

IHG Launches Booking Websites in Russian and Turkish



The launch of these two websites shows IHG now supporting online booking websites in 13 different languages. The launch of Russian and Turkish language booking sites are important in IHG's strategies to serve a growing number of global customers. InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) is one of the world's largest hotel companies and with the launch of its Russian and Turkish

language websites takes a major leap forward in the hotel industry. The launch of these languages is building on IHG's developing market strategy and will have also some impact on the hotel growth in Turkey and Russia.

These new launches are building on a legacy of innovation regarding online booking capabilities. IHG was the first hotel group in 1995 to make online booking possible. IHG will continue its expansion with additional language websites in the future.

www.ihg.com

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Survey shows - about 50% of European convention centers offer free Wi-Fi



Meetings & Incentive Travel's 2012 European Convention Center Price Survey shows only 50 per cent of the European convention centers offer free Wi-Fi, despite event planners claiming it is an essential decision item.

It is amazing and disappointing for planners that so many European congress centers are still not offering free Wi-Fi for delegates. Considering the advancement of social media and communication technologies, Wi-Fi access (and if at all possible free Wi-Fi) has become an essential criteria for event planner when it comes to choosing a venue.

A very good technical infrastructure and a generous offer in respect of Wi-Fi will be increasingly attractive and will make emerging destinations of higher interest. With hybrid events rising in numbers, where not all delegates are on-site, free Wi-Fi will continue to play a major roll for planners.



ICCA launches Middle East and Africa offices



The International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) opens two new regional offices this week. The association strengthens its presence in Africa and the Middle East based on the consistent growth in the regions congress association sector.

The African region office is in Johannesburg, while the Middle East office will be based in Dubai.

Arnaldo Nardone, ICCA President, announced the office launches during his keynote address to the Southern African Association for the Conference Industry (SAACI) in Johannesburg, South Africa, earlier this year.

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New in the Do-It-Yourself Workbook on micePLACES.com



The Palace

Sliema, Malta The luxurious 5 Star deluxe hotel is designed in a cosmopolitan style yet ensures optimal comfort offering 149 rooms and suites. For meetings and conferences, The Palace and Palazzo Capua are perfect venues housing a number of different rooms of sizes to fit any occasion. 149 Rooms/Suites, 4 Mtg Rooms, Theater 200, Classroom 120, Cocktail 300, Banquet 150
[See more details!](#)



InterContinental Malta

St. Julians, Malta InterContinental Malta gives you the best of all worlds: a wonderful waterfront resort complete with private beach and water sports, a central cosmopolitan location close to shopping, entertainment and historic sites, and an array of services appreciated by leisure and business travelers alike. 451 Rooms/Suites, 23 Mtg Rooms, Theater 1,700, Classroom 1,100, Cocktail 3,500, Banquet 1,000
[See more details!](#)



Hotel Bristol Oslo

Oslo, Norway Hotel Bristol puts tradition, quality and service in the high seat: when entering the lobby you will experience the unique style and elegance and classic ballrooms and salons create a unique frame for dinners and receptions, perfectly supported by the banquet department. 251 Rooms/Suites, 19 Mtg Rooms, Theater 500, Classroom 320, Cocktail 500, Banquet 400
[See more details!](#)

The opening of these new branches in Africa and the Middle East brings ICCA's regional representation up to five offices including the headquarter in Amsterdam.

www.iccaworld.org

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Mercure Hotels accelerate their expansion globally



Mercure is one of the world's largest hotel chain and the largest in Europe where the group already has more than 500 hotels. Mercure is expanding its network in European countries, especially in the United Kingdom and Italy. The year 2011 was a record growth year with which over 80 hotel openings worldwide. and revamping its hotels with a global refurbishment program.

In 2012 the first Mercure hotels were opened in Russia and South Korea and in 2013 the brand will continue the expansion in Latin America and Eastern Europe.

About 75% of the Mercure brand is operating with franchise or management contracts supporting hoteliers around strong brand identity benefits and Accor's strong hospitality group expertise.

www.mercure.com

SWEDEN, Gothenburg - Scandinavia's greenest destination

According to the Scandinavian Destination Sustainability Index report Sweden's Gothenburg is Scandinavia's greenest destination.

Published by ICCA's (International Congress & Convention Association) regional chapter of the (ICCA), Scandinavian cities were judged on two criteria: Hardware - the sustainability commitment of the city government and performance of its infrastructure and Software, the sustainability commitment and performance of the local meetings industry, including hotels, venues and convention bureaus and destination marketing organizations.

Two more Swedish cities (Uppsala and Stockholm) came in second and fourth, while Copenhagen, Denmark, occupies a proud 3rd place.

One big factor in Gothenburg's win mainly based on the fact that 90 per cent of the city's energy today comes from renewable sources.

<http://corporate.goteborg.com/choose-göteborg/convention>



United Airlines started its first-ever service to Turkey

Daily nonstop service in July 2012. The flight departs Newark Liberty daily at 7:27 PM and arrives in Istanbul at 12:20 PM the next day. The return flight departs Istanbul daily at 1:55 PM and arrives in Newark at 6:00 PM the same day (all local times). The trip takes about 10 hours eastbound and about 11 hours westbound.

The Boeing 767-300 aircraft features about 185 seats – in United Global First, in BusinessFirst and in Economy, including 67 Economy Plus seats.

www.united.com



Costa Rica DMC Tours



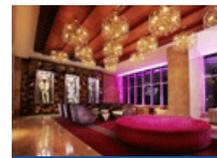
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[See more details!](#)

San Jose, Costa Rica The happiest country in the world... and a green natural spot located in the middle of the Americas. Costa Rica boasts an excellent selection of services and infrastructure; from 5 Star resorts to unique boutique hotels, creative and experienced DMCs, the latest in deluxe transportation, multilingual tour guides, venues for themed events and fine dining. Costa Rica has it all!

[See more details!](#)



Hard Rock Hotel Panama Megapolis

Panama City, Panama In the heart of Panama rises the new Hard Rock Hotel Panama Megapolis. This spectacular sixty six story tower beckons you to come and experience where rock star service meets urban chic design – all infused with the passion and irreverence of rock 'n' roll. 1,463 Rooms/Suites, 13 Mtg Rooms, Theater 560, Classroom 258, Cocktail 600, Banquet 340

[See more details!](#)



Fiesta Americana Grand Chapultepec

Mexico City, Mexico A wonderful location, a magnificent view and innovative and elegant architecture. Right in front of the Chapultepec Castle, next to the most important museums, restaurants, bars and malls. A perfect place for business nearby convention centers and the World Trade Centre.

203 Rooms/Suites 3 Mtg Rooms, Theater 200, Classroom 150, Cocktail 250, Banquet 180

[See more details!](#)



Fiesta Americana Santa Fe Hotel

Mexico City, Mexico Right by Expo Bancomer exhibition center, experience the Fiesta Americana Santa Fe with spectacular views of the Valley of Mexico. Choose from the executive floors, suites and 14 meeting rooms, as well as a Concierge service and a large business center with five large meeting rooms.

172 Rooms/Suites, 14 Mtg Rooms, Theater 600, Classroom 550, Cocktail 650, Banquet 450

[See more details!](#)

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