TheTravigator
B2B TRAVEL INTELLIGENCE
VOL 801
14 NOVEMBER 2026



# India Takes Centre Stage at WTM London 2026

Happy Children's Day

India made a strong impact at WTM London 2026, winning the Best Stand Award for Doing Business, unveiling its fifth destination film with Netflix and showcasing its diverse tourism offerings to global buyers.









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# Penang Puts India in the Spotlight at PITE 2026




India emerged as a strategic market at the ninth Penang International Travel Exchange, held 27–29 October at the Penang Waterfront Convention Centre. Around 100–120 international buyers explored B2B opportunities across MICE, corporate incentives and premium leisure. IndiGo's direct Chennai–Penang route has helped drive a 3.5-fold rise in Indian arrivals, supported by roadshows in five Indian cities.



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# THE GREAT VISA RESET:

## *Why Visa Policy Is Now Travel's Most Powerful Sales Tool*




Visa accessibility has become a key booking driver. For Indian outbound travellers, easier entry turns interest into confirmed trips, while India's sweeping visa simplification is making it easier for the world to visit.



### Outbound: The Frictionless Advantage

The numbers tell the story. As per the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian passport holders can now access:

- **27** Visa-free countries
- **47** Visa-on-arrival countries
- **66** e-Visa facilities

**Visa-free destinations** include **Malaysia, Maldives, Thailand,** Nepal, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong SAR, among others.

**Key Caveat** — Visa-free does not mean condition-free. Rules vary on financial requirements, valid visas, stay limits and authorisations.



### Inbound: India Resets Its Architecture

India has simplified its visa framework (effective 11 November 2026):

- Visa categories reduced from **13 to 9** and sub-categories from **49 to 23.**
- **Tourist Visa** is now the **Visitor Visa (V-1)** – 30-day, multiple-entry visits for tourism, business, medical, wellness and short courses.
- **Medical travel visas (M-1 and M-3)** now offer one-year, multiple-entry validity, including AYUSH.
- **Student visas** simplified into **S-1 and S-2,** with e-S1 for Study in India students up to five years.

### Policy Is Not Permanent

Visa lists change. Iran suspended its tourist visa for Indians from 19 November 2025, and Laos, Qatar and Sri Lanka have also revised their positions.

### Digital Access: The Quiet Advantage

India's e-Visa now covers 172 countries across 13 sub-categories, with 88 entry points (37 airports, 38 seaports and 13 land checkpoints), and application forms shortened by 65–70%.



### The Trade Opportunity

Growth will be shaped not just by where travellers want to go, but by how easily they can get there. Sell the experience, verify the rules, and make compliance effortless.



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# Money Matters Abroad:

## *The Smart Traveller's Guide to Currency, Cards and Cash*

**From Dollars to Euros – Be Ready for Every Destination**



| USD | EUR | GBP | JPY | CNY | AED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| (US Dollar) | (Euro) | (British Pound) | (Yen) | (Yuan) | (Dirham) |

## Travel Smart, Spend Smarter

**Where to Exchange?**
Use RBI-authorised banks, money changers or licensed forex platforms.

**Carry a Mix**
Cash + Forex Card + International Card for flexibility.

**Know the Charges**
Compare exchange rates, fees and GST.

**Choose Local Currency**
Always pay in the local currency, not INR.




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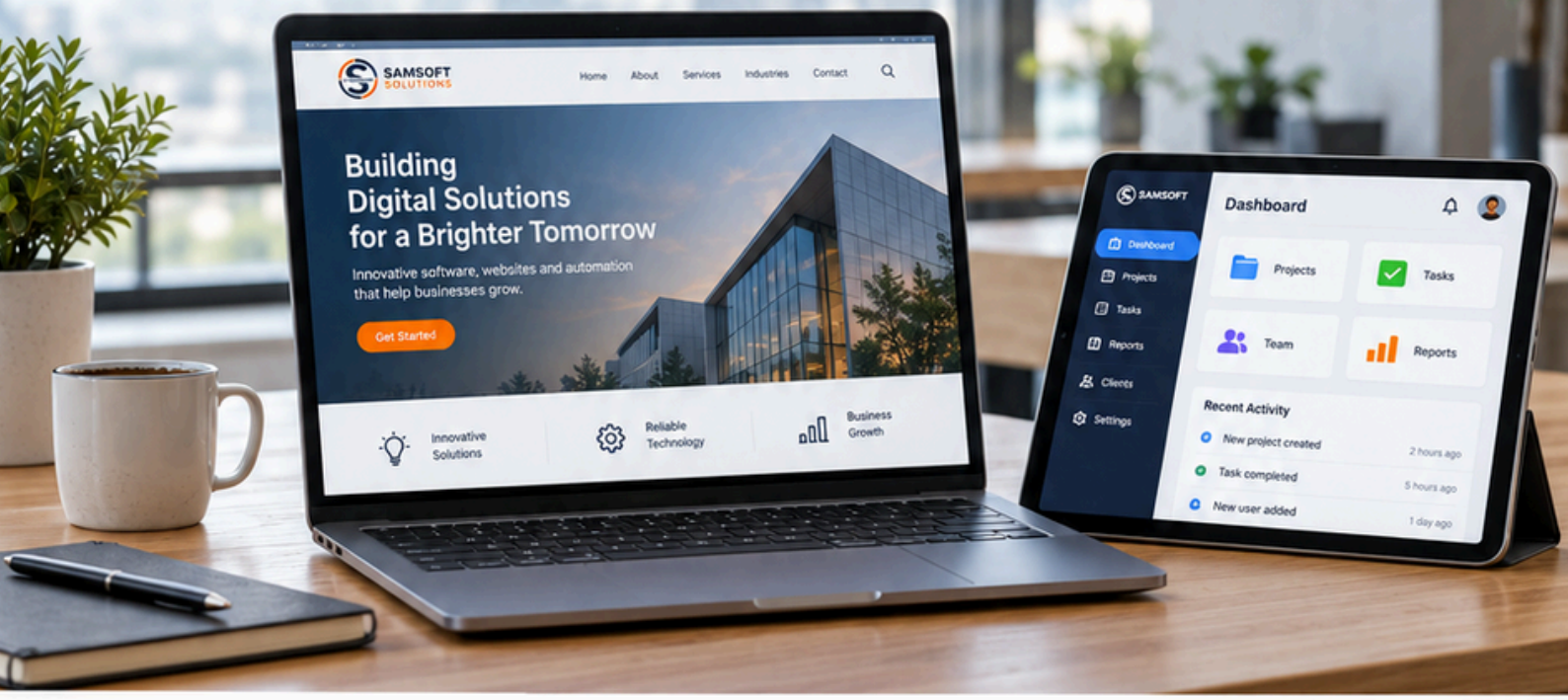


