



Dear Affiliate Members,

I am pleased to share with you the Vol. 33 of our AM News Bulletin.

In the last month we made great progress on several activities that were included in the Programme of Work for 2021.

I refer in particular to the process of reform of the legal framework of the affiliate membership, which is part of our efforts to provide better services to the Affiliate Members by building up a better-defined structure of our procedures and management system. In the last meeting of the WG-AMLR held in June the last package of articles was approved by its members and in July the final text of the Legal Framework of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership will be approved.

Furthermore, we continue developing the activities of our Working Groups. The WG on Scientific Tourism continues to make great steps in the organization of the 1st International Conference on Astrotourism that will take place in Evora (Portugal) from 8-11 of September, and the WG on SDGs support is now discussing proposals for joint cooperation among the members, including an Online course on Tourism and SDGs.

We are also working on the organization of two important events with our partners: the Platino Awards Gala "17 Awards, 17 SDGs", in collaboration with EGEDA, that will be held in Madrid from 27 September – 2 October, and the World Sports Tourism Congress with the Catalan Tourism Board, that will be celebrated in Lloret de Mar the 25-26 of November.

Even more importantly, we are already preparing our participation in the UNWTO 24th General Assembly, that will take place in Marrakech, Morocco, between the end of November and the beginning of December. This is the most important statutory meeting of our Organization, and we will make our best efforts to organize a successful Plenary Session of the Affiliate Members, along with guaranteeing the highest visibility to our activities and participation of our members.

Lastly, with aim of adding value to the membership and supporting our Affiliate Members, we organized the first webinar on how to maximize the use of our interactive platform AMConnected. This was one of the main requests by our Affiliate Members highlighted in the survey that was launched in April.

As always, I am at your disposal and look forward to hearing any comments you might have.

Yours sincerely,

Ion Vilcu



WHAT'S ON!

AGENDA OF AFFILIATE MEMBER'S EVENTS 2021

Check out the agenda of events organized by the UNWTO and the Affiliate Members in 2021! For your event to be featured in this section, please send us the details at am@unwto.org.

August, 23-25: 1st Global Youth Tourism Summit in Sorrento (Italy)

Organizer: UNWTO

[Website](#)

August, 27: 8th National and International Meeting of Tourism Observatories (ENIOT) in Silao, Guanajuato (México)

Organizer: Observatorio Turístico del Estado de Guanajuato

Website: TBC

September, 2-4: 64th Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for Africa and 2nd UNWTO Global Tourism Investment Forum in Africa, Sal Island (Cabo Verde)

Organizer: UNWTO

[Website](#)

September, 8-10: 5th UNWTO Global Wine Tourism Conference in Alentejo (Portugal)

Organizer: UNWTO

[Website](#)

September, 9-11: 1st International Conference on Astrotourism in Évora (Portugal)

Organizer: Starlight Foundation and Dark Sky Associação.

[Website](#)

September, 27: World Tourism Day "Tourism for Inclusive Growth" in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

Host: Côte d'Ivoire

Website: TBC

September, 27-2 Oct: Platino Awards Gala "17 Awards, 17 SDGs" and Platino Industria Fair in Madrid (Spain)

Organizer: EGEDA and UNWTO

Website: TBC

33rd Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and for South Asia in Colombo (Sri Lanka)

Organizer: UNWTO

Website: TBC

October, 14: 1st Tourism Naturally Online Symposium: Rethinking Sustainable Experience (Virtual)

Organizer: Deggendorf Institute of Technology

[Website](#)

October, 31 – November 1-2: 6th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism in Flanders (Belgium)

Organizer: : UNWTO

[Website](#)

November, 25-26: World Sports Tourism Congress in Lloret de Mar, Catalonia (Spain)

Organizer: UNWTO and Agencia Catalana de Turismo

[Website](#)

November, 25-26: The World in Florence – International Festival of World's Cultural Expressions, Florence (Italy)

Organizer: Fondazione Romualdo del Bianco

[Website](#)

End of November/beginning of December (TBC): 24th UNWTO General Assembly and 43rd UNWTO Affiliate Members Plenary Session in Marrakech (Morocco)

Organizer: UNWTO

[Website](#)

AMD NEWS

APPROVED THE LAST PACKAGE OF ARTICLES OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE UNWTO AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

The 6th meeting of the Working Group for the Reform of the UNWTO Legal Framework for Affiliate Membership (WG-AMLR) took place on 24th June 2021.

