind which is expensive depending on the distance of your journey. Intercity however, is the more reliable one.

You don’t need to go back in time to witness the beginning of civilisation and the many stages of it. Athens can definitely give you a feel of it when you arrive in the city. A visit to this enthralling and utterly captivating city of art, architecture, sculpture, drama, theatre, philosophy, museums, mansions, monuments will definitely make you wonder and revisit for one visit to Athens cannot be enough to take in all it has.

Event Watch

EIBTM 2012

The leading global event for the meetings and events industry



EIBTM (www.eibtm.com) is the leading global event for the meetings, incentives, events and business travel industry, held in the vibrant business and tourism destination of Barcelona, Spain. EIBTM provides the ultimate platform for the world's leading suppliers of the meetings industry to meet top level buyers with proven purchasing power, who are responsible for organising and planning meetings, events and business travel.

This year EIBTM is celebrating 25 years of excellence in the industry.

The event first started in the year 1988 and has been committed to delivering vital business opportunities for meetings industry professionals across the globe ever since. This year's exhibition is taking place from November 27 to 29 at

the Fira Gran Via, Barcelona, Spain.

Barcelona is the first city in the world to be awarded the "Biosphere World Class Destination", certification by the Institute of Responsible Tourism and has recently been ranked in ICCA's 2011 rankings as the third most popular destination for international congresses.

The city is one of the world's leading tourist, economic and cultural-sports centres with influences in commerce, education, entertainment, media, fashion, science and arts.

Part of the IBTM Portfolio, EIBTM delivers three days of focused access to a dynamic business environment, thought provoking professional education and business networks for all attendees. The Hosted

"EIBTM is the only show I attend due to the amount of information, appointments, contacts and the variety of objectives which can be covered off." commented Sarah Threlfall, Event Manager, P&MM Travel Ltd.

36 Buyer Programme attracts senior level buyers placing international business with suppliers from across the globe.

“Great job on EIBTM! You and your team added some fabulous enrichment and engagement items. We had great business at the stand.” EIBTM Exhibitor: **Bruce MacMillon, President & CEO, Meetings Professional International.**

IBTM Event Portfolio

IBTM Events are the world's leading exhibitions for the meetings, events and business travel industry, held in six dynamic business destinations and organised by Reed Travel Exhibitions. Tailored for the markets they serve and guarantee the attendance of top level decision makers, the exhibitions provide a time and business efficient matching service for buyers and sellers through the unique Hosted Buyer Programmes. In addition each event has a full programme of networking events as well as high level education.

In total the 6 events provide access to 5,000 suppliers from 100 countries, 17,000 meeting planners and over 100,000 pre-scheduled appointments are generated ensuring that the IBTM events truly provide return on investment.

Reed Travel Exhibitions

Reed Travel Exhibitions (RTE) is the world's leading provider of exhibitions in the travel and tourism industry. Its wide-ranging portfolio of events around the globe covers leisure travel, luxury travel, business travel and

the meetings and incentives industry.

The 13 events by Reed Travel Exhibitions are - World Travel Market (WTM), Arabian Travel Market (ATM), International French Travel Market (IFTM), La Cumbre, International Golf Travel Market (IGTM), International Luxury Travel Market (ILTM), International Luxury Travel Market Asia (ILTMA), Asia-Pacific Incentives & Meetings Expo (AIME) (owned by Melbourne Convention + Visitors Bureau), Global Exhibition for Incentive, Business Travel, and Meetings (EIBTM), Gulf Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings (GIBTM), Americas Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings (AIBTM), China Incentive, Business Travel and Meetings (CIBTM) and Business Travel Market.

2012 sees the launch of two exciting new events with The Spa & Wellness Summit taking place in Austria Tyrol (10-12 September) and ILTM Americas launching in Mayakoba, Mexico (1-3 October).

Reed Exhibitions

Reed Exhibitions is the world's leading events organizer with over 500 events in 39 countries. In 2011 Reed brought together six million active event participants from around the world, generating billions of dollars in business. Today Reed events are held throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Asia Pacific and Africa. Reed Exhibitions serves 44 industry sectors with trade and consumer events and is part of the Reed Elsevier Group plc, a world-leading publisher and information provider and a FTSE 100 company.



In Conversation with...

This year, EIBTM is celebrating its 25th birthday and on this occasion, we at the World Luxury Travel Magazine (WLTm) had a heart to heart conversation with Mr. Graeme Barnett, Exhibition Director of EIBTM. Here's an excerpt of the conversation...

WLTm: Twenty-five Years of successful EIBTM! What is new this year?

