10000 EVS NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRAVEL AGENTS SINGAPORE + NATAS GOLF **TOURNAMENT 2018** ⁺ NATAS BOWLING **TOURNAMENT 2018** + COLOMBIA, THE LAND OF SABROSURA

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APPROVED MEMBERSHIPS

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Company	Classification	Approval Date
Frontier Tours Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	October 2018
Majestic Travel Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	October 2018
PJE Group Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	October 2018
Tasty Cultural Travel Singapore Pte Ltd	Ordinary Member	October 2018
THK Tour and Travel Private Limited	Ordinary Member	October 2018

The total number of NATAS members as at 14 November 2018 Ordinary Members: 323 • Associate Members: 68 • Honorary Life Members: 5

SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

NATAS welcomes the following companies as new members.

PJE Group Pte Ltd

PJE Group Pte Ltd gathers students, teachers and principals for immersion programmes in 15 countries. Our success has been built based on the Special Educational Programme, focusing on organising overseas trips for MOE schools designed to meet each school's objectives. We are one of the leaders in the market and our educational tour programmes have enriched thousands of students to date. Ultimately, our goal is to build on our long-term commitment to delivering topnotch service to the schools.

THK Tour and Travel Private Limited

THK Tour and Travel Pte Ltd is a one-stop travel company dedicated to providing one-stop travel services in Asia. Established in May 2016, we share the best of the best travel experiences for all at competitive prices across different online platforms such as Facebook, Carousel, Fave, Shoppe and Qoo10 to favourable reviews.

Majestic Travel (Pte) Ltd

Majestic Travel organises travel for multinational corporations and small and medium enterprises. We pride ourselves in our ability to understand our client's needs and in turn, organise unique travel management solutions for them. Our dedicated and passionate team of experienced ticketing staff and meeting planners ensure each trip is a successful and unique one. We work closely with our clients to design customised itineraries and programmes based on trip objectives, destination and hotel selection and flight and ground transportation arrangements, all coordinated and executed seamlessly.

Frontier Tours Pte Ltd

Frontier Tours is a subsidiary of the Frontier Group and targets Chinese educational tours and MICE events. Supported by our own fleet of 50 buses, we work closely with malls and hotels to integrate venues for MICE events into our packages.

Tasty Cultural Travel Singapore Pte Ltd

Tasty Cultural Travel Singapore Pte Ltd is a newly formed company targeting the Chinese visitor to Singapore. Based on 2017 tourism statics, 3.22 million Chinese tourists visited Singapore in 2017. We strongly believe that Singapore will continue to be the top destination for China.



NATAS Annual Golf Tournament

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More Help on the Way to Stay Competitive

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More Help on the Way to Stay Competitive NATAS – STB Travel Agent Industry Forum

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+NATAS **EVENTS**



With the aim of promoting goodwill, friendship and sportsmanship within the industry, NATAS hosted Bowling Tournament 2018 on 11 October 2018 after a long-awaited four years. This year, to provide our players with a brand new experience, the event was held at a totally new location - Orchid Bowl @ Tampines Hub.

More than 96 members and invited guests took part to make up a total of 25 teams of four bowlers. Participants warmed up with a five-minute practice







throw session before the actual Team Tournament. Each team played three games, vying for the Champion Trophy and \$500 cash prize and the Top Male Bowler and Top Female Bowler Trophies accompanied by Car Rental Vouchers sponsored by Avis Budget Group.



It was a nail-biting finish and our congratulations go to the winners and all who took part. Everyone walked away a winner thanks to the Lucky Draw prizes generously sponsored by Royal Caribbean Cruises and attractive door gifts.











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+NATAS **EVENTS**





The Annual NATAS Golf Tournament 2018 teed off at the Warren Golf and Country Club on 29 November 2018. With overwhelming response from NATAS members and guests, a strong total of 21 flights were registered, and the event brought together over one hundred golfers and partners from the Tourism and Hospitality industries.

