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NEPAL

## NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue no 102, Date : 1st April 2016

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## **IATA OFFICIALS CALL ON NATTA**

**I**AATA Officials from India Mr. Amitabh Khosla and Mr. Vinod Malhotra called on NATTA Secretariat *Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> March* and held discussions on matters pertaining to the difficulties being faced by Nepalese agents in settling the IATA remittances.



The chief of the mission Country Director India Mr. Khosla and Branch Manager-Northern India, IDFS Mr. Malholtra first of all congratulated the newly elected Executive Committee of NATTA and President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya in particular and expressed the hope that NATTA & IATA would be able to work in tandem with each other in the days to come for the betterment of the industry. President Acharya thanked the IATA officials for the visit and their congratulatory note and raised a few queries in regard to the replacement of Bank Guarantee with Insurance Guarantee.

Speaking on the occasion the NATTA IATA coordinator Mr. Binay Basnet put up a few issues enlightening the visiting officials with the fact that the Nepalese agents are still having the stand on 10 days payment cycle. Mr. Basnet also hinted on the irrelevance of Good for Payment Cheque and also said that the timing of Standard Chartered Bank to receive the IATA payment of the agents was not enough and that ought to be extended to late evening hours on payment dates as the law and order situation is so sensitive that demonstrations and blockades often hinder the commuters to reach their banks on time. It would be rather very convenient for the agents if the provision of bank to bank transfer could be established, Mr. Basnet added. Replying to this suggestion, Mr. Khosla said that these issues can be discussed in the upcoming APJC meeting in Kathmandu.



NATTA Officials 1st Vice President Mr. C.N Pandey, Secretary Mr. Sudhir Kumar Upadhyay, Treasurer Mr. Chitra Bahadur Gurung were also present at the meeting.

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## **NATTA IN INT'L BUDDHIST SUMMIT OC**

The International Buddhist Summit is going to be held in Lumbini on the auspicious occasion of Buddha Jayanti. The Summit is being organized by the Government of Nepal. Various international dignitaries, monks and devotees are expected to muster strong at the sacred garden of Lumbini to participate in the summit. A special organizing committee has been formed by GON in which NATTA has also been included. NATTA is committed to accomplish the assigned responsibilities and help the summit earn a resounding success. NATTA deems such summits do go a long way in promoting and revivifying Nepalese Tourism.

NATTA President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya and Chairman of NATTA Tour, Heritage and Culture Committee Mr. Varun Mehta has been representing NATTA in the ongoing meetings held at MOCTCA.

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## **PRINTING & PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**

Meeting with committee members of Printing and Publicity Committee was held at NATTA Secretariat on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Discussion on designing of Calendar and Membership Directory were discussed at the meeting. Meeting was presided by Committee Chairman and Executive Member Mr. Laxman Lamsal.

Calendar and Directory of NATTA Members is due to get published by Mid April.

## NATTA PRESIDENT & 1<sup>st</sup> VP CALLED ON DG DOT

NATTA President Mr. Madhu Sudan Acharya and First VP Mr. CN. Pandey called on the office of Director General, Department of Tourism on Tuesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> March and apprised him of the current problems being faced by the tour operators and travel agents. President Acharya in his discourse with the tourism honcho at the department explained how a few of the agents were forced to stop their business as the Department of Tourism (DOT) invalidated their licenses to operate business simply because they couldn't renew their licenses within the stipulated time owing to various reasons. One of the major reasons has been found to be the non-submission of periodical statement to DOT.

NATTA urged that the agents shouldn't be deprived of operating their business instead such agents should be allowed to run their business by renewing their licenses by charging certain amount as late fine. Moreover, President Acharya also said that the timing of submitting the periodic statement on the part of agents should be extended to one year and not limit that to six months. NATTA officials also suggested introducing digitization creating a network with all the agents who are granted the license to operate business so that the periodic statements can be easily tracked by DOT. They said that it was also the responsibility of the concerned government authority to protect the goodwill of the agents who are the tax-payers.