Mr. Graeme Barnett: EIBTM will see a number of new initiatives integrated into the show programmes as part of its 25th birthday celebrations. Firstly, we have developed a new logo reflecting the official "silver" associated with a 25th anniversary and to mark the first of many new initiatives which we plan to announce throughout the year, on the run up to the show in November.

Another exciting show development that will be offered this year is 'The EIBTM Forum', our newly launched education and networking-led event taking place the day before EIBTM opens, on the afternoon of Monday,

November 26. The EIBTM Forum will provide inspirational and provocative content to set the scene for the three days of business that follows on the show floor as well as providing a new opportunity for the global meetings industry to connect and network.

We are also delighted to announce the venue for our official EIBTM Welcome Party, which will take place on Tuesday November 27 from 7pm. Everyone attending the show will be invited to The Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC) where they can celebrate EIBTM's 25th birthday and network with industry peers from across the globe. The MNAC is situated on the mountain of Montjuïc provide stunning views of the city of Barcelona.

EIBTM 2012 will also deliver new advancements in the Hosted Buyer programme. These advancements will see the expansion of opportunities for Buyers who are attending the show. These will include a wider choice of destination airports for key countries such as Germany and the UK as well as flexibility in the duration of their stay. EIBTM will also be inviting carefully selected 'C' level executives who are key influencers in the buying process as 'Premier buyers' to the show.

EIBTM is also improving the Association programme at this year's show, after the post show research from EIBTM 2011 revealed that 53 per cent of exhibitors wanted to meet with more Association buyers onsite. EIBTM will be providing a 2 day programme, which will cover topics such as the power of partnerships, the importance of certification, implementing strategies to retain membership as well as how to strategically use content, technology and social networking to extend the reach of annual meetings. The Great Association Debate will be returning to EIBTM this year due

to popular demand and will see a panel of industry experts discussing topics, which have emerged from core sessions at the show.

WLTM: Please tell us a little about EIBTM Technology Watch. Please name the past three awardees in this technology recognition scheme for innovation in the global meetings and events sector.

Mr. Graeme Barnett: EIBTM Technology Watch is the most high profile and longest running recognition scheme for innovation in the sector worldwide. Chaired by Corbin Ball (recently named one of the 25 most influential people in the meetings industry) the expert judging panel will be looking for companies to demonstrate new and innovative technology solutions that can make a significant difference to the industry.

This year's Technology Watch has welcomed over 50 applications from companies and individuals who are seeking to be recognized as the innovators of the industry. The winners of previous years were:

2011: ITN International for its Citywide Attendee Credential System. This creative, yet inexpensive use of NFC (near field communication) allows the attendee name badge to be used as a transit and city tourist attraction pass as well. In addition, it enables attendee tracking, access control and exhibitor lead retrieval. ITN has been a pioneer in the use of NFC for events, and the judging panel deemed this entry as highly original and beneficial to event planners,

meeting destinations and to event attendees. www.itn-international.com

2010: Sherpa Solutions for ActivTouch, which provided the ability for show managers and exhibitors to access agenda planning tools, conference alerts, exhibit guides, social networking tools, matchmaking programmes, appointment scheduling, and peer-to-peer messaging using mobile phones at events. www.sherpa-solutions.com/newsite/activtouch

2009: Pathable, the on-line community and social network for conference and events. Pathable's network technology and private meeting scheduling tools help your attendees meet before, during and after your event through a number of technology platforms. www.pathable.com

WLTM: This year EIBTM will extend the show profile beyond the meetings and events industry to incorporate the World of Business Travel. What are the major objectives of this step?

Mr. Graeme Barnett: One of our key objectives with the show is to continually review our offering and ensure we evolve the show to meet the growing demand we receive from all of our stakeholders. The decision to incorporate

business travel into the show was made as a direct result of post-show research, which was conducted following EIBTM 2011.

The findings confirmed that 57 per cent of international Hosted Buyers who attended the show indicated that they organise Business Travel and were interested in placing business within that sector. To accommodate this demand, EIBTM will provide an area where exhibitors and buyers from this sector can meet for face-to-face meetings and keep up to date with the latest products and services. We are also offering a stream of dedicated education sessions at EIBTM, which will be provided, through our strategic partnership with the Association for Corporate Travel Executives (ACTE)

WLTM: Please give us some numbers/statistics of participants, networking, registered exhibitors and buyers this year.

