

Ahmed N Al Nemah: Acting Undersecretary, Civil Aviation Affairs



The Civil Aviation Affairs (CAA) is the Kingdom of Bahrain's aviation regulator which oversees all aspects of aviation. In his capacity as Acting Undersecretary, Ahmed N. Al Nemah is responsible for overseeing the strategic development of Aviation Services in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We look into some of the various aspects in his position as Acting Undersecretary, Bahrain Ministry of Transportation, Civil Aviation Affairs.

Ahmed N. Al Nemah is the Acting Undersecretary of Civil Aviation Affairs. A veteran in the aviation industry, Mr Al Nemah has been with CAA for almost 35 years.

He started his career as an Air Traffic Controller and in 2001 was appointed as the Director of Air Transport. In 2005, he was promoted to the Assistant Undersecretary for Aviation Services and in 2013 was appointed to his current position.

Mr Al Nemah is on the board of the Middle East Regional Monitoring Agency which was established as the regional monitoring centre in Bahrain in 2005. CAA manages the operations centre that has been collecting and analysing radar and flight data including height monitoring to ensure that aircraft flying in the region maintain the assigned altitudes and that all aircraft have the required certification to operate in the reduced vertical separation minima airspace. The centre, operated by Bahraini nationals, has been equipped with latest technologies and systems.

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INTERVIEW



Visitors at the Bahrain International Airshow 2014

He is also instrumental at developing and implementing open skies policy for the Kingdom including securing the interest of the national carrier Gulf Air in the international market through bilateral negotiations. In addition, his responsibilities include successful negotiations of various bilateral agreements and achieving open skies with nations worldwide. He reports to the Minister of Transportation.

Under the patronage of His Majesty the King of the Kingdom of Bahrain, CAA hosts the Bahrain International Airshow every two years in partnership with Farnborough International UK. The event offers a great boost to the economy, both direct and indirect. This year CAA presented a bigger and better event which brought together civil and military delegations from all over the world.

Organisers confirmed that business agreements generated at the show were almost three times up on the total in 2012. With over 100 international and

domestic companies present at the show, it was noted that the increase was a real reflection of the event's importance to the Middle Eastern aviation market. Meetings and networking were also a key feature of the show with over 130 delegations from 32 countries participating in a programmed series of meetings and events.

Aircraft participation also increased with 89 aircraft on the static display and a total of 106 aircraft participating in the show. Visitor numbers reached record highs with over 30,000 visitors attending the trade show and over 20,000 attending the public event.

CAA recently hosted the ICAO and the WCO's second Joint Conference on Enhancing Air Cargo Security and Facilitation in Manama, Bahrain. Mr Al Nemah was on the panel discussing the solutions to address current and future challenges for Air Cargo Security and Felicitation. Looking forward into the future, Mr Al Nemah strongly feels

INTERVIEW

Bahrain's role in regional aviation is tied to the development of Bahrain International Airport which is foreseen to undergo two stages. First, the development of the airport from its current peak capacity of servicing 8 million passengers annually to 13.5 million which is expected to be completed by 2018. The development is expected to be able to continuously hold the inflow of passengers until 2033. After this, the second phase is expected to kick in where a new airport will be constructed north of the current airport in Muharraq.

There are currently 44 international flight destinations from Bahrain with 1,040 arrival and departure flights daily. Around 40 airlines are operating in the airport with Gulf Air representing almost 50 per cent of the total flights.



Colourful displays at the Bahrain International Airshow 2014





CATHAY PACIFIC

Announces Additional Aircraft Order

Cathay Pacific Airways announced that it has ordered four aircrafts from The Boeing Company as part of its ongoing fleet modernisation programme. Following the announcement regarding the purchase of 21 Boeing 777-9X aircraft, the airline confirmed that it will also purchase another three Boeing 777-300ER airplanes along with one more Boeing 747-8 freighter.

The price of these additional purchases is HK\$7.4 billion at listed prices. The airline expects to take delivery of the three Boeing 777-300ERs in 2015 and the Boeing 747-8 freighter in 2016.