An atmosphere of comradery and companionship filled the air as the teams kickstarted the afternoon with a buffet lunch at the club's terrace; all eager to begin their friendly competition.



Despite the rain, many golfers managed to smile broadly for the camera, even cracking a joke or two while waiting for the passing rain to clear before resuming the game.





Members and their guests gathered back at the Tee Garden in the evening for a night of hearty celebration. The joyful atmosphere was evident as chatters and laughter filled the air.

In his welcome address, NATAS President Mr Steven Ler thanked all the golfers for their active participation. Mr Ler also announced that NATAS Golf Tournament 2019 will be held in conjunction with the NATAS 40th AGM in May 2019. Tokens of appreciation were presented to



representatives of Hole In One sponsors: Ms Liza Hoironi, Sales Manager, Turkish Airlines; and Mr Edwin Chiang, Area Vice-President, Singapore Airlines.

Amid the festivities, a total of 20 lucky draw prizes were presented, with a further 33 prizes having been pre-drawn. Prizes drawn ranged from car rental vouchers to hotel stays.

The second prize was a pair of Economy return air ticket to Europe sponsored by Turkish Airlines and the top prize was a pair of Premium Economy return air ticket to Tokyo proudly sponsored by SQ.



Thank you to all who participated in NATAS Golf Challenge 2018 and a special word of thanks to all of our generous sponsors: AIG, Avis Budget Group, Bestlink Travel Pte Ltd, Cityneon Events Pte Ltd, Hatten Hotel Melaka, Holiday Inn Melaka, Intercontinental Hotel Group, Mastercard, Maybank, Montigo Resorts Nongsa Batam, Ramada and Days hotel by Wyndham Singapore at Zhongshan Park, Singapore Airlines Limited, Team Concurs Pte Ltd (Representing Prudential), Thai Airways International and Turkish Airlines.



No Signboard Seafood

Hosts Luncheon for Inbound Members





Members were invited to a sumptuous luncheon at No Signboard Seafood, one of the leading seafood restaurant chains in Singapore. They got to savour a wide variety of premium seafood cuisine prepared in Chinese and Singapore styles. Known for its white pepper crab, it is no wonder the brand has received numerous awards and accreditations.







Davao City Destination Presentation 28 SEPTEMBER 2018



NATAS members attended a destination update on Davao City, Philippines at the NATAS Conference Room. Co-organised by the Tourism Promotion Board of the City Government of Davao and the Embassy of the Philippines in Singapore, the insightful event gave members the opportunity to connect and engage with the delegation to develop viable packages for the Singapore market.



Officially opened in 1994, Raffles Marina is the first Five Gold Anchor-rated marina in the Asia-Pacific region, where it remains the largest corporate, premier

marina, country club, mega yacht hub and nautical lifestyle centre dedicated to enjoyment. Its comprehensive facilities include a choice of fine dining and



casual F&B outlets, hospitality rooms, banqueting facilities, a theatre and pool and games rooms.

Getting Prepared for PDPA & GDPR

24 & 25 OCTOBER 2018

NATAS and DWF Compliance jointly organised a PDPA & GDPR Compliance Workshop for NATAS members held at the NATAS Conference Room to help members better understand compliance issues around customer data security. This enlightening and much-needed workshop helped members understand topics such as 'what constitutes "personal data" and 'comparison of PDPA & GDPR'. Participants walked away with a clearer grasp of how to prevent compliance breaches, avoid regulatory penalties and fines, minimise audit findings, reduce compliance risks and manage risk.



1st NATAS General Membership Meeting

30 OCTOBER 2018



Recognising the importance of creating and supporting a sustainable network of leaders in the travel business through regular direct engagements, NATAS partnered with SNEF, TalentPlus and TripAdvisor to organise the first NATAS General Membership Meeting in hopes of creating an environment for peer-to-peer exchange.