The meeting was chaired by Spain, the country holding the Presidency of the Working Group, represented by Mr Eduardo Fernández Palomares. He was accompanied by Mr. Ion Vilcu, Director of the UNWTO Affiliate Members Department, and Mr. Miguel Ángel Susino from UNWTO's Legal Department.

The WG-AMLR **approved by consensus the amendments of article 7 to 13** of the Legal Framework of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership (being the last package of articles pending approval).

At this meeting, the Secretariat of the WG-AMLR **presented the proposal to split the UNWTO Affiliate Membership Legal Framework into two separate documents** according to the main criteria of keeping in a document exclusively those provisions that refer to aspects on which the affiliated members have voice and vote, those whose future modifications will require the approval of the Plenary, prior to the approval of the General Assembly.

During the next meeting in July, the Members of the WG-AMLR will approve the final text of the Legal Framework of the UNWTO Affiliate Membership that would be presented for approval during the General Assembly in October 2021.



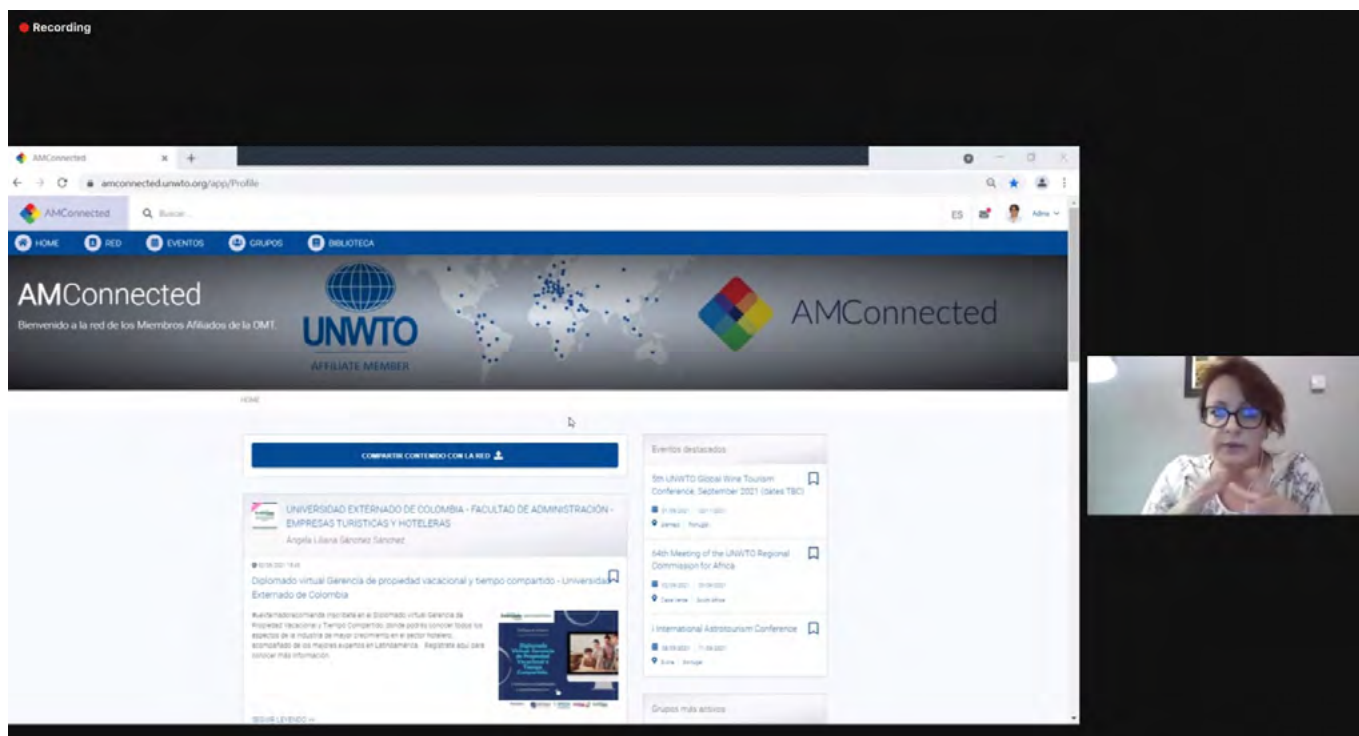
THE AFFILIATE MEMBERS DEPARTMENT ORGANIZED THE 1ST WEBINAR ON THE FUNCTIONING OF AMCONNECTED

On the 1st of July the Affiliate Members Department held the 1st webinar aimed to provide the Affiliate Members a clearer overview of the functions and objectives of the AMConnected platform.

