


# Travel Tracks

Electronic newsletter by Kanoo Travel



THE LARGEST TRAVEL COMPANY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Airline news - Special Offers - Hotels - Destinations - Events - Holiday Packages - Travel Tips

January 2008 issue

## Destination of the month

# Stockholm – the natural Capital of Scandinavia



There are many reasons why Stockholm is the natural Capital of Scandinavia. One is that Stockholm is positioned at the heart of the region, and enjoys the benefits of a world-class transport infrastructure. Another is that Stockholm is the largest city in the largest country in Scandinavia.

It is also where you find the most multinational companies, the largest stock market and, not least, the most visitors. People come to Stockholm for the food, the design and the music. Stockholm also offers a unique range of galleries and museums, and every year the eyes of the world are on Stockholm when the Nobel Prizes are awarded.

Stockholm is centrally situated in Northern Europe. The city is built on 14 islands, where the lake Mälaren opens up into the Baltic Sea.

If the City of Stockholm had been a company we would have made it to Financial Times' 500-list over the largest enterprises in the world. The capital's service organization employs close to 49,000 people and has revenue of SEK 46.3 billion in 2006.


Our aim is to develop Stockholm further, to facilitate everyday life for its citizens and to make Stockholm Northern Europe's most attractive location for people and businesses looking for quality of life, growth and a vibrating knowledge-based society.



The City Hall of Stockholm is one of the most beautiful and well known buildings in the world and the most exclusive ballroom in Stockholm, frequently used for e.g. the yearly Nobel Banquet. Behind the brick walls, several different activities take place.

The City Hall is known for its hospitality, its unique art treasures, magnificent banquettes and an intriguing history attracting close to 400,000 visitors a year.

From the City Hall, which is the main symbol for the capital of Sweden, the City of Stockholm is being governed. Around 200 politicians and civil servants have their offices in this building.

Stockholm is a city that lives life to its fullest, twelve months a year. Every week sees the opening of new exhibitions; there are premieres of plays, films and shows; events of varying sizes start up one after another. Whatever your interests and preferences, there is always something to experience in the Swedish capital. Find today's Stockholm events here. 

## Weather Report

courtesy weather.com



[Manama, Bahrain](#) [Dammam](#) [Yenbo](#) [Medina](#) [Mecca](#) [Taif](#)  
[Tabuk](#) [Riyadh](#) [Dubai](#) [Abu Dhabi](#) [Sharjah](#) [Jeddah](#)  
[Umm al Qaywayn](#) [Khamis Mushait](#) [Abha](#) [Doha, Qatar](#)  
[Ras Al Khaimah](#) [Al Ahsa](#)

Click on the cities above to find out updated weather reports

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**10 times a week from Dammam to India**



## Gulf Air honour top 10 Travel Agents in Bahrain



**Tim Casey – Dy EGM Kanoo Travel, Mubarak Kanoo – Chairman Kanoo Travel and Jeremy Hale – Travel Manager Bahrain with officials from Gulf Air**

Gulf Air has honored 10 of its Bahrain-based travel agents. The agents were given awards in three categories with the top-performing agent receiving the Gold award, and the second best travel agent the Silver, while eight other agents were chosen for Bronze awards.

Gulf Air general manager Bahrain Abdulmalik Al Saei handed over the awards to the travel agents and thanked them for their continued support and co-operation to Gulf Air.

Kanoo Travel Agency managing director Mubarak Kanoo received the Gold award for the agency's top performance, while Unitaq Group chairman Jamil Wafa seen received the Silver Award for World Travel Service.

Dadabhai Travel and Tours, Al Gosaibi Travel, Al Safeer Travel Agency, Cleopatra Travel International, House of Travel, Albader Travel and Tourism, Bahrain International Travel and Concord Travel and Tourism were the winners of the Bronze Awards.

"Gulf Air works closely work with its travels agents and recognizes the important role they play in our business," said Mr Al Saei.

"Travel agents are our biggest strength and we have excellent relationship with all our travel agents. Therefore, we feel it is equally important to recognize their performances.

"Being the airline with the biggest network in the Middle East with excellent onward connections to Europe, Far East and the Subcontinent, Gulf Air offers tremendous business opportunities to our travel agents for both inbound and outbound travel," he added.