Secondly, NATTA delegates also urged the DG of DOT to probe into why Nepalese tourists were not allowed to travel in the tourist vehicles with green plates. They said the inconsistency in the Tourism Act and Transport Management Act should be immediately amended since the nation is committed to promote domestic tourism as well.

The Transport Management Department of the Bagmati Zone doesn't issue green plates to tourism vehicles (cars and jeeps). NATTA demanded that such provisions should be immediately withdrawn as the existing green plated tourism vehicles do not suffice the demand of the increasing number of tourists especially in the peak seasons.

It is indeed a good thing that the government is going to form a committee for the purpose of rating the Star Hotels. NATTA being the apex body of tour operators and travel agents has to be included in the upcoming aforesaid committee.

The next point raised by NATTA high-level officials was that no travel agent should be deprived of getting licenses from DOT once they start their operation. No extra fines should be levied if they apply for the license within the same fiscal year of their registration in the concerned department.

Finally, GON should allocate enough of fund to organize NATTA initiated the Fourth Himalayan International Travel Mart in Kathmandu in the near future.



## NEPAL CHINA SALES MISSION -2016



As in the previous years, in conjunction with NTB, NATTA is organizing B2B and Sales Mission in China's four main cities: Beijing, Hangzhou, Shanghai and Chengdu starting from 10 - 19th April 2016.

Sales Mission has been organized in its bid to promote Nepal in the booming Chinese market. Coordinator for Nepal China Sales Mission 2016 is Mrs. Shital Kumari Sharma Poudel, Chairperson for NATTA Regional Tourism Development Committee.

Tourism stakeholders who are participating in this mission are listed as below:

1. Nepal Dream Travel Service Pvt. Ltd.
2. D.K. Travel & Tours Pvt. Ltd.
3. Buddha Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.
4. Worldways Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.
5. Samrat Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.
6. Four Brothers Adventure Travels
7. Crystal Adventure Pvt. Ltd.
8. Chinese Travel Information Service Pvt. Ltd.
9. Shuang Qi Tours Pvt. Ltd.
10. I Tour International Pvt. Ltd.
11. Kudan Travels & Tours Pvt. Ltd.
12. Hotel Himalaya
13. Hotel Radisson
14. Soaltee Crowne Plaza
15. Hotel Manaslu
16. Hotel Shambala
17. Hotel Barahi
18. Hotel Harmika
19. Adventure Outdoor Excursion Pvt. Ltd.
20. Nepal Social Tours & Travels Pvt. Ltd.
21. Nepal Nova Treks & Expedition Pvt. Ltd.
22. Asia Travel Bureau Pvt. Ltd.
23. Koshi International Tour Pvt. Ltd.
24. Sea & Sky Tours & Travel Pvt. Ltd.

## Why You should Travel to Nepal Now?

If the devastating [April 2015 earthquake](#) dashed your hopes of visiting Nepal, think again. A year later, this struggling Himalayan country urgently needs tourism, which pre-quake included 800,000 annual visitors and contributed 8.9 percent of gross domestic product. Rest assured Nepal's rich history, infinite hospitality, and majestic beauties are still there.

### IMMERSE IN CULTURE

Nepal is a colorful jumble of pagoda-topped temples, ornate religious monuments, carved wooden Newari (native Kathmandu) architecture, chaotic streets, and majestic mountains. The country is home to ten [UNESCO World Heritage sites](#) and is bursting at the seams with cultural and natural wonders. Some monuments are still under repair, but their stories of rival kingdoms, mythical deities, and spiritual devotion are unchanged.