The idea to organize this webinar followed a specific request by the Affiliate Members as it was outlined in their responses to the Survey that was launched in March. In particular, our network highlighted its desire to strengthen networking opportunities, be better informed on the activities and events organized by the department and improve communication channels.

During the webinar the main functionalities of the platform were explained to the participants in order for them to understand what the options and services offered by AMConnected are. Specifically, the webinar focused on clarifying how to publish contents, get in touch with other Affiliate Members, have access to the lists of members by region, country and activity, and obtain information on UNWTO's events and other important materials developed by the Organization.

In the following weeks we will organize other webinars on the same topic, both in English and Spanish!



THE WORKING ON SDGS MET TO DISCUSS FURTHER STEPS

The Working Group on SDGs Support gathered again on the 30 of June with the incorporation of Turisme de Barcelona as a new member. During the meeting, it was reviewed the status of some members taking part in the UNWTO Students' League. Eurecat, Culinary Tourism Alliance and Hostelling International will have different roles within this UNWTO's initiative and will be providing mentorship to students, internships, and awards such as hostel nights for winning teams.

Additionally, further steps were discussed to move ahead with the creation of a unit on SDGs and Tourism for the online course "Sustainable Development and Images of the Future", being developed by North Ossetian State University (NOSU). Under the coordination of Bengi Ertuna, PhD (Professor), Applied Tourism Administration Research Center (ATARC), Department of Tourism Administration, Bogazici University, the course will address the main challenges and contributions in the relationship between tourism and the SDGs. This content will count with the inputs of professors from different universities brought together as well by the Affiliate Member World Leisure Organization.

Finally, it was also discussed to potentially hold an event on sustainable tourism in the framework of Hostelling International's annual meeting in October 2021 in Barcelona. The Working Group convened to meet again in September after the summer holiday season.



FIRST CETT ALIMARA THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY AWARD CO-ORGANIZED BY CETT AND UNWTO

[CETT](#) and UNWTO co-organized and gave the first CETT Alimara Through Sustainability Award. This award recognizes organizations' commitment to sustainability and corporate social responsibility. It is part of the [Alimara CETT Barcelona Awards](#), organized by CETT, a higher education center for tourism, hospitality, and gastronomy. The rewarded projects are Hoteles con todos incluidos (Ilunion Hotels), Taste the Altitude (Eiger Consulting), and Seeds for a better world (Deltaic). The event was attended by Mr. Ion Vilcu, director of the Department of Affiliate Members of the UNWTO. Vilcu explained that events such as these awards send a message of optimism and sign the industry's willingness to restore dynamism and confidence. In addition, he said: "it is encouraging to see that, in the face of the challenge of the crisis, research and development, the private sector and the academia have turned a crisis into an opportunity and are surprising us with innovative initiatives."



DIRECTOR ION VILCU PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST EDITION OF THE 'TRAVELING FOR HAPPINESS AWARDS'

On 24 June the Hotel Business Association Madrid, a UNWTO Affiliate Member, and Connecting Heads delivered the 'Traveling for Happiness Awards' to the best national and international practices in the tourism sector, and in particular in the hotel industry. This first edition, held at the Hotel Mandarin Oriental Ritz, awarded those entities which implemented the best initiatives in terms of social commitment and environmental protection during the pandemic.

Director Vilcu, who spoke on behalf of the UNWTO Secretary and President of the Jury Zurab Pololikashvili, highlighted that these Awards represent a very timely initiative within the context we are living in. Furthermore, he added that strengthening the public and private partnership is fundamental to boost the recovery of the tourism sector from this crisis.