Both aircraft types are already extensively employed by Cathay Pacific on its long-haul passenger and freighter routes. The airline currently operates 38 Boeing 777-300ERs and with this latest purchase will have 15 more of the type on order for delivery between 2014 and 2015.

Cathay Pacific Chief Executive John Slosar said: “We are very pleased to confirm this latest aircraft purchase from The Boeing Company. Both the 777-300ER and the 747-8F offer a highly efficient solution on Cathay Pacific’s ultra-long-haul routes, combining superb operating economics with a significant reduction in emissions.



These two aircraft types will form the backbone of our long-haul passenger and freighter fleets through to the end of the decade.”

The latest freighter purchase means that Cathay Pacific will operate 14 Boeing 747-8Fs by 2016. Both aircraft types deliver improved payload range capability at competitive operating costs, along with a reduced impact on the environment.

As of December, the Cathay Pacific fleet is consists of 140 wide-body aircraft. Following the latest purchase announcement, the airline is set to take delivery of a total of 93 aircraft from 2014 to 2024, at an aggregate list price of approximately HK\$222 billion.

Premium Economy Class Offers



Fly Premium Economy Class from Bahrain to Hong Kong and get a free upgrade to business class on selected destinations. Destinations offered are Cambodia, China (CX/KA), Indonesia, Japan (Haneda not included), Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Limited offer and is available on first come first serve basis.

Departure Period	From now to 31 December 2014
Min / Max Stay	2 days / 2 months
Trip Type / Class	Round Trip / Economy



Sky Club Membership Options

Even with Delta's more than \$50 million investment over the last several years to renovate and expanding seating in existing Sky Clubs and build new Delta Sky Clubs around the system, customers have stated that the Clubs are overcrowded. To alleviate this problem and to maintain an exclusive atmosphere to the Sky Clubs, Delta has made the following changes to the Delta Sky Club membership options that will be effective immediately.

- Membership cost is \$695 annually. This Executive Membership will continue to allow two complimentary guests.
- For those customers who rarely need guest access, an Individual Membership at the current rate of \$450 will be introduced this spring. This membership will allow guest access for \$29 per guest Club visit.
- Beginning 1 May 2014, all customers who receive complimentary Delta Sky Club access as a benefit of their eligible credit or charge card will no longer receive complimentary guest access. A \$29 fee per guest Club visit will apply

In addition, members who qualified for Diamond Medallion status in 2013 for the 2014 Medallion year will continue to receive an Executive Membership through the end of the 2014 Medallion year on 28 February 2015. Members who qualify for Diamond Medallion status in 2014 for the 2015 Medallion year will receive an Executive Membership valid from time of Diamond Medallion qualification through 28 February 2015 and an Individual Membership valid from 1 March 2015 until 31 January 2016.

Diamond Medallion members who receive an Individual Membership will be able to upgrade to the Executive Membership with Choice Benefits, miles or cash. Diamond Medallion members who wish to purchase an Executive Membership will receive a \$100 discount off the \$695 Executive Membership price until 1 March 2015.

New service from Los Angeles

Delta announced it is continuing its expansion in Los Angeles by offering new daily nonstop service this summer in order to connect customers to all major U.S. tech centers and strengthen its Latin American network.

Beginning in June, Delta will be offering two daily flights between Austin, Texas and one daily flight between Boise, Idaho. Additionally, the airline will have daily nonstop service between San Salvador, El Salvador and Monterrey, Mexico, both pending government approval, in July.

"With direct access to all of the key U.S. tech markets as well as additional Latin service through our gateway at Los Angeles International Airport, we can continue to provide business and leisure customers with the best service options to meet their travel needs," said Bob Cortelyou, s.v.p.–Network Planning, in a release. "Los Angeles is a key market for Delta as we continue growing our presence on the U.S. West Coast."

With new service to Austin, Delta will now connect Los Angeles' growing Silicon Beach tech and startup community with all the major tech centres in the U.S., including: Boston, beginning on 5 June; New York; Oakland, California; Portland, Oregon; Salt Lake City; San Francisco; San Jose, California; Seattle; and now Austin. Additionally, customers in Austin, Boise, Monterrey and San Salvador will soon have one-stop service to Tokyo-Narita, Tokyo-Haneda, and Sydney through the airline's international gateway in Los Angeles.