– courtesy Gulf Daily News 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008

## Kanoo Travel wins Gulf Air Gold Award in Western Province Saudi Arabia



Gulf Air, Conducted their Annual Agents Award function at Habitat Hotel on 31 Dec 2007, which was followed by dinner. Kanoo Travel Western Province was awarded Best Gold Award associate, The Award was collected by RTM-WP in a glittering function.

**From L-R H.E Hamad Ali A. Al Binkhalil – Consul General of Kingdom of Bahrain – Jeddah, K.N. Balakrishnan – Regional Travel Manager – WP – KSA, Adel Al Tamimi – GM - Gulf Air, C & W, Saudi Arabia, Mohammed Al Bardooli – Sales Manager Corporate & Govt. Affairs Gulf Air**

## Special 'Package' Offers

### Misty Mountains - India



**Cochin / Periyar / Munnar /  
Cochin 6 Nights and 7 Days**

**Prices starting from USD 550**  
(for 2 persons sharing basis)

**Day 01 Cochin** On arrival in Cochin meet, assist and transfer to your hotel. Later proceed for a half day tour of Cochin city. The major attractions of the city are the Mattancherry Dutch Palace, the Jewish Synagogue, the Santa Cruz Cathedral, the Bolgatty Palace, and Willingdon Island. In the evening see the Chinese fishing nets. These nets, a glory of the past, silhouetted majestically against the sunset, are a spectacular sight. Overnight in Cochin.

**Day 02 Cochin – Periyar** In the morning, after breakfast, drive to Periyar (185 km) - along the tranquil countryside, rich spice plantations and mist capped mountains - one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries in India. Sprawling across 777 sq. Kms of luxuriant green, rain drenched tropical forests, this tiger reserve renders a chance to spot exotic wildlife in its natural habitat. The sanctuary is centered around a large artificial lake, formed by the dam across the Periyar River. On arrival check into your hotel. Overnight in Periyar.

**Day 03 Periyar** In the morning enjoy a boat cruise around the lake. You can see herds of wild animals on the banks taking their bath or quenching their thirst. Later stroll through the spice plantations, filled with the fragrance of cardamom, clove, cinnamon etc. Overnight in Periyar.

**Day 04 Periyar – Munnar** In the morning, after breakfast, drive to Munnar by road (127Kms), a famous hill station in Kerala known for its tea estates. On arrival check into your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight in Munnar.

**Day 05 Munnar** In the morning, after breakfast, proceed to see some spectacular sights in Munnar covering Mount Carmel, the first Catholic Church in the high ranges, tea factory, Mattapetty Lake, cattle breeding centre, Top Station-the topmost point in Munnar and Devikulam-a small hill station. Evening is at leisure. Overnight in Munnar.

**Day 06 Munnar** The day is at leisure. Overnight in Munnar

**Day 07 Munnar – Cochin – Overseas** In the morning, after breakfast, drive back to Cochin (127Kms) to board your onward flight.

**Includes:**

- Accommodation on bed and breakfast basis – 1 night Cochin, 2 nights Periyar, 3nights Munnar
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursions as per itinerary by Air-conditioned vehicle
- Local English speaking guide including entrances for sightseeing as per itinerary.
- Seat in boat cruise in Periyar Lake
- Porterage, parking, airport assistance.
- All taxes including Government Service Tax.

**VALIDITY: Offer valid upto March 2008 only.**

### Mini Kerala - India



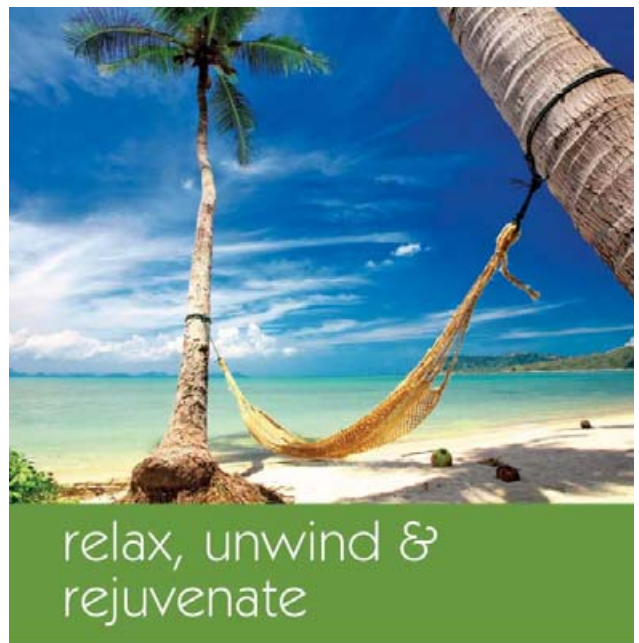
**4 nights / 5 days**  
**Alleppey, Thekkady, & Kochi**

