

Saudi Hajj, Umrah Ministry grants OTA status to India-based Akbar Travels

● The special status makes Akbar Travels one among the 28 exclusive travel platforms recognized by the government of Saudi Arabia

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Saudi Arabia's Hajj and Umrah Ministry has granted Online Travel Agency (OTA) status to leading Indian travel agency Akbar Travels.

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Akbar Travels offers special-



From left, Mr Qureshi, Mr Pillai, Ms Benazir, Ms Ashiya and Mr Qasim at the Press Conference.

ly-dedicated Umrah services through its portal UmrahTrip.com. Speaking to members of the media at The Domain Hotel

in The Diplomatic Area, Manama, Akbar Holidays Chief Executive Officer Benazir Nazar, said: "This recognition could be

attributed to the best Umrah and Hajj services offered by Akbar Travels. We are grateful to the Saudi Hajj and Umrah Ministry."

Pilgrims from across the world can access the portal to receive Umrah related services from Akbar Travels. The servic-

es encompass air tickets, hotel bookings and ground services. Upon completion, all pilgrims will receive a Booking Reference Number (BRN) with which they can apply for Umrah visa on the official Umrah website.

Ms Benazir said Akbar Travels aims to offer the best Umrah services with this initiative to the pilgrims. "This would speed up the Umrah booking process, proving highly beneficial to the pilgrims. The booking can also be done using WhatsApp," she pointed out. Apart from Ms Benazir, Akbar Travels Middle East Managing Director Ashiya Nazar, Saudi Arabia General Manager Azher Qureshi, Akbar Online GCC Operation Head Ahmed Qasim and Bahrain Country Head Raju Pillai attended the press conference.

Pre-VAT savings at Malabar Gold & Diamonds

● Free 1 gm gold coin on purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery worth BHD 400

● Free half gram gold coin on purchase of diamond and precious gem jewellery worth BHD 250.

● Zero Deduction on 22K (GCC) Gold exchange

● Offer valid until 31st December

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Malabar Gold & Diamonds, one among the largest jewellery retailers globally with a strong retail network of over 260 outlets spread across 10 countries, has announced exclusive Pre-VAT Hike Savings for customers before the implementation of increased VAT in the country and VAT is expected to increase from 5% to 10% from 01st January 2022.

Through the PRE-VAT Hike Savings, Customers can get a free 1 gm gold coin on Diamond and Precious Gem Jewellery purchase worth BHD 400 and free 1/2 gm gold coin on Diamond and Precious Gem Jewellery purchase worth BHD 250. Additionally, the brand is also offering Zero Deduction on 22K (GCC) Gold Jewellery exchange, customers can exchange their jewellery for this stylish array of new

designs, without any loss in gold rate. Customers can visit any store of Malabar Gold & Diamonds on or before 31st December to avail this offer before the implementation of increased VAT, thus ensuring maximum savings.

"Considering the current favorability of gold, it is the best time now for consumers to invest in the metal and ensure savings. We are doing everything possible to ensure our customers benefit during this Pre-VAT hike period, with several collections displayed in our stores across gold, diamond and precious gem jewellery," said Rafeeq K, Branch Head - Bahrain, Malabar Gold & Diamonds.

This offer is available across all stores of Malabar Gold & Diamonds in Bahrain until 31st December.

KFH – Bahrain concludes National Day event “Breakfast on Us”

● Exclusive design for cards issued in celebration of National Day

● Customers can obtain the card by applying through the KFH JAZEEL Banking app or by visiting any branch

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Abdulrahman AlKhan, Hamed Mashal

Kuwait Finance House – Bahrain (KFH – Bahrain) announced the conclusion of its National Day event "Breakfast on Us", which treated all KFH's cardholders to a complimentary breakfast at one of three local restaurants: Basta 23, Haji and Lumee.

The 3-day event was held from the 16th to 18th of December 2021.

In celebration of this day, KFH – Bahrain also announced its introduction of an exclusive design for its ATM cards, innovatively designed with the emblem of Bahrain, for all current and new customers. Customers can obtain the card by applying through the KFH JAZEEL Banking app or by visit-

ing any branch of the Bank in the Kingdom.

Commenting on the occasion, Hamed Mashal, Head of Retail Banking at KFH-Bahrain, said: "It is with great pleasure that we announce the conclusion of our special event in conjunction with the Kingdom's National Day and His Majesty's Accession Day. We would also like to express our gratitude and thanks to all the restaurants that participated in the event and wish them continued success."

"We look forward to hosting more events for our customers to express our appreciation of their loyalty

towards the Bank. We encourage everyone to join the KFH – Bahrain family and benefit from the exceptional offers presented by the Bank."

Abdulrahman AlKhan, Head of Cards & E-Channels at Kuwait Finance House-Bahrain commented: "We are delighted to be introducing this exceptional, exclusive card design on such a special occasion such as the National Day."

"Furthermore, we remain committed to fulfilling the needs of our customers, while tailoring our offerings in order to share with them those special moments and continue fostering meaningful connections."

Nespresso and Johanna Ortiz capture the essence of forest this festive season

● The coffee brand showcases its devotion to nature with the launch of the Gifts of the Forest limited-edition collection

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This Holiday season, Nespresso is collaborating with Colombian fashion designer Johanna Ortiz, to enchant coffee lovers with the launch of its annual Festive collection, inspired this year by the forest.

Inspired by the beauty and depth of Nature's forests, Nespresso's 'Gifts of the Forest' collection encapsulates the brand's devotion to the precious environment coffee is grown in. The collection features a range of limited-edition coffees for both the Original and Vertuo systems, along with Festive infused ac-



cessories, making for delightful and inspiring gifts for family and friends. Coffee lovers can also gift this Festive season knowing Nespresso is giving back to the forest, as the brand goes beyond its agroforestry commitments, by helping to protect 10 million trees in the Amazon.

Johanna Ortiz says: "For me,

design and nature go hand in hand which is why this collaboration resonated personally. Colombian coffee also has a truly special place in my heart and as an active supporter in the fight against climate change, knowing that Nespresso is going beyond its agroforestry commitments by supporting the protection of

10 million trees in the Amazon, it was another huge reason why this collaboration made perfect sense. When designing the collection, I took the idea of capturing the beauty of the forest throughout every piece, by incorporating rich forest canopies and dark earthy tones within my designs. It's been an amazing

process and partnership which I have deeply enjoyed."

Explore and wander through Nespresso's Forest Variations coffees

From forest fruits to luscious canopies of trees, this year's Festive coffee range includes two flavoured coffees and one black coffee.

For Original

Uncover the hidden flavours of Forest Black

A canopy of trees shelters Forest Black's coffees to protect the flavour hidden in each bean. Discover this blend of shade-grown coffees from Colombia and beyond.

A spicy espresso, its exotic woody notes will transport taste buds to the depths of the forest.

Taste the berries of the Forest with Forest Fruit Flavour

Like gems that light up the forest floor, forest fruits are the gifts trees give us. Juicy berry aromas run through this season's flavoured espresso as the South American Arabicas' lingering cerebral character takes on a festive sweet pastry note.

Delight in the treasures of the trees with Forest Almond Flavour

Forest Almond Flavour is the forager's delight of the season. With the sweet, nutty flavour tucked into this espresso's South American Arabicas, get ready to uncover almond notes marked by vanilla and a light fruitiness in this coffees' smooth cereal character.

The limited-edition Gifts of the Forest collection will be available on www.buynespresso.com and in selected Nespresso boutiques at Bahrain city centre, Seefmall, The Avenues & Seefmall Muharra.