Travellers through Los Angeles will enjoy the benefits of the \$229 million expansion and enhancement of Terminal 5 at LAX. The current project will double the size of the ticketing lobby and screening checkpoints, open an exclusive, separate Sky Priority lobby and checkpoint as well as include renovations to the Delta Sky Club and new baggage carousels. The project has already begun and is scheduled to take place in several phases with full completion in 2015.



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Dates 2014 : May 11,18,25 * Jun 1,8,15,22,29 * Jul 6,13,20,27 * Aug 3,10,17,24,31* Sep 7,14,21,28 * Oct 5,12,19



NORWEGIAN BREAKAWAY

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Dates 2014 : * May 11,18,25 * Jun 1,8,15,22,29 * Jul 6,13,20,27 * Aug 3,10,17,24,31* Sep 7,14,21,28 * Oct 5,12,19



COSTA FAVOLOSA

07 Nights 08 Days Western Mediterranean from Savona

Dates 2014 : * April 14,21,28 * May 05,12,19,26 * Sep 15,22,29 * Oct 06,13,20,27 * Nov 03,10,17

Starting From **\$ 879*** USD pp



PORTS OF CALL : EMBARK Savona (Italy); Barcelona (Spain); Palma De Mallorca (Spain); La Valletta (Malta); Palermo (Italy); Civitavecchia (Italy); DISEMBARK Savona (Italy)

Embarkation available from Barcelona (Tuesday) & Civitavecchia (Sunday) on the above given period

COSTA FASCINOSA

07 Nights 08 Days Western Mediterranean from Savona

Dates 2014 : * April 07,14,21,28 * May 05,12,19,26 * Jun 02,09,16,23,30 * Jul 07,14,21,28 * Aug 04,11,18,25 * Sep 01,08,15,22,29 * Oct 06,13,20,27 * Nov 03,10,17,24

Starting From **\$ 449*** USD pp



PORTS OF CALL : EMBARK Venice (Italy); Bari (Italy); Corfu (Greece); Mykonos (Greece); Santorini (Greece); Dubrovnik (Croatia); DISEMBARK Venice (Italy)



Prices shown are in US Dollar, per person, based on double occupancy for minimum category available by category type and may change up until the point of purchase.



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IndiGo Adjudged the “Best Low Cost Airline” 4 Years in a Row

IndiGo, India's largest and fastest growing airline, has once again bagged the Best Low Cost Airline in Central Asia and India at the SKYTRAX World Airline Awards at the Paris Air Show 2013. This is the fourth year in a row that IndiGo has been recognised at these Awards. Mr Aditya Ghosh, IndiGo President, received the award from Mr Edward Plaisted, Chairman of Skytrax.

Ecstatic on winning the award, Aditya Ghosh, IndiGo President said, “We are humbled by this recognition as it is a testimony of the trust and faith of the flyers who have supported us since the time we started flying in 2006. I have one of the best jobs in the world that I get to come and work each day with a phenomenal team at IndiGo. This award is dedicated to thousands of men and women at IndiGo who push their limits everyday, who ensure that we continue to offer our flyers courteous and hassle-free service, low fares coupled with the best on time performance in the country.. consistently!”

Consolidates its Middle East Operations

Reinforcing its commitment to the Middle-East, IndiGo, India's largest and fastest growing airline has announced the introduction of new flights connecting Mumbai with Muscat. Effective 16 June 2013, the airline will launch 3 new weekly non-stop flights on these routes. IndiGo will be offering introductory all inclusive return fare of INR 9998 (OMR 66.95) on the new daily flight between Mumbai and Muscat.

The introduction of the new daily service will further strengthen IndiGo's presence in the Gulf, where it has emerged as one of the leading carriers on this sector, catering to the large number of Indians in the Gulf. The new service from the city will compliment the airline's existing daily Gulf operations to Muscat and Dubai from several cities in India. IndiGo presently operates 17 daily flights between India and the Gulf.



Philippine Airlines

Returns to Middle East

Philippine Airlines completed its return to the Middle East with the re-introduction of seven flights a week to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), four times to Riyadh and three times to Dammam, starting last December 2013.