The Kathmandu Valley includes the ancient cities of Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur, each with its own Durbar Square of courtyards, royal palaces, and temples from the Malla days (12th to 18th centuries). Dotted around this cultural collage are superlative religious sites—like Boudhanath, a giant white dome that is Nepal's largest stupa and center of Tibetan Buddhism. The Hindu mecca is Pashupatinath, a sprawling temple complex on the banks of the Bagmati River where the devout cremate their dead. And towering above western Kathmandu, one of Nepal's oldest Buddhist stupas, Swayambhunath (or Monkey Temple), shares a hilltop with a medley of Hindu shrines and, of course, monkeys.

### FLY HIGH

Nestled in a lush valley northwest of Kathmandu, Pokhara lulls with lakeside charm and a jagged, snowcapped Annapurna backdrop. While serene, this small city, which experienced little earthquake damage, can also prime your adrenaline pump. Whiz down the world's longest zip line, take an ultralight flight past Himalayan peaks, or paraglide in dreamy swirls down to the lake. If you prefer to stay grounded, hit the trails on a mountain bike.

### SEE ANNAPURNA AND MUSTANG

Nepal's northern border scrapes the top of the world, with eight of the world's 14 tallest peaks. You could amble in awe for weeks in the Everest region or along the [Annapurna Circuit](#), popular trekking areas that are open after the earthquake. Lodging ranges from basic teahouses with no electricity and heat to swanky guesthouses with cozy beds and en suite bathrooms. To get off the beaten track, fly to the tiny Himalayan outpost of Jomsom (north of Pokhara) and explore the Upper Mustang, a dry mountainous region that borders Tibet. A greater one-horned rhino makes its way through a river near the northern edge of Chitwan National Park in southern Nepal.



### GO ON SAFARI

The steamy subtropics of southern Nepal cradle Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site that's home to 68 species of mammals, 544 species of birds, and 556 species of reptiles and amphibians. Highlights include tracking tigers and rhinos through thick jungle and canoeing lazy rivers in search of gharials—the world's second largest crocodiles. You'll see oodles of wildlife and no evidence of the earthquake.

Ruins from the statue of King Pratap Malla lie near Hanuman Dhoka Palace gate in Durbar Square, Kathmandu, Nepal. The statue was destroyed in the April 2015 earthquake, along with a handful of additional landmarks in Durbar Square, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



*INDABA 2016*



**May 7 - May 9**  
ICC Durban,  
11 Walnut Road  
Durban, 4000 South Africa

*TRAVEL CATERING EXPO 2016*



**May 9 - May 11**  
Dubai International Exhibition Centre,  
Sheik Zayed Road, Convention Gate  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates

*ETI / Expo de Turismo Internacional*



**11 May - May 14**  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Int'l Tourism Expo

*Seatrade Cruise Asia 2016*



**May 12 - May 14**  
Busan International Passenger Terminal,  
Busan, Korea, Republic Of

*THE HOTEL SHOW SAUDI ARABIA*



**May 17 - May 19**  
The hotel show SAUDI ARABIA  
17-19 MAY 2016  
JEDDAH CENTRE FOR FORUMS AND EVENTS  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

*PATA ANNUAL SUMMIT*



**May 18 - May 21**  
Dusit Thani Guam Resort,  
Guam  
Guam, United States

*WTF - WORLD TRAVEL FAIR 2016*



**WORLD TRAVEL FAIR**  
上海世界旅游博览会  
**May 19 - May 22**  
Shanghai Exhibition Center (SEC),  
1000 Yanan Road  
Shanghai, 200040 China

*Bangladesh International Tourism Fair (BITF)*



**May 19 - May 21**  
International Convention City  
Bashundhara,  
Kuril Bishwa Road, Next to  
300 ft. Purbachal Express Highway  
Dhaka, Bangladesh

*WTM CONNECT CHINA*



**May 23 - May 25**  
Renaissance Sanya Resort &  
Spa,  
Sanya, Hainan Island  
Sanya, Hainan Island China

*BOUTIQUE LIFESTYLE HOTEL SUMMIT*



**May 23 - May 24**  
The Montcalm, Marble Arch,  
31 Great Cumberland Pl  
London, W1H 7TA United  
Kingdom

*INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HOSPITALITY & TOURISM MANAGEMENT 2016*