Mr. Graeme Barnett: We do not predict figures at EIBTM; we focus on the overall quality of the audience we attract to the event and the return on investment we offer for everyone attending. We are continuously looking at the quality of the Hosted Buyers we recruit and the value they can add to our exhibitors by supporting them expand into international markets. Every year, the team at EIBTM strives to make the show even more valuable than ever for our exhibitors and buyers and this year we have high hopes for EIBTM's 25th Birthday, which will also see a range of new initiatives introduced. All said

40 and done, we do independently audit our attendance numbers and EIBTM is the largest international event of its kind to do this, giving our exhibitors complete faith in the attendance numbers that we quote.

WLTM: What is the major objective of EIBTM Education? What are the courses on offer this year?

Mr. Graeme Barnett: EIBTM is renowned for providing one of the industry's most comprehensive professional education programmes with the key objective of driving the industry forward and developing the knowledge and skills of meetings industry professionals across the globe. Last year there were over 60 education sessions including dedicated streams for Associations, Agency and Corporates, all of which were very well attended and this year we expect even more attendees.

Programme content and topics will be driven by the industry and we want to make sure that everyone's time at the show is maximised by providing education content, which is new, up to date and relevant. There are always topics, which remain pertinent to the industry such as return on investment and procurement. Technology changes so quickly that this is always hot topic and either practically or

socially is a thread, which runs through the entire education programme.

We have also introduced a story telling element to the education programme this year, which will deliver energising and motivational experiences for the audience.



Barcelona, Spain
27 – 29 November 2012
www.eibtm.com

There will also be more of a focus within the education programme on creativity in event production through technology such as Hybrid or logistically through creative event design. More updates will follow in the coming weeks so keep an eye on our website (www.eibtm.com) to make sure you are the first to hear about them.



November Happenings

Diwali

When: November 13

Where: India

Diwali is one of the biggest festivals of the Hindus, celebrated with great enthusiasm and joy in India. Diwali represents the victory of light over darkness. Lots of small clay lamps known as diyas, and candles are lit and placed in front of the houses and fireworks are let off everywhere, giving Diwali its name as the

“Festival of Lights”. On the occasion of Diwali, houses are cleaned and front yards are decorated with Rangoli (Hindu folk art). People perform Lakshmi Puja in the evening and seek divine blessings from the Goddess of Wealth. The festival of Diwali is incomplete without exchanging gifts. People present Diwali gifts to their near and dear ones. Dry fruits and nuts form the most common Diwali gifts.



Surin Elephant Festival

When: November 17 – 18

Where: Srinarong Stadium, Surin

In olden times and for centuries the inhabitants of Surin were renowned for their ability to catch and train elephants to employ as both labour and warrior. But now, things have changed. Since the year 1960, to commemorate and celebrate the relationship between the locals and this mighty animal, the Surin Elephant Round

Up show is being held annually in November. The main attractions of this internationally recognized event include elephant talent competitions, demonstration of the various techniques used to capture and train elephants, a presentation of ancient elephant warfare techniques, tug-of-war between men and elephants, range of tricks played by elephants like picking up small objects with their trunk and many such fun activities. People from all over Thailand come here to witness and have fun in this festival.



Pushkar Camel Fair

When: November 25 – 28

Where: Pushkar, Rajasthan, India

Grand and famous the Pushkar Cattle Fair is an annual event held in the desert town of Pushkar in Rajasthan, India. A whopping 50,000 camels gather in the fairground all dressed up, cleaned and ready to be traded. Around 200,000 people attend this fair every year either to trade or to simply witness the amazing sights and sounds and undoubtedly the myriad of colours that Rajasthan is famous for. The fair is held on the day of Karthik Purnima (a full moon day/night), which may fall either in the month of October or November. The fair continues for five days during which, the flow of people continues from far and wide places.



Cambodia Water Festival

When: November 27, 28, 29

Where: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Water Festival in Cambodia takes place every year either in October or November, depending on the time of the full moon.



Cambodia Water Festival is the most extravagant and exuberant festival in the Khmer calendar, outdoing even the New Year celebrations. Starting on the day

of the full moon, up to a million people from all walks of life and from all over the country flock on the banks of the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers in Phnom Penh to watch traditional boat-racing that takes place in a massive scale. The boat race is the main attraction of this festival.

Interestingly, the Water Festival also marks a unique natural phenomenon - the reversing of the water flow or water current of the Tonle Sap River. From November to May, the Tonle Sap River runs into the Mekong just like any other tributary. But when monsoon arrives, the excess of water of the Tonle Sap River forces the direction of the water towards the Tonle Sap Lake. Once an arm of the sea, the Tonle Sap Lake or Great Lake is a vast expanse of water fed by the Mekong and the Tonle Sap River. This probably is the only waterway in the world which flows in opposite directions at different times of the year.



World Luxury Tourism