PAL earlier launched ten flights a week to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), five times to Abu Dhabi and five to Dubai.

PAL is using its new twin-engine Airbus 330-300 HGW (high gross weight) aircraft on the non-stop flights to KSA and UAE. PAL departs from King Khalid International Airport, Riyadh to Manila every Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday; from King Fahd International Airport, Dammam to Manila every Monday, Tuesday and Saturday. Flights from Abu Dhabi to Manila leave every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday; and from Dubai to Manila every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday.



PAL President Ramon S Ang said, “The return of PAL to the Middle East will not only offer Filipino workers the most direct link to Manila but also provide passengers convenient connections through PAL's extensive international route network.”

Described as the most cost-efficient wide-body aircraft in operation today, the A330-300 HGW is PAL's new flagship for medium-range routes. The new A330-300 HGW is especially designed for the cost-conscious Filipino market in the Middle East, but without sacrificing the comfort level. It accommodates 414 passengers, configured into two classes—Premium Economy with 39 seats, and Economy with 375 seats.

PAL flights to the region have been welcomed by Filipino expatriates, who number over 1.8 million in Saudi Arabia alone. PAL has been traditionally favored by Filipinos in the Middle East because its direct service to Manila means that they get home faster compared to other carriers.



Benefits of belonging

The Executive Club is free to join and you can start earning Avios, the Club's currency, every time you travel with us or any of our oneworld® airline partners. This even includes any flights you've taken three months prior to joining. The Avios you collect can then be spent on benefits like reward flights and cabin upgrades. You don't have to fly to build up Avios either. We have a number of hotel, credit card, car rental and shopping partners that allow you to collect Avios too. You can also earn rewards more quickly by pooling Avios in a Household Account which you can share with up to six members of your family, including children.

Other ways to benefit

As a member, you can earn Tier Points which will help you move through the different tiers of the Club, so that you can enjoy greater rewards. If you're a Bronze, Silver or Gold Member, for example, that means benefits like priority check-in and boarding (even if you are flying in economy) while Silver and Gold Members can enjoy the facilities of our lounges. Please visit ba.com/joinup to find out more about the full range of benefits, the different levels of Executive Club membership and how you can move through the different tiers. We look forward to welcoming you to the Executive Club. Join today at ba.com/joinup



Emirates

Celebrates A380 Launch to Zurich

Emirates, a global connector of people and places, celebrated the launch of its scheduled A380 service to Zurich from 8 January 2014, bringing the number of destinations it serves with its popular A380s to 25.



Captain Daniel Wyss (left) and First Officer Ahmad Ali Naqib (right) pictured in the cockpit prior to flying the commemorative A380 flight from Dubai to Zurich today.

With over 500 passengers on board, Emirates flight EK087, led by Captain Daniel Wyss, a Swiss national, departed from Dubai International this morning bound for Zurich International airport. On arrival, the aircraft will be met by René Huber, Mayor of the City of Kloten and Stefan Conrad, COO Zurich Airport following which a welcome reception will be held at the airport.

The new A380 service to Zurich provides travellers wishing to visit destinations such as Mauritius, Bangkok, Shanghai and Sydney, the chance to experience a seamless Emirates A380 experience connecting through Emirates' Dubai hub. Each Emirates A380 offers an Onboard Lounge on the upper deck for Premium Class passengers to meet, relax and do business. First Class passengers have the added luxury of two Onboard Shower Spas. Passengers across all cabins can revel in more than 1,600 channels of ice, Emirates' award-winning Digital Widescreen in-flight entertainment system. They can also stay connected to the internet throughout their journey with high speed Wi-Fi access.

Emirates is the largest operator of the A380 in the world, flying one in three of these modern jets in the skies today. Emirates' A380 fleet expansion and recent order support the aviation industry in Switzerland. The A380 will operate as flight EK 087 departing from Dubai International Airport daily at 08:25hrs arriving in Zurich at 12:20hrs. The return flight EK088 will depart from Zurich at 14:35hrs arriving in Dubai at 23:40hrs. The aircraft offers 14 seats in First Class, 76 seats in Business Class and 427 seats in Economy Class. Emirates also operates a second daily flight to Zurich using a Boeing 777-300ER bringing the number of seats on the route to 870 per day.