Members present at Paulaner Brauhaus Singapore got to learn from other leaders in the industry including David McClinton, Business Development Manager of Asia Pacific, TripAdvisor, who talked about the TripAdvisor Travel Agent Platform and Shaun Hou, Director of Place and Train Programmes Training & Technology Group, SNEF, who touched on PMAX Outreach and how it can benefit members.



NATAS Travel 2019

22-24 February 2019 (Fri - Sun) 10:00am to 9:30pm daily Singapore Expo Halls 5 & 6

www.natastravelfair.travel







Fam Visit to The World of Bird Nest Museum

5 NOVEMBER 2018

Situated in Kranji countryside area in Singapore, the World of Bird Nest Museum boasts one of the most comprehensive collection of information about edible bird's nest in Southeast Asia. Notable offers include exceptional special workshops and educational programmes for children and adults alike.





NATAS Welcomes Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan 1 NOVEMBER 2018



NATAS President Mr Steven Ler welcomed H.E. Dr Usen Suleimen, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, to Singapore on 1 November 2018 at NATAS. The visit was primarily to introduce Kazakhstan's impending blueprint for tourism development till 2023.

The embassy had built a strong presence at the NATAS Travel Fair since 2016 and its outreach has extended to various platforms. As a step forward, Mr Ler expressed a keen interest in strengthening tourism links between both countries, with a view to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kazakhstan Tourism Board.



Discovering Amazing Hungary

3 DECEMBER 2018



The Embassy of Hungary in Singapore hosted The Amazing Hungary Workshop to showcase the new country brand of Hungary: WOW HUNGARY.

The event kicked off with the welcome remarks by H.E. Dr István Szerdahelyi, Ambassador of Hungary to Singapore, followed by a presentation by Oliver Fodor, Trade and Investment Attache, introducing the unique aspects of the country.



The whole experience provided insights to Hungary as a quality tourism destination and its tourism offerings. Participants were also treated to a session of Hungarian wines and champagnes, including the popular Tokaji Aszu, a topaz-coloured wine that was once famously referred to by King Louis XV of France as the "Wine of Kings, the King of Wines".

Fam Visit to The Great Madras and The Daulat

27 NOVEMBER 2018



Set in the lively Little India district, The Great Madras is a boutique hotel with many Instagram-worthy spots, including a swimming pool, barbershop and a halal bistro. The 34-room hotel is littered with playful elements. Just walking distance away from The Great Madras is The Daulat, a 16-room boutique hotel whose amalgamation of modern contemporary design and a rich architectural history cater to both business and leisure travellers alike.



More Help on the Way to Stay Competitive

NATAS - STB Travel Agent Industry Forum

16 NOVEMBER 2018



NATAS collaborated with Singapore Tourism Board (STB) to hold a forum at Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre with the purpose of helping travel agents stay competitive and relevant amid the ever-changing preferences of travellers and the rise of online booking sites.

At the forum, NATAS and STB announced several new initiatives including an online resource centre for travel agents as well as programmes to help members address manpower issues and envision new business models.



Keith Tan, Chief Executive, Singapore Tourism Board, also announced the forming of a Tour Operator Alliance, where travel agencies come together to boost scale and capabilities by combining resources by sharing tour guides, combining tours and other such





collaborations. Speaking at the event, he said: "We believe this is a strategic move to help strengthen our tour operators, and we will work with them to finalise and implement their plans over the next few months."

NATAS President. Steven Ler. for members summarised the programmes brought forward for the industry in the year, in line with the Travel Agent Roadmap, and promised more to come: "NATAS is all geared to bring forth new initiatives into the next lap of this exciting journey."





Rich in the spirit of sabrosura, Colombia offers a melting pot of ethnic influences and incredibly diverse experiences. Indians, Mestizos, Africans, Palenqueros, gypsies, peasants, native islanders and European and Arab immigrants are all part of the Colombian cultural mosaic. Ask what sabrosura is and the people of Colombia will tell you it's synonymous with joy, passion and laughter. There's no short supply of it either; it is everywhere in Colombia in each of the five diverse regions of the country.