**Prices starting from USD 540**  
(for 2 persons sharing basis)

**INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation 2nts Alleppey / 1nt Periyar / 1 nt Kochi.
- Room including breakfast and taxes only.
- Transfers and tours by airconditioned Vehicle.
- Local English speaking guide for sightseeing of Kochi with entrance fees for monuments.
- Boat cruise in Periyar and Kumarakom on seat-in-boat basis.
- Porterage / Parking / Assistance.

**VALIDITY: October to March 2008**  
**(Not valid from 20<sup>th</sup> December 07 to 10<sup>th</sup> January 08)**



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The next time you fly with British Airways you can fly through check-in by simply checking in online at [ba.com](http://ba.com) **24 hours before your flight departure.**

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Simply visit [ba.com/checkin](http://ba.com/checkin) to check-in for their next flight, 24 hours prior to departure.

\*Print your own boarding pass is currently not available at all destinations. Travelers can print their boarding pass when departing from these [destinations](#).

## Let's get to know them



**Maria Jackson,  
Sales Development  
Manager – Bahrain**

"Maria joined the Bahrain team of Kanoo Travel in March 2006 as the Sales Development Manager for corporate business.

She has over 20 years experience in Sales and Marketing in various sectors including the chemical industry, publishing / advertising, government affairs as well as travel.

Since leaving the UK in 1995 she has had a number of overseas postings including Paris and Hong Kong. She has spent the last 7 years primarily in the Travel Industry in Saudi Arabia and Bahrain."



**Tony Arez, Sales  
Manager – United  
Arab Emirates**

With more than 13 years of airline experience with Swissair / SWISS International Airlines, and British Airways, prior to joining Kanoo Travel in early 2007.

Presently responsible for Managing Sales activities under the Kanoo Travel portfolio in the United Arab Emirates.

Tony is also the local point of contact for prospecting and implementation of American Express Travel Services for Regional AMEX Accounts within the UAE.

### **Ousman Fouz, Assistant Branch Manager – Burj Business Square, Dubai**



Ousmand has completed 12 years with Kanoo Travel and takes over the responsibility of managing the new Kanoo Travel office located at the Burj Business Square.

Ousmand started his career with Kanoo as a Sales and Marketing Executive in the Eastern Province of KSA and then moved to Dubai to join the UAE team as a senior sales executive. During his previous roles, Ousmand was involved in corporate sales, regional account implementation and event management.

We wish him all the very best in his new role!



**Nayaz Ahmed –  
Regional Sales  
Manager, Western  
Province, KSA**

With over 18 years experience in the travel industry in Saudi Arabia, Nayaz heads the Sales & Marketing department in the Western Province.

Previous roles in Kanoo Travel include; Sales & Marketing - 1997-1999, Managed Air Canada & United Airlines GSA's, from 1999-2003, Manager Kanoo Travel - Yanbu 2004 - 2005, and his most recent posting as Manager - Singapore Airlines - GSA - 2005-2007.

## Other Links

### The Kanoo Group

For more info: click <http://www.kanoogroup.com/>

### Bahrain F1 Grand Prix 2008

For more info: click <http://www.bahraingp.com.bh/gulf-air-bahrain-grand-prix.html>

# Gulf Air's BIG SALE

Great deals on hotels and car hire too!

Return Economy fares in BD

Abu Dhabi	Doha	Dubai	Kuwait
20	20	20	20
Sana'a	Shiraz	Amman	Delhi
60	65	70	80
Mumbai	Athens	Bangalore	Beirut
80	100	100	100
Cairo	Chennai	Istanbul	Khartoum
100	100	100	100
Frankfurt	Kuala Lumpur	London	Paris
150	150	150	150

Normal taxes and surcharges apply

Book now!



طيران الخليج  
GULF AIR

Terms and conditions: Tickets on sale until 31 January 2008 • Travel valid from 13 January 2008 and all travel to be completed by 31 March 2008 • Other terms and conditions apply.

\* Above offer valid from Bahrain in BHD currency

## IATA Launches

[www.iatatravelcentre.com](http://www.iatatravelcentre.com)

## Information Portal for Travelers



GENEVA – The International Air Transport Association (IATA) launched the IATA Travel Centre at [www.iatatravelcentre.com](http://www.iatatravelcentre.com). The IATA Travel Centre provides passport, visa and health information necessary for air travellers.

"This responds to the consumer demand for self-service by giving travellers easy access to helpful and accurate information about the essentials of travel—from what documents are required to what taxed must be paid," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO.



At the time of booking, The IATA Travel Centre provides tailored information by itinerary on passport, visa and health requirements, as well as taxes at arriving and departing airports and consumer and currency regulations. The service is offered free of charge to individual travellers. Links to The IATA Travel Centre can be included on booking sites and in e-mail travel confirmations.

Travellers are responsible for having correct documentation with them. While most documentation problems are discovered at check-in, every year an estimated 35,000 travellers are turned back at destination or transfer points by immigration authorities due to improper documentation. The average fine for every passenger arriving or transiting without proper documentation is US\$5,000. When combined with associated manpower costs, the annual expense to the industry is over US\$200 million.

The Travel Centre builds on 40 years of expertise in providing travel documentation advice to airlines, travel agencies and passengers. It is based upon an enhanced version of IATA's TIM/Timatic service which monitors and automatically updates passengers of changing regulatory requirements that will impact their travel plans. There are about 14,000 such changes recorded in the Timatic database each year.

"The Travel Centre is the first of a number of initiatives IATA is driving to help the industry to improve service while reducing these costs," said Bisignani.

To visit the IATA Travel Centre go to [www.iatatravelcentre.com](http://www.iatatravelcentre.com)

# Aviation News

## [Gulf Air places \\$4bn order from Boeing](#)

The Bahrain-based airline Gulf Air has ordered 16 Boeing 787 Dreamliners valued at around \$4bn and taken options for eight more, reported AFP. The value of the firm order for the new long-haul jets at list price is around four billion dollars, while the total amount would go up to six billion dollars if options are firmed up in the future, he added. The struggling carrier had announced during the Dubai air show that it was planning to renew its entire fleet looking to order up to 35 planes. The cash-strapped airline aims to build up a fleet of 45 to 50 aircraft by 2013, compared to 25 aging planes now.

## [Etihad has record start to 2008](#)

Etihad Airways said it has enjoyed its highest ever daily passenger figures during the first days of the New Year. On Thursday 3, Friday 4 and Saturday 5 January, the Abu Dhabi-based airline carried nearly 19,000 passengers each day, with average seat factors of 88% across its network to break the carrier's record loads. A number of Etihad's recently launched destinations such as Singapore, Brisbane and Sydney which were 96% full during this period.

## [Etihad reveals Formula 1 aircraft](#)

To celebrate Etihad Airways' recently announced title sponsorship of next year's inaugural Formula 1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the airline has re-painted one of its aircraft in the livery of a racing car. The new design on the A320 aircraft sees a break from Etihad's corporate colors, with the plane being painted black with the image of a red Formula 1 car together with the official race title logo on the rear and the Formula 1 logo on the engines.



## [Airlines lifts carry-on baggage rule](#)

Many airlines will re-introduce two-piece hand baggage allowance for passengers transferring through and leaving Heathrow - the landing and transfer point for Middle East passengers, reported Gulf News. The two-baggage rule will apply to first, business and economy class passengers on British Airways. While the two other airlines that have made a partial change in the baggage rule are Etihad Airways and Emirates. Yet all airlines said the size limits on liquids remains unchanged.

## [Jet Airways to fly to Kuwait and Bahrain](#)

India's Jet Airways, the nation's largest domestic carrier, has started daily direct flights to Kuwait and Bahrain, reported Bloomberg. The airline will fly to Kuwait and Bahrain from the southern Indian city of Kochi. It will also fly daily to Bahrain from the commercial hub of Mumbai, and to Kuwait from New Delhi.

## [Oman to add six airports](#)

Oman is adding six more regional airports throughout the country, according to Ahmad Bin Abdul Nabi Makki, Minister of National Economy and Supervisor of the Ministry of Finance. The airports will reside in Sohar, Al Duqm, Ras Al Had, Adam, Haima and Shaleem, with the aim of boosting tourism in the country's interior, reported Gulf News. Expansion of the international airports in Muscat and Salalah is also underway.

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