GTT WEEKLY

September 12, 2022

AIRLINE AND INDUSTRY NEWS

AMERICAN TO START NONSTOP SERVICE BETWEEN NEW YORK JFK AND MEXICO CITY

Palacio Bellas Artes, Mexico City
(Photo courtesy Mexico City Tourism Secretariat/Antonio Sanchez Flores)

American Airlines has announced the introduction of a new nonstop service between New York (JFK) and Mexico City (MEX) starting November 3, 2022. The daily flights leave JFK at 8:30pm and arrive in MEX at 12:10am the next day. On the return, flights leave MEX at 1:15am and arrive at JFK at 8:06am. Flights will be operated with B737 Max.

American Airlines offers an average of more than 5,400 daily departures.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Frequency Increase** : TK IST-DOH, EY AUH-NYC, AZ MIL-STR
- **Shows and Events** : PATA 60th Anniversary Banquet
- **New York at a Glance** : September 11 Memorial, Manhattan
- **COVID 19 UPDATE** : South Korea Drops Pre arrival Test
- **Promotional Fares** : UX "Time to Fly "Campaign and FJ Fiji Promotion
- **Destination Review** : Addis Ababa (Part Nine)—Culinary Adventures without Forks and Knives

La Lectora de Diario (the Newspaper Reader)—a bronze statue in Cordoba, Spain
(Photo by GTT Staff Writer)

TURKISH AIRLINES TO SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE ISTANBUL-DOHA FREQUENCY

Istanbul (Photo courtesy Turkish Airlines)

Turkish Airlines has announced that its **Istanbul – Doha – Istanbul** flights, currently 14 frequencies per week will reach to 42 frequencies in total, during the FIFA World Cup in Qatar from November 1 to December 31, 2022. Flights are already open for sale.

ETIHAD ANNOUNCES NEW YORK FREQUENCY INCREASE

Photo courtesy Etihad

From November 15, 2022 Etihad will add four weekly flights on its Abu Dhabi – New York route providing a total of 11 weekly non-stop services to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK).

The new flights will be operated with a Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, while existing daily services will continue on the airline's new Airbus A350 aircraft. The frequency increase is perfectly timed to commence ahead of the Formula 1 Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix taking place on Yas Island in Abu Dhabi between 17 and 20 November 2022.

PACIFIC ASIA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION TURNS 60
MAYOR ERIC ADAMS PROCLAIMS AUGUST 30TH PATA NEW YORK CHAPTER DAY

It was like a long awaited family reunion. Members of New York PATA had not met in person since the Pandemic. Finally, when it happened on August 30th at the House of Joy in Manhattan's Chinatown, everyone was in a joyful spirit. The atmosphere was festive. The banquet dinner included a 10 course feast and a huge birthday cake with champagne toast—fit for the Association which just turned 60. "What a journey from the Year of the Tiger in 1962 to the Year of the Tiger in 2022" reflected Elizabeth Chin, Executive Director of PATA NY Chapter.

But, there was serious business too. Joebert Opulencia, Chairman of the New York Chapter of PATA welcomed guests and appreciated the role they play in supporting travelers. "We make people happy. And, it takes a lot of dedication" he stated in an eloquent address. Elizabeth Chin—Immediate Past Chair and current Executive Director thanked the Executive Board members for a job well done. PATA CEO Liz Ortiguera, in a virtual address from Singapore, congratulated the Chapter and its leadership on its continued success.

Saluting Simone Bassous, Honorary Life Member (holding microphone). Left to right: Joebert Opulencia-Chairman, Elizabeth Chin-Executive Director and Iris Salazar of Micato Safaris
(Photo by GTT Staff Writer)

Joebert lauded Simone's invaluable contributions, unconditional dedication and visionary guidance when she served as Executive Director of the NY PATA Chapter for many years. He then presented her with a commemorative plaque to standing ovation by the over 60 members and guests present. Congratulations Simone!

Rowena Lipa- GTT Sales Manager with prize winners Rose Eng—Courtyard Travel and Yveline Josie Mc Intosh—Sunjosie Travel (Photos by GTT Staff Writer)

Photo by GTT Staff Writer

Several prizes were given out to lucky winners including airline tickets presented by GTT International, the largest air consolidator in the U.S. and a strong supporter of the association.

But, the biggest news came earlier in the day not far from the House of Joy Restaurant. At City Hall, Mayor Eric Adams proclaimed August 30th New York PATA Day. A well deserved recognition for an association with the motto: Technology | Innovation |Relevance | Resilience.