AMAZONIAN REGION

Discover the natural wonders of Colombia along the Amazon River, the longest river in the world. It covers 6,800 kilometres and is home to 212 mammal species and 195 kinds of reptile. You'll also have the unique experience of meeting indigenous communities and exploring their cultural traditions and crafts such as ceramic pots and sculptures in balsa wood or bloodwood.

New tastes, new flavours

A great way to experience a country is through its cuisines, and Colombia is not lacking in that either. It varies from region to region, influenced by Indigenous, Spanish and African dishes with slight Arab influence in some regions. In the Amazon region, savour exotic foods like the mojojoy, a worm that lives in a palm and is eaten fried; the arapaima, a fish almost four metres long; and casabe, bread made from cassava, a woody shrub native to South America.

Festival de la Confraternidad

Although it is always a good time to visit the Amazon Region of Colombia, there are certain times to visit if you want to

experience a traditional festival and learn more about local traditions and culture. Festival de la Confraternidad, also known as The Brotherhood Festival, brings together the mythology, cuisine and ethnic cultures of Colombia, Brazil and Peru.

ANDEAN REGION

The Andes region of Colombia is the most populated area of the country with a busy metropolitan life in its two major cities of Bogotá and Medellín. Besides its cityscapes, the Andes region offers a multitude of diverse destinations such as snow-capped mountains and volcanoes, immense plateaus, fertile highlands, lush forests and deep canyons and valleys.

BOGOTÁ - THE HEART OF THE ANDES

Bogotá is the capital and the largest city in Colombia - a shopper's paradise. Diverse and multicultural, it is filled with people from all around the country living harmoniously to the rhythmic Colombian beat.

Magnificent artifacts and views

In addition to shopping, Bogota offers a host of cultural activities. A trip to the Gold Museum, home to an exceptional collection of pre-Hispanic artifacts, is definitely worth your while. And of course, the Salt Cathedral of Zipaquirá is not to be missed. Built within the tunnels of a salt mine 200 metres underground, this popular tourist destination is also a functioning Catholic church that receives more than 3,000 visitors on Sundays. Other can't-miss destinations include the Church of La Candelaria, Maloka Interactive Centre and the José Celestino Mutis Botanical Garden. But to truly appreciate the immensity of Bogotá, you've got to climb Cerro Monserrate, also known as Monserrate Mountain, for a truly spectacular view of the red and grey bricks of the city within its lush green valley.



Organised tours

With its high altitude, cool climate and rich soil providing the perfect environment for high-quality beans, Colombia boasts some of the best coffee in the world. So the Colombian Coffee Tour at a family-run farm is a "must" to learn the process of creating the world's finest coffee.

Another not-to-be-missed tour is the Bogata Graffiti Tour, Colombian art, which has been created over the centuries, offers an intriguing understanding into the country's cultural and political past through its rich range of styles and mediums. The Colombian Mural Movement, started in the 1940s by Colombian artists such as Pedro Bel Gómez and Santiago Martínez Delgado, has left it's traces on many a wall in Bogota, so walking anywhere creates a graffiti tour in itself! But the official tour is well worth your time as you'll visit the murals of some of Bogotá's most popular artists and dive into the city's urban environment and culture.



Try the traditional dishes

Ajiaco is a traditional dish of the region. It's a type of soup made of chicken, potatoes, and flavoured with a locally grown herb called "guasca". For the more adventurous, in Nariño, a traditional dish is broiled guinea pig (cuy asado), influenced by Inca cuisine.

MEDELLÍN

For those who prefer high-end shopping, Medellin is the place to be. But do head out to the mountains surrounding Medellín, as well as the Botanic Gardens, to see the vibrant flowers in abundance. There's also plenty to do with many parks, libraries, museums and public spaces where events are held. If you are



there at the right time, the Feria de Las Flores flower festival is a must-see. On the cuisine front, try local dish Bandeja Paisa, which takes its roots from peasant food designed to fill the stomach and give energy for those working the fields.

