

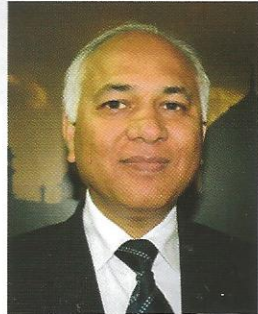
ME visitors to travel in luxury

Under the banner, Incredible India, the entire gamut of tourism potential is on show during the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) 2013. Middle East is an important market for luxury travel to India.

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This segment has registered a growth over the last few years especially for the luxury trains of India.

Visitors from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain form a critical market for luxury trains in India. Travelling on these trains is an excellent way to explore the country without compromising on comfort. Some of the tourist luxury trains of India are The Deccan Odyssey, The Royal Rajasthan on Wheels, The Maharaja's Express, The Golden Chariot, The Palace on Wheels and so on. In ATM 2013, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will showcase the Maharajas' Express, the newest and the first luxury train to journey across the whole country.



Vikas Rustagi
Regional Director (West Asia & Africa)
India Tourism, Dubai

The Maharaja's Express offers five itineraries to discover and explore the treasure trove of India. The highlights of the luxury train include all inclusive prices with meals, sight-seeing including entrance fees, opportunity to meet Indian royalty, choice of optional excursions and luxurious spas at hotels and valet service round the clock.



More than 50 participants representing the tourism diversity of heritage, nature, culture and wellness from India will be present at ATM 2013.

"One of the highlights at ATM 2013 would be to depict India as a multi-faceted tourist destination for luxury, wildlife and medical tourism potential of the country."

informed **Vikas Rustagi**, Regional Director (West Asia & Africa) India Tourism, Dubai,

The India pavilion will include 28 individual booths. State Tourism Boards of India, Air India, Tea Board of India along with a large number of tour operators, travel agents,

hotelier, wellness/ayurvedic/spa – all will participate to showcase brand 'Incredible India'.

"Visitors to the pavilion will be able to sample the famous 'Indian tea', which is being promoted by the Tea Board of India and the women will get a traditional 'mehendi'/'henna' experience, and also witness cultural performances. Two Kathakali artistes are being specially flown from India," added Rustagi.

The foreign tourist arrivals to India have witnessed a steady increase over the years, touching 6.29 million in 2011, a spurt of 8.9 per cent increase over 5.78 million tourist arrivals in 2010. The Ministry of Tourism has set an aim to increase India's share in international tourist arrivals from 0.6 to 1 per cent by 2016.

New Qatar airport opening delayed

The opening of Qatar's new Hamad International Airport (HIA) faced another 11th-hour delay, this time for not meeting newly-introduced safety and security requirements mandated by the Civil Defence Department.

The Airport project which has been completed by a number of international contractors, supervised the system-readiness of the airport and issued international certificates in the domain of safety and security.

The airport has already suffered a number of delays, after missing its original target to commence operations

in 2010. The November to December (12/12/12) a 2013.

Plans w soft opening Hamad Inter for some 10 lines. Qatar planned to operations Doha Intern (DIA) to Ham Airport (HIA) the year. I expansion Euro 15 planned to h passengers.

Air Arabia increases services to KSA

Air Arabia announced the launch of non-stop services to Abha in Saudi Arabia, from Sharjah. Beginning May 22, 2013, Air Arabia will offer three weekly flights to Abha. Operating on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays, Air Arabia's Abha service will depart from Sharjah International Airport at

12.50 and International 14:40. Return depart from same days arrive in Shar addition to operates no Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, and Taif in 2013.

Life is brighter in Monaco