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To Launch Flights to Los Angeles for Bahrain Travellers

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), announced the launch from Bahrain to Los Angeles, California.

The expansion of its US operation will see the airline commence non-stop daily flights from Bahrain via its Abu Dhabi home-base (AUH) to Los Angeles (LAX) from June 1, 2014, subject to regulatory approvals.

The Californian city will be Etihad Airways' fourth US destination, joining Chicago, New York and Washington D.C, and will see the airline provide 28 return flights each week between the UAE and the US.

The announcement was made by James Hogan, Etihad Airways' President and Chief Executive Officer who commented, "We are delighted to add Los Angeles, a major US and global destination with a significant metropolitan population and growing economy, to the

Etihad Airways' network in 2014. This expansion will see Etihad Airways offer air travellers daily flights, from our Abu Dhabi hub, to four destinations across the US.

The new service will increase Etihad Airways' operations in the US market by 33 percent and cater for growing leisure and business traffic demands in Los Angeles, as well as the considerable catchment area of the city."

Los Angeles, one of the world's most iconic, popular, and multicultural destinations with a metropolitan population area of more than 18 million people, is the second largest in the US.

It is classified as a 'global city' with strengths in business, international trade, entertainment, culture, media, fashion, science, sports, technology, education, medicine and research.



New Premium Economy Class



After the presentation of the new Premium Economy Class at this year's ITB in Berlin, it's time for the next step. The new travel class can now be booked on flights flown by Boeing 747-8s. From 10 December, the Premium Economy Class will have guaranteed

availability on all flights served by the new jumbo. The destinations that can now be booked include the routes from Frankfurt to and from Buenos Aires, Chicago, Hong Kong, Mexico City, São Paulo, Seoul, Beijing and Washington, D.C.

From late January 2015, the first retrofitted aircraft of the type A340-600 are scheduled to take off from Munich for Hong Kong, Shanghai and Tokyo; from late April the A380-800 is planned to then fly from Frankfurt to Johannesburg, New York, Miami, Houston, San Francisco, Shanghai and Singapore. The Middle East routes are also slated to receive the new Premium Economy in 2015.



Resumes Flights to Athens

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain announced that it would be resuming its flights to the Greek capital, Athens, with 4 weekly flights to Athens International Airport starting on the 16th of June.



Gulf Air's decision to resume flights to Athens reinforces the airline's strategy of strengthening its network with key global destinations and providing strategic business and tourism links.

Gulf Air's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Maher Salman Al Musallam commented, "We are seeing unique business and tourism opportunities in Greece alongside positive signs of the country's economic recovery. Accordingly, and on the back of Gulf Air's recent network expansion to key destinations such as Al Maktoum International at Dubai World Central (DWC) and Thiruvananthapuram in India, I am delighted to announce the return of our services to Athens."

"Gulf Air's service between Athens and Bahrain offers passengers more choice, nonstop convenience and onward connections via Bahrain across the GCC, MENA region and beyond, in-line with the airline's strategy as one of Middle East's largest network carriers. Flights to Athens will appeal to Bahrain and GCC residents as the Greek capital is popular with both business and leisure travellers. We expect Athens to be a successful addition to our network and look forward to a continuation of our strong ties with the Greek capital."

Gulf Air's four weekly flights will be operated by an Airbus A320-ER aircraft in a two-class configuration, featuring 14 Falcon Gold Class seats and 96 Economy Class seats. Designed specifically for the airline, and incorporating various elements of passengers' feedback, the A320-ER is the only aircraft of its kind in the world featuring full flat-bed seats, as well as being equipped with the airline's latest in-flight entertainment technology.

Passengers can book tickets online at www.gulfair.com, through Gulf Air's 24 hour Worldwide Contact Centre on (+973) 17373737 or by visiting dedicated Gulf Air offices and approved travel agencies.

Gulf Air took the difficult decision to suspend services to Athens in March 2012 for commercial reasons following a prolonged period of challenging operating conditions.

