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Dubai

## Dubai tightens tourist visa rules Hotel bookings and return ticket mandatory

Considering a vacation to Dubai? If yes, you should consider the recently implemented regulations regarding tourist visas. As per the latest developments, Dubai's Emigration Department has tightened the conditions for tourist visas to streamline the application process and improve security. Travellers will now be required to provide proof of their confirmed hotel bookings, along with return flight tickets to obtain a tourist visa. This policy has been implemented with immediate effect, in an effort to expedite the visa application process and regulate the fall of visitors. All about the updated visa requirements: When applying for a tourist visa, travellers are now required to submit: Using a QR code to reserve a hotel: Reservations must be confirmed. Additional documentation, including the host's residency paperwork, could be required for those staying with friends or family. Ticket for the return flight: Open-ended or one-way tickets may result in visa rejection; a confirmed ticket is required



## Japan explores sustainable transit for Mount Fuji: Here's what tourists need to know

Japan has abandoned plans for a light railway on Mount Fuji, opting for a hydrogen-powered transport system resembling a bus-tram hybrid from China's CRRC. Japan has scrapped plans to build a light railway part-way up Mount Fuji and is instead considering a Chinese-made cross between a bus and a tram, a local governor said Monday. Authorities are now considering a hydrogen-powered transport system developed by China's state-owned railway company CRRC, as well as alternatives from Japanese firms. The Chinese Autonomous Rail Rapid Transit (ART) resembles a tram with its different sections but has more in common with a bus, running on rubber tyres and on a road instead of rails. The "Fuji Tram" option would reduce construction cost significantly while still allowing the authorities to control overcrowding during summer and reduce CO2 emissions, Yamanashi governor Kotaro Nagasaki told a press conference, as he unveiled the project. Mount Fuji set to get eco-friendly 'Fuji tram' for tourists "While paying due respect to the leading company, my wish is for Japanese firms to take up this project and it would be even better if their production base would be located in Yamanashi," he said. T



## Are you a beach person? This winter, travel to these gorgeous coastal destinations in India

Beat the winter chill by heading over to these coastal places that are perfect for all your 'beach person' needs. Winter is not everyone's cup of tea. Snuggling in warm blankets and sipping on hot beverages may not appeal to the 'beach people'. These are the people who ardently crave sunny days, sand under their feet, and waves lapping at their toes. This winter, escape to coastal destinations and enjoy a quaint cold season basking under the sun. Puducherry's lovely French colonial charm will sweep you off your feet! The winter months bring pleasant and soothing weather, making it the perfect time to explore this amazing, coastal gem. Stroll or cycle through its quaint streets and marvel at the beautiful colonial architecture adorned with vibrant colours and bougainvillea-lined walls. Head over to Paradise Beach and relax. If you're looking for a breather that blends the beautiful aesthetics of old-world charm with the serenity of pristine beaches, Puducherry is your go-to place. Don't forget to try their dishes that have both a French and South Indian touch. No Indian tropical vacation list is complete without the mention of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.



## Pride of Karnataka: Golden Chariot luxury tourist train set to reignite travel with unique routes in 2024-25

Golden Chariot luxury tourist train, which is a depiction of the rich cultural heritage of the State of Karnataka is all set to hit the track again this year from December 14 in a new Avatar, said Indian Railway, the scheduled itinerary for season 2024-25, the first train Pride of Karnataka, will start its journey on December 14 from Bengaluru covering Bandipur, Mysore, Halebidu, Chikmangalur, Hampi, Goa and back to Bengaluru. The journey will be completed in 5 nights and 6 days. The second train, Jewels of South, will start on December 21 from Bengaluru covering Mysore, Kanchipuram, Mahabalipuram, Thanjavur, Chettinad, Cochin, Chertala and back to Bengaluru. The journey will be completed in 5 nights and 6 days. On 4th January, 1st February and 1st March Pride of Karnataka Train will again operate, while on 15th February, Jewels of South Train will start its second journey. Golden Chariot offers world-class on-board accommodation with 13 double-bedded cabins, 26 twin-bedded cabins, and 1 cabin for differently abled guests. The train can accommodate up to 80 guests in its 40 cabins. The train boasts of several on-board features and amenities

## HEADLINES

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### New Zealand updates visa policies for students Post-study work opportunities expanded

New Zealand has recently announced major changes to its Post-Study Work Visa (PSWV) eligibility criteria. The changes are expected to make the country even more appealing to overseas students, particularly those pursuing postgraduate qualifications. Under the new rules, students who complete a 30-week postgraduate diploma (PGDip) and then immediately enroll in a Master's degree program will now be eligible for a PSWV. Previously, students who transitioned to a Master's without completing the full 30-week period were excluded from the visa program. As per reports, Immigration New Zealand (INZ) clarified that this change addresses a key gap in the earlier policy, offering more flexibility to students pursuing combined postgraduate qualifications. If reports are to go by, in 2023, more than 69,000 international students enrolling in various courses in New Zealand. This marks a 67% increase from the previous year. For international students, the appeal of studying in New Zealand extends beyond its world-class education system. More often than not, the chance to gain work experience after graduation is one of the main factors in choosing a study destination, especially when it is a foreign destination. Now, with the revised Post Study Work Visa rules, international students have a clear pathway to explore work opportunities.

World  
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