The awards' ceremony counted on the participation, among the others, of AEHM President Mr. Gabriel Garcia Alonso, its Executive Vice-President Ms. Mar de Miguel, the CEO of Connecting Heads Ms. Anna Martí, the Counsellor for Culture and Tourism of the Madrid Community Ms. Marta Rivera, the Director General of Turespaña Mr. Miguel Sanz, and the Deputy Mayor of Madrid Ms. Begoña Villacis.

More information [here](#)



UNWTO HIGHLIGHTS

UNWTO in Mexico to build on historic political support for tourism

The Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has embarked on a first official visit to Mexico. The visit of the high-level delegation further emphasises the unprecedented level of political support for tourism across Americas as governments recognize the sector's unique ability to drive economic and social recovery.

Meeting with President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador, Secretary General Zurab Pololikashvili commended his leadership from the very start of the pandemic, ensuring that Mexico continued to welcome international flights and provided assistance for business and workers across the broad tourism sector.

The UNWTO delegation also met with Mexico's Secretary for Tourism Miguel Torruco Marqués to discuss the restart of tourism both in Mexico and across the wider region. This official visit forms part of UNWTO's wider support for its Member States in the Americas.

More information [here](#)

UNWTO organizes the 1st Global Youth Tourism Summit in Italy

The 1st Global Youth Tourism Summit, that will be held in Sorrento, Italy, on 23-25 August, will be the first of this kind at the global level, allowing young participants to be part of a unique experience, aiming to promote youth engagement in the tourism sector and empower younger generations in driving a more sustainable world.

The summit is organized by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism of Italy and Italian National Tourism Board, and has been placed by the Italian government in the framework of its G20 presidency this year.

Through a model UNWTO General Assembly, participants will adopt their own declaration on the future of tourism. The final document will be presented at the 24th session of the UNWTO General Assembly in Marrakech on 12-15 October 2021.

More information [here](#)



UNWTO HIGHLIGHTS

The UNWTO held the 66th Regional Commission for the Americas

On 24th June UNWTO members from the Americas have met virtually to celebrate the 66th Regional Commission for the Americas. Hosted by Jamaica and chaired by the country's Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett, the meeting highlighted the unprecedented political support now enjoyed by the sector, with 23 of the 24 regional Members represented.

Discussions centred on the practical steps UNWTO is taking to guide the restart of tourism, and participants praised the tourism intelligence generated by UNWTO as "one of several laudable initiatives to assist Member States to navigate the choppy waters of pandemic and post-pandemic tourism slump and recovery".

The meeting concluded with elections and nominations for positions within several UNWTO bodies. Argentina, Brazil and the Dominican Republic were nominated to represent the Americas in the UNWTO Executive Council. Paraguay was nominated to serve as Chair of the UNWTO Commission for the Americas, while Uruguay was elected to host the next UNWTO Commission for the Americas.

More information [here](#)

Global economy could lose over \$4 trillion due to COVID-19 impact on tourism

According to a report developed by UNCTAD and jointly presented with the UNWTO, the crash in international tourism due to the coronavirus pandemic could cause a loss of more than \$4 trillion to the global GDP for the years 2020 and 2021.

The estimated loss has been caused by the pandemic's direct impact on tourism and its ripple effect on other sectors closely linked to it. Despite a rebound in international tourism is expected in the second half of this year, the report shows a loss of between \$1.7 trillion and \$2.4 trillion in 2021 compared with 2019 levels.

Furthermore, according to the report, the reduction in tourism causes a 5.5% rise in unemployment of unskilled labour on average, with a high variance of 0% to 15% depending on the importance of tourism for the economy.

More information [here](#)



AFFILIATE MEMBERS NEWS

NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF COMMERCE, SERVICES AND TOURISM (CNC) PROMOTES MOBILIZATION TO RESCUE THE TOURISM SECTOR

Through Vai Turismo Project launch, the entity will contribute to integrate public policies proposals for the sector in Brazil.

Responsible for an 8% share of the Brazilian economy, tourism was one of the sectors that most suffered in the Covid-19 pandemic and still reports historical losses around the world. Seeking to improve this scenario and promote changes that boost touristic activities in Brazil, CNC has started a mobilization involving all Brazilian states, with support of the national and state entities that represent the sector. This initiative will build public policies proposals and strategies to be delivered to candidates in the 2022 elections, both for state governments and for the Republic Presidency.

