

Q Does age influence travelling, what are your thoughts on this?

I feel that the purpose of travel or the way you travel may differ with age, but the love for travel never diminishes. For instance, a lot of millennials these days are ditching luxurious resorts and villas for experiences such as camping and hiking. Whereas, people who are close to their retirement are seen spending on organized travel such as group tours. So you see, travelling is an experience that no one wants to miss out on, irrespective of their age.

Q By when do you think travel will pick up?

Well, travel has started picking up in certain cities and countries as the travel restrictions are gradually being lifted. Some international destinations have already opened their doors to fully vaccinated travellers and I'm sure a lot more will follow in the near future. When it comes to domestic tourism, a lot more travellers have started taking short weekend trips to nearby places and the trend of staycation is now catching on. COVID- free countries and

COVID-19, there has been a huge dip in confidence amongst travellers worldwide. Let alone international trips, travellers are even scared to spend money on staycations and short trips fearing the unruly nature of pandemic, natural calamities and unexpected movement restrictions. This is where Travel Assistance and Insurance comes into the picture. We have introduced exclusive travel protection plans that not only protect losses against flight and hotel cancellations, but also covers medical emergencies including Covid. These products have been highly appreciated by our travel agent partners, as they have boosted the confidence of travelers, and improved conversions for the agents as well.

Q What is the current trend that you see in the sale of Travel Insurance?

You will be surprised to know that over 75% of Indians who travelled



'COVID-19 has played a significant role in improving the awareness about travel insurance'

how Travel Protection helps them navigate these exigencies with ease.

Q Why is there a sudden surge in people who opt for Travel Insurance?

There are several reasons to this, however COVID-19 has played a significant role in improving the awareness about travel insurance and assistance services amongst Indian travellers. Although, medical benefits still top the list of priorities, travel insurers have now realised that it is not just about providing travellers with hospitalisation benefits, but also assuring them a hassle-free travel experience. Our latest launches protect travelers against Covid-19 related emergencies not just during the trip, but also before and after the trip. Moreover, the product also offers services such as roadside assistance, home burglary cover, daily cash allowances, home / hotel quarantine cover and much more. Travellers today expect more security & comfort in their trips and that's what has led to the surge in the number of people opting for travel protection services. ♦

Over 75% of Indians who travelled to Dubai and Maldives last year purchased Travel Insurance, which was not the case earlier. Many Indian travellers considered it as an option, mostly to fulfill visa requirements rather than a necessity says **Dev Karvat**, Founder & CEO of Asego while speaking to **TravelBiz Monitor**.

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destinations with good healthcare facilities will witness an increase in tourist footfall in the next 6-8 months. In my opinion, the travel industry should be completely back on its feet within the next 2 years.

Q What role does Travel Insurance play in the current scenario?

Ever since the wake of

to Dubai and Maldives last year purchased Travel Insurance, which was not the case earlier. Many Indian travelers were not familiar with the concept of Travel Protection in the past and it was more or less considered as an option, rather than a necessity. COVID-19 has however changed the mindset of travellers as they have come to realise that many risks tag along during travel and