Flights will operate as follows:

Flight Number	Departure Airport	Departure Time	Arrival Airport	Arrival Time	Frequency
GF0039	Bahrain	11:40	Athens	16:10	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
GF0040	Athens	16:55	Bahrain	21:05	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

AIRLINE FACTS



- ✈ The world's largest airport is Kansai International Airport, Osaka, Japan (as of 2011). By 2013 Al Maktoum International Airport in Jebel Ali, Dubai, United Arab Emirates is planned to be the largest airport in the world.
- ✈ The airport with the longest runway in the world is Qamdo Bangda Airport in the Peoples Republic of China with 5.50 kilometres in length (as of 2011).
- ✈ American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by removing 1 olive from each salad served in first class.
- ✈ In 2009, Southwest served 632 million cans of soda, juices, and water; 14.3 million alcoholic beverages; 14 million bags of pretzels; 90 million bags of peanuts; 17.7 million Select-A-Snacks; and 33.5 million other snacks.
- ✈ Singapore Airlines spends about \$700 million on food every year and \$16 million on wine alone. First class passengers consume 20,000 bottles of alcohol every month and Singapore Airlines is the second largest buyer of Dom Perignon champagne in the world.
- ✈ Cathay Pacific carries rice cookers, toasters, cappuccino makers and skillets on board their airplanes.
- ✈ KLM of Netherlands stands for Koninklijke Luchtvaart Maatschappij (meaning Royal Dutch Airlines).
- ✈ KLM is the world's oldest airline established in 1919.
- ✈ QANTAS - Australia's national airline, originally stood for Queensland and Northern Territories Air Service. It is the second world's oldest airline established in 1920, and still has the world's best safety record with no fatal crashes as of 2011.
- ✈ Virgin Atlantic lists catering as their third biggest expense, after fuel and maintenance.
- ✈ American Airlines spent about \$425 million on food for domestic passengers in 2001.
- ✈ In one year, British Airways passengers consume: 40.5 tons of chicken *6 tons of caviar *22 tons of smoked salmon *557,507 boxes of chocolate *90 thousand cases (9 litre cases) of sparkling wine.
- ✈ Abu Dhabi Airport Services once did a complete turn-around for a Boeing 777 in under 40 minutes, as opposed to a normal minimum of one hour. They unloaded passengers, cargo, mail, cleaned the aircraft, and loaded outbound passengers, cargo and mail in that short time.
- ✈ In 2001, Dubai Duty Free sold 1,570,214 cartons of cigarettes, 2,003,151 bottles of liquor, 2,909 kilograms of gold, 101,824 watches, 690,502 bottles of perfume, 52,119 mobile phones.
- ✈ In-flight catering is an \$18 billion worldwide industry employing up to 200,000 people.
- ✈ Delta Airlines was the first to introduce air bridge, which saved travellers lengthy walk from the plane to the terminal.



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Walkathon - Unitag Group & Associated Companies

Unitag Group & Associated Companies held their first Walkathon on 11th April 2014 at the Arad Bay
The Slogan for the Walkathon was “Health is Wealth” to promote health within the Group



Staff and Guests



The Walkathon Organising Team



Group Photo of Unitag Group & Associated Companies, Staff and Guests



Ms Felicita Sequeira (2nd from left)
Winner in the women's group



Sayed Najeab Al Hussaini (centre)
Winner in the veterans group

IN-HOUSE NEWS

Annual Staff Gathering at the Desert Camp

Staff and families of Unitag Group & Associated Companies had their annual gathering at the Desert Camp, Sakhir on 28th February 2014



Children participating in the games



Staff enjoying the Buggy Ride



From left Thomas Bellamy-County Manager, Cathay Pacific Airways, Hisham El Saadi Chief Executive Officer, Travel & Tours and P P Chakkunny Chief Executive Officer, Unitag and Group Companies



Staff participating in the Musical Chair contest

Appointments

Magnum Travel Services | World Travel Services

Sunshine Tours



Mr Nithin Rajan
Sales Executive



Ms Sheena K Aravind
Travel Consultant



Ms Eman Jaafar
Switchboard Operator
cum Admin Assistant



Mr Mohamed Abbas Ali
Cashier cum Assistant



Mr Collin D D'Silva
Accountant

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