**May 26 - May 27**  
Unnamed Venue,  
Bangkok  
Bangkok, Thailand

*ILTM ASIA 2016*



**May 30 - June 2**  
Shanghai Exhibition Center  
(SEC),  
1000 Yanan Road

Shanghai, 200040 China

# WEIRD FACTS FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT



Three people tried to **sell** Coca Cola secrets to Pepsi. Pepsi informed Coke and the FBI



Footprints and tyre tracks left behind by astronauts on the moon will stay there forever as there is no **wind** to blow them away

#NeverStopLearning



Only **female** mosquitoes drink blood. **Males** are vegetarians



The stripes on each **tiger** are unique, like human fingerprints

#NeverStopLearning



**Bishnu Shrestha** a Gurkha Soldier of the **Indian Army** single handedly fought off 40 armed bandits with his khukri knife



In Thailand, police officers who are caught **breaking** minor laws are forced to wear **Hello Kitty** armbands for a few days



During WWII, when **Hitler** visited Paris, the French cut the lift cables on the **Eiffel Tower** so that Hitler would have to climb the steps if he wanted to reach the top



Los Angeles' full name means **The Town of Our Lady of Angels of Porciuncula.**



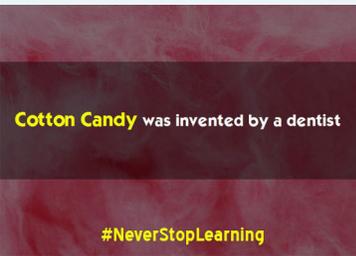
**Mark Zuckerberg** receives one dollar salary as CEO of Facebook

#NeverStopLearning



There's a **toilet themed** restaurant in Taiwan, where food is served on miniature **toilets**

#NeverStopLearning



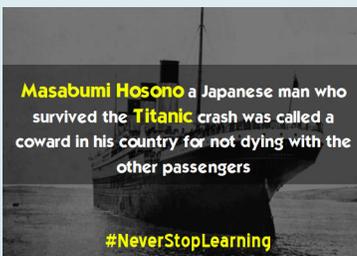
**Cotton Candy** was invented by a dentist

#NeverStopLearning



The World's oldest known creature, a **mollusc**, was 507 years old until scientists killed it by **mistake**

#NeverStopLearning



**Masabumi Hosono** a Japanese man who survived the **Titanic** crash was called a coward in his country for not dying with the other passengers

#NeverStopLearning



Google hired a **camel** to create the street view of a **desert**

#NeverStopLearning



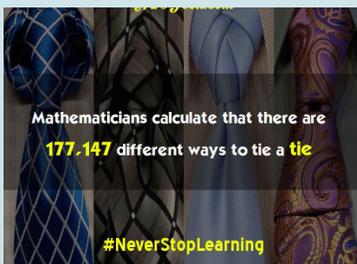
The **worlds oldest hotel** has been operating since **705 AD**

#NeverStopLearning



**J.K. Rowling** lost her billionaire status because she donated so much of her money to **charity**

#NeverStopLearning



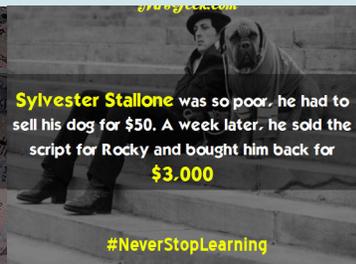
Mathematicians calculate that there are **177,147** different ways to tie a **tie**

#NeverStopLearning



The **flu virus** can live on your skin for only five minutes, but can survive on paper currency for up to **17 days**

#NeverStopLearning



**Sylvester Stallone** was so poor, he had to sell his dog for \$50. A week later, he sold the script for Rocky and bought him back for **\$3,000**

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**Walt Disney** was so poor in his twenties, he ate dog food to survive

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