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# PHUKET AFTER DARK:

## *Timing the Island's Second Act*

Phuket's entertainment economy is all about timing—from cultural spectacles to high-energy shows and outdoor adventures.




### Siam Niramit Phuket

*The Cultural Anchor*

Gates: 17:30

Show: 20:00 (≈ 80 minutes)

Naga Courtyard: 19:45

*Arrive early for the full experience.*



### Phuket Circus

*Adrenaline Rush Show*

Shows: 14:30 & 19:30

60-minute, animal-free show

Perfect for families and rainy afternoons.



### Erawan Patong Seaview Zipline

*The Daylight Adventure*

700-metre zipline above Patong Bay

Best in the morning for clearer views.



### Dolphins Bay Phuket

*A Family Favourite*

Morning sessions work best for younger children.

Present with transparency and pair with animal-free options.

## The Planner's Takeaway

**Arrive Early**
Make the most of Siam Niramit's 17:30 gate.

**Avoid Tuesdays**
Both Siam Niramit and Phuket Circus are closed.

**Use the Matinee**
Phuket Circus (14:30) is ideal for families and flexible itineraries.

**Go Morning**
Book Erawan Zipline earlier for the best views.

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# THE OPEN CLASSROOM:

## *What Happens to Children When They Travel*

Travel breaks the screen routine, replacing classroom theory with real-world experience, confidence and a broader view of life.



**74%** of teachers see a positive impact on personal development.

**60%** see greater curiosity in students.

**56%** see increased independence and confidence.

**77–79%** of parents say travel enriches their children's education.









### WHY GOOD GROUND PLANNING MATTERS

Destination Management Companies (DMCs) make family travel smoother by arranging:

- Safe transfers
- Timed entry at key sites
- Child-friendly guides

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# Wellness Directory

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A curated directory of India's finest wellness centres and resorts, showcasing authentic, credible and world-class wellness experiences across the country.



















## WHAT TO PROVIDE

**Wellness Centre/Resort**
Name | Location | Category | Ideal Stay

**Positioning**
Who the property is really for.

**What It Offers**
Ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, spa, integrated wellness, detox, longevity, etc.

**Why It Stands Out**
The real differentiators.

**Long-Stay Appeal**
Ideal duration and international traveller suitability.

**Guest Verdict**
Balanced praise and recurring criticism where relevant.

## SAMPLE DIRECTORY ENTRY (ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY)



### Soma Seven Springs (Letchmi Estate, Munnar)

Munnar, Kerala | Integrated Wellness Resort | 5–14 Nights

**Positioning**
A luxury wellness retreat set in a working tea estate, ideal for holistic wellness and nature-led experiences.

**Long-Stay Appeal**
Ideal for 7–21 day programmes with international guest support.

**What It Offers**
Ayurveda, yoga, meditation, naturopathy, spa therapies, personalised wellness programmes and nutritious cuisine.

**Guest Verdict**
Highly rated for authentic treatments, natural surroundings and attentive staff. Some guests note premium pricing.

**Why It Stands Out**
Immersive location in the Western Ghats, expert practitioners, serene environment and personalised care.

**TheTravigator Verdict**
A benchmark for integrated wellness in the hills, combining tradition, nature and contemporary comfort.

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BE A PART OF THETRAVIGATOR WELLNESS DIRECTORY

Properties wishing to be considered should review the criteria, gather supporting evidence and contact TheTravigator editorial team with property details, category interest and proof of eligibility.

SUBMIT YOUR PROPERTY →

Submission Deadline
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Publication Date
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# EUROPE UNFOLDED

## *A Twenty-Three-Day Field Log Across Twelve Destinations and Six Countries*











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From Vienna's seamless transport to Switzerland's alpine retreats and Italy's historic cities, this field journey explores how European destinations balance heritage, hospitality, major events and the practical realities of moving between cities.

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