

Top Stories

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**India most popular long-haul destination in Asia for UK travelers this summer: Travelport analysis**

By TBM Staff | Mumbai

India has emerged as the top travel destination in Asia this summer for travelers from the United Kingdom (UK), according to analysis conducted by Travelport, a leading travel commerce platform. Globally, the United States was the top destination while India was the 2nd most popular long-haul destination for UK travellers.

As of June 14, 2019, just under 87,000 advanced bookings had been made in the UK through all global distribution systems (GDS) for return flights to India scheduled between Friday 28 June 2019 and Sunday 8 September 2019. Flight bookings in other Asian countries like Thailand and China stood at 49,137 and 29,870 respectively.

With flight bookings up by 3,402 (13%) year-on-year, China was the fastest growing top ten long-haul destination for UK travelers compared to the same period the previous year.

Martin Herbert, Regional Managing Director - India and Sri Lanka at Travelport, said: "It's exciting news for Indian tourism to see the country attracting more bookings than both China and Thailand combined. This trend is fuelling increased booking volume and we expect to see it continue in the years to come."

Sandeep Dwivedi, COO, InterGlobe Technology Quotient (ITQ), commented: "India has been one of the topmost choices of international travellers owing to its rich cultural heritage, varied cultures, art & crafts and spiritual tourism. We are happy to see India as the second most booked summer destination for UK travellers. With so much to see and offer, I am sure that this number will certainly rise in the coming years."

Global distribution systems (GDS) are vast hi-tech reservation networks that allow travel agents, travel management companies and large corporations, among others, to search and book airline seats, hotel rooms, rental cars, and other travel related items. Globally in 2018, Travelport alone processed 1 trillion transactions through its platform. The company also delivers mobile services and apps to the travel industry as well as advanced analytics products, such as Travelport Business Intelligence.

Top long-haul summer destinations for UK travelers booked through global distribution systems

Rank	Destination	Flight Bookings
1	United States	320,181
2	India	86,978
3	United Arab Emirates	78,761
4	Canada	77,132
5	Pakistan	63,506
6	Thailand	49,137
7	China	29,870
8	South Africa	29,642
9	Australia	27,510
10	Bangladesh	24,986

This data is derived from Travelport's interpretation of relevant MIDT data. It reflects bookings made in the UK as of 14 June 2019 through GDS only, for return flights between 28 June and 8 September 2019. Additional bookings will have been made directly with airlines, which may or may not also have a GDS presence.