



**Read TDME with
Adobe Reader 10.1.3**
Having trouble downloading TDME?



Read our daily e-news magazine with the latest version of Adobe Reader – [CLICK HERE](#) to download Adobe Reader 10.1.3 for free.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Qatar is not standing still. Luxury hotel construction continues, transport infrastructure grows at a pace, and bold new developments continue to be planned."

Rashed AlGurese, chief marketing and promotions officer at QTA

First Shangri-La to rise in Saudi Arabia

The hotel will open in 2018



Saudi Arabia's first Shangri-La hotel will open in 2018, following the signing of an agreement for a new development in Jeddah. Scheduled to open in early 2018, the 242-room hotel will be set in a 65-storey tower on Jeddah's Corniche Road, overlooking the Red Sea. Shangri-La will also manage the property's 122 residences, while other facilities will include three restaurants, spa and fitness areas, a swimming pool, children's club and function space, including a three-storey ballroom.

Shangri-La's Middle Eastern portfolio currently consists of a resort in Oman, but it also is planning to launch a new hotel in Qatar in the near future.

[Click here for full story](#) →

Theme parks to boost Dubai's timeshare market by 50%



The timeshare industry in Dubai will grow by 50% in 2017 driven by millions of tourists to the three theme parks that will open at the end of 2016, according to Arabian Falcon Holidays (AFH).

"Dubai Parks and Resorts, the operator of Middle East's largest multi-themed leisure and entertainment destination, expects over 6.7 million ticketed visits in 2017," said Mohammad Sharafuddin, chairman and chief executive officer of Arabian Falcon Holidays.

"That's a huge number in the first year and will aid in the growth of the timeshare market here.

"The timeshare market will grow exponentially in 2017, surpassing the growth rates of 15 to 20% per year, and heralding a new era with an annual growth rate of 50%, primarily driven by tourists visiting these theme parks." According to US media reports, Florida drew a record 97.3 million visitors in 2014 buoyed by an improving economy and theme-park attractions.

A study by Ernst & Young for the American Resort Development Association, a trade association representing the vacation ownership and resort development industries, revealed the US timeshare industry contributed an estimated US \$68.7 billion (AED 252 billion) in consumer and business spending to the national economy in 2013.

BY THE WAY

⇒ Brave crane fends off tigers at Chinese zoo



A bird at a zoo in China has proven once and for all that crane-style kung fu beats tiger-style.

The red-crowned crane fell into a tiger enclosure at the Fuyang Wildlife Park in Hangzhou. But instead of becoming an easy meal for the big cats, the brave bird fought back. Spreading its wings and lowering its long neck in the traditional crane fighting style, the bird was able to fend off the tigers until zookeepers came to rescue it.

The bird, which was blown into the tiger pen by a strong wind, was later treated for minor injuries. Mr Miyagi would've been proud.

⇒ Disney World cracks down on selfie sticks



Walt Disney World in Orlando has become the latest attraction to crack down on selfie sticks.

The Florida attraction is not banning the devices altogether, but it is worried about visitors who try to take their selfie sticks on rides.

The *Orlando Sentinel*

reported a spokesperson for Disney World as saying last week that guests must securely store their selfie sticks while on the rides.

And on Friday, workers posted a "No Selfie Sticks" sign at the Magic Kingdom's Thunder Mountain Railroad ride. This move was reportedly prompted by a number of incidents in which the ride had to be stopped because of selfie stick use.

The devices have previously been banned from several major sporting events and museums.

⇒ Cow poo bus sets speed record



A bus powered by flatulent cows has set a new land speed record.

The 'Bus Hound' was recorded doing a speed of 123.6kph at a race track in the UK. Powered by biomethane compressed natural gas, which is made from broken down animal waste, the bus usually

carries passengers around the streets of Reading, trundling around at no more than 90kph. But for one day only, the bus was able to unleash its full potential.

Reflecting its bovine power, the bus is painted black and white like a Friesian cow. But while it is the fastest cow poo-powered bus, the Bus Hound will need to reach a speed of 241kph to break the world bus speed record.

Mideast carriers show robust performance - IATA

Major aviation economies in the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, continue to show robust economic performance, according to a report by IATA.

This has impacted favourably on longer-haul markets for Europe with Middle East (up 7.5%) and Middle East – Far East (up 6.6%).

Market measures of business activity (both manufacturing and services) show sustained economic growth ahead, with the latest whole economy PMI for the United Arab Emirates persisting well in the growth territory of the indicators.

Passenger travel on international markets rose 4.6% in March compared to a year ago, in line with the 4.6% result in February.



For premium international travel (up 4.4%), there was an acceleration on February (up 2.3%), but the growth trend remains broadly flat when considering the past 6 months.

Premium international air travel volumes are largely unchanged since August 2014 reflecting a lagged response to the gradual slowdown in improvements in business confidence throughout

Jet Airways offers seat selection via travel agents

Jet Airways has extended its seat selection service to the travel trade. This new offering will enable passengers to pre-select their seat when making a flight reservation via an agent. The 'Seat Select' service will initially be available on certain international and domestic routes served by the airline's Boeing 737 aircraft, before being rolled out across Jet's entire network. Raj Sivakumar, Jet's chief commercial officer, said

"We appreciate the move by [the] Director General of Civil Aviation of unbundling of services charges," said Sivakumar. "We are confident that this option of pre-selecting of seats will prove extremely popular with our guests." Travel agents can now pre-select seats up to 48 hours prior to the departure of their client's flight.

The pre-selected economy class seats are priced INR500 (US\$7.80)