ORINOQUIA REGION

LA MACARENA

Simply saying that the waters of the Sierra de La Macarena National Park offer a breathtaking view does not do them justice. The emotions you'll feel from watching the series of rapids and hollows at Caño Cristales will stay with you for a lifetime. The incomparable beauty of Caño Cristales, which features sites such as Los Ochos, La Escalera, and Salto del Águila, are the main attractions for visitors coming to La Macarena.



CARIBBEAN REGION

SAN ANDRÉS - CARIBBEAN MAGIC

San Andrés is an island that sits 700 km from the Colombian coast and combines the influence of Englishmen, Africans, Spaniards, pirates and corsairs to make for an extremely cultural and unique experience. Known for its many superb diving spots, the most beautiful beaches in the Caribbean and the friendliness of its people, San Andrés is an amazing tropical experience. Think cool sea breezes, towering palm trees and charming beaches with magnificent views. San Andres is also a perfect place to participate in water sports or just to sun worship, and for those wanting to take bolder adventure in its pirates' caves.

CARNIVAL TIME

Visit Colombia's Caribbean region in the first quarter of the year, and you'll be heading for the Carnaval de Barranquilla, heralded as the best party in the country.

While the Barranquila Carnival is only four days long – held on the Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the pre-carnival start in mid-January with street celebrations,

processions and parades for you to Merengue and Salsa to.



Festivals aren't complete without the local cuisine. In the Caribbean coast, spicy fish and lobster dishes are the mainstay while coconut rice is common along the coastal cities. The cuisine of the Caribbean is also influenced by Arab traditions, with dishes such as Kibbeh. Try Rondon as well, a seafood dish made of coconut milk, fish, conch, cassava root (yuca), sweet potato, white yams and pumpkin seasoned with chili peppers and herbs. Or savour its cousin, a crab soup, considered a delicacy and made with the same ingredients as Rondon, but without the fish.

PACIFIC REGION

The coastal Pacific region of Colombia offers a more sedate side of the country, and teems with rivers and National Parks: Utría, Los Katíos, and Tatamá are all located here.

Chocó is known for its dark sand beaches and natural landscape, untouched by man. The only region of Colombia that is lapped by the waves of both the Pacific and Caribbean ocean, it's the ideal location to distance yourself from the stress of civilisation and get closer to nature. Swim alongside the rainbow of vibrant fish in Capurganá, surf the waves of Nuquí or marvel at the extraordinary sight of whales breaching in the ocean. There's no shortage of activities at Choco as you add gliding through the mangroves in a canoe, visiting thundering waterfalls by the sea and relaxing in hot natural springs to your list.

Really, we've only touched on what amazing Colombia has to offer, so why not make this beautiful South American country your next holiday destination.



Open doors to in Travel



Programmes:

IATA Airline Cabin Crew Certificate (Jan Intake)

The programme prepare individuals to be "flight ready" to pursue a career in flight attending. Upon completion, the students would have learnt important skills such as in-flight safety, how to handle crisis onboard, perform safety evacuation procedures. They will also understand factors contributing to quality service and be able to confidently deliver a high level of service to their passengers.



IATA Managing the Travel Business Diploma (Apr Intake)

This course will improve skills to supervise and manage a team, initiate change and make business decisions based on sound negotiating strategies and to gain a competitive business strategy by developing new products and marketing it effectively. Students also gain insight on agency accounting procedures to build business plans that ensure good financial health.



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WSQ NATAS Professional Tour Leading (Jan/Feb/Mar Intake)

WSQ Higher Certificate in Tour & Travel Services (Mar Intake)

WSQ Diploma in Tour & Travel Services (Sep Intake)

"I noticed the professionalism of teachers; they are focused in many aspects such as class training and tour conducts. Their sharing in workplace experiences have also given me tremendous insight about tourism. I'm glad I'm able to complete the course in TMIS."

Wong Shi Wei, Tourist Guide Programme (Mandarin)

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