In the launch event, national and international experts shared their experiences and vision about the future, sustainability and innovation. Among them, Michel Julian, Officer, Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness, UNWTO.



DUY TAN UNIVERSITY'S JOURNAL ISSUE ON DANANG TOURISM POST COVID-19

This July issue of the DTU Journal of Science & Technology will publish a specialized page on TOURISM with the theme: "Danang Tourism Post-COVID-19: Prospects and Visions".

Like anywhere else in the world, Danang city of Vietnam has been suffering from Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, COVID-19, coupled with natural disasters in 2020, has made local tourism exhausted.

As educators, lecturers at the Hospitality & Tourism Institute, Duy Tan University wanted to contribute their work to the recovery of local tourism by conducting researches regarding Danang tourism industry during and post Covid-19. The issue will have 15 articles in English and Vietnamese, all of which are done by lecturers of DTU Hospitality & Tourism Institute. Some of the articles included in this magazine are:

- Key niches for Vietnam Domestic Tourism (Post)- Covid-19 Pandemic
- Smart City And Smart Tourism: A Case of Da Nang City
- Research on the effects of Covid-19 on the customer behavior in tourism of people in Da Nang City
- Solutions to attract European – American Tourist to Da Nang after Covid-19
- Post-Covid-19: Trends in the choice of food service among young people in Da Nang city.



AFFILIATE MEMBERS NEWS

LAUNCHED THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL DISPLAY OF THE GONBAD (DOME) MINA PLANETARIUM

The activity of the Gonbad Mina Planetarium, which was suspended due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, will begin on June 17th.

According to the Abasabad Department of Communications and International Affairs; The Gonbad Mina cinema, as the center of science and astronomy in the Abasabad Cultural and Tourism Zone, will have tickets on sale from June 17, 2021, and will broadcast 3D films of celestial bodies and the solar system in accordance with health protocols.

The Gonbad Mina cinema starts its work with a capacity of 40% and full observance of health protocols in order to prevent the spread of corona.

The Gonbad Mina Planetarium was inaugurated in 2014 with the approach of astronomy science and training enthusiasts in 1850 square meters.



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CALL FOR PARTICIPATION THE WORLD IN FLORENCE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL WORLD'S CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS. FLORENCE (ITALY), NOVEMBER 25-26, 2021

This festival is promoted by the Romualdo Del Bianco Foundation, UNWTO Affiliated Member, with its "Life Beyond Tourism-Travel to Dialogue" Movement. It is aimed to encourage the interpretation and communication of the typical local cultural expressions of a destination site, to enhance its international attractiveness for the travelers-for-values, to favour the travelers-inclusive-destination-communities, changing tourism in hospitality for inclusiveness, solidarity and intercultural dialogue.

Higher education institutes in tourism management and heritage, with their master students: local administrations, cultural institutions, associations and agencies with their young members are invited to take part in the Festival.

Participants will produce a "storytelling" of a specific cultural destination, by emphasizing those aspects that favour the quality of visiting and the human experience, transgressing the hitherto prevalent economic-oriented exploitation of heritage sites. They will help to build a future where travelling for culture regenerates the human spirit of knowledge, mutual respect and dialogue everywhere.

More information [here](https://www.lifebeyondtourism.org)



AFFILIATE MEMBERS NEWS

THE COSTA CÁLIDA – REGION OF MURCIA INTRODUCES FREE TRAVEL INSURANCE INCLUDING COVID-19 COVER.

The Costa Cálida – Region of Murcia has introduced a free travel insurance which covers foreign visitors for in the event of a Covid-19 infection, common illness, and accident.

The new free travel insurance will be offered to all foreign visitors who stay in regulated tourist accommodation and will cover medical and pharmaceutical expenses, transportation and/or repatriation costs, and expenses for extension of stay.

The insurance policy has been brought in to provide security and confidence to visitors in the post-Covid era as well as help give the local tourism sectors a kickstart after what has been a difficult 18 months for so many. The coverage dates commence on 01 July 2021 and will run until 30 June 2022.