ITA AIRWAYS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASES MILAN-STTUGART OPERATIONS

Stuttgart: TV tower at sunset
(Photo courtesy GNTB/Stuttgart-Marketing GmbH/Achim Mende)

Starting today ITA has introduced **new round trip flights Milan Linate to Stuttgart** with 24 weekly frequencies and flight schedule designed to meet not only the needs of business customers, but also of those who want to reach Milan for the weekend

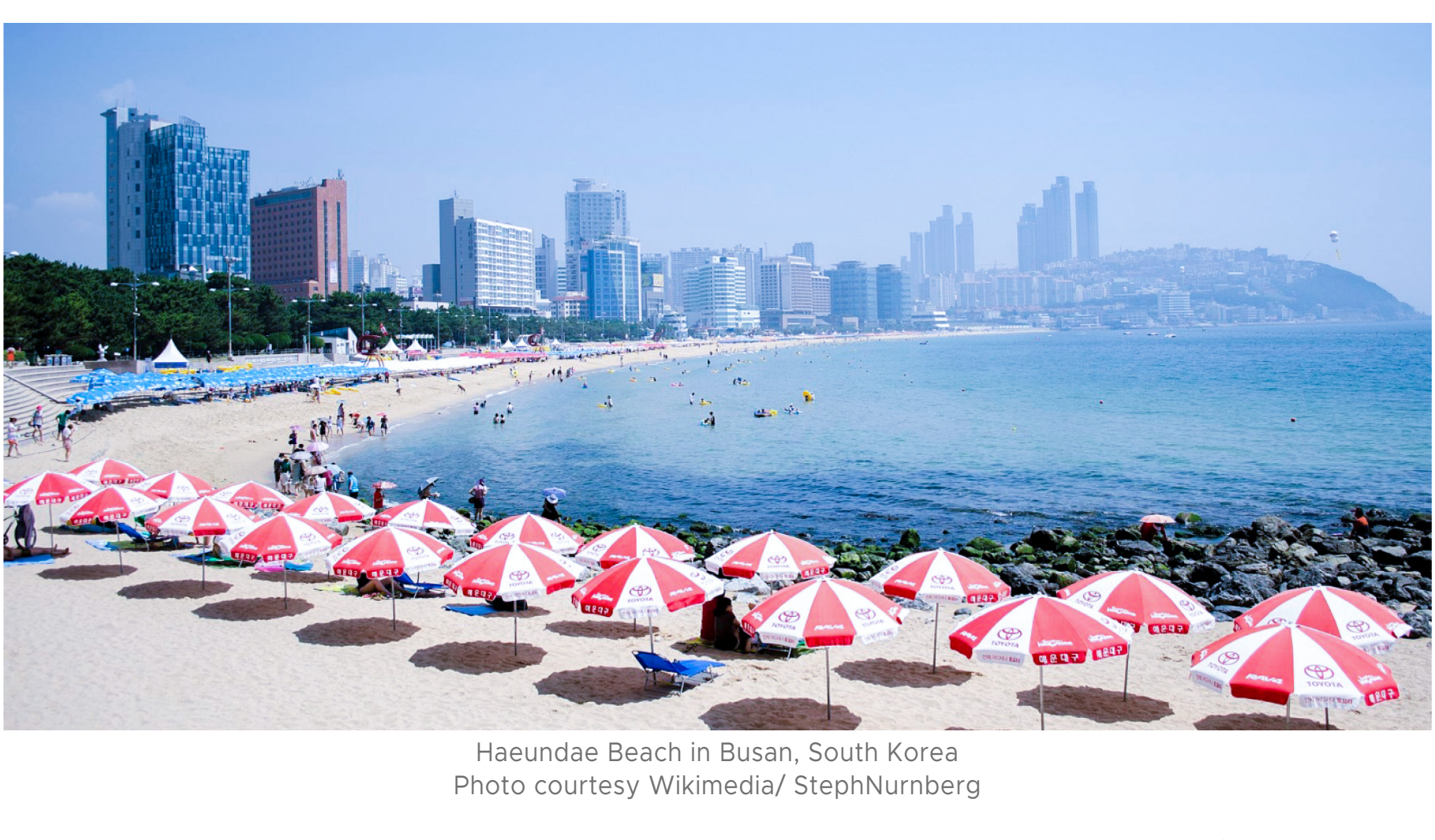
ITA Airways is the only airline that connects the two cities with direct flights and provides convenient connections with Central and Southern Italy.

