



NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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*Season's
Greetings*

*Merry
Christmas*



MEETING OF NRN

NATTA President Mr. D.B Limbu participated in the joint meeting of NRN at Hotel Everest on 13th December 2014. NRN committee has planned to start a new campaign with the theme of " Atithi Devo Bhawa" .

The main aim of this campaign is bringing 1 million tourists in Nepal in the year of 2015.



NEPAL AIRLINES EXTENDS ITS FLIGHT

Nepal Airlines is operating twice daily flights except on Saturday to Pokhara by Y12 E aircraft with effect from 18 December 2014, one flight in the morning and one in the afternoon. NA has also floated special promotional fares for some time keeping in mind the maximum benefit to agents as far as possible. More destinations will be added in the near future to different places like Janakpur, Simara, Tumlingtar, Dang and so on.

NA has been operating daily flights to Biratnagar, thrice weekly flights to Nepalgunj and twice daily flights to Bhairahawa, Bhadrapur and Dhangadhi by MA 60 aircraft and have assured the improvement in punctuality and reliability of the flights to these destinations subject to the weather condition.



Nepal Airlines has requested the travel members to join on domestic web ticketing (those who have not yet joined) as soon as possible and sell flights for the mutual benefit.

Joining online ticketing, agents can easily sell tickets to most of the tourist destinations like Pokhara, Lukla, Jomsom, Talcha (Rara), Jumla, Taplejung and so on.



From Right: NATTA 1st V.P Mr. Shambhu Raj Pathak, Ambassador for Qatar H.E. Ahmed Jasim Al Hamar, NATTA Secretary General Ms. Mihika Dhakhwa on the occasion of the National Day of the State of Qatar on 18th December'14 at Hotel Yak & Yeti.

For the kind information, Mr. Samir Chada, Country Manager for Jet Airways will be relocating from Kathmandu on the 20th of December 2014 with the end of his tenure.

His letter sent to NATTA extends gratitude to all agents members for their support to Jet Airways.

NATTA would like to wish him all the best in his future endeavors.



HOLIDAYS..FESTIVALS EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 New Year HAPPY NEW YEAR !!	2	3 Revolution Day: Burkina Faso.
4 Independence Day: Burma. Martyrs of Independence Day: Zaire.	5	6 Feast of the Epiphany- Three Kings Day : Observed by Christians	7	8	9 Martyr's Day: Panama.	10
11 Republic Day: Albania. Unification Day: Nepal.	12 Revolution Day: Tanzania.	13 Liberation Day: Togo.	14	15 Coming-of-Age Day: Japan. Tamil Thai Pongal Day: Sri Lanka.	16	17
18	19 Martin Luther King's Birthday (1929-1968): United States of America.	20 Award Day: Mali.	21	22 Discovery Day: Saint Vincent.	23	24
25	26 Australia Day Republic Day: India.	27 Saint Devota's Day: Monaco. Vietnam Day: Vietnam.	28 Democracy Day: Rwanda.	29	30	31 Independence Day: Nauru.



MEDIA PICK OF THE WEEK



CAPTURED PHOTOS

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM ON TRACK TO END 2014 WITH RECORD NUMBERS



A View of Jakarta, Indonesia

International tourism is set to hit a new record by the end of 2014 with over 1.1 billion international tourists travelling the world in one single year. During the first ten months of 2014, the number of international tourists grew by 5% according to the latest UNWTO World Tourism Barometer, rising above expectations.

Between January and October 2014, the volume of international tourists (overnight visitors) reached 978 million, 45 million more than in the same period of 2013. With an increase of 4.7%, international tourism continues to grow well above the long-term trend projected by UNWTO for the period 2010-2020 (+3.8%), and is set to end the year at over 1.1 billion.



A stunning view of Dhampus village, a popular tourist destination in Kaski district

By region, the strongest growth was registered in the Americas (+8%), followed by Asia and the Pacific (+5%) and Europe (+4%). By subregion, North America (+9%) and South Asia (+8%) were the star performers, as well as Southern and Mediterranean Europe, North-East Asia and Northern Europe (all +7%).

The Americas (+8%) led growth during the first ten months of 2014, rebounding significantly on last year's subdued results. This is the region's best performance since 2004, when international tourism also rebounded strongly, following the 2003 SARS outbreak. All subregions – North America, the Caribbean, Central America and South America – doubled the growth rates of 2013, with particularly positive results in North America in view of the extraordinary performance of Mexico and the United States.



An apple orchard started by District Agriculture Development Office in Mustang

International arrivals in Asia and the Pacific increased by 5% (through October), consolidating the region's growth trend of recent years. The best results came from South Asia (+8%), led by India (+7%), and from North-East Asia (+7%) where major destinations such as Japan and the Republic of Korea registered double-digit growth. Arrivals in Oceania grew by 6% owing mostly to the increase of arrivals in Australia and New Zealand. In South-East Asia (+2%), growth slowed down compared to 2012 and 2013 as a result of the decline in arrivals registered in Thailand.

Europe, the most visited region in the world, posted a 4% increase in international tourist arrivals through October, with strong results in Northern Europe and in Southern Mediterranean Europe (both +7%), where established destinations such as Greece, Portugal, Spain and Malta recorded robust growth. International tourism grew at a more modest pace in Western Europe (+2%) and was stagnant in Central and Eastern Europe (0%), in stark contrast with the last three years, during which arrivals grew at an average of 8% a year.

International tourist arrivals in the Middle East are estimated to be up by 4% (in the first ten months of 2014), rebounding on the declines registered since 2011. All destinations in the region with data available report positive growth, with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia all substantially improving their performance as compared to 2013.

Africa's international tourist numbers grew by 3% (through October) with North Africa consolidating its recovery (+2%). Sub-Saharan Africa's arrivals were up by 3% despite the challenges of the Ebola Disease Outbreak in a few West African countries. Data for Africa and the Middle East, nonetheless, should be read with caution as it is based on limited and volatile data for these regions.

Taken from Travelbiznews.com / Various Daily News



10 FUN Christmas FACTS

FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT

Merry Christmas

Have you ever wondered about some of the things we see and embrace at Christmas? We know that Christmas is the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. What about some of the other things—like Christmas trees and stockings and Santa?

Here are a few "did you know" kind of things:

1. The French gave the *biggest* Christmas present ever in 1886. It was the Statue of Liberty, and they gave it to the United States of America. (The French have one too, a smaller one, in Paris.)



2. Santa Claus was a real Saint. He lived in Myra in the 300s. Myra is in what's now Turkey. The German name for Saint Nicholas is *Sankt Niklaus*.

3. The first artificial Christmas Tree wasn't a tree at all. It was created out of goose feathers that were dyed.

4. Christmas has many, many names. Do you know some of them—aside from, of course, Christmas? How about? *Sheng Tan Kuai Loh* (China), or *Hauskaa Joulua* (Finland), or *Joyeux Noel* (France)? In Wales, it's *Nadolig Llawen*, and in Sweden, *God Jul*.

5. That "Xmas" stems from Greece. The Greek "X" is a symbol for Christ.

6. Riga, Latvia was home to the first decorated Christmas tree. The year was 1510. About 36 million Christmas trees are produced each year on Christmas tree farms.



7. The Candy Cane is one of the most familiar symbols of Christmas. It dates back to 1670 in Europe but didn't appear in the U.S. until the 1800s. The shape is Jesus's hook to shepherd his lambs and the color and stripes hold significance for purity and Christ's sacrifice, became common in the mid 1900s.

8. The Christmas Stocking got its start when three unmarried girls did their laundry and hung their stockings on the chimney to dry. They couldn't marry, they had no dowry. But St. Nicholas, who knew of their plight, put a sack of gold in each stocking and in the morning the girls awoke to discover they had dowry's. They could marry.



9. An estimated 1 of 3 people worldwide celebrate Christmas, including 2.1 Billion Christians. There are about 7,038,044,500 people in the world, so about 23,460,148 celebrate Christmas.

10. The most popular Christmas Song ever is *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. The song can be traced back to England, but its author and composer remains unknown.

Merry Christmas, Everyone!

Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents

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