More information [here](#)



TOURISM AND SDGs

Following the work of NOSU University in Affiliate Members Working Group on SDGs support, we are pleased that members of the group joined the project supported by AM Department and included in 2021 Programme of Work.

Online-course “Sustainable Development and Images of the Future” initially developed by NOSU University and Universidad Isabel I was now joined by Bogazici University (Turkey) and World Leisure Organization with the support of other professionals from Australia, Brazil and Hong Kong. The course will now include a Module specifically on Tourism and SDGs and is planned to be available in four official UN languages and Turkish language.

The official launch of the course is planned for October 2021 and our team would be excited to have an opportunity to share the experience of development process and information about the course with our colleagues in the upcoming General Assembly taking place in Morocco.



AFFILIATE MEMBERS NEWS

8TH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF TOURISM OBSERVATORIES - GUANAJUATO 2021

The Guanajuato Tourism Observatory, is an initiative that was born in 2011, bringing together the Academy, Public and Private Sector, with the aim of monitoring the behavior of the State's Tourism Industry, through the generation and analysis of indicators. This Observatory is an Affiliate Member of the International Network of Sustainable Observatories (INSTO) of the UNWTO.

Since 2013, the National and International Meeting of Tourism Observatories (ENIOT) has been held in the State, covering topics of interest to the different sectors.

This year, the 8th Edition of the ENIOT, will be held on August 27 in a hybrid format in the Guanajuato Bicentennial Park in the City of Silao, Guanajuato, having as main theme, "Impact COVID 19 and the reactivation of Tourism," seeking to promote the development of new tourist Observatories in Mexico and strengthen those that already have some strategies and measurement tools in their destinations.

SCHOOL OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND DIGITAL OPERATION CO-FOUNDED BY SHANGHAI INSTITUTE OF TOURISM AND HUAZHU HOTEL GROUP

On May 8th, the opening ceremony of the School of Hotel Management and Digital Operation co-founded by Shanghai Institute of Tourism (SIT) and Huazhu Hotel Group (HHG) was held in SIT Theater.

SIT and HHG also launched the construction project of the School which will make use of nearly 5000 square meters of building property in SIT Minhang Campus. Relying on the strong digital technology support of HHG, the School is expected to realize the dual system higher vocational education model of hotel management and digital operation with distinct Chinese characteristics.

The collaboration is an important measure to deepen the reform and innovation of vocational education, an important implementation of innovative applied talent training mechanism and a beneficial attempt to promote the reform and development of tourism vocational education in the new era.



AFFILIATE MEMBERS NEWS

VIENNA ANNOUNCES €4 MILLION MEETING FUND TO SUPPORT LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISERS, AND HYBRID EVENTS BETWEEN 2021 AND 2023

The City of Vienna is providing the Vienna Tourist Board and its Vienna Convention Bureau with an additional €4 million to support national and international organisers of meetings held in the city, from 1 May 2021 to 31 December 2023, paving the way for the sector's growth offering up to €60,000 of funding per event.

Significantly, for the first time the Vienna Meeting Fund 2021-2023 will extend funding to corporate conferences and hybrid events, in addition to its continual support of national and international organisers of association congresses. The unique inclusion of hybrid events demonstrates the Vienna Tourist Board's dynamic and agile response to the current needs of the meeting industry.

Vienna is an industry leading meetings destination and both congresses and corporate events are of central importance to the city's tourism industry. The meetings sector is a driving force for the internationalisation of Vienna and a trigger for local value and economic creation. Meeting Destination Vienna is therefore key to the city's recovery and tourism restart.

Apply [here](#).

GULF AIR OPERATES SUMMER ROUTES

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, announces the addition of a number of summer seaside destinations by adding Santorini and Mykonos in Greece, Malaga in Spain and Sharm El Sheikh and Alexandria in Egypt.

All destinations will be served during the months of July, August and September with the newest Gulf Air planes the Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and Airbus A320neo.

The seasonal summer routes will boost the airline's network with popular seaside destinations that are favourite to many tourists and families in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the region especially as demand for travel gradually grows towards the summer holidays with travel restrictions easing off in many parts of the world.

All tickets to these summer routes will be including free complimentary COVID-19 insurance.





The UNWTO Affiliate Members Department is responsible for the management of the partnership between UNWTO and the private sector.

Contact us at: am@unwto.org