NEW YORK AT A GLANCE

September 11 Memorial, Lower Manhattan
Photo courtesy NYC & Company /Julienne Schaer

COVID 19 TRAVEL UPDATES

SOUTH KOREA REPLACES PRE-DEPARTURE COVID-19 TEST BY TEST WITHIN ONE DAY OF ARRIVAL



Haeundae Beach in Busan, South Korea
Photo courtesy Wikimedia/ StephNurnberg

As of September 3, 2022 South Korea has replaced the pre arrival test by within 1 day of arrival PCR testing. Summary

- Apply for K-ETA (valid for 2 years)
- Register for Q-Code
- Take PCR test within one day of arrival in South Korea, either at airport or medical institution near accommodation
- Upload on-arrival results to Q-Code

DEALS OF THE MONTH

AIREUROPA LAUNCHES "TIME TO FLY" CAMPAIGN

Photo courtesy AirEuropa

AirEuropa has launched special fares for ticketing until September 15, 2022. Travel period: until May 31, 2023 (last return included). This is subject to availability but no blackout dates apply. Class of service: Z fare basis ending *FLY (checked baggage), *FLY5L (no checked baggage). Please contact GTT for more details.

FIJI AIRWAYS INTRODUCES PROMOTIONAL FARES

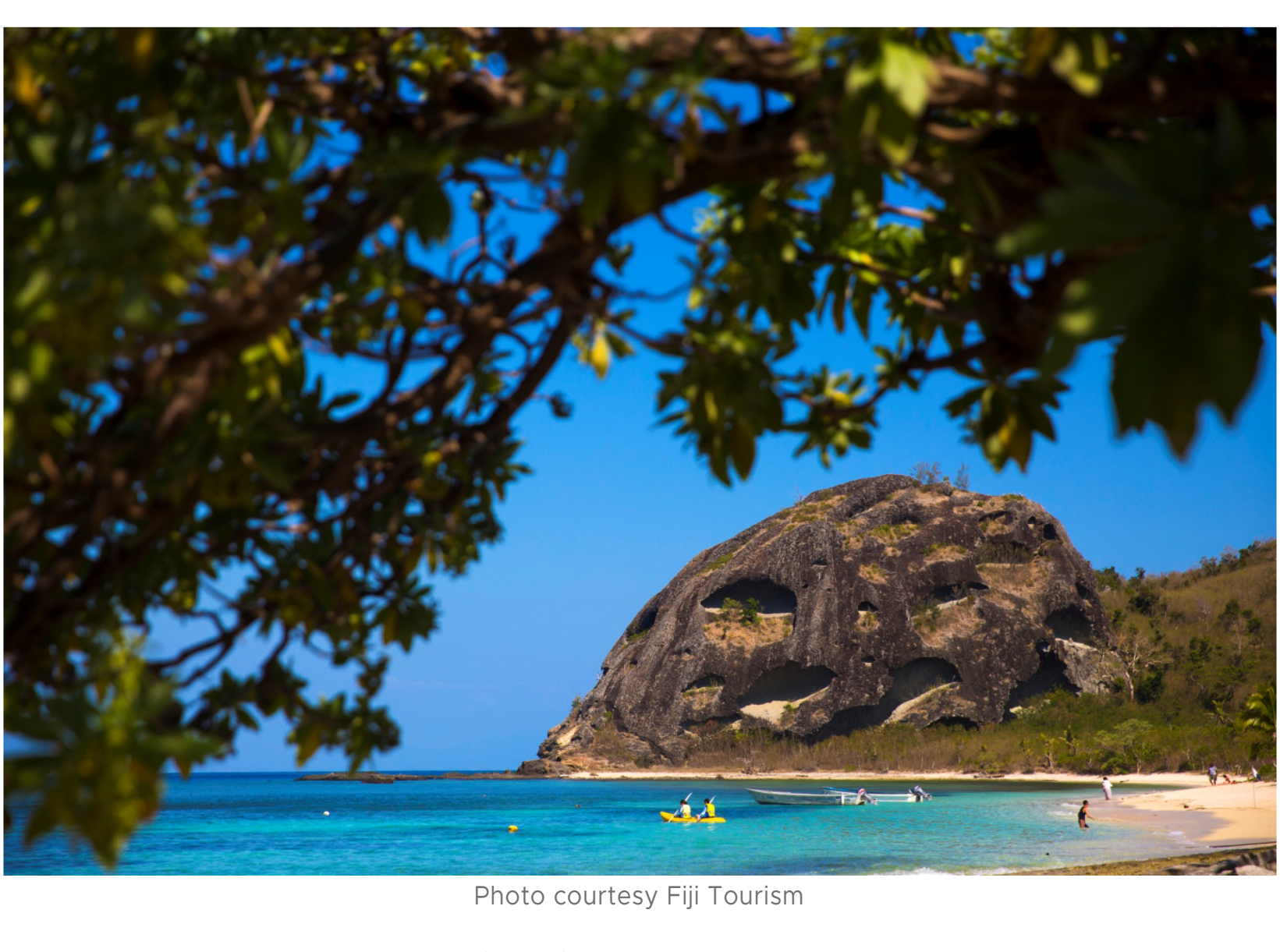


Photo courtesy Fiji Tourism

Fiji Airways has introduced special fares for sale in the U.S. and Canada until September 30, 2022 with the following travel dates from :

- The US – with immediate effect and to be completed on or before December 9, 2022. Also, starting January 19, 2023 and to be completed on or before June 9, 2023.
- Canada – from November 25, 2022 and to be completed on or before December 12, 2022 as well as starting January 16, 2023 and to be completed on or before June 10, 2023.

Please contact GTT for further details.

TRIP IDEAS

ADDIS ABABA

(Part Nine)

MESOB: ETHIOPIA'S COMMUNAL TABLE

A tray with an Ethiopian sampler meal in a Mesob
(Photo courtesy Wikimedia/ Rama)

A typical Ethiopian meal varies from region to region but **injera** (flat large spongy bread from teff) is omnipresent. **Teff** is a fine grain almost endemic to Ethiopia. Injera is served with a variety of stews which come in vegetarian or non vegetarian versions and a large variety in each section. **Roast meat** and **Kitfo** (finely ground prime beef marinated in butter and spices) are also popular. The typical lunch or dinner menu contains one or more of the above dishes. Eating by hand is simple: you take a piece of injera and "lift" the **Wot** (stew) with it. Fork and knife are not in the set up for a traditional Ethiopian meal.

Ethiopians eat communally from **Mesob**—a "table" made from basket which contains the tray. Expect this kind of service in a typical Ethiopian restaurant. Mesob is so important in the Ethiopian culture, a big skyscraper with its resemblance is being planned to be built in the city. Of course, if you go to a Western style restaurant you will find the set up you are familiar with.

Traditional breakfast items include **Kinche** (boiled cracked wheat usually with some butter), **Chechebsa** (think pizza bread without the toppings cut into pieces and marinated in hot pepper and butter), **Firfir**—small pieces of injera tossed in wot. **Foul** (pronounced fo-ol) another popular breakfast dish, possibly of Middle Eastern origin, is also making a comeback. In addition, cafes and hotel restaurants provide a variety of pastries and egg dishes in the European fashion.

Mesob
Photo courtesy Ethiopian Airlines

FASTING DURING LENT AND FEASTING ON EASTER SUNDAY

Orthodox Christians avoid dairy and meat for 55 days during lent settling for vegetarian dishes that come in various inventive forms. On Holy Thursday (Tselote Hamus), a popular dish is boiled white beans with some wheat grain. It is called **Gulban** in Amharic. Mixing it with some pepper powder makes it tastier.

Three days later on Easter Sunday, Chicken and Lamb dishes reign. Chicken stew (**Doro Wot**) is not in everyday menu and it is usually reserved for holidays or special occasions. Boiled eggs with a few dime size dents around them (for marination purposes) are immersed in the stew when it is almost ready. Easter is probably the day when the highest number of Ethiopians eat chicken and eggs. A large number of sheep are also slaughtered making it the day sheep hate most in Ethiopia.

Doro Wot
(Photo courtesy Wikimedia/ stu_spivack)

Eating raw meat (beef) is a tradition in Ethiopia especially for the older generation. But, before your jaw drops please note that this is not different from Steak Tartar. Of course, the presentation is different. The diner takes a cut from a big chunk of meat and dips it in **Mitmita** or **Awaze** (hot spices). Kitfo could also be eaten raw or rare.

Culinary culture varies from country to country. For example, many Ethiopians would not order snail or frog legs from a menu even if you take them to a Michelin starred restaurant. Here we go!

Kitfo
(Photo courtesy Wikimedia/Magnus Manske)

Bon Appétit—Melkam Megib or Melkam Gebeta
as Amharic speakers say!

WHAT TO DRINK

Ethiopia produces good quality beer and wine. Beer is widely consumed. But, as a visitor you should try the local concoctions including homemade **Tej** (honey mead) served with a special "Brillé " a short bottle with wider lower part and long neck. Secret: the alcoholic content is high.

Other homemade Ethiopian drinks include: **Araki**--similar to Greek Anis. The Alcoholic content for this drink is also high. **Tella** (homemade beer) is relatively easier to prepare and less potent.
If you prefer non alcoholic beverages, **Ambo** is the well established brand for sparkling water.

Tej in a Brillé
(Photo courtesy Wikimedia/ Ji-Elle)

Letenachin (to our health!)

Remember an Ethiopian meal is never complete without a cup of coffee brewed in front of you the traditional way and served with a welcoming smile! Advice from locals: Express your appreciation by telling the lady who prepares the coffee how tasty it is.

Brewing coffee the traditional way (Photo courtesy Ethiopian Airlines)

To be continued...

ABOUT GTT

With 38 ARC locations and fulfillment centers in several continents, GTT is the largest air consolidator in the U.S. The company has been in business since 1984.
Visit **www.GTTglobal.com** or call us at **1 